

64th Annual NBC World Series Tournament Report

The National Champion, El Dorado (KS) Broncos, won their fourth national title, as they defeated the Nevada (MO) Griffons in the Championship Finals on August 14th and finished the series with a 7-0 record.

Champion	El Dorado (KS) Broncos
Runner-up	Nevada (MO) Griffons
3rd Place	Dallas (TX) Sox
4th Place (tie)	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers, Clarinda (IA) A's, Liberal (KS) Bee Jays
7th Place (tie)	Topeka (KS) Capitals, Tacoma (WA) Timbers, Prairie Gravel (IL), Beatrice (NE) Bruins
11th Place (tie)	San Diego (CA) Barona Stars, Lindsborg (KS) Black Sox, Anchorage (AK) Bucs, Hartselle (AL) Expos, San Francisco (CA) Seals
17th Place (tie)	Creswood (IL) Panthers, Hays (KS) Larks, Orange County (TX) Copperheads, Tijuana (MEX) Mayos, Tahlequah (OK) River Bandits, Austin (TX) Gold Sox, St. Joseph (MO) Saints, Seguin (TX) SMI Steelers, Austin (TX) Mudcats
25th Place (tie)	Cape Girardeau (MO) Capahas, Edmond (OK) Mudcats, Cherry Creek (CO) Red Birds, Wilmington (NC) Indians, Santa Barbara (CA) Foresters, Valdosta (GA) Red Sox, Americus (GA) Hurricanes, Colorado Bears

El Dorado received \$15,000 including the champions bonus for international play as compensation for winning the title game, while runner-up Nevada will take home \$10,000. Total compensation was \$50,000 with the following breakdown:

Champion/ International Play	El Dorado (KS) Broncos (\$15,000)
Final Round/ Runner-Up	Nevada (MO) Griffons (\$10,000)
Final Three	Dallas (TX) Sox (\$6,000)
Final Six	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers, Clarinda (IA) A's, Liberal (KS) Bee Jays (\$3,000)
Final Ten	Topeka (KS) Capitals, Tacoma (WA) Timbers, Prairie Gravel (IL), Beatrice NE) Bruins (\$1,250)

The remaining 22 clubs shared the \$5,000 compensation pool.

1998 National Baseball Congress World Series Summary

With attendance peaking at just under 90,000 fans passing through the gates of Lawrence-Dumont Stadium, the 64th edition of the National Baseball Congress World Series is already being called one of the best ever. The Championship final pitted the El Dorado (KS) Broncos versus their Jayhawk League rival the Nevada (MO) Griffons. The two teams met in an earlier round of the tournament and that game will be remembered as one of the greatest games in NBC history as El Dorado won 9-5. That game featured two plays that set the tone for the rematch in the NBC Final. The first play was one that was voted the consensus Play of the Tournament. It involved a 9-2-5-6 double play that saw Bronco catcher Terry Elliot being run over at home plate and then having the presence of mind to throw the ball to third base from his knees to double off a runner. The next play in the very next inning saw Bronco Quinn Cravens steam roll Nevada catcher Ryan Jorgensen at home plate.

After the first game, everyone was calling for an El Dorado-Nevada rematch and got just that. Coming into the match-up, the two teams had played each other a total of eight times in the regular and post season with the series being split four games apiece, but championship night was anything but even. El Dorado put the cap on an undefeated NBC World Series Championship with their decisive 16-7 victory over their rivals from the Jayhawk League. The standing room only crowd at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium saw the Broncos score eight runs in the first inning and never look back. Nevada spent three pitchers in the first inning alone, starting with Top Prospect of the Year, Roby Purvis, but just could not find the right one to stop the Broncos.

Second baseman Kevin Hooper, the tournament's most popular player and the American Airlines All-American Second Baseman, started the game off with a double down the left-field line that stayed just fair. The very next batter, Jeremy Troutman, singled to score Hooper and the rout was on. In the first inning alone, Troutman had two singles and two RBI plus a run scored. In the second inning Jeff Juarez, an American Airlines All-American selection in the outfield for the Griffons, hit a solo home run and Nevada tried to slowly crawl back into the game. In the eighth-inning, Jon Weber, a sophomore at Texas Tech, put a charge into the crowd and his Nevada teammates with a grand slam home run. Going into the night Weber had hit one home run and only driven in two runs. After the grand slam, the Griffons were within three runs, but as they did throughout the entire tournament, the Broncos distanced themselves from their competition in the late innings. Grier Jones' second home run of the evening drove in two runs to add a little space, but El Dorado was not finished scoring in the eighth. Lew Ford and Mike Pumo both drove in runs in the inning and when the smoke cleared the Broncos had put up six runs and were well on their way to the Championship. If the Broncos offense was hot then El Dorado pitcher Nate Robertson was on fire. Robertson, a junior at Wichita State, dominated the Nevada line up. He allowed eight hits over seven plus innings and struck out eleven Griffons. Six of Robertson's strikeouts were called third strikes, which highlighted his control and location on the evening. The win was also Robertson's second NBC Championship Final victory as he was the pitcher of record when the Bronco's won the series in 1996.

Of the many outstanding performances in the tournament, none were better than El Dorado's 3B Jason Aspito. Aspito, a sophomore at Texas, won three individual batting awards. He was named the tournament's Leading Hitter with a .525 batting average going 13-25 with 9 RBI, 13 runs scored, two doubles, one triple and four home runs. His seven extra-base hits were also enough to earn him the Most Extra Base Hits award and the four home runs Aspito hit led every player in the tournament, earning him the Home Run Trophy for the 1998 NBC World Series. Aspito was also involved in the Most Spectacular Play of the Tournament, the aforementioned 9-2-5-6 double play. Needless to say, Aspito was also voted the 1998 Tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Any fan who sat in on one session during this year's NBC World Series saw something that had been absent in past years, pitching. There were seven shutouts this year and two of those were complete game shutouts. The first one coming from the San Diego (CA) Barona Stars and Todd Holverson. Holverson, who pitched in the Padres organization, allowed only three hits and four walks against the Dallas (TX) Sox, a team that would make it into the NBC Semi-final. The second complete game shutout came from the Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers and Mike Garner. Garner, a junior at Cal State-Fullerton, pitched all nine innings allowing only four hits and no walks while striking out five. Other than complete games there were some individual and team pitching watermarks. One of those would definitely be the Prairie Gravel (IL) team. Last year Prairie Gravel (IL) became a crowd favorite because of their hitting prowess. This year the Prairie Gravel (IL) squad topped the team-pitching category with an amazing 1.22 ERA. In 44.1 innings of work they only allowed 39 hits and 6 earned runs. The problem for the Prairie bunch was that the defense gave up 17 unearned runs. This year six pitchers finished the tournament with ERA under 1.00. Bill Traber was one of two pitchers to finish with 0.00 ERA. Traber, out of Loyola-Marymount, pitched 15.0 innings allowing only 11 hits and striking out nine. Jeremy McClain had an outstanding tournament for the Nevada (MO) Griffons. The senior from Delta State, who won in the Semi-final game, was 3-0, pitching 23.0 innings, allowing 13 hits and one earned run. McClain was fanning opposing batters, with 25 strikeouts in the tournament. His walk to strikeout ratio was 1 to 8.33. McClain was the only starter to win three games. Henry Del Valle from Prairie Gravel (IL) was another pitcher who finished with an ERA under 1.00. Del Valle finished with a 0.63 ERA with 14.1 innings pitched. He allowed only one earned run and ten hits, striking out 13. McClain, Traber and Del Valle were all named to the American Airlines All-America Team.

While those were great individual pitching performances, the best pitching of the tournament came from the Clarinda (IA) A's Mike Terry. Terry, a graduate of the University of Alabama-Birmingham, was named the tournament's Top Pitcher and a pitcher on the American Airlines All-American Team. Terry pitched 17 innings in two complete game wins. His first start was against the Tacoma (WA) Timbers in which he went all eight innings allowing only three hits, struck out seven and gave up no runs, as his A's won an eight inning run rule game. His second start came against the powerful Prairie Gravel (IL), a team in which he completely shut down. Terry's line from that game was nine innings pitched, six hits, three walks, six strikeouts and no earned runs. Prairie did manage three unearned runs in the game but Terry and the A's won and made its way to the Quarterfinals where they would go on to lose to the Nevada (MO) Griffons. Opponents could only manage a .148 batting average against Terry and he allowed only one extra base hit in his 17 innings of work.

One of the things that has made the NBC World Series such a success is the many scouts that come to Wichita to watch the players. Of the 675 players listed on team rosters 574 played in front of the more than 60 Major League Scouts on hand. One player impressed the scouts so much that he is now on the fast track to becoming the next NBC Alumni in the majors. Brian Moore will forego his senior season at the University of Houston after signing with the New York Mets organization. Moore, a right-handed pitcher played with the Liberal (KS) Bee Jays in this year's NBC World Series, he made three appearances as the Bee Jays' closer. Moore pitched 4.2 innings allowing only two hits and no earned runs, walked one and struck out six batters to earn himself a professional baseball contract. Several other players are weighing their options as to whether or not to sign with a professional club. Shawn Sonnier from the Nevada (MO) Griffons is one such player. The 6'5" right-handed pitcher is considering going back to Louisiana Tech where he will be a senior or signing with a pro club.

The ever-popular Baseball 'Round the Clock made its return to Lawrence-Dumont Stadium. Of the 350 fans who registered on Friday, August 7, a record setting 274 people survived the 56 hour 17 game marathon of baseball that ended on Monday, August 10, about 12:23 a.m. *American Way*, the in-flight travel magazine that is seen on American and Southwest Airlines ran an article about Baseball 'Round the Clock in its August 1, 1998 issue. The article, written by John Morthland, a contributing editor for Texas Monthly magazine and a freelance writer out of Austin, TX chronicles the action and fan feelings from the 1997 version of Baseball 'Round the Clock. The magazine is distributed free on the two airlines and has a circulation of more than 563,000 copies. Kevin Jenks, a local sports reporter from KAKE TV-10 and a photojournalist made Baseball 'Round the Clock into a working vacation. They covered the event from beginning to end. Although they did miss two check-ins, one from doing the sports live at Lawrence-Dumont and the other from editing a story in their remote truck, the two were considered as officially surviving Baseball 'Round the Clock.

Bill Nichols of Baseball America chronicled the tournament as he did last year through his trained lens. The photographer seemed especially interested in the San Francisco (CA) Seals games, as his son Tom, a sophomore at St. Mary's in California, was their DH. The local media also turned out to cover the tournament. Led by senior writer and NBC legend Bob Lutz, the Wichita Eagle did an excellent job covering the NBC World Series. Lutz was a utility man during the 64th NBC World Series. His feature articles were entertaining as always, but Lutz branched out doing some color commentary on KNSS 1240 AM, the station that broadcast the feature games of the NBC, and he even sat in on one of the live webcast as the play by play man. Once again the Championship game was aired live on KAKE-TV Channel 10 throughout Kansas and will air over various FOX affiliates throughout the country. The championship game was also simulcast via the Internet through the NBC's official web page.

The webcast debuted during last year's championship final, and this year the staff at Wichita Online were out at more games throughout the two weeks. More than 13,000 people logged on to catch a webcast and there were more than 100,000 hits on the NBC Web Page during the tournament. Play by Play, line and box scores and game summaries as well as any article written about a game can all be found on the NBC Web site. Also, all of the stats that NBC Official Scorer Michael Dean conjured up will be available for viewing year round.

The 1998 NBC World Series also went international. The Tijuana (MEX) Mayos came out of the Western Semi-Pro League in San Diego, CA. "Los Mayos" quickly became a crowd favorite and the underdogs to root for. The Mayos made a respectable showing in their first NBC World Series. They won their first two games of the tournament, beating the Cherry Creek (CO) Redbirds in their opening game, and defeating the Hays (KS) Larks 5-4. They also found out that the key to winning the NBC World Series is pitching, as they got in a pitching bind and lost to finalist Nevada (MO) Griffons 6-2 and then were eliminated from the tournament by the Clarinda (IA) A's. The Mayos were voted as this year's most popular team and are making plans on returning next year as a legitimate contender for the title.

The competition level at this year's tournament was some of the toughest in years. The Santa Barbara (CA) Foresters, this year's fourth ranked team was bounced out of the tournament in two games. Prairie Gravel (IL), the tournament's number one seed, was eliminated by the Clarinda (IA) A's. The A's made the most of their opportunity as they advanced to the Quarterfinals where they lost to the Nevada (MO) Griffons. The Champion, El Dorado Broncos had to play the Austin (TX) Gold Sox, San Francisco (CA) Seals, Hartselle (AL) Expos, Prairie Gravel (IL), Nevada (MO) Griffons, Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers, and the Nevada (MO) Griffons again to become the 1998 NBC World Series Champions. The Broncos became the fourth team to win four NBC titles and they did it in impressive fashion this year. El Dorado batted .357 during the tournament and out scored their opponents 83-30. They had four players chosen on the All-American Team and four players were awarded individual trophies.

The National Baseball Congress would like to thank the nearly 90,000 fans who were in attendance for the two-week tournament and also our presenting sponsor, Southwestern Bell. The partnership between the NBC and Southwestern Bell will only make this tournament even stronger than it has been in the past. Special recognition should also be given to the League and Tournament directors who assist the NBC during the World Series and throughout the year. A big thanks to the City of El Dorado for hosting games at McDonald Stadium during the NBC World Series. The 1999 NBC World Series will take place from August 3rd – August 17th.

1998 NBC WORLD SERIES SCORES

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE: 5,980

Legend: (RR/#) -- Run Rule/Inning *Denotes team eliminated from tournament

DATE	GM	WINNER	##	LOSER	##	SITE	MISC	SESSION	TOTAL
7/31	1	St. Joseph (MO) Saints	10	Orange County (TX) Copperheads	5	L-D			
	2	Liberal (KS) Bee Jays	4	Cape Girardeau (MO) Capahas	1	L-D			
	3	Nevada (MO) Griffons	9	Edmond (OK) Mudcats	0	L-D	(RR/7)		6,245
8/1	4	Orange County (TX) Copperheads	8	Cape Girardeau (MO) Capahas*	2	L-D	(RR/7)		
	5	Lindsborg (KS) Black Sox	6	Colorado Bears	0	L-D	(RR/7)		
	6	Prairie Gravel (IL)	6	Tahlequah (OK) River Bandits	1	L-D			
	7	Beatrice (NE) Bruins	7	Seguin (TX) SMI Steelers	4	L-D		3,448	9,693
8/2	8	Tahlequah (OK) River Bandits	5	Colorado Bears*	3	L-D			
	9	Prairie Gravel (IL)	7	Lindsborg (KS) Black Sox	4	L-D			
	10	Seguin (TX) SMI Steelers	12	Edmond (OK) Mudcats*	1	L-D	(RR/7)		
	11	Liberal (KS) Bee Jays	9	St. Joseph (MO) Saints	7	L-D			
8/3	12	Nevada (MO) Griffons	11	Beatrice (NE) Bruins	5	L-D		8,125	17,845
	13	Tijuana (MEX) Mayos	3	Cherry Creek (CO) Red Birds	1	L-D			
	14	El Dorado (KS) Broncos	14	Austin (TX) Gold Sox	1	L-D	(RR/5)		
8/4	15	Hays (KS) Larks	12	Austin (TX) Mudcats	1	L-D	(RR/5)	5,746	23,591
	16	San Francisco (CA) Seals	10	Wilmington (NC) Indians	5	L-D			
	17	Topeka (KS) Capitals	10	Valdosta (GA) Red Sox	0	L-D	(RR/5)		
8/5	18	Hartselle (AL) Expos	12	Santa Barbara (CA) Foresters	1	L-D	(RR/5)	6,176	29,767
	19	Austin (TX) Mudcats	7	Cherry Creek (CO) Red Birds*	6	L-D	(10)		
	20	Clarinda (IA) A's	6	Tacoma (WA) Timbers	0	L-D	(RR/8)		
8/6	21	Tijuana (MEX) Mayos	5	Hays (KS) Larks	4	L-D			
	22	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers	8	Crestwood (IL) Panthers	2	L-D	(RR/7)	6,976	36,743
	23	San Diego (CA) Barona Stars	5	Dallas (TX) Sox	0	L-D			
	24	Hartselle (AL) Expos	12	Clarinda (IA) A's	6	L-D	(RR/7)		
8/7	25	El Dorado (KS) Broncos	6	San Francisco (CA) Seals	5	L-D			
	26	Anchorage (AK) Bucs	7	Americus (GA) Hurricanes	6	L-D			
	27	Austin (TX) Gold Sox	7	Wilmington (NC) Indians*	6	McD			
	28	Tacoma (WA) Timbers	6	Santa Barbara (CA) Foresters*	2	McD		9,666	46,409
8/8	29	Nevada (MO) Griffons	6	Tijuana (MEX) Mayos	2	L-D			
	30	El Dorado (KS) Broncos	12	Hartselle (AL) Expos	1	L-D	(RR/5)		
	31	Anchorage (AK) Bucs	14	San Diego (CA) Stars	2	L-D			
	32	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers	11	Topeka (KS) Capitals	6	L-D			
	33	Crestwood (IL) Panthers	10	Valdosta (GA) Red Sox*	4	McD	(RR/8)		
	34	Clarinda (IA) A's	8	Austin (TX) Mudcats*	2	McD	(RR/7)		
	35	Dallas (TX) Sox	13	Americus (GA) Hurricanes*	3	McD	(RR/6)	7,322	53,731
8/9	36	Beatrice (NE) Bruins	8	Crestwood (IL) Panthers*	4	L-D			
	37	Tacoma (WA) Timbers	9	Hays (KS) Larks*	3	L-D	(RR/7)		
	38	San Diego (CA) Barona Stars	11	Orange County (TX) Copperheads*	4	L-D	(RR/7)		
	39	Clarinda (IA) A's	11	Tijuana (MEX) Mayos*	1	L-D	(RR/5)		
	40	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers	4	Liberal (KS) Bee Jays	0	L-D			
	41	Prairie Gravel (IL)	7	Anchorage (AK) Bucs	5	L-D			
	42	San Francisco (CA) Seals	10	Tahlequah (OK) River Bandits*	7	L-D			
	43	Lindsborg (KS) Black Sox	12	Austin (TX) Gold Sox*	1	McD	(RR/7)		
	44	Dallas (TX) Sox	9	St. Joseph (MO) Saints*	5	McD			
	45	Topeka (KS) Capitals	8	Seguin (TX) SMI Steelers*	6	McD		7,290	61,021
8/10	46	Tacoma (WA) Timbers	11	San Diego (CA) Barona Stars*	9	L-D			
	47	Dallas (TX) Sox	3	Lindsborg (KS) Black Sox*	1	L-D			
	48	Beatrice (NE) Bruins	12	Anchorage (AK) Bucs*	10	L-D			
	49	Topeka (KS) Capitals	7	Hartselle (AL) Expos*	1	L-D			
	50	El Dorado (KS) Broncos	9	Prairie Gravel (IL)	5	L-D			
	51	Liberal (KS) Bee Jays	12	San Francisco (CA) Seals*	2	L-D	(RR/5)	5,502	66,523
8/11	52	Liberal (KS) Bee Jays	8	Beatrice (NE) Bruins*	1	L-D	(RR/7)		
	53	Nevada (MO) Griffons	7	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers	0	L-D	(RR/7)		
	54	Clarinda (IA) A's	4	Prairie Gravel (IL)*	3	L-D		5,154	71,677
8/12	55	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers	6	Tacoma (WA) Timbers*	3	L-D			
	56	El Dorado (KS) Broncos	9	Nevada (MO) Griffons	5	L-D			
	57	Dallas (TX) Sox	4	Topeka (KS) Capitals*	2	L-D		4,884	76,561
8/13	58	Nevada (MO) Griffons	7	Clarinda (IA) A's*	6	L-D			
	59	El Dorado (KS) Broncos	8	Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers*	6	L-D			
	60	Dallas (TX) Sox	9	Liberal (KS) Bee Jays*	2	L-D	(RR/7)	3,125	79,686
8/14	61	Nevada (MO) Griffons	12	Dallas (TX) Sox*	1	L-D		2,480	82,166
	62	El Dorado (KS) Broncos	16	Nevada (MO) Griffons*	7	L-D		7,539	89,705