



CHAMP'S CHATTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ISF XII WORLD MEN'S
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP – SUNDAY, JULY 19 EDITION



Saturday was another great day at the Championship. An estimated 10,000 people have made their way through the gates at Bob Van Impe Stadium and Gordie Howe Fastball Field in the first two days of action. They have not left disappointed. Although today's scores were not particularly close, the action was very intense.



(From Friday night)

At about 3:45 fans got a chance to see the cultural side of the Kiwi's, when prior to their game against Great Britain, they performed their ceremonial Haka. It's usually saved for games against another international team, but they can have other reasons for performing the Haka as it is left to the team to decide, just before a game. The purpose behind yesterday's performance was putting forward a pre-battle challenge to their opposition. The literal translation of Haka is "fiery breath" and a fierce attitude accompanies the performance of traditional Haka. The NZ Maori Haka challenge was a mark of respect for visitors and opponents. While the fierce and energetic body movements that constitute the Haka reflect the importance of Maori traditions, it also solidified the bonds between tribes through regular practice and performance over time. Thus to the Black Sox it also symbolizes team unity and pride

INDONESIA STRUGGLED JUST TO GET HERE

(material used from the Jakarta post)

So many athletes in Canada just assume that if they qualify for something they will go. That is not always the case throughout the world. Whereas Botswana and Mexico struggled to get their equipment and teams to the championship on Thursday, Indonesia

had even bigger struggles during the weeks prior. The country secured a place in the event for the first time, after finishing third in the 2006 Asian Championships in Japan behind the hosts and runner-up the Philippines. However budget shortfalls left **Gugun Yudinar**, the Indonesian Baseball and Softball Federation (Perbasasi) President, fretting over whether they could send the men's national softball team to the World Championship in Canada "We have collected fund from the local softball community to cover the contingent's airfare. We are 80 to 90 percent ready, financially, to depart to Canada. Gugun Yudinar told *The Jakarta Post* on Monday July 13. PERBASASI requires around Rp 900 million (US\$81,818) to cover the expenses of sending the men's softball team to Saskatoon. We will try our best to send the team as failure in sending them means a bad precedent for our athletes' development, and I don't want that to happen." If Indonesia is absent from the event, Gugun said, the Asian region would be given a penalty by losing a place in the next championship. "That happened once to Africa. Thus, we don't want to disgrace our country," said Gugun. Thanks to an unexpected helping hand from a Japanese airline, the team was able to go and represent their country. A contingent of 17 players and six officials departed Wednesday July 15 for the championship. Due to merely two weeks of training preparation, Gugun is no longer aiming for a place in the top 10 teams as he previously hoped for. "The realistic target is getting the experience to play there," Gugun said. Indonesia saw its first action against Puerto Rico on Friday losing 10-4 and lost yesterday to South Africa 7-0.

JOHN THOMPSON'S FEARLESS PREDICTIONS FOR TODAY (Sunday July 19) WINNERS IN UPPERCASE BOLD (Record to date 13-3)

- 11:30 am **ARGENTINA** vs. South Africa
- 1:00 pm **CZECH REPUBLIC** vs. Puerto Rico
- 1:30 pm Botswana vs. **MEXICO**
- 3:00 pm Denmark vs. **GREAT BRITAIN**
- 3:30 pm Canada vs. **AUSTRALIA**
- 5:30 pm **VENEZUELA** vs. Indonesia
- 6:30 pm **JAPAN** vs. United States
- 8:30 pm **NEW ZEALAND** vs. Philippines

HARRAHS MILDMAY

ODDS TO WIN ISF 2009 CHAMPIONSHIP

CONTENDERS - New Zealand 3-2;

Australia 2-1; Canada 5-2

PRETENDERS - United States 9-1; Czech Republic 10-1; Japan 12-1 Venezuela 14-1

LONG SHOTS – Mexico 15-1; Argentina 17-1;

Denmark 20-1

HAVE A NICE WEEK IN

SASKATCHEWAN - Great Britain 25-1; South Africa 30-1; Puerto Rico 30-1; Philippines 35-1; Indonesia 45-1; Botswana 75-1

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

VENEZUELA 11 ARGENTINA 0 (5 innings)

With either Argentina having a genuine melt-down, or Venezuela taking seriously the opportunity to send a message to its South American neighbor, the results of Saturday's opening match were incredible, outstanding and much to the surprise of the odds-makers.

Following Argentina's 8-1 thumping by Team Canada the night before, pundits predicted an Argentinean rebound, a reversal, a display that would be more true to form. Argentina never got into the game as Venezuela struck early and often, posting a pair of runs in the 1st and quickly putting the game out of reach with a five-run outburst in the 2nd. **Herwing Quareles'** two hits resulted in five RBI while **Erick Urbanejas** tossed a tidy one-hitter, while striking out 8, and walking a pair. **Venezuela (1-1)** all even while off to a disappointing start is **Argentina (0-2)**.

UNITED STATES 7 DENMARK 0 (6 innings)

Unheralded Denmark was targeted by the USA. The States were still smarting from the opening night salvo provided by New Zealand and were keen to even their record. Full marks to the Danes, who played faultlessly and hung tough in a scoreless duel until the red-white and blue plated five runners in the 4th inning. For USA, **Chase Turner** had three hits, while **Frank DeGroat** and **Matt Palazzo** had two apiece. On the mound, **Travis Price**, in his first appearance, went 5 innings, scattering 6 hits, striking out 8. As a closer, **Paul Koert** responded with a three-up and three-down inning on 13 pitches, 11 of them strikes. **USA and Denmark now both 1-1.**

JAPAN 9 BOTSWANA 4

One of the most entertaining games of the week provided lots of base-runners and excitement as Botswana and Japan traded runs in the first half, before Japan nailed the coffin shut in the late innings. Japan's **Yasumitsu Harada** was 2x3 with three RBI while **Tshida Office** went 2x2 including a HR for Botswana. Each team opened a full can of pitchers, with three hurlers seeing innings for each team. **Japan sits at 2-0** while **Botswana (0-2)** is winless, but appears to be the happiest squad of singing ball players in greater 'toon town.

MESSAGE FROM THE BRITISH EMPIRE New Zealand 14 Great Britain 0 (5 innings)

In the south Pacific in 1840, the Treaty of Waitanga was signed, bringing New Zealand into the British Empire. In 2009, on a sunny Saturday afternoon at BVI Stadium, the umpire called strikes and the empire struck back at Great Britain.

Following a calm opening inning with the score remaining tied at nil, the Maori of New Zealand, with a supporting cast of Black Sox ball players from the south and north islands, claimed softball independence o'er the world where the sun supposedly never sets.

In a bat-around inning, the Sox sent 11 Kiwis to the plate, scoring eight, with a trio recorded on **Travis Wilson's** towering automatic that disappeared over the centre field fence. It's a lead that any pitcher would welcome. Black Sox hurler **Jeremy Manley**, penalized on several illegal pitches, could concentrate on toeing up – the ideal time to prepare for the tighter games that will surely follow in the 10-day championship schedule.

It was a busy day on the mound for Britain's pitcher **Richard Haldane** who drew the short straw for this assignment – to stem the torrid Sox offensive tide. Haldane drew equal umpire attention on several illegal pitches. Relief came in the form of **Mark Elson**, successfully retiring the side in Top of the 3rd but falling victim himself to a six run 4th that featured fence-clearing automatics for youngster **Ben Enoke**, veteran **Jarrad Martin** and **Gareth Cooke**. New Zealand's two-day offensive summary – 2 games, 9 innings, and 29 runs scored on 26 hits. Defense- 2 games, 9 innings – 0 runs on 2 hits. **New Zealand (2-0)** more than perfect and **Great Britain (0-2)** seeking a 'W'.

CANADA 9 CZECH REPUBLIC 1

It was fastball at its finest. Team Canada, with a couple of local lads in the line-up was all business for the responsibilities at hand. Canada was favored to improve to 2-0, and the enthusiastic crowd cheered as Saskatoon's **Trevor Ethier** took to the rubber for the opening pitch. The Czech Republic was having none of this prairie sentimentality. The Czechs had five European championships of their own in the last decade and hoped to improve on their 6-7 placing in the last two ISF championships. And, with eight players in the line-up sporting North American ISC experience, an early lead would increase the chances for an upset over the Canucks.

With nervous tension, Ethier was vulnerable in the T1, giving up a pair of hits and was taken deep in the 2nd with a memorable HR to centre off the bat of 1st baseman **Jaroslav Mikulec**. Czechs led 1-0.

Canada left a pair stranded in B1, but with two out in the B2, the flood-gates parted. With **Derek Mayson** and **Jeff Ellsworth** aboard on the corners, top-of-the-order batter **Ryan Wolfe** stroked the first pitch to LF to tie the game. **Keith MacKintosh** brought his fan club to life with a timely two RBI single and Canada led 3-1. **Jody Eidt** walked and the table was set for **Colin Abbott**. As he has done so many times in his celebrated career, Abbott took it deep to CF and Canada led 6-0. MacKintosh made it a memorable night with a 3-run 'tater of his own in the 3rd. Final score Canada 9 Czech Republic 1. The local lads were impressive with Ethier striking out seven in his four innings, and MacKintosh 2x2 with a 5 RBI outing. Greeted by his wife Sharlene and daughters Devyn (8) and Reese (5) following the game, the personable Ethier admitted to opening inning butterflies, but added 'Sure, we were down a run, but I had full confidence in my team-mates getting us on the board.'

Canada (2-0) perfect and has its major challenge today when it meets Australia at 3:30 at BVI, while **Czech Republic (1-1)** is even-steven.

SOUTH AFRICA 7 INDONESIA 0 (5 innings)

With three runs in B1, and another four in the B5, South Africa shut out Indonesia on the strength of superlative pitching by **Sadler Monte** who scattered four hits. South Africa's **Renier Viljoen**, **Greg Barrett** and **Neil Green** each had two hits. **South Africa (1-1)** evens its record while **Indonesia (0-2)** is winless.

MEXICO 7 PHILIPPINES 4

Mexico (0-2) is winless in two days and **Philippines (2-0)** is off to a great start.

STEELERS NOW SENIOR CONTENDERS AUSTRALIA 10 PUERTO RICO 0 (5 innings)

The business axiom of 'steady and continuous improvement' over the years is obvious for the Australia Steelers. A celebrated junior team that has come of age, the tournament talk is shifting from 'The Black Sox' potential four-peat and Canada's turn to win it on home soil. Aussie hurlers **Adam Folkard** and **Andrew Kirkpatrick** are the current new breed of young moundsmen who can singlehandedly win games (they both have no-hitters in their opening matches). However, manager **Bob Harrow**, a transplanted Canadian from Milverton, Ontario has a two-pronged attack that includes lots of 'pop' in the Steelers bats. Back to back shut outs are impressive for defense, but 17 runs scored by Australia should not be taken lightly. **Zenon Winters** back-to-back automatics and a crowd-pleasing inside the park home run by **Mike Harrow** show a great balance of power and speed. The first match-up of consequence is scheduled for today when contenders Canada and Australia lock horns at 3:30 pm. **Don't you dare miss it.**

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS FOR STUDENTS AND SENIORS

The organizing committee of the International Softball Federation XII Men's World Championship I would like to remind everyone that Monday is Senior's Day at the World Championship. To show our appreciation to all seniors, everyone 65 years or older can watch a full day of the world greatest softball for just \$10.

Wednesday, July 22 will feature our Students' Day and Team Canada autograph session. All students can enter the two greatest softball facilities in the world for the whole day, for just \$10 with their student's card. As an added bonus Team Canada players will offer a team autograph session following their 3:30 against South Africa, Bring your programs, ball hats, softballs or what ever to the Media Tent located just past the right field bleaches at Bob Van Impe to get them signed by the star of Canadian men's softball

Line Scores

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
Venezuela	2	5	2	0	2	11	11	0
Argentina	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

WP: Erick Urbanejas LP: Jose Guerrinieri

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
United States	0	0	0	5	0	2	7	11	2
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0

WP: Travis Price LP: Jesper Panduro

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Botswana	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	7	2
Japan	0	1	2	1	3	2	x	9	7	1

WP Kenji Nakamura LP: Witness Gaarogwe

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
South Africa	3	0	0	0	4	7	9	0

WP: Monte Sadler LP: Teuku Ridwan

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
New Zealand	0	8	0	6	0	14	11	0
Great Britain	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4

WP: Jeremy Manley LP: Richard Haldane

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Philippines	5	0	1	0	1	0	0	7	12	0
Mexico	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	7	3

WP: Leo Barredo LP Lorenzo Melendez

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
Czech	0	1	0	0	1	2	5	0
Canada	0	6	3	0	x	9	7	0

WP: Trevor Ethier LP: Mach Jonas

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Australia	2	5	0	3	x	10	7	0

WP: Andrew Kirkpatrick, LP: Luis Vega

ISF Men's World Championship Records Thru 2005

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

Individual Most Wins:

Owen Walford, New Zealand, 1976; Owen Walford, USA, 1980; Peter Meredith, USA, 1988; Andrew Kirkpatrick, Australia, 2004; and Jimmy Wana, New Zealand, 2004, 6 each

Most Strikeouts, Game:

Ty Stofflet, USA, 1976, 32

Most Total Strikeouts:

Ty Stofflet, USA, 1976, 98

Lowest Earned Run Average:

Ty Stofflet, USA, 1976, 0.00 (59 innings); Joe Lynch, USA, 1968 (22 innings); Harvey Sterkel, USA, 1968 (21 innings); Victor Guzman, Puerto Rico, 1968 (17 innings); Owen Walford, USA, 1980 (35 innings); Michael White, New Zealand, 1984 (35 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings); Gene McWillie, Canada, 1984 (18 innings); Bill Lunney, Canada, 1984 (15 innings); Esteban Gomez, Cuba, 1988 (23 innings); Chubb Tangaroa, New Zealand, 1988 (22 innings); Michael White, USA, 2004 (14 innings)

Most Innings Pitched:

Ty Stofflet, USA, 1976, 59

Most Consecutive Wins:

Owen Walford, New Zealand, 1976 and Owen Walford, USA, 1980 & 1984, 15

Most Complete Games:

Fumihiko Matsuura, Japan, 1968, 7

Most Scoreless Innings Without Allowing Earned Run:

Ty Stofflet, USA, 1976, 59; Chuck Richard, USA, 1966, 32 $\frac{1}{3}$

Perfect Games:

Joe Lynch (USA) and Chuck Richard (USA) 1968; Dave Ruthowsky (Canada) 1976; Gene McWillie and Jim Cowdrey (Canada) Reggie Knowles (Bahamas) Kevin Herlihy (New Zealand) 1984; Jim Cowdrey and Gene McWillie (Canada) and Michael White (New Zealand) 1988 and 1996, 1 each

Team - Lowest Earned Run Average:

USA, 1976, 0.19 (three earned runs in 111 innings)

Fewest Total Earned Runs Allowed:

USA, 1980, 2