



## Nokona News: July 2009

### **Three Nokona USA teams participate in the Triple Crown National Championships in South Carolina!**

**13U Update:** The Chiefs played in the 13U Triple Crown National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 2 weeks ago to conclude their season. The 13U Chiefs qualified for Championship Play in a stacked 52 team field!

10 of the 52 teams were from the Northeast, only 5 advanced to Championship Play, and only 3, including Nokona, advanced to the Sweet 16. The Chiefs finished a fantastic 11<sup>th</sup> in the country! Great showing!

The Chiefs started out losing to Prospotfitness from Georgia 9-6. They bounced back with a pair of wins to advance. They defeated the Detroit Stars from Michigan 6-1 and followed that by beating the famous Hanover Baseball Club from Virginia 5-1. In a tourney highlight, the Chiefs opened Championship play down 5-0 to the Niners from New York and proceeded to score 12 unanswered runs for the 12-5 victory and advance to the Top 16. The Chiefs ran into the second-ranked Orlando Reds from Florida and lost a tough 7-4 decision to finish 11<sup>th</sup> in the country. Connor Rooney, Mike Murray, Matt Cote, Alex Perry, JT Pittman and Owen Galvin led a great offensive week, while John Friday, Perry, Galvin, Christian Cooke, Anthony Cerrone, Marco Roffo, Jesse Feldstein and Mike Agnello led the defense. The Chiefs continued their strong late-season pitching with a gem by Rooney and 2 solid outings from Cerrone. Nice job Chiefs!

Final Record: 22-22

**12U Update:** The Chiefs played in the 12U Triple Crown National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 2 weeks ago to conclude their season. The only team from all of New England, the Chiefs started out by winning two skill competitions, the Team Throwing Accuracy Contest and the Around the Horn Contest featuring Nick Porter, Ryan McDermott, Colin Ward, Eric O'Neil and Jeremy Bhandari. Nice Job winning both! The 12U Chiefs qualified for Championship Play by going 2-1 in tough pool play. In the opener, they lost 9-6 to the undefeated pool champion Forest Lightning from Virginia. The Chiefs bounced right back by beating the Carolina Storm (South Carolina) 11-1. They followed that by beating the High Point Storm (North Carolina) 7-6. They qualified for the 'Top 12' Championship Round and faced a tough Rattlers squad from North Carolina. The Chiefs won 7-2 to advance to the Great Eight and a matchup with the fabulous #1 seed Virginia Bruins. The Chiefs lost 6-2 in that game and finished a fantastic 6<sup>th</sup> in the country! Great job by the boys!

Final Record: 22-19

**11U Update:** The Chiefs played in the 11U Triple Crown National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina last week to conclude their season. The 11U Chiefs received the toughest draw of the Nokona teams, as they played the Ohio, Florida and South Carolina state champions in their 5 games. The Ohio champion also finished as the National Champion. Things started out well as they beat a very good Myrtle Beach Bombers team 10 - 8 in the opener. The Chiefs pounded out 12 hits, with Justin Leip, Teddy Bakas & Kyle Skidmore contributing 3 apiece. Solid starting pitching from Nolan Kessinger, with Matt Trehub picking up the win in relief. The Chiefs lost the next two, 1st to the South Florida Stealth, 3 - 0, in



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which Connor Henderson went the distance striking out 5, walking 2 while giving up only 3 hits. Game 3 was a loss the against tournament champion Mid-Ohio Blaze (36 - 1 on the season). Game 4 saw the Chiefs pound the South Carolina State Champs, The SC Hurricanes, 8 - 0. Skidmore went the distance on the mound, striking out 6, walking only 1 while giving up only 4 singles. The bats came alive right out of the gate as Leip, Henderson & Bakas & Skidmore all had hits. Trehub was solid behind the plate while going 2 for 3 at the dish. The Chiefs knocked down 13 hits on the afternoon while ending the game in 5. In the consolation semi-finals, the boys lost a tough one 6 - 5 to the Dallas Patriots. Nick Santucci led the way with 3 hits, 2 singles and a monster HR to lead off the second inning. The boys fought back from 5 - 2 deficit in the 6th to even things up with Trehub, Santucci, Skidmore and Dalton Socrates all reaching safely (3 hits, 1 walk) followed by a two run bomb from Matt Decina that was inches away from being a grand slam as it hit the top of the fence.

Great showing against some fantastic competition!

Final Record: 26-16

### JULY 28, 2009

**14U Final Update:** In their final tourney, The Chiefs participated in the Mid Atlantic Showdown at Baseball Heaven in Yaphank, NY, returning home with the Championship! The Chiefs went 5-0-1 to capture the title. After tying their first pool game in a sloppy affair, the Chiefs rattled off 5 straight wins behind a very balanced offensive attack, some great defense and solid pitching. The hotly contested Championship game against a Syracuse, NY all star team was the highlight of the tournament. Picking up wins on the mound were Luke Cuneo, Brendan Skidmore, Tyler Keating, Matt Cuneo (semi's) and Ryan O'Shea (finals). Great Defense was provided by Nick Ahearn, Mark Poli, James Venuto and the dynamic outfield of Luke Cuneo, Steve Gilbert and Oliver White. Leading the offense were Gilbert, Matt Cuneo, White, Keating, Ryan Sullivan, James Venuto and O'Shea. Keating hit the only Home Run by any team in the tournament.

14U Record: 21-8-3

15U Record: 3-3

Final Record: 24-11-3

**Triple Crown Division National Championship Update! Complete update next week after the 11U Chiefs return from Myrtle!**

**13U Update:** The Chiefs played in the 13U Triple Crown National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In preparation, they will played a great 3 game set vs. the Worcester Heat last week. the 13U Chiefs qualified for Championship Play and finished Top 15 in the country in a stacked 52 team field! Details and pictures to follow!

Final Record: 22-22



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**12U Update:** The Chiefs played in the 12U Triple Crown National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina last week. After winning two skill competitions, the 12U Chiefs qualified for Championship Play and finished Top 7 in the country! Details to follow!

Final Record: 22-19

**11U Update:** The Chiefs are currently participating in the Triple Crown National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Go Chiefs!

Current Record: 24-13

### JULY 14, 2009

**14U Update:** The Chiefs participated in the NEBA Invitational July 10 thru 12<sup>th</sup> in Bridgewater, MA, returning home with a Silver Medal. Ryan O'Shea and Brendan Skidmore were named to the All-Tournament team. Congratulations to both for the outstanding performance! The Chiefs qualified for the Championship game by defeating the Lightning, The South Shore Seadogs, and the USA Mavericks. The Seadogs also qualified and won the Gold Medal with a late-inning outburst after the Chiefs had tied it up. Picking up wins on the hill were Brad McLean, Tyler Keating and O'Shea. Matt Cuneo and Nick Ahearn picked up saves. Ryan Sullivan, Cuneo, O'Shea and Skidmore paced the offense.

The Chiefs will play up and participate in the Dan Duquette 15U Summer Blast Tourney from July 17<sup>th</sup> – July 19<sup>th</sup>.

14U Record: 16-8-1

15U Record: 1-1

Overall Record: 17-9-1

**13U Update:** The Chiefs had a solid 2-0 weekend with victories over the South Shore Spartans and the South Shore Seadogs. Solid pitching backed the victories. The Chiefs are headed to the Triple Crown National Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In preparation, they will play a 3 game set vs. the Worcester Heat this week.

Overall Record: 18-18

### JULY 2, 2009

**14U Update:** The Chiefs traveled to Rehobeth Beach Delaware to participate in the CABA Invitational Summer Slugfest. The Chiefs finished an impressive 4<sup>th</sup> out of 26 by going 4-1 overall. The 14U squad went 4-0 in pool play & championship play to qualify for the semi-finals by defeating teams from New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. During this stretch, the Chiefs received 4 consecutive complete games on the mound from Brad McLean, Ryan Sullivan, Tyler Keating & Brendan Skidmore. Sullivan's complete game was a 1-hitter. Offensively, the Chiefs received solid hits from the whole



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squad, led by Steve Gilbert, Ryan O'Shea, Nick Ahearn, Matt Cuneo and James Venuto. Defensively, the Chiefs were led once again by superior outfield play from Luke Cuneo, Steve Gilbert and Oliver White.

The Chiefs will next participate in the NEBA invitational July 10 thru 12<sup>th</sup> in Bridgewater, MA.