

Let's Play SOFTBALL

Softball and baseball's favorite newspaper since 1987

Let's Play BASEBALL

Volume XXIII

Number 5

Issue 262

July 2, 2009

Hauling away a Dudley title

Minnesota-based Long Haul Trucking/Miken/Phonemasters captured the 2009 Dudley/Budweiser Classic championship

By Don Bowman
Let's Play Softball Columnist

I am not sure if there was a parade or not in downtown Albertville or not, but Long Haul Trucking/Miken/Phonemasters has earned the right to be the No. 1 ranked team in the land, after winning the 2009 Dudley/Budweiser Classic!

Disposing of both Dan Smith/Menosse/Benfield/Combat and Resmondo/Specialty Tank/Worth was not an easy agenda for the Truckers, but they accomplished both tasks, and eventually topped Dan Smith of California 26-11 in the championship game of the prestigious Dudley Classic. Finishing

third was previously No. 1 rated Resmondo, while T&R Stucco placed fourth.

Long Haul's leadoff hitter, J.D. Genter, was tabbed tournament MVP, while Minnesotans Scottie Brown (Dan Smith/Combat) and Geno Buck (Long Haul/Miken) played solidly, and were named to the Dudley Classic All-Tournament team.

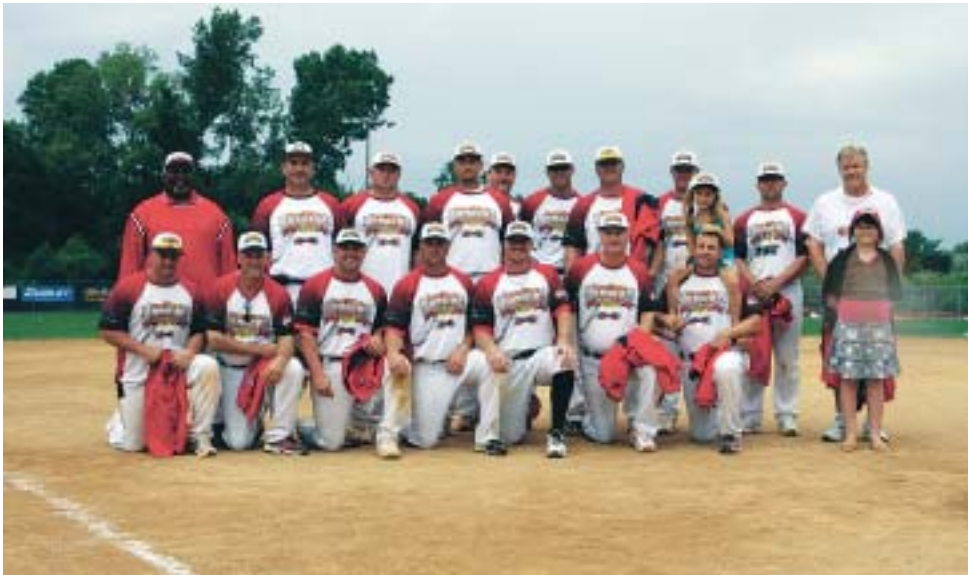
Seeing red
The umpiring crew at this year's Dudley

were outstanding. In addition to Minnesota top officials, a handful of USSSA 'conference' umpires were flown in to work most of the 'big games.' This type of 'augmentation,' however, has appeared to leave a sour taste in the mouth of local umpires. Local umpires as it appears, in many of the four-man crew games, are not allowed to work home plate or first base, and pretty much relegated to working third and second.

In other words, the locals just handle crowd control down each foul line and get cold drinks for the 'conference officials' when they need it. Hopefully next year, the guys in red around here will get a little more respect from the national office.

Local teams shine at the Dudley
Among the local teams who had GREAT weekends at the 2009 Dudley Classic last month were: Easton/Hooters/Rockets, Steve O's, Showcase, C&A and Diamond Auto. Next stop on the "you gotta be there tournament" schedule is the 2009 Fireman's/WSL/ASA Softball showcase, slated for July 17-19 in Bloomington.

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Long Haul Trucking/Miken/Phonemasters captured the 2009 Dudley/Budweiser Classic title, going 6-0 and outscoring its opponents 200-122. Long Haul defeated defending champion Dan Smith/Menosse/Benfield/Combat 26-11 in the championship game. Turn to pages 19-20 for final Dudley/Budweiser Classic results. Let's Play Softball photos by Mike Thill



Over the three-day, 70-game Dudley/Budweiser Classic, 520 home runs were hit over the fences in Brooklyn Park. Leading the way with 15 round-trippers was Brian Wegman of Dan Smith/Menosse/Benfield/Combat, followed by teammate Rusty Bumgardner with 14, and JC Phelps of Long Haul and Brian Justice of Dan Smith with 13.

27 Years of Dudley/Budweiser Classic Champions

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1983 — Elite | 1984 — Elite | 1985 — Steele's Sports | 1986 — Steele's Sports | 1987 — Smythe Sox |
| 1988 — Superior/Apollo | 1989 — Superior/Apollo | 1990 — Superior/Apollo | 1991 — Ritch's/Superior | 1992 — Ritch's/Superior |
| 1993 — Ritch's/Superior | 1994 — Ritch's/Superior | 1995 — Bell Corp. | 1996 — Ritch's/Superior & Sunbelt/Easton | 1997 — Shen Valley/TPS |
| 1998 — Sunbelt/Dan Smith/Easton | 1999 — Long Haul/Hendu's/TPS | 2000 — Team TPS | 2001 — Long Haul Trucking/TPS | 2002 — Dan Smith/Backman/Menosse/Easton |
| 2003 — Dan Smith/Backman/Menosse/Easton | 2004 — Dan Smith/Backman/Menosse/Easton | 2005 — Bell Corp./Backman/Taylor/Easton | 2006 — Bell Corp/Taylor/Belcher/Easton | 2007 — Resmondo Softball |
| 2008 — Dan Smith/Menosse/Benfield/Combat | 2009 — Long Haul Trucking/Miken/Phonemasters | | | |

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