



It was a beautiful weekend in “Happy Valley” in mid-October when 11 NCBA competitors gathered to battle for the coveted State College Classic Champions trophy. The fall tournament took place on the Shaner Sports Complex and Governor’s Park fields in State College, PA from October 12th – 14th. The participating teams included Penn State Division I and II, Pittsburgh, Delaware, Hofstra, Connecticut, Rutgers, Drexel, Maryland, Syracuse, and George Washington. Every team was competitive, which made for exceptional games of Baseball throughout the weekend.



As the teams competed through the weekend, it became clear that picking the top 4 teams to advance to the elimination games was going to be no easy task. Team records were all so similar that it came down to the last pool-play games to determine who would play on into Sunday afternoon. When the dust had settled, Delaware, Pittsburgh, and Drexel won their pools and Syracuse moved on having owned the tie-breaker with Maryland by allowing less runs in their games. Top-seeded and undefeated Pitt advanced over #4 seed Syracuse 7-3.



Meanwhile, the #3 Delaware at #2 Drexel game was creating all sorts of drama. In Drexel’s 3rd straight game of the day, they were able to jump out to a comfortable early lead and seemed poised to cruise to a victory. However, the “Cardiac Kids” of Delaware were just biding their time, and exploded offensively in the 6th and 7th innings to take the lead and extend it to an eventual 16-11 victory.



The competitive level of the games each day caused problems with the scheduling every day, including Sunday. Extra-inning Baseball games and the wild semi-final game pushed the start time of the Championship game back significantly, forcing a decision to be made. The captains of Pittsburgh and Delaware agreed to play as much Baseball as possible before darkness ensued and to revert to the last completed inning as the final



score. Right off the bat, Pitt jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning. As they had done in each of their 3 wins on the weekend, Delaware battled back with a big inning, and the second inning ended 5-2 Delaware. One more inning of scoreless Baseball was played before the umpires were forced to call the game. Congratulations to the University of Delaware, the 2012 State College Classic Champions!



Delaware played an exceptional weekend of games, opening the tournament Friday afternoon with a 2-0 win over Penn State DI. They were defeated in their second game by UConn but rallied back from being down late to defeat Maryland 7-6 in a deciding game for the #3 seed! Rallying against Maryland, Drexel, and then Pittsburgh in 3 do-or-die games earned them the nickname the "Cardiac Kids."

Special thank you's go out to several key parts of this tournament. Thank you to Penn State Club Baseball for getting the fields into such great shape for the games. It was easy to see that you guys put a lot of hard work into that, and it really paid off. Thank you Andy Georgeson of Penn State Club Baseball and Damon;s Grill for working together to set up a great THON fundraiser that allowed the teams to get together for a



good time while also raising money for families battling the hardships of childhood cancer. Very importantly, thank you to Garfield's Restaurant & Pub for sponsoring our tournament! Every team and fan that I spoke to about the restaurant was thrilled with the exceptional service and meals that they received. It takes contributions from everyone to have a successful tournament like we did, so thanks to all. Most importantly, thank you to each team that participated and the fans that came out in support!



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