

## Amherst Girls Softball League

# 'Major' Brewers come back to win bronze division crown

The "Major" Brewers rallied from an early four-run deficit and held off a furious Phillies' rally to take the bronze division championship with a 19-18 win in Amherst Girls Softball League play.

The Phillies jumped out to a quick 5-1 lead behind a solid team hitting effort and the pitching of Ali Ferenczy, who also had three hits on the day.

The Brewers quickly battled back in the second to close the Phillies' lead to 5-4 behind the aggressive base running of Emily Fleming, Pam Guerrero and Sara Bampton, who scored the first of her four runs.

The Brewers' Kelsey Hughes took the mound in the bottom of the second and quickly retired the Phillies' side on only four pitches. This marked the first of three strong innings for Hughes, who had one of her best pitching efforts of the year.

The inning was highlighted by the stellar defense of Lisa Harb, making her first-ever appearance at third base. Harb grabbed a hot ground ball down the third base line and made the long throw to Shannon Lawlor to retire the Phillies' first batter.

The Brewers briefly took the lead in the top of the fourth, propelled by Lawlor's two-run triple and a two-RBI single by Merissa Loos. Alyssa Maraszek also con-



The Brewers held off the Phillies to win the Amherst Girls Softball League's "Major" bronze division title, 19-18. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: first row - Katie Long, Emily Fleming, Abigail Cimato, Alyssa Maraszek; second row - Kelsey Hughes, Pam Guerrero, coach Phil Fleming, coach Jeff Hughes, coach Mike Cimato, Taylor Plewinski, Lisa Harb, Sara Bampton, Shannon Lawlor and Merissa Loos.

tributed a key single and kept the Brewers alive by sliding in to second to avert a forced out.

however, led by Molly Kuranski with one of her two hits on the

day. The Phillies ended the fourth, holding on to an 11-10 lead.

The Brewers took the lead for good with six runs in the fifth. Loos' two-RBI double started the rally, and heads-up base running by Katie Long and catcher Taylor Plewinski resulted in some key Brewer runs. Plewinski had her best game of the season behind the plate, anchoring the Brewers' defense for all six innings.

Fleming took the mound for the Brewers in the bottom of the fifth and quickly struck out three batters with her blazing fastball. The Brewers added to their lead when Maraszek cleared the bases with a three-run single.

The Phillies refused to give up and rallied to score seven runs in the bottom of the sixth, pulling to within 19-18. Alyson Ferenczy had the second of her two hits on the night, and Ali Brace scored the third of her three runs.

The Brewers called on reliever Abigail Cimato, who had played a great game at shortstop, to stop the Phillies' onslaught. Always good in a pinch, Cimato quickly retired the first batter she faced.

Shortly thereafter, Loos fielded a grounder to second and tossed the ball to Lawlor for the final out, sealing the Brewers' first-ever championship.



The Angels defeated the White Sox, 6-3, to win the Amherst Girls Softball League's "Major" division gold bracket playoff championship. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: sitting in front, Blair Pembleton; second row - Gina Nasca, Megan Kerr, Jessica Lynett, Laura Zaprowski; third row - Danielle Carrow, Sarah Rupp, Ashley Anaya, Rachael Nasca, Krista Rasey, Bayle Cruz; fourth row - assistant coach Sal Nasca and head coach Jim Rasey; missing from photo - Kelly Stockman, Emily Crumb, coach Tom Kerr.

## Angels rally, defeat White Sox for 'Major' gold title

The Angels scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to erase a one-run deficit and propel them to a 6-3 win over the White Sox in the championship game of the Amherst Girls Softball League "Major" division gold bracket.

With one out and the bases loaded, the Angels got consecutive singles by Megan Kerr, Blair Pembleton, Krista Rasey and Bayle Cruz, who each drove in a run.

Sarah Rupp (three walks, run scored), Jessica Lynett (walk and hit) and Danielle Carrow (two walks, run scored) also contributed significantly to the Angels' offense.

The White Sox's offense was led by Joslin Downey (two hits) and Abbey Staebell (hit, walk) as well as Audrey Yu (double), Ashley Bogan, Julie Brady and Bobbi Walls, who each had a hit.

The game featured great pitching and excellent defense on the part of both teams. Rasey and Laura Zaprowski pitched very well for the Angels, and Tori Mendiola and Michelle Haumesser pitched equally well for the White Sox.

### Angels 14, Marlins 6

In their first playoff game in the "Majors" gold bracket, the Angels hammered out five home runs, which led to a 14-6 win over the Marlins.

Krista Rasey hit two home runs, Bayle Cruz had one home run among her four hits, and Sarah Rupp and Blair Pembleton each had a home run and two other hits to lead the offense.

Megan Kerr added two doubles, and Gina Nasca and Jessica Lynett each had a pair of hits for the Angels.

The Angels also received solid pitching from Lynett, Rasey and Laura Zaprowski.

The Marlins' offense was led by Abby Spohn's two hits and Lauren Stall, Meghan Ducey, Chelsea Loomis and Jenna Sewiert, who all had hits and scored runs.

Tory Trzyna and Nicole Infanti provided good pitching, and Michelle Lonski provided excellent defense for the Marlins.

## 'Major' White Sox edge Braves in first round of playoffs

The "Major" White Sox came to play in the first round of the Amherst Girls Softball League playoffs against a Braves team who beat the White Sox convincingly in the teams' first regular season game. The White Sox won 13-10.

Solid pitching, strong hitting and key defensive plays carried the White Sox to a playoff victory. It was the best all-around team effort this season.

Michelle Haumesser pitched the first three innings and racked up four strikeouts while limiting the Braves to only three runs scored.

Tori Mendiola came in the fourth and pitched the game's final four innings. The Braves would continually fake bunt on the first few pitches in an attempt to disrupt Mendiola's concentration, however, Mendiola worked through it and finished the game with six strikeouts. Two of those strikeouts came in the bottom of the seventh as the Braves were mounting a comeback. The Braves had two runs already across the plate and had two more runners on base but Mendiola struck out the final two Braves to seal the victory.

The other side of the White Sox battery,

catcher Claire Haumesser, picked off five runners over the course of the game, two in the first inning. Three Braves were caught stealing second, one stealing third and one was picked off at first after taking too big of a leadoff.

Most of the game's offense and runs came in the fifth inning for both teams. The White Sox were able to produce eight runs off six hits in the top of the inning. The Braves came back and scored five runs but it was not enough to catch the White Sox.

Mendiola not only pitched a great game but also provided some important and timely of-

fense. She went 2 for 2 with three RBIs and scored three runs for the White Sox. Other White Sox pitcher Michelle Haumesser contributed as well, hitting 2 for 4 with a triple but it was her four RBIs that really helped the White Sox to victory. Abbey Staebell, who played at first and third base, went 3 for 4 with two RBIs.

Shortstop Joslin Downey provided an RBI and hit 2 for 4, which included a triple in the exciting fifth inning. Lara Macdonald scored a run for the White Sox while providing a hit in three trips to the plate. Nicole Dukarm scored two runs as did Julie Brady.