

I think we're on to something with this Wiffle Ball tournament thing.

It started as a goof back in 2014. And what it has evolved into is pretty cool. 72 teams participated this year, up from 61 a year ago, and there's no reason to think it won't continue to grow. We enhanced the food offerings this year, added an ice cream truck, had a DJ that had Liberty Park jammin' from 2-8 PM on Saturday, and added real time online score/tournament tracking. We will continue to add enhancements to the event each year, and had some great ideas come into us this weekend. The date is already set for next year's 4th Annual World Series of Wiffle Ball, so mark your calendars now. It will take place on August 26-27, 2017.

Before I get into the results of the weekend, there are a lot of people to thank. An event like this is not easy to pull off, and cannot be done without a lot of great people sacrificing their free time. Jason Passek has been my right hand man with this event since it started, and put in 33 hours at Liberty Park this Friday-Sunday. Our 2017 12U travel baseball team's parents manned the hospitality tent all weekend, doing a fabulous job with it. In particular, Mario Moavero took the food to a whole new level this year, drilling dogs and burgers, smoking corn, and making the meatballs for the meatball sandwiches. The great people at Burgers 2 Beer in Solon once again hosted the pre-party. Rick Hollan got Sherwin Williams to donate 15 gallons of paint for the field creation, and also produced the field liner. Aaron Davis created the backstops, Paul Baird handled sponsors and signs, Chris Hojdar many of the back end website/registration related items, and Raj Taneja took care of trophies and our new website/mobile app, and Nick Labella picked up the trophies, recorded all the pool play draws at the pre-party, and helped build the fields. Also helping with field creation this past Friday were Mason Goodman, Chad Bryant, Bill Burson, Dean Cook, and Jim Porach.

We get a lot of great feedback every year, and we also continue to implement clarifications/additions to the rules to try to eliminate all the gray. Going into next year, we will definitely clarify the "it must touch the ground on or past the singles/doubles line". We'll clarify that no outside bats may be brought in. As we continue to grow, we will eventually be able to add a 4th age division. Going to 7-10, 11-13, 14-25, and 26+ seems to make sense there.

On to the results. First things first, our winner of the \$250 Dick's Sporting Goods gift certificate drawing was Natalie Porach! Congrats Natalie! And here were the winners of some other awards from the weekend ...

Best Team Name – Me & My Three Pitches

Best Uniforms – Flaming Turtles

Long Distance Traveler Award – Stars & Strikes & Smack That (Louisville, KY)

Biggest Pain in the A Award** – Did not have the heart to give it to my friend Tom Plucinsky again, so it went to Jordan Soppel, who actually wasn't a pain at all (and very helpful all weekend), but who lobbied HARD for the award on Sunday

Here are recaps of the championship games in each age division.

7-10 Year Old Age Division – The Wallnuts 5 The Blitzers 3

It was Willowick vs. Aurora in the championship game of the 7-10 age division, with The Wallnuts from Willowick coming up victorious, and AJ Zigman, Ace Peterlin, Frankie Clark, and A.J. Trobenter forever etching their names into World Series of Wiffle Ball history. After winning their two Saturday pool play games by a combined score of 63-5, and also becoming the first team in tournament history to score 50 runs in a game, it was their pitching and defense that came up big when they needed it most on Sunday. The Wallnuts won their three Sunday games by a combined five runs, and allowed just one run in the semi-finals, and three in the finals.

11-14 Year Old Age Division – South Park Cows 11 Golden War Hawks 3

Moo! We heard that often this weekend as the Cows were a force of nature in the 11-14 age bracket, mooing through the competition to the tune of only five runs allowed all tournament, and pulling away late to knock a very talented defending 11-14 champion Golden War Hawks team in the championship game. Sloan Ulrich, Mike Csismatia, and Chad Marks outscored their foes 65-5, going a perfect 6-0 over the weekend to bring the hardware back to Solon, OH.

15+ Age Division – MLW All-Stars 5 Wiffle Ballsagna 0

Much of the talk this weekend around Liberty Park was centered around the YouTube sensations, The MLW All-Stars out of Brighton, MI, and they of 35,000 YouTube subscribers and approaching 10,000,000 video views. And they did not disappoint, allowing only two runs all tournament (to the two-time defending champions Team Wrobel in the quarterfinals) and pitching a shutout in the championship game against a very talented Wiffle Ballsagna team. Here's hoping Kyle Schultz, Daniel Schultz, and Tommy Coughlin give the Twinsburg World Series of Wiffle Ball a little love online to help us continue to grow the event.

Last but not least, our sponsors. We could not do this without them. MANY thanks to Sherwin Williams for donating the paint, and to our prime sponsor Premier Sports Conditioning, who also is putting together an awesome offer for our players, friends, and family, which can be found below. And to Campopiano Roofing, Sheetz, Hrobat Insurance, Gionino's Pizza, Dr. Gen Orthodontics, and the Twinsburg campus of the Cleveland Clinic for also sponsoring the event!

Thanks again for playing!!!! Mark your calendars for August 26-27, 2017 for the 4th Annual! Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TBLBASEBALL/>!