



NZ Black Sox

2013 Tradestaff World Softball Championship

Rosedale Park, Auckland

March 1-10

MEDIA GUIDE



Media contact

Media access to the NZ Black Sox is available through ...

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2013 NZ Black Sox Programme

Pre-Tournament

January 12/13	Training Camp	Lower Hutt
January 28	v Auckland United All-Stars	Fowlds Park, Auckland
February 9-17	Training Camp	College Rifles, Auckland
February 9/10	Brother Patrick Tournament	Auckland
February 15/16	Dean Schick Tournament	Rosedale Park, Auckland
February 19-22	Training Camp	Henderson Bay, Northland
February 25-28	Pre-tournament camp	Millennium Institute, Auckland
February 26	v Czech Republic	2pm
February 27	v Auckland U19	4.30pm



Testing start to Black Sox schedule

The NZ Black Sox will open their bid to regain the world softball title against Mexico on March 1 at Rosedale Park, Auckland.

After losing their crown to Australia four years ago, New Zealand will have home advantage for the Tradestaff ISF World Softball Championship, but face a tough draw that pits them against four-time champions Canada in pool play, along with Japan, Argentina, Philippines, Mexico, Colombia and the Netherlands.



Eddie Kohlase (David Lintott)

“It’s a very, very demanding draw,” says Black Sox coach Eddie Kohlase. “Canada, Japan and Argentina are three of the big powers in world softball.

“It’s a tough draw, not just in terms of qualifying for the quarterfinals, but also building up some powerful momentum going forward. It will be a real test for us.

“It’s a really early and quite exciting challenge.”

Canada have been New Zealand’s traditional rivals at the tournament. Like the Kiwis, they have taken the crown four times, last winning in 1992, when they beat the Black Sox in the final.

But they also lost to the Kiwis at the final stages in 1996 and 2004.

“They’re always a very tough team to play,” says Kohlase. “They have powerful pitching – they throw the ball very hard – and like most

Canadian sports teams, they try to dominate you physically.”

Japan was the other team New Zealand had to overcome on the way to their 1996-2004 championship “three-peat”. They beat the crafty Asians 2-1 in the 2000 title game at East London, South Africa.

“Their current coach was the pitcher in that final,” says Kohlase. “They’re a very fast team - Japan are beautiful fielders of the ball and quite electric on the base paths.

“They have a lot of lefties, and have very strong pitching and hitting – they’ll be a real test.”



Argentina are one of the emerging powers in world softball and took out the junior world title at home last year, where New Zealand finished sixth.

“They’re like their rugby teams and soccer teams,” observes Kohlhase. “They’re fantastic at home and if they can just get their game together abroad ...

“Argentina are a strong softballing nation. They have a couple of outstanding pitchers on the North American circuit and like Japan, have a lot of lefties.”

Elsewhere in the pool, the Philippines and Netherlands have considerable experience to draw upon at this level, and can be counted on to make the top sides work for their wins, says Kohlhase.

Sixteen teams have been divided into two pools of eight for the championship, with the top four progressing to quarterfinals. The other pool is headed by titleholders Australia and four-time champions the United States.

As hosts, the Black Sox have been allocated the prime time slots each day – 7.30pm during the week and 2.30pm on weekend, from March 1-10.

For further draw information, check out www.softball2013.com.

ISF World Softball Championship Rosedale Park, Auckland

March 1	v Mexico	7.30pm
March 2	v Colombia	2.30pm
March 3	v Japan	2.30pm
March 4	v Canada	7.30pm
March 5	v Argentina	7.30pm
March 6	v Netherlands	7.30pm
March 7	v Philippines	7.30pm
March 8	Playoffs	
March 9	Playoffs	
March 10	Medal games	



Martin brings experience to title bid

Black Sox veteran Jarrad Martin knows what it takes to win a world softball title – he’s helped win three.

He also knows what it’s like to lose one and now hopes to learn how to win one back.

That depth of experience – both good and bad – will be the key contribution Martin can make to the current campaign, as the NZ men try to win back the crown they lost to Australia in 2009.



Jarrad Martin (David Lintott)

When the Sox line up at Rosedale Park in March, the Taranaki utility, who commutes to play his club softball in Wellington, will join fellow old-timer Thomas Makea at their fifth world tournament.

Two others – Brad Rona and Donny Hale – will attend their fourth and while their physical skills may be waning ever so slightly, their “been there, done that” mentality cannot be replaced.

Coach Eddie Kohlhasse has hinted his senior membership will be setting the tone in the dugout and would be upon at key moments.

“You’ve got a lot of guys here who can run and throw and stuff,” said Martin (39), looking around the room at last weekend’s camp in Lower Hutt. “I can do that, but I might be used in different ways.



“In a tournament like this, there will be a couple of instances, where something that I can contribute to the team could be something big. That’s what I’m looking at as part of my role – just making sure the team gets on that train and all the wheels are in sync and going forward together.

“I want to play every game and I’m going to do my darnedest to put my hand up, but if these other guys put their hand up and get the call first, then that’s sport. It doesn’t matter who we have out there – whatever nine, 10, 11 players are injected into the game – I just have to give them my support.”

With pitching coach Chubb Tangaroa absent from the weekend’s camp in the Hutt Valley and Martin still nursing an Achilles niggle back to health, he spent a bit of time conspiring with the hurlers, another role he’s been called on to fill on occasion during his career.

The injury had raised some doubts about Martin’s ability to contest the world championship, but he insists he’s trucking along well towards a full recovery.

“Personally, I’m feeling good. If you had asked me six months ago, I was probably neither here nor there, but it’s getting stronger – it’s probably the rest of the body that needs to catch up now.”

And he’s encouraged by what he sees around him.

“It’s been good, for our first weekend together training,” he says. “We’re getting there – it’s just a matter of spending more time with each other, getting used to living out of each other’s pockets and making sure we all have that common vision of hoisting that trophy at the end.”

The Black Sox build-up continues next week, when the pitchers and catchers – the “battery” – travel to Napier next weekend for a mini-camp with Tangaroa.



2013 Black Sox Roster

Name	Association	Born	Position	NZ Debut	World
Tyrone Bartorillo	Canterbury	June 28, 1984	Infield	2011	2*
Tyson Byrne	Hutt Valley	Nov 27, 1988	Infield	2007	1
Rhys Casley (captain)	Hutt Valley	Dec 21, 1978	Infield	1997	2
Ben Enoka	Auckland	Oct 11, 1989	Outfield	2009	2
Donny Hale	Auckland		Outfield	1995	4
Nik Hayes	Hutt Valley		Pitcher	2012	1
Penese Iosefo	Canterbury	Mar 18, 1987	Pitcher		2*
Wayne Lauulu	Wellington	Jan 7, 1981	Outfield	2008	2*
Thomas Makea	Wellington	Feb 20, 1975	Outfield	1994	5
Jeremy Manley	USA	Oct 17, 1984	Pitcher	2006	2
Jarrad Martin	Wellington		Outfield	1991	5
Daniel Milne	Canterbury		Infielder	1999	2
Nathan Nukunuku	Auckland		Infielder		4
Brad Rona	North Harbour		Infield	2000	4
Heinrick Shannon	Auckland		Pitcher	1998	3*
Patrick Shannon	Auckland		Catcher	1995	3
Aaron Stroman-Neemia	Wellington		Catcher	2002	2*
Staff					
Head coach	Eddie Kohlhase		Manager	Carl Gould	
Assistant coach	Dave Workman		Assistant manager	Jayden Moore	
Pitching coach	Chubb Tangaroa				

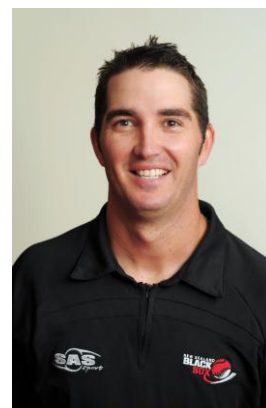


Player Profiles

46 Tyrone Bartorillo (Canterbury)

Club	Papanui
Position	Infield
Born	June 28, 1984 at Brisbane
Nickname	Barty, Barto
Ethnicity	Italian/Australian

Bartorillo has married a Kiwi and has resided, on and off, in Christchurch since 2006, but was selected to represent his native Australia when they won the 2009 world title. His part in that win over Australia was one at-bat as a pinch hitter and he was struck out by now-team-mate Heinie Shannon. Bartorillo debuted for New Zealand on a 2011 tour to North America and played his first club season overseas last year with the champion Jarvis Travelers from Ontario.

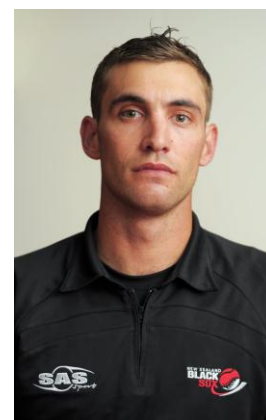


"It feels good to have the world champs here in New Zealand. I am a Kiwi now and everyone's behind you."

18 Tyson Byrne (Hutt Valley)

Position	Short stop
Born	September 27, 1988 at Lower Hutt
Club	Hutt Valley Dodgers
Nickname	T-Money
Ethnicity	Maori (Ngati Porou)

Byrne debuted for the Black Sox in a 2007 tour to Canada, but this will be his first appearance at the world championships.

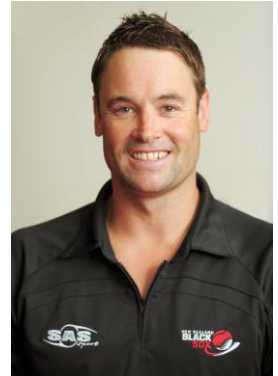


"People in softball are very generous humble people, so it's huge for me to play at a world championship in front of every person and every association that's helped us over the years."



10 Rhys Casley (Hutt Valley)
Captain

Position Infield
Born December 21, 1978
Club Hutt Valley Dodgers
Nicknames RC

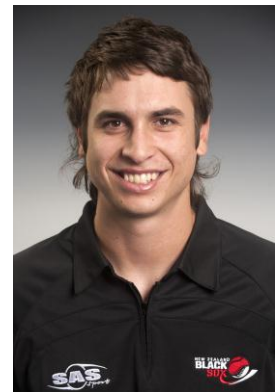


Casley first played for the Black Sox in 1997, but had to wait until 2009 for his first appearance at a world championship. He assumed the captaincy from Jarrad Martin soon after that tournament. Over recent months, he has battled back from shoulder surgery on an injury sustained in last year's International Softball Congress finals and this may yet see his role at Rosedale Park restricted to that of a designated hitter.

At Saskatoon, he played 12 games for 24 turns at bat and nine hits, for an average of 0.375.

89 Ben Enoka (Auckland)

Position Centrefield
Born August 11, 1989 at Auckland
Club Auckland United
Nicknames Benny, Jamin
Ethnicity Maori (Ngapuhi)



Enoka debuted for the Black Sox in the build-up to the last world championship in 2009. He's played the last three years with the Jarvis Travelers from Ontario and all three years, they've won the International Softball Congress title.

Enoka played in seven games at the last tournament at Saskatoon, scoring three runs.

"The world championship is the pinnacle of our sport – I've worked pretty hard to not just make the team, but also for the opportunity to play in front of my peers and family and friends."



22 Donny Hale (Auckland)

Position	Outfield
Born	April 3, 1975 at Auckland
Club	Ramblers
Nickname	Otis, Halestorm
Ethnicity	NZ/Samoan



Hale first played for the Black Sox in 1995 and this will be his fourth appearance at the world championships – he was a member of the winning NZ sides in 2000 and 2004. He has played extensively in the US and Japan, and has a reputation for his power hitting, Hale was named Most Valuable Player when Jarvis Travelers of Ontario won their third ISC crown last year, after hitting a home run against Australian ace Adam Folkard in the final. At the 2009 tournament, Hale played in 12 games and scored 12 runs to rank third behind current teammates Thomas Makea (15 runs) and Brad Rona (14). He was also third behind Makea (15) and Jarrad Martin (14) for runs batted in at the tournament. In 31 turns at bat, Hale had 10 hits for an average of .323.

“At this stage of my career, it doesn’t faze me where the world tournament is held, but there will be more expectation on us at home. We’ll have the support of family and friends, and we’ll be more in our own comfort zone.”

30 Nik Hayes (Hutt Valley)

Position	Pitcher (Right-handed)
Born	June 2, 1989 at Blenheim
Club	Hutt Valley Dodgers
Nicknames	Hazel, Hazy



Hayes is one of the true rookies on this Black Sox roster, having served on the national team for less than 12 months. His only overseas club experience has been in Indonesia.

“To play in a world championship is a dream enough on its own, but to play in front of your family and friends, and all those supporters that have helped you over the years ... that’s everything.”



9 Penese Iosefo (Canterbury)

Position	Pitcher (right-handed)
Born	March 18, 1987 at Christchurch
Club	Albion
Nicknames	PI, Magnum, Nese, Ice
Ethnicity	NZ/Samoan

Iosefo debuted for the Black Sox during a 2010 tour to the United States, but has been around much longer, debuting at the world championships for Samoa in 2004. He has played club softball in Denmark and the Netherlands, before trying his hand in Iowa and Missouri. Iosefo was also part of the Crusaders rugby development programme, but quit to concentrate on his softball. He pitched Canterbury to victory in this summer's national championship final over Auckland.



"My partner has put up with me going away for the past seven years, so for her, the world championship will be a chance to see what I've done and achieved – this is what I did everything for."

29 Wayne Lauulu (Wellington)

Position	Outfield
Born	January 7, 1981, at Wellington
Club	Miramar
Nicknames	Lala
Ethnicity	NZ Samoan

Lauulu first played for the Black Sox in 2008 at Rosedale Park in a world championship qualifying tournament, but missed out on the roster when the tournament rolled around the following year. He had previously represented Samoa at the 2004 event, and has US club experience in Wisconsin and New York.



"I've played softball all my life and grown up watching these legends of the game. Now I get a chance to play with them in a world series at home – I'm quite excited, it makes me feel like I'm a kid again."



21 Thomas Makea (Wellington)

Position Outfielder
Born February 20, 1975
Club Ponoke Kilbirnie
Nickname

Makea first played for the Black Sox in 1994 and this will be his fifth world championship appearance – he has helped New Zealand to three world titles over the years.

At the 2009 tournament, Makea scored 15 runs and batted in the same to lead both those statistics for the side. He finished that event with 10 hits from 30 turns at bat, for an average of 0.333.



45 Jeremy Manley (USA)

Position Pitcher
Born October 17, 1984
Club Pueblo Bandits (Colorado)
Nickname Jerry, J

Manley first played for the Black Sox in 2006 and was part of the 2009 world championship squad. Since that tournament, he has based himself exclusively in the US, playing for Pueblo Bandits. Wife Ali is a former White Sox pitcher, brother Regan has pitched for the Sox, and his dad and father-in-law are also former pitchers.

IN 2009, he was the top Black Sox pitcher, playing in seven games, faced 108 batters, giving up 20 hits and taking 32 strikeouts, for an earned run average of 1.48.





11 Jarrad Martin (Wellington)

Position	Utility
Born	February 5, 1973 at Waitara
Club	Poneke Kilbirnie
Nickname	Jazza
Ethnicity	Maori (Te Atiawa)

Martin debuted for New Zealand more than 20 years ago on a tour of Australia and has been around ever since. This world championship will be his fifth, so he was a member of three previous title-winning teams and captained the Black Sox at the previous two tournaments.

At the 2009 tournament, Martin finished with 12 hits from 36 turns at bat. He was second behind current team-mate Thomas Makea for runs batted in (14) and also scored 10 runs himself.

“I was lucky to be involved in the last world championship in New Zealand in 2004, but I believe this will be even bigger – expectations are going to be quite high.”



17 Daniel Milne (Canterbury)

Position	Utility
Born	September 7, 1978 in Invercargill
Club	Parklands Christchurch United
Nickname	Whero

Milne played his first game for the Black Sox in 1999 against Australia and performed in leftfield at the last world championships at Saskatoon, but has shown himself more than capable around the infield. He has played club softball in Wisconsin and New York.

Milne played in 10 games at the 2009 tournament and had 16 turns at bat, with five hits for a batting average of 0.313.

“Whatever sport you play, it doesn’t get any better than to represent your country in front of your own family and friends.”





Nathan Nukunuku (Auckland)

Position Infield
Born
Club Ramblers
Nickname

Nukunuku debuted for the Black Sox in 1997, and was part of the world champion sides of 2000 and 2004. He was originally left off this year's roster, but was a last-time addition when captain Rhys Casley re-injured his shoulder.

At the 2009 world championship, Nukunuku and current team-mate Thomas Makea led New Zealand in runs scored (15). He collected 12 hits from 38 turns at bat, for an average of 0.316.



15 Brad Rona (North Harbour)

Position Infield
Born February 17, 1976 at Wanganui
Club Northcote
Nickname B-Man
Ethnicity Maori (Te Atiawa)

Rona debuted for the Black Sox at the 2000 world championship, so this will be his fourth appearance at the tournament. He has played 11 years with North American clubs, most recently with the ISC champion Jarvis Travelers from Ontario. Rona's son, Pita, recently signed a Major League Baseball contract with the Baltimore Orioles.

In 2009, Rona was New Zealand's top batter, with 13 hits from 28 turns at bat, for an average of 0.464. His fearsome reputation in the batting box saw him walked on 12 occasions.

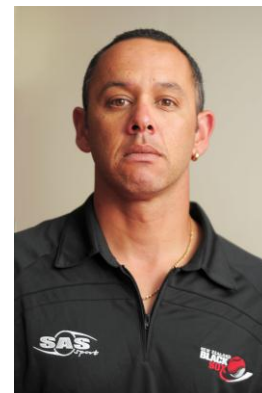


"This world championship will give us a chance to showcase our game. To bring the best of the best to New Zealand will be the ultimate eye-opener for Kiwis."



5 Heinie Shannon (Auckland)

Position	Pitcher (left-handed)
Born	June 21, 1975 at Auckland
Club	Waitakere
Nickname	Dog
Ethnicity	NZ/Samoan



Shannon has represented the Black Sox since 1991, at a time when New Zealand was rich in pitching talent. He eventually debuted at the world championships for Samoa in 2004. Shannon and twin brother Patrick form a formidable pitcher/catcher combination. He has vast experience playing club softball in Wisconsin, New York and California, but these days, he has his own panelbeating business. At the 2009 world championship, he played in seven games, faced 83 batters, gave up 18 hits and took 29 strikeouts, for an earned run average of 2.71. Heinie was starting pitcher for the final.

“The Black Sox are a family and a lot of us have grown up together, all the way from T-ball. At this world championship, we get to show off our skills in front of our home crowd.”

1 Patrick Shannon (Auckland)

Position	Catcher
Born	June 21, 1975 at Auckland
Club	Waitakere
Nickname	
Ethnicity	NZ/Samoan



Shannon debuted for New Zealand back in 1995, but had to wait his turn behind legends Mark Sorenson and Bevan Martin. He appeared at his first world championship at the 2004 tournament in Christchurch, helping NZ to victory and was the catcher five years later at Saskatoon.

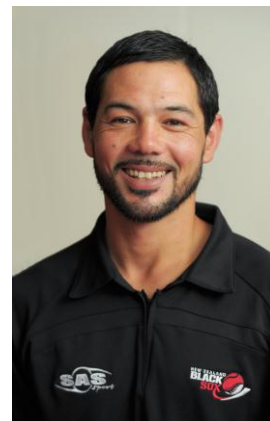
There, he had eight hits from 25 turns at bat, for an average of 0.320. He was only struck out twice and led the Black Sox in that statistic.



Aaron Stroman-Neemia

Position Catcher
Born May 13, 1982 in Suva, Fiji
Club
Nickname
Ethnicity NZ/Samoan

Stroman-Neemia made his Black Sox debut in 2002 and represented Samoa at the 2004 world championship in Christchurch.



Staff



Eddie Kohlase



Dave Workman



Chubb Tangaroa

Friday, March 1

9.30am	Great Britain v Samoa
10.30am	Colombia v Philippines
Noon	Indonesia v Czech Republic
1pm	Netherlands v Japan
2.30pm	Venezuela v South Africa
3.30pm	Argentina v Canada
6pm	Opening ceremony
7.30pm	USA v Australia
	New Zealand v Mexico

Saturday, March 2

11am	Australia v Indonesia
Noon	Samoa v USA
1.30pm	South Africa v Czech Republic
2.30pm	New Zealand v Colombia
4pm	Venezuela v Great Britain
5pm	Canada v Philippines
6.30pm	Netherlands v Mexico
7.30pm	Japan v Argentina

Sunday, March 3

11am	Mexico v Canada
Noon	South Africa v USA
1.30pm	Indonesia v Samoa
2.30pm	New Zealand v Japan
4pm	Philippines v Argentina
5pm	Great Britain v Australia
6.30pm	Colombia v Netherlands
7.30pm	Czech Republic v Venezuela

Monday, March 4

11am	Argentina v Netherlands
Noon	Great Britain v Indonesia
1.30pm	Czech Republic v USA
2.30pm	Philippines v Mexico
4pm	Japan v Colombia
5pm	South Africa v Australia
6.30pm	Venezuela v Samoa
7.30pm	Canada v New Zealand

Tuesday, March 5

11am	Australia v Venezuela
Noon	Mexico v Colombia
1.30pm	Czech Republic v Samoa
2.30pm	USA v Indonesia
4pm	Great Britain v South Africa
5pm	Japan v Canada
6.30pm	Philippines v Netherlands
7.30pm	New Zealand v Argentina

Wednesday, March 6

11am	South Africa v Indonesia
Noon	Venezuela v USA
1.30pm	Japan v Philippines
2.30pm	Great Britain v Czech Republic
4pm	Canada v Colombia
5pm	Australia v Samoa

6.30pm Argentina v Mexico
7.30pm New Zealand v Netherlands

Thursday, March 7

11am Great Britain v USA
Noon Indonesia v Venezuela
1.30pm Colombia v Argentina
2.30pm South Africa v Samoa
4pm Netherlands v Canada
5pm Australia v Czech Republic
6.30pm Mexico v Japan
7.30pm New Zealand v Philippines

Playoffs

Friday, March 8

Noon A3 v B4 (C1)
2.30pm B3 v A4 (C2)
5.30pm A1 v B2 (C3)
8pm B1 v A2 (C4)

Saturday, March 9

11.30am Winners C1 v Losers C3 (C5)
2pm Winners C2 v Losers C4 (C6)
5pm Winners C3 v Winners C4 (C7)
7.30pm Winners C5 v Winners C6 (C8)

Sunday, March 10

Bronze Medal Game

10am Winners C8 v Losers C7 (C9)

Gold Medal Game

1pm Winners C9 v Winners C7 (C10)