**2014 Cherry Capital Showdown Results**

Traverse City Teams Sweep Cherry Capital Showdown Titles!!!!

"Heroic!" said one parent.  "Astonishing!" said another spectator.  "Truly inspirational!" commented a third fan.

They weren't talking about the play on the softball field.  They were remarking about the efforts of the army of parents and coaches who chipped in to clear the fields of water left by a Saturday night storm and then a brief but torrential downpour on Sunday morning that threatened to torpedo the Cherry Capital Showdown tournament as it headed to a thrilling Sunday finish.  The situation looked grim at all three CCS sites, but thanks to the hard work of local and visiting parents alike, the fields were cleared and our daughters--from all teams-- were able to complete the tournament.  (Okay, so the quotes were made up a little bit, but the hard work by everyone was very real--THANK YOU to all who helped on Sunday!!!  Very much appreciated).

On the field, the play in all three divisions was very good, and sometimes spectacular.  I witnessed the South Lyon Stealth 12U team turn a TRIPLE PLAY on Friday night in their game against the Lake Michigan Shock, a first-ever occurence in Traverse City tournament history.  With runners on first and second, the Stealth second baseman made a diving catch of a liner headed toward right field.  She alertly fired to first to double off the runner there, and the Stealth first baseman zipped a throw to second that just nipped the retreating runner.  Fantastic!

When the dust settled, so to speak, another first-ever result happened:  Traverse City teams from three different organizations swept all three age groups!  Wow!!

In the 16U division, the host Traverse City Waves went 6 - 0 on their way to the tournament championship.  The Waves' senior team edged Boyne City in the semifinals, 2-1, before outlasting the always tough Petoskey Blaze, 9-7, in the championship match.  Congratulations, ladies!!!

In the 14U group, the Traverse City Thunder Red squad proved to be too much for the Michigan Classics, 10-3, in the final.  The Classics parlayed strong pitching and excellent hitting into a run to the title game, but the Thunder squad had a group of solid hitters and top-notch pitchers of their own, and that combination was golden.  One game earlier, the Thunder edged the Wixom Bandits, 4-3, in a thrilling extra inning semifinal matchup. The Thunder Red squad were medalists in the Northern Classic the week before in Traverse City.  Way to go!!!

Similarly, the TC Cherry Bombs earned second-place honors in the previous weeks' Northern Classic, but this time Doug Mirabelli's 12U team earned gold medals and the home plate trophy by edging the South Lyon Stealth, 2-0, in the championship game.  It was truly a clash of titans, as both teams were undefeated coming into the title contest....two excellent teams, and a great final game in the 12U division.  Good job, girls!

Thank you to all of the teams, their parents, grandparents, families and fans who attended the tournament, and a special "thank you" to all those who helped with the fields so the girls could continue to play on Sunday.