

Fastpitch

SOFTBALL

M A G A Z I N E

ISC II Tournament of Champions

Terry Martin of the Elora Brewers makes the play

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PLAY BALL

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' AT THE ISC II TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

By Blair Setford, with photos,
including cover by Maddy Flanagan

Appleton, WI: Taylor Farms LumberKings, from Bakersfield, CA rallied for a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Waterdown, ON Hammer to become the first top-ranked team to win the ISC II Tournament of Champions in August.



The LumberKings victory capped a day of spectacular fastball with all but one of the final seven games played at Memorial Park in Appleton decided by only one or two runs.

In the championship, winning pitcher Dave Drotzmann and the Hammer's Wayne Wells each worked three scoreless innings before the Hammer got on the board in the bottom of the fourth with Matt DaSilva scoring the game's opening run. The LumberKings replied with two runs of their own in the top of the fifth. Pat Fuentes scored the tying run on a wild pitch and then Brian Teeters scored on an infield ground out to put California in the lead for good. Drotzmann worked three-up three-down innings in the sixth and seventh to get the complete game victory.

California started the day with a nervy 3-1 win over Ottawa, ON Team Easton Thunder. ISC II MVP Marcus Tan led off the game with an inside the park home run to give the LumberKings a lead they would never relinquish. Catcher Jeff Twist reached base after a passed ball third strike and came around to score the second run. Ottawa trimmed the lead to 2-1 on an unearned run, but the LumberKings added a key insurance run in the 6th on a Marcus Tan sacrifice fly. Centerfielder Brian Teeters made a game-saving catch in the bottom of the 6th on a long gap shot by Ottawa's Cory Morrison with a man aboard to preserve the win.

In the LumberKings' semi-final, it was Teeters to the rescue again, this time with a two-run home run in the bottom of the sixth inning to provide the margin of victory as California edged the previously unbeaten New York, N.Y. Knights 2-1. Mike Egerdeen turned in his finest performance of the 2008 ISC II tournament, an 11 strikeout, 3-hitter, going the distance for the win. Egerdeen had only one mistake in the game, surrendering a fourth inning solo home run to straight-away center to first baseman Dave Lohman. However, until the Teeters home run, it appeared that Egerdeen's performance might go for naught, but the LumberKings showed remarkable resiliency, with three of their wins in the playoff bracket coming in their final at bat.

In their first playoff game, the LumberKings held off Salt Lake City, UT Innovative Communications 5-4 in a see-saw affair to advance to face the Bridgeport, ON Braves. Trailing 4-3 heading into the bottom of the 7th, Brian Teeters hit an inside-the-park HR to knot the game at 4. Ron Guzman then came up with the game-winning RBI to keep California's hopes alive.

For Waterdown, they started the day facing hard-throwing righty Kevin Kammueeller of St. Paul, MN ASB Villard. Starting pitcher Wayne Wells lasted only four innings before giving way to Tim Neill. With the game tied at 2, the Hammer broke the game open in the top of the seventh with three runs, two of them coming on a key Dave Brownhill triple. Neill would go the distance for Waterdown in their 2-1 semi-final win over Kitchener, ON Outlaws. Waterdown got on the board early as Tim Coe followed a John Kemp triple with an RBI single. In the second, back to back triples by Brownhill and Kemp counted the second run for the Hammer. Neill was masterful, not allowing an Outlaws runner past first base until a Tim Dubois solo home run in the 5th.

Earlier in the day, New York ended the run by Bryan Newton and the Sacramento, CA River City Rockers with a 6-2 victory while Ashland, OH StockPack were eliminated by Kitchener.



**Most Valuable Pitcher
Dave Drotzmann of the
California LumberKings**

Through the three-game round robin portion of the TOC, some big upsets left the bottom of the playoff bracket stacked with many of the pre-tournament favourites and provided byes to some unexpected recipients.

In Pool A, it was the Lloydminster, AB Dodgers who doubled the LumberKings 4-2 and dropped California into the lower half of the bracket, while upset losses to Bulyea, SK Rustlers and Sioux Falls, SD Sox left the defending champions, TNT from South Lebanon, PA as the lowest seed in Pool B and in the bottom of the bracket having to face Sacramento, CA River City Rockers with ace Bryan Newton in the first round. TNT were never able to get their offense in gear and finished the tournament 1-3.

Also on that side of the bracket were the New York Knights who finished 3-0 behind the stellar pitching of Bill Hillhouse, Elmira, ON Cubs who demolished the opposition in Pool E, fourth ranked Oswego, N.Y. Cutro Professional Inspections, Ottawa, ON Team Easton Thunder, who featured ISC II strikeout king Corey Costello and Wilkes-Barre, PA Keating's Fitness. Even with Costello firing bullets, Ottawa trailed Keating's Fitness 1-0 until late in the game when they strung together some key hits to take a 2-1 lead which they made stand up to advance to the Elite Eight.

River City Rockers took the longest route into the Elite Eight with three big wins on Tuesday, including an 8-0 shellacking of the defending champion TNT to open their day. River City then dumped Palermo Athletics 5-0 before coming up against Elmira Cubs. Trailing 2-0, the Rockers' Mario Pereira drilled a two-run bomb to tie the game and set the stage for some extra innings heroics as the Rockers won 3-2.

The final team to qualify for the Elite Eight were the New York Knights. Facing CPI in an All-N.Y. State battle, the big boys from the city doubled their upstate cousins 6-3 to advance.

On the top of the bracket, Waterdown scored only eight runs in their first four games, but it was enough to win all of them, including a 2-0 win over Mascoutah, IL Pete's Blues in a third-round play-



**Most Valuable Player
Marcus Tan of the
California LumberKings**

off game.

Kitchener Outlaws prevailed over Sun Valley, CA Rude Pac in a hard-fought 3-2 win. Mel Ross paced the Outlaws both in the circle and at the plate, driving in two of Kitchener's three runs, including the first and the third. Ross also carried a 1-hitter into the 7th only to have Rude Pac rally for two runs in the bottom of the seventh before closing the door.

Ashland StockPack made the Elite Eight for the third straight year on the strength of pitching by Ty McKinney and good sticks at the plate. StockPack

never trailed as they eliminated Perkasio, PA Hoffman Rise 5-3. StockPack also had the loudest fans at the tourney, with several families supporting the team from Ohio.

A surprise member of the Elite Eight was St. Paul ASB Villard. With workhorse Kevin Kammuehler on the mound, ASB Villard took out Elora, ON Wellington Brewers 3-1 before hanging on to beat Lloydminster Dodgers 4-3.

All 32 teams played three round robin



Wayne Wells
Waterdown Hammer



Tim Neill
Waterdown Hammer



Brian Teeters
California LumberKings



games within their pools. Third-place finishers then crossed over to play fourth-place finishers from another division in the first round of the playoffs with the winners of those games advancing to play second-place teams. Pool winners all received a double bye.

2008 ISC II All-Tournament Team

Catchers: John Kemp, Waterdown, ON Hammer; Shane Flinner, Ashland, OH StockPack

Pitchers: Dave Drotzmann, Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings; Bryan Newton, Sacramento, CA River City Rockers; Tim Neill, Waterdown, ON Hammer

Infielders: Ron Guzman, Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings; Marcus Tan, Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings; Adam Hiller, Elmira, ON Cubs; Josh Brohman, Kitchener, ON Outlaws; Neil Curtis, Waterdown, ON Hammer

Outfielders: Brad Webb, Ashland, OH StockPack; Peter Hill, Bulyea, SK Rustlers; Canyon Vance, Salt Lake City, UT Innovative Communications; Brian Teeters, Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings

Designated Player: Toby Ranck, Wilkes-Barre, PA Keating's Fitness

Most RBI: Marcus Tan, Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings

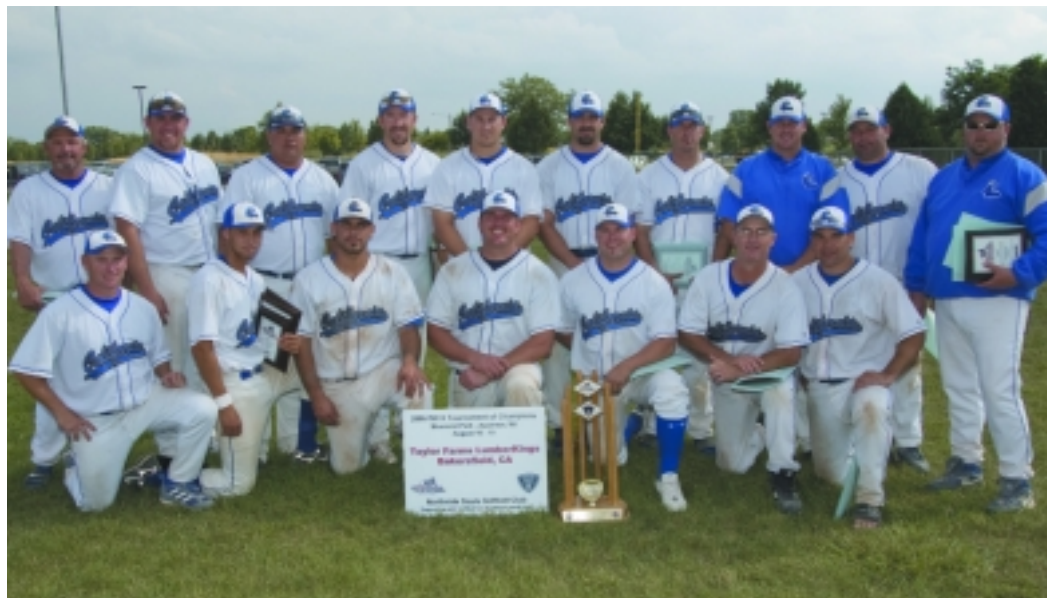
Leading Hitter: John Kemp, Waterdown, ON Hammer

Top Pitcher: Dave Drotzmann, Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings

Most Valuable Player: Marcus Tan, Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings

Final Order of Finish: 1

Bakersfield, CA Taylor Farms LumberKings 7-1; 2 Waterdown, ON Hammer 6-1; T3 Kitchener, ON Outlaws 5-1; T3 New York, N.Y. Knights 5-1; T5 Sacramento, CA River City Rockers 5-2; T5 Ashland, OH StockPack 4-1; T5 St. Paul, MN ASB Villard 4-2; T5 Ottawa, ON Team Easton Thunder 3-2; T9 Elmira, ON Cubs 3-1; T9 Sun Valley, CA Rude Pac 3-2; T9 Perkasia, PA Hoffman Rise 3-2; T9 Wilkes-Barre, PA Keating's Fitness 3-2; T9 Oswego, N.Y. Cutro Professional Inspections 3-2; T9 Mascoutah, IL Pete's Blues 3-3;



**California LumberKings
Champions, 2008 ISC II Tournament of Champions**



**Waterdown Hammer
Runnerup, 2008 ISC II Tournament of Champions**

Back row left to right: Wayne Wells, John Kemp, Tim Neil, Jim Hurst, Tim Coe, Trevor Brownhill, Carl Maloney, Dave Kingdon, Dave Brownhill, Sylvia (Sparky) Ryan; Front row left to right: Andy Richardson, Neil Curtis, Kyle Davis, Matt DaSilva, Bill Ebel, Pete Chambers, Paul Barron

T9 Bridgeport, ON Braves 2-2; T9 Lloydminster, AB Dodgers 2-2; T17 Sioux Falls, SD Sox 2-2; T17 Palermo, ON Athletics 2-2; T17 Wyevale, ON Tribe 2-3; T17 Hermann, MO Black Gold 2-3; T17 Bulyea, SK Rustlers 2-3; T17 Elora, ON Wellington Brewers 2-3; T17 Waverly, MN Herda & Sons 1-4; T17 Salt Lake City, UT Innovative Communications 1-4; T25 Memphis, TN Posse 1-3; T25 Carp, ON I4C Victory 1-3; T25 South Lebanon, PA TNT 1-3; T25 Chicago, IL Fastpitch 1-3; T25 Kelvington, SK PDC

Comets 0-4; T25 Appleton, WI The Bar of Appleton II 0-4; T25 Kenosha, WI Earl's Club 0-4; T25 Winterset, IA A's 0-4

•Blair Setford is the ISC II Commissioner and host of the Golden Horseshoe Fastball League website (www.ghfl.ca). He lives in Mississauga, ON, Canada with his wife and two children.

•Photographer Maddy Flanagan resides in Southern California, and has shot men's fastpitch since 2002. She is the host of Maddy's Photos (www.maddysphotos.com).