



Softball News

Volume 34, Number 2 | USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA | Fall 2019



Heartland Investors Claims a pair of Masters National Titles

MASTERS 35

Mandan Heartland Investors sent two teams into the Men's Masters National Tournaments in their hometown this season and walked away with the big prize in both the Masters 35 Competitive Division and the Masters 45.

In the 35, Heartland opened pool play by 10-running South Dakota's Team Primed 18-8. They then survived a challenge from local rival Eco Facility Services 20-18 to enter the double elimination bracket as the top seed. Heartland easily moved on in their opener versus Mandan Veracity Motors 25-2 while Eco Facility Services scratched by Team Primed 25-23 to set up a rematch.

With the winner taking the undefeated berth in the championship game, Heartland stifled the Eco Facility offense in a 13-3

victory. There would be no third matchup, however, as Team Primed made a strong run through the losers bracket.

South Dakota's lone entrant ended Veracity Motors' tournament with a 15-4 win, then scored 7 in the 7th against Eco Facility and held on in the bottom of the inning for a 17-14 win and a spot in the championship game. The well-rested Hartland Investors jumped out with 11 in the 1st but Primed would not go quietly. Ultimately, however, Heartland would prevail 18-16 to claim the title.

The tournament MVP award was presented to Heartland's Quinten Lewton.

MASTERS 45

Like their Masters 35 counterparts, Heartland's Masters 45 team had a convincing win to start the tournament, 19-7 over Oswald Brothers. However, the 45 team's weekend

was not without blemish. Mandan Bowers Excavating used a 9-run 7th inning to build a big enough lead to withstand a Heartland comeback and win 22-16. As the bracket began, though, Bowers would have a slip up of their own.

Heartland opened the bracket with another victory over Oswald Brothers - this one by a score of 29-19. On the other side, Team Prime's Masters 45 squad avenged their tournament opening loss to Bowers by upsetting the defending champs 13-10 and sending them to the losers bracket. Prime then had their first shot at Heartland, but the local team served as rude hosts to their guests from the south while going off for 21 runs in the first inning. Three innings later, a 22-7 victory would put Heartland into the championship game.

To no one's surprise, Bowers recovered and moved through the losers bracket, albeit not without needing a 20-19 walkoff win against Oswald to earn a chance for redemption against Team Primed. A 21-14 win in that rematch set up a championship showdown between the two Mandan powerhouses.

Another fast start would see Heartland establish a robust 19-5 lead after the first inning. Bowers would remarkably not only fight their way back into the game, but claimed the lead in the top of the 4th. Down by one in the bottom of the 5th, though, Heartland's offense came back to life, wearing Bowers down and pushing across the 11th run in the inning to win 38-28 and claim the Masters 45 National Championship.

Darin Krueger was named MVP of the tournament.



MASTERS 35



MASTERS 40

The Recreation Division of the 2019 Men's Masters 35 tournament

The Recreation Division of the 2019 Men's Masters 35 National Tournament in Mandan was full of surprises. Some of the event's heavyweights were bounced early, leaving the championship wide open. That allowed one contestant to survive and advance through four potential elimination games and set up a winner-take-all rematch that would take well over two hours to complete due to a weather delay. Ultimately, Valley City Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Farms' lengthy run through the losers bracket would end with a national championship.

Elliott Farms' weekend started quietly enough with a win over Precision Plumbing, Heating & Cooling/Valley Reconditioning by the slimmest of margins, 15-14. They would then send one of the favorites, Bowers Excavating, to the loser's bracket with a 26-17 victory. Bowers would join another favorite,

Krahler's Softball, and the two-time defending champion, Miller Lite, with early losses.

Elliott Farms would soon join them, however, after dropping their next contest to Circle Sanitation by a 14-3 decision. The long road back began, ironically, with Miller Lite. Elliott stunned them early to take a 9-0 leadthrough 4 and held on for the 11-6 win. Their reward? A chance for Bowers to turn the table from their earlier matchup. Elliott would prevail once again, though, in another fairly low scoring game (10-6) to get them just one more game away from that rematch in the championship game. They would reach that game with ease, moving on with a 17-7 victory over the Ransom County Buzzards.

Masters 35

continued on page 3





JO Girls' Fast Pitch 10 & Under, Division A champion...Dickinson Black. Front Row (L-R): Stu Merry, Jozie Elkin, Gabi Sobolik, Myah Merry, Shayna Klizke, Jorga Wandler, Emily Sailer. Back Row (L-R): Coach Brian Garr, Kyndall Peterson, Hali Henke, Emersyn Garr, Abby Praus, Coach Tom Henke, Coach Nick Peterson.

10A and under Division

Five teams were eligible to play in the 10 and Under Division which was won by the Dickinson Black team. They opened with a 9 to 4 win over Minot Storm before beating Bismarck 6 to 4 in the first game and 14 to 8 in the second game which was necessary because of the tournament format.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 10 & Under, Division B champion...Jamestown Outlaws. Front Row (L-R): Madilyn Hoff, Adisyn Yunck. Middle Row (L-R): Gabrielle Kolden, Clara Seckerson, Larkin Kleven, Rilie Wolf, Megan Jarrett, Cadence Kurtz. Back Row (L-R): Brooke Jackson, Jordan Mikkelsen, Jaelyn Sloan, Kaiah Nenow, Lucy Falk, Claire Marker. Coaches: Chad Jackson, Ryan Mikkelsen, Scot Sloan, Grant Kleven.

10 B and under Division

Jamestown won the championship of the eight team Class 10B division opening with a 2 to 0 shutout over Grand Forks before beating West Fargo 3 to 2 and Dickinson White 5 to 2. They then met Grand Forks again which had come through the loser's bracket and Jamestown won this battle also 5 to 1.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 12 & Under, Division A champion...Dickinson Diamonds. Front Row (L-R): Madi Wegleitner, Beth Dobitz, Emily Hirschfield, Priscilla Alvarez, Annabal Scheeler. Middle Row (L-R): Coach Emilie Sickler, Coach Shannon Sickler, Ady Karsky, Ava Jahner, McKenna Mettler, Noella Craig, Coach Jeremy Jahner. Back Row (L-R): Kendra Zeller, Sadie Stevenson, Mara Armstrong.

12A and Under Division

Dickinson Black won the title in the 12A Division over seven other teams. They opened with a convincing win over Mandan 16 to 1 before beating the Minot Storm 8 to 2. They lost their next game, falling 8 to 7 to the Fargo Stingers. In the loser's bracket, they next won over the Minot Storm again by a score of 7 to 4 then disposed of the Fargo Stingers in their next two games 9 to 8 and 23 to 19 to claim the Division Title.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 14 & Under, Division B champion...Minot Storm. Front Row (L-R): Coach Nikki Van Pelt, Ginger Savelkoul, Rylie Warnke, Taylyn Cope, Taury Hight, Teegyn Anderson, Cali Wilson, Ellington Anderson. Back Row (L-R): Coach Katie Clark, Ariana Diaz, Isabelle Anderson, Alexis Wiese, Kendall Bellew, Ameri Van Pelt, Erika Baker, Coach Paige Ronnie

14B and Under Division

The Minot Storm claimed the championship in the 14 B Division winning their first game 3 to 2 over the Fargo Fire. They then beat Jamestown 5 to 2 and Wahpeton 5 to 1 before meeting and beating Wahpeton again 9 to 3.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 12 & Under, Division B champion...Minot Storm. Front Row (L-R): Rhiana Kissner, Logan Ystaas. Middle Row (L-R): Assistant Coach Danielle Terrell, Head Coach Jess Baker, Halle Baker, Raegan Terrel, Aven Kelly, Claire Keeley, Jersey Burgess. Back Row (L-R): Gabbi Rohrer, Kinzy Wlestad, Kami Garaas, Assistant Coach Mike Kelly.

12 B and Under Division

The Minot Storm claimed the championship in the ten team Division winning over Hillsboro Central Valley 10 to 4 in their first game and then won handily over Williston 12 to 2 and Devils Lake 11 to 1 before besting the Bismarck Sparks in two games 13 to 2 and 15 to 14.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 14 & Under, Division A champion...North Dakota Elite. Front Row (L-R): Abbey Thornton, Brooklyn Morris, Daysha Malard, Emma Owens, Brielle Wrangham. Back Row (L-R): Ashlee Potter, Abby Renner, Logan Gronberg, Andi Borchers, Kalyssa Erickson, Daisy Sparrow.

14A and Under Division

North Dakota Elite cruised through the 14 A Division to win the title. The Elite scored two shutouts to open play beating Grand Forks 13 to 0 and West Fargo Fusion 20 to 0. In their next two games, they won over River City Wolf Pack 15 to 2 and 9 to 2 in the final game.



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 16 & Under, Division A champion...Diamond Academy. Front Row (L-R): Elle Hastings, Autumn McGough, Aubree Lindstrom, Kenzie Dauner, Hannah Bratlien, Jenna Leingang, Abby Rux. Back Row (L-R): Coach Vance Christianson, Coach Sami Dulum, Taylor Luikart, Mady Reimche, Azahna Luschen, Brooklynn Ramsey, Kylie Venterosa, Addi Dauner, Coach Matt Gable, Coach Justin Feist. Not Pictured: Coach Sami Trana.

16A and Under Division

Diamond Academy won the 16A Division Blaze before beating BGGators in a tight matchup 3 to 2. In the Final, Diamond Academy beat the Minot Storm 11 to 2. They opened with a 7 to 1 victory over FM



JO Girls' Fast Pitch 18 & Under, Division A champion...Dickinson Diamonds. Front Row (L-R): Taya Hopfauf; Kamryn Kuntz; Emy Personne; Mckenna Eckleberg; Kennedy Kuntz. Back Row (L-R): Scott Lafond; Ali Lafond; Paige Balliet; Taylor Nelson; Abbey Kessel; Mataya Mortensen; Jason Hopfauf. Not Pictured: Coach Claire Shoffit.

18a and Under Division

Dickinson claimed it's third Division Championship winning the 18 A title in a ten team field. Dickinson won it's first game 8 to 4 over North Dakota Elite before beating the Minot Storm 10 to 2. In game three, they won with a 7 to 0 forfeit over North Dakota Elite before meeting and beating West Fargo United 4 to 1. In the championship games, they won over the FM Blaze 3 to 0 and 9 to 2.

President's Report

Our State tournaments are now all complete except the 5x5x5. It will be held on Sept 14th in Fargo. Originally planned to have an East and a West tournament but the West one in Bismarck has been cancelled due to lack of teams. The response was very positive from last years inaugural tournament. Good luck to all the teams.

Here are the State Champions in each class. The Class C champion this year was RMI out of Grand Forks. Pink it forward from Fargo was the Class D champion. The Rec 1 championship went to Smith Motors out of Wahpeton. The Fargo Rejects took the Rec. 2 East. The Rec. 2 West went to the Lisbon Lizards. Oakes Last Shot Bar was the Rec. 3 East champ. The Rec. 3 West was won by Hayward Electric out of Bismarck. The Rec. 4 East

was won by 7-Teens out of Grand Forks. And the Rec. 4 West went to Tuff Trucks from Minot. In the Masters 35- Heartland Investors from Bismarck took Div. 1. Mandan Seven Seas came from the losers bracket to win the Div. 2. And Lee's Bar from Rugby won Div. 3. In the Masters 40 Hazen Cenex won Div. 1 and Valley City Elliott Farms won Div. 2. Bowers Excavating #2-Mandan won the 50 Metal Bat State. And in the 50 wood bat- Mandan Bowers Excavating #2 won the Gold Div. and Mandan Magic Touch won the Silver Div. Mandan John's Upholstery won the inaugural 60 State.

Mandan was again the home of the USA Softball Masters National 35-45 Tournament held on Aug 24-25. The Women's 35 was cancelled this year due to lack of teams. The

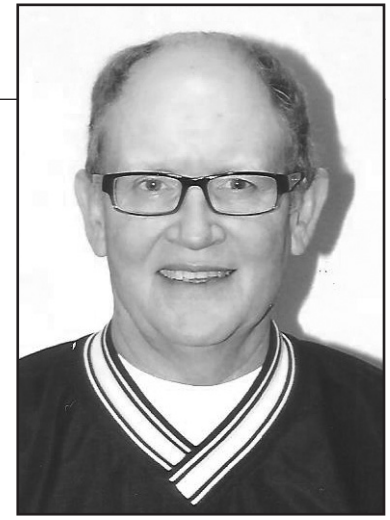
35 was divided into a competitive and a recreational Div. Mandan Heartland Investors won the competitive Div. And they also won the 45 Div. Elliott Farms from Valley City came back through the losers bracket to defeat Minot Circle Sanitation twice to win the recreational Div. The Ransom County Buzzards took 3rd place. Mandan will again host this tournament next year so start preparing your teams for this fun tournament for next year- Both men and women. Remember that you can have a makeup roster for this event.

The 44th annual McQuades was another huge success. It was the largest ever with 464 teams. Kudos to Jack Jones and Mike Wolf and all the umpires, players, and volunteers that make this a great tournament.

It is with sadness that I am reporting that our long time Secretary/Treasurer for our State Association Greg Kaeding is retiring effective 2020. Greg has done a tremendous job for 24 years as our head bean counter. Skippy you will be deeply missed my friend.

The Masters Committee will be holding their task force meeting in Fargo on Saturday Sept. 14th to go over the past Summer's season. The USA Softball of North Dakota will be holding their task force meeting in Valley City the morning of Nov. 2nd. If you have any ideas or concerns please let one of the committee members know or email the State Office before these meetings...

And lastly I would like to thank you all that participated this past



Jack Lukes

year in our great game of softball in North Dakota. We really appreciate your continued support. Our Association is strong and well thanks to you. Here is hoping you'll have a great off-season and see in the Spring.

God Bless

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 & Recreation Departments in providing great facilities and quality softball programs for our players and fans to enjoy.

A very special thank you to Gary & Connie Tharaldson and Tharaldson Companies for sponsoring trophies and championship banners for 35 State Tournaments as well as the USA Softball MSP Masters 35 and 45 National Championship in 2019. 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.

2019 was another very successful softball season in North Dakota that culminated with over 600 Adult & JO teams participating in 35 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 2019.

We were fortunate to host the Masters 35/45 National Champion-

ship in Mandan this past summer. Tournament Director Jack Jones, his tournament committee and volunteers did a great job and the event was a huge success. UIC Mike Wolf had a great umpire staff and did a great job. Jack Lukes served as the USA National Representative and did a very good job representing and upholding USA Softball Code and Rules. A special thank you to the Bismarck/Mandan Convention & Visitors Bureau for all the support in hosting another National championship. Good job to all and thanks for all the hard work.

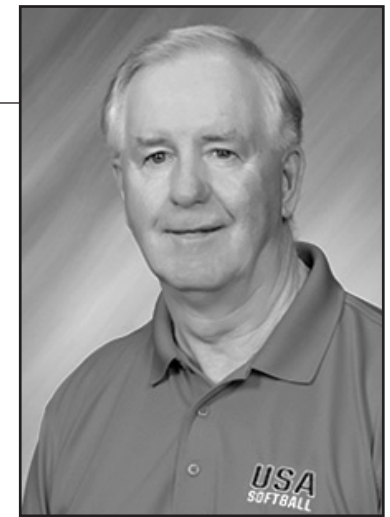
In early November I will be traveling to Reno, Nevada for the USA Softball national Council meeting. We will be discussing many issues regarding rules and legislation for all aspects of the game as USA Softball is the Na-

tional Governing body of Softball in the United States.

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

Lastly, it has been my honor again this past year 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 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 and tournaments and strive to achieve 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



Dick Gulmon

season with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you all around the diamond next year.

Kind Regards,
Dick Gulmon
USA Softball of North Dakota
State Commissioner

J.O. Fastpitch Update

Congratulations to all the teams that competed in the ND USA State Tournament in Minot this summer. Congratulations, also, to Thor Nelson (Tournament Manager), his volunteers and the Minot Park district staff for taking on the task, of hosting the tournament. This year was the first year that Minot had hosted the state tournament. Everyone was excited to play on Minot's 2 brand new turf fields at South Hill Complex. This has been a long-time planned state tournament for Thor Nelson and the Minot Fastpitch board.

This year the 14U, 16U and 18U games were played at the South Hill complex, while the 10U and 12U games were played at the North

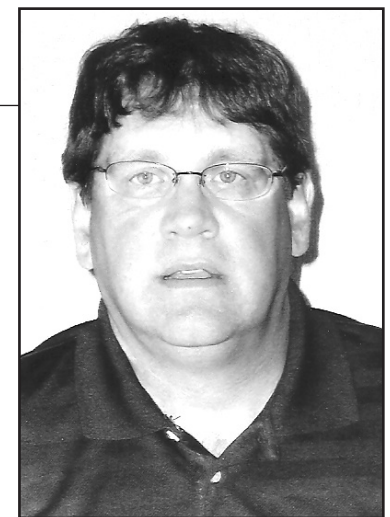
Hill Complex. We had 65 teams compete in 9 different age brackets and divisions. The Dickinson Diamonds came out of the loser's bracket, and defeated the FM Blaze twice, in the championship games, to claim the 18U A USA Softball of North Dakota State title. It was the first time, that Dickinson had won the 18U A division. Other Class A teams to win were the Fargo Diamond Academy at 16U, ND Elite at 14U, Dickinson Diamonds at 12U, and Dickinson Diamonds at 10U. Again, Congratulations to Dickinson for winning 3 out of the 5, Age Brackets in Class A. On the Class B side, Jamestown 18B, Minot Storm 14B, Minot Storm 12B, and Jamestown Outlaws claimed

the 10B championship.

There was a total of 133 games played over the weekend, with 13 diamonds used, and a staff of 25 umpires available to umpire. Lyle Rader was our UIC, and at times it was a challenge to get the umpires to Minot. A Big Thank-you again to all those umpires too. Next year, 2020, Fargo will host the tournament at the North Diamond complex. Those dates will be July 10-12th. Pat Johnson will again be the tournament manager for the 2020 JO State Tournament. I would advise anyone needing a hotel room, to reserve them now. The USA Wrestling will be holding their National's in Fargo starting that weekend.

This fall the USA Softball National annual meeting will be held in Reno, NV from November 9th thru November 14th. Fargo will be sending a group to bid and hopefully host the Northern National tournaments for 2021. We will look forward to any new news, and rule changes, that will be coming forward for next year.

I would appreciate any comments or concerns anyone may have about JO softball. I know for next year we are looking at expanding additional tournaments, exciting news on the 12U All American Games, changing some rules for the state tournaments. High School practice starts March 16th of 2020!!



Brian Neuhardt

had before the break did not shift to their opponents. Circle Sanitation would manage just one more run after play resumed and Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall would earn their national title.

Mark Ouellette was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

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Circle Sanitation was up to the challenge with the title on the line, but Elliott Farms found the offensive spark that was missing in their first matchup a day earlier. The Valley City squad would win a thriller 19-18 to force the "if" game. In the rubber match, Elliott Farms edged

closer and closer to the championship, eventually taking a 16-9 lead in the 6th when dark clouds moved in and sirens went off throughout the complex. Nearby lightning strikes and the threat of rain would force a series of 30 minute delays. Any momentum that Elliott had

Ump Chat

It seems like we just get started with the softball season and then it is over before we know it. 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.

We recently finished hosting a very successful national softball tournament in North Dakota this summer. Mandan was host to the Men's 35 & 45 & 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 Jack 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. A special thanks to Bonnie Gerhardt and Larry and Bobby Erickson for taking such good care of the umpires.

We had Umpires from Alaska, California, Michigan, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Minnesota and North Dakota and everyone was very impressed by our North Dakota hospitality! All of the umpires did a great job and the umpires should all be proud of the efforts they put forth on the field.

We also had several North Dakota umpires who worked national tournaments around the country this summer. We also had North Dakota umpires who were selected to work championship games at their

respective national 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 the teams and umpires that participated in the tournament and all the fans who came out to watch and support the tournament. We had a very successful weekend we were excited to distribute a record \$146,000 (up from \$120,000 in 2018) to local charities and organizations. That's incredible!! 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 2020 tournament that will be available shortly after the first of February on the McQuade website. Tournament dates for 2020 are June 26, 27 & 28. It will be our 45th Anniversary and you won't want to miss it!

We have some exciting things we're thinking of for next year. A limited-edition McQuade commemorative Anarchy bat, a commemorative coin, and if the new fields at Cottonwood are ready, we are looking at expanding the Men's D division to double elimination, and if the new fastpitch diamonds are ready, we are looking at adding a girls' fastpitch division. So, stay tuned!

Let's make McQuade 2020 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 USA Patriots 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. We need to remember that this is just a recreational game and we are losing umpires at an alarming rate due to the actions of players on the field towards umpires. At the same time, there are many many courteous ballplayers out there and thanks to all 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. As I mentioned earlier, 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



Mike Wolf • Umpire in Chief

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 umpiring a try—you'll never know unless you ask! I had three softball players sign up to umpire in Bismarck this year after I made a plea for more umpires at our managers meeting and they all said they had fun umpiring this summer.

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 wolfdn8993@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 rule's clinic next spring or on the diamonds next summer or even somewhere along the line this winter!

From the Sidelines

I am writing this on September 17 and wondering where the time has gone. I know that the older one gets, the faster the time seems to fly but this softball season seemed to me to go by especially fast. I am no longer actively umpiring but I started the season by attending the National Umpire School last April. Bismarck hosted one of the two top schools in the nation in terms of attendance. We had four members of the National Umpire Staff here to conduct the clinic with assistance from our own Mike Wolf, State Umpire in Chief. Mike

was assisted by Terry O'Clair; Elliott Gerhardt, Alan Ziemann, Tim Herman and a couple others who I can't remember. (Age you know) Anyway, we had St. Mary's Grade School for indoor classes and were scheduled to do some outdoor drills too but the late April weather provided us with snow showers which forced us indoors. We had plenty of room in the gym at St. Mary's so we did the drills in that facility. Over the years I have been involved as a softball umpire I have been to several National Umpire Schools both as a student and as an instruc-

tor and I would rate this one as good as any. Thanks, Mike Wolf and his assistants.

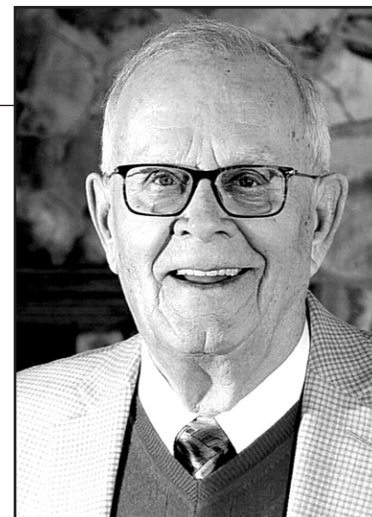
I also accompanied JO Commissioner Brian Neuhardt to the state JO Girl's Fast Pitch tournament in Minot. I enjoyed myself a great deal. For an old fast pitch umpire like me, it was exciting to see the improvement in the quality of softball being played around the state and the numbers of girls who are involved in the Sport. Sixty nine teams from all across the state took part in this tournament. Teams were classified by age group with five different divisions ranging from ten year old to 18 year olds. Each age group was classified into A and B Divisions based on ability with the exception of the 18 year olds who only had a Class A Division. Dickinson claimed the championship in three different divisions including the 18 years old plus winning trophies in the 10 and Under Division and the 12 and Under Division.

Other Division championships were won by teams from Jamestown, Minot, Fargo and Bismarck.

I also spent some time at the Women's Master's 30 tournament and the National 35 and 45 over in Mandan. Spectating isn't my preference but it's about all I can do for now. Just can't move around like I should. I know I could still do balls and strikes if I was allowed to sit on a stool behind either the pitcher or the catcher but I would need an assistant to get the stool out of the way in case of a line shot at the pitcher or a close play at home plate.

Almost forgot, I am now living with a celebrity!! A former high school student of my wife, Donna, has written a book about her and her teaching skills. She taught for 34 years, 16 at Bismarck High and 18 at the University of Mary here in Bismarck. She won several awards for teaching excellence, and what is remarkable to me is that the student who wrote the book graduated from High School in 1970!! After all these years, he still remembered her style and technique.

If you are interested in reading this book, it is available on AMAZON or BARNES AND NOBLE web sites under the title-- TEA



Walt Stack

with DONNA. The last chapter in the book contains some of my thoughts and is entitled "I NEVER MADE A BAD CALL". That is in reference to my marriage-- not my umpiring career. No one who umpired as long as I did would ever make a statement like that in regard to softball. Finally, another one of Donna's high school students was the famous Brian Neuhardt. State JO Commissioner!

That's about all I have to say for this time. Stay Well, and I will look forward to seeing many of you next softball season.

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DO BUCKLE DON'T BOOZE



The team photo is of several players who were on successful; teams sponsored by Gary Tharaldson.

Fargo-Moorhead Hall of Fame elects 2019 class

Two fast pitch players, a Slow Pitch Player, a super sponsor and one of the best Slow Pitch teams to ever come out of North Dakota enter local Hall of Fame

Saturday, August 3, 2019 the latest additions to the Fargo/Moorhead Area Hall of Fame were inducted into the local Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in the North Fargo Softball Complex;

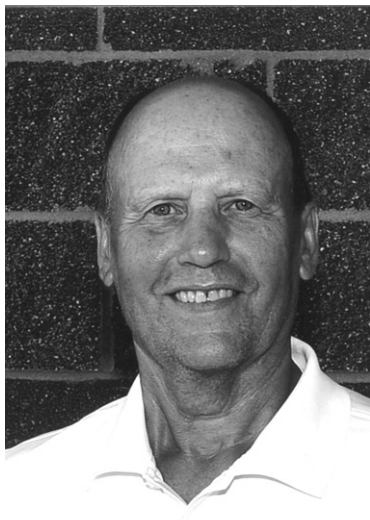
--Randy Christianson, President of Beverage Wholesalers was inducted after almost 50 years of support for softball in the Fargo/Moorhead area. The company sponsored both fast pitch teams and slow pitch teams for 49 years. The teams sponsored were Olympia Beer in slow pitch, Miller Lite also in slow pitch and Schmidt Beer in Fast Pitch. These three teams produced 11 state champions and 7 runner up teams. In addition, Beverage Wholesalers was also a major sponsor of the 2004 World Fast-pitch tournament in Fargo and was a major donor for the Hall of Fame Gazebo at the North Fargo complex.

Lee Anderson played fast-pitch for 29 years in the Fargo/Moorhead area playing for fast pitch teams Otto's Welding, VFW, Rooters/Josephs, Kegel Black Knights and Chubs Pub. He played second base, outfield and catcher for a total of 29 years. He played in 25 state tournaments, six Regional Tournaments and several National Tournaments. His teams won four state titles and four Regional Titles.

Don "Yahner" Johnson played fast pitch in the Fargo/Moorhead area for 31 years primarily as a catcher but also played some first base and outfield. He played with Ted's Corner, Dugout Bar, Otto's Welding, VFW, Am Vets and Dempseys. Don played in 28 state tournaments, 8 Regional tournaments and was voted to the Third Team All American team in the men's forty and over Division in 1999.

Tharaldson's men's slow pitch team was recognized as the outstanding local team for a period of five years in the 1990's. For five years from 1990 through 1994 Tharaldson won five state championships, five Regional Championships plus three Old Pro Championships plus a second place finish in the National Tournament in 1994.

They carved out 101 wins and only 4 loses in 1992 finishing 4th in the National tournament. Their won-loss record for the five year period is 422 wins against 57 losses. Eight players from these Tharaldson teams have been elected to the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame while several of their players were named to All American teams and their shortstop, Terry Stargardt was



Randy Christenson



Lee Anderson



Don "Yahner" Johnson



James Milbrath

named Most Valuable player in a National tournament.

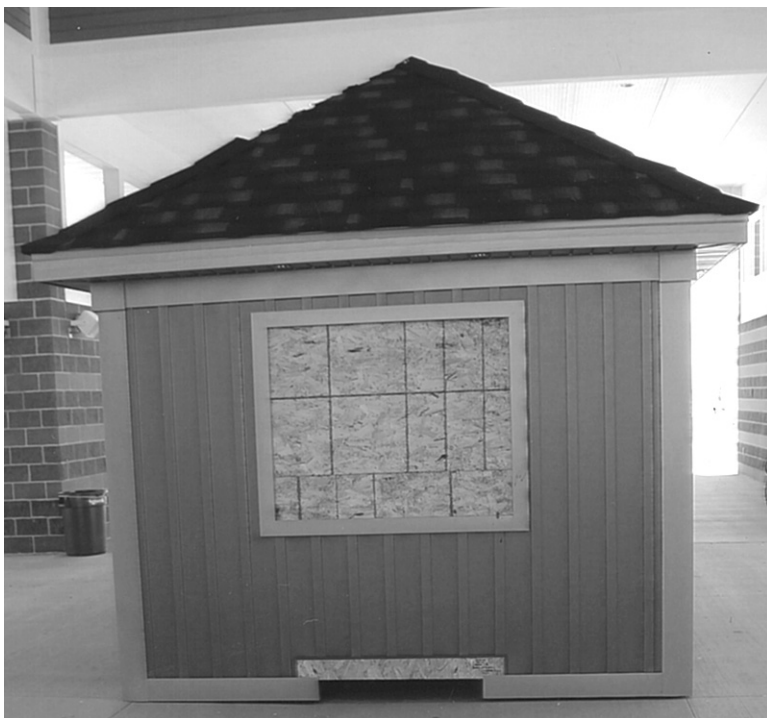
James Milbrath was also elected to the shrine. He played slow pitch softball for 34 years beginning his career at age 16 in Bottineau playing for TBA Supply and later Kersten's Lounge. James moved to Fargo and played for teams including Holt Implement, Star Concrete, LTP Drilling, Rust Auto Sales, Bergseth Brothers, Scheile Enterprises, Bud Light Coaches Choice, Johnson Hardwood Floors, Gate City Bank, Miller Lite, and Bellerud Trucking. James played in seven state tournaments, and four National Tournaments. James carried a lifetime batting average of .700 and was a noted speed burner



on the bases. After he retired as a player he umpired for three years in the West Fargo League and umpired in two state tournaments. All of the people who indicated that they knew James commented on his positive attitude as a player and as an umpire.



Sharon Morgan with her Distinguished Service Award presented by Dick Gulmon, State Softball Commissioner. Morgan was the driving force behind the Fargo/Moorhead Area Hall of Fame.



Hall of Fame Kiosk, located in the Northern Softball Complex in Fargo. The kiosk will present photos and other items of Fargo/Moorhead Hall of Fame.





Taylor Falcon



Lexi Tollefson



Cali Tollefson



Ava Jahner



Brielle Wrangham

Five North Dakota girls competed in the All American Games in Oklahoma City

Five girls from North Dakota competed in the All American Games in Oklahoma City this summer after being selected at tryouts held in Bismarck in April. They were joined by other girls who were qualified by age from South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin

to compete in Oklahoma City at the Hall of Fame stadium. The following is a story of their adventure written by one of the girls selected to represent North Dakota, Brielle Wrangham. It must have been a great time for the participants. The other girls selected to represent

our state were Ava Jahner of Dickinson, Taylor Falcon of Minot and three girls from Bismarck, Brielle Wrangham, Lexi Tollefson and Cali Tollefson. Coaches were Kelly Wrangham of Bismarck and Chris Falon of Minot



Kelly Wrangham



Chris Falon

Wrangham represents Region 8 in Oklahoma City, OK

By Brielle Wrangham

For the second year in a row I was chosen to represent Region 8 in Oklahoma City, OK at the USA SOFTBALL ALL AMERICAN GAMES. The event took place June 8-10, 2019 at The Hall of Fame Stadium. The same place where the Women's College World Series was just one week earlier. It is such a great honor to wear "USA" across my chest and represent Region 8 in this exciting event!

Prior to the event, as well as during, USA Softball runs contests on social media where we could win chances to sing the Nation Anthem

(glad I didn't win that one) or throw out the first pitch and fun stuff like that. It's always super hot in OKC, and usually rains some while we are there. This year we were lucky enough that it didn't rain enough to get any of our games cancelled. We ended up playing three pool play games, before bracket play on Monday. We lost our game on Monday 2-3 in a very close, intense game.

On Friday we got a chance to get together and meet all of our teammates and have a practice. We practiced right across the street from the Oklahoma Sooner Softball Complex. After practice we got

to check out the OU Stadium and that was super cool. Friday night we all went to a Player Camp put on by "Softball Factory", where we received extra instruction in fundamental skills and did lots of testing.

Saturday morning we had another practice at the main fields before receiving our Team Jersey's and getting to do a Meet & Greet with three USA Athletes. We got to meet and get autographs from Michelle Moultrie, Haylie McCleney and Delaney Spaulding. Then the three of them joined us for a team picture with our coaches. My dad

was one of our coaches (he said I needed to mention that in this article). After that was Opening Ceremonies, where we received our Medals and got introduced. They also introduced all the Umpires and had a motivational guest speaker. The speaker was famous UCLA Coach Sue Enquist, and she gave her "Bring it Sister!" speech which got everyone fired up.

Right after that the Tournament started and we were the first game on the Stadium Field. This is the best, because everyone gets their picture and name up on the big scoreboard when you bat. I got a

chance to pitch, catch and play infield throughout the games. We had a lot of fun watching other games, going out to eat and just hanging out and getting to know all our teammates. I got a chance to meet several girls from other states and still keep in contact with them now and we talk about how our seasons are going their summer. What a great experience it was again and what an amazing event. If anyone gets a chance to go next year definitely do it, you will have a blast and make the best memories.

Brielle Wrangham, Region 8

The Last Call

Mike Lyman dies July 17 Fast Pitch Veteran was 70

Michael Stanley Lyman passed away July 17, 2019 at Sanford Medical Center in Fargo under the care of Ethos Hospice. Born in Fargo, Mike spent his early years on a farm near Lisbon before moving with his parents to West Fargo in the early 1960's. He graduated from West Fargo High School in 1966 and attended North Dakota State University and Mankato State University before enlisting in the US Navy in 1968. From 1971 until 1979 Mike served as a Deputy with the Cass County Sheriff's Department in Fargo. He also was the Sports Editor for the West Fargo Pioneer Newspaper and worked as a legal investigator for the Vogel Law Firm in Fargo from 1979 through 2012.

Mike was heavily involved in fast pitch softball for most of his adult life, having played for 38 years, managed for 25 years, umpired for 15 years and sponsored youth teams for 10 years.

Mike caught over 1200 games



in his long playing career and was especially proud of having caught four pitchers who are in the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame, Jim Baum, Ray Clark, Pat Stockert and late Jim Kapp. He also had the privilege and joy of having played with his two sons. Mike was elected to the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 2010 and served on the candidate selection committee,

Greg Kaeding to retire in April 2020

Greg Kaeding, long time Secretary/Treasurer of the state Softball Association has announced that he will retire in April 2020. He leaves a long list of accomplishments on the local level and also the state level in softball. Besides his administrative duties, Kaeding played slow pitch softball for 29 years, mostly as a pitcher. He won over 500 pitching victories and played in 25 state tournaments. Two of his teams won state titles. In addition, he and fellow Hall of Fame member, Stan Johnson co-sponsored a girl's slow pitch team for six years.

His administrative roles on the local level include 34 years of service on the Fargo Slow Pitch Board of Directors and service as

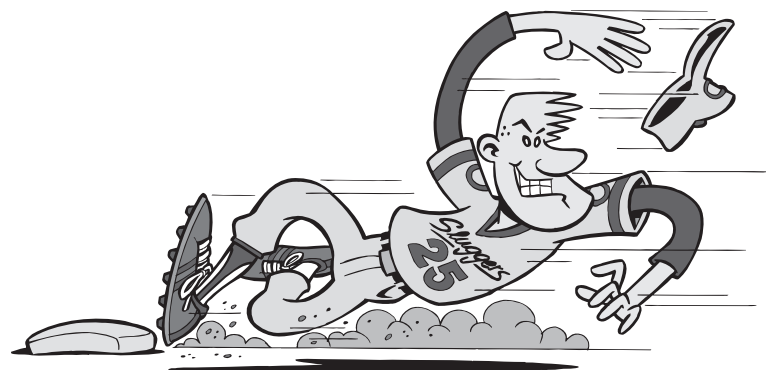


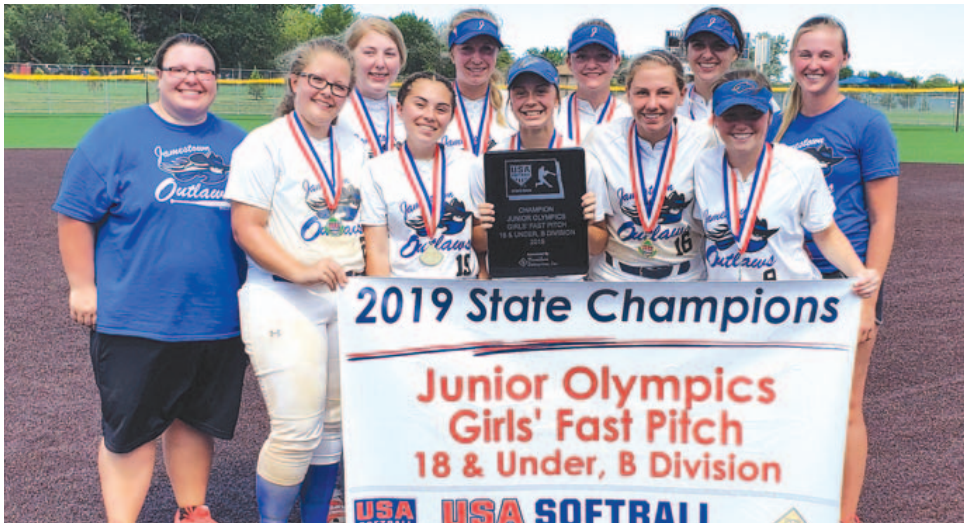
Treasurer for the Fargo Slow Pitch Association for 30 years. He was a long time member of the All City Fargo Park Board Softball Board and managed National Tournaments in Fargo which hosted over

4,000 teams.

His state resume is every bit as impressive and includes service on the State Board of Directors since 1996 plus serving as the state Secretary/Treasurer for that same period. In addition, he sits on the State Classification Committee, the Hall of Fame Selection Committee and the Financial Committee.

In reviewing the accomplishments listed above, it appears that we may need to hire three or more people to cover all of the services he did so well. He will be missed for his quirky sense of humor as well as for his excellence in filling all the positions he held with dedication and his own special personality.





JO Girls' Fast Pitch 18/16 & Under, Division B champion...Jamestown Outlaws. Front Row (L-R): Coach Brooke Umland, Emily Hoff, Sid Kautz, Rachel Schiele, Addi Douty, Coach Marissa Drenth. Back Row (L-R): Gracie Gunderson, Payton Gall, Mckenna Jackson, Ella Roaldson. Not Pictured: Elizabeth Grenz.



Men's Rec 1 champion...Wahpeton Smith Motors/Coors Light. Front Row (L-R): Ryan Smith, Parker Sirek, Jeremy Bontjes, Tyler Gripenrog, Beau Gilles. Back Row (L-R): Wayne Gripenrog, Cole Gilles, Andy Ziegelman, Gage Nelson, Jason Sirek, Dave Eklund.

Men's Rec 1 – August 10 and 11 – Mandan

Mandan hosted 33 Men's Rec one teams who were competing for the state title in the Division.

Smith Motors/coors light of Wahpeton won the Division Championship winning five games in a row but were later forced to play a "If Necessary Game" to grab the first place trophy. Smith Motors/Coors Light opened with a solid victory over MTW Towing of Fargo 18 to 7. Game two was a win over Mann Energy Services of Bismarck 9 to 5.

Their next game was won by the ten run rule as they defeated Chub's Pub of Fargo 17 to 7. In the next game, Smith Motors/Coors Light found itself in a tight battle

with Boyko/Center Machine of Mandan which was decided by a single run as Smith won with 9 runs over 8 runs for Boyko. Another one run game followed with Smith prevailing over Mortons Buildings of Fargo 8 to 7. In the Double Elimination Format of the tournament, Mortons came back in the "if game winning 16 to 13 to force another Championship game. Smith Motors/Coors Light fought back in the final game winning by the ten run rule 17 to 7.

Morton's claimed the Runner Up Spot. Boyco was named third place winner with Kensal in fourth place.



Men's C champion...Grand Forks RMI/First Class Mortgage/Budweiser. Front Row (L-R): James Wolfgram, Dan Walz, Casey Lomman, Eric Gast, Bob Lukkason, Tyler Gibbs, Michael Lukkason. Back Row (L-R): Butch Tester, Ryan Bartz, Kris Marcott, Brian DeVillers, Shea Gaier, Jordan Osmundson, Cullen Schneider, Reed Hjelle, Andy Babinchek.

RMI/First Class Mortgage/Budweiser of Grand Forks captured the Men's Class C State Tournament in Fargo

A Grand Forks team with triple sponsors won the State Class C Men's Slow Pitch Tournament in Fargo the weekend of August 3 and 4 in a field of ten teams.

RMI opened with a convincing win over Eide Ford of Bismarck winning 19 to 4. In their second game they bested a Fargo team which was also sponsored by three sponsors Quality Concrete/Prairie Supply/CCS. RMI won in a squeaker 10 to 18. They then beat Mulligans of Williston 10 to 2 before losing their next game to Quality Concrete, etc.

11 to 9. RMI bounced back in the "if necessary game" to win 18 to 3 and claim the title.

Quality Concrete was runner up, losing twice to RMI. Quality opened with a win over sports on tap 14 to 8 before losing their next game to eventual champion RMI 20 to 18. Quality came back with wins over Eide Ford of Bismarck 18 to 16 and Dickson Law/Vue Community Credit /Sports cards 23 to 3 before splitting their last two games with RMI to finish in second place.



Men's Rec 2 East champion...Fargo Rejects/Wild Bill's/Lucky 13. Front Row (L-R): Tyler Wentzell, Kenny Nelson. Middle Row (L-R): Keegan Draper, Sean Mattern, Travis Holler, Aaron Montgomery, Chance McMasters, Tyler Wolf. Back Row (L-R): Tyler Hewson, Ron Moore, Joe Guest, Dylan Johnson. Not Pictured: Riley Clennon, Tyler Bormann, Steve Groth, Anjelo Sigend, Rusty Bouvette

Men's Rec 2 East – Wahpeton August 3 and 4

Twenty Nine teams filled the Wahpeton Softball Complex on August 3 and 4 to determine a champion of the Men's Rec Two East Division.

Wild Bills of Fargo won the title by winning six games in a row without a loss. Wild Bills opened with a 13 to 6 win over FCCU of Wahpeton and then defeated H and S Painting of West Fargo 15 to 12. Their next win was against another West Fargo team, the Flying Pigs which they beat by two runs 7 to 5. Wild Bills then claimed a forfeit before beating Hope Electric for the state title in a

12 to 8 ball game.

Hope Electric began their day with a solid 17 to 5 win over Bonzers/Condor pipeline of Grand Forks. Then beat the Fifth Hole of West Fargo in a tense battle 7 to 6. In their third game, they defeated JR's Bar and West Fargo VFW before losing the championship game to Wild Bills 12 to 8.

West Fargo VFW claimed third place and Grand Forks Bonzers was the champ of the consolation bracket. Roughrider bracket was won by West Fargo Tap That and the Cactus Bracket was won by Fargo Bar 9.



Men's D champion...Fargo Pink it Forward/Edward Jones/The Box. Front Row (L-R): Shane Piatz, Jerrod Mauch, Chris Torkildson, Mike Tanhoff, Ryan Smith, Andy Larson, Andrew Wang. Back Row (L-R): Tony Nichols, Cole Jirik, Myke Ruud, Nick Carpenter, Alex Beach, Blane Johnson, Jon Lapp.

Men's Class D Slow Pitch Tournament hosted 21 teams in Fargo in August

A team sponsored by Pink It Forward and Edward Jones won the Men's Class D State Tournament in Fargo but had to play the "if necessary game" to do it.

Pink It Forward opened with a solid win over Howco/Driftwood Lounge of Wahpeton 21 to 11. In their second game they beat Titan Resources, Inc. of Williston 11 to 4 before meeting and beating Rhombus Guys/Precision Plumbing/Amp of Fargo. Their next opponent was Burgess Detailing of Minot and they disposed of them 14 to 3 before beating another Minot team, aftermath 14 to 12. Aftermath rebounded and won 10

to 9 over Pink It Forward to force an "if necessary game" which was won by Pink It Forward 16 to 6.

Aftermath won it's first four games before running into the eventual champs. They beat a Williston team with multiple sponsors 12 to 10 then disposed of Corral Bar and other sponsors 8 to 6. They beat The Hub and other sponsors from Grand Forks in a tight contest 10 to 9 before beating a team from Devils Lake, The Proz 18 to 7 before losing to Pink It Forward 14 to 12, then beat Pink It Forward 10 to 9 and lost a final game to Pink It Forward 16 to 6.



Men's Rec 2 West champion...Lisbon Lizards/Coors Light. Front Row (L-R): Zack Roberts, Joe Aamot, Greg Evanson, Derek Hiam, Tim Vessel, Branden Welsen. Back Row (L-R): Brad Dahl, Eric Foyt, Drew Welton, Carl Bartholomay, Dalton Bartholomay, Tony Huseth, Shane Fellows.

Men's Rec. 2 State Tournament

August 3 and 4 Bismarck

A total of 26 teams assembled in Bismarck the weekend of August 3 and 4 to contest the state championship in the Rec. 2 Division. The tournament was won by the Lisbon Lizards which went undefeated in four games to win the championship trophy.

The Lisbon team began their road to the title with a 12 to 4 win over Elbow Room/Coors Light/Pure Country of Bismarck. They followed up with a convincing 22 to 14 win over ZKS/Healthways of Bismarck. In their third game, they defeated a talented team from Turtle Mountain named the Thunder. The final score was 11 to 6 in favor of the Lisbon team. That win carried them to the final game in which they met and beat a Dickinson team, Fischer/AVC/Southview Liquors and Spur Bar by a score of 19 to 9 to win the state title.

The Runner Up team from Dickinson began their day with a 25 to 1 thrashing of

a Bismarck team sponsored by Sports Page/Colonial Lounge. Their second game was a nail biter which resulted in a one run victory for Fischer/AVC/Southview Liquors/Spur Bar over Willison Body and Paint/Swanson Farms of Devils Lake. The final score was 10 to 9.

Fischer then won over Active Nutrition/ Buffalo Concrete of Bismarck with a score of 21 to 3. They also stopped Petro Hunt 26 to 5 before losing the final game to the team from Lisbon.

Third place was grabbed by the Turtle Mountain Thunder while Carrington captured the Consolation Title.

ZKS/Healthways won the Roughrider Bracket beating Hazen Family Eye Care 23 to 15.

Cactus Bracket title went to Farmers Union Insurance /Anarchy Bat 11 to 7 over the Elbow Room.



Men's Rec 3 East champion...Oakes The Last Shot Bar & Grill. Front Row (L-R): Randy Sell, Josh Roberts, Shawn Kourajian, Mike Titus, Zach Roberts, Kaleb Sell, Cody Nash, Wes Maley. Back Row (L-R): Del Titus, Bob Miller, Mike Quadt, Nick Frieddt, Kyle Courtney, Riley Sauerwein.

Men's Rec 3 East – Fargo August 10 and 11

52 teams competed with the Last Shot Bar of Oakes winning the title

In one of the largest slow pitch state championship tournaments held in North Dakota, 52 teams assembled in Fargo the weekend of August 10 and 11 to compete for the title.

The Last Shot bar team from Oakes claimed the championship trophy winning five games without a loss. In their opening game, they bested Red River Endodontics/Sputnik Drillers from Grand Forks in a tight defensive battle 5 to 3. Their second game was almost as close as the gang from Oakes won 6 to 3 over Chubb's Pub of Fargo. Gentzkow, Inc. also gave the Oakes team all they wanted as they lost a 15 to 13 game.

In their first game in the semi-finals, Oakes bested Sanford Lawn before defeating another good team Coaches from Rural Cass Count. No

score was available. Oakes won the state title in the Men's Rec Three East.

Coaches of Rural Cass County was the runner up winning three games before losing to eventual Champion Oakes Last Shot. Coaches beat Tharaldson's 12 to 6 and they then beat Prairie Brothers 13 to 3. The won their first game in the semi-final round besting SouthTown Pour 12 to 10 before losing the title game to Oakes.

Consolation Crown was awarded to Lunseth Rough Rider Bracket went to Ruby Tuesday. Cactus Bracket won by McMenamys of Grand Forks

Pioneer Bracket was won by Rutland Tumbleweed Bracket was topped by T6(L37 Jand S



Men's Rec 3 West champion...Bismarck Hayward Electric/Sizzlin S Construction. (L-R) Jayden Gimbel, Alex Weiland, Joey Benke, Cyrus Smith, Zach Stakler, Tanner Bittner, Trenton Schwehr, Andrew Beyer, Nick Nustad, Travis Stevens, Travis Hayward.

Men's Rec 3, August 10 - 11-Bismarck

One of the largest fields to compete for a state slow pitch title gathered in Bismarck the weekend of August 10 and 11. Sixty one teams sought the title which was won by a Bismarck team, Hayward Electric/Sizzlin S Construction won six games without a loss to claim the championship.

Hayward opened with a ten run victory over The Spur/Twisted Tea/Neighbors Bar/Just in Glass of Dickinson 14 to 4 and followed up with a win over a Beulah team, Coteau/Coyote Station/Coyote Creek in a 10 to 6 contest. In Game three, Hayward defeated Mountain Plains LLC of Mandan 21 to 12. Lee's Bar of Rugby was the next team to fall losing 12 to 7 to the eventual champion. The Boys of Summer from Williston were next to taste defeat at the hands of Hayward, etc as they dropped a 7 to 4 contest. In the championship game, Hayward, etc.

beat Terhorst of Minot to claim the title and the first place trophy.

Terhorst of Minot was the runner-up winning four games before losing the final to Hayward Electric/Sizzlin S Construction of Bismarck. Terhorst beat Precision Underground of Bismarck in their first game 16 to 5, then defeated another Bismarck team, Dakota Eye 10 to 6 and Noble Casing of Williston 13 to 11. Their next win propelled them into the final game as they won over Alibi's Lounge 25 to 6 before losing the final game 7 to 1.

Consolation Champs were Reiter Oil of Minot. Roughrider Bracket was claimed by Motorheads Repair and Cactus Bracket was won by Legacy Moving while DTE Farmers Union Insurance was named the winner of the Pioneer Bracket. Country Financial-Johnson took the Tumbleweed Bracket with a one run win over Precision.



Men's Rec 4 East champion...Grand Forks 7-Teens. Front Row (L-R): Brandon Kuntz, Kaden Landa, Luke LaMoine, Gunnar Gibbs, Reed Turner. Back Row (L-R): Jack Tannahill, Landon Kraft, Noah Ciekliński, Logan Steen, Wyatt Eagleson, Blaise Monnette, Luke Ciekliński.

The Men's Rec 4 East Division had the second largest number of teams entered, August 17 - 18 in Grand Forks

7 Teens of Grand Forks claimed the title winning 18 to 9 in their first game over Extra End of Grafton before beating Bar Code of West Fargo 20 to 2. In their third game, 7 Teens won over the Dirt Bags of Fargo 8 to 3. They won their fourth game in a row beating Valley Plains of Jamestown in a convincing win.

Walhalla Building Center of Grafton also advanced thru their bracket beating Magnum Electric Hustlers of Fargo in their opening game winning 17 to 6 before meeting and beating Jerome Wholesalers 15 to 5. They

then disposed of Bellmore and Sons/Casey's Bar of Wahpeton 6 to 5. Walhalla then defeated Steffes of Grand Forks 18 to 3. In the Semi-Final round Walhalla beat Borsheim Crane Services of Fargo to gain the title game where they lost to 7 teens 11 to 5. Valley Plains won over Borsheim for third place while Brent Berg was the consolation winner.

RoughRider Bracket was won by Hunter Insurance.

The Cactus bracket winner was Hugo's Wine and Spirits of Grand Forks



Men's Rec 4 West champion...Minot Tuff Trucks. Front Row (L-R): T.J. Martinez, Garrett Moore, Will Morgan, Hunter Kyner. Back Row (L-R): Porter Enloc, Damon Nixon, Rick Burke, Jake Groghan, Ben Tikelsky, Dylan King, Bob Gorski.

Men's Rec 4 West – Dickinson August 17 - 18

Tuff Trucks of Minot grabbed the championship trophy over 23 other teams in the Men's Rec 4 State Championship on August 17 and 18 in Dickinson.

Tuff Trucks won their first game with a 9 to 0 shutout over Century 21/West Dakota Meats of Mandan. In their second contest, they ran into a bit more competition but managed to win 13 to 10 over Steffes/Continental Real Estate of Dickinson.

In the third game of their title run, Tuff Trucks scored a 15 to 8 win over Triangle Electric/Bud Light of Williston. In the fourth game they met and beat another Minot team as they prevailed over The Landing of Minot in a tight struggle 13 to 11 to win the championship game.

The Landing of Minot settled for second place after a run of four straight wins. They outscored Bob'a Oildfield Services with a ten run rule game 17 to 7. In their second game, Tuff Trucks subdued 701 softball/A plus ride service which put them into the Semi-final game where they outlasted Timber Athletics of Mandan in a squeaker 6 to 5 and they beat Stallion Oilfield Services/Beehler of Bismarck.

Stallion OilField was the third place team while the Consolation Bracket went to Century 21/West Dakota Meats of Mandan. In the Roughrider Bracket, Steffes/Continental Real Estate of Dickinson prevailed and in the Cactus Bracket Stage Stop of Mandan was the winning team.



Men's Masters 35, Division 1 champion...Bismarck Heartland Investors, Front Row (L-R): Garret Kunz, Jason Salz, Scott Brahos, Shawn Harrington, Mike Wolff. Back Row (L-R): Brad Jaeger, Mike Swanson, Scott Huffman, Tad Fink, Brandon Wilkens, Al Liebert, Scott Yantzer, Gene Graner,

Men's Masters 35 – Division One

To no one's surprise, Heartland Investors won the Men's Masters 35, Division One title in Mandan July 27 and 28. The tournament only included six teams. Heartland opened with a first round bye and then won over Krahlars 14 to 4, Wolding Trucking of Minot 20 to 16 and Krahlars again 15 to 5.

Krahlars won five games to finish in the Runner-Up position. Their first win was an 18 to 9 triumph over Minot Arrowhead Ace

Hardware. In game two, they lost to Heartland by the ten run rule, 14 to 4. Krahlars notched four more victories in a row before meeting Heartland again. The four victims were BNC/Lucky's of Bismarck; Sperle of Fargo; Arrowhead Ace Hardware of Minot and Wolding Trucking also of Minot. In the title game, Heartland Investors prevailed by ten runs again scoring a 15 to 5 victory. Wolding claimed third place.



Men's Masters 35, Division 2 champion...Mandan Seven Seas. Front Row (L-R): Jeff Rerrick, Dan marsh, Wyatt Pollert, Easton Monson. Middle Row (L-R): Todd Boehm, Charles Seil, Chad Stewart, Kenny Phillips, Shannon Gangl, Josh Stewart. Back Row (L-R): Robert Liscomb, Rocky Reddig, Lucas Liscomb, Corey Rennich, Ty Shope, Jerry Zachmeier, Brandon Monson.

Men's Masters 35 – Division Two

Division Two of the Men's Masters 35 tournament held in Mandan July 27 and 28 fielded 14 teams and crowned a local team as Champion when Mandan Seven Seas which survived a first round loss, then won six games in a row before beating Precision Plumbing of West Fargo twice in the championship.

Seven Seas lost it's opening game to Bismarck Prairie Supply by the ten run rule, 24 to 14, then rallied to win over West Fargo Pixeled Brewing 21 to 14, STEP Wellness of Bismarck, Make Scents also of Bismarck

and Carpet World of Bismarck. Seven Seas scored 21 runs in each of those two contests. They next defeated Garage Logic of Mandan in a tight contest 15 to 14. Another close game followed as Seven Seas beat Bower's Excavating of Mandan 4 to 3.

In the championship games Seven Seas vanquished Precision Plumbing of West Fargo in two games to win the crown. The scores were 17 to 15 in the first game and 25 to 18 in the final game.

Bowers Excavating claimed third place.



Men's Masters 35, Division 3 champion...Rugby Lee's Bar. Front Row (L-R): Eric Zietz, Travis Risovi, James Brossart, Tobias McCabe, Chad Hauck. Back Row (L-R): Ray Uhlenkamp, Garritt Irey, Lance Zietz, Brian Olson, Mark Hamilton, Steve Mueller.

Men's Masters 35 - Division Three

The winner of the Men's Masters 35 - Division Three was a team from Rugby sponsored by long time player, manager and sponsor Lee Ekren owner of Lee's Bar. Eleven teams showed up to challenge for the title and Lee's Bar won four straight games and was crowned champion.

They opened their trip to the final beating a team sponsored by the Bismarck Moose

Club in a 9 to 8 thriller. Their second game was also decided by a single run as they won over Mayville Viking Insurance by a score of 11 to 10. Minot Spartan/Nolas gave them another close game but Lee's prevailed 11 to 9 to reach the final game in which they defeated Fargo Bar Code 13 to 5 to take home the title and the trophy.



Men's Masters 40, Division 1 champion...Hazen Cenex/Western Frontier Insurance. (L-R) Melachi Four Bear, Joel Prochnow, Rod Skalsky, Jeff Koppelsloen, Brandon Schirado, Doug Wick, Aaron Wick, Ryan Schleppenbach, Brad Hetzler, Mitch Neumiller, Ramon Jasso.

Men's Masters 40 - Division One

A small field of only seven teams met in Jamestown over August 17 and 18 to decide the Champion of the Men's Masters 40 Division One. Hazen Cenex/Western Frontier Insurance won the Division One title at Jamestown's Hill Crest Softball Complex. Hazen opened with a 24 to 11 victory over Kensal Old Pros. In their second game, Hazen had a tougher game but prevailed over Bowers Excavating 15 to 12 to advance against Minot Coors Light/Crestwood Crude of Minot. In their next game they met Fargo Miller Lite which came out of the losers bracket and won over Hazen by a ten run margin 17 to 7

to force another championship game which was won by Hazen 9 to 7 to claim the winners trophy and the title.

Fargo Miller Lite advanced by beating Minot Coors Light/Crestwood Crude 24 to 1 then followed with a 12 to 2 win over Bismarck Carpet World. Miller Lite stumbled in their third game, losing to eventual champ Hazen 22 to 12. Miller Lite bounced back with a win over Kensal Old Pro 23 to 2 to win another shot at Hazen in the final game which was won by Hazen Cenex to win the Division. Kensal Old Pros won third place.



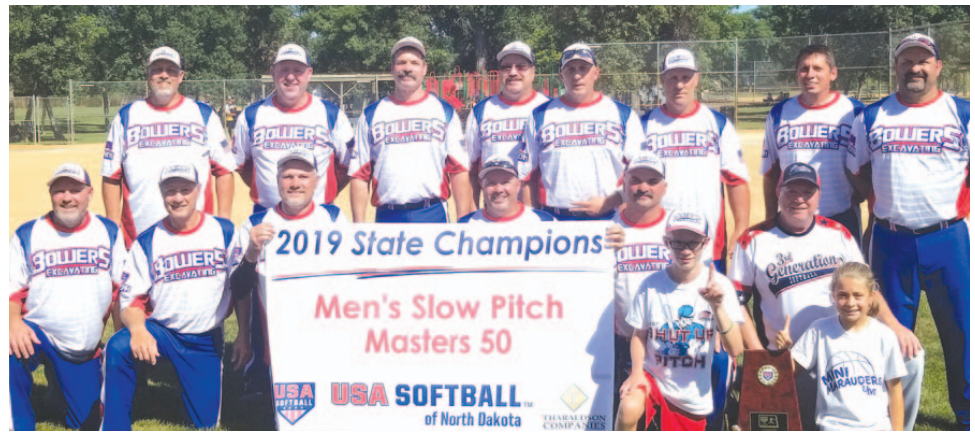
Men's Masters 40, Division 2 champion...Valley City Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall. Front Row (L-R): Wade Person, Chris Elliott, Clay Elliott, Gary Hill. Back Row (L-R): Brent Everson, Mike Day, Jim Richels, Todd Kalpakoff, Jason Rud, Keith LaVallie, Travis Schwab, Eric Carter, Ryan Marquart.

Men's Masters 40 - Division Two

An eight team field met in Jamestown the weekend of August 17 and 18 to determine the champion of the Men's Masters 40 Division Two. Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall of Valley City won four games without a loss to cop the title in this Division. They opened with a tight battle winning by 9 to 8 over Shady's of Jamestown. In game two they beat Lisbon Gentzkow 18 to 4 and in game three they stopped Viking Insurance of Mayville 24 to 9. In the championship game, Elliott beat Shady's of Jamestown again 17 to 13 to

win the tournament.

Shady's was the runner up beating the Grand Forks Merchants in their first game 14 to 1 before defeating Bruno's Pizza of Bismarck 13 to 2 and Step Wellness 14 to 10. They had to beat the Grand Forks Merchants again, this time by a single run 11 to 10. They also beat Viking Insurance of Mayville 16 to 15 before losing the title game to Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall.



Men's Masters 50 Metal Bat champion...Mandan Bowers Excavating II. Front Row (L-R): Tim Adolf, Bob Piatz, Dean Gesellchen, Jeff Delzer, Todd Winkler, Tommy Schmidt, Bennett Ereth, Morgan Delzer. Back Row (L-R): Randy Piatz, Scott Battest, Mark Bohrer, Terrance Schmidt, Dana Ereth, All Liebert, Rod Becker, Jon Gums.



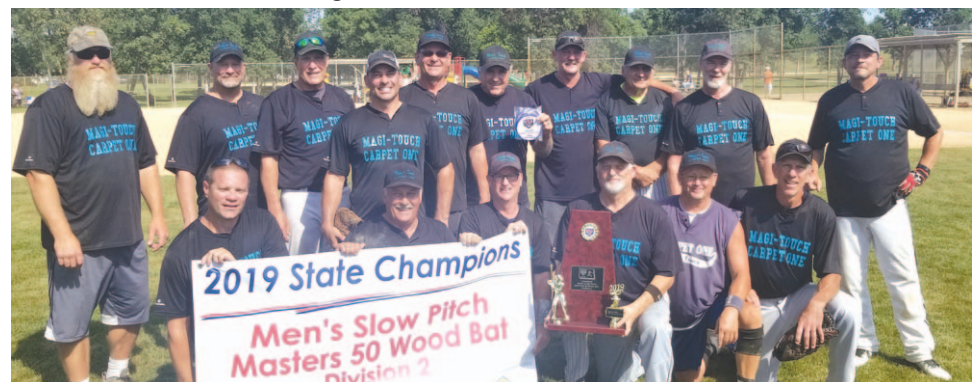
Men's Masters 50 Wood Bat, Division 1 champion...Mandan Bowers Excavating II. Front Row (L-R): Abby Ereth, Morgan Delzer, Gabby Ereth, Bennett Ereth, Easton Delzer. Middle Row (L-R): Bob Piatz, Jim Keller, Dean Gesellchen, Jon Gums, Jeff Delzer, Todd Winkler. Back Row (L-R): Randy Piatz, Terrance Schmidt, Scott Battest, Tim Adolf, Mark Bohrer, Dana Ereth, Jim Becker, Rod Becker

Men's Masters 50 Wood Bat - Gold Division

The men's masters 50 wood bat tournament was held in mandan august 3, 2019. Format was pool play followed by a single elimination bracket play.

Mandan Bowers Excavating #2 was the

champion of the six team event. Bowers began with a win over Fargo PCI by the score of 7 to 4 and then beat Bowers #1 16 to 3 to win the Division title. All other teams ended with one win and one loss.



Men's Masters 50 Wood Bat, Division 2 champion...Mandan Magi-Touch. Front Row (L-R): Dan Ruff, Randy Horner, Curt Pierce, Greg Nelson, Clint Kautz, John Leaddon. Back Row (L-R): Kevin Gorder, Brian Johnson, Mark Klein, Todd Neurohr, Ken Knodel, David Siegfried, Carl Buechler, Kevin Vossler, Jacob Sauter, Monte Stein

Men's Masters 50 Wood Bat - Silver Division

The Silver Division of the men's masters wood bat tournament was also held at Mandan on August 3. Magi-Touch of Mandan won the division with three wins in the bracket play after going one and one in pool

play. In the bracket play, Magi-touch gained wins over Wagner Financial of Mandan 13 to 2 then beat Fort Rice 8 to 3 and Walton Chiropractic of Fargo 10 to 3 to clinch the Silver Division Championship.



Men's Masters 60 Wood Bat champion...Mandan John's Upholstery. Front Row (L-R): Duane Broschat, Tim Kraher, Wayne Becker, Gordie Smith, Steve Harrington. Back Row (L-R): Kelly Kraher, Richie Long, Ron Geffre, Kent Fredrickson, Curt Kraher, Kel Fitterer, Jim Becker.

Men's Masters 60, Wood Bat

Mandan hosted six teams which competed for the title in the Men's Masters 60, Wood Bat Division on Sunday, August 4. A local team sponsored by John's Upholstery won the tournament. John's won handily in their first game of the day beating another Mandan team, Wagner Financial 18 to 4 then continued their offensive show with a 14 to 7 victory over Fargo Walton Chiropractic.

They had a tougher time in their next game before beating another Fargo team PCI 7 to 2. They had to beat them again as PCI came back through the loser's bracket. John's won in a thriller 7 to 6 to win the championship title and trophy.

PCI finished second and Magi-Touch of Mandan finished in third place.



Men's 5x5x5 East, Tier 2 champion...Valley City Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall. L-R: Mark Ouellette, Chris Elliott, Jason Ruud, Mike Sherman, Jarrod Schwab, Jimmy Richels, Shawn Heirss.

Men's Slow Pitch 5x5x5 East, Tier 2

In only the second state tournament in North Dakota featuring the 5x5x5 format, Valley City Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall staved off a desperate rally from last year's champions to claim this year's title. Jamestown Wildside Creations picked up where they left off in 2018 by sweeping their way through pool play. Elliott Farms managed just one win in 3 pool play games, but their two second place finishes provided enough points to secure a place in the championship. Grand Forks Nodak Insurance rounded out the trio that would be playing in that contest. The championship game started as a tight, low-

scoring affair. Heading into the middle of the 4th inning, all 3 teams were within 2 runs of each other. That's when Elliott pushed 7 runs across the plate to establish a bit of a cushion over their opponents. The 4 run lead they took to the final inning became 6 as Wildside came to bat in the bottom of the 5th. The defending champs were not willing to relinquish the title so easily, though. A 2-out grand slam would force extra innings. Both teams traded single runs in the 6th. However, after Elliott added another in the 7th, Wildside failed to answer and the championship trophy was destined for Valley City.



Coed, Division 1 champion...Fargo #sorrypitch/Kelly's Bar. Front Row (L-R): Bobby Lukkason, Tim Jallen, Kayla Lukkason, Emily Lundby, Alex Sumner. Back Row (L-R): John DeHaan, Kelsey Carriere, Michael Lukkason, Victor Sokolofsky, Jordan Mauch, Catherine Dorsher, Rachel Berger

Co-Ed State Tournament – Division One

The annual state tournament for co-ed softball took place in Grand Forks the weekend of September 7 and 8. Sorry Pitch won Division One which featured only three teams. Sorry Pitch won their first game in a closely contested contest as they edged Got1's6/MMB 7 to 6. Sorry Pitch had to face the same foe

in their second game as Got1's6/MMB came back through the loser's bracket. This game was won by Got1's6/MMB to force a second championship game which was won by Sorry Pitch in another one run game, 19 to 18. Sorry Pitch was declared the champion of Division One.



Coed, Division 2 champion...Wahpeton Wilkins Drinks & Eatery. Front Row (L-R): Dane Platt, Jerry Held, Preston Keppes, Seth Krueger, Casey Maten. Back Row (L-R): Amber Volanti, Jordan Reiff, Brenna Stein, Baylee Wilson, Lexi Ziezke, Sydney Whitmarsh, Trevor Thiele

Co-Ed State Tournament – Division Two

Wilkins Drink and Eatery captured the Division Two bracket of the state co-ed championship topping the ten team bracket without a loss. Wilkins began its quest for the title with a 16 to 10 win over the Lizards before besting the Ground Round in a close battle 11 to 10. In their third game, Wilkins

trounced Tangled Hair of Wahpeton 20 to 8 before losing their first game to No. Dak. Sandlot of Hillsboro. Wilkins bounced back in the "if necessary game" handing the Sandlot team their second loss of the day. N.D. Sandlot claimed runner-up honors.



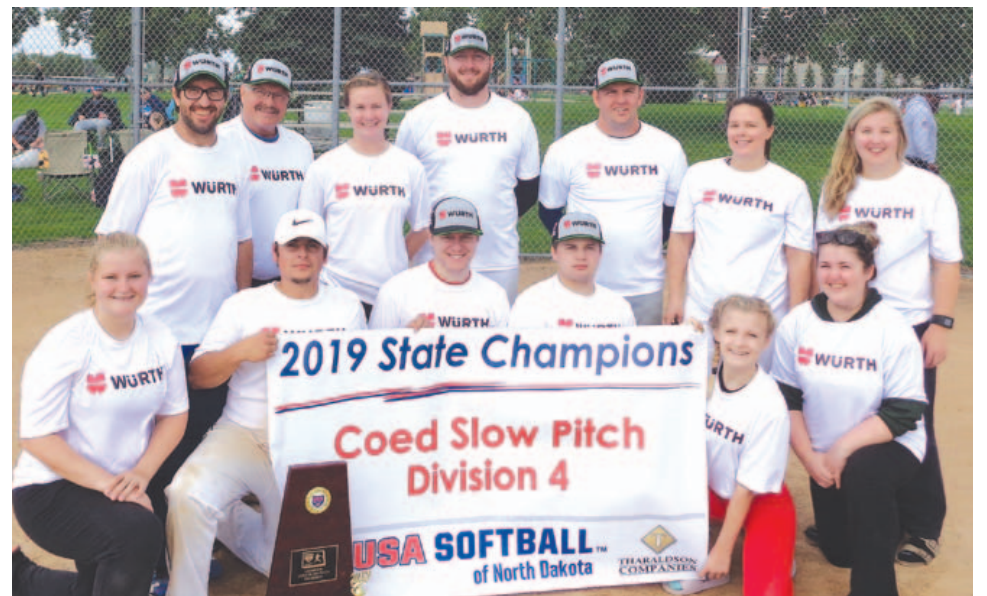
Coed, Division 3 champion...Jamestown The Buff/Helena Softball. Front Row (L-R): Greg Lunzman, Seth Hatelwick. Back Row (L-R): Chastity Schafer, Shannon Weist, Stacie Fetting, Kaitlyn Dewald, Rachel Cichos, Jade Schafer, Levi Gaunsk, Riley Schafer.

Co-Ed State Tournament – Division Three

Buff-Helena softball of Jamestown won Division Three of the state Co-ed championship in a field of sixteen teams going unbeaten in four games to win the title. Buff-Helena opened pursuit of the crown with an 11 to 7 win over Hugo's Wine and Spirits of Grand Forks. They followed that up with a 7 to 3 win over Huttons of Grand Forks before

winning a third game from Menace to Sobriety 18 to 11 and won the title with an 11 to 7 win over JVC/McMenamy's of Grand Forks. Third place went to Shotgun Sally's of Grand Forks.

Team Hutton won the Roughrider Bracket of Division Three and Bananas and Beer won the Cactus Bracket.



Coed, Division 4 champion...Fargo Wirth USA. Front Row (L-R): Kylee Bartholomay, Jason England, Brian Erickson, Kyle Ross, Kalli Bartholomay, Sam Pickrain. Back Row (L-R): James Uriell, Bill Bartholomay, Deanna Wibbens, Kramer Stuth, Jayme West, Melissa Bartholomay, Mackenzie Baril. Not pictured: Heather Erickson

Co-Ed State Tournament – Division Four

Wirth USA won the Division Four of the State Co-ed Tournament in the state tournament held in Grand Forks September 7 and 8. Wirth started with a 10 to 6 triumph over Ringdahl's EMS/TRAUT WELLS/FRED'S DEN. They ran into a tough team sponsored by Flooring innovations in their second game, squeezing out a one run victory 5 to 4. In the third game, Wirth defeated Spare Parts of

Tappen 8 to 1 before beating Speedway Hitter of Grand Forks 7 to 4 to win the Division title.

Pfaff Ranch was runner-up beating Spare Parts 12 to 9. The Roughrider bracket was claimed by flooring innovations with a 6 to 2 win over Hankey Law and Hugo's Bud Light.

Cactus bracket was won by Sliver Prairies beating BSE 21 to 11 then beat the Prodigies 22 to 6.



Women's D champion...Bismarck Got1s6/BDS Concrete. Front Row, Kneeling (L-R): Felicity Blair, Kristi Dagman, Kennedy Blair, Amanda Baerlocher. Back Row (L-R): Melissa Wilson, Lashae Michels, Desiree Smith, Brittany Marohl, Tracy Marback, Nikki Brunelle, Kari Flaagan, Amber Zahn.

Women's Class D state tournament Bismarck team wins title over seven entrants

A Bismarck team won the Women's Class D state title on July 27 and 28 in a seven team tournament held in Bismarck. BDS/GOTIS 6 captured the championship with four straight wins over a small group of contenders. BDS/GOTIS6 opened with a victory over

another Bismarck team as they won 18 to 13 over Wings and Rings before beating Strike/MJGA of Minot 14 to 1.

BDS then won two in a row over Mulligans of Williston winning 14 to 5 and 10 to 8 in the championship tussle.

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Action from Women's Masters 30 State Tournament.

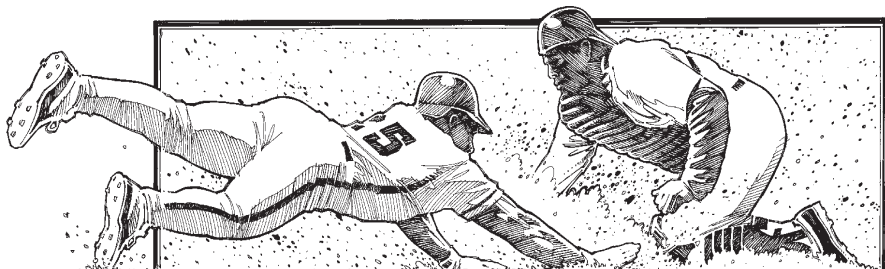
USA Softball of North Dakota State Champions - 2019

CLASSIFICATION

Men's Class C
Men's Class D
Men's Rec 1
Men's Rec 2 East
Men's Rec 2 West
Men's Rec 3 East
Men's Rec 3 West
Men's Rec 4 East
Men's Rec 4 West
Men's Masters 35, Div 1
Men's Masters 35, Div 2
Men's Masters 35, Div 3
Men's Masters 40, Div 1
Men's Masters 40, Div 2
Men's Masters 50 Metal Bat
Men's Masters 50 Wood Bat, Div 1
Men's Masters 50 Wood Bat, Div 2
Men's Masters 60 Wood Bat
Men's 5x5x5 East, Tier 1
Men's 5x5x5 East, Tier 2
Men's 5x5x5 East, Tier 3
Men's 5x5x5 West, Tier 1
Men's 5x5x5 West, Tier 2
Men's 5x5x5 West, Tier 3
Women's Class D
Women's Rec 1
Women's Rec 2
Women's Rec 3 East
Women's Rec 3 West
Women's Masters, Div 1
Women's Masters, Div 2
Women's Masters, Div 3
Women's Masters, Div 4
Coed, Division 1
Coed, Division 2
Coed, Division 3
Coed, Division 4
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 10 & Under A
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 10 & Under B
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 12 & Under A
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 12 & Under B
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 14 & Under A
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 14 & Under B
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 16 & Under A
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 18/16 & Under B
JO Girls' Fast Pitch 18 & Under

CHAMPION

Grand Forks RMI/First Class Mortgage/Budweiser
Fargo Pink it Forward/Edward Jones/The Box
Wahpeton Smith Motors/Coors Light
Fargo Rejects/Wild Bills/Lucky 13
Lisbon Lizards/Coors Light
Oakes Last Shot Bar
Bismarck Hayward Electric/Sizzlin S Construction
Grand Forks 7-Teens
Minot Tuff Trucks
Bismarck Heartland Investors
Mandan Seven Seas
Rugby Lee's Bar
Hazen Cenex/Western Frontier Insurance
Valley City Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall
Mandan Bowers Excavating # 2
Mandan Bowers Excavating # 2
Mandan Magi-Touch
Mandan John's Upholstery
no tournament
Valley City Elliott Farms/Mikkelsen Drywall
no tournament
no tournament
no tournament
no tournament
Bismarck Got1s6/BDS Concrete
Grand Forks Farmer's Union/JLG/MMB
Beulah Hazen Cenex/Fanatics/DugRite
Devils Lake Proz Lakeside
Anamoose Merchants
Bismarck Got1s6
no tournament
Bismarck Bistro
Jamestown Tom's Electric
Fargo #sorrypitch/Kelly's Bar
no tournament
Jamestown The Buff/Helena Softball
Fargo Wurth USA
Dickinson Black
Jamestown Outlaws
Dickinson Black
Minot Storm
ND Elite
Minot Storm
Diamond Academy
Jamestown Outlaws
Dickinson Diamonds



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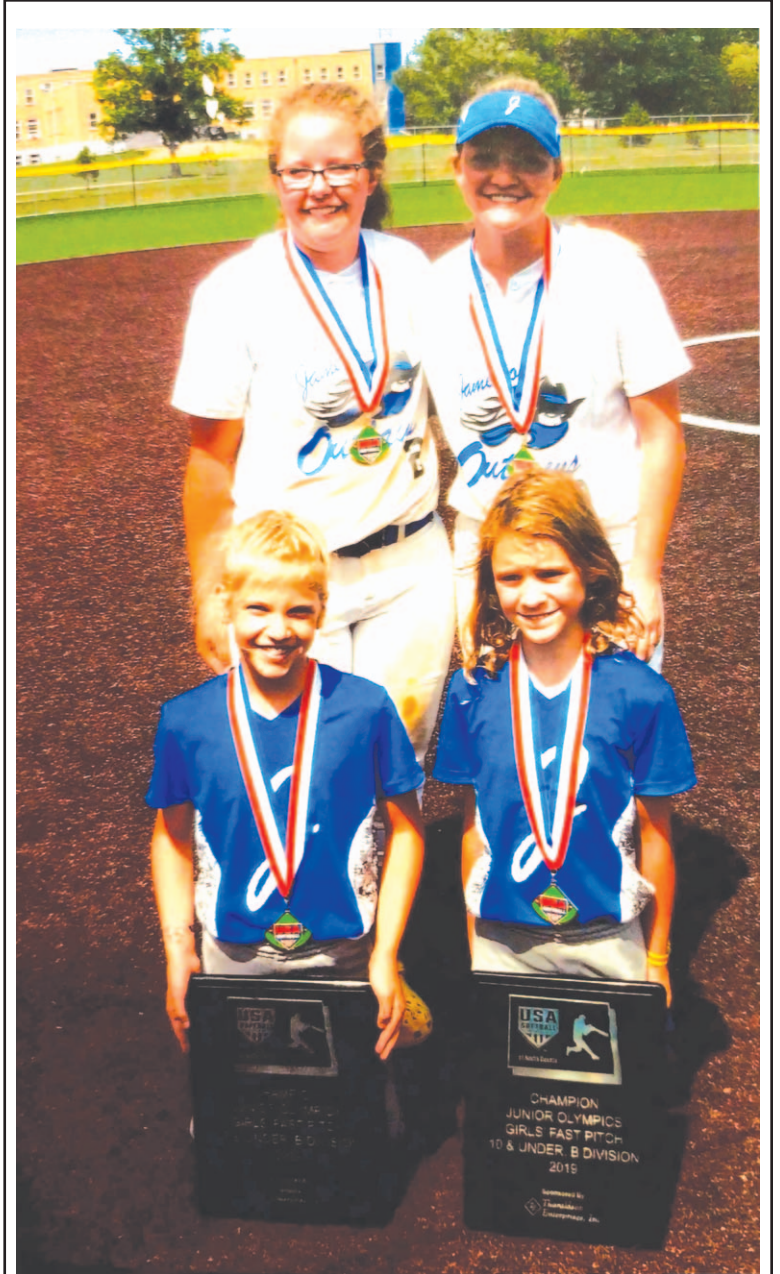
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Sisters win trophies at State JO Tournament. Back row: standing left Emily Hoff; front row: kneeling left Maddy Hoff. Back row: standing right McKenna Jackson; front row: kneeling right Brooke Jackson. The older girls won the 16 under Class B title while the younger girls won the 10 Under A title.



Gary Tharaldson and wife Connie at Gary's induction into the National Hall of Fame.



Two kids in wagon: "A wagon load of cute".

Tharaldson continues sponsorship of trophies

Gary Tharaldson will again sponsor all the trophies and championship banners for all state softball tournaments sponsored by the North Dakota USA Softball Association. This will be the 21st consecutive year that Tharaldson, through his Hospitality Management segment and Tharaldson Ethanol will provide the trophies and banners for all the state tournaments including the Junior Olympics championship as well as all the adult tournaments. The number of trophies and banners depends on the number of teams entering each state tournament and the number of trophies and banners have increased significantly over the past several years.

Tharaldson and his wife have dedicated much of their lives to supporting softball as sponsors for not just one or two divisions but across the whole spectrum of USA Softball. Tharaldson sponsored Men's teams in A, B and C Slow

Pitch divisions and supported five different levels of senior ball for many years. Tharaldson and his wife also sponsored women's slow pitch teams for 15 years and also sponsored both Boys and Girls Junior Olympic teams. His sponsored teams have participated in over 30 National tournaments.

In addition to his sponsorships, Gary also was a player during his time as a sponsor winning two National Championships and over 1,000 games as a pitcher. His best season was the year he won 58 games while losing only two and he carried a batting average of .600 for his playing career.

North Dakota USA Softball is able to provide the trophies and banners only through the cooperation and generosity of Gary Tharaldson and his various enterprises. North Dakota USA Softball gratefully acknowledges his many, many contributions to North Dakota softball.

Girl's Junior Olympics Fast Pitch Action





Umpire crew for the Men's Masters 35/45 in Mandan this August. ND umpires are Paul Carey--Fargo, Jim Richels--Fargo, Darby Krivoruchka--Bismarck, Tom McDonald--Bismarck, Dean Berger--Mandan, and Jason Hassebrock--Bismarck. Elite Umpire Evaluators were Brian Bruggeman from Nebraska and from ND were Wade Blumhagen, Allan Ziemann, and Chris Coleman. Tim Watts from Nebraska was the Assistant UIC. We had umpires from California, Alaska, Michigan, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, and ND.

North Dakota players hit the Tournament Trail played in Super, Class A, Class B and Class C

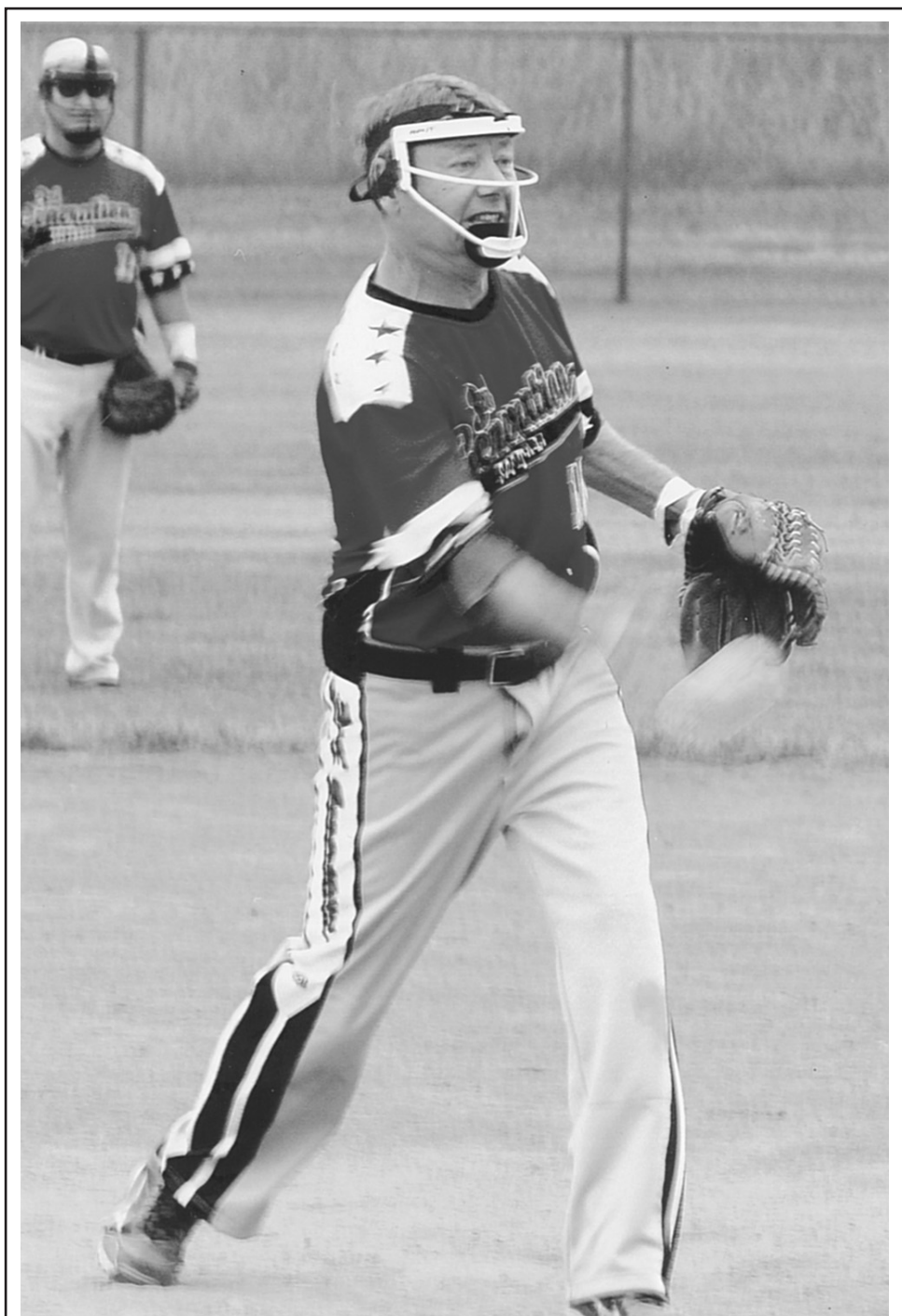
3X Gear/Anarchy/The Box/Sports Cards 4U Manager-Coach Chad Dearborn took four of his players to the USA Men's Super Tournament in Hendersonville, Tennessee where they joined up with Anarchy/Sis/OA Apparel. Michael Bormann, Devren Dear, Jody Schommer and Kelly Wrangham helped lead the team to a fourth place finish. HAUTO won the tournament, Dan Smith took second and TDB finished third.

"It was a lot of fun playing against the very best competition in the country." We enjoyed representing North Dakota. It was a great opportunity provided by some great sponsors" said Bormann.

The team then stuck around for the weekend and competed in the USA Men's Class

A National Tournament. Then they joined up with their 3X Teammates and played the USA Men's Class B tournament the following weekend in Prairie Island, Minnesota. Wrangham kept the post season rolling playing with a team he helps sponsor (Dickson Law/Sports Cards 4U) the next weekend at the Men's Class C National Tournament back in Prairie Island, Mn.

Notes: Bormann hit .600 at the Super (4th on the team) Wrangham tied for second on the team in Home Runs (2) at the Super. Wrangham (.800, Dear (727) and Schommer (667) were all in the Top Five for the team at the A National. Wrangham homered in all four National Tournaments.



Curt Krahler pitches in the Men's Masters Tournament.



Action from Women's Masters 30 State Tournament.

Hall of Fame selection committee

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
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| Vice Chairperson: Sharon Morgan | Steve Granberg |
| Randy Bina | Greg Kaeding |
| Jack Lukes | Walt Stack |
| Gordy Smith | Pat Stockert |
| Scott Collins | Mike Wolf |
| | Mark Vanyo |



Women's Masters 30, Division 1 champion...Bismarck Got1s6. Front Row (L-R): Heidi Raymond, Kari White-Tuton, Tracy Marback, Brittany Marohl, Erin Ruud. Back Row (L-R): Melissa Wilson, Jess White-Tuton, Kari Flaagan, Rhonda Maier, Dalee Wilkinson.

August 17 and 18 Bismarck hosted the Women's Masters 30 State Tournament

Eighteen teams gathered in Bismarck the weekend of August 17-18 to contest the Women's Masters 30 Division state championship. Three separate divisions were created, Division one, three and four. There were not enough teams to fill the Division two section.

Division One: Gotis6 won Division One over three other teams. They opened with a convincing win over Helena Softball from Jamestown 22 to 1 and then beat Moritz of

Bismarck 19 to 8 before winning handily over David's Concrete of Wahpeton 15 to 4 to claim the trophy and the title.

David's Concrete of Wahpeton claimed runner up honors winning 13 to 6 over Helena Softball of Jamestown. They faced Helena again and won 23 to 12 before meeting and beating Moritz of Bismarck 16 to 15 then lost the championship game to Gotis6 15 to 4.



Women's Masters 30, Division 3 champion...Bismarck Bistro. Front Row (L-R): Tara Lang, Mari Bondley, Shawna Bergquist, Breynn Sturlaugson, Jenna Ahonen. Back Row (L-R): Ashley Jahner, Erica Uys, Kyleigh Wegermann, Coach Doug Schmidt, Loni Grothier, Darby Hughes, Cassie Felber.

Women's Slow Pitch Masters 30, Division 3: The Ten Team

Division was won by Bistro of Bismarck which sailed through five games without a loss to claim the title. Bistro defeated T and A of Halliday in their first game winning 12 to 10. In Game Two, Bistro defeated the KC Knights of Jamestown 10 to 4 before win-

ning a close game 4 to 1 over Devin Wood Construction of Bismarck. They beat Salter Farms of Bismarck in their next game 9 to 8 before trimming the Helifino team from West Fargo in the championship game.



Women's Masters 30, Division 4 champion...Jamestown Tom's Electric. Front Row (L-R): Teresa Johnson, Stephanie Peterson. Back Row (L-R): Tanya Perkins, Tridy Dallmann, Alyssa Laingo, Samantha Partridge, Megan Tucker, Cheryl Schiele, Candace Scott, Tricia Seckerson. Not Pictured: Coach Clayton Hillstrom.

Women's Slow Pitch Masters 30, Division 4

Another four team bracket settled the title in the Division Four. Tom's Electric of Jamestown won the title but had to scrap for it after losing their second round game to Arrowwood Merchants. Toms won their first game 10 to 9 over the East River Girls

but lost the next game to Arrowwood18 to 11. After dropping into the Loser's bracket, Toms rebounded winning 16 to 4 over Town Hall of Fargo before beating Arrowwood in two straight games 12 to 9 and 9 to 8 in the "if necessary" game to win the Division Crown.



Women's Rec 1 champion...Grand Forks Farmer's Union/JLG/MMB. Front Row (L-R): Rachel Berger, Kelsey Carriere, Emily Lundby, Janelle Carroll, Kenzie Dorsher, Sarah Boese Noreen. Middle Row (L-R): Kelsey Holien, Autumn Cervantez, Lindsey Young, Catherine Dorsher, Teri Erickson. Back Row (L-R): Matt Carriere, Mike McWilliams.

Women's Rec 1 held in Jamestown\ August 10 and 11

The thirteen Team Rec 1 Women's Slow Pitch State Tournament was won by a Grand Forks team, Farmers Union/JLG/MMB. This team won it's first three games, then lost a close one to drop into the loser's bracket but recovered to win the tournament championship.

Grand Forks won it's opener over Capital City Construction 14 to 10. They then beat the a team out of West Fargo 10 to 7 and Boomers out of Jamestown.

They then lost to M and J Saloon/West Fargo VFW in a 7 to 3 game. The Grand Forks team forged it's way back in to the winners bracket by winning again over Capital City Construction 15 to 6 and then beat the only team which had beaten them in

the tournament, M an J Saloon, West Fargo VFW 13 to 12 and then handed them their second defeat which moved the Grand Forks into the championship spot.

Runner up M and J Saloon/VFW won it's first game 12 to 6 over stage stop of Bismarck and then beat KC Krushers of Jamestown 13 to 1. They also beat another Jamestown team, defeating Applebees/Honey Badger 7 to 1. All three of their next games were against the Farmers Union/JLG/MMB team from Grand Forks.

Unfortunately, the Grand Forks team swept all three games to win the tournament and drop M and J into the runner up spot. Scores were 7 to 3; 13 to 12 and 16 to 8.

Capital City Construction won third place.



Women's Rec 2 champion...Beulah Hazen Cenex/Fanatics/Dug Rite. Front Row, Kneeling (L-R): Shanda Leintz, Erica Tunge, Michaela Eisenbeisz. Middle Row (L-R): Chelse Weigel, Kelsey Goetz, Kendra Weigel, Shawna Bergquist, Kristen Jacobson. Back Row (L-R): Kaitlyn Meyhoff, Jenn Bornemann, Amber Brady, Kate Weigel, Lexi Lawson.

Hazen Cenex Wins Women's Rec 2 State Title

Hazen Cenex won the Women's Rec 2 state title over a 28 team field but it was not an easy trip to the prize. Their first four games were all decided by one run. Hazen won their opener over Epic Threads/The Door Guys/Precision Mandan 7 to 6. Then faced Speedway Girls of Grand Forks and won by a margin of 4 to 3. Edsons of Bismarck was their next victim and Cenex won by 8 to 7 to advance out of the upper bracket and into the Championship Bracket. In the Championship game they finally broke through and scored a ten run victory over Apple Rush of Bismarck

to claim the championship.

Apple Rush of Bismarck finished as runner-up and Edsons took third place beating Fanta Farms of Bismarck 19 to 4. Consolation Champs was the Hub of Grand Trail over Cloverdale of Mandan 9 to 8.

The Roughrider Division crown went to Speedway Women from Grand Forks winning over Silver Dollar/SP/Lynn 19 to 8.

The Cactus Division was won by O'Brians of Bismarck over Rock Point/Ole and Lenas of West Fargo. No score was available.



Women's Rec 3 East champion...Devils Lake Proz Lakeside. Front Row (L-R): Alyssa Worral, Alex Palmer, Bridgette Harkness, Jocelyn Lundon, Miriah Yoder, Megan Gathman. Back Row (L-R): Lisa Gathman, Olivia Light, Amber Gathman, Andrea Mund, Melissa Dauphinais.

Women's Rec Three East State Tournament Grand Forks, August 10 And 11

Proz Lakeside of Devils Lake rolled through the 20 team field to capture the Women's Rec 3 East state title on August 11 in Grand Forks.

Proz won their first game with a shutout over Park River/Tri County 12 to 0. They won their next game beating Hugo's Wine and Spirits/Judy's Tavern of Grand Forks 15 to 1. In game three, Proz continued their hot hitting offense handing the Harvey Pros, Central Dakota a 10 to 0 pasting. In the final

game for the championship, Proz defeated Helifino of West Fargo for the title. Helifino was runner-up winning four games before losing the championship to Proz.

Fordville Women were the Consolation Champs, beating Lidgerwood in the consolation final.

Roughrider bracket was claimed by Graf-ton Hugo's/ Bud Light.

Cactus bracket won by Flooring Innovations of Grand Forks.



Women's Rec 3 West champion...Anamoose Merchants. Front Row (L-R): Kaya Engen, Karissa Gahner, Harper Fletschock, Kristin Volson, Madison Uhlenkamp. Back Row (L-R): Tara Berndt, Riley Martin, Kim Meckle, Becky Fletschock, Riley Hauff, Halie Fletschock, Theresa Hoke, Holly Martin.

Anamoose Women win Rec 3 title in Minot

A team from Anamoose won the Rec3 State title in a 16 team tournament held in Minot August 3 and 4. The Anamoose Merchants won five games without a loss in claiming the crown. Anamoose began their quest for a state title with an 11 to 9 win over RM Construction of Jamestown before beating a team from Town and Country Credit Union of Minot 17 to 9. They continued their hot hitting against a Williston

team, G. Style 17 to 6 before reaching the final game where they bested J and P Excavation of Minot in a nail biter 6 to 5 and then beat them again 10 to 7 to win the state title.

J and P Excavation took runner up honors while third place went to Softball Addicts of Williston. The tournament was played under the Double Elimination format with a three game guarantee.



Action from Men's Slow Pitch.



A team photo from the Super/A National Tournaments.

USA Men's Super Tournament in Hendersonville, TN

By Kelly Wrangham

3X Gear/Anarchy/The Box/ Sports Cards 4U Manager/Coach Chad Dearborn took four of his players to the USA Men's Super Tournament in Hendersonville, TN where they joined up with Anarchy/SIS/OA Apparel. Michael Bormann,

Devren Dear, Jody Schommer and Kelly Wrangham helped lead the team to a Fourth Place finish. H Auto won the Tournament, Dan Smith took second and TDB finished third.

"It was a lot of fun playing against the very best competition in the country. We enjoyed represent-

ing North Dakota, it was a great opportunity provided by some great sponsors!" said Bormann.

The team also stuck around for the weekend and competed in the USA Men's A National Tournament. Then they joined up with their 3X Teammates and played the USA Men's B National Tournament the

following weekend in Prairie Island, MN. Wrangham kept the postseason rolling playing with a team he helps sponsor (Dickson Law/Sports Card 4U) the next weekend at the Men's C National Tournament back in Prairie Island, MN.

Notes: Bormann hit .600 at The Super (4th on the Team). Wrangham

led for second on the team in Home Runs (2) at The Super. Wrangham (.800), Dear (.727) and Schommer (.667) were all in the Top 5 for the Team at The A National. Wrangham homered in all four National Tournaments.

Bismarck umpire works second College World Series

Naomi Erdahl was one of ten USA softball umpires assigned to work the College Women's World Series in Oklahoma City at the Hall of Fame Softball Complex. It was her second straight assignment to the pinnacle of Women's College Softball. In her first game of the 2019 series, she was assigned to work home plate in a game featuring the two most successful programs in Women's College Softball, Arizona and UCLA.

Now working and living in Bismarck, she began her umpiring career in Minot during an era when fast pitch softball was the only game in town. Minot ran one of the most successful fast pitch programs in the state.

A program featuring some of the top pitchers in the Region so she learned from some of the best umpires in the game including Luther Heaton, a Hall of Fame umpire who was stationed in Minot Air Force Base. George White was another Air Force member who umpired in the Minot city leagues. Stu Summers was one of the umpires who lived in Minot and umpired in the city leagues as well. Naomi says she learned from some of these umpires who were actively umpiring the game in Minot. She also named Lyle Rader, now serving as a Deputy Umpire in Chief in Wahpeton, Bobby Larson and Fred Mueller who is now coaching girl's fast pitch softball. Games in Minot

featuring the better teams regularly attracted a thousand spectators to League and Tournament games. In this atmosphere, it was difficult for any female umpire to work into the schedule but she was determined to become an umpire and so she began a 25 year journey as a Registered umpire which has brought her to the top of the umpire ranks. To get here, she did more than just watch other umpires work, she attended umpire training sessions and National Umpire Schools and worked as many games as she could. Hoping to catch the eyes of umpire evaluators and assigners she began to work the games which have led her to her present position. She works mostly Division One

Softball games around the country so she travels most weekends during the softball season.

She works mainly in the Big Ten Conference and the American Athletic Conference, The Big 12 and the SEC and over the years has worked her way up the umpire ladder by working at her craft.

She knew she was on her way a few years ago when she began to get assignments to Regional Playoffs and Super Regionals. The next step was the Women's College World Series, an assignment she reached in 2018 and repeated in 2019.

Naomi is an unassuming woman who is always quick to credit other umpires with her rise to the top



but make no mistake in taking any credit for her success, she worked hard and long to achieve her dream. All of us who umpire amateur softball should be proud of her accomplishments.