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Elkhorn Athletic Association and Nebraska Quakes Softball Announce Partnership

Combined program to offer best-in-class regional fastpitch softball

ELKHORN, NE, June 29, 2021 – Elkhorn Athletic Association (EAA) and Nebraska Quakes today announced the two organizations have entered into a partnership agreement combining forces to create the largest girls fastpitch softball organization in the state of Nebraska. The partnership marks an important milestone in the development of girls youth fastpitch softball and vision to create a regional destination sports complex that will benefit its surrounding communities, youth and their families from across the region.

“We are extremely proud to partner with Nebraska Quakes, which has been a leader in competitive girls softball in the region for more than 25 years,” said Joey Macken, EAA’s Softball President. “Combining these two programs will create opportunities for both players and coaches to reach their fullest potential.”

“This has been a long time coming,” said Pat O’Donnell, Quakes Founder and President. “Both organizations have mutual respect and have been working together for a long time. This is good for the softball community and for families.”

Both non-profit organizations serve the greater Omaha/Lincoln region, have aligned philosophies, mission, vision and values, and have similar goals to compete and provide for the youth softball community. Together both organizations have served youth softball players and their families for more than 45 years. Combining these organizations will create a best-in-class, integrated, girls youth fastpitch softball sports experience in Nebraska and throughout the central region. Both organizations believe there is a place for every girl who wants to play softball. Girls would be part of an integrated program that serves girls softball at the adaptive, recreational, select (local/regional) and Select National level.

The combined program would serve approximately 1,225 players and leverage shared services for operational and administrative activities, maximize overall general and administrative expenses to balance expenses for parents and families, and focus on developing players and coaches to reach their highest potential. Both organizations have seen significant growth over the years and require increased indoor and outdoor field ownership to provide members ample game and training space, ability to provide revenue generating opportunities via tournaments and leagues, and the opportunity to meet community growth demands. The partnership currently has four indoor facilities for training—one in Lincoln and three in Omaha. The combined organization will call the [MD West ONE Sports Complex](#) home starting in 2023.

- [MD West ONE Sports Complex](#) details:

- Location: Valley, NE, near 264th and Ida just off Highway 275
- Land: More than 140 acres
- Vision: This state-of-the-art complex will be a signature destination facility for outdoor youth athletics and community recreation—not just for Western Douglas County residents but for the entire region.
- Timeline: Plans for construction of the facility are scheduled to begin in 2022 with the goal of opening the first softball fields in the spring of 2023.

“One of the organization's primary objectives is to be a youth program which elevates softball at the earliest ages and maximizes opportunities to build, grow, and maintain strong teams. We believe the combination of Quakes with the EAA Softball program aligns perfectly!” Says Bruce O’Neel EAA Executive Director. He also notes that the combined organization has a local, regional and national focus that will provide greater opportunities for our talented softball players to play in competitive environments while experienced staff and coaches prepare girls for high school softball and college level recruitment.

ABOUT ELKHORN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Elkhorn Athletic Association (EAA) is a non-profit youth sports organization serving Western Douglas County and surrounding communities and provides a safe, enjoyable, positive learning environment. We serve families with children of all ages and all skill levels from the community and across the region. We encourage and support the holistic development of every child, teach leadership and other essential skills, and inspire our athletes to seek excellence in all aspects of their lives. The Association has strong community ties that stretch back decades in service to young athletes and their families.

Nebraska Edge started as Elkhorn Girls Softball Association founded in 1995, and now serves over 800 girl softball players both in competitive (regional/national) and recreational levels. Becoming a community pillar has been accomplished by encouraging parental involvement and providing

professional staff and programs that provide developmental, recreational, and competitive experiences for area youth athletes. Our ongoing success will be determined by every individual's character, leadership, beliefs, passion, and commitment, resulting in a first-class youth sports organization. www.elkhornathletics.org.

ABOUT NEBRASKA QUAKEs

The Nebraska Quakes is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing highly competitive fastpitch teams. Along with teaching players to become excellent athletes, the Quakes have been driven to teach important life lessons through softball that will help them become solid citizens and future female leaders.

The Quakes organization was founded in 1994 and has been driven by its mission: Teaching the fundamentals of fastpitch softball and developing outstanding softball skills in a positive, safe and rewarding environment, providing players with a well-rounded experience where they can develop their athletic skills but also learn real-life skills of discipline, dedication, sportsmanship, leadership, confidence and teamwork while also having fun and making lifelong friendships, preparing our players to excel at the high school level and assisting players and families in the collegiate recruitment process and off the field, we strive to be outstanding community citizens as we represent the Nebraska Quakes organization.

Learn more about Nebraska Quakes. <https://www.quakessoftball.com>

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