



EUROPEAN
SOFTBALL
FEDERATION

NEWSFLASH

November 2012

ISF SPECIAL CONGRESS HOUSTON

by Andre van Overbeek

12 European Federations present out of 42 National Softball representatives attending the ISF Special Congress in Houston at the end of October supported the one point on the Agenda along with the others and attained a 71% favourable vote for the merger between the International Federations of Baseball and Softball into one World Governing body.

ISF legal counsel Ed Colbert gave a thorough explanation on the charter of the new governing body, which will be called, The International Confederation of Softball and Baseball (ICSB) and along with some important discussions by many of the delegates, the Congress approved the merger.

The ICSB has a lot of work in order to prepare the presentation for the joint Olympic bid before the IOC program commission in only 6 weeks from now.

The bid to the IOC will be supported by the Pro Baseball Organizations in the world including MLB. Representatives of both IBAF and ISF met MLB early October in New York, and last week a specific request letter was sent to MLB which will be discussed by MLB owners on the 16th of November.

The bid for men's baseball and women's softball consists of the competitions that will be played at a single venue. Each tournament

would feature eight teams. Baseball and softball will be two disciplines under the new ICSB.

Softball and baseball will present their bid together with karate, roller sports, squash, sports climbing, wakeboard and wushu for inclusion in 2020 Olympics.

After the presentation of the bids in December this year, the IOC Executive Board will decide in May 2013, if there will be an open spot and which sport they will recommend for inclusion. The final decision will be made in Buenos Aires in September 2013.

The newly formed ICSB will have an interim Board with representatives from both federations which will prepare the already mentioned joint bid to the IOC but also the 1st ICSB Congress where it will outline the plans for the coming years and the election of a permanent Board.

This Congress will most likely take place between May and September 2013.

All National Federations are automatically member of this newly formed IBSC and can decide if they will be a member as a Softball Federation or combined as a Baseball and Softball Federation.

We hope that this merger will be the beginning of a new generation of cooperation between the sports and hopefully give us the opportunity to regain our Olympic dreams.

COACHES CLINIC IN THE NETHERLANDS

We are glad to announce that the registration for the 26th European Coach Clinic started.

As every year, a great line-up of the speakers waits for you in Rotterdam. This year's clinic will be even more comprehensive than before with three different sections.

You still have some time to register, though we would like to recommend registering now.

For more information and registration, please visit our website. www.eurocoachclinic.nl

Our Facebook page has gone through a renewal. Please visit our Facebook page by clicking here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/European-Coach-Clinic/157550214342052?fref=ts>

We are looking forward to seeing you in Rotterdam!

Best regards,

Léon Dijkema de Grooth

26th European Coach Clinic
Rotterdam, the Netherlands December 8/9, 2012

Clinic leader
ISF Baseball, President: Jim Jones

Baseball
Derek Shelton Tampa Bay Rays, Hitting Coach
Charlie Greene Milwaukee Brewers, Catching Coach
Brian Farley Dutch National Team, Head Coach
Scott Weberg Dunedin Blue Jays, Trainer

(baseball) Pitching
Chicago Cubs, Pitching Coordinator: Derek Johnson
Dutch National Team, Pitching Coach: Steve Janssen
Fontys University for Applied Science, Professor: Frans Bosch

Softball
Mike Candrea Arizona Wildcats, Head Coach
Craig Montvidas Dutch National Team, Head Coach
Karen Marr Dutch National Team, Pitching Coach

Register now!
www.eurocoachclinic.nl

Logos for various sports organizations including ISF, IBAF, MLB, and others are shown at the bottom.

GREAT BRITAIN: CHROMIES ARE SLOWPITCH CHAMPION

by Bob Fromer

There are a lot of National Championships tournaments each year in British softball!

In Co-ed Slowpitch, with over 300 teams playing in leagues affiliated to the British Softball Federation, national club champions are crowned in five different categories of play.

From the top down, these are known as Premier, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. The winner of the Premier Nationals becomes Britain's representative in the next European Slowpitch Cup.

There is also a national championship tournament for All-Star Teams representing the different leagues around the country.

And there are Single-Sex Slowpitch Championships for men's and women's teams, with trophies awarded at Platinum, Gold and Silver levels.

In each case, between six and ten teams contest each national championship level.

Finally, the female and male winners of the Great Britain Fastpitch League are given the title of national champions and are eligible to enter European Cup competitions.

Slowpitch Results: 2012

Despite the number of different Co-ed Slowpitch National Championships, each of which are played over a single weekend, the top-level competition, the Premier Nationals, attracts the most attention each year because it features the top teams in British slowpitch softball.

This year, the tournament was played in Manchester, in Northwest England, and nine teams took part.

The winners, after a rally on the second day that took them from the brink of elimination to the title, were the London Chromies.

The Chromies have won the title four times in the last six years and they finished second in the 2012 European Slowpitch Cup after winning the competition in 2011.

Other winners of Co-ed Slowpitch national titles were spread around the country in 2012.

They were:
Platinum Nationals
Greensox (Manchester)

Gold Nationals
Jets (Bristol)

Silver Nationals
Masterbatters (Leeds)

Bronze Nationals
Rhythm Royals (Windsor)

In Single-Sex Slowpitch, the winners were:
Men's Platinum Nationals
Hoggs (Manchester)

Women's Platinum Nationals
Hooters (Leeds)

Men's Gold Nationals
Teabags (Leeds)

Women's Gold Nationals
Minx (Manchester)

Men's Silver Nationals
Tripods (Manchester)

Women's Silver Nationals
Camel Humps (Manchester)

The winner of the League All-Star National Championships was the Edinburgh Softball League from Scotland.

Fastpitch Results: 2012

The London Angels, Britain's most successful women's fastpitch club team, won the women's section of the Great Britain Fastpitch League for the fourth year in a row, and were crowned as national champions.

The Angels will compete next year in the European Champions Cup for Women, as they have for the past several years. In 2012, the Angels moved up to third in the ECW B Pool.

The men's section was won by Richings Park Softball Club, who hope to play in the Men's Super Cup in 2013.





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SWISS: THE LUCERNE EAGLES ARE CHAMPION FOR THE THIRD TIME IN A ROW.

by Pascale Renstsch, SBSFTK Softball

The Final of the Swiss Softball Championship 2012 was a remake of the 2011 Finals.

The Therwil Flyers and Lucerne Eagles finished the regular season as first and second. After winning the semi-finals series vs Zurich Barracudas (Therwil Flyers) and Wil Devils (Lucerne Eagles) both 2-0, the Therwil Flyers got their chance to take revenge on the 2011 Finals.

After the first two games, of the best-of-five serie, in Lucerne, both teams scored a win. The following three games were played

on the Flyers Homefield. While the Eagles found the holes in the Flyer's defense, the Flyers had problems finding a way to handle the Eagles Pitching.

So, after three game,s again, the Eagles were in front. The flyers therefore tried everything in game 4, but after a long season, there was not enough power to stop the Eagles from defending their Title.

The Lucerne Eagles won their third Swiss Championship in a row 12-3 / 1-11 / 13-3 / 13-5

Congratulations to both teams for a great Season !!



CZECH: EAGLES AND SPECTRUM PRAGUE DEFENDED EXTRALEAGUE TITLES

by Gabriel Waage

There were predictable results -- but also some thrilling games - in the late-season Extra league competitions in the Czech Republic this year.

WOMEN

The finalists in the Women's Extra league was no surprise, with two Prague teams, Eagles Prague and Joudrs Prague, making it through to the final series. These clubs have played in seven of the last eight finals.

The result of the final series, 3-1 to the Eagles, seems clear-cut if you didn't see the games. The Eagles played extremely well after their success in Enschede, but Joudrs have always played well and stood up to their opponents.

Eagles led the series with 2:0 and were very close to taking the 3rd game ,but Joudrs won 3rd game in the second tiebreak.

Going into the 4th game , Lucie Marsikova, key pitcher of Eagles, pitched extremely well and delivered the win for the Eagles who yet again defended their title.

MEN

Semi-finalists in the Men's Extra league were Eagles Prague, Spectrum Prague, Sportclub 80 Chomutov and Hroši Havlíckuv Brod.

Chomutov and Spectrum made it through to the final series, leaving Hroši Havlíckuv Brod and Eagles Prague to battle for the bronze medal.

The final series, played as the best of five, was no contest. Spectrum Prague played errorless softball in recording three straight wins by large margins to take the Extra league gold medal.

Results:

Finals:

SK Joudrs Praha - Eagles Praha	1:3 (4:8, 1:6, 2:1, 0:3)
Spectrum Praha - Sportclub 80 Chomutov	3:0 (9:5, 8:0, 11:1)

Bronze medal games:

SC Cechie Praha - Snails Kunovice	2:0 (3:2, 4:3)
Hroši Havlíckuv Brod - Eagles Praha	1:2 (1:3, 3:2, 4:6)



CROATIA: BALL GAME TOURNAMENT

by Petra Cizmic Pokrajac

Between 12. and 14. of October Princ Zagreb organized an international tournament called „Ball Game“.

This was also the last competition of this softball season due to weather.

The participants in this tournament were Princ Zagreb, Spansko Pink Panthers, Hungarian junior national team, Slovenian national team and Spansko Black Panthers (cadet boys team with female pitchers).

The Black Panthers were there only for experience and their games were played out of competition, but were competitive enough.

Even the weather was bad all 15 games were played.

Final standing of the „Ball Game tournament“:

1. Princ Zagreb
2. Slovenia
3. Hungary
4. Spansko Pink Panthers
- x. Spansko Black Panthers

UKRAINE: NIKA DUHL WON THE TITLE



The Ukraine Softball season ended on September 30 with a total of seven teams who participated in the Ukrainian Championships and Cup tournaments.

The Nike Softball club of Duhl University (Lugansk) took both the Championship and the Cup with West Fire (Rivne) taking second and KNTU (Kirovograd) taking third.

NETHERLANDS: SURPRISE IN DUTCH LEAGUE

Text and Photo by Marco Stoovelaar

The Dutch softball-season ended with a surprise new champion.

When the 2012 season started many predicted that reigning champion Olders Omaco Sparks Haarlem and vice-champion Hotel Ambassador c.c. Terrasvogels were to meet each other again in this years Holland Series to play for the Dutch championship.

Sparks Haarlem and Terrasvogels are the two leading softball teams in the Netherlands and are loaded with players who play or have played for the national team. Initially, it appeared to go that way, as Sparks Haarlem dominated during the regular season, losing only three games to Terrasvogels.

In the meantime, Alcmara Victrix, which made its comeback in the highest division a year ago, played a good season and quickly became the third best team in the league.

In the play-offs, Alcmara Victrix first eliminated Gryphons, while Terrasvogels handed Sparks Haarlem another loss.

But the Haarlem-team went on to win the series to reach the final. A week later, Alcmara met Terrasvogels and also eliminated this team by playing two strong games.

Then, the best-of-five Holland Series also went the way of Alcmara Victrix, as it also eliminated Sparks Haarlem, meaning the team from Alkmaar eliminated both Dutch softball-powerhouses to win its first Dutch championship title in club history.

Almost none had predicted that Alcmara would win the series, as it was expected that Sparks Haarlem would win in three games with big scores.

But the reality proved to be very different, as the teams were very much up to each other and all four games played ended in an one-run score.

