#SweetsCountry is everything that is great about Walla Walla – the home of Sweets Baseball since 2009. It’s summer nights at Borleske Stadium. It’s families spending time together at the ballpark. It’s fans cheering a homerun, a great throw from the outfield, or a dramatic double-play to secure a lead. It’s kids watching and learning to become like their heroes on the field.

It’s where the Walla Walla community does summer.
We welcome you to what has become one of the top collegiate wood-bat baseball destinations in the country. Some of you that are returning players were a big part of maintaining that standard last year; we are excited to have you back. For new players, you represent some of the best collegiate talent in the country and we are thrilled that you will be joining us this season.

Our organizational goals include **creating a positive environment** for players to develop their talents on the field, allowing you to **gain insight as to what life would be like as part of a professional organization**, and to **compete each season for a WCL Championship**. We will provide you the tools and resources to be successful on the field and to be role models in our community. This community is incredibly passionate about the team – many nights playing in front of large crowds - and you are seen as celebrities (you’ll sign a fair share of autographs). That is a lot of fun – but bears a certain amount of responsibility to represent our franchise, your family and your university with honor.

Our baseball staff and their contact information is included in this packet – please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. We will also be in regular contact via phone and email as we finalize details in preparation for the season. We anxiously await the season!

**Jeff Cirillo, 2-time MLB All-Star**

Sweets Partner and director of player development Jeff Cirillo used summer collegiate experience as a springboard to a 14-year MLB career.

**Zachary Fraser, President**

Pacific Baseball Ventures
Walla Walla is a town located in the heart of the Blue Mountains, in the southeastern corner of the state of Washington. It is the cultural, educational, and agricultural center of the region, and has approximately 55,000 people in the general region. It is home to three institutions of higher education – Whitman College, Walla Walla University (in adjacent city College Place, WA), and Walla Walla Community College.

In addition to its place at a cultural center, Walla Walla is famous for its agriculture – specifically Walla Walla Sweet Onions (shortened to “Sweets” – one of the inspirations for the team name) and grapes for wine. Walla Walla wine has become world renowned and celebrated among the best the world has to offer, and the Walla Walla Sweet Onion is the official vegetable of the State of Washington. Wheat, corn and cattle are also important agricultural products from the region.
While a small town, Walla Walla has all the “trappings” of big towns – plenty of grocery, retail, and restaurants – and a vibrant historic Main Street (“Downtown Walla Walla”) that provides fantastic shops and places to eat and hang out. The majority of the city population is less than 5 miles from Main Street, making it easy to get around town. In addition to these attractions, Walla Walla has two fantastic public golf courses, as well as a private country club, and is only a few miles from award-winning fishing and recreational hiking. The rugged Columbia River is only a 30 minute drive away. Walla Walla is a road-cycling mecca with miles and miles of rolling hills to challenge all levels of cyclists. It plays host to the Tour of Walla Walla, a three-day cycling event where riders from across the country come to compete every April. We even have a movie theatre.

The summertime is warm and dry, with nights comfortable and breezy – a great place to play baseball. Summer temperatures range from 70˚ - 77˚ at night to 85˚ - 92˚ during the day.

Walla Walla has enjoyed athletic success as well. Hall of Famers Tony Gwynn and Ozzie Smith both began their careers in baseball in Walla Walla when the Padres had a minor affiliate here (the Sweets play in the same stadium). All-Pro quarterback Drew Bledsoe attended high school in Walla Walla. Even Batman has his roots in Walla Walla as Adam West is a native Walla Wallan. And yes, it is the town so nice, they named it twice.
1. Where is Walla Walla?
A. Walla Walla is located in southeastern Washington, approximately four hours from Seattle (by car), three hours from Spokane, four and one-half hours from Portland, five hours from Boise, an hour from Tri-Cities, and 13 miles from the Oregon border. It is serviced by two airports – Walla Walla Regional Airport and Pasco (Tri-Cities) – with Pasco just a two-hour flight direct from the San Francisco Bay area.

2. What is there to do when we visit?
A. Walla Walla is a bustling community and has been named the “Friendliest Small Town” in America by Best of the Road/Rand McNally. Guests can explore any of the 100+ winery tasting rooms spread out around the valley. If they are not interested in wine, a plethora of boutique shops and dining choices, awaits them downtown. There is a Visitor Center, hosted by Visit Walla Walla, conveniently located on Main Street in the heart of downtown. In the summertime it is open seven days a week, 10-4, with a knowledgeable staff ready to offer suggestions of things to see and do once they arrive. Visit Walla Walla also has a great website, www.wallawalla.org, with a vibrant and up to date Events Calendar to help them plan their trip. Their helpful and friendly staff can also be reached at 509-525-8799 to answer any questions they may have about visiting Walla Walla.

3. What is the stadium like?
A. Venerable Borleske Stadium is a former minor league baseball stadium that has seen approximately $900K in upgrades and improvements since 2010. Last season, we partnered with Whitman College (DIII) to construct a state-of-the-art indoor hitting and training facility. Tim Duncan is the facilities manager who keeps the playing field in pristine condition. It is also the home field for Whitman College baseball. Play in the ballpark dates back to the late 1920s. There is even ivy surrounding the walls of the stadium. Opening in 1926, Borleske Stadium is now in it’s 91st year of operation. See the pictures of the stadium at the end of this packet.
4. Who will I be living with?
   A. Sweets players will be living with host families, members of the communities who will open up their homes for players to live in. We will be assigning host families during the spring of 2017. Please see the form that we ask players to fill out so that we may do our best to match you with an appropriate family.

5. How do I get to Walla Walla?
   A. Per West Coast League policy, teams are not to pay for players to come to their host cities. Players are responsible for securing their travel to Walla Walla. Players can fly into Tri-Cities or Walla Walla, or drive their own vehicles.

6. What are our accommodations on the road?
   A. The team will pay for hotel rooms and charter bus while on the road, and in addition provide players with a per diem for food. Accommodations will be at hotels such as Holiday Inn Express, Comfort Inn and Suites, and Best Western Inn & Suites. Players will share hotel rooms with teammates.
7. **What equipment does the team provide?**

   A. The team will provide the following:
      - Home, Road, and Alternate jerseys and Home and Road pants
      - Primary and Alternate caps (players keep)
      - Black belt
      - Navy stirrups/sanitary socks
      - Batting helmets (position players only)
      - Catchers gear (catchers only)
      - Pine Tar, Rosin, etc
      - Bats and balls
      - Sweets athletic t-shirt and Sweets long-sleeve shirt (for cool weather)
      - Sweets BP shorts
      - Sweets hooded sweatshirt
      - Sweets Team travel bag

   *Through our relationship with Nike, players can also **purchase** Nike ® baseball equipment (shirts, jackets, accessories, etc) for 65% of the wholesale cost. You will receive an online order form in early spring 2017 so you can select what you want to buy (if you so choose).
8. What equipment are players responsible for providing?
A. Players are responsible for providing the following equipment on their own:
   - Gloves
   - Shoes – **WE WEAR BLACK SHOES...NO EXCEPTIONS**
   - Specific bat brands – If you choose not to use the bats we provide to you, you will be responsible for providing your own.
   - Accessories (glasses, batting gloves, etc) – as we mentioned, you will have the chance to order Nike baseball accessories for a price far lower than what you will pay retail – so keep that in mind if you want anything specific.

9. When is the first day that I need to be there?
A. Players are expected to arrive in Walla Walla by **May 28, 2017** (pending completion of your college academic calendar per NCAA regulations). For programs that are involved in post-season play, we will communicate with you as you progress and fully expect that to be your priority. Facilities (stadium, workout gym, and clubhouse) will be open and ready for player use by your arrival. Our first mandatory team meeting will be Sunday, **May 28, 2017**. Please communicate with the organization any changes in your schedule that will not allow you to be here in time for camp; we are aware of players who’s academic or NCAA tournament schedule will prevent this from happening and have prepared accordingly.
10. When should I plan on returning home?

A. We expect that our players will fulfill the contract they sign, meaning that you should plan to be returning home on or around August 20th of the summer, pending post-season. If you are not able to honor this, for any reason, please contact the manager immediately (no later than March 31st). We will discuss, with the team president and your college coach, the potential that you will be replaced on the roster with a player who is able to commit for the entire season.
The team is owned and operated by **Pacific Baseball Ventures, Holdco**. The group, which is comprised of both local and regional investors, founded the Sweets franchise in 2009 for the express purpose of returning professionally-managed baseball to historic Borleske Stadium—beginning with the team’s inaugural 2010 season.

The member partners of Pacific Baseball Ventures hold ownership positions in a number of other baseball properties—including full ownership of the Yakima Valley Pippins (WCL). Additionally, group members hold managing interests in the Tacoma Rainiers (PCL, AAA) and the Seattle Mariners (AL West, MLB). Having a positive impact on communities through the fan experience of professionally-managed baseball is of primary importance to the group.

**Pacific Baseball Ventures Partners (from L-R):**
1. John Stanton
2. Theresa Gillespie
3. Mikal Thomsen
4. Peter Van Oppen
5. Greg Shaw
6. Jeff Cirillo (2x MLB All-Star)
7. Zachary Fraser (President)
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Welcome to the Walla Walla Sweets Family!

The Sweets are a member of one of the most prestigious summer collegiate baseball leagues in the country, The West Coast League. My name is Frank Mutz, manager of the Sweets, and I am pleased to welcome you as a member of our team!

It’s an honor for me and our coaching staff to be returning to Walla Walla for the 2017 season. I wanted you to know our front office and coaching staff is prepared and ready to support you in any way we can. We want you to be successful in achieving your personal goals, and believe this organization will serve as one important (and we hope memorable) step towards the advancement of your baseball career.

The Sweets have been committed since our inception in 2010 to providing the Walla Walla community and all of their players with a successful and enjoyable experience, both on and off the field. I look forward to the challenge of returning to a winning tradition here in Walla Walla, and at the same time helping you reach personal goals that you have set for yourself.

In order for all of us to achieve success, we’ll need to work together as a team. In my experience as a player and coach, athletes improve their game individually by focusing on the things they can do to help the team. I believe personal success is a by-product of how you contribute to the success of the club both on and off the field. As your manager, I will make it my responsibility to put you in a position to succeed by creating a positive environment on and off the field. In return, my expectation is that you arrive in Walla Walla with the mind-set that helping our ball club win a WCL Championship is the key to making your summer worthwhile and memorable.

Again, on behalf of the Sweets Family, welcome to the ball club.

Kindest Regards,

Frank Mutz
Manager – Walla Walla Sweets
The WCL is an international league, with league members Kelowna & Victoria located in British Columbia. You will need a valid passport in order to cross the Canadian border. This is a non-negotiable – in order to play in this league you will need a passport or an enhanced I.D.

Passports can take between 6-8 weeks to complete and receive. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT TO START THIS PROCESS. We advise you to fill out and submit the paperwork SOON to ensure that you have done in time for the season.

1. Here is a link with instructions on how to get a valid passport: 
   http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

2. For Washington & New York Residents, you may be eligible for an enhanced I.D., which allows you to use a special drivers license for land border crossings into Canada. To see if you qualify, please visit this website: 
   http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/edlsteps.html

You have until **March 15, 2017** to confirm to the front office that you have received your passport (if you haven’t sent it in already. Please call us if you have any questions. Email zachary.fraser@pacificbaseballventures.com as soon as you have received your passport.
Without question, we have the best host families in the West Coast League. Families in our community provide room, board, many meals and often transportation when needed, at no cost to you and no payment the families. This model works when players are respectful and communicate with their families.

In order to make sure that we continue the tradition started in 2010, Rosanna Morgan volunteers her time to coordinate host family placement. In order to assist her, you’ve received a packet with your contract offer that includes a host family information sheet. Please take (5) minutes and fill out the information when returning your contract. This insures that we can ensure you have the best host family situation.

We will communicate host family placement around mid-April (if not before then). Please email Zachary if you have any concerns.
The home of the Sweets has undergone extensive renovations since we started playing here in 2010, and is one of the finest summer collegiate facilities in the country. Built in 1926, it is one of the oldest continuous ballparks in the Pacific Northwest.

Features include:

• Full player clubhouse at Whitman College
• Indoor Hitting Facility
• Practice infield
• Full grounds crew
• Player parking
• On-site laundry facilities (team handles all game laundry)
Below are the uniform combinations for the 2017 season. We will always wear **black belts and black shoes** with navy socks/stirrups. If you choose to wear sleeves, they will be navy (each player will be provided with a long-sleeve Dri-Fit shirt with sleeves for cool weather).

Coaches will determine which cap and uniform combination you will wear on any given night. All three caps are acceptable with any top combination.