



For Immediate Release

Johnstown's Point Stadium to Host 2010 & 2011 National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) Division II World Series

Johnstown's Point Stadium will serve as the focal point for Division II National Club Baseball Association (NCBA) players as they compete for a championship title. That's because Point Stadium will be the host of the 2010 NCBA Division II World Series planned for May 21-25, 2010. Representatives from the NCBA, the City of Johnstown, and the Johnstown CVB signed the deal in mid October.

Eight teams will compete in the tournament over the five-day event. Past Division II participating teams included the University of Wyoming, Southern Illinois University - Carbondale, Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville, University of Illinois (D2), Hofstra University, New York University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Penn State University (D2).

"We're pleased that the NCBA has chosen Johnstown, PA as home of the D-II World Series for the next two years," said Lisa Rager, Director of Johnstown's Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We're excited to have the opportunity to extend our unmatched hospitality to the many players, families, friends and fans that will be making Johnstown their home during the course of the tournament in May."



Playing in Johnstown's historic Point Stadium will be a special treat for the players. The Point has been the home of the national All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) tournament for over 60 years. The annual AAABA tournament draws, on average, 3,000+ fans per day to Point Stadium. After undergoing an \$11 million reconstruction in 2005, the Point looks much different than it did when it was built in 1926. The original stadium had an upper deck with a grandstand and seated 17,000 fans. A number of baseball players who went on to great fame played at the Point, including Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, Lou Gehrig, and Babe Ruth. Baseball stars who hail from Johnstown include Gene Pentz and Cy Young Award winner Pete Vuckovich. Sports movie buffs may recognize Point Stadium in the climactic AmPipe/Walnut Heights football game in the film "All the Right Moves" which starred a young Tom Cruise along with Leah Thompson and Craig T. Nelson. Johnstown's image as a sports town has also been enhanced by the filming of the classic hockey film "Slap Shot" which starred the late Paul Newman and featured the still-popular "Hanson Brothers" trio.



In addition to a rich sports heritage and outstanding hospitality, Johnstown offers visitors numerous options for exploring and day touring. Perhaps the most visible attraction is Johnstown's famous **Inclined Plane**. Cable-pulled cars carry passengers, and vehicles, up and down the 71.9% grade hillside. Once at the top, visitors can enjoy a breathtaking view of the city from the observation deck or stop in the visitor center and get a birds-eye view of the engine room. The Inclined Plane, built in 1891, is the world's steepest vehicular carrying inclined plane, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, and is a national engineering landmark.

Johnstown's most compelling and inspirational story is that of the Great Johnstown Flood of 1889. On May 31st of that year, Johnstown suffered the century's worst natural disaster when South Fork Dam, located 14 miles above the city, broke, sending 20 million tons of water and debris cascading down the valley and into the town. More than 2,200 lives were lost and the town was nearly completely devastated. The nation launched a relief effort

unlike anything that had ever been seen before. The 1889 flood was the American Red Cross's first disaster relief effort, with Clara Barton making Johnstown her home for five months. The story of the flood and Johnstown's remarkable recovery is well told through exhibits and a 26-minute film at the **Johnstown Flood Museum** in downtown Johnstown. Produced by Charles Guggenheim, the film, "The Johnstown Flood" won the Academy Award for Best Short Subject Documentary. The **Johnstown Flood National Memorial** is located at the ruins of the South Fork Dam, a short drive from downtown Johnstown. Operated by the National Park Service, the site features exhibits, an actual size "debris wall," and the film "Black Friday," which chillingly recreates that fateful Memorial Day in 1889.



Johnstown's rich ethnic and cultural heritage is showcased at the **Johnstown Heritage Discovery Center**. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, millions left Europe for America in search of a better life. Many found work in Johnstown and established their roots, building churches and social halls and providing the labor force for the steel mills and coal mines. The Discovery Center's permanent exhibit, "America through Immigrant Eyes," lets visitors experience first-hand the life of an immigrant to Johnstown around the turn of the century. Visitors are immersed in the sights and sounds of immigrants' daily lives and discover how they built a rich cultural heritage that is still celebrated today.

The influx of immigrants into Johnstown also led to the city's major role in the transformation of America into a modern industrial nation. Located in the Discovery Center, the **Iron and Steel Gallery** shows how steel is made and some of the major technological innovations that were developed in Johnstown. The film, "The Mystery of Steel," is shown on a 30-foot-wide screen and includes spectacular footage of the Bethlehem Steel mills in Johnstown that was shot just a few weeks before the mills closed in 1992.

Johnstown's newest attraction is the **Johnstown Children's Museum**. Located within the Heritage Discovery Center, the museum allows children to learn through play about Johnstown's geography, history, culture, industry and more. Areas of the museum include "The Water Room," where children can play with water and learn about concepts like dam building, rain in mountains and valleys, acid rain, and native fish. "The Inclimber" is a large reproduction of the Inclined Plane's hillside with a replica of the Inclined Plane and mine tunnels. Kids can dress up like coal miners, learn about mine safety, and slide down a "coal chute" and land in a padded coal car full of "coal."

Many other sites in the area tell the fascinating stories of The Alleghenies and are worth venturing a little farther, from the **Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site** near Cresson, to the September 11th tragedy's **Flight 93 National Memorial** site, which is less than 30 minutes from Johnstown.

Those looking for more active pursuits can take advantage of the many outdoor recreational opportunities the area offers, like bicycling, hiking, wildlife watching, fishing, canoeing and kayaking, and even motorcycle touring.

"I am extremely excited that the 2010 & 2011 NCBA Division II World Series will be held at Johnstown's Point Stadium," said Kenny Rayl, NCBA Director of Division II Baseball Operations. "Not only will there be some great baseball going on in front of large crowds at Point Stadium, there will also be a plethora of attractions in Johnstown for our players, families and friends to visit."

For more information about visiting Johnstown, contact the Johnstown Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-237-8590 or log onto www.visitjohnstownpa.com.

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