

SOFTBALL TEAM TURNS IN STRONG PERFORMANCE

The Newport Beach Softball Team (Beach City Bums) turned in an impressive performance this past weekend in the Desert Classic Police Softball Tournament, in Palm Springs. This is the tournament that was previously run by our “old” softball team but has since been turned over to a police team from San Diego.

Thirty teams from around the state competed in the two day tournament, which began with four team round robin play on Saturday. The B.C. Bums started off the day with an impressive 22-5 victory against Upland P.D. The team was quickly brought back to reality in the next game, losing to the eventual tournament champions, California Quakes, 25-2. The Quakes are a statewide combo team that wins nearly every tournament it enters. It could be compared to the Anaheim Angels playing the CDM Sea Kings. It was quite ugly as the Bums put together only 4 hits before the game was called a mercy.

In the Saturday afternoon game, the Bums were matched up against a strong San Diego Excessive Force squad. Excessive Force is ranked eighth in the state and needed the victory to remain in the ‘A’ flight, single elimination event on Sunday. The Bums started off strong with tens runs in the first inning. The Force tried to work their way back into the game, but the Bums defense and impressive offensive production would not allow it. The Bums pulled off an incredible upset with a 21-14 victory.

The newly created softball team was over-matched in the Sunday single elimination round. The boys came out flat and the DEA combo team, ranked 4th in the state, crushed the Bums dream of making it to the finals, 15-2.

The Beach City Bums were led in hitting by coach Randy Querry, Tom Voth, Jerry Lowe, and Mark Short who all posted batting averages over .700. Corey Wolik turned in an impressive performance from the mound and Brian Schrieber got some great experience playing outfield in his first police softball tournament.

The B.C. Bums are already being talked about in the police softball arena. An article was recently published on the police softball website, www.policesoftball.com, which stated the Bums are the team to watch. Our new team has a lot of successful history to live up to, but based on my experience playing with both teams, I think the new team has the potential to be much better than the old team. It’s just a matter of the old guys realizing they are just that, **old**, and letting the younger guys step-up and takeover. However, as long as the old guys are hitting .700 they aren’t going to surrender their position in the batting order.

Desert Classic participants: Bryan Moore, Jeff Munsell, Brian Schrieber, Mark Short, Todd Bush, Tom Voth, Jerry Lowe, Randy Querry, Shawn Preasmyer, Pat Olson, Corey Wolik.