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Policesoftball.com World Series IV



Editorial Jeff Blair;
Photos Courtesy of David Stephens

Welcome to the 2009 season! This is the official Policesoftball.Com World Series IV report. The event was once again held at the Big League Dreams facility in Cathedral City, California in October 2008 and it once again featured the fifty best teams in the law enforcement circuit. Every year the event has grown and drawn more national exposure and this year was no different. Easton Sports was the primary sponsor of the event and Brett Helmer was on scene to rub elbows with the players and take in the action. Friday saw bracket play action for seeding purposes for the

double elimination playoffs. On Friday night the opening ceremony took place and that included the presentation of Colors by the American Legion Honor Guard. The ceremonial first pitch was tossed by a collection of wives who represented all the wives and families who supported the players throughout the season and tolerated us acting like little leaguers for a few weekends this year.

The season end awards were distributed along with Hall of Fame Inductions. You can find the names of those individual award winners in my last installment of the Cop Corner. The traditional East vs. West All-Star Game was played in front of a large crowd with a reported gate total of 1200 on Friday evening. The East took the game and the bragging rights for the third time in four years.

The fireworks really began in the Home Run Derby. Chris Jones from the Bluegrass (Kentucky) Lawmen secured the East title and the West came down to a shootout between former derby king George Reyes of RSD Red and 6'10" Jeff VonLutzow from LAPD Blue. VonLutzow, who hit a towering shot into the desert backdrop behind the replica Wrigley field won the one swing sudden

death tiebreaker. In the final match up of East vs. West, Jones gave his best effort but could not overcome the power display put on by the towering VonLutzow. On this evening, Jeff VonLutzow was crowned HR Derby King of police softball. Reality came crashing down on our little corner of the world when VonLutzow squared off against Brett Helmer in a HR hitting exhibition. We won't get into details but Helmer proved why he is a professional softball player and the rest of us are driving squad cars for a living. You can find video of the exhibition by searching Youtube.com.

In the tournament there were more nail-biters in the playoffs than in the past three years combined. Check this stat line: Thirty one games were decided by two runs or less and over forty games decided by three runs or less. One bad hop one way, one base hit the other way and the outcome could have been flipped in the majority of the games played throughout the weekend. The talent level was unprecedented. Here is a blow by blow of what occurred:

Round 1 (2 and 3 seeds): Sacramento Razorbacks defeated Officers Only/Washington; Central New York defeated Suffolk County NY; Iowa Lawmen defeated Vegas Heat; Shamrock Enforcers/New Jersey defeated Team Texas; A-1 Hard-Cor defeated CHP Choir Boys; Riverside County Red defeated Motor City Blues; Folsom Sac defeated State Razed; Stanislaus County defeated Chicago Metro; Delaware Assn. Police/DAP defeated LAPD Lawmen; LAPD Blue defeated Dirty Jersey Boyz; Virginia Lawmen defeated San Diego Force; Direct Impact defeated Sin City; Concord defeated Illinois Lawmen

Round 2 • (Winners' Bracket): DEA Combo defeated Ohio Lawmen; Miami Metro Red defeated Sacramento Razorbacks; Cal Quake defeated Central New York; Buckeye Lawmen defeated Iowa; Maryland State Police defeated Shamrock Enforcers; Minnesota defeated A-1/Hard-Cor; Secret Service defeated St. Louis Lawmen; New York Metro defeated Riverside County Red; Aftershock defeated Nitro2Go/Berdo; Sacramento Police defeated Folsom-Sac; Jacksonville PSC defeated Stanislaus; Bluegrass Lawmen/Kentucky defeated DAP; SoCal Alliance defeated LAPD Blue; NYPD Blues defeated Virginia Lawmen; Michigan Lawmen defeated Direct Impact; SoFlorida Lawmen defeated Concord.



*Bobby McGhee
Bluegrass Lawmen/Kentucky*



John Catusco • NYPD Blues

Brian Bowman • CNY Lawmen



Bobby Lambert • Minnesota Lawmen



Brett Helmer and Jeff VonLutzow



Mike Panackia • Motor City Blues



Round 3 (Losers; Bracket) Losers Finished tied for 33rd place: St. Louis Lawmen eliminated Officers Only/Washington; A-1 Hard-Cor eliminated Suffolk County New York; Shamrock Enforcers eliminated Vegas Heat; Team Texas eliminated Central New York; Sacramento Razorbacks eliminated CHP Choir Boys; Ohio Lawmen eliminated Motor City Blues; State Razed eliminated Direct

Impact; Virginia Lawmen eliminated Chicago Metro; LAPD Blue eliminated LAPD Lawmen; Dirty Jersey Boyz eliminated DAP; San Diego Force eliminated Stanislaus; Sin City eliminated Folsom Sac; Nitro2Go/Berdoo eliminated Illinois Lawmen

Round 4 (Losers' Bracket) Losers finished tied for 25th place: St. Louis Lawmen defeated Riverside County Red; A-1 Hard-Cor eliminated Shamrock Enforcers; Iowa eliminated Team Texas; Ohio Lawmen eliminated Sacramento Razorbacks; Concord eliminated State Razed; LAPD Blue eliminated Virginia Lawmen; Dirty Jersey Boyz eliminated San Diego Force; Nitro2Go/Berdoo eliminated Sin City

Round 5 (Winners' Bracket): Miami Metro Red defeated DEA Combo; Cal-Quake defeated Buckeye Lawmen; Minnesota Lawmen defeated Maryland Lawmen; New York Metro defeated US Secret Service; Sacramento Police defeated Aftershock; Jacksonville PSC defeated Bluegrass Lawmen/Kentucky; SoCal Alliance defeated NYPD Blues; Michigan Lawmen defeated SoFlorida Lawmen

Round 6 (Losers' Bracket) Losers finished tied for 17th place: St. Louis Lawmen eliminated SoFlorida Lawmen; NYPD Blues eliminated A-1 Hard-Cor; Bluegrass Lawmen/Kentucky eliminated Iowa; Ohio Lawmen eliminated Aftershock; Concord eliminated US Secret Service; Maryland Lawmen eliminated LAPD Blue; Buckeye Lawmen eliminated Dirty Jersey Boyz; Nitro2Go/Berdoo eliminated DEA Combo

Round 7 (Losers' Bracket) Losers finished tied for 13th place: St. Louis Lawmen eliminated NYPD Blues; Ohio Lawmen eliminated Bluegrass Lawmen/Kentucky; Maryland Lawmen eliminated Concord; Nitro2Go/Berdoo eliminated Buckeye Lawmen

Round 8 (Winners' Bracket): Miami Metro Red defeated Cal-Quake; New York Metro defeated Minnesota Lawmen; Jacksonville PSC defeated Sacramento Police; SoCal Alliance defeated Michigan Lawmen

Round 9 (Losers' Bracket) Losers finished tied for 9th place: Cal-Quake eliminated St. Louis Lawmen; Ohio Lawmen eliminated Minnesota Lawmen; Maryland Lawmen eliminated Sacramento Police; Michigan Lawmen eliminated Nitro2Go/Berdoo

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Round 10 (Losers' Bracket) Losers finished tied for 7th place: Ohio Lawmen defeated Cal-Quake; Maryland Lawmen defeated Michigan Lawmen

Round 11 (Winners' Bracket): New York Metro defeated Miami Metro Red; SoCal Alliance defeated Jacksonville PSC

Round 12 (Losers' Bracket): Losers finished tied for 5th place: Jacksonville PSC eliminated Ohio Lawmen; Maryland Lawmen eliminated Miami Metro Red

Round 13 (Winners' Bracket undefeated game): New York Metro defeated SoCal Alliance

Round 14 (Losers' Bracket) Loser finished 4th place: Jacksonville PSC eliminated Maryland Lawmen



Flip McGovern • NY Metro



*Ryan Coe MVP
SoCal Alliance*



Round 15 (Losers' Bracket): Loser finished 3rd place SoCal Alliance eliminated Jacksonville PSC
CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - SoCal Alliance must win or be eliminated): SoCal Alliance defeated New York Metro
CHAMPIONSHIP "IF" GAME - Winner is World Series Champion • SoCal Alliance defeated New York Metro 38-37 in 8 innings to win back to back World Series championships.

Summary of the if Game:

The game got pushed back two hours due to several extra inning games earlier in the day. It was cooling off and the balls were jumping. Approximately 200 spectators stuck around or came back to the fields to catch the action. Although the game was in the heart of Southern California it felt like the Alliance was actually playing against the Yankees in the Bronx. It seemed that 99% of the fans were cheering rather vigorously for the New York boys. This could have something to do with the fact that most were eastern teams who were waiting on flights while West teams were driving home. The game was being announced by Bring Ur Real Skilz President, Armando Acosta and Brett Helmer from Easton Sports.

The atmosphere was absolutely electric! The DJ system was blaring and when New York Metro was coming to bat they played New York, New York by Sinatra. When the SoCal crew was coming up it was California Love by 2Pac Shakur. It was a culture clash and could not have been more theatric or symbolic. The theme of the weekend was East vs. West. This game featured the two teams that were among the top ranked in each division and both had banner years. And what could be more fitting than a New York vs. SoCal final game? These teams have had a history of trading off wins and losses the past five years. It was our police softball version of the Yankees vs. Dodgers.

It was a see-saw battle all game with the lead switching nearly every inning but New York Metro had the hammer. In the bottom of the seventh inning there were two outs and the winning run on second base. Flip McGovern smoked a line drive to left field for a clean single. Left fielder and eventual All-Defensive player Pete Semelsberger came up throw-

ing and nailed the runner at the plate for the final out to force extra innings. In the top of the eighth, things started off promising for the Alliance as they plated a run and loaded the bases with only one out. It got ugly quick when the next two batters hit home runs for outs since their six HR limit had been reached much earlier in the game. Metro came to bat in the bottom of the eighth needing only one run to tie but the ball was flying that night and a couple carried right over the wall.

Metro did not mark and the game was history. The Alliance players went berserk as they were crowned World Series Champions for the second straight year. Although only one team won, both were champions! Every player on both teams gave every ounce of energy in their bodies and NOBODY left anything on the field. Many in the crowd and in both dugouts commented that it was the best softball game they had ever witnessed or experienced. Both teams deserved to win that game!

MVP: Ryan Coe - SoCal Alliance; All Tournament Team: Danny Wells - SoCal Alliance; Kris Ulibarri - SoCal Alliance; Dick Malek - NY Metro; Shawn McDonald - NY Metro; Jason Newlin - Jax. PSC; Brad Gidcumb - Jax. PSC; Tom Bloom - Maryland State Police; Dave Feltman - Maryland State Police; Gold Gloves: Pete Semelsberger - SoCal Alliance; Brian McDermott - NY Metro; Bubba Baldwin - Jax. PSC; In the Small Market World Series, the USBP Elite team posted a perfect 4-0 record to earn berth to the 2009 big show.

Policesoftball.com would like to thank the following sponsors for making the event a success: Easton Sports, Softball Magazine, Blackwater Worldwide, Dudley and Big League Dreams. Special individual recognition goes out to Brett Helmer and Armando Acosta. Extra special thanks and love to all the wives/girlfriends and significant others who worked the event and supported all the players throughout the year.

The 2008 World Series will be hard to top but rest assured that the Policesoftball.Com will do our best to make 2009 even better! To all of our brothers/sisters involved in law enforcement softball, enjoy the off-season and we look forward to seeing you all in 2009!