

## National Association of the Deaf Softball Tournament

August 9 - 11, 2007

Dayton, Ohio

*Reported by CAAD Commissioner Bonnie R. Schwebke*

2007 NSAD Championship - Chicago Catholic Ephpheta



PAH! After a long wait, it is my great pleasure to announce that CAAD's Chicago Catholic Ephpheta (CCE) captured the Championship at National Association of the Deaf Softball Tournament (NSAD) after a very hard battle. With temperatures topping 90 degrees, and 100% humidity making the air feel even hotter, all NSAD teams were in their dug-outs and played their full schedule of games in the Tournament held in Dayton, Ohio the weekend of August 9 - 11, 2007.

Along with the heat and humidity, which got worse and worse with every game, every single player contributed. Throughout the weekend, we saw amazing catches in the outfield, a sweet slide at the plate, and a gap-shot double to bring in runs. All teams battled fiercely and competed to the best of their abilities.

In the early rounds, there were a lot of exciting games to watch, especially CCE vs. Fremont Hoy's Boys, where the score was tied 15-15 at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. In the tie-breaker, which used Kansas City rules, we all were biting our nails as Fremont Hoy's Boys added 4 runs in 6<sup>th</sup> inning, bringing the score to 18-15. Our home team, CCE, energized their bats and added 3 runs to tie the score at 18, then Joey Kutcha of CCE hit the ball, which darted between 2B and centerfield, bringing home a runner to win the game, 19-18.

The Double Elimination Softball Tournament, Maryland Eagles had the advantages with NO loss, had been resting a lot while CCE had one loss and had been playing one after the other and CCE must win two straight games in order to capture the NSAD Championship. CCE amazingly whipped Maryland Eagles with the score of 38 - 18 that had prompted into the final game for both teams. Both had one loss and both have their very last chance to capture the Championship.

At the very final game of Double Elimination Championship between the Maryland Eagles and CCE began at sunset, which eased the heat and humidity a little. The Eagles led off with 1 run in the 1st inning, then added 8 runs in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. After Charles Bright, the athletic director of CCE, brought in food from McDonald's to restore the CCE players' energy, CCE fiercely battled back, scoring 7 runs in the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning to bring the score to 8-7. The Eagles answered with 1 more run in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning to stay ahead 10 -7, while CCE struggled and had no runs. In the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, the Eagles added one more run,

then CCE's power hitting added 9 runs, giving them the lead 16-11. After the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, CCE - who had the home field advantage - ran away with the game, averaging 10 runs ahead in each inning. As the Championship game approached the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, everyone's adrenaline was pumping. CAADers were biting their nails, waving and shouting "3 more outs," "1-2-3 Out," stomping their feet, rooting for our CAAD team as they watched them play the final inning. The Eagles batted and added only 1 run, and CCE captured the Championship! All of the CCE players jumped and piled up with joy, and the CAADers, other fans, officers, family and spouses joined the celebration on the field, giving all the players many bear hugs. Terry DeBoer of CCE burst into tears of joy and kept saying, "I've been playing for 31 years and have been waiting for this historic moment." The game had been a long one - taking a historic amount of time - but in the end our CCE whipped the Eagles 38-18 and 26 -17!

Kenneth LaVoy of CCE was awarded numerous awards: Most Valuable Player of the Championship Game, Most Outstanding Player of the Tournament, Batting Average, and Most RBIs. CCE Coach, Brian Fruits, who had coordinated CCE's 10 games with only 1 loss, was awarded the Coach of the Tournament.

Columbus Association of the Deaf (CAD) and WSAD - Men placed in 9<sup>th</sup> and Detroit Association of the Deaf (DAD) placed 25<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, Maryland Timberfest defeated CAAD's West Suburban Association of the Deaf (WSAD) women's team to take the Women's Championship. Greater Milwaukee Association of the Deaf (GMAD) ranked in 9<sup>th</sup> Place.

Now, two CAAD teams have captured the Championship, Men - CCE and COED - Greater Indianapolis of the Deaf (GIDC).

The results and scoreboard of NSAD Softball Tournament can be checked out at [http://nsad.org/events/2007\\_NSAD\\_tournament/index.php](http://nsad.org/events/2007_NSAD_tournament/index.php)

The highlights of NSAD Softball Tournament and Meetings are as follows:

- ❖ Fifteen minutes before the NSAD Board of Directors Meeting, I was handed a letter that said that both CAAD and FWSAD could not participate in any NSAD Meetings, because CAAD and FWSAD paid the Region Membership AFTER July 1<sup>st</sup>. CAAD challenged NSAD, asking for due process. We disputed the ruling, and NSAD granted me a seat at the NSAD Board of Directors Meeting and asked that CAAD present the documents that CAAD had received from NSAD after paying the 2006 Region Membership Dues (which were refunded to CAAD with a note stating that NSAD is no longer collecting the region membership dues). This year, when NSAD sent out the 2007 NSAD Packet/Guidelines, there was NOT any information about region membership included. Indeed, NSAD rushed to judgment against CAAD and FWSAD, without checking the reason(s) why our Region Membership dues were not paid by July 1<sup>st</sup>. After reviewing 2006 email and investigating the NSAD Packet/Guidelines, NSAD admitted that that it made an error in revoking both CAAD and FWSAD, and then granted CAAD and FWSAD seats at NSAD Softball Council Meeting.
- ❖ NSAD Board of Directors Meeting:
  - Reviewed 20 proposals.
  - Discussed the dwindling number of teams. CAAD emphasized that, this year, 5 out of 8 Regions have fewer than 10 teams, and Proposal #1 is not the solution because it divides us more and more. Instead of dividing ourselves, CAAD persuaded all Regions to have a summit to brainstorm (a) how to recruit more teams, (b) how to find sponsors for underprivileged players living in isolated areas, and (c) to promote more public awareness about NSAD and the Regions. CAAD had notified the Board of Directors in advance that CAAD will rescind the motion for Proposal #1 at the NSAD Softball Council Meeting.
  - A motion was moved and passed regarding the MAAD 2008 Softball Tournament (which will be held AFTER 2008 NSAD Softball Tournament) to suspend a Bylaw in NSAD and to require that MAAD teams pay a \$100 security deposit - in addition to the NSAD Tournament fee - and to withhold any of NSAD Traveling Prize awarded to any of MAAD Teams. Monies withheld will be reimbursed promptly after all MAAD teams show up at the MAAD Softball Tournament.

- Discussed the reasons to eliminate the position of NSAD Secretary-Treasurer because finding someone who can be both Secretary and Treasurer is a problem. The duties of Secretary-Treasurer will be distributed among the NSAD Officers (*Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Treasurer, Sports Information and Tournament Director*) and a Recording Secretary will be appointed only for NSAD Meetings.
  - NWSAD moved that all Regional Tournaments have an NSAD Officer give her/his report at Regional Softball Delegate Meeting and that any Region that does not honor this motion will be banned from participating at any NSAD Meetings.
  - Discussed the results of the NSAD Survey, which is not official because two Regions were not able to do the Survey. The contradictory questions asked in the Survey were also discussed.
- ❖ NSAD Softball Council Meeting:
- The resolution of Pittsburgh's issue: resolved that any player who is a member of PAD, regardless of where the player lives, is eligible to play for CAAD; whereas any other Pennsylvania nonmember of PAD is recognized as a part of ESAD.
  - 2007 NSAD Proposal #1 is rescinded and passed.
  - Free Agent issue
    - A motion was moved and passed to post on the NSAD Website the names and cities and states where ALL teams players are registered.
  - A motion was moved and passed that NSAD Individual Membership fees of \$5 and \$25 per Team Member are to be removed and restructured into a \$100 Flat Fee.
  - There were 6 motions moved and failed to rescind 2006 motion # SB-01/06 - Put CAAD on 1-year probation, amended and if they commit any violation within 5 years, they will be fined \$500.00.
    - The motion above became a running joke during NSAD weekend: everyone was joking with each other about being fined "\$500 for taking my soda by mistake," "\$500 for stepping on my foot," "\$500 fine for swearing," etc.
  - Appointed Nancy Ravindra as NSAD interim Treasurer until next NSAD Officer's election.
  - A motion was moved and passed to trim the Registration Form from 20 players to 17 players, starting in 2008.
  - NSAD appointed Alex Simmons to be its Webmaster.
  - ASA vs. USSSA
    - A motion was moved and passed that NSAD will follow USSSA rulings, starting in 2008.
    - NSAD will have USSSA operate the tournament.
- ❖ NSAD Softball Tournament:
- Several players were not able to play at NSAD because those players did not bring their Drivers License to validate their identity. It was discussed among the players, officers, and fans that NSAD should have notified all players ahead of time that every player MUST bring their Drivers License or State Identification in order to play in the NSAD Softball Tournament. Any player who did not bring his/her drivers license or state ID, regardless of how well-known, was not admitted to NSAD as a player, but was admitted as a Fan.
  - Admission for children was not charged on Friday, but was charged on Saturday.
  - The main issue discussed during the NSAD weekend was that some teams had more free agents than they were allowed.

Big "high fives" to: (1) CCE for their tireless efforts in bringing a historic moment to CAAD and (2) Brian Fruits, Coach of CCE, who emphatically promised in early May that CCE would win the NSAD Championship this year. Of course, it has been one of CAAD's goals to have a CAAD team capture the Championship since NSAD formed in 1976. After thirty-one years, it was a worth waiting for, and CAAD thanks CCE for ending the long wait.