Belfast Aviators win Ulster League Title

September 14, 2009

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: Belfast Aviators Softball team clinched the Ulster League title in the final against the Smokin' Aces.

Venezuelan head coach, Jose Santos indicated we could not have had better weather for the match and that the team has been playing well.

The game started with the Smokin' Aces scoring a run in the first inning but that was all that the Belfast Aviators strong defence allowed. With some amasing double plays by the infield (Linzi McKeown and catcher Lisa Waugh) and excellent outfield coverage from Joanne Tetsill, Ned Tio and Christopher Stange, it closed down any opportunities the Smokin' Aces had.

The pitching by American Davy Crusty was consistent and outstanding allowing only 11 hits, catching three line drives bulleted at him.

The Belfast Aviators batting produced a home run from American Reggie Clark in the fifth inning and hits from Czech national Nikola Gorcikova to drive in two runs. The Aviators managed 10 runs over the seven innings ultimately winning the game 10-1.

The team now goes on to compete internationally in the Czech Republic next month.

2009 Belfast Aviators Softball Team
L – R: (2nd Row) – Christopher Stange, Neil Watson (Captain), Jose Santos (Coach), Phil Crossey, Nikola Gorcikova, Ned Tio, Davy Crusty; (1st Row) – Sarah Nixon, Linzi McKeown, Joanne Tetsill, Lisa Waugh, Sheelagh Foy, Reggie Clark

Dr Christopher Stange, Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland and Belfast Aviator left fielder, explained the team is a mixture of local citizens and nationals from the Americas, Caribbean, European Union and Pacific countries. We truly have a diverse team, which demonstrates that sport can bring people together for the betterment and enjoyment of a multicultural society.

Team captain, Neil Watson, took the opportunity to thank our sponsors: Belfast City Council, Jim Graves from Rockies Sports Bar, Softball Ulster and Red Bull.

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