



Pete D'Amour and Diamonds Softball Announce Innovative Partnership

BLACKSBURG, Virginia—October 19, 2020—Pete D'Amour, head coach of Virginia Tech Softball, and Diamonds Softball (www.nrvdiamonds.org) today announced an innovative partnership to support youth development. The partnership brings together college-level coaching and youth sports at a time when player development on and off the field is critical to the future success of young women.

“We are thrilled to bring a new level of opportunity to young women across Southwest Virginia,” said David Kniola, president of the Diamonds organization. “By combining coaching expertise and passion for the game of softball with the history and philosophy of our organization we now have a single source of player development unrivaled anywhere.”

A new softball club (named The Pete D'Amour Softball Club) is created to house player development programs open to the public and travel softball teams for girls up to age 18. A schedule of clinics, camps, and private lessons will be available to club members who reside within 50 miles of Blacksburg/Christiansburg.

Kniola added, “We are in the preliminary stages of development but we anticipate reduced or no fees to clinics, camps, and lessons for athletes playing on a Diamonds team. However, our organization’s mission is to develop the game of softball regardless of travel or school affiliation. Any opportunity we create will be accessible to players at all skill levels and from any area community.”

With many youth and school-based sports teams uncertain about playing, the new softball club will provide an outlet for softball athletes to train and develop position and hitting skills. This will occur under the watchful eyes of college-level coaches who have played and coached at highest level. The Diamonds indoor facility in Christiansburg will serve as a home base for the new organization.

Coach D'Amour said, “This is an exciting endeavor for us. I have often thought about how we can change the way families think about and approach travel softball. Our club will develop players from an early age in the fundamentals of softball at an affordable price. No one should be left out of this amazing game because they need expensive lessons.”

D'Amour added, “We will partner with the Diamonds to provide college coaches for teams at each age level. This alone sets us on a path to move players more quickly in growth and development in the sport. The idea is to keep girls playing for a very long time.”

“We want to reimagine how girls experience softball by providing access to coaches and mentors that value family, school, and community service. Leadership development is as important to us as softball development,” Kniola said. “The Diamonds have always been known for sportsmanship, academics, and leadership. This partnership extends these values to highly competitive teams.”

An open house featuring brief talks by the VT coaching staff and a free softball clinic for players will be held on in the near future at the Diamonds Indoor Facility located at 825 Park Street in Christiansburg.

The club is immediately seeking interested players at the 18u level to join a new team, to be supervised by D'Amour, that will play showcase tournaments. Athletes within 50 miles of Blacksburg, Virginia are encouraged to contact organizers at DiamondsFPS@gmail.com. Opportunities to play on 10u-16u teams are also available.

For more information or to join the club, go to www.nrvdiamonds.org/pdsc.