



Brakettes Schedule Double Header with NPF Akron Racers

Mark your calendars for Tuesday night, July 24, 2012. The Stratford Brakettes will be traveling to Akron, OH to face the NPF's Akron Racers. The Racers have just re-signed Cal pitching great Kristina Thorson and their top draft pick Kaylyn Castillo. Castillo caught for ASU in their 2011 NCAA College World Series victory. Last year's Racers roster also included All-NPF catcher Samantha Marder.

The Brakettes will 'caravan' to Akron on July 23rd, play the double header the next evening and then drive back to Connecticut on July 25th to catch their flight to Las Vegas on July 26, 2012.

We will do our best to web cast the games. We're hoping all of the Brakettes fans in Ohio, western-NY and western-PA will make the trip to Akron to cheer on the team!

Our thanks to Joey Arietta of the Akron Racers for this great opportunity.



Kristina Thorson, Akron Racers

MPH	BALL	STRIKE	OUT	AT BAT	H/E									
79	2	1	0	1	1									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	RUNS	HITS	ERR
GUEST	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	0
HOME	0	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	7	13	0

New Scoreboard for DeLuca Hall of Fame Stadium!

Our thanks go out to the Town of Stratford and for everybody who played a role. The new scoreboard should be ready for the 2012 season.

Brakettes Heading to Las Vegas for 2012 FCI Tournament

The Brakettes are looking forward to playing in the 2012 Fastpitch Championship Invitational in Henderson, NV. The tournament will be held from 27 to 29 July 2012. We are currently working with the tournament directors to be able to web cast the games to our fanbase.

Taking the team and support staff to Las Vegas is expensive and this will be the major trip of 2012 for the team. The FCI tournament is one of the few chances the team gets to play against teams from the West Coast. Teams from California, Hawaii, Arizona and Nevada have already committed to attend.

Game times and tournament results will be on our web site (www.brakettes.com)



Brakette Great Diane Schumacher

An Interview with Pat Dufficy



What moment of your Brakette career are you proudest of?

When I got my 1000th hit on Father's Day. I'm not sure what year it was.

When did you know you had made it as a Brakette? When did you know you belonged in red?

When I became the starting catcher at 16.

What was the best Brakette squad you were ever a part of?

All of them. They were all good and unique.

How tough was it for you when you were left off the 1996 Olympic Team? How closely did you follow that first Olympic competition?

I was devastated. I had paid my dues and had a great tryout. Then 'Bam', I didn't make it. I went to Columbus, GA to watch. It was hard.

What are your thoughts on softball being removed from the Olympics?

I did not think it was right.

Did you have fun during Alumni Week (2011)?

I had a BLAST!

Can you share one of your off-field stories with us? You can change the names to protect the innocent!

XXXXX and I were driving home from a game in NJ. She was speeding and we got pulled over. She asked me to put her gun under my seat and I think I almost fainted. I said, "We're going to get arrested", but we had our Brakettes uniforms on and caught a break. How lucky were we?

You are the Brakettes' most prolific hitter of all-time. You showed some pop during Alumnae Weekend! Are you still playing?

Yes. Every Sunday, but it is slow-pitch.

Were you sad to see Stephanie Call break your single season home run record?

No. Records are meant to be broken.

When might we see you in Stratford again?

Next alumnae game or weekend.

Anything else you would like to share with other former Brakettes?

I had a blast playing with everyone and I couldn't have asked for a better bunch of women.

From the ASA Hall of Fame Web Page:

Pat Dufficy could play just about any position on the softball field and often did for the renowned Raybestos Brakettes of Stratford, CT. The 17th former Brakette elected to the National Softball Hall of Fame, Dufficy played 19 years for the Brakettes and because of this, holds no less than six Brakette career records, including games played (1,112), runs scored (788), hits (1,177), triples (80), home runs (91) and RBIs (752). She compiled a 19-year batting average of .347 for the Brakettes. "She was an outstanding team player," said former Raybestos Head Coach Ralph Raymond. "She came to play and she played all the positions on the field for us. In one game (1990), we got away ahead and even put her into pitch." The perfect mix of skill and enjoyment, Dufficy earned ASA All-America honors 11 times at three different positions (outfield, third base and shortstop). She was a first-team selection in 1983, 1986, 1988, 1993, and 1994, a second-team choice in 1980, 1989, 1990, 1992 and a third-team All-America in 1985 and 1995. Besides being named an All-American in 1983, Pat was named MVP of the ASA Women's Major Fast Pitch National Championship. Now living in Tampa, FL, Dufficy was a member of 10 national championship teams and also played in 11 U.S. Olympic Festivals, batting .300 or higher four times. In the 1994 Festival, she batted .347, hit a pair of game-winning homers and drove in eight runs in leading her team to a silver medal. A year later, she batted .381 in the Festival. Besides her national championship play, Dufficy twice was a member of the USA Pan American team, 1979 and 1983, and led the USA Team in batting in the latter with a .434 average and 14 RBIs. She also played in three ISF World Championships (1978, 1986 and 1994), achieving an accumulative .205 batting average (16-for-78), with a .300 batting average in the 1994 World Championship her highest batting average.



Brakettes Hot Stove Report

By Rob Baird, Media Director

The Stratford Brakettes won't open the 2012 season until early June, but the buzz about the upcoming campaign is already starting to build. Let's take a look at what's heating up this year's Brakettes Hot Stove Report...

The Brakettes will carry a 119-game winning streak into the season, as they look to defend their WMS National title. While fans wait for the fastpitch action to begin, the Brakettes' staff has been busy this off-season, planning many exciting events for 2012.

A soon-to-be-announced TV partnership, which will feature Brakettes games on a local television network throughout the summer, is in the works. Details are currently being ironed out, and an official joint announcement will be made in the coming weeks. Brakette General Manager Bob Baird is now lining up quality competition for the scheduled TV dates.

The Brakettes will again open their season against the Newtown Rock (PA). The Rock finished second to Team North Florida in last year's 18-under ASA Gold National Tournament. Newtown was also the last team to defeat the Brakettes, with a 7-3 Opening Night win at DeLuca in 2010.

The Opening Night doubleheader between the Brakettes and Newtown Rock will be the first scheduled TV night, as both games will be produced for a tape-delay broadcast the following week. The single nine-inning game on June 15th against the CT High School All-Stars is the next scheduled TV night, followed by two more dates in July.

Also returning to Stratford in 2012 will be the St. Louis Saints, perennial national title contenders. The Saints will play two against the Brakettes on Tuesday night, August 7th. The doubleheader has also been tabbed as

a television date.

With the 2012 Women's Major Softball National Championship looking to expand in size and scope, softball fans will be happy to hear that selected games from the WMS tourney will also be recorded for tape-delay broadcasts which will be aired throughout the month of August.

The Saints again headline the list of teams looking to knock off the two-time defending champion Brakettes in the 2012 WMS Championship, August 9th-12th, in Stratford. After an 11-team WMS Championship in 2011, we hope to again expand the tournament field. All tournament games at DeLuca will be broadcast at brakettes.com.

The 2009 WMS champion NYC Havoc will again be in the field at this year's Nationals, and will visit the Brakettes in July for a series of games at DeLuca Field. The New York Raiders, who finished 3rd in the 2011 WMS Championship, and the 4th-place Connecticut Mirage will again vie for the title.

Bob Baird is putting the finishing touches on the 2012 schedule, which will be posted at www.brakettes.com in the coming weeks. In addition to the top WMS returners from 2011, the Lyons (PA) Spirit, Rhode Island Thunder, Massachusetts Pride, Polar Crush (Worcester, MA), New Jersey Pride, Connecticut Eliminators, Stratford (CT) Breakers and Stratford (CT) Seahawks will return to play the Brakettes, while other top women's clubs from the Northeast will fill out the remaining home dates.

PITCHING CLINIC

There will be a Brakettes pitching clinic at Stratford High School on March 18th, featuring Manager John Stratton and several current Brakettes. The clinic is timed perfectly to help aspiring pitchers prepare for their upcoming spring seasons. Visit www.brakettes.com for clinic registration information.



MICKEY MACHIETTO STRATTON

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PEGGY KELLERS

Negotiations with TEAM USA at a Standstill

We had hoped to reach an agreement with TEAM USA to have them play the Brakettes at Stratford this summer. Our fans still remember when they came to Stratford in 2008. Unfortunately, their appearance fee has doubled since that time and it is not economically feasible for us to pursue it.

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SOFTBALL



NOTHING SOFT ABOUT IT



Brakettes Sponsorships



The GRAND SLAM!

- 3' x 8' sign on Home Run Fence for all 2012 Brakettes' home games and clinics.
- Full page ad in 2012 Brakettes' Media Guide.
- P.A. Announcements at all 2012 Home Games.
- Two (2) 30-second spots during Brakettes' webcasts.
- Sponsored Booth at the Ballpark on Opening Night.
- Ten (10) General Admission Season Tickets for the 2012 Season.
- Two (2) General Admission Tournament Passes for the 2012 Women's Major Softball National Championship.
- \$750.



The HOME RUN!

- 3' x 8' sign on Home Run Fence for all 2012 Brakettes' home games and clinics.
- Quarter-page ad in 2012 Brakettes' Media Guide.
- One (1) 30-second spots during Brakettes' webcasts.
- Four (4) General Admission Season Tickets for the 2012 Season
- \$600.

Contact Name: _____
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Please make your check payable to: Brakettes, Inc. Mail the form with your payment to: Bob Baird, General Manager, Brakettes Softball, 185 Lordship Rd., Stratford, CT 06615. Our staff will contact you to coordinate the design of your banner and the promotional announcements for the P.A. and webcasts.

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