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WISCONSIN SPORTS PRESS RELEASE

BATS Academy Fastpitch 14U and 16U teams win 2017 ASA Class "A" State Championships

Watertown, WI — Mequon-based BATS Academy's 14U and 16U-Knoblauch girls fastpitch softball teams both captured this year's American Softball Association (ASA) Class "A" Wisconsin State Titles — the former via a walk-off 3-2 victory over Germantown-based Force and the latter via a 5-inning 13-1 run-rule win over Stevens Point-based FirePro Gold squad.

Held last Thursday through Sunday at Brandt-Quirk Park, the event drew all of Wisconsin's top club teams.

"It was a great weekend for our program," said BATS program leader and 16U-Knoblauch head coach Kyle Knoblauch. "I am extremely proud of our players and coaches. It's great to see all of our hard work pay off. We knew if we played our brand of ball that we would have a great shot at winning multiple state championships."

BATS 14U

In the 14U tournament, the BATS squad outscored their opponents 47-to-13 while posting a 6-1 record across pool and bracket play. The keys to the BATS' success were relentless offensive production, consistent pitching and solid defense. Over the six games, the team batted .416 and had a team fielded % of .974.

Top offensive performers include Columbus' Leah Jakusz (.609 BA, 11 R, 3 RBI, 9 SB), Slinger's Sylvia Flairty (.480 BA, 9 R, 11 RBI), Poynette's Lizzie Schwenn (.444 BA, 5 RBI), Waterford's Grace Trautman (.421 BA, 6 RBI) Appleton's Madeline Kiley (.389, 7 RBI), Burlington's Gracie Peterson (.375, 8 R, 6 SB), Hartland's Lauren Porter (.348, 6 R, 3 SB), and Greenfield's Abby Cunningham (.333, 5 R, 3 RBI).

"I'm so proud that we stuck together as a team and with hard work and determination we achieved the win. I felt great at the plate and I'm happy it contributed to our championship. Roll BATS!" said catcher hitter Jakusz.

In the pitching circle, the team was led by Franksville's Angela Slattery and Oak Creek's Alaina Adams. Slattery had a 3-0 record and sported a 0.95 ERA for the tournament in 14.2 innings of work, and Adams had a 3-0 record with a 1.61 ERA across 13 innings. Flairty worked a total of 11 innings and earned the start in the title game throwing 6 solid innings. Slattery picked up the win in relieve in the title game throwing a scoreless 7th inning.

"It's neat to think that many of my teammates and I played on different teams and attempted to win state prior years. But once we came onto BATS we had the coaches and teammates that helped us take the ASA State Championship," said Slattery. "As a pitcher, half the battle is mental and it's reassuring to know that you're backed up by your defense. Just like my BATS team does."

In the title game with the score tied 2-2 in the bottom 7th. 3-hole hitter Porter laced a 1-out single to right. On the 1-0 count she stole second and then move up to third on the next pitch via a passed ball. On a 3-0 count with the game-winning runner on third, cleanup hitter Flairty came through in the clutch again, delivering a game-winning, walk-off single to right field scoring Porter.

“Hitting the game winner was just proving that all my hard work is paying off. I love seeing my teammates so ecstatic for the win!” said Flairty.

The BATS 14U squad overall record currently stands at 19-7. Next up, will be a trip to the PGF Midwest Firecracker Showcase in Westfield, IN.

BATS 16U-Knoblauch

For the tournament as a whole, the BATS 16U team outscored its opponents 57-to-4 while cruising to an undefeated 6-0 record. Key to the BATS’ success was the strength of the team’s pitching in the form of Oshkosh’s Annika Johnson and Sussex’s Mimi Bradley. Johnson had a 3-0 record, logging 15.1 innings, and 0.457 ERA with 15 strikeouts. Bradley was equally impressive with a 3-0 record, logging 14 innings, and 0.500 ERA with 15 strikeouts. Waukesha’s Maddy Anderson chipped in with 3.2 scoreless innings with 3 strikeouts. The three pitchers combined for an unheard of 0.424 ERA.

“We played great all weekend long and all three phases of our game were clicking. It’s fun to play in the BATS program.” said Johnson.”

“Our bats were hot this weekend which really makes it easier on us as pitchers to throw our game and trust our defense behind us.” said Bradley

The offensive star for BATS 16U-Knoblauch was Oshkosh’s Alyssa Brewer, an UW-Green Bay verbal commit, who batted .571 for the tournament with one double, two home runs, 11 runs batted. Other top performers included Bradford’s Sydney Strelow (.471 BA, 11 R, 4 2B’s, 5 RBI), Kaukauna’s Sidney Miller (.444 BA, 7 R), Bristol’s Becca Edwards (.389 BA, 2 2B’s, 10 RBI), Pleasant Prairie’s McKenzie Lamos (.385, 8 RBI, 5 SB), Appleton’s Marissa Mullen (.389 BA, 2 2B’s, 6 RBI) and Wilmot’s Hayli Richards (.571 BA, 6 RBI). The team had a batting average of .367, plating 9.5 runs per game.

In the title game, the BATS defeated FirePro Gold 13-1. The game was tight until the top of the 3rd inning when Brewer crushed a 3-run HR to deep center with 2 outs plating Wauconda’s Kayla Serio and Delevan’s Jaida Speth. Brewers homer made the score 5-1. In the following inning, the BATS broke the game wide-open; plating 6 runs on 7 hits. Bradley picked up the win in the circle, throwing a complete game with 4 strikeouts. Lead-off hitter, Miller was 2-for-4; Strelow was 2-for-4 with 2 doubles, 3 runs and one 1 RBI; Mullen was 2-for-3 with 2 runs and 1 RBI; Edwards was 1-for-3 with a double and 3 RBI; Brewer was 1-for-3 with the aforementioned 3-run HR and Richards was 1-for-2 with a 2-out RBI single. In total, the BATS had 13 hits.

Captain Marris Mullen summed it up best, “All of our pitchers were throwing great, our defense was solid, and the entire line up was making contributions on offense. Winning a state title was a very special experience that I will remember for the rest of my life!”

The BATS 16U-Knoblauch squad was on the heels of their 1st place finish (48 team field) at the Compuware Classic College Showcase in Canton, MI. The team’s overall record stands at 18-3, currently riding an 11-game winning-streak. Next up, will be a trip to the PGF Midwest Firecracker Showcase in Westfield, IN.

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