

# cop corner

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## 2008 Season Preview



**2**008 will be my 7th year writing the Cop Corner article for Softball Magazine. The past few years I have reported how much the law enforcement circuit has grown and at the end of every season I figured we were topped out. I am here to report that I have been wrong, we are not topped out. As a matter of fact it seems like we have barely scratched the surface! We have new teams

popping up all over the country, new tournaments to participate in and fortunately we have new sponsors jumping in to the mix to support the law enforcement teams that travel the national circuit from February through October. In this installment of the Cop Corner I intend to touch upon several exciting developments for the new season.

Easton Sports along with Brett Helmer have teamed with Armando Acosta to introduce the "Bring Ur Real Skilz" tournament series to the circuit. Essentially Easton will supply all the game bats, which will quash any allegations of shenanigans. The booty for the winning team is a dozen brand new Easton sticks! To sweeten the deal, the tournament will be held at the brand new Big League Dreams facility in West Covina, CA. Easton and Brett have a long history of supporting cop softball, which includes sponsoring the Policesoftball.com World Series and also offering team equipment programs at a reduced cost.

The national ranking system has been refined. Although there are many tournaments across the nation a few select tournaments were hand picked as "points" qualifiers and points will be awarded on a tier system. The SILVER division includes the following tournaments: West Palm Beach Bacon Ball, Anne Arundel Invitational, New York Bacon Ball, Virginia Beach Invitational, Battle of the Badges Cincinnati, Montgomery County Maryland, Palm Springs Desert Classic, South Lake Tahoe, Star-Six Sacramento, Las Vegas Bacon Ball, 1st Annual NorCal CHP Choir Boys, and Bring Ur Real Skilz. The GOLD division tournaments offer even more points and it includes the following tournaments: Rick Hall Memorial Jacksonville, Wouters-Sawyers Memorial Sterling Heights, Dayton National Championship, Concord Invitational Manteca, DEA Kickoff Chino Hills, and the Palm Springs Police Association Annual. The gem to the crown is the DIAMOND division and that includes only one event, the Policesoftball.Com World Series. The World Series will be held October 17-19, 2008 in Palm Springs, California and it will be a nice jewel to the crown of whatever team is fortunate enough to win it. In addition to earning double points, the team that wins it will be proclaimed World Champions! Boombah has offered a free set of uniforms to the top ranked team this season.



**What impact will the new Motor City Blues have on the circuit?  
Only time will tell**

Earlier I mentioned there were new teams forming across the nation. Well there are now teams forming overseas too. Honolulu PD has a team that regularly competes in the Las Vegas Police & Fire Games but there is now a team that makes a trip to Hawaii seem like a stone's throw away. Team Guam has committed to playing in the World Series this year and to fully appreciate how far they have to travel, consider this. The team leaves Guam and has a connector flight in Tokyo, Japan. From there they pass through Hawaii en route to Los Angeles. Now that is the true definition of a "travel team." Other new (er) teams to the circuit include the following: Iowa Lawmen, West Coast Aftershock, Sin-City Combo/Vegas, State Razed (Central California), San Diego Old Dawgs, El Paso Heat, Motor City Blues, Steel City Enforcers, East Coast Lawmen and the Illinois Lawmen. Several other previously established teams are making a come-back this year including: Suffolk County New York, New Jersey State Police, and the South Bay Outlaws (Los Angeles County). The biggest news was the fact that the famed Michigan Lawmen pulled it back



**Slugger Randy Thiverage will bring plenty of power to his new team, the Buckeye Lawmen**



**Young gun Kris Ulibarri became an elite player in '07. Can he sustain it in '08 and help the SoCal Alliance/Easton repeat as World Champions?**



**The Minnesota Lawmen led by Bobby Lambert will be intent on knocking Jacksonville P.S.C. out of the East Rankings catbird seat**

together after imploding mid-season. They got the entire team back together and appear stronger and more focused than ever.

The "Hot Stove" was burning all off-season with rumors of new player signings. The most notable was the announcement that former Penn State and Chicago Bears running back Curtis Enis had been hired by the Miami County Sheriff's Office in Ohio and would be playing outfield for the Central Ohio Lawmen this year. Other player movement included John Sunia, Andy Williams, Marc Grande and Rob Rosas leaving the DEA Combo en masse to join the upstart West Coast Aftershock. Former World Champions Cal-Quake solidified their line-up by adding All-National Team members Keith Benjamin and Andrew McCormick. Donovan Delaney, David Lauro, Joe Trala and former Softball Magazine cover-boy Hector Cuadrado defected from the Delaware Association of Police and joined up with the Dirty Jersey Boyz. Delaware took another hit when it was announced that Greg Donophan and Chris Landis had signed on with the Maryland State Police team. The Sacramento Razorbacks bulked up in the off-season with the additions of former Sacramento/Folsom J-Cat players Todd Phillips and Terry, Rob Stogner from Sacramento Probation along with former Cartel slugger Chris Oliver.

2008 should be a very exciting season. I know it will be for me because it is clear everyone is gunning for my team the SoCal Alliance. It has been said that heavy is the head that wears the crown and after winning the World Series I can attest to that first hand. We'll do our best to defend the title but with so many other strong teams out there it will take every ounce of fortitude we can muster. Win or lose, I hope we all enjoy the journey and enjoy the brotherhood within the brotherhood. Till next issue 34-Sam-8 is 10-98.