

## **Team Wisconsin Continue to Impress**

For the third straight year Team Wisconsin has proven that some of the best baseball talent in the country can be found in the state of Wisconsin. Team Wisconsin participated in the Midwest Classic Baseball Tournament from July 30<sup>th</sup> thru August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 in Plainfield Illinois with 11 other all-star teams from other states. The other states bringing teams to this prestigious tournament included: Nebraska, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, Missouri, and Michigan.

Wisconsin finished in a tie for second place going 3-1-1. The championship game was played on Sunday afternoon between Illinois and Wisconsin, with Illinois coming out on top in convincing fashion. Team Wisconsin was led at the plate by Tyler Brusky (Milwaukee Pius XI) who squared up the baseball in each and every one of his plate appearances finishing with an impressive .643 batting average and knocking in 10 RBI's. On defense, it was Michael Handel (Sun Prairie) who turned in a stellar tournament performance at shortstop making all the plays look routine. Handel also turned in a sound .308 batting average for the tourney. Other players leading the hitting attack for Wisconsin included: Shane Adler (Middleton) hitting .454, Damian Guggenguehl (La Crosse Logan) hitting .444, Kyle Haen (Madison Edgewood) Kyle McHugh (Rosholt) and Josh Uhen (Oshkosh North) all batting .333 for Wisconsin. On the mound the Team Wisconsin pitching staff turned in many strong performances against some of the best hitters in the nation.

Even though Team Wisconsin did not repeat as Champions of this star-studded tournament, the players represented Wisconsin with class and played like champions. Many of these kids will be sought after by the more than 50 Division 1 college coaches that attended the showcase tournament.

### **Game One: Wisconsin Rallies past Nebraska 7-2**

Team Wisconsin was led by Tyler Brusky (Milwaukee Pius XI) who went 3 for 3 with a home run in the opening game of the Midwest Classic Baseball Tournament against a solid Nebraska team. Wisconsin pounded out ten hits in all, with Damian Guggenbuehl (LaCrosse Logan) also accounting for multiple hits including an RBI double.

Shane Adler (Middleton) and Donnie Hissa (Northwestern) split the game on the mound, allowing only two runs on five hits. Hissa sent five batters back to the pine via strikeout in only three innings of work. His fastball was clocked at 85 MPH with good movement. It was his sharp breaking ball that kept the Nebraska hitters off balance and guessing.

### **Game Two: Wisconsin and Pennsylvania knotted up at 8.**

Team Wisconsin rallied back from a 8-2 deficit to draw even with Pennsylvania in the late innings of game two. The Pennsylvania pitchers proved to be up to the challenge only giving up seven hits while striking out eleven. Wisconsin was once again led by Tyler Brusky (Milwaukee Pius XI) who again homered and had two hits while driving in four runs. Shane Adler (Middleton) also went yard for Wisconsin.

Strong pitching performances were turned in by Josh Uhen (Oshkosh North) and Anthony (A.J.) Gaura (Bay Port) yielding ten hits throughout the game. Uhen's fastball was clocked as high as 88 MPH while Gaura was hitting 85 MPH with ease. The Pennsylvania hitters proved to be some of the best in the tournament and were able to turn around fastballs in the uppers 80's with little difficulty when they were left up in the zone.

### **Game Three: Wisconsin Blasts Minnesota 15-5.**

The bats came alive in game three as Wisconsin crushed Minnesota 15-5. This time the Wisconsin attack was led by Kyle McHugh (Rosholt) who went 3 for 3 with a towering home run and a laserbeam double off the fence in left field. Once again helping lead Wisconsin was Tyler Brusky (Milwaukee Pius XI) going 2 for 3 with a double off the top of the fence. Michael Handel (Sun Prairie) finished 3 for 3 with a home run and three RBI's. Handel also had six putouts in the game from shortstop, making every play look effortless. The dagger in the heart for Minnesota was a grand slam by Damian Guggenbuehl (La Crosse Logan) estimated to have flown over 450 feet to left center.

Handing Minnesota the loss was Bryce Bellin (Kimberly) who threw four solid innings and struck out six batters. Tyler Flood (Madison LaFollette) came in to finish the game with three strong innings, allowing only two hits.

### **Game Four: Wisconsin continues to roll toppling Ohio 7-2.**

Wisconsin handed Ohio a convincing defeat in game four 7-2. Wisconsin turned up the heat from the beginning of the game and never looked back. Kyle McHugh (Rosholt) drew first blood with a RBI double in the second inning. Later it was Tyler Brusky (Milwaukee Pius XI) once again hammering another home run to stretch the lead in the fourth inning. Wisconsin put up three more in the sixth inning with a triple by Kyle Haen (Madison Edgewood) and doubles by Josh Uhen (Oshkosh North) and Bryce Bellin (Kimberly)

The Wisconsin pitchers combined to give up only seven hits throughout the game. Cole Kroneke (Verona) pitched four very solid innings, giving way to Donnie Hissa (Northwestern) and A.J. Gaura (Bay Port) in relief.

### **Game Five: Illinois too much for Wisconsin to handle 11-1.**

The Championship game was once again between Illinois and Wisconsin for the third consecutive year. This time the tables were turned and Illinois came out on top. The pitching staff for Illinois was dominating to say the least, only giving up five hits. Illinois was led by pitcher Mike Foltyniewicz, heading to the University of Texas on a full ride, throwing heat to the tune of 92 MPH.

The Wisconsin relief pitcher, Eric King (Fond du Lac) also brought his fastball at 90 MPH and left many Illinois batters heading back to the dugout shaking their heads.