

CHAMP'S CHATTER

The Official Newsletter of the
2017 Men's and Master Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship



Saskatoon



Saturday September 2, Recap Edition - Produced by Mark Loehndorf - mloehndorf@shaw.ca

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We began the day with one undefeated and ended with no one undefeated. The previously Defending Champs from Newfoundland survived a close back and forth affair with Sooke and was out slugged by a determined East Hans Shooters Bar and Grill from Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia sits in the driver's seat as they wait for the winner of the Angels vs Rustlers game, to play the Defending Champs. They will get the survivor in the championship final.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
BC Sooke	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	5	4	1
DC Hitmen	0	0	3	0	2	0	2	7	9	0

This was an exciting affair. They say that the chicks love the long ball, well the chicks loved this game as did every single one of the 1400 fans on hand. All 12 runs scored came via home run. Even though the game featured 2 of the top pitchers in the championship, the game was more of a duel between 2 of the best hitters in the country. Team Canada pitcher **Colin Walsh** and Preliminary Round Top Pitcher **Scott Lieph**, took to the circle for their teams. **Blake Hunter** hit 2 homeruns with 4 RBI accounting for all but one of his team's runs. However, he was outslugged by **Brad Ezekiel** who hit 3 homeruns and had 7 RBI, accounting for all his team runs. Hunter hit his first 2 run shot in T1 and did it again in his next at bat in T3 to put Sooke up 4-0. Ezekiel responded with a three-run shot in the B3 to keep the Hitmen close. Logger centerfielder Justin Grieve hit a homer of his own to put the Loggers up by 2 in T5 but Ezekiel did it again with a 2-run shot to tie the game. One batter later Lieph was out and **Tyler Randerson** ended the threat for Sooke. From that point, the best the Loggers could manage was a walk by Hunter. That allowed the DC to bring up Ezekiel again with a runner on in B7. He deposited a 1-2 pitch into the right field bleachers for the walk off win

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
MB La Salle	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	7	9	2
SK1 Chettys	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	7	2

La Salle got their first win of the championship, thanks to home runs by **Andrew Kutnikoff**, **Peter Reimer**, **Justin Plett** and **Stephen Ceslak**.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
NS Mastodons	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	7	8	2
HOST Angels	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	8	0

This game featured another pair of big name pitchers, as both **Devon McCullough** and **Justin Schofield** pitched this summer for Canada. However, much like the previous game the pitchers did not shine. McCullough looked to be hurting giving up 7 runs on 7 hits and Schofield spread out 8 hits, going well into the count with batter after batter. **Nick Shailes** got things going for Nova Scotia with a 2-run shot in T1, but the Angels responded in B2 with a pair, one of which was unearned. Shailes was at it again in his next time at the plate as he hit another 2-run shot bringing in **Jeff Ellsworth** who reached on a double. In T4 it was Ellsworth doing most of eh damage. His 2-run homer followed **Jonah Wright's** RBI double put the Shooters up by 5 and forced McCullough out of the game. The best the Angels could manage from that point was a solo home run by **Jesse Osika** and they were off to the 6:00 game to play Grand Prairie. Nova Scotia wee excited to win but also knew they had a tough opponent coming up in the Hitmen.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
SK5 Hawks	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2
SK3 Delisle	0	0	5	0	1	0	x	6	7	0

Both these teams battled the let down of officially being eliminated from medal play. The big inning for the veteran Diamond Dogs was B3. The big hit was a bases loaded double by **Shawn Coburn**. **Jeff Farion** came in and finished off the Petro Hawks giving up only a pair of hits.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
SK2 Merchants	1	1	0	2	0	0	4	6	0
AB2 Pirates	0	4	1	3	2	1	11	13	0

After winning their last 2 games of the preliminary round to stay alive, Bruno looked like they belonged in the playoffs taking a 2-0 lead into B2. However, a pair of 2 run shots by **Shane Milligan** and **Bryn Redhead** put the Pirated ahead for good. Bruno got closer on 2 run homer by **Chris Teichreb** but gave up 3 more in the bottom of the inning thanks in part to **Keagan Arcand's** 2 run home run

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
SK4										
Rustlers	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	6	10	0
AB1 Irma	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	5	12	1

This was a back and forth slugfest that saw 22 hits. Irma looked to have things in control after a big 3 in B3, thanks to homers by **Ambrose Firkus** and **Evan Normand**. An RBI single by **Brett Larson** put them up 2 in B4 but Bulyea responded in T5. All Star catcher **Cory Krahenbil's** single brought in Josh Jordan and Peter Hill to tie the game. The Rustlers threatened with a pair of hits in T6 but **Steven Normand** who replaced starter **Caleb Keeshig** in the inning, put out **Troy Gordon** with runners on 1st and 3rd. The T7 saw a very similar situation this time Bulyea was able to score. A 2 out single by **Michael Jordan** scored Krahenbil and Josh Jordan to put them up 6-5. In B7 Irma failed to score a 1 out double by **Mike Legace-Roote** and thus were eliminated.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	H	E
AB2 Pirates	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	12	3
HOST Angels	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	9	0

This was a good old fashion fastball game. A true pitchers duel that has enough offense to leave 20 runners on base. It had about 1500 fans on the edge of their seats from the 3rd inning on. In B3 a controversial call saw runner **Cole Reid** called out on interference on a **Brian Evanochko** single with none out. One batter later **Kalyn Robinson** hit a double that would have scored Reid. In B5 the Angels did scratch out a run when **Brett Casavant** singled in Evanochko. It looked like that was going to be enough to win right up to T7, 2 out. That is when **Bryn Redhead** hit a single to center on a full count pitch. That was followed by a **Keagan Arcand** single and a **Cory Jones** double to give the Pirates the lead for the first time. Prior to that Angels Pitcher **Patrick Burns** had not allowed an earned run in the championship. The excitement continued into the B7 when Evanochko singled to lead off the inning. After getting to 3rd base on a pass ball, the next 2 Angels were put out easily and left pinch runner **Jon Equina** on third. Casavant then walked bringing up Burns. He hit a slow roller that the short stop tried to field and toss to second for the final out but Casavant beat the toss and Equina went home bringing the game into extras. In T8 Grande Prairie scored a run from the bottom of their lineup. In B8 the Angels bunted the designated runner over to third and Junior aged **Justin Laskowski** delivered a double to tie the game. After the next hitter was put out. **Brian Evanochko** stepped to the plate. He was 3 for 3 and had scored a run and confidently stroke a liner up the middle to go 4 for 4 but more importantly end the game The Angels advanced to play the winner of the Sooke vs Bulyea game.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
SK4										
Rustlers	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4	8	0
BC Sooke	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	2

Rustler Pitcher **Joran Graham** pitched his best game when his team needed it the most. He made one mistake to **Kyle Cowick**, who hit it out of the park but was in control for the whole game. The Loggers combination of **Tyler Randerson** and **Scott Leiph** matched him right up until T7. An error and an single put 2 runners on for **Josh Jordan**. Jordan came through with a 3 run home run, to give the Rustlers a

3 run lead. Graham did the rest as he got the Loggers in order in B7. The Rustlers advance to play in all Saskatchewan bronze medal game

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
NS										
Mastodons	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	8	0
DC Hitmen	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	7	2

Justin Schofield versus **Colin Walsh**- two Team Canada pitchers were in the circle, so one would think this would be a quiet low scoring affair. But one look at the hitters these two teams put up to the plate will challenge that thought. In T1 the first 3 batters that came to the plate saw 3 runs scored.: **Jeff Ellsworth's** triple, **Jay Duffy's** homerun followed by a **Nick Shailes'** homer and Nova Scotia was up 3-0. With all their power, the Hitmen had to wait until B4 to get their first run when **Colin Walsh's** single scored **Blair Ezekiel**. Shooters Bar and Grill more than matched that in T5, when **Nick Shailes** hit a mammoth homerun over the left field scoreboard and literally out of the park, scoring **Jay Duffy** and giving Nova Scotia a 4-run lead. In B6 Galway send 6 men to the plate but could only score one run on another **Colin Walsh** single. The 7th inning was exciting. Nova Scotia put a pair of runners on for clean up hitter **Donnelly Archibald** with one out. He hit a shot right at the 3rd base and the DC turned the double play to end the threat. In B7 Nova Scotia got a double play of a different sort. Galway brought the tying run to the plate with none out and **Brad Ezekiel** glaring at Justin Schofield from the batter's box. He hit a fly to right field and the throw in form the fielder caught **Mathieu Roy** off second base to record the second out of the inning. The Hitmen's spirits sank as **Stephen Mullaly** followed with a fly ball out to center. East Hans Shooters Bar and Grill from Nova Scotia had advanced directly to the final.

Preliminary Round All Stars



P- Devon McCullough, C- Corey Krahenbil, 1B- Blake Hunter 2B-Josh Jordan, 3B Mike Lawton, SS Nick Shailes, F- Patrick Burns, F- Mathieu Roy, F - Joel Isenor, U- Donnelly Archibald