

The Official Newsletter of the 2008 Ramada Men's Canadian Softball Championship
Sunday August 24th edition sponsored by



Welcome to the **2008 Men's Canadian Softball Championships** brought to you by the Saskatoon Amateur Softball Association. We hope you will enjoy some of the best softball action our country can provide. This event brings together the best men's teams in Canada and many of the best players in the world. Following is a brief profile of the ten teams and some of the players to look out for.



Vancouver Grey Sox – Defending Champions

Vancouver comes to Saskatoon as the team to beat, after winning this championship last year in Newfoundland. They are led by one of the strongest and deepest pitching staffs anywhere in the world. Featuring **Korrey Gareau** who was named the top pitcher in Newfoundland last year, **Nick Underhill** and **Frank Cox** who both were part of the national team at the 3 Nations Cup played here in July and **Mike Piechnik** a veteran, with many national team appearances. At the plate they are led by a trio of National Team players: **Derek Mayson** last year's Top Hitter at Nationals with a .560 avg, as well as infielders **Rob Giesbrecht** and Kevin **Schellenburg**. Junior aged player **Brian Abrey** who was on the National Junior Team and the Senior Team Development squad, will also be counted on to add offense.

Camrose Fury - Alberta 1

Camrose moved up from the Senior Men's Open category, where they were second to the Bruno Merchants in the Western Canadian Championships last year. Camrose finished second in the Ducks Unlimited Shoot Out in June, losing only to Aspen Interiors but placing ahead of Horse Lake, Bruno Merchants and the Poly Plus Diamondbacks. They are the 2008 Alberta Senior A Provincial Champion beating Horse Lake. They will be led in the circle by **Darrel Tilley** a Second Team All Star, at this year's ISC's. At the plate look for leadership from **Scott Galenza** who was top hitter at the Vancouver Challenge Cup hitting .883 and **Ryan Grant** who was named top hitter the 2006 Westerns.

Horse Lake Thunder – Alberta 2

Although they did have many top tournament placings, they have proven to be a very tough team, as demonstrated by their 9-6 win over Vancouver in the Challenge Cup and a very competitive ISC tournament, where they finished in 7th place with a 5-2 record. They are led by a deep pitching staff featuring **Sean Whitten** – a former national teamer, **Karl Gollan** a 2007 ISC All World Player and **Darren Zach** a veteran who has done it all in men's softball. At the plate they will count on National Team Catcher **Chad Ghostkeeper** and two former national teamers, third baseman **Evan Potskin** and outfielder **Darren Box**.

Bruno Merchant – Sask 2

The Merchants enter the Senior A Men's category after a successful stint in the Sr. Open category that featured Western Canadian Titles in 2006 and 2007. Bruno placed behind Aspen and the Poly Plus Diamondback in the Saskatchewan Provincials in July. They will have four strong pitchers including **Justin Dauvin**, **Bryan Newton**, **Ryan Olde**, **Rob Scheller** and **Colin McKenzie** who pitched for Circle Tap at the ISC's. At the plate, look out for ISC Newcomer of the Year **Justin Dauvin** and **Corey Kranhenbil** the top hitter and MVP at the 2007 Westerns.

Saskatoon Poly Plus Diamondbacks – Sask 1

The Diamondbacks followed their 2007 Provincials upset over Aspen with a second place Provincials placing this year. They have an interesting mix of youth and experience. They will look for leadership from veterans like: catcher **Jim Climenhaga**, **Arman Jeannot** and pitcher **Ryan Brand** and enthusiasm from rising stars like, short stop **Brennan Pokoyoway**, second baseman **Jon Equina** and pitcher **Jeff Farion**. Although they struggled at the plate recently they will be counting on some offense from pick up **Glen Ormsby** a 2008 ISC All Star and former National Team Development Squad member.

Saskatoon Aspen Interiors – Host

The Saskatchewan Provincial Champion have had a great season so far, finishing no less than second, in a tournament schedule that included the top tournaments. They will enter the Canadians with a very similar lineup to the one that recorded a second place finish at the ISC's and featured four tournament All Stars, including All Star pitcher Dean Holoien. Every member of the three person pitching staff has National Team experience, **Dean Holoien** and **Trevor Ethier** were at the 3 Nation's Challenge, while **Rick Smith** was a past member. Aspen has really been hitting the ball well lately. Both Holoien and Ethier are great hitters who add to an offense built around **Pat and Keith MacKintosh**, both with lots of National Team experience as well as catcher **Sean O'Brien**, a First Team All Star at this year's ISC's and outfielder **Greg Crawford** who was a second teamer.

Jarvis Gamblers – Ontario 1

The Ontario Provincial Champions have been playing their best ball lately, as demonstrated when they beat out St. Thomas in the Provincials and earned four wins at the ISC's and a 6th place finish, where they placed ahead of all the teams that will be here, except Aspen. Their four person pitching staff will be led by veteran **Paul Koert**, who was named second team All Star pitcher at this year's ISC's. They have added some instant offense to their ISC roster for nationals in a trio of National Team players: **Jeff Ellsworth**, **Ian Fehrman** and **Jason Sanford**. On defense they will be very strong up the middle with Sanford and **Greg Courneyea** catching Fehrman at short stop and Ellsworth in the outfield.

St Thomas Evergreen Centennials – Ontario 2

St Thomas has not been as successful as Jarvis in their last two big events, losing to Jarvis in provincials and only earning two wins at the ISC's. However, with the addition of ISC Outstanding Pitcher and Tournament MVP **Todd Martin**, things are looking up. Martin fits into an already strong pitching staff that features **Andy Jackson**, **Scot Wagar** and **Dan Beecroft**. They will look for a lot of their offense from catcher Craig Horswell as well as infielders **Tyler Lessard** and **Chad Crawford**.

Charlottetown Hunter's Ale House Fawcetts - PEI

They enter the Nationals as a bit of an unknown community who will be looking to build for next year when Charlottetown will be hosting this event. Their three person pitching staff features: **Mike Bishop**, **Pat Slaunwhite** and former National Junior Team ace **Tyson Barkman**. Offensively they will look to infielder **Kelly Wenstrom** and catcher **Michael Grant**, who hit .333 at the ISC's for Green Bay,

St. John's Westside Charlie's/Bud Light – Newfoundland

Although Westside Charlie's/Budlight is not the same Newfoundland that found itself in the final last year, it does contain some of last years key players. National Team players: second baseman **Blair Ezekiel**, outfielders **Steve Mullalley** and **Jason Hill** along with catcher **Pat Humphries** will give St. John's a lot of offense. Westside Charlie's/Budlight's pitching staff is made up of : Ezekiel, **Lee Cose** and **Rob Schwyer** who pitched this season for The Farm Tavern, a perennial powerhouse in the ISC's. They will also feature three of the top Junior aged players in the country in **Brad Ezekiel**, **Ryan Boland** and **Justin Gill**.

Sunday's feature game – Game #7, Saskatoon Aspen Interiors versus Vancouver Grey Sox. Opening night features what many consider the two favorites battling it out in front of a large pro – Aspen crowd. The defending champion Vancouver may be the most talented team in this tournament and they face perhaps their two biggest tests on the first day with Jarvis at 10:30 and Aspen at 6:30. The 6:30 game will be a test of their pitching depth as they will be facing one of the hottest hitting club teams in the world. Aspen will likely throw one of their present National Team pitchers at them and thus should challenge their bats as well.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE						
1	GH	Aug 24	8:30 am	Charlottetown	VS	Horse Lake
2	BVI	Aug 24	9:00 am	St. Thomas	VS	Bruno
3	GH	Aug 24	10:30 am	Vancouver	VS	Jarvis
4	BVI	Aug 24	11:00 am	Camrose	VS	Aspen
5	BVI	Aug 24	1:00 pm	Diamondbacks	VS	Horse Lake
6	BVI	Aug 24	3:00 pm	Jarvis	VS	Charlottetown
	BVI	Aug 24	6:00pm	OPENING		CEREMONIES
7	BVI	Aug 24	6:30 pm	Vancouver	VS	Aspen
8	GH	Aug 24	7:00 pm	Camrose	VS	St. Thomas

