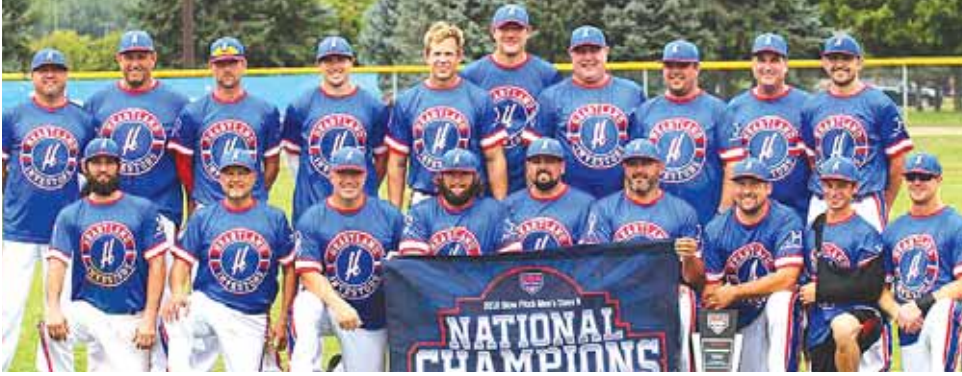




Softball News

Volume 34, Number 1 | USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA | Fall 2018



Team photo courtesy USA Softball Minnesota

Mandan powerhouse wins first national title since 2013

For years, Heartland Investors has been the 800-pound gorilla of slow pitch softball in North Dakota, either winning most local tournaments they participate in or looking outside our borders to find a level of competition closer to their own. Despite that, they found little success in national tournaments following their 2013 Men's

B National Championship, winning just 4 games in 3 events since then. On a muggy August afternoon in Prairie Island MN, however, Heartland rediscovered some of that old magic, sweeping through the field and

Heartland
continued on page 4



Photos courtesy Mandan Softball Association

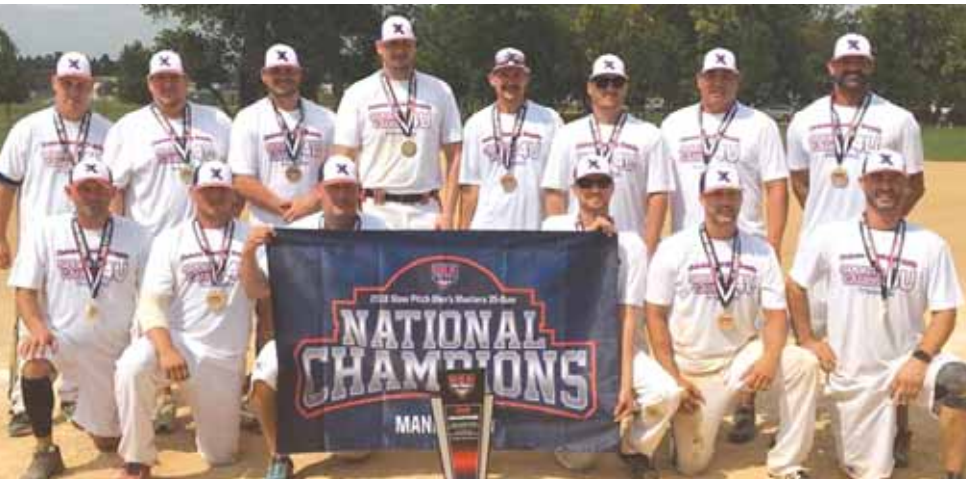
Perennial power out of Bismarck holds off challengers in 8-team field

North Dakota's inaugural national tournament in the Women's Masters division effectively turned into something of a border battle. Four North Dakota teams combined with four South Dakota teams to clash for a national title. In the end, Moritz Sport & Marine prevailed in convincing fashion.

The "border battle" appeared impressively balanced after pool play with both states getting a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th place finish in the two pools. Moritz dominated one, while Union City SD MLC topped the other. That meant a ND-SD matchup in each first round game once teams moved into the double elimination bracket. North Dakota gained an edge by winning 3 of those 4 games and the #1 seeds both rolled - Moritz with a shutout (16-0) and MLC by a narrower, albeit similarly impressive margin (11-1).

They were destined to meet again just one round later for a berth in the championship game. In the game of the tournament, Moritz narrowly outlasted MLC 8-7 to advance. With their momentum stopped, MLC was upset by fellow South Dakotans Dusty Diamonds, who had battled their way back from a first round loss. That lengthy route back to the championship game did seem to take its toll, however, and a rested Moritz team was well-equipped to take advantage of it. The ladies from across the Missouri River put a resounding exclamation point on their championship run with a 25-0 rout, securing the team's first national championship.

Moritz Sport & Marine's Val Gustavsson was named tournament MVP while Sarah Alberston was its Batting Champion.



Photos courtesy Mandan Softball Association

Fargo's tournament favorite weathers early scares to earn the title

Sports Cards 4U/The Box didn't have a skeleton crew for the early portion of their Masters 35 Competitive Division schedule, but they clearly were not at full strength as they faced the first foes of the weekend. That nearly cost them in the pool play format that would see only the top 2 of the 5 total

teams play for the championship. After a pair of one-run victories, however, including a back-and-forth, extra-inning battle with Mandan Eco Service, they were able to roll

Sports Cards 4U
continued on page 4



Photos courtesy Mandan Softball Association

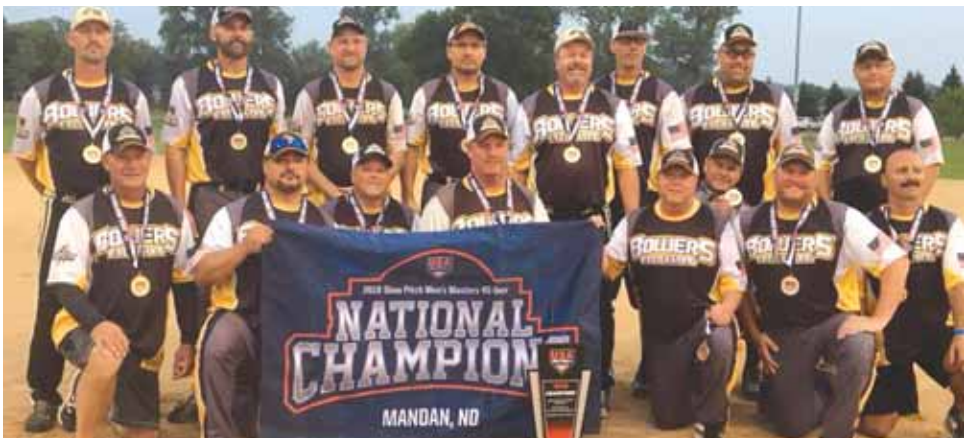
Dominating run results in back-to-back titles

Coming off a championship in their own backyard in 2017 when the tournament was held in Fargo, Miller Lite entered this year's event in Mandan as the favorite...ultimately living up to that mantle. As they did a year earlier, the defending champs surged early, stumbled late, but bounced back, this time to win title number 2.

Miller Lite strolled through the early rounds of the tournament, dominating their first 3 games by a combined score of 62-18. The last obstacle in the winner's bracket, however, stunned them. Wahpeton Wombats prevailed 18-14 to send Miller Lite into the loser's bracket.

It didn't take long to set up the rematch, though, with Miller Lite earning their second consecutive double-digit victory over Krahler's Softball. At that point, they were not going to be stopped. Wins of 14-5 and 19-12 over the Wombats earned them another championship banner.

Brian Quam was the star of the show, earning the Most Valuable Player award by, in part, bashing more home runs than any other batter in the tournament. Quam was not alone in earning individual accolades as Bill Footit repeated as the tournament's batting champion.



Photos courtesy Mandan Softball Association

Schmit, Loerch lead team to first 45 & over national title awarded in ND

It was just a three-team field, but the Men's Masters 45 national tournament debuted in North Dakota with a local favorite claiming the title. Mandan Bowers Excavat-

ing - no stranger to championships in the

Bowers
continued on page 4

President's Report

Wow, where did the Summer go? It was another great year for USA Softball of North Dakota. The moveups will be published in another spot in this Fall paper.

We had another great McQuades tournament with over 450 teams. Rain did wipe out a few of the championship games. A big thank you to all that make this a great tournament. To Mike Wolf and Jack Jones and all their many volunteers.

Congrats to all the State champions- Class C went to Fargo Quality Concrete/Randal's/Prairie Supply/ccs/Core Tech. The Class D winner

was Dickson Law/Knife River/VU from Bismarck. The Rec 1 winner was Wahpeton's Driftwood/OSPTT. The Rec. 2 East winner was Chub's Pub #2 out of Fargo. The Rec. 2 West winner was Minot Northern Truck/Fog'em. The Rec. 3 East winner was Bonzer's/D & B Rollers out of Grand Forks. The Rec. 3 West winner was Patriot Homes out of Bismarck. The Rec. 4 West winner was M & H out of Mandan. The Rec. 4 EAST was rained out the second day and Reiney's Bar out of Grafton won the Championship via coin flip. The Men's Masters 35- the Div. 1

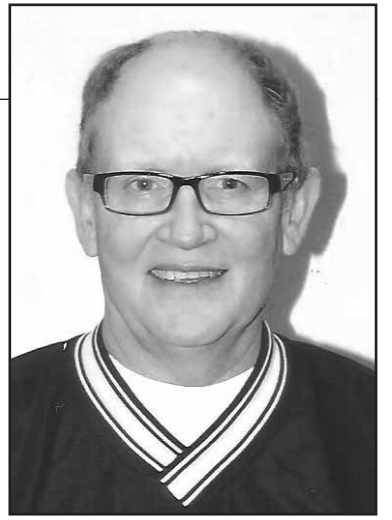
winner was Bismarck Heartland Investors, the Div. 2 winner was Krahler's out of Fessenden, and the Div. 3 had co-champs- Bismarck Patriot Homes, and Mandan Seven Seas. The Masters 40 was rained out the second day.

We had 2 National Tournaments in ND this year. Mandan hosted the Men's Masters 35 and 45 and older with the 35 having 2 divisions- a competitive and a recreational. They also had a Women's Masters 35. It was really great to see 8 women's teams entered in the 35. This tournament will again be in Mandan next year so get your teams ready.

The Northern Class D National was held in Fargo over Labor Day with 60 teams participating. This was a very even tournament with a lot of close games. Great job by both host cities...

We still have 2 State tournaments coming up with a Men's Fall State on Oct. 6th and a Men's 5 on 5 on 5 State tournament to be held the next day Oct. 7th.

Thanks everyone for all of your help this past year. I will see you in the Spring....
Thanks Jack...



Jack Lukes

Commissioner's Column

As we close out another softball season, I would like to thank all the people who make our program a success. We are very fortunate to have so many people willing to serve in such important roles as league reps, tournament coordinators, state and local board members, umpires, maintenance people and the endless volunteer's in many different capacities. Many thanks to our partners in Parks & Recreations departments in providing great facilities and quality softball programs for our players and fans to enjoy. I would also like to thank the sponsors who make it possible for people to play the game of softball in North Dakota. Please patronize these great friends of softball whenever possible.

A very special thank you to Gary & Connie Tharaldson and Tharaldson Companies for sponsoring trophies and championship banners for 30 adult and 9 JO State Tournaments, as well as the USA Softball MSP & WSP Masters 35 National and the D Northern National Championship in North Dakota in 2018. As we all know by the numbers of events, Tharaldson's donation is a significant contribution to the USA

Softball of North Dakota program. The Tharaldson donation allows us to keep our entry fees at an affordable level and maximize team participation. We extend our sincere appreciation to Gary & Connie for their continued commitment to softball in North Dakota. Be sure to thank them when you have a chance.

2018 Was another very successful softball season in North Dakota that culminated with 564 adult teams participating in 30 State Tournaments and 76 JO Teams participating in 9 State Tournaments. Thanks to all the teams, players and sponsors for supporting the USA Softball of North Dakota program and congratulations to all the champions in 2018.

We were fortunate to host two USA Softball National Championships in North Dakota this year. Mandan hosted the USA Softball Men's and Women's Masters Championship and had 34 teams combined in all divisions. Tournament Director Jack Jones, his tournament committee and volunteers did a great job and the event was a success. Mike Wolf served as UIC and had a great group of

umpires. Jack Lukes served as USA National Representative and did a very good job representing and upholding USA Softball Code and Rules. Fargo hosted the Northern MSPD National Championship and had a great turnout with 60 teams. Tournament director Mike Peterson and his tournament committee also did a very good job on this National event. Tom Keller of Minnesota served as UIC. Tom and his umpire staff were very professional and did a great job for the teams and tournament. Nick Gulmon served as the USA Softball National Rep and did a great job in representing the USA Softball Code, Rules and assisting teams. My compliments and thanks for all who made these National Championships a tremendous success. A special thank you to the Convention & Visitors Bureau of Mandan and Fargo. Both of these agencies are friends and great supporters of softball events in our state. We could not host these national events without their assistance. Lastly, we could certainly not host these events without all our great volunteers. Both Mandan and Fargo were fortunate

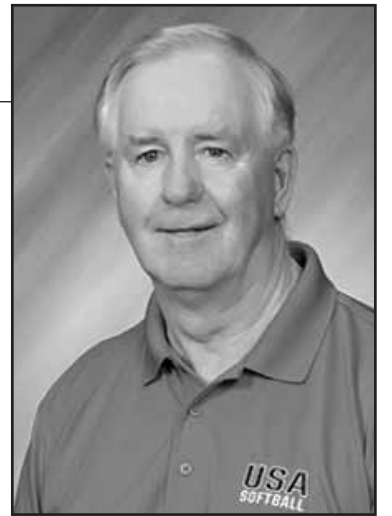
to have many people step up and help provide a quality event for the players and fans.

In late October I will be traveling to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to attend the USA Softball National Council meeting. We will be discussing many issues regarding rules and legislation for all aspects of the game as USA Softball is the National Governing body of Softball in the United States.

I would also like to thank our friends in the USA Softball National Office for their assistance throughout the year. USA Softball is fortunate to have a staff of very dedicated individuals who do a tremendous amount of work for softball.

My best to Walt Stack who has been sidelined with some health issues this fall. I would like to thank Donna Stack and RC Courtright for all the help in getting this paper out to our player's sponsors and friends during this time. Get well soon Walt.

Lastly, it has been my honor to serve as USA Softball of North Dakota State Commissioner. We have a great softball program in North Dakota and it is due to all



Dick Gulmon

the people in the state who give so much of their time to the program. We have great leaders throughout the state who work very hard to promote participation in adult and JO leagues, tournaments and a quality experience for all. My sincere thanks to each of you as we couldn't do it without you.

Have a safe and warm holiday season with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you all around the diamond next year.

Sincerely,

*Dick Gulmon
USA Softball
State Commissioner*

J.O. Fastpitch Update

The 2018 Junior Olympic State Tournament was held over 3 days from July 13th thru Sunday July 15th. Fargo hosted the tournament and it was played at the North complex. This year we had 75 teams participate, up from 64 teams we had last year, when it was held Bismarck. I need to thank the tournament committee, the Fargo Park District, all the workers and volunteers who made the tournament a huge success. Pat Johnson was the tournament manager. I especially want to thank the golf cart drivers for transporting all the team equipment, players, fans and tournament officials from parking lot to the diamonds. It should be noted that the Fargo CVB did a

great job on juggling hotel rooms for that weekend. It was the same weekend as the USA Wrestling national tournaments was being held at the Fargo dome. I did not here of any teams not getting a room.

USA Softball of North Dakota crowned 9 state tournament champions, in 5 different age brackets. West Fargo United won the 18A, Dickinson Diamonds won the 16A, Cass Trailblazers out of Hillsboro, won the 16B, Minot Storm won the 14A, Minot Storm, also, won the 14B, River City Wolf Pack from Bismarck won the 12A, Mayville Patriots won the 12B tournament, Dickinson Diamonds won the 10U A division and the Grand Forks Express won the 12U B title. The

format was double elimination with a 3 game guarantee. I really want to thank the 2 teams, and their parents for driving all the way from Williston, to participate in this year's tournament.

Sixteen diamonds were used for every round of games starting on Friday night, and Saturday and most of Sunday. Thankfully no rain fell this year and we had a nice cool Sunday, to play the championship games. Which resulted, in 218 games played over the entire weekend. We started with 26 umpires and lost a couple along the way. Lyle Rader was our Umpire in Chief for the state tournament, and spent quite a few hours of recruiting and scheduling umpires for the state tournament. I want to thank all the umpires for working that weekend. Just so everyone knows, the home

plate umps are in full gear, and have to stand in the for an hour and half to two hours. Usually in the heat when it over 90 degrees. These umpires do an amazing job and they need to be recognized for their help in putting on a tournament. It was nice to see some new teams and organizations join the tournament this year. Moorhead, MN, Badger Greenbush from Minnesota sent teams along with Velva (coached by Fred Muehler) joining in on the competition.

The fall meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 28th from 10:00 AM to noon, in Jamestown at the Gladstone Inn. All league reps are encouraged to attend the meeting. This is a great opportunity to get informed on what USA Softball of North Dakota is all about. On the agenda, is scheduling local



Brian Neuhardt

league play, summer tournaments, registration of players, registration of tournaments, 12u All American games, and the state tournament for 2019. Any agenda items you wish to add please let me know and we can add those. Here is your opportunity to voice any issues you have questions on.

The NDHSAA state tournaments for 2019, Class A will be held in Minot and Class B will be held in Fargo from May 30th thru June 1st for both tournaments. First day of practice will be March 18th.

Brian Neuhardt
NDUSA Softball JO Commissioner
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IMPORTANT DATES

National Council Meeting (Oklahoma City)..October 27 to November 1
Hall of Fame nomination deadline..... December 1
Winter Meetings.....January 18-19, 2019
Spring Meeting & Hall of Fame Banquet..... April 6, 2019

Ump Chat

For having such a small window of opportunity to play softball in ND we sure do get a lot accomplished and we always seem to make the most of the time we have to enjoy softball. It seems like we just get started with the softball season and then it is over before we know it.

We recently finished hosting two successful national softball tournaments in North Dakota this summer. Mandan was host to the Men's 35 & Over National Tournament. As usual, North Dakota teams a great job in helping support Mandan in their efforts to host this national tournament! The Mandan Men's Softball Association did a great job to help make this tournament a memorable one for all who played and umpired in it! Jack Lukes was the ASA Representative and Jacke Jones was the Tournament Manager and both did a great job in helping make the tournament run smoothly. I was honored to serve as the Umpire-in-Chief and Tim Watts from Lincoln, NE did a great job as the Assistant UIC. Tim Kilber and Bonnie Gerhardt were the Umpire Coordinators and did an excellent job.

Fargo hosted the Men's D National Tournament over Labor Day weekend and did an excellent job as well from what I heard. Allan Ziemann was the Assistant UIC and did an excellent job. Chris Coleman was the Umpire Coordinator who did an excellent job taking care of all the umpires!

We had a mix of umpires from all over the country and the umpires should all be proud of the efforts they put forth on the field at the two nationals! Mandan was a very important tournament for the umpires as it was a "Qualifying" tournament in their journey to become ASA Elite umpires which is the highest recognition an umpire can receive from ASA. We also had several North Dakota umpires who worked national tournaments around the country this summer. We also had North Dakota umpires who were se-

lected to work championship games at their respective tournaments. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to the game to be selected to umpire a national tournament! Great job ND umpires!!

Our state tournaments are finished and everything seemed to go very well. I have a great crew of Deputy Umpires in Chief around the state that do an excellent job of handling situations that arise during tournaments, not to mention the great job they do handling situations throughout the season. I would like to personally extend my thanks and gratitude to the great job my DUIC's do each and every year—thanks to Marchel Krieger—Jamestown, Shorty Payne—Grand Forks, Al Ziemann—Bismarck, Chris Coleman—Fargo, Elliott Gerhardt—Bismarck/Dickinson, Randy Olson—West Fargo, Mike Nider—Bismarck, Koby Pennick—Fargo, Tom Lawson—Minot, Terry O'Clair—Bismarck, and Lyle Rader—Wahpeton. I truly believe that the success of our umpiring program is based upon the people I have assisting me—so thank you everyone!! Without the assistance of my DUIC's throughout the state our umpire program would not enjoy the success it has!

I wanted to include an update on the Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament. Once again I would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to all of the teams and umpires that participated in the tournament and all the fans who came out to watch. We had a very successful weekend we were excited to distribute a record \$120,000 to local charities and organizations. I wish each and every one of you could have the opportunity to attend the banquet where we hand out the money and hear all of the heartwarming stories about just how much the many charities and organizations appreciate the funds they receive. If you ever want to attend, please let me know and we will make sure that happens!

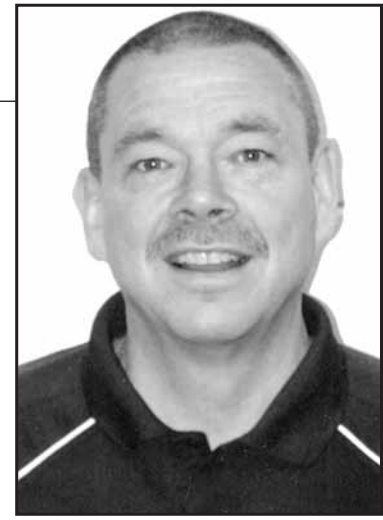
The winning teams and photos

are now posted on the McQuade website. Be sure and check out all the winners at www.mcquades.com Once again, thank you players, umpires, and fans for making this tournament a success! Watch for the registration form for the 2019 tournament that will be available shortly after the first of February on the McQuade website. Tournament dates for 2019 are June 28, 29 & 30. It will be our 44th Anniversary and you won't want to miss it! Let's make 2019 even bigger than this year! Remember—enter early! Be sure and be one of the record setting teams that participate in next year's tournament and don't be one of the many teams that didn't make it into the tournament. GOOD NEWS—the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team and the All-Air Force Team will also be returning to the tournament next year so we are excited about that. We hope to see you there!

While another great season of softball in North Dakota is behind us, there were definitely some bumps and bruises along the way this year with the actions of players on the field. It is something that needs to be addressed. Thanks to all of the players and umpires who make this game so great. I certainly appreciate all the emails, phone calls, and questions I receive from

players, managers, and umpires throughout the year on rule interpretations or concerns you might have. I also get asked several questions at many of the tournaments that I attend throughout the summer. I think it is great that we can discuss plays and situations so that umpires and players can come to better understand the rules of the game. Just know that I am willing and able to assist in any manner that I can!

As we end another season, I would ask leagues, players, and umpires around the state to assist us in recruiting more umpires. I challenge you to do whatever you can to recruit just one new umpire for next season in your area of the state. We are losing umpires across the country at an alarming rate and North Dakota is no different. By recruiting just one new umpire, you would be doing your part to make sure the great game of softball continues well into the future with a sufficient number of umpires. Maybe that umpire is you! One night a week can make a huge difference to any league across the state! Players and umpires—if you know of someone you think might make a good umpire, encourage them to try it. All it takes is a little persuasion from an umpire or a player and someone just might give



Mike Wolf • Umpire in Chief

umpiring a try—you'll never know unless you ask!

I also ask that you keep Walt Stack in your thoughts and prayers as he has been dealing with some health issues recently.

I encourage you to continue to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have. For me, the softball season never really ends so don't hesitate to drop me an email at wolfd8993@yahoo.com or give me a call on my cell at 701-400-2100 with any questions or concerns you may have. I am available to help you in any way I can. Have a great off season. I look forward to seeing many of you again at a rules clinic next spring or on the diamonds next summer or even somewhere along the line this winter!

From the Sidelines

Congratulations to all our State Tournament Winners!

With our State Tournaments complete and our first heavy frost in the past, I should have been having a normal conclusion to the 2018 Softball Season...except for one thing: I have spent the last six weeks in the hospital. Thanks to all who have sent cards or called to check on me.

I am presently in a rehab facility in north Bismarck, hoping to get

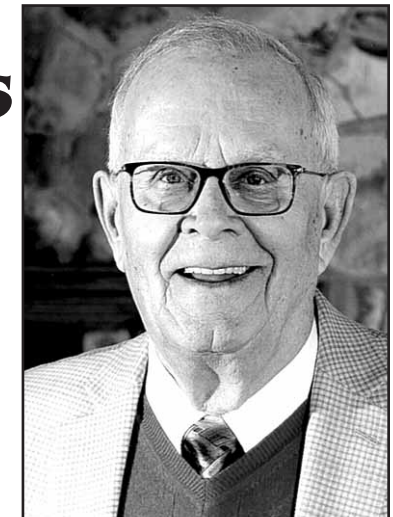
strong enough to get back home soon.

Thanks to Dick Gulmon and RC Courtright for jumping in to complete this Softball News!

I hope to see you all in the Spring at the Hall of Fame banquet in Jamestown. Mark your calendars and save the date of Saturday, April 6, 2019.

Winter well.

Walt



Walt Stack

Behind the support of 458 teams "The McQuades" breaks another fundraising record

BISMARCK, ND – The largest three-day charity softball tournament in the USA has broken its own fundraising record and continues to spread the wealth with the Bismarck-Mandan community. The 43rd annual Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament announced today that over \$120,000 will benefit charities in the area.

"This community amazes me every year" Said Shannon McQuade-Ely, Secretary/Treasurer for the McQuade Softball Board of Directors. "The people that come and participate, fans watching the games, and all of the volunteers it takes to put on this event have a large hand in making this tournament a success."

Up over \$15,000 from last year's total, the weekend was once again headlined by the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team as they took on the ND Hall of Fame team.

"The partners we have in this state are great" said Jack Jones, co-director of the tournament. "In order for us to bring the unbelievable group of Wounded Warriors in for this tournament it takes a lot of logistics and partners. Many sponsors stepped up, as they have in previous years, so that no funds were used from the tournament proceeds to pay WWAST travel expenses."

The Connie Wolf Cancer Awareness ball toss on Friday and Satur-

day night, along with the plethora of silent auction items, put this year's tournament as one of the best ever financially.

"It's the Woodstock of softball and all for a great cause." McQuade-Ely says.

Tournament Notes:

The USA's Largest non-profit, single weekend slowpitch softball tournament was founded in 1976 by Sam McQuade Sr. of McQuade Distributing Co., Inc., the local distributor of Budweiser beer. Being a father of a special needs son - Sean, Sam was keenly aware of the financial challenges of local charities and organizations that were involved in helping such less fortunate people. In 1976, the first year of the tournament, Sam and countless volunteers raised over \$1,000 and brought 103 teams in 4 divisions to Bismarck-Mandan, ND. The event grew to over 450 teams in 15 divisions and raised over \$100,000 in total donations in the year 2015! Today, the tournament is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, including the 3rd generation of McQuades, Shannon McQuade-Ely.

Over the years the tournament has become one of Bismarck's - if not North Dakota's largest events. Teams have come from neighboring places, such as Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana; as far away as Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Washington state

and Wyoming; and from 2 Canadian provinces.

In fact, the tournament helped sponsor international divisions in 2006 in Bosnia, three in Baghdad (2007, 2008 & 2009), two in Kosovo in 2010 and 2012, along with one in Kuwait in 2012. Teams have commented that it is more

challenging and exciting to play and win in "The McQuade" due to the fact that they're competing with some of the best teams from throughout the Midwest and around the country.

• 84 charities or benefits will be recipients of the funds raised during the 2018 McQuade Tournament.

Funds will be distributed during and invited only banquet in late August.

• To date over 1.5 million dollars has been raised for the Bismarck-Mandan charities.

• FUN Facts: 2018 brought a first for the tournament with the Baptism of a softball fan at one of the diamonds of Clem Kelley.

Where are they now?

The following is a listing of those members of our softball Hall of Fame whose mail is being returned by the Post Office. That means that they may have moved or perhaps are deceased. If any of you reading this knows the whereabouts of any of these people please let me know. My mailing address is AMY ANDERSON, 1226 4TH AVE. E, WEST FARGO, ND 58078 or HASNAMER7@OUTLOOK.COM. Thanks.

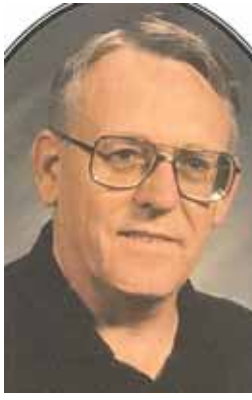
	Last Known Address	
Charles Anderson	2301 9th St SW	Minot, ND
Pete Bachmeier		Grand Forks, ND
Donovan Dehn	222 Jersey Ave	Hatton, ND
Rick Fee		Falcon Heights, MN
Bob Footitt, Sr.		Fargo, ND
John Schumacher		Harvey, ND
Larry Zeadow	3805 Ravalli St., Apt C	Bozeman, MT

The Last Call

Former state softball commissioner passes away

Jim Hanley, Grand Forks was 78

Long time softball activist Jim Hanley passed away peacefully at home from congestive heart failure on Friday, July 13. Hanley was active in state softball for over 40 years, serving as Grand Forks city commissioner for 25 years and as state softball Commissioner for 18 years.



Jim was born in Fargo in 1939 and spent most of his school days in Park River, North Dakota. He graduated from Walsh County Agricultural High School in 1957 before attending the University of North Dakota where he earned a Bachelor of Education degree in 1961. He earned a Master's in Geography in 1969. He served in the National Guard and the Army Reserve from 1962 to 1968. He

married Yvonne Spies on June 22, 1962 and together they raised three daughters, Pam, Nancy, and Susan.

Jim had a lifelong interest in sports as evidenced by his long service in softball. In addition, he was a high school football referee and ran the clock for basketball in Red River High School. He was the announcer at UNO hockey games and the North Dakota High School hockey tournament for decades.

After his 25 year stint as Grand Forks City Softball Commissioner, he was named to succeed long time state softball commissioner, Duane "Tiny" Schafer in 1996 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2013. He was elected to the State Softball Hall of Fame in 1996.

Hall Of Famer Dorlan Lybeck passes away

Last September, we said goodbye to 1980 Hall of Fame inductee Dorlan Lybeck of Fargo. Dorlan was inducted at the original Hall of Fame site in Harvey ND following a spectacular 28 year career - over 1200 games - in Fargo-Moorhead's Twin City League, playing in the league's All-Star Game in 21 of those years. In his 23 state championship tournaments, he played in eight championship games, winning four.



Once his playing days ended, Dor helped promote the game through a variety of roles - F-M Softball Association President, NDASA State President, F-M Fast Pitch Commissioner, and member of the NDASA Hall of Fame Council. In addition to the Hall of Fame plaque he received in Harvey on June 28, 1980, Dorlan Lybeck was also presented with State Commissioner's "Distinguished Service Award".

F-M Hall Of Fame adds four

In August, the Fargo-Moorhead Softball Hall of Fame welcomed its newest class: Harry Bergman (inducted posthumously), Mike Bullinger, David Holm, and Sharon Horsager. Bergman earned the honor as a result of his organization of numerous championship teams in women's fastpitch in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Bullinger toed the rubber for decades for top fastpitch teams Gaslite Lounge and Kost Brothers before moving on to coach and sponsor a variety of girls, women's, and men's teams.

Holm was also a longtime member of the aforementioned Kost Brothers fastpitch team and, like Bullinger, remained an integral part of the sport when his playing days were over, serving at president of the Fargo-Moorhead Fastpitch League and being highly involved



in multiple national tournament committees. Horsager played three-quarters of her 40 year softball career playing locally, earning two state championships in that time

Masters Nationals return in 2019

The Men's Masters 35 National Tournament will be back in North Dakota for the fourth consecutive year in 2019. Like this year, it will be played in Mandan and will be paired with the Men's Masters 45 and Women's 35 National Tournaments as well.

North Dakota always draws the largest number of Masters teams for national tournaments and this summer's event was no exception. The addition of the Men's 45 (which had not been played since 2015 in Mississippi) and especially the Women's 35 (dormant since 2011

in Alabama) added to an already exceptional weekend of action. Now that those tournaments are back in play, we are hopeful that we see even more entrants from around the area next year.

We hope to see all three tournaments back in Mandan once again in 2020 as well if the city's bid is approved at the USA Softball National Council Meeting in Oklahoma City at the end of October. Fargo is also expected to place a bid for the 2020 Men's E/Rec Northern national Tournament at that time

Heartland

continued from page 1

reigning as the Men's B National Champion once again.

It was not an easy path to the title - not a single victory came via the 10-run rule - as the men from Mandan bookended their 5-game undefeated run through the 19-team field with a pair of one-run victories. They opened Saturday morning with a challenger traveling to Minnesota all the way from Dallas TX, Evolution/Primetime/Easton/Klutch. Following a 20-19 win, they were finally able to enjoy a couple of more comfortable victories, 20-12 versus T's 13/Monsta (Nebraska) and 27-18 against Dugout47/Airstack/Bud-Light (Wisconsin). That left just

another Wisconsin team standing in the way of a berth in the championship game. The offense was a little harder to come by and the margin was a bit narrower, but Heartland persevered 15-11 over Comatose/S2N/Monsta.

As the team awaited their final challenge, an opponent who was quite familiar with the pressure of championship games arrived. All American Restoration/Monsta from nearby Dayton MN had reached their 3rd consecutive Men's B National Championship Game. However, the locals had not broken through for a title in those previous appearances. All American Restoration wanted no part of another runner-up trophy and provided quite a challenge, indeed,

but Heartland Investors were very much prepared. The Minnesotans tested the Heartland defense with 27 runs, but fell one run short as the Men's B National Championship returned to Mandan.

In addition to the team trophy, tournament coordinators selected Heartland's Mike Feldman as the tournament MVP.

Congratulations to Mandan Heartland Investors: Scott Brahos, Richard Buck, Ty Buck, Joe Cornell, Chris Dahl, Brandon Dilbeck, Cody Erhardt, Mike Feldman, Mike Graham, Blaine Horsager, Scott Huffman, Sam Ingemansen, Brad Jaeger, Joe Janson, Jared Krasselt, Shane Piatz, Dana Roller, Jason Salz, & Brandon Wilkens.

Sports Cards 4U

continued from page 1

along until reinforcements showed up and the national championship was in reach.

While North Dakota's top threat struggled, the lone entry from South Dakota was dominating. Team Primed racked up wins by a combined score of 37-15 in the first half of pool play. Facing a team with such momentum, however, was just the tonic SportsCards 4U needed to elevate their play. A resounding 29-16 victory over the

threat from south of the border put them comfortably on a path to the championship game.

Despite another loss to wrap up pool play, it was Team Primed who would get their shot at revenge in the championship matchup, albeit a doubleheader sweep would be necessary against the top seed from Fargo. Primed managed to get the first with a 10-run margin that let everyone know that the final game could very well go either way.

The way that game did go,

though, was squarely in favor of Sports Cards 4U. The margin of victory (24-13) was virtually flipped from their previous contest and the Men's Masters 35 Competitive Division National Championship trophy would head east to Fargo.

Sports Cards 4U/The Box also took home the MVP (Josh McMenamy) and Batting Champion (Jody Schommer) awards, while Team Primed walked away with the HR Champion (Ray Cuny).

Bowers

continued from page 1

Masters divisions on the state level - shook off an early loss to emerge from the pool play-to-double elimination format as the champion.

Bowers began strong with a victory over Team Primed (Rapid City SD) to open the tournament, but Bismarck Oswald Brothers Auto Repair struck them down in their

next game to take the #1 seed heading into the bracket. They would meet three more times before the day was over.

After easily dispatching Team Primed yet again (25-11), Bowers upset the #1 seed by a narrow 21-18 margin to head into the championship game. Oswald put an end to Team Primed's day to continue the local rivalry. Oswald would force

the winner-take-all game with a 14-7 win, but Bowers got the last laugh by posting their own 7-run victory for the title.

Bowers was driven by tournament MVP Tommy Schmit and home run leader Mike Loerch. One of Oswald Brothers' namesakes - Larry Oswald - was the tournament's batting champion.

2019 USA Softball of North Dakota Slow Pitch Teams To Be Moved Up

To Men's A

- Heartland Investors, Mandan (Class B National, 1st place)

To Men's B

- 3X Gear/The Box/Edge Fitness/Sports Cards 4U, Fargo (MN Class C, 2nd place)

To Men's C

- Dickson Law/Knife River/VUE Community Credit Union, Bismarck (Class D, 1st place)
- First Class Mortgage/Joe Blacks/ACCU, Grand Forks (Class D National, 7th place)

To Men's D

- Driftwood/DSPTL, Wahpeton (Rec 1, 1st place)
- Burgess Detailing, Minot (Rec 1, 2nd place)
- JB Brothers LLC, Williston (Rec 1, 3rd place; McQuades Rec 1, 1st place)
- Proz/Horizon Financial, Devils Lake (Rec 1, 4th place)
- Shotgun Sally's/Abrams Farm Service, Grand Forks (Rec 1, 5th place)
- Homesteaders, Minot (Rec 1, 5th place)

To Men's Rec 1

- Chubb's Pub #2, Fargo (Rec 2 East, 1st place)
- Vance Thompson Vision/Gross Construct, West Fargo (Rec 2 East, 2nd place)
- Speedway 805 Busch Pounders, Grand Forks (Rec 2 East, 3rd place)
- Thunder Road/Bar 9/Dan's Service Center, West Fargo (Rec 2 East, Consolation Champion)
- Northern Trucking/Fog'em, Minot (Rec 2 West, 1st place)
- Lucky Strike/Farmers Union Insurance, Minot (Rec 2 West, 2nd place)
- Sportsman's Bar, Minot (Rec 2 West, 3rd place)
- Dakota Mini Storage, Mandan (McQuades Rec 2, 1st place)
- Lang's Lawn Care/Zimmerman Manufacturing, Bismarck (McQuades Rec 2, 2nd place)
- Dakota Mini Storage, Bismarck (Rec 1 challenge, 2 wins)
- D&M Young Guns, Minot (Rec 1 challenge, 2 wins)

To Women's C

- Ground Round/Daydreams/JUC/Southgate, Grand Forks (Class D, 1st place)
- Moritz Sport & Marine, Bismarck (McQuades C, 2nd place)
- Walzak/Executive Limo, Bismarck (McQuades D, 1st place)

To Women's D

- Corral Bar/Ultimate Exteriors, Bismarck (Rec 1, 1st place)
- Buffalo Wings & Rings, Bismarck (Rec 1, 2nd place)
- Bud Light Babes, Williston (McQuades Rec 1, 1st place)

To Men's Rec 2

- Patriot Homes, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 1st place)
- Gentzkow Trucking, Lisbon (Rec 3 West, 2nd place; McQuades Rec 3, 2nd place)
- Carrington (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)
- Drill Chem, Minot (Rec 3 West, 4th place)
- Skeel's Electric, Mandan (Rec 3 West, Consolation Champion)
- Sports Page/Colonial Lounge, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Consolation Runner-up)
- Farmer's Union Insurance/Anarchy Bat Company, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Roughrider Champion)
- Direct Ag, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Pioneer Champion)
- Bonzer's/D&B Rollers, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East, 1st place)
- Bar 9, Fargo (Rec 3 East, 2nd place)
- Devil Dog Brewing / Johnson Auto, West Fargo (Rec 3 East, 3rd place)
- R&R Contracting, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East, 4th place)
- Hope, Rural Cass (Rec 3 East, Consolation Champion)
- Rugby Eagles (McQuades Rec 3, 1st place; Rec 2 West challenge, 2 wins)

To Men's Rec 3

- MGH, Mandan (Rec 4 West, 1st place)
- Logo Magic/B&K Electric/Winn Construction, Dickinson (Rec 4 West, 2nd place)
- Midwest Sports/Paragon Products/Cottingham, Bismarck (Rec 4 West, 3rd place)
- Badlands Environmental Consultants, Bismarck (McQuades Rec 4, 1st place)
- VFW/Thirsty's, Devils Lake (Rec 3 East challenge, 2 wins)
- Tire One/Valvoline, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East challenge, Roughrider Champion)
- Paul's Electric/Birchem Livestock, Wahpeton (Rec 3 East challenge, 3 wins)
- Eide Ford, Mandan (Rec 3 West challenge, 2 wins)
- New Vision Security, Mandan (Rec 3 West challenge, 2 wins)

To Women's Rec 1

- Plains Women, Minot (Rec 2, 1st place)
- Joe Black's/Deek's, Grand Forks (Rec 2, 2nd place)

To Women's Rec 2

- Speedway Women, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East, 1st place)
- KC Knights, Jamestown (Rec 3 East, 2nd place)
- Mertz, Sheyenne Valley (Rec 3 East, 3rd place)
- Salter Farms, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 1st place)
- Sniper Ag/Top In Tavern, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 2nd place)
- Sportsman's Bar, Wilton (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)
- Shady's Softball, Jamestown (McQuades Rec 3, 2nd place)

ALL TEAMS MOVED UP WILL HAVE TO PETITION TO HAVE THEIR CLASSIFICATION LOWERED. ONLY UNDER EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THAT REQUEST BE APPROVED. REQUESTS MUST BE SENT THROUGH THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER OR REPRESENTATIVE TO JACK LUKES OR ARMY ANDERSON FOR FINAL DETERMINATION.

Junior Olympic Girl's Fast Pitch State Tournament Results

The JO Girl's Fast Pitch Division continues to expand-84 teams gathered in Fargo the weekend of July 13 to 15 to vie for state titles in five age divisions all but one of which featured both A and B divisions. The tournament was held in the new Fargo Park Board Northern Softball Complex.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 10 & Under, Division A champion...Dickinson Diamonds: Front Row, Kneeling (L-R): Taya Rodakowski, Moira Parker. Middle Row (L-R): Bevin Hauck, Mara Armstrong, Taryn Hauf, Brooklyn Wariner, Maycee Moe, Elly Mcavoy, Jenna Nelson, An-nabel Scheeler, Bella Kovash, Madison Wegleitner. Back Row (L-R): Coaches Chad Wegleitner, Jay Nelson, Jason Rodakowski.

10 and Under: Class A

There were three Dickinson teams in the Ten and Under Division, Class A with Dickinson team identified as Team Black winning the title beginning with a 26 to 5 trouncing of a Jamestown team before blanking the Bismarck Sparks 6 to 0. In their next game, they beat the Minot Blue team 12 to 8 to remain unbeaten. The Minot team came back

through the loser's bracket in the double elimination tourney winning 23 to 12 over the Bismarck Sparks to earn another shot at the Dickinson Black team. In the final game, Dickinson prevailed 15 to 0 to win the Ten and Under crown. Bismarck Sparks claimed third place



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 12 & Under, Division B champion...May-Port Patriots: Front Row, Laying Down (L-R): Danica Hanson, McKenna Gader. Middle Row, Kneeling (L-R): Sydney Schwab, Dru Schwab. Back Row (L-R): Coach Jeremy Strand, Parker Strand, Kaylee Paulson, Rylee Satrom, Tatum Mehus, Maysa Larson, Raina Satrom.

12 and Under: Class B

Mayville surprised the field of nine teams going unbeaten in four games to win the Class B title. Their first game was a decisive 12 to 5 win over the Dickinson Diamonds, then they dumped Mandan 9 to 5 before

winning handily over the West Fargo Fusion 13 to 2. In the final game, Mayville again topped the Dickinson Diamonds 9 to 2 to win the title. West Fargo Fusion won third place.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 10 & Under, Division B champion...Grand Forks Express: Front Row, Kneeling (L-R): Reilyn Kachena, Mya Mannausau. Middle Row (L-R): Emerson Rosenthal, Sophia Mdoeen, Stella Blue, Amy Jacobson, Avery Holthaus, Jillian Pulkrabek, Jillian Dunphy, Adrianna Tande, Ella Speidel, Jocelyn Berg, Avery Beauchamp. Back Row (L-R): Coach Tiffany Mannausau, Coach Jennifer Madeen, Coach Aaron Dunphy.

10 and Under: Class B

Six teams competed in the Class B Division of the 10 and Under Group with the Grand Forks Express team taking home the title. They opened their tournament run with a bye before shutting out Minot Storm 6 to 0. They next tangled with a tough squad from Moorhead, Minnesota with Grand Forks winning 4 to 2 in a well played game. That

put the Grand Forks team in the semi-finals where they again met the Moorhead team after they had come back from the loser's bracket and this game was even tighter than their first meeting with Grand Forks taking the title with a 2 to 1 score. Minot Storm won third place.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 14 & Under, Division A champion...Minot Storm: Front Row, Kneeling (L-R): Mackenzie Rist, Makinly Grosche, Mikkel Benjamin, Kenzie George, McKenzie Foltyn. Back Row (L-R): Brooklyn Benno, Paige Ackerman, Lydia Streccius, Tattum Stebleton, Tay-lee Hertz, Rhone Nelson, Bre Kissner

14 and Under: Class A

The Minot Storm lived up to their name as they stormed through their Division with four straight wins. They opened with a close contest, besting Moorhead 7 to 6 before beating the Bismarck Sparks 8 to 6. In game number

three, Minot won 12 to 4 over the Dickinson Diamonds before conquering the Capital City Havoc 4 to 1 in the Championship game. Dickinson Diamonds nabbed third place.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 12 & Under, Division A champion...River City Wolf Pack (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Kirsten Galloway, Lexi Tollefson, Andrea Betner, Taylor Christensen, Cali Tollefson, Caitlyn Dannenfelzer, Keely Schiermeister. Middle Row (L-R): Halle Wetsch, Megan Weisbeck, Gabi Bird, Jersey Berg, Ali Gulleison. Back Row (L-R): Coaches Mike Dannenfelzer, Joel Bird, Kyle Christensen

12 and Under: Class A

In one of the more competitive divisions, a dozen teams were vying for the championship trophy. The champion turned out to be the Bismarck River City Wolf Pack which won the title after winning a "is necessary" game with the Dickinson Diamonds. The Wolf Pack started their tourney run with a 20 run win over a team from Jamestown 22

to 2. In their next game, they won a one run decision over the Dickinson Diamonds to send Dickinson into the loser's bracket. The Diamonds won their way back into contention to get another shot at the Bismarck Squad in the "if necessary" game which resulted in a 12 to 3 Bismarck win. Moorhead Crush won third place.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 14 & Under, Division B champion...Minot Storm: Front Row, Kneeling (L-R): Reese Rice, Isabella Espe, Kinsey Fjeld, Kaelyn Bachmeier. Back Row (L-R): Coach Chris Falcon, Avery Falcon, Peyton Falcon, Peyton Lang, Abby Tallman, Mirah Evenson, Cierra Evenson, Canbry Frantsvog, Emma Rense, Aynzee Mosser, Coach Troy Lang, Coach Brian Lanser.

14 and Under: Class B

The 14 and Under Division clearly belonged to Minot as another Minot Storm team not only went unbeaten but shut out three of their four opponents. Eight teams were entered in this Division but no one was able to tame the Storm team from the Magic City. Minot opened with a 16 to 2 win over

Wahpeton, then scored three shutout victories with wins over Casselton 9 to 0; Williston 21 to 0; and Williston again 18 to 0. Williston played well and claimed wins over Hankinson 17 to 6, Wahpeton 13 to 2 and Casselton 14 to 11 while losing twice to Minot. Casselton claimed third place.

Junior Olympic Girl's Fast Pitch State Tournament Results



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 16 & Under, Division A champion...Dickinson Diamonds: Front Row (L-R): Coach Amanda Mickey, Taya Hopfauf, Emy Personne, Kennedy Kuntz, Kamryn Kuntz, Ali Lafond, Caylee Wiltce, Danni Benito. Back Row (L-R): Coach Jason Hopfauf, Coach Josh Wilke, Abby Kessel, Mataya Mortenson, Abby Kubas, Paige Ballieg, Brianna Ashworth, Taylor Nelson, Coach Bryan Kuntz, Coach Scott Lafond.

16 and Under: Class A

Another Dickinson team, the Diamonds won the 16 and Under Class A with wins over FM Blaze Orange 13 to 0; West Fargo United 13 to 4; Jamestown 12 to 1 before losing to the Fargo Blaze Blue 5 to 2. The Diamonds came back to beat the Blue 12 to 3 in the final game and take home the trophy. FM Blaze Blue won runner-up honors after losing their

opening game to West Fargo United 5 to 4. They then strung five wins to reach the title game. They beat Bismarck Revolution 14 to 2; RR Thunder 12 to 4; West Fargo United 14 to 6; Jamestown 12 to 0 and the eventual champs from Dickinson in the "if necessary game" 5 to 2 only to lose the final 12 to 3. Jamestown won third place.

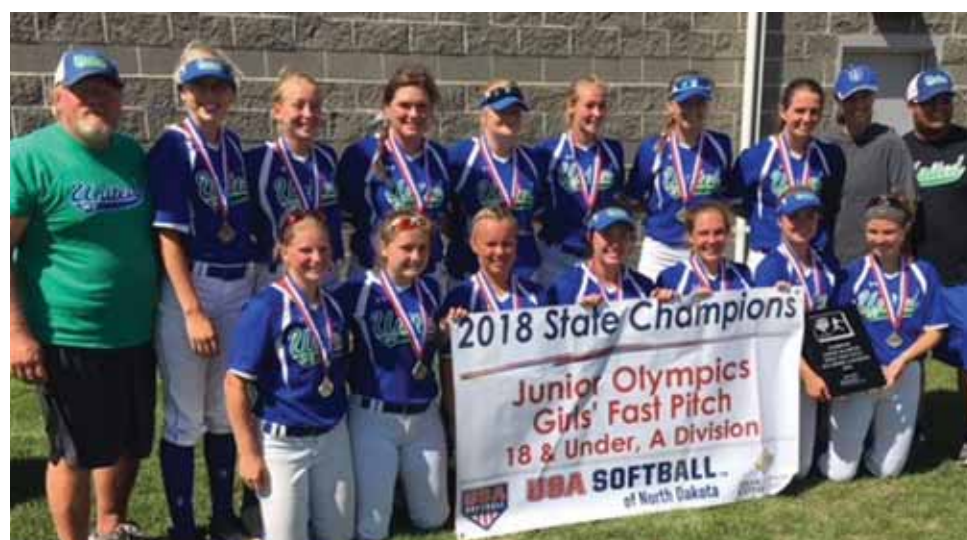


JO Girls' Fast Pitch 16 & Under, Division B champion...Cass Trailblazers (Hillsboro): Front Row (L-R): Ila Peterson, Tatiana Egan, Makenzie Iverson, Mattie Mathys, Katelyn Rude, Morgan Chandler. Back Row (L-R): Coach Cory Eriskson, Molly Knutsvig, Noella Kritzbeger, Dallas Jorgensen, Saige Forseth, Abby Germundson, Coach Tim Spurgeon.

16 and Under: Class B

Eight teams showed up to challenge for the title in the 16 U, Class B Division with the Cass Trailblazers winning four times to claim the crown. They opened with a 12 to 4 win over Velva and followed that up with a 10 to 1 over the Hankinson Zukies. They then won over the Fargo Lady Eagles 13 to 6 and

beat Velva again in the final game after Velva had fought it's way back to the "if necessary" game. The score in the final was 9 to 7 in favor of Cass Trailblazers. The Hankinson Zukies won third place and the Fargo Lady Eagles were fourth.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 18 & Under, Division A champion...West Fargo United: Front Row (L-R): Shay Weber, Brooklyn Myruik, Tori Nichols Kraft, Felicity Blair, Madi Zander, Maria Pake, Lauren Diemert. Back Row (L-R): Coach Pat Johnson, Madison Sweep, Madi Anderson, Gabby Nelson, Mikalia Johnson, Courtney Bell, Mariah Peters, Ashly Diewert, Coach Kaitlyn Johnson, Coach Matt Johnson.

18 and Under: Class A

All is right with the softball world in North Dakota: West Fargo United is the 18 and Under State Champion again! The West Fargo team won over the Moorhead Crush to begin their march to the title 20 to 9 before meeting and beating the Minot Storm 12 to 6. Next they disposed of the Grand Forks Express 7 to 2 before taking a surprising loss at the hands of a feisty Casselton team 11 to 3. West Fargo rallied to win the Championship

game 10 to 1 over the FM Blaze. The Blaze took the long road to the final game, losing their first game to the Minot Storm 4 to 3 but then strung together five wins to regain another shot at West Fargo. The Blaze beat RR Thunder 13 to 3; West Fargo Fusion 11 to 0; Minot Storm 11 to 6; BGMR 7 to 4 and the Grand Forks Express 5 to 3 before dropping the final to West Fargo 10 to 1. Grand Forks Express earned third place.



Women's Masters Division 1 champion...Moritz Sport & Marine (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Sarah Power, Julie Yantzer, Sonny Schulz, Val Gustavsson, Dre Frank. Back Row (L-R): Holly Murphy, Therese Corneau, Morgan Todd Edmondson, Jennifer Decateau, Cassie Smith, Myste Hutton, DJ Saragosa, Danielle Murphy, Leah Hendrickson. Not Pictured: Maria Griffith.

Women's Masters, Division 1

In a 3-team double round robin format, Bismarck Moritz Sport & Marine easily swept their way through the weekend to win the championship. Moritz defeated Revitalized

Painting by scores of 17-9 & 15-4 and Lucky Strike 12-0 & 10-2. Revitalized won their two matchups with Lucky Strike to finish as the runner up.



Women's Masters Division 2 champion...BDS Concrete/Bistro (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Abby Thomas, Kristi Dagman, LaShae Michels, Tina Hill, Mikki Brunelle, Amber Zahn. Back Row (L-R): Kari Flaagan, Megan Dooley, Nrittany Muir, Sara Hollow, Fronda Yellow Earrings. Not Pictured: Ginger McMahon.

Women's Masters, Division 2

While also a 3-team double round robin format, this tournament has a much closer finish. Bismarck BDS Concrete/Bistro and Wahpeton Driftwood both swept O'Brian's, but split their head-to-head matchups to send the championship to a tiebreaker. BDS

Concrete/Bistro's victory provided them with a 10-run margin of victory (26-16) while Driftwood's was merely 2 (10-8). The +8 run differential would result in BDS Concrete/Bistro being awarded the championship with Driftwood as the runner up.



Women's Masters Division 3 champion...T&A (Dickinson): Front Row (L-R): Kristin French, Allison Goettle, CJ Urlacher, Kristin Wollmuth. Back Row (L-R): Kendra Bachmeier, Tracy Skoglund, Betsy Hermanson, Carissa Swenson, Chris Haugen-Rathbun, Coven Perhus

Women's Masters, Division 3

The 5 team draw in D3 would be played out in a round robin tournament. No tie-breaker would be needed here. Dickinson T&A went undefeated against the other four teams in the field to earn the state title. After wins of 15-9 and 17-5 on Saturday, a nail-biter against Plains Women to open Sunday

(5-4) would effectively clinch the championship before even playing their final game later that day - an 8-5 victory. Bistro and KC's Old Pro were squared up in the tournament's final round in what proved to be the 2nd place game. Bistro prevailed 8-4.



Women's Masters Division 4 champion...Helifino (West Fargo): Front Row (L-R): Leslie Hage, Jess Roll, Tonah Dickhaus, Kortney Groetham Vessel, Angie Alber. Back Row (L-R): Nicky Finck, Kristi Vetter, Sherri Armitage, Anita Thompson, Jodene Uses Many

Women's Masters, Division 4

Another 5 team round robin, another sweep to a title. West Fargo Helifino also had their title wrapped up fairly early after surviving their closest challenge in their opening

contest - a 10-8 victory over 3 Feather Divas. The Divas would wrap up 2nd place with a 11-3 win over Tom's Electric.



Women's Rec 1 champion...Corral Bar / Ultimate Exteriors (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Kennedy Blair, Amber Zahn, Samone Motley, Kristi Dagman, LaShae Michels. Back Row (L-R): Tina Miller, Felicity Blair, Kari Flaagan, Olivia Light, Kayla Babinski, Mike Blair.

Bismarck team wins women's rec one title

Corral Bar/Ultimate Exteriors wins the Women's Rec One state title besting 22 teams in the state tournament held in West Fargo the weekend of August 11 and 12. They won five straight games without a loss to bring home the state title.

Corral Bar/Ultimate Exteriors opened their title run with a ten run win over a West Fargo team Stingers and Dingers by a score of 19 to 9. They met another West Fargo team in their second game, beating M and J Saloon 10 to 3. In their third game, they ran into a tough squad from Williston Mulligans but

escaped with a one run victory 6 to 5. In their next game, they played another Bismarck team, winning 15 to 10 over Buffalo Rings and Wings to advance to the championship game. In the final game, they had to beat Buffalo Rings and Things again since the Rings and Things crew came back through the losers bracket. The final score was 5 to 4 in favor of the Corral Bar/Ultimate Exteriors bunch. Buffalo Rings and Things captured the runner-up spot while M and J Saloon was third and Mulligan's fourth.



Women's Rec 3 West champion...Salter Farms (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Kaitlyn Thompson, Caitlin Grumbo, Tara Salter, Steph Thompson, Sam Schiele, Nicole Kalvoda. Back Row (L-R): Ben Mues, Tyler Johns, Kristin Jensen, Devon Boushey, Nikiki Dillmann, Amber Rangeloff, Kayla Fischer, Stacey Braunagle, Shane Maxwell, Kevin Thompson. Not Pictured: Nicole Anderson, Sam Werner.

Salter Farms of Bismarck Wins Rec 3 West Title

Twenty Six teams gathered in Bismarck the weekend of August 4 and 5 to contest the state title in Women's Slow Pitch Rec 3 Division. A local team, Salter Farms won the tournament going unbeaten in five games during the two day event. Salter opened their run to the title with a ten run victory over Frontier Fort of Jamestown 14 to 4. In game two, they bested Town and Country Credit Union of Minot 12 to 4 before meeting another Bismarck team, Sportsman's Bar winning

15 to 5 in another ten run game. That win propelled them into the championship game where they defeated Sniper Ag/ Tap in Tavern of Bismarck in a well played game 8 to 7. Sniper Ag/ Tap in Tavern claimed runner-up honors which Ty's Lounge/DLYA of Devils Lake was third. Anamoose was the consolation champion while Town and Country Credit Union won the Roughrider Division and Bill Barth was named the winner of the Cactus Division.



Women's Rec 2 champion...Plains Women (Minot): Front Row (L-R): Jamie Deutsch, Shelby Lego. Middle Row (L-R): Maurisa Wells, Shay Miller, Sarah Klug, Kyli Drosdal, Nicole Wells, Melayna Four Bear. Back Row (L-R): Jasmin Enockson, Kayelee Hamers.

Womens Slowpitch Rec 2

Grand Forks hosted the Rec. Two Division of women's slow pitch state tournament with thirteen teams in contention for the state title. The prize was won by the Plains Women team from Minot which had to play an "if necessary" game before they were declared the tournament winners. The Plains Women opened with a tight victory over the Silver Dollar Bar of West Fargo winning 8 to 7. In their second game, they met another team sponsored by the Silver Dollar, the Sexy Pigs whom they defeated 11 to 6. In their next contest they met their toughest competition beating Joe Blacks of Grand Forks 12 to 11. In the "if necessary" they again met the Grand Forks team dropping a 6 to 4 decision

to force a second championship game. In that final game the Plains Women unlimbered their bats to pound out a 16 to 2 win to claim the state title.

The Joe Black team from Grand Forks won their first game 17 to 16 over Lonesome Dove/Shocktop of Mandan then enjoyed a forfeit before winning over Hub International/Grand Trail. They then lost their first game to the Plains Women 12 to 11 before recovering to post a 14 to 12 win over Floyds/Grand Trail. In the "if necessary" game, they beat the eventual champs the Plains Women 6 to 4 to force a second championship contest which was won handily by the Plains Women by a score of 16 to 2.



Women's Rec 3 East champion...Speedway Women (Grand Forks): Front Row (L-R): Kenny Nelson, Lexi Erickson. Middle Row (L-R): Cruz Baranski, Darcy Bradley, Savannah Ahumada, Deb Boaz, Kiera Haskins, Melissa Stoller. Back Row (L-R): Alecia Hoheisel, Toni Kain, Katelyn Bassett, Tianna Boaz-Scott, Tresa Moeller, Erin Erickson

Speedway Women claim Rec 3 East title

Grand Forks Speedway Women navigated through a series of teams from the host city of Jamestown to finish the weekend 5-0 and win the Rec 3 East state championship. They opened the tournament with a dominant 12-0 shutout of Jamestown Advantage Electric, then managed a tougher 7-3 victory over Jamestown RM Construction. On day 2, Speedway opened with a 10-6 win against Devils Lake Proz Lakeside and blew out Sheyenne Valley Mertz 18-2 to reach the title game where yet another Jamestown team awaited. Following a thrilling 6-4 contest against KC Knights, the title was theirs and

the Knights were awarded the runner-up trophy. The aforementioned Mertz would be victorious in a similarly thrilling game, a 5-4 victory over Fordville to claim 3rd place.

The consolation championship was won by Tri-County's Bud Light/Hugos' Wine & Spirits thanks to yet another close trophy game, winning 8-7 against Jamestown Fred's Den Savages. Jamestown would sweep up the remaining trophies, though, as Arrowwood Merchants earned the Roughrider championship and Advantage Electric rebounded nicely from their opening loss to the eventual champion to earn the Cactus championship.



Women's Class D champion...Ground Round/Daydreams/JUC/Southgate (Grand Forks): Front Row (L-R): Marissa Adam, Brittany Marhol, Jessica Haugen, Mel Hanson, Melissa Grafenauer, Katie Murray. Back Row (L-R): Gail Ingwalson, Amy Bushaw, Dawn Scott Larson, Jackie Fossum, Jamie Arola, Laura Barclay, Jocelyn Britton, Hannah-Rose Rodriguez, Bruttany Baker.

Women's Slow Pitch Class D

A Grand Forks team with multiple sponsors bested six teams to win the Women's Class D State tournament held in Grand Forks the weekend of July 28 and 29. Ground Round/Daydreams/JUC/Southgate was named the champion winning four straight games over the two day event without a loss. They opened with a ten run victory over Midway

Tavern of Bismarck 13 to 3 and followed that up with another ten run win over the Rookies of West Fargo 15 to 5. They posted their third ten-run decision with a 17 to 7 win over Ramada/Corral Bar of Bismarck. In the championship game, the Grand Forks team overcame the Hillsboro Vets, MP Farmers 9 to 1 to claim the Class B title.



Men's Masters 50 champion...Bowers Excavating #2 (Mandan): Front Row (L-R): Ereth kids. Middle Row (L-R): Bob Piatz, Tim Michelsen, Jim Becker, Dana Ereth, Todd Winkler, Jeff Delzer. Back Row (L-R): Al Liebert, Mark Bohrer, Scott Battest, Randy Piatz, Dean Gesellchen, Rod Becker, Tim Adolf, Jim Keller.



Men's Masters 50 Wood Bat champion...Bowers Excavating #2 (Mandan): Middle Row (L-R): Al Liebert, Bob Piatz, Jim Becker, Tim Michelsen, Dana Ereth, Todd Winkler, Jeff Delzer. Back Row (L-R): Mark Bohrer, Scott Battest, Randy Piatz, Dean Gesellchen, Rod Becker, Tim Adolf. Not pictured: Jim Keller

Bowers #2 dominates Men's Masters 50 weekend

The Men's Masters 50 division plays two different state tournaments - one on Saturday using only wood bats while the metal bats are reserved for Sunday. This year, it made no difference what the batters' weapon of choice was, the end result was the same: Mandan Bowers Excavating #2 persevered as the champion.

Wood Bat - Bowers #2's championship runs did not go without a blemish. After defeating Mandan Mariner Construction to open the tournament, they dropped a 3-1 decision to Minot Shinerbock to settle for the 2 seed from their pool. Once in the bracket, they bounced back with a 5-0 shutout of Mandan Magi-Touch. The remaining opponents provided a little more of a test for the Bowers' defense, but their offense stepped up significantly as evidenced by the 21-6 win over Fort Rice to send them to the title

game. A rematch with Mariner Construction ended with the same result - a 14-7 victory to claim the championship. Fort Rice would defeat Mandan Bowers Excavating #1 in the 3rd place game.

Metal Bat - Bowers #2 left nothing to chance on Sunday, coming right out of the box with a high-powered offense. They began pool play with a 16-5 win over Grand Forks McMenemy's, then took the #1 seed by narrowly beating their Bowers #1 counterparts 19-7. They entered the bracket in the semifinal and drew a pair of familiar faces from the wood bat battles the day before. A 16-4 win over Shinerbock provided them with yet another pairing against Mariner Construction. Bowers #2 was simply too much, though, dispatching Mariner 13-2 for their second championship of the weekend.



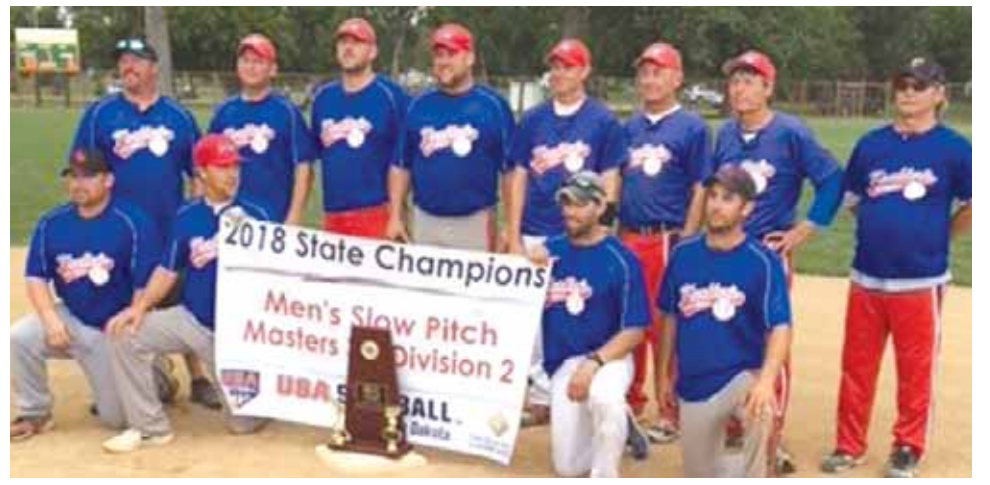
Men's Masters 40, Division 2 co-champions...Bowers Excavating (Mandan) & Carpet World (Bismarck): Bowers Excavating roster: Perry Hanson, Jeff Bowers, Chad Hultin, Tommy Vanderwal, Eric Koster, Ryan Stiefel, Ron Hanson, Jason Hustlar, Tommy Schmit, Phil LaVallie, Ben Leingang, Drew Thomas, Robbie Smette, Mike Larson, Steve Butterfield, Criag Stamaris, Mike Upton, Tim Fjeldahl, Rob Bethke, Terry Barnaby, Mike Loerch (pickup player). Carpet World roster: Justin Zainhofsky, Dan Siefert, Matt Ohlhauser, Rob Sipes, Mike Zorn, Dion Wirrenga, Brandon Holt, Ed Weigel, Greg Hoffman, Justin Froseth, Nathan Kupfer, Jon Daunhauer, Jim Wahl, Nate Broeckel, Dusty Hadley, Jason Fauth, Roger Weigel, Chad Stewart (pickup player).

Men's Masters 40

With no teams in Division 1, all teams were competing for the Division 2 crown. By the time Saturday's schedule was completed, only two teams remained in the winners bracket. Bismarck Carpet World needed only two victories - 16-12 vs Miller Lite and 10-9 vs Kruse - to stay undefeated. Mandan Bowers Excavating's road through the winner's bracket was longer (3 games),

but more convincing (wins of 12-2 vs Kensal Merchants, 18-4 vs Bruno's Pizza, & 15-2 vs Gentzkow Trucking). With Sunday's games being washed out, the two teams were declared co-champions.

The loser's bracket played out with coin flips, resulting in Bruno's Pizza in third place and Kensal Merchants in fourth.



Men's Masters 35, Division 2 champion...Krahler's Softball (Fessenden): Front Row (L-R): Aaron Backer, Dave Johnson, Bryan Hornbacher, Ryan Spitzer. Back Row (L-R): Duane Savageau, Vic Zerr, Jeff Johnson, Pete Johnson, Ryan Larson, Kelly Krahler, Curt Krahler, Tim Krahler. Not Pictured: Gavin Black.

Men's Master 35, Division 2

The second tier was far more competitive as 16 teams battled for the crown. In the end, it was Fessenden Krahler's Softball that weathered a series of tough tests to leave Mandan as champions. It was an easy start for Krahler's with a 14-0 shutout of Minot Arrowhead Ace Hardware. The margin in their remaining 5 games would be barely more than half of the 14 run difference in game 1. They barely survived Wahpeton Wombats (9-7), Valley City Elliott Farms

(11-10, and Minot Wolding Trucking (10-9) to remain the only undefeated team and reach the championship. Wolding Trucking would win their next game 18-12 over Elliott Farms (3rd place) to set up the rematch. In what might seem like a blowout compared to their previous 3 games, Krahlers won 10-6 to become the state champion in Division 2. Fargo Precision Plumbing finished the as the fourth place team, losing their final game to Elliott Farms.

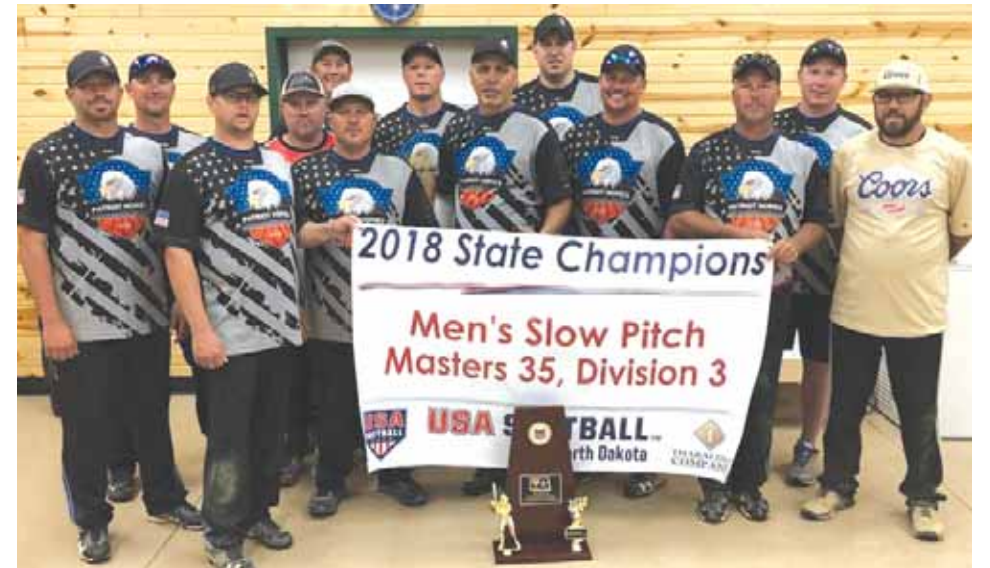


Men's Masters 35, Division 3 co-champion...Seven Seas Bar & Grill (Mandan): Front Row (L-R): Josh Stewart, Corey Rennich, Kenny Phillips, Easton Monson, Dan Marsh, James Delzer. Middle Row (L-R): Shannon Gangl, Tim Morris, Chad Stewart, Bob Liscomb, Wyatt Pollert, Todd Boehm. Back Row (L-R): Charles Seil, Rocky Reddig, Tanner Miller, Kelly Davis, Jerry Zachmeier, Branden Monson.

Men's Master 35 Division 3

Unlike the other two divisions, every team suffered at least one loss in the Division 3 bracket, which meant the "if necessary", winner-take-all game would have to be played to settle the championship. Unfortunately,

Mother Nature had other plans and the final game had to be cancelled, leaving D3 with co-champions - Bismarck Patriot Homes and Mandan 7 Seas Bar & Grill.



Men's Masters 35, Division 3 co-champion...Patriot Homes (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Mark McElvaney, Scott Wagner, Casey Jose, Randy Reosler, Brandon Ternes, Shane Dockter. Middle Row (L-R): John Vogel, Jesse Jose, Waylon Ternes. Back Row (L-R): Charles Uppgren, Steve Gierke, Dustan Steffen, Brent Kraft.

Patriot Homes took the shorter route to the championship, needing just four wins vs May-Port Insurance (21-18), Fargo Barcode (18-3), Bismarck Vance Vetter Homes (14-10), and Minot Circle Sanitation (26-20). Meanwhile, 7 Seas stumbled against Circle Sanitation (11-15) after opening with a 26-16 win over Bismarck Bruno's Pizza and a 12-7 win against Oakes Rudy's Bar. Facing elimination, they rallied to knock out May-Port 13-12 and Barcode 18-7 to get a second

chance against Circle Sanitation, which they took advantage in thrilling fashion by a score of 16-15. Needing a pair of wins over Patriot Homes, they got the first in what was an uncharacteristically low scoring for both, 8-4. The rains then robbed us of what was likely to be an exciting conclusion, so both squads would share the championship.

Circle Sanitation finished the tournament in third place, while Barcode finished fourth.



Men's Fall 5x5x5, Tier 2 champion...KCs/Wildside Creations (Jamestown). (L-R): Manager RC Courtright, Brandon Gange, TK Krenz, Bryce Petersen, Joey Gebhardt, Aaron Backer.

Jamestown KC's/Wildside Creations wins Fall 5x5x5 debut

It was new, it was cold, and it produced one of the most thrilling finishes of any state championship this season. For the first time ever, a 5x5x5 state tournament - a format featuring 3 teams of 5 to 8 players rotating through outfield, infield, and batting over 5 innings - took the field on a chilly Sunday in October. It was a squad from Jamestown - KCs/Wildside Creations, the only team playing the minimum 5 players every game - that walked away as the inaugural champions.

Beginning with pool play, Wildside broke open their first contest with a 9-run second inning, then held off a late charge from Wahpeton Overthrown for the 16-12-10 victory. Wahpeton ISight/RPV/F-M Shirt Lab - who also won their first game of the tournament - would challenge Wildside in the next game and become a common foe. Another big inning for Wildside - 12 runs in the 1st - put them up comfortably, but ISight battled back to force a tie, 18-18-6. They would meet again in the final pool play game, again overwhelming the 3rd participant. ISight scored 7 time

in both of the first 2 innings, but Wildside immediately followed with 9 and 13 to set up a 22-20-9 victory and a championship rematch with both ISight and Overthrown.

Each team's offense slowed in their fourth and final games of the day, but Wildside and Overthrown gradually pulled away and traded leads. Wildside managed to push across 2 runs in the 5th to tie Overthrown, but the Wahpeton team had a chance to bat for the title in the bottom of the inning. After a leadoff double and an intentional walk, left fielder Joey Gebhardt made a spectacular diving catch and doubled the potential championship-winning run off of second. One batter later, it was time for extra innings. ISight - 6 runs back but suddenly with a chance to steal a win - went quietly in the top of the 6th. Wildside scored twice to give them a chance to finish the game on defense. Overthrown brought the tying run to the plate with 2 outs, but would have to settle for second place. KCs/Wildside Creations prevailed 12-10-4 to become North Dakota's first 5x5x5 state champions.



Men's Masters 35, Division 1 champion...Heartland Investors (Mandan): Front Row (L-R): Josh Schaner, Scott Brahos, Blaine Horsager, Jon Gums, Mike Wolff, Shane Platz. Back Row (L-R): Brad Jaeger, Scott Huffman, Joe Cornell, Brandon Wilkens, Gene Graner, Stacy Keller.

Three Divisions, 4 champions at men's masters 35 state

Division 1 - Mandan Heartland Investors entered the top division of the Men's Masters 35 state tournament as the heavy favorite and lived up to that expectation. They began play with a 19-10 win over Mandan Eco Facility Services in a game that would prove to be

their closest of the tournament. A 22-7 victory over Minot Kelly Chiropractic left them waiting for a challenger in the championship game. Eco Facility Services came all the way back through the losers bracket for another shot, but fell 22-11 to give Heartland the title.



Men's Class C champion...Quality Concrete/Randal's/Prairie Supply/CCS/Core Tech (Fargo): Front Row (L-R): Eric Linn, Michael Felch, Kyle Kusler, Billy Shall, Michael Kirby, Tony Gross, Brady Carlsrud. Back Row (L-R): Jeremiah Enger, Tim Rude, Brian Stark, Kyle Althoff, Justin Hanson, Brandon Siverson. Not Pictured: Derek Blackburn, Josh Hagen

Quality Concrete top Men's Cfield

A Fargo team topped the 12 team field to win the Men's Class C State title. Quality Concrete/Randal's/Prairie S of Fargo opened with a bye then ten runned RMI Holiday Store/Budweiser of Grand Forks 15 to 5. Game number two matched Quality Concrete with a tough squad from Minot, Sports on Tap with Quality surviving a 16 to 15 win. They had another tough opponent in their third game as they outlasted WMB/Monsta 20 to 16. WMB came back through the loser's bracket to down Quality Concrete 16 to 11 to force another championship game which was won by Quality 15 to 14.

WMB fought their way into the second

championship game starting with a 17 to 12 win over Dvorak Motors/Bud Light/Wax Blasters/Bailey of Bismarck. They then won over Corral Bar of Mandan 15 to 13 and Sickie's Garage of Bismarck 18 to 14. WMB/Monsta then lost the game that dumped them into the loser's bracket as eventual champ Quality Concrete of Fargo handed them a 20 to 16 loss. WMB/Monsta fought back with a ten run win over Sickies Garage 27 to 17. In the "1f" Mgame they avenged their earlier loss to Quality Concrete winning 16 to 11 only to lose the second championship game in a tight one run game 15 to 14.

Sickies Garage took third place.



Men's Class D champion...Dickson Law/Knife River/VUE Credit/Sports Cards 4 You (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Andrew Seeberg, Austin Mill, Jeremy McLeod. Middle Row (L-R): Taylor Isakson, Anthony Dale, Shaun Henderson, Quincy Pierce, Dan Schwab, Collin Boehrs, Ty Oakland. Back Row (L-R): Ryan Engel, Zac Martin, Aaron Teigen, Tre Henderson, Tyson Maxon. Not Pictured: Matt Johnson, Dustin Wenzel, Ryan Sweep

A Bismarck team which had a remarkable finish last year was back at it again in 2018

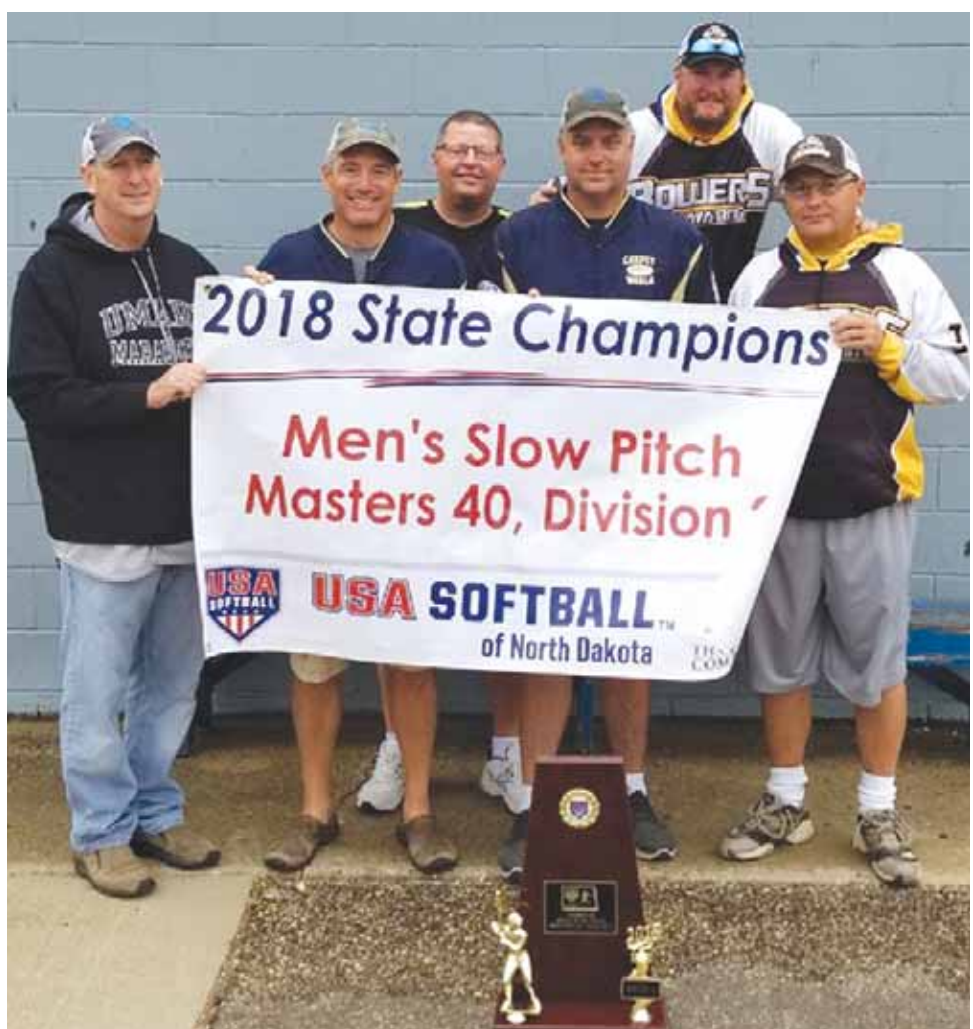
Dickson Law, Knife River,Vue Credit Union and Sports Cards 4U won the state championship in Men's Class D after winning a state title in 2017 as well as a Northern National title in 2017. In the 2017 season this team won the Rec One state title which forced them to move up to Class D, the next step up the bracket ladder then won the Northern National title in the E Rec Division.

This year's team won the Men's Class D State Championship in Bismarck the weekend of August 4 and 5. In their first tournament game, they hung a ten run decision on Rumors/River City Jewelry/Hasher's all of Grand Forks 17 to 7. In their next game Dickson Law beat DMV

W/The Bowler/the Box of Fargo by a single run, winning 9 to 8. before winning another

ten run victory over Nodak Insurance of Bismarck 17 to 7. Dickson continued it's march to the title with a victory over Rhombus Guys/Precision Plumbing of Fargo by the score of 18 to 12 before meeting and beating Custer Flats Trucking of Mandan 15 to 7.

Runner up was Custer Flats Trucking of Mandan which came all the way back from a first game loss to Rhombus/Precision Plumbing of Fargo 11 to 9. Custer Flats Trucking of Mandan then reeled off consecutive wins over Inge's Pub of Bismarck; Southgate of Grand Forks; First Class Five; the Aftermath; Nodak Insurance; DmVA before claiming a forfeit over RhombusGuys of Fargo. All their efforts proved to be in vain as they dropped a 15 to 7 game to eventual champs Dickson Law.





Men's Rec 1 champion...Driftwood/OSPTI (Wahpeton): Front Row (L-R): Curtis Kretchman, Jeremy Bontjes, Joel Prochnow, Casey Materi, Tyler Gripenroy, David Thompson. Back Row (L-R): Kellen Dockter, Preston Kappes, Jamie Jacklitch, Nathaniel Pratt, Bryan Jacklitch, Richard Peterson.

Wahpeton team wins Rec 1 State title

Driftwood Lounge outlasted 45 other teams which were vying for the state title in the Rec. One division. The tournament was held in Mandan the weekend of August 11 and 12. The Wahpeton crew had to win seven games to take the trophy. They began their title march with a 23 to 7 win over a Fargo team, Bro-Dude Bombers/infinity Electric before beating a Grand Forks team, Sun-Pro 17 to 5. Their next victim would become more familiar during the tournament, Burgess Detailing of Minot lost 14 to 7 but would pop up again later in the event. Driftwood then handled MTW Towing of Fargo 14 to 7. Driftwood then won games from Shotgun

Sallys/Abrams Farm Service of Grand Forks 21 to 4 before meeting JB Bros of Williston winning 17 to 15. That advanced them to the Championship game where they again met and beat Burgess Detailing which had come through the loser's bracket to earn a shot. Driftwood scored 17 runs to win 17 to 11.

Burgess Detailing of Minot took an early loss to Driftwood then came back to face them again in the Championship Game. Burgess claimed wins over Esto Dingus 18 to 8; Boyko 15 to 14; K of C 17 to 15; GH Farms 7 to 6 and Shotgun Sallys 14 to 4; and Proz 27 to 17 before losing to Driftwood in the Final.



Men's Rec 2 West champion...Northern Truck/Fog'em (Minot): Front Row (L-R): Dan Williams, Reuben Watts, David Chorjel, Taylor Mays, Sean Litvin, Eric Andreason, Josh Myers, Jimmy Shaw, Kyler Hunter. Back Row (L-R): Caleb McClish, Aleks Rys.

Northern Truck/Fog'em leads Minot Dominance at Men's Rec 2 West

It was a strong showing in Minot by the hometown teams at the Men's Rec 2 West state tournament, sweeping the top 5 places including the championship by Northern Truck/Fog'em. Their early contests went rather smoothly as they prevailed over Bismarck Rugrat 9-1, Minot Terhorst 15-5, and Mandan War Chiefs Elite 16-5. A semifinal matchup with New Town Sportsmans Bar - who plays league in Minot - provided far more of a challenge, but Northern Truck would advance to the title game with a 16-14 victory. Battle tested, they squared off

with Minot Lucky Strike/FUI in a classic. 8 innings later, Northern Truck emerged victorious 14-12.

Sportsmans Bar managed to hold off Minot Los Chubbies 20-17 in the third place game while Minot Premier Physical Therapy won the consolation championship 14-3 over Beulah Alibis Lounge/Union Bank/Hazen Bottle Shop. In the Roughrider bracket, it was yet another trophy for Minot, this one going to D&M Young Guns. Hazen Family Eyecare/RMS Tritex/Beulah Vision claimed the Cactus championship.

Bismarck Hosts National Umpire School

A USA Softball National Umpire School is going to be held April 26-28, 2019. It is going to be held at Saint Mary's Grade School and the Clem Kelley diamonds in Bismarck. The school will kick off Friday evening with a meeting with the Regional UIC's who be in charge of conducting the school. Saturday and Sunday will consist of classroom sessions and field drills. The school is designed to help both veteran and newer umpires improve their umpire skills and improve their knowledge of the rules.

Region 8 Umpire in Chief Steve Riswold from Sioux Falls will lead the school. He and North Dakota UIC Michael Wolf will be making recommendations to the national office for other regional UIC's to be clinicians. The final decision on the clinicians who will be in Bismarck will be made at the National Council Meeting in Oklahoma City in October.

Wolf will be the school coordinator and be in charge of registrations, making travel arrangements for the clinicians, securing a host hotel, and all other logistics for the national school. DUC's Elliot Gerhardt, Terry O'Clair, and Al Ziemann along with the Bismarck Umpire Association's board members will also assist in the coordination efforts. Wolf will also assist the clinicians throughout the weekend with the school.

Registration forms should be available shortly after the first of the year. At this time, the registration fee is anticipated to be \$75.

We are planning to provide the opportunity for attendees to pre-order USA Softball umpire gear as well as USA Softball of North Dakota apparel.

We're anticipate hosting attendees from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, and Nebraska.

Contact Information

USA Softball of North Dakota State Office
Telephone: (701) 952-4448
Email: StateOffice@USASoftballND.com
Website: www.USASoftballND.com



Men's Rec 2 East champion...Chubb's Pub #2 (Fargo): Front Row (L-R): Seth Fredrick, Dana Kutter, Braydon Gourneau, Drew Leclair, Marshall Kaldor. Back Row (L-R): Tom Kramer, Cory Schuh, Mike Strobel, Garrett Styf, Brian Fix, Ryan Brown

Men's Rec 2, East

A field of 37 teams greeted tournament officials to challenge for the Men's Rec. Two East state title. Chubb's Pub #2 of Fargo went unbeaten in four contests over the two day event winning their opening game with a 15 to 13 victory over Agroline of Jamestown in a well played game. They had a tougher time in Game two winning 10 to 9 over Lakeman Construction of West Fargo. Chubb's finally got the bats loosened up in third game with a ten run win over Joe Blacks/RJ Zyvoral and Sons of Grand Forks. They won the right to play for the championship by beating Speedway/805/Busch Pounders of Grand Forks 11 to 5 then met Vance Thompson Vision/Gross Construction of West Fargo in the final game winning 15 to 10

Runner Up Vance Thompson Vision/

Gross Construction of West Fargo won their opener by a ten run margin over Duane's Gun Repair of Fargo. In game number two, Vance Thompson Vision beat Pixeled Brew. Company of West Fargo 16 to 5 then scored a win over Krahler's Softball/Mid Dakota 15 to 9 before edging the Sisseton Slammers of Wahpeton 15 to 14 before losing the final game to Chubb's #2 of Fargo 15 to 10.

Third Place went to Speedway of Grand Forks which beat the Slammers 13 to 12. Consolation Bracket winner was Thunder Road of West Fargo with a 18 to 8 win over Pingree.

Roughrider Division champ was Smith Motors of Wahpeton and the Cactus Division was claimed by Lawncapers of Fargo.



Men's Rec 3 East champion...Bonzer's/D&B Rollers (Grand Forks): Front Row (L-R): Carl Hoffman, Michael Nemer, Jake Sederstrom, Quinn Hoffman. Back Row (L-R): Brady Young, Braden Thoreson, Mitchell Sanders, David Tunseth, Brett Nespor, Peter Saure, Greg Newenhouse, Brady Dokkebakken. Not pictured: Jedd Sylvester, Stu Brant, Mitch Lipson.

Bonzers/D and B Rollers of Grand Forks wins Men's Rec 3 East title

A Grand Forks team, Bonzers/D and B rollers survived two early game scares to win the Men's Rec 3 State title in Grand Forks the weekend of August 11 and 12. Bonzers opened with a 12 to 11 win over Boomers Corner Keg/Eagles of Valley City and then had another tight struggle winning 14 to 13 over Sheldon Merchants/Ransom County. Bonzer's bats finally showed up in their next game, a 17 to 10 win over Slammers/The Box #2 of Fargo. They continued their hot hitting in their win over Gateway Chevrolet/SK reality of West Fargo 18 to 8. They then won over the Devil Dogs Brewing to reach the final game. No score was available. In the final game, Bonzers beat Bar Nine of Fargo by ten runs winning 22 to 12 to win the championship.

Bar Nine of Fargo was the runner-up in the

tournament which drew 46 teams. Bar Nine opened with a 10 to 6 victory over Rhombus Guys Brewing of Grand Forks then followed up with a 17 to 6 win over Bank Forward of West Fargo. In their third game, Bar Nine won a ten run game over Taco Johns/Wakefield Listening Center 22 to 12. They also won over R and R Contracting of Grand Forks, no score was available on this game. In the final, Bar Nine lost to Bonzers/Dand B Rollers 22 to 12.

Third place went to Devil Dog Brewing/Johnson Auto while Hope won the consolation title 20 to 9 over Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

The Roughrider Division was won by Tire one/Valvoline of Grand Forks.

The Cactus Division was awarded to MAK Construction of Grand Forks.

Rain ends 2 state tournaments prematurely

A deluge of rain late Saturday and into Sunday morning forced the second day cancellation of state tournaments in Fargo and Jamestown.

Men's Rec 4 East - Twelve teams emerged from the 54-team field undefeated going into Sunday. However, when excessively saturated fields welcomed them on Sunday, they were resigned to go head-to-head with coin flips to determine champion. Grafton Reiny's Bar - who remained in the championship bracket after wins of 8-4 over Bomb Shelter and 20-7 over Southgate/Retrax on day 1 -

survived 3 flips to be named champion. Grand Forks Tire One/Valvoline was the runner-up, Grafton Walhalla Building Center ended up third, and Fargo Aber Taxidermy/Northland Truss finished fourth.

Fargo Ole & Lena's Pizzeria won the consolation championship coin flip over Fargo Barcode. Coin flip winners in the remaining brackets include Fargo Dakota Supply Group (Roughrider), Fargo Drumconrath Brewery (Cactus), Havanna Hammers (Pioneer), and Grand Forks Hankey Law/Carpenter Crusaders (Tumbleweed).



Men's Rec 3 West champion...Patriot Homes (Bismarck): Front Row (L-R): Scott Wagner, Case Jose, Brandon Ternes, Tanner Jose, Hunter Humann. Back Row (L-R): Mark McElvane, Waylon Ternes, John Vogel, Steve Gierke, Dustan Steffan, Justin Neshem, Brent Kraft. Not pictured: Cody Hammer, Charles Uppgren

Patriot Homes goes 6-0 in Men's Rec 3 West

It was the largest of our state tournaments in 2018, which meant that the new state champion would need a long, sustained run to hoist the championship trophy. That's precisely what Bismarck Patriot Homes accomplished, mixing blowouts with nail-biters to end the weekend as the lone undefeated team. The eventual champs opened the weekend with a couple of comfortable wins - 15-1 over Mandan Bowers Excavating and 17-9 against Bismarck Basin Electric. Then the challenge really took hold. Bismarck O'Brian's/Coors fell by just a two-run margin (12-10). Minot Reiter Oil & Gas kept their contest even closer, but Patriot Homes survived 10-9. In

the semis, they had a little more breathing room in a low scoring game with Carrington, winning 8-4. The offense bounced back in the championship, and they needed it. Patriot Homes would defeat LaMoure Gentzkow Trucking 19-13 to become the Men's Rec 3 West state champion.

Carrington earned 3rd place, 17-2 vs Minot Drill Chem. The remaining trophies were awarded to Bismarck Farmers Union Insurance/Anarchy Bat (Roughrider champion), Bismarck Direct Ag (Pioneer champion), Mandan Delkalb/Crop Production Services (Cactus champion), & Dickinson The Spur (Tumbleweed champion).



Men's Rec 4 West champion...M&H (Mandan): Front Row (L-R): Randy Tardiff, Chris Junker, Jackson Miller, Shane Kuntz, Travis Zeeb, David Dobier. Back Row (L-R): Chris VanderWal, Jon Dobier, Ryan Larson, Casey Kuntz.

M&H brings Men's Rec 4 West banner to Mandan

In a field predominantly featuring teams from Bismarck and the host city of Dickinson, Mandan M&H survived to claim the Men's Rec 4 West state championship. However, their run almost ended before it began. An opening round matchup with Bismarck Badlands Environmental Consultant nearly sent M&H to the consolation bracket, but they managed a 15-14 victory to advance. They then dispatched another pair of Bismarck teams with ease - Pub 21/Average Joes (13-3) and Midwest Sports/Paragon Products/Cottingham (16-5), That set up a championship tilt with Dickinson Logo

Magic/B&K Electric/Winn Construction. Despite Logo Magic having the home field advantage, M&H's roll to the title continued with an 11-1 win.

Midwest Sports/Paragon Products/Cottingham narrowly defeated Dickinson Town & Country Liquor/CRE 12-11 in the 3rd place game and Fort Berthold Services - also from Dickinson - won the consolation championship with a dominant 24-7 performance vs Mandan O'Brians. The Roughrider bracket was won by Bismarck Gone Fishin' Taxidermy/Jenny J's/Nodak/Logmur and the Cactus by Minot Berthold Farmers Elevator.



Coed Division 1 champion...Misfits (Fargo): Front Row (L-R): Glenna Carlson, Sharon Horsager, Randi Litchy, Ali Horsager, Ashley Argall. Middle Row (L-R): Stacie Olson, Travis Anderson, Wyatt Hanson. Back Row (L-R): Jania Loosmoor, Jeremy Smith, Darwin Briss, Justin Hanson, Chad Dahl, Blaine Johnson, Ausin Horsager.

Coed Division 1

The Coed State Tournament made its biennial appearance in Fargo this year and a local team used the home field advantage to claim the championship in the event's top division. Misfits won their pool to hold one of the top seeds entering the bracket, then knocked off

KSR and Premier Athletic to claim the title. Premier had previously defeated the winner of the other pool - White-Tuton - and ended the tournament in second place. White-Tuton would defeat KSR to take third.



Coed Division 2 champion...Sandlot (Hillsboro): Front Row (L-R): Erin Ruud, Brittany Wilson, Katie Richards, Nicole Haffely, Katie Oster. Back Row (L-R): Jason Ruud, Taylor Fiske, Richard Wendt, Steve Haffely, Dustin Oster.

Coed Division 2

Like Division 1, Division 2 featured pool play leading into a single elimination bracket. However, neither pool winner would emerge as the champion. That honor was earned by Sandlot out of Hillsboro. Sandlot took out

both pool winners to claim the big prize. Ground Round finished second, while Sports Bar defeated O'Leary's/Dempsey's in the third place game.



Coed Division 3 champion...Tangled Hair Studio (Wahpeton): Front Row (L-R): Danielle Kutter, Kelsey Proel. Middle Row (L-R): Karly Minor, Tara Meyer, Liz Reinart, Kysa Platt. Back Row (L-R): Luke Mayes, Jeremy Bontjes, Logan Pfingsten, Andy Ziegelman, Garret Heitkamp, Brian Peterson, Luke Glarum.

Coed Division 3

With 16 teams, Division 3 teams battled through a traditional championship & consolation bracket that would leave only a single team undefeated. Tangled Hair Studio was that team - finishing the weekend 4-0 to take the championship trophy back to Wahpeton. Tangled Hair Salon's road to the title would take them through The Bun/Control Group and Burgess Detailing on Saturday, then a

"hair vs hair" match with Speedway/Pete & Amanda's Barbershop to open play on Sunday. That set up the championship matchup with eventual runner-up Johnson Law Office. Speedway/Pete & Amanda's Barbershop defeated The Buff/Helena Slushies for third place, while Wanzek Farms and M&J Saloon claimed the Roughrider and Cactus Division championships, respectively.



Coed Division 4 champion...Builders First Source (Wahpeton): Front Row (L-R): Lindsay Johnson, Tiana Bohn, Trudi Bellmore, Tracy Medenwaldt, Mary Bostrom, Abby Heitkamp, Nate Rausch. Back Row (L-R): Nate Roquet, Jacob Fehr, Michael Kriz, Dean Bellmore, Dani Renner, Zach Bellmore, Kelly Carlson, Courtney Johnson. Not Pictured: Lance Ehrlin.

Coed Division 4

Another 16 team draw in Division 4 resulted in another champion from Wahpeton. Builders First Source survived all four of their challengers to be named the state champion. Their tournament began against Dempsey's/Wurst before getting past Fred's Den/Traut Wells/Ringdahl EMS and Pfaff

Ranch to reach the title game. They would prevail over Speedway Hitters, relegating them to the runner-up position. Schafer's Coed/KCs took third by defeating Pfaff Ranch. Hankey Law won the Roughrider Division and Dempsey's/Wurst, the Cactus.

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