

Policesoftball.com World Series



COP CORNER

with Jeff Blair

This year marked the seventh Policesoftball.com

World Series which was hosted at the Big League Dreams facility in Las Vegas, Nevada. Although there are some basic aspects of the World Series that will never change, there is always something

new each year and this year was no exception.

Opening Ceremony

To start the evening, fallen officers from throughout the year were honored with the playing of taps and presentation of colors courtesy of the Las Vegas Metro Police Department Honor Guard. Officer Tim Jones was added to the PoliceSoftball.com Hall of Heroes. Officer Tim Jones played for the St. Paul Police Softball team and his life tragically ended on August 26th, 1994 when he and his K-9 Laser were killed while searching for a suspect that had killed another St. Paul Police Officer.

The prestigious PoliceSoftball.com Year End Awards were announced and the plaques were courtesy of the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association.

Presenting the awards were Kevin Mickelson, who is the president of the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association, Hall of Famer Anthony Costanzo and Brett Helmer from Easton Sports.

Every year PoliceSoftball.com inducts some very deserving people into the PoliceSoftball.com Hall of Fame to recognize their achievements in our sport. The Hall of Fame Committee is chaired by Anthony Costanzo and Dennis Leonard and this year their committees inducted the following people into the Hall of Fame: Scott Rivas - Arizona Horrors; John Marsden - LAPD Blue; Jack Giroud - LAPD Blue; Bob Faldetta - Riverside Sheriff Red; Joe Mestres - CV Kings/Wayne Oakland; Barry Midhun - Minnesota Lawmen; Richie Ware - NY Metro/NYPD Blues; Eddie Robinson - Ohio Lawmen; Del Pickney - SoCal Alliance/Policesoftball.com; Rick Tirelli - NYPD Blues.

This year's home run derby competition was the toughest yet as every hitter seemed dialed in. Those in attendance were treated with the presence of John Tournour aka "JT The Brick," from Fox Sports who announced the derby and engaged the crowd as only he can. When the dust settled, Eric Medina from SoCal War Pigs was left from the West Conference and Jason Karas from Steel City Enforcers was the last man standing in the East Conference. These two went head to head and this year the crown will reside in the East as King Jason Karas came out on top.

The jewel of the evening and what everyone had been waiting for was the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team exhibition game against the Policesoftball.com Honor Team. We were graced by the presence of true heroes with the Wounded Warriors. WW Josh Wege threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Josh is a United States Marine Corps veteran who lost both of his legs below the knee in combat in Afghanistan.

After the game, Wounded Warriors Matt Kinsey and Tim Horton were presented with a game MVP trophy and Gold Glove award. The goal this night and over the weekend was to honor these American heroes and to raise money for the Wounded Warriors. Special thanks to the Great Lakes Lawmen, the Ohio Lawmen, the Virginia Lawmen, Concord Combo, Greene County Enforcers, Stanislaus Softball, and to everyone who bought merchandise that weekend. Collectively we raised approximately \$9,000.00.

Masters Division

The first ever World Series Masters (40+) division tournament kicked off the four day event. Some of the best Master Division players in the country arrived on 13 different teams and as the games started, the scoreboards started lighting up like a pinball machine. The Master players may be slightly slower than they used to be, slightly more prone to aching muscles but they are highly skilled, more knowledgeable, and as good with the bat as they have ever been.

The Masters was a straight double elimination tournament so it was game on from the first pitch. Every first round match up featured a team from the East Conference. Two teams, DEA Combo and SoCal Alliance 40-Cal tore through the bracket going 3-0 before facing each other in the undefeated game. These players have faced each other dozens of times during the past few years so everyone was very familiar with each other. The 40-Cal squad ended up winning that game to advance to the championship. Meanwhile





Metro Detroit's Finest



Great Lakes Lawmen



SoCal Alliance 40-Cal



in the losers bracket teams were fighting their way out for a shot at double dipping 40-Cal. The highly favored New York/Pa. Road Dogs lost in an upset to the scrappy NorCal based Team Torture. Torture kept the Cinderella story going by defeating California Gold. Meanwhile, Jacksonville PSC was another favored team and they eliminated a Minnesota Lawmen team that was loaded with softball legends. Jacksonville then notched an impressive win over the Ohio Lawmen which pitted them against the red hot Team Torture. Jacksonville's hitting onslaught was too much for Torture, but Torture accomplished more than what many had expected by going so deep into the tournament. Jacksonville gassed out in their match-up with the DEA Combo so the rematch of the undefeated game was set. DEA Combo would need to double dip 40-Cal but on this day the 40-Cal squad would not be denied. SoCal Alliance 40-Cal recorded a perfect 5-0 record and in doing so also claimed the title of first ever World Series Masters Champions!

1. SoCal Alliance 40-Cal- Champions; 2. DEA Combo Masters; 3. Jacksonville PSC; 4. Team Torture; 5t. California Gold; 5t. Ohio Lawmen Masters; 7t. Minnesota Lawmen; 7t. New York/Pa. Road Dogs; 9t. Tri-State New York Lawmen; 9t. Virginia Lawmen; 9t. Detroit PD Masters; 9t. Suffolk County Masters; 13. Sin City Relics. MVP: SoCal Alliance 40-Cal, Lowell Buck; All Tourney SoCal Alliance 40-Cal: Todd Patino, Mike Mayer, Ron Connor; All Tourney DEA Combo: TBA; All Tourney Jacksonville PSC: Mike Bracci and Robbie Bradshaw; Defensive Award SoCal Alliance 40-Cal: Ken Dawley.

Gold Division

The Gold Division featured 25 teams and all played two round robin games for playoff seeding purposes. All 2-0 teams received a well earned generous seed in the bracket. Those teams were Charles County Lawmen, Chicago Metro, Fontana Gunslingers, Greene County Enforcers, Southwest Elite, Team Vargas and Vegas Heat. The intensity really got turned up come double elimination playoff time.

Vegas Heat, Stanislaus, NorCal Elite and Metro Detroit's Finest all tore through the winners bracket en

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route to a Saturday evening 4-way showdown. Vegas Heat inched by Stanislaus 13-12 to advance to the Sunday morning undefeated game against Metro Detroit's Finest who defeated NorCal Elite 28-26 in a barn burner. These were two epic games, but now the losers had to claw back from the loser bracket. In the undefeated game Metro Detroit's Finest unleashed a scoring barrage by plating 36 runs to Team Vegas' 18 to advance to the championship. In addition to Team Vegas, Stanislaus, Team Vargas, Iowa Lawmen, Southwest Elite, and the Greene County Enforcers were the only teams still standing, trying to get to the dance against Metro Detroit. While Detroit was cooling their jets, teams were being sent packing game after game. When the dust settled it was Team Vegas who got their rematch that they had hoped for. The championship game was yet another epic battle and this time Vegas turned the tables on Metro Detroit. Vegas handed Detroit their first playoff loss to force the "IF" game. Now with momentum on their side Vegas was sitting in the driver seat. It was a see-saw game and it took the final batter in the bottom of the 7th inning to secure the victory and Gold Division Championship for Metro Detroit's Finest! This was the second year in a row a batter in the bottom of the seventh won a World Series championship for his team.

Many who saw the Gold Division play commented that the teams are collectively getting better and better every year. The Gold Division was every bit as exciting as the Majors as numerous one run games, extra inning games, and nail biters were played out all weekend. One of the umpires noted that, many times, he could not tell a difference talent wise between some of the Gold and some of the Majors teams. Policesoftball.com management would like to congratulate all those who participated in the Gold Division World Series and we intend to keep this a strong viable division in future years. The final results were as follows:

1. Metro Detroit's Finest- Champions; 2. Team Vegas; 3. Stanislaus; 4. Greene County Enforcers; 5t. NorCal Elite; 5t. Iowa Lawmen; 7t. Team Vargas; 7t. Southwest Elite; 9t. Fontana Gunslingers; 9t. SoCal War Pigs; 9t. Maryland Outlaws; 9t. Valley of

Syn; 13t. Chicago Metro; 13t. NorCal Shockers; 13t. Charles County Lawmen; 13t. Virginia Lawmen; 17t. Toronto Police Softball; 17t. SoCal Riot; 17t. Detroit PD; 17t. D.C. Enforcers; 17t. Milwaukee Heat; 17t. Nitro2Go Hitmen; 17t. Officers Only-Washington; 17t. Bravo Tango; 25t. CenCal Syndicate. MVP Metro Detroit's Finest: Matt Guigar; All Tourney Metro Detroit's Finest: Mike Nagle, Damian Hull; All Tourney Team Vegas: Gary Chaney, Ron Peeler; All Tourney Stanislaus: Travis Hudson, Steve Newsom; All Tourney Greene County Enforcers: Bryan Mangin, Chris Warner; Defensive Award Metro Detroit's Finest: Dom Gabriel.

Majors Division

The Majors Division featured the top 27 teams in the nation. Since there are no player classifications, Majors teams could have a roster ranging from USSSA Conference players down to class E players. Whatever the case, the Majors are the best our sport has to offer and the action was white hot all weekend. The tournament was structured exactly as the Gold Division where 2-0 teams drew the top bracket spots for the double elimination playoffs. Those teams were: Jacksonville PSC, Great Lakes Lawmen, Minnesota Lawmen, Ohio Lawmen, South Florida Lawmen, SoCal Alliance, SoCal Lockdown, and West Coast PSC.

Going into the tournament the consensus favorites to win it all were the Ohio Lawmen representing the East Conference and the SoCal Alliance representing the West Conference. The Ohio Lawmen were having their best season to date and the SoCal Alliance had won seven consecutive tournaments and came into the weekend boasting a 42-1 record on the season. There is a reason the games are played on the field and not on paper because both of these teams dropped an early playoff game (SoCal to Cal Quake and Ohio to Concord). To come out of the loser's bracket to win it all both teams would have to win nine in a row, and the odds on that are highly unlikely.

The winners bracket saw Minnesota mowing down the competition in order to draw a Saturday night meeting with the rookie juggernaut West Coast PSC who shocked the circuit by reeling off four straight wins over top ranked teams. In the other half of the winners bracket the Great Lakes Lawmen remained perfect on the weekend and drew another team that was undefeated all weekend, the veteran Jacksonville PSC. In the semi-finals, Minnesota cooled



*Home Run Derby Champion
Jason Karas • Steel City Enforcers*



tinued to roll with the win over Minnesota but their roster of only 13 players was beginning to look weary. SoCal would have to double dip a rested, talented, and fired up Great Lakes Lawmen to become the first ever three-time World Series Champions and obviously they had their work cut out for them. SoCal pulled off an inspired win in the first championship to force the "IF" game. Fans came back to the fields to see history made one way or another. Great Lakes and SoCal went back and forth all game but eventually the Great Lakes teams reached down deep inside to release the "eye of the tiger" in each and every one of them. When the final out was recorded, the Great Lakes Lawmen were declared World Series Champions with a 27-26 win. The team danced on the center stage and in that moment earned something that

the West Coast PSC jets and advanced to the undefeated game. Great Lakes recorded another impressive, but close, one run victory over Jacksonville PSC. Minnesota and Great Lakes returned Sunday morning knowing that one team would advance to the championship game and have to be "double dipped" whereas the other would finish no lower than third place. In the game, the Great Lakes pitching and defense held Minnesota to 12 runs while their offense did the rest by plating 24. For the first time ever, Great Lakes Lawmen would advance to the championship and were sitting in the catbird seat while teams were dropping like flies in the loser's bracket.

Last year the Ohio Lawmen dropped their first playoff game but then notched seven straight wins to advance to the championship game where they were finally eliminated by the 2010 World Series Champions, NYPD Blues. It would take that effort once again this year, and they came close but could not pull the proverbial rabbit out of the hat. Ohio posted five straight victories but finally fell to the SoCal Alliance who were putting on an impressive run also. The win over Ohio was SoCal's sixth straight win, all with no rest in between games. SoCal then advanced to face the Minnesota Lawmen who were still stinging from the undefeated loss to Great Lakes. The SoCal train con-

nobody can ever take away. They are the Police Softball World Series Champions!

The final results were as follows: 1. Great Lakes Lawmen - Champions; 2. SoCal Alliance; 3. Minnesota Lawmen; 4. Ohio Lawmen; 5t. Jacksonville PSC; 5t. West Coast PSC; 7t. NYPD Blues; 7t. DEA Combo; 9t. LAPD Blue; 9t. California Quake; 9t. Concord Combo; 9t. SoCal Lockdown; 13t. Sin City Combo; 13t. Suffolk County; 13t. New York Metro; 13t. Team Jersey; 17t. Team Texas; 17t. South Florida Lawmen; 17t. West Coast Aftershock; 17t. Shamrock Enforcers; 17t. NorCal Choir Boys; 17t. Steel City Enforcers; 17t. Direct Impact; 17t. Montgomery County Young Guns; 25t. Capital City Lawmen; 25t. HardCor; 25t. Red Republic. MVP Great Lakes Lawmen: Scott Czopek, Scott Waxweiler, John Zintak; All Tourney Great Lakes Lawmen: John Anderson; All Tourney SoCal Alliance: Alfonso Trujillo, Mike Snyder; All Tourney Minnesota Lawmen: Benjie Lehner, Barry Midthun; All Tourney Ohio Lawmen: None, team deferred; Defensive Award Great Lakes Lawmen: Chris Haas.

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*Game MVP
Matt Kinsey • Wounded Warriors*