



CHAMP'S CHATTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ISF XII WORLD MEN'S
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP – MONDAY, JULY 20 EDITION



Welcome to Senior's Day at the ISF XII World Men's Softball Championship. After a very successful weekend that saw over 16,000 people enter the parks, including an estimated crowd of 6100 people for the Canada/Australia game, we are slowly moving towards Friday's playoffs. The standings are really starting to get interesting. Three teams seem to be a lock for the double life: Canada, New Zealand and Australia, however the other 5 playoff spots are up for grabs. In last night's 6:30 game United States took a big step toward claiming the other double life, but there is lots of ball to play yet

PLAYER PROFILES

Craig Crawford #8 - Canada



Craig Crawford provides an abundance of experience as a member of Team Canada since 1993. While Craig's senior roots are with Kitchener-Waterloo Hallman Twins, but he has also played with Toronto Gators and more recently the Midland, MI Explorers. This season he is back in his hometown Kitchener with the Hallman Rivershark Twins in hopes of defending the ISC title the Twins claimed over Saskatoon Aspen Interiors in 2008. With the Rivershark Twins, he shares catching duties with Patrick Shannon of the New Zealand Black Sox.

Craig has represented his country at the last three ISF Men's World Championships (Silver in 1996, 4th in 2000, Silver in 2004) and also played for two Pan American Games Gold medal teams (1999 and 2003). At the Canadian Championship level, Craig won Gold medals in 1992 (Junior), 1995 and 2006 (Senior), as well as a Silver medal in 1999.

Craig proudly states that his father had the greatest influence on the development of his fundamental skills. Fred Crawford coached Craig through minor ranks, and is still a big fastball fan, having arrived on the weekend from Ontario to follow Craig and Team Canada. Craig also recognizes all the great coaches he has had over the past 29 years who have all contributed to his personal success. A Wilfrid Laurier University graduate, Crawford has two children.



Moemed Tshidi Office #14 - Botswana

Moemed Tshidi Office is only 28, but is participating in his 3rd ISF Worlds. In 2000, the games were in neighboring East London, South Africa – a relatively short jaunt for the 19 year old. He also played in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2004. Equally at home in the outfield or behind the plate calling the game, Tshidi stated that he feels comfortable at bat as he staked Botswana to a 1-0 lead with a memorable home run to left field against Japan. This was cause for celebration and singing, but then the team sings in very melodic fashion to celebrate any event – large or small. A big event is the team being in Canada, following the epic journey leaving Baborone, Botswana for 35 minute flight to Johannesburg, South Africa and then travelling the length of the continent to Paris France, across the Atlantic to Montreal, a quick hop to the Nation's Capital, and then finally, direct from Ottawa to Saskatoon. Much can be learned from a team that celebrates small victories within a game, but also regales in decisions that may appear to go against the ever-smiling team from the Dark Continent.

JOHN THOMPSON'S FEARLESS PREDICTIONS FOR TODAY (Monday July 20) WINNERS IN UPPERCASE BOLD (Record to date 19-5)

- 11:30 am AUSTRALIA** vs. South Africa
- 1:00 pm DENMARK** vs. Mexico
- 1:30 pm UNITED STATES** vs. Philippines
- 3:00 pm JAPAN** vs. Great Britain
- 3:30 pm ARGENTINA** vs. Puerto Rico
- 5:30 pm NEW ZEALAND** vs. Botswana
- 6:30 pm CANADA** vs. Indonesia
- 8:30 pm** Czech Republic vs. **VENEZUELA**

ABOVE AND BEYOND

In another example of how our championship volunteers are willing to go above and beyond, kudos go out to security volunteer **Noreen Murphy**. After observing that a lady was about to collapse going up the stairs to the stands Noreen calmly guided her to safety and in a relaxed reassuring way kept her safe and calm until the EMT could arrive.

GAME HIGHLIGHTS

ARGENTINA 8 South Africa 0 (5 innings)

Lucas Mata led Argentina to its first mark in the win column with a four-inning one-hit pitching performance. Mata was around the plate with 39 strikes in 52 deliveries, striking out nine South African batters. His team-mates provided the only run he required in B1 and a seven-run B3 pushed the score-board into a mercy finale. **Gustavo Guerrinieri** with two hits notched two RBI while **Luciano Coccia** also drove in a pair. **Gerhard Van Niekerk** was the sole SA batter to solve Mata. **Argentina (1-2)** which took its first step to a playoff spot, can draw even today with a win over Puerto Rico while **South Africa (1-2)** rises early to try and avoid a mercy-shortened lesson from Australia.

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
South Africa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Argentina	1	0	7	0	x	8	6	2

CZECH REPUBLIC 11 PUERTO RICO 4 (6 innings)

Czech Republic spotted Puerto Rico an early 3-1 lead before finding their hitting groove and dispatching the islanders 11-4 in a shortened game. **David Merti** led the hit parade with a 3x3 performance, scoring all three times. Team-mates **Patrik Kolkuv**, **Vaclav Svoboda** and **Jaroslav Mikulec** each chipped in with a pair of hits in the 11 hit barrage. For Puerto Rico. **Eduardo Calarza** (2x2) and **Felix Cruz** each had two RBI. The **Czechs (2-1)** meet Venezuela in this evening's nightcap, while **Puerto Rico (1-2)** tangles with Argentina in a Spanish duel.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
Czech	1	0	3	5	1	1	11	6	0
Puerto Rico	0	3	1	0	0	0	4	8	3

MEXICO 7 BOTSWANA 0 (5 innings)

Mexico, after a nightmare junket to Saskatoon with numerous travel delays pertaining to new Canadian visa legislation, not surprisingly dropped its first two games. Day 3 provided a draw against the happy-go-lucky Botswanians, and Mexico seized the moment. Needing a win to provide a semblance of hope for a playoff position, the Mexican bats barked loudly as they circled the bases to a 7-0 win. **Panfilo Valdez** allowed only two hits for the win, while **Kohasio Mogale** and **Tony Moyo** each

surrendered four in a losing cause. For Mexico, **Jorge Carillo** and **Mario Perez** each had two hits, while **Arturo Solano** and **Gustava Priska** each drove in a pair.

Mexico (1-2) meets Denmark today in an effort to draw even, while **Botswana (0-3)** will be cannon fodder for New Zealand. It will be a kind and gentle version of the Haka vs. melodic Botswanian strains seeking divine on-field softball intervention.

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Mexico	1	0	4	0	2	7	8	1

GREAT BRITAIN 7 DENMARK 0 (5 innings)

Britannia ruled in the first inning, plating four runs en route to a 7-0 shutout over Denmark. Pitcher **James Darby** tossed a three-hitter, and contributed offensively with 4 RBI on a pair of hits. **Brandon Horn** of Waterloo, ON also chipped in with two hits, while **Frederik Terkelsen** notched two of the Danes three safeties. In limiting Denmark to three hits, and three batters hit by pitch, Darby retired nine via strike-outs. **Great Britain (2-1)** meets Japan this afternoon, while **Denmark (1-2)**, held scoreless in their last two games, plays Mexico early this afternoon.

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Great Britain	4	0	1	0	2	7	7	0

CANADA 9 AUSTRALIA 6 (9 innings)

For fans, this game was to be a classic. With solid pitching on both sides, it appeared that traditional play of which legends are created would unfold – a low-scoring affair that would delight the fans. One single key play would probably be the proverbial turning point and determine a closely contested outcome. **This did not happen!**

But fans nevertheless were treated to a classic that will be talked about in the days ahead. In fact, there were many key plays. And the outcome was always, indeed always, in doubt.

With a final score of 9-6, advantage Canada, suggesting a total off-day for the pitchers, this was not the case.

Canada's surprise starter, **Sean Whitten** yielded only a single hit in 2.1 innings, but was victimized by a routine ground ball that became significant as a

result of apparent runner interference, or as a minimum, runner distraction.

The Aussie Steelers fine young hurler **Adam Folkard** was on his game early, striking out five of the first seven Canucks that he faced. For the Steelers, middle-man **Adam Humble** allowed only a single hit in two innings, but that hit was timely as it plated Canada's 6th run.

Great defense will provide the big plays and there were many big plays, but in nine innings the teams combined for six miscues, four by the Steelers.

After a pair of scoreless innings, Canada struck for two on a brace of Steeler outfield errors punctuated by **Keith MacKintosh's** timely hit. In B3, Whitten was chased on the ground ball that handcuffed MacKintosh, and a surprise high hop bunt that left-fielder **Andrew Kirkpatrick** converted into an 'up-the-middle' single. **Nick Shailes** greeted reliever **Todd Martin** with a solid double. Two walks were issued prior to Martin striking out **Terry Downes** and pinch-hitter **Aaron Cockman** to end the inning. The damage was done and Steelers led 5-2 after three complete.

Martin, who initially was missing the corners, quickly got into his superb groove, allowing only two hits in the remaining 5.2 innings. His downer was especially effective, with his five strikeouts complemented by 11 outs by infield ground balls.

Buoyed by Martin's performance, Canada remained focused to the task at hand. **Derek Mayson** got high fives for his 4th inning dinger to make it 5-3. With two out in the 6th, **Ian Fehrman's** line-shot double set up a timely and well-earned walk by the patient Mayson. With the tying run at 1B, **Jeff Ellsworth** slashed a vicious triple into the left field corner, knotting the game at five apiece.

Both teams were scoreless in the 7th, and traded runs in the 8th that featured the international tie-breaker runners at 2B. Kirkpatrick moved from LF to the mound to close out the 8th, and provided a credible but ineffective 9th. Most ironic was the no-hit performance of the lanky lefty. Kirkpatrick, who was victim of unusually shoddy defense (3 errors in T9) and a tight strike zone that resulted in three walks (one intentional), gave up three runs. Canada led 9-6 with three outs to go. **Dean Holoien** provided the closing tonic with a superb 3 up 3 down 9th inning and earned the win.

With the win, Canada is positioned solidly for numero uno in the 'B' pool. Meanwhile, Australia will fashion a new winning streak and hope that Canada falters. 2nd place is fine and provides a double life in the championship elimination round, but that second life may well be needed with an

eventual semi-final encounter with the defending champion Black Sox.

Canada (3-0) has an opportunity today to spread the plate appearances around in meeting Indonesia, winless in three games. **Australia (2-1)** will now concentrate on nailing down double life for the championship round, with a late morning encounter with South Africa.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Canada	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	3	9	7	2
Australia	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	5	4

WP: Todd Martin LP: Andrew Kirkpatrick,

VENEZUELA 18 INDONESIA 0

(4 innings)

This one was never in doubt as Venezuela scored in every inning to win 18-0 in four (mercy enforced). **Larry Escalona** was the winning pitcher with an abbreviated no-hitter and **Rafael Flores** had a three-hit night at the plate. **John Zambrano, Joe Vilchez, Ronny Machicha** and **Jorge Lima** each stroked two hits. **Venezuela (2-1)** has an important engagement with the Czech Republic in the late game tonight, while **Indonesia (0-3)** will have continuing challenges in the 6:30 feature game with undefeated Canada.

	1	2	3	4	R	H	E
Venezuela	5	4	4	5	18	19	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

UNITED STATES 3 JAPAN 0

United States offence scored three runs to reward a stellar pitching performance by southpaw **Paul Koert** to move one step closer to a playoff position. A run in the B2 and two more in B4 was sufficient for Koert who struck out 14 with a sweeping left-side curve that stymied the Japanese batters. Four Japanese pitchers allowed only five hits in six innings of service.

Today, **United States (2-1)** meets Philippines and **Japan (2-1)** locks horns with Great Britain.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
United States	0	1	0	2	0	0	x	3	5	1

WP: Paul Koert LP Tatsuya: Hamaguchi,

NEW ZEALAND 8 PHILIPPINES 1 (after five innings)

New Zealand ran rough-shod over Philippines in a game that fans enjoyed as fences were cleared on a regular basis. Heinie Shannon's bid for a no-hitter was ruined in B1 as Philippines' lead-off batter Apolonio Rosales tripled and eventually scored. However, the game was already out of reach as the Black Sox had already scored five in the T1. **New Zealand (3-0)** maintains lock-step with Canada and will fatten their batting averages in late afternoon BP with Botswana, while the **Philippines (2-1)** will re-tool for a key game with USA at 1:30. WP: Heinie Shaannon LP: Victorio Jr.Enriquez,

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
New Zealand	5	3	0	0	0	8	9	0
Philippines	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0

POOL STANDINGS

POOL A TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
NEW ZEALAND	3	3	0	37	1
UNITED STATES	3	2	1	10	15
PHILIPPINES	3	2	1	11	15
JAPAN	3	2	1	16	11
MEXICO	3	1	2	15	14
GREAT BRITAIN	3	1	2	10	18
DENMARK	3	1	2	4	15
BOTSWANA	3	0	3	5	20

POOL B TEAM	GAMES			RUNS	
	PLAYED	WON	LOST	FOR	AGAINST
CANADA	3	3	0	26	9
AUSTRALIA	3	2	1	23	9
CZECH REPUBLIC	3	2	1	21	19
VENEZUELA	3	2	1	29	7
ARGENTINA	3	1	2	9	19
SOUTH AFRICA	3	1	2	14	16
PUERTO RICO	3	1	2	13	21
INDONESIA	3	0	3	0	34

HITTING STATS

	AP	AB	W	K	H	2B	3B	HR	OB%	Sac	SB	R	RBI	S%	BA
Brad Rona N Z	10	8	2	1	6	3	0	1	80	0	1	4	4	1500	.750
Rafael Flores, Ven	6	6	0	1	4	1	0	2	67	0	0	3	5	1833	.667
Travis Wilson NZ	9	8	1	0	5	0	0	3	67	0	0	5	6	1750	.625
Kevin Stockford, GB	8	7	0	1	4	1	0	0	57	1	0	2	1	714	.571
Romeo Tshelametsi Bots	10	9	0	2	5	2	0	0	56	1	1	0	0	778	.556
Frederik Terkelsen Denr	10	9	0	0	5	1	0	0	60	0	1	1	0	667	.556
Nathan Nukunuku NZ	11	9	1	1	5	0	2	1	73	0	1	7	1	1333	.556
Orlando Binarao, Philip	9	9	0	1	5	1	0	0	78	0	0	2	0	667	.556
Joe Vilchez, Ven	9	9	0	2	5	0	0	1	56	0	0	3	3	889	.556
Yohei Ono, Japan	10	9	0	1	5	0	1	0	56	1	0	2	2	778	.556
Colin Abbott Canada	10	8	2	0	4	1	0	1	70	0	0	2	3	1000	.500