

Brookfield again playing host to 16th annual Jimmy Fund Tournament

BY JASON TUREK
Sports Reporter

The Jimmy Fund tournament is one of the biggest tournaments in all of New England. It first began in Bethel in the middle of June and has worked its way to Brookfield for the 16th year.

The town will be hosting over 150 games until the beginning of August between the ages of 9-13.

The tournament has brought in teams from all over the state of Connecticut, such as Bethel, Newtown, New Milford, Southbury, Woodbridge, Danbury, Oxford, and New Fairfield.

Tom Pizarick, director of the Jimmy Fund tournament for the 13-year-olds, said there are many teams that want to participate in the tournament, but unfortunately they can't all be accommodated.

"We have a waiting list of

towns that want to play in our tournament," he said. "If we did do it, the tournament would take all summer and a lot of parents and volunteers would have to take time out to help us, and that's too much to ask."

Teams also look to participate in the tournament every year because it's a good warm-up for the District and State tournaments.

Brookfield, like Bethel, is hosting a tournament for ages 9-12 at Huckleberry Hill School, Gray's Bridge, and Whisconier Middle School.

Brookfield is holding the only 13-year-old tournament with games at Brookfield High School and Huckleberry Hill School.

So far, the weather hasn't been kind to the tournament as rainouts have pushed back games and made teams reschedule.

"We hope the weather holds up for a while because we want to get in as many games as we

can before the District and State tournaments come upon us," said Pizarick.

The main goal of the tournament is to raise money to benefit the Jimmy Fund for cancer research and treatment at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. The institute is one of the top four cancer centers in the United States and cares for over 150,000 patients.

Along with the entry fees by the teams, raffles and donations are given at the games to help raise as much money as possible for the fight against cancer.

"Our goal is to raise several thousand dollars for the Dana-Farber Institute to strike out cancer in adults and children," said Pizarick.

According to Pizarick, The players, parents, and many volunteers are the reason the Jimmy Fund tournament is such a success.

"Everybody working together is why the tournament

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FUND TOURNAMENT

is as successful as it is," he said. "The kids are willing to give up time to practice and be better ballplayers competing against each other."

"The parents are there taking time out to watch the kids play great baseball and the volunteers do all they can to get the fields ready to play on and raise money."