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# Ambassador News

*Now then we are Ambassadors for Christ...2 Cor. 5:20*

## A First Year Season

By Mia Pearson

It is easy to say that sports are a necessary part of most peoples' lives. Very few go through their entire childhood without ever playing some kind of sport. It is a wonderful thing that schools have sports programs available to their students, but for a long time the home school community in Knoxville did not have those same opportunities. The Knoxville Ambassadors sports program, which originally only centered on basketball, has greatly helped to reduce this problem by developing two new programs within the last year; the newest of these is the Lady Ambassadors softball team.

Starting a sports program may not sound like much at first, but any member of a first year team knows that it is no easy feat. It all begins with an interest in the community: enough people need to like the idea of the program for it to take off. From there, coaches need to be found, players need to be officially recruited, and a place needs to be available for the team to practice in. This can all easily be overwhelming, but Coach Cundiff, who had come to The Ambassadors

with the idea of a softball team back in October 2009, said that the hardest part was finding players.

Finding players can be a roller coaster for a first year team, but the Lady Ambassadors managed to generate a team of twelve girls, ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 11<sup>th</sup> grade. For some, the team was the best part of the season. "Just getting to be with everyone and having fun!" was the answer Kimmy Bradley, a sophomore in high school and strong pitcher for the team, gave when asked what the highlight of the season was for her. A big part of the Lady Ambassadors' experiences this season were centered on the relationships that were formed within the team. "They went from being teammates, to acquaintances, to friends," said Coach Cundiff.

Amber Whaley, a first time softball player, said that for her, the season was a learning experience: "We've had some wins and some losses[...]but it was a great learning experience for me!"

But sports for the Ambassadors is never just about growing as players, it is also about growing as



Christians. Kaitlin Bradley, catcher for the team, said that: "We just try to uphold our Christ like behavior. Before every game we say: we are Ambassadors for who? Christ!" Sportsmanship is a big way that the Ambassadors practice their Christian behavior. "... We always pray before we go out there, and we'll pray *with* the other team whether we win or lose," noted Amber Whaley.

The Lady Ambassadors strongly upheld these mottoes in their game against Karns High School this past April. Though they were set against a team with more experience, they played the game with laughter and smiles. It was easy to see that they enjoyed being out there

**"If you'll do today what others won't, you'll do tomorrow what others can't."**

*-Author Unknown*

### About Us

*Operating under the direction of the Knoxville Christian Home Educator's Athletic Association (KCHEAA), the Ambassadors purpose is to honor and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as we seek to humbly serve members of His body in the home school community. We believe that home school students have the ability and deserve the opportunity to excel in the type of competitive programs that their peers in public and private school enjoy.*

## A First Year Season (cont'd from page 1)

together. "I count it as a privilege just to get out there and play," Amber Whaley happily said.

Though the Ambassadors lost that game, there were some fantastic plays made by the girls. In the bottom of the first inning, Shortstop Lindsey Bradley made a great diving catch, which resulted in the first out of that inning. The most amazing play was in the top of the third inning when Kimmy Bradley, number 24, stole second and third base, and then slid dynamically into home plate!

This first season was definitely a success for the Lady Ambassadors! While starting up a first year team can be tricky, the Ambassadors pulled it off with excellence. They developed new skills, new friends, and a brand new team for the

home school community to support and enjoy.

### About the Author:

Mia Pearson is a home school student in Knoxville, Tennessee. She played as first setter for the Lady Ambassadors Junior Varsity Volleyball team during their inaugural season in 2009. She is a Junior in high school and an aspiring writer. Her goal is to someday become a novelist and write books for young adults.

*"Hard Work beats Talent when  
Talent doesn't Work Hard"*

*Author Unknown*



## Off Season Basketball Skill Sessions

By Wayne Shrader

Somebody once said, "Basketball games are won and lost in the off-season". There is a lot of truth in that statement. No matter how hard a coach tries, it is impossible to fully develop a player's fundamental skills during the season. The time to really work and develop as a player is during the off-season.

I can tell you unequivocally as a coach it is very easy to tell in October, who has put in the most effort at improving their game from April through September.

The Knoxville Ambassadors have already begun offering skill sessions for players to help them improve their game during this off-season. Schedules and locations are at the right.

*"The time will come when winter  
will ask what you were doing all  
summer." - Henry Clay*

### Ambassadors Off-Season Skill Sessions

#### Knoxville Ambassadors (boys)

Who: 9th-12th grade boys

When: Sundays from 2:30-5:30

Where: Cornerstone Church, 1250 Heritage Lake Blvd., Knoxville

#### Knoxville Lady Ambassadors

Who: 9-12th grade girls

When: Tuesdays from 5:30-8:30

Where: Holston Middle School, Knoxville

## Exciting News for Middle School Basketball Players

For the 2010-2011 season, the Knoxville Ambassadors middle school teams will play as part of the Knoxville Independent School League (KISL) small school division. The KISL consists of private schools in and around Knoxville. Participating in the KISL allows game schedules to be made in one day and keeps games local for our parents and players.

For the 2010-2011 season, the Ambassa-

dors will have 4 teams at the middle school level (2 boys, 2 girls). There will be a Middle School Varsity (MSV) for players from the 8th grade and below and a Middle School JV (MSJV) for less experienced players in the 7th grade and below.

The MSV team will have approximately 15 games in the season, and the MSJV will have approximately 10 games.





**KNOXVILLE CHRISTIAN HOME EDUCATORS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

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Who are the Knoxville Ambassadors?

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Currently the Knoxville Ambassadors program is comprised of 11 teams in 3 sports. Those sports include basketball, softball, and volleyball. The goal of the Ambassadors is to eventually offer most sports you would find in typical high school program, provided there is a demand from the home school community and an ample number of volunteers to provide those opportunities.

For 2011, the Knoxville Ambassadors are currently investigating adding Baseball and Cross Country.

## Support Those Who Support Home School Athletics

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