

## COP CORNER

With Jeff Blair



### 2005 World Series Results

What started out as the "little train that could" has now become a locomotive that cannot be stopped. The train I am referring to is the law enforcement softball circuit and it is firing on all cylinders, traveling full speed ahead into the 2006 season. Early last year, my partner Del Pickney and I came up with the idea of starting a website, [www.policessoftball.com](http://www.policessoftball.com), to serve as a national clearinghouse for all information related to tournament law enforcement softball. I bounced the idea off Gene at Softball Magazine and got the publication's full support along with some much needed advice. One thing led to another and the idea of the World Series of Police Softball was introduced. We wanted to get all the best teams in the nation together to find out who truly was the best. We were unsure what the interest level would be, but after it was announced, we knew we had a winner on our hands. Word spread like wildfire and we filled up entry spots so quickly we had to establish a waiting list. We partnered up with Softball Magazine and Direct Sports of Virginia and the rest was history. That season finale tournament proved to be the proverbial "golden spike" that connected the East and West circuits of law enforcement softball. It changed our game, upped the stakes and put law enforcement softball in the national spotlight.

The tournament was held at the Big League Dreams complex in Cathedral City, California, on October 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Thirty-two of the best law enforcement teams in the nation participated in hopes of



2005 Police World Series East All Stars



2005 Police World Series West All Stars



Police World Series host team SoCal Alliance vs LAPD Softball:  
Scotty Spalding of SoCal Alliance tags out Juan Galvan of LAPD  
Softball at second base; SoCal Alliance won, 19-18.

# Around the Horn Cop Corner

being crowned the first ever Policesoftball.Com World Champions. Friday night kicked off the festivities with an East vs. West All-Star Game. Most headed to the ballpark early only to find a line all the way to the parking lot for entry. It was a full house as fans filled every seat and stacked up 3-4 deep on the grass slopes adjacent to the replica Wrigley Field. An estimated crowd of 500+ was present to witness the inaugural event. For those who had not been to Big League Dreams before, you could see stars in their eyes. They were transformed into kids with Major League ambitions. Deep down inside...most 30 or 40 something-year-olds felt that playing here was as close as they would ever get to playing in the big show that they have dreamed about since childhood. You could literally feel electricity in the air.

The All-Stars lined up along both baselines as we observed a moment of silence for all the law enforcement officers killed in the line-of-duty during the past year and the New Orleans officers who lost their homes due to Hurricane Katrina. The names of the players were announced and then it was game time.

Unfortunately for the West All-Stars, the game was over almost as quickly as it started. When the dust cleared, the East walloped the West 35-9. The West made a comeback in the Home-Run derby when SoCal Alliance slugger John Birtcher won the competition by putting on a power display that would have made Mark McGwire jealous. Even though Friday night was fun, everyone knew that the true test was about to begin and everything would be on the line beginning Saturday morning.

For the round-robin, teams were divided into eight brackets with four teams in each bracket. East and West teams were evenly mixed and teams that did well in the round robin would be sitting pretty for the single elimination playoffs. Teams that fared poorly would be fighting an uphill battle all day on Sunday. There were a few round robin surprises such as the top seeded team from the West, the Cal-Quake finishing last in their round robin bracket.



Other brackets went as "expected" and bracket winners included; Delaware, LAPD Blue, New Jersey G-Boys, Ohio Lawmen, NYPD Blues, Michigan Lawmen, South Florida Lawmen, and New York Metro. Saturday left the West teams feeling dazed and confused wondering if they could rally back on Sunday. Sunday morning, the Cal-Quake began what appeared to be an impossible mission. They had finished last in their brack-

"I have to say that the Police World Series in Palm Springs, CA, is the best law enforcement tourney that I have ever witnessed in the fifteen years of playing softball. The fields, the friendly welcome, the competition, the all-star game, the homerun derby, the hotel accommodations, the total atmosphere!"  
Coach Sgt. Brad Borowy of the 2005 Police.com World Series Champions Ohio Lawmen

et and needed to reel off 6 consecutive wins against the nation's elite if they wanted the crown. They suffered a scare early but managed to overcome a tough Officer's Only squad from Seattle for their first victory. Corcoran Hardcore, Tri-County Ohio, NYPD Shields, Sacramento Sheriff's, Concord Combo, LAPD Lawmen and the Orange County Sheriff Hitmen also advanced. Round two got even more



interesting. The Cal-Quake continued their quest by defeating the Minnesota Lawmen 22-18. Corcoran overcame a determined DEA Combo 31-15. Team Vegas and their line-up of sluggers downed the OCSD Hitmen 29-27 in an offensive war. In a closely watched game that went into extra innings, the San Diego Excessive Force team inched by the NYPD Shields 20-19. San Diego Gray took down Sacramento Sheriff's. The SoCal Alliance was strong against Tri-County in a 32-14 win. RSO Black secured victory over the LAPD Lawmen 10-7. Finally, the St. Louis Top Guns post-

"As individuals we fell into moments of lapse which ultimately caused us to fall several games behind going into the final day. However, I could not be more proud of the composure displayed as we fought through five very tough opponents all day in the Palm Springs heat. We were stellar in every bout with the exception of our last games against the Ohio Lawmen who were very good and better rested. The team wants to make sure to extend a big thank you to Mark Stemmer as our biggest sponsor throughout the year, we were so fortunate to have had him as our chief financial supporter."  
Derwin Longmire, California Quake

ed a convincing win over Concord 25-12. Round three welcomed the top seeds into the mix. Cal-Quake kept rolling with an impressive 19-16 win over a very strong New Jersey G-Boys team. Corcoran also advanced with a 20-17 win over South Florida. The San Diego Excessive Force team scored a big upset over the NYPD Blues and things were looking bright for the West teams. Two friendly rivals from California squared off in an epic battle between the top seeded LAPD Blue and the SoCal Alliance. The Alliance squeaked by in an "edge of the seat" thriller, 18-17. The



Ohio Lawmen



NY Metro



Cal-Quake



Michigan Lawmen



Ohio Lawmen began their journey toward history (hint-hint) by ousting Team Vegas 25-7. The tourney favorites Michigan took down San Diego Gray, 23-11, while Delaware downed the RSO Black. NY Metro suffered a scare at the hands of a very impressive St. Louis Top Guns team but still managed to prevail, 19-18.

Then only eight remained...the ELITE eight. The Cal-Quake rattled Corcoran by posting a 29-17 victory. Ohio Lawmen and their offensive buzzsaw cut through the San Diego Force squad 31-12. The Michigan Lawmen

"The umpires were great, probably the best umpires that I can recall in any police tournament. The City of Palm Springs and the fields were terrific. Great time playing and a great time hanging out in Palm Springs. There are some format issues that we are hoping that change for next year. The round robin was great because you get to play teams from all over the country that you normally would not play in the regular season."

Coach Steve Perkola, Michigan Lawmen



came back from four down in the last inning to go up plus two against the SoCal Alliance. The Alliance did not answer and Michigan advanced by winning 21-19. Old Faithful, NY Metro, overcame a powerful Delaware squad to also advance.

The FINAL four were then set. The Ohio Lawmen posted another thirty plus game by taking down the Cal-Quake. The Quake earned a lot of respect on the day by battling back from the 4th seed with their backs against the wall all day but on this day, Ohio was too strong. NY Metro looked to be just getting warm as they downed Michigan 26-13. Metro, who had dominated cop softball all season, was positioned to add a cherry to the top of their softball sundae. It all came down to two teams. Arguably, they were the nation's best. A huge crowd was on hand and the peanut gallery was in full force. The majority were pulling for the NY Metro, but players from coast to coast raised their beer mugs in a toast to what had boiled down to the best game in memory. The competition leading up to the game had been unprecedented and both teams clearly earned their shot at the title. Ohio looked very fresh early on and posted ten in the top of the first. Metro did not answer and the tone had been set. Ohio continued to pound line drives, home runs and gappers while Metro tried to mix things up. Metro had earned so much respect from their peers in the crowd that nobody was counting them out. Some people were even betting...ahem, "credits" on Metro in the top of the fifth when Metro was down by almost

twenty. Nobody - and I mean nobody - was ready to put a fork in the Metro just yet. Finally in the top of the seventh, with Ohio up by a bunch, the crowd conceded and tipped their hats to Ohio. When the final out was recorded, the Ohio Lawmen stood tall and proud as the first ever PS.Com World Series Champions with a convincing 39-12 win.

After the game, both teams shared hugs and handshakes in a sign of mutual respect. Everyone out there knew that most of the top teams were so evenly matched that it all would come down to who had the hot hand at the time. On this day, no hand was hotter than that of the Ohio Lawmen. The Ohio Lawmen had all winter to relish in the role of the first ever World Series Champions. Their name will be the first ever engraved on the perpetual Obelisk stone trophy that will be passed from winner to winner and displayed at the event every year. They also received custom embroidered jackets compliments of Direct Sports ([www.directsports.com](http://www.directsports.com)), goodies from Softball Magazine and nutritional supplements from Nutri-Shop.

They say it is easier to become champ, than it is to stay champ. The Ohio Lawmen and all the challengers won't find out the answer until October 20th, 21st and 22nd, 2006, when the 2nd Annual World Series of Police Softball is played in Cathedral City, California. Whatever the case, the event will be bigger, better and more competitive than ever!