

PRESS RELEASE

On Thursday, January 17th, a group of thirty individuals from the once-active Esplanade Softball League met and founded the Beantown Softball League. After unanimously ratifying its constitution, the members elected their officers for the 1980 season.

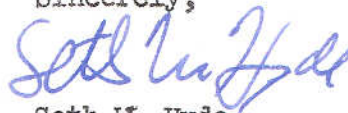
Our main objective is to provide the opportunity for people who support gay fellowship to play softball in an atmosphere of friendly competition, free of discrimination. This was done successfully during the past two years with the Esplanade Softball League. In 1978, Joe Leo, publisher of the Esplanade Newspaper, founded the League, which, through his hard work, provided members with a great deal of pleasure, satisfaction, and, most of all, gay pride. We offer thanks to Joe for his leadership and drive. It is our plan to continue this tradition and make it available to a larger segment of the gay community.

In March 1979, the Boston Softball League was accepted into the North American Gay Alliance. This organization brings together gay-oriented athletic leagues for the exchange of ideas and competitive play. Although originally formed to coordinate and regulate the Gay Softball World Series, held annually on Labor Day Weekend, this year it is expanding to include volleyball, tennis, bowling, and other sports. Last year we participated in two national tournaments and stunned our opponents with our enthusiasm and athletic ability. In the Invitational Canada Cup, held in Toronto on July 1st weekend, Boston emerged undefeated after beating a surprised New York Ramrod team in the finals. The World Series III in Milwaukee proved a much tougher undertaking. Represented by Boston's '79 Champions, the Paradise Cafe, we lost only to the finalist Minneapolis and the World Champion Los Angeles team. We did bring home the Consolation Trophy and impressed all with our style of play.

We hope to provide the opportunity for Boston's gay athletes to participate in these tournaments in the future. Gay athletics is an ever-expanding part of the gay lifestyle. The friendships and bonds created by national and regional tournaments transcend both political and geographical differences. They are a source of pride and strength and, we feel, build character not only in the individual, but in the community as well.

This year World Series IV will be held in Los Angeles. We hope that Boston's Championship team will be able to participate in this tournament. In order to send the winning team to L.A. and to finance other projects, we will be staging a series of fund-raising activities throughout the summer. We encourage your participation and support and will keep you informed.

Sincerely,



Seth W. Hyde  
Commissioner