



CARMEL LADY HOUNDS

Grand Opening
April 21, 2010



Ray Kinsella, Kevin Costner's character in the movie "Field of Dreams", was haunted by a voice that kept telling him, "If you build it, he will come." While he was uncertain what the voice meant or how it would affect his future, he listened and his journey of self discovery began.

In 1980, the athletic department of Carmel High School also listened to a voice, the collective voice of young female athletes, and the Lady Hounds softball program was established. Playing their home games at Wodock Fields, located behind Carmel Elementary, the members of those early teams were unknowingly paving the way for hundreds of future Lady Hounds.

The IHSAA sanctioned softball in 1984 and by then, the Carmel program was beginning to enjoy some success. The Lady Hounds captured their first sectional title in 1987 and have added ten more including the 2009 Sectional Championship.



1994 'Miss Softball'
Jenny Schoen



1994 State Champions

After ten successful seasons at Wodock, the Cherry Tree Softball Complex was constructed and in 1990, another era of the softball program began. Dubbed as the "finest softball complex in the state", it quickly became the standard that other high schools would aspire to as well as the home of many semi-state and state championship finals.

The Lady Hounds continued to add to their resume in the nineties with four regional championships, two semi-state championships and ultimately became the 1994 State Champions.

The 1994 team, coached by Bob Brower, left its mark on Carmel High School and the state of Indiana. Its dramatic 2-1 victory over Western High School, in front of a home crowd at Cherry Tree, has the distinction of being the longest championship game in the single class era. The conclusion came in the ninth inning when senior Becky Klus drove home the winning run with two outs. The Lady Hounds ended their cham-

ampionship season with an unprecedented 29-2 record. Shannon Whitmore was named the Mental Attitude Award winner and Jenny Schoen went on to be named 1994 Indiana Miss Softball.

The Lady Hounds returned to the Semi-state in 1997. That year, Carmel also won its first Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference championship and to date has won five more including the 2009 championship. This year's squad is intent on bringing home another State Championship.

Current varsity head coach, Emily Good, took over the program in 2004 and has achieved a successful 116-51 record that includes two MIC championships and two sectional titles.

"This field, this game, it's part of our past, Ray. It reminds us of all that was once good and it could be again. Oh...people will come Ray. People will most definitely come."
- Terance Mann, "Field of Dreams"



In the fall of 2008, construction began with the demolition of the original facility. The four new diamonds were laid out and the outfield grass was planted. Thanks to good weather, construction moved along on schedule during the 2009 season.

The new design proved to be the "field of dreams" that the coaches, players and supporters had been waiting for. The complex features four diamonds, three fully fenced with a two story support building in the center of the quad. The varsity field features 500 permanent seats and a state of the art scoreboard. All of the fields benefit from brick dugouts, downcast sports lighting and improved sound system.



The support building features public restrooms, concession stand and storage on the first floor. The second floor houses the team locker room, coach's office and a press box with observation windows.

The enclosed batting cages add to the usability of the complex for both the high school program and the Carmel Dad's Club recreational softball program. The brick facade and extensive landscaping complement Cherry Tree Elementary and the surrounding community. The brick paved entrance and handicap accessible facilities will welcome everyone in the community to experience Lady Hounds softball for many years to come.



The Cherry Tree Softball Complex represents the commitment made to our female student athletes by Carmel High School and the community. To those groups and the many individuals who saw this project through to completion, it does not go unrecognized that without your determination and dedication to this project, this "field of dreams" would not have become a reality.



As 2010 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Carmel High School softball program, it seems appropriate that we celebrate the return to the new Cherry Tree Softball Complex. In doing so, we look forward to the next generation of Lady Hounds Softball, never forgetting to honor the past.

"We are thrilled to have such a wonderful facility for our softball community and Lady Hounds program. Cherry Tree Softball Complex is a beautiful place in which to showcase our student-athletes' talents. Cherry Tree's renovations have been in discussion for years. On behalf of our entire program, we would like to thank the many parents, current and former players, staff, administrators, and community volunteers who have helped make this a reality."
 - Emily Good, Head Coach, Carmel High School.

2010 Ladyhounds Softball



MIC Championships - 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2008, 2009
 Sectional Championships - 1987, 1988, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2006, 2009
 Regional Championships - 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997
 Semi-State Championships - 1994, 1997
 State Champions - 1994

Go Hounds!



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