

# COP CORNER

by Jeff Blair • Sponsored by Mizuno



I have a big secret I want to let you in on. I know what happens to softball players when they die. Well not all of them, just the good ones. By good ones I mean the players who showed respect for the game, didn't use juiced bats, didn't try to injure anyone on the field, didn't cheat, whine, snivel or lie. The good ones get to go to softball heaven and as I type this article I am 3 days away from getting to visit softball heaven...no permanent stay just yet. By now you must think I have gone crazy (in police jargon we call it 5150). Read on and I will explain. Softball heaven is actually in Nevada just a stone's throw from the California state line. It is square in the heart of the city of Lake Tahoe at a field called Zephyr Cove. Let me set the stage.

Remember the movie "Field of Dreams" where Kevin Costner built a baseball park in the middle of a corn field? The Zephyr Cove field is just like that but instead of being surrounded by corn stalks you are surrounded by huge pine trees...literally. Out beyond the trees is the lake that seems as big as the ocean. The air smells different there, probably because there is no smog. It's also a mile-high so when you play you gasp for oxygen but it's well worth it...plus the balls carry better than a helium balloon in a windstorm. I will get my little slice of heaven playing in the El Dorado Sheriff/Lake Tahoe Classic with my team the SoCal Alliance. We then pull a 180 degree turn and leave softball heaven for a visit to the opposite end of the spectrum, Sin City. "Vegas, baby, Vegas...It will be money." Actually, there won't be money involved



but we will see 70+ teams converge on the town that Frank built for three days of hotly contested softball to determine who goes home with the Nevada Police & Fire Games Gold Medals. This summer will be jam packed with police softball action!

Speaking of summer, here is my lightning quick mid-summer police softball

included the Michigan Lawmen and New Jersey G-Boys. This finish will surely provide good fodder for debate when it comes time for the monthly PoliceSoftball.Com Central States/East Coast rankings because the NY Metro had been the undisputed heavyweight champ all season and they finished out of the money in Dayton. On the West Coast, the LAPD Blue moved into the top spot ahead of the Cal-Quake, SoCal Alliance and Corcoran Hardcore squads. The Blue started slow but have been coming on like gangbusters lately with wins in the Arizona Games and the SBSO Hitmen Tourney in Riverside, Ca. There should

be a flurry of activity over the next few months with teams switching spots in the rankings on a monthly basis. The stage will definitely be set in October for the WORLD SERIES OF POLICE SOFTBALL that will unite the East and West for the first time ever to crown one undisputed World Champion. The nation's 32 top cop teams from New York to California, Washington to Florida and all spots in between will meet in Palm Springs, Ca., to compete for the crown. To steal a quote from Tri-County (Ohio) Lawmen Coach Chris Moore, "It's going to be off the hook." That's all I have time to report right now...too much going on. 34Sam7 is 10-98.

update from around the nation. Congratulations to the Jacksonville Police Softball club for besting the NYPD Blues at the National Police Championship in Dayton, Ohio. Other teams who finished in the top 4

## PoliceSoftball.Com Official July Rankings:

### WEST COAST CENTRAL

1. LAPD Blue/Easton
2. Cal-Quake
3. SoCal Alliance/Mizuno
4. Corcoran Prison Hardcore
5. Contra Costa Combo
6. DEA Combo/Anderson Bat Co.
7. Concord Combo
8. San Diego Border Patrol Heat
9. San Diego Excessive Force
10. San Diego Gray

### EASTERN STATES

1. NY Metro
2. New Jersey G-Boys
3. Jacksonville Police Softball Club
4. NYPD Blues
5. Michigan Lawmen/Belle Tire/Zada
6. Delaware Association of Police
7. Columbus-Metro
8. Ohio Lawmen
9. Houston Police Officer's Assoc.
10. Central Mass. Lawmen

## The Cop Corner's Mizuno Product Spotlight • This month: Speed Trainer



Perhaps the most overlooked piece of equipment for a softball player is their footwear. Its true, footwear is a piece of equipment just like your bat and glove. Many people just throw on a pair of old stiff cleats and trudge out to the ball field. By the end of the day their dogs are aching and covered with blisters. Most put very little thought into what goes on their feet when they should make that decision a priority. When it's your turn to hit, do you randomly grab a bat out of the rack with no concern as to its performance? Most serious players

would never dream of that. But they do when it comes to footwear. Why? The same consideration should be given to what is on your feet because those old heavy cleats will take their toll on your body and your game by the end of the day. Mizuno is truly a trailblazer in high performance athletic products and they have released another breakthrough product to elevate your game, the Speed Trainer. They figured out a way to blend the best elements of their running shoe with the comfort of a trainer and the traction of a molded cleat. That's right, you can essentially play softball in a running shoe! At a featherweight 15.0 oz., these kicks are sharp looking and built for performance. When it comes to protecting your body and increasing your performance on the field, don't compromise on a lesser product. Consider a pair of Speed Trainers and feel the difference. Visit [www.mizuno-usa.com](http://www.mizuno-usa.com) for additional information.

# Mid-Summer Report

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**World Series of Police Softball**

Catch the excitement! OCTOBER 2005

**BIG LEAGUE DREAMS CATHEDRAL CITY CALIFORNIA** HOST HOTEL

SU	MO	TU	W	TH	F	SA
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**ITINERARY OF EVENTS...**

TRIDAY NIGHT  
TUESDAY  
THURSDAY  
FRIDAY  
SATURDAY  
SUNDAY

**2005 WORLD CHAMPION OF POLICE SOFTBALL**

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