

DRIVE PERFORMANCE

HOME OF THE ITRAC VISION TRAINING SYSTEM

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Fall Instructional League Comes to an Exciting End

By: Eric Maleski, Michelle Oswald & John Scudella

The Drive Performance Fall Instructional League capped its second successful season. Champions at each level were crowned. With 36 teams competing over the past 6 weeks in various age groups in baseball and softball, the championship weekend took place in unseasonable chilly weather conditions. However, that didn't stop the players, coaches or parents from playing hard and cheering the players on. On top of the weekend games, instructional clinics were offered for all fall league players and were at capacity. Vast improvements were prominent as players excelled in game situations that were replicated during the clinic sessions taught by the Drive Performance instructors.

In the softball 16U division the Mount Prospect Power, under the direction of Coach Menelle, held off a strong Shockwave team. A great game was played by both teams with the Power winning by a slim 2-1 margin. Both teams showed off their impressive defense and their pitching was impeccable. The Shockwave bats were silenced in a game that came down to the final inning.

A marathon 3.5 hour game was played at the 10U baseball championship featuring the Dengeos on Dundee against the top seeded Leprechaun Legion. Multiple pitching changes and an attempted steal of home by the Leprechaun's didn't scare off Dengeos as they fought hard to the finish. After a long, hard fought battle of two outstanding teams, Dengeos on Dundee came away the victor with a 23-16 win.

At the 11U baseball championship finale, the

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PHWYBS Phantoms proved they were the champs by defeating the Arlington Heights Slaughter 22-14. Finishing the regular season with a 6-1 mark, the #1 seeded Phantoms demonstrated why they were the winners of the 11U bracket.

The 12U Palatine Bulldogs dominated for the second straight fall season. The Bulldogs went on to finish with an impressive 8-0 record. Strong pitching and clutch hitting led the way for the Bulldogs as they won 10-0 in the championship game. Waukegan upset the Des Plaines Crushers to advance to the championship game for a shot at the title.



The 13U baseball division turned out to be very competitive and proved that on any given day, any team can beat another. The PHWYBS Phantoms played two games on Saturday including upsetting the top seed to advance to the championship game on Sunday.

The Phantoms opposed the Des Plaines Blazers who earned an early forfeit in Round 1, advancing to the semifinals against the Illinois Indians. The Blazers, who were down early, came from behind and played excellent defense to hold off the Indians earning a birth to the finals.

The Championship game became a pitcher's duel, with each team throwing up zeros until the 4th inning. Des Plaines took the lead by capitalizing on their lead-off man getting on base and some timely hitting. It was not until the bottom of the 5th that the Phantoms tied it up at 1 after an error and a few passed balls. Des Plaines got two quick outs, but after 2 hits and an intentional walk, the bases were loaded. A short pop up in the infield fell and proved to be the game winner: final score 2-1 Phantoms.

The game of the day came from the Athletic Barn against our own Team Drive Performance-Black in the 14U division. After spotting the Athletic Barn 4 runs by the top of the 2nd, Drive Performance chipped away the deficit with 2 runs in the bottom half and another tally in the 3rd. Drive exploded for 3 runs in the 4th and added to their lead with a run in both the 6th and 7th. Drive looked to close the door on the tournament in the 7th, but the Baseball God's wanted to see this epic battle continue for 2 extra innings when the Athletic Barn surged with 4 runs on 5 hits.

After the Athletic Barn stranded runners on first and third in the top of the 9th, Drive moved the winning run to third on a base hit coupled with aggressive base running. As if the game took place on a movie set in Hollywood as opposed to Maryville Academy in Des Plaines, a 2 out liner off the bat of Drive Performance found its way to the frozen tundra of left field for a walk off victory for the host team.

Thank you to all of the participants of the Drive Performance Fall Instructional League. We hope to see you again next year!



Mizuno's 2010 Product Line Available Exclusively At Drive Performance

By: Nick Sanchez

This November, Drive will carry the latest Mizuno products. Mizuno continues to maintain its position as a leader in Baseball and Softball equipment. All four Drive Performance Teams are fully equipped with Mizuno uniforms and equipment. Be sure to check out our full selection. All Drive Performance members are provided with discounted prices on Mizuno product. Team orders and individual custom orders are also available. Compare our prices with other retailers and you'll see the difference. Consider us for your next uniform or equipment order and you won't be disappointed.

TRAINER SPOTLIGHT

Joel Niemie

iTrac Vision Trainer: San Francisco Giants



College: Pitcher/DH- Texas Lutheran University

Favorite career highlight: Talking hitting 1-on-1 with Will Clark

Favorite place: Disch-Falk Field (Longhorns baseball stadium)

Favorite players: Ozzie Smith and Nolan Ryan

Favorite team: Texas Longhorns (any sport)

Favorite show: Friends

Favorite T.V star: Bear Grylls (Man vs. Wild)

Favorite food: Grandma's

Favorite music: Country

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite sport to watch: College Football

Who I'd like to meet: Jackie Robinson

Hobbies: Golf

Hero: Si Lee Bingham (Grandpa)

Something about me you should know: I was a golf professional before coming to Drive.

Drive Performance: Fun for the Whole Team.

By: Derek Corr

Is your team looking for a place to train this season? Let Drive Performance be the place for you and your teammates to get the training needed to get prepared for next season. Teams with at least ten players who purchase a 1-year membership save \$100.00 off the regular membership price. The team will also receive additional training services including Group Video Player Assessments, (4) 1 hour team training lessons, and (1) iTrac lesson for each player. On top of all that, the team can schedule a weekly cage practice time throughout the off-season.

Team Membership options are also available for 6-month and 3-month options with ten players joining together. Membership is \$200.00 per player for 6-months, \$40 savings off the regular price membership. The 3-month membership option is \$100.00 per player compared to the regular price of \$135.00. Players that sign up as part of a team have the same privileges as all other members with the ability to use cages, discounted pricing of lessons, and ability to train with the iTrac Vision Training System. For more information, please give us a call at 847-229-1009.

Drive Performance Giving Back to the Community

By: Mark Jerome

Drive Performance and Township High School District 214 are teaming up to take part in a Transition and Career Services program. Transition services are a set of activities for a student with a disability that is designed to be a result-oriented process. The program assists students in the movement from school to the world of work and adult life. The Transition and Career services staff works collaboratively with students, families, schools and community agencies such as Drive Performance to provide services to support a successful transition from school to employment.

Drive's own Eric Maleski teamed up with Job Placement Specialist Tony Luther where he was introduced to Gus Arias, a Junior at Wheeling High School. Gus will be helping out at Drive Performance throughout the winter as part of this program. "We will provide an environment for Gus to develop real world job skills that give him a leg up moving forward. My hope is through his time with Drive; Gus will obtain valuable work experience that will assist him in obtaining a quality job and income when his studies have concluded." He is looking forward to the opportunity to transition into a variety of post-secondary options as well as learning a little more about the game he has grown to love.



Upcoming Events



Speed Training Circuit

Wednesday, November 11th – (Veterans Day)

Baseball: 10:00am-12:00pm

Softball: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Cost: (Member - \$25.00) (Non-Member - \$30.00)

Ages 8-14

Focus: Explosion, Speed, Agility & Quickness

Hitting Clinic featuring...iTrac

Friday, November 27th – (Day after Thanksgiving)

Baseball: 10:00am-12:00pm

Softball: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Cost: (Member - \$25.00) (Non-Member - \$30.00)

Ages 8-14

**In 2009, Drive Performance trained the following MLB teams with iTrac:
Cleveland Indians, New York Mets, San Francisco & Tampa Bay Rays.*

Winter Break Camps

Hitting 1: December 21

Hitting 2: December 28

Pitching 1: December 22

Pitching 2: December 29

Fielding 1: December 23

Fielding 2: December 30

Perf. Training: December 31

Baseball: 10:00am-12:00pm

Softball: 12:00pm-2:00pm

1 Day - \$35.00 , 2 Days - \$65.00 , 3 Days - \$90.00 , 4 Days - \$ 110.00 , 5 Days - \$125.00 , 6 Days - \$ 135.00

BEST VALUE: 7 Days - \$150.00

*** SIGN UP FOR 7 DAYS AND RECEIVE A DRIVE PERFORMANCE CAMP T-SHIRT**