**2017 Spring Splash Recap**

Dust Bowl !!!

Mother Nature Throws A Four-Seam Riseball At Splash Teams!

It looked like a scene out of a Steinbeck novel.  Dust storms whipping across the prairie...choking clouds of dirt making life hard on the forlorn inhabitants of the land...Ma and Pa thinking seriously of packing up the clan and perhaps heading west to where, surely, there would be relief from the hardships that Mother Nature wrought.

No, this wasn't the opening chapter of the Grapes of Wrath (Tip:  Read the book before you see the movie...the book is riveting, the movie less so but still excellent).  This scene was straight from the fields of the Grand Traverse County Civic Center, and to a lesser degree the other sites around Traverse City where the Spring Splash was contested.  40- to 50-mph winds whipped sand around like the Oklahoma Dust Bowl of the 1930's and made life miserable at many times during the day Saturday.  On Sunday, things calmed down a bit and...wait for it....wait for it....here it comes!.....WHEN THE DUST SETTLED, it was Traverse City's 231 Fusion Fastpitch (14U), Diamonds--Talsma (12U) and the Michigan Expos (10U) that captured Spring Splash titles.

The new-on-the-scene Expos outdueled Jason Hamilton's up-and-coming TC Thunder team to win the 10U title.  Congratulations, girls!

In the 12U division, the Diamonds got by the 12U Expos in the championship game.  In the consolation final, the 231 Fusion Fastpitch 12U squad topped the Michigan Rebels.

In 14U, the Fusion rode solid pitching and timely hitting to a championship game victory over the Mid-Michigan Heat.  In the consolation title game, Alpena's Thundercats overcame the TC Thunder 12U team for top honors.

THANK YOU to all of the teams and families that made the trip to Traverse City for the weekend.  Here's hoping for a bit of rain to tamp down the dust, 5- to 10-mph breezes, and more manageable fields in 2018!