

The Skibbe Wiffleball League hosted 4 competing teams for the first annual *Road to Ohio* Regional Events for the National Wiffle League Association Tournament on June 7th, 2015. It was a wonderful event expertly orchestrated by the perennial favorites, Chris Gallaway and Sam Skibbe. We saw high stakes action and powerful pitching performances. We saw incredible batting power and defensive ingenuity. Mostly, we saw a collection of players leave their blood, sweat, and tears, (and in some instances, their lunch) on the field. And I had the distinct pleasure of having a front row seat for the entire event as PA announcer. It was an event that will go down in NWLA history for not only being the first (or second) of its kind, but also for being a spectacle taken in by all in attendance, and literally tens of people on Periscope.

While the incredible achievements and accomplishments of each player for each respective team cannot be fully comprehended through a simple article, I can only do my best service to all of the fans of wiffle across this beautiful blue rock and outline them as follows:

MWLWI Mequonderers

The Mequonderers are that team that everyone just loves to love. No controversy or ill will towards anyone, just a strong group of wiffers. Captain Mike Boyles did his best to bring teammates Andy Collins, Colin Komisar, and Tim Wiencek to victory but it was much easier said than done. The Mequonderers went a rough 1-3 with their lone victory coming over the GWWW Muscadines. The Mequonderers are going to the National Tournament as an automatic qualifier, but they are really up against the current, finishing in the bottom four teams throughout all regionals.

GWWW Muscadines

Wow. What is there to say about the Muscadines? They had heart, I guess? Yeah, we will go with that. The GWWW Muscadines played with great heart and a real can-do attitude. While watching their games I jotted down a quick list of things that the Muscadines could work on to improve upon their 0-4 finish in regionals this year:

- Batting
- Fielding
- Pitching
- Conditioning. There were multiple time stoppages for sickness breaks, but there is a possibility that this was just stemming from their bodies acclimating to the St. Louis humidity, or their bodies acclimating to the St. Louis beer.

If the Muscadines can find a way to improve upon these things, Captain Korey Pitts and his motley crew of my friends Josie Bobo, Austin Parsons and Mikie Vaughan could make a real splash in the NWLA tournament next year...if they come back...and change everything they know about wiffleball.

WWL Warriors

The WWL Warriors, anchored by the People's Champion Regis Pollard, had a strong showing at regionals this year, and it mostly stemmed from quality offense. After being no-hit by the SWBL's Spencer Bogad in the first game of the tournament, they proceeded to pour on that thick, delicious offense that you just love to see as a spectator. The next three games the Warriors recorded 21, 14, and 19 runs. Regis Pollard literally had 3 more hits than the entire GWWW Muscadines team. Couple that with 3 dingers

from Steve Gaffney and 11 HR as a team, and the Warriors are officially ready to steal your lunch money. The Warriors were represented by Captain Regis Pollard, Cody Hammond, Eli Beard, Jordan Shelton, Steve Gaffney, and Tommy Taylor.

SWBL Cardinals

The SWBL Cardinals have made a splash on the NWLA Tournament scene as perhaps one of the most surprising teams of the last two National Tournaments. They combined excellent offense with solid defense to take 3rd place overall. However, the SWBL lacked that one solid ace that it seems all the elite teams have. Hopefully for the SWBL, it seems as though they have found him.

Spencer Bogad threw a no hitter against the WWL Warriors, one of the strongest offensive teams in the St. Louis regional. If he can recreate that success, the SWBL Cardinals may have a legitimate ace, but we all know the Ohio air is different on that fateful weekend. The Cardinals finished regionals with a 3-1 record with their sole loss coming against the PWL Nationals, excuse me, the PWL Shannons. The SWBL was represented by Manager Sam Skibbe and his team of Alex Heck, Spencer Bogad, Gus Skibbe, Blake Spencer, Brett Spencer, Brian Kenney, and Luke Bakula.

PWL Nationals

After a disappointing finish in last year's national tournament, the PWL Nationals needed a jump start in the form of a solid Regionals performance. They did just that. Jack Shannon pitched well, and the team as a whole batted .463! That is an impressive number. If you don't believe me, check out www.nwlatournament.com for yourself and check under the stats page. It shouldn't be hard to find the system is set to sort all teams immediately by average so it is the first thing anyone sees. Who sets this tournament up again?

The Nationals 3-1 record was good enough for a ranking in the 2nd four finishers along with the SWBL and WWL, so there is a high possibility that one of the three teams from the St. Louis Regional ends up in a dreaded pool of death with OCWA finishing in the 3rd four finishers. PWL was led by manager Chris Galloway and players, Jim Shannon, Jack Shannon, Colin Gannon, Kevin Higman, Spencer Howard, Stephen Crawford and Ty Fletcher.

It truly was a wonderful tournament and I'd like to personally thank everyone involved and everyone who worked to make it such a success. Congratulations to The WWL Warriors, The SWBL Cardinals, the PWL Nationals, and the MWLWI Mequonderers for qualifying to the national tournament.

We will see you in Ohio!

Edloe Donnan

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