

# MSP STAR NEWS

January 2026  
Edition

## PAYMENTS

Payments are due on the 5th of the month. Playmetrics has been uploaded with all the information regarding your balance for the season. You can set this on auto payment as well.

We do need payments to be on time in order to pay for games, practices and tournaments. If we have not received payment we will start asking the player not to come to practice. Please contact coach Katie to make your payments

## Coach Katie Korner

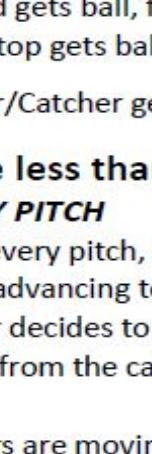
This past month has been empty without the girls, but a much needed break is well deserved, resulting in no Star(s) of the Month for December. There is, however, our Chalk Talk pages in the newsletter to ensure each parent knows what was covered.

- Chalk Talks replaced hitting sessions. During these talks, the girls selected plays to review and discuss. They shared great points, and hopefully improved their awareness and reading of plays on the field.
- If your daughter is not in another sport, Speed & Agility is a great way to help your athlete improve. This program is designed to improve explosion, core and overall health for players. Times will be M/T/W 7-8pm and Saturday 8-9am. The location is at MSP. Cost is \$5 for the hour. Every time you come and participate you are entered into the raffle to win BRUCE BOLT batting gloves. Come and get your workout in.

## CHALK TALK

Each week we dove into different scenarios to help players improve on the field. We watched past videos of each team good and bad. This was to help players really look into video footage and analyze both sides of the ball. Below are the handouts that were given to all the players.

### Bunt Coverage - BLACK, ORANGE, WHITE



Third, catcher, first and pitcher charges for ball. Second covers first base, shortstop covers second base. If third doesn't touch ball needs to go back to third and cover. Outfielders should be charging in to cover bases if infielders are not covering bases properly.

First basemen stays at 1st base, pitcher and catcher charge for the ball while also covering right field foul line. Third charges for the ball. First cover their own base, second covers second base and short stop covers third base.

WHITE

Third basemen stays at 3rd base, pitcher and catcher charge for the ball while also covering left field foul line. First charges for the ball. Third covers their own base, second covers first base and short stop covers second base.

### Key Items - EVERY PITCH, BUNT, & HIT

#### EVERY PITCH

This is meant for players to be moving while the BALL is NOT in play.

#### BUNT

This is meant for the players to know which bunt coverage they should call if the offense decides to bunt.

#### HIT

This is meant for players to move when the ball is in play. Which players should be moving in which positions. The hit could be in the infield or outfield.

### No one on (1-2 outs)

Play goes to first. Right field is backup for first base.

First gets the ball, second is at 1, shortstop is at 2, third is at 3.

Second gets ball, first goes to 1, shortstop goes to 2, third goes to 3.

Shortstop gets ball, first goes to 1, second goes to 2, third goes to 3.

Pitcher/Catcher gets the ball, first goes to 1, shortstop goes to 2 and third goes to 3.

### Runner at one less than two outs

#### EVERY PITCH

After every pitch, short stop goes to the bag for the steal. Second baseman has two jobs. 1-If runner is not advancing to second base, the second baseman will be the back up for first base. 2-If the runner decides to steal, the second baseman will move toward second to become the back up to the throw from the catcher.

Corners are moving up to take away bunt. Sprint when batter shows bunt in your color called. Right fielder MUST back up first base every time. Center field MUST back up second base. Just in case catchers throws to 1.

#### BUNT

BUNT CALLS-This bunt should be BLACK. We need the out and is easier for everyone to charge the ball. Call BLACK, unless coach calls another color.

First gets balls, throws to second baseman at 1st base. Right field backs up first

SS should be at 2nd base. Centerfield backs up second base

Third baseman sprints back to third to cover 3rd base. Left field backs up 3rd

#### HIT

Ball hit to third base, short covers 3, second covers 2, and first covers one. Left field backs up ground ball and then backs up 3, center backs up 2 and right backs up 1.

Ball hit to shortstop, third covers 3, second covers 2, first covers one. Left field backs up 3, center backs up 2 and right backs up 1.

Ball hit to second, third covers 3, shortstop covers 2, first covers one. Right field backs up ground ball and then backs up 1, center backs up 2 and left field backs up 3.

#### HIT OUTFIELD

Ball hit to right field, cut off person is second. Outfield should ONLY throw to cut off (ONLY EXCEPTION IS TO GET A FORCE OUT AT THE BAG)

Ball hit to left field or center field, cut off person is shortstop. Outfield should ONLY throw to cut off (ONLY EXCEPTION IS TO GET A FORCE OUT AT THE BAG)

Runner at second, less than two outs

#### EVERY PITCH

After every pitch, shortstop STAYS PUT. Second baseman is to get to the bag to stop the runner from advancing to third base.

Corners are moving up to take away bunt. Only run up if batter bunts.

Center field MUST back up second base. Left field MUST back up third base. Right fielder MUST back up first base every time. Just in case catchers throws to 1.

#### BUNT

Player gets balls, LISTEN FOR YOUR CATCHER. Catcher will call either throw to 1 or 3.

First gets ball, second covers 1, shortstop covers 2 and third baseman covers 3.

Third gets ball, second covers 1, shortstop covers 3 and centerfield covers 2.

Pitcher/Catcher gets ball, second covers 1, shortstop covers 2 and third covers 3.

#### HIT

Ball hit to third base, short covers 3, second covers 2, and first covers 1. Left field backs up ground ball and then backs up 3, center backs up 2 and right backs up 1.

Ball hit to shortstop, third covers 3, second covers 2, first covers 1. Left field backs up 3, center backs up 2 and right backs up 1.

Ball hit to second, third covers 3, shortstop covers 2, first covers 1. Right field backs up ground ball and then backs up 1, center backs up 2 and left field backs up 3.

#### HIT OUTFIELD

Ball hit to right field, cut off person is second. Outfield should ONLY throw to cut off (ONLY EXCEPTION IS TO GET A FORCE OUT AT THE BAG)

Ball hit to left field or center field, cut off person is shortstop. Outfield should ONLY throw to cut off (ONLY EXCEPTION IS TO GET A FORCE OUT AT THE BAG)

Ball hit to left field or center field, cut off person is first baseman that is going to pitchers mount. Pitcher is going to left field foul line to back up throw to third or home, third is on 3, shortstop is on 2. Second is a second cut if needed. Outfield should ONLY throw to cut off (ONLY EXCEPTION IS TO GET A FORCE OUT AT THE BAG).

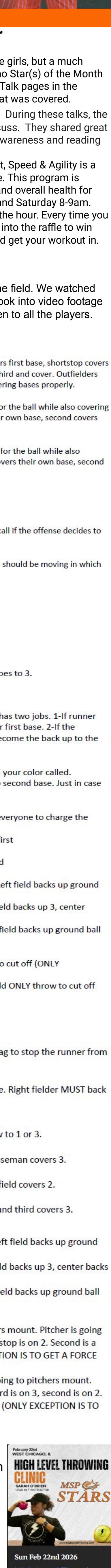
Ball hit to left field or center field, cut off person is first baseman that is going to pitchers mount. Pitcher is going to left field foul line to back up throw to third or home, third is on 3, second is on 2. Shortstop is a second cut if needed. Outfield should ONLY throw to cut off (ONLY EXCEPTION IS TO GET A FORCE OUT AT THE BAG).

GET A FORCE OUT AT THE BAG).

## HIGH LEVEL THROWING

Coach Sarah O'Brien from High Level Throwing will be out in West Chicago, IL on Sunday, February 22. There will be a total of 4 sessions for the day. Each 2 hour session is jam packed with information and great tools to have your player throwing harder and smarter. Registration will open soon to MSP Stars players. Then, if space is available, will open to the public. This is a clinic you do not want to miss!

<https://highlevelthrowing.com/pages/high-level-throwing-clinic-west-chicago-il-2026>



# SUPER BOWL SQUARES

Each team will have 100 squares to sell. Adam Cohn will be the lead for squares this year. Each square is \$25. Pay out each quarter and the reverse. Below are the payouts.

Quarter 1 is \$150 for the actual score & \$50 for the reverse

Quarter 2 is \$250 for the actual score & \$100 for the reverse

Quarter 3 is \$150 for the actual score & \$50 for the reverse

Quarter 4 is \$500 for the actual score & \$250 for the reverse

These squares help pay for the team nationals such as gifts, pizza outing and pins for the players to trade. Money is due by Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Square Boards are online -

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1azUo-k2-P7bKzMELR3wbwRuBqMgfPVxtq63wrUK\\_0I/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1azUo-k2-P7bKzMELR3wbwRuBqMgfPVxtq63wrUK_0I/edit?usp=sharing)

## MSP STARS TRIVIA NIGHT

For the past three years trivia night has been a success. Getting parents to meet each other, bond and most of all raise money. It is a fun night, but it takes volunteers to have such an amazing night. This years trivia night is March 14, 2026.

We are looking for a parent volunteer from each team to help coordinate this event. If we have two people from each team that would work as well. Our second meeting will be on Sunday, January 11 at 4:30pm at Augustinos in West Chicago.

Our team representatives are as follows;

11U White - Kristin Syoen 12U Black - Val Cohn 12U Orange - Laura Bothwell

13U Black - Erin Kolak 13/14U White - Kayla Larson 14U Orange - Amanda Vihnanek

16U - Barb McHaley, Laura Robinson, Shelia Pradzinski

## JANUARY 2026 Speed & Agility

Below are the schedules that are in Playmetrics for the month of January. Please remember there is a \$5 for each class you attend. Everytime you come, you are entered to win BRAND NEW BRUCE BOLT BATTING GLOVES!!!

If you can not make a practice, please let your head coach know and we can see about adding you to another practice to ensure you are getting the practice you are needed. Playmetrics is very vital for our coaches. That being said we MUST ensure that ALL players are accounted for as far as attendance. This must be done BEFORE practice. We set our practice plan up for the amount of players we have at each practice.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					2	3 Speed & Agility 8-9am
4	5 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	6 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	7 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	8	9	10 Speed & Agility 8-9am
11 TRIVIA NIGHT MEETING@4:30pm Augustinos - West Chicago	12 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	13 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	14 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	15	16	17
18	19	20 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	21 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	22	23	24 Speed & Agility 8-9am
25	26 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	27 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	28 Speed & Agility 7-8pm	29	30	31 Speed & Agility 8-9am

## Team Pitching & Catching

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					2	3
4 11UW P&C 11am-12pm 12UB P&C 12-1pm 12UO P&C 1-2pm 13UB P&C 2-3pm 13/14UW P&C 3-4pm 14UO P&C 4-5pm	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 11UW P&C 11am-12pm 12UB P&C 12-1pm 12UO P&C 1-2pm 13UB P&C 2-3pm 13/14UW P&C 3-4pm 14UO P&C 4-5pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 11UW P&C 11am-12pm 12UB P&C 12-1pm 12UO P&C 1-2pm 13UB P&C 2-3pm 13/14UW P&C 3-4pm 14UO P&C 4-5pm	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 11UW P&C 11am-12pm 12UB P&C 12-1pm 12UO P&C 1-2pm 13UB P&C 2-3pm 13/14UW P&C 3-4pm 14UO P&C 4-5pm	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Team Fielding Practice

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					2	3 12UO Fielding 9-11am 12UB Fielding 11am-1pm 13/14UW Fielding 1-3pm 11UW Fielding 3-5pm 5-7pm
4 16U - 14UO - West Chicago Field House 8-10am	5	6	7	8	9	10 12UO Fielding 9-11am 12UB Fielding 11am-1pm 13/14UW Fielding 1-3pm 11UW Fielding 3-5pm 5-7pm
11 14U Fielding 5-7pm	12	13	14	15	16	17 12UO Fielding 9-11am 12UB Fielding 11am-1pm 13/14UW Fielding 1-3pm 11UW Fielding 3-5pm 5-7pm
18 16U - 14UO - West Chicago Field House 8-10am	19	20	21	22	23	24 12UO Fielding 9-11am 12UB Fielding 11am-1pm 13/14UW Fielding 1-3pm 11UW Fielding 3-5pm 5-7pm
25 16U - 14UO - West Chicago Field House 8-10am	26	27	28	29	30	31 12UO Fielding 9-11am 12UB Fielding 11am-1pm 13/14UW Fielding 1-3pm 11UW Fielding 3-5pm 5-7pm