

CHAMP'S CHATTER



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ISF XII WORLD MEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP - SUNDAY, JULY 26 EDITION

We have finally made it to Championship Sunday. When the B2 - Japan strikes back quickly with clean-up batter 1B tickets have been counted organizers expect the total Yasumitsu Harada filing a fly-ball flight-plan similar to Makea's, from around the world, who attended this championship, drove collaborate and three strike-outs end the inning. that point home. Way to go everyone! If you have not had T3 - Japan changes pitchers with P Kazutaka Murasato enough and would like to see these games again, you will be entering the circle and is greeted by 1B Martin's lead-off single. able to check them out on TV. Those trucks outside the gate A well-executed sacrifice by Wilson moves Martin 60' to 2B. and the camera's around the park are here to produce the game. Kohlhase realizes importance of another single run, and brings to be broadcast Wednesday and Friday on Roger's Sport Net. in pinch runner Gareth Cooke. Hale, with a chopper that 3B Play by play will be done by **Peter Loubardias** and color **Masateru Matsuoka** leaps high to corral, is out by a step and commentary by ISF Hall of Famer **Terry Baytor**. Plans are also the ever-dangerous Rona, grounds on to shortstop. B3 – P underway to send the broadcast to dozens of countries around the world. The quest to crown the best men's softball team/country in the World has been whittled down to three T4 - Defensively, Japan moves SS Kyuji Hazeyama closer to We are the Black Sox.

GAMES SUMMARIES

New Zealand regains form to jolt Japan in extra inning thriller

New Zealand executed offensive fundamentals to perfection, making the most of seven base hits and moving runners along the base-paths to win 10-6 in a thrilling extra-inning game to eliminate Japan. Japan stole a page from the Kiwi playbook, scoring four of their runs on automatics that cleared the outfield ball produces a 6-4-3 double play to escape damage. B5 -

Early innings - In the first stanza, Japan P Kunihiko lida a row. After 5 complete - tied at 5 acknowledged the long-ball potential of the Black Sox line-up. It's understandable that Kiwi lead-off batter OF Thomas Makea did not see a pitch that he could drive to the outfield. With stealing, but a good throw by C Shannon and a superb tag by Makea drawing a walk, NZ field manager Eddie Kohlhase uncharacteristically chose to play small ball. LF Rhys Casley, a surprise #2 batter in the Black Sox batting order, skillfully Travis Wilson line drive scored as an error off 3B Matsuoka's executed a two-strike swinging bunt advancing Makea to glove. Japan took it to extra innings in B7 when ninth batter 2B scoring position. 1B Jarred Martin then hit a high-hop, short- Masakazu Tsukamoto hit a well-placed single that 2B Wilson bouncer to SS Kyuji Hazeyama who deftly scooped the ball, but in hurrying his throw, sailed it wide of 1B. Makea scores and Sox lead by one. B1 - P Heinie Shannon enjoys a 1-2-3 inning, In T8, with tie-breaker runner Ben Enoka perched on 2B, Japan striking out one.

In T2, 3B **Brad Rona**, the tournament's leading hitter (.556 **Shannon** in batter's box, a passed ball moves Rona to 2B and Manager Kohlhase plays more small ball as Shannon bunts a grooves one and Makea loses it in Tent City over the RF field. Black Sox lead.

attendance for the event to be over 50,000. Men's softball is winging a towering automatic deposited between Boston Pizza alive and well and the people of Saskatoon as well as the fans and Great Western Beer tents. The Shannon battery-mate twins

> Shannon, with efficient 8-pitch inning, gets three up/three down. After three complete - NZ 4 Japan 1

teams. What will the final chant be: Can a da, Can a da or 3B foul line and the "Shannon shift" backfires as C Shannon hits Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, hoy, hoy or We are the Back Sox, one through the gaping hole. Shannon steals 2B and on the overthrow, advances to 3B. SS Roman Gabriel's fly ball to short RF draws Ishimura's high throw with Shannon scoring on a text-book slide. Will 5-1 lead be sufficient?

> B4 - P Shannon issues a walk to 1B Harada between two strike-outs, but successive hits by C Yohei Ono, 3B Masateru Matsuoka and LF Shuhei Suzuki's homer that clears the bases ties the game at 5. Kohlhase hooks P Shannon and P Marty Grant assumes the mounds. Grant Ks 2B Tsukamoto to end the inning.

> T5- For Japan, DP Kenji Namakura enters the game defensively on the mound (3rd pitcher of the game) and Ks first batter. 1B Martin collects his 2nd single, and 2B Wilson's ground Japan puts a pair of runners on base, but Grant retires three in

> T6 – New Zealand has two on, but leave them stranded. B6 – C Yohei Ono singles, and pinch runner Yu Nishimori attempts 2B Wilson erases him. After 6 innings - tied 5-5.

T7 when LF Rhys Casley walked, and eventually scored on 2B almost collared. With two outs, 1B Yasumitsu Harada, who had homered in B2, drove a single to knot the game at a half dozen brought in its 4th pitcher Tatsuya Hamaguchi. 3B Brad Rona promptly bunted the runner to 3B. C Pat Shannon was 10/18) draws a tournament high tenth walk. With C Pat awarded first when hit by a pitch. With lefty SS Nathan Nukunuku scheduled to bat, Japan manager Yoshihiro Tange opened another can of pitchers bringing in southpaw Kengo short twister to 1B, moving Rona to 3B. DP Paul Walford, an Terui to face Nukunuku, who lofted a fly ball to left field. With unexpected starter, drives the first pitch over 3B just foul by winds from the northwest, the ball carried short and LF Shuhei inches. Walford continues fouling off an extended series of Suzuki sprinted a long way to get to the ball and was unable to pitches before drawing the innings 2nd base-on-balls. NZ lead- contain it, scored as a hit. Enoka scored. Japan's strategy off batter Makea demonstrates versatility and power, as lida called for another pitching change, re-entering original starter Kunihiko lida. For 2B Makea at the plate, this seemed like old Three lida walks have now been plated for a commanding 4-0 times as Makea had walked and hit a three-run homer off lida in the first two innings. Makea drilled a liner that big-hopped over SS Kyuji Hazeyama, and two more runs scored. Moments later threw strikes and three fly balls later, the game was over.

New Zealand starter Heinie Shannon goes 4.2 innings, scattering 5 hits, surrendering 5 runs and strikes out six. striking out four.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	Н	Ε
New Zealand	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	3	9	7	1
Japan	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	6	10	4

The Price is right for as USA victory vanquishes Venezuela

USA pitcher Travis Price drew the mound assignment and did what he had to do - tame the Venezuelan bats and keep the game close until his team-mates could put some runs on the scoreboard.

In T1, Venezuela started aggressively, with 2B Arturo Acacio and 3B Iran Paez singling. With one out Price induced a routine ground ball for a 6-4-3 inning ender, and was quietly effective scattering three hits over the next four innings. In T5, Venezuela scored first, courtesy a walk to LF Carlos Ojeda, his stolen base and C Rafael Flores' rbi-single.

Meanwhile, Venezuela starting pitcher John Garcia matched Price's performance – throwing strikes, avoiding free passes walks and allowing his team-mates to play solid defense behind him.

In B6, trailing one to nil, and with USA's remaining outs reduced to a half dozen, it was third time through the order to figure out Garcia's effectiveness. SS Blake Miller opened with a ground ball single to the right side. LF Kyle Magnusson drew in the corners on a first pitch "bunt-look", and on the next pinch, his soft swinging bunt handcuffed 2B Arturo Acacia. With a pair aboard, 3B Matt Palazzo brought the USA fans to life with a three-run homer over the right field fence. That was all the scoring that would be needed, but US were on a roll and plated five more; a couple as a result of the DIP (dreaded illegal pitch). The game ended 8-1 after 5.5 innings.

Full marks to USA for a solid win, advancing to the 8:30 game with New Zealand, an encounter that will provide the winning team with a guaranteed medal - gold, silver or bronze - on

Mochas gracias to Venezuela who were within six outs of advancing to the final four. Venezuela's attendance at this championship event added significantly to the competitive spirit of the week, and the team exhibited huge sportsmanship in playing their way to a 5th place finish.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	Н	E
Venezuela	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	1
United States	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	10	2

Australia's Kirkpatrick collars Canada

Sean Whitten was handed the ball once again to start a key game for Canada. For the Aussie Steelers the mound rotation belonged to the long, lean and lanky lefty **Andrew Kirkpatrick**. With half a dozen left-handed batters in the Canucks line-up, Kirkpatrick's sweeping curve could be and did indeed prove to be very elusive. He allowed two hits and received solid defense especially with big plays up-the-middle where the mobility and

Makea scored on a wild pitch. Kiwis lead by four. In B8, Grant soft hands of SS Nathan Jones and 2B Nick Shailes provided masterful gems in extinguishing Canadian flames of hope.

> His mates provided two single runs, all that Kirkpatrick needed in the 2-0 shutout.

Reliever Marty Grant shuts the door and collects the win, In T1, 1B Mike Tanner sizzled a grounder to the left side that SS Kevin Schellenberg handled with the grace of a major leaguer and the battle was on. C Mike Harrow singled, and a bunt by CF Zenon Winters drew an errant throw to first with runners advancing to second/third with no-one out. Whitten reached back to strike out LF Nick Shailes in a great inside knee high offering, while RF Josh Davison ended the inning with a high fly to CF Ryan Wolfe.

> In B1 with 2 out, 2B Ian Fehrman flared a single to left field, and tried to gain scoring position with a heads-long slide in to second base. A heads-up tag by 2B Shailes from SS Nathan **Jones** negated the well-timed attempt.

> In T2 lead-off hitter 3B Jeff Goolagong drives a ground rule double over the centre-field fence. CF Tyron Bartorillo's bunt yielded another errant throw to 1B and Goolagong scored standing up. With one out and Bartorillo on 3rd base, Aussie field manager Bob Harrow attempts a squeeze, resulting in SS Nathan Jones' air-borne attempt an easy DP for 3B Craig Crawford to SS Schellenberg. In B2, DP Colin Abbott's leadoff drive off Jones glove provided an offensive spark for Canada. Kirkpatrick reached back with an assortment of curves and downers and combined with C Mike Harrow to strikeout three-in-a-row.

> In T3 with two out, CF Zenon Winters crushed a laser shot to right field that was relayed quickly, but Winters legged it out to 3B where he was stranded. In B3, Kirkpatrick is in a groove and strikes out the side... again!

> In T4 Whitten's drop is effective in generating three ground balls, the last of which saw SS Schellenberg round up a tough chance directly on 2nd base, and throw a strike to 1B Derek **Mayson** to get DP Bartorillo by a step.

> In T5 - LF Heath Wells' high-hopper appears destined for a base hit, but 2b lan Fehrman applies professional polish to his release and nips the Aussie speedster by a hair.

> With two out and top of the order, the two Mikes feed on each other.1B Mike Tanner singles and C Mike Harrow hits a hard shot to right centre. The diminutive Tanner is flat out reaching home with a head-first slide. Canada makes a pitching change and Saskatoon's Trevor Ethier provides one-pitch relief to get a pop-up to Schellenberg. Australia 2 Canada 0 middle of 5 In B5, young RF Steve Mullaley earns a lead-off pass to 1B and **Derek Mayson** bunts to the left of P Kirkpatrick, who stumbles in fielding the sacrifice. Two on and nobody out for the Canucks.

> Kirkpatrick, to atone for his fielding error, was full on in once again retiring a trio of Canucks via strikeouts.

> In T6, a one-out bunt single by Davison was quickly erased on a quick, strong throw by C Sean O'Brien and a dazzling tag by an air-borne Schellenberg. No damage as three retired. In B6 following two strikeouts (Kirkpatrick with five in a row), 2B lan Fehrman triples to right centre. DP Colin Abbott stroked a screamer to the left side gap, but SS Nathan Jones' diving catch to his left is a game-saver and easily a turning - point "play of the game" as Canada doesn't challenge from there.

> Australia is assured of a top two finish and has a great opportunity to garner gold as it awaits the rest of the pack to qualify an opponent for the Championship game.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	Н	Ε
Australia	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	6	2
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

Black Sox prevail skewering the States

New Zealand did what it needed to do - win a pair of games to get where they wanted to be. The Black Sox objective all along has been a date with destiny as they attempt to become the first nation to win four consecutive ISF World men's titles. What was needed was a Saturday double-header sweep and the 7-3 win over USA was the 2nd of 2 and qualified the Kiwis for championship Sunday.

In T2, **3B Brad Rona**, elevated to the clean-up spot with his patient decision-making in selecting pitches, opened with a patented line-drive double to LF. DP **Donny Hale**, he of the long ball fame, squared to bunt, and provided a short pop-up down the right-side foul line. The throw to first plunked Hale in the right shoulder and Rona scored easily. Hale, like a stallion, legged it successfully to third base. **C Patrick Shannon** worked Koert on a series of foul ball swings and took a Koert offering in the small of the back to gain first base. With runners on the corners, **RF Rhys Casley** drilled a shot up the middle and the Sox were up by a pair.

In B2, **RF Chase Turner** opened with a first pitch double to the centre field fence. **CF Adam Lalonde** walks and next pitch the runners move up. With 2 out, an attempted pick-off by **C Pat Shannon** at 3B goes awry and Turner scores. **LF Kyle Magnusson** delivers a solid hit through the pitchers box, plating Lalonde. Score is square at two each.

The T4 provide the stage for the turning point with hits from Hale, **2B Travis Wilson** and a walk to Casley. With one out, **LF Daniel Milne** seized the moment with a three run automatic deposited into the darkness beyond the north-west stands. A walk to Makea was plated by **1B Jarrad Martin'** RBI single. Sox would never look back, leading 7-2.

And so, the Sox live for another day, and the big three, as anticipated, will duke it out on Day #10. Medals for all – colors to be determined.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	Н	Ε
New Zealand	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	7	7	2
United States	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	8	1

What Happened to The Three Wise Men?? Predictions from Yesterday

Al Doran 4 /4 on Friday, 3/4 on Saturday (lesson - never pick with your heart)

John Thompson Went 3/ 4 on Friday and 3/4 on Saturday **Mark Loehndorf** After going 3 /4 on the first day of the playoffs went 1/4 on day two.

PLAYOFF PREVIEW

12:00 - CANADA VS NEW ZEALAND



Mark's Prediction

Canada's first loss of the championship was a costly one. Although they were not eliminated, it forced them to win back to back games against two of

the world's superpowers. Expect the same approach in handling the pitchers that we have seen so far. Sean Whitten will start, until coach Mark Smith feels the Black Sox are getting too comfortable and in comes the relief. In the last two big games

the relief has started with Trevor Ethier. The Black Sox bats have shown some inconsistency lately, after being in tighter games with Japan and the US and getting shut down completely by **Adam Folkard** of Australia. In spite of slow starts Canada has been fairly solid at the plate throughout the championship. They have missed the bat of Jody Eidt who is nursing an injury and has been limited to just a couple of at bats, since the Australia game. Ian Fehrman looks ready to carry the team's offense. The Black Sox who at one time were battling close to .400 as a team have dropped off that pace considerably and have come back to the pack. The bats were hot last night which means they may be getting on a roll. They usually play vey solid, clever defense but they had committed 8 errors in their three games prior to their game against the US. All in all, they definitely look beatable. Canada is just the team to do it. They will be the team that halts the Black sox dynasty.

John's Prediction – New Zealand possesses an instinct for turning adversity into opportunity. The plan all along was a victory in the Championship game on Sunday. The obstacle that confronts them is Team Canada. The highly partisan fans will not deter the Kiwis and the Black Sox bats will be barking. In a nail-biter, the Black Sox will prevail for a down-under finale



3:00 – AUSTRALIA VS CANADA

Mark's Prediction The best two out of three games will win the world championship fro Canada or Australia. Australia looks like a team that will take advantage of their outstanding pitching. They

have great team speed; they can play the short game very well and are aggressive on the bases. All this is designed to consistently get just enough runs to win against good pitching, but depends on great pitching to keep the game close. The first time they met Adam Folkard could not so they lost. In last night's game Andrew Kirkpatrick keep them down so the they could score enough runs to win.

AUSTRALIA



NEW ZEALAND



John's Prediction – the Aussie Steelers pitching has been the best of the assortment of fine hurlers from throughout the world. Kirkpatrick threw a 2-hit gem last night shutting down Canada

2-0 and righty Adam Folkard was simply outstanding in his awe-inspiring 1-hit taming of the Black Sox. In a repeat of the elimination match of Friday, New Zealand will be sharper following their modest three-game winning streak. Once again, solid "D" from both sides of the mound will prevail, whether it be Folkard alone or in tandem with Kirkpatrick.

TEAM HITTNG AVERAGES

New Zealand .342 Canada .320

Australia . 311



Sean Whitten

Canada

You have seen them, you have heard them and some of you may have even made an interesting comment towards one of them. Without a doubt the most underappreciated group in the event are the officials. This fine crew has come here from around the world, basically as volunteers. They have been forced to take holidays or time off without pay from work just to make this championship great. Well done Blue Crew, keep up the great work!

Lou Davis, Leigh Evans, Juan Fajardo, Bob Henning, Jan Hora, Jens Jakobsen, Keith Kearney, Reinaldo Lanzavecchia, Shigeo Kamat, Gianluca Magnani, Vincent Maoeng, Mark Mcfarlane, Frank Omoe, Armando Rodregiz, Gary Skjerven, Wu Tamaki, Scott Thomas, Santos Vasquez, Supervisors: Julie Johnson, Bob Stanton, Brian Van Os

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3.20

HITTING		AB	AP	Н	2B	3B	HR	W	K	OB%	Sac	SB	R	RBI	SA	ВА
Rafael Flores	Venezuela	15	16	9	1	0	3	1	1	69	0	0	5	10	1267	600
Galarza Eduardo	Puerto Rico	17	18	9	0	0	5	1	3	56	0	0	7	8	1412	529
Arturo Acacio	Venezuela	19	19	10	1	1	0	0	2	53	0	2	4	3	684	526
Carlos Ojeda	Venezuela	14	18	7	0	0	2	4	2	61	0	2	8	6	929	500
Brad Rona	New Zealand	23	35	11	4	0	1	10	4	68	1	3	13	7	783	478
Jorge Aranzamendi	Puerto Rico	21	21	10	1	1	1	0	2	52	0	0	5	2	762	476
Frederik Terkelsen	Denmark	19	23	9	2	0	2	3	1	61	0	1	7	4	895	474
Bruno Motroni	Argentina	17	19	8	3	0	2	2	2	53	0	0	5	5	1000	471
Hiraku Yokoyama	Japan	26	31	12	2	2	0	2	7	50	3	1	7	4	692	462
Yohei Ono	Japan	29	31	13	2	1	1	1	3	53	1	0	8	6	690	448
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