

# CLUB SPORTS

News from Sports Leagues sponsored by the City Employees Club of Los Angeles • May 2014



## Tournament Time!

The Club holds its first preseason softball tournament.

By the Commissioner of Club Softball, Lady Smith;  
Photos by QueJonné Smith



Lady Smith

**The Commish**  
The City Employees Club's Invitational Softball Tournament began April 12, with eager umpires/staff and two unfinished softball diamonds. As umpires **Javier Vega** and **Sal Murillo** prepared the Club's rented diamonds in anticipation of the start of the big day, players began arriving ready to warm up and take out the competition; after all, Club T-shirts and bragging rights were at stake.

The free-agent list turned into a Who's Who of City Club softball players. It was filled with some of the greatest players of the league (three amazing shortstops, a sacrificial third baseman, and three awesome pitchers). A few days before Tournament day, the Sluggers acquired a pitcher from the free-agent list – none other than a Jets pitcher (**Kenny Webb**). What an awesome pickup; the Sluggers agreed! Also from the list, the Enforcers picked up two Guzzlers (**Robin Stinson** and **Darryl Prince**), Pola Bombers picked up a triple-threat player (**Martha Egure**) and Last Minute's recipe included one Sewer Rat, one Slugger, two Guzzlers, and newcomers (LAUSD, Library). The Club also welcomed four new Members from this event.

As the beautiful sun rose warmly that Saturday morning, first to arrive on the scene was members from team Pola Bombers (Harbor) lead by **Chris Torres**. Soon players from team Last Minute (Coach **Demitrius Jones**) arrived for a piece of the action; next the Sluggers (Coach **Delta Rodriguez**)

and then the Enforcers (Coach **Cesar Ponce**). After everyone was properly checked in with waivers signed and fancy wristbands attached, it was heard "let the games begin!" and it was on!

Diamond 2 started with the Pola Bombers versus Last Minute. Over on diamond 4, the Enforcers opened up by competed against the Sluggers. Each team had absolutely awesome pitchers on the mound (**Robbert Parral**, **Victor Pallares**, and the aforementioned Ponce and Webb). Although these pitchers landed countless strikes on the plate, they were also met with a multitude of singles, doubles, stretched triples, and in the park home runs.

A record of all games revealed amazing feats. Webb held the record for most hits (15 for 16, including one sacrifice). **Bryan Johnson** came in second place for the most hits (12 for 13 including four home runs). **Akiba Mitchell** held the record for greatest throws from any field. One of his throws was from the outfield and landed at home plate, cleaning the plate with one of the fastest-running Sluggers. Another throw narrowly missed the head of a competitor, yet completely demolished umpire Murillos' clipboard. **Sabrina Fernandez** easily earned the game winner play of the day, with her awesome winning hit. However, this achievement only enhanced her abilities as she held down second base with great fielding. **Lauren Pitpit** got down and dirty on third base and performed



Eddy Rodriguez's third-base defense. See the ball in his right hand?



Team mixture: Guzzler (Victor Pallares), Slugger (Demitrius Jones) and Sewer Rat (Bryan Johnson).



dynamic plays and awesome hitting. **Eddy Rodriguez** also got dirty on third base, sacrificing his body to stop the ball from getting past him, thereby saving an unknown number of runs against his team. Last but not least, **Manny Ortiz** and **Ponce** made a dynamic play at second base when, while backward, Ortiz tipped the ball to Ponce, who was still running to cover the base, executing a last-minute forceout. It was timely!



The Winning Team: The Sluggers

### Championship Game

The crowd enjoyed close competitions throughout every game, eagerly awaiting the championship game, held between the Pola Bombers and the undefeated Sluggers. The Pola Bombers led off with three runs in the first inning. It wasn't until the bottom half of the second inning that the Sluggers decided to show up and answered back with seven runs. Pola Bombers picked up one run in the third and gave up three moments later including a two-run sacrifice fly from Webb. Sluggers would hold Pola Bombers again and earn another seven runs in the fourth. Again, Pola Bombers were silent yet had to hold the Sluggers at just one run for an opportunity to take the championship. Nevertheless, Sluggers earned another two runs to end the game and the day.

Great times were had by all! Participants commented about how nice it was to play with mixed teams, giving players an opportunity to get to know league competitors better. Many smiles and lots of laughter filled the air that day. There were no real complaints, not even about the "Candy-Man." (You had to be there.) Don't miss out on the action next year. The free-agents' list is already starting to fill for league play. If you don't already have a team, just sign up and you will. We will also have a free-agents list for the tournament next year.

Special thanks to umpires **Javier Vega** and **Sal Murillo**, scorekeepers **Alexandria Ross** and **Horace Sealy**, tournament assistant **Jason Jackson**, and volunteer photographer **QueJonne' Smith**. City Club merchandise was given to those who made great plays and had great team spirit.

Thank you to all the participants for making that already glorious day an absolute one.



Bryan Johnson's home run.

**Join a Club Bowling League Today!**

### Bowling Fun!



Sign up for upcoming Club bowling leagues. The Club's Sports Dude is rounding up all those dedicated Club bowlers out there. Join a Club bowling league. There's little time to spare! Contact The Sports Dude at (800) 464-0452, or [sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:sportsdude@cityemployeesclub.com)

### Sign Up Mondays!

Stop by the Club Store on Mondays (8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.) to sign up for any upcoming Club sports league!

- Club Soccer League
- Club Softball League
- Club Basketball League
- Running Club



Come meet Robert Larios, The Sports Dude

The Sports Dude is also on Facebook by searching him with the words Club Sports Dude – Robert Larios.