



Diamond Dirt

FASTBALL



John Thompson EDITOR
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Thursday, August 7, 2014 – Preview Edition



Friday Fans Fastball Festival August 8 at the Ball Yard

Twos the night before ISC, and all through the park, many creatures were stirring, even after dark!

Friday night August 8th features a triple-header of activities to set the stage for the next eight days.

6:00 pm – members of the Kitchener Rangers Hockey Team, the community’s highly regarded sporting jewel, will doff their skates and take to the field in a celebrity slo-pitch game matched against members of the local media. An opportunity to be up-close and friendly with our local hockey heroes.

With only three weeks until Rangers’ training camp (*Continued Page 3*)

Welcome Back to Kitchener!

It’s great to have international “fastball fever” in Kitchener on the eve of the 2014 International Softball Congress world championship. A full slate of 48 “open” teams will vie for the coveted title, with complementing events featuring ten Legends “Over 50” teams and four “Under 21” squads.

Five diamonds at two facilities (Peter Hallman Ball Yard and Budd Park) will be the venue for 174 games spanning the eight day event.

Opening games for the tournament are scheduled for Saturday August 8 at 2 pm at Peter Hallman Ball Yard and 4 pm at Budd Park.

Thirty-two teams participate in the opening round of 16 games on Saturday, with winners advancing to the second round to meet the top-ranked 16 teams who have received a first round bye. (*Continued on Page #4*)



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Kitchener Diamond Jaxx Earned Second Host Team Spot

The Kitchener Diamond Jaxx, originally formed in 2007 as a group of midget-aged players from the Flamborough area, and without a home league in which to perform, joined the well-established Kitchener Fastball League. In its 7th season the Jaxx took the 2013 KFL

Championship, edging out the Kitchener Bell Cartage Outlaws in a five-game series. That win provided an automatic berth for the Jaxx as the second Host team for the 2014 ISC World Tournament here in Kitchener. **Bryan Reeve**, a Jaxx centre-fielder, and now President of the local KFL

was elated stating that “It’s a huge accomplishment – it’s an honour to be the second host team.”

Mark Simmons, a first baseman from Cambridge and formerly of Sheffield, enthusiastically stated that he is fortunate to compete with “a positive group of guys who are committed to the game. All of our players have known each other for a very, very long time.”

Reeve added that “We’re a close-knit group of guys.”

Most of the Jaxx roster played minor ball somewhere in Flamborough, including Copetown, Freulton, Lynden, Rockton, Sheffield or Westover.

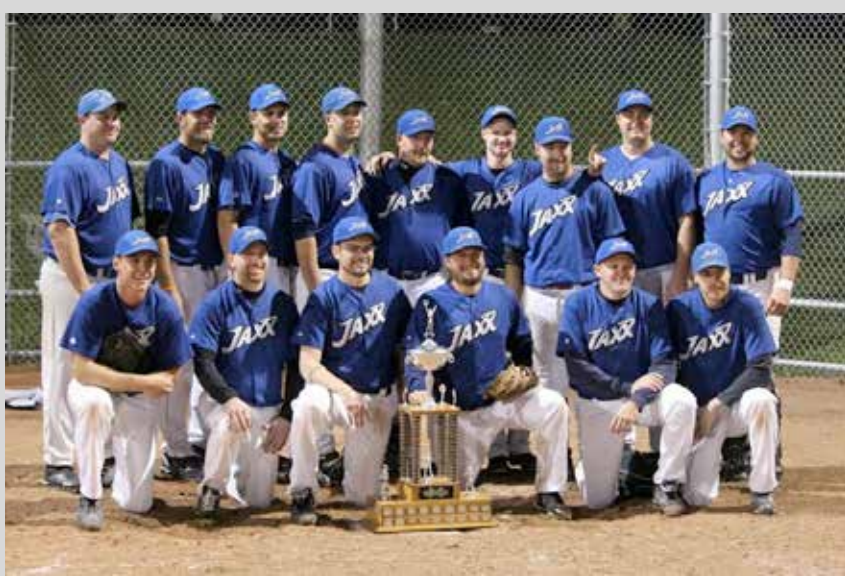
PHOTO CAPTION

Front – (l-r) – Chad MacQueen, Carl Kavanagh, Jamie Crickmore, Rob MacDonald, Pat Graham and Bryan Reeve.

Back – Kevin Clugstron, Mark Simmons, Rob Wigood, Ryan Ferber, Doug Hoffman, Will Peirce, Jason Farrelly, Warren Williams and Matt Gregory.



For up-do-date fastball info, clock www.alsfastball.com



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Friday Festival (from Page 1)
 opens for the 2014-15 season, this
 game will be a welcome diversion for
 the pucksters as the dog days of
 summer are quickly passing by.
 For hockey updates, visit
www.kitcheneranglers.com

8:00 – “Angels in the Outfield”

A unique project of Kitchener Fastball
 Promotions was conceived by Tom
 Clancy and Duncan Matheson during
 the winter blahs, resulting in an
 innovative proposal to celebrate and
 memorialize, in perpetuity, the impact
 of fastball volunteers who are no
 longer with us.



The “Angels in the Outfield” Fastball
 Memorial will be unveiled at the
 entrance to Peter Hallman Ball Yard
 on Friday evening at 8:00 pm and the
 public is invited to attend.

9:00 – “Legends in the Tent”

“**Legends of the ISC: A Night of
 Fastball stories, wisdom and
 laughter**” will be hosted in the Beer
 Tent at Peter Hallman Ball Yard.

ISC pitching greats **Dean Holoién**,
Todd Martin and venerable **Darren
 Zack**, along with all-world position
 players **Todd Budke** and **Sean
 O’Brien** will take to the stage to be
 interviewed, questioned and provided
 a “open mike” to share memories of
 “the good, the bad and of course the
 ugly” that coincides with
 championships, errors and heart-break
 in the highly competitive nature of
 elite fastball.

Holoién, still participating as an
 impact player, was the 2009 ISC Most
 Valuable Player as a member of the
 Kitchener ON Rivershark Twins, has
 been an All-World player on 6
 occasions spanning 2001 – 2011.

Martin is a three-time Outstanding
 Pitcher in the ISC – 1996 and 1998
 with the Tampa FL Smokers and 2008
 with the Kitchener ON Rivershark
 Twins, and has been an All-World
 player nine times between 1994-2008.

Zack, unparalleled in his ISC mound
 performances, and a 2010 inductee
 into the ISC Hall of Fame, holds four
 Outstanding Pitcher awards (1993-
 2000), and nine All-World
 designations (1992-2004), most
 notably with the Toronto Gators.



Darren Zack – Toronto Gators

Budke, the 2009 leading batter, is a
 six-time All-World and was inducted
 into the ISC Hall of Fame in 2012.

O’Brien, a veteran catcher earned five
 All-World designations from 2002-10.
 M.C. will be **Jody Eidt**, who earned
 worthy credentials of his own as a 3-
 time MVP, and 6 time All-World.

Doncha dare miss the fun!!!!

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Welcome back to Kitchener – continued from Page #1

The local Host Committee, under the volunteer leadership of co-chairs **Duncan Matheson and Rick Boyd**, plus a tireless management team and countless volunteers are poised to make the 2014 event quite simply “the best ever”.

Experience - Kitchener has previously hosted the event in 2002, 2006 and 2007, and Matheson and Boyd garnered great experience that is proving invaluable in the “new look” era of men’s senior fastball. World economics and financial constraints have not by-passed the sport of softball, and teams, leagues and tournaments are compelled to be “leaner” in meeting their basic financial commitments. That being said, everyone is “pitching in” to ensure that the 2014 event is a success on all aspects.

Volunteers - hundreds of volunteers and thousands of contributed hours of service are being provided by individuals aligned with multiple community organizations and charities. These include Children’s Wish Foundation of Canada (K-W Sub-Chapter); Kinsmen Club of Kitchener-Waterloo; KW Habilitation; KW Minor Boys Softball Association; Kitchener Fastball League and Kitchener Minor Girls Softball Association.

New teams - a special welcome to many new teams who have qualified and who will enjoy their first taste of ISC World Tourney competition. With the “every

game counts” aspect of the event, teams are summarily relegated to appropriate competitive levels for the second half of the week. Notwithstanding, there’s always chances for an upset! Generally, the top ranked ISC teams advance to the round of sixteen in their quest for an appearance in the “final four” on the second Saturday.

Opening weekend Sunday is an ideal day for a top-ranked team to taste the sudden and unexpected agony of defeat. Watch for Harrah’s daily predictions and take a stab at your own system of handicapping.

The ISC II Division will feature highly competitive games Monday to Thursday, culminating in the championship match-up on Thursday at 4 pm.

The Legends 50+ schedule will span three days, commencing Thursday morning and recognizing a champion by Saturday afternoon.

The Men’s Under 21 event will kick-off Friday morning and feature the three-game play-off round on Saturday.

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