

Annual holiday tournament proves to be a hit; Trout Creek repeats as champions

FELCH — Despite unexpectedly high temperatures, the 52nd Annual Felch U.P. Labor Day Championship Baseball tournament went off without a hitch.

“We had an unbelievable turnout,” said event organizer John Benzie. *“On championship Monday, the crowd might have been a little down — I mean it was the hottest day on Monday. I think it might have been a little lower than normal but, overall, the attendance was fantastic.”*

Those who endured the heatwave saw Trout Creek, last year’s champion, topple Bonduel 12-1 as they claimed a second consecutive title.

“They got beat the night before by Channing for the seeding,” Benzie added. *“The game didn’t really matter, you know, they were in the Monday tournament. Both teams were undefeated and Channing beat them that night.”*

After battling through the group play stage, the semifinals kicked off with Bonduel outlasting Houghton 6-1 and Trout Creek surviving against Channing to win 11-6.

“Channing had a good chance to beat (Trout Creek) on Monday,” Benzie said. *“Had a 6-3 lead in the middle of the game and (Trout Creek) threw seven on them.”*

Trout Creek starting pitcher Tyler Vogel finished the tournament with 12 strikeouts and one complete game. Vogel also started in the championship game for Trout Creek.

“He’s about 6-8,” Benzie said about Vogel. “They play in the Milwaukee league. I mean these guys are good.

“They play 60 games throughout the summer. So these guys play a lot of baseball and they’re good.”

Parker Sniatynski was named the MVP hitter of the tournament. He went 9-for-16 with two home runs, four stolen bases, five RBI and 10 runs scored.



Members of Trout Creek, the 2023 Felch U.P. Labor Day Baseball tournament winner, pose with the trophy shaped like the Upper Peninsula. Trout Creek claimed its second consecutive title by beating Bonduel 12-1 in the championship game Monday. (Courtesy photo)

“(It) was just a very successful weekend,” Benzie said. “We inducted Stewart Sundholm and Bob Berglin into the hall of fame.

“It was just a wonderful weekend for baseball and the community was wonderful,” he added.

On top of high quality baseball, the tournament donated the proceeds from concessions to the North Dickinson High School junior class.

“It was a success for everybody involved,” Benzie said.