



CHRONICLE

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Discover the Spirit!

Get a Wiff...

Wondering what the colored turf semi-circles on our new field are for (if you haven't seen it yet in person, check out the photos in this edition of the Chronicle)?

You know the Field of Dreams classic line, "if you build it, they will come." Well, we've built (fittingly on our Fields of Dreams) a Wiffleball field, and we cannot wait to see all the action on the field with its multi-colored zones indicating single, double, and triple (differently designated for different ages). A home run fence with foul poles will go up on special occasions!

Wiffleball is a great activity to develop eye-hand coordination as well as an ideal sport for improving baseball skills, because of its similarities, such as overhand pitching and the movement of the ball when pitched.

Just as we personalized GaGa rules for The Pit, the Coleman Country official rules of Wiffleball will be revealed for the summer, including the number of fielders, strike zone, etc. While no activity can ever replace GaGa, we have a feeling that Wiffleball will quickly become a Coleman Country favorite.

In the meantime, a little bit of Wiffleball history: it was invented by two 12-year-olds who were playing in their backyard with a perforated plastic golf ball and a broomstick handle, having given up on baseball because there weren't enough players for two teams, not enough space for a field, and too many broken windows!

Over time, they found that the best ball had eight perforations and was larger than a softball, making it easy to curve, while ensuring that a young player would not have to throw curves because it is not good for a young arm. A strikeout in the old neighborhood came to be called a "wiff," and in the 1950s one of the boys' children began producing and selling Wiffleballs. Before long, it was a popular backyard game.

We've been playing it here on The Ranch, because it is a beneficial sport. Now, we've got our very own Wiffleball Stadium!

Keep your eyes on the Wiffleball, as we predict a resurgence of the game on the South Shore of Long Island, and most assuredly in Merrick!



Pumpkin Patch Play...

Was the theme of the day last month at the Coleman Country Fall Harvest Festival, where hundreds of campers and their families gathered to rekindle their friendships, to celebrate the season, to preview our new facilities, and to frolic on the grounds, which were transformed into a family fairgrounds. Scarecrows, haystacks, and corrals served as a backdrop for pumpkin-painting, pony rides, giant inflatables, boating, GaGa, knishes and apples as campers and their families scoured The Ranch for their perfect pumpkin.

49er Fever



Our senior campers, known as 49ers because not only are they in grades 5 through 8 (between 4 and 9!), they get the chance to explore beyond The Ranch. Two incredible optional overnight trips are planned for this summer for the older grades in this division, in addition to the fabulous weekly trips that all 49ers experience. (Of course, any campers who choose not to go on the trip[s] will have a fun-filled day at camp.)

Campers who are entering grades 6, 7, or 8 next September can sign up for a two-day trip to Hershey Park and Dorney Park, a double-header slated for July 14-15 that has more fun packed into it than any adult can imagine! Led by our own 49er supervisors, this trip includes meals, transportation, park admissions, and lodgings. From



mild to wild, hang onto your cowboy hats for the thrill of a lifetime, sharing some of these rides with your friends: Jolly Rancher and Twizzlers at Hershey to Dragon Coaster, Thunder Canyon, and the Sea Dragon at Dorney. With both land and water rides in both parks, it will be hard to choose the fun “du jour.”

Seventh and 8th graders will have yet another opportunity for incredible fun if they choose to sign up for the Boston Overnight, which takes place August 2-3. Also inclusive of meals, transportation, admissions, and lodgings, the adventure includes these tried-and-true young teenage favorites: Six Flags New England, Shear Madness Dinner Theater (improv who-dun-it play), Boston Duck Tour along the Charles River, Hard Rock Café, and Quincy Market.

Whenever we take camp on the road for an overnight, we travel in air-conditioned coach buses and stay at top-notch hotels and eat first-rate meals; our own counselors and supervisors accompany the trips.

Registration forms can be downloaded on our website at ColemanCountry.com. Click on Coleman Campers, where you will find 49er trips. Feel free to call the office for any questions at 516-620-4300.

NIGHT LIGHT AT COLEMAN COUNTRY

The fun doesn't have to stop at dusk anymore in Coleman Country – and we intend to take good advantage of that opportunity!

Campers in grades 3 and up will have a designated late night, by grade, during which special camp activities will be planned for them. Each of these evenings is developed by supervisors whose goal is to make the evening memorable. Late Night dates will be posted later in the year, so watch for details.

We're also adding another family night to our quiver of family fun events. Besides BINGO-and-a-Movie Night, Parent GaGa Tournament, and Circus of the Kids performance (details are forthcoming), we are excited to announce the first annual “It's Never Dark at Coleman Country” extravaganza! Featuring an after-dark swim and a field full of inflatable rides, this is sure to become a Coleman Classic.

Yes, folks, you can expect lots of bright nights on The Ranch!



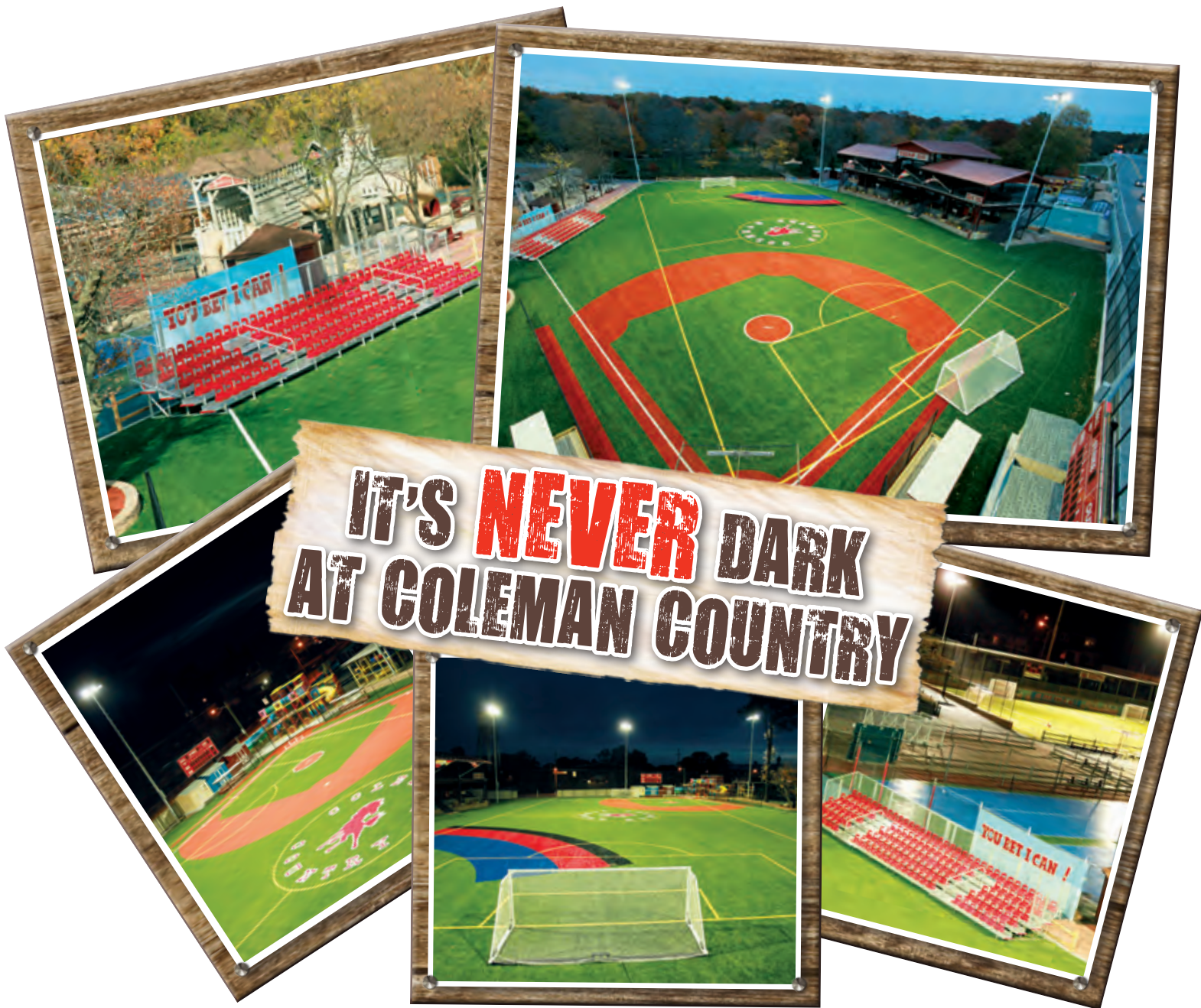
THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Circus of the Kids will be center ring in the Grand Playhouse this summer. Coleman Country campers entering grades 3 and above can opt to join the circus the week of August 7. The week-long workshops culminate in the most spectacular circus performance to which parents are invited. If you've seen it before – or even been in it – you know what a singular experience it is; if you're new to Coleman Country, we suggest you check it out by visiting our website at ColemanCountry.com and clicking on "Discover Coleman Country," where you will find a "Circus" button on the menu. We're sure you'll be both mesmerized and amazed to see what our campers accomplish. Circus of the Kids is one of the best ways we know for children to set and accomplish their dreams and goals. Whether they're riding atop a 7-man bicycle pyramid or balancing on a giant globe ball or flying on the trapeze (no joke!), circus performers learn to "smile and style," proving to themselves that a can-do attitude, accompanied by effort and commitment, leads to self-confidence that goes far beyond the circus stage.



Coleman Where?

WEAR IN THE WORLD.... Counselors Jessica Best, Meredith Wilk, Heather Graham, and Gillian Fries – all former Coleman Country campers – got together after camp in Manhattan for a day on the town in what else but their Coleman gear?! We keep hearing accounts of Colemanwear turning up all over the country, even all over the world – so don't forget to snap a photo of your friends, family, or even strangers when Colemanwear is on the road, and send it to us for a future edition of Coleman Where? The spirit is EVERYWHERE – or should we say EVERYWEAR?!



IT'S NEVER DARK AT COLEMAN COUNTRY

Well, we've gone and done it: the Coleman Family has always believed that camp is about the people, not the facilities; but that the people – our campers and families – deserve the very best facility that we can provide for them to play, learn, and make friends. So, coming off our most fantastically fun year yet in our 28-year-history, we took on an incredible project: consider it our thank you to our families, campers, and staff who together, over the years, have told us in so many ways how important Coleman Country is to them.

The Field of Dreams is now officially the Fields of Dreams, as all four fields are turfed for softball, kickball, tennis baseball, wiffleball (read more about wiffleball in this edition of the Chronicle), batting cages, and even soccer. If you think that's something, catch this: those fields are equipped with giant water cannons, guaranteed to provide a

cooling mist during the summer – okay and even an occasional blast of water on certain very hot days! But wait, there's more: not only is there stadium seating now (imagine the fun when assembling for Intramurals!), but now we can truly say, not only does it never rain at Coleman Country, it's never dark at Coleman Country!

These fields are lit for night play, and boy is there going to be night-time activity on The Ranch. Yes, campers, parents, and staff, your dreams have come true: camp can now last

longer than ever as we extend a number of days into the evenings for a variety of events. (Check out a few of them in this edition of the Chronicle.) And we're talking big-time, Citi Field lights (yes, the same company that installed them there), by the way. Talk about coming up to bat on a true Field of Dreams....

