

## 65th Annual NBC World Series Tournament Report

The National Champion, Dallas (TX) Phillies, won their first national title, as they defeated the Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers in the Championship Finals on August 17th and finished the series with a 7-0 record.

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|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Champion</b>         | Dallas (TX) Phillies  |
| <b>Runner-up</b>        | Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers   |
| <b>3rd Place</b>        | San Diego (CA) Stars  |
| <b>4th Place (tie)</b>  | San Francisco (CA) Seals, Anchorage (AK) Bucs, Liberal (KS) Bee Jays  |
| <b>7th Place (tie)</b>  | El Dorado (KS) Broncos, USA National Team*, Santa Barbara (CA) Foresters, Crestwood (IL) Panthers   |
| <b>11th Place (tie)</b> | Seguin (TX) SMI Steelers, Edmond (OK) Mudcats, Topeka (KS) Capitals, Austin (TX) Gold Sox*, Bellingham (WA) Bells*, Denver (CO) Blues, Beatrice (NE) Bruins   |
| <b>18th Place (tie)</b> | Norman (OK) Boomerangs, Hays (KS) Larks, Thonotosassa (FL) Pop Daumys*, Valdosta (GA) Blazers, New Ulm (TX) Firemen, Nevada (MO) Griffons, Prairie Gravel (IL), Pueblo (CO) Chieftains                                    |
| <b>26th Place (tie)</b> | Cape Girardeau (MO) Capahas, Luke Air Force Base (AZ) Falcons, Roxboro (NC) Bradshers Stars, Greenwood (MS) Vikings, Valdosta (GA) Red Sox, Michigan Monarchs, Clarinda (IA) A's, Austin (TX) Mudcats, Wichita (KS) Twins |

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

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|---|---|
| <b>Champion/<br/>International Play</b> | Dallas (TX) Phillies ( <b>\$15,000</b> )  |
| <b>Final Round/<br/>Runner-Up</b>       | Kenai (AK) Peninsula Oilers ( <b>\$10,000</b> )   |
| <b>Final Three</b>                      | San Diego (CA) Stars ( <b>\$6,000</b> )   |
| <b>Final Six<br/>(\$3,000)</b>          | San Francisco (CA) Seals, Anchorage (AK) Bucs, Liberal (KS) Bee Jays  |
| <b>Final Ten</b>                        | El Dorado (KS) Broncos, USA National Team, Santa Barbara (CA) Foresters, Crestwood (IL) Panthers ( <b>\$1,250</b> ) |

The remaining 24 clubs shared the \$5,000 compensation pool.

\* Denotes extra game win

## **Dallas Takes Their First Ever World Series Crown!**

The 65<sup>th</sup> year of the National Baseball Congress World Series is going to be remembered for the records it broke, the upsets it saw, and the first team from the Lone Star state to win the title in 40 years. The Dallas (TX) Phillies stormed through the tournament and won the title by beating a tradition rich Kenai team from Alaska in the finals. Dallas had the perfect mix of veterans and youngsters to put a highly competitive team on the field, which led them to the crown.

Throughout the course of the tournament the Dallas (TX) Phillies always got off to a fast start and they expected nothing less from themselves in the championship game. They responded well to change. In the championship game the Kenai Peninsula Oilers got off to the fast start as Danny Garcia hit the third pitch of the game over the left field wall for a leadoff homer. The Oilers tacked on another run in the first to jump out to a quick 2-0 lead.

Dallas knew exactly what to do when put in this situation. They responded well and came from behind to win the game. Dallas was down 4-2 going into the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> and picked up a run to make it 4-3 with just three innings left to play. Dallas was known for how well they hit the ball the entire tournament, so everyone in attendance knew they could break out at any time and score runs in bunches. The outburst never came, though the Phillies were able to manufacture two runs in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> to take the lead by a single run and that was all they would need with a closer like Beau Hale in the bullpen. Hale came in to slam the door on the Oilers and gave Dallas a 5 – 4 victory and the state of Texas its first title since 1959. Beau Hale, with his fourth save of the tournament, set a new tournament record.

Throughout the tournament fans saw some spectacular baseball; whether they wanted to see offense or defense, this year's tournament had it all. The baseballs were flying out of the yard at a torrid pace and runs were coming across the plate at a clip of 15.5 runs per game. If you liked to see the defensive side of the game the tournament offered that as well. The Anchorage (AK) Bucs got the distinction of being the best defensive team of the tournament by having an overall fielding percentage of .987, which carried them to the quarterfinals.

The 65<sup>th</sup> edition of the NBC World Series also featured some of the more outstanding individual performances in recent memory. The first no-hitter was thrown in this year's tournament since 1993. In '93 Ritchie Juarez from Fresno, CA threw a no-hitter against the Beatrice (NE) Bruins. This year featured another no-hitter, but this time a young man from Beatrice was doing the pitching. Trevor Bullock, from the University of Nebraska and a member of the American Airlines All-America team, threw a no-hitter against the Edmond (OK) Mudcats. Bullock went 5 innings giving up no hits, walking one and striking out seven. Bullock's no hit gem was only the 33<sup>rd</sup> in 65 years of the NBC World Series. To preserve the no-hitter one play can be singled out as the play of the game. Beatrice right fielder, Tony Dutter, came charging in on what appeared to be a single, scooped it up and threw a bullet to the first baseman to keep the no-hitter intact.

A teammate of Bullock's on the American Airlines All-American team was the 1999 pitcher of the year from the El Dorado (KS) Broncos, Brandon Sloan. Sloan, a local boy who plays his college ball at Wichita State, was just outstanding in his appearances in the tournament. Sloan went 11 innings, scattering just four hits, three walks, while striking out 11. In those 11 innings Sloan only gave up one earned run and earned the victory in both of his starts in the tournament.

There were several other records broken in this the final year for aluminum bats in the tournament. The town of El Dorado saw three of those records fall in McDonald Stadium. In a game between the Austin (TX) Gold Sox and the Nevada (MO) Griffons, the final score ended 22-21 in favor of the Gold Sox. That final score set a record for most runs in a game by two teams at 43. The hit total in this contest set a record for most hits in a game for two teams at 53 total hits. The Austin Gold Sox also set a record for most hits in a game by one team with a total of 30. There was also quite an individual accomplishment in the game by Austin outfielder Oracio Garza, who went 6 for 6 in the game to tie a record that was set in 1941.

The 65<sup>th</sup> World Series also featured the USA National team who was making its first appearance in the tournament since winning it all in 1995. Everyone had high hopes for the national team and people came out in droves to watch this group of athletes compete. The national team met one of its foes from '95 in the third round of this year's tournament in the Hays (KS) Larks. Hays came out and was not intimidated at all by the USA team and gave them one of the best games of the tournament. Brian Tarajack started the game for the Larks and turned in one of the better pitching performances of the tournament.

Tarajack went six and two-thirds innings surrendering two runs on seven hits, striking out four and not walking a batter. The game ended 3-2 in favor of the USA with the tournaments leading pro prospect, USA closer Ben Diggins, coming on for the USA and slamming the door on the Hays Larks to send them home with their second defeat. The baseball fans in Wichita thought that they would most likely make it to the championship, but what a surprise the baseball world got when they finished in a tie for 7<sup>th</sup> place.

The unexpected early exit of the National team came at the hands of the Santa Barbara (CA) Foresters and the San Diego (CA) Stars. Santa Barbara came into last year's tournament as one of the four seeded teams and took a quick early exit. This year they came in as a non-seeded team and were the first team to pull off what people thought was impossible to do. They tagged the US National team with their first loss of the tournament. The US team would run into another buzz saw from the West Coast as another unseeded team from California would eventually oust them from the tournament. The San Diego (CA) Stars came into the contest against the national team heavy underdogs and went away winners in one of the most exciting games of the tournament. San Diego continued on through the tournament and would take 3<sup>rd</sup> place, getting beat by eventual runner-up Kenai, Alaska.

Both San Diego and the US team had outstanding players and four of those players stood out above the rest and were recognized by being named to the American Airlines All-American team. For San Diego, shortstop Adrian Mora was a mainstay as the leader of the infield, while Ramsey Ochoa roamed the outfield for the Stars and was the leading hitter of the tournament. For the US team, pitcher Mark Prior was the leading man in the rotation and the emotional leader for the US National team was center fielder Tyrell Godwin.

The seeded teams in this year's tournament did not fare as well as expected. Seeds one, three, seven, and eight were a combined 8-8. Those teams included USA National team (3-2), El Dorado (KS) Broncos (3-2), Nevada (MO) Griffons (1-2) and Prairie Gravel (IL) (1-2) respectively. None of these teams finished higher than seventh place.

Teams from the West Coast on the other hand, had a superb tournament. The San Diego Stars led the way finishing a very respectable third, while San Francisco finished tied for fourth and Santa Barbara tied for seventh. The highlight for the team from Santa Barbara was giving the US team their first loss of the tournament in comeback fashion scoring seven runs in the last two innings to claim victory over the USA National team.

The always-popular Baseball 'Round the Clock promotion, in its ninth year was once again an overwhelming success. There were 286 dedicated souls that attempted to stay for the 17 game marathon, but only 191 actually withstood the fatigue to make it through all 56 hours.

The National Baseball Congress World Series took to the air broadcasting the Championship finals on KAKE Channel 10 and will be seen on selected FOX affiliates. Live radio broadcasts of the feature games was done each night on Wichita's KNSS 1240 AM and a great number of teams had their own radio coverage back to their hometown.

In addition to a number of radio remotes and television features, the Wichita area media came out in force as more than 90 media passes were issued. The Wichita Eagle continued their involvement in overwhelming fashion with the NBC writing feature stories on the US National team, the Dallas (TX) Phillies and of course 'Baseball Round the Clock. While all of this coverage was going on in the newspapers, it was also being posted on the Internet. Wichita Online provided up-to-date information on games, scores, and stats throughout the tournament as well as putting a number of games, including the Championship game on live via the internet. The NBC World Series averaged 5,442 fans over the course of the 15-day tournament featuring 34 teams. Also in attendance once again were more than 60 scouts, representing all but four Major League Baseball teams.

The National Baseball Congress would like to thank the many fans and business sponsors, especially the presenting sponsor Southwestern Bell, who made the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual NBC World Series an extremely successful event. Recognition should go to the many NBC Tournament Directors and League Commissioners who assisted with the tournament.