



# Diamond Dirt

## FASTBALL



John Thompson EDITOR  
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Sunday August 10, 2014



### JAY'S PICKS – Day #2

(Projected winner **bold, underlined**)

#### Saturday August 9

- 1:00 – Winner G2 vs Pueblo
- 1:00 – Winner G5 vs **Force**
- 3:00 – Winner G1 vs Hill United
- 3:00 – Winner G3 vs Kegel
- 3:00 – Winner G6 vs Cubs
- 3:00 – Winer G4 vs **Circle Tap**
- 3:00 – **Winner G7** vs Randy's A's
- 6:30 – Winner G8 vs Gators
- 6:30 – Winner G9 vs Hallman Twins
- 6:30 – Winner G10 vs Stix
- 6:30 – **Winner G11** vs Loggers
- 6:30 – Winner G12 vs **PA Power**
- 8:30 – Winner G13 vs California A's
- 8:30 – Winner G14 vs Swashbucklers
- 8:30 – **Winner G15** vs Knights
- 8:00 – Winner G16 vs Gremlins

### ENJOY THE ACTION

#### SAVE \$\$\$

Weekly passes are available to save dollars for our valued fans on their attendance at the tournament. Check at the main gate for pro-rated weekly passes and plan to attend and enjoy all the action.

### Opening Ceremonies to officially launch tourney

Today at 5:00 pm, the 68<sup>th</sup> annual International Softball Congress Tournament's Opening Ceremony will be held to officially launch the 2014 competition. While some games have already been played, this gala event involves all 48 teams in the Men's Open Division, as well as on-field umpires, plus officials from the ISC and the Host Committee. The Ceremonies will be held on Diamond #1 at Peter Hallman Ball Yard, and in following past tradition, the Host Kitchener Hallman Twins will play their first game immediately following the ceremonies. The opening pitch is slated for 6:30 pm, the first of an evening double-header, with #2 ranked NY Gremlins playing in the night-cap at 8:30.



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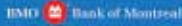
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# Evolution of Johnathan Baker



Seven year old Johnathan Baker

In 2006, Johnathan Baker, an 11-year old local minor softball player addressed the ISC Hall of Fame breakfast, sharing how much passion he had for the sport. Even at that tender age, he had been embracing softball for more than half of his life. His first taste was as a four-year old in t-ball competition, “graduating” to fastball when he turned six.

His remarks had an impact on the seasoned audience of fastball

stakeholders, and his style revealed impressive potential for his future.

And Johnathan had dreams – dreams of suiting up for his country. Flash forward to 2014, and Johnathan, has reached the ultimate pinnacle of success for a teen-age softball phenom. In July, having just turned 19, Johnny competed with Team Canada at the world junior championships in Whitehorse Yukon. “It’s an unbelievable feeling — it’s a dream come true,” said Baker in an

Baker in uniform of Team Canada



Tom Patrick/Yukon News

interview with the Kitchener Post. “Ever since I started playing ball, this has been one of my dreams.”

It’s quite a feat to be named to the Team Canada junior roster, but Johnny’s ultimate goal is to be considered – and selected – to play for Canada’s national senior men’s team.

And that may be just what Canada needs for the future “country vs country” match-ups, dominated by Australia and New Zealand for the past decade.

While enjoying a summer respite from his sport management classes at Brock University, Johnathan competes with his hometown squad from the Kitchener Fastball League - the Tri City Blue Jays.

## ISF Upcoming Events



- Aug.15-24/14** – ISF Sr. Women’s Haarlem, Netherlands (16 teams)
- June 26-July 5/15** – ISF Sr. Men’s Saskatoon SK, Canada
- TBD/2017** – ISF Sr. Men’s Whitehorse YUKON, Canada

Please visit our website for updates at [www.isc2014.ca](http://www.isc2014.ca)

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## ISC 2002 – St. Joseph Frontier Casino prevails - Kitchener first Ontario community to host tournament



In 2002, Kitchener hosted the first ISC tournament to be held in Ontario, following a seven-year courtship after the initial bid was made in Sioux City in 1995.

Tournament Chair **Tom Clancy** recruited an enthusiastic and competent corps of volunteers to manage the varied components of the event, and over the nine days of competition, the total attendance was recorded as slightly more than 40,000.

The odds-on favored team was the defending champion Broken Bow NE

Travelers, who had also finished 2nd in 1999 & 2000 and had an abundance of momentum, confidence and a stable of highly skilled players on the roster. The Travelers easily won their pool and took three-in-a-row in the playoff bracket to advance to the championship game.

Meanwhile, in the dreaded “lower bracket”, the host Waterloo Hallman Twins were on a collision course to meet another small budget Frontier Casino team from St. Joseph MO. Both teams had been relegated to the “one life left” round, Twins losing 3-1 to **Gerald Muizelaar**

and the Travelers, while St. Joseph fell 1-0 to **Todd Martin** and The Farm Tavern of Madison WI.

On Saturday afternoon, with upwards of 6,000 fans in the park, the host Twins with **Trevor Wardell** on the mound, battled strongly against veteran **Doug Middleton** of St. Joe. A hauntingly memorable fly ball fell safely in “no man’s land” to give St. Joe a 10-inning 1-0 win to advance to the final. Twins finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> spot, then the team’s best-ever placement.

In the Championship tilt against the undefeated Travelers, St. Joseph’s **Michael White** was superb, scattering three hits as the Frontier Casino prevailed 3-0. White was the tourney’s Outstanding Pitcher, with a 6-0 record and allowing only two earned runs in 44 innings.

Waterloo Twins, noted always for strong “D” was the top defensive team committing just one error in 172 put-outs.

The First Team All World pitchers were White and Muizelaar (5-0) and joined by Waterloo’s **Mike Piechnik** (5-1), while 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-World hurlers were **Todd Martin** (4-0 The Farm Tavern); **Middleton** (4-1) and **Jamie Simpson** (4-0 Owen Sound Selects).

Twins catcher **Craig Crawford** was also named to the 2<sup>nd</sup> All-World Team.

**Chris Miljavic** of St. Joseph was the Most Valuable Player, batting .432 and leading the tourney with 16 rbis.

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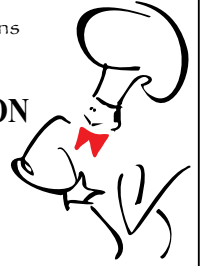
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# Busy week ahead for teams, fans

The **Kitchener Host Committee** has organized and the community at large has embraced a full week of activities.

From Friday night's triple-header of celebrity slo-pitch, monument unveiling and tall -tales in the tent, the opening round of games on Saturday and the Hall of Fame this morning at the Concordia Club, the start has been impressive.

As Tom Clancy pointed out in an interview in the Waterloo Region Record, even the late Peter Hallman, from his dugout in Heaven arranged for perfect weather for the opening weekend.

Mark your day-timers and blackberrys for the following :

**Today Sun. 5:00 pm** – Opening ceremonies

**6:30 pm** – Host Twins first game

**Wednesday 5:00 pm** – Diamond #2

Special Needs Athletes take on stars of the ISC – thanks to **Kyle Beane**, Midland MI for his on-going commitment.

**Thursday to Saturday** – Legends 50+ tournament

**Friday-Saturday** – Men's Under 21 junior tournament

**Saturday Aug.16** – Men's Open Final Four

## PLAY-BY-PLAY AVAILABLE



Follow the action from home or on the road with the ISC Network. In total, 25 games and events will be broadcast on the ISC Network – including 16 Winner's Bracket matches, as well as the ISC II and Legends Championship games. Consult the official program for

scheduled game times.

## UPDATES in the MEDIA

Waterloo Region Record – daily morning newspaper

[www.therecord.com](http://www.therecord.com)

Rogers Radio Group – Kitchener-Waterloo

CTV Southwestern Ontario

Al's Fastball - [www.alsfastball.com](http://www.alsfastball.com)

Fastpitch West - [www.fastpitchwest.com](http://www.fastpitchwest.com)

ISC website – [www.iscfastpitch.com](http://www.iscfastpitch.com)

Host Committee website – [www.isc2014.ca](http://www.isc2014.ca)

## TOURNAMENT QUIZ...

### It's all in the name

In sports fraternities, players are rarely referred to by their "God-given" names from birth – nick-names are the order of the day in the dressing rooms. Match the following softball players with their monikers:

Joe Adams	"Peaches"
Bill Drennan	"Hook"
Bob Eccles	"Fat Arm"
Lorne Daer	"Feed Bag"
Dick Hames	"Z-Man"
Pete Landers	"Buckie"
Mark Lobsinger	"Gumper"
Bill Lunney	"Lefty"
Glen Moreland	"Whitey"
Mike Piechnik	"Young Heat"
Brad Underwood	"Smokin' Joe"
Dan Yantzi	"Drop Ball"
Darren Zack	"Knuckles"

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