

New softball league making history

Written by Jim Ecker

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The new Iowa Women's Softball League has made history this summer in Cedar Rapids as the only summer collegiate program in Iowa.



Now the History Center in Cedar Rapids plans to make the league part of its permanent exhibit.

The players and coaches for Emil's Hideaway and Construction Materials gladly posed for pictures Sunday following their doubleheader at Coe College for the History Center exhibit. Next Sunday, the teams from Ironside Apparel and Hawkeye Convenience Stores will post for similar pictures following their twinbill at Coe.

Team jerseys, league stories, schedule cards and other artifacts also will be part of the exhibit. It's all thanks to Margaret O'Banion, the Metro Sports Report photographer who is making it all happen with her friends at the History Center.

There were interesting developments on the fields Sunday. Emil's Hideaway swept a doubleheader from Construction Materials, 9-2 and 5-4, in their games at Coe.

Over at Kirkwood, Hawkeye Convenience Stores swept a doubleheader from Ironside Apparel, 11-5 and 6-5.

Ironside Apparel, which clinched the league title last week, fell to 11-5 for the season. Emil's Hideaway and Hawkeye Convenience Stores squared their records at 8-8, while Construction Materials fell to 5-11.

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The historic season will end next Sunday with doubleheaders at Coe and Kirkwood at 2 p.m.

Emil's Hideaway and Construction Materials were locked in a 2-2 tie after six innings of their first game, but Emil's erupted for seven runs in the top of the seventh inning for the 9-2 victory.

Megan Bonnett of Luther belted a three-run homer for Emil's in the seventh inning and Taylor Kurtz of the University of Dubuque added a two-run blast.

Kelsey Aikey of Western Kentucky tossed a three-hitter for Emil's Hideaway in the first game with 13 strikeouts. Lexi Kinnaird had a two-run single for Construction Materials.

Construction Materials owned a 4-2 lead after five innings of the second game, thanks primarily to Hailey Duwa of Western Illinois. Duwa hit a solo home run in the third inning and added a two-run homer in the fifth inning.

Emil's Hideaway scored three runs in the top of the sixth, thanks to a two-run triple by Taylor Nearad of Kirkwood and Iowa State. Nearad tied the game, 4-4, with her triple and scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch.

Brooke Craig of Northern Iowa pitched a complete game for Emil's Hideaway for the victory in the nightcap.

Ali Herdliska smacked two home runs to help Hawkeye Convenience Stores top Ironside Apparel, 11-5, in the first game at Kirkwood. Maddie Hansen of Kirkwood also hit a home run and Morgan Frost of Kirkwood had three hits for the winners.

Emily Ira of Western Illinois pitched a complete game for Hawkeye Convenience Stores in the first game.

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Peyton Baskerville of Mount Mercy had three hits and drove in four runs for Hawkeye Convenience Stores in their 6-5 victory in Game 2 and Hansen had two doubles.