

# Treasure Coast President's Day Challenge

Photos submitted by Christie Johnson, Vero Beach Sports Village

**V**ero Beach Sports Village, in conjunction with the Treasure Coast Sports Commission, hosted its first annual Treasure Coast President's Day Challenge youth baseball tournament February 19th through February 21st. Teams from several states, including New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Minnesota, as well as clubs from Puerto Rico, participated in the weekend's event.

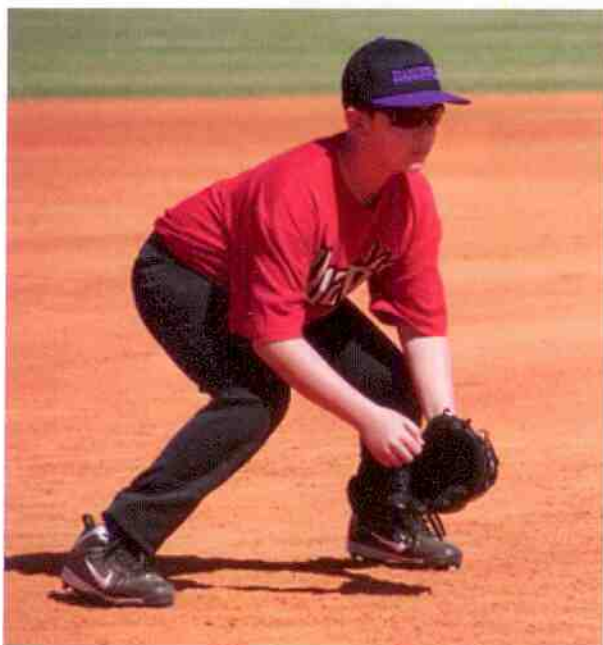
"We are excited about our first annual youth tournament this year and very pleased with the amount of out-of-state teams attending," said Jeff Biddle, Director of Athletics and Marketing for VBSV.

The tournament consisted of 24 teams in four different age groups. The 14, 16 and 18 and under age groups played at the 67-acre VBSV facility, while the 12 and under teams played their games at the North County Regional Park.

In the 12U bracket, the Eau Gallie Stallions ran away with every game they played by winning against the C.J. Diamondbacks 8-4, Triple Threat Bearcats 14-4, The Fieldhouse Pirates 18-1, Sebastian Sharks 18-0 and in the final game against the Fieldhouse Pirates 24-1 for all the bragging rights for the next year. Runners-up Fieldhouse Pirates split the bracket and defeated the



**Eau Gallie Stallions**



**Fieldhouse Pirates**

## (PLAY BY PLAY)

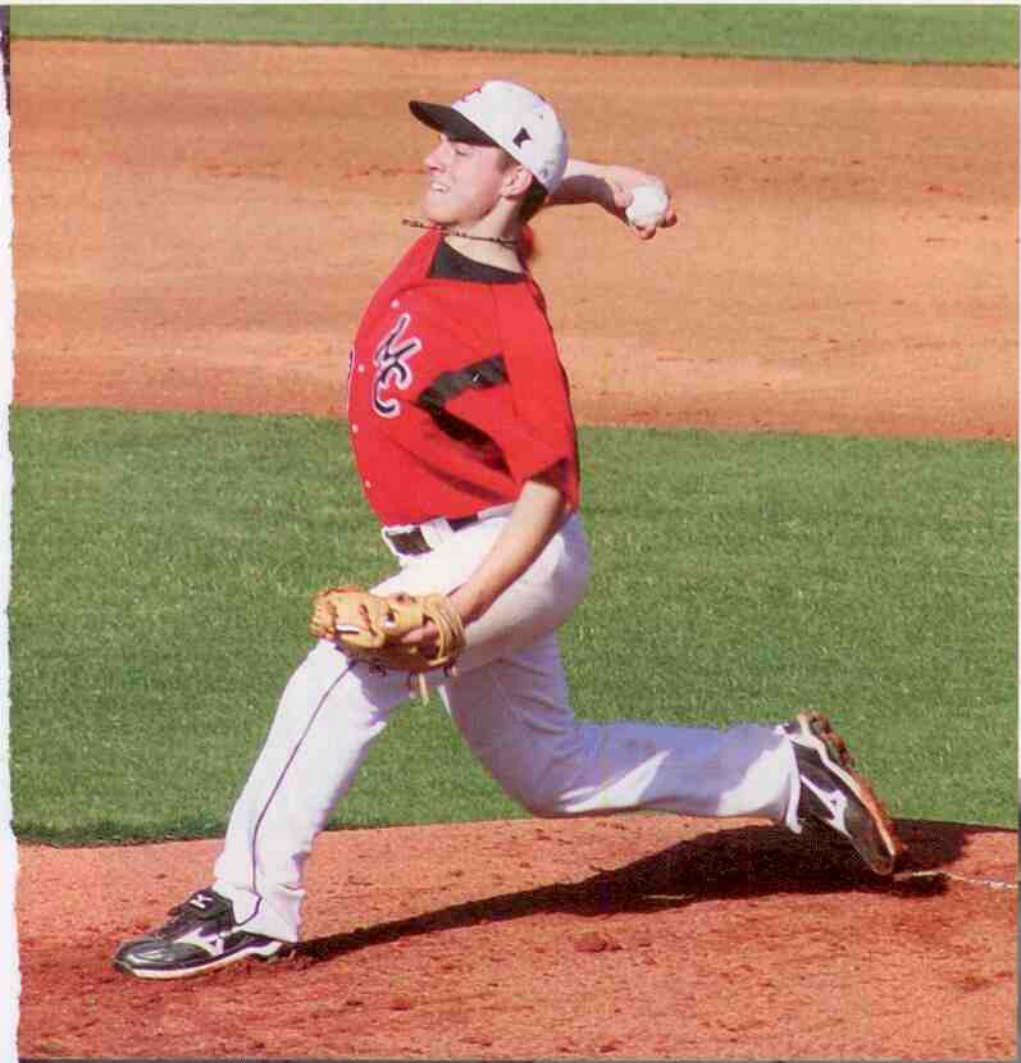
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Sebastian Sharks 10-5, the Triple Threat Bearcats 13-3 and the CJ Diamondbacks 10-7 en-route to the championship game.

The final results for the 12U were: 1. Eau Gallie Stallions 5-0; 2. Fieldhouse Pirates 3-3; 3. CJ Diamondbacks 3-2; 4. Triple Threat Bearcats 1-3; 5. Sebastian Sharks 0-4.

In the 14U bracket, the fight was between the All American Prospects and the Orlando Scorpions for the glory and the championship hardware. The All American Prospects defeated MLI Phantoms in their first game 17-6 and went on to drop the next game to the Orlando Scorpions 18-2. After the shock wore off, the Prospects went to knock out the Rye Brook Predators 14-8, the MLI Phantoms 10-0 and when it counted... the Orlando Scorpions again for all the marbles 6-4. Runners-up Orlando Scorpions' only loss came at the hands of the Prospects in the final game. The Orlando Scorpions





defeated the Rye Brook Predators 15-2, the All American Prospects 18-2, MLI Phantoms 15-2, and the Rye Brook Predators 15-0 on their way to the championship game.

The final results for the 14U were: 1. All American Prospects 4-1; 2. Orlando Scorpions 4-1; 3. MLI Phantoms 1-3; 4. Rye Brook Predators 0-4.

In the 16U bracket, the Minnesota Blizzard-Blue blew through their competition starting with a win over the HV Renegades-Red 13-0. The Blizzard-Blue went on to record wins over the Florida Red Sox 12-9, HV Renegades-Black 7-4, Manchester Mavericks 17-2, Minnesota Blizzard-Black 14-4, and the Minnesota Classic 16-1. Runners-up HV Renegades-Black did some damage of their own when they defeated Florida Red Sox 15-0, Minnesota Blizzard-Black 6-2, HV Renegades-Red 10-0, Manchester Mavericks 14-0 and Minnesota Classic 8-2.

The HV Renegades-Black's only loss was to the eventual champs Minnesota Blizzard-Blue.



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Adam Barta of the 16U Champions Minnesota Blizzard-Blue told us, "Vero Beach was awesome! Our players, coaching staff and parents loved the tournament, the field access and playing conditions and attention to detail. The villas were fantastic and it was great to wake up, get ready and walk out the door and step on the field every day.

The food was great too, not to mention all the other things to do on-site like basketball, tennis, ping pong, billiards and the swimming pool. We'll be back!"

Mark Sacchi of the 16U Runners-up HV Renegades said, "Well if it had to be summed up in one word... incredible, but one word won't do it. Let's add spectacular, awesome, top notch and I am sure there are many more adjectives I am missing, but it really was a tournament that will not soon be forgotten. We had three teams that attended the tournament and from the minute we arrived in Vero Beach at the Dodgertown complex you could feel the magic and the history which the facility breathes. The staff were on point with everything we needed (from extra cots to help with getting everyone settled in their rooms which were like staying at a 5 star hotel). The dorms (as they are called) are anything but. They have kept the same rooms that all past Dodger greats stayed in but have updated them for a 2011 look and feel. What a treat to know you could have been staying in the same room as Hall of Famers Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella or Tommy Lasorda or any other Dodger favorites such as Ron Cey and Steve Garvey. Staying on grounds at the facility you receive a complimentary buffet style breakfast which rivals any meal you would go out for at the local food establishment. They also offer a lunch and dinner buffet for a small fee. Now getting down to the real reason we are here in Vero Beach... to play baseball. Our teams have played in some of the biggest tournaments across the country and they were ALL in agreement that the fields at the Dodgertown Complex were the best they have ever played at. With the tournament being held on Presidents Day weekend you would have expected the fields to be in good shape to play a tournament but they were pristine. Each field was groomed as if the Dodgers were still taking the field for a spring training game-with the cream of the crop being the stadium. The tournament started on Saturday morning and went off without a hitch. The 18U team played in a three-game pool play format with the top four teams making the playoffs with the remaining teams to play in a consolation round. The 16U and 15U played in a six-game round robin with the champion and runner up to be determined by record. Our 16U team went 5-1 and was the runner ups to a great team from Minnesota. Although it was a team effort, our top performers were Ryan St. John, who pitched two complete game shutouts, allowing only three hits in both games and Ryan Hutton who threw a no-hitter. On the offensive side we were powered by the bats of Pat Joyner, Hunter Dolshun, DJ Mendenhall, Ash Joyner and Jake Kinley. Our team would like to thank our Sponsors: Stop N Shop Supermarkets, Shop Rite



**Orlando Scorpions**



**Minnesota Blizzard-Blue**



**HV Renegades-Black**

Supermarkets, McDonalds, Sharp, Anaconda Sports, Hooters Restaurants, Michelangelo's Restaurant, The Courtyard by Marriott, Hampton Inn Hotels and The Tampa Bay Rays, who without their support attending the 2011 Treasure Coast Presidents Day Challenge would not have been possible."

The final results for the 16U were: 1. Minnesota Blizzard-Blue 6-0; 2. HV Renegades-Black 5-1; 3. Minnesota Classic 4-2; 4. Minnesota Blizzard-Black 3-3; 5. Florida Red Sox 2-4; 6. HV Renegades-Red 1-5; 7. Manchester Mavericks 0-6.

The 18U bracket was dominated by the Minnesota Blizzard-Blue as they started off tournament play with a win over the HV Renegades 6-4. The Minnesota Blizzard-Blue won the next game against the Minnesota Classic 18-1 before suffering their only loss against the Next Level Academy 4-8. The Minnesota Blizzard-Blue took out the Minnesota Blizzard-Gold 10-5 and the Minnesota Classic in a second meeting 11-2 for all the marbles. Runners-up Minnesota Classic won three against the Minnesota Blizzard-Gold 10-7, HV Renegades 3-1 and the Minnesota Blizzard-Black 14-8 before losing both to the Blizzard-Blue.

The top results for the 18U were: 1. Minnesota Blizzard-Blue 4-1; 2. Minnesota Classic 3-2.



**Minnesota Blizzard-Blue**

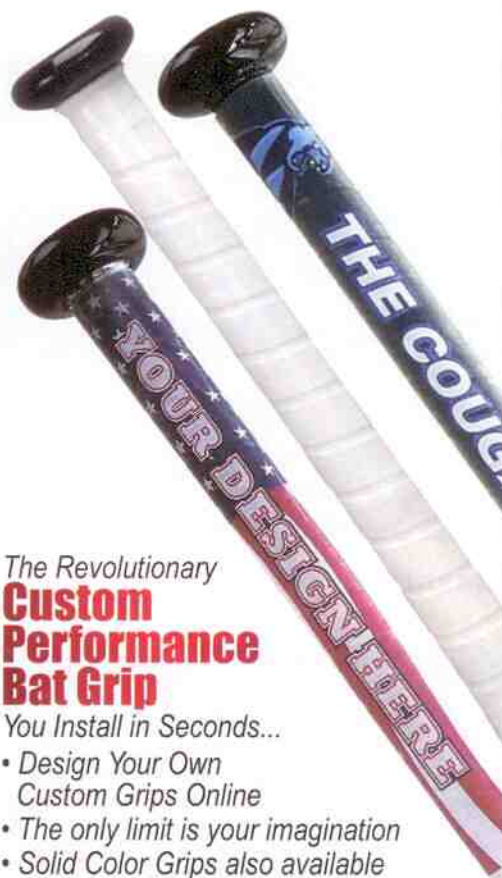


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