



PALM BEACH
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NEWS

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Baseball Brings Big Business to Palm Beach County with Over 50 Collegiate Spring Training Teams

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – Over 50 collegiate baseball teams from 12 different states and Canada will venture to Palm Beach County to play over 120 baseball games in 32 days at the 2011 Palm Beach Challenge. The Palm Beach Challenge is a spring training forum where NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA baseball teams travel to Palm Beach County during spring break to practice and compete against one another.

The month-long event will take place at Santaluces Athletic Complex, the former Spring Training facility for Major League Baseball's Montreal Expo's, from February 25-March 28, 2011. In addition to great collegiate talent, the event brings numerous Major League Baseball Scouts. Over 30 players from this event are expected to be drafted this year.

Opening Day will take place this Friday, February 25, beginning with a baseball clinic for ages 6-12. The clinic will take place at Santaluces Athletic Complex from 5pm-6:30pm. The clinic will feature special appearances by Hall of Famer and current Palm Beach Atlantic Head Baseball Coach, Gary Carter along with The Sacred Heart University Head Coach and former Miami Dolphins and Washington Redskins running back, Nick Giaquinto.

First pitch is scheduled for 6:30pm as Mercyhurst College and Lynn University faceoff. St. Leo University and Palm Beach Atlantic will play at 7pm and Northeastern and Sacred Heart will compete at 7:30pm for the NCAA Division I opener. A complete game schedule can be found at www.palmbeachchallenge.com.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission worked with Diamond Management Group to establish the Palm Beach Challenge in 2004. Last year this event generated over 2,200 room nights and over \$2 million in estimated economic impact. Nearly 15,000 room nights have been generated with an overall estimated economic impact of over \$14 million in the seven years this event has been held in Palm Beach County.

Daily admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and youth League Players 14 & under are free. For more information on the Palm Beach Challenge, contact Michael Zeff at 561.499.9192 or mzeff@palmbeachchallenge.com; or visit www.palmbeachchallenge.com.

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2011 Palm Beach Challenge Teams:

NCAA Division I

Monmouth (NJ)
Northeastern (MA)
University of Rhode Island (RI)
Sacred Heart University (CT)
Seton Hall University (NJ)
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (IL)
St. Bonaventure University (NY)
Western Michigan University (MI)

NCAA Division II

Adelphi University (NY)
American International College (MA)
Bloomfield College (NJ)
C.W. Post Long Island University (NY)
Caldwell College (NJ)
Chestnut Hill College (PA)
College of Saint Rose (NY)
Dowling College (NY)
Felician College (NJ)
Franklin Pierce University (NH)
Hillsdale College (MI)
Lynn University (FL)
Mercy College (NY)
Mercyhurst College (PA)
Merrimack College (MA)
Molloy College (NY)
New Haven University (CT)
Nova University (FL)
Nyack College (NY)
Pace University (NY)
Palm Beach Atlantic University (FL)
Philadelphia University (PA)
Post University (CT)
Saint Leo University (FL)
Saint Michael's College (VT)
Saint Thomas Aquinas College (NY)
Southern Connecticut State University (CT)
Southern New Hampshire University (NH)
University of Massachusetts Lowell (MA)
University of the Sciences (PA)
Wilmington University (DE)

NAIA

Northwood University (FL)
Saint Thomas University (FL)
SUNY Canton (NY)

NJCAA Division I, II, III

Broward Community College (FL)
Mercyhurst College North East (PA)
Saint Clair County Community College (MI)

Additional Teams

Fort Lauderdale Superstars (FL)
South Florida Beach Bums (FL)
Team Ontario (Can)
American Dream Stars (FL)
West Boynton Beach Travel (FL)
Santaluces High School (FL)

About Palm Beach County Sports Commission

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is a private, not-for-profit organization contracted by Palm Beach County to promote and market the county as a sports and sports tourism destination. The Commission brings sporting events and activities to the county, enhances economic impact, stimulates bed tax revenues (primarily in the off-season) and maximizes utilization of county facilities. The Commission offers a full range of event service support, corporate partnerships, sponsorships and a local membership program that supports its goals. Local, regional, national and international marketing efforts are ongoing by the Commission with sports organizations and event owners. The Commission also produces sports-related programs for the residents of Palm Beach County including the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame, the Lou Groza Collegiate Place-Kicker Award and the Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches and awards. For more information on the Palm Beach County Sports Commission go to www.palmbeachsports.com.

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