

2014 Softball Spectacular Results

Eagles Soar in 10U!!! It's Madness at 12!!! Moran Mo-runs to the 14U Title!!! Diamonds Shine Brightest in 16U!!!

Traverse City was hopping with traffic, visitors, fireworks, elephant ears, waterslides, and great softball during the ninth Traverse City Softball Spectacular weekend.

Oh, there was a local festival going on--something about cherries--but the level of play and action on the softball field was pretty sweet, too!

Thirty-two teams from across the state competed in four divisions for the right to hold the Softball Spectacular Home Plate Trophy high on Sunday afternoon. In the end, it was Eagles Fastpitch in 10U, Motor City Madness Red in 12U, Moran Iron Works Red in 14U, and the Grand Rapids Diamonds in 16U that claimed tournament titles.

The Eagles team captured the inaugural 10U division championship with a victory over the Grand Rapids Diamonds. The Eagles featured lights-out pitching and timely hitting to go undefeated throughout the weekend and prevail over the 10U field. And all this was accomplished despite battling fatigue caused no doubt by many trips down the waterslide at the Great Wolf Lodge, the team hotel! Great job, girls....congrats to all teams in the 10U division for your excellent play.

In the 12U group, two powerhouse squads faced off on Friday night in pool play and wrestled to a nil-nil tie. On Sunday, the Motor City Madness Red team and the TC Cherry Bombs clashed again, and this time the result was pure Madness, 5-1. The Cherry Bombs were making ANOTHER appearance in a tournament final this summer, one of many for the Traverse City-based team. The Madness Red squad, though, parlayed exceptional pitching and just enough hitting to win the 12U title....terrific play by both teams throughout the weekend. Way to go, ladies!

Fresh off their third place finish at ASA States, the Moran Iron Works Red squad, coached by Pat Schultz and Matt Leach, turned back the Trenton Blast in the finals, 9-5. 2014 marked the second straight year the Blast earned runner-up honors, a terrific achievement considering the quality of the 14U field in recent years. But the tournament toughness, solid pitching by Mackenzie Leach, and strong hitting demonstrated by the entire Vulcan team was a bit too much to handle for all teams in the 14U group. It was the third straight year that a Vulcan squad earned a Softball Spectacular tournament title--Moran's 16U teams won back-to-back championships in 2012 and 2013. Great organization, great team--way to go, girls!

In the senior division, the Grand Rapids Diamonds and the host Traverse City Waves displayed excellent pitching and terrific defense, but the Diamonds had just enough in the tank to hold off the Waves, 2-1, in the Sunday evening final. The Waves team was making a return trip to a championship game, having won the Cherry Capital Showdown in Traverse City two weeks before. Jamie Mayle's Diamonds team played exceptionally sound, fundamental softball all weekend, and were deserving Softball Spectacular champions. Great job, team!!!

Thank you to all of the teams and their families and friends who attended the tournament. A very special THANK YOU goes out to all of the guys who worked so hard on Sunday morning to overcome the impact of an overnight storm and get the SEAS site ready for play....thanks, everyone.