2017 Cherry Capital Showdown  
Expos Make It Two In A Row!! Gators Chomp Competition In 12U!!  Stars Top Flexible 14U!!  Grand Rapids Blaze Red Mops Up in 16U!!

You just don't ever know what's going to happen.  It could be a 3-run bomb to put a team in the lead...it could be solid play by one of the best young shortstops we've seen...it could be ANOTHER rainstorm that turns the playing fields into a Sunday mud bog...it could be a gigantic 14U caravan heading 10 miles down the road to find some dry fields...  
  
There are several things that you KNOW are going to happen, though...like the Michigan Expos making a strong run toward another Traverse City title.  Or the 231 Fusion Fastpitch team being a tough out, if they're an "out" at all...or that Mother Nature seems to enjoy throwing riseballs under the chin of our TC tournaments this year, weather-wise.  But let's dwell on the good stuff.  
  
The Expos 10U team made it two titles in a row with a 3-1 victory over the TC Thunder in Sunday's finale.  The game was a rematch of last week's Northern Classic championship game.  Congratulations to both teams on their great play, again!  
  
In the 12U division, the Garden City Gators made their Traverse City debut a memorable one by edging Lansing's Krash '04 team, 7-5, for the Cherry Capital Showdown championship.  Stephanie Arnold clubbed a 3-run homer that might still be going to put her Gators team ahead, 6-5 in the fourth inning of a tight game.  It was a monster shot, 40+ feet up in a tree beyond the left-center field fence, about 200 feet from home plate.  By a 12-year-old.  Corey Cataline's Krash squad was making it's second straight trip to the finals of a Traverse City tournament.  
  
The 14U division was notable for it's flexibility.  After Sunday's rain made the fields at TC West unplayable, the entire division relocated 10 miles down the road to Kingsley where they finished out the tournament.  The Michigan Nationals Stars, based in the Belleville/Ann Arbor/Monroe area, slugged their way to a 14-8 victory in the championship game over Traverse City's 231 Fusion Fastpitch team that was playing in its third straight tournament championship game.  Both teams were very good hitting teams.  The play of the Stars' shortstop (sorry, didn't get her name) was exceptional.  Congratulations ladies!  Thanks for your flexibility, parents!  
  
In the 16U group, the Grand Rapids Blaze Red and Morgan's Pladies teams finished 1-2, respectively, based on their play in Friday and Saturday's pool round.  Sadly, Sunday's games at SEAS were washed out as the infield was better suited for mud-bogging.  
  
Thank you to all of the teams that spent a summer weekend in Traverse City!