

COP CORNER

with Jeff Blair

Policesoftball.com World Series VI

The Policesoftball.com World Series VI was held at a new venue in October after spending five successful years in Cathedral City, California. The brand new Big League Dreams facility in Las Vegas, Nevada was simply too enticing to pass up as it offered the most state-of-the-art softball complex in the nation.

The World Series is an ever-evolving event and Policesoftball.com tries to forecast the best for the future of the sport and adapt accordingly. In addition to the new location, there was a huge change in the format. For the first time ever there were two divisions, a 30-team "upper" Platinum division for the top ranked teams and a "lower" Gold division for 24 up-and-coming teams and/or small market teams. Based on recent World Series history and based on results from dozens and dozens of tournaments in recent years, it is clear there is a natural separation talent-wise with the travel teams in our circuit. This year the directors pledged to offer something for both levels and the split divisions were hugely popular. The result was far fewer run-rule games, and teams that typically went 0-4 or 1-3 actually won or had a chance to win every game they played in. Many Gold division teams had never come close to being alive on Sunday, but on this weekend more than half did just that. For the Platinum teams, every game was a challenge and it truly brought out the best competition. No team could be accused of having an "easy draw" or backing their way into the championship game. For the Platinum teams that placed well, they earned it and silenced any and all critics. Some speculated that having a Gold division would diminish the Platinum division. Nothing could be further from the truth as it was game on in the Platinum division from the onset. The official opening ceremony was well attended although the typical crowd of 1500+ was less due to the lure of the Vegas night life. Even so per BLD staff, Friday's gate was 1200 and the sales at clubhouses were outstanding.

The Hall of Fame inductions were announced and those players honored on the field included: Robbie Freitas - Jacksonville Police Softball Club; Doug Cullen - Jacksonville Police Softball Club; Brian MacDermott - New York Metro; John Grant - Minnesota Lawmen; Greg Beck - Cincinnati Lawmen; Steve Wilson - New York Metro; Derwin Longmire - Cal Quake; Chris Loera - Santa Cruz Combo; Tom Laroque - Cal Quake; Jimmy Lemmon - West Coast Aftershock; Jimmy Gomez - DEA Combo; Gordon Smith - Sacramento Razorbacks; Doug Pullen - Eldorado County Lawmen; Joe Rodi San Diego Excessive Force; William Day - San Diego Blue/Gray; Anthony Costanzo - Sacramento Razorbacks.

This year Policesoftball.com decided to declare its All-Time team and those players honored included: C: Dennis Leonard - Jacksonville PSC; P: Sam Sapienza - NYPD Metro/Lawmen; P: Dave Woolf - Dayton Metro; 1B: Scott Affholter - Wayne-Oakland/Michigan Lawmen; 2B: Richie



NYPD Blues



Motor City Blues

Malek - NY Metro; SS: Johnny Mack - LASD Red; 3B: Rick Record - LAPD Blue; 5 Man: Donny Meyer - NY Metro; OF: John "Soup" Anderson - Michigan Lawmen; OF: Ron Connor LASD Red/DEA Combo/Quake; OF: Jerry Harkins - NY Metro; OF: Ron Lehner - Minnesota Lawmen; OF: Derwin Longmire - Quake; DH: Doug Cullen - Jacksonville PSC; Utility IF/P: Jim Gomez - DEA Combo; Manager: Walt Conry - NY Metro; Coach: Dennis McKee - Wayne-Oakland; Coach: Terry Dugan - Virginia Lawmen; Coach: Robbie Freitas - Jacksonville PSC.

As part of the ceremony the Year End Awards were presented and those honored were: East Sponsor of the Year: Don Caravona and Mike Czack - Team Kentucky and Ohio; West Sponsor of the Year: Barona Resort and Casino; East Manager of the Year: John Scollo - South Florida Lawmen; West Manager of the Year: Noel Roberts - Sin City Combo; East Shevy Wright Sportsman of the Year: Dan Pleckham and

Policesoftball.com World Series VI

Mike O'Neill - Chicago Metro; West Shevy Wright Sportsman of the Year: Andy Domenici - Concord Combo; East Defensive Player of the Year: Alain Cruz - South Florida Lawmen; West Defensive Player of the Year: Chris Enriquez - West Coast Aftershock; East Player of the Year: Butch Crozier - NYPD Blues; West Player of the Year: Alfonso Trujillo - SoCal Alliance. Brett Helmer from Easton Sports was on the field to present the awards.

Afterward the first ever Hall of Fame Game was played where police softball legends squared off for the first and most likely last time in an East vs. West showcase. Only Hall of Fame members were invited to play. On this night the East prevailed and the game was capped by a final inning in which the entire defense consisted of current and former NY Metro players.

Immediately following the game was the annual home run derby and it came down to the East representative Don Painter from Motor City Blues facing off against Robert Mason from the DEA Combo. Both players exchanged bombs but it was Mason who ultimately claimed the title of Home Run King. King Mason then got to face Brett Helmer in a challenge round that saw Helmer blast 23 home runs on 29 swings. The "challenge" was over before it started, but Mason did get a chance to swing against one of softball's all-time most prolific hitters which was something to be proud of.



KEN FRY
MINNESOTA LAWMEN

GOLD DIVISION ACTION

Friday morning kicked off round robin play for seeding purposes and the Gold division bracket winners were: Pennsylvania Road Dogs, Greene County Ohio Enforcers, Motor City Blues, Cen-Cal Syndicate, Chicago Metro, Team Vargas, SoCal Riot and SoCal Lockdown. All those teams earned first round byes for the playoffs on Saturday.

The playoffs began early Saturday and went into the evening. By Sunday there was plenty of action in the loser bracket including some exciting games including: Iowa Lawmen defeating the Charles County Lawmen in a slugfest, Virginia



CHRIS VILLANOS
FLORIDA LAWMEN

Lawmen plating 42 runs to eliminate Cen-Cal Syndicate, Chicago Metro posting a 25-14 victory over Toronto Police Softball, Vegas Heat nipping the DVI Gladiators by one run. As the day progressed more teams were eliminated in close games as the Virginia Lawmen defeated Iowa 29-28 and Vegas Heat slipped by Chicago. In the winner's bracket both SoCal Lockdown and the Greene County Enforcers got bounced down into the loser bracket where they both proceeded to start winning again. Lockdown eliminated Virginia while Greene County sniped Vegas Heat. When the two met up it was the scrappy Lockdown team that bested Greene County and secured

themselves a spot in the final three. The most anticipated matchup was between two undefeated teams, Motor City Blues and the Road Dogs. Motor City rose to the occasion and advanced to the championship game while the Road Dogs suffered their first loss of the tournament. The Dogs wasted no



EAST PLAYER OF THE YEAR BUTCH CROZIER - NYPD BLUES; BRETT HELMER OF EASTON SPORTS AND WEST PLAYER OF THE YEAR, ALFONSO TRUJILLO - SOCAL ALLIANCE



HOME RUN KING ROBERT MASON - DEA COMBO AND BRETT HELMER OF EASTON SPORTS

time as they promptly ended Lockdown's run at the title and advanced themselves into a rematch against the Motor City Blues. The Blues were sitting pretty as they would need to be double dipped, but the Dogs seemed up for the challenge. The Dogs handed Motor City their first loss by one run to force the "if" game. With rain threatening the game moved at a rapid pace, but in the end Motor City could not be denied as they scored big early and then cruised to a 33-23 win and earned the title of first ever, Policesoftball.Com World Series Gold Division Champions.

GOLD ALL-TOURNEY AND MVP SELECTIONS: Gold MVP: Roger Wechter - Motor City Blues; Gold All Tournament Team Selections: Mike Nagel - Motor City Blues; Matt Guigar - Motor City Blues; Mike Frazier - Motor City Blues; CJ Nelson - SoCal Lockdown; Richard Covarrubias - SoCal Lockdown; Brandon St. Aubin - SoCal Lockdown; Mike Lohan - Pennsylvania Road Dogs; Vic Ortalano - Pennsylvania Road Dogs; Matt Hernandez - Pennsylvania Road Dogs. Gold Division Final Results: T17. D.C. Enforcers, SoCal Riot, OC Probation, Quit Resisting, Montgomery County



TED RAGONE AND STEVE SPEIGEL

Young Guns, Officers Only (Washington), and Folsom-Sac JCats; T13. Nitro2Go, Team Vargas, Capital City Lawmen, and SoCal Dogs; T9. DVI Gladiators, Toronto Police Softball, Charles County Lawmen, and Cen-Cal Syndicate; T7. Chicago-Metro and Iowa Lawmen; T5. Virginia Lawmen and Vegas Heat; 4. Greene County Enforcers; 3. SoCal Lockdown; 2. Road Dogs; 1. Motor City Blues - World Champions.

PLATINUM DIVISION ACTION

The Platinum division was reserved for the true heavyweight contenders in the police circuit. All 30 teams in the Platinum division were ranked in the nation's top fifteen from both the East and West including all previous World Series winners. Since there were no Division II type teams, every game was evenly matched and nobody could claim any team had an "easy" run to the finals. Simply put, this was the toughest World Series and whoever claimed the title would have to earn it. The bracket winners were: SoCal Alliance, California Quake, HardCor, New



VIC ORTALANO - ROADDOGS

Jersey Shamrocks, Sin City, NYPD Blues, Team Texas, Team Jersey, Minnesota Lawmen and NY Metro. In the play-offs, one of the highly favored teams, the #1 ranked Ohio Lawmen suffered a shocking first round loss at the hands of the up and coming Illinois Lawmen to be bounced into the loser bracket. For the men from the Buckeye State that would mean they would have to win eight consecutive games without a break to claim the title. That had never happened in World Series history, but if any team was capable of pulling it off, it was Ohio. The tournament progressed and some teams were sent into the loser bracket much earlier than anticipated while others thrived. By Sunday morning half the teams had been eliminated including some that are accustomed to playing late into the day. The morning kicked off with Ohio eliminating Southwest Elite, Team Jersey sending their same state rivals the Shamrock Enforcers home, South Florida Lawmen over Illinois and the Michigan Lawmen eliminating the SoCal Alliance. Team Jersey could not keep the momentum rolling as they were later eliminated by NY Metro. Minnesota, the team that sent the two-time World Series

Champs into the loser bracket posted a nice win over NY Metro but they were later eliminated by the Ohio Lawmen.

South Florida would post two more strong wins over Michigan Lawmen and HardCor before finally falling to - you guessed it, the Ohio Lawmen.

The undefeated game was a classic East vs. West matchup between the perennial powerhouse the NYPD Blues and the Sin City Combo from Las Vegas who burst onto the circuit like gangbusters about three years ago. The veteran Blues squad played like a team of destiny as they surgically dismantled Sin City and bounced them into the loser bracket to face the Ohio Lawmen who consequently were on a roll. The Sin City vs. Ohio Lawmen matchup gave the West one last hope to keep the title on the left coast but Ohio would have none of that. Ohio had posted their sixth win in a row and eliminated Sin City in the process. Ohio moved into the championship game to face Rick Tirelli and his undefeated NYPD Blues. The Blues were 7-0 on the weekend and were playing inspired softball. On paper the Ohio Lawmen should have been favored but on this day there was magic in the air and there was a distinct New York vibe down on the field. The game was being broadcast live on the internet so many at home got to witness the epic match up. The New York Blues did not disappoint the crowd as they sealed the victory with a bases loaded walk off single by East Player of the Year

Butch Crozier. This was Butch's second walk off hit of the tournament and it made the Blues 17-16 winners in what was the PoliceSoftball.com's first ever walk off win in World Series history. The celebration on the field was quite memorable as the NYPD Blues were declared 2010 Policesoftball.com World Series Champions!



**ALFONSO TRUJILLO
SOCAL ALLIANCE**

PLATINUM ALL-TOURNAMENT AND MVP SELECTIONS: Platinum MVP: Gary Villacres - NYPD Blues; Platinum All Tournament Team Selections: Butch Crozier - NYPD Blues; Kevin Wahlig - NYPD Blues; Brian Wallace - NYPD Blues; Mike Mauntel - Sin City Combo; Shad Rollo - Sin City Combo; Trevor Neville - Sin City Combo; Butch Castor - Ohio Lawmen; Higinio Riviera - Ohio Lawmen; Dustin Bowling - Ohio Lawmen. Platinum Division final results: T 25. Team Kentucky-Ohio/TKO, Stanislaus, Jacksonville PSC, San Diego Force, Riverside Red; T17. LAPD Blue, NorCal Choir Boys, Concord, State Razed, Texas, Direct Impact, Steel City, DEA Combo; T13. West Coast Aftershock, Suffolk, Southwest Elite, Shamrock Enforcers; T9. SoCal Alliance, Cal-Quake, Illinois Lawmen, Team Jersey; T7. NY Metro, Michigan Lawmen; T5. HardCor, Minnesota Lawmen; 4. South Florida Lawmen; 3. Sin City Combo; 2. Ohio Lawmen; 1. NYPD Blues **WORLD CHAMPIONS!**

Policesoftball.com would like to thank the event sponsor Brett Helmer and Easton Sports along with event supporters such as Sports55, Softball Magazine, 5:11 Tactical Gear, I-Initial Embroidery and Ed Farmer and his impressive staff at Big League Dreams.