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EPIC for Girls Celebrates Women's History Month by Empowering Young Omaha Female Athletes of Color All Year Round

EPIC for Girls, a non-profit organization in Omaha, is celebrating Women's History Month by empowering young female athletes through equitable opportunities in sports. The organization is committed to ensuring that women and girls of color in Omaha have access to sports programs that help equip them with life skills acquired through sports. EPIC for Girls researches, advocates for, and funds innovative solutions that address inequities in sports for girls of color.

The EPIC for Girls' Softball Team is a prime example of the organization's commitment to leveling the playing field. In 2022, the team started with one 10-and-younger team, and this year, they have expanded to include a second team for girls 12-and-younger. A total of 25 girls will play softball this summer, and most of them for the first time. The EPIC for Girls' Softball Team practices twice a week near 85th and Maple Streets and competes in a recreational league through the Omaha Suburban Athletics Association. Their coaches, who are paid equal to high school men's baseball coaches, include a former Northwest High School standout softball player and former Morningside softball player under the direction of Lt. Ken Fox of the Black Police Officers Association, who is leading the program.

In the inaugural season, the EPIC for Girls' Softball Team was ranked lowest amongst all teams during the season, yet finished their final tournament in second place. The team has several physical needs, including softballs, pitching machines, bats, gloves, softball masks, throwing mounds, backstops, catching equipment, and financial support to cover league fees, which are \$300 to \$400 per player.

"We are leveling the playing field for young female athletes in Omaha," said Lt. Ken Fox. "Through EPIC for Girls, we are providing opportunities for girls to develop life skills through sports and empowering them to become strong and confident individuals who are equipped to take on any challenge."

As part of their Women's History Month celebration, EPIC for Girls is requesting interviews with journalists to feature the EPIC for Girls' Softball Team and the impact that sports can have on the lives of young women. To request an interview or learn more about EPIC for Girls and their programs, please contact Josefina Loza at office@lozafina.com or visit their website at epicgirls.org.