



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2016

[View Online](#)

Contact: Tony Fowler, (717) 576-1046
Jennifer Hoover-Vogel, (717) 319-0858

Camp Hill vs Grand Junction, CO: More than Just an Exhibition Game

Community rallies behind a group of truly special children

Camp Hill, PA--Thirty Little League Challenger Division® players will be in the spotlight Saturday morning when Camp Hill Little League Challenger Baseball will play the Colorado District 1 Little League Challenger team from Grand Junction, CO, in the 15th annual Little League Challenger Division Exhibition Game.

The game will take place at the Little League International Complex in South Williamsport, PA, on Saturday, August 27, at 10:30 a.m., and showcase the opportunities that the Little League Challenger Division provides to more than 30,000 children with physical and intellectual challenges in more than 900 leagues worldwide.

Admission onto the Little League Baseball World Series complex is free and there is no cost for Little League Baseball World Series tickets; no ticket is required for the exhibition game. Stadium capacity is approximately 3,000 seats. Gates open at 9:00 a.m.

Fifteen of those players and their “buddies,” who offer assistance to players on the field, are set to shine for Camp Hill. The team is led by director and head coach Tony Fowler and assistant coaches Daryl Kent and Jim Marshall. Combined, they have nearly 23 years’ experience volunteering with the Camp Hill Challengers.

Since June 2015, when the Camp Hill Challengers learned they would be one of two teams playing in the exhibition team, the program has been hard at work making the exhibition game a reality—not just for its exhibition game team—but for its 65 plus players, parents and their families who are all deserving of a wonderful, memorable experience in Williamsport.

Every Sunday afternoon during the Camp Hill Challengers’ regular season, those players defy their disabilities to play baseball at Fiala Field, located at S. 21st Street, Camp Hill. Their parents in the stands or on the field by their child's side.

“They really are an inspiration; they’re incredible,” said Fowler. “Our players may struggle socially or academically because they are on the autism spectrum; have a learning disability, a genetic condition, Cerebral Palsy or Down Syndrome; or another challenge, but their disabilities do not define them, nor have they let them.”

The exhibition team roster comprises Parker States (#21) and buddy Jackson Baldini; Michael Monismith; (#6) and buddy Brayden Utsick; Katorina Hinton (#13) and buddy Laura Lamay; Dakota Dougherty (#99) and buddy Connor Trumpy; Jimmy Christie (#10) and buddy Ethan Shellenberger; Jonna Hawkins-Williams (#15) and buddy Emma Corbin; Ryland Criss (#1) and buddy Luke Waldner; Calvin Marshall (#11) and buddy Casey Fellingner; Billy Spong (#4) and buddy Connor Bowen; Jessica Soyos (#27) and buddy Lindsey Costello; Sam Roberts (#12) and buddy Ben Haas; Ben Morganstein (#23) and buddy Ben Snyder; Katie Costello (#22) and buddy Ava Arnold; Matt Joyce (#33) and buddy Ethan Branstetter; and John Heffner (#5)/Ben Fowler (#14) and buddy Noah Foster.

--MORE--

“These players have brought together a community and inspired corporations, local businesses, organizations and local little leagues to school districts, athletic programs, individuals and more to give generously in support of their trip to Williamsport,” said Marshall. “Even more special, our players motivate volunteers and bring together people in a wonderful way.”

For assistant coach Daryl Kent, the Challenger exhibition game provides an opportunity for him to honor the memory of his son, DJ, who passed away just a year ago.

“DJ was an avid NASCAR fan, enjoyed swimming and watching ducks. He loved being outside, going to the beach and watching videos. He also loved Challenger baseball,” his obituary reads.

“For eight seasons, I had the amazing opportunity to be my son’s ‘buddy,’” said DJ’s father Daryl Kent. “Those Sunday afternoons with DJ, who was on the autism spectrum, were precious. Challenger baseball was so special to him and to us as a family that since his death, I continued on as a coach. I am further blessed to honor his memory by serving as an assistant coach for our Challenger exhibition team for which DJ would’ve been on the team roster.”

The community’s rallying behind the Camp Hill Challengers created more than just buzz and interest in the Challenger exhibition game, it raised more than \$100,000.

“Their investment in our program, our trip and our players is truly astonishing,” said Dr. Bill Freed, chair of the Camp Hill Challengers’ Exhibition Game Planning Committee. “Without their support, none of this could have been possible. We could not have made our dream—Tony Fowler’s dream—of taking the entire program to Williamsport a reality.”

Sponsors include presenting sponsor PinnacleHealth as well as Select Medical, HMC-Children’s Hospital, Sheetz, the Mechanicsburg Club, Enola and Mechanicsburg American Legion Posts, Greater Harrisburg Autism Society, Vibra Healthcare, Cumberland Valley Association of Baseball Umpires and Mr. Gary Rini’s Guys Night Out. Media sponsors include HAAS Printing Co. Inc., the Harrisburg Senators, Video Café Productions and VIS+ CUL creative.

The Challengers are excited to see lots of Challenger pride at Volunteer Stadium. So much so, the program is offering free transportation to Williamsport made possible through sponsor generosity and student transportation provider First Student.

“We are absolutely thrilled that players’ extended families, friends, community members and others will be joining them to express their support and show them how much they’re behind them,” said Fowler.

That support has also been displayed at various events for the Challengers, from Community Day, radio and television appearances, participation in local little leagues’ opening day ceremonies and local events like National Night Out, to a dance and, most recently, a pool party.

With those events and some hot summer day and evening practices behind them, the Camp Hill Challenger exhibition team is ready and excited for the big event.

“More than 12 months of planning will soon come to an end, and I couldn’t be more proud, more inspired, more emotional about our truly special children and the community rally for them to make certain our players are celebrated,” said Fowler. “We’re going to Williamsport!”

###

A list of sponsors and donors reflecting contributions of \$100 or more is available [online](#).