

SWBL Pre-Regional Article

One pre-regional article, one post-regional article, two pre-national articles, two on-site national articles, and one post-national article. At least, 7 articles in total. They can be anything from roster announcements, podcasts, videos, and so much more. Yes this article will partially be the easy way out, and that is in the form of a roster announcement; with an extra bonus added to the end regarding our fellow regional socialites come the HRL Regional on June 25th, 2016.

Last year, we hosted a regional here in St. Louis with a hodge-podge of teams from around the country, most of them flying in. What came out of it was a competitive regional that led to three teams going 3-1 at the top of the regional standings. This year, I don't expect that from our regional in Minnesota, but I do believe that it will be the most enjoyable regional, socially, to be a part of in this year's regional lineup.

Sure competition is at an all time high at these events, but the Minnesota regional will, for sure, be the most light-hearted, in terms of atmosphere (besides a good H8R razzing). Before I go any further, I want to take a quick pause just to mention and announce our SWBL roster heading to regionals in Minnesota in a few weeks:

#4 Spencer “Cornbread” Bogad, P/EH

-**NWLA Tournaments Played:** *One (2015)*

-**NWLA Tournament Claim To Fame:** *Pitched a no-hitter against WWL in last year's regional, and wears a bucket hat.*

-**SWBL Awards:** *2016 MVP, 2016 Gold Hands (P), 2016 NL All-Star, 2015 HR Derby Champ, 2014 Comeback Player of the Year, 2-time SWBL Champion*

#7 Peter “Pistol” “M-V-Pete” Leicht, EH, RF

-**NWLA Tournaments Played:** *None*

-**NWLA Tournament Claim To Fame:** *Coached Third Base for the SWBL Cardinals in 2013 and 2014, always with a beer in hand.*

-**SWBL Awards:** *2015 MVP, 2015 Platinum and Gold Hands (LF), 2015 SWBL Hall of Fame Inductee, 4-time All Star, 2004 Rookie of the Year*

-**NWLA Awards:** *2015 National Hitter of the Year*

#10 Chris “Minnesota” Meador, LF

-**NWLA Tournaments Played:** *Two and a Half (2013 ish-2015)*

-**NWLA Tournament Claim To Fame:** *Arguably one of the best fielders and contact hitters in NWLA tournament history, also known for not wearing a hat...ever.*

-**SWBL Awards:** *2010 MVP, 4-time Platinum and Gold Hands (LF), 3-time All-Star, 4-time SWBL Champion*

-**NWLA Awards:** *3-time Midwest Fielder of the Year (2012-2014), 2-time National Fielder of the Year (2013, 2014)*

#12 Sam “Commish” Skibbe, RF/P

-**NWLA Tournaments Played:** *Four (2012-2015)*

-**NWLA Tournament Claim To Fame:** *Member of the NWLA tournament committee, big smile, and former owner of the Price is Right walk up song.*

-**SWBL Awards:** *2009 MVP, 9-time CY Wiffle (2003-2010, 2016), 2-time Gold Hands, 3-time All-Star, 3-time SWBL Champion, 2012 SWBL Hall of Fame Inductee*

-**NWLA Awards:** *2013 National Hitter of the Year, 2013 NWLA Hall of Fame Inductee*

#18 Gus “Goose” Skibbe, P/OF/EH

-**NWLA Tournaments Played:** *Three (2013-2015)*

-**NWLA Tournament Claim To Fame:** *Probably the lankiest player in the NWLA Tournament, the 2015 National Home Run Derby Champ is known for dropping bombs.*

-**SWBL Awards:** *2011 MVP, 2-time Gold Hands, 2-time Cy Wiffle, 5-time All-Star, 2015 SWBL Hall of Fame Inductee, 3-time SWBL Champion*

Now back to the most enjoyable regional in 2016...

HRL is a bundle of joy, BCW has the name “Keg Crushers” and backs their name up, SFWL is a family affair, MNWA has some of the best and nicest characters in the wiffle world, and then there is us (SWBL) who has graciously volunteered to have the longest drive out of any league going to a regional...nice of us, right? The CWBL has yet to make an appearance but we can only assume that being brought into that type of wiffle environment will start their path of being a great league to hang around with as well.

With so many wonderful leagues, one can only assume that there are wonderful people to have social encounters with as well, and you would assume correct. Here is a list of just TEN of the MANY people that we are so excited to get to see come June 25th:

Trent Steffes, MNWA

Everyone’s best friend, this man would save you from a bullet if the opportunity arose. Truly, a great man in our wiffle-community.

Andrew Lindor, MNWA

Not sure if he is on the roster, but if he isn’t hopefully he still shows. His hair and his mouth alone are wonders to witness, not to mention he has one of the greatest personalities in wiffleball.

Peter Monsrud, MNWA

With an award winning smile and the nicest persona of anyone you will meet, you can’t help but feel welcomed to Minnesota with Peter by your side.

Tyler “Smallpox” Flakne, HRL

Tyler, or course, came down to our SWBL Season 14 this year and won not only our 2016 Rookie of the Year Award but also won an SWBL Championship with the SWBL Phillies. He was a great guy to have around and we were so excited we were able to get to know Tyler even better throughout Memorial Day Weekend.

Zach “Dr.Suess” Eustis, HRL

Did you see that injury video? It made me cry, it made me laugh, it made me want to be Zach’s best friend.

Erik “H8R” Ganeles, HRL

Who doesn’t enjoy this guy? One of the best talkers in the world, you can’t take anything negative he says to heart, we all know he means it with love.

Nate “Vlade” Hill, HRL

Nate is a great man with the most endearing sarcasm you will ever find. He lays out the welcome mat to all in his great state of Minnesota.

Howard Cronin, SFWL

What a guy! Polite and enjoyable, this man was a pleasure to meet last year and we hope he is back again on the sideline and on the mound.

Chris Neumann, BCW

Yes, we know he didn’t get drafted to the SWBL, but it wasn’t out of not liking the guy. I loved getting to meet Chris last year and I can’t wait to continue to grow (and mend) our relationship moving forward as fellow Commissioners of this great sport.

The Entire CWBL Roster

Haven’t met any of them, but it’s always exciting to meet new people who love the same sport we all love. Good luck at Regionals fellas and have a great time!

Honorable Mentions, without the time to explain:

Rob “Beardface” Raymond, HRL; Chris “Hardball” Matthews, HRL (he yelled at me last time we saw each other...); Travis “Two Bat” Heyda, HRL; “Handsome” Mat Peisert, HRL; Wade “Web Gem” Cooper, HRL; John Cronin, SFWL; the rest of the MNWA roster of old; Derek Dust, SFWL/HRL; and of course the GREAT PAT”TRUCK” MORIARTY, HRL!

Good luck to all the teams, not only in the HRL Regional, but also in the regionals across the wiffle-world. But let’s be real honest, I am sure you are all jealous you won’t be in Minnesota on June 25th, 2016.

For our next pre-regional article, the SWBL will be hosting a live podcast in the car on our way up to Minnesota for Regionals on Friday, June 24th. The details will be explained at a later date, but we hope you all tune in to our first ever live taping of our nationally recognized podcast.