

Publisher's Comments by Mark Linnemann

Softball park managers and owners have come and gone in the Greater Cincinnati area during the thirty-two years that I have published the CINCINNATI SOFTBALL NEWS. From the days of the earliest private parks, like Vater's Playground, Avoca Park, Rumpke Park and Rolling Hills, through the local park building boon of the eighties that saw eight or nine complexes spring up in a span of about ten years, I've come to know and work with approximately fifty different park managers and/or owners.

As is the case in any field, some of these individuals have done great jobs, some have done mediocre jobs, and some were just never cut out to be ball park managers or owners to begin with.

It takes a special breed to work non-stop from March until October. To try to answer every phone call so you don't risk losing a league or tournament team. To try to bring people to your park, then threaten to kick them out for not paying their league fees in full. To charge patrons a gate fee to get in, then scold them for violating public health codes by bringing in their own food or beverage. To push water off fields for hours, only to have the skies open up on you again just as you've gotten the fields ready to play. To mediate unending disputes between umpires and team managers. To deal with no-shows the first round of a tournament and at the end of each league season. And to try to make ends meet as the cost of supplies, insurance and energy soar, and as employees and umpires demand raises, all in view of dwindling participation.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Fortunately for area softball, despite the challenges facing the game today, we are blessed with some great park owners and managers in Greater Cincinnati. People who know and love the game, have a passion for what they do, and take pride in their work. People who have not just treated their patrons professionally, but who have befriended them. People with an undisputable work ethic and who are fair and trustworthy in their dealings with teams, umpires and other parks.

One such person who embodied these characteristics and more has been John Herbert, who owned and operated Pastime Park for the past nine years until selling the park this past July.

Perhaps no park manager or owner ever endeared himself to the softball community the way John Herbert did. And that's saying a lot in view of the many wonderful, dedicated, personable managers who grace our area parks.

Eggleston Park manager David Maury, who is president of the local park group known as the "Premier Softball Association," calls Herbert "the easiest park manager I've ever had to work with.

"He's laid back and easy going, and one of the nicest people I've ever known. He would do anything for anybody. He's going to be missed," says Maury.

Rumpke Park manager Danney Saylor praises Herbert for the "honesty and integrity" he brought to the park association. "And he was straight up and fair with his teams. He served his customers to the best of his ability. But the biggest thing to me was I could take John at his word and I trusted him. I'll miss him. He was a good, likeable guy. I don't know anybody who did not like John Herbert."

"The teams all liked him," echoes Expressway Park manager Bob Owens. "I never heard a bad word about him or how he operated the park the whole time he owned it. He was fair and any dealings I had with him were always above board. He was a real good person to do business with as a park owner."

"The Premier Softball Association won't be the same without him," adds Owens' wife, Betty, the assistant manager at Expressway. "He and his family were great people. I'll miss not working with them."

"He'll be missed," says Hall of Fame park manager Jerry Meyer, the interim manager at Kolping Park. "He was a great guy and a great family man."

“I loved him,” says Ohio USSSA Women’s State Director Myra Burwell, who ran a women’s National Invitational Tournament at the park every year. “John and his son were such good guys, and his wife was very pleasant. I’ll miss them. It was always a pleasure to have a tournament out there. Very enjoyable. I’ll miss them deeply and wish him good luck and all the best to his family.”

Terry Walton, manager of 2008 ASA Open Metro champion Blitz/Watanabe/Bull/Minges/Wessel/Easton, the area’s number one ranked softball team, calls Herbert “the kind of park manager you like to deal with.

“John was great,” says Walton. “I wish we had more opportunities to play at his park. He was very accessible, and readily gave you his cell phone number for any questions. You didn’t have to communicate with him with voice mail or email. You always got a voice when you had a question at Pastime Park. And you could tell his son Dave was cut out of the same mold as John. It’s sad to see a family like the Herberts leaving the softball community, and I hope the new owners will pick up where he left off.”

Mike Foulks, sponsor-manager of USSSA “B” State champion Mike Foulks Auto Body/Team Insanity, says Herbert was “always very friendly and upfront and on top of things, and handled things in a very professional manner.

“He was a family-oriented gentleman who cared about the players and coaches and teams,” says Foulks. “I liked him and thought he was a great guy. It will be a tremendous loss to the softball community.”

Rob Schlemmer, manager of recent USSSA “C” State champion EAP/Wessel/Real Estate Title/QCN/Tigerfitness.com/Longshots/Easton, says that he and his team were treated like “longtime customers even though it was our first experience at Pastime since it was our first year playing a lot of U-Trip.

“He would always either answer the phone or return your calls promptly,” adds Schlemmer.

“John ran his park a little differently,” observes Fred Trammel, manager of USSSA “C” team House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley’s. “They didn’t have some of the glitz and glamour of other parks. But he was very personable...always there to greet me and thank me for playing there. It was kind of a small town approach. We loved playing there because of that approach. He always shook my hand. I wish him the best of luck. Softball needs more guys like him, not less. I’m sure the new owners will be fine, but with John you knew he gave a crap when we showed up and that’s what we liked about him.”

Perhaps no better tribute can be paid to John than to remember his fidelity to his former park manager, Jim DelMonaco. DelMonaco worked at the park for twenty years before passing away in December, 2002, following a year-long battle with brain cancer. He had no family members to help him through the ordeal, and John and his family took care of Jim right up to the end as if he were their own son. I’ll never forget Jim’s cousin, a prominent newspaper publisher from Atlanta, commenting in a brief eulogy at the funeral service: “If you ever have a chance to work for someone like John Herbert, take it.”

For me, the love and care that John and his family showed Jim DelMonaco defined his tenure at the park. I can’t imagine what Jim’s ordeal would have been like without the Herbert family. The Herberts also memorialized their friend Jim by dedicating a field to him at the park in a ceremony attended by hundreds of DelMonaco’s friends in the fall of 2003, and Jim’s memory is kept alive each year in a memorial tournament held at the park.

The new ownership and management at Pastime Park also recognize how special the Herberts are, and recently held a ceremony at the park to dedicate a field to the family and present them with a plaque.

“We’re having a permanent plaque made to install on the backstop on field number two in recognition of their hard work and dedication to softball both at the park and in Greater Cincinnati,” says Steve Bruck, softball director at the park.

John and Diane Herbert and their family have been a great reflection on our softball community for the past nine seasons. Their legacy of hard work, and making patrons feel like they were part of their family was appreciated by the countless players and teams they served. They set a standard of customer service that every business would do well to emulate. They'll be missed, but never forgotten.

In My Opinion by Ron Jeffers

I don't know if you followed the baseball and softball competition in the most recent Olympic games, but I think it is a shame this was the last year they will be a part of the games. I was awake most of the day and night so I had the opportunity to watch many hours of varied Olympics games. My view was somewhat obstructed by the tubes of blood running down from my skull, and in front of my eyes, but the Olympic games were enjoyable and a pleasant diversion.

Ping pong, hula hoop gymnastics, badminton, ribbon tossing gymnastics, synchronized diving and many other sports that we never, ever hear about or see any other time than at the Olympics are still on the agenda, but baseball and softball have been removed as part of the games. Why would that be?

Both of these sports have only been a part of the Olympic games for a relatively few years, and I believe we have only won the baseball competition one time. Cuba beats us most often and Japan wins more often than do we, and this is because the summer Olympic competition does not permit us to use any of our major league baseball players. Our team was made up of minor league players and one college player. This makes it most difficult for us to compete with Japan or Cuba in baseball, but it still does not explain why they removed it from future competition. I have to believe baseball draws more fans and brings in more dollars for the Olympics than does ping pong or synchronized diving.

I personally like ping pong and badminton, and find them entertaining and interesting. But for the Olympic committee to honestly believe these are better sports to continue over baseball and softball I have to question.

I can even understand the Olympic committee doing away with softball before baseball even though I hate to see this happen.. The United States has won almost every softball game that was ever played in the Olympics, and has won every gold medal until this year when Japan shocked the Olympic world and beat the United States out for the gold.

The Amateur Softball Association has poured millions of dollars into getting softball in the Olympics and trying to keep it there may have shot themselves in the foot by providing some European Olympic delegates with free airline tickets and expenses to attend the games in China this year. Delegates of countries that did not receive these freebies from the ASA, I am sure, were not very happy with not getting the same, and probably felt snubbed. Was this trying to buy votes to get softball back in the Olympics in the future? If so, I think it backfired and was a very poor act of judgment.

Fast pitch softball has become a very good sport for women, and it makes a great sister sport for baseball in the Olympics. I only wish the United States delegation to the Olympics and the ASA committee representatives could have acted in a more professional manner in some matters that made us look like the Ugly Americans. I sincerely believe our less than ethical and professional behaviors and actions caused the voting members of the Olympics to vote our great fast pitch team of ladies out of future Olympic competition, and that is a shame.

Many youth fast pitch girls had a dream of someday playing high school, college and then Olympic softball, but that dream is now gone. Fast pitch softball was a great Olympic sport, and the teams in other countries were getting better and more competitive every year. It truly is a shame our young ladies will not have this opportunity in their future.

Well, once again this is my opinion. What is yours?

What's Your Gripe? by Ron Jeffers

Q. In the Mixed Couples State Tournament last month, we had this play happen. The bases were loaded with one out. The batter hit the ball to the second baseman, who threw the ball to third base to force the runner out advancing from second. The runner on third safely returned to third after the force out. The runner on first stopped between first and second. The umpire inadvertently called time because he thought the runner on first had advanced to second. Once time is called, where do you put the runner who was in between first and second?

A. The ASA rule book added a rule to the back of their book, several years ago, which they titled a “correctable error.” This rule was to cover any situation where the umpires messed up in some way, and the only way to rectify it was with this rule. The play you give me is a perfect example of why they needed this rule. The “correctable error” rule was added to cover umpire incompetence. The umpire should never have called “time” until all play was completed, and in your play it obviously was not complete. The umpire screwed this whole play up, and to make it right, all he can do is say “I called time too soon, and I must put the runner that was between first and second on second base.”

I thought this “correctable error” rule was unnecessary and very amateur when it was introduced and placed in the rule book, but now I can see where it is needed to cover the rear ends of umpires who do not have the work ethic or skills of a good umpire.

This messed up situation is evidence of why the only umpire to call “time” should be the umpire at home plate. He or she has the entire field in front of them, and remember: players request “time” to be called, but only the umpire can grant “time.”

Q. Ron, in one of our summer session league games, we had a discrepancy over the other team’s batting of order. They were the home team, so their book was official. At one point in the game, we thought they batted out of order, and protested to the umpire. The line-up card verified our concern. However, their scorebook was different from the line-up card, and consistent with their batting order, so the umpire ruled that the batting order in their book was correct and let the matter stand.

Why do we give a line-up card to the umpire if it is not the official line-up?

A. In situations where the plate umpire is too lazy and or too cheap to provide and maintain line-up cards for the two teams you would have to have someone else keep score and assume the responsibilities of the umpires.

Any and all changes must be reported to the plate umpire. Why would the rules state the substitute coming into the game must be reported to the plate umpire? It does not say to the opposing team’s scorekeeper nor does it say to any umpire. The rule book says the starting line-up and all changes to both teams’ line-ups must be reported to the plate umpire. To not report a change or substitution to the plate umpire is a violation to the rules in softball. In the professional baseball rules it is a little different. The rule book for their game still requires the starting line-ups of both teams be written on lineup cards and provided to the plate umpire prior to the start of the game, and after he receives these cards any change to them would be a substitute. The professional baseball rules state that any player that takes his position in the batters’ box, on the bases or in the field is a legal substitute. All their players do report to the plate umpire, but they do have that loophole just in case one of them goes brain dead and doesn’t tell the plate umpire he is replacing someone. Remember, though, softball does not have this loophole any more. The rule in softball was changed years ago, and they do require all substitutes go through the plate umpire. To not do so in softball is a rule violation and an illegal substitution.

The plate umpire is the keeper of the official line-up, and I reiterate that any umpire who does not provide and maintain line-up cards is cheap, lazy, not professional or a quality official.

Q. Why do we give a line-up card to the umpire if it not the official line-up?

A. As I tried to explain in the previous question, the official line up is kept by the home plate umpire, and any and all legal substitutes must be reported to that person.

You state in your explanation that the plate umpire did have a line-up card so why in God's name did he not keep it accurate and current? If he had a line-up card for both teams, the only reason to call the home team score book the official score book is for purposes of keeping the correct score of the game. Keeping a scorebook also helps keep the line up of both teams correct, and it lets you know when some one is batting out of order so you can report it to the plate umpire to make an appeal play for batting out of order, or not reporting a substitute to the plate umpire.

Why is the plate umpire providing and collecting a line-up card from each team if he or she is not going to keep it updated and accurate? There is a whole lot more to being a competent umpire than calling balls and strikes and outs and safes.

Every umpire does not have to want to be excellent in their craft, but they should at least want and strive to be competent. Keeping line-up cards updated and accurate should be a basic for any umpire who wants to be paid for officiating a game of baseball or softball.

Q. In a recent game of the Reds, they had the bases loaded with one out when the batter hit a ground ball to the first baseman. He touched first base, and then threw the ball to second base where they tagged the runner sliding into second for the third out. Patterson was jogging in from third base, and did not reach home before the tag was administered at second base. Is this the right ruling on this play?

A. Patterson is probably the fastest runner on the Reds, but he is far from being their best base runner. Any base runner who is not lazy could have easily have scored on that play. When you do not have a force out for the third out of the inning, and you have a tag play which results in the third out of an inning, this is the rule: "If the runner touches home plate before the tag is administered for the third out of that inning the run scores".

When a player's actions are this lazy or stupid, he should be removed from the game to let him know this type of lack of desire or hustle cannot and will not be tolerated, but Dusty Baker has tolerated this type of play the entire year.

The Reds, as a team, are horrible base runners, lazy and the world's worst at the basic skills of the game. They can't or won't do the simple things like bunting. They are no better today than they were on opening day, and they say they want to play small ball. If Billy Martin were managing this team he would pull them from the line-up when they pull stunts like Patterson did. He did it to Reggie Jackson in the middle of an inning so I know he would not tolerate the play we have seen from many of the Reds players.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS - This is not a question, but a heartfelt thanks to the many friends who prayed for me while I fought to stay alive this month. The neurosurgeons told my wife they did not believe I would live as they operated on my brain for six hours. They drilled seven holes in my skull to remove the blood that encompassed my brain just so they could do the rest of their work. I do not claim to begin to understand the marvelous work of the team of doctors that worked to save my life. I just know without a lot of wonderful people praying for me I would not be here today, and I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart. Never, ever doubt the wonderful power of prayer.

Greater Cincinnati Softball Giant Jim Wessel, 1958-2008

Greater Cincinnati softball lost a towering figure with the passing of Wessel Sports founder James H. "Jim" Wessel on Thursday, September 4th.

Wessel was best known nationally for managing men's "AA" and "Major" teams from 1996 until 2003, then again in 2006 and 2007, and locally as the founder of Wessel Sports, which owned or operated five

area softball complexes in 2003. Currently Wessel Sports owns Eggleston Park in Colerain Township and Riverstar Park in Cincinnati.

Wessel began playing competitive softball with area "D" teams around 1980, but within a few years became sponsor and manager of a successful men's "A" team. In the early nineties, Wessel and his wife, Kelly, also an avid softball player, started a mixed couples softball team that gained national prominence.

In the mid-nineties, Wessel joined forces with Jeff Hague of Hague Water Conditioning in Columbus. Under the Hague/Ohio Transport/Wessel/TPS banner, their team captured an ISA "AA" World title in 1996, and several USSSA "AA-A" National Invitational Tournament crowns in '96 and '97.

The following year Wessel/Hague/TPS was the number one ranked "AA" team in the country and won the USSSA "AA" World Tournament. Wessel was named USSSA "AA" manager of the year.

Wessel's success earned him a job managing his first men's "Major" team, Dan Smith/Wessel/Backman/Worth, in 1999. The team racked up six "Major" NIT championships and finished second in the ISA and USSSA Major World Tournaments and NSA Super World.

The 2000 season proved to be Wessel's most celebrated at the "major" level. His Dan Smith/Backman/Menosse/Worth team romped to nine Men's "Major" NIT titles, and captured both the ISA and USSSA Men's Major World Tournaments. The team was a consensus national champion, and Wessel was named to the USSSA Men's Major All-World team, and selected Softball Magazine's "Manager of the Year."

Wessel returned to manage Hague/Resmondo/TPS in 2001, when his team finished second in all four of the associations' "Major" World Series.

Once again his success with the Hague team put him back at the helm of Dan Smith/Backman/Menosse/Easton. Over the next two seasons, his teams collected thirteen "Major" NIT championships, including a Smokey Mountain Classic title in 2002, and back-to-back Dudley Classic crowns. They won the ISA World in 2002 and WSL Super World in 2003.

Wessel was named to the USSSA "Major" All-World team three consecutive years from 2000-2002. His teams were ranked first or second in the country every year from 1999 through 2004.

In 1999, Wessel, his wife Kelly, and friend John Zinn became interested in purchasing a softball complex, and the next year completed the purchase of Eggleston Park. At the end of the 2002 season, Wessel and his wife bought out Zinn and became sole owners, and founded Wessel Sports.

In the fall of 2003, Wessel Sports purchased fifty percent interest in Riverstar Park and dramatic improvements were made to the facility. The concession area was converted to a sports bar, a pavilion was added along with new fencing, and a new lighting system was installed along with other improvements.

The marquis events at the parks include the "Bash for Cash," USSSA "City Slam," U. A. National Tournament, USSSA Major NIT, Cincinnati Metro Tournament, and several NIT's. The USSSA Major NIT was the largest ever held last July with 62 teams.

David Maury, who has managed Eggleston Park since 2000, called Wessel a "good boss and a great friend.

"Jim was passionate about his parks and the game of softball that he loved so much," Maury told the Softball News. "His only goal was to make the game better for the players and the fans. He was a man who was truly loved and respected by everyone associated with the game. The city of Cincinnati and the game of softball have truly lost a great ambassador for the game. He'll be deeply missed."

Bill Chard, who has managed Riverstar Park for the last five years, said that working for Wessel "was an absolute pleasure.

“Although he was my boss and co-worker, he was also a friend. He took the time to really get to know each individual employee on a personal level. He had a great passion for softball, he was a great man, and he will be truly missed.”

Hank Bassett of Monticello, Ky., a slow pitch promotion and marketing consultant with the Hillerich & Bradsby Company that helped sponsor Wessel’s men’s “Major” teams from 1996 through 1998 and again in 2001, said that as a manager and a coach, “Jim brought one of the most analytical minds to the game that I’ve ever dealt with.

“He loved the game, and was a true student of it and the players and teams who played in it,” remarked Bassett, who is a member of the ASA, NSA and USSSA Halls of Fame. “More so than most coaches, his methods were based on his devotion to statistics and the conclusions he drew from them.

“Whether coaching, running a tournament or a complex, Jim not only had new and different ideas, he was willing to put them into use when most would have shied away from doing so,” added Bassett. “He was very intelligent, open-minded towards new ideas, outspoken and most of the time quite refreshing in his outlook towards the game.”

Bassett also noted that Wessel was “one of those guys who always greeted me with a smile and whose company I always enjoyed.”

Wessel is survived by his wife, Kelly, sons Christopher and Matthew and daughter Malorie, parents James and Patricia, and sisters Sheri (Jay) Weingartner and Dee (Ray) Hamilton.

July 28-August 3

Tonges Double Lifts Arsenal Past Dixon/Putter’s In Mid-Summer Gold Division At Expressway

Milford, Oh.--Jeff Tonges’ two-run double broke a 7-7 tie and lifted Arsenal to an eventual 10-7 victory over Dixon Softball/Putter’s in the championship game of the Gold Division of the 8th Annual Wayne Rust Memorial-Mid-Summer Park Championship July 28-August 3 at Expressway Park.

The victory over Dixon/Putter’s completed a five-game sweep for Arsenal, who ambushed a field consisting of several of the top USSSA “E” teams in the area.

The champions capitalized on late scoring, pitching and defense. Arsenal scored the eventual winning runs in the 5th inning in one of their games, and in the 6th in two others. Meanwhile pitcher Randy Bucker limited all five of his club’s victims to single digit scoring.

“Everybody hit as a team,” pointed out Arsenal manager Scott Nathan. “We hit consistently and didn’t have a home run the whole weekend. And Randy Bucker was pitching really good for us and kept everybody off-balance.”

Andy Burch and Mike Delfavero were arsenal’s defensive standouts, said Nathan. Both played through injuries.

“Andy played well at short. He fielded everything within his reach and played real well despite a bad hamstring,” said Nathan. “And Mike Delfavero played a good tournament in the outfield. He jammed his wrist on Saturday, but played through his injury in either centerfield or left-centerfield, depending on what we played.”

Delfavero also paced the offense along with Randy Bucker, said Nathan.

“Mike was clutch every game but one, and Randy was hitting well - especially when we got close to the finals,” noted Nathan. “Also Shane Beverly hit well the last couple of games.”

Arsenal pushed across a run in the top of the 6th and another in the 7th to trim eventual finalist Dixon Softball/Putter's 11-9 in a key opening round game. Mike Delfavero's rbi single broke a 9-9 tie in the top of the 6th and put his club ahead for good. An rbi single by Andy Nathan gave Arsenal an insurance run in the 7th. Delfavero, Nathan and Jeff Tonges combined for nine hits for the winners.

After trading three runs with Coaches Crew in the 1st inning of game two, Arsenal's Andy Nathan doubled home a run to put his team on top to stay at 4-3. The lead swelled to 7-3 with the help of a Scott Nathan two-run double in the 3rd. Randy Bucker added a two-run double to close out the scoring at 10-3 in the 6th. Bucker, who held Coaches Crew scoreless over the final six innings, banged out four hits along with Andy Nathan.

A six-run 4th carried Arsenal past Goof Troop 12-5 in game three. Shane Beverly's rbi single put his club into the lead at 4-3. Mike Delfavero added a two-run single to cap off the scoring at 8-3. The winners tacked on three runs in the top of the 6th to seal the win. Shane Beverly and Delfavero shared six hits to fuel the offense.

Arsenal scored nine of their twelve runs in the last three innings to dispose of Titan Health Care 12-6 in the winners' bracket finals. A two-run double by Jimmy Burch erased a 6-5 deficit. Arsenal added three in the 6th to go up by four, then Scott Nathan's two-run single closed out the scoring in the 7th. Randy Bucher held Titan scoreless over the final three frames to preserve the win. Brandon Hickey collected four hits, and Jimmy Burch went 3-for-4.

The championship game was a re-match with Dixon/Putter's, which had battled all the way through the losers' bracket in an attempt to avenge their first round setback against Arsenal. Dixon held a slim 6-5 advantage after four, but in the top of the 5th, Arsenal pushed across two runs to take a brief 7-6 advantage. Dixon knotted the score in the bottom of the inning, but Jeff Tonges doubled in a pair of runs in the top of the 6th, then scored on Mike Jimmerson's rbi single to close out the scoring at 10-7.

Brandon Hickey pounded out five hits, Shane Beverly and Randy Bucker combined for eight, and Mike Delfavero chipped in three to lead the champions.

Arsenal manager Scott Nathan said his team wasn't surprised to defeat Dixon, Goof Troop and Titan, despite the fact that all three were qualified for the USSSA "E" World tournament.

"We just can't get everybody together to play more tournaments," explained Nathan. "But we play well against those teams when everybody is there."

EXPRESSWAY PARK 7TH ANNUAL MID-SUMMER CLASSIC GOLD DIVISION FINAL STANDINGS

1.	Arsenal	5	0
2.	Dixon Trucking/Putter's	5	2
3.	Titan Healthcare	3	2
4.	Wild Turkey	2	2
5.	Coaches Crew	2	2
	Goof Troop	2	2
7.	Jacob's Mechanical	1	2
	Wicked Wayz	1	2
9.	Green Bean Casserole	1	2
	Airtight Plumbing	0	2
	DOA	0	2
	OC Softball	0	2

3M Precision Mercies Mid-Summer Bronze Division Field At Expressway

Milford, Oh.--3M Precision mercy-ruled three of five opponents, including The Game 21-11 in the finals, en route to a first place finish in the Bronze Division of the 8th Annual Wayne Rust Memorial-Mid-Summer Park Championship July 28-August 3 at Expressway Park.

3M struggled twice against the sixteen-team field, narrowly escaping Brew Crew 6-5 in the third round, then rallying past Xabula 14-10 in the winners' bracket finals. But the champions proved overpowering in their other three games, mercy-ruling Fugitives 15-5 in five and Miller Time 17-1 in four in the first two rounds, then romping past The Game in the finals.

A formidable offensive line-up that boasted six plus-.600 performances and scored fourteen or more runs in four of five games, and the pitching of Rob Calabreze carried the champions to the title according to 3M manager Paul Kimball.

"Clutch hitting and hitting no home runs were the keys," said Kimball. "Not one person went for the fences. Everyone hit a lot of singles and doubles, and Jamie Herzner hit at least three triples over the weekend. And Rob Calabreze batted well and pitched well."

Calabreze turned in a team high .705 for the tournament. Steve Jostworth and Kimball followed at .667, Jamie Herzner batted .635, Zach Schenz and Fred Tilley hit .611, Jason Moeller .563, Jeff Johnson .556 and Brandon Bowling .533. Brett Denison was 6-for-7 (.857) and Tim Wiley 6-for-8 (.750) in limited plate appearances.

"We hit very well, but it was Rob's pitching that won the tournament for us," stressed Kimball. "There were a couple of big plays at 1st base that he was on his horse getting to and making the plays. Also, when he bats he places the ball on the right side and that's unexpected since he's a right-hander. He has hidden power."

Defensively, shortstop Brandon Bowling and outfielders Kimball, Tim Wile and Brett Denison shined for 3m, said Kimball.

"There were very few errors. Brandon played outstanding at short the whole tournament. I didn't miss any balls in left-center, Tim Wiley did very well in left and didn't make any errors, and Brett Denison made several good catches in right," said Kimball.

The Fugitives jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the top of the 1st in game one, but pitcher Rob Calabreze shut them down over the next four innings while his club scored fifteen unanswered runs. 3M knotted the score in the bottom of the 1st on a Paul Kimball two-run single, then took a 9-5 advantage in the 2nd with the help of a two-run single by Zach Schenz. 3M then pulled away with lone runs in the 3rd and 4th and four in the 5th to invoke the mercy rule.

Calabreze, Jamie Herzner, Brett Denison and Kimball combined for a dozen hits to pace the winners.

3M blew open a 3-0 contest with Miller Time with twelve runs in the bottom of the 2nd in game two. All eleven playes in the line-up scored, including Rob Calabreze and Steve Jostworth, who each dented the plate twice. Fred Tilley, Jason Moeller and Brandon Bowling each contributed a two-run single in the inning. Miller Time never recovered, falling 17-1 in four.

Calabreze, Jostworth, Brad Denison, Jeff Johnson and Paul Kimball were all perfect in three at bats.

3M had a brush with the losers' bracket in game three, where they trailed Brew Crew 5-4 after four and a half innings. But in the bottom of the 5th Jason Moeller capped a two-run rally with an rbi single to put his club ahead to stay. Rob Calabreze held Brew Crew scoreless over the final three innings to preserve the win.

Calabreze, Steve Jostworth, Zach Schenz and Paul Kimball shared eight hits to pace the offense.

Xabula also threw a scare into 3M in the winners' bracket finals, as they held a 10-9 lead after four and a half. But 3M took the lead for good with two runs in the bottom of the 5th, then closed out the scoring with three in the 6th. Rob Calabreze's rbi single broke a 10-10 tie in the 5th. Jamie Herzner delivered a big two-run triple in the 6th, then scored on a Fred Tilley sac fly.

Herzner, Zach Schenz, Tiley and Tim Wiley each went 3-for-4 to fuel the offense.

3M was forced to rally from behind for the fourth time in five games in the finals. Trailing 10-1 at the midway point, 3M exploded for eleven runs in the bottom of the 4th to grab a 12-10 advantage. Jamie Herzner and Jason Moeller each contributed a big two-run double to spark the rally. Tim Wiley's rbi single put his club on top at 11-10. Then in the 5th, 3M erupted for ten more runs to seal an eventual 21-11 win in six. Steve Jostworth and Fred Tilley each had rbi doubles, and a two-run single by Brandon Bowling capped off the inning.

Rob Calabreze pounded out four hits to lead the champions. Jostworth, Jamie Herzner, Zach Schenz, Tilley, Steve Wiley, Jeff Johnson and Moeller combined for twenty-one hits.

"We had to come from behind almost every single game and score runs late," remarked 3M's Paul Kimball. "It was amazing. In the finals we were down five runs and came back to run-rule The Game. They scored nine runs in the first two innings, and we thought we were going to have to play those guys again."

Kimball said that a crucial catch in game three against the Brew Crew might have been the pivotal play of the tournament.

"I collided with Fred Tilley in the outfield because I didn't hear him, but he caught the ball and went to the ground. He was just lying there, so I took the ball out of his glove and threw it back to the infield and we got the runner from 2nd who didn't tag up for the 3rd out. So we got a double play and that kept them from getting a 6th run," said Kimball.

EXPRESSWAY PARK 7TH ANNUAL MID-SUMMER CLASSIC BRONZE DIVISION FINAL STANDINGS

1.	3 M Precision	5 0
2.	The Game	5 2
3.	Xabula	3 2
4.	Timber Tech	4 2
5.	Neyra	3 2
	Brew Crew	2 2
7.	Miller Time	2 2
	Team Hold'em	2 2
9.	Bankers	1 2
	I'd Hit It	1 2
	Jag	1 2
	Team Ramrod	1 2
13.	Bad Seed	0 2
	Fugitives	0 2
	High & Outside	0 2
	Nothing Across	0 2

Team Lighting, Big Art's Overpower Kolping Round Robin Divisions

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - Team Lightning outscored three opponents by a 50-13 margin, while Big Art's scored 67 runs while holding their victims to 16, to sweep their respective divisions in an eight team, two division Saturday night round robin August 2nd at Kolping Park.

Team Lightning routed D-Generates (0-3) 14-3, then blanked Team VIP (1-2) 16-0 before polishing off Bays & Sons (2-1) 20-10 in the deciding division one contest.

While in division two, Big Art's steamrolled NA2 Bar (1-2) 35-10, Unknowns (1-2) 17-2 and Louisville Chuggers (1-2) 15-4.

Borgman Construction Outslugs Rounding 3rd 26-14 For Kolping Title

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - Borgman Construction outslugged Rounding 3rd 26-14 in the deciding game to capture first place in a six team Sunday morning round robin August 3rd at Kolping Park.

Borgman spanked Fusion (1-2) 17-5 in their opener, then held off Campbell Towing (1-2) in game two before shelling Rounding 3rd (2-1) in their finale.

August 9-10...

Secret Service Awarded Kolping Round Robin Title

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - Secret Service went 3-1 en route to a first place finish in a five team Saturday morning round robin at Kolping Park.

Secret Service mowed down Bay's & Sons (1-3) 15-8 and Cueto's (3-1) 13-2, then fell to Attex Fire Service 7-4 (3-1) before rallying to shut out Generations (0-3) 7-0.

Secret Service finished tied with Attex and Cueto's with a 3-1 record, but was awarded first place based on tournament tie-breaking rules.

Down & Dirty, Brown's Body Shop Sweep Kolping Divisions

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - Down & Dirty and Brown's Body Shop each swept past three opponents en route to a first place finish in their respective division in an eight team, two division Saturday night round robin August 9th at Kolping Park.

Both teams survived a close call in a second round game to remain undefeated.

Down & Dirty spanked 513 Boys (1-2) 19-9 in their opener, then squeezed past Formica (0-3) 6-5 before polishing off the Cardinals (2-1) 16-9 in the championship game of division one.

While in division two, Brown's routed the Un-knowns (1-1) 16-4, then outslugged Boot Hill (17-15) before romping past Base Blasters (0-3) in their finale.

SFP Ballers, Stupids Romp Past Kolping Park Divisions

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - SFP Ballers outscored three opponents by a combined 53-15 margin, while Stupids scored 49 runs while holding their victims to 21 to claim their respective division titles in an eight team, two division Sunday morning round robin August 10th at Kolping Park.

SFP Ballers blanked Boot Hill (1-2) 18-0, then routed Phil's Team (0-3) 16-5 before polishing off Borgman Construction (2-1) in the deciding game in division one.

While in division two, Stupids mowed down Chad's Boys (1-2) 19-9, Renegades HMI (0-3) and Campbell Towing (2-1) in the championship game.

August 16-17...

Champions Roll To 5th U-Trip Title...

EAP/Easton Mercy-Rules Elk & Elk/Combat 30-17 In Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA “C” State Finals At Kettering

Dayton, Oh.--EAP/Wessel/Real Estate Title/QCN/Tigerfitness.com/Longshots/Easton held off Elk & Elk/Combat 30-17 in the second championship game to capture first place in the Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA Men’s Class “C” State Tournament August 16-17 at Kettering Fields.

Elk & Elk/Combat had forced an “if” game by spanking EAP/Easton 21-11 in the first finals.

But EAP/Easton never trailed in the second finals, jumping out to a 9-0 lead in the top of the 1st, then pulling away with four runs in the 4th and 5th and eight in the 6th to post a 5-1 record.

The championship was EAP/Easton’s fifth in thirteen 2008 U-Trip tournaments.

Aside from the finals, EAP only blew one other opponent away. That came in a third round 20-10, five-inning rout of Cooper Auto/Tanel 360. Their other three wins were by a combined eleven runs. The eventual champions barely survived the first round, needing eleven runs in the bottom of the 6th to escape with a 16-13 victory over BCP/ASC/Big Sonny’s.

Solid outfield play and the offensive leadership of Chris Young and Gary Hammerle carried EAP to the title, said manager Rob Schlemmer.

“All three of our outfielders were named to the All-Tournament team,” noted Schlemmer. “That says a lot right there. Not only were they hitting well, they played great defense all day. They carried us throughout the tournament.

EAP’s outfield included Chris Young (.778) in left field, Gary Hammerle (.762) in center, and Craig Harden (.609) in right.

Rob Andres (.652) and Chad Vordemesche were also named to the All-State team.

Hammerle was selected MVP.

“Besides playing great defense in center-field, he was second in hitting, and he turned a couple singles into doubles and doubles into triples.”

Chad Vordemesche played a key role as a relief pitcher for EAP, said Schlemmer.

“(Starting pitcher) Shane Spicer got ejected in the second game and ‘Vordo’ came in and kept us in the game. He also pitched the last two innings of the championship game when Shane pulled his hamstring and kept Elk & Elk in check,” said Schlemmer.

Greg Bennett also stepped off the bench for a big day, said Schlemmer.

“He had the third highest average on the team. He usually subs for us and he came in and hit .667 for the day.”

Ryan Richmond and Steve Schon anchored the infield, said Schlemmer.

“Ryan played a solid short as usual and Steve did a good job in the middle and turned a few double plays.”

EAP/Easton overcame a 13-5 deficit, rallying for eleven runs in the bottom of the 6th to pull out a 16-13 victory over BCP in their opener. Steve Schon ignited the comeback with a bases-clearing double to cut the deficit to 13-8. EAP finally took a 14-13 lead on a Ryan Richmond rbi 1b. Chris Young followed with a two-run triple to close out the scoring.

Schon, Rob Andres, Greg Bennett, Craig Harden and Gary Hammerly combined for ten hits to pace the offense.

Next EAP took an early 4-0 lead in the top of the 1st, then fended off a late Design Concepts charge to pull out a 10-8 victory. Greg Bennett's rbi single put the eventual winners on the board in the 1st. EAP added one in the 2nd, two in the 5th and three in the 6th to build a five-run lead at 10-5. Josh Baird's rbi triple highlighted the 5th. Chris Young delivered an rbi single to cap off the 6th. Design Concepts answered with three runs to close out the scoring at 10-8.

Bennett, Baird and Young each went 3-for-4 for the winners.

EAP used an eleven run 2nd to overcome a 3-2 deficit, then added four in the 3rd to seal an eventual 20-10, five-inning pasting of Cooper Auto in game three. Craig Harden cracked a three-run home run to break a 3-3 tie in the 2nd. Steve Schon added a two-run shot to make it 13-3 and cap off the inning. Rob Andres' two-run double was the big blow in the four run 3rd.

Schon collected four hits, and Harden and Andres chipped in three apiece.

That lifted EAP into the winners' bracket finals, where they outscored Elk & Elk 11-1 over the final three innings to pull out a 24-18 victory. Trailing 17-13 after four, EAP scored two in the 5th, four in the 6th and five in the 7th to wrench the lead away from Elk & Elk and take a 24-17 advantage. Gary Hammerle's two-run double put his club ahead to stay at 18-16 in the 6th. Rob Andres' rbi triple highlighted the 7th.

Andres and Chris Young banged out five hits each, and Ryan Richmond added four in the win.

Elk & Elk bounced back to outslug Cooper Auto 25-24 in the losers' bracket finals, then slapped a 21-11 setback on EAP to send the tournament to its limit. But the Wickliffe team ran out of steam against the relentless scoring of EAP. The Cincinnati team scored in every inning, finally breaking open a 14-12 contest with four in the 4th, four in the 5th and eight in the 6th to invoke the mercy rule. Steve Schon provided the big hit in a nine-run 1st with a two-run double, then clubbed a three-run homer in the 2nd. Rob Andres went solo in the four-run 4th, and contributed a two-run double in the 6th as the lead swelled to 30-16.

Chris Young pounded out six hits, and Schon, Chad Vordemesche, Craig Harden and Gary Hammerle combined for sixteen.

EAP's Rob Schlemmer said it took his team "a little while to get going" in the first game.

"We were on the verge of being run-ruled and got a few runs to stay in the game, then came back and beat them. We had a little 'ASA hangover' from the city tournament and didn't know what to do with that two-three foot pitch. We only scored one run in four innings."

Schlemmer concluded by thanking team sponsor Bob Shad and several fans who made the trip to Dayton to support the team.

Big Innings, Defense Carry Champions To Title At Expressway Park...
Cousin Construction/Quality Sports Trips Up Trailblazers, 9-6, 8-7 In Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA Men's "D" State

Milford, Oh.--Cousin Construction/Quality Sports double-dipped Cincy Trailblazers 9-6 and 8-7 to capture first place in the Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA Men's Class "D" State Tournament August 16-17 at Expressway Park.

The champions rallied past four opponents in the losers' bracket to claim the title of the 26-team event after suffering a 17-7 spanking at the hands of Stingers II in a fourth round game.

The title netted the winners a berth to the USSSA Men's Class "D" World Tournament September 18-21 in Kissimmee, Fl., and \$250 travel expense.

"Defense and timely hitting from the bottom of our line-up" carried Cousin Construction/Quality Sports to the title, said manager Donald Butler.

"When the top of the order wasn't hitting, the bottom was," said Butler.

Cousin/Quality held six of their eight victims to single digit scoring behind the play of infielders Brian Salzl and A. J. Beach, and outfielders John Martin and Matt Fuchs.

"Bryan and A. J. made several plays to keep us in the game," said Butler. "Especially in the Team Typhoon game. Brian made a diving play at short and threw to 3rd and got the force out. If that ball goes through, the winning run scores in the bottom of the 7th. That kept us alive for the next inning and we scored seven in the 8th to win.

"A. J. Beach is one of the better infielders that I've seen," said Butler. "He's actually our 3rd baseman and we had to move him to middle infield because we lost our middle infielder with a broken hand in the Metro. He was making plays left and right. He made the big plays to get us out of innings.

"Also rightfielder John Martin and leftfielder Matt Fuchs each had two putouts at the plate," noted Butler.

Scott Adkins led Cousin/Quality at the plate with a .682 performance. Fuchs followed right behind at .679, and Martin batted .638. Adkins and Fuchs were joined on the All-State team by Mitch Hayes and Matt Cokl. Martin was named tournament MVP.

"He's our leadoff hitter and he's the one who gets everything going," said Butler of Martin. "He's always on base causing havoc and he's our vocal leader. He also played a great outfield without getting a break. He played all nine games in our three-man outfield and still continued to produce."

A pair of six-run innings helped propel Cousin/Quality past Outkast 19-8 in game one. A six-run 3rd enabled Cousin to overcome a 7-3 deficit and take a 9-7 lead. Brian Sears' rbi single broke a 7-7 tie. The winners put the game away with another six-run inning in the 6th to break open a 13-8 game and close out the scoring. Brian Salzl's two-run triple was the big hit of the inning.

Sears collected four hits in all to pace the offense. Matt Fuchs, Johnny Martin, Salzl, Mitch Hayes and Casey Connor combined for fifteen.

Next Cousin used a four-run 4th to break a 1-1 tie with Gary's Roofing and went on to post a 6-1 victory. Brian Sears drove in the go-ahead run. Matt Fuchs followed with a two-run double and scored on a Brian Maertz single to cap off the inning. Fuchs homered and went 2-for-3 along with John Martin and Mitchell Hayes.

Cousin needed extra innings to outlast Team Typhoon 12-6 in game three. Cousin erupted for seven runs in the top of the 8th to seal the win. Matt Fuchs, whose two-run double highlighted the inning, banged out four hits. Brian Salzl and Scott Adkins chipped in with three hits each.

Stingers II derailed Cousin in game four, 17-7, but the Cincinnati club went on a rampage - scoring 58 runs over the next three games - to reach the finals.

First they disposed of American Tickets/BWW 22-10 on the strength of four-hit games from A. J. Beach, John Martin, Mitch Hayes and Mark Drexler. Hayes had a key two-run triple to put his club on top to stay at 9-8 as Cousin overcame an 8-7 deficit with an eight run 4th.

Next Cousin steamrolled Cincinnati Impact 25-11, using an eleven-run 4th to open up a sixteen-run lead at 17-1. Mark Drexler's slammer was the big blow in the inning. Impact never recovered. Donald Butler, Matt Fuchs, Scott Adkins and Kyle Gertz were all perfect in four trips to the plate.

Cousin used another eleven-run inning to brush aside Stingers II 16-2 in the losers' bracket finals and avenge their only loss. Mitch Hayes launched a three-run homer to put his club on the board as Cousin jumped out to an 11-0 lead in the top of the 1st and never looked back. Hayes, Brian Maertz, Kyle Gertz and John Martin shared a dozen hits.

Early scoring helped carry Cousin/Quality past Cincy Trailblazers 9-6 in the first finals as well. Cousin grabbed a 5-0 lead in the top of the 1st, tacked on two in the 2nd to take another five-run lead at 7-2, then added lone runs in the 4th and 6th to fend off a stubborn Trailblazers squad. Scott Adkins cracked a two-run homer to cap off the 1st. John Martin doubled in a run, then scored on Mitch Hayes' single to account for the two runs in the 2nd.

Martin, Brian Salzl, Mark Drexler, Matt Fuchs and Brian Maertz each contributed two hits for the winners.

The finalists battled to a 7-7 stalemate through six innings in the second finals before Matt Cokl singled with one out in the top of the 7th, the raced home with the eventual game winner on a Brian Salzl two-out triple. Pitcher Scott Adkins faced down the meat of the Trailblazers' order in the bottom of the 7th, holding the 'Blazers to a walk and a single to preserve the win.

Salzl went 3-for-4, and Adkins and Cokl added two hits each for the champions.

Big innings proved key to Cousin's title, observed manager Donald Butler.

"Especially if they came early," said Butler. "If we got up on them early, a lot of teams laid down and didn't seem to want to play anymore. So that was a big key to get up on teams early."

Butler said his club knew from experience that they were in for a fight with the Trailblazers.

"They play in a league with us at Expressway, and every time we play them we know it's going to be a tough game," said Butler. "They kept chipping away at us and you know they're never going to give up, which you can tell from the scores of the last two games."

BUD LIGHT-WORTH SPORTS-OHIO USSSA MEN'S CLASS "D" STATE TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS

1.	Cousin Const./Quality Sports, Cincinnati, OH	8 1
2.	Cincy Trailblazers, Cincinnati, OH	4 2
3.	Stingers II, Springfield, OH	4 2
4.	Cincinnati Impact, Cincinnati, OH	6 2
5.	American Tickets/BWW, Cincinnati, OH	4 2
	Team Emanon/Wessel/Pediatrics, Cinti., OH	2 2
7.	Team CI, Englewood, OH	4 2
	Schmoe's/W. Hill Window, QCA, Cinti., OH	3 2
9.	Backstabbers/Putter's Tavern, Cincinnati, OH	2 2
	John Sauber Productions, Cincinnati, OH	2 2
	Team Typhoon, Hillsboro, OH	2 2
	Extreme/Turner Property, Cincinnati, OH	1 2
13.	Fitzgerald Pharmacy/Brown's, Winchester, OH	2 2
	Playmakers/Wiliron/Lightningwear, WCH, OH	2 2
	Hitmen, Hillsboro, OH	1 2
	Outkast, Dayton, OH	1 2
17.	AFGM, Belbrook, OH	1 2
	Chris's Band Box, Dayton, OH	1 2

- Team Lite, Cincinnati, OH 1 2
- Gary's Roofing, Cincinnati, OH 0 2
- JAFT, Xenia, OH 0 2
- M & S Drywall, Cincinnati, OH 0 2
- Outkast, Cincinnati, OH 0 2
- Smokehouse Softball, Manchester, OH 0 2
- 25. Boot Hill, Jackson, OH 0 2
- Howard Agency State Farm, Mason, OH 0 2

BUD LIGHT-WORTH SPORTS-USSSA MEN'S CLASS "D" ALL-STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM

Fred Tippett	Cincinnati Impact
Dave Lamun	Stingers II
Shane Dixon	Stingers II
Tony Fiscus	Cincy Trailblazers
Nate Fite	Cincy Trailblazers
Ray Johnson	Cincy Trailblazers
Scott Adkins	Cousin Construction/Quality Sports
Matt Cokl	Cousin Construction/Quality Sports
Matt Fuchs	Cousin Construction/Quality Sports
Mitch Hayes	Cousin Construction/Quality Sports
Chris Dunn - C0-MVP	Cincy Trailblazers
John Martin - Co-MVP	Cousin Const./Quality Sports

Winners Outlast OC 6-1 In Second Finals...

Deaton Pitches Cobra Force To Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA "E" State Title At Pastime Park

Harrison, Oh.--Pitcher Donnie Deaton held his team's six victims to 33 runs to lead Cobra Force to a first place finish in the Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA Men's Class "E" State Tournament August 16-17 at Pastime Park.

Cobra Force outlasted O. C. Softball 6-1 in the second championship game to wrap up a 6-1 weekend and best a 50-team field.

O. C. had forced an "if" game by shutting out Cobra Force 8-0 in the first finals.

But Deaton took control in the second finals, limiting O. C. to a single run as Cobra Force bounced back to claim the title.

The victory netted Cobra Force a berth into the USSSA "E" World Tournament September 11-14 in Kissimmee, Fl.

Deaton led his team on both sides of the chalk en route to tournament MVP honors. In addition to holding six of his club's opponents to single digit scoring and tossed a 9-0 shutout over O. C. in a fourth round contest, he also turned in a team-high .571 average at the plate.

Other All-State selections for Cobra Force included Mike Morgan (.562), Cody Ryan (.550), Chris Stager (.545), Bert Leonard (.532) and Randall Ryan. Chris Hypes chipped in with a .545 weekend.

But it was Deaton, said Cobra Force manager Eric Blankenship, who led his team to the title.

"He held the other teams in check," said Blankenship. "He had the best run-differential (5.14) in the tournament, and I don't know how many times I heard the other teams say even when they got a hit, 'man he's good. I didn't even want to swing at that pitch.'

“He’s a veteran. Very experienced,” added Blankenship. “And he’s very humble.”

Staying “positive” and solid defense were also keys to winning the tournament, noted Blankenship.

“When we lost tournaments earlier this year, our attitude had gotten us in trouble,” remarked Blankenship. “But this weekend we told everybody to stay positive, and that’s what we did. We never got down on ourselves. It was fun. Everybody had a blast.”

Blankenship credited his team’s strong showing in the outfield to speed and communication.

“Our outfield is so fast. They tracked down everything,” said Blankenship. “They talked all weekend. They had plays at the fence and were talking the whole way. Steve Zweebel (rf) made some great catches down the right field line.”

Cobra’s other outfielders included Chris Hypes in left, Brent Leonard in left-center and Howie Ludwig in right-center.

“Overall, we played good ‘D,’” continued Blankenship. “We only had a handful of errors - if that - as a team. The infield all played great, plus Donnie with his pitching. Everybody fielded everything that came to them.”

In game one, Cobra Force used a six-run 3rd to overcome a 2-1 deficit and get on top of Cookies Market 7-2, then later put the game away with a seven run 7th in an eventual 17-11 victory. Howie Ludwig’s rbi single put his club ahead to stay at 3-2 in the 1st. Mike Morgan’s two-run single capped off the inning. Doubles by Chris Stager, Ray Stuchell and Howie Ludwig highlighted the 7th. Cookies answered with five in the bottom of the inning to make the final score respectable.

Cody Ryan paced the offense with four hits. Ludwig, Randall Ryan and Sam Bowman chipped in three each.

Next Cobra Force pushed across two runs in the 4th to break a 6-6 tie, then added a run in the 6th to help secure a 9-6 victory over Dawg Pound. Mike Morgan had a big two-run, two-out single to put his team on top 8-6 in the 4th. Chris Hypes rbi single closed out the scoring in the 6th. Hypes collected four hits altogether. Brent Leonard added three.

A six-run 5th followed by a five-run 6th broke open a 4-4 contest and gave Cobra Force a 15-5, six-inning mercy-rule win over Diamond Foolz in game three. Ray Stuchell’s rbi single put his team on top for good at 5-4 in the 5th. Sam Bowman contributed a two-run double to cap off the inning. Back-to-back triples by Chris Stager and Stuchell were the big blows in the 6th. Cody Ryan’s sac fly invoked the run-rule. Stuchell, Donnie Deaton and Randy Ryan shared nine hits for the winners.

It was all Donnie Deaton in game four, as the eventual MVP blanked O. C. Softball 9-0 and banged out three hits. Cobra Forced jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the 1st on the strength of a two-run double by Howie Ludwig and never looked back. Randall Ryan added a two-run double in a four-run 3rd as the lead doubled to 8-0.

Cobra Force erupted for two runs in the 1st and six in the 2nd to forge an 8-0 lead over D & D/Dirty Dozen in the winners’ bracket finals and coasted to a 14-5 victory. Ray Stuchell, whose rbi single put his club on the board in the 1st, also added a big two-run single in the 2nd. The lead swelled to 14-2 before D & D put up three in the bottom of the 7th.

Chris Hypes, Brent Leonard and Ray Stuchell combined for nine hits.

Meanwhile O. C. was sending teams packing in the losers’ bracket. The Cincinnati club erased B. A. M. F. 10-9, Red Horse Saloon 18-7, and Dirty Dozen 7-5 to earn a re-match with Cobra Force in the finals.

There their momentum continued, as they avenged their shutout loss with an 8-0 whitewash of Cobra Force to force an "if" game.

But O. C.'s trek through the losers' bracket appeared to take its toll in the finals, as their offense mustered only one run against Donnie Deaton. Cobra Force drew first blood on a Ray Stuchell sac fly in the bottom of the 1st. A two-run inside-the-park home run by Sam Bowman and a Brent Leonard sac fly made it 4-0 in the 2nd. Chris Hypes had an rbi single and Chris Stager a sac fly to close out the scoring at 6-1 in the 5th as Donnie Deaton shut down O. C. over the final two innings to preserve the win.

Stager, Deaton, Leonard and Steve Zweebel each had two hits to lead the champions.

A second round victory over arch-rival Dawg Pack and a big triple play against Dirty Dozen in the winners' bracket finals proved pivotal for Cobra Force, said manager Eric Blankenship.

"They're our nemesis because we see them in leagues," observed Blankenship of Dawg Pack. "We know them well. We beat them in the Legends tournament at Kettering, and they beat us in Fairborn and in league play. We're pretty much even. If we had lost to them, hopefully we would have come back through the losers' bracket but then they would have been sitting like we were. They're finish did not represent how good they are."

Blankenship said that a triple play in the bottom of the 2nd against D & D kept them from getting back into the game after Cobra Force had taken an 8-0 lead.

"They hit a ground ball to 2nd and Ray Stuchell faked like he was tagging the runner coming from 1st to make the guy stop, then threw to Mike Morgan at 1st for one out," recalled Blankenship. "Mike then threw to shortstop Randall Ryan, who tagged the runner out sliding into 2nd. Then the runner who was on 2nd when the play started rounded home, and Randall threw to Chris Stager at home who tagged him out. That was unbelievable and kept D & D from scoring."

WORTH-BUD LIGHT-OHIO USSSA MEN'S CLASS "E" STATE TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS

1.	Cobra Force, Piqua, OH	6 1
2.	O. C. Softball, Cincinnati, OH	8 2
3.	D & D Dirty Dozen, Cincinnati, OH	6 2
4.	Red Horse Saloon, Cincinnati, OH	5 2
5.	B. A. M. F., Fairfield, OH	5 2
	Down-N-Dirty, Middletown, OH	5 2
7.	Fat Daddies, Waverly, OH	5 2
	Diamond Foolz, Cincinnati, OH	3 2
9.	Bill's Open Door, Trenton, OH	4 2
	Hack Shack/Dagwood Deli/HPS, Dayton, OH	3 2
	Dixon Softball/Putter's Tavern, Blanchester, OH	2 2
	Off, Washington Court House, OH	2 2
13.	Assasins/Orioles, Cincinnati, OH	3 2
	Team Hangovers, Winchester, OH	3 2
	West End Motors/Aces, Sabina, OH	3 2
	Syndicate/Don Catchen & Sons, Cincinnati, OH	2 2
17.	Bizarre, Washington Court House, OH	3 2
	Titan H. C./Cornerstone/Express, Bethel, OH	3 2
	Dawg Pound, Sidney, OH	2 2
	Goof Troop, Milford, OH	2 2
	Muddchukers, Leesburg, OH	2 2
	Smokin' Guns, Winchester, OH	2 2
	U. A. W., Cincinnati, OH	2 2
	Thrown Together, Franklin, OH	1 2

25.	Maxed Out Explosion, Franklin, OH	2 2	
	Ryle Construction/Pro Drywall, Sunman, IN	2 2	
	Showtime, Dayton, OH	2 2	
	Diamond Freaks, Wilmington, OH	1 2	
	Fader, Cincinnati, OH	1 2	
	Liar's Club/Primerica, Cincinnati, OH	1 2	
	Receptions/American Trading, Cincinnati, OH		1 2
	Team Lightning, Cincinnati, OH	1 2	
33.	American Legion Post 746, Dayton, OH	1 2	
	Cardinals, Cincinnati, OH	1 2	
	Cookies Market, Carlisle, OH	1 2	
	Fusion, Cincinnati, OH	1 2	
	Lindenwald's Finest, Hamilton, OH		1 2
	Vipers, Greenfield, OH	1 2	
	Young Blood, Guilford, IN	1 2	
	Brew Crew, West Harrison, IN	0 2	
	Diamond Kings, Cincinnati, OH	0 2	
	Extra Innings, Amelia, OH	0 2	
	Godbey Law, Cincinnati, OH	0 2	
	Leesburg Eagles, Wilmington, OH	0 2	
	Old School, Mt. Orab, OH	0 2	
	Players, Franklin, OH	0 2	
	Rounding Third, Fairfield, Oh	0 2	
	Untouchables, Washington Court House, OH		0 2
49.	Triple X, Jeffersonville, OH	0 2	
	Withamsville Ch. of Christ, Withamsville, OH		0 2

**BUD LIGHT-WORTH SPORTS-USSSA MEN'S
CLASS "E" ALL-STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM**

Randy Bucker	Red Horse Saloon
Tank Steeken	Red Horse Saloon
Jimmy Setters	D & D/Dirty Dozen
Ronnie Loveless Jr.	D & D/Dirty Dozen
Adam Ausman	OC Softball
Dusty Bargo	OC Softball
Justin Rosh	OC Softball
Justin Sears	OC Softball
Ricky Spivey	OC Softball
Bert Leonard	Cobra Force
Mike Morgan	Cobra Force
Cody Ryan	Cobra Force
Randall Ryan	Cobra Force
Chris Stager	Cobra Force
OC Softball - ODP	OC Softball
Donnie Deaton - MVP	Cobra Force

Champions Fend Off Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza 12-11 In Finals...

Early Scoring, Team Speed Carry Softball Times/Worth/Tanel To Kentucky-USSSA "C" State Title At Northern Kentucky Sports Park

Taylor Mill, Ky. --It was feast or famine for Softballtimes/Worth/Tanel in the Kentucky USSSA Men's Class "C" State Tournament August 16th at Northern Kentucky Sports Park.

The Lexington team won their first two games via the mercy-rule, then won their last two by a single run.

Softball Times/Worth/Tanel held off a furious rally by Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza 12-11 in the championship game to pull out a 12-11 victory in an all-downstate finals. The champions had outlasted Dizzy Roosters 24-23 in eight innings in the winners' bracket finals.

Their other victories came in five innings over defending champion Sentry Fire/Red Eye Sports/LBYC 21-8 and JLC/Legends 16-3.

Scoring early and team speed were the keys to winning the tournament, said Softballtimes manager Raymond Moscoe.

"We built early, quick leads and used our team speed," said Moscoe. "We're typically the quickest, fastest team on the field every time we play, so that helps.

"Also, the fact that we had so many extra base hits. We had thirty doubles, ten triples and eight home runs."

Chad Mullins (.722) was named tournament MVP "because of his clutch hitting.

"Also he had to play defense over the the middle and he had been catching all year," pointed out Moscoe. "And he did a very good job of having to play defense for the first time this year."

All-State selections included Ernie Mobley (.882), Johnny Leep (.643), Kevin Rassman (.643) and Chad Hockensmith (.611).

"It was good to see Ernie come out of a semi-slump because he's batting clean-up behind the best hitter in the state in Chad Mullins," remarked Moscoe. "It was also good to see him use only one bat the entire weekend. He had hit only .500 the previous weekend."

Cory Alsop anchored the defense, said Moscoe.

"He's our shortstop and he stands out for us every weekend. He's been our defensive MVP all year long along with Kylie Vaughn. Kylie wasn't here this weekend so we put Kevin Rassman in centerfield. Kevin has been the best centerfielder I've had in fifteen years and now he's hitting it as well. His hitting is matching his defense. He did struggle for the first ten tournaments as far as his hitting."

Softballtimes built a sixteen-run lead in their first game, a twelve-run lead in games two and three, and an eight run advantage in the finals to force teams to play catch-up. Locals Sentry Fire and JLC weren't up to the challenge.

Softballtimes jumped out to a 17-1 lead against Sentry, scoring five in the 1st, three in the 2nd, two in the 3rd and seven in the 4th. John "Lumpy" Williams delivered the big blow in the 1st with a two-run triple. Ernie Mobley cracked a two-run homer and Danny Snodgrass added a two-run triple in the seven-run 4th.

Mobley collected four hits in all, and Williams contributed two doubles and a triple.

JLC drew first blood with a two-run homer in game two, then tacked on a third run in the top of the 2nd. But Softballtimes responded with sixteen unanswered runs over the next three innings to mercy-rule JLC 16-3. Softballtimes paraded thirteen hitters to the plate to score nine runs in the bottom of the 2nd. Back-to-back three-run blasts by Danny Snodgrass and Chad Mullins vaulted their club into the lead at 6-3. Corey Alsop doubled in two runs, then scored on a Toby Curtsinger double to cap off the inning. Softballtimes closed out the scoring with a six-run 3rd that featured a two-run Chad Hockensmith double.

Ernie Mobley ran his hitting streak to 7-for-7 with three hits. Mullins, Alsop, Curtsinger and Johnny Leep combined for a dozen hits.

That lifted Softballtimes into the winners' bracket finals, where they exploded to a 16-4 lead after two over Dizzy Roosters. But the Louisville team battled back to tie the score at 23-23 after seven to force extra innings. There Chad Mullins got on with a leadoff single, went to 3rd on Ernie Mobley's base hit, then scored the eventual winning run on Lump Williams' sac fly. Pitcher Johnny Leep held Dizzy Roosters to a lone single in the bottom of the 8th to preserve the win.

Williams, Mullins and Chad Hockensmith pounded out five hits each for the winners.

Softballtimes again bounded out to a big lead in the finals, plating three in the 1st and 2nd, one in the 3rd and five in the 4th to forge a 12-4 advantage. But their sticks went limp in the 5th and 6th, while Dizzy Roosters rallied for one in the 6th and six in the 7th, only to fall short by a run. Kevin Rassman clubbed a three-run homer in the the bottom of the 2nd to give his club the lead for good at 6-4. A two-run shot by Freddie Brassfield, a run-scoring triple by Corey Alsop and rbi singles by Toby Curtsinger and Danny Snodgrass accounted for Softballtimes' five runs in the 4th. Dizzy Roosters had the tying run on 2nd in the top of the 7th when pitcher Johnny Leep induced the final batter of the game to line out to 1st baseman Lumpy Williams.

Ernie Mobley banted out four hits, Chad Hockensmith added three, and Brassfield chipped in with a home run and a triple for the champions.

Softballtimes' Raymond Moscoe said the title helped redeem his club's recent 0-2 outing in the NSA state.

"We are the only team who has ever won the USSSA C and ASA C in Kentucky in the same year," observed Moscoe, whose team had won the ASA title the previous weekend. "It was nice to go back-to-back."

Moscoe called the umpiring at Northern Kentucky Sports park "excellent" and said his team was "extremely happy" to win the tournament "because we did not have it penciled in and typically we are not a USSSA team.

"I love USSSA and our kids love it. We just don't play it enough to be sharp every weekend," said Moscoe.

Moscoe concluded by thanking sponsors Worth and Tanel.

KENTUCKY USSSA MEN'S CLASS "C" STATE TOURNAMENT FINALS STANDINGS

1. Softballtimes/Worth/Tanel, Lexington, KY 4 0
2. Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza, Louisville, KY 3 2
3. JLC/Legends, Edgewood, KY 3 2
4. Merchants, Florence, KY 3 2
5. Hart Restoration/Saints, Newport, KY 1 2
- Renegades, Taylor Mill, KY 1 2
7. Sentry Tire/Red Eye/LBYC, Erlanger, KY 1 2
- Good Guys/GBI Cincinnati, Erlanger, KY 0 2
- Renegades/MHI, Taylor Mill, KY 0 2

KENTUCKY USSSA MEN'S CLASS "C" ALL-STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM

Vic Klein Merchants
Paul Laible JLC/Legends
Mike Sellet JLC/Legends
Josh Payton Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza
Bobby Roberts Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza

Joe Sutherland Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza
Chad Hockensmith Softballtimes/Worth/Tanel
Johnny Leep Softballtimes/Worth/Tanel
Ernie Mobley Softballtimes/Worth/Tanel
Kevin Rassman Softballtimes/Worth/Tanel
Chad Marland - ODP Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza
Chad Mullins - MVP Softballtimes/Worth/Tanel

Champions Double-Dip GNO, 20-6, 11-7...

Head Shop/Real Painters/Excel Rallies For 34th Annual Corn Boil Title At Central Turners

Mt. Healthy, Oh.--Head Shop/Real Painters/Excel Screen Printing upended GNO 20-6 and 11-7 in a double finals to capture first place in the 34th Annual Corn Boil Tournament August 15-17 at Central Turners.

The pair of wins over GNO wrapped up 7-1 weekend for the champions, who bounced back from a staggering 16-15 setback to GNO in the winners' bracket finals to stun Titans 16-12 on a Josh Baird walk-off slammer in the losers' bracket finals before toppling GNO.

GNO had rallied for eight runs in the bottom of the 7th to daze Head Shop in the winners' bracket.

Head Shop coach Eddie Fisher attributed his club's title to "timely hitting, excellent defensive play and all-out hustle."

As an example of that, Fisher pointed to the 5th inning of his team's first game.

"Team Spanno had scored three runs and were closing in on us when Brandon Slade went over the fence in right field to bring back a two-run home run to stop the inning," said Fisher.

"We also turned a lot of key double plays with Zach Meyer (middle infield and shortstop), Ryan Richmond (shortstop), Matt Bock (middle infield) and Josh Powell (2b)," continued Fisher. "Our middle was strong throughout the tournament."

Richmond led Head Shop offensively with a hefty .875 weekend (14-for-16). He was followed by Ron Spatz (.731), James Ahrens (.643) and Brandon Slade (.621).

Slade was named tournament MVP for his all-around play.

"He brought back two home runs for us that saved innings and saved games," said Fisher. "He was hustling on defense constantly and made a lot of big plays for us. He also hit .621. That's why he was voted MVP."

The honor could have easily gone to three other players, remarked Fisher.

"James Ahrens hit .643 and had six home runs, and Ron Spatz hit .730 with three home runs and pitched every game. Also Ryan Richmond only made two outs for the tournament and was constantly a base-hitting threat to start off innings."

Head Shop trailed Team Spanno 4-2 after two and a half innings in their opener, but outscored them 14-3 over the next three innings to grab a 16-7 advantage, then held on for an 18-15 win. Josh Baird's rbi single put his club ahead for good at 5-4 in a seven-run 3rd. Ronnie Baird socked a three run homer to cap off the inning. Matt Bock had a two-run double as the lead swelled to 12-4 in the 4th. Back-to-back solo shots by Baird and Brandon Slade were the big blows in a four run 5th. Team Spanno made it interesting in the top of the 7th, rallying for five runs to cut the deficit to three.

Baird, Slade, Ryan Richmond and Ron Spatz banged out three hits each for the winners.

A nine-run 1st sealed an 18-8, five-inning spanking of Good News Bears in game two. Head Shop strung together nine consecutive singles, including two-run singles by Brandon Spade and Ron Spatz, before making an out in the 1st. James Ahrens, whose two-run double helped his team build an 18-5 lead in the 5th, collected four hits in the game, while Spatz, Donnie Leissure and Duane Wright added three apiece.

A four-run 3rd followed by a ten-run 4th helped Head Shop overcome a 6-3 deficit against BMF in game three and carried them to an eventual 17-14 victory. Brandon Slade's rbi single put his team on top of stay at 7-6 in the 3rd. James Ahrens launched a two-run shot in the 4th. BMF rallied for two runs in the 5th and six in the 7th to trim an eleven run deficit down to three and make the final score respectable. Ahrens and Scott Freeman contributed three hits each in the win.

A four-run 4th proved to be the deciding inning in a 16-14 victory over T-N-T in game four. Scott Fiasco's rbi single broke an 8-8 tie and ignited the scoring in the 4th. The lead swelled to 15-8 in the 5th on the strength of a two-run, two-out single by Duane Wright. T-N-T answered with three in the 5th and one in the 7th to close out the scoring.

Fiasco and Ryan Richmond were both perfect in four at bats to lead the winners.

Head Shop was poised for a winners' bracket sweep in game five, as they entered the bottom of the 7th with a sizable 15-8 advantage. But it wasn't sizable enough, as GNO struck for eight runs to stun Head Shop 16-15.

But Head Shop remained focused. First they ousted Titans 16-12 in the losers' bracket finals on a Josh Baird walk-off slammer in the bottom of the 7th. Baird, who had previously belted a three-run homer in the game, shared nine hits with Ronnie Spatz and Mike Garribay.

Head Shop then evened the score with GNO, overpowering them 20-6 in five as they scored in every inning. James Ahrens cracked a three-run homer in both the 1st and 2nd innings to help his team bolt out to an 8-0 lead. Mike Garribay's two-run single highlighted a three-run 3rd. Then in the 5th Head Shop used a seven-run outburst to pull ahead 20-5. Ron Baird blasted a three-run homer.

Brandon Slade pounded out four hits, and Garribay, Josh Powell, Matt Bock and Baird combined for a dozen.

GNO enjoyed two short-lived leads in the finals, drawing first blood with a three-run 1st, then scoring two in the 3rd to take a 6-4 lead. But Head Shop answered with four in the 1st and four more in the 2nd to take an 8-6 lead that they would never relinquish. Ron Dossenbock's two-run single put his team ahead for good at 7-6 in the 3rd. GNO plated their final run in the 5th to cut the lead to 8-7, but a Ron Baird double and Matt Bock single provided their team with a pair of insurance runs and a 10-7 lead. Richie Moore closed out the scoring with a sac fly in the bottom of the 6th. Pitcher Ron Spatz limited GNO to one run over the final four innings to preserve the win.

Brandon Slade, Baird and Bob had three hits each to lead the champions.

Head Shop coach Eddie Fisher said his team "made it a whole lot tougher on ourselves" after falling to GNO in the winners' bracket finals.

"Our next game was against the Titans, and we thought they were the strongest team in the tournament the way they were running through the losers' bracket after losing their first game," said Fisher.

"But we just told ourselves to stay up and to stay positive. The same thing had happened to us against Team Vengeance in the Metro, and we folded the next game," recalled Fisher. "We were up on Team Emanon by three runs and they scored four in the bottom of the 7th to put us out of the 'B' division."

TWENTY-SIX MAN ROSTER KEY TO TITLE - Several teams poked fun at Head Shop/Real Painters/Excel Screen Printing for "having a whole football team" in their dugout during this year's Corn Boil tournament.

No one is laughing now.

"I've noticed in the past that once teams go into the losers' bracket, you go play non-stop," said Head Shop manager Tim Schell. "I've seen teams get close to winning this tournament and run out of gas. That explains why I had 26 players on my roster.

"My philosophy is that the more options you have, the better chances you have of reaching your goal," continued Schell. "I heard more than once 'you have a whole football team in your dugout. Keeping them all in there while we were at bat was impossible."

The championship was the second in four years for Schell, whose team last won in 2005. Schell says the Corn Boil is the first tournament his team marks on their calendar each year.

"As we started the 2008 softball season and marked the biggest tournament dates of the year on our calendars, the Corn Boil is by far the team's most favorite," said Schell. "The competitive atmosphere and after game activities are by far the best in the city.

"Ronnie Rich and his crew do an excellent job."

Rich is Vice-President of Cincinnati Central Turners.

Schell said that picking an MVP at this year's tournament "was very difficult because every player on the team was an MVP."

Schell called eventual winner Brandon Slade "a true athlete with his hitting, fielding, base-running and defense.

"He brought back a game-losing home run over the fence," noted Schell. "That was one of the best individual defensive performances I've seen in my 26-year softball career. He was a machine in right field."

James Ahrens and Ron Spatz were also in the running for the award due to Ahrens' "hitting power and fielding performance," and Spatz' "eight games pitched and hitting performance."

Schell said his club "never complained or gave up.

"After we won the tournament in 2005, I was told it was all luck," said Schell. "I strongly believe this year it was all skill. And every person on this squad was a good multi-position player."

Schell said he provided his team with some special "motivation" to win.

"Motivation was the key this year, and I promised to shave my head if they won the tournament, and that took place after the championship game and was enjoyed by over a hundred spectators. Everybody on the team got a hit on me."

Schell concluded by thanking family members and friends for supporting the team, and sponsors Nikki Schell of Head Shop, Duane Wright of Real Painters, and Greg Owens of Excel Screen Printing.

LEGENDS GAME PLANNED FOR 2009 - Cincinnati Central Turners VP Ron Rich has announced that there will be a Legends game at 5 PM on Friday preceding the regular Corn Boil tournament. "This game will kick off the tournament," said Rich. "We got our old team back together for this year's tournament

and played under Cadillac Ranch and went 0-2. A lot of people came out to watch us. One of our players, Rob Katzler, hit a home run in his first at bat. He hadn't played all year."

Rich said that his club had "too many aches and pains" after two games, so they'll play the "Legends" game next year to kick off the event.

**34TH CENTRAL TURNERS CORN BOIL TOURN.
MEN'S CLASS C/D DIVISION FINAL STANDINGS**

1.	Head Shop/Real Painters/Excel Screen Printing	7 1
2.	GNO	5 2
3.	Titans	6 2
4.	CWP	5 2
5.	Kubota	3 2
	T-N-T	3 2
7.	Angilo's	4 2
	Skyhawks	4 2
9.	BMF	2 2
	Jive Turkey's	2 2
	Table Top	2 2
	Team Who	2 2
13.	Good News Bears	2 2
	Team Spanno	2 2
	Goody Shop	1 2
	Northbrook	1 2
17.	Cincy Knolls	1 2
	Guido's	1 2
	Top Value	1 2
	Twisted Sisters	1 2
	Big Art's	0 2
	Cadillac Ranch	0 2
	Team Extreme	0 2
	Turners	0 2
25.	Black & Blue	0 2
	Clippard	0 2
	Lovins	0 2
	Rumblers	0 2

Defense Carries Wolfpack Past Kolping Round Robin Field

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - Wolfpack limited three opponents to only eight runs en route to a first place finish in a four team Saturday morning round robin August 16th at Kolping Park.

Wolfpack got past eventual runner-up Untouchables (2-1) 7-3 in their opener, then routed Cueto's (0-3) 15-5 before shutting out Henson's Renegades (1-2) 10-5 in the finale.

Backyard Offense Overpowers Kolping Round Robin Field

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - Backyard used a high-powered offense to slug their way past three opponents in a six team, Sunday morning round robin August 17th at Kolping Park.

Backyard put 54 runs on the board en route to the title, knocking off Nati (2-1) 13-6, then outslugging Wolfpack (1-1) 20-17 before romping past Bombers (0-3) 21-2 in their finale.

Defense Carries Team Turbo To Expressway Mini Round Robin Sweep

Milford, Oh.--Team Turbo held three straight opponents to four runs to sweep to a first place finish in a four team mini round robin on Sunday, August 17th at Expressway Park.

Team Turbo got past Benton Metals (1-2) 7-4 in their opener, then squeezed by The Point Inn (2-1) and Sports Page (0-3) by identical 5-4 scores.

Sliders Outslug Expressway Park Mixed Field

Milford, Oh.--Sliders scored 57 runs in three games to slug their way past a four team mixed couples mini round robin field on Sunday, August 17th at Expressway Park.

Sliders spanked Court House Merchants (0-3) 19-9 in their opener, then knocked of Back-N-Black (2-1) in a key win over the eventual tournament runners-up before outlasting Weavers (1-2) 23-22 in the finale.

August 23-24...

Showtime Outlasts Tribe 14-7 In Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA Men's "E Rec" State Finals At Expressway Park

Milford, Oh.--Showtime outlasted Tribe 14-7 in the second championship game to claim first place in the Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA Men's Class "E Rec" State Tournament August 23rd at Expressway Park.

Tribe had delayed Showtime's celebration by slapping a 10-7 setback on the eventual champions in the first finals, but the winners were not to be denied. Showtime jumped out to a 6-0 lead in the top of the 1st, then tacked on a run in the 4th, two in the 5th and 6th and three in the 7th to pull away from their challengers.

The victory wrapped up a 4-1 day for Showtime, who won behind the pitching of tournament MVP Josh Adkins, the hitting of Kyle Kramer, and a speedy, strong-armed three-man outfield.

"Josh pitched for us and had a lot of timely hits," commented Showtime manager Ryne Heck. "He only walked two players the entire tournament and batted .647."

Kyle Kramer led Showtime with a hefty .769 average.

"He was 10-for-13 and drew a lot of walks," noted Heck. "He also played left-field and was running down everything, and he threw a couple people out.

"Our outfield of Brad Seiter, Kyle Kramer, George Gardner and Adam Pangalo all have good arms and are really fast. And Chris Weir at 3rd base also played well," said Heck.

Kramer, Seiter, Gardner and Weir were all named to the All-State team.

"Brad (Seiter) played centerfield and not many balls dropped in for a hit or went over his head," noted Heck. "And he batted .571.

"George only hit .470 but in the first couple of games when we needed hits, he drove in a lot of runs. And he played great defense in the outfield," said Heck.

"Chris played 3rd base and the last couple of games, he made two or three diving stops to throw people out and did very well hitting too," added Heck.

Weir was second on the team in hitting with a .705 average. Bryan Niemeyer batted .692 and Adkins .647.

Showtime needed a four run 6th and a three-run 7th to break open a 10-10 contest with Team Ramrod and pull out a 17-13 victory in game one. Kyle Kramer singled home two runs to put his club ahead to stay in

the 6th at 12-10. Josh Adkins followed with a two-run double. Adam Pangalo's rbi double highlighted the three-run 7th.

Pangalo collected five hits altogether, and George Gardner and Kramer each went 4-for-5.

A five-run 2nd and a nine-run 5th sealed a 21-7, five-inning rout of Diamond Jack's in game two. George Gardner's rbi single put his club on the board in the 1st. Ryne Heck, whose inside-the-park slammer was the big blow in the 5th, combined with Josh Adkins, Chris Weir and Michael Firnfrock for sixteen hits.

Showtime needed eight innings to dispose of Amish Electricians 9-6 in the winners' bracket finals. An rbi single by Kyle Kramer broke a 6-6 tie in the 8th. Base hits by Josh Adkins and Brad Seiter each produced an insurance run. The winners turned a double play to shut down an Amish Electrician rally in the bottom of the 8th.

Jimmy Euebel, Seiter and Bryan Niemeyer banged out three hits each to fuel the offense.

Meanwhile the Tribe, which had lost its first game to the Electricians 18-8, were marching through the losers' bracket. The Electricians erased Team Ramrod 8-5, avenged their loss to the Electricians 11-1, then ambushed Showtime 10-7 to force an "if" game.

But Showtime erupted for six runs in the top of the 1st, then kept the pressure on with two in 5th and 6th and three in the 7th to make the finals 14-7. Brad Seiter's two-run double capped off Showtime's six-run 1st. Bryan Niemeyer delivered a big two-run single in the 6th, and Kyle Kramer a two-run double in the 7th.

Ryne Heck and Kyle Kramer pounded out four hits each for the champions.

Heck said that Showtime "always seemed to have runners on base and scored when we needed to.

"We were happy to win the tournament being it was our first year together," summed up Heck.

Champions Win Last Two Games In Final At Bat...

Turner, Barth Lead High Octane To Worth-Bud Light-CRC-Ohio USSSA Mixed "C" State Title At Expressway Park

Chip Turner hit .714, pitcher Trevor Barth held three opponents to single digit scoring and batted .700, to lead High Octane in a successful defense of their title in the class "C" division of the Worth-Bud Light-Cincinnati Recreation Commission Mixed Couples State Tournament August 23-24 at Expressway Park.

High Octane scored three runs in the top of the 7th to outlast Crosley's Sports Bar 12-9 in the championship game and complete a three-game sweep of the four-team affair. The winners had previously knocked off Sliders 14-7 in their opener, then battled past Crosley's in the winners' bracket, scoring three runs in their final at bat to pull out the victory.

High Octane and Crosley's will now both advance to the USSSA Mixed "C" World Tournament October 10-12 in Lexington, SC.

Solid defense, the pitching and overall play of tournament MVP Trevor Barth, and a strong offensive showing led by Barth and Chip Turner carried High Voltage to the title, said High Octane manager Rodney Wolfe.

"Our defense was a big key to winning the tournament," said Wolfe. "We had a few errors here and there, but nothing took us out of any of the games.

“And Trevor pitched an outstanding tournament for us,” continued Wolfe. “We named him MVP for his pitching and hitting. Even though we only faced two teams, they were both very strong teams. And they’re both going to go far in the World.

“For Trevor to hold Sliders and Crosley’s to that few of runs is a pretty big accomplishment. Their guys and girls on both teams are really good players.”

Chip Turner batted a red-hot .714 to pace the offense. Barth followed at .700, Darren Brock and Steve Hunt hit .667, Linda Wiesenhahn .625 and Jessica Hardy .555.

“We hit the ball really well,” acknowledged Barth. “Our girls really stepped it up. When we needed them (hits), we got ‘em.”

Wolfe said it was a “hard pick” to select an MVP between Barth and Turner.

“Once I looked back through the book and saw how Chip played such awesome defense and led the team in hitting, I wished I could have given out two MVP’s.”

Jessica Hardy was named the tournament’s Outstanding Defensive Player.

“She made some great plays in right-center,” recalled Wolfe. “She only had one ball get past her the whole day in right-centerfield, and normally she’s an infielder. She really played her heart out.”

High Voltage scored seven runs in the top of the 1st and five in the 2nd to jump out to a 12-0 lead over Sliders and never looked back in an eventual 14-7 rout. A bases-loaded walk to Chip Turner forced in two runs in the 1st. Kenny Throckmorton followed with a two-run single to cap off the inning. Then in the 2nd Trevor Barth cracked a two-run homer and Chip Turner added a two-run single to account for four of their team’s five runs.

Barth and Darren Brock banged out three hits each, Heather Dickerson and Jessica Hardy went 2-for-3, and Chip Turner walked twice with the bases loaded to collect four rbi’s.

Next High Octane put up three runs in the bottom of the 6th to break a 9-9 stalemate and escape Crosley’s 12-9 in the winners’ bracket finals. An rbi single by Steve Hunt put his club ahead to stay at 10-9. Kevin Blanton followed with an rbi single and Beth Fields added a sac fly to close out the scoring, as pitcher Trevor Barth held Crosley’s at bay in the top of the 7th.

Barth and Darren Brock combined for six hits, and Linda Wiesenhahn chipped in with two to lead the winners.

Crosley’s bounced back to level Sliders 24-6 in the losers’ bracket finals, then fought High Octane to a 9-6 standstill through six in the championship game. But in the top of the 7th, Steve Hunt doubled, Jessica Hardy singled and Beth Fields drew a base-on-balls to load the bases, then Trevor Barth connected for a sac fly to put his team on top for good. Kelly Throckmorton then stroked a two-run single to close out the scoring, as Barth again shut down Crosley’s in their final at bat.

Hunt collected three hits, and Hardy and Kevin Blanton shared four for the champions.

Two of Hunt’s hits in the finals produced six rbi’s and were crucial to High Octane’s championship, pointed out manager Rodney Wolfe.

“In the second Crosley’s game, Steve had two inside-the-park home runs which scored three in the 3rd and three in the 5th,” said Wolfe. “That was a big key to winning the final game.”

A pair of home runs in the winners’ bracket finals also proved critical, noted Wolfe.

“Home runs by Darren and Trevor were big in the 5th and 6th innings considering we didn’t hit many home runs for the day,” said Wolfe.

Wolfe concluded by thanking his team’s sponsor and Expressway Park for a well-run tournament.

“We want to thank Adgo Engineering and A Slice of Stainless for sponsoring our team,” remarked Wolfe. “And Expressway Park did a great job of running the tournament. The fields were nice, just like the always are.”

WORTH SPORTS-BUD LIGHT-CRC-USSSA MIXED COUPLES CLASS C STATE TOURN. FINAL STANDINGS

1. High Octane, Cincinnati, OH 3 0
2. Crosley’s Sports Bar, Cincinnati, OH 2 2
3. Sliders, Sabina, OH 1 2
4. Angilo’s, Alexandria, KY 0 2

Romine, Gildow Power Champions To Title...

Ohio Onslaught Escapes Golden Jersey, Routs Hartman & Smith In Worth-Bud Light-CRC-Ohio USSSA Mixed State Finals At Riverstar Park

After rallying for two runs in the bottom of the 7th to escape Golden Jersey/Mader Electric 11-10 in a third round game, Ohio Onslaught romped past Fun Bunch 21-4 in the winners’ bracket finals, then brushed aside Hartman & Smith 21-13 in the championship game to capture first place in the class “D” division of the Worth-Bud Light-Cincinnati Recreation Commission Mixed Couples State Tournament August 23-24 at Riverstar Park.

The win over Hartman & Smith wrapped up a 5-0 weekend for the champions and gave them a berth to the USSSA Mixed Couples World Tournament October 17-19 in Kissimmee, FL.

Hartman & Smith also qualified for Kissimmee.

It was a tale of two tournaments for the winners, who struggled to win their first three games, then overpowered their final two opponents by a combined 42-17 margin.

“We showed our resiliency fighting back early on in the tournament, then came alive in the last couple games,” commented Onslaught manager Jason Dawicke. “Ironically, the first three games were our toughest.”

Onslaught had to rally from behind to win their first three games. The Columbus club trailed until the fourth inning in their first two contests, and until the bottom of the 7th in game three.

Dawicke credited Onslaught’s “team cohesiveness” with staying focused and over-coming those deficits.

“The nucleus of this team has played together for seven years and nobody gets down on each other, and we have a lot of confidence in each other,” explained Dawicke.

The play of Most Valuable Players Chea Romine and Heidi Gildow helped carry Ohio Onslaught to the title, said Dawicke.

“Chea was named MVP for both his offense and his glove work at short,” said Dawicke. “He didn’t make an out until his third at bat in the championship game,” said Dawicke. “He was batting 1.000 until then.”

Romine wound up hitting a robust .882 (15-for-17) with eleven rbi’s, nudging Alan Miller (.833) for team leadership.

“And he played most of the tournament with a pulled hamstring,” noted Dawicke.

Heidi Gildow “led our females in on base percentage (.680) and in batting average (.500), and played a real solid 3rd base,” added Dawicke. “I think she made every single play hit to her.”

Also named to the All-State team from Onslaught were Miller, Anthony Mattix, Kim Riley and Kristin Miller.

Like Romine, pitcher Anthony Mattix was also hampered by an injury.

“He battled through a severely pulled hamstring and labored all weekend, but was able to fight through it,” said Dawicke. “Both Chea and Anthony experienced some physical adversity.”

In game one, both Ohio Onslaught and Hartman & Smith got off to a sluggish start. H & S held a 1-0 lead through three, but Onslaught’s bats finally came to life with four runs in the 4th. Mike MacKim’s two-run triple broke a 1-1 tie and put his club ahead to stay at 3-1. H & S cut the deficit to one in the bottom of the 4th, but Onslaught answered with two in the 5th and two in the 7th to close out the scoring. Chea Romine banged out four hits, including a big two-run triple in the 5th, and helped turn three of his team’s four double plays in the contest. Pitcher Anthony Mattix held H & S scoreless over the final three innings to preserve the win. Left centerfielder Tiffany Gorby and left fielder Alan Miller each contributed a big defensive play in the late innings.

Next Onslaught used an eight run 4th and a three run 5th to overcome a 7-3 deficit and outduel Excessive 14-8. A pair of two-run singles - one by Heidi Gildow that put her team on top for good at 8-7, and another by Anthony Mattix that capped off the scoring - accounted for half of Onslaught’s eight runs in the 4th. The eventual winners tacked on three runs in the 5th with the help of six bases on balls to extend their advantage to 14-7. Pitcher Anthony Mattix, who paced the offense with three hits, held Excessive at bay over the final three innings, allowing only a single run. Kristin Miller, Gildow and Chea Romine shared six hits. Excessive proved to be its own worst enemy in the contest, issuing a total of nine walks.

Game three against Golden Jersey/Mader Electric proved to be the pivotal match-up of the tournament. After the Springfield team took a 10-9 lead in the top of the 7th, Onslaught manufactured a pair of runs to keep their record unscathed. Mike MacKim beat out an infield single to ignite the rally, went to 2nd on a Kim Riley base hit, then scored the tying run on Jason Dawicke’s rbi single. Golden Jersey then walked Josh Martin for the third time in the game to force in the winning run.

Chea Romine collected four hits, and Alan Miller and Riley each went 3-for-4. The game featured five lead changes.

That lifted Onslaught into the winners’ bracket finals against Fun Bunch, where they quickly jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the top of the 1st and never looked back. Alan Miller put his team on the board with an rbi triple. Tiffany Gorby’s rbi double made it 4-0, then Mike MacKim twisted the dagger with a two-run single as the lead swelled to six. Onslaught played true to their name, scoring in every inning except the 5th as they spanked Fun Bunch 21-4.

Miller pounded out six hits, including, a big two-run single in the 4th. Heidi Gildow, MacKim, Tony Coles and Jennifer “Hutch” Hutchinson combined for a dozen hits.

Onslaught got off to a fast start again in the finals against Hartman & Smith, which had rallied all the way through the losers’ bracket to take another shot at the team that had put them there. Onslaught erupted for five runs in the top of the 1st, added three in the 2nd then six in the 3rd to forge a 14-3 lead and H & S never recovered. Kim Riley’s rbi single capped off the 1st. Alan Miller knocked in two runs with a single in the 3rd, and Kristin Miller followed with a two-run double.

Alan and Kristin Miller each had four hits for the champions and combined to drive in eight runs. Heidi Gildow worked H & S for four walks, while Josh Martin added three.

Onslaught's Jason Dawicke concluded by thanking tournament operators for a "well run tournament" and expressed his expectation that the tournament would serve as a springboard for his team to "make a strong run at the nationals and world."

**WORTH SPORTS-BUD LIGHT-CRC-USSSA MIXED
COUPLES CLASS D STATE TOURN. FINAL STANDINGS**

1. Ohio Onslaught, Columbus, OH 5 0
2. Fun Bunch, Maineville, OH 2 2
3. Hartman & Smith, Bethel, OH 5 2
4. Golden Jersey/Mader Electric, Springfield, OH 1 2
5. Dented Bats, Troy, OH 3 2
- Team Drama, Bethel, OH 2 2
7. In House - Solar Systems, Piqua, OH 2 3
- Hansen Landscaping, Heath, OH 1 4
9. BW-3, Delaware, OH 1 2
- Xsessive, Mt. Orab, OH 1 2
- Berry Softball, Dayton, OH 0 3

**WORTH SPORTS-BUD LIGHT-CRC-OHIO USSSA
MIXED COUPLES "D" STATE ALL-STATE TEAM**

Amy Linville Dented Bats
Jeff Taylor Dented Bats
Ron Ernst Fun Bunch
Becky Taylor Fun Bunch
Jodi Lee Hartman & Smith
Nicki Ogden Hartman & Smith
Shane Ogden Hartman & Smith
Brian Tracy Hartman & Smith
Anthony Mattix Ohio Onslaught
Alan Miller Ohio Onslaught
Kristin Miller Ohio Onslaught
Kim Riley Ohio Onslaught
Mike McMullen - Co-ODP Hartman & Smith
Krista Seigla - Co-ODP Hartman & Smith
Heidi Gildow - Co-MVP Ohio Onslaught
Chea Romine - Co- MVP Ohio Onslaught

Pitching, Defense Carry Champions To Title...

J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes Outlasts Steel 8-6 In Worth-Bud Light-CRC-Ohio USSSA Mixed State Finals At Riverstar Park

J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes held off Steel Softball 8-6 in the second championship game to capture first place in the Worth-Bud Light-Cincinnati Recreation Commission Mixed Couples State Tournament August 23-24 at Riverstar Park.

Steel had pushed across a run with two outs in the bottom of the 7th in the first finals to force an "if" game, avenging a last inning defeat at the hands of J & M in the winners' bracket finals.

J & M/Clayton Homes had previously disposed of Suds Bar & Grill 7-6, TD's Bar 12-3 and Courthouse Merchants 14-6 to compile a 5-1 record en route to the title.

Pitching and defense carried the champions to the title, said manager Josh Eversole.

“Pitching was the key,” said Eversole. “On average, we only gave up two walks per game for the whole tournament. Dave Davis and Tom Huiett each pitched three games and Tom was named to the All-Tournament team. He gave up the fewest walks and played good defense.”

Overall, J & M/Clayton limited all five of their victims to single digit scoring behind the play of infielders Brandon Wenning and Liz Hudson who shared MVP honors, and solid outfield play.

“We moved Brandon from right field to short due to injuries and he played very well,” commented Eversole. “And Liz Hudson played 2nd for us after we lost our other 2nd baseman in the first inning of the first game with a pulled hamstring. Liz stepped in and played 2nd for us for the first time in four or five years and did very well for us. She stepped up big.

“Also Tracy Brewster played very solid at 1st base,” added Eversole.

Eversole said his outfield of Matt Hosterman (l), Eric Huiett (lc), Kellie Moore (rc), and Travis Mize and Josh Cooper (rf) “played very well for us.

“Travis and Josh alternated in and out in right field and only made one error the entire weekend,” observed Eversole.

“Overall we played a very solid defensive tournament and only committed a few errors the whole weekend,” summed up Eversole.

Matt Hosterman paced the offense with a blistering .684 weekend. Brandon Wenning followed at .631, Dave Davis hit .579, and Mary Basham chipped in with a .500 effort.

Kellie Moore, Teresa Huiett, Tom Huiett and Eric Huiett were named to the All-State team.

An rbi single by Missy Sortman in the bottom of the 4th broke a 6-6 stalemate and gave J & M/Clayton an eventual 7-6 victory over Suds Bar & Grill in game one. Travis Mize had singled to leadoff the inning, and moved to 3rd on Eric Huiett’s base hit with one out. Tom Huiett held Suds scoreless over the final five innings to preserve the win.

Wenning collected three hits altogether for the winners. Dave Davis, Tom Huiett, Mize and Eric Huiett each went 2-for-3.

Next the Outcasts used a five-run 4th to overcome a 3-1 deficit and grab a 6-3 lead over TD’s Bar. Matt Hosterman’s two-run double put his club ahead to stay at 4-3. Teresa Huiett and Travis Mize followed with rbi singles to cap off the inning. J & M tacked on six runs over the next two innings to make the final 12-3. Hosterman banged out three hits, and Wenning added two for the winners.

In game three J & M waited until the 6th inning to unleash their offense, exploding for ten runs to erase a 6-1 deficit. The Outcasts’ rally included ten consecutive singles. Liz Hudson’s base hit plated the go-ahead run. Miranda Crouse had an rbi single to cap off the inning. The Merchants never recovered, as J & M held them at bay over the last two innings and closed out the scoring with three in the 7th.

Matt Hosterman led the offense with four hits. Kellie Moore and Liz Hudson combined for six.

That lifted J & M into the winners’ bracket finals against Steel Softball. In what would be the first of a best-of-three match-up, J & M outlasted Steel 9-8 on the strength of an rbi single in the bottom of the 7th by Dave Davis. Josh Eversole, who singled and went to 2nd on a throwing error, scored the game winner. Davis was perfect in four trips to the plate. Eversole, Eric Huiett, Liz Hudson and Brandon Wenning each contributed two hits.

Steel bounced right back with a 15-8 spanking of Brewsters/Buckeye Tan, then scored run in the bottom of the 7th against J & M to force a second finals. J & M drew first blood with three runs in the top of the 1st,

but Steel answered with four to take a one run lead into the 2nd. It proved to be short-lived, as the Outcasts used a five-run outburst to double the score on Steel at 8-4. Matt Hosterman's two-run double put his club on top to stay at 5-4. Miranda Crouse's rbi single closed out the scoring. Pitcher Dave Davis limited Steel to two runs over the final six innings to make the final 8-6.

Brandon Wenning, Hosterman, Josh Cooper and Eric Huiet shared eight hits for the champions.

J & M's Josh Eversole said he never lost confidence after his team fell to Steel in the first finals.

"We knew we could come back and win it," said Eversole. "Our experience came into play from being in that situation last year in the 'E Rec' State.

"I think what really helped us was having a deep bench this year," continued Eversole. "We had people who could come in after we had a few injuries. Having a very solid team from top to bottom helped us outlast Steel."

Eversole concluded by thanking team manager Melissa Eversole and sponsor Clayton Homes.

**WORTH SPORTS-BUD LIGHT-CRC-USSSA MIXED
COUPLES CLASS E STATE TOURN. FINAL STANDINGS**

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 1. | J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes, Midd./Cin., OH | 5 1 |
| 2. | Steel Softball, Blanchester, OH | 5 2 |
| 3. | Brewsters/Buckeye Tan, London, OH | 6 2 |
| 4. | Diamond Dogs, Pickerington, OH | 3 2 |
| 5. | The Ivy Lounge, Dayton, OH | 5 2 |
| | Courthouse Merchants, Wash. Court House, OH | 3 2 |
| 7. | Clean Cut Lawn Service, New Paris, OH | 5 2 |
| | TD's Bar, Coldwater, OH | 2 2 |
| 9. | Marysville Moose, Marysville, OH | 4 2 |
| | Shooters, Cincinnati, OH | 4 2 |
| | Weavers, Wilmington, OH | 2 2 |
| | Dimarco's, Columbus, OH | 1 2 |
| 13. | BBC, Marysville, OH | 2 2 |
| | Bases Loaded, Marysville, OH | 1 3 |
| | Brewmasters, Washington Court House, OH | 1 3 |
| | Lights Out, Crescent Springs, KY | 1 4 |
| 17. | Bullitt Landscaping, Pleasant Plain, OH | 1 2 |
| | Eagles 2202, Eaton, OH | 1 2 |
| | Oh Yeah, Fairfield, OH | 1 2 |
| | Sud's Bar & Grill, Eldorado, OH | 1 3 |
| | Hamilton Softball, Cincinnati, OH | 0 3 |
| | J & W Hauling, Milford Center, OH | 0 3 |
| | Hornets, Pleasant Plain, OH | 0 4 |

**WORTH SPORTS-BUD LIGHT-CRC-OHIO USSSA
MIXED COUPLES "E" STATE ALL-STATE TEAM**

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Kelly Hall | The Ivy Lounge |
| Chris Rambo | Courthouse Merchants |
| Steve Gleich | Diamond Dogs |
| Sara Jones | Diamond Dogs |
| Stacy Hines | Brewsters/Buckeye Tan |
| Wes Landis | Brewsters/Buckeye Tan |
| Megan Bailey | Steel Softball |
| Naomi Carpenter | Steel Softball |

Jason Emmitt Steel Softball
Sean Emmitt Steel Softball
Eric Huiet J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes
Teresa Huiet J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes
Tom Huiet J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes
Kellie Moore J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes
Monica Fugate - Co-ODP Steel Softball
Andrew Tucker - Co-ODP Steel Softball
Liz Hudson - Co-MVP J & M Outcasts/Clayton Homes
Brandon Wenning - Co-MVP J & M/Clayton Homes

Team Misfits Escape Expressway Mini Round Robin Field With Sweep

Milford, Oh.--Team Misfits clipped two of their three opponents by a single run to escape with a three game sweep of a four team, Sunday morning round robin August 24th at Expressway Park.

Team Misfits squeezed past eventual runner-up All-State (2-1) 11-10 in their opener, then disposed of Ought Three (1-2), before trimming Benton Metal MVP's (0-3) 14-13 in the finale.

August 30-31...

Pitching, Defense Carry Champions Past 24-Team Field At Expressway Park... Swing Softball Upends House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley's For Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Great Lakes "C" National Title

Milford, Oh.--Swing Softball double-dipped House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley's 15-10 and 6-4 to capture first place in the Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Great Lakes Division "C" National Championship August 30-31 at Expressway Park.

Swing Softball's victories over House Rules capped off a five game trek through the losers' bracket for the champions and an 8-1 weekend overall. House Rules had saddled Swing with a 9-8 setback in their fourth game.

The champions won half of their games in their final at bat, including a remarkable 18-16 come-from-behind win over Team Chaos in which they scored seven runs in the top of the 7th in the losers' bracket finals. Swing scored a dozen runs in their final two at bats to overcome an 11-6 deficit.

Pitching and defense carried the winners to the title, said manager Mike O'Donnell.

"Chad Bridgeman is one of the best pitchers around St. Louis at any level. He mixed it up and gets them off-balance," said O'Donnell.

"We didn't make many mistakes defensively," he added. "We threw to the right base and made the big plays when we had to."

Bridgeman, who held six of his club's nine opponents to single digit scoring, was named tournament MVP.

"We picked him because of his all-around play, including his pitching, fielding and hitting," said O'Donnell. "He's fearless too."

Outstanding Defensive Player honors went to teammate Mike Noonan.

"He only made one error at short the whole tournament," said O'Donnell. "And he made some unbelievable plays."

Chris Cook (.729), Ricky Gartner (.635), Justin Sterling (.578) and Mick Weiss (.515) were named to the All-Tournament team.

“Chris is probably our best hitter for both base hits and home runs,” said O’Donnell. “And Ricky hit well and is our best defensive player at 2nd base. He’s a smart player.”

O’Donnell said that Sterling anchored the outfield defense. “He made two or three diving plays and was all over the place. He covers a lot of ground and knows where to position himself. He allows us to play a five-man.”

Mick Weiss “got a hit every time he came up in a clutch situation and he made some really good plays over at 1st base,” added O’Donnell.

Swing Softball barely got past their first two opponents, outlasting Tyler Trucking 8-7 in eight innings, then rallying for six runs in the top of the 7th to best J-Taps Softball 18-12.

With the score tied 7-7 in the bottom of the 8th against Tyler Trucking, Swing’s Mick Weiss delivered a leadoff single, went to 2nd on Ricky Gardner’s base hit, then scored the game winner on a Justin Sterling single. Gardner collected four hits, and Steve Hendrickson added three. Hendrickson and J. J. Murphy each had a solo home run in the bottom of the 7th to send the game into extra innings.

A six-run 7th propelled Swing past J-Taps in game two. Chad Bridgeman’s rbi single put Swing ahead to stay at 13-12. Later in the inning Mike Noonan’s base hit drove in the final run of the game and close out the scoring. Bridgeman shut down J-Taps over the final two innings to preserve the win. Justin Sterling and Chris Cook each went 4-for-5 for the winners.

Swing jumped out to an 10-0 lead after an inning and a half, then held on for a 12-7 victory over Sportsco/Archie’s/Crosley’s/Chico’s in game three. Mike Noonan sparked back-to-back five run innings for Swing with a two-run triple in the 1st and two-run double in the 2nd.

Ricky Gartner banged out four hits, and Chris “Cookie” Cook, Noonan and Chris Schnarhorst chipped in three apiece.

House Rules then derailed Swing, scoring a run in the bottom of the 7th to earn an 8-7 victory and send the Missouri club into the losers’ bracket.

Swing continued to live dangerously as they disposed of their next three opponents en route to a re-match with House Rules.

First they dodged PRI/Easton 6-5, breaking a 2-2 tie with three runs in the top of the 2nd, then fending their challenger with solid pitching and defense. An rbi double by Mick Weiss broke a 2-2 tie in the 2nd. Ricky Gardner followed with an rbi single and Justin Sterling an rbi double. PRI scored single runs in the 3rd and 5th to cut the lead to 5-4, but Justin Sterling doubled home a much-needed insurance run in the 7th, as PRI answered with lone run in the bottom of the inning to make the final 6-5. Sterling, Steve Hendrickson, Chris Cook and J. J. Murphy shared a dozen hits for the winners.

Next Swing settled a score from 2007, as they knocked Good Guys/GBI Cincinnati out of the tournament by an 8-5 score. Good Guys had sent Swing packing from the “D” world last year. Good Guys scored five runs in the bottom of the 4th to take a 5-2 lead, but Swing made a pitching change and Eric Orf came in to hold the Erlanger, Kentucky club scoreless over the next three innings. Meanwhile Swing plated two in the top of the 5th to trim the lead to one at 5-4, then in the top of the 7th they struck for four unanswered runs to emerge with an 8-5 victory. Justin Sterling delivered the big blow, a three-run blast to put his team up 7-5. One out later Chris Cook went solo to cap off the scoring.

Cook was perfect in four at bats, and Mick Weiss added three hits.

Team Chaos appeared to have the losers' bracket finals sewed up twice against Swing, but the eventual champions would not be denied. Chaos scored three runs to take a five run lead in the bottom of the 5th, then answered a five-run Swing 6th with four runs in the bottom of the inning to make it 15-11 going into the 7th. But then wheels fell off the wagon, as Swing exploded for seven runs to take an 18-15 lead, then held Chaos to a lone run in the bottom of the inning. J. J. Murphy's rbi single put Swing on top 16-15, then Mike Noonan twisted the knife with a two-run double. Cook, who had tied the game with an rbi single, went 4-for-5 along with Noonan to pace the offense.

Swing used another seven-run inning to help slay House Rules in the first finals. With the score tied at 6-6 after three and a half, Swing erupted for seven runs to forge a 13-6 advantage. Chad Bridgeman's rbi double broke the tie, then Justin Sterling followed with a two-run triple. Swing tacked on two in the bottom of the 6th to take another seven run lead after House Rules had trimmed the deficit to 13-8. Mike Noonan tripled home the first run, then scored on an Eric Orf single. House Rules pushed across two in the 7th to make the final 15-10.

Chris Cook pounded out four hits, and Orf and Steve Hendrickson combined for six.

In a low scoring finale, Swing went on to polish off House Rules 6-4. Chris Cook cracked a three-run homer to erase a 2-1 deficit and put his club ahead for good at 4-2. Then in the 4th, Mick Weiss singled, took 3rd on Chad Bridgeman's double, and scored on Ricky Gartner's sac fly. Justin Sterling then doubled in Bridgeman to make it 6-2. Bridgeman allowed House Rules two final runs in the 6th to preserve the win.

Cook continued his hot hitting for the champions with three hits, and Sterling, Mick Weiss and Gartner each went 2-for-3.

Swing manager Mike O'Donnell attributed his club's ability to win in the late innings to "a lot of team chemistry.

"We never give up," said O'Donnell. "We don't give up and we know we can win.

"We really enjoyed the tournament," concluded O'Donnell. "I think if we played House Rules ten times we'd be 5-5 against them. They're a classy team. All the teams were. The umpiring was good and it was a good tournament overall."

USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION MEN'S CLASS "C" CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS

1.	Swing Softball Club, St. Charles, MO	8 1	
2.	House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley's, Cinti., OH	4 2	
3.	Team Chaos, Franklin, OH	4 2	
4.	Good Guys/GBI Cincinnati, Erlanger, KY	4 2	
5.	EAP/Wessel/Real Eastate, Cincinnati, OH	4 2	
	PRI/Easton, Cincinnati, OH	4 2	
7.	Dizzy Roosters/Wick's Pizza, Louisville, KY	3 2	
	Sportsco/Archie's/Crosley's/Chico's, Cin., OH	3 2	
9.	D & S Engineering, Cincinnati, OH	2 2	
	JLC/Legends, Edgewood, KY	2 2	
	Sentry Fire/Red Eye Sports/LBYC, Erlanger, KY	2 2	
	Wildman Uniform/Kote It, Ft. Wayne, IN	2 2	
13.	EZ Cash, Grove City, OH	1 2	
	Hart Restoration/Saints, Newport, KY	1 2	
	J Taps Softball, Cincinnati, OH	1 2	
	Tyler Trucking, Parkersburg, WV	1 2	
17.	Cooper Auto/Tanel 360, Hubert Heights, OH	1 2	
	Cronin Ford, Cincinnati, OH	0 2	

Design Concepts, New Richmond, OH	0 2
Full Tilt Softball, Napierville, IL	0 2
MT United/Worth, St. Louis, MO	0 2
Southern In. Titans, Austin, IN	0 2
Talan Trucking & Excavating, Morgantown, WV	0 2
TPE, Trenton, OH	0 2

**USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION MEN'S CLASS
"C" NATIONAL TOURN. ALL-TOURN. TEAM**

Shane Spicer	EAP/Wessel/Real Eastate
Ron Smith	PRI/Easton
Brent Hopkins	Good Guys/GBI Cincinnati
Ira Denlinger	Team Chaos
Ova Venters	Team Chaos
Dave Huber	House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley's
Ken Kramer	House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley's
Tom Kramer	House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley's
Chris Cook	Swing Softball Club
Rick Gartner	Swing Softball Club
Justin Sterling	Swing Softball Club
Mick Weiss	Swing Softball Club
Tim Stacy - Co-ODP	House Rules/Holy Grail/Crosley's
Jeremy Spears - Co-MVP	House Rules/Holy G./Crosley's
Mike Noonan - Co-ODP	Swing Softball Club
Chad Bridgeman - Co-MVP	Swing Softball Club

D & D/Dirty Dozen Escapes Dad & Me Sports, Takes 4th In USSSA Great Lakes "E" Nationals At Lincoln Park

D & D/Dirty Dozen rallied for ten runs in the top of the 7th to stun Dad & Me Sports 17-11 in a third round game, then went on to post a 5-2 record and capture a 4th place finish in the 80-team USSSA Great Lakes Division National Tournament August 30-September 1 in Columbus, In.

Eventual finalist Cambridge Eagles slapped an 11-6 setback on D & D in a fifth round game. D & D bounced back to oust Sharp Softball 15-6, but then dropped a tough 6-5 contest to Apex Fire Services when Apex scored three runs in the top of the 7th.

Cambridge defeated Apex 11-4 in the losers' bracket finals, then Last Call bested Cambridge 4-1 to complete a seven game sweep.

D & D/Dirty Dozen was the highest finishing Greater Cincinnati team in the tournament. OC Softball was the only other area team in the top ten, as they posted a 4-2 record to finish 7th.

Named to the All-Tournament team for the Dirty Dozen were Ronnie "Jockey" Loveless Sr. and Ronnie Loveless Jr.

"Ronnie (Sr.) was our pitcher and he held so many teams," remarked D & D manager Dave Loveless. "He's 48-years old and only 5'-3", and he covers the bases in the infield, so the team voted him to the All-Tournament team."

Loveless five wins included a first round 9-0 shutout win over Eagles/D & D Trophy. He held four of his club's seven opponents to six runs or less.

Ronnie Loveless Jr. was second on the team in hitting with a .586 mark.

“He played a good shortstop and went 17-for-29,” said Dave Loveless.

Another Loveless, Jimmy, led the team in hitting with a .668 average.

“He also led us in the state,” noted Dave Loveless. “He’s been on fire the last few weeks.”

Joe Cox chipped in with a .581 weekend.

Timely hitting - most notably in the come-from-behind win over Dad & Me Sports - helped D & D to their fourth place finish, said Dave Loveless.

“We came into the top of the 7th down 11-7 and scored all those runs to win that game,” said Loveless. “That was the turning point in the tournament for us.”

D & D never trailed in their first two contests, as they brushed aside Eagles/D & D Trophy 9-0 and Syndicate/Don Catchen & Sons 22-14.

A Jimmy Setters’ sac fly put Dirty Dozen on the board in the top of the 1st in game one. D & D tacked on three in the 2nd and three in the 4th to forge a 7-0 lead and the Eagles never recovered as pitcher Ronnie Loveless Sr. recorded a shutout victory. Jimmy Loveless had a big two-run single in the three run 4th. Ron Loveless Jr. paced the offense with a 3-for-4 effort.

Next D & D jumped out to an 8-0 lead over Syndicate/Don Catchen with four runs in the 1st and four in the 2nd. Syndicate cut the deficit to three at 9-6 after four, but D & D erupted for seven runs in the 5th to take a ten-run lead and seal an eventual 22-14 victory. Jimmy Setters had a two-run double in the 1st and a two-run single in the 2nd. Joe Cox’ two-run single highlighted the 5th.

Setters collected four hits in the contest along with Ron Loveless Jr. Chuck Kenney and Ron Loveless Jr. each went 3-for-5.

D & D appeared to be destined for the losers’ bracket in game three, as they trailed Dad & Me Sports 11-7 after six. But in the top of the 7th, the Cincinnati club exploded for ten runs to go ahead 17-11. D & D scored all ten runs after one out. Chuck Kenney put his club ahead 13-11 with a two-run single. Dave Loveless followed with a two-run triple.

Joe Cox and Ron Loveless Jr. combined for eight hits, and Dave Loveless and Dave Hoover chipped in with three apiece.

Apex Fire Services drew first blood in game five with a run in the top of the 1st, but pitcher Ron Loveless Sr. held the Grove City, Oh. entry at bay over the final six innings as D & D recorded their fourth win. Apex’ lead proved short-lived, as D & D answered with two, taking the lead on Jimmy Loveless’ rbi single. D & D tacked single runs in the 2nd, 4th and 5th to close out the scoring. Chris Baker and George McLean shared four hits for the winners. Chuck Kenney had a big triple leading off the 2nd and then scored on Ron Loveless Sr.’s base hit.

Cambridge Eagles derailed D & D 11-6 in game five, but D & D would claim one more victory, as they bounced back to punish Shart Softball 15-6. The Dirty Dozen erupted for eight runs in the top of the 1st and never looked back. Dave Hoover’s rbi double made it 1-0. Later in the inning Ronnie Loveless Sr. contributed an rbi double.

Joe Cox and Jimmy Loveless pounded out four hits each for the champions.

**WORTH-BUD LIGHT-USSSA MEN'S CLASS “E”
GREAT LAKES NATIONAL ALL-TOURN. TEAM**

Brett Durbin Highview Barber Softball

Chuck Foltz Sharp Softball
 Ronnie Loveless Sr. D & D Dirty Dozen
 Ronnie Loveless Jr. D & D Dirty Dozen
 Lewis Buzzard Apex Fire Services
 Michael Rizzo Apex Fire Services
 Tom Williams Apex Fire Services
 Jason Crozier Cambridge Estates
 Tim Lanning Cambridge Estates
 Brad Mitchell Cambridge Estates
 Brian Starr Cambridge Estates
 Justin Butler Last Call
 Tony Gibson Last Call
 Nick Fields Last Call
 Shane Steele Last Call
 Brian Willman Last Call
 Justin Darlage - ODP Last Call
 Brent McManaway - OOP Cambridge Eagles
 Brett Thoele - MVP Last Call

**BUD LIGHT-USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION MEN'S CLASS
 "E" CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS**

1.	Last Call, Brownstown, IN	7	0	
2.	Cambridge Eagles, Cambridge, OH	6	2	
3.	Apex Fire Services, Grove City, OH	7	2	
4.	D & D Dirty Dozen, Cincinnati, OH	5	2	
5.	Sharp Softball, Louisville, KY	6	2	
	Highview Barber Softball, Louisville, KY	4	2	
7.	Nettek Microcenter, Shelbyville, IN	5	2	
	OC Softball, Cincinnati, OH	4	2	
9.	Blacked Out Softball, Delaware, OH	7	2	
	Sceifers & Associates, New Albany, IN	6	2	
	Down-N-Dirty Softball, Middletown, OH	5	2	
	Dad & Me Sport, Grafton, WV	4	2	
13.	Bad Seeds, Corydon, IN	6	2	
	Diamond Freaks/Sports55, Wilmington, OH	4	2	
	Nu-Way, Newport, KY	4	2	
	All N Softball, Louisville, KY	3	2	
17.	Bada Bing/Firehouse Tattoos, Romeoville, IL		3	2
	Red Horse Saloon, Cincinnati	3	2	
	Vaughn Communications, Elwood, IN	3	2	
	Big Hogz, Grove City, OH	2		
	Bill's Open Door, Trenton, OH	2	2	
	Hack Shack/Dagwood Deli/HPS, Dayton, OH		2	2
	Kegler's/Weston's Restaurant, Centrailia, IL	2	2	
	Xtreme, Bristol, WI	2	2	
25.	Unfurzur/Lucky's Bar, Lancaster, OH	3	2	
	Bulldawgs, Fairborn, OH	2	2	
	Dixon/Putter's Tavern, Blanchester, OH	2	2	
	It's All Good, Hope, IN	2	2	
	Joe's OK Bayou, Louisville, KY	2	2	
	Syndicate/Don Catchen, Erlanger, KY	2	2	
	Titan/Cornerstone/Express, Bethel, OH	2	2	
	Wendell's Boys, Louisville, KY	2	2	
33.	Johnny D's/Benton Jewelry, Jeffersonvl., IN	3	2	
	BAMF Softball, Fairfield, OH	2	2	

	CEI, Williamsport, OH	2 2	
	Johnson's/Sparky's, Joliet, IL	2 2	
	Loaded Bases, Louisville, KY	2 2	
	Redrum Softball, Joliet, IL	2 2	
	BJ Sports/Portland, Louisville, KY	1 2	
	Cotner Funeral Home, Reynoldsburg, OH	1 2	
	Dawg Pound, Sidney, OH	1 2	
	Diamond Foolz, Independence, OH	1 2	
	Diamond Kings, Seymour, IN	1 2	
	Eagles/D & D Trophy, Parkersburg, WV	1 2	
	Ft. Knox, Radcliff, KY	1 2	
	Moose Lodge/Lights Out, Cres. Springs, KY	1 2	
	No Showz, Peoria, IL	1 2	
	One Time, Seymour, IN	1 2	
49.	Impact Softball, Chicago, IL	2 2	
	Matt's Pizza/Country Ins., Stillman Valley, IL	2 2	2 2
	Showtime, Dayton, OH	2 2	
	Studs Softball, French Lick, IN	2 2	
	Xtreme, Chicagoland, IL	2 2	
	Aurora Turners, Yorkville, IL	1 2	
	Cobra Force, Piqua, OH	1 2	
	Nolans Cleaning, Parkersburg, IN	1 2	
	Team Lightning, Cincinnati, OH	1 2	
	American Legion Post 746, Dayton, OH	0 2	
	Budweiser, Springfield, OH	0 2	
	Lindenwald's Finest, Hamilton, OH	0 2	
	Maxed Out Xplosion, Franklin, OH	0 2	
	S & J Pools/Repomonkey, Eastpointe, MI	0 2	
	TVC, Kinmont, WV	0 2	
	Wolfpack/BW3, Cincinnati, OH	0 2	
65.	All State/Interactive Mortgage, Erlanger, KY	1 2	1 2
	High Dawgs, Floyds Knob, IN	1 2	
	Bran Roofing, South Bend, IN	0 2	
	Bush Leaguers, New Albany, IN	0 2	
	Evolution Tadoo, Bedford, IN	0 2	
	Gradient Technologies, Bedford, IN	0 2	0 2
	Extra Innings, Amelia, OH	0 2	
	Irish Softball, Edinburgh, IN	0 2	
	Orange Crush, Scottsbur, IN	0 2	
	Pro Truck Wash, London, OH	0 2	
	Red Reign, Evansville, IN	0 2	
	Renegades/MHI, Taylor Mill, KY	0 2	
	Thrown Together, Franklin, OH	0 2	
	Valeo Sylvania, Seymour, IN	0 2	

Champions Polish Off Stage II 8-5 In Finals To Complete Four Game Sweep...

Ryan, Richter Lead Ty-1-On To Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Great Lakes Women's "B-C" National Title At Expressway Park

Milford, Oh.--Pitcher Brenda Ryan held four straight opponents to single digit scoring and Lisa Richter anchored the defense to help lead Ty-1-On to a first place finish in the Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Great Lakes Women's Class "B-C" National Tournament August 30-31 at Expressway Park.

Ty-1-On knocked off Stage II 8-5 in the championship game to complete a four game sweep of the six-team field.

Ty-1-On will now advance to the USSSA Women's "B" World Tournament September 18-21 where they will defend their 2007 title.

The champions opened with a 17-4, five inning rout of Fraley's/Low Bob's, but had to battle past Shooters 11-9 and Stage II by identical 8-5 scores in the winners' bracket finals and finals.

The play of Most Valuable Player Brenda Ryan and Outstanding Defensive Player Lisa Richter helped carry the winners to the title, said manager Colleen Needham.

"Brenda's presence on the mound is always something that has a calming effect on everybody in close games," remarked Needham. "She also led us in hitting with a .615 average and had five rbi's for the weekend."

Needham said Lisa Richter had eleven putouts in Ty-1-On's two games against Stage II on Sunday.

"She really tracked them down," said Needham. "She didn't let anything get by her or over her head. And some of her catches were like, 'oh my gosh, she caught that?'"

"Lisa struggled early in the tournament with her hitting, but she played so well defensively. She has a lot of speed and can really track 'em down," said Needham.

The versatility of M. J. Ranz was another key, said Needham.

"She pitched, played 1st base, caught and played right field. That gives you a lot of versatility when you have a player you can put about anywhere. And she maintained a good average," added Needham.

Theresa Hirschauer also demonstrated her versatility, noted Needham.

"We lost Shelley (Cummins) to a broken foot at 2nd, so we had to bring 'Hirsch' in and she's has done a really nice job. She's also one of those athletes who can play infield and outfield and play them both well," said Needham.

Ranz (.500), Hirschauer (.533), Karen Kron (.500) and Rhonda Klette (.545) were named to the All-Tournament team.

Celia Fritz finished second on the team in hitting with a .600 performance.

Ty-1-On used a fourteen-run 1st to erase a 2-0 deficit and seal an eventual 17-4, five inning spanking of Fraley's/Low Bob's in game one. Celia Fritz' two-run double put her club ahead to stay at 3-2. Rhonda Klette followed with a two-run triple and the rout was on. Bev Walker, whose two-run double capped off the scoring in the 1st, banged out three hits for the winners along with Brenda Ryan. Klette, Karen Kron and Bridget Wegman each went 2-for-3.

Shooters held a 7-4 lead over Ty-1-On after three and a half innings in game two, but Ty-1-On struck for five unanswered runs in the bottom of the 4th to grab a 9-7 lead, then tacked on two in the 5th to build a four run advantage. Shooters put up two in the top of the 6th, but pitcher Brenda Ryan limited the Dayton club to an two-out single in the 7th to preserve the win. Celia Fritz' two-run single put her team on top for good at 8-7. Bridget Wegman followed with an rbi single to cap off the inning. Fritz and Rhonda Klette each drove in a run in the 5th.

Karen Kron went 4-for-5 to pace the offense. Andrea Costa and Brenda Ryan shared six hits.

Fritz put Ty-1-On ahead to stay for the third consecutive game against Stage II in the winners' bracket finals with a one out, two-run double that broke a 5-5 tie in the bottom of the 5th. Ryan then plated Fritz with a two-out single to close out the scoring. Ryan held Stage II scoreless in their last three at bats.

Ryan, Rhonda Klette, M. J. Ranz and Celia Fritz combined for eight hits for the winners.

Stage II then ousted Add-A-Bath/DeMarini 12-1 in the losers' bracket finals to earn another shot at Ty-1-On, but the eventual champions jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the top of the 1st, then built a 7-2 advantage on the strength of a four-run 4th after Stage II had cut the lead to 3-2. Jamie Toon's tripled home two runs to put her club on the board in the 1st, then scored on Theresa Hirschauer's base hit. Stage II proved to be its own worst enemy as in the 5th as they walked in two runs to make the score 5-2. A ground out by Brenda Ryan plated the 6th run, then Lisa Richter delivered a clutch, two-out single to boost the lead to five at 7-2. Stage II chipped away at the lead with a run in the 5th and two in the 6th, but Ty-1-On added an insurance run in the 7th on a Brenda Ryan sac fly. Stage II threatened in the bottom of the 7th, putting two runners on with two outs before Brenda Ryan retired the final batter on a fly ball to Lisa Richter.

Hirschauer collected three hits for the champions, and Richter and M. J. Ranz chipped in two apiece.

Ty-1-On manager Colleen Needham hopes the championship indicates that her team is building some momentum heading into the world tournament.

"We've struggled all year to get the same ten people to our tournaments," said Needham. "Hopefully we started to turn things around and get the right line-up in Springdale and now we're on the right track at this point."

USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION WOMEN'S "B-C" CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS

1. Ty-1-On, Cincinnati, OH 4 0
2. Stage II, St. Louis, MO 2 2
3. Add-A-Bath/DeMarini, Gurnee, IL 3 3
4. Fraley's/Low Bob's, Frankfurt, KY 2 2
5. Metro Sports, Pittsburg, PA 1 2
Shooters, Cincinnati, OH 0 3

BUD LIGHT-USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION WOMEN'S CLASS "B-C" ALL-TOURN. TEAM

Amanda Brown
Shannon Ellingsworth Fraley's/Low Bob's
Susie Brugeoni Add-A-Bath/DeMarini
Terri Ingles Add-A-Bath/DeMarini
Meghan Murray Add-A-Bath/DeMarini
Cee Cee Evans Stage II
Jackie Fischer Stage II
Kathy McCartney Stage II
Theresa Hirschauer Ty-1-On
Rhonda Klette Ty-1-On
Karen Kron Ty-1-On
M. J. Ranz Ty-1-On
Jenn Jackson - Co-ODP Stage II
Sandy Fletcher - Co-MVP Stage II
Lisa Richter - Co-ODP Ty-1-On
Brenda Ryan - Co-MVP Ty-1-On

Winners Sweep Past Hill & Griffith 10-8 In Finals...

Pitching, Defense Carry Chuck's Chicks To Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Great Lakes "D" National Title At Expressway Park

Milford, Oh.--Chuck's Chicks limited six opponents to 27 runs en route to a first place finish in the Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Women's Class "D" Great Lakes Division National Tournament August 30-31 at Expressway Park.

The champions won behind the pitching of Jennifer Johnson, who was named tournament MVP. Chuck's overpowered their first five opponents, outscoring them 66-19, before rallying past Hill & Griffith 10-8 in the championship game to complete the sweep.

Hill & Griffith was the only team to come within nine runs of the winners. The Cincinnati club actually led the eventual champions for four innings in the finals. But Chuck's battled back to knot the score at 5-5 in the 5th, then scored five unanswered runs in the top of the 6th to pull away to a 10-5 win.

Pitching and defense carried his team to the title, said Chuck's Chicks manager Chuck Johnson.

"If I had to pick one thing it was outstanding defense," said Johnson. "But some of it has to come down to pitching, and Jennifer made the good pitches when she had to."

Timely hitting also proved big for Chuck's, said Johnson.

"We had some of our biggest innings with two outs," remarked Johnson. "The girls came through in the clutch. Their hitting was outstanding under pressure."

Johnson said four of his players - Lauren Priddy, Lindy Pritchard, Jennifer Johnson and Julie Peyton - hit "around .700...and that's outstanding. Any one of those four people could have been MVP."

Johnson said his team got a big boost from Amanda Gravens, who was forced to move from her normal position in right field to play 2nd base for much of the tournament, and sub Stephanie Guenther, a Cincinnati player who filled in for Gravens in right field.

"Amanda is probably our most versatile player," said Johnson. "Our 2nd baseman, Christina Greenwell, had to leave Saturday night because her best friend was in a car accident. So we moved Amanda to 2nd base and we didn't miss a beat. She played outstanding. I can't say enough about being able to move anywhere and not miss a beat."

Johnson said that without Stephanie Guenther, "we couldn't have finished the tournament.

"She stepped in on a brand new team and played right field all day on Sunday," said Johnson. "Without her we would have really been hurt."

Chuck's Chicks appeared to be indomitable their first three games, as they brushed aside Hub Victor 11-1 in six, top-seeded Dented Bats 11-2, and Bonkers 12-2 in six.

Chuck's used a six run 5th and a three-run 6th to break open a 2-1 contest and knock off Hub Victor in game one. Julie Peyton's rbi single put her club ahead to stay at 2-1 in the 3rd. Lauren Priddy tripled home two runs in the deciding 5th inning. Priddy, Lindy Pritchard and Jennifer Johnson combined for nine hits.

Next Chuck's jumped out to a 4-0 lead after three against Dented Bats, then pulled away with four runs in the top of the 5th in an eventual 11-2 rout. Sarah Nord put her team on the board with an rbi single in the 1st. Ashley Long's two-run double highlighted the 5th. Julie Peyton and Lindy Pritchard banded out three hits each for the winners.

Chuck's mercy-ruled Bonkers 12-2 in six next as Geri Greenwell, Lauren Priddy, Julie Peyton and Ashley Long shared eight hits. Chuck's never scored in the game, taking a 2-0 lead in the top of the 1st, then sealing the win with a five run 4th. Lauren Priddy doubled and scored on Geri Greenwell's rbi single to ignite her club's two-run 1st. Amanda Gravens' two run single was the big blow in the 6th.

A six-run 4th broke a 4-4 tie and helped Chuck's dispose of O'Brien's Painting 15-6 in game four. Two-run singles by Lindy Pritchard and Julie Peyton accounted for four of their club's six runs. Chuck's tacked on three in the 5th and two in the 6th to close out the scoring.

Pritchard and Jennifer Johnson each went 3-for-4 to pace the offense. Crystal Johnson chipped in with a 2-for-4 effort.

That lifted Chuck's into the winners' bracket finals against Hill & Griffith, where they rallied for seven runs - all with two outs - in the top of the 5th to overcome an 8-5 deficit and pull out a 17-8 victory. Sarah Nord buried one in the gap with the bases loaded to give her team an 10-5 advantage in the 5th. Julie Peyton followed with a two-run triple to cap off the inning. The winners padded their lead with three in the 6th and two in the 7th.

Julie Peyton collected three hits in all to fuel the offense.

Hill & Griffith bounced back to outlast Dented Bats 13-11 in the losers' bracket finals, then broke out to a 5-1 lead over Chuck's in the finals. But Chuck's chipped away at the lead, tying the game in the 5th at 5-5, then erupting for five runs in the top of the 6th to grab a 10-5 advantage. Ashley Long's rbi single put her club ahead to stay at 6-5 in the 6th. Amanda Gravens followed with a big two-run single as the lead swelled to 8-5. H & G answered with three runs in the bottom of the 7th to make the final 10-8.

Chuck's Chuck Johnson said his team had "done a 180 three weeks ago to become the team I knew we could be.

"We were really struggling, but the girls held a meeting on their own to try to turn things around with a better attitude and no finger pointing, and to encourage people not to make mistakes," said Johnson.

"The girls deserve all the credit for turning it around," he said.

Chuck's wins over Hill & Griffith "made me as proud as anything because we fought from behind," stressed Johnson.

"I want to thank my coaches Tony Peyton and Dennis Priddy, as well as Jim Ulandy, who was couldn't attend the tournament," concluded Johnson.

USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION WOMEN'S CLASS D CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT FINAL STANDINGS

1. Chuck's Chicks/INJ Softball, Louisville, KY 6 0
2. Hill & Griffith, Cincinnati, OH 4 2
3. Dented Bats, Mooresville, IN 5 2
4. Crosley's Sports Bar, Cincinnati, OH 4 2
5. Shockerz, Louisville, KY 3 2
6. O'Brien's Painting, St. Charles, IL 2 2
7. Bedrock Softball, Ravenna, OH 2 2
8. Bonkers, Cleveland, OH 2 2
9. Psych Ward, Cincinnati, OH 2 2
10. Intimidators, Batavia, OH 1 2
11. Remax, Lake Orion, MI 1 2
12. SOS Softball, Cincinnati, OH 1 2
13. Hub Victor, Canton, OH 1 2
14. Indy Phoenix, Indianapolis, IN 1 2
15. Settini-Fetters Roofing, Rockford, IL 1 2
16. ITAM30/K & G, Warren, OH 0 2
17. 3 Left Turns, Batavia, IL 0 2

Enforcers, Sterling Heights, MI 0 2
Rainbow Separations, Belvidere, IL 0 2

**BUD LIGHT-USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION
WOMEN'S CLASS "D" ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**

Jean Tripan	O'Brien's Painting
Patrika Barlow	Shockerz
Sarah Melvin	Crosley's Sports Bar
Talia Mitchell	Crosley's Sports Bar
Bridget Jones	Dented Bats
Jodi Landreth	Dented Bats
Stephanie Yeager	Hill & Griffith
Tracey Wharff	Hill & Griffith
Linda Wiesenhahn	Hill & Griffith
Ashley Long	Chuck's Chicks
Julie Peyton	Chuck's Chicks
Lauren Priddy	Chuck's Chicks
Lindy Pritchard	Chuck's Chicks
Kristy Booher - Co-ODP	Hill & Griffith
Sarah Nord - Co-ODP	Chuck's Chicks
Heather Sauerbeck - Co-MVP	Hill & Griffith
Jennifer Johnson - Co-MVP	Chuck's Chicks

Early Win Propels Benton Metal Past Kolping Round Robin Field

Mt. Healthy, Oh. - Benton Metal blanked The Players (2-1) 10-0 in a key first round match-up and went on to take first place in a four team Saturday night round robin August 30th at Kolping Park.

Benton sealed the title by clipping Jazz (1-2) 11-10 in game two. The Louisville Chuggers (1-2) Benton in the finale, 9-8.