



PALM BEACH
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GAME ON!

The Monthly Newsletter of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission



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Sponsors



SPORTS COMMISSION CO-SPONSORS NFL EMERGING BUSINESS WORKSHOP

Joining forces with the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee 2010, and the Palm Beach County Office of Small Business Assistance, the PBCSC co-sponsored the third Emerging Business Workshop on April 22, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Over 450 interested parties attended.

The workshop, part of the Super Bowl's Community Outreach program, was designed to assist local Palm Beach County businesses, especially minority and women-owned businesses, understand and qualify for procurement opportunities with the Super Bowl's prime contractors.

The workshop explained in detail both certification and application procedures. Representatives from the Super Bowl Host Committee, the NFL and prime contractors were in attendance, along with representatives from Palm Beach County certifying agencies, County Commission Chair, Jeff Koons, WPB Mayor Lois Frankel and other government representatives.



Palm Beach County is an active participant in supporting Super Bowl 2010. Countywide activities are being coordinated through the Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

WORLD CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS BEING HELD THIS MONTH IN PBC

What takes the skill of billiards, the strategy of chess, and requires the players to wear all white? It's the international game of croquet; and the 2009 World Croquet Championships begin this month at the National Croquet Center in Palm Beach County.

Played on a 104'x84' perfectly manicured and level lawn, points are won by shooting the balls through heavy rectangular wickets with a mere 1/32" clearance for the ball.

The international event kicks off Saturday, May 9th in West Palm

Beach, and is expected to attract over 80 teams from around the world. Preliminary rounds will be played at the PGA National Resort & Spa Croquet Club in Palm Beach Gardens. The event rotates annually among the major croquet-playing countries of the world and was last held in the US in 1992, in Newport, Rhode Island.

The event is supported by a grant from the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, and is expected to generate over \$250,000 in economic impact and generate over 600 room nights for Palm Beach County hotels.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete listing of all upcoming events check our website at www.PalmBeachSports.com.

Florida State League

April 9 - September 6, 2009 at Roger Dean Stadium

The Florida State League is a Class A Advanced Minor League Baseball league. The twelve member teams play a 140 game schedule with 70 games at home and 70 games on the road.

Palm Beach Cup

May 2 - 3, 2009 at Mirasol Park

The Palm Beach Cup is an inaugural boys and girls youth soccer tournament (9 & under to 14 & under). The 56 team tournament is sanctioned by the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA).

NCCAA National Softball Championships

May 7 - 9, 2009 at Lake Catherine Sports Complex

The National Softball Championships will be hosted by Palm Beach Atlantic University.

World Croquet Championships

May 9 - 17, 2009 at the National Croquet Center

The 12th WCF World Croquet Championships will take place at the National Croquet Center and at PGA National Resort & Spa. The World Championships includes the top ranked 80 players in the world. This is only the second time the event has taken place in the USA, and the first time it has been hosted by Palm Beach County or the State of Florida.

Florida All Star Chess Championship

May 15 - 17, 2009 at the Embassy Suites, Palm Beach Gardens

Junior chess players from across the state of Florida will come to Palm Beach Gardens to compete in this highly skilled tournament. These are the top youth competitors in Florida.

Big Shots Palm Beach

May 15 - 17, 2009

Big Shots Palm Beach is an All Star High School aged basketball tournament that will take place at several basketball facilities in Palm Beach County.

Gardens LAX Splash

May 22 - 24, 2009 at PGA National Park

Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association is hosting "Gardens Lax Splash" - Memorial Day Weekend - May 22nd-24th, 2009. The event is for Boys and Girls grades 3 - 8. Guaranteed four game minimum for all teams!!!! Every player will receive a ComLax/LAX Splash t-shirt and goody bag.

Lady Gator Elite Invitational

May 22 - 24, 2009 at Florida Atlantic University

The Lady Gator Elite Invitational is our premier showcase event that promises quality competition on exceptional playing fields with tremendous exposure. Sanctioned by the American Softball Association (ASA) the tournament is expected to bring approximately 20 to 24 elite 18 & U teams to Palm Beach County.

Triple Crown Memorial Day Tournament

May 22 - May 25, 2009

This tournament will feature 100 baseball teams ages 8-18. The top 2 finishers in their respective division will have earned the right to play in the World Series.

BIG SHOTS PALM BEACH

Showcasing high school basketball athletes to college coaches

One of 16 Big Shots high school tournaments taking place around the country this summer, Big Shots Palm Beach will give area and regional players the opportunity to showcase their team and individual skills to a variety of NCAA coaches. All Big Shots tournaments are NCAA exposure events.

This is the first year Big Shots has come to Palm Beach County. The tournament, involving high school age basketball players, is scheduled for May 15 - 17, 2009, at various locations around Palm Beach County.

In addition to the All Star High School Competition, Big Shots will partner with USSSA to conduct a youth tournament in the 12 & under to 8 & under divisions. Including youth teams, Big Shots will bring in over 80 teams. Event organizers estimate that the tournament will generate 1,100 room nights and have an estimated \$350,000 in economic impact.



PALM BEACH ATLANTIC TO HOST NCCAA SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a runner-up finish in last year's National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Softball Championship, the Palm Beach Atlantic University softball team has an obvious goal in 2009—to take home the championship trophy. As host for the second year of the prestigious tournament, set for May 7–9, 2009 at the Lake Catherine Sports Complex, the Sailfish will once again play in front of their home crowd.

Matching up the best softball teams throughout the nation, the NCCAA National Championship is a chance for the top teams in the country to show what they're made of as they vie for the championship.



The opportunity to host this championship is something the Palm Beach Atlantic athletic department has been looking forward to all year, according to Athletic Director Bob White.

"Our staff is making all the preparations to ensure that this year's tournament is another great success. We are thrilled that Pepsi and Akadema have generously stepped up once again to help make this not only a fun event for our visiting teams but also a memorable event for all of Palm Beach County," said White.

SUMMER IS BASEBALL SEASON IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

Two hundred sixteen (216) teams involving an estimated 3,660 baseball players will descend on Palm Beach County this summer to participate in 7 major baseball tournaments. These players and coaches will occupy an estimated 5,300 hotel room nights, and contribute an estimated \$2.6 million to the local economy.

Baseball has long been recognized as one of the leading core sports of the Palm Beach County Sports Commission.

Blessed with tropical summer breezes, 47 miles of breathtaking beaches and one of the best playing facilities in the nation, Palm Beach County's Roger Dean Stadium is a major draw for tournament activity. The complex is the only baseball facility east of the Rocky Mountains that consists of one primary baseball diamond and 12 supplementary fields.



The Santaluces Athletic Complex in Lake Worth, also offering excellent playing facilities, supplements Roger Dean Stadium for tournament play.

The USA Baseball 16 & under Championships, scheduled to take place

PBC SUMMER BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

Event	Date	# of Teams	Room Nights	Economic Impact	Participants
Triple Crown Baseball Memorial Day Tournament - <i>Roger Dean Stadium</i>	May 28-31	40	100	\$100,000	600
Under Armour South East Regional - <i>Roger Dean Stadium</i>	June 4-8	24	400	\$190,000	480
Coast to Coast Baseball Showcase - <i>Roger Dean Stadium</i>	June 14-19	16	100	\$100,000	320
USA Baseball 16 & under Championships - <i>Roger Dean Stadium</i>	June 20-27	72	4,400	\$2,000,000	1200
Prospect Wire Baseball FL State Finals (16 & U) - <i>Santaluces Ath. Complex</i>	July 1-5	24	100	\$100,000	380
Prospect Wire Baseball FL State Finals (18 & U) - <i>Santaluces Ath. Complex</i>	August 5-10	24	100	\$100,000	380
American Amateur Baseball Congress-Stan Musial 18 & U Regional <i>Roger Dean Stadium</i>	July 28-August 1	16	100	\$75,000	300
Total		216	5,300	\$2,665,000	3,660

All numbers are estimates provided by the event producers.

from June 20-27, 2009, at Roger Dean Stadium and the Santaluces Athletic Complex, is the most prestigious baseball tournament in the nation for the 15 & 16 year old age group.

Overall, this event is expected to bring 72 teams and 1,200 athletes to Palm Beach County, making it one of the largest room night producing events of the summer. Last year, the event generated 4,703 room nights and more than \$1.5 million in economic impact.



To help produce the event, the Palm Beach County Sports Commission entered into a three-way partnership with USA Baseball and Roger Dean Stadium. The Sports Commission is actively involved in all aspects of event management ranging from working directly with the venues and service providers, to managing labor and collection of admissions.



USA Baseball uses this tournament as an exclusive selection vehicle for the Youth National Team Trials. Approximately 20 players will be chosen from this event and flown to the home of USA Baseball, where they will join another 20 players from the West Championships held in Arizona. From this group, 18 players are selected to represent Team USA at the Junior Pan American Championships held in Panama.

This year will mark the 9th consecutive year that USA Baseball 16 & under Championships has made Palm Beach County its home. The event is a significant contributor to the sports tourism industry and promoting Palm Beach County as the premier youth baseball destination in the US.

AYSO: PLANNING FOR 2010

Planning for one of the largest sporting events ever to come to Palm Beach County has started. On July 3-11, 2010, the AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) will be holding its National Games at the International Polo Club in Wellington.

The event is expected to draw approximately 3,000 players from across the U.S., occupy 10,000 hotel room nights and have an economic impact of \$7-8 million.



Local Organizing Committee members Bill Reese and Wendy Smith answer questions from hoteliers during recent meeting.

During April, representatives from the AYSO national office in California were in Palm Beach County to meet with the local organizing committee, 34 members of the hotel community and the PBCSC. JBS Destination Services will be handling hotel bookings.

Interest in the event was high among the hoteliers attending. Becky Reincke of the new Springhill Suites on 45th Street commented: "After attending the AYSO meeting, this only reconfirms our original thought that we should support the PBC Sports Commission and their desire to drive revenue into our hotels and community."

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2008 GROZA WINNER SIGNS WITH THE RAVENS

Another Lou Groza Award winner is on his way to the NFL. The Baltimore Ravens signed Florida State's Graham Gano, the 2008 recipient of the coveted award to a free agent contract following the NFL draft. As a senior, Gano connected on 24 of 26 field goals for the Seminoles.

Groza finalist Louie Sakoda of Utah signed a free agent contract with the San Diego Chargers, where he will compete with 2002 Groza winner Nate Kaeding for the place kicking job. 2008 semi-finalists Pat McAfee of West Virginia and Ryan Succop of South Carolina were also selected in the draft. McAfee and Succop were both seventh round choices of the Indianapolis Colts and Kansas City Chiefs respectively.

Past Groza winners Martin Gramatica, Sebastian Janikowski, Nate Kaeding, and Mike Nugent were active NFL kickers during the 2008 season.

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