



DIAMOND DIRT

Woodside Park, Kitchener

July 7, 2009

By John Thompson

Administrative Support thanks to Sue Sherry



CANADA HOSTS ISF WORLDS THIS MONTH

The eyes of the softball world will be on Canada later this month when Saskatoon, SK hosts the 12th ISF Men's World Championships from July 17 – 26.

The New Zealand Black Sox are the three-time defending World Champions capturing gold medals in Christchurch NZ (2004); East London, NZ in 2000 and Midland, MI in 1996. The Black Sox defeated Canada in the Championship match in 2004 and 1996, and beat Japan in the 2000 finale.

Canada has medaled in nine of the eleven Championships, with gold medals in 1992 (Pasig, Philippines) and 1972 (Manila (Philippines) plus a share of the gold in the rained out 1976 championships in Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

I.S.F. World Men's Championships

YEAR	HOST COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
XII 2009	Saskatoon, CANADA			
XI 2004	Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND	New Zealand	CANADA	Australia
X 2000	East London, SOUTH AFRICA	New Zealand	Japan	USA
IX 1996	Midland, MI U.S.A.	New Zealand	CANADA	Japan
VIII 1992	Pasig, PHILIPPINES	CANADA	New Zealand	USA
VII 1988	Saskatoon, CANADA	USA	New Zealand	CANADA
VI 1984	Midland, MI U.S.A.	New Zealand	CANADA	USA
V 1980	Tacoma, WA U.S.A.	USA	CANADA	Bahamas
IV 1976	Lower Hutt, NEW ZEALAND	CAN/NZL/USA - medal round rained out		
III 1972	Manila, PHILIPPINES	CANADA	USA	New Zealand
II 1968	Oklahoma City, OK U.S.A.	USA	CANADA	Mexico
I 1966	Mexico City, MEXICO	USA	Mexico	New Zealand



www.internationals softball.com



The South Perth Men's Fastball League officially started in 1969 with teams from Harmony, Conroy, St. Pauls, St. Marys, Sebringville, Mitchell, Fullarton and Avonton. Conroy was the inaugural champion. Rostock Royals, St. Marys Lumber Kings and Mitchell Mets all took turns winning back-to-back titles but never were able to three-peat.

In the 1990s, the back-to-back run continued **St. Marys Staffen's Selects** repeated in 1992-93, followed in 1995-1996 by the **Mitchell Mets**, and 1997-1998 by the **Sebringville Sting**.

More recently, the **Sebringville Sting** (2007-08) and **Bridgeport Pro Forma Braves** (2005-06) have been back-to-back champions. The Sting have a record seven championships.

In 2002, the league approved a tournament format to declare the end of season championship, and winners have been:

2008 – Sebringville Sting	2007 – Sebringville Sting	2006 – Bridgeport Pro Forma Braves
2005 – Bridgeport Pro Forma Braves	2004 – Sebringville Sting	2003 – K-W Pride 2002– Sebringville Sting

In 2009, there are 15 teams participating in the league, in three divisions:

Arand Division – Hickson Reds, Mitchell Jr. Chiefs, Mitchell Mets, Sebringville Sting and Tavistock Jr. Athletics

Smith Division -Breslau Badgers, Bridgeport Braves, Kitchener Cubs, Shakespeare Falcons, Waterloo Hallman Twins

Thompson Division Erb Electric Expos, Kitchener Outlaws, Linwood Jr. Chiefs, Monkton Muskrats and Wellington Sox.

Notable participants in the league over its long history include **Dave Goetz** (Rostock); **Don Rae** (St. Marys & Mitchell); **Brian Stere** (Tavistock & Sebringville); **Ron White** (Sebringville); **Jody Eidt** (Sebringville & Mitchell); and **Jim Schnarr** (Bridgeport).

Grant back for another inning

By Wayne Martin, The Nelson Mail (re-printed with permission)



It's nice to feel wanted.

That's part of the reason why seasoned Nelson softballer Marty Grant will be on the plane with his Black Sox team-mates in two weeks bound for the world championships in Saskatoon, Canada.

The 42-year-old world champion pitcher is heading to his fifth world series and bidding to become one of an elite group of Black Sox to have claimed four world crowns.

Former captain and catcher Mark Sorenson is the only Black Sox player to date to have achieved the honour, although joining Grant in Saskatoon are coach Eddie Kohlhase and players Jarrad Martin and Thomas Makea all have three wins to their name.

It's significant for Grant on another count too after he officially retired from international softball in 2006. Or so he thought.

Instead, the continuing lure of playing on the world's biggest stage and a timely approach from the Black Sox coaching staff have encouraged Grant to make one more bid for title No. 4. But this time, he stresses, will definitely be his last as a player.

It was by no means a straightforward decision to commit himself to another campaign.

It has meant months of hard work, usually on his own, and some occasional self doubt as he's tried to muster the enthusiasm and energy to keep himself on course.

There have also been some significant personal challenges, with his wife Abbie now recovering from successful breast cancer surgery, as softball has sometimes been forced into the background.

Injury stopped him from playing in New Zealand's 2004 triumph in Christchurch, although he remained an important part of the squad, and Canada would now be an appropriate way for Grant to sign off on a remarkable international career that began back in 1992.

"After 2004, the prospect of trying to play at the top level for another five years was one of the things that challenged me," he said.

"At that time, I didn't really know whether I had it in me to be competitive year in and year out. In the last two years since I've come out of retirement, I've sort of been a little more selective in my play and still being able to coach and be involved with the family has given me the opportunity to turn up at the airport in two weeks' time and head off to these world champs.

"I guess it was more about managing my career a little."

Grant is now the senior hand among a Black Sox pitching roster that includes rising star Jeremy Manley, former Samoan international Heine Shannon and youngster Thomas Enoka. He'll be the oldest pitcher to represent New Zealand at a world series, beating Kevin Herlihy's bid as a 40 year old in 1984.

"I'm reasonably surprised about how well the body's holding up and my role's changed a bit, I guess, in the team," he said.

"At one time I was the starter and the man they gave the ball to, but now my role's changed where, if we get in any trouble, I'm more of a relief role."

He's excited about the prospects of a team he describes as experienced, athletic and extremely fit.

He's also enthusiastic about the team's strike power.

"We can hit. The hitting lineup of this team is as good as it was in 2004 and I think we averaged eight or nine runs a game at that tournament. Anyone who's facing that lineup is going to have to be on guard.

"We've also got great defense and we've got solid pitching. And we've got belief, so I think that it's a very strong team. It's my belief and I think Eddie would agree with this, too that there's an opportunity for this team to go on and win many more in the next decade if that's what they want to do."

The Black Sox head to Canada on June 28 and complete a 14-game buildup in Toronto before the opening pitch is hurled in Saskatoon on July 17.

Winning is important for Grant, and a big part of that process is being mentally prepared.

Memories of his first failed world series bid in Manila 17 years ago are branded indelibly into his psyche.

"We've been honest in our analysis of ourselves as a team and with regards to sport, you've got to have that edge and the edge is having that mental preparation and that desire and not looking too far forward and making sure that we do the little things right."

BLACK SOX

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL TEAM

#	Name	Position	Hometown
1	Patrick Shannon	Catcher	Auckland, NZ
4	Eddie Kohlhasse	Coach	Auckland, NZ
5	Heinie Shannon	Pitcher	Auckland, NZ
6	Gareth Cook	OF	Christchurch, NZ
10	Rhys Casley	OF	Wainuiomata, NZ
11	Jarrad Martin	IF	Waitara, NZ
12	Nathan Nukunuku	IF	Auckland, NZ
13	Steven Ratu	Catcher	Christchurch, NZ
14	Travis Wilson	IF	Christchurch, NZ
15	Brad Rona	IF	North Shore, NZ
16	Paul Algar	Pitcher	Lexington, IL
17	Daniel Milne	OF	Christchurch, NZ
18	Roman Gabriel	IF	Auckland, NZ
20	Marty Grant	Pitcher	Nelson, NZ
21	Thomas Makea	OF	Porirua, NZ
22	Donny Hale	OF	Auckland, NZ
23	Dave Workman	A. Coach	Upper Hutt, NZ
24	Ben Enoka	OF	Auckland, NZ
32	Wayne Small	Manager	Wellington, NZ
33	Jeremy Manley	Pitcher	Fielding, NZ
88	Thomas Enoka	Pitcher	Auckland, NZ

**CANADA WELCOMES THE BLACK SOX
GOOD LUCK!**

Weekend of Excellence for Hallman Twins

Two days ago, the local Hallman Twins enjoyed a "twin-success" weekend. In Monkton for the World Fastball Invitational, the senior Kitchener Hallman Rivershark Twins went undefeated in five games, shutting out Midwest Stampede of Des Moines, IOWA 5-0 in the championship game. With a bench deep in talent and a plethora of pitchers from which to chose, Twins proved their #1 ISC Ranking is correct. Catcher Craig Crawford was named the tournament's MVP, with a superb .400+ batting average, a pair of dingers and excellent defence behind the plate.

Ten miles down the road in Mitchell, the Waterloo Hallman Junior Twins went undefeated in pool play, but lost the "what-if" and Championship Game to Owen Sound VW Selects. Both Owen Sound and Waterloo will participate in the Canadians in Owen Sound next month.

Kitchener to host Women's Nationals

Through the efforts of Civitan Sports Waterloo Region, the Kitchener Krush ladies senior softball team will be host August 12-16 for the 2009 Softball Canada's Women's Nationals.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP POOLS

The sixteen countries competing in the Men's ISF World Championship are divided into two pools. With the pools, teams play each other (7 games). The top four teams in each pool advance to the Elimination Round on Friday July 24, and the Championship game is scheduled for Sunday July 26.

POOLS AND STANDINGS

POOL "A"

- (1) New Zealand
- (4) United States
- (5) Japan
- (8) Great Britain
- (9) Philippines
- (12) Botswana
- (13) Denmark
- (16) Mexico

POOL "B"

- (2) CANADA
- (3) Australia
- (6) Czech Republic
- (7) Argentina
- (10) Venezuela
- (11) South Africa
- (14) Puerto Rico
- (15) Indonesia



www.2009worldsmensfastpitch.com

WOODSIDE PARK, KITCHENER

JULY 7th 7 pm

BRIDGEPORT BRAVES

SOUTH PERTH MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE

Sponsors—Anderson Commercial; Bank of Montreal; Bell Cartage; Boyd Electric; Bridgeport Lions Club; Bridgeport Variety; Chill Bar and Grill; Daily Grill; Dearborn Health; Golden Triangle Glass; Gord Kaster Automotive; Guillevin Int. Inc.; London Veterinary; Regional Mechanical; Sam's Home Hardware; Victoria Electric

#	Name	Position	Hometown
4	Jason Hoch	Catcher	Bridgeport, ON
5	Duane Gee	IF/OF	St. Thomas, ON
6	Tony Palmieri	IF/OF	Brampton, ON
7	Rick Johnson	IF/OF	London, ON
9	Greg deBelleva	Pit/OF	Kitchener, ON
11	Jay Schnarr	IF	Waterloo, ON
12	Jeremy deBelleva	Pitcher	Bridgeport, ON
15	Todd Winkworth	Pitcher	St. Thomas, ON
16	Travis Murdock	IF/OF	Waterloo, ON
21	Terry Eaton	IF/OF	Woodstock, ON
22	Don Harris	Pit/IF	Cambridge, ON
23	Rick Boyd	Manager	Conestogo, ON
24	Ross Herold	Catcher	Stratford, ON
25	Jody Dickson	OF	Bridgeport, ON
32	Brian Teeters	OF	Bakersfield, CA
44	Sam Forbes	IF	Waterloo, ON
52	Jody Schnarr	OF	Waterloo, ON
61	Jamie Boyd	IF	Tavistock, ON
76	Larry Cox	Coach	Waterloo, ON
96	Steve Kaufman	Coach	Tavistock, ON
	Donna Eaton	Scorer	Woodstock, ON
	Easton Schnarr	Batboy	Waterloo, ON

K-W CUBS

SOUTH PERTH MEN'S FASTBALL LEAGUE

Sponsors - Jim & Sue Hallman

#	Name	Position	Hometown
1	Andy Baechler	IF	Ayr, ON
2	Connor Page	IF	Ayr, ON
5	Ed Buckholder	Utility	Elmira, ON
6	Chad Wells	Catcher	Burgessville, ON
7	Dan Garmon	OF	Hagersville, ON
12	Lyndon Grovum	OF	Guelph, ON
15	Luke Hiller	Pit/IF	Floradale, ON
18	John Hiller	Utility	Floradale, ON
22	Bob Gillow	OF	Ayr, ON
23	Adam Hiller	IF	Floradale, ON
24	Grant Baechler	Catcher	Ayr, ON
25	Travis Hofstetter	Utility	Plattsville, ON
27	Ryan French	Pitcher	New Dundee, ON
34	Craig Frede	IF	Linwood, ON
43	Brad Thomson	Pit/IF	New Dundee, ON
42	Jeff Gillow	Coach	Ayr, ON
44	Kyle Frede	IF	Linwood, ON

CANADA'S SCHEDULE

Friday	July 17 – 7:00 –	Argentina
Saturday	July 18 – 6:30 –	Czech Republic
Sunday	July 19 – 3:30 –	Australia
Monday	July 20 – 6:30 –	Indonesia
Tuesday	July 21 – 6:30 –	Venezuela
Wednesday	July 22 – 3:30 –	South Africa
Thursday	July 23 – 6:30 –	Puerto Rico
Friday – Saturday	– Elimination Rounds	
Sunday	– Gold medal game – 3:00 pm	

DONNY HALE has launched “moon-shot” home runs for the past decade as a member of Wisconsin-based ISC teams - County Concrete/Classics of Marathon and Portage, and more recently with the always competitive Rod Peterson’s Farm Tavern Teams of Madison. A five-time ISC All World, with two ISF World Championships with the Black Sox in 2000 and 2004, Donny is a 34-year-old who doubles as a successful coach with the Mt. Albert Ramblers of Auckland, current champions of the NZCT National League.



JARRAD MARTIN is a veteran Black Sox player who is at home at any defensive position, including the mound, and offensively is a patient batter with a keen-eye that makes him an extremely “tough out”. Jarrad has five ISC “All-World” designations, primarily with the Broken Bow Gremlins. Jarrad debuted with the Black Sox in 1991 and has been a team leader for three successive ISF Gold Medals, a Commonwealth series gold, two Pacific Cup titles and numerous provincial and club titles with his Northcote Club of North Harbour in New Zealand.



TRAVIS WILSON is a 31-year old multi-faceted athlete who has excelled at both softball and baseball. In 1996, as a member of the Black Sox at the World Championships in Midland, MI, Travis’ prowess drew attention from American baseball scouts and he signed with the Atlanta Braves, subsequently playing eight seasons with the Braves and the Cincinnati Reds. In 2004, Travis returned to New Zealand and to the Black Sox in 2005. Travis is also the fielding coach for the New Zealand Black Caps Cricket team.



BRAD RONA is an intense and competitive infielder who is also a prolific batter. A member of the Northcote Club in North Harbour, Brad is an efficient ball-handler who gives no quarter to the opposition. Brad is thirty-three years old and has been a member of the Black Sox with Gold Medals from South Africa (2000) and Christchurch (2004). In softball action in North America, Brad was an ISC All-World player in 2008 with the New York City Patsy’s.



PATRICK SHANNON has made a significant mark in North America as a member of strong County Concrete/Materials teams in Wisconsin, and more recently as the flamboyant catcher with the 2008 ISC Champion Kitchener Hallman Rivershark Twins. Possessing an unorthodox “open” batting stance, Patrick’s stride into the pitch provides a fully-extended swing that has taken many a pitch deep over the outfield fences. Born in 1975, and a member of the Waitakere Bears in Auckland, Patrick is five-time ISC “All-World” player and a veteran of the New Zealand Black Sox since 1995, (a regular since 2001), including the world championship in 2004. Twin brother to Heine, also a member of the Black Sox.



NATHAN NUKUNUKU is proof that packaging can be deceiving as this diminutive fleet-of-foot shortstop is a long-ball threat with each plate appearance. Nathan burst onto the international softball stage as 19-year old in 1999 joining his older brother Dion on the Black Sox, and claimed gold medals in the 2000 (South Africa) and 2004 (New Zealand) ISF World Championships. With his home club the Mt. Albert Ramblers in Auckland, he has three club national titles and three NZCT National League championships to his credit. His effervescent style, combined with graceful defensive moves, provides minor ball players with a role model to emulate.



Kitchener Named Celebration City for Olympic Torch

As part of the Olympic Torch’s 12,000 km “coast to coast” tour of Canada en route to Vancouver for the 2010 Olympics, Kitchener has been named a celebration city. The fabled torch arrives on Saturday December 26 for a gala event at City Hall. Mark your calendar to attend this local historic sporting event.