

Duwa joins Iowa Women's Softball League

Written by Jim Ecker
Tuesday, 02 May 2017 04:42



Another elite all-state softball player from Iowa has joined the new Iowa Women's Softball League.

Hailey Duwa starred at Pleasant Valley High School, where she was the Quad City Times Player of the Year and the Mississippi Athletic Conference Player of the Year for the Spartans.

Duwa enjoyed an incredible season as a senior in 2015 when she hit .615 with 17 home runs and 60 RBIs.

[\(CLICK HERE TO REGISTER\)](#)

Duwa, a first baseman, is currently a sophomore at Western Illinois University, where she leads the Leathernecks with a .356 batting average along with four homers and 13 RBIs.

Shelby Crist, who played at Kirkwood Community College and Upper Iowa University, also will be playing in the league this summer as a player/coach. She will be a head coach and also a catcher for her team.

Crist, a Cedar Rapids Prairie grad, hit .392 for the Hawks as a senior in 2011. She made the all-region team at Kirkwood and won a Gold Glove award from the Northern Sun Conference at Upper Iowa.

Crist graduated from Upper Iowa in 2015 and currently works at Kirkwood.



Megan Kublik, an outfielder at Kirkwood, has withdrawn from the league and will not be playing this summer.

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There are currently 44 players in the program. The goal is to have at least 48 players and 12 per team.

The Iowa Women's Softball League has been formed by the Metro Sports Report as the only summer collegiate fast-pitch softball league in Iowa.

All told, 21 different colleges have at least one player in the league. The list includes Kirkwood, UNI, Coe, Mount Mercy, Luther, Wartburg, Waldorf, Illinois State, Indian Hills, Loras, South Dakota State, Upper Iowa, DMACC, Western Illinois, Southeastern Community College, Indiana State, Ellsworth, Webster, Western Kentucky, Dubuque and Central.

Kirkwood has the most players in the program with eight. There are five players from UNI and four from Coe.

In addition, the 44 players hail from 32 different high schools. Solon leads the way with five former Spartans in the program and Kennedy has four graduates in the league.

The season will consist of 10 doubleheaders on Sunday afternoons, beginning on Sunday, May 28 and running through Sunday, July 30. All of the games will be played at Kirkwood Community College and Coe College in Cedar Rapids, beginning at 2 p.m. each day.

Here are the 44 players who have joined so far:

1. Erin Kuba, Indian Hills (CR Jefferson)
2. Peyton Baskerville, Mount Mercy (CR Kennedy)
3. Tianna Drahm, Northern Iowa (CR Kennedy)
4. Lexi Kinnaird, Kirkwood (Clear Creek Amana)
5. Maddy Ryan, Coe (Linn-Mar)
6. Mallory McArtor, Coe (Mid-Prairie)
7. Taylor Nearad, Kirkwood (Solon)

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8. Bria Lenten, Loras (CR Washington)
9. Tawny Menster, Mount Mercy (Anamosa)
10. Maddie Hansen, Kirkwood (CR Jefferson)
11. Megan Bonnett, Luther (IC Regina)
12. Morgan Frost, Kirkwood (Don Bosco)
13. Taylor Kurtz, Waldorf (Mid-Prairie)
14. Haley Jones, Coe (Waterloo West)
15. Morgan Goedken, Wartburg (IC Regina)
16. Alyssa Wiebel, Illinois State (Benton)
17. Monika Bevans, Kirkwood (Solon)
18. Ali Herdliska, South Dakota State (Solon)
19. Erin Drahozal, Upper Iowa (Xavier)
20. Emily Ira, Western Illinois (Solon)
21. Sydney Robertson, DMACC (Vinton-Shellsburg)
22. Lexi Ferrari, Kirkwood (Alleman Catholic)
23. DoniRae Mayhew, Kirkwood (Bettendorf)
24. Morgan Christner, Illinois State (New London)
25. Paige Timmerman, Luther (CR Kennedy)
26. Hailey Duwa, Western Illinois (Pleasant Valley)
27. Morgan Smith, Southeastern CC (Davenport North)
28. Gabi Carter, Indiana State (Kirkwood/CR Prairie)
29. Taylor Bell, Waldorf (Madrid)
30. Brittney Roby, UNI (DMACC/Twin Cedars)
31. Brooke Craig, UNI (Waterloo Columbus)
32. Abbie Young, Ellsworth (AGWSR)
33. Hannah Onken, Wartburg (Greene County)
34. Kasiah Ehresman, Coe (Lynnville-Sully)
35. Bradi Yost, Ellsworth (Aplington-Parkersburg)
36. Jaclyn Spencer, UNI (Waterloo West)
37. Chelsea Thornley, Webster University (Clinton, Mo.)
38. Adara Opiola, UNI (Iowa City West)
39. Marissa Promes, Indian Hills (Greene County)
40. Kelsey Aikey, Western Kentucky (Waverly-Shell Rock)
41. Audra Bridenstine, Kirkwood (West Liberty)
42. Jessica Nearad, ex-Dubuque (Solon)
43. Bethany Koskamp, ex-Central (Kennedy)
44. Shelby Crist, ex-Upper Iowa (Prairie)

Anyone interested in joining the league is strongly encouraged to register now and reserve a spot, even if they have not finalized their plans for this summer. The \$100 player fee will be refunded if they are unable to play, with no questions asked.

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The entire registration process can be handled on-line. Simply click on the link to the registration form that appears with this story.

The Metro Sports Report hopes all players will attend all the games, but the company will certainly understand if a player needs to miss a few games due to a job commitment, family function, vacation or any other reason.

The league will use a continuous batting order with free defensive substitution, to make sure the playing time is as equal as possible for everyone.

Please contact Metro Sports Report president Jim Ecker for more information at Jim.Ecker@MetroSportsReport.com or by calling (319) 390-4236.

Scholarships are available. All anyone has to do is ask.

The four gold medal sponsors for the Iowa Women's Softball League are Ironside Apparel, Construction Materials, Emil's Hideaway restaurant and Hawkeye Convenience Stores. Play It Again Sports of Cedar Rapids is a silver medal sponsor.