



PALM BEACH
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GAME ON!



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2012 “SPRING FLING” IS A SUCCESS!



Spring Fling, one of the premier collegiate women’s lacrosse events in the nation, took place in Palm Beach County this March. The event features some of the best NCAA Division I, II, and III college programs in the country as teams travel to scrimmage and compete during their spring breaks. Palm Beach County was home to a very special women’s lacrosse showdown on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Two perennial lacrosse powers battled in a highly anticipated matchup. Yale played against Notre Dame at Hilltopper Stadium in Delray Beach. The opportunity to witness Notre Dame and Yale competing in south

Florida is very unique and special. Both schools have a proud athletic tradition and have many alumni that live in Palm Beach County. Most would assume that this game occurred in South Bend, Indiana or New Haven, Connecticut, however the game took place near the beaches of beautiful south Florida.

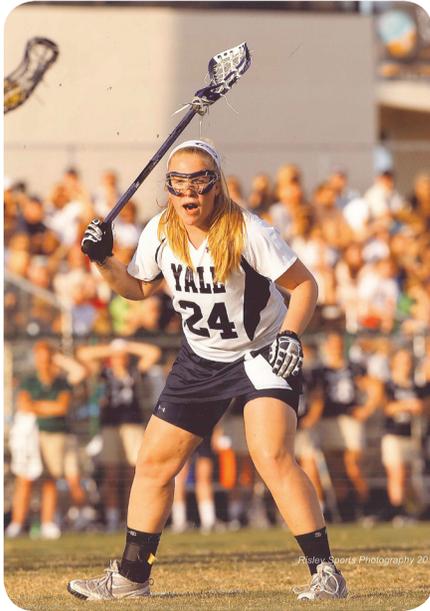
The opportunity to watch the best collegiate lacrosse programs in the United States

compete in Palm Beach County became a reality when the Palm Beach County Sports Commission (PBCSC) established an outstanding partnership with Spring Fling. After seven years in Panama City, the PBCSC worked in partnership with Gene DeLorenzo from GKD SportsVision of Vermont to bring this event to Palm Beach County. “The event moved to West Palm Beach to take advantage of better weather, a larger airport and better field space,” said Event Director, Gene DeLorenzo. Since its inception in 1997, “SpringFling” has developed a rich legacy of collegiate spring training practices, scrimmages and official NCAA games. Highly successful collegiate teams, including several national champions have visited Palm Beach County as part of “Spring Fling”.



Hilltopper Stadium was packed on Tuesday, March 13. Over 1,000 spectators traveled from across the state of Florida to celebrate lacrosse and the traditions of Notre Dame and Yale. The game was an offensive clash. Notre Dame took a 10-2 lead into the halftime break and didn’t look back as the Irish knocked off Yale by a final score of 15-9. This Notre Dame squad became just the

2012 "SPRING FLING" (CONTINUED)



third Irish team to open the year with five consecutive wins, joining the 2004 and 2006 squads. The Irish jumped out quickly on the Bulldogs, scoring the first 10 goals of the game as eight different Notre Dame players found the back of the cage in the first half. Leading the way were Jenny Granger, who recorded the first two goals of the game and assisted on the third goal, Maggie Tamasitis, who had a goal and three assists, and Lauren

Sullivan, who scored the first two goals of her career, eventually recording a hat trick. The second half started with more Irish goals as Margaret Smith, Jaimie Morrison and Molly Shawhan all scored on free position shots to push the lead to 13-2. Yale scored the final five goals of the game.

Many of the local youth lacrosse teams came out to watch the action. Teams comprised of high school athletes to middle school athletes had the opportunity to interact with the various coaches and college players. The following day, the Yale coaching staff conducted a special clinic for lacrosse enthusiasts living in Palm Beach County.



"Spring Fling" has made a significant contribution to Palm Beach County tourism. Over 500 teams with nearly 17,000 athletes and spectators have traveled to Palm Beach County since the relocation from Panama City in 2004. The event is responsible for generating more than 18,000 hotel room nights and an infusion of new dollars for Palm Beach County. The excitement will continue next March when Spring Fling returns for its 10th consecutive year.

INAUGURAL YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT TO TAKE PLACE IN BOCA RATON



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is partnering with Taylored Athletes, a premier youth sports development agency, to host the inaugural Battle in Boca from April 27-29, 2012. This youth girls and boys basketball tournament will feature teams from across the state of Florida in age divisions that accommodate elementary school to high school participants. The tournament will take place at various basketball gymnasiums in Boca Raton, including Lynn

University, Pope John Paul II High School, Boca Prep School, Grandview Prep High School, and the Omni Middle School. The tournament is sanctioned by the Youth Basketball of America (YBOA), an international governing body which promotes youth basketball worldwide and offers league development, tournaments, educational clinics, and scholarship programs.

Taylored Athletes is an outstanding sports organization that dedicates many resources towards promoting basketball to the youth of Palm Beach County. In addition to hosting the Battle in Boca, Taylored Athletes will conduct an interactive basketball clinic at the annual Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches, which is produced by the Palm Beach County Sports Commission. During the Festival, Taylored Athletes will expose the game to more than 5,000 children from Palm Beach County.



The Battle in Boca is the first statewide YBOA basketball tournament to take place in Palm Beach County. In addition to promoting youth basketball, the Battle in Boca will generate significant economic benefits to the County. The tournament is expected to attract over 100 teams and 1,200 youth athletes. This level of participation is projected to generate over 500 room nights and \$250,000 in economic impact.

NETBALL IS BACK IN PALM BEACH COUNTY!

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission's position as a leader for sports tourism is authenticated by the number of national tournaments that take place throughout Palm Beach County and its 38 different municipalities. However, it's not simply the Palm Beach County Sports Commission's ability to attract events with a national impact, but it's the efforts to host championship events, which represents the pinnacle of a sport, that separates Palm Beach County from other destinations. In 2012, Palm Beach County will host an array of national championships. Champions will be crowned in sports such as baseball, volleyball, golf, tennis, equestrian, and water ski. Palm Beach County's reputation as a host for national championship caliber events has penetrated all sports, including those more common abroad, such as Netball.



The USA Netball Association (USANA) will partner with the Palm Beach County Sports Commission to host the USA Netball National Championships on June 23 and 24, 2012. The event will take place at Atlantic High School and Pompey Park in Delray Beach. This is an invitational for national and international netball clubs, which will crown a national champion in several divisions. More than 30 teams consisting of more than 350 athletes will compete in several age groups, which include 14u, 16u, 20u, and adult.



The USANA will use the tournament to identify potential talent for the United States National Team, which will compete in the World Championships. Carole Hokrein, administrator for USA Netball, said "The support for this event shown by the Palm Beach Sports Commission and the City of Delray Beach has proved invaluable. The excellent facilities at Atlantic High School will enhance the event as we welcome teams from all over the USA. We expect a strong showing from teams out of the Northeast region and have no doubt that there will be fierce competition from the Florida teams on their home soil. Several international players will be present as we lead up to the upcoming Americas Regional Championships in Trinidad & Tobago as well as the World Youth Championships in Glasgow, Scotland".

The 2012 USA Netball Championships will represent the first time the event has taken place in the state of Florida.



The event has most recently taken place in Queens, NY, Boston, MA, and Seattle, WA. The Florida Netball Association was a determining factor in Palm Beach County's ability to host the National Championships. The Florida Netball Association is one of the strongest state chapters in the United States. Their commitment in executing the event and providing volunteers played a pivotal role in winning the bid for the nationals.

Netball is considered the most popular women's team sport in the world. Although invented in the United States in 1891, it is considered a "new" sport in its country of origin. However, netball is a high profile, televised sport in the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Netball continues its rapid growth in the United States, Africa and Europe, as the strong lobby of Olympic inclusion builds.

Netball's foundation is based on the sport of basketball. Netball was founded by James Naismith, the creator of basketball. The rules of netball parallel basketball in many ways. The first netball game was played in England in 1895, and it has grown across the globe over the last century.

In addition to excitement and the opportunity to witness a major international sport, the USA Netball National Championships will bring a surge of new dollars to Palm Beach County. The event is expected to generate over \$350,000 of economic impact and more than 500 hotel room nights. This event is another example of why Palm Beach County is considered to be a premier sports destination.

FLORIDA OPEN INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURN TO BOCA RATON



Calling Palm Beach County home for over 20 years, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA) sanctioned Florida Open International Wheelchair Tennis Championships will be played April 4 - 8 at Patch Reef Park in Boca Raton. The event will attract nearly 200 participants from across the United States and 25 different countries.

endorsed by the ITF, follows the same rules as able-bodied tennis, the only exception is that the wheelchair tennis player is allowed two bounces of the ball.



The event creates significant impact for Palm Beach County. In addition to the strong international media exposure, the Championship is expected to generate nearly 500 room nights and an economic impact of over \$115,000. This is one of many prominent tennis events that call Palm Beach County its home.

Founded in 1976, wheelchair tennis is the fastest-growing wheelchair sport in the world. Wheelchair tennis integrates very easily with the able-bodied game since it can be played on any regular tennis court, with no modifications to racquets and balls. Wheelchair tennis, as

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