

Triple Crown World Series offers softball and much more...

SPARKS, NV – Of course softball was the main reason 120 youth Fastpitch teams were in the Reno-Sparks area the week of July 25-30, but there was also much more than the competition on the field. The Triple Crown Girls Fastpitch World Series 10U and 12U kicked off the week with a team skills contest held at Golden Eagle Regional Park. Girls participated in bunting, running and throwing contests. Team XPORTEX Fastpitch from West Covina, CA won the 10U Team Skills Contest with So Cal Rage second and Henderson, Nevada's Team Harrigan in third. For the 12U it was the CC Dirt Dogs 98 from Fresno, CA on top followed by Stealth, Palmdale, CA and the SoCal Hurricanes.

Following the skills contests, teams competed for fun prizes at the Opening Ceremonies with Team Harrigan winning the 10U Best Dressed award, UT Hot Shotz the Spirit Award and Coeur d'Alene Crush 2000 the State Theme award. In the 12U division RR Gold representing California won the State Theme Award with Best Dressed going to the Lil Saints of Glendale, AZ. The Opening Ceremonies were held at the Reno Event Center where teams were announced. Team pin trading was a big part of the week as well with the California Thunder team winning the Best Team Pin Contest.

On Thursday evening teams attending the Reno Aces baseball game were recognized as they paraded around the field prior to the game.

This was the 15th year of the TCS World Series with teams coming from qualifying Triple Crown tournaments or at large berths. There were 11 Nevada teams in

the tournament along with teams from Utah, Idaho, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Hawaii. Teams played at Golden Eagle Regional Park, Shadow Mountain Sports Complex, Spanish Springs High School, Idlewild Park, the Reno Sports Complex and Bishop Manogue High School fields.

"One of the best things about our partnership with Sparks is that Triple Crown bought fence systems for the ball fields," tournament director Bill Walters said. "It's something that's been missing in the fastpitch arena in Reno, so we're glad we could help out with that." This is the first of a five-year agreement between Triple Crown Sports and Sparks to host the tournament. In 2012 Sparks will host an 18-and-under tourney, and in 2013 it will host a 16-and-under competition, Walters said.

In softball action teams played in round robin games and were then seeded into double elimination brackets according to their records.

In the 12U Bronze Division the Utah Freeze defeated the Blk Mtn Ballers from San Diego, CA by the score of 6-4 for the championship. They met earlier in the morning where Utah again won 4-2 sending the Ballers into the loser's bracket. The Ballers defeated the Guava Jam Stan from Mililani, HI to earn the rematch against the Freeze.

The 12U Silver division was extremely competitive as the championship and if games were both decided by one run. In the winner's bracket game the Palmdale, CA Stealth defeated the Calexico (CA) Dynasty 6-1. Calexico then defeated third place finisher So Cal Bombers 99 (Granada Hills, CA) 1-0 for a place in the finals. Calexico kept up the defense as they beat Stealth



Utah Freeze pitcher Kylie Jones fires the ball home in the 12U Bronze championship game. Smedes photos.



Utah Freeze's Breah Ava is safe at home after a collision with Blk Mtn Ballers catcher Ally Dibsie in the 12U Bronze Championship game. Smedes photo.

2-1 to force the if game. In the if game, Stealth downed Calexico 6-5 for top honors.

The Vacaville, CA Sorcerer 98 squad had an outstanding weekend with a 9-1 overall record for the 12U Gold Division title. The Sorcerer 98 defeated the Suncats 98 from Oro Valley, AZ 6-0 in the title game. The Runnin Rebels Gold 99 team finished third.

In the 10U Silver division Sacramento, CA's Rocklin Hype were sent to the loser's bracket from a 2-1 loss to OC Mizuno in the winner's bracket game. The Hype played a close game against Glendale, AZ Liberty 2000 edging out a 2-1 win to get back to the title game. OC Mizuno, from Buena Park, CA, again proved too tough, winning 3-1 for the championship.

The So Cal Venom 00 team from Chula Vista, CA won a close championship game by the score of 2-0 over Team 2000 in the 10U Gold division. The Venom squad was a perfect 9-0 for the week. Team 2000 from Sahuarita, AZ made it to the championship game by winning a 1-0 squeaker over the third place team So Cal Rage 00 from Norwalk, CA.