



## *History of the MSL Women's Division*



The idea for the MSL Women's Division originated in the summer of 2006, during a conversation between MSL President, Larry Kolcz, and 2006 Chicago Gems' coach, Tony Feo. The MSL would offer a women's division, with all of the benefits and resources available to the men's league, if the Gems could put together at least four teams to create it. After several strategic discussions, a deal was made - the MSL and the Gems would team up to bring women's baseball back to Chicago! The Gems launched a massive recruiting, organizing and fundraising effort, adding more than 30 new players to build its player pool to the necessary size to form four teams. On April 1, the player draft was held and the MSL Women's Division was born. The MSL and the Gems hope that this will serve as a model for similar partnerships around the country, as women's teams commonly struggle to compete with men's leagues for access to fields and public support for their programs. The Chicago Gems want to thank Larry for his advice and support throughout this process. We look forward to a long partnership and the further development of the MSL Women's Division.

### *Special Thanks:*

#### Opening Day

Jill Hughes Photography - Opening Day Photographer  
Brendan Balfe - Opening Day Announcer  
Intersport - Donation of sound equipment  
The BBQ Crew - The Cella family, Balfe/Tremmel family and Vuchichevich family  
Herm's Palace - BBQ Support  
Gems/MSL Opening Day Committee

#### Pre-Season

Brenda Mendoza and the Schneider Family - Fundraising Support  
Chicago Gems Recruiting Committee - Team development



## **The Midwest Suburban League Women's Division**

### **Inaugural Season Opening Day**

**June 3, 2007**

**Salk Park, Rolling Meadows**

## Opening Day Program

### Opening Messages

Larry Kolcz, MSL President

Mabel Holle\*, former player from the All American Professional Girls' Baseball League (South Bend Blue Sox, 1943)

Amy Schneider, General Manager, Chicago Gems Women's Baseball Club

### Introduction of MSL Women's Division Teams

Comets  
Redbirds  
Riveters  
Turtle Rocks

### National Anthem

Brendan Balfe

### Ceremonial First Pitch

#### Game One

Turtle Rocks vs. Comets

#### Game Two

Redbirds vs. Riveters

### Barbeque

Beginning at 1:30. Free for all players and fans, sponsored by the Chicago Gems Women's Baseball Club.

\*Unconfirmed



#13 Flor Jiron, Manager  
#10 Joelle Balfe, Assistant Manager  
#8 Julie Burroughs  
#23 Lauren Clister  
#33 Theresa De Maria  
#31 Elizabeth Eschker  
#19 Lora Fredrickson  
#35 Jennifer Hughes (Taz)  
#6 Peggy Sue Marlin  
#25 Danielle Pauly  
#41 Anne Rosenthal  
#1 Annie Snider  
#22 Brianna Turcza  
#7 Chris Feyerherd, Coach

### Turtle Rocks



#2 Jenn Zielke, Manager  
#25 Michelle Esposito, Ass't Manager  
#24 Alicia Borsa  
#11 Mandy Hostetler  
#13 Laura Ieremia  
#6 Amy Jandek  
#30 Valerie Morse  
#74 Jen Sbalchiero  
#21 Joy Schmoll  
#3 Megan Tolpa  
#9 Dawn Vana  
#4 Rachel Caplan, Coach  
Paul Pimentel, Coach



#46 Amy Schneider, Manager  
#27 Jamie Conachen, Ass't Manager  
#17 Jill Bianco  
#57 Hilary Branske  
#5 Christine Devane  
#13 Stephanie Dudek  
#33 Sarah Hiemenz  
#44 Vanessa Flores  
#42 Michelle London  
#7 Brenda Mendoza  
#11 Megan Oswald  
#10 Meredith Saletta  
#12 Salina Sandoval  
#23 Sofie Sianez  
#15 Jennifer Smith  
#21 Bill Bernabei, Coach  
Phil Santos, Ass't Coach



#56 Kate Mitchum, Manager  
#13 Amanda Butler  
#4 Maggie Butler  
#16 Anna Cella  
#9 Yolanda Diaz  
#5 Amanda Feo  
#6 Tanya Harasym  
#35 Andrea Juracek  
#8 Kate McGreevy  
#66 Missy Mulert  
#7 Marie Ortiz  
#2 Heather Owen  
#14 Tracy Rizzo  
#26 Kristen Vuchichevich  
#10 Tony Feo, Coach