



CITY OF SALEM UNVEILS PLANS FOR U.S.A. WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOFTBALL TEAM'S VISIT NEXT SUMMER

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The City of Salem is adding another marquee event to its sports schedule as the U.S.A. National Women's Softball team is scheduled to play a doubleheader in Virginia's Championship City on June 29, 2011.

Formal plans for the event were unveiled this morning by officials from the City of Salem, the American Softball Association and the Salem Red Sox during a morning news conference that was held at the ballpark.

"I think this is another signature event for the city and it just speaks highly of what we've done in the past," says John Shaner, Salem's Director of Parks and Recreation. "This will be the fourth time we've hosted the National team and it means a lot that they sought us out to host an event of this magnitude."

"The folks in Salem take care of every detail and I'm just very fortunate to be involved with this event," says American Softball Association President Andy Dooley. "In the past when the U.S.A. National team has played in Salem, we've gotten great cooperation from all of the localities in the Roanoke Valley and I know that will continue in June."

In 2000, the U.S.A. Olympic team played an exhibition game at Kiwanis Field and in 2004, the team returned to play at the James I. Moyer Complex. The U.S.A. National team's last appearance in Salem was in July 2008 when a standing-room only crowd of more than 4,000 turned out at Kiwanis. Bringing the game to the Salem Red Sox home at Salem Memorial Ballpark – Lewis Gale Field, where there are 5,503 seats, should only enhance the experience for fans.

"For us, this is one of those exciting outside-the-box events that should benefit the entire community and the region," says Salem Red Sox Vice President and General Manager, Todd Stephenson. "The stars just lined up with our schedule so we could logistically make it happen and we really hope to sell it out."

The games between the National squad and the U.S.A. Futures National team will take place one day after the Red Sox wrap up a home stand and one day before the start of the 24th Annual Salem Fair.

Tickets are just \$15 for reserved chair back seating anywhere in the ballpark. Plus, if fans purchase tickets anytime in the month of December, they can get them for just \$12. Tickets will go on sale this Wednesday, December 1, and they are available at the Salem Red Sox box office and online and www.salemsox.com



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