

# History of HWSA

## 2000

The Homeschool World Series Association (HWSA) was formed in April 2000 when a group of homeschool baseball program directors and coaches, including Lori Cochran (Houston, TX) and Jeff Hartline (Nashville, TN), united in the joint effort to plan and organize a national homeschool baseball tournament. Six teams representing six different states competed in the inaugural Homeschool World Series, which was hosted by the Nashville (Middle Tennessee) Monarchs at Lipscomb University in Nashville. The Houston HCYA Eagles took possession of the Championship Cup at the first Homeschool World Series, with the Atlanta Barons as first runner-up. The original member teams were Houston Eagles, Atlanta Barons, Nashville Monarchs, Huntsville Falcons, Virginia Beach Breakers, and Wichita Warriors.

## 2001

In 2001, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Homeschool World Series was held in Atlanta, GA and jointly hosted by the Atlanta, GA GGC Barons and the Atlanta South Christian Knights. This year, the addition of a Girls Fast-Pitch Softball World Series was also realized. Eight baseball teams and three softball teams competed. This second annual event saw the Houston, TX Eagles and Atlanta, GA Barons meet once again in the Championship game. This year, the Barons claimed the Championship over the Eagles, and the Houston Lady Eagles triumphed over the Virginia Beach, VA Lady Breakers.

## 2002

The year 2002 saw the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Baseball-only World Series hosted by the Houston, TX Eagles in San Antonio, TX. Ten (10) baseball teams competed, where the Atlanta, GA Barons, facing the Houston, TX Eagles for the third time in the Championship game, reclaimed the Championship title. Following the World Series, a group of like-minded World Series organizers representing different teams and states formed the HWSA Board and took the next step of incorporating as a non-profit organization formally under the name of the Homeschool World Series Association. Larry Cochran (Austin, TX) was voted in as HWSA's first board president.

## 2003

In 2003, the HWSA planned the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeschool World Series in Niceville, FL (near Ft. Walton Beach). The addition of three Regional Qualifying Tournaments to advance 8 of 15 teams to the Homeschool World Series was made. HWSA also organized a five-team 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Homeschool Softball World Series. The Atlanta Barons made a "three-peat" when they beat the Huntsville, AL Falcons in the Championship game. The Virginia Beach Lady Breakers defeated the Atlanta Lady Barons to claim their first softball championship title.

## 2004

In 2004, a fourth Regional Tournament site was added to accommodate our growing program that now consisted of 20 baseball teams. Two teams from each site advanced to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeschool Baseball World Series in Pensacola, FL. The Atlanta, GA GGC Barons claimed their fourth consecutive Championship title after defeating the Dallas, TX Angels in the Championship game. The Virginia Beach, VA Lady Breakers re-claimed the Softball Championship title over the Atlanta, GA Lady Barons as well.

## 2005

Twenty (20) teams competed in four separate Regional Qualifying Tournaments as in 2004. Two teams from each region advanced to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeschool Baseball World Series that took place in Atlanta, GA, due to the sustained hurricane damage in Pensacola, FL. The Dallas, TX HSAA Angels defeated the four-time consecutive World Series Champions, the Atlanta, GA GGC Barons in the Championship game, claiming their first Championship victory in the Homeschool World Series.

## **2006**

Twenty-seven (27) teams competed in four Regional Qualifying Tournaments in April 2006. Two teams from each region advanced to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual World Series held on May 21-25 in Pensacola. The Oklahoma City Broncos defeated the Fort Worth Riders in the Championship Game to take home the newly named Cochran Cup—named in honor of Larry and Lori Cochran for their vision in founding the HWSA. At the September board meeting, Chuck Hendricks (Dallas, TX) became the newly elected board president replacing outgoing president Larry Cochran (Austin, TX).

## **2007**

In April 2007, twenty-eight (28) teams from 11 states across the nation competed in two Super-Regional Qualifying Tournaments in Ft. Worth (West) and Atlanta (East). Four teams from each region advanced to the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual World Series held on May 21-24<sup>th</sup> in Pensacola, FL. At the opening ceremony on Monday morning at the PJC field, the teams and families honored fallen American soldier, Ryan Miller, who played for the Houston HCYA Eagles at the 2004 World Series. On Thursday, the Atlanta Barons defeated the West Houston Thunder, 6-0, in the Championship Game to take home the Cochran Cup. In the Third Place Game, the Dallas Angels edged the Oklahoma City Broncos, 4-1.

## **2008**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual HWSA tournament season saw 30 teams from 12 states compete in two Regional Qualifying Tournaments in Dallas (West) and Atlanta (East). Four teams from each region advanced to the World Series held on May 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> in Pensacola, FL. All 18 games were played at Pirate Field on the Pensacola Junior College campus. In the finale, the Atlanta Barons defeated the Oklahoma City Broncos, 8-4, in the Championship Game to take home the Cochran Cup for the 6<sup>th</sup> time. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Game, the Augusta Crusaders defeated the Huntsville Falcons.

## **2009**

During the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual HWSA tournament season, the HWSA leadership announced plans to create one (1) Super World Series tournament in Auburndale, Florida, for the 2010 season. This year, however, HWSA saw 31 teams from 11 states compete in two Regional Qualifying Tournaments in Dallas (West) and Cary, NC (East). Four teams from each region advanced to the World Series in Pensacola, FL, in what may prove to be the last HWSA presence in Pensacola. PJC hosted the most exciting games in the World Series 10-year history with many games coming down to the wire. In the finale, the Atlanta Barons defeated the Dallas Angels to take home the Cochran Cup for the 7<sup>th</sup> time. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Game, the Richmond Patriots defeated the Concord Stallions.

## **2010**

It was an exciting time for the HWSA, as it moved its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual HWSA championships to the Orlando, Florida area (Auburndale in Polk County). The inaugural Super World Series tournament, which was open to all varsity home school baseball teams in the nation, saw 23 teams from 10 states compete in three (3) different divisions. In the finale of the Platinum Division, the Atlanta Barons scraped by the Dallas Angels in 9 innings, 7-6, in what many agree was the best game in HWSA history. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Game, the Augusta Crusaders defeated the Houston Eagles; and in the Gold Division, the Huntsville Falcons took 1<sup>st</sup> Place over the Spring Mustangs.