



1949-2019

1940s

1949

Bob Blackwell forms the Northside Youth Organization with a group of 12 kids playing football and nicknamed "The Midgets"

1950s

1951

Youth baseball, cheerleading, and girls slow pitch softball become sports sponsored by NYO

1952

NYO is officially recognized as a full multi-sport youth program

1955

Youth enrollment reaches over 300

1958

The "Red Devils" considered the varsity football program continue to play games on the state and national level under the guidelines of "Pop Warner Football Inc."

1959

- ◆ Cheerleading teams continue to cheer for each of the 12 football teams and 3 Red Devil teams
- ◆ Baseball and girls softball continue to field teams with much enjoyment at the recreational level

1960s

1960-1961

Red Devil teams achieve national top 10 rankings

1962

- ◆ NYO fields 15 Pop Warner youth football teams
- ◆ The Midgets have become the “Giants”
- ◆ The Red Devil teams have amassed a fantastic record of 142 wins and 6 losses

1965

Youth enrollment in football, cheerleading, baseball, and girls softball has now reached approximately 750 kids

1963-1968

- ◆ NYO Red Devil teams have become some of the most honored teams in America and Bob Blackwell achieves national recognition
- ◆ Over the prior 18 years Red Devil teams have achieved a record of 238 wins and 7 losses. Red devil teams win National Championships in 1963, 1965, 1967 and 1968

1968

Bob Blackwell wins the prestigious national coach of the year award

1969

By proclamation of the City of Atlanta, the main football field at Chastain Park is dedicated and named “Blackwell Field” in honor of Bob Blackwell and his achievements in youth sports

1970s

1971

NYO youth sports continue to grow with enrollment reaching approximately 1200 children

1974

The gymnasium is completed by the City of Atlanta. Boys and girls basketball programs are added by NYO program

1975

- ◆ The first major program improvement to Chastain Park is completed with generous program and in kind donations
- ◆ Administrative and field house building opens and is memorialized in honor of Richard Taylor Dowis

1976

Bob Blackwell retires after an amazing career

1977

Jane Wilkins becomes the first executive director of NYO

1978

Under new leadership and visionary board members, the program begins a period of rapid expansion and growth

1978

The first off-site improvement is completed, which is a new baseball field at St. John United Methodist Church

1980s

1981

NYO enrollment continues to grow reaching in excess of 1500 children

1984

- ◆ Baseball continues to grow and larger baseball fields are improved and named the "Sandy Koufax and Mickey Mantle Field"
- ◆ The Koufax press box is dedicated to long time coaches who passed away, Larry Elliot and Chuck Nackley

1985

The first baseball batting cages are constructed

1990s

1991

NYO enrollment is on the rise, reaching in excess of 2300 children, doubling the number from the early 70's

1992

- ◆ NYO establishes Challenger Baseball League for children with disabilities
- ◆ Original TB1 field is constructed and tee-ball becomes another part of NYO baseball
- ◆ The lower baseball field is renovated and dramatically improved to a stadium like setting with chair back seats and becomes known as the "Field of Dreams", where seats are sold to offset costs

1993

New batting cages and baseball sheds are added in front of Dowis

1994

Cheerleading resumes, softball program converts from slow pitch to fast pitch, and a period of growth is underway

1996

Sarah Smith Baseball Field is constructed with the permission of Atlanta Public Schools

1998

- ◆ First paved expansion of NYO parking lot, accommodating an additional 60 cars
- ◆ Original dirt parking at Sarah Smith is paved and expanded to accommodate an additional 40 cars

1999

- ◆ With a period of sustained growth, the NYO board of directors begins discussion to expand the program and improve the facilities
- ◆ New lights are provided by the city of Atlanta for Koufax and Mantle Field
- ◆ NYO captures its first Georgia Little League state championship

2000s

2000

The first major NYO capital campaign is started and raises \$1.5 million for park improvements

2001-2002

- ◆ NYO makes decision to leave Little League Baseball and affiliate with Pony baseball and other organizations
- ◆ The park improvements are underway and completed over an 18-month period
- ◆ City of Atlanta adds lights to the softball/littles field
- ◆ Garr Field, with the Fenway Park replica "Green Monster", is constructed - all funded through a generous donation by the Tom Garr family
- ◆ The Bronco Field is constructed and named "Wilkins Field"
- ◆ Dugouts for Garr and Wilkins Fields are provided by families of Suzanne Caswell, the Philipsons, the McGonnigles, and Page, Gard, Smiley, and Bishop, LLP
- ◆ 12 foot wide concrete paths added through upper level of park
- ◆ White Family Plaza established for Blackwell
- ◆ Bryan Farmer and Western family dugouts are added to Field of Dreams
- ◆ Allen's Alley is provided by the Spencer Allen family as a walkup from the lower parking lot
- ◆ The Northside Athletes Foundation provides for the Wilkins press box renovation
- ◆ NYO hospitality plaza monument dedicated in the front of the Dowis Building
- ◆ Sater, England, Blonder family softball cages are added
- ◆ James Family baseball batting cages are added
- ◆ Alford family soft toss cage is added

- ◆ Renovation of the Dowis Building is completed
- ◆ Softball fields 1- 4 and crossover Littles football field are constructed
- ◆ SB1 is named The Larry Bennett Field to honor longtime volunteer Larry Bennett
- ◆ Softball dugouts are provided by the Evert family, the Garcia Girls, Mixon and Underwood families, and Selig, Lewis and Shoulberg families
- ◆ The Magbee family softball plaza is completed
- ◆ The Bonnot family softball bullpens are constructed
- ◆ Pavilions are provided by Allredd and Jones families, Reagan family, Genz family
- ◆ The Redd family scorers booth is completed
- ◆ The Hyland and Stewart family pavilion is completed

2003

- ◆ An additional \$350,000 in funds are committed by the NYO board of directors for field construction and improvements
- ◆ TB2 and SB5 are constructed along with the crossover PeeWee football field
- ◆ Blackwell east and west baseball fields are constructed
- ◆ Dugouts for the Blackwell fields are provided by the Berg and Sheehy families
- ◆ The Field of Dreams is renamed the Austin Armstrong Field of Dreams in memory of NYO player Austin Armstrong
- ◆ Additional seats are sold and added for Field of Dreams and Wilkins Field
- ◆ Blackwell football field is fully renovated and a south side scorers pavilion is added

2004

A fully reorganized fall baseball program is added

2007

- ◆ NYO enrollment almost doubles again since the early part of the 90's reaching over 4300
- ◆ \$350,000 is provided by donations and in kind gifts to construct a new concession stand, bathrooms, and press box overlooking Blackwell field
- ◆ The coaches box is provided by the Meyer, Crosswell, and Hudson families
- ◆ The White Plaza area is renovated
- ◆ The Boden Family Plaza is completed in front of the new concession area
- ◆ The Bumps and Bruises room is provided by Piedmont Healthcare

2008

- ◆ A fall girls softball program is added
- ◆ The cheerleading program takes a step up and participation increases
- ◆ A new maintenance shed is constructed in memory of Amelia Hewitt by the Hewitt family
- ◆ NYO takes over the complete operation and maintenance of the Chastain Gym
- ◆ The flags of NYO monument are dedicated to the spirit of NYO and the circle of life by friends of NYO and the Bennett family

2009

NYO establishes a new fall girls basketball program

2010s

2010

TB1 is refurbished and renamed Small Ball Field with funds provided by Billy Small

2011

- ◆ NYO undertakes major construction of 2 fields in partnership with Ridgeview Charter Middle School
- ◆ The Steve Witmer Stadium and seating is constructed overlooking the Peewee football field
- ◆ The coaches pavilion overlooking Peewee field is provided by the Peewee football coaches and friends of Steve Witmer
- ◆ The 2 Hilltop fields and unrestricted play space are constructed through a partnership of NYO, the Galloway School and the City of Atlanta

2012

- ◆ The FOD is completely renovated and expanded along with new chairback seating
- ◆ The FOD grandstand area seating is provided by the Whitehead family
- ◆ The Nicholas Napolitano gathering place is constructed in memory of long time NYO player, Nick Napolitano
- ◆ The concrete and rock stands overlooking TB2 are constructed and dedicated through the Greg Block family
- ◆ The concrete and rock stands overlooking SB5 are constructed and dedicated in memory of Meriam Pearlstine and Carrie Wright
- ◆ The concrete and rock stands overlooking TB2 are constructed and dedicated to all the players, past and present

2013

- ◆ A flag football program is added
- ◆ The Blackwell east and west fields are renamed and dedicated to honor Cliff Barshay by the Arnold Foundation
- ◆ The 2 story Littles Pavilion and sound system are constructed and dedicated by the Taz Anderson family and the Valerie Kieffer family

2014

All 18 batting cages are refurbished and fitted with all-weather synthetic turf

2015

\$300,000 in donations are received to add an additional 140 space parking lot overlooking the golf course, reseal and stripe the existing parking lot to provide 40 additional spaces including 9 new handicap spots and a relocation of the front entrance to allow easier and safer ingress and egress

2016

- ◆ A new small ball and flag football field for practices is constructed at Jackson Primary School and additional improvements are added at the Jackson Main Campus
- ◆ A new baseball/softball game and practice field is constructed at the American Legion
- ◆ After 40 years of love and dedication to NYO sports, Jane Wilkins retires and a new Jane Wilkins scoreboard on the Wilkins Field is dedicated
- ◆ Tony Watkins takes over as the 2nd NYO executive director

2017

- ◆ A new multisport game and practice field is constructed at the Sutton Middle School 6th Grade Campus
- ◆ St. John Field is completely renovated for the first time since the 70's
- ◆ The Northwest Presbyterian Church gym is taken over and renovated by NYO. NYO assumes full control and maintenance responsibilities from the church

2018-2019

- ◆ Tony Watkins returns to Holy Innocents Episcopal School as athletic director and Josh Burr joins NYO from the Galloway School and takes over as the third executive director
- ◆ The Austin McDonald family hitting and pitching cages and plaza area are constructed

2019

- ◆ The future begins as NYO reaches an all-time high of over 5500 children and 3000 families
- ◆ The Jim and Marilyn Black Family scorers pavilion and grandstand area at SB1 are constructed
- ◆ NYO establishes a fully sanctioned baseball travel team program consisting of 11 teams, ages 13-17
- ◆ NYO establishes a fully sanctioned softball travel team program consisting of 4 teams, ages 10-16

2020s

NYO enters 2020 with 460 total teams comprised of the following sports:

- ◆ Spring baseball - 109
- ◆ Spring postseason all-star baseball - 20
- ◆ Chastain ATL travel baseball - 11
- ◆ Spring girls fastpitch softball - 42
- ◆ Spring girls fastpitch softball postseason all-star teams - 5
- ◆ Fastpitch travel softball - 4
- ◆ Girls fall basketball -27

- ◆ Flag football - 20
- ◆ Tackle football - 26
- ◆ Football postseason and bowl teams - 12
- ◆ Cheerleading - 9
- ◆ Boys basketball - 84
- ◆ Fall baseball - 68
- ◆ Fall fastpitch softball - 23

In supporting the teams entering 2020, NYO controls, manages and maintains the following areas, fields, structures, improvements and facilities (not all inclusive):

- 28 baseball/softball fields at 11 different locations
- 3 football fields
- 2 fully controlled gyms
- 9 offsite accessible gyms
- 46+ acres
- 30+ acres fenced
- 138,700 sq ft of paths and sidewalks
- 172,600 sq ft of asphalt
- 92,600 sq ft of gravel lots and paths
- 6 large enclosed structures
- 9 small enclosed structures and out buildings
- 22,600 linear feet of 4-6 foot fencing
- 3740 linear ft of netting
- 85,000 sq ft of netting
- 8 irrigation systems
- 1 fracked well and pump
- 12 covered structures pavilions/sheds
- 26 covered dugouts
- 29 batting cages
- 5 fence enclosed hitting stations
- 30 bullpens
- 14 of wooden bleachers
- 38 sets of aluminum bleachers
- 15,600 sq ft of concrete/rock bleachers

THE FUTURE IS HERE AND NYO IS READY!