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Street Kids Mojo Win NSA Kokomo Tourney with Two Big Wins Over Wildman

Kokomo, IN 6/2/2012

A few years back, when players were missing from the Street Kids Softball team at a tournament, it would be difficult to find the SKS team deep in the event, let alone in the finals. But the last few years have shown that even when key players are missing that this talented team can step up and carry them to victory.

The Street Kids Mojo team traveled to Kokomo this weekend for the NSA BW3 Cash tourney missing key players Scott Martin, Shane Varga and Tony Hardiman. But the team stepped up and took on Javets in the first game Saturday morning. The Kids put up six runs in the first, six in the second and five in the fourth to help the Kids cruise to an easy 19-4 win. Joe Horvath led the way with four hits and six RBI's.

In the second round, it was a classic match up between two Class B powerhouses, Street Kids and Wildman/Kote-It. Wildman had just been honored by receiving their NSA "A" World Championship rings for winning the title in 2011, and it was quite an honor for them to win and represent the state of Indiana. But it was time to put the hardware away and take the field against Street Kids. The Kids only scored one in the first, and Wildman answered back with only two, but the second inning would be a huge one for both teams. Street Kids put up 15 runs in the top of the second, but Wildman didn't flinch, as they answered back with 10 of their own.

The top of the third was pretty uneventful, as the Kids did not score, however it would get interesting. Pitcher Faron Miller, who had two doubles and three RBI's in the second inning alone, made the final out of the scoreless third inning and lightly tossed his bat toward the on-deck circle. At the same time he was tossing his bat, on-deck batter Nick Bishop had just tossed his bat into a pile of on-deck bats and the sound of everything seemed louder than it really should have been. Millers bat hit the ground on the bats end and sprung up slightly but enough to cause the handle to stick into the fence. Home plate umpire Jason Hurt didn't see the bat tossed, but heard the sound of the bats being thrown and saw Millers bat stuck in the fence.

"I turned and looked at Jaron Wiggs who was standing right by the fence and said 'are you kidding me, Faron of all people'" Hurt said. "I don't think I have ever seen Faron get mad, let alone throw his bat."

Hurt called TJ Jorgensen out of the dugout and said that Faron had to be ejected for throwing his bat, which is an accurate rule, despite who threw it.

"He was being watched at that moment by both the state director and the state UIC (Umpire In Chief)," Jorgensen said. "He told me he hated to do it, but he had no choice."

The Kids were now facing the fully staffed reigning NSA "A" World Champions and they just lost their starting pitcher in Miller, who was very upset with the call but simply went to the dugout, apologizing to Jorgensen and his teammates. Jorgensen went into the game for Miller, as Jay Jeffery switched to the mound, as Jorgensen went behind the plate. Jeffery did his best, but did have a tough time with Hurt's tight strike zone. Wildman scored five in the third and after SKS put up only three in the fourth, Wildman put up eight runs in the bottom of the fourth. Nick Bishop relieved Jeffery to try to stop the hot hitting Wildman team.

After four full innings, Wildman led 25-19. The Kids had to get moving, as not only did they not have the home field advantage (the "hammer"), but they knew they were without one of their leaders on the field and one of the best pitchers in the state in Faron Miller. Street Kids answered back in the top of the fifth with five runs, backed by a three run home run by TJ Jorgensen and a two-run homer by Joe Horvath. Bishop only allowed a solo home run to



[See more pics from Kokomo on the SKS Fan Page here!](#)

BOX SCORE from NSA Kokomo

June 2nd, 2012

Won Tournament, 4-0

Player	Hits	AtBats	HR	RBI	2B	3B	AVG.
Terry Patesel	14	22	0	6	3	0	0.636
Jeremy Hochstetler	14	20	0	11	5	0	0.700
Joe Horvath	17	21	6	23	3	1	0.810
Jay Jeffery	14	19	1	5	0	1	0.737
Danny Penale	9	17	1	7	1	0	0.529
Leland Schmucker	10	18	2	10	4	0	0.556
Tim Austin	15	18	0	12	3	0	0.833
Fred Schmucker	12	18	2	9	2	0	0.667
Faron Miller	7	14	1	4	3	0	0.500
Nick Bishop	14	18	0	7	3	0	0.778
TJ Jorgensen	4	4	1	6	2	0	1.000
Totals	130	189	14	100	29	2	0.688

Game 1 vs Javets, WON: 19-4

Game 2 vs Wildman, WON: 44-34

Game 3 vs 365 Softball, WON: 20-10

Game 4 vs Wildman, WON: 17-14

Tournament MVP

Joe Horvath

All Tourney from SKS

Tim Austin

Jay Jeffery

Nick Bishop

Jeremy Hochstetler

one Wildman batter in the bottom of the fifth, then SKS came back with four runs in the top of the sixth. Wildman refused to go away though, and in the bottom of the sixth they scored five more runs and took a 31-28 lead going into the top of the seventh. The Kids needed three to tie the game, but were looking for more, knowing that Wildman had the home field advantage. More is what they got.

SKS sent 20 batters to the plate in the top of the seventh, and scored a season high 16 runs in the frame. Wildman pitcher Chad Marchand, normally known for his ability to throw strikes, battled control issues in the seventh, walking five batters - including three in a row at one point - and the Kids continued to roll. After the final out was recorded in the top of the seventh, the Kids held a 44-31 lead, but they also know Wildman's ability to score runs, so they did not count them out. Bishop ran into a little trouble, but nothing too major. Marchand hit a two run homer and Bishop walked in a run, but just after that Bishop locked it down and the Kids won the marathon game, 44-34.

"What a game," Miller said from the bench. "I am so proud of this team, and I apologized several times to them. It was my fault, I should not have thrown my bat, lightly or not. But that just shows how this team comes together and picks up the slack."

Nick Bishop and Terry Patesel both tied a SKS record with seven hits each, while Tim Austin and Joe Horvath (who had four extra base hits and 10 RBI's himself) added six hits each to help lead the win. Jorgensen also picked up the slack for the loss of Miller, going 4-for-4 in his place.

Street Kids advanced to the winners bracket final against 365 Softball. The Kids came out a little slow but warmed up quickly and scored nine runs in the fifth inning to lead the Kids to a 20-10 win and a trip to the finals. Horvath drove in seven runs and had four hits, while Tim Austin added four hits as well.

Wildman battled back through the losers bracket and were ready for a rematch against SKS. Wildman scored three in the top of the first, but SKS answered back with three of their own to tie the game. Wildman scored two more in the second on another Marchand home run, but SKS answered back again, scoring eight runs. From this point, the Kids offense fell asleep, going scoreless from the third through fifth inning. Wildman chipped away, scoring four in the third, two in the fourth and three in the top of the sixth. Heading into the bottom of the sixth inning, Wildman led 14-11. But SKS was warming up again. Horvath led off with a single, and later scored on Leland Schmuckers single. Tim Austin followed Schmuckers run scoring single with one of his own, plating Jay Jeffery. Then Fred Schmucker hit a three run homer to take the lead, and Faron Miller (who did NOT throw his bat again...) followed with a solo home run for a little insurance. They did not score again, and took a 17-14 lead into the top of the seventh. Faron quickly got the first two outs and with the game and tournament only down to the last out, Miller gave up two singles thus bringing the tying run to the plate.

Number 12 (sorry didn't know his name) got a hold of a Miller pitch and crushed it into left field, hoping it would be enough to tie the game. Joe Horvath sprinted toward the eight foot fence in the left field corner and without slowing down, leaped as high as he could and made an unbelievable catch, with his glove and ball going the fence. Horvath fell to the ground with his glove on and checked to make sure he had the ball, to which he raised up to show to his yelling teammates. The Kids won the tournament in dramatic fashion, 17-14.

"I knew how important it was so I wanted to give it all I could," the 42-year-old former MVP said. "I banged my knee up hard on the fence when I hit, but I was just making sure I squeezed the glove as hard as I could when it happened so I wouldn't drop the ball."

Jeremy Hochstetler, Horvath, Jay Jeffery, Danny Penale, Leland Schmucker, Tim Austin and Nick Bishop all had three hits in the win, which was the Kids (48-6 overall, 37-5 in tournaments) fourth tournament win in a row, and seventh win overall in 2012. In their four games against Wildman this year, the Kids have scored an average of 27.75 runs per game, and have won all four.

"Wildman is a great team," said Jay Jeffery after the game. "I was so impressed with not only their overall team, but particularly their defense. They seemed damn near perfect all day. I'm looking forward to plenty more battles with them all year."

Horvath was named MVP for not only driving in a team high 23 runs and batting .810, but for making some great plays on defense, the final one being the biggest. Tim Austin (.833), Jay Jeffery (.737), Nick Bishop (.778) and Jeremy Hochstetler (.700) were named to the all-tourney team for SKS.

After some league games this week, SKS returns to the south side of Indianapolis for the NSA B/C NIT on Saturday.



