

A Summer to Remember...

...this one will never be forgotten...

by Kat Rowoldt



I work too much!!!

You realize the truth of that when suddenly you hear your grandson is playing in a baseball tournament to win the State Championship. What? When did all this happen?

I'll never forget the moment when my husband mentioned Stryler was going to be playing in Abilene for the State Championship, and if they win they would be on track toward the World Series. WORLD SERIES!!! It felt like someone had awakened me from a fog.

I was so thrilled I could move things around on my schedule and we could catch one of the games in Abilene. I guess it was the semi-final for the State Championship.

We arrived in time to get the seats we wanted, just behind home plate. Since Stryler is the catcher for the team, this was perfect for us. I had not attended a Little League game since I somehow ended up as a scorekeeper for the YMCA when I was in high school. This time, I had a totally new perspective on the game.

I never realized until that night the importance of the catcher having a great arm. They actually throw the most balls in every game. Additionally, I never thought about how critical it is the catcher not be afraid of all the crazy balls which come their way. I was so proud to watch this young man so nonchalantly catch those pitches and return them in one smooth move. There were times I was amazed he didn't flinch one bit as the ball came flying toward him.

I was astonished at how really good this team was! San Angelo's Western Team was about to make history. The following day they did secure the title of State Champions in the Little League 50/70 Intermediate class. They would only have a few days before they needed to report to Colorado for Regionals. Parents were

scrambling to get off work and come up with the funds to be there to support their kids with virtually no notice. That was just crazy!

So the following week they were in Colorado, and it seemed like their excitement bubble was about to break when they lost the very first game of the series. I remember saying it was probably a good thing. If it was to be, the loss would pull the team together in a greater way to propel them forward. Sure enough, they blasted through the series, ending the Regional playoffs against the very team they had lost to in the first game, and winning it big this time.

Without warning, our boys WON THE REGIONALS. There was no time to travel home and celebrate the victory. They had only one day between Regionals and being flown out of Denver, Colorado, like celebrities, to Livermore, California. Upon arrival they were being fitted for new uniforms. They were now Southwestern Regional Champions, and would be one of eight teams from this continent playing against another eight teams from around the world. Wow!

Once again families scrambled to take more time off from work and raise enough funds to fly to California and cover their costs for a week of being out there. It was especially tough on families who had other siblings who had their own things happening at the same time. It Got Crazy!!!

As they entered the World Series play, they once again lost their first game. It must have felt like playing Regionals in Colorado had felt. They came back and won their second game, but ended up losing their final game to the team that would go on and represent the United States in the final World Series game.

What a summer! State Champions! Regional Champions! Played in the World Series! Won one game in the World Series! They will never forget the summer of 2017!

The City of San Angelo honored these fine young men during their regular meeting last Tuesday. The team presented a signed jersey and a signed World Series baseball to the Mayor/City. The mayor in turn leaned back and began what would have been a great pitch into the audience if she had released the ball. Mayor Gunter seemed to feel right at home with a baseball in her hand.

Here is a copy of the Recognition the City gave to the team:

RECOGNITION

The summer of 2017 will long be remembered as a historic, record-breaking summer for our community. Twelve young men and five coaches, accomplished what had never

been done before by a San Angelo team, they made it to the Intermediate Little League World Series in Livermore, California.

It required them winning sectionals in San Antonio, which they did 3-0, then State finals in Abilene, again winning 3-0, and then off to Regionals in Colorado. They fought hard for the title, completing the series 5-1. From there they immediately flew to Livermore, California to represent the Southwest Region of the United States in the Intermediate World Series. They won one game in the competition, eventually losing twice to the team who would ultimately play for the title, New Jersey. Western, who became known as Southwest in the World Series, finished 4th in the United States, and 8th in the world, for 2017.

Accomplishing this tremendous feat, are players: Konnor Barnes, Cayden Box, Jakob Charles, Ty Casey, Dominic Garcia, Ethan Green, Kayden Hameister, Darren Lewallen, Stryler Price, Richie Ramos, RJ Moreno, and Jacob Saldivar - plus coaches, Shawn Box - Manager, Nick Barron, Luke Green, Fred Garcia, and Ashley Lewallen.

A few statistics for the record books: Stryler Price had 6 home runs, Jakob Charles and Cayden Box, each had 5. Charles and Box both had a homerun in the World Series. Box lead the team in average .491, 10 stolen bases, 27 runs, .548 on base percentage, OPS 1.56, batting average with runners in scoring position .545. Charles lead with 28 RBI's, 1.20 ERA, and 45 strikeouts in 23 innings. Cayden Box and Jakob Charles both led team with duplicate stats: Hits 26, triples 4, slugging percentage 1.019.

Therefore, I, Brenda Gunter, Mayor of the City of San Angelo, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby recognize and applaud

Western Intermediate Little League 50/70

not only for their outstanding and impressive victories, but also for their commitment to athletic excellence at local, state, regional, and World Series levels, while being great Ambassadors for our city.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of San Angelo to affixed this 5th day of September, 2017.

Brenda Gunter
Mayor of the City of San Angelo

Congratulations team! You made us ALL very proud of your accomplishment. Thanks for giving us some GREAT news to report.

Until next time,

Kat Rowoldt

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