

## 2016 Results

### Moran Iron Works Doubles Up!!! Pride Outlasts Their Neighbors in 10U!!! Outlaws Slam Their Way To The 12U Title!!!

What a strange tournament! Fun-filled, sun-filled, rain-filled (on Friday night), toddler-filled, fan-filled. It was filled with excellent players, excellent plays and lots of cheering. Heck, I even met a guy named Phil! And, at the end of the day on Sunday, four teams stood as 2016 Softball Spectacular champions.

First, the plays. The Michigan Momentum 12U team turned the second triple-play EVER in Traverse City tournament history. Pretty cool. Then, in the 12U championship game, a young lady from the Michigan Outlaws (forgive me, but I didn't get her name) crushed a grand slam over the fence in left field to break open an otherwise tight contest. Then, a left-handed 10U shortstop from Frankenmuth snagged a surefire base hit deep in the hole, whirled, and threw out the baserunner by half a step....an amazing play, especially by a 10-year-old. And, while this is not really a play, I will note that there were a LOT of toddlers AT play on the Civic Center grounds....not sure how much interest they had in their sister's games, but it sure did look like they were having fun!!!

Next, the weather. A Friday night rainstorm scuttled play in three of four divisions, but an otherwise beautiful rest-of-the-weekend allowed for the Friday night games to be made up on Saturday. Special thanks to Tim Shanahan and his coaching colleague (didn't get his name) from the 10U Rockford Krush for your help with the Civic Center field on Friday night...very much appreciated.

Now, The Champions. The Moran Iron Works organization added two more Softball Spectacular home plate trophies to the mantel at Vulcans Headquarters, courtesy of victories by their 16U and 14U teams. The titles were the Vulcans' fifth and sixth, by far the most of any group in the 11-year history of the Softball Spectacular. Matt Leach's 16U team made it's typical strong Sunday run, and Lonny Metty's 14U team, fresh off of winning the NSA Class B State Title, followed suit in their division. Way to go!

In the 12U division, the Michigan Outlaws and Oakland Cobras rampaged through pool play and then put on a great back-and-forth show in the final, but the Outlaws' hitting--especially the grand slam--proved to be the difference in the title game. There were lots of very good teams in the 12U group, and that made for some exciting games all weekend. Congratulations, girls!

In the 10U group, the Inter-Lakes Pride and Eagles teams, neighbors in the metro-Detroit area, had to travel to Traverse City before playing an outdoor game for the first time! (I was told that they faced off in an indoor scrimmage several months ago) The Pride and the Eagles are two of the best 10U teams to visit Traverse City in 2016, and their quality showed in the championship game which was won by the Pride. Excellent play, ladies!

Because of the number of teams in the 14U division, a Consolation Bracket was offered, and northern Michigan's Chain O' Lakes Fanatics captured the bracket title with a 15-8 win against the Frankenmuth Mavericks. Great job!

THANK YOU to all of the teams and their families who made the trip to Traverse City. The sportsmanship ALL fans showed was refreshing to see. We hope you enjoyed your weekend in Traverse City, and invite you to return with your teams next year if it works into your schedule.