

Street Kids/Mojo Beats WTP/Shenanigans 22-21 on Walk Off to Win in Waukegan

Waukegan, IL 5-5-12

The Street Kids/Mojo softball team traveled up north to Waukegan, Illinois this weekend, just 15 minutes from the Wisconsin state line, to play in the Waukegan Parks Dept annual cash tournament. This event featured 16 teams, including the two best teams in the area - WTP/Shenanigans and Bubba's Excavating - who normally win everything up there, according to the umpires.

SKS came in with some injuries and people missing, including 2011 MVP Jay Jeffery, who will be [sidelined for 4-6 weeks](#) with a partially tore rotator cuff. Also missing was Scott Martin (flu), Shane Varga (work) and Nick Bishop (anniversary) and to top it off, infielder Leland Schmucker has an injury to his throwing arm which prevents him from throwing anything overhand. Schmucker was still okay to hit, so he played second base and underhanded the ball all day.

Even with the state of the team, the hobbled but determined SKS team went to battle in Waukegan, knowing that what makes this team strong is their ability to step up as a team when players are missing. The Kids opened against a local team called Mythe, a team that was over matched from the beginning but still played hard. In the end, it was SKS winning 19-7. Jeremy Hochstetler, Danny Penale and TJ Jorgensen led the way with four hits each.

In the next game, SKS played PC Express. This one was ugly for PC from the start when SKS put up 12 runs in the first, 12 more in the second and 10 more in the third and the defense of Street Kids was spot on as they shut down PC 34-0. Terry Patesel led the way with five hits, while Jeremy Hochstetler, Tony Hardiman, Fred Schmucker, Faron Miller and Kevin Eash all added four hits each.

In the third game, the Kids played a more talented team in Toby's Bar and Grill, but the result was pretty much the same. The Kids came out slow at first, but warmed up quickly with 14 runs in the third inning and eventually won 24-10. Tim Austin led the way with four hits.

The tournament format was set up in four different pools, with four teams each. All four would play each other in their pool and the top two teams would play in the single elimination tournament - eight teams. The seeds were decided by record followed by run differential. Street Kids emerged from their division at 3-0 and received the number one seed. They opened the single elimination, or the quarter finals of the tourney, against the number eight seed, Time Out Bar. WTP/Shenanigans were the number two seed and played the seven seed, while the other powerhouse in the tournament - Bubba's Excavating - received the number three seed. After Bubba's won their game, and WTP won their game, the number four seed BC Big Stix won their game and advanced to play the winner of SKS and Time Out.

The Kids jumped out strong against Time Out but had a few slow innings before finally winning it in the sixth with six runs, ended by two home runs by Jeremy Hochstetler and Joe Horvath. Hochstetler led the way with four hits.

SKS advanced to the semi final against BC Big Stix. In the other semi final game, WTP and Bubba's were battling in a great game. Bubba's featured six USSSA Conference players, including Mike Rhines, who played for Resmondo last year and now plays with TaylorMade out of Virginia. WTP led 16-3 early but Bubba's battled back and eventually took the lead. This game went down to the final at bat in which WTP won on a sac fly. WTP was in the finals and awaited the winner of SKS and BC Big Stix.

The Kids semi final game was not as close, as their defense - which has been a strong point all year - was again stifling and the offense was backed by a four hit game by Jeremy Hochstetler as he helped lead SKS to a 19-5 win in four innings.

The finals were set. SKS and WTP. Street Kids led this one early 16-1 but WTP battled back with a 10-run third inning and the rest of the way, it would be close. Heading into the top of the seventh, SKS led by three runs, but WTP scored three to tie the game and force the bottom of the seventh. After Faron Miller lined out to start the inning, TJ Jorgensen tripled into the right field corner. With the winning run now at third base, WTP walked Terry Patesel and Jeremy Hochstetler to load the bases



BOX SCORE from Waukegan NSA

May 5th, 2012

Won Tourney, Record: 6-0

Player	Hits	AtBats	HR	RBI	2B	3B	AVG.
Terry Patesel	20	28	1	11	3	3	0.714
Jeremy Hochstetler	25	28	4	17	8	1	0.893
Joe Horvath	18	27	5	16	4	0	0.667
Tim Austin	17	24	0	10	1	1	0.708
Danny Penale	14	23	2	16	3	0	0.609
Leland Schmucker	18	23	3	14	2	1	0.783
Tony Hardiman	15	24	3	13	3	0	0.625
Fred Schmucker	14	23	3	17	2	0	0.609
Faron Miller	15	23	2	9	3	0	0.652
TJ Jorgensen	10	16	0	8	3	1	0.625
Kevin Eash	13	20	0	6	2	1	0.650
Totals	179	259	23	137	34	8	0.691

- Game 1 vs Mythe, WON: 19-7
- Game 2 vs PC Express, WON: 34-0
- Game 3 vs Toby's Bar and Grill, WON: 24-10
- Game 4 vs Time Out, WON: 15-5
- Game 5 vs. BC Big Stix/Coins, WON: 19-5
- Game 6 vs. WTP/Shenanigans, WON: 22-21

Tourney MVP: Jeremy Hochstetler

All-Tourney from SKS

- Terry Patesel
- Tim Austin
- Leland Schmucker

and face Joe Horvath, who came into the at bat with four hits already. Horvath drove the first pitch deep to right field over the head of the outfielder, scoring the winning run from third. Jeremy Hochstetler led the way with six hits and Horvath added five hits in the win.

Street Kids went a perfect 6-0 on the day, improving to 31-4 overall. It was the fifth tourney win in 2012 for the Kids, but TJ Jorgensen admitted the team still isn't playing great softball.

"A few of us were talking in the car on the way home and we hit it on the head," he said. "We are still making a lot of mistakes on offense. We hit 14 solo or two-run homers this weekend, and when we are winning, we don't think about it. It's when we are losing that we recognize it. Fortunately for us, we have not experienced any real losing, so we dismiss the mistakes. But with our goals set so high this year, we have to do a better job."

Jeremy Hochstetler had another huge weekend, batting .893 with 13 extra base hits. Terry Patesel, Tim Austin and Leland Schmucker were all named to the All-Tourney team for their strong play.

The Kids return to action this Wednesday in Elkhart for league action and return to tournament action in two weeks.