



COP CORNER

With Jeff Blair



Greetings all, I am kicking off the New Year by reporting the results of the 2nd Annual World Series of Police Softball that was held in Cathedral City, California.



Cal-Quake middle infielder Chris Cooper catches the PoliceSoftball.com World Series Most Valuable Player honors.



All Star Team West



All Star Team East



Policesoftball.com Hall of Famers Inaugural Class

Derwin Longmire player/coach of the California Quake:
"The games were without doubt the best in talent that I've played in over the last twenty years, the energy and enthusiasm was exhilarating and exhausting; we got all that we came for! The pageantry and camaraderie that we experienced was unparalleled and the acknowledgement of the "fallen" officers as well as those inducted into the Hall of Fame elevated the event into a tribute that transcended the game of softball."

2006 Police World Series

The event grew from 32 teams in 2005 to 44 teams in 2006 with over a dozen teams being turned away due to time constraints and field availability. The top law enforcement teams from coast to coast and all points in between competed to see who would capture the title of World Champions

The opening ceremony was impressive to say the least. Over 1000 spectators jammed into the Big League Dreams facility and watched as Policesoftball.com inducted its inaugural class of Police Softball Hall of Fame members. Of the 34 inductees, 30 made the trip in person and stood shoulder to shoulder with the best cop softball players of all-time. A special moment was shared when Julie Yarosh was escorted onto the field by former MLB superstar Don Baylor to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Julie's husband, Jimmy Yarosh was the coach of the U.S. Secret Service softball team and he recently passed away unexpectedly. His jersey was hung on the backstop by a U.S.S.S. player in what was a moment that truly defined the spirit and brotherhood of law enforcement softball. The World Series was dedicated to Jimmy Yarosh and every player wore a black wrist band with his name on it. The Young Marine Color Guard marched on the field to present colors and buglers bellowed out echo taps to a silent crowd. Next, the East All-Stars squared off against the West All-Stars in a game that featured the top players in the nation divided into two teams based on geography. This year's All-Star game was more closely contested than last but the end result was the same, another victory for the East squad.

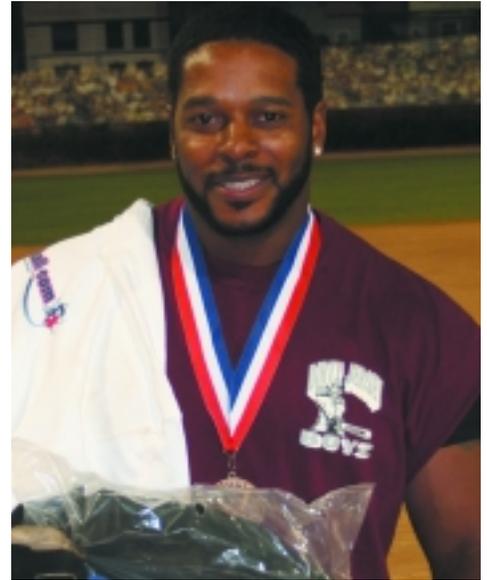
The Home Run Derby showcased 45 of the top sluggers in cop softball slamming bombs into the parking lot while hard rock music blared from the speaker system. When the dust settled there were two men left standing. George Reyes from the Riverside Sheriff Red team was dialed in and secured the opportunity to represent the West in the final round against Herman Colbert from the Dirty Jersey Boys who dominated the semi-finals for the honor of representing the East. George and Herman appeared evenly matched but on this night, George was more consistent and he earned the title of Home Run Champion.

The actual tournament began with teams grouped into round robin brackets where they played two games for the purposes of seeding for the double elimination playoffs. Teams that won their round robin brackets received a

Brad Borowy coach of the Ohio Lawmen: "The tournament ranks #1 in the country. The competition is the best around and no other police tournament is so well coordinated. I enjoy competing against and meeting teams that we haven't seen before. In my eyes, the Policesoftball.com World Series is a benchmark for other tournaments to follow and I wish for its continued success for years to come."



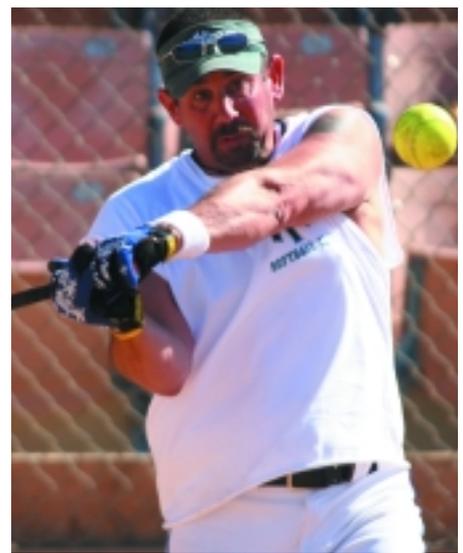
**Home Run Derby Champion
George Reyes of the Riverside Sheriff
Red • Representing the West**



**Home Run Derby Runner-Up
Herman Colbert of the Dirty Jersey
Boys • Representing the East**



**Policesoftball.com MVP 2006:
Chris Cooper - Cal Quake**



**Policesoftball.Com
East Player of the Year:
Donny Meyer New York Metro**



CalQuake



Ohio Lawmen



New York Metro



LAPD Blue

bye to start the playoffs. Although these were just seeding games, it was clear that all the teams were playing to win because the eyes of our entire softball community were watching.

The playoffs began Saturday morning, as teams who seeded poorly had to earn their way into the winners' bracket. Seattle Officer's Only, Southwest Syndicate, Sacramento Razorbacks, El Dorado Cartel, Maryland State Police, U.S.S.S. and New York Metro all prevailed while the Riverside Sheriff Heat, Orange County Hitmen, Buckeye (Ohio) Lawmen, Team Vegas, NYPD Shields, Dirty Jersey Boys and the CHP Choir Boys suffered defeats and had a long weekend ahead of them by going into the losers' bracket early. In round 2 South Florida defeated the Central Valley Kings, the Ohio Lawmen downed Folsom-Sac. J-Cats in 9 innings, Michigan Lawmen bested Seattle Officers Only, Miami-Metro prevailed over Concord Combo, Cal-Quake defeated the San Bernardino Sheriff Hitmen, Kentucky Bluegrass bested the Southwest Syndicate, CDC Hard-Cor squeaked out a 22-20 nail biter over Sacramento Razorbacks, the New Jersey G-Boys posted an impressive 28-23 win over NYPD Blues, San Diego Gray defeated the LAPD Lawmen, SoCal Alliance posted a win over the El Dorado Cartel, Minnesota Lawmen looked strong with a solid win over Maryland State Police, Houston Stix took down Central Ohio in extra innings, Wayne-Oakland secured a tight 9-5 victory over the LAPD Blue, St. Louis Top Guns defeated U.S.S.S., New York Metro prevailed over the San Diego Force and the Riverside Sheriff Red team posted a

win over the D.E.A. Combo.

Now with teams firmly planted in the losers' bracket it really began to get interesting. NYPD Blues, San Bernardino Sheriff Hitmen, Concord Combo, LAPD Blue, D.E.A. Combo, Team Vegas and Central Ohio all stayed alive. All those same teams stayed hot in the following round except Vegas who was eliminated by the Southwest Syndicate. The Central Valley Kings joined the group in the losers' bracket and managed to eliminate their Northern California rivals the Folsom-Sac. J-Cats.

Back to the winners' bracket the following teams advanced: Ohio Lawmen, Michigan Lawmen, Cal-Quake, CDC Hard-Cor, SoCal Alliance, Minnesota Lawmen, Wayne Oakland and the New York Metro. The losers' bracket saw more and more teams joining the party but even more teams being sent home. Round three of the losers' bracket witnessed a big upset when the Riverside Sheriff Red team eliminated the NYPD Blues. St. Louis Top Guns eliminated the San Bernardino Hitmen, Houston ousted Concord, LAPD Blue handed the San Diego Gray their final loss ever as the Gray called it a career after 20+ years in the circuit, the New Jersey G-Boys sent the Central Valley Kings packing, the D.E.A. Combo eliminated the Kentucky Bluegrass squad, Miami-Metro beat the Southwest Syndicate and the South Florida Lawmen defeated the Central Ohio club in a shootout.

The next wave of games in the winners' bracket were absolute battles as the Ohio Lawmen downed the Michigan Lawmen, Cal-



Quake defeated CDC Hard-Cor, New York Metro overcame the pesky Wayne-Oakland crew and the SoCal Alliance inked a victory over the Minnesota Lawmen. The losers' bracket was equally as competitive as the St. Louis Top Guns stayed alive by defeating Riverside Sheriff Red, LAPD Blue beat Houston, New Jersey G-Boys eliminated the D.E.A. Combo, and Miami-Metro declared themselves the kings of Florida by knocking off the South Florida squad. What followed was the Michigan Lawmen besting the St. Louis Top Guns, LAPD Blue eliminating CDC Hard-Cor, the New Jersey G-Boys defeating the Minnesota Lawmen and Miami-Metro continuing their winning ways over Wayne-Oakland.

Four teams remained unbeaten in the winners' bracket but that would not last as the Cal-Quake sent the Ohio Lawmen into the losers' bracket and the New York Metro plated 11 runs in the bottom of the 7th to overcome a 10 run deficit to beat the SoCal

Alliance. The remaining two undefeated teams later met and the Quake bested the New York Metro 26-21. Meanwhile, there were some teams just getting warm in the losers' bracket including the LAPD Blue who scored a win over the Michigan Lawmen and the Miami-Metro team who marked an impressive win over the red-hot New Jersey G-Boys. The LAPD Blue continued to roll with a solid win over the SoCal Alliance and Miami-Metro finally met their match in a loss to the defending champs, the Ohio Lawmen.

LAPD Blue could not keep their momentum and were eliminated by the team nobody wanted to see, the Ohio Lawmen. New York Metro would later give the Ohio Lawmen a strong fight, but they too would come up short against the defending champs.

It was now late on Sunday afternoon and a crowd gathered to watch the undefeated Cal-Quake match up against the defending



champion Ohio Lawmen. The Quake had earlier sent the Ohio Lawmen into the losers' bracket so Ohio would need to double dip the crew from California. Although the Ohio Lawmen were still the champs, that was about to change. It was a close battle, but when the dust settled the Cal-Quake stood victorious with a solid 20-18 win over the Ohio Lawmen. Here are the final results: 1. Cal-Quake; 2. Ohio Lawmen; 3. New York Metro; 4. LAPD Blue; 5. Miami-Metro; 5. SoCal Alliance; 7. Michigan Lawmen; 7. New Jersey G-Boys; 9. St. Louis Top Guns; 9. CDC Hard-Cor; 9. Minnesota Lawmen; 9. Wayne-Oakland Michigan.

Congratulations to the Policesoftball.Com World Champions the Cal-Quake! And congratulations to all the teams that put it on the line against the best the nation had to offer. Regardless of the scoreboard, everyone went home a winner!

In addition to some great softball, PoliceSoftball.com and Softball Magazine teamed up and with the help of some very generous law enforcement players, were able to send some much needed sporting goods equipment to our troops in Iraq. An extra thank-you goes out to the Softball Magazine crew for their continued support of the law enforcement softball circuit.

MVP/All Tournament Selections: MVP: Chris Cooper - Cal Quake; All Tournament: Cal Quake - Will Manion, Jeff Regino, Lowell Buck, and Guillermo Guerra. Ohio Lawmen - Rob Menke, Troy Keegan, Jake Negray, Ron Collins and Bobby McGhee.

The event was such a huge success that Easton has signed on as a title sponsor for the 2007 event. With Brett Helmer and the Easton crew teaming up with Policesoftball.com you can bet that the 2007 World Series of Police Softball will be better than ever!