

EMASS 70'S CAPTURE CAPE COD SENIOR SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT. SYNTILLATING SEMI-FINAL COME-FROM-BEHIND VICTORY PROPELS TEAM TO CAPTURE 1ST PLACE TROPHY.

The EMASS 70's softball team travelled to the annual Cape Cod Senior Softball Tournament held in Harwich, Mass during mid-September and brought home the Tournament Trophy with a glorious performance winning six of seven games overall and all three final playoff games.

The 70's Division consisted of fourteen (14) teams from Florida, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Four of the fourteen teams were classified as "Major League" due to their previous victories in National Tournaments. The remaining ten (10) teams, including the EMASS 70's, were grouped into the "AA" category. In the preliminary rounds on Monday & Tuesday, all fourteen teams played four games interchangeably with EMASS 70's facing two of the Major Teams winning one and loosing to the ultimate Major Tournament Victors; a preliminary record of 3-1 and a 3rd place seed for the final playoffs which were held on Wednesday.

EMASS handily won the quarterfinal game against Seaman's Bank Cape Team by employing excellent pitching, defense and solid hitting by all earning an 11-1 victory and a berth in the Semi's against Edge Technology from Connecticut who were seeded 4th for the Tournament playoffs having a preliminary games record of 3-1.

Syntillating can only describe the Semi-Final game. Edge "edged" ahead in each inning resulting in a 7-2 lead entering the last of the 7th, the final at bat for EMASS. After two consecutive hits to start the inning, the EMASS 3rd batter of the inning lashed a hard ground ball to shortstop which resulted in a double play and one remaining runner on 3rd base. The Edge Team exalted. Now, faced with two outs and five runs behind, the EMASS team did not fold. Marshall Krasnow, Tony Cristiforo, Don Regan, George Seeley and Ed Wade banged out consecutive hits to make the score 7-6 with runners on 1st and 3rd base. Joe Salzano then delivered the walk off shot to right field scoring the tying and winning runs. Truly a comeback equal to those we have witnessed during Red Sox Nation's dramatic playoff victories. "Do you believe in miracles?".....This was clearly the most exciting game of the Tournament and likely to be the standard for all future EMASS Tournament Teams as will Joe Salzano be the icon for delivering the winning hit.

In the final game of the Tournament the opposition was provided by another Cape Cod Team, the Fat Cats. Many observers favored the Cats to defeat EMASS however, early on it became obvious to all who the best 70's Team was in this Tournament; EMASS. The final score was 14-9 with little question of who would win and by how much.

This year's EMASS team roster had Joe Salzano 2b, Sy Ellyn 3b; Mike Otenti SS, Pete Keville OF, Don Murphy SS, Joe DiConza OF, Rene Venault P, Paul Rosenbaum OF, Marshall. Krasnow 1st, Tony Christoforo OF, Don Regan 3b, George Seeley C, Ed Wade MF and manager.

This was the 1st victory for an EMASS 70's Tournament Team participating in this Tournament; EMASS 75's won their segment of the 2008 Tournament. All players on this 70's team deserve special recognition for their contributions throughout the Tournament both at the bat and on the field and, all would agree that our tireless pitcher, Rene Venault, was the catalyst for this achievement as he pitched flawlessly in all seven games, EMASS's version of Cy Young!

Ed Wade, manager of the Team, stated early on that he believed, on paper, the EMASS Team was the most talented and strongest Team in the Tournament and at the end, he commented that this Team proved it on the field.

Hail to EMASS 70's, Hail to the Victors!

**Ed Wade
10/5/09**