



PoliceSoftball.com World Series Moments

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In 2005 the national police softball world was brought together when policesoftball.com came into existence. For the first time, police teams from all across the country could now communicate. Of course, all this communication quickly devolved into a lot of bragging and wondering about who had the best teams in the nation. The talk was so prevalent that we, the creators of policesoftball.com, decided to host the first-ever Police World Series that would truly pit the best teams from throughout the nation against each other.

With a lot of guidance and advice from Gene Smith of *Softball Magazine*, the World Series got off the ground and has been a big success ever since. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the World Series. Along the way there have been some moments we truly cherish from the event. Some amazed us, some made us laugh, and some made us cry. We thought about all the memories from the event over the years and we posted a poll on policesoftball.com to determine the top 10 moments in the history of the Police World Series, and here they are:

World Series Moment #1—The pitch heard around the world: At World Series III, Shevy Wright was an 11-year-old kid who dreamed of becoming a police officer. Sadly, Shevy was dealing with terminal cancer and his dream would never be realized. When police softball heard about his situation, the officers from all the teams took up a collection and paid for his family to come to the World Series and throw out our first pitch. When Shevy threw a perfect strike, there was not a dry eye in attendance. Sadly, Shevy succumbed to the cancer several weeks after the World Series. He touched everyone who met him that weekend and our Sportsman of the Year Award is now named in his honor. Rest in peace, Shevy.

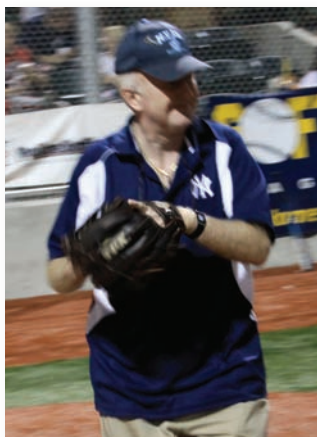
World Series Moment #2—PH1LL: At World Series IX our opening ceremonies and championship game intro included a tribute to Great Lakes player Pat Hill. Earlier that year, Pat was part of a task force who focused on apprehending murder suspects. During the takedown of a suspect, a gun fight ensued and Pat was critically wounded. Pat

courageously fought his situation but by World Series IX, it was clear Pat was not going to be able to fight much longer. As the Series went on, we saw team after team pay tribute to Pat. All weekend long we saw teams do tribute after tribute to Pat, who just two years prior had knelt in prayer on this very field when his team won the World Series. Many tears were shed during World Series IX and this demonstrated our brotherhood to each other better than any other moment at any World Series. Rest in peace, Pat.

World Series Moment #3—Wounded, yes; disabled, no. At World Series VII, we all learned that life without limbs is limitless when the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team earned everyone's respect by showing us that man down means man up. The team is comprised of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans and each one has one or more amputations. The team played a team of police officers who raised money as their right to play against the warriors. Police officers are a tough group to impress and every one of us came away impressed and humbled by these gentlemen warriors.

World Series Moment #4—Honoring our own: At World Series IV we paid tribute to United States Secret Service coach Jim Yarosh, who passed away unexpectedly just prior to the World Series. Jim spent the majority of life serving his country and his passing hit all who knew him. At this World Series, we asked Jim's wife, Julie, to throw out our first pitch. Julie was accompanied by former Major League Baseball MVP Don Baylor who is a family friend of the Yaroshes. While it was great to have a former MVP on our field, the reason made it a very somber moment for us. Rest in peace, Jim.





World Series Moment #5—New York, New York: At World Series VII, we had an East vs. West Hall of Fame game where every player on the field was a member of the PoliceSoftball.com Hall of Fame. During one inning, the entire East team fielded a team of all NY Metro players with the late Walt “Red” Conry manning the dish. Walt was always known as the grizzled coach of NY Metro by most of us but this one inning in the field with the men he spent decades coaching softened him to the point where he could not contain his smile. This inning showed why NY Metro is arguably the greatest team in police softball history. Rest in peace, Red.

World Series Moment #6—Don’t run off when you can walk off: At

World Series VI, the NYPD Blues were playing the Ohio Lawmen in the championship game. Both of these teams expected to win and everyone watching expected something magical to happen. As luck would have it, this game went down to the wire and in the bottom of the seventh, veteran player and now Hall of Famer Butch Crozier came to the plate with the winning run at third base. Butch picked his pitch and hit a perfectly aimed single between the 1-4 hole and in the process hit the first-ever walk-off hit in World Series history. Afterward, the NYPD celebration was one of the best we have seen and during it Butch nearly squeezed NYPD coach Rick Tirelli to death in a bear hug. It was the first World Series victory by the NYPD Blues.

World Series Moment #7—The Throw: In World Series IV during the “if” game, the NY Metro had the winning run on second in the bottom of the seventh with two outs against the SoCal Alliance.



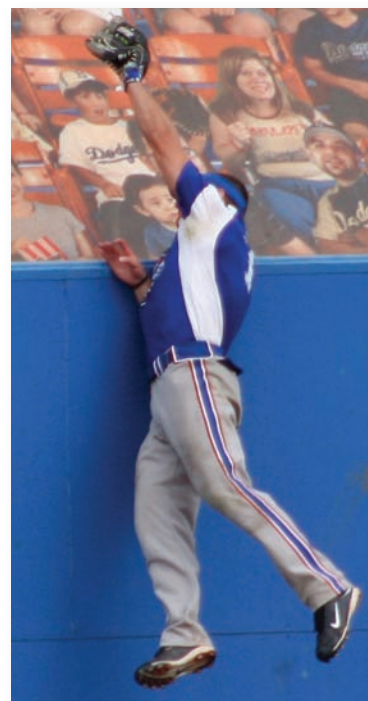
A clean single was hit by the NY Metro player before Alliance outfielder Pete Semeslberger unleashed a perfect throw to catcher Tim Morris and gunned down the Metro runner at the plate forcing extra innings. In extra innings, the Alliance plated one run and held Metro scoreless to win their second World Series title, 38-37. After the game, Pete Semelsberger

announced his retirement, saying he would never play in a better game. Pete, who was in his prime, held true to his word, much to the chagrin of his Alliance teammates.

World Series Moment #8—Runner Blue: During the first and only Cops vs. Corrections All-Star Game, Dan Spinelli twice found himself on base, only to be called out when he was sizzled by line drives. The second time this happened, Spinelli had only moments earlier inserted himself as a pinch-runner. The game ended in a one-run defeat by the COs over the cops and Spinelli had the bruises to show he was a major part of the game.



World Series Moment #9—The Catch: We have had some amazing plays at the World Series and some of them have even been caught on film. One such play was in a tight playoff game between the Minnesota Lawmen and the NYPD Blues, where the best catch in World Series history was made by Minnesota’s Adam Keeler. Why was this named the best catch in WS history? One because it was amazing; two, we caught it on film; and three, it was in a big game against two powerhouse teams and it kept the Blues from winning with a walk-off



home run. This game had a lot of emotion as both teams are power players in our sport and both expect to win. When the catch was made, the crowd went wild and everyone started

yelling at the on-field photographer, asking whether he was able to get the catch on camera.

World Series Moment #10—Go Climb a Rock: After years of varied success at the World Series, which usually saw Chicago Metro struggling to string some wins together, the team put it all together and went undefeated at World Series IX. Their celebration was without a doubt the best one we have ever seen as they exorcised their past demons.

In addition to their on-field celebration, they added a touch not yet seen in the history of PS.com. The entire team went out to center field and climbed the rocks of Angel Stadium and took the most memorable winning team photo in the 10-year history of the World Series.

That sums up our 10 most memorable moments. It has been a great first decade for the Police World Series and we cannot wait to see what the next 10 years has in store for us.

