**2015 Cherry Capital Showdown Results**

Eagles!  Eagles!  Eagles!  UNITED!!!

It was a weekend of soaring Eagles and Great Lakes UNITED at the Cherry Capital Showdown in Traverse City June 26-28.

While downstate tournaments were deluged with rain (see last year's CCS story, below), bluebird skies and warm weather prevailed all weekend in Traverse City.  On field play was just plain hot, and in the end there were three Eagles teams and Great Lakes UNITED standing as tournament champions.

Sensational play--really, it was pretty amazing--was common and prevalent in the growing 10U division.  In the championship contest, the Eagles 10U team wore down a game Saginaw Bay Lady RiverDawgs squad, 4-1, to earn the first 10U title in tournament history.  The game featured the first over-the-fence home run hit by a 10U player in ANY Traverse City tournament.  Eagles catcher Hannah Bollinger clobbered a liner over the center field fence about 180 feet away to put an exclamation mark on the championship win.  Great job, all 10U teams!!!

In the 12U division, two rock solid teams met in the finals, with the Eagles team scratching out the only runs of the game in the last inning to defeat the Petoskey Blaze, 3-0.  Both teams were loaded with excellent players.  Way to go!!!

In 14U, MHSAA Hall of Fame Coach Jerry Cowan's squad made it an Eagle championship trifecta, overpowering the Traverse City's Cherry Bombs 9-1 in the title game.  The two title game foes, along with Moran Iron Works Vulcans Red and the Michigan Rage, formed sort of a Group of Death.  All four teams were part of the dreaded 14U Pool D.  The Eagles Fastpitch Blue team and Cherry Bombs faced off in the championship final.  The Vulcans and Rage paired off in the consolation final, with Moran Iron Works edging the Rage for the consolation title.  Group of Death....

At the 16U level, Great Lakes UNITED avenged a loss in pool play by defeating the Imlay City Sparks, 10-0, in the title contest.  Imlay City had another strong Traverse City tournament run, but UNITED was too much to handle and took home the Home Plate Trophy.  On a slight tangent, the Friday night game between Great Lakes UNITED and the 16U RiverDawgs was one of the best games in tournament history, and one of the best age group games I've ever seen.  UNITED edged the RiverDawgs, 1-0, in a very well-played, 50-minute game that featured strong pitching and sometimes spectacular defense....strong 16U division, great tournament at that level.  Way to go, girls!

Thanks to all who made the trip to Traverse City for the 2015 Cherry Capital Showdown!!