

Bandits, Elgin Honor Pioneers of Women's Softball

By Adam Musto

ELGIN-The city of Elgin takes great pride in being home to the Comcast Chicago Bandits women's professional softball team. With the team's 2008 season off and running, both the Bandits and Elgin will be honoring the pioneers of women's softball: the All-American Girls of the Professional Baseball League.

The Bandits have a big weekend planned when they take on the Washington Glory from Thursday, July 10 to Sunday, July 13. Tickets are still available and start at only \$10.

On Wednesday, July 9, the Mayor of Elgin will read a proclamation officially making Saturday, July 12 "All-American Girls Day." On Friday, July 11 the former players will arrive at the Centre of Elgin between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. and will be presented with a certificate of achievement and appreciation by the Elgin Sports Hall of Fame, which will be followed by a reception at 7:00 p.m.

A question and answer session is scheduled at 8:00 p.m. at the Edgewater Del Webb community located at 2550 Edgewater Drive in Elgin off of Bowes Road. Coming from I-90 west to Randall Road, exit and go south. Del Webb is on the right after turning west at Bowes Road. Coming from Randall Road, turn west onto Bowes Road.

Saturday, July 12 is when the Bandits officially honor their game as "All-American Girls Night" courtesy of Insure-Rite. It is also "Singles Night" presented by On-Q Club/Hennessy's. The game will be full of in-game promotions featuring the former players of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. But the day begins much earlier than the scheduled 7:05 p.m. first pitch.

At 10:30 a.m. Marcus Theatre will feature a free screening of "A League of Their Own," the 1992 film about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League featuring Tom Hanks, Geena Davis, Madonna and Rosie O'Donnell. The film was nominated for two Golden Globes. Marcus Theatre is located at 111 South Randall Road in Elgin.

Following the movie and after the players sign autographs, they will meet at Potbelly in South Elgin for lunch at 392 Randall Road near the intersection of Randall and McDonald.

The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League lasted from 1943 to 1954. The league was set up when many of America's young men left their minor league baseball teams to fight in World War II. The All-American Girls blazed the path for women's sports today.

Tickets for the series against the Washington Glory are still available but selling fast. Get your Chicago Bandits tickets starting at just \$10 by calling 877-7BANDIT or visiting www.chicagobandits.com