



## **Galway Hitmen win fifth straight Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championship**

### **3Cheers Pub claim master men's gold**

St. John's, NL (Sept. 4, 2016) — The Galway Hitmen made national softball history on a chilly Sunday evening in St. John's, NL, defeating Newfoundland's Kelly's Pub Molson Bulldogs 3-0 to claim a record fifth-straight Canadian men's fast pitch championship.

The final was a repeat of the 2014 gold medal game in Charlottetown, P.E.I. and for much of the gold medal game, it looked as though it would be a repeat of the teams' elimination round meeting, an 11-inning affair that ended in a 1-0 Hitmen victory courtesy a walk-off RBI-single. But in this contest, with the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth Sunday, Stephen Mullaley belted a base-clearing double to give the defending champs a 3-0 lead. Championship round MVP Sean Cleary took the mound in the top of the seventh and shutdown the Bulldogs offence to clinch the title.

"I was struggling early in the tournament and getting frustrated, but I had a lot of support with the guys around me saying 'stick with it.' I was confident that eventually it would happen and I was very fortunate to have it happen in some key situations throughout the week and weekend," said Mullaley, who hit what would be grand slam home run that led to a victory in the team's final qualifying round game earlier in the tournament.

When St. John's last played host to the tournament in 2007, Mullaley was part of the local Roebathan McKay Marshall squad that lost the championship game 1-0 to the Vancouver, B.C. Grey Sox. So being able to make good this time around on home soil was especially gratifying for the first baseman.

"We've been relishing the opportunity to get a chance to come back and really showcase what our team can do," he said. "To have an opportunity to win five in a row, which has never been done, and to do it at home in front of a huge crowd against another Newfoundland team is an unbelievable feeling."

Coach Mark Dwyer offered praise to the Bulldogs for challenging the Hitmen honest twice in the tournament, but said his team as a whole felt they had a destiny to fulfill.

"When we started the season, everything for our team was about winning five championships. We wanted to do something no one else has ever done and we assembled a group that could do that," he said.

Before the champagne soaking his jacket had begun to soak in, Dwyer was ready to commit to his squad coming back next summer with an aim to make it six in a row.

“We feel that this team is too good to separate. We’re not sure if we can run off six, seven, eight or nine ... who knows? But why break up something that’s working? We feel this is a special team, too special to break up. The foot’s on the pedal and we’re coming back next year,” said the coach, who claimed two gold medals on the day having played a big part in the 3Cheers Pub master men’s division gold medal game earlier in the day. (See below)

Cleary surrendered just three hits and one walk on the night, striking out 10. For the championship round, the Hitmen ace was a perfect 3-0 — including two complete game shutouts — with a miniscule 0.84 earned run average, 10 hits, six walks, and 44 strikeouts.

Other than Mullaley’s big hit, losing pitcher Kyle Linton put forth another strong effort from the rubber, giving up three hits, one walk and fanning seven.

The Ontario import also joined the Bulldogs in 2014,

“Very pleased with the effort just wish the game went in our favour,” Linton said afterwards. “It was a good game by both teams, we just happen to be on the losing end.”

The Bulldogs were playing their third game of the day, having defeated the Bulyea Rustlers from Saskatchewan 8-1 in a five-inning affair to start the day, before slipping past Nova Scotia’s East Hants Mastodons to advance to the final.

### **Masters of their domain**

In the master men’s division, Mark Dwyer hit a walk-off RBI double to send Jeff Kirk home with the winning run as 3Cheers Pub defeated the Mississauga, Ont., Rusty Jiggers 5-4 in a dramatic gold medal game.

After 3Cheers forced extra innings with one run in the bottom of the sixth, the Rusty Jiggers looked to have the gold locked up on Kent Campbell’s two-run home run in the top of the eighth. But 3Cheers responded in the bottom of the frame with two runs before Dwyer’s heroics.

MVP Ward Gosse tossed the win, giving up four runs on five hits and four walks while fanning 14.

Reliever William Carson took the loss, giving up the three runs in the bottom of the eight. Tracy Woolridge started and struck out 10.

In the bronze medal game, Chris Hussey went the distance giving up one earned run on six hits and striking out six as Newfoundland1 defeated the Sydney, N.S. Louann’s Cafe Cardinals 3-1.

With the game tied 1-1 after two innings, Eddy McDonald scored the winning run on a Darrell Walsh sacrifice fly and Dave Kennedy added an insurance run on a Bob Murphy triple.

Robert Bernard was the losing pitcher, surrendering three runs on nine hits and a pair of walks.

### **Day 5 Results**

#### **Senior Men’s**

- Kelly’s Pub Molson Bulldogs 8, Bulyea Rustlers 1 (5 innings)

WP: Colin Walsh (5IP, 1R, 2H, 5K)

LP: Scott Lieph (3IP, 6R, 6H, 1BB, 5K)

RP: Bryan Newton (1IP, 2R, 2H, 1K)

RP: Greg Hill (.2IP, 2H)

TB: Bulldogs — Mathieu Roy (3-3, 3R, RBI, SB), Ryan Kirk (2-2, 2R, 2RBI, BB), Daniel Dalton (2-3, HR, 3RBI), Geoff Evely (1-3, R); Rustlers — Cory Krahenbil (1-2, HR)

• Bulldogs 1, East Hants Mastodons 0

WP: Colin Walsh (7IP, 5H, 10K)

LP: Kyle Crawford (3IP, 5H, 1R, 3BB, 2K)

RP: Justin Schofield (4IP, 3H, 2BB, 2K)

TB: Bulldogs — Eddie Hefferan (1-2, SAC), Daniel Dalton (2-4, R); Mastodons — Jon Wright (1-2, HBP)

### **Gold Medal Game**

• Hitmen 3, Bulldogs 0

WP: Sean Cleary (7IP, 3H, 1BB, 10K)

LP: Kyle Linton (6IP, 3R, 3H, 1BB, 7K)

TB: Hitmen — Stephen Mullaley (1-3, 3RBI), Justin Gill (1-2, R), Shane Boland (1-2, BB); Bulldogs — Mathieu Roy (1-2, SB)

### **Final placing**

1. Galway Hitmen (Defending Champions)
2. Kelly's Pub Molson Bulldogs (Newfoundland 1)
3. East Hants Mastodons (Nova Scotia)
4. Bulyea Rustler (Saskatchewan 1)
5. Saskatoon Poly Plus Angels (Saskatchewan 3)
6. Kitchener Hallman Cubs (Ontario 1)
7. Alvinston Indians (Ontario 2)
8. Chetty's Pretty Boys (Saskatchewan 2)
9. WMC/The Bigs Bombers (Newfoundland 2)
10. Saskatoon Bridge City Sharks (Saskatchewan 4)

•••

### **Master Men's**

#### **Bronze medal game**

• Newfoundland 1 3, Sydney Louann's Cafe Cardinals 1

WP: Chris Hussey (7IP, 1R, 6H, 6K)

LP: Robert Bernard (7IP, 3R, 9H, 2BB, 4K)

TB: NL1 — Brian Roche (2-2, R, BB), Eddy MacDonald (2-4, R), Dave Kennedy (1-3, R, BB, SB), Keith Coady (2-3, RBI); Cardinals — Arnold Murphy (1-4, R), Robert Bernard (1-3, RBI)

#### **Gold medal game**

• 3Cheers Pub 5, Mississauga Rusty Jiggers 4 (8 innings)

WP: Ward Gosse (8IP, 4R, 5H, 3BB, 14K)

LP/RP: William Carson (1.2IP, 3R, 5H, 2K)

SP: Tracy Woolridge (6IP, 2R, 7H, 10K)

TB: 3Cheers — Craig Power (2-4, 3R, SB), Dave Boland (2-4, R, RBI), Jeff Kirk (1-3, R, RBI); Rusty Jiggers — Kent Campbell (2-4, 2R-HR), Jeff Detta (1-4, HR)

**Note:** Rusty Jiggers led 2-1 going into bottom of 6th when Craig Power scored on a passed ball. No one scored in the seventh, forcing extra innings. In the top of the eighth, Kent Campbell put the Rusty Jiggers up 4-2 with a two-run home run. In the bottom half of the inning, with two out, Jeff Kirk hit a double to score Craig Power and Dave Boland and tie the game at 4-4. Mark Dwyer hit a walk-off two-RBI double to centrefield to send Kirk home with the game-winning run.

### **Final placing**

1. 3Cheers Pub (Newfoundland 2)
2. Mississauga Rusty Jiggers (Ontario)
3. Newfoundland1 (Nova Scotia)
4. Sydney Louann's Cafe Cardinals

For more information, contact one or more of the following:

Kenn Oliver

Media Liaison – Host Committee

2016 Men's and Masters Men's Canadian Fast Pitch Championships

(709) 770-4117

kennoliver79@gmail.com

Gilles LeBlanc

Manager – Marketing and Communications

Softball Canada

(613) 523-3386 ext. 3105

gleblanc@softball.ca