

Mercurys repeat as ISC II champs

Listowel's Trevor Seip homers in Harriston's 7-4 win over Tavistock in final

BY PATRICK RAFTIS AND CHUCK KUEPFER

The Harriston Mercurys are still World Champions. The local men's fastball squad – which includes Listowel's Trevor Seip in its lineup – won its second consecutive International Softball Congress (ISC II division) title last week in Fargo, North Dakota.

The Mercurys reached the final undefeated, going 4-0 in the preliminary round of the tournament and 3-0 in sudden-death playoff games leading up to Friday afternoon's championship game.

Harriston went head-to-head with South Perth Fastball League opponents and also undefeated Tavistock Merchants in the final, where homeruns by Seip and Harriston native Ryan Fisk powered the Mercurys to a 7-4 victory.

Joe German (Stouffville) started the game on the mound and Nick Goetz (Elmira) came in and shut the Merchants down for the last five innings.

Hurlers Scott Smith of Belmore and Sean Winship of London combined for a no-hitter in the semi-finals against Appleton, Wisconsin, Friday morning. Appleton's only run

Harriston defends World fastball title

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in the 3-1 Mercurys' win came in the fourth inning, off a walk, followed by a ground-out which advanced the runner and a sacrifice fly to score him.

The Mercurys, having won the ISC II title last year in Wisconsin, automatically qualified for this year's event.

Other members of the team at the ISC II tournament were: Darren Work and Terry Martin of Elmira; Scott Walls, Brent Cochrane and Brooke Cochrane of Harriston; Jeremy Creedon of Teeswater; Kevin MacKinnon of Hur; Geoff Gunson of Ridgetown; Joel Martin and Aaron Small of Palmerston; Ryan Diljee of Fergus; Curtis Pinder of Mount Forest; manager Rick Fisk of Harriston and the coaching staff of Jim Willis of

London and Trevor Jutzi of Milverton.

ROAD TO VICTORY

The Mercury's opened the tourney with an 8-0 victory over Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Scott Smith pitched the shutout, allowing three hits and striking out 16 in six innings of work.

Ryan Diljee homered and drove in two runs for Harriston, while Seip was 2-for-4, including a triple, and had three RBIs. Jeremy Creedon went 3-for-4 and added an RBI.

In their second game of the tournament, the Mercurys erased a 1-0 deficit after three innings with eight unanswered runs en route to an 8-1 victory over Perkaspie, PA.

Harriston got the bats going

in the fourth.

Walls hit a two-RBI and Curtis Pinder singled to put the Mercurys in front 3-1. Harriston never looked back, adding five runs off five hits in the fifth.

A three-run rally in the seventh inning gave the Mercurys a 4-3 victory over Appleton, Wisconsin in their third game. Harriston trailed 3-1 heading into their final at-bat, before RBI triples by Walls and Small tied the game. Diljee's two-out RBI single drove in the winning run.

The Mercurys wrapped up round-robin play with an 8-0 win over Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Small, Martin and Creedon banged out homeruns for the Mercurys, while hurler Joe German allowed one hit and struck out 15 for the win.

Harriston squeaked out a 2-1 victory over Hermann, Missouri in their first game of the playoff round.

Martin's two-RBI single proved to be the difference in the game.

He registered three of Harriston's five hits, while Creedon was 2-for-2. Scott Smith held Hermann to one hit, striking out 11 batters in the win.

Pinder's ground-rule double in the sixth lifted the Mercurys to a 3-2 win over Lloydminster, Alberta and a berth in the tournament semi-finals.

Small homered and went 3-for-4 for the Mercurys, which out-hit the Scope Dodgers 8-2. Scott Smith picked up his fourth win of the tournament, striking out nine and allowing two hits in five innings of work.

Scott Smith

CREEDON NAMED MVP

Jeremy Creedon of Teeswater was named MVP of the World ISC II Tournament held in Fargo, North Dakota this past week. The Harriston Mercury outfielder was named to the All-Tournament team as DH. Teammate Scott Smith of Belmore was named the tournament's outstanding pitcher, and was also named to the All-Tournament team in that position.

