

8 November 2013

WBSC Executive Board Meets



The World Baseball Softball Confederation held an interim Executive Board meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, chaired by co-presidents Riccardo Fraccari and Don Porter, in October to discuss on-going arrangements with the new Confederation, as well as the upcoming General Assembly to be held in March of 2014. The WBSC executives also held a Forum with all softball delegates for updates on the WBSC and tournaments calendar.

Baseball, Softball on programme of Bolivarian Sports Games

Baseball and softball will be featured during the 17th Bolivarian Sport Games in Trujillo, Peru. Eight countries will participate - Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela. Baseball will be contested from November 16-25 with softball taking place November 22-30.

Approximately 5,000 athletes from 11 nations are expected to participate in 44 sports. For the first time in Games' history, five non-Bolivarian Sports Organization countries will also participate. To follow the tournaments, visit the official website at www.bolivarianos2013.pe.



Professional Baseball Leagues crown 2013 Winners

Professional baseball leagues around the globe crowned their 2013 winners last week.

In the USA, the Boston Red Sox won Major League Baseball's World Series 4-2 against the St. Louis Cardinals, clinching the title in front of their home fans at Fenway Park for the first time since 1918.

Japan's Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) saw the Tohoku Rakuten Golden Eagles edge out record champion Yomiuri Giants 4-3 in the Nippon Series for their first ever NPB title.

In the Korea Baseball Organisation (KBO), the Samsung Lions became the first team to win three consecutive championships with a 4-3 win in the Korean Series versus the Doosan Bears.

In the Chinese Professional Baseball League (CPBL) the Uni-Eleven Lions swept the Taiwan Series 4-0 against the EDA Rhinos for their ninth championship in team history.

Great Britain hosts 1st National University Softball Championship



Six university teams took part in Great Britain's first-ever National University Softball Championships (NUSC) on Saturday, October 19 at the showcase diamonds at Farnham Park, with the University of Portsmouth taking the title in a one-run final over the University of

Nottingham. The University of Portsmouth (which entered two teams), Bucks New University, the University of East Anglia (UEA), the University of Brighton and the University of Nottingham also participated highlighting the growth of the sport in Higher Education in Great Britain.

Another Universities Tournament is planned for Spring 2014 as part of BSUK's continued HE development work. There are also plans to support university baseball teams with club development and a competition structure which runs throughout the academic year. In addition to the National Championship tournament, and with the support of BSUK staff, university teams have started to arrange friendly games with other universities to increase playing opportunities and encourage more of local competition structures.

WBSC Participates in SportAccord IF Forum



The WBSC, including co-presidents Riccardo Fraccari and Don Porter, were on-hand participating in the SportAccord IF Forum in Lausanne, Switzerland this week. This year's programme focuses on key areas within Event Management and Social Media. While in Lausanne, the co-presidents also met with IOC Sports Director Christophe Dubi.

FOX International Channels take MLB Rights across Europe



FOX International Channels (FIC), has inked a new exclusive, multi-year agreement with Major League Baseball International for rights to MLB games across 30 European territories. The new deal includes rights for all upcoming MLB games across multiple platforms. The games will go out on FIC's sports speciality channels, which FIC has been expanding in Europe. FOX Sports recently launched in the Netherlands and Italy and is also on air in Turkey and Cyprus. "The relationship with Fox International Channels allows us to expand our relationship with Fox and is an exciting development for our business in Europe," said Paul Archey, svp of International Business Operations at Major League Baseball. "This deal exemplifies the growing popularity of baseball across Europe and will provide increased access to telecasts for our many passionate fans."

Former Olympian conducts clinic in Spain



Venezuelan Olympian Ruby Rojas conducted a softball clinic in Barcelona, Spain November 1-3 for 23 players aged 14-19 years old and 10 coaches coming from all parts of Spain. Three days of on-field instruction covered numerous aspects of the game including fielding, batting, base running and conditioning techniques. The clinic was hosted by the Royal Spanish Federation of Baseball and Softball and the Catalan Federation of Baseball and Softball.

USA, Chinese Taipei to play in Collegiate Friendship Series in 2014



USA Baseball and the Chinese Taipei Baseball Association announced that their Collegiate National Team programs will compete in an international friendship series in the U.S. for the first time since 2008. In 2010, the two countries resumed friendship series play at the collegiate level with Team USA traveling to Taipei, Taiwan for a four-game series -- the two nations split the set, 2-2. The 2014 edition will see the Chinese Taipei Collegiate National Team travel to the United States, and feature games across at least three locations in North Carolina from July 1-5.

Softball introduced in Madagascar

Lila Willdey, currently a U14 Player in the West Royalty Softball Association (Canada) and 2013 coach of the U8 Mini Mite program, traveled with her mom and two other friends to Madagascar on a volunteer teaching trip. They went to a small country school where they taught Math, English, Art, Gym and introduced the kids to the game of softball. Prior to their trip, the children in the village were never exposed to the sport; but by the end of the four weeks, they were able to play a game and most importantly had a great time.

