

The Fastpitch Chronicle Presents

In and Around "The Circle"

The ISC World Tournament

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Gremlins win back-to-back ISC titles

Beat Hallman Cubs 8-1 in finale at Circle Tap

By Bob Tomlinson

There is nothing imaginary about these gremlins. They are for real!

The New York Gremlins captured the ISC World Tournament title for the second year in a row when they beat the Kitchener Ontario Hallman Cubs 8-1 in the winner-take-all final at Circle Tap at Hebels Corners a few miles west of Denmark, Wisconsin.

Led by all-world competitor Andrew Kirkpatrick in the circle as well as at the plate the Gremlins' offensive lineup provided clutch hitting and the ability to fend off all comers in the tournament.

In the title game the Gremlins beat Huemul Mata scoring six runs on four hits and just two strikeouts in his 3+ innings of work. They then touched French for two more runs to capture the coveted title.

For the Cubs lightning struck in the bottom of the second inning when Zenon Winters led off by hitting a sharp one toward the second baseman. The ball was booted allowing Winters to reach first base safely. The old cliché of "walks and errors can kill you" proved to be a gremlin for the Cubs. After the errors Matt Palazzo took a called strike from Huemul Mata. On the ensuing pitch the Worth K-Master that left Cleary's hand was met by a great force. Palazzo's bat met the ball at ther of

percussion (the COP) and Palazzo's eyes remained at the point of contact for the perfect amount of time. The ball exploded off the Palazzo's bat and as he looked up once his bat reached the left ear hole on his helmet he saw what Cleary, the Cubs and everyone at the ballyard saw -- the K-Master exiting the playing field. It was a two-run blast that was enough to win the game for the Gremlins.

After the ensuing home run celebration Mata faced Ladislao Malarczuk who reached first on yet another error and wound up at third base, this one at first base. Stunned, Mata and the Cubs had to face one of the games toughest outs in Bryan Abrey. Mata got him out but his flyball to right field chased Malarczuk home with the third run. It was a sacrifice fly. The scoreboard now read 3-0.

The fourth inning was another good one for the Gremlins as they scored three more runs when Palazzo drew a base on balls and Malarczuk followed with a single. With those two runners aboard Abrey stepped in. Mata worked hard but the count went to two balls and two strikes (the most crucial count in the sport). The next pitch saw Abrey take it for ball three and the stage was set for the next pitch. It was ball four.

With the bases juiced with Gremlins with Nick Mullins stepping in. He also worked the count on a ball, a called strike followed by five foul balls. In the eighth pitch of the at Millins hit a ball to short and the throw beat Palazzo to the plate. However, with on out the bases were still loaded. Mathieu was up next and drew a

four-pitch free pass and moved the runners all up a station. Malarczuk scored. That's when French came in to pitch. Jerome Raemaki hit into a fielder's choice that retired Abrey at the plate. Ben Enoka followed and worked the count to full then ripped a two run double scoring Mathieu and Mullins. Erick Ichoa pinch hit for Kirkpatrick and went down on a grounder to first ending the inning. Kirkpatrick re-entered.

The Cubs got to Kirkpatrick for a run in the fifth when Rowan Lam hit a Kirkpatrick 3-1 pitch over the fence.

In the ISC World Tournament the mercy rule is still in effect. In this game there would be no seventh drama. Instead the Gremlins got two runs to make it 8-1 and ended the tournament. Nick Mullins singled and Campbell enoka went in as a runner. Mathieu drew a walk and after an out Ben Enoka singled to load the bases. That brought up Kirkpatrick who hit a sacrifice fly to center to score Campbell Enoka. Winters stepped in with another chance to end the nine-day tournament. Winters did just that as he hit into a fielder's choice that sent Mathieu home with the eighth and final run.

Kirkpatrick allowed four hits and struck out 10 while Mata pitched 3+ innings, allowed four hits, walked three and struck out two. French tossed 2+ innings, walked two and struck out two.

Ben Enoka and Palazzo each had two hits for the Gremlins. Lam had a pair of hits for the Cubs.

The Cubs got to the title game with a great run throughout the tournament. They opened with a win over the Rice Lake Orangemen and then beat the San Antonio Titans. They followed up those two wins with victories over the Circle Tap Dukes then upset the Hill United Chiefs before being sent down to the third place game where they met Hill United

again. The Chiefs got to that game after eliminating another Kitchener Hallman team, the Twins, this time beating them on the final day by a score of 6-5. That win boosted them into the final against the Gremlins.

Hallman Cubs 6, Hallman Twins 5

The Cubs got started quickly in this game with a trio of runs in the top of the first off Pat Burns. Blake Underwood led off the game with a base on balls then moved to third when Alan Peker singled. Quinten Bruce followed with another single that pushed Burns home and when the ball was misplayed by the left fielder both runners scored and Bruce wound up at second. Huemul Mata went down swinging and Juan Zara, the walk-off hero Friday night stepped in. A wild pitch sent Bruce to third and Zara singled to make it 3-0.

The Twins got one of those back in the bottom of the inning when Cam Schiller took a Burns offering into the bleachers beyond the chain link fence.

Each team scored one in the second. The Cubs got an unearned run when Dan Mitchell drew a free pass and after an Underwood flyout Mitchell was safe at second on an error by the catcher. Peker then singled to score the run. In the bottom of the inning the Twins' Ryan Boland 3-1 pitch out of the park and the score was 4-2.

In the Twin's half of the third they got one run when Jonathan Lynch walked and scored when Teo Migliavacca hit one to the fence and was out trying to stretch his double into a triple.

The Cubs answered back with two runs in the top of the fourth on a leadoff single by Francisco Lombardo and after Mitchell and Underwood both went down Lombardo moved up on a wild pitch and Peker came through with

a two-run single that was misplayed by the right fielder allowing not only Lombardo to score but also Peker.

The Twins hung in there though. In the bottom of the fifth Migliavacca reached second on an error by the third baseman. When Cam Schiller walked Colin Walsh laced an rbi single scoring Migliavacca. Marshall Kronk stepped in and the runners moved up on yet another world tournament wild pitch. When Kronk hit to second and was out at first Walsh, of course scored.

That marked the end of the scoring and the Cubs move into the championship game.

Peker had three hits for the Cubs while Bruce had two. The Twins saw Schiller get two hits. Mata won the game scattering five hits and fanning nine. Burns was the loser with relief help from Scott Lieph who came on in the second inning and allowed two runs on four hits, walked 1 and struck out six.

Hallman Twins 4, Hill United Chiefs 1

This was the first game on the final day of the tournament. The winner would move on while the loser would wind up fourth.

The Twins owned this game from the outset as they scored one in the first, one in the third and added a pair in the top of the second on six hits while Sean Cleary scattered half a dozen of those for the Twins but struck out 11 Chiefs..

Teo Migliavacca opened the game with a full-count homer run off Adam Folkard.

In the third Jonathan Lynch led off with a double off Folkard. Migliavacca got the bat on the ball again for his second hit off Folkard and the ball was overthrown and the runners wound up at second and third. Cam Schiller then coaxed a walk out of Folkard and after the righthander struck out Colin Walsh Marshall

Kronk caused more damage with a fielder's choice that sent Lynch with the game's dagger.

Brad Ezekiel had a double for Hill United and had two of the Chief's six hits. Migliavacca was the only Twins player with more than one hit.

The ISC website has the stats from the tournament.

Dieppe Ridge Legends wins ISC Legends Tourney

Calgary Painters 9, B&L Plumbing 1

The team from Alberta jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Howie Jackson led off with a base on balls and moved to second base on a wild pitch. Randall Thompson then got aboard when he hit one to the second baseman and an error took place. Dean Webster stepped in and a double steel seal found both runners a station closer to home plate. Webster then hit a 1-1 pitch into the outfield for a single that score both runners for a 2-0 lead. Mike Soucy followed with a single so runners were at first and second. Jim Bruce lined a double to the fence that sent both Webster and Soucy home for a 4-0 lead. Later Bruce moved to third and was driven in on an error at third on a ball hit by Taylor Reed. They added a sixth run in the next inning when Thompson singled to open the inning. He moved to second on a passed ball and later scored when Bruce singled. Taylor Reed opened the Painters' half of the third by rocketing one over the fence and later in the inning, with two down Thompson doubled and scored on Webster's double. B&L got their run in the fourth when Scott Bakshire scored on a Greg Sumpter single. Calgary got the run to end the game in the bottom half of

that inning when Reed doubled to score Bruce who had reached earlier on a single. The winning pitcher was Rob Johnson on a one-hitter and the loser was Bakshire.

Maccabi USA 10, Waterloo 3

Waterloo jumped on top early with two in the top of the first when Jodie Schnarr singled to left and advance to second. He then scored on a double by Jeff Pauli. Doug Charlton walked and Larry Murphy followed with a single to left to send Pauli home home. Maccabi cut the lead in half when Larry Silfen doubled to left field and later scored on Billy Frank's single up the middle. In the top of the third Waterloo Carl Boughner reached first with a ball out in front of the catcher and advanced to second on a fielder's choice then hustled over to third. He scored when Doug Charlton hit into a 5-4-3 DP. In the bottom of that inning Maccabi Bruce Adams led off with a double and moved to third on an infield single by Robbie Cooper. He was later retired on a force out at home. Larry Silfen then had an infield single With one out Billy Frank doubled to left to score Cooper and Silfen. Michael Crawford came on to pitch for Waterloo at that point. He walked David Goldstein and Ron Russell did the same forcing a run in by Kahan. Michael Trenk then batted and an error at first allowed Frank to score. Maccabi added five more runs before this one ended. Tim Jacobs was the winner while the loser was Crawford.

Relics of Sudbury 6, Ohio Battery 1

Ward Gosse held the battery men to five hits and had four strikeouts as the Relics moved on in the tournament. Neither team scored until the fourth when the Relics got one in the top of the

first when Joel Belanger singled and stole second. Terry Challis then walked and Belanger moved to third on a passed ball. The Relics plated three more in the sixth when Challis hit a home run. Kelly Winstrom singled following Challis. Brian McGuire moved Winstrom to the next station with a sacrifice bunt and Winstrom moved to third on a putout on Tony Lisk. Darcy Roy then hit a ball to center that the outfielder missed and two more runs scored. In the bottom of the sixth Ohio Battery got their sole run on a booming home run by Chad Boom. Sudbury added two more runs in the seventh when Pat Brenna doubled Joe Belanger singled moving Brennan to third. Challis was intentionally walked and that moved Belanger to second loading the bases. Winstrom then stepped in and proceeded to hit into a 5-3 force play but Brennan scored. Brian McGuire then walked and brought Lisk to the dish. During that at bat Belander scored on a wild pitch.

Dieppe Ridge 7, Waterdown Hammer 0

It is impossible to win a game without scoring a run and that's the predicament Waterdown faced throughout the game. Dieppe on the other hand scored two in the third to take command and added a pair in the fourth and three in the fifth to end it on the mercy rule. Tom Berube was the winner while Tim Neil took the loss. Berube and Troy Parker both doubled for Dieppe while Chris McColl did the same for Waterdown.

CR Brewers 4, Circle Tap 1

The Brewers scored three in the first and never looked back, adding the fourth run in the sixth inning after CT had scored one in the top of the sixth. The winner was Rich Haldane and the loser was Dean Holoein. In the first inning Brian Kaneshige reached first base on a strikeout and

dropped third strike. Randy Potskin then singled moving the runner up a base. Dean Waltier then cracked a home run to score those key three runs in the first. Boyd Dallman doubled for CT but was left stranded and Holoien homered. Chris Wright doubled for the Brewers while Haldane and Waltier both ripped Holoien offerings for home runs.

Dieppe Legends 3. Relics of Sudbury 1

Dieppe again plated three runs in the first inning and Trcy Woolridge made them stand up allowing just three hits and fanning eight. The loser was Ward Gosse (who may have been a bit shot of fuel by this time). Sudbury scored one in the top of the fourth. In the fateful first Dieppe got those runs when Woolridge singled and scored on Tony Parker's ensuing double. Terry McAleer then singled to score the lead runner, Parker. Later in the inning McAleer scored when Phil Slaney singled.

CR Brewers 4. Maccabi 3

The Brewers were able to strike first because they batted first and a Mike Applegate managed to draw a base on balls to open the game. Brian Kaneshige then singled to center after Applegate had stolen a base. Maccabi knotted things in the second as Billy Frank walked and David Goldstein singled to third base. Michael Trenk then batted and singled to right field scoring Frank. Maccabi hung in there though and went into the last of the seventh down 4-1. Bruce Adams reached first on a single and scored on a two-run homer by Robbie Cooper to make it 4-3 but they could not muster another one and went down to defeat.

Legends Championship Game Dieppe Ridge 4, CR Brewers 1

The final game of the 2019 ISC Legends tournament saw Dieppe Ridge score two in the bottom of the first when Tracy Woolridge walked to open the frame The Jeff Lane singled to score Woolridge. Bill Fairman then blasted a huge championship game home run. They would get another one in the fifth before the Brewers got one run in the sixth. Woolrdige got the win scattering four hits and striking out eight. The loser was David Beets who allowed 3 runs on 3 hits and gave way to Rich Haldane in the third inning. Dean Begley and Dan Doiron both had doubles in the game for he champions.



Above - Doug Roberts in the center of the picture wearing the white Farm Tavern keepsake and Tim Maziarz to his left at work at the World Tournament behind home plate at Circle Tap.

A Special Thanks

Thanks to Darren Derricks for bringing the tournament to Circle Tap and Denmark, Wisconsin and also to all the people who "pitched in" and helped make the event a huge success. Thanks to Darren for asking me to do the daily write ups which I called **In And Around "The Circle"** which was a bit of a play on words with intent focusing on Circle Tap itself but with some inference to the white circle around the

pitcher's plate. It took a tremendous amount of time to put it all together. Three tournaments on the same weekend is big biscuit to swallow but thanks to Craig Donaldson and the girls from Owen Sound and everyone in the press box it was accomplished.

If I spelled anyone's name wrong it was by accident as I had no proof readers to help me out. If there are typos they occurred for the same reason.

Thanks are due Doug Roberts and Tim Maziarz for helping me out with loads of things. Also thanks to Brian Franson and Bob Powell for their continued interest in the game and making me a part of their adventures.

More Thoughts and Perspective coming in the next few days

In the next few days I will write a couple more Fastpitch Softball News Bulletins and post them on my website at fastpitchchronicle.net where the entire fastpitch world can read them.

At the end of all the bulletins I write I sign off with the following salutation --

Keep it Rising!

The salutation is really aimed at the readers to do their best at keeping the interest in fastpitch softball rising. Everyone can get in the act.

May All Your Days Be Fastpitch Days