

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL · OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



NEWS RELEASE

245 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10167 · (212)931-7800

MEDIA ADVISORY

June 7, 2018

**UNPRECEDENTED 24 HOURS OF 'PLAY BALL' COMING TO FAIRBANKS, ALASKA
IN CELEBRATION OF 113TH MIDNIGHT SUN GAME**

**Event Will Feature Numerous Baseball and Softball Activities For Both Adults and Youth
During Summer Solstice, the Longest Amount of Daylight of the Year**

**Special Event Will Be the Longest-Running 'PLAY BALL' Activity Operated by Major League
Baseball & Partners**

More information and Registration for Open Sessions Available at PlayBall.org/events

Major League Baseball and various partners will host an unprecedented 24 hours of 'PLAY BALL' on Thursday, June 21st, the Summer Solstice, in Fairbanks, Alaska. The special effort is in celebration of one of baseball's most unique spectacles – the 113th Midnight Sun Game. Given the city's unique geographic location, Fairbanks sees 24 hours of daylight during the Summer Solstice. Throughout the 24-hour period, there will be a number of softball and baseball activities, for both adults and kids, hosted by Major League Baseball, the American Legion, PONY Baseball and Softball, USA Baseball and USA Softball.

During the "Open Session" PLAY BALL events, approximately **600 kids**, ages six to 12, from local youth organizations and communities, will run through informal baseball- and softball-centered 'PLAY BALL' stations that provide fun activities highlighting the many ways the game can be played and enjoyed. Each participant will receive a bat & ball set, PLAY BALL-branded t-shirts and wristbands to take home. Registration for the open sessions is available at the following link: www.PlayBall.org/events.



Other activities throughout the day will include games featuring different baseball and softball-focused organizations, including the Armed Forces Softball League, American Legion, Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI), and USA Baseball and USA Softball. The numerous games and activities throughout the day will culminate with the 113th Midnight Summer Game, which has been played annually in Fairbanks for over a century. For years, baseball fans from all over the world have gathered to watch the collegiate summer baseball team, the Alaska Goldpanners, play in this special contest. The game, which is scheduled to begin at 10:00 p.m. Alaska Time, does not use any artificial light. Full schedule is below (*all times AKDT*):

Time	Event	Location
12:00am – 2:00am	American Legion Post 30 vs. American Legion Post 11	Kiwanis Legion Park
2:00am – 4:00am	Interior Girls Softball Association Game	Growden Park
4:00am – 6:00am	Fairbanks Adult Softball	Growden Park
6:00am – 8:00am	Fairbanks Adult Softball	Growden Park
8:00am – 10:00am	Interior PONY League Pinto (8U) Division Game	Pinto/Mustang Field 1
8:00am – 10:00am	Interior PONY Mustang (10U) vs. RBI Alaska (10U)	Pinto/Mustang Field
9:00am – 10:00am	Air Force vs. Army Softball Game	Growden Park
10:00am – 12:00pm	Interior PONY (12U) vs. RBI Alaska (12U)	Pony/Bronco Field 1
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Interior PONY League Pony (14U) Division Game	Pony/Bronco Field 1
1:00pm – 3:00pm	PLAY BALL – Open Session 1	Growden Park
4:00pm – 6:00pm	PLAY BALL – Open Session 2	Growden Park
8:00pm	Gates Open for the Midnight Sun Game	Growden Park
10:00pm	113 th Midnight Sun Game: Orange County Surf vs. Alaska Goldpanners	Growden Park

Since 2015, Major League Baseball and its many partners in the PLAY BALL initiative, have hosted hundreds of PLAY BALL-focused events throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.

PLAY BALL Events in 2018 (to date)

Feb. 10th – Nashville (Nashville RBI)
March 10th – Austin, Texas (Austin RBI & Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area)
March 17th – Bradenton, Fla. & Mesa, Ariz. (Spring Training)
March 24th – Québec City, Canada (Baseball Canada and Baseball Québec)
April 16th – San Juan, Puerto Rico (MLB Puerto Rico Series)
April 21st – Compton, Calif. (Chevrolet)
April 27th – Springfield, Mass. (Red Sox Foundation)
April 28th – New York, N.Y. (Five-Borough NYC Tour)
April 28th – Little Rock, Ark. (Little Rock RBI)
May 5th – El Paso, Texas (Cinco de Mayo)
May 7th – Monterrey, Mexico (MLB Monterrey Mexico Series)
May 12th – Bronx, N.Y. (Five-Borough NYC Tour)
May 19th – Spartanburg, S.C.
May 24th – Grand Junction, Colo. (JUCO World Series)
June 2nd – Oklahoma City, Okla. (Women's College World Series)
June 9th – Queens, N.Y. (Five-Borough NYC Tour)

WHO: **Billy Bean** – 1985 Most Valuable Player, Alaska Goldpanners; Vice President & Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Major League Baseball
Jim Matherly – Mayor, City of Fairbanks
Rick Riccobono – Chief Development Officer, USA Baseball
John Lohrke – General Manager, Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks
Craig Cress – Executive Director, USA Softball
Abe Key – President, PONY Baseball & Softball
David James – Vice President, Baseball & Softball Development, Major League Baseball
Karl Kassel – Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough
Bryce Ward – Mayor, City of North Pole

WHEN: Thursday, June 21st (*all times AKDT*)

WHERE: **Growden Park**, 201 Wilbur Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Kiwanis Legion Park, Wilbur Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Mustang and Bronco Fields, Wilbur Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
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