



PACIFIC SERIES, APIA, SAMOA

11-14TH FEBRUARY 2009
BY LANCE BROWN

This year's annual Pacific Series International tournament was played at the new Softball Complex in Apia, Samoa from February 11th – 14th. Battling it out for Pacific supremacy were the New Zealand Blacksox, Tanifa Samoa and Team Japan, as part of their preparations for the 2009 ISF World Mens Softball Championship later on this year. Due to domestic programme commitments Australia were missing from this year's tournament.

ISF Oceania UIC Wayne Saunders would blood in ISF Umpires Greg Taylor and Lance Brown to the men's international level, both joining experienced Lance Type as the NZ staff at this tournament. The New Zealand members were extremely fortunate to be joined by two local umpires Seiuli Masalosalo Levale, the Samoan UIC and William Cable to give an international flavour to the crew.

"Piki Ake" or stepping up to the international occasion was the theme set by our UIC, and every game to build upon form of the previous. Players were demanding the best from the umpires as they were playing for World Series selection, therefore the umpiring crew demanded the best of themselves to deliver a quality service.

The 4 Umpire System was used during the double round robin. Then the 5 Umpire System used for the semis and the finals. A plate umpire, first base, third base and two line umpires. This made fly balls very clear in terms of umpire coverage and base coverage just as easy with plenty of rotations and movements to add to the fun and keep umpires alert.

Congratulation to the Samoan Softball Association and joint Tournament organiser Hellen Levale for organising a wonderful International tournament and for being perfect hosts. Thanks also to Oceania UIC Wayne Saunders for the appointments and important critiquing, which saw this tournament a great experience and a great learning curve.

Tournament Officials

Wayne Saunders

Greg Taylor, Lance Type and Lance Brown

Seiuli Masalosalo Levale (UIC) and William Cable

(Christine Nukunuku - Statistician – NZ)

ISF Oceania UIC - NZ

ISF – NZ

Samoa



Pacific Series, Samoa Feb 2009											
Wednesday - 11 February 2009											
Time	Score	Game	Team		Team	Plate	Ist Base	2nd Base	3rd Base	LF	RF
10am	5\3	1	Black Sox	v	Tanifa Samoa	Brown	Taylor	Levale	Type		
3pm	2\9	2	Tanifa Samoa	v	Japan	Type	Brown	Cable	Taylor		
Thursday - 12 February 2009											
10am	1\3	3	Japan	v	Black Sox	Type	Brown	Levale	Taylor		
3pm	0\5	4	Tanifa Samoa	v	Black Sox	Taylor	Type	Cable	Brown		
Friday - 13 February 2009											
10am	5\4	5	Japan	v	Tanifa Samoa	Taylor	Type	Levale	Brown		
3pm	5\1	6	Black Sox	v	Japan	Brown	Taylor	Cable	Type		
Saturday - 14 February 2009											
12.30pm	9\2	7	Japan		Tanifa Samoa	Type	Taylor		Brown	Cable	Levale
3pm	6\4	8	Black Sox		Japan	Brown	Type		Taylor	Levale	Cable