



Junior White Sox

Update February 2011

JWS Bev Chote Classic Team gain respect

The Junior White Sox team at the Bev Chote Classic dug deep to gain the respect of New Zealand's best premier women's club teams after a dramatic day two comeback.

The team arrived on Friday morning with excitement and meeting for the first time, trained most of the day at the Ramblers Home ground Warren Freer Park, St Lukes. In the afternoon Auckland based squad members joined the JWS Bev Chote team and assembled at Ericson Stadium for testing, with a few comming well under 12 minutes on the 2.4km run.

However, day one of the tournament ended badly with two losses in pool play to 2010 Auckland Fastpitch Champions the Waitakere Bears by 1 – 6, then to hosts Bedpost Ramblers 1 - 13. This left the team finishing last place in pool play and an early departure for the day.

Day two dawned with a 9am first up game agaisnt the Western Magpies in a playoff for 5th and 6th place. After a sobering speech from Coach Venita Hokai the players fired up to beat the Magpies 7 – 1. Rolling straight into the next game, the JWS caused an upset by retiring the Ramblers 7- 4 in a close fought tie-break. The success coming because of consistant hitting when it counted. The draw was structured so that day two was essentially a knock out trial where if you win you continue to play, so the JWS team began the 3rd consecutive game vs Otahuhu. After a comprehensive 6 – 2 win the team was feeling confident but tiring due to the fact that it was now 2pm and the team had been consecutively playing since 9am. The 4th game in a row was a rematch vs the Bears which was lost 4 – 9 after being ahead 4 – 0 for much of the game. It was at this point that the JWS team bowed out of the competition with heads held high.



*Tournament MVP
Taylor-Paige Stewart*

JWS Team to the Bev Chote Classic Tournament



From top L-R: Taylor-Paige Stewart; Kuraroa Ratu-James; Anita Leeuw; Venita Hokai (Head Coach); Jordan Mumu; Krysta Hoani; Kevin Gettins (Asst Coach); Danica Ferriso; Lauren Sutherland; Katie McAndrew; Santana Harris; Danielle Tanoa; Jordan-Leigh Koni; Chance Warbrick. Absent: Alex Forsyth; Te Reo Powhiri Matautia (withdrew due to injury); Robyn Hall (withdrew due to Chch Earthquake).

The final standings saw the JWS officially 3rd behind eventual winners Te Aroha from Hutt Valley and the Bears. The tournament Most Valuable Player was Taylor-Paige Stewart. Coach Hokai states that this result shows that there is an abundance of talent in our Junior programs (average age of this team is 17 years old) and that there was only three players from the previously successful Waverley Easter Carnival champion side. Hokai says "we are now a couple weeks away from final selection for the JWS World Series Team and our job just became harder!"

For more information on the Bev Chote Classic see <http://www.softball.org.nz/Domestic.html>