

IWSL joins Softball Hall of Fame weekend

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Players from the Iowa Women's Softball League will play an exhibition game this Saturday as part of the Cedar Rapids Softball Hall of Fame weekend at Ellis Park.

The exhibition game will feature 22 players from the IWSL and is scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m. on Diamond 1.

"We are honored to be participating in the Hall of Fame weekend," said IWSL director Jim Ecker. "We greatly appreciate the invitation from the Hall of Fame committee to showcase our college softball league before the local softball community."

The Iowa Women's Softball League, founded in 2017, will be entering its third year in 2019 with an Eastern Division in Cedar Rapids and a Central Division in Indianola.

The Softball Hall of Fame weekend begins Saturday at 8:30 a.m. with the start of a 16-inch slo-pitch tournament. The 12-team field features many of the top teams in the state, including Westside Lounge of Cedar Rapids, Stadium Bar & Grill from Cedar Rapids, Old Timers Tavern & Blitz from Marshalltown, and Chuck's from Des Moines.

The 16-inch tournament continues Sunday.

The Hall of Fame ceremony begins Sunday at noon at Diamond 1. This year's inductees are Matt Donner, Dirk Dunbar, Michael Sheeley, Becky Steele, Mike Wood, Jerry Strait, Norm Nielsen and the late Gary Garner.

This year's honor team is Bosch Financial of Cedar Rapids, which won the 2007 Northern National Championship.

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The Hall of Fame committee will be making a \$1,000 donation to the Marshalltown Tornado Relief Fund in honor of Marshalltown softball teams.

There also will be a girls 14-&-under fast-pitch softball game following the Hall of Fame ceremony.