

The NZ Development Boys Softball Team won the International Friendship Series, at Blacktown, Sydney at the weekend.

This talented U17 group bounced back from a loss in game one to win 8 games in a row to secure the title with a 12-2 victory against the highly fancied home side, Australia Gold.

The winning streak included a vital semi-final win over a more experienced New Zealand group from the International Softball Academy, and avenged their first round loss against the ISA side.

The Final was a thrilling encounter against Australia Gold with the NZ Development side hitting a late flurry of big homeruns to secure the title.

Four members of the Development squad made the tournament team, and pitcher Kalin Lee Felise voted MVP for the final.

Results:

Round Robin:

Game 1 vs ISA:	2 - 4 (Loss)
Game 2 vs Australia Green:	10 - 0
Game 3 vs Australia Gold:	9 - 2
Game 4 vs NSW Invitational:	19 - 0
Game 5 vs ACT:	4 - 3
Game 6 vs Queensland:	2 - 1

Playoffs:

Game 7 vs Queensland:	7 - 2
Game 8 vs ISA:	5 - 4

Final:

Game 9 vs Australia Gold:	12 - 2
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MVP for final: Kalin Lee Felise (Pitcher)

Boys tournament team included: Jarome McKenzie
Callum Bishop
Reilly Makea
Bailey Hamilton

The NZ Development Girls Softball Team also attended the tournament with a credible 5th placing overall with 4 wins from 8 against more fancied Australian competition. Standout performances from A'ieesha Setefano, Sharnae Walsh, Paiton koko-Lutau, and Chelsea Brunner show the talent at this level is showing tremendous promise for the future.