

## Finding Love: One Kick at a Time! True Tales of Wild WAKA Romance

(Herndon VA., July 18, 2008)—Who says a playa can't get no love? Scores of players in the World Adult Kickball Association (WAKA) have found true love with another kickball player. Whether they connect on the field or after the game at their favorite watering hole, couples continue to meet and fall in love.

Jennifer and Duane Carreiro met in 2007 while playing in the Massachusetts (MA) Colonial Division in South Boston. Duane had recently moved to Boston from Washington, D.C. where he already enjoyed several years of playing WAKA Kickball in the nation's capital.

"Duane was an avid kickballer in D.C. so he knew WAKA was a great way to make connections," says Jennifer. "I was new to the area and was in search of a circle of friends as well. It was the first game of the new season and we were both assigned to the outfield, and as they say...the rest is history!"

The two got to know each other while hanging out in the field and chasing down the big red balls and their relationship continued to blossom. "Long story short, we lost that first game but found love. It all sounds very corny but we agree that it was all fate. Duane and I met in May, married in September, and we are expecting our first baby."

Chelsea Thompson and Chris Heckert met during the spring 2007 season while playing on "The Ball Busters" in the Texas (TX) Star Division. Chris had already been playing for a few seasons when a friend dragged Chelsea into the wonderful world of WAKA. The rest, as they say, is kickball history! They started dating about four weeks into the season, became inseparable, and were married about six months later. "Here in the TX Star Division we like to refer to these things as 'Romballs' [kickball romances]," says Beth Bankhead, President of the TX Star Division in Dallas. "Of course, when you end up married to a Romball, it's more of a 'miraball' [kickball miracle]."

Chelsea and Chris' love has continued to grow and were recently blessed by their own little kickballer—their daughter Ainsley. "Despite threats from their league President, they refused to name their daughter WAKA," adds Beth!

Lenore O'Connor and John Dustin met in spring 2005 when they signed up for the "Midnight Runners" of the Maryland (MD) Gaithersburg Division. They wanted to play kickball, but ended up with so much more.

The two spent many nights hanging out with each other at the bar after the game and their friendship grew into more. "Toward the end of our second year on the team, a teammate told Johnny to hurry up and ask me out," says Lenore. "So he did and finally we went on our first date in June 2006."

It didn't take long before they knew they were meant for each other and Johnny popped the question in December 2006—the night before they left for a vacation to the Dominican Republic. The couple tied the knot on September 22, 2007 with a plethora of kickballers on hand to celebrate with them.

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**Note to Media:** To set up an interview, request a press kit or B-roll, please contact 866-350-1710 or [press@kickball.com](mailto:press@kickball.com). To join the World Adult Kickball Association, visit online registration at [kickball.com](http://kickball.com). Depending on the division, registration costs approximately \$65 per season and includes team and division membership, an official WAKA player T-shirt, gear for the game, inclusion into the World Kickball Championship tournaments and other WAKA player perks.