

COP CORNER

With Jeff Blair

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If you are a regular reader of the Cop Corner you know that I provide coast to coast coverage of all things related to the law enforcement softball circuit. My articles provide information on tournament results, team profiles, player accomplishments, upcoming events and a host of other topics. In my last article I informed you about the Policesoftball.Com Hall of Fame that is in the planning stages. The Hall of Fame will be a tribute to those great athletes who made significant contributions to our sport through the years. In essence, these players defined

the history of law enforcement softball. In this issue, youth will be served. Instead of looking back in history we will be looking ahead to the future. I have scoured the country far and wide and I have identified the new breed of players who will have a significant impact on our sport for years to come. These 20-something-year-olds are only getting better so here is a tribute to the "Young Guns" of law enforcement softball. For these guys the future is so bright they need to wear... (you know the song).

Name: Scott Bridges
 Police Team: Jacksonville Police Softball Club/3n2
 Agency: Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
 Assignment: Police Officer/Patrol Division
 Experience: Baseball, University of North Florida two years and Polk Community College two years
 Civilian Team(s): Dick's Wings & Grill and First Coast News
 Softball Goals: "I want my name out there as someone who is exciting to watch. I want to continue to win championships with my team and help motivate my teammates by turning singles in to doubles."
 Weapon of Choice: 2006 Worth PST



Scouting Report: "This kid is a hustler. He has great speed and plays a complete game. He brings a lot to the Jacksonville squad, especially in the outfield."

Point of View: "I love the competition. I seem to take my game to a whole new level every time that I am involved in Police softball."



Name: Chris Oliver
 Alias: Meat
 Police Team: San Diego Excessive Force & El Dorado Cartel/3056
 Position: Power Hitter
 Agency: San Diego County Sheriff's Department
 Assignment: Corrections Deputy, George Bailey Detention Center
 Pedigree: National Baseball Conference (Independent) for the Mavericks and High School Baseball for

Serra High School, San Diego
 Civilian Team: Dysfunctional/DeMarini, ASA/USSSA "D" (Now playing exclusively law enforcement since he is playing for both NorCal and SoCal teams)

Famous Quote: "They don't call me Meat for my spelling and grammar."

Career Highlight: Hitting a homerun off legendary NYPD Blues pitcher Dan Spinelli in the 1st Annual Policesoftball.com East vs. West World Series of Police All-Star game in 2005.

Scouting Report: "Power, power and more power. I think he lives in the gym. Plus he has more tattoos than the inmates he supervises. Just having him in the line-up gives the offense 4 runs. If at all possible, walk him."

Name: Jeff Graus
 Alias: Biscuit
 Police Team: Michigan Lawmen
 Position: Pitcher
 Agency: Warren Police Department (Mich.)
 Assignment: Police Officer Community Policing Unit
 Claim to Fame: Featured in the 2004 USSSA Umpires Video related to the rules of pitching and the strike zone. Voted by his peers on www.policesoftball.com as being the nation's most difficult pitcher to face.



Accomplishments: MVP-2005 Sterling Heights National Tournament, MVP-2006 Virginia Beach Memorial Tournament. World Series of Police Softball starting All-Star pitcher for the East squad.
 Civilian Team: Line Drive/Pole Position, USSSA "B"
 Scouting Report: "Biscuit has mastered the art of U-Trip pitching. He keeps hitters guessing and off balance. He also shuts down the middle and keeps teams from posting big innings." Commissioner for a Day: "I would minimize the number of tournaments. It seems as if every agency wants to have their 'own' tournament. I say limit the number of larger tourneys so that more teams go to the 'big' ones. It seems like some teams spend so much time playing in their local tourneys, that some choose to not travel to the bigger/longer lasting tournaments because of being tired or out of money. There is nothing worse than going to a tourney with 10 or less teams."

Name: Ryan Coe
 Police Team: SoCal Alliance/Easton
 Position: Pitcher
 Agency: Tustin Police Department (Ca.)
 Assignment: Police Officer/Patrol Division
 Claim to Fame: Played in the 2005 USSSA Major Worlds
 Civilian Team: KME/Body Glove/Chaney's/Easton, USSSA/ASA "A/B"
 Background: 4 years varsity baseball and 1st team CIF, 2 years on the All-Air Force Softball team where he served as a military police officer
 Scouting Report: "Coe is arguably the best all around player in cop softball. He makes the other players around him better and at only 26 years old he has become a true student of the game. He is a warrior on the field and his experience playing high level civilian ball makes him fearless on the field."
 Softball Goals: "Play for a Majors team in civilian ball and win the Policesoftball.com World Series of Police Softball."
 Equipment: Everything Easton. He spends countless hours at the Easton headquarters in Van Nuys testing bats. Even his dog is named "Easton"...no joke.
 Point of View: "I really enjoy cop softball because I get to play with my friends. Civilian ball has great competition but teammates, teams and players come and go. It is different in cop ball, there is a brotherhood and I look forward to playing with my brothers on the SoCal Alliance for many years to come."



Name: Jim McFarland
 Police Team: Sacramento County Razorbacks/Easton
 Position: LCF
 Agency: Sacramento County Sheriff Department (Ca.)
 Assignment: Deputy Sheriff
 Claim to Fame: Played Division 1 baseball at Sac. State
 Scouting Report: "J-Mac is a 5 tool player who can carry a team. He is a great power hitter and has a cannon for an arm. He is new to the game of softball, so he is only getting better."
 Area of Improvement: "Mac is so aggressive at the plate he will swing at anything resembling a strike. He is like the Vladimir Guerrero of softball, but just like

Vlade he can still put a charge into just about anything."
 His View of Cop Softball: "I really enjoy hanging out with the fellas on the team. I don't think that combo teams are good for the sport. You should be proud to play with your own department."

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Redding, Ca. Guns-N-Hoses Classic

1. Sacramento Sheriff Razorbacks/Easton
2. Concord Police Combo
3. CHP Choir Boys

Virginia Beach, Va. Annual Tournament

1. Michigan Lawmen
2. New Jersey G-Boys
3. Buckeye Lawmen

Palm Springs, Ca. PSPOA Championship

1. SoCal Alliance/Easton
2. CDC Hardcore
- 3t. San Diego Excessive Force
- 3t. LAPD Blue/Easton

West Palm Beach, Fla. Bacon Ball

1. Michigan Lawmen
2. NYPD Blues
3. Miami-Metro Red