

Girls challenge media softballers

Don't miss it. For \$1.50 it could provide some of the best entertainment, star gazing, and softball viewing of the year. The Rochester Ramblers, one of the finest women's fast-pitch softball teams in the Midwest, will take on a host of sports and news media celebrities in a benefit game for the Rochester Community House.

The game starts at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18 at Halbach field in Rochester, the Ramblers' home stadium. The Ramblers, who came within one game of going to the national ASA fast-pitch finals at Salt Lake City this year, have had mixed success in previous benefit contests.

LAST YEAR, they played Merry Olds and lost by one run. Earlier this summer they upset the talent-laden Observer & Eccentric All-Stars 9-7. They feature a powerful hitting game, strong defense, and good pitching. They are well schooled in the fundamentals of the game.

But this contest may be their hardest yet. The celebrity team features such notables as Al Kaline, Alex Karras, Joe Schmidt, ex-Tiger pitcher Earl Wilson, Ron Kramer, Jim Pritch and Sonny Grandelius.

Others expected to play include Ray Lane of Channel 2, Dave Diles of ABC, former Michigan State standout Dave Kaiser, Marc Avery of WJR and Jerry Green of the Detroit News. The celebrities will face two hard throwing pitchers in Rambler ace Diane Laffey and young Kim Preston. Preston, a standout for Royal Oak Kimball, is a flame-thrower, while Laffey, a veteran of many years with the Ramblers, is pin-point control artist.

Catcher Gail Davernport, one of the

top hitters on the Rochester club, will be prepared to cut down any would-be base stealer, while Cathy Wright of Rochester and Missy Mapes of Troy are two that can be expected to pace the hitting attack.

LISA DELOR, Karen Blackney, Debbie Downs and Carol Fuchs will also provide offensive power for the Ramblers.

"We expect everyone will have a good time," commented Rambler Coach Fred Gomez of Troy. "It'll be a fun thing, but I imagine that we'll whip the tar out of them. This team may be as good as the All-Stars."

He added, "Of course we'll have to watch Kaline. He could be tough." Gomez's son, Mark, is expected to pitch part of the game for the celebrity squad, but unless the celebrities come up with another strong chucker, the game may result in a walk-away for the Ramblers.

Proceeds from the contest will go toward operating costs for the Rochester Community House, a non-profit activity and cultural center in Rochester.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at Soda Appliances, 331 Main Street in Rochester, or at Community House, 816 Ludlow.

Halbach field is located on Woodward Road west of Main Street, just north of downtown Rochester.

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The program is for five-to-seven-year olds who possess some tumbling skills. Interested persons may register beginning Sept. 11 at the Lathrup Village City Hall, 27400 Southfield Road. Admission is \$12 per participant. There is no residency requirement.

On Sept. 29, a screening session will be held in the basement of city hall for those interested in enrolling in the tumbling program. There is no charge for the screening session.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Dave Hime at the Lathrup Village Recreation Department.

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