

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

1953 - The Little League Program in Warner Robins has its beginning in 1953, when a small group of dedicated parents assembled in early spring and organized a baseball program. Mr. Winston Giles, who was in the Air Force, was named as the first President. During that first year, the program was referred to simply as "Little League", and chartered (31007) by Little League Headquarters in Williamsport Pa. The first games were played behind City Hall. Later in the summer, the games were played in a vacant lot behind the Victory Drug Store on Commercial Circle. The outfield fence consisted of a rope strung around a series of stakes, which caused major controversy for the umpire when judging home runs. Six teams were organized that year.

1954 - The Program was again chartered with Little League Headquarters, and two leagues were formed (American and National) with three teams in each league. Ordinarily, each league would have been operated and managed by separate groups of volunteer parents. However, because of inadequate facilities, these two leagues received special permission from Headquarters to operate both leagues under a single management concept.

1955 - This was the first year that the two leagues were eligible for tournament play. Another major milestone was reached when Flint Field was constructed and initially identified as the home of the American League. The intent was to construct a similar field north of Watson Blvd. (within the boundaries of the National League) at a later date. Each league could draw from a maximum population of 15,000 people according to Little League Rules.

1956 - Jim Christenson was elected President over the Leagues but Uncle Sam sent him to another assignment later in the year. Vice-president Clyde Felker took over as President. Clyde, Jewell McRary, Roberts Hill, E.M. Bazzentes, Joe Long and John Hammond incorporated both leagues in July 1956 under the name of Warner Robins Little League, Inc. For this reason and because hope was wanting for a second field, Flint Field was re-identified as the home of Warner Robins Little League, Inc, thereby encompassing both leagues. The first radio broadcast was made this year from the press box, the parents held their first barbecue event. By this time, several boys were graduating from Little League, i.e., they were too old (over 12 years) to play. Therefore a Babe Ruth league was organized to accommodate these older boys.

1957 - The Minors ("B" Teams) were established. This is the farm system where boys are trained in the fundamentals of baseball. Three minor teams were established in each league. Although John did not serve as President again after 1957, he continued to faithfully serve the effort, as well as many other recreation programs for youth in the City.

1958 - The league celebrated by operating twenty-six teams this year. A new fence was built around the playing field at Flint Field. The American League Tournament team won the District Championship and went to the state playoffs at Athens where they lost out in the second round.

1959 – Clyde Felker was elected President

1960 – Clyde Felker was re elected President. This was a year to host the 5th District Tournament. A total of 540 boys signed up to play little league. This was the largest number of boys in the history of Warner Robins Little League. Mr. Felker also obtained another lease from Flint Electric. The American League tournament Team lost to Macon in the finals for the District Playoff.



Lad Silsbee

1961 - During this year Clyde Felker resigned as President due to the fact that he had been elected 5th District Administrator for Little League. Pete O'Malley was elected President. Clyde continued in that capacity until 1966 when Mr. Bill Williams of Cordele was named to succeed him. Flint Field would again host the district tournament with the National league serving as host.

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<b>Amer. Vice Pres</b>	<b>Fred Egglie</b>	<b>Nat. Vice Pres</b>	<b>Ronald E. Hancock</b>
<b>Player Agent</b>	Keith Settles	<b>Player Agent</b>	Bill Freeman
<b>Sec/Treas.</b>	Jewel McCrary	<b>Umpire Chief</b>	TSgt. W. Clark
<b>Ladies Aux Pres</b>	Mrs. Gladys Duke	<b>Publicity</b>	Jim Fletcher
<b>Ladies Sec/Treas</b>	Mrs. Melba Freeman	<b>Ladies Vic Pres</b>	Mrs. Bobbie DeKalb

1962 - President Pete O'Malley The facilities were well established and in good shape. Most of the emphases were place on improving management and team organization. A new lease was obtained from Flint Electric 1962 for the land.

1963 - Clyde Felker 5<sup>th</sup> District Administrator and Pete O'Malley was President. The facilities were in good shape and the priority was placed on promoting volunteers and good management.

1964 - While also serving as the 5th District Administrator Mr. Felker was elected President. The program was doing very good. Maintenance of the field and organizing teams were the main concerns.

1965 - Another lease was obtained from Flint Electric at a purchase price of \$1.00 per year for 5 years expiring in 1970. The 5th District Tournament was held at Flint Field. The Teams participating. Vine-Ingle, Macon, WRA, WRN, Vienna, Ocmulgee, and Cordele. Macon went on to win the 5th District and win the State. This was the first team to win state in the 5th District and represent Ga. in the Little League South Eastern Regional series at St. Petersburg Fla.

Secretary	Leon Echols
Treasurer	Glenn Bambry
<b>American Vice President</b>	<b>Howard Bowen</b>
Player Agent	J.K. Settles
<b>National Vice President</b>	<b>James Vines</b>
Player Agent:	Winford Belue

1966 - Mr Vines was elected President however, before the season began he moved out of town. Mr. Earl Bass was elected to replace him. By this time, the little league barbecue had become an annual affair. This year was no exception.

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1967 - The Presidents position was re-identified, on a trial basis, as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The previous offices of vice-president of American and National were re-identified as President positions. The two new management positions were identified as vice-presidents one for each league. This action resulted in two additional leadership spaces that were so urgently needed for the proper management of such a large organization. The organization now had a separate leader for the major and the minor teams in each league, with the vice-presidents now managing the minors. Other officers are: Player Agent for both leagues, Secretary at large and Treasurer at large. A similar organizational structure exists for the Woman's Aux. who operates the concession stand, collects donations at the games, and arranges and directs social functions and similar activities.

1968 - Herchell Toms and his wife built Sewell Circle ball field and they sold concessions out of the back of their car.

1969 - Chairman of the board William F. Norman There seemed to be some problems with the neighborhood boys playing on the field during the day because the police notified Flint Electric that a person was hit in there yard by a ball from boys playing on the field. Flint Suggested posting signs.

1970 - Chairman of the board William F. Norman, American League Rep Charles L. Parkenson, National League Rep Herschell W. Toms. Opening Day was Sat. May 9 1970. It was hard to get across to the community that we were not a part of the Recreation Center and received no funds from the State or Federal government to assist us with the financial obligation. It took about 5 to 6 thousand dollars each season. Families were asked to donate 5 dollar or more if they could afford it. Games were played a Flint primarily but also Sewell Circle field, Industrial Park and Old Duke Field off of Duke avenue

1971 - Chairman of the board William F. Norman AL President Grover Hicks and NL President Herschel Toms. Macon Little League Hosted the 5th District Tournament. WRA upset Vine-Ingle 6-5 in the last inning and Cordele beat the WRN 3-2.

**American (A) - Manager** John Arnett, **Coach** John Forehand and Sam Hartman, Players: Lani Collins, Charlie Wynn, John Voss, Ernest Williams, Barry Northeror, Jeff Arnett, Jim Arnold Les Sullivan, Bruce Posey, Barry Frise, Dave Guyer, Keith Soles, Lee Hartman Steve Tidwell.

**National (A)-** Players: Gil Smith, Keith Potts, Alan Baca, Jeff Poole, Dale Law, Mark Cheny, Billy Cox, Carter Gilreaath, Titus Roberts, Tim Taylor, Tim Vartenisian, Bob Poole, Leslie McCoy, Keith Haynes, Paul Bates, Mike Walker.

1972 - American President Robert M. Jump

1973 - American President Robert M. Jump, National President Hershel Toms and Sr. President Wyley Avent. Warner Robins Little League went to the City Recreation and solicited land for another ball field. Claud Lewis helped acquire Peavy Park. Robert Jump built the American League ball fields. The Sr. League field was built by Wyley Avent. They started playing games late in 1973.

1974 - Chairman of the Board Robert M. Jump. In a letter to Flint Electric about the lease of the field for the next year. Mr. Jump identifies that the aging facilities and destruction by vandals in the past year. It will take an unprecedented amount of repairs to return our facilities to the condition desired. He insured these improvements will be started.

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

1975 -Acquire the new lease from Flint Electric



1976 – No information

1977- All Star Team



1978 , 1979 – No information

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

1980 – President Ed Polk - Flint Field was used for night games and day game were at Peavy park. The American league was not happy playing over at Peavy park. There was plans to reopen Flint and come back home to the south side of town.. Flint was run down and needed a-lot of work. The bleachers were knock down, and the bathroom weren't working. The building needed new steps and cleaned out. Due to the fact everybody was anticipating the move to Peavy which was the reason for the neglect.

1981 – President Ed Polk - Warner Robins American was coming back home to Flint Field after spending a few year at Peavy park. The two boards were having problems living in one facility. Flint Field needed some repairs, the bleachers had to be rebuilt. The field reworked. The lights were old and replaced. The building was still standing, but in bad shape. The coaches and the board started the renovation.

1982 – President Hodges Clairington - This was the year for expansion in the A league, the Red Sox and the Rangers had new management and they both came from out of the county program. Tom Nauss was given the Red Sox and 10 options as was Terry Bowden for the Rangers. The National League also brought in a new team the same way. This was a turning point for the league because of the amount of talent brought into the league.

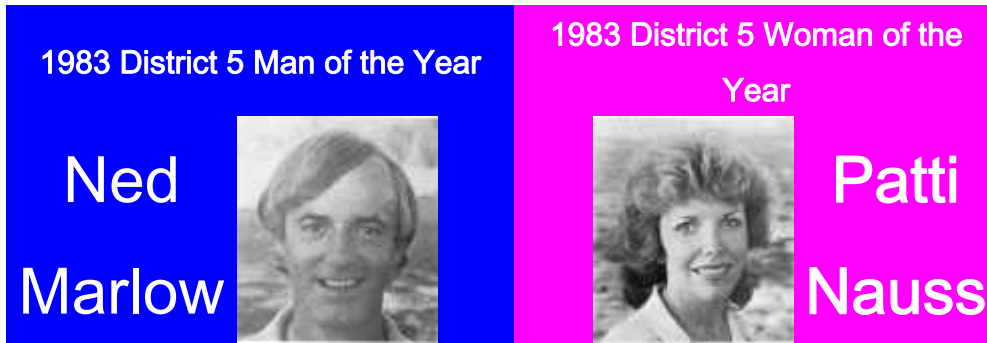
Tee Angels



Angels B (minor)

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

1983 - Chairman of the board Gene Harrington/ AL President Roger Armstrong/ NL Jerry Gann. The program was trying to still get on its feet at Flint Field. Gene Harrington and Patti Nauss found the league \$8,000 in the hole. They raised enough money to get out of the hole and host the District tournament. The District Man of the year was Ned Marlow and the District Woman of the year was Patti Nauss.



This was the First year that a Georgia Team won the Little League World Series. East Marrietta beat Japan in the finals. They honored us by participating in our Christmas Parade. Because Mr. Campbell followed them to the Southern Regional, and Tom Nauss followed them to Williamsport only to be asked if I brought Jason Peavy along. They told us that we were their toughest competition through out the tournament. We rented a Church and severed them lunch, play basketball and the Mayor presented them with the Key to the City.

1984 - Chairman Paul Hibbitts / AL President Roger Armstrong / NL President Rick Thompson

Roger Armstrong was District Manager of the Year. Warner Robins Man of the year was Doug Bass and Woman of the Year Twanita Marlow.

1985 – Chairman Jim Marshall / AL President Tom Nauss

The two programs out grew being under the combined board. The American League wanted to put a batting cage up and have their own opening day at Flint Field. The combined board disapproved the American league boards request. The American League board declared its independence at the next meeting. All equipment issued to the teams would stay within the programs charter.

Warner Robins American and National combined to start a Special league (handicapped) which was played at Flint Field and Peavey Park. This was the year we surveyed the parents and coaches for a C League program for the 7 & 8 year olds

Mike Malone loaned us enough money to buy equipment and also took all of the team pictures for free. Man and Women of the Year.was Frank and Diane McDaniel

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

Julian Alexander, Joel Sullivan, Eddie Wiggins, Clarence Channell,  
Martin Pinckney, Van Harrington, Sonny Perdue, Richard Price



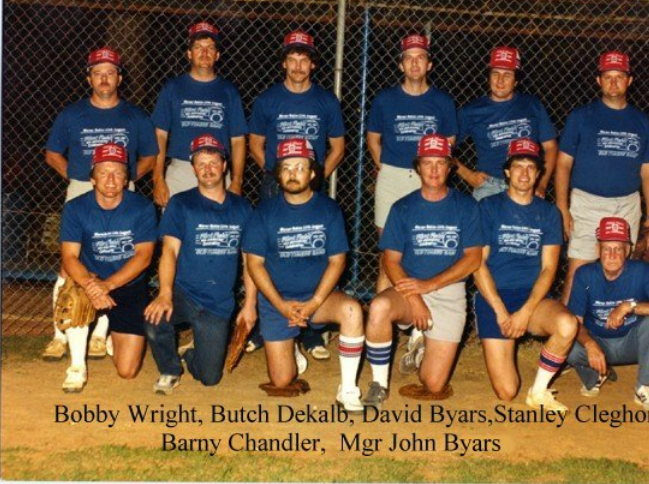
Charlie Stewart, Sonny May, Charles Timmons, Ken Bazemore,  
Mike Long, Wayne Jarrells

Tom Morris, Dave Davidson, Donnie Scott, Joe Hollis, Mike Channell



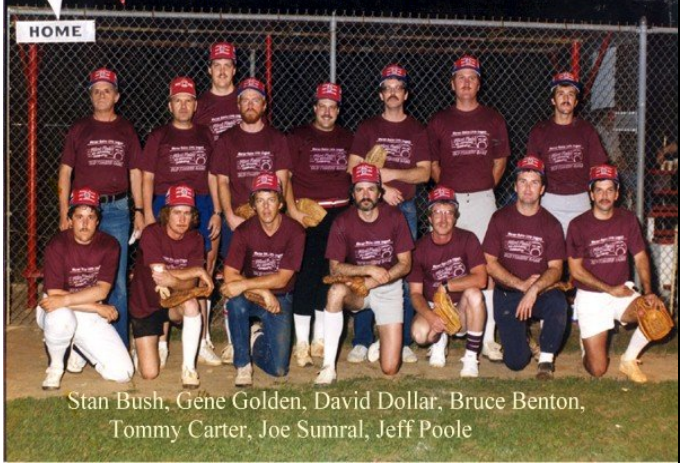
Butch Beene, Buddy Sorrow, Buddy Miles, Donnie Rape,  
Johnny Reynolds, Frank McDaniel

Butch Moore, Mike Davis, Carl Shaw, David Carpenter  
Terry Scarborough, Danny Carpenter



Bobby Wright, Butch Dekalb, David Byars, Stanley Cleghon  
Barry Chandler, Mgr John Byars

Mgr Nate Cook, Paul Hibbits, Bill Dipple, Billy Blackmon,  
Dale Channell, Tony Dykes, Wes Frye



Stan Bush, Gene Golden, David Dollar, Bruce Benton,  
Tommy Carter, Joe Sumral, Jeff Poole

### First Old Timers Game

1986 – President Ned Marlow - The American league board and the National league board were considering going back together but the body of the American league rejected that movement and the two leagues were split. A new T and C league field was put in the parking lot with a 150 foot fence around it. It was neat to see 7 and 8 year olds go into their homerun trot. Jr. and Sr. Played games at Centerville park

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1987 - President Tom Nauss - Board member Mike Malone loaned the league the necessary funds to buy the initial order. He was refunded his money after registration with a big thanks. Between ball seasons the Ball Park was broken into and about \$4000 worth of equipment was stolen. Know body was arrested for the crime. News article encouraged the community to come to our aid because baseball was going to be played at Flint field in 1988. This was another year of improvements to the ballpark. Patti Nauss organized for new field light, with Eddy Wiggins and Ken Bazemore to raise \$5,000. The lights were 31 years old and did not meet Little League specifications. Flint Electric installed the light as a donation to the league. The outfield fence did not meet the regulation for tournament play. It was moved to 199' in left field, 207' in center field and 187' in right. The original fence was only 180' in all fields.



1988 - President Tom Nauss - Due to the break in at the park during Christmas, funds seemed to be limited and there was no start up money to buy Equipment. The local merchants were very generous and helped us through these tough times. We had a league pin designed to sell, we also sold candy bars and worked a carnival for the Fun company out at Vincent Valley to raise money. The facilities were in good shape, most of the effort was placed on the field grass. The bleacher and building had it annual touch up paint job.

1989 – President Mike Myers - Little League celebrated its 50th Birthday 1939-1989 We approached the Mayor and City Council to ask if we could lease some property from them. They voted to lease us the old landfill on Horseshow road. After we received authority to use the land there were problem because of the gas from the landfill so we didn't use the property. The facilities were in great shape and priory was place on the program .

1990 – President TomNauss - This was an excellent year, the board solicited the help from Patti Nauss and John Kilko, the best two workers when it come to raising money and getting project completed on time. Patti solicited 36 sponsors @ \$250 to \$300 a sign to hang on the outfield fences. John managed to get 95% of all the material donated for the concession stand (Approx. \$25,000). Robert Haines (H&H Construction Co.) a local contractor who's boys were in the program, donated his construction crew to frame in the concession stand. The league sold \$1 candy bars earning \$10,000. We had a new pin designed, and worked for the Fun Company to raise money. Mike Malone who managed a team, donated his talent taking team pictures for the league. Registration was \$16 TL. (100), \$26 CL(100), \$26 L.L.(200). , \$36 Jr./Sr (100) per player. The Ladies Aux. made \$14,000 in sells out of the concession stand. We were able to buy almost all new equipment, Equipment manager sold warm up jackets, and coffee cups with the league logo from the equipment room. We were able to buy CD's with the balance of the money (Approx. \$8,000) for next years initial expenses. We raised \$72,000.00 plus built a new concession stand. The Concession stand was completed with new bathrooms on time for opening day. We turned the old concession room into a equipment room. Then we paneled the upstairs for a trophy room, and a place to hang some of the Tournament flags. The old bathrooms became a paint storage room on the inside. The outside of the building we hung a 8' painting of Dugout (Little league mascot), plus we

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added two panels one on each side to post the schedules and standings for everybody to see. We tore down the steps that went upstairs to the old building. Robert Haines who also helped organize building the Concession stand, rebuilt the new set of steps. We touched up the facilities with paint where it was needed. Paul Shealy was given the approval to buy a Tractor and equipment to work on the fields.



1991 – President Danny Grube - This was the year where Flint Field Baseball totally dominated the 5th District by winning, the Little League, Jr & Sr league Championships. This was the first time that has ever happened in the District. Manager Tom Nauss and Coach Tom Morris went undefeated in the 5th District to capture Back to Back 5th District Championships. The State tournament was held at Pioneer LL. Columbus Ga. They finished runner-ups .

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

1992 – President Danny Grube - This was the first time the league won the Little League State Championship in 39 years. The program had a large number of 11 and 12 year olds in the program, therefore the Major Division in the Minor league was established possibly only for this year. The program had approx. 500 player. Registration fees were \$35 under twelve and 45 for Jr./Sr.League players. There were some very nice changes made to the park. The old batting cage was taken down and two new ones were constructed close to the field shed.. There was a picnic pavilion built by Robert Haines between the little league field and the C&T field where the old batting cage use to be.



**TOP LEFT: Coach Tom Morris, Eddie Vorrieter, Tommy Sheppard, Ryan Stephens, Shannon Kersy, John Harte, Orlando Williams, Britt Bazemore, Manager Tom Nauss**

**SECOND ROW: Josh Barlow, Robert Jensen, Jeff Nauss, Wade Stewart, Josh Grube, Shannon Burgess**

1993 – President Danny Grube - Flint field changes were not necessarily improvements according to most parents this year. The 4' fence in left and right field lines were elevated to 10', but that made it impossible to video tape with the fence in the camera lens. This was where most parents taped the games. The dugouts were moved closer to home plate and the bleachers close to home plate were removed. This took a lot of heat off the Umpires but there are no good viewing positions to watch the ball games. Bullpens were added behind the dugouts, the only problem with this is most pitchers are in the game playing other positions. The board made some changes to the T & C league field moving the fence back to 175 feet. Championship posters were added to the building showing our accomplishments.

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

1994 – President Danny Grube – Three WRALL got drafted into the Pros



**1995 – President Danny Grube** - This is the year the WR American league split into two programs East & West. Watson Blvd South to Fagan Mill rd. define the East Boundaries. Fagan Mill rd. to Perry define the West Boundaries. It surely had an effect on the quality of play by splitting the league. Which happens any time you experience expansion. The Junior League Team won the State Championship this year.

**1996 – President Ross Eaton**

**1997 – President Danny Sutton**

**1998 – President Danny Sutton** - Congratulations to all of our All-star teams. We did very well this year with our All-star teams. The Big League boy's team went to the Little League World Series and placed third in the world. Our Junior League team placed third in the southeast region.

**1999 – President Danny Sutton** -Our League has experienced tremendous growth over the last several years. To accommodate this growth the county has given WRALL East and West 25 acres of land next to the new Middle GA Technical Institute, off Hwy. 96, to construct a new ballpark complex. We held the groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 7, 1998. We had planned to play our 1999 season on these new fields, and were prepared to get a loan from a local bank. The county came to our rescue and volunteered to do all of the land work for us and assume all of the liability involved in grading land and installing sewer line and water main. This will save us approximately \$150,000. Unfortunately, it means we will not be able to play on the new fields this year. Our Spring Warm Up Camp for 9-12 year old boys went extremely well. Wayne Simmons, of the strike zone, in Dublin, GA put on the camp. We would not only like to conduct these camps but to expand on them next year. Our Fun Day was a great success this year with each age league providing a different booth. The golf tournament was held on April 8, 1999 this year with wonderful results. Flint & Campbell field are in good shape with only minimum upkeep needed

**2000 – President Brad Spinks** - There was a big turn over in the Board from last year. A lot of the people had been in the program for a couple of years, in the Tee ball and Coach pitch program. The two programs are working with the minimum number of kids in the Major 10-12 year old program. The West and the East have only 4 teams to pick there All Star teams. The Big league program was destroyed by the High School Baseball Coaches summer program, and the fact that the only other program Vine Ingle refused to play the one team we did have. We placed well in the District tournaments, but only took home the Majors District 5 Flag. The Coach Pitch and Tee League All Stars dominated the invitational tournaments at Bloomfield and West Macon. Ron McArthur from the West and Randy Meade from the East shared the District 5 Man of the year award. The good Sport award Nominee from Warner Robins American was Ca'Ron Gordon. The fields at Flint were worked on and brought up to little league standards. The Score boards were fixed and the bleachers were painted. The Grading of the new fields is completed, power is on and sprinkler systems are in.

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

**2001- President Brad Spinks** - The two programs are working with the minimum number of kids in the Major 10-12 year old program. The West and the East have only 4 teams to pick there All Star teams. The program does have a good base in the Minor 14 teams, C league had 12 teams and Tee ball had 10 teams. Despite the number of Major teams they managed to win the District in the both the Major and Minor tournaments. The Softball program got a boost this year by winning their 1st Minor Softball State Championship. The girls dominated on the bases and hit the ball well. The Coaches prepared the girls to take advantage of the other teams weaknesses.

Lacey Cline, Jensen Barrett, Courtney Curles, Kiley Barrett, Caroline Cowart, Anna Dotson, Jessi Jandi Ashley Craddosk, Malory Brigman, Michelle Clark, Kourtney Thomas, Emily Pearson, Haley Wilson. Coaches: Terry Thomas, Tod Cowart, Van Brigman, Greg Dotson.

**2002 – President Tom Nauss** – Major Girls win South Region and finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the World in Portland Oregon. The election was held on Sept 9 and the only position voted on was the President. There were 250 people participating in the election the most ever to participate in a league election. Sam Satterfield, Kevin Kratz, and Tom Nauss were the candidates for the job. The winner had to have a majority of the votes to win. Nobody received the majority so Sam Satterfield and Tom Nauss had a run off. Another vote was taken and Tom Nauss won the election. When it came time to fill the other board positions Tom Nauss nominated volunteers. Northside High School hosted the GHSA Girls 2AAAAA section at our ball park. Hardaway won the tournament.



**Home Town Hero Day** 104 countries in Little League ball parks around the world to commemorate the Sept 11 Hero's along with all of the local hero's who protect us every day. It was a nice success with the Georgia State Patrol giving the crowd a chopper fly over then circling the flag while the Nation Anthem was being sung. The nice people from the Fire Department, EMTs from the hospital, the Peach County K 9 unit with their dogs was also a big hit for the children. The Flag Core from NSHS presented the flag while the crowd said the

pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Jena Blank sang the Anthem and God Bless America to complete the event.

Softball Score Board, Put top softball field Dugouts, Decorate Conference Room, Hosted GHSA Softball Region, Cleaned out and around Shed

Cleaned Concession Stand, Build picnic tables, Moved old Shed from flint, Paint Score Boxes doors, Roofed Score Boxes, Reworked Major infield

Fixed minor Scoreboard, Painted poles on the scoreboards, Move Bleacher from old field, Sanded the T,C,B,A fields, Wired T-ball score board,

Work on Entrance to park, Bought 3 sets of Bleachers, Finish Light on Jr. fields, Move old Concession Stand, Built SB Field, Built 2 C-ball Pavilions

Remolded Old Concessions, Finish Batting Cages, Installed Privacy screen Dug Outs, Walk a fame lights installed, Wire scoreboard Jr. fields

## Major Softball South Region Champs 3<sup>rd</sup> in the World

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY



**Top** Monique Tobias, Kim Dominy, Coach Patti Carriker, Manager Mike Conlon, Coach Bill Crawley & Teresa Crawley, Amber Conlon, Ashley Crawley,

**Bottom** Lauren Graham, Brittany Doyle, Bunnie Jones, Amy Hutchinson, Emily Fowler, Catherine Causey, Kaitlyn Carriker, and Jensen Barrett. Missing Coach Doug Wilson.

Game 8 World Series

<u>Box Score</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
South	3	5	1	0	0	1	10	6	4
West	2	3	0	0	0	0	5	3	7

Game 10 World Series

<u>Box Score</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
Central	2	0	1	2	0	12	17	13	1
South	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	8	8

Game 16 World Series

<u>Box Score</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
Asia Pacific	1	1	1	0	3	2	8	5	2
South	2	0	0	3	2	2	9	10	3

Game 18 World Series

<u>Box Score</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
South	0	21	0	0	x	x	21	7	2
Europe	0	0	0	1	x	x	1	2	0

Game 21 Semi Finals

<u>Box Score</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	H	E
District 4	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	4	6	1
South	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	7	4

Game 26 Consolation Game

<u>Box Score</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Central	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	7	6
South	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	8	6

The Road To Portland Oregon

Home of the Little League Softball World Series

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

Warner Robins American Little League Major Softball started their season out just like over 3,000 other Leagues in the world did, with sign ups in January. We had to extend registration so that we could find enough girls to fill all of the divisions, so the league could provide enough teams to make a good schedule for the girls to play. Even with the extension we still didn't have enough players in all divisions so we inter-league played with WR National, West Macon & Western so all of the girls had an adequate schedule to play. In February the managers drafted their teams and started practicing to prepare for their scheduled games that began in April. We only had 3 teams in the East and West due to our low numbers in each league, so we applied for a waiver for the two leagues to inter league play and combine the 6 teams in the Majors for 1 All Star team for tournament play. In May we received the waiver of approval from Williamsport before the All Stars were picked.

Mike Conlon was the manager of the Wild Cats who won the major division, which made him the Manager of the All Stars. On the last Saturday of the season we handed out ballots for the girls on each softball major league team to vote for the girls they thought should be on the team. Out of the 12 girls put on the team 10 were selected by the girls and 2 by the Manager to fill the team roster (Amber Conlon, Kaitlyn Carriker, Ashley Crawley, Emily Fowler, Catherine Causey, Monique Tobias, Brittany Doyle, Bunnie Jones, Amy Hutchinson, Kim Dominy, Lauren Graham, and Jensen Barrett). On June 15<sup>th</sup> they were allowed to be announced and start practicing for the tournaments, which started the first week in July at the West Macon Little League Park in Macon Ga.

WR American Ladies started the road to Portland, beating Western than Macon and West Macon in the finals to win the District 5 Championship, which gave them a birth in the Georgia State tournament in Augusta Ga.

The State tournament was played at Master City Little League with 7 of the 10 Districts participating. The WR American Ladies beat Dist 1 Rockmart, Dist 8 Columbus American, and Dist 10 Oconee to make it to the finals in the state. Dist 7 Habersham made it thru the loser bracket to beat us in the 1<sup>st</sup> game in the finals forcing a final game. Jensen Barrett pitched the WR Americans with the help of excellent defense and timely hitting to win the State Softball little league tournament and represent Georgia in the region tournament in Lavonia Ga. The State was over on 20 July and the Region would start on July 31. This gave the team an opportunity to regroup before heading out to the region. The manager gave them a little time off but they still practiced and prepared for the tournament.

They headed out to Lavonia on the 30 July early so we could get our rooms and make the Banquet at 6pm for the 8 State Champions. West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia represented the South Region.

The tournament was broken into 2 divisions called Pool 1 and Pool 2. Pool 1 consisted of NC, SC, VA, WV and Pool 2 Alabama, Tennessee, Florida and Georgia. In order to play for the championship you had to be one of the top two teams in your pool to qualify to play in the semi finals of the region. If you had a tie record with another team the tiebreaker was head to head play. If 3 teams tied the tiebreaker would be the number of innings played divide the team who gives up the least runs. We started out playing Alabama and beat them 10-0 then Tennessee 8-0 which put us in the drivers seat to make it to the final four in the region tournament. If we beat Florida or kept them from scoring to many runs we would have the #1 seed in the semi finals in pool 2. Florida jumped on us early, and we had a couple of errors, which allowed Florida to score 7 runs, which was close to being too many. We managed to come back and score 3 runs to help our percentages. Even though we lost to Florida we were able to be in a 3way tie with Florida, Tennessee. Our percentage was .438, Florida was .444 and Tennessee was eliminated with a .623 we beat Florida by .006 to win the 1 seed in pool 2 to play Virginia who was the 2 seed out of pool 1. NC #1 played Florida #2 in the Semi Finals. Amber pitched well and the offense shows up to jump on Virginia 13 to 5 to qualify for the finals. Florida beat NC in the last inning to qualify for the final game.

The final game could not have been scripted any better for a championship game. We pitched Amber Conlon our ace pitcher to get to the final game and the pressure was handed to Jensen Barrett our only 11 year old who pitched in the final of the State and got the win. We were confident she would throw strikes and that they would hit her, we just hoped that our defense would hold up their end. The game started out with Florida going up 2 runs in the first, but was held there for the next 5 innings. We hit the ball well but it was at somebody every time until the 6<sup>th</sup> inning. We got 2 hits one from Lauren Graham, and Kaitlyn Carriker. Amber got up and hit the ball that they missed moving Lauren & Kaitlyn home to tie the game. With Amber on 2<sup>nd</sup> base Brittany hit the ball and on a close play at first was called safe, while Amber just kept running to home to score the winning run. Jensen went out in the last half of the inning to product 2 pop ups and a ground ball for the win and a plane ticket to Portland Oregon to play in the Little League Softball World Series.

Our League has never prepared for a World Series, back in 1992 our Major boys made it to the region in St Petersburg Fl. but were eliminate there. We won the Region on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> and had to depart for Portland on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 am in the morning to catch a plane at 6 am in Atlanta. The tournament consisted of two pools with 5 teams in each pools. West (Arizona), Central (Indiana), Europe (Netherlands), Asia (Philippines) and South (Georgia). WR American beat West 10 – 5 in the first game Amber pitched a good game with a lot of Offense, which is important in pool play. Our next game we were playing Central and losing 5-1 in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, and the team went south, we couldn't catch or throw the ball. We believed that the travel and time change just caught up with the girls. It

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

was 17 – 1 before we could get the final out. This is the time when we were very happy to have the parents make the trip so the moms and dads could hug them and let the girls know everything was going to be OK. We were still in the battle to make it to the semi finals but we had to beat the Asia team. Amber was on the mound and it was a battle. The score went back and forth all the way to the last inning when we were able to tie and win the game, because the Asia manager tried to replace her pitcher with a illegal pitcher and had to put a girl on the mound who never pitched. If we were to win the last game against Europe we were in the finals, because we beat Asia on head to head competition. Kaitlyn Carriker was on the mound and shut them down in the first inning. The game got out of control in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning because the European pitcher couldn't throw strikes and we won 21-1.

After our game we stayed to see if the Central team could beat the Asians, if not it was a 3 way tie in the pool all 3-1. Central was in as #1 because of percentage points and we got in because of head to head against Asia. It was crazy for a while waiting to find out if we were going to play Oregon Dist 4 on ESPN, or play in the consolation game. After 20 minutes and a phone call to Williamsport it was announced that we made it to ESPN.

We knew that Oregon was good when we watched them play, but we knew with Amber Conlon on the mound we could beat anybody in the world. The game went back and forth for 8 innings. In the 6<sup>th</sup> we had a good opportunity to win the game when Amber got a base hit and no outs. All we needed was to push her to 2<sup>nd</sup> and squeeze her home. Ashley Crawley hit into a Fielder Choice at 2<sup>nd</sup> removing Amber and Ashley on 1<sup>st</sup>. Brittany got a hit to right field and Ashley tried to take 3<sup>rd</sup> and got thrown out. The last out was a pop up. The next two innings were nip and tuck, but a couple of hits in the 8<sup>th</sup> scored the winning run, ending our hope for a World title.

The Consolation game was just as exciting as the previous game against Central. We wanted to get our respect back after losing to them earlier. The game went 7 innings again back and forth. In the 7<sup>th</sup> inning Central scored 2 runs to take the lead and our hope fading. A ball was hit to left field and Brittany Doyle slid then fell and bent her finger back and had to go to the hospital. We were out of substitutes, which meant that the other coach had to pick a player off of our bench to complete the game. With runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Bunnie Jones was chosen by the other coach to pull the game out. Bunnie already had 1 hit earlier in the game but this was a tough situation to produce a hit. The first pitch Bunnie drove a ball past the right fielder to score the 2 runs to tie the game and finally score the winning run to lock up the 3 spot in the World.

POOL A		
Team	Wins	Loses
Oregon #1	4	0
South West #2	3	1
East	2	2
Canada	1	3
Latin Am	0	4

POOL B		
Team	Wins	Loses
Central #1	3	1
South #2	3	1
Asia	3	1
West	1	3
Europe	0	4

## WARNER ROBINS AMERICAN HISTORY

2003-2006 –No Information

2007 – President Roman Jones. The League had a very successful season . Randy Jones managed the 9-10 year boys to a district 5 title, GA state title, a won the tournament of Champions in West Virginia. This was the first Tournament of Champions WRALL had ever won. The 9-10 and the 11-12 girls both won district five titles this year. Then to cap off the incredible season, Mickey Lay and Mike Smith led a group of 11-12 year old boys all the way to Williamsport PA.

The boys won the district 5 title, GA state title, SE Regional, and then pulled off one of the greatest accomplishments in all of sports in winning the Little League World Series Championship in extra innings over Japan. The walk off homerun to win a world championship was something special but what happened after the game really showed what these boys were made of. The boys stopped their celebration short and went to the pitcher's mound to console a very upset Japanese team. It was the kind of sportsmanship we always want to see in sports but never do. WRALL gained as much headlines for this as they did for winning the game.

2008 – President Roman Jones. In 2008 the success of the WRALL all Star team continued. The 9-10, 10-11, and 11-12 boys all won the district 5 Championships. The 11-12 boys went on to also win the 11-12 GA state Championship. In Softball the girls continued their winning ways also in capturing the 9-10 District and State Championships.

2009 – President Ken Hathaway. WRALL made Little League history this season. The 9-10, 10-11, and 11-12 boys all won the District 5 Championship. The 11-12 boys went on to also win the GA State Championship and the SE Regionals. The boys had a great showing before coming up a little short in the Semi Finals of the United States side of the bracket. The Girls won the District 5 Title in the following age groups, 9-10, 10-11, 11-12, 13-14

The girls won State Championships in the 9-10 and the 11-12 year old age groups. The 11-12 team went on to win the SE Regional. The girls then headed to Portland Oregon for the Softball Little League World Series. The girls rolled through the competition on the way to winning the first Softball World Championship at WRALL. This win made WRALL the first Little League to ever win both the boys and girls Little League World Championships. The girls were coached by Emily Whaley and Roger Stella.

2010 – President Mark Knight. WRALL decided to add their history a little in 2010. The boys 9-10, 10-11, and 11-12 each won the District 5 Championships. The 10-11 boys won the first ever State Title at WRALL in this age division.

The girls won the District 5 Championships in the 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14 age divisions. The 11-12 girls then went on to win the State Championship. Then in the first South East Regional held in Warner Robins, the girls put on a show and defeated Florida in the finals in front of a huge crowd at the South East Regional. The girls went on to Portland Oregon for a second straight season and defeated California for a second straight Softball Little League World Series Championship. The Girls were coached by Roger Stella and Bobby Killebrew.

2011- President Jimmy Dunn. 2011 Saw more championship come to WRALL. The 9-10 and 11-12 girls both won District 5 championships and the 11-12 boys advanced to the Little League World Series. This World Series was even more special in the fact that WRALL advanced to the World Series despite being two divisions. The 11-12 East all stars had to defeat a great WRALL West all star team to just get out of district play. Then in State the boys went undefeated and beat a very good Columbus team to win the State Title. Then it was on to the Southeast Regional where huge crowds were there each time WRALL took the field. WRALL advanced through to the Southeast Regional Championship game undefeated. WRALL played Florida with a berth to the World Series on the line. Florida led the game 2-0 heading to the 6<sup>th</sup> inning before WRALL rallied for 4 runs to win. The boys fought hard in the World Series but came up a little short. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in five years for the 11-12 boys going to Williamsport and 4<sup>th</sup> time in the last five years of winning the State Championship. This team showed what most people did not think was possible, going to the World Series and being two divisions.