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Phillies win 2013 Western Canadian U14 softball championship

South Interlake aces Prince Albert in gold-medal game

By Brian Bowman

The South Interlake Phillies are the 2013 Western Canadian U14 softball champions.

South Interlake ruined the party for the host Prince Albert Lake Boyz RV Aces in the gold-medal game, hanging on for a thrilling 9-7 victory Monday afternoon.

"It was unbelievable," said Phillies' head coach Joe Cabral Tuesday afternoon. "Talking to a couple of girls here, it hasn't sunken in yet. They are the best team in western Canada and it's quite an achievement."

In the championship final, the Phillies wasted little time offensively, taking an early 4-0 lead after just two innings.

"We played them in the round robin and beat them and then they beat us in the 1 versus 1, so for us to come back with two runs in the first and second innings gave us some confidence," Cabral said. "And then we got five runs in the sixth, which was enough for us to hold on."

Prince Albert chipped away at South Interlake's lead but the Phillies flexed their offensive muscles when they needed to in that sixth inning.

South Interlake's Tatum Lindley was named the player of the game in the finals.

To reach the championship game, the Phillies edged the Saskatoon Lasers 7-6, scoring the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning. It was a great character win to keep the Phillies' season alive.

South Interlake was forced to play that bronze-medal game against Saskatoon after losing 11-4 to the Aces in



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY PERRY BERGSON, PRINCE ALBERT HERALD

Phillies Emma Stafford crosses home plate to advance her team to the championship game. The Phillies defeated the Saskatoon Lasers 7-6.

that 1 vs. 1 game.

"The girls went 6-0 in the round robin and then after losing the 1-1 game and being down in the bronze-medal game, we came back and won 7-6. To win this (final) game showed a lot of character," Cabral stressed. "They wanted the gold."

Winning that one-run game over Saskatoon gave the Phillies plenty of momentum heading into the gold-medal contest.

The Phillies had that same type of momentum at the start of the provincials, going a perfect 6-0 in the preliminary round-robin and earning the No. 1 seed going into the playoffs.

South Interlake opened tournament play last Friday by silencing the Manitoba Thunder 9-0 and then defeated the Saskatoon Raiders 12-5. On Saturday, the Phillies annihilated the Aces 15-6 as South Interlake exploded for nine runs in the fourth inning to trounce Prince Albert in just five innings.

Brielle Cara went 4-for-4 with three runs scored and two RBI for South Interlake while Kyra Shewchuk homered for the Phillies. Shewchuk also pitched, earning the win.

South Interlake then improved its record to 4-0 as the Phillies outslugged River City 11-10.

South Interlake nearly squandered an early 10-0 lead when River City scored four runs in both the fifth and sixth innings. Amber Schneider homered for the Phillies while Gillian Kerwin had three hits. Lindley earned the win on the mound.

South Interlake then finished the round-robin in style by scoring seven runs in two innings midway in the game to erase an early 3-0 deficit to double Calgary 8-4. Cara had two hits, including a homer, drove in two runs and scored twice. Schneider also homered while Shewchuk earned the victory.