

“How we, at the HRL Regional, stacked up against all the others.”

SWBL Post-Regional Article

The HRL Regional in Eagan, MN included some great wiffleball players and even better people. It was a great regional and not one of the teams finished in the bottom 5 of the entire regional field. That in itself was a great feat and showed there was a lot of parity in Eagan on the last regional weekend of 2016. Below is a list of accomplishments in which each team in this regional was at the “top of their game” and what they will be remembered for during this round of play...

DISCLAIMER: Don't get me wrong I am not complaining, BUT it seemed as though there were more problems with the stats in these regional rounds than any other year in any other round in the history of this tournament. Strikeouts looking and swinging didn't seem to matter, outs and hits were sometimes mistakenly taken away, and errors and hits seemed to be given out in interesting scenarios. But as I digress, I know from past experience in owning this stat system that it can be confusing and the game moves faster than you can keep up sometimes, but this is the big time...if you need some help let me know I got you. The reason I have this disclaimer is because some of these statistics might be skewed based on the stats taken vs actuality.

SWBL:

Let's get this one out of the way...led all regional teams in: Plate Appearances, Hits, Triples, Home Runs, Runs Scored, Runs Batted In, Batting Average, On Base Percentage, Slugging Percentage, and On Base Plus Slugging Percentage. Yeah boring I know...same old SWBL team...looks like the “butchers of bad pitching” got lucky again and led the tournament field in almost every offensive category (pending correct stats of course).

HRL:

The regional hosts are one of the best teams in the NWLA field and continued to prove they have what it takes to win this tournament. Nothing stands out statistically in leading the regional round but most importantly, they were one of only four teams to not lose a game in the regional round, while also being tied for the most ties in the regional round as well.

MNWA:

With one of the largest rosters and the biggest followings in the regional round, the North Stars turned Gophers were one of the biggest surprises of the preliminary games. Despite being in the bottom tier heading to pool play, this team could play the role of spoiler for an unsuspecting powerhouse along the way. Fun fact...they also led the regional round in most triple plays hit into, while also hitting into the least amount of ground outs (pending correct stats of course).

SFWL:

This one is easy, they led the regional round in HRL crossover players used, ineligible players used, and total number of batted out of turns. They also tied for the lead in errors committed by their right fielders, led the field in most triples and home runs given up, and hit into the least amount of fly outs in the regional round (pending correct stats of course). Despite qualifying they won't be heading to Ohio for the second straight year, but are very excited to show their talents with the class of 2017 to come.

BCW:

This team is the National Fun Team of the Year and we loved every second of getting to know Chris Neumann even more throughout the day. Statistically they only led the regional round tied with SFWL with the most errors committed by their right fielders (pending correct stats of course), but they also led the regional round in brats made, kegs brought, and lovable character on the roster with the most shirtless players in their team photo. We are so excited they have the opportunity to experience Ohio and I am excited to see how much damage Nick Neumann, and that glorious mane, can do on the mound during the national stage.

BWACS:

Last, but certainly not least, is the Lot Lizards. It was a pleasure to get to know this team even better throughout this regional round. They were the saving graces of our regional after the Nebraska team dropped out and they were very close to qualifying for nationals despite bringing a last minute roster. The big surprise was Nick Salinske who led all regional players in On Base Average, Slugging Percentage and OPS (pending correct stats of course)! Even more importantly though, this team led the regional round in Jameson shots shared (thank you very much for those) and in my opinion were the best team to not qualify and we hope they return next year.

The most important thing to note is that the people and relationships in Eagan were unmatched and in my opinion, this regional led the nation in wiffleball community and news coverage to boot. We will see most of you in Ohio and even hope that Ronnie and Keith can make the trip as well (base coaches for the SWBL...huh?).