



**SPRING -2026 HITS FROM THE PITS**

**SPECIAL FEATURE -**

**HER TURN AT BAT**



MARCH 2026

# TORONTO PLAYGROUNDS



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We recognize that this territory is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and that it is part of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant. This covenant is an agreement between the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee nations to peaceably share and care for the lands around the Great Lakes. We are thankful for the opportunity to be on this land and we are committed to working towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

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## *CELEBRATING OUR FEMALE ATHLETES*

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March is **International Women's Month**, and as the month comes to a close, we're proud to celebrate the strong, determined, and inspiring female athletes who make Toronto Playgrounds such a special community. From our youngest TeeBall players to our Rep AAA athletes, these athletes demonstrate teamwork, confidence, and a love of the game that motivates everyone around them.

International Women's Month is a time to recognize and honor the achievements of girls and women in all areas of life - including sports. At Toronto Playgrounds, we believe that baseball is for everyone, and we are proud to support and empower our female athletes as they develop skills, confidence, and leadership both on and off the diamond.

Our athletes are more than just players - they are role models, teammates, and community members who inspire those around them with their dedication, perseverance, and positive attitude. Each athlete featured in this newsletter brings her own unique strengths, personality, and enthusiasm, helping make our community stronger and more vibrant.

This month, we're excited to feature one (sometimes two!) outstanding player(s) from each division. Get to know these remarkable athletes below and learn more about what they love about baseball, their proudest moments, and the advice they have for other girls who want to play.

# TORONTO PLAYGROUNDS



## Meet Aurora Clark - TeeBall



**1. How old are you and what grade are you in?**

*I am 5 and I am in Senior Kindergarten.*

**2. What is your favourite subject in school?**

*My favourite part of school is playing grocery store in the dramatic centre.*

**3. What is your favourite colour?**

*Golden*

**4. What made you want to try baseball this year?**

*Because my friends are also playing TBall and I know we will have fun together.*

**5. Other than baseball, what do you like to do for fun?**

*I like to play hockey, play with my friends and spend time with my family.*

**6. Who is your favourite baseball player or athlete, and why?**

*My favourite baseball team is the Blue Jays and I like George Springer. I also like Austin Matthews and the Toronto Maple Leafs.*

**7. What would you tell another girl who is thinking about trying baseball for the first time?**

*Tball is great- you should try it! Its great exercise, you get to play with your friends and at the end of the year you get a trophy.*

**8. Who cheers the loudest for you at your games?**

*My big brother Wyatt*

## Meet Bo Brack - Rookie Ball



**1.How old are you and what grade are you in?**

*I am in grade 3 and I am 9 years old.*

**2.What first got you interested in playing baseball?**

*I saw my brother playing and it looked fun.*

**3.What position do you enjoy playing the most, and what do you like about it?**

*I like playing 3rd base because I like to make long throws and field fast grounders.*

**4.When do you feel most confident or strong on the field?**

*I feel most strong on the field when I'm hitting.*

**5.What do you enjoy most about being part of your team?**

*Having friends on the team and playing together.*

**6.Who motivates or encourages you to play sports?**

*My brother Liam. We play wiffleball and catch together and like to make up games.*

**7.Do you have a favorite baseball player or athlete? What do you like about them?**

*I like Bo Bichette even though he is not on the Blue Jays anymore. We have the same name and number and I like how he plays. And he seems nice.*

**8.What would you say to another girl who is thinking about trying baseball for the first time?**

*Just try it! Baseball is fun.*

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## Meet Frankie Lasagna - Rookie Ball



**1.How old are you and what grade are you in?**

*I am 8 years old and I'm in grade 3.*

**2.What made you want to start playing baseball?**

*The blue jays and my dad!*

**3.What is your favorite position to play and why?**

*My favourite position to play is 3rd base because a lot of the balls come my way!*

**4.What makes you feel strong when you play baseball?**

*My teammates and my coach make me feel strong when I play baseball.*

**5.What is the most fun part of being on your team?**

*Seeing my teammates get a nice hit & cheering them on!*

**6.Who inspires you to play sports?**

*My dad, my mom, my aunt Rebecca and my big cousin Max inspire me to play sports.*

**7.Who's your favourite baseball player, and why?**

*Ernie Clement because he plays 3rd base! He seems like a funny, fun guy.*

**8.What advice would you give another girl who is thinking about trying baseball?**

*My advice is to definitely sign up because it makes summer fun! Stay positive and keep your eye on the ball!*

## Meet Sydney Cameron - 13U Select



**1.How old are you and what grade are you in?**

*I am 12 years old and I'm in Grade 7*

**2.When did you start playing baseball, and what inspired you to start?**

*I started playing TP Tee Ball when I was 5*

**3.What position do you play most often, and what do you enjoy about it?**

*I most often play 2<sup>nd</sup> base, but my favourites are shortstop and pitcher. I enjoy them because you're in the action more. I get to run around more.*

**4.Who's your favourite baseball player, and why?**

*Ajeandro Kirk, not sure why.*

**5.What has been one of your proudest baseball moments?**

*When I pitched almost a complete game the select provincials for TP Peeewe in Windsor*

**6.Who inspires you the most in sports or in life?**

*My brother Jackson, who also has plays TP.*

**7.What advice would you give younger girls who want to play baseball?**

*Don't be afraid and be yourself.*

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## Meet Drew Hives - 11U AA



### 1. How old are you and what grade are you in?

I'm 11, turning 12 in June and I am in grade 6

### 2. How long have you been playing baseball?

I have been playing for a long time, but my first team was with TP on the Grizzlies when I was 7.

### 3. What position do you enjoy playing the most and why?

My favourite position is Pitcher. I like pitching because I want to be in all the plays and I like to throw my hardest.

### 4. Who's your favourite baseball player, and why?

Trey Yesavage. I like him because he performed well in the World Series. He moved from single A all the way to the Majors in one season.

### 5. What makes you feel strong when you play baseball?

It makes me feel strong to be a girl competing with boys. There aren't very many girls playing baseball at my level. Last season, in 18 innings pitched, I struck out 21 batters.

### 6. What is your favourite baseball memory so far?

Playing in the last game of the playoffs last year because it was a very exciting and close game. I went 2 for 3 and stole two bases and scored two runs.

### 7. What do you like most about being part of your team?

I like my teammates and coaches, and I like going to tournaments with them. The games are more exciting and intense. After the games I like to have a team lunch or dinner and go swimming in the hotel pools.

### 8. What does playing sports as a girl mean to you?

I like team sports because you get to work together and build friendships. This will be my fourth season playing select and rep baseball as the only girl on my team. I really love having people cheer me on and feel proud of being a girl in sports. I also play volleyball and basketball. It's important to be active and be with other people.



# TORONTO PLAYGROUNDS



## *Meet Maddie Kolla - 15U AAA*

### **1. How old are you and what grade are you in?**

*I am 14 years old and am in Grade 9.*

### **2. When did you start playing baseball, and what has kept you motivated to continue?**

*I started playing baseball when I was six years old and over the years my motivation to continue has come both from my love for the game as well as the great teams that I've had the privilege to be a part of. I am so grateful for my amazing teammates and coaches whom I have built strong connections with over the years.*

### **3. What position do you play, and what do you enjoy most about it?**

*I have been at first base for almost all my years playing baseball and it constantly keeps me involved in the game. I love being right in the action, whether it's receiving throws, making quick decisions, or being part of key plays. It's a role that requires focus and communication and I like how it allows me to contribute to almost every defensive moment in the field.*

### **4. Who's your favourite baseball player, and why?**

*My favourite baseball player is Joey Votto. Looking at how Votto played, I see some parallels between his game and mine which is inspiring to see from a Canadian player. Votto had a more quiet presence on the field while remaining confident, showing that leadership doesn't always have to be loud to be effective. Votto's patient approach at the plate and ability to get on base made him a consistently strong hitter, while his reliability at first base also highlights his defensive skill.*

### **5. What has been your most memorable baseball moment?**

*My most memorable baseball moment was in the semi-finals of the Ajax Mega Tournament in 14U AA. We had just played a team from Niagara who we had previously lost to many times. We were playing them again in the semi-finals after having just lost to them in pool play. It was a super close game which went back and forth the entire time but we stayed focused and won! We finally beat this team after a hard fought game to advance to the finals and eventually win the tournament.*

### **6. What has baseball taught you about teamwork, leadership, or resilience?**

*Playing baseball has taught me many lessons in resilience from battling hard in the last inning of games to big rallies leading to walkoffs. I've also learned from the smaller moments where you have to be resilient in almost every game after a hard at bat or an error. What I have taken away from this has been that you can't let the little things get in your head like an error or a bad at bat. All you can do to give yourself the best chance of recovering is to focus on the present and to always remember that the game isn't over until the very last out is made.*

### **7. What message would you share with younger girls who want to play baseball?**

*Don't let anyone make you feel like you don't belong on the field. Baseball is for anyone who loves the game and is willing to work hard at it. You may be the only girl sometimes, I know I've been there, but that doesn't mean you don't deserve to be there just as much as everyone else. I would encourage younger girls to show up, work hard, and let their game speak for itself.*



# TORONTO PLAYGROUNDS



## *Meet Cynthia Lau - Varsity*

### **1. How old are you and what grade are you in?**

*I am 16 years old and in grade 11*

### **2. How has your journey in baseball evolved over the years?**

*My baseball journey has evolved a lot over the years. I've been playing baseball for a long time now, for about 10ish years. I started at TP's house league junior T-ball level and have been here ever since. Each year I play baseball, my love for the sport always grows. I've grown so much from the first years I started playing, it went from being something to do in the summer with my brother to a passion and hobby.*

### **3. What has been a defining moment in your baseball experience so far?**

*A defining moment in my baseball experience so far would probably be the time that I proved to myself that I could do anything as long as I put my mind to it. This experience was back when I was around 13 years old, I was terrified of pitching. I was scared to disappoint people and I didn't want to let my team down. I planned to never pitch in my baseball career, but my coach had other plans. After one practise, he told me I was going to pitch next game. I remembered feeling so afraid of what could happen or how it would go. When it came time for me to pitch, I told myself: I got this, just be in the moment. You know how to do this.*

*And it turned out great, I think I got a couple of strikeouts, didn't hit anybody with the ball (thank god) and didn't let any runs in. It was such a game changing experience for me and now I volunteer to pitch all the time now.*

### **4. In what ways have you taken on leadership within your team?**

*A way I have taken leadership within my team is just being there for other players. I want everybody on my team to feel supported and that I am there for them if they need it. Whether that is helping them out with a skill or cheering them on. I want my teammates to have a good time and know that I've got their backs.*

### **5. How has playing baseball shaped you both on and off the field?**

*Playing baseball has shaped who am I in a lot of different ways both on and off the field. I've learnt a lot from playing this sport, such as the value of teamwork and what it means to be part of a team. It's helped me build confidence in myself and who I am as a person. Baseball has allowed me to try new things outside of my comfort zone. I gain so many new experiences and memories, that has helped me in my everyday life. Baseball is a great influence on my life and has made me who I am.*

### **6. What goals do you have for your future in baseball or beyond?**

*I hope to continue to play baseball for as long as can. I know I will really miss it when I can't play anymore. I also hope to part of this baseball community for a long time too whether that is being a coach or a staff member. I want to support other players during their baseball journeys.*

### **7. What would you say to younger girls who are working to grow their confidence in the sport?**

*What I would say is: It's hard not to worry about what other people think, you can feel like they are judging you every second, but that should never be something that scares you off or makes you feel afraid. If you enjoy and love playing this sport, that is all you need to think about. Don't let that judgement scare you off, you will only grow to regret it later on in life. You are celebrated, you are valued and don't worry about what others think. Baseball is a place for everybody!*

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## **GIRLS BASEBALL AT TP: GROWING THE GAME IN 2026**

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### **Girls Baseball at TP – Growing the Game in 2026**

As we prepare for the 2026 season, Toronto Playgrounds remains committed to growing girls baseball and creating more opportunities for girls to feel confident, included, and empowered through sport.

Recent research from the MLSE LaunchPad Change the Game report highlights why this work matters. The report found that boys/young men have higher sport participation rates (89%) compared to girls/young women (76%), and that 61% of boys participate in sport more than once per week, compared to just 46% of girls.

National research from Jumpstart and Canadian Women & Sport also shows that nearly 4 in 10 girls in Canada are not playing organized sport, and that many girls drop out during their teenage years due to lack of opportunity, confidence, or feeling that sport isn't a space for them.

At Toronto Playgrounds, we believe baseball should be for everyone.

Over the past few seasons, we've seen incredible momentum in our girls programming, and this year we are excited to continue building on that growth through our Girls Baseball Academy, which focuses on skill development, leadership, friendship, and creating a positive environment where girls can develop a lifelong love of the game.

### **For 2026, we are exploring:**

- Spring & Summer outdoor academy sessions
- Participation in all-girls tournament opportunities
- Increased involvement of female coaches, umpires and mentors
- New ways to create welcoming spaces for girls at all levels of play

When girls see other girls playing, coaching, and leading, it changes what they believe is possible, and that's the kind of culture we want to build at TP.

If you're interested in learning more about our girls baseball programming, please reach out to [info@tpbaseball.ca](mailto:info@tpbaseball.ca) with the subject line "Girls Baseball".

We're excited for what's ahead this season, and proud to be part of the movement to grow girls baseball in Toronto and across Canada.

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# TORONTO PLAYGROUNDS



## *I LOVE TP BSBL FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE*

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**\$65**



**\$35**

### **Show Your Toronto Playgrounds Pride!**

Toronto Playgrounds is raising funds to support several exciting improvement projects at Christie Pits, helping enhance the experience for all of our players and families.

Support the campaign by purchasing our “**I ❤️ TP BSBL**” apparel today! Hoodies and t-shirts are available in sizes ranging from Youth Small to Adult XXL, making them a great option for players, parents, and fans alike.

- Hoodies: \$65
- T-Shirts: \$35

Not only will you be showing your TP pride, but every purchase directly contributes to ongoing upgrades at the Pits.

To place an order, please email: [fundraising@tpbaseball.ca](mailto:fundraising@tpbaseball.ca)

Thank you in advance for your support!