

The New Brand of LMYA... LowerMac Athletics

In the leagues and tournaments in which LMYA competes, our teams are known as LowerMac. In recognition of this, and in support of the organization's efforts to develop a uniform and attractive image, the board has approved the name "LowerMac Athletics" as an alternative name to LMYA. The organization's official name will continue to be the Lower Macungie Youth Association (LMYA). However, the organization's name for brand development (apparel, letterhead, website, brochures, etc.) will be LowerMac Athletics, and the sport programs will be known as LowerMac Softball, LowerMac Baseball, etc.

Members should soon see new logos on our uniforms and website and in various forms of communication. The change will occur over the next several years. **Logos can be downloaded from our website at <https://www.lmya.org/logo.cfm> or by clicking on the "Logos" link in the upper right of the home page. Go LowerMac!**

Lower Macungie Township Recreation News

The Lower Macungie Township Recreation Department offers a variety of programs for families. Following is a glimpse of some upcoming programs:



- Discount Ski Tickets for Bear Creek, Jack Frost & Big Boulder, Blue Mountain and Camelback can be purchased at the Lower Macungie Community Center.



- Discount movie tickets for Regal Cinemas are also available at the Community Center.



- An SAT Practice test will be offered **Saturday, January 26, 2013.**



- Safe Sitter, a babysitting class will be held on **Saturday, February 2, 2013.**



- A Magic Show will be held on **Saturday, February 23, 2013.**



- Mother – Son Bowling will be on **Sunday, March 3, 2013.**

For more information, contact the Lower Macungie Recreation Department at 610-966-6924, or visit their web site, www.lowermac.org/recreation.



Text ALERTS

Did You Know?!

Did you know that the days of phone trees are gone and that LMYA members can now receive text alerts for both Calendar updates and Sports Alerts! They are a great way to stay informed on immediate changes with regard to schedules. **To receive a text alert for a schedule change or important team information, one only needs to edit his/her Alert Preferences! Here is how it works:**

Log onto LMYA's website, and click the "Alert Preferences" button.

For Calendar updates:

- Scroll to member information.
- Select the days for which you wish to receive updates.
- Select the sport for which you wish to receive updates.
- Place a check mark next to, "Text me when a LMYA email is sent to me."
- Enter your mobile phone number of page number.
- Enter your mobile carrier name from the drop down list.
- Click the "Save" icon at the top right of the page.

For Sport Alerts:

Make sure that your mobile number is entered on the main Family Information page.

- Click on the "View and Update My Family" button.
- Click on the button that represents you (you can only save information for the person that is logged in- if you cannot save the information, then you are not logged in as that person).
- Navigate to the "Cell phone" input box and enter your cell phone number.

This process will be streamlined in upcoming months, and for security purposes will be limited to the person logged in. This way, you can edit your information without the risk of accidentally changing another member's information. Should a member want to remove themselves from receiving any more alerts, the process is the same only the member will need to unselect whatever was originally selected.

Executive Director's Corner

As 2012 winds down, I would like to take the opportunity to think back on what has been a whirlwind of a year and give thanks for many things. I am thankful to have the opportunity to work with the wonderful people that comprise the LMYA Board of Directors. They approach their significant responsibility, not with resignation, but with enthusiasm and dedication. It is an honor to have the opportunity to help them implement their vision for "Lower Mac Athletics". Thank you! I am thankful for the many committed volunteers without which we would not be able to offer nine sports programs. Some of our volunteers work two or three jobs in the organization because volunteers are always hard to find, and coach and work their own jobs, and care for their families! Thank you!

Finally, I am thankful for our members. We are committed to providing the best instructional, recreational and competitive sports programs possible and are working very hard to make Lower Mac Athletics the premier youth sports organization in the Lehigh Valley, but without our kids and parents, there would be no LMYA. Thank you! As you can see, I do indeed have much to be thankful for and as we head down the stretch towards 2103, I am looking forward to more fun and challenges in 2013. Until then, I would like to wish you all a wonderful, happy, blessed holiday season!

Happy Holidays!

Lindsay



VOLLEYBALL SEASON WRAP-UP

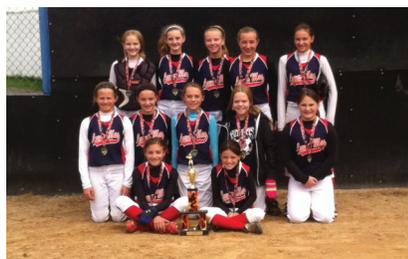
by Gary Gehman

In November we ended another very successful fall season. There were 2 co-ed divisions this year, Juniors for grades 4-7 and Seniors for grades 8-12, 4 teams per division.

The season began in September with a series of practices and then in late September and October, scrimmages were held prior to the year-end tournaments in early November. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, we had to cancel some of the tournament matches but we still ended with very competitive finals. An all-star night was also held for some of the top players from each team. This is always a fun night for the players, and the experience is highlighted by special shirts that are handed out to each participant.

For the 2012 season, congratulations to the following teams for winning the year-end tournament in their respective division. Junior Team 2 coached by Laura Nelson and Jen Gilbert, players Mallory Burns, Jayne Gilbert, Jonah Gilbert, Emma Halpin, Kyra Halpin, Rylee Kulpinsky, Erin Lavelle, Caroline Nelson, Henry Ryan IV and Maiah Sabol. Senior Team 1 coached by Scott and Ellen Switzer, players Connor Bade, Sarah Boccella, Reed Custer, Elizabeth Eberwein, Emily Famularo, Megan Famularo, Megan Gehman, Jessica Hawkins, and Drew Switzer. Even though only one team from each division gets the gold medal, I feel that all of the participants should be proud of their accomplishments. Many thanks to all the coaches who gave of their time to make the season a good learning experience for all, because without their effort and devotion to the program it would not be possible.

Looking towards the 2013 season, the Volleyball program is in need of a new coordinator. After 11 years, the time has come for me to step down and let someone else have the opportunity to have as much fun as I've had over the years. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with the youth of our community and I only hope that I was able to help provide a good experience for all players, coaches and parents.



U12 Fall Girls Travel Softball:

Lower Mac's U12 Fall Girls Travel Softball team finished second overall in the Northwest Explosion's Fall Fast Pitch Finale, an ASA Qualifier, with a record of 3 - 1 - 1.

It's Not About Winning

The purpose of LMYA is to teach life skills to the youth of our community. These skills include developing discipline and responsibility, understanding the importance of teamwork and respect for authority, and valuing the benefits of exercise and healthy living. So to be clear on this point, there is no sport program in LMYA, and therefore no level within any sport program in LMYA, which has as its primary objective the winning of a game. Winning is desirable and fun, but it cannot be the focus of our efforts. To accomplish this purpose takes a concerted effort by the players, the coaches, and the families.

The players must put forth their best effort in both practices and games. They must listen to their coaches, be respectful to the referees/umpires, and be supportive of their teammates. And the players must be gracious when they win and accepting of a loss without making excuses.

Coaches need to be a mentor to all their players and not play favorites. All players have value and should be able to contribute on the field in every game. How you treat your players and handle both winning and losing will have a lasting impact. Coaches should set incremental developmental goals and keep their players focused on these. It is important to communicate regularly with both the players and their families about the goals and the progress the team is making. The families should support the coach's decisions and the referee's/umpire's calls. When a family member wants to question a coach's decision, he should approach the coach (not during a game) and ask for a good time to talk. Families need to cheer for the entire team and not coach from the sidelines. When players, coaches, and families participate in this way, everyone's experience is positive and the players will develop skills that will help them the rest of their lives... in all their pursuits.

The Evolving Role of Sponsors

LMYA's mission is to provide quality instructional, recreational and competitive sports programs for children ages 4 to 19. Many of our members ask what the registration fees we collect are used for. Operating our sports program requires a significant investment. Consider as an example softball, whose complexity is similar to our other programs. Following just some of what is required for LMYA's softball program: uniforms, umpires, league fees, tournament fees, bats, balls, bases, coaches training, first aid supplies, indoor practice time, field maintenance supplies and equipment, including field grooming mules and part-time help to groom and line fields.

Besides operating the actual softball program, LMYA is committed to improving the quality of the fields that we practice and play on. This is for purposes of safety and an ever growing pride in Lower Mac athletics. Lower Macungie Township is responsible for basic field maintenance, but they do not have the resources to groom, layout and line the fields at the level or the frequency that LMYA needs. As the organization continues to grow, we have been asked to assume a greater role in maintaining the fields that we use. This includes purchasing and installing equipment boxes and storage sheds, providing port-a-johns at various parks and installing keyless entry to give coordinators and coaches greater ease getting into storage areas without having to worry about keys.

Finally, LMYA's administrative costs also continue to grow. To complete background checks for our all coaches, to purchase necessary insurance that covers them, to protect the improvements that we have made to various fields, and to provide financial aid to those who qualify adds up to a significant amount of money. LMYA has been fortunate to date to receive a generous annual contribution from Lower Macungie Township, but with additional training programs, including concussion training on the horizon, LMYA is focused on finding additional alternative sources of revenue to offset our costs. Recently, the organization implemented a sponsorship policy and program. Done in a tasteful manner, it is a win – win for LMYA members and Lower Macungie Township businesses. Sponsorship opportunities are available on T-shirts that are issued to children each year and on banners that will be hung along the outfield fence of Church Lane Park's baseball field. **Members that are interested in sponsoring an LMYA sport or know of a business that might be interested are welcome to contact Lindsay Taylor at 215-642-0695 or lindsay_taylor@lmya.org.**

Lower Mac Fall Sports Wrap-up

Field Hockey News

On October 13th, teams from the LMYA Field Hockey program were recognized on Youth Day at Emmaus High School during halftime of the last regular season game for the Green Hornets Varsity squad. Each LMYA Field Hockey team in Grades 1 through 6 was represented on the field. The LMYA players were met with applause and touted as the future of Emmaus Field Hockey. Everyone had a good time and got to watch their student coaches play.



*LMYA 2012 Youth Day-
Emmaus High School Varsity
Field Hockey Game*

Football News

This fall Lower Mac Mustangs football program continues to grow. A new Micro Flag program for 5 year olds was added that was very well received. 49 children participated in the program!

Other Mustang teams also did well in 2012:

The 95 lb. team finished with a record of 7-4 and was Runner-up in the Suburban Youth Football League (SYFL) losing in the Championship game to Emmaus by a score of 12 - 6.

The 110 lb. team finished with a record of 9-2 and won the Colonial Division, but lost to the Bethlehem Bulldogs in Championship game 18 - 0.

The 125 lb. team finished with a record of 9-1 and was the Colonial Division Champions.



Volunteers Needed for Cheerleading and Volleyball Programs

The LMYA Board of Directors is looking for volunteers to lead the Volleyball and Cheerleading programs. After many years, Gary Gehman has decided to retire as Coordinator of LMYA's Volleyball program. Erin Iacobelli has also decided to step down as Coordinator of the Cheerleading program. The LMYA Board of Directors thanks them for their commitment to LMYA. As we say many times, we cannot provide the programs that we do without our volunteers. Thank you to you both!!

We are now looking for volunteers to take on the significant responsibilities of running these programs in a committee format. The Board is committed to strengthening the programs and believes that spreading the workload and sharing responsibilities will result in stronger programs and less of a workload on volunteers. **Anyone interested is asked to contact Lindsay Taylor, Executive Director at 215-642-0695 or lindsay_taylor@lmya.org.**



www.lmya.org

Serving over 5,000 players through 9 team sports

Promoting healthy active lifestyles through team sports

Lower Macungie Township, Bishop Photo, Buckeye Tavern, Chick-fil-A, East Penn Software, EBC, Ghosh Orthodontics, Giant Food Stores, John Yurkonic Agency, Pfitzer, Schuykill Valley Sports, Tighe Orthodontics, and Wells Fargo

Thank you to our Sponsors and Donors:

This fall LMYA's Rec. Soccer program used a wonderful open area at Lockridge for the first time for practices and games. The open space was set aside for active recreation by the Township and the fields are just one component of a wonderful linear park for residents in the Hills at Lockridge development that features, besides the soccer fields, a walking path, picnic shelters, two baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts, a playground, a band shell, a community meeting room and beautiful passive open space. While the fields worked very well, some issues remain to be worked out as it concerns parking. The fields are located along Shoeneck Rd., which is a fairly busy collector road that runs through the development. Parking is available in a dedicated lot in located off Scenic View Rd., on the park side of Scenic View and in a grassy area off Shoeneck Rd. across the street from the park. This was LMYA's first season at the fields. Some residents were concerned about the new use of the open space and its effect on the park and traffic in their neighborhood. LMYA is dedicated to being a good neighbor. The use of these fields has helped consolidate the Rec. Soccer program and was a welcome addition to the field inventory. This coming spring, we will work closely with the Township and residents to minimize parking issues, including, if necessary, having a parking monitor direct cars to the appropriate parking areas, and notifying NYSL teams directly as to where they need to park when coming to play in the park. Similar issues exist at Wild Cherry Park where even though cones mark where not to park, members ignore them and park in spots that hinder through traffic and do not endear us to the neighbors. A parking monitor will be used here as well if necessary to ensure we are respectful of those who live near the fields. Please consider the neighborhood when you go to a game at either of these parks. Park in parking lots and in designated parking spaces. Do not park on a corner or in the middle of the road. We do not want to lose the ability to use these parks, but if our parking does not improve, we very well may.

Parking Can be Either a Pain, or Painless!