



eSoftball



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ITS FUN, FAST & FURIOUS

Around the Diamond

This newsletter covers in detail the Black Sox success at the ISF World Championship Oceania Qualifying Tournament at North Harbour. A huge thank you to North Harbour for organising a fantastic tournament. The grounds looked in superb condition and for a \$5 entry fee spectators got to see some great softball. The crowd on Thursday night for the first game of NZ vs Australia was the best seen around grounds for some time. Also Softball NZ has been brilliantly served by Maori TV who took coverage of every single game at the Qualifiers. See below for coverage on TV.

On sponsors again thanks to some of our significant sponsors NZCT, SPARC and Radio Sport.

Radio Sport sponsored our two club tournaments and Softball NZ received great updates during the Clubs, National League and the Qualifiers. This included Radio Sport's Doug Golightly being at North Harbour all Saturday morning, interviewing a number of people such as Eddie Kohlhase and Wayne Small.

This newsletter also covers the Secondary Schools tournaments. It was great to see so many teams playing and the standard was very good. The boy's division one final was a thriller. Both this and the girls final were also televised by CTV (Canterbury TV). Copies of the games on DVD can be brought for anyone interested. Also see in the newsletter details on the position of General Manager, Softball NZ.

Finally all the best for the White Sox Development Team in Australia. By the time you get this they will be about to play their first game. Go to the website for the draw, results and an overview of the games.



Softball New Zealand

Pitching for the Future



Coaching Matters

The New Zealand Secondary School Division 1 and Division 2 tournaments played in Christchurch, Papakura and Invercargill were most successful this year. Whilst team numbers attending were slightly down on last year, the standard played was excellent and a vast improvement on past years.

Going into the last day, the boys seeding's for the final places were close with Wellington College, Taita College and Shirley Boys High School all still in with a chance. The CTV televised boys finals at the division 1 champs in Christchurch were a cracker with Hastings Boys High School scoring their go ahead run at the top of the 7th innings to defeat Massey High School (Ak) 3-2 in an excellent game. It was a great send off for captain Campbell Makea in his last year of school.

Final placings were: 1st Hastings Boys High School; 2nd Massey High School (AK); 3rd Wellington College; 4th Taita College (HV); 5th Shirley Boys High School (CB); 6th St Peters College (AK); 7th Marlborough Boys High School; 8th Newlands College (WN); 9th Waitaki Boys College (NO); 10th Kelston Boys High School (AK); 11th Nelson College



MVP: Campbell Makea (HBHS)

NZ Tournament Team 2008: Thomas Enoka (Massey) Kevin Papuni (HBHS) Joel Evans (WC) Campbell Makea (HBHS) Corey Timu (Taita) Tyler Auimatagi (Kelston) Jordan Pepere (WC) Murray Mayo (Massey) Aaron Kuru (HBHS) Josh Harbrow (SBHS) Bradley Shields (Taita) Matt Joseph (Massey) Jack Fletcher (NN) Tyrone Davies (Waitaki) Jarrod McDonald (Newlands)
Coach: Tom Makea (HBHS) Manager: Byron Cracknell (HBHS)

NZ Rest Team 2008: Clarke Trethowen (St Peters) Joshua Pettet (Newlands) Keegan Hilhorst (SBHS) Todd Reynolds (St Peters) Ambrose Curtis (WC) Aaron Pohatu HBHS Aaron Franklin (Newlands) Scott Johnston (St Peters) Jesse Bond (Massey) Jacob Rikihana (Newlands) Bronson Mokalei (WC) Josh Hunia (HBHS) Ryan Schollum (MBHS) Manu Taiti (Waitaki) Kyle Marfell (MBHS)

Coach: Richard McLaren (SBHS) Manager: Aaron Vescoe (MBHS)

Tournament MVP: Campbell Makea (HBHS)

Tournament Top Pitcher: Thomas Enoka (Massey)

Tournament Top Batter: Campbell Makea (HBHS)



NZ Secondary School Div 1 Champions 2008 - Hastings Boys High School



Coaching Matters cont...

The girl's final between Naenae College (HV) and Wellington East Girls School was just as exciting with a huge number of runs amassed. The game see-sawed for a while before Wellington East capitalised on some errors to run out winners by 16 runs to 10.

The seedings going into the girls final were closely contested for by Tawa (WN) and Aranui (CB) Colleges. Great to see Dunstan High School from Central Otago outperform the Auckland teams.

Final Placings were: 1st Wellington East Girls College; 2nd Naenae College (HV); 3rd Tawa College (WN); 4th Aranui College (CB); 5th Dunstan High School (CO); 6th Avondale College (AK) 7th Auckland Girls Grammar; 8th Penrose High School (AK); 9th Papakura High School (CM)

NZ Tournament Team 2008: Nova Collins Cross (Aranui High) Ngahuaia Kapene (Naenae College) Charlotte Pointon (Wellington East Girls) Aroha Noanoa (Wellington East Girls) Arahia Fowell (Naenae College) Ngawai Walmsley (Tawa College) Krystal Werahiko (Aranui High) Anna Enright (Dunstan High) Mate Whitman (Naenae College) Rome Collins Cross (Aranui High) Hope Weber (Wellington East Girls) Toni Toka (Naenae College) Keri Simeon (Tawa College) Yvonne Burgess (Wellington East Girls) Anita Leeuw (Avondale College)
Coach: Moana Pointon (Wellington East Girls) Manager: Tony Clout (Naenae College)

Tournament MVP: Charlotte Pointon (Wellington East Girls)

Tournament Top Pitcher: Charlotte Pointon (Wellington East Girls)

Tournament Top Batter: Anna Enright (Dunstan High)

Equally exciting was talk of a proposed boy's school quadrangular tournament being played amongst schools from Wanganui, Wellington and Nelson...traditionally the domain of Rugby only! Softball is starting to make some big inroads into secondary school sport.

Players, parents and schools who wish to purchase the televised taped finals in DVD format between Hastings Boys High, Massey High, Naenae College and Wellington East Girls can do so by contacting Canterbury Television 03 377 7033 or go to www.ctv.co.nz



Naenae College Girls

U15 Rule Review Forum

The U15 Pitching and Catching Rule implemented this season is now under review for the next two weeks on the SNZ Forum. To have your say (and please do) go to <http://www.5www5.com/softball/>

The U15 limited pitching and catching was introduced at the 2008 U15 NI & SI Tournaments.

Objective:

Share the load of the battery; protect the overuse and under use of players in the key positions of pitcher and catcher; provide opportunity for more players to have a go at the key positions and educate the coach on how to rotate young players.

1. Did the rule achieve the objective?
2. Should the BF tallies be different for smaller and bigger Associations?
3. Do you think a similar rule should be implemented at the U17 Nationals?
4. Do you think a similar rule should be implemented by Associations in the local club competition? What age groups should this happen with? U13s and U15s?
5. Do you think the rule will have a long term effect on the game?
6. Other constructive comments offering solutions are welcomed.

Debbie Mygind

Softball NZ National Director of Pitching

Black Sox on Track

The Black Sox showed they are on track for a fourth consecutive world title when they beat Australia 5-0 in the final of the Oceania world championship qualifying tournament at North Shore City's Rosedale Park yesterday.

However, it was not until the seventh inning that the scoring account was opened with Roman Gabriel, who was running for Travis Wilson, the first to cross home plate and then followed quickly by Gareth Cook, who was running for captain Jarrad Martin. The icing to the cake was added by Donny Hale whose home run also scored Rhys Casley and Nathan Nukunuku.

"Australia is a very good side and we had to play outstandingly well to come out on top," Black Sox coach Eddie Kohlhase said.

"Although there were not too many opportunities in that final our guys were just too good to let another chance go by."

Defensively the Black Sox were just as outstanding with Jeremy Manley playing one of his best games in the black shirt. The Hutt Valley pitcher faced 23 batters, gave up only two hits and took 11 strikeouts. In comparison Australia used three pitchers with Adam Folkard starting the game and tying down the Black Sox batters for five innings. His replacement Andrew Kirkpatrick faced only eight batters with his dreams of a second final win over the Black Sox turning to a nightmare as he gave up the five runs in the seventh inning. His performance on the mound forced a third pitching change for Australia in the seventh inning with Adam Humble coming in for the last three outs.



Black Sox on Track cont...



"He [Manley] has done a lot of work this week and with [pitching coaches] Jimmy Wana and Eric Wilson and I think also having Marty Grant around certainly helped as well," Kohlhasse said.

Manley was also well supported by his fielders with only two Australian players managing to get past first base safely.

For the Black Sox the qualifying tournament helped make amends for the disappointment the side had at the Pacific Series in Canberra in December. At that tournament the side lost twice to Australia, including the final which ended a record of having won every international final that they had been in since 1992.

The Black Sox dominated the qualifying series with the side scoring 66 runs and conceding only two in the seven games they had at the tournament. Their biggest wins of the weekend were 15-1 and 15-0 against Papua New Guinea and Guam respectively on Friday.

Despite losing the final Australia has qualified as the second Oceania team for next year's world championships which will be held in Saskatoon, Canada.



Jeremy Manley #33

Black Sox Hitting Stats

NZ Black Sox	G	AB	H	RBI	OBP	BA
Wayne Laulu-29	6	15	9	9	0.688	0.600
Daniel Milne-17	7	13	7	5	0.647	0.538
Travis Wilson-3	6	15	8	10	0.625	0.533
Jarrod Martin-11	6	18	9	3	0.650	0.500
Rhys Casley-10	6	19	9	9	0.500	0.474
Brad Rona-15	7	17	8	6	0.667	0.471
Nathan Nukunuku-12	6	18	5	2	0.409	0.278
Patrick Shannon-1	5	15	4	4	0.412	0.267
Thomas Makea-21	5	14	1	0	0.250	0.071
Min Pa 16						
Gareth Cook-6	6	7	5	2	0.750	0.714
Roman Gabriel-18	6	10	4	3	0.538	0.400
Aaron Neemia-8	4	11	4	5	0.364	0.364
Donny Hale-22	5	9	2	5	0.462	0.222

Black Sox Pitching Stats

NZ Black Sox	G	BF	IP	SO	R	ER	H	ERA
Marty Grant-20	1	17	5	8	1	1	3	1.40
Michael Gaiger-99	3	44	11	22	1	1	4	0.64
Heinrick Shannon-5	2	28	8	9	0	0	3	0.00
Jeremy Manley-33	4	56	16	32	0	0	7	0.00
Min BF = 58		145						

Softball on Maori TV (Poiuka o Aotearoa)

Softball is set to feature on Maori TV from Sunday (April 20). The programme (Poiuka o Aotearoa) will start at 2pm and will run for two-hours. There will also be softball tips throughout the programme from Dion Nukunuku and also profiles and interviews with current players. This coverage will be for the next 16 weeks.

The first three weeks will focus on the NZCT national league finals which were played at Hataitai Park last month. Then they will show the Oceania World Championship qualifying tournament.

Maori TV is accessible from Free View, Sky, and those that have the UHF ... For tune in details they can go to the website, www.maoritelevision.com and 0800 MA TATOU (6282868)

Softball NZ Employment

General Manager – Softball

- Great opportunity in the business of sport
- Wellington based

Play a key role in providing enjoyment and value to all participants in softball.

Please go to the Softball NZ Website for more details, job description and application from.