

## **Over 70 Tournament Team Wins Championship in Opening Tournament at Bryan, TX**

You all thought Opening Day for Softball was this Monday but the >70's beat everybody to the punch by playing their first tournament in Bryan, TX on Thursday and Friday of last week. Just to kick it off in the proper way, they took the Championship and the Champions gray hoodies. Beats the heck out of a ribbon or a patch.

After the tournament, Coach Gary Smith mentioned that even though we won, for the first time we missed a little of that spirit and energy in the dugout and on the field. I thought about that. For the first time ever at one of our tournaments there were no wives at the games. They wisely chose to pass on this one when they looked at the weather: rain and low temperatures. It was miserable in Bryan with temps never rising above 55 degrees and plenty of rain & wet fields. The ladies are definitely smarter than the men, but we missed them and the spark they provide. We might have drunk a little more whiskey, but for the first time we didn't take even one picture. Come back ladies, we missed you. Sandi Hill's presence was felt by all as she provided well needed snack paks for the drive home. Thank you Sandi!

Thursday, we played two pool games against 70AAA teams and split, winning the first game 25 – 17, but losing the second 18 – 19. That's not a bad result. Although there were about 7 >75 teams (let's get your stuff together you >75 boys and win some hardware or take home the cotton as they say in softball), there was only one other

>70AA team, so it was a 2 out of 3 championship round. And you know who came home with the hoodies (the cotton). RR took the first game in a squeaker, 11-10. The final game ended with a comfortable, 18 -8 win over Triple Deuce for the championship.

Defense was tough in the muddy infield and pooled outfield but several RRers stood out. Both pitchers, Gary King and Carl Caruso, had a heck of a tournament throwing wet balls in windy conditions and each making several catches and put outs, not to mention they were both All-Tournament selections. Bill Smiley had some marvelous catches in the slippery conditions, reaching behind his back on one catch as he was sliding forward through a pool of water. Lynal Carey played a superb (I was going to say tight but it just sounded a little weird) bucket position turning a couple unassisted double plays and batted .700. Dale Hill stood tall at first base. Dale was so excited about going to see his grandson, Grapevine HS pitcher, Dasan pitch what turned out to be a shut out with 17 strike outs, that he snagged multiple shots down the line and led the RRers with 3 doubles and was selected All-Tournament.

There were some other stud muffins at the plate. All-Tournament selection Ken Ford hit over .700 with 2 doubles and 7 Runs Batted In (RBIs). David McKie played right center to perfection and batted over .700 with a triple and 7 RBIs. All-Tournament selection, Tim Hughes and Ron Schwertner led all RR batters with 9 RBIs each. Jimmy Reese was spot on every time they tested him in right center field and hit a blazing .900 with a double and 7 RBIs. We don't talk about Bruno and we're sure not going to talk about what happened on that 10<sup>th</sup> at bat. But yes, Jimmy was All-Tournament. Johnny B led

the team in extra base hits and executed a perfect slide into 2<sup>nd</sup> base, which is to say, he didn't break anything. Everyone came home with some stiff muscles, but no one was hurt.

Robson Ranch were tournament champs but who was the Most Valuable Player? Wouldn't he come from the champs? Oh yeah! Kelly Petre was perfect at the plate going 6 for 6 with several RBIs and was selected Tournament MVP! Well done Kelly!

As a team our Boyz batted over .600 and Oh my gosh, it was fun.

See you at the next tournament Ladies.

Johnny B