

World Series & More Golf at Fox Run

Written by By Tom Hartsock Sun Correspondent
Friday, 31 July 2015 04:43



What a great last week for baseball fans! The inaugural AABC Willie Mays (9-10 year-old division) Regional World Series in Gallup. Good ball playing by all eight teams, sparkling defense, awesome offense, and a lot of sportsmanship thrown into that mix.

As you may have already seen in the daily media, Las Cruces won the title with a 10-4 win over the Gallup Sun Devils, but there was more, much more for the fans that followed their young people in the three-day tournament, not all as described in the other journal.

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Offensively, there was the power-bat of Steven Milam of Las Cruces, who cranked out five home runs – three from the right side and two from the left – to earn the individual Batting trophy. He also collected an inside-the-park home run with his feet in at least one game, and several triples and doubles.

Selected for the Sportsmanship trophy was Gallup's own Rhys Sellers, who made a tremendous effort defensively in the semi-final. That play brought a lot of oohs and aahs from both sets of fans as the young shortstop ranged about 10 feet to his right to backhand a hard-hit grounder and still had the right arm necessary to throw out the runner at first. Rhys also served as a pitcher for the Sun Devils and was a constant batting threat from his lead-off position. And, lest we forget, he was a true gentleman on the field. After plunking a couple of batters from his mound position, Rhys immediately walked to first base to shake their hand and apologize for his errant pitches.

The MVP of the tournament was earned by Riley Hall. Like Sellers, he also batted first and made timely and important contributions to his Las Cruces team during the entire tournament.

The weather held off most of the rain except for a few drops, the teams came to play, the fans to watch, and the umpires to make the correct calls, making this tournament one of the best this writer has attended in a while.

Hopefully, next season we can get another shot at a couple more tournaments for AABC, at this or other age levels.

Fox Run Tournaments

The grass is greener at Fox Run, and although not all of the problems have been fixed, the course will be hosting several tournaments in the next few weeks.

First up is the Ceremonial Tournament, but the group is still trying to select a date that would satisfy the most people, either the eighth or fifteenth of August.

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Set firmly in place is the Lions Club/Veterans Tournament which is scheduled for Sunday, August 23. That will be a three-person scramble, best ball. The price will be \$210 per team - \$70 per player – and that will include Green Fees, Cart, and Lunch. Contact Tom Martinez at 879-6137 for more information.

This 7th Annual Tournament will begin at 9 am and there will be additional prizes awarded for Longest Drive, Closest to Pin, Longest Putt, and Highest Score, not to mention the further incentive of \$10,000 for a Hole-In-One on all Par 3 holes.

The Gallup Lions are an avid supporter of Veterans Helping Veterans, a local organization handling most of the problems that returning veterans face when they return from overseas deployment.

Big Brothers Big Sisters will be holding their golf tournament on August 30, and RMCH is still making a decision about whether to make their annual event – on hiatus last year – a one or two-day event in early September.

High school sports schedules

Schools will be starting up soon, as will TDFL and I think Youth Soccer, though I could be wrong about the latter. Anyway, schedules will again be posted for the same four schools – Gallup, Miyamura, Rehoboth and Wingate – in the same four major colors, with other schedules in appropriate colors as well.

It's not a time to relax for me though, as my anticipation will increase as those seasons get underway and I have a chance to see you in the bleachers! Pick a gym or field, and if you can keep up with me, we'll talk!