

The Fastpitch Chronicle Presents

In and Around “The Circle”

The ISC World Tournament

Circle Tap - Denmark, Wisconsin

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From 1988 through 2004 The Fastpitch Chronicle newspaper was the lifeblood of the sport of fastpitch softball. Especially so in the world of men's fastpitch. A monthly newspaper featuring up to 36 pages of news and information in a broadsheet format (126 column inches per page) offered the game insight, ideas and even leadership.

By 2004 the ability to live stream audio followed soon thereafter with visual content spelled the end of printing news a month at a time and we had to cease publication. It was a tough but necessary decision. However, an online version has been in existence since 1998, now at fastpitchchronicle.net.

Throughout the years of publishing the newspaper we provided written game summaries of every game played during the big tournaments in the men's game.

In sort of a throwback fashion, The Fastpitch Chronicle returns to a printed form of news throughout this edition of The ISC World Tournament at Circle Tap here, just a softball's throw from Denmark, Wisconsin as well as from Memorial Park in Denmark.

We'll be doing brief game by game summaries highlighting key plays during games and perhaps even a few pictures. We will also be doing some human interest stories throughout the week based on interviews with players, fans and perhaps even administrator of the ISC.

Darren Derricks and his crew of friends and volunteers has gone to great lengths to provide comfortable seating with great views of the field of play no matter where you may be sitting. Circle Tap has a long and rich history here just outside Denmark. I well remember stories coming out of this part of the state back in the 60s and 70s and first played here in 1977 when the old building was directly behind home plate. Those were great days but today things are far, far better.

Thirty nine teams comprise this year's ISC World Tournament with 18 of them hailing from the province of Ontario. That's a world of difference from my playing days in ISC competition. In 1988 the team I was player/manager on (Martin Security) finished runner-up at the Wisconsin ISC State Tournament to All Car out of Green Bay. In those days a second place finish in an ISC travel league or state/area tournament got us a trophy and ride back to Portage, Wisconsin with no chance of an at large berth. There were no at large berths to the 48-team World Tournament in those days.

Things have surely changed but the level of competitiveness has not. The younger generation of players who will toe the pitcher's plate, don't the "tools of ignorance" and step into the batter's box are every bit as good as the players from years gone. The pitchers will be throwing just as hard as

the ones older fans may remember and they are set to write their own history.

In addition to the 39-Team World Tournament there is also the ISC II tournament for teams a tier down from the big event. On Tuesday the ISC 2 Tournament will get under way with a dozen more teams competing for that title. On Thursday the ISC Legends tournament gets started with 16 teams grouped into four pools of four teams. The championship game for ISC 2 is on August 18th at 4:00 PM.

To give you an idea of what to expect in these "In and Around the Circle" reports I've included a summary from Game 2 of the 1990 ISC World Tournament held at Royal Athletic Park in beautiful Victoria, British Columbia. Here was my summary:
Game #2 Denmark Dukes vs Vancouver Magicians

The Denmark Dukes beat the Vancouver Magicians in this game by a score of 3-2. The Dukes used the long ball to take the win. All three Dukes' runs were the result of home runs. Chris Kohnle smacked a two-run shot in the first inning to take Steve Jackson to a 2-0 lead. Bill Miller had singled up the middle ahead of Kohnle's blast. Scott Delarwelle touched Darren Zack for a long homer to left-center in the 4th inning to give the Dukes a 3-0 lead. Jackson got out of serious trouble in the third when the Magicians loaded the bases with no outs. Jackson then struck out Andy McCleod, got Mike Hoshowski to hit a grounder to Miller at second and the out was recorded at home. Jackson then fanned Jerry Kennedy to get out of the inning unscathed. Carey Wale reached first on a single in the 5th for Vancouver and later scored on an rbi single by McCleod. The MAGicians added another

solo run in the 6th but could not get to Jackson for any more damage. Rick McGrath, Andy McCleod and Carey Wale all had two hits for the Magicians while the Dukes got just four hits in all. Jackson allowed seven hits, fanned 14 and walked a pair. Zack was the loser as he gave up three earned runs on those four hits, struck out 16 and walked none. There were no errors in the game.

NAFA Youth Event Also Part of the 10-Day fastpitch Jamboree at Circle Tap

In effort to promote men's and boy's fastpitch and create even more interest and get more people Denmark, Circle Tap owner Darren Derricks put together an impressive young men's fastpitch event which was sanctioned by The North American Fastpitch Association. Games have been played at Circle Tap and in Maribel since Thursday. Here are some scores from that event through last night.

Reapers 7, Denmark Dukes 0
 Bar Blue 15, Peguis Redmen 8
 Bowen Fastpitch 5, Reapers 2
 Bar Buzz 10, Reapers 3
 Reapers 18, Bar Blues 0
 Bar Buzz 7, Denmark Dukes 5
 Denmark Dukes 9, Bar Blues 2
 Bar Buzz 8, Captain Cal's FP 4
 Bowen FP 9, Bar Buzz 4
 Bar Buzz 10, Reapers 3
 Captain Cal's FP 5, Rice Lake Tin Cup 4
 Captain Cal's FP 5, Bowen FP 2
 Circle Tap Dukes 7, Rice Lake Tin Cup 0
 Bar Blues 15, Peguis Redmen 8
 Captain Cal's FP 5, Rice Lake Tin Cup 4
 Bar of Appleton 5, Peguis Redmen 1