



Brakettes Pre-Season Newsletter -- May 2014

Brakettes Undefeated in 2013!



L-R, top row- Trainer Dana Jusino, Meghan Rico, Scorer Steve Pavlich, Brittany Lampert, Kate Bowen, Sam Greiner, Mariel Schlaefer, Jess Mouse, Becca Carden, Emily Weiman, GM Bob Baird, Manager John Stratton. **bottom row-** Elise Fortier, Mandie Fishback, Amber Radomski, Ashley Waters, Denise Denis, Steffi Call

The Stratford Brakettes capped off an undefeated 2013 (68-0) with wins in the USSSA World Series Women's Fast Pitch and the Women's Major Softball tournaments. In late July the team traveled to Rockford, IL to take part in their 1st USSSA national tournament. After going undefeated in pool play, the team ran through the winner's bracket, defeating the Cincy Storm, Avanti's Angels, SGS Magic White and Hooters. Emily Weiman pitched two shut-out gems and Meghan Rico added her own shutout. In the Championship game, the Brakettes played the Hooters team once again. Weiman came on in early relief to earn the win in a 6-3 game. Elise Fortier and Steffi Call provided the offensive power for the Brakettes, combining for seven HRs during the tourney. Steffi was named the Tournament MVP, while Elise was named Most Outstanding Offensive Player. SS Mandie Fishback joined 2B Ashley Waters on the All Tournament team.

The Brakettes returned to Stratford to play in the Women's Major Softball (WMS) Tourney. Emily Weiman pitched back-to-back shutouts in pool play. Brittany Lampert and Amber Radomski added home runs. The Brakettes then won 3 straight games to capture the winner's bracket. Steffi Call pitched two shut-outs (27-0 on the season!) and added a HR to propel the team into the Championship final. The team faced the CT Charmers in the final game. Emily Weiman's two-hit shut out and home runs by Denise Denis (11 for the season) and Elise Fortier (her team leading 23rd of the year) propelled the team to their 4th consecutive WMS championship title.



Manager John Stratton

2013 BATTING AND FIELDING

PLAYER	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	HB	SAC	BA	OBP
Kate Bowen	65	206	67	74	18	7	1	38	12	17	5	5	.359	.408
Stephanie Call	65	165	76	88	20	2	22	89	34	16	0	3	.533	.613
Becca Carden	68	184	47	72	13	4	5	41	5	12	0	6	.391	.407
Denise Denis	65	173	70	69	10	3	11	57	30	14	1	6	.399	.490
Mandie Fishback	63	162	42	79	13	0	1	41	15	3	1	2	.488	.534
Elise Fortier	59	154	62	79	14	6	23	87	21	8	4	0	.513	.581
Sam Greiner	13	24	3	3	1	0	1	6	3	4	0	1	.125	.222
Brittany Lampert	55	103	34	48	7	1	1	20	19	16	0	6	.466	.549
Jess Mouse	64	143	33	56	9	1	1	30	15	5	0	10	.392	.448
Amber Radomski	50	91	17	31	6	1	2	25	13	3	0	10	.341	.423
Mariel Schlaefer	44	77	19	26	2	0	1	16	8	6	0	1	.338	.400
Ashley Waters	68	200	71	75	15	0	5	35	16	6	0	14	.375	.421
Shannon Doepking	5	13	3	3	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	.231	.333
Nadia Kemp	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.333	.333
Emily Weiman	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000

2013 PITCHING

	G	IP	W	L	H	R	ER	2B	3B	HR	SO	BB	ERA
Brandice Balschmitter	4	20	4	0	10	0	0	1	0	0	37	15	0.00
Kate Bowen	2	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	0.00
Stephanie Call	27	150	27	0	46	14	9	5	0	2	235	36	0.42
Allyson Fournier	2	10	2	0	6	2	2	1	0	0	23	0	1.40
Sam Greiner	23	128	22	0	59	18	12	4	1	2	109	28	0.67
Meghan Rico	1	4	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	0.00
Emily Weiman	10	60	10	0	19	2	2	2	0	1	75	11	0.20

BRACKETTES Play Team Canada in 2014

The Brackettes will travel to Toronto to play back-to-back double-header dates against Team Canada. The first double-header is scheduled for Sunday, 3 August with a 1PM start time. The 2nd double-header is scheduled for Monday, 4 August with a noon start time. The team then heads back to Stratford for a 5 August game against the St. Louis Saints. Use your Internet browser and go to www.brakettes.com to view all the action. Free!



Brakettes Take on the Akron Racers of NPF

A highlight of the 2014 season is when the team travels to Akron, OH to take on the National Pro Fastpitch league's Akron Racers. In 2012, the Brackettes dropped two 5-3 games. See how this year's team measures up against the pros! Tune in for the double-header on July 19th at 7PM.



2014 STRATFORD BRAKETTES SCHEDULE

(check www.brakettes.com for updates)

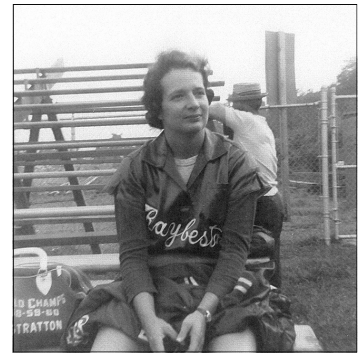
DATE	DAY	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
June 6	Friday	STRATFORD SEAHAWKS (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
7	Saturday	LYONS (PA) SPIRIT (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
8	Sunday	LYONS (PA) SPIRIT (2)	HOME	10:00 a.m.
12	Thursday	CT DIAMONDS (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
14	Saturday	at Lyons Spirit (2)	Lyons, PA	7:00 p.m.
15	Sunday	at Lyons Spirit (2)	Lyons, PA	12 noon
19	Thursday	CT. H.S. ALL~STARS (1 - 9 inn.)	HOME	6:30 p.m.
20	Friday	ROCK 18 GOLD (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
21	Saturday	ROCK 18 GOLD (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
26	Thursday	at Providence, RI, PFP AllStars (1)	Rhode Is. Coll.	7:00 p.m.
27	Friday	NEW YORK SWAG RED (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
28	Saturday	NEW YORK SWAG BLACK (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
29	Sunday	XPLOSION 23U (2)	HOME	6:00 p.m.
July 3	Thursday	STRATFORD BREAKERS 23U (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
5	Saturday	SEAHAWKS / XPLOSION (3)	HOME	5:00 p.m.
6	Sunday	SEAHAWKS / XPLOSION (3)	HOME	4:00 p.m.
10	Thursday	ROCK 18 GOLD (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
11	Friday	MASSACHUSETTS PRIDE (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
12	Saturday	MASS PRIDE / LYONS SPIRIT (3)	HOME	5:00 p.m.
13	Sunday	MASS PRIDE / LYONS SPIRIT (3)	HOME	10:00 a.m.
17	Thursday	CT FALCONS 23U (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
19	Saturday	at (NPF) Akron Racers (2)	Akron, OH	7:00 p.m.
24	Thursday	CT SEAHAWKS 23U (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
25	Friday	STRATFORD BREAKERS 23U (2)	HOME	7:00 p.m.
26-27	Sat-Sun	USSSA BRAKETTES INVITATIONAL	STRATFORD, CT	TBA
Aug 3	Sunday	at Team Canada (2)	Toronto, CA	1:00 p.m.
4	Monday	at Team Canada (2)	Toronto, CA	12 noon
5	Tuesday	ST. LOUIS SAINTS (2)	HOME	6:30 p.m.
7-10	Thurs-Sun	6th ANNUAL WOMEN'S MAJOR SOFTBALLNATIONAL CHAMP.	STRATFORD, CT	TBA

HOME GAMES CAPITALIZED

Home games played at Frank DeLuca Hall of Fame Field, Stratford, CT

For Brakettes tickets call (203) 378-7262

Watch all home games (and some away games) free of charge on www.brakettes.com.



Micki Stratton: '56 - '65



Peggy Kellers: '64 - '74



Willie Roze: '66 - '75



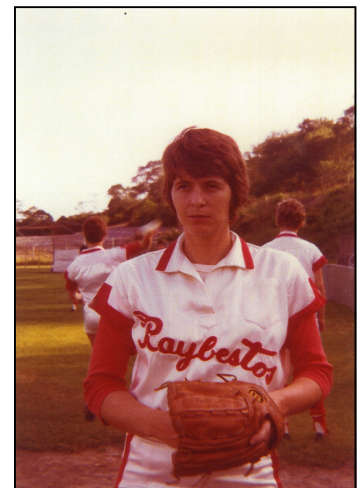
Marlene Piper: '68



Gladys Crespo: '65-'70



Donna Hebert: '65 - '69



Joan Joyce: '53 - '63, '67 - '75



Brakettes Softball mourns the loss of 4 former players in the past year. They all contributed to the rich history of Brakettes Softball and will continue to be in our thoughts.

Anna Mary "Punxsy" Edmondson	(Brakette- 1948-54)
Marie "Jo-Jo" Ottaviano	(Brakette- 1951-63)
Bertha Ragan Tickey	(Brakette- 1956-68)
Kathryn "Sis" King	(Brakette- 1965-67)



Anna Mary "Punxsy" Edmondson

Anna Mary "Punxsy" Edmondson, 88, of Punxsutawney, Pa., passed away Sunday, April 21, 2013 at her home. In her young adult life, Anna Mary was employed by the Bryant Electric Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut where she assembled gyros for torpedos, which sunk two battleships and a cruiser. "Punxsy", who was given the nickname because of her hometown, gained the reputation as one of Connecticut's best all-around girl athletes with her high level of skill in many sports. She joined the Raybestos Brakettes in the East Coast Women's Softball League, played first base and had a seven year batting average of .465. With her home run hitting she gained the reputation as the "Babe Ruth" of Connecticut softball. In October of 1947, Punxsy tried out for the 1948 All-American Girls Baseball League. She also earned her election to the Connecticut Softball Hall of Fame in 1983. Anna Mary "Punxsy" Edmondson was a kind and loving person who would do anything for anyone. *(from her obituary)*



Bottom photo - "Punxsy" at our 2011 Brakettes Reunion



Marie "Jo Jo" Ottaviano

MARIE "JO JO" OTTAVIANO, 81, of Woodbury, Connecticut passed away August 30th, 2013 in her home, surrounded by her loving family, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was the longtime friend (36 years) of Millie B. Hull. Marie was a very talented softball player for the Raybestos Brakettes for 13 years as an ace infielder (3B) from 1951 to 1963. Within that time she and her team won 4 A.S.A. National Championships, which were in 1958, '59, '60 and '63. Jo Jo was inducted into the Connecticut Hall of Fame in 1979. After her softball career, she co-owned the Plush Pup Grooming Shop in Fairfield, CT. along with long time friend, Paula Segnatelli for many years. Marie resided in Florida for 8 years before moving to Woodbury, CT. when in 2009 she retired from Vectron Lab in Norwalk, CT. after many years of service. She was an avid N.Y. Yankees and N.Y. Giants fan. Jo Jo loved to cook, enjoyed music and playing the keyboard. *(from her obituary)*



Bottom photo shows Jo Jo in 2011- showing her "Lifetime Pass" to all Brakette and Cardinal home games.



Kathryn (Sis) King

When it came to hitting for average and power, Kathryn (Sis) King was among the best, playing for teams in Cincinnati, OH, Phoenix, AZ and Stratford, CT. In three years with the Brakettes, Sis had a .322 batting average, after 15 years with teams in Cincinnati and Phoenix. She played in six ASA national championships and was a four-time first-team All-America. She batted .400 in the 1963 national with averages of .417 in 1964 and .400 in 1965. In 1965, when the Brakettes toured the world promoting softball and played in the first ISF World Championship in Melbourne, Australia, King's .352 batting average led the team, as did her 12 hits, including four triples. In 1967, softball was a demonstration sport at the Pan American Games. King was a member of the Raybestos Brakettes, who represented the USA. She was the first woman to hit a home run over the scoreboard at the former Raybestos Memorial Field (1959) and the first woman to hit back-to-back homers at Memorial Field during a national tourney. *(from ASA HALL OF FAME)*



Bertha Ragan Tickey

Born “Borica Petinak” in March 1923 in Orosi, California, Bertha was the fifth of seven children of Chetko and Andja Petinak, who were Serbian immigrants from Bosnia , Hercegovina.

Bertha Ragan Tickey first played softball on the Sultana girls travel ball team in 1937. In ‘39, Elwood Case, manager of the Orange Lionettes, convinced her to pitch for his team at the age of 16. The Lionettes won the SoCal fast pitch championships in ‘40, ‘46 and ‘47. Bertha was crowned “Miss Softball” at the ASA National Tourney in ‘49, striking out 756 batters in 60 games and racking up 120 consecutive scoreless innings. In ‘55 she threw 155 consecutive scoreless innings, a record that still stands today.

In 1956, Bertha headed East to help William Simpson develop his Raybestos Brakettes into a world class team. Bertha led the Brakettes to National Championships in ‘58, ‘59. ‘60, ‘63, ‘66, ‘67 and ‘68. On August 15, 1962, she struck out baseball’s batting king, Ted Williams, twice, during a pre-game exhibition.

In ‘56 and ‘57 Bertha worked for “Sport’s Illustrated” magazine, traveling around the U.S. with other top athletes to promote spectator sports. Bertha retired from competition in ‘68 after pitching her final game in the National Championship Tournament in front of her entire family. She struck out 20 of 21 batters in that 7 inning game, a record that still stands today.

Bertha pitched 757 career wins, with only 88 losses. She threw 42 perfect games and 162 no hitters. She was an 18 time All American, and 8 time National Championship MVP. She owns 11 National Championship titles, four with Orange and seven with Raybestos. She threw a record three perfect games in national tourney play; in ‘50 (her first national title), ‘54 and again in ‘68 (her last title, and final game.)

After retiring from softball. Bertha went on to a career with The Barnum Festival in Stratford, CT, where she served as their executive director until her retirement in the early 1980’s.

She is a member of the ASA National Hall of Fame, the CT Hall of Fame, the Orange County Hall of Fame, the Fresno Hall of Fame and the Central Valley Softball Hall of Fame. Dinuba High School named its Varsity Field in her honor on January 24, 2009.

(from biography provided by Vicki Worthley)



STRATFORD BRAKETTES SEASON TICKETS ARE ANOTHER GREAT BARGAIN FOR SOFTBALL FANS by Bob Baird, GM

The Stratford Brakettes will open their 68th consecutive season of play on June 6th at Frank DeLuca Hall of Fame Field. The team has 25 home play dates in Stratford. The 2014 schedule is posted on the Brakettes website at www.brakettes.com.

Season ticket prices have remained the same for the fifth straight year. Box seats are \$100, reserved with back rests (behind home plate) are \$80 and general admission (first and third base bleachers) are \$60. All subsequent tickets are available at half-price. Anyone who purchases a season pass will receive special discounts on the National Tournament tickets. We are still relying on the generosity of our fans and area businesses to make all of this happen. If you know someone that might be interested in becoming a season ticket holder, please let us know and we will send them the information. If anyone is interested in selling passes to friends, neighbors, merchants, please let us know. We welcome everyone's help. If you have any questions, please contact us at (203) 378-7262, or via e-mail, brakettes05@hotmail.com.

Manager John Stratton's club will feature several members of last year's 68-0 team that captured its fourth straight Women's Major Softball National Championship. Veteran outfielder Denise Denis, who is second on the all-time home run list, is back and she is joined by shortstop Mandie Fishback, third/catcher Jessica Mouse, and power-hitting infielder Elise Fortier, who led the team with 23 home runs and finished second in batting average at .513 and RBI at 87.

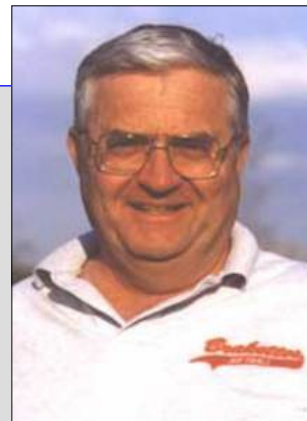
Veteran pitcher Brandice Balschmitter was 4-0 in limited action last year and she is back full-time in 2014. Two years ago she led the team with a 36-2 record. North Carolina State star Emily Weiman (10-0) last year and newcomer Allyson Fournier, who led Tufts to the NCAA Division III title and was named the NCAA Div III Player of the Year joins the pitching staff. Another key addition is Masuk of Monroe senior pitcher/infielder Tatum Buckley.

In addition to regular season dates at DeLuca Field, the Brakettes again will host the 6th annual Women's Major Softball championship tournament August 7-10. A field between 10-13 teams is anticipated, including the St. Louis Saints who are returning after a year's hiatus. Stratton's club will host the second USSSA Brakettes Invitational July 26-27 at DeLuca Field. This, too, is part of the season ticket package.

The Brakettes will face one of the team's all-time winning pitchers in Rachele Fico (77-1) when they take on the National Pro Fastpitch League Akron Racers on July 19th at Firestone Stadium. Prior to the WMS event the Brakettes will be in Toronto, Canada, for doubleheaders on August 3 and 4 against Team Canada.

Stratton's club enters the season with two streaks intact. They have won 81 straight games and 203 consecutive home games, dating back to June 4, 2010. In the last four years the Brakettes are 256-4 overall with records of 68-0, 68-3, 63-0 and 57-1.

In the past three seasons the Brakettes have made big road trips to participate in tournaments. In 2011 they played in the rain-shortened St. Louis Saints Invitational and went 4-0 and in 2012 they captured the Fastpitch Championship Invitational in Las Vegas, beating six California teams en route to the title. Last year the Brakettes captured the USSSA World Series in Rockford, IL.



2014 BRAKETTES SEASON TICKETS

The 2014 Stratford Brakettes season pass is good for all regular season home dates at Frank DeLuca Hall of Fame Field as well as a discounted rate for the 6th Women's Major Softball National Championships August 7-10 at DeLuca Field.

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF TICKETS

Stadium Box Seats (Blue) _____ Preferred Row/Seat Number _____ @ \$100.
2nd ticket and all subsequent tickets are half-priced @ \$50 each.

Reserved with Back Rests (Red-behind home plate) _____ Preferred Row/Seat Number _____ @\$80.
2nd ticket and all subsequent tickets are half-priced @\$40 each.

Bleacher seats (left and right field) _____ @ \$60.
2nd ticket and all subsequent tickets are half-priced @ \$30.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE # () _____

E-MAIL _____

**Please make checks payable to: Brakettes, Inc.
Send coupons and check to: Bob Baird, 185 Lordship Road, Stratford, CT 06615
For Additional Information call (203) 378-7262**

(If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming a season ticket holder, please include their name and address in the space below.)

Let's Make Certain the Brakettes' Legend Continues!

The Stratford Brakettes are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

2014 season begins June 6 at DeLuca Field (go to www.brakettes.com for entire schedule)