

HARBOR EMPLOYEES CLUB



Yancie Mejia, catcher, 5 years of City service, Club Member.



Erika Cabrera, catcher and right field, 3 years of City service, Club Member.



Masaki Imoto, outfield, 8 years of City service, Club Member.



Leigh Smith, catcher, 7 years of City service, Club Member.



Robert Parral, pitcher/infield, 10 years of City service.



Mario Saborio, shortstop, 14 years of City service.



Daryl Raasch, left field, 26 years of City service.



Tracey Zuliani, second base, 11 years of City service.

HDEC Softball Finals

Harbor employees club hosts softball championship game.



Vanessa Guillen, Clerk Typist, 5 years of City service, Club Member.



Christine Honeybone, catcher, 10 years of City service, Club Member.

Story by Tracey Zuliani; Photos by Noelle Kauffman, Club Counselor

After an exciting season, the Harbor Dept. Employees Club (HDEC) held its softball championship game Aug. 18 in Harbor Park Field.

This season's HDEC Softball League was a big thing, with its regional rivalries, on-field exploits, swirling rumors, tight races, and playoff encounters.

The games this season were evenly matched, and the excitement in the crowd has been a great barometer of the competition and drama. The real drama began when the regular season games ended with a four-way tie for second place. An unprecedented tie-breaker series was played, delivering some of the sport's defining moments. The Bombers, securely in first place, watched as the Bases Re-Loaded (Security) mowed over the Gardener's Green Machine to secure their spot in the playoffs, while the Port Police Frontline forcefully captured its playoff spot from the Torpedoes. With the taste of defeat still fresh in their mouths, the Green Machine and Torpedoes played a second game to determine the final playoff position, where the Torpedoes blasted the Green Machine's chances at the championships to bits.

The playoffs were just as frenzied when Bases Re-Loaded defeated the Port Police and the Torpedoes extinguished the Bombers, eliminating the first-place team. More trash-talking ensued the week leading up to the playoffs, especially since the two teams in the championship, Bases Re-Loaded and the Torpedoes, weren't supposed to be there. It was all about the underdogs, the comeback kids, and the chance for both teams to end the season at this year's HDEC Softball Championship and barbecue with a spectacular display of clanging metal on leather and clouds of dust across home plate.

With a heavy crossfire of insults and a volley of contempt between the two teams, this championship kept its promise to not be a dull affair. The Torpedoes thought they had this one in the bag because they have unloaded on the Bases Re-Loaded twice this season, but the Bases Re-Loaded brought out the big guns for an all-out offensive.

At the championship, everyone came out swinging! This game was full of excitement and spirit from beginning to end. The Bases Re-Loaded ignited the game in the first inning by scoring three runs, and the Torpedoes fired back with five of its own. Jammed up, the Bases laid low on the lam as the Torpedoes blasted in four more runs. The third inning was another barrage of hits for the Bases, tying the game and halting

the progression of the Torpedoes. Bases pulled the trigger in the fourth inning, never surrendering, and held the Torpedoes to only three more runs. The Torpedoes, the team that took the Bases Re-Loaded out of last season's playoff hope, just had their battleship sunk with a final score of 19 to 12 in favor of the Bases Re-Loaded. How sweet the victory!

There were some notable clutch plays:

- Jessica Bautista stretching out at first base to make several plays.
- Mike Swords stopping every ball that came down the third-base line.
- Leigh Smith's never-say-die attitude getting on base three out of six times.
- Ernie "Money Talks" Robledo, always challenging the 20-foot-high pitch, was not to be messed with.
- Robert Parral went four for four with a home run (it would have been two homers, but the ball rolled foul for a ground rule double) and 8 RBIs.
- Mario hitting the farthest ball of the day. Other hot hitters - Andy Wooster, Adrian Ornelas, and Brian Correa.
- Radames Macias catching a line drive just inches away from hitting the dirt for the first out of the last inning, only to be followed by the game-ending spectacular stretch and grab by Robert Parral to successfully complete a double play.

Next season, come out and support your fellow co-workers and see which team brings out their full arsenal and which team will end up cannon fodder.

Congratulations to all those who participated in this season HDEC Softball League and all the fans that came out to support it. It was a great season!



Bases Re-loaded hold up the team's victory trophy!



Spectator Mary Ramos, Clerk Typist, Port Police, 6 years of City service, with her son, Quentin.



Masaki Imoto, Club Member, with his guest, Nina.



Spectator Petty Santos, Senior MA II, 15 years of City service, with her daughter, Emelia.



Spectator Julie Ditucci, Secretary, 27 years of City service, Club Member; and Spectator Anthony Ditucci, Boat Captain II, 21 years of City service.



Jessica Bautista, first base, 16 years of City service, Club Member; and Ernie, pitcher, Club Member.



Robert Holquin, 6 years of City service, Club Member, with his daughter, Brianna.



Carlos Caldara with his daughter, Hailey.



Spectator Kevin Jennings, Security Officer, 10 years of City service, Club Member, with his daughter, Danielle, and son, Kevin Jr.



The Torpedoes.



From left: Carlos Caldara, center field, 3 years of City service; and Luis Tapia, right field, 6 years of City service, Club Member.



Melissa Malahni, second base, 7 years of City service, Club Member.



Leigh Smith, Club Member, with her son, Lucian.



Mike Myung, right field, 5 years of City service.