

(TRAINING ROOM)

COP CORNER

with Jeff Blair



Fall is a very exciting time of the year for those who play in the law enforcement circuit. The Policesoftball.Com World Series in October draws teams from all over the nation to Las Vegas in order to battle it out on the ball field with hopes of being declared world champions. The NYPD Blues will do their best to defend their Majors Division world title, but the Gold Division is wide open as the 2010 champs, Motor City Blues folded during the off-season. Several new teams including the Milwaukee Heat, Metro Detroit's Finest, and the Maryland Outlaws will be joining the

Gold Division this year to participate in their first World Series event. Returning teams such as Toronto Police Softball, the Virginia Lawmen and Officer's Only from Renton, Washington will do their best to keep the newcomers out of the spotlight. This will also be the first year we have included a Masters Division 40+ in the World Series. Teams such as California Gold, Minnesota Masters and Jacksonville PSC will strive to be declared the first ever Masters Division champions.

There have been some amazing accomplishments this season. The Ohio Lawmen are always in the discussion when talking about top ranked teams from the Eastern Conference but this season could be their best to date. They finished as runners-up to the NYPD Blues in the 2010 World Series and came out firing on all cylinders for the 2011 season. Their highlight this season was winning the National Championship in Dayton, Ohio in July. They were World Champions in 2005 and are in a good position to make a run for a second title this October. There is a juggernaut from New Jersey known as the Shamrock Enforcers that have been stealing headlines as of late. They have three tournament championships on their resume this season and are closing on the Ohio Lawmen in the rankings. Meanwhile in the Western Conference my team the SoCal Alliance is putting together a jaw dropping season. The team has played in six tournaments, won all six tournaments and did not lose a single game until August. Currently sitting on a 38-1 record, SoCal has claimed tournament championships in venues from SoCal to South Florida and from Las Vegas to Lake Tahoe. SoCal is

clearly one of the favorites to claim the title this year which has eluded the team since its back to back championships in '07 & '08. As fate would have it, I have been on the shelf since July because I took on a coaching role for my daughter's 16u fast pitch travel team which is fun but also time consuming.

The big draw for the World Series opening ceremony will be the scrimmage game



Brandon St. Aubin, SoCal Lockdown



John Sunia, DEA Combo



Brad Borowy, Ohio Lawmen

(TRAINING ROOM)

COP CORNER

between a team consisting of a select group of Policesoftball.com veterans and the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball team. Brett Helmer from Easton Sports and Armando Acosta from WCNSA will be special guest umpires for this historic game. Attendance is expected to exceed 2,000.

I won't have the World Series results until the first issue of Softball Magazine in 2012 but I am happy to announce the Policesoftball.Com 2011 season award winners.



Keith Habig, Sin City Combo



Vic Ortalano, Capital City Lawmen

Sponsor of the Year:
West Conference • AnCon Marine, sponsor of West Coast Police Softball Combo;
East Conference • PMC Associates, sponsor of Team Jersey

Manager of the Year:
West Conference • Brandon St. Aubin, SoCal Lockdown;
East Conference • Brad Borowy, Ohio Lawmen
Shevy Wright Sportsman of the Year:

West Conference • John Sunia, DEA Combo; East Conference • Vic Ortalano, Capital City Lawmen
Defensive Player of the Year:
West Conference • Quintin Lewis, West Coast Aftershock;
East Conference • Nat Tauber, NYPD Blues

Player of the Year (MVPs):
West Conference • Keith Habig, Sin City Combo; East Conference • Donovan Delaney, Shamrock Enforcers

Hall of Fame inductees:

Scott Rivas, John Marsden, Jack Giroud, Bob Faldetta, Joe Mestres, Del Pickney*, Rick Tirelli, Barry Midthun, Richie Ware and Eddie Robinson.

*Special note about Del Pickney. Del and I co-founded the SoCal Alliance softball team, co-founded Policesoftball.com, and co-founded the World Series. I have known Del since we were rookie patrol officers 23 years ago. I want to congratulate all the inductees and give a special man-hug to my lifelong friend Del!



Donovan Delaney, Shamrock Enforcers



Quintin Lewis, West Coast Aftershock