

Michigan Warriors Take "Lucky Dawg" Championships

Editorial and photos submitted by David Hatler

In typical early May Michigan weather type fashion, Mother Nature tried her best to make sure that the 7th Annual USSSA "Lucky Dawg" Championships didn't take place in Otsego, MI. Unfortunately the rain canceled all games Saturday. The Tournament Director worked really hard at reworking the brackets and times so that on Sunday every team could still get their guaranteed games in, as well as, the tournament ending with a clear champion in each division.

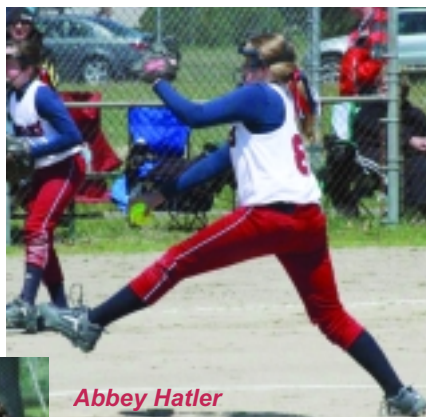
In the 10u division, the Michigan Warriors went undefeated to leave Sunday afternoon with the championship trophy. The bright spot for the young Warrior squad was the pitching of Lauren Reichel and Abbey Hatler. Reichel struck out fourteen batters while only

giving up two hits in the sixth inning semi-final game against Michigan Elite. Hatler then followed by striking out twelve batters and tossing a "no hitter" in the fourth inning championship game against Kalamazoo Klash. "When you have two girls step up and give performances like that on the mound it sure makes my job easier."

Warrior Coach David Hatler said, "They were able to keep the other teams off the bases long enough for our offense to get going." Leading the offense for the Lady



Lauren Reichel



Abbey Hatler



Warriors was Haley Rose, Ashton Jordon, Alyssa Lang, and Kallie Pittman.

In the 12u division Brown's Fastpitch out of Kalamazoo MI was able to continue its "hot streak" by also going undefeated to take the championship. "Our offense really did it for us today." Brown's Coach Greg Butler said. "When I can get my girls to hit like that it really allows the pitchers to relax and just throw." Abby Patton did the job on both sides of the plate with her pitching and hitting. Other bright spots for the Brown's offense was

Kassidy Butler, Kinslea Blouin, and Alex McDaniel.

The 14u division was controlled by Hurricanes Fastpitch. Even though the day started out below freezing, the Hurricane bats were hot as they outscored their opponents 44-7 on the day. The hitting of Libby Prieskorn combined with the pitching of Rachel Hunt was a big factor to the team's undefeated tournament record. Only a month into the season and the team has already secured berths for ASA, NSA, USSSA, and NFA.