

## **Managers Report Sat 20 June**

The Golden Homes Black Sox have made a great start to the Bob Law Memorial tournament in Vancouver, British Columbia winning their first three games in commanding fashion.

In the second game on the opening night the Black Sox bats were hot amassing 10 runs off Team Canada squad member Derek Mayson. Tyson Byrne demonstrated his skill and experience by driving in three RBI's and batting .500 in pressure situations. Thomas Enoka continued with his hot bat, batting in three runs with two line drive safe hits. Captain Nathan Nukunuku once again led from the front with a massive home run over right field with a runner on base.

Nik Hayes started for the Black Sox on the mound, facing 20 hitters, giving up two hits, five walks and taking six strikeouts.

This was a solid outing from the men in black against stronger opposition and pitching from what they had encountered in Calgary and Kelowna.

In game two of the tournament on a sunny afternoon in Vancouver in front of a large local crowd the Black Sox took on The Golden Petro Hawks out of Saskatchewan, the team they played a week earlier in the final of the Calgary Invitational Tournament. The Black Sox struggled early to hit their rhythm and were slow to get going. The Petro Hawks pitcher dominated early on the mound beating a number of the Black Sox hitters with a deceptively quick rise ball. Young Black Sox debutant, Cole Evans had an impressive game for the Black Sox, hitting two from three with one RBI and was solid in the field. With the score tight at 1-0 to the Black Sox Coach Sorenson brought the veteran Brad Rona off the bench for a pinch hit and he didn't disappoint, dispatching the ball over the left field fence to break the hearts of the Petro Hawks players and fans.

Heine Shannon had another sold outing on the pitching mound, keeping the strong Petro Hawks hitting line up quiet. Shannon only a day out from his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday faced 25 batters, taking seven strikeouts and gave up three hits.

Game three of the tournament for the Black Sox was against the Portland Brewers a well performed club side from the US. Young Marlborough hurler Kurt Schollum was given the ball by Coach Sorenson and dominated the Brewer hitters early on with pace and location. Schollum made a strong recovery from a shaky third inning where the Portland Brewers scored three runs. Schollum ended up with stats of taking seven strikeouts from 18 batters faced, giving up one walk and three safe hits.

Eventually the powerful Black Sox hitting line up was too much for the Portland pitching staff. Offensive highlights for the Black Sox was once again Nathan Nukunuku with another automatic home run and four RBI's. Black Sox debutant Jovaan Hanley also impressed with some impressive power hitting which included three safe hits and three RBI's.

In the winners bracket final the Black Sox took on the local tournament favourites 'The South Hill Giants' led by Venezuelan number one pitcher Ramone Jones. In a tight

contest Jones dominated the Black Sox hitters with pace and good location. For the Black Sox Kurt Schollum was given the ball by Coach Sorenson and did well containing the strong Giants hitting line up giving up three runs.

In bizzare circumstances at 11.30pm local time the game was suspended in the top of the sixth inning with the Black Sox leading 4 runs to 3 due to the automatic programming by the City Council of the outfield sprinklers. The game therefore will be continued on Sunday with the winner advancing through the Championship final.

Grant McCarroll