

Nor'Easter Classic returns this weekend

BY JEFF LAJOIE

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REGION – One of the marquee events of the summer returns to the Lakes Region this weekend, as the 2015 Nor'Easter Classic will feature over 50 youth softball teams in four divisions with games scheduled July 24-26.

The tournament, hosted by the Nor'Easter Softball Club, will award championships to teams in the 18U, 16U, 14U and 12U divisions, with games to be played Belmont, Laconia, Tilton/Winnisquam and Gilford this weekend. Participants have a four-game guarantee (weather permitting) with three games in pool play on Friday and Saturday followed by single-elimination action on Sunday. It is one of the largest ASA sanctioned Junior Olympic tournaments in the state, and once again the event sold out well in advance.

"We have many new teams this year," explained Nor'Easter president and 18U head coach Fern Beaudet. "Teams love to come to our tourney every year and we had 12 teams on our waiting list that we could not fit in this year."

The host Nor'Easters will have teams entered in the 18U and 16U divisions. There will be 16 teams in each the 18U, 16U and 14U pools, while eight teams will comprise the 12U division.

"What makes this tournament a success is all the great volunteers we have that spend

hours after hours during the three days of our event," said Beaudet. "Volunteers are made up of parents, players, friends, clubs and other organizations that spend their weekends with us."

The local softball players will be well-represented in the event. Belmont High School softball coach Bill Clary's Bay State Brats 16U team will compete in the 18U division, and that squad features the Red Raider duo of Megan Prescott and Nicole Antonucci.

In the 16U division, the Nor'Easters also have a Belmont player in Shannon Davies, who will enter her junior year at BHS. The NH Lightning Black team in the 16U division has a pair of talented Winnisquam players in Marissa DeBlasie and Lauren Bolstridge, while Bear teammate Molly Tinker is slated to play with her NH Comets White squad.

The Gilford sister tandem of Sarah and Jillian Lachapelle are on the NH Comets Blue roster this summer and will also compete in a crowded 16U division, while Winnisquam's Talia DeBlasie and Cailey

Clogston will play for the NH Lightning Gold team in the 14U division.

Here's the schedule of games for teams with local ties (after pool play, teams will be seeded for single elimination brackets on Sunday):

18U
Bay State Brats (all games at Belmont High School) – Saturday, 11:30 a.m. vs. NH Comets Blue; Saturday, 1:15 p.m. vs. Vermont Rockets; Saturday, 3 p.m. vs. NE Diamond Gems.

Nor'Easters – Friday, 6 p.m. vs. NH Hammerheads (Memorial Field, Laconia); Saturday, 9:45 a.m. vs. Vermont Metal & Leather (Gilford High School); Saturday, 2:15 p.m. vs. RI Lightning (Gilford High School).

16U
Nor'Easters – Friday, 6 p.m. vs. NH Comets White (Opechee Park B); Saturday, 9:45 a.m. vs. Maine Thunder (Opechee Park B); Saturday, 1:15 p.m. vs. Cape Cod Dugout Dawgs (Opechee Park B).

NH Lightning Black – Friday, 6 p.m. vs. Chelmsford Blue Crush (Opechee Park A); Saturday, 9:45 a.m. vs. Methuen Rangers (Opechee Park A); Satur-



COURTESY

The Nor'Easter 16U softball team will look to make some noise in the 2015 Classic, which kicks off Friday with games being played throughout the Lakes Region all weekend.

day, 1:15 p.m. vs. Berlin Bobcats (Opechee Park A).

NH Comets Blue – Friday, 6 p.m. vs. Dover Xtreme (Opechee Park D); Saturday, 8 a.m. vs. Vermont Storm (Opechee Park D); Saturday, 1:15 p.m. vs. MA Drifters Battista

(Opechee Park D).

NH Comets White – Friday, 6 p.m. vs. Nor'Easters (Opechee Park B); Saturday, 11:30 a.m. vs. Cape Cod Dugout Dawgs (Opechee Park B); Saturday, 3 p.m. vs. Maine Thunder (Opechee Park B).

14U

NH Lightning Gold – Friday, 4:15 p.m. vs. Billerica Bratz (Bryant Field 1, Belmont); Saturday, 11:30 a.m. vs. Maine Sluggers (Bryant Field 1); Saturday, 1:15 p.m. vs. Team Mizuno Heat (Bryant Field 1).

Town of Belmont set for busy day of races on Aug. 8

BY JEFF LAJOIE

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BELMONT – There's something for everyone in Belmont on Aug. 8. And then some.

The town will host a plethora of events in what is being called a Road, Relay and Fun

Competition Day.

It all starts at 8 a.m. sharp, when the 47th annual Belmont Ten Mile Road Race takes off from Concord Street. The event, sanctioned by USA Track and Field, is a grueling course that eventually comes to a

finish near town hall on Main Street. Registration cost is \$18 and includes a t-shirt, with registration scheduled to be held at Belmont Middle School on the morning of the race. Arrive by 7:30 a.m. for final registration and bib number.

Division trophies, race results and remaining awards will be presented as soon as possible once the last runner crosses the finish line and places are official. The ceremony will be near Tioga Pavillion.

Contact Jeff Roberts (491-0979) or Gretta Olson-Wilder (998-3525) for more information or email questions to events@belmontnh.org

While the 10-Miler sets the tone on the busy morning, the Vito's 5K Run/Walk follows at 9 a.m. with the start and finish line scheduled for the Belmont Mill parking lot.

Help support the care and maintenance of Vito, Belmont Police Department's K9 Officer/Drug Enforcement dog. Cost for the 5K is just \$5

per person.

If that isn't enough for you, the town of Belmont has introduced the Cow Pie (10-Mile) Relay Race to close out the trifecta at 10 a.m. Also sanctioned by USA Track and Field, this event costs \$54 and is good for the race and t-shirt for each of your three team members. The relay is a 10-mile race for three-person teams with competition in male, female and co-ed categories. All legs are approximately 3.3 miles each. In addition, team members will receive free entry into the cow pie throw, which will feature real, dried cow pies thrown by hand for distance. That's something not to be missed.



COURTESY PHOTO

District champs

On Saturday, July 4, the Lakes Region Girls' Softball 10U All-Star team braved the rain and battled the Capital Area All-Stars in a best two-out-of-three series to take the NH Babe Ruth District 2 championship. This is the second consecutive district championship title for LRGs. Lakes Region Girls' Softball is a Babe Ruth Softball organization offering a competitive softball program to girls (ages 5-18) from Belmont, Laconia and Canterbury. The league promotes the ideals of good sportsmanship, skill development, self-confidence, and fun in hopes that its participants grow to be healthy, involved adults. Pictured (l to r), head coach Candice Murray, Isabella Thibault, Natalie Stottlar, Madison Paquette, Hannah Scott, Devyn Halligan, Yelena Rodrigues, Norah Dunleavy, Avery VonKadich, Sierra Halligan, Madison Darling, Elizabeth Griffiths, Lilly Carter, coach Russ Freelove. Front row, coach John VonKadich.



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