

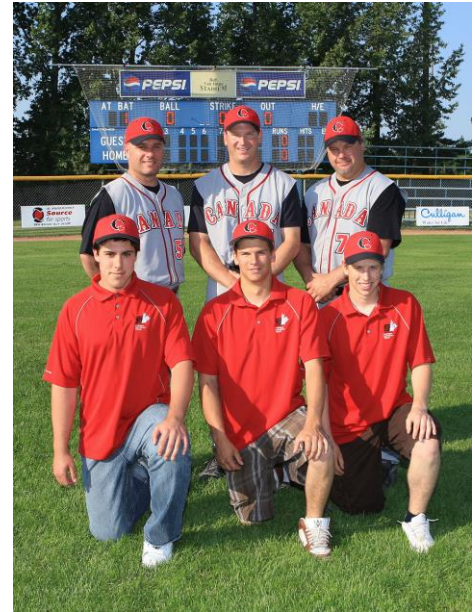
Three Saskatoon Stars Shine For Team Canada



One more out. That was all Team Canada needed to win its first gold medal on home soil at the 2008 ISF Junior Men's World Fast Pitch Championship, but a clutch single up the middle scored both the tying and go-ahead runs to give Australia the 2-1 victory. Australia's come-from-behind win in Whitehorse marked the fourth consecutive time the country has captured the gold medal at this tournament. The loss for Canada ended what was a magical run for the young Canadian squad.

"I was so proud of my athletes in the dedication and performance that they acquitted themselves with here," said Tom Doucette, Team Canada's head coach. "A silver medal is great; (we) lost a gold medal by about two feet when the ball just slipped through the middle. I just can't say how proud I am of our program and of the team and their efforts and I hope we made Whitehorse proud as well."

The three local players who played for Team Canada: Travis Dauvin, Derek Arsenie and Devon McCullough did Canada and Saskatoon proud, as they were an integral part of the silver medal winning. The three team mates from the Saskatoon Aspen Midget Selects were part of the six man contingent from Saskatchewan that also included Dustin Keshane of Norquay, Dennis Iron from Canoe Narrows and Terrell Walker from Balcarres. No other province had more than three players. McCullough and Keshane were Canada's two go to men on the mound. Devon McCullough pitched well all week. He finished with a 2.45 ERA in 25 innings pitched and chipped in offensively batting 14 for 19, for a .474 average in round robin play. However, he may have saved his best game of the tournament for last, as he was given the start in the final game. According to Doucette "(Dustin) Keshane is a tremendous pitcher and had the hot hand, but we made the right decision to come back to (Devon) McCullough. He pitched a heck of a game for us and came one pitch away from a World Championship."



Keith Mackintosh, Trevor Ethier, Dean Holoien with Travis, Devon and Derek

McCullough said he was disappointed about not winning the gold, but was still pleased with the way Canada played through out the championship. "The whole team played great this whole tournament," he said. "We had a great final and there is nothing more you can ask for that." Arsenie and Dauvin also did very well. Arsenie, a catcher, played a key defensive role throughout the tournament including catching in the final game. During the round robin, he batted .333 in 9 plate appearances. Dauvin gave up no runs in the 3 innings he pitched and hit an impressive .400 in his 20 plate appearances. The future is bright for men's fastpitch softball in Saskatoon with a great crop of up and coming players. Along with being members of the National Team, all three were major contributors to the gold medal winning Aspen Selects at the 2008 Midget Nationals in Brantford. Two won individual awards. Travis was named All Star Utility Player and Devon was named top Pitcher for the Preliminary Round.