

Champ's Chatter

The Official Newsletter of Softball Canada's Triple Header of Canadian Fastpitch Championships in Saskatoon - July 27th Opening Edition



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Welcome to the 2019 U14 Boy's, U16 Boy's and U23 Men's Canadian Fastpitch championships. The first of these to get underway was the U14 Boy's. The first official event was the player banquet held last night at the Gordie Howe Sports Centre. Organizers were excited to have as guest speaker Jordan Hudson. Jordan told the story of his development from playing ball on the Montgomery Place playgrounds to winning bronze at the Jr. Men's World Championship, gold and MVP at U18 National's, and a silver at the Canada Games.

Stouffville Ontario. The defending silver medallist Napanee Express will come to us as the favorite. They won the tough 19 team Ontario qualifier and Ontario teams have always been in the medals. They will feature last year's Top Pitcher Gavin Brooks in the circle. The other 2 Ontario teams: Chatsworth West Grey Dodgers and New Hamburg Wilmot Thunder will be looking for revenge. Newfoundland had 2 teams last year with only one this year they plan on improving on their 7th place finish. BC and Nova Scotia did not send a U14 teams last year so they are huge question marks. Both are known for outstanding men's fastpitch as Nova Scotia is home to former Sr. Men's champions East Hants Mastodons and British Columbia has always had highly competitive men's teams. Saskatchewan has four teams: Shellbrook Rangers, Prince Albert Astros and Prairie Pride. As well as the Host Saskatoon Selects. The Selects topped the field in provincials beating Shellbrook in the final. They finished 5th at last year's nationals and bring several key returnees and thus expect to improve on that standing. Saskatoon hosted the first ever U16 nationals in 2016 and the Selects won bronze so they have a clear target to meet or beat.



The Teams

The U14 category have a stacked field of 10 teams from around the country. The Terrace Grizzlies come to us from the west coast, from the farthest east we have the Newfoundland Selects and Nova Scotia's Antigonish A's. We have 3 teams returning from last year's championship in

Saturday games to keep an eye include the 10AM game where Napanee will continue its Ontario rivalry New Hamburg. The two evening games are interesting matchups as the Selects will show the home crowd what they have when they take on Chatsworth and Terrace Grizzlies will play there second straight Saskatchewan team taking on Prairie Pride. After tonight every team will have played 2 game.