



COP CORNER

with Jeff Blair

Policesoftball.Com/Easton World Series V

Cathedral City, Ca: The 5th Policesoftball.com/Easton World Series was once again held at the Big League Dreams facility in Cathedral City, Ca. The event capped an outstanding year of law enforcement softball where many different teams shared the spotlight at any given time. Although there were over 50 teams from all across the county competing, New York Metro, Jacksonville PSC, Minnesota Lawmen and the Michigan Lawmen seemed to be the consensus favorites for the East while the reigning two-time defending champions the SoCal Alliance, along with former champs Cal-Quake and the red-hot HardCor teams were clear-cut favorites in the West.

The opening ceremony was just as popular as ever. A gate attendance total of 1700 was recorded and the crowd was not disappointed by the gala. The event was dedicated to Officer Eric Kelly of the Steel City Enforcers who was killed in the line of duty earlier in the year.

Eric, a Pittsburgh Police Officer had responded to assist his partner who had been shot, but upon arrival Eric was ambushed and killed by the suspect. All of the players wore wristbands in his honor throughout the weekend. After TAPS and the National Anthem, Policesoftball.Com honored two more heroes, Steve Martin and Steve Hingan for their valor and bravery in Afghanistan. Martin, an officer with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, was assigned to train the Afghan National Police. While he was driving to their headquarters he was severely wounded by an I.E.D (An improvised explosive device; also known as a roadside bomb). As insurgents attempted to capture him, Hingan engaged them in a gun battle and he was able to rescue his wounded partner. Although Martin lost the use of his legs, he and Hingan were reunited in order to jointly throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

After the formalities of the night were over, the action got hot with the Police vs. Corrections All-Star game. This was a





**Above: PoliceSoftball.com
World Series V Champions HardCor**

Left: MVP Paul Blandford - HardCor

great five inning exhibition that was tight every inning. When it was over, the final score was 19-18 in favor of the Corrections team.

When the All-Star game was over, 50 of the best home run hitters on the police circuit, including four previous champions, battled it out to determine who would reign as HR King. This year, the hitters were required to hit the ball completely over the facade and out of the park for it to count. When the dust settled, it was Kentucky Bluegrass Lawman Bobby McGhee and Folsom/Sac J-Cat Eric Moltzen in the finals. These two mashers went head to head, and in an exciting finish Moltzen earned the title 2009 HR King. Moltzen then had the opportunity to face event sponsor and premier long ball hitter Brett Helmer in an exhibition. Moltzen gave his best effort, but Helmer's display was beyond impressive. Folks, there is a reason there is a bat named after the man! Afterward, being ever the gentleman, Helmer proudly presented Moltzen with one of his personal bats, a variety of Easton goodies and posed for photographs with Moltzen.

In the actual tournament, there were very few surprises in the seeding rounds. Bracket winners included: Team Texas, HardCor, SoCal Alliance, South Florida Lawmen, New York Metro, Kentucky Bluegrass Lawmen, Ohio Lawmen, DEA Combo, Jacksonville PSC, Minnesota Lawmen, Michigan Lawmen, West Coast Aftershock, Shamrock

(TRAINING ROOM)

Enforcers, Cal-Quake, and DAP/Delaware.

Come late Saturday afternoon when the sun was still blazing and giving off 100 degree heat eight teams remained unbeaten. The results of the final four undefeated games were: Team Texas over Michigan Lawmen 29-28; HardCor over Minnesota Lawmen 20-15; New York Metro over Cal-Quake 26-18; Ohio Lawmen over SoCal Alliance 35-28.

Sunday morning opened with the four remaining undefeated teams matching up and the results were: HardCor over Texas 33-29; Ohio Lawmen over New York Metro 24-22.

The undefeated game between HardCor and Ohio Lawmen was recorded as a 19-13 HardCor victory.

In the losers' bracket, New York Metro defeated Team Texas to give them a second shot at the Ohio Lawmen. Ohio managed to eliminate New York and earn the opportunity to attempt a World Series double-dip against HardCor.

In the final game that pitted Ohio Lawmen against HardCor, both teams came out swinging but HardCor's consistent run scoring and tight defense kept Ohio at bay and it gave HardCor their first ever World Series victory by a margin of 27-11. For the win Brett Helmer and Easton Sports awarded HardCor players with the elusive PoliceSoftball.com Champions medal, championship tee shirts, and Easton pullover jackets. They also gave HardCor 6 Easton bats.

In the Small Market World Series, B&G/Ultimate Body Supplements won the prize and have earned their way into the big show in 2010. Traditionally SMWS winners have struggled their first year in the series so next year will be a big test for B&G.

When asked his thoughts on the tourney, HardCor spark plug Jason Hart said, "We had a great tourney. Everyone in the line-up showed up to play. No one had to press because the guy behind them was always getting it done. This year the level of competition seems more consistent through all the teams and there were no easy games. I am proud of my team and we are already starting to get ready to defend the title next season. If we play like we are capable of, we have a good shot at once again being the last team standing."

MVP: Paul Blandford - HardCor; All Tournament Team selections: Ryan Saucedo - HardCor; Mitch Brouillete - HardCor; Bob Reginelli - Ohio Lawmen; Heginio Rivera - Ohio Lawmen; Eddie Robinson - Ohio Lawmen; Mike Taylor - NY Metro; Flip McGovern - NY Metro. Defensive Awards: Jason Hart - HardCor; Rob Menke - Ohio Lawmen; Tommy Wigand - NY Metro.

Policesoftball.com would like to thank all the teams who participated in the event and send special thanks to Brett Helmer and Easton Sports for sponsoring the event. We are also proud to announce that the Policesoftball.Com World Series will be moved to the brand new Las Vegas Big League Dreams facility in 2010.

Hope to see you all there!

