



2007 NAFA World Series August 16-26 West Des Moines and Des Moines

Day Three - Saturday August 18

Volume 3, Issue 3

Day Three at the 2007 NAFA World Series is highlighted by the start of play in NAFA newest classification, Class AA-Major.

After the 2003 World Series in Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, NAFA decided to take a new direction in its classification structure.

The result of this new direction was the creation of the Class A-Major. This classification was created to minimize the gap that was being created between upper level Class A teams and the remainder of the Class A teams who were considered, for the most part, local "town" teams.

Class A-Major was created for those teams in Class A that had grown above the competitive balance of the more traditional Class A teams but not yet ready to compete competitively at the Class AA level.

The result of this decision has been an increase in not only numbers at the Class A and A-Major levels, but an increase in competition as well as a noticeable competitive balance in each class.

Faced with a similar situation the last three years, NAFA will once again take a new direction in its classification structure with the creation of Class AA-Major.

The current status of the Major-level game has forced a overwhelming number of teams that were traditionally Class AAA for NAFA into the category of "Open" based on the need for an Open level pitcher or a handful of "Open" level players simply to compete at the Major level, creating a decrease in participants in NAFA's AAA division.

Yet, the upper-level teams in Class AA are not on the same level as the AAA teams that still exist in NAFA, some of which do and do not compete at the ISC World Tournament.

As was the case in 2003 with Class A, the same disparity has risen in Class AA for NAFA.

The upper-level Class AA teams are at a level higher than the teams in the lower, which include teams reclassified from Class A-Major each year.

It is with this reclassification that NAFA will attempt to grow the game by allowing the competitive balance that teams look for to continue to strive each August.

As A-Major currently serves as a bridge between Classes A and AA, Class AA-Major will serve as a bridge between Class AA and AAA.

Approximately 18 teams and 25 pitchers have been reclassified to create Class AA-Major.

These reclassifications will result in a new look Class AA division that will look similar to the inaugural Class A-Major Division of play in Hutchinson, Kansas in 2004. The result will be a class of play that will stronger each year and while this year's first NAFA AA-Major event is only 14 teams in size, it could very prove to be the tournament's most competi-

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One Year Ago

One year ago the NAFA World Series was held in Appleton and Kimberly, Wisconsin and Wisconsin-based teams claimed titles in five of the six divisions played.

Here's a quick reminder of what happened in the Fox Valley.

Open: Circle Tap (Denmark, Wisc) and Townline (Green Bay, Wisc) shared the title as rain cancelled the final after just three innings of play.

AAA: The Bar of Appleton-Mix (Appleton, Wisc) walked away with the crown in the six team field.

AA: New Image (Monfort, Wisc) went undefeated en route to their first NAFA World Title, defeating the Larry Miller Hogs (Salt Lake City, Utah) in the final.

A-Major: Cerro Gordo (Dawson, Minn) was the only team not from the host state to claim a championship, downing Village Inn (Hudson, Wisc) to win the A-Major crown.

A: Schneid's Bar (Madison, Wisc) walked away with the title, outlasting the DC Current (Bremen, Ind).

23-and-Under: The Bar of Green Bay/PMF (Green Bay, Wisc) became the second every champion in 23-and-Under.

Did You Know?

That Brecka's II Orangemen of Rice Lake, Wisconsin are the only team to have competed in every NAFA World Series?

The Orangemen have been sponsored by a variety of businesses over the years under the guidance of Ronn Kopp, the President of NAFA's Executive Committee.

The highest finish for the Orangemen came in 2002 (Salem, Ore) when they finished second in Class A.

Following the Locals

Class AA

RR=Raccoon River Park

DM=Des Moines Softball Complex

Winterset A's (Winterset), 0-1

Fri-vs Scarletts Sox (SD), 4-1 loss

Today-Indiana Lawmen 6:30pm, DSM #1

Class AA-Major-Starts today

Reasnor RPMs (Monroe), 0-0

vs Wilkomm Mobil (Wisc) 9:45am, RR #2

Palazzo's Java House (Des Moines), 0-0

-vs Blackhawk AC (Ill) 9:45am, RR #3

2007 NAFA Events

Wood Bat World Series

Sept. 1-3, Longmont, Colorado

Masters Eastern Zone Championships

September 8 and 9, Rockford, Illinois

35-, 40-, 45- and 50-and-Over Divisions

Masters Eastern Zone Championships

September 15 and 16, Carson City, Nevada

35-, 40-, 45- and 50-and-Over Divisions

Check out www.nafafastpitch.com
for more details!

