

LL softball regionals coming to Bristol

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

According to Little League Online, Breen Field won't just be hosting the Northeast Regional Tournament baseball tournament anymore.

Little League Softball

Now, softball will have a home in Bristol as well.

In 2010, the Little League Softball tournaments for the state champions were held in Warner Robins, Georgia at the Southeastern Regional Headquarters and Waco, Texas at the George W. Bush Little League Leadership Training Center.

But in 2011, the tournaments will also be held at the Ruben F. Glick Little League Center in

Indianapolis, Indiana, the Little League Western Headquarters in San Bernardino, California and at the A. Bartlett Giamatti Little League Leadership Training Center right here in Bristol.

"We have been working toward this for a few years," said Vice President of Operations for Little League and Softball Patrick Wilson. "As part of our commitment to enhancing the experience for Little League Softball players, we are looking forward to having these tournaments in a stadium atmosphere."

Pitching mounds would have to be made level to the playing field for softball and then raised again for baseball.

Just like in Bristol, each picked location has seating for thousands of fans and a facility to match.

In Warner Robins and

Waco, however, the girls will stay in hotels while in Bristol, Indianapolis and San Bernardino, the players will be housed in dormitories.

"With six Little League Softball games on national television each year," said Wilson, "funding assistance to all leagues with teams advancing beyond the district, regardless of the division play, free rule books, free background checks and so much more, we know we already provide more than any other program."

"We will continue to strive to keep our program No. 1."

Once again, Bristol will become the gem of the northeast with a boatload of Little League baseball and now softball action come next summer.

Comments? Email mletendre@BristolObserver.com.

Connecticut eliminated in LL World Series

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

After winning its opening game at the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Connecticut's contingent is out of the race for the championship.

Last Monday, Fairfield, Connecticut dropped a tough 14-1 decision to Pearland, Texas and on Wednesday, the home team was eliminated by Auburn, Washington by a final 9-5 tally.

Fairfield leaves tournament play with a 1-2 ledger after going 5-1 in Northeast Regional play from Breen Field in Bristol.

On Monday, Texas just overwhelmed Fairfield as Pearland grabbed an 8-0 cushion after two completed frames.

Nick Nardone got Connecticut on the board with an RBI tally in the bottom of the third stanza but after three innings, Fairfield was looking up at a 12-1 deficit.

Connecticut was limited to only four total hits and all three pitchers Fairfield used were tagged for earned runs.

In all, Texas pounded Connecticut for 13 hits and collected nine RBI.

Fairfield made three errors in the game, which aided Texas in 14 total runs for the game.

On Wednesday, Fairfield fared much better and trailed Auburn, Washington by only a 4-3 score after four innings before ultimately falling by four runs to be eliminated from World Series play.

Nardone drilled a three-run homer in the bottom of the third to get Connecticut within one run but Washington's Casey Manning nailed a two-run home run of his own in the sixth to make it a 6-3 game.

Connecticut responded with two runs in the fifth but Fairfield's relief pitching failed, giving up three runs in the top of the sixth, as Connecticut looked up at a 9-5 deficit it would not come back from.

Washington out-hit Fairfield 14-9 while the Connecticut club yielded a critical two errors in the game.

Nardone led Fairfield with three hits, three RBI and scored a run to close out Connecticut's run in World Series action.

The Hernandez Line

By MICHAEL LETENDRE
STAFF WRITER

Preseason Week Three wasn't a very active one for New England Patriot Aaron Hernandez but let's take a quick look at this past week's news on the talented tight end from Bristol.

Preseason Week Three (August 26)

Location: Gillette Stadium, Foxborough, Ma

Final Score: St. Louis Rams 36, New England Patriots 35

The Skinny: Aaron (#85) was available at tight end but did not play via Coach's Decision.

Beyond the numbers: This is not a total surprise as veterans usually see more and more action as the pre-



Aaron Hernandez

season comes to an conclusion. New England went to veteran end Alge Crumpler and took an extended look

at rookie Rob Gronkowski.

Crumpler – a 10-year veteran – made a spectacular catch for 24 yards as he was falling out of bounds while Gronkowski came up big with three catches for 66 yards and two touchdowns.

Along with Crumpler and Gronkowski, Carson Butler and Rob Myers also got time at tight end.

But QB Tom Brady (18-for-22, 273 yards, 3 TD's) also went to wide-receivers Randy Moss and the returning Wes Welker for receptions so it wasn't a total surprise Hernandez didn't play as head coach Bill Belichick is getting the rust off his

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TAMMI KNAPIK

First across the finish

Tom Shea was the first place winner for the annual Falcon 5k at St. Paul Catholic High School on Friday. Below, Adam Levine, left, (of St. Paul Catholic High School Class of 2000) and Marianne Sklarsky (a member of the St. Paul Class of 1984 alumni) compete. Both Levine and Sklarsky work for Bristol Hospital. both of Bristol Hospital

