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Boy's Rib City Shootout Starts Friday

JULY 20TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Boy's Rib City Shootout Starts Friday

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

It's time for the second round of the Rib City Shootout in the Boy's division!

Teams will take to the courts this Friday and Saturday (July 22-23) to compete in the tournament's second year.

The first round of the tournament was held June 9-10 for the boys, and June 17-18 for the girls. Middle School, JV, and Varsity teams are all invited to attend and compete in separate 'age' divisions. Teams are guaranteed to play in at least six - with a maximum of eight - games during the two-day basketball extravaganza.

Over 40 schools, some from as far away as St. Louis and Dyer County, Tn., made the trip to Dexter for the first round. Sikeston and Soldan faced off in the finals, with the Soldan Tigers dominating the championship and defeating the Bulldogs of Sikeston by over 20 points.

"This is the best shootout that I've ever been to and we are coming back," Soldan International Head Coach Justin Tatum said after the first round. "I'm sure going to tell every school in St. Louis about this."

Event organizer - and LBB head coach - Chad Allen thought the first round "went

extremely well”, and also noted the crucial support of the event’s sponsors.

32 teams are scheduled to face off during this week’s tournament, with games played at the Bearcat Event Center and the T.S. Hill Middle School Gymnasium. The full schedule for the tournament can be found **here**.

Admission is five dollars for an all-day pass, and a full concession stand is provided. Games are scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. on Friday and at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, with the championship games at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

*Make sure to check back with the **ShowMe Times** for full coverage and photo galleries of the tournament!*

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Three Rivers To Host National Baseball Showcase

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Three Rivers To Host National Baseball Showcase

From the Three Rivers College Communication Department

Three Rivers College will host a showcase for USA Baseball at Pattillo Field this weekend.

Young baseball players between the ages of 13 and 17 are invited to participate in a “pro-style showcase” on Saturday, July 23, for the chance to compete in the USA Baseball National Team Identification Series. Those interested must visit **www.midwestNTIS.com** to register, or call Jon French at (573) 344-1018.

The showcase is open to players from Southeast Missouri and Arkansas. According to a flyer distributed by USA Baseball, the top players will be selected to participate in the Midwest Regional event in St. Louis August 19-21.

Following the showcase in St. Louis, the top 18 players from each age group will be invited to represent the Midwest at the National Team Identification Series, September 19-21, in Cary, N.C. The top players from that event will move on to the National Team Trials.

According to the flyer, the St. Louis showcase and the National Team Trials are among the top youth baseball events in the region and in the country, and are highly scouted for high school age players by college coaches and professional scouts.

For additional information, contact **info@MidwestNTIS.com**, or visit **www.MidwestNTIS.com**.

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Tanner Prepares For Final Season At WBC

JULY 18TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Tanner Prepares For Final Season At WBC

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

Tyler Tanner isn't the most gifted athlete to ever come out of Dexter High School. He doesn't run very fast. He can't throw a baseball that hard. He didn't receive many awards during his career as a Bearcat.

He will, however, outwork anyone on the team. He'll show up early for practice, and stay late to work out in his free time. That work ethic and dedication to bettering himself athletically landed him a college baseball scholarship.

Tanner, the 21 year old son of Randy & Tammy Tanner, is a 2008 graduate of Dexter High School and is preparing for his final season as a member of the Williams Baptist College baseball team. Williams Baptist is a four year NAIA school in Walnut Ridge, Ar.

Tanner was a three-sport athlete during his time at DHS, but never received a lot of recognition in the press.

"I never got any awards for baseball in high school, or basketball. The only awards I got were second team all-conference both ways in football," Tanner recalled. "I was just your average player, really. I wasn't a standout, I was just a good role-player and came off the

bench a lot in basketball. I wasn't a huge asset, I just knew my job and did it - in my mind - well."

"In baseball, I wasn't a standout either. I played the game, liked it, had a good time, and thought 'Let's try to do this at the next level' and Williams came along with an offer, so I took it."

Tanner was recruited for baseball and football, but didn't think he was up to the physical demands of college football.

images/Sports/Athlete Features/Tyler Tanner/TT 2.jpg

"When it came time to get ready to send stuff out for college sports," Tanner said, "I told Coach Pixley up front that I didn't think that my body could handle college football."

"Central Methodist was the only school that recruited me for football," he added. "I talked to Mineral Area College, but there wasn't a strong interest there. Florissant Valley talked to me a little bit - that's where Eric Windham went - and then Williams Baptist."

Tanner noted DHS head football & assistant baseball coach Aaron Pixley as a huge asset in being where he is now.

"I told Coach that I wanted to play baseball, and if it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be playing where I am today," Tanner said. "He was the one that really got in contact with the MAC coach because of his son, and the Flo Valley coach, and asked him one day after weightlifting if he could contact Williams Baptist. He talked to Coach Katrosh that day and got me a tryout set up. When I was getting ready to leave for it, he looked at me and said 'It's on you now Tyler - I've done all that I can do'. Honestly, that was all the motivation I needed. I went down there, had the tryout of my life and got picked up."

"He taught me work ethic - if you work hard you'll get what you want," Tanner added. "You're going to succeed and do well. It's all about going and getting it. He always stressed being coachable. If someone's trying to help you, do that. Your way doesn't work - your coaches way does."

images/Sports/Athlete Features/Tyler Tanner/Headshot.jpg

Tanner noted the disposition of the faculty, as well as the excellence of the professors, as key factors in his decision to go to WBC.

"All the people were really nice. When I got there and toured the campus and such,

everyone was really nice and showed a general interest in me as a person,” he said. “The Christian atmosphere is great, and I can’t say enough about the professors. They’re so good. Willing to work one on one with you. I get the help I need. They’re so easily accessible that I’ve called them and nine or ten at night and got answers.”

A huge fan of the Boston Red Sox, Tanner noted a well-known member of the team as one of his favorite players growing up.

“I looked up to Nomar Garciaparra a lot when I was a kid,” Tanner said. “I always wanted to be a shortstop, and he’s a big part of why I’m such a huge Red Sox fan today.” Tanner began playing baseball competitively in his preteen years, and enjoyed some success before his high school career began.

“I was 12 when I got on a traveling team the first time, under Dwight Mills and the Millers - played with Caleb Miller and Eric Windham,” he said. “I would have been on the team that went to the little league world series, but I broke my wrist that summer.”

“When I was 16, we won state on our Babe Ruth team, but lost to Minnesota in our regional,” Tanner added. “That was coached by Tim Standridge and my dad, Randy Tanner. Steven Duley from Oran, Scott Drodgy from Sikeston, Eric Windham all played at the college level and were all on that team with me.”

Tanner played second base almost exclusively during his high school days, but has switched positions numerous times in college, and has wound up handling catching duties for the Eagles.

“Since I’ve been in college, I’ve played every position except pitcher and first,” Tanner noted. “I started out as a middle infielder my freshman year, but then I was moved to the outfield. During the spring of my sophomore year, I was moved to catcher after I caught one of the fall games. It was kind of a desperation move, but I liked it. They’ve kept me there, and I enjoy catching a lot. I never thought I would, but it’s been one of my favorite things position-wise.”

The Eagles struggled last season, finishing with a 18-28-1 (5-16-1 Conference) record, but are looking to improve this season under a new manager.

“Last season was Coach Katrosh’s last year, his twelfth season at Williams,” Tanner said. “Coach Frank Lee is our new head coach. He had been the assistant for five or six years. Andy Arnold and Caleb Dudley are our new assistant coaches.”

Tanner is entering his last season at Williams, and expressed some sadness at leaving the school after the coming school year.

“I’m having a lot of fun there, and I’m sad that it’s my last year,” he said, “but I’m excited to see where I’m going to be after this. I’m graduating in May with a major in Physical Education. I hope to get a job around the Springfield area, or somewhere in northeast Arkansas so I can stay close to Williams.”

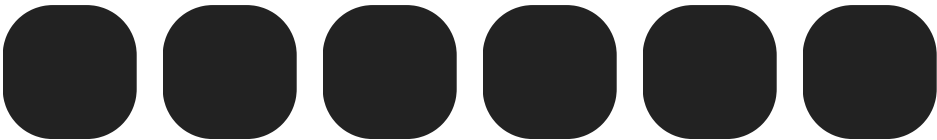
No matter where he winds up after college, one thing is certain: Tyler Tanner will always be a dependable, hard-working guy. Any school that has him as a member of it's staff will be lucky to have him.

*Make sure to check back with the **ShowMe Times** for updates on Tyler's senior season with the Eagles!*

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Flowers puts New Madrid on scoreboard at state Babe Ruth

JULY 15TH 2011 BY NEWS

Flowers puts New Madrid on scoreboard at state Babe Ruth

Special to the ShowMe Times

CHAFFEE – With the bases loaded, New Madrid County’s shortstop Owen Flowers (from Dexter) earned the game’s first RBI with a squeeze play bunt against the Charleston Squirrels during the first round of the Missouri Senior Babe Ruth State Tournament. During their previous two regular season match-ups, New Madrid County fell to the Squirrels with a combined score of 23-7, but during Thursday’s game, New Madrid found themselves leading through the bottom of the sixth inning.[br

The game entered the fourth inning with both teams scoreless. Squirrels’ pitcher Bobby Clark walked New Madrid’s right fielder Eric Holloway, and then Jansen Darst and Hunter Ivy both sent hits past the infielders for singles. With one out in the fourth inning and bases loaded, Flowers scored Holloway from third with a squeeze bunt that allowed Flowers to earn a base hit and the RBI.

New Madrid’s lead-off batter Chris Pavy then pushed the score to 2-0 on a sacrifice fly. In the bottom of the fourth, Charleston answered with a run.

With a scoreless fifth, the Squirrels rallied a three-run inning in the bottom of the sixth to move ahead of New Madrid County 4-2.

Having to mount a comeback, New Madrid entered the seventh inning with a single into shallow center field by second baseman Mason Kellums. On a fielding error, Cadin Robins earned a single as well. Catcher Ross Carter singled on a fielder’s choice to second that placed Kellums 90-feet from home, and on a sacrifice by Holloway, Kellums scored to bring New Madrid within one run before the game ended on a ground-out back to the pitcher.

New Madrid County’s coach Kevin Lyons told the team after the game, "That's the best ball game we have played all year. We had good defense and had some hits, but we just couldn’t rally long enough to get the go-ahead run in position.”

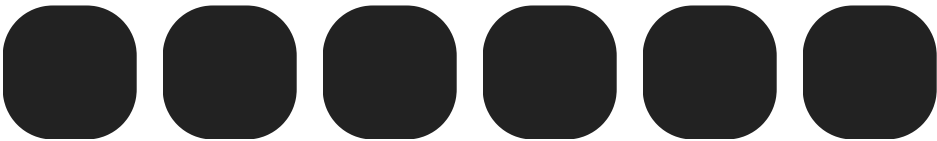
With the 4-3 loss, New Madrid County will go on to play through the bottom bracket over the weekend as the Senior Babe Ruth State Tournament continues through Monday, July 18th.

Photo Above: Flowers on first base after the squeeze bunt.

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Waldner To Compete In AAU Olympics

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Waldner To Compete In AAU Olympics

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor


The Southeast Missouri Cleats of Fire will be competing in the AAU Junior Olympics in New Orleans, La., from July 29 - Aug. 6, with MaKayla Waldner representing Dexter in

the competition.

MaKayla, the 13 year old daughter of Bob and Kim Waldner, is no stranger to competition. Her two older sisters, Sammy and Brittany, are both on collegiate track teams. Her older brother, Trevor, is a wrestler at Dexter High School. Her younger brother, Travis, appears to be as athletic as any other member of the family.

“I’ve been with the team since I was seven,” Waldner said. “It’s a traveling team of kids around Dexter - Poplar Bluff, Sikeston, stuff like that - and we compete in summer track. Our coach is Kevin Ellis. We ranged from 11 to 14 years old. Every year we try to go to the Junior Olympics, which rotates locations every five years.”

“I’ve gone to [the Junior Olympics] every year since I’ve started with Cleats of Fire,” Waldner added. “I’ve usually placed in most of my events down there.”

Waldner competes in  *nine* events during meets - five multi’s and four individuals. In multi’s, Waldner runs the 800 meter dash, high jumps, long jumps, throws shotput, and runs hurdles. In her individual events, she runs the 100 and 200 meter hurdles, pole vaults, and does the high jump.

“Hurdles and pole vault are my favorite,” Waldner said. “I really like both of them.”

Waldner also competes for the DHS Bearcats during the school year, and noted the heightened level of competition that she faces during the AAU Junior Olympics.

“This is so much harder than school track. I have to train ten times harder if I want to place,” Waldner added. “We train four times a week - one day we’ll do hurdles, one day we’ll run hills, basically whatever coach wants us to do.”

The team is currently accepting donations and selling smoked pork loins and Boston butts to help fund the trip. Pre-ordered meat is to be picked up on July 23. For more details regarding the meat sale, send an email to **acato@showmetimes.com**.

Make sure to check back with the *ShowMe Times* for updates on MaKayla's journey to the AAU Junior Olympics!

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