

IT'S TOURNEY TIME IN SALEM

CHRIS HAGAN Statesman Journal

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Salem is hosting the ASA Class B U16 Western National Tournament at Wallace Marine Park this weekend. The tournament features 36 teams from Oregon, Arizona, California, Washington and Idaho.

The tournament is big enough that it also spills onto the West Salem High School fields. Despite the influx of out-of-state talent one Salem team, the Lumbre Fast Pitch Wildfire, will be competing.

Pool play started Thursday as well as the opening ceremonies at Riverfront Park, including a parade of teams and a photo featuring every player in the tournament.

Hundreds of players, coaches and umpires crowded into the Riverfront Park amphitheater for the photo and a ceremonial first pitch from Barbara Roberts, the manager of community resources and recreation for the Salem department of community services and a longtime coach and supporter of softball in Salem.

"I think we're honored to host such a great group on young ladies," Roberts said. "They've all worked hard to get here."

Double-elimination and consolation bracket play begins today and Saturday, with the championship game at 4 p.m. Sunday at Wallace.

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THOMAS PATTERSON | STATESMAN JOURNAL

Opening ceremonies Thursday kick off the ASA 16U Western National Championships as hundreds of softball players descend on Salem and Wallace Marine Park.

ASA Class B U16 Western National Tournament

What: A 36-team softball tournament to determine the ASA champion.

When: Today through Sunday with games starting at 8 a.m. each day.

Where: Wallace Marine Park and West Salem High School.

Championship: Sunday at 4 p.m. at Wallace.

Contact: For information and tournament schedules go to www.softballcityusa.com.