

Thanks for your interest in the Texas Blaze.

We strive to be the premier fastpitch club in the country for the overall softball experience, focusing on development, competing, and college recruiting. We are grateful that you are interested in us as one of your possibilities for a softball home!

Ultimately, Blaze's premise and mission are to provide the highest level of training and competition possible to prepare our players for successful careers in high school and scholarship opportunities in college. However, the emphasis on leadership, character building, and life skills will always remain a top priority for our players.



To date, our players have earned opportunities at schools of all levels, including many Power 5 Conferences programs like Florida, UCLA, Alabama, Tennessee, University of Texas, LSU, Ole Miss, Texas A&M, University of Central Florida, Baylor, Texas Tech, Indiana, Iowa, Georgia Tech, Nebraska, North Carolina, Mississippi State, Kansas to name a few. Over 500 Blaze players have played and committed to collegiate softball in our short history as a program. The Blaze has fielded ten collegiate all-Americans, three Team USA members, and six pro players.

Being a Nationally recognized program is essential to our mission; with that, the program has had tremendous success. Many of our teams play each year nationally, competing in top-level tournaments. We understand that to be the best; you must play the best. However, flexibility and options are essential to player and team development. Hence, we offer various competitive environments, including United, Gold, National, and regional-based teams. Each team is treated as an individual and can choose the path that makes sense for their particular goals.

The Blaze is celebrating our 20th year in 2023, and the future has never been brighter. We currently have 70+ teams in three states, and we continue to grow in the right direction!

If you as a player, parent, coach or team are interested in becoming a member of the Blaze program, please reach out to our National Director, JB Slimp, for additional information. jbslimp@texasblaze.org / 512-789-6514



A little history...

Back to the roots....2008, the Blaze 18u Slimp team became the first 18u Gold team to qualify for ASA GOLD NATIONALS in central Texas history and qualified every year from 2008 thru 2012 finishing as high as 13th in the country. In 2013 Blaze Gold began playing the prestigious PGF Premier Nationals in California finishing in the top 10 for 2016. Also, our 16 White Prinzo team was the highest place Texas team finisher in at that time in both 2014 and 2016 PGF Nationals.

In 2016 our 18 Gold team was the first team in Texas history to win the TCS/USA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP in New York City. The championship was on ESPN3 and provided a significant amount of national exposure for the program.



In 2018 the Blaze became a part of the Wilson Athletics family and currently have a full partnership, which means wholesale pricing on Wilson family products, which includes DeMarini, Louisville Slugger, and Evoshield. The Blaze has a custom Wilson shop available to members to shop at discounted prices year-round. Additional Blaze partnerships include Blast, Mizuno, and Bownet, which also provide discounted pricing.

Again in 2018, with the help of Wilson, The Blaze United National program was created, consisting of three Demarini-sponsored teams in the 14u, 16u, and 18u age divisions. These teams will unite Blaze players from all around the state of Texas and the country. They will compete at the very highest level possible. The United team experience is open to all players in our program who want to try out.



New in 2020, the Blaze joined forces with other top Texas programs to form the Texas Fastpitch League. The TFL is the first of its kind in Fastpitch and has already changed the landscape of softball! The TFL, along with multiple other leagues around the country, have come together to form The Alliance Fastpitch. The first-ever Alliance National Championships happened in Summer of 2021.

BLAZE 16 UNITED IS RANKED #1 - After the first ever 2021 TFL / ALLIANCE championships the Blaze 16 United team was the #1 ranked team in Texas.

Its about building a championship mindset and culture!
TEXAS BLAZE JAMBOREE - There's nothing like it! Each year the Blaze celebrates the program with a huge event.
Just watch this video to understand how special it is.



# THE FUTURE

We strive to be the premier fastpitch club in the country for over-all softball experience, focusing on development, competing, and college recruiting. We are grateful that you have chosen us as one of your possibilities for a softball home! Thanks for being here and the best of luck!

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, I love to talk softball!

# JB SLIMP

President / Program Director Texas Blaze Fastpitch Club / jbslimp@texasblaze.org / 512.789.6614

# LEARN MORE ABOUT US HERE

 $Blaze Tube TV- \underline{https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5f8gfetlgXHb8ZdJvnrBsQ}$ 

WEB - <a href="https://www.texasblaze.org">https://www.texasblaze.org</a>

FB - https://www.facebook.com/TexasBlazeFastpitchClub/

Twitter - @BlazeFastpitch

Instagram - texasblazefastpitch



The Texas Blaze **B-Recruited Program** is an innovative approach to helping athletes with their dream of collegiate softball. The program is a model based equally on technology and interpersonal relationships and has helped more than 500 athletes with opportunities to play softball in college!



Quite simply, the B-Recruited program works whether a player aspires to play in the SEC or get started at a JUCO to transfer to a four-year college.

To date, our players have earned opportunities at schools of all levels, including many Power 5 Conferences programs like Florida, UCLA, Alabama, Tennessee, University of Texas, LSU, Ole Miss, Texas A&M, University of Central Florida, Baylor, Texas Tech, Indiana, Iowa, Georgia Tech, Nebraska, North Carolina, Mississippi State, Kansas to name a few. Over 500 Blaze players have played and committed to collegiate softball in our short history as a program. The Blaze has fielded ten collegiate all-Americans, three Team USA members, and six pro players

### **OUR PILLARS FOR SUCCESS**

### INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

For more than 15 years, Blaze recruit coordinators have been building and cultivating relationships with college coaches around the country. This is incredibly important to recruiting success and a component many travel ball teams struggle with. College coaches want to "trust" the environment the player they recruited is coming from. The Blaze program has proven time and time again that our kids are correctly developed for success at the next level. Having experienced recruiting coordinators in their corner cannot be understated for the Blaze athlete. Whether a player needs advice on what schools are looking for or perhaps camps to go to, Blaze recruit coordinators can help!

### **TECHNOLOGY & DATA**

Technology and data have become increasingly necessary as a part of a successful recruiting process. The Texas Blaze strives to be a leader in this area. We are partnered with Blast, Rapsodo, Gamesense, 4D Motion, Sports Recruits, On Deck Softball, Athletes Go Live, and Wasserman HLT for additional recruiting tools that colleges now seek from programs. College coaches want data and player development; these companies are some of the best.

# SPORTS RECRUITS NETWORKING PLATFORM

Sports Recruits is a software platform that aids the college recruiting journey in many ways. It's genuinely remarkable software. Players use SR to aggregate all information needed to create and market their resumes to college coaches. Players can do all the research required to make decisions on college choices. Want to search all programs within 240 miles of your home or every D1 in the country? Want to know how much the college costs annually? Want to know how big the school is or if it specializes in the graduate program you are most interested in? Want access to all the coaching staff emails? Want to be notified if coaches visit your page or watch your videos? All of this is possible with the Sports Recruits platform. There are many more features, but the bottom line is that players now have ONE PLACE to manage their recruiting progress.

# **PLAYER EXPOSURE OPPORTUNITIES**

Blaze National level teams compete at top national tournaments that put them in front of colleges nationwide. These events include Colorado IDT, Fireworks, Top Gun, Top Club, PGF, Alliance, and many more. These tournaments promote the competition and exposure necessary for many colleges to become seriously interested in Blaze athletes.

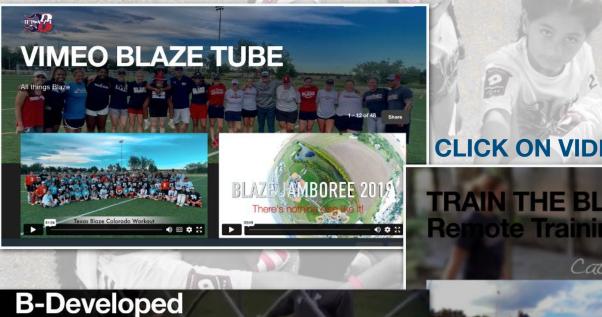
In addition, the Blaze hosts its exposure events that include:

- **38** The Blaze Colorado Exposure Event national-level recruiting combine in Colorado every June!
- Blaze Digital Showcase Event This unique event combines data collection along with skill & drills to showcase directly to attending college coaches.

**The B-Recruited** program utilizes all the above tools to create an advantage for Blaze athletes to gain college softball scholarship opportunities! This is one of the leading recruiting models for any travel program. Focused on the future of recruiting, the B-Recruited program offers everything needed for college-bound athletes to be successful in their recruiting journey.

So what are you waiting for? Its time to B-RECRUITED

# BLAZE 2023 PLAYER DEVELOPMENT TRAIN THE BLAZE WAY









#DStrong, #DDeveloped, #DBIaze









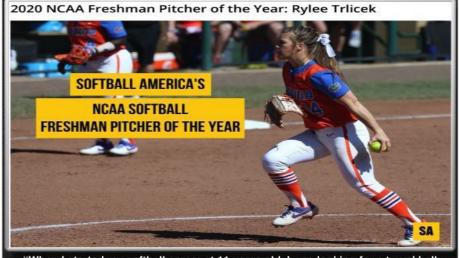












"When I started my softball career at 11 years old, I was looking for a travel ball program that could help me grow as a person, player, and give me an opportunity to play at the next level. As a top Texas program with a proven track record and national presence, the Blaze Organization surpassed my expectations. Through the high level of competition, rigorous practice plans and optimal physical and mental coaching, the Blaze Program allowed me to showcase in front of top Colleges making my recruiting process very exciting and successful. The Program had a coaching staff dedicated to both individual and team development as they incorporated my personal goals with the goals of the team. Most importantly, the atmosphere of the Blaze family is like none other where I not only had teammates, but made lifelong friends and sisters."

Go Gators Rylee Trlicek

# WHAT DO BLAZE ALUMS HAVE TO SAY?



"At a young age, it was important to me to be fundamentally sound. It wasn't always about being able to throw the ball as hard as possible or even hit the ball as far as others. Yes knew with hard work, determination, and the ability to take advice and constructive criticism from my coaches, I would get better every day. If my mechanics were bad or my form was off, there was no way that I would have continued to be as successful as I was when I got older, and the competition got better. Much of my skill today I can attribute to the coaches with the Texas Blaze organization, more so specifically to JB Slimp, the attention to detail that the he and the other Blaze coaches instill in this program is a large part of why I've been successful at the collegiate level and specifically the SEC. The Blaze program plays in the most competitive tournaments in the country, and their United teams are consistently

considered to have the best players in the country. This long-standing reputation allows for a successful recruiting process because Blaze puts players in front of the best schools in the country, in front of the best coaches. The Blaze is a family-based program that allows us to grow relationships that will last a lifetime. I am forever grateful for the journey that the Blaze allowed me to have. I would not be where I am today without them. Every step mattered, and I'm so thankful I was Blaze. Blaze On Forever!"

Chelsea Seggern / University of Tennessee



"I'm very grateful for my time spent with Blaze. I grew so much as a softball player and person in my time spent there. The coaches cared about my dreams and goals, and they introduced me to the higher level of the game I hadn't previously known. They also made sure I got the exposure to the top colleges I wanted and needed. I have no regrets with my recruiting process and time spent with them, with their help I'll be playing for Arizona State in just a few weeks. Blaze was an important piece to my puzzle in developing as a person and player. I advanced in many ways in my time there, and they helped make my dream of playing in the Pac 12 a reality!"

Allison Royalty / 2020 Arizona State University



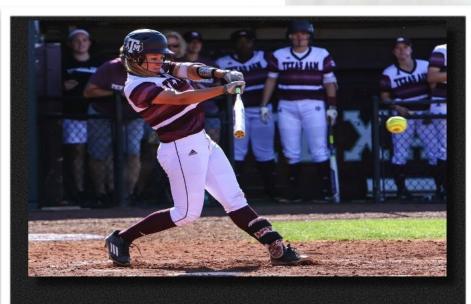


"I would not have had the career that I had at The University of Texas and on Team USA without JB Slimp and the Blaze program. The Blaze program took my skill set to the next level through rigorous practices, dedication, and a lot of hard work.JB and the Blaze did a great job of putting me in front of every top college in the country, and most importantly, my life long dream school, THE University of Texas.

There is no other program dedicated to its players like the Blaze. They continue to evolve so that they have the best coaches, players, training facilities, and knowledge of the game.

I am proud and will always be proud to have come from such a great program. There is no other program like it, and if my daughter has any interest in softball, then she will be playing for JB Slimp and the Blaze program."

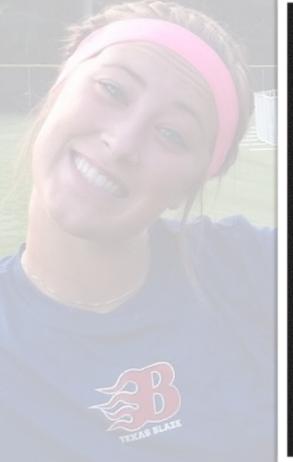
Taylor Thom / Hook Em



"Being apart of a top tier softball program like the Blaze was vital to my success at Texas A&M. Not only would I have not had the opportunity to be recruited to a school like A&M, but I also wouldn't have been as prepared mentally and physically to compete at that level. Playing with and against highly skilled athletes allowed me to see the hard work, determination, and consistency it takes to get to where I was and use that to my advantage.

I am so grateful for the Blaze organization, the life long relationships built, and the character I built through the whole process."

Ashley Walters / Texas A&M / All SEC 1st Team





"For me, travel ball was my favorite place. It meant hotel slumber parties, Colorado trips, opening ceremonies, meeting like-minded people, and, most of all, I was able to compete in the sport I loved the most. From a young age, The Blaze organization opened up these doors for me. I was able to gain sport-specific skills while also learning how to be a better competitor, teammate, daughter, and friend. My coaches pushed me to be the best version of myself on and off the field. I was fortunate to play for and with some of the best players and coaches in the game. I was supported in my quest to play collegiate softball, and after many recruiting tips and help, my dreams became my reality, this could not have been done without The Blaze organization and their strive for excellence within their program. I will forever be grateful for my Blaze family not only for shaping me to be the best player I could be, but also instill in me invaluable lessons that I have taken with me in my adult life beyond softball."

Haley Outon / University of Houston /All-American / NPF



"I can't really say in words the amount of thanks and gratitude I have in my heart for the blaze organization. I can say without a doubt that I have never loved the game more than when I had a Blaze uniform on in the summer of 2017. There are many organizations with big names that will have college coaches lining the fences, but I have never played for another team that embodies why I personally love the game. Blaze was not just about getting recruited, it was about making sure that when we did, we were ready. They prepared me not just skill wise but also in ways that made me a better teammate. They preached family and fun. They really taught me how to handle pressure in big situations just by having such a strong bond that made me feel as if I could do anything. I am 100% certain that there wasn't a better team I could have ever played for and still have had the amount of love and opportunities that I do now. Blaze always pushed me to be better, give my all, and to take every base I wanted. I would bet good money that out of all the teams in the country, we had the most stolen bases (402). Again, I'm so grateful for all the teammates and coaches I have had the privileged opportunity of growing up with in the Blaze organization #toofast"

Skyler S. Brooks / University of North Carolina



"I would not have been successful in college without the Blaze. My time with the Blaze provided me endless opportunities to learn and grow while competing at the highest level. Those pressure-filled moments in big tournaments in front of bigname coaches taught me how to compete and overcome adversity at a young age. Those two skills alone have benefited me more in my college career than any specific fundamental ever will.

The relationships I built with my teammates are just as strong now as they were 4 years ago when I graduated high school. I am SO thankful for my time with the Blaze and for the way this organization still helps me further my growth and development as a player and a person."

Hailey Mackay / Texas State Bobcats