

# BASEBALL Mercury.

Issue 34

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November 1983

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# BASEBALL Mercury.

EDITOR -----  
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LONDON, SW6.

No. 34. NOVEMBER 1983.

## NATIONAL FINALS.

Played at Harvey Hadden Stadium, Nottingham on 11th. September.

Everybody, from the players on the field, to the fans in the stand, can be deemed heroes of the day when they attended the B.A.E.S.F. National Finals. The weather could not have been worse, it was near to freezing, wet and windy.

The whole of the Youth final between Southglade Eagles from the Midlands and Ince Blundell Freebirds from Merseyside was played in pouring rain, but from the look of the final score, a win to Eagles 32 - 12, it seemed nobody was in a hurry to get the game over.

Notable players in the game were the Eagles centre fielder, Bill Morris, named as MVP for his five base hits, including a ground rule double in the second inning, and Eagles relief pitcher, Ken Penwarden, who was voted Best Pitcher of the Day.

All credit must go to the Freebirds, who are a fairly new team. They are sure to become a team to be reckoned with in the near future.

In the Senior final between Cobham Yankees and Hull Mets home runs were the order of the day. Five were hit in total, three by the Mets and two by Cobham.

With Randy Napier on board, Dene Ekholm started the power hitting, knocking one over the left field fence in the first inning to give the Yankees two runs. Next to go the circuit were the Mets' Neil Read and Pete Darn - all with consecutive solo jobs in the fourth inning. Barry Marshall then led off Hull's fifth with a home run over the centre field fence.

Cobham's Pete Weber completed the home run onslaught in the seventh inning with a shot into left field.

Cobham Yankees went on to win the B.A.E.S.F. Cup and the Wilkinson Sword Trophy, beating Hull Mets 10 - 3.

	Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total		
Southglade Eagles		1	6	1	2	6	9	7	32		
Ince Blundell Freebirds		1	0	4	2	2	0	3	12		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Cobham Yankees		2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	4	10
Hull Mets		0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3

Umpires - Youth final. Plate - E. Gerard-Thesingh, base J. Burrows.  
Senior final. Plate - Alan Foster, bases E. Gerard-Thesingh and J. Burrows.

Youth Awards presented by the Sheriff of Nottingham.

This account provided by Brian Holland.

Editor's comment. Thanks must go to Alec and Sheila Williams and Mike Harold who were at the stadium from 9 a.m. getting everything set-up. I was present from 9 a.m. and can confirm Brian's remarks about the weather.

## Intercontinental Cup

Played on the ground of the Royal Antwerp Eagles Baseball & Softball Club, 13-24 July. One of the original contestants withdrew some weeks before the tournament. This was Japan, Taiwan eagerly stepped into the vacant spot. Then Italy, Europe's strongest baseball country, notified the Belgian Baseball & Softball Federation about seven days before the starting date, that it would not be sending its team. This was a real blow, as it was too late to arrange a replacement.

The Belgian Federation decided that Italy would be requested to pay some compensation for the disruption.

Originally, with an eight team format, it had been decided that each team would play a single round robin. This produced 28 games in total. In order to get near this total with a seven club format, it was decided that a single round robin would be played, plus a single round robin among the top four from the preliminary round robin. This format would produce 27 games.

After the original round robin, four countries in the top spots were Cuba, U.S.A., Taiwan, and The Netherlands. After these four countries met in the final pool round robin, it was the case that three were tied, Cuba, U.S.A., and Taiwan. It was necessary to arrange an extra day for completion of the tournament. A draw was made which resulted in Cuba drawing a bye. Therefore U.S.A. had to play Taiwan to decide who would meet Cuba in the final.

U.S.A. beat Taiwan in this play-off, but lost to Cuba in the final.

Date		Attendance.
13th. July	Canada 9 - The Netherlands 14	800
14th. July	Taiwan 6 - Nicaragua 2	1,200
.. ..	S. Korea 7 - Cuba 17	2,000
15th. July	U.S.A. 13 - Canada 3	700
.. ..	The Netherlands 20 - Taiwan 3	1,400
16th. July	Nicaragua 0 - S. Korea 5	2,800
.. ..	Cuba 6 - U.S.A. 1	4,000
.. ..	Taiwan 7 - Canada 6	4,000
17th. July	The Netherlands 7 - Cuba 17	1,950
.. ..	Nicaragua 15 - Canada 13	1,200
.. ..	S. Korea 3 - Taiwan 19	1,100
18th. July	S. Korea 6 - The Netherlands 0	850
.. ..	U.S.A. 9 - Nicaragua 0	1,000
19th. July	Cuba 12 - Taiwan 3	800
.. ..	U.S.A. 5 - S. Korea 1	1,200
20th. July	Canada 12 - Cuba 11	2,000
.. ..	The Netherlands 1 - U.S.A. 11	2,500
21st. July	Cuba 8 - Nicaragua 4	600
.. ..	Taiwan 5 - U.S.A. 10	1,100
.. ..	Canada 0 - S. Korea 4	1,600
22nd. July	Nicaragua 10 - The Netherlands 16	2,000
.. ..	<u>Play - offs</u>	
.. ..	The Netherlands 0 - Cuba 11	1,500
.. ..	U.S.A. 8 - Taiwan 3	2,000
23rd. July	U.S.A. 6 - The Netherlands 3	2,400
.. ..	Cuba 1 - Taiwan 13	3,000
24th. July	Taiwan 10 - The Netherlands 4	4,000
.. ..	Cuba 4 - U.S.A. 1	4,000
.. ..	<u>Finals</u>	
25th. July	U.S.A. 2 - Taiwan 1	1,000
.. ..	U.S.A. 4 - Cuba 8	3,000
	Total.	54,700

Cup Winners - Cuba: 2nd. U.S.A.: 3rd. Taiwan.

MVP - Victor Mesa(Cuba), he was also the batting champion 0.567, and had most runs scored - 13. RBI leader - Antonio Munoz(Cuba) 14.

# North West American Baseball and Softball Association

The North West Baseball League was won by Liverpool Trojans. The Lancashire Cup was won by Burtonwood(U.S. Army) Braves. Crawford(formerly Skelmersdale) Tigers won the Robertson One Day Trophy.

Trojans won the Sefton Festival Trophy. Burtonwood Braves won the Mantex sponsored One Day Event.

The end of season round robin games still remain in the balance. There is still one game to be played; this will decide either the winners or may lead to a play-off being needed. Our committee has decided that this outstanding game will be the opening game of the 1984 season.

The ARTCO Trophy was not competed for, this was the third consecutive year that we have not had a competition for this trophy. We may have to think of another use for the trophy. The ARTCO Trophy was donated many years ago by a firm which has long since disappeared, and now seems to be of little significance.

Our other two trophies carry some incentive. The Robertson, in memory of Alan Robertson(Mr. Baseball); and the Lancashire Cup, once played for by the whole of Lancashire.

The reason why we have not been able to carry out our programme to a conclusion can be attributed the ever increasing encroachment into our season by soccer. We find grounds, and players, hard to come by in September.

The Trojans were our representatives in the semi-final of the National Cup, and were beaten at Croydon by Cobham Yankees 13 - 2. The score line does not reflect the actual game; I am sure that anyone at the game would agree. All the scoring taking place in the fourth and fifth innings. In the other seven innings each team went both hitless and scoreless.

Everybody on the coach from Merseyside enjoyed the trip. We were all impressed by the efforts being made by the Surrey clubs, in particular the Croydon Bluejays. Liverpool Trojans extend thanks and appreciation to Croydon for the personal service and attention rendered.

Individual Awards for 1983. Player of the Year - Norman Wells(Trojans); Home Run King - Vladimir Pulido(Monarchs); Pitching Award - shared by Dave Taylor(Tigers) and Ritch Parker(Braves); Most Improved Player - Steve Smith(Tigers); Rookie Award - Jeff Dickinson(Skelmersdale Giants); Merit Award - Don Tracy(Ince Blundell Freebirds).

## EAST MIDLANDS SENIOR LEAGUE (DIVISION I)

	P.	W.	L.	%
U.S. Menwith )	6	5	1	833
Clifton Cougars )	6	5	1	833
Southglade Hornets	6	2	4	333
Nottingham Tigers	6	0	6	000

## EAST MIDLANDS SENIOR LEAGUE (DIVISION II)

	P.	W.	L.	%
Southglade Pirates	5	4	1	800
Rugeley Rebels	5	3	2	600
Sutton Coldfield Royals	4	0	4	000

## NOTTINGHAM SENIOR OPEN LEAGUE

	P.	W.	L.	%
Clifton Cougars	6	6	0	1000
Southglade Hornets	6	4	2	666
Rugeley Rebels	6	1	5	166
Sutton Coldfield Royals	6	1	5	166

Unfortunately, Nottingham Lions had to pull out of the Senior League part way through the season.

NOTTINGHAM SENIOR CUP - Clifton Cougars beat Nottingham Tigers in the final of this cup and so qualified to play Hull Mets in the N.A.B.S.F. semi-final in Hull. Cougars lost this game 12 - 6.

Sheila Williams.

#### CARDIFF CORRESPONDENTS.

My item in issue No. 33 "A Visit to Cardiff" brought me a letter from Peter Smart, Secretary of the Welsh Schools Baseball Association.

Mr. Smart took exception to my describing St. Patrick's as having been a "joke" team prior to having the services of Bill Olsen as coach. Mr. Smart pointed out that St. Patrick's, as all teams do, had had their good spells and their bad spells; but that St. Patrick's had always been respected members of the South Glamorgan Schoolboys' Baseball League.

As a result of Peter Smart's letter, I now realise that my choice of words to describe the contrast between St. Patrick's immediately before Bill Olsen's arrival, and the team after his arrival, was unfortunate.

#### Welsh Trophies.

I have received seven foolscap sheets of information regarding the three major trophies competed for in Wales; the information has been sent to me by Ivor Beynon, President of the Welsh Baseball Union.

The information concerns the Dewar Shield, the League Championship Trophy, from 1906 to date. The W.B.U. Cup; and the League K.O. Cup. The two cups have quite a history attached to each. I have summarised the information; I have set aside the information for 1953 as there appears some confusion between the Dewar Shield and W.B.U. Cup winners. I have also ignored the Dewar Shield for 1961 as it resulted in a three way tie.

Dewar Shield - 65 outright champions. Top five clubs - Grange Albion 25; Llanrumney Youth Club 10; Penylan 9; Newport 7; Splott U.S. 6;  
Longest consecutive sequence - Llanrumney Y.C. 10, 1974-83.

W.B.U. Cup - 62 winners. Top five clubs - Grange Albion 17; Penylan 13; Llanrumney Y.C. 7; Pill Harriers 5; then come three clubs each of whom gained the cup on three occasions - Grangetown, Grange Y.M.C.A. and Alexandra Old Boys.

Longest consecutive sequence - Grange Albion 6, 1946 - 51.  
League Knock-out Cup. At present this is the Welsh Brewers Cup. 46 competitions.

Top five clubs - Grange Albion 13; Penylan 8; Llanrumney Y.C. 7; Pill Harriers 5; Alexandra O.B. 5.

Longest consecutive sequence - Llanrumney Y.C. 7, 1975 - 81.

These three major trophies amount to 173 competitions. The top five clubs overall are Grange Albion 55 wins; Penylan 30; Llanrumney Y.C. 24; Pill Harriers 12; there are three clubs with nine wins each - Newport, Splott U.S. and Alexandra Old Boys.

The most impressive sequence of successes must surely be Llanrumney Y.C. in the period 1974-83 - that is ten years, this club has gained 24 major trophies out of a possible 30.

#### FRANCE

Paris University Club and the Federation Francaise Baseball et Softball organised the Pool B European Cup Competition at La Cipale, Paris in the period 23-26 June. My thanks to P.U.C. for sending a copy of the superb programme produced for the event. In addition to photographs and information concerning the participants, this programme contains a summary of the P.U.C. Baseball Section's history from 1924 to date.

Seven clubs participated. These were in Group A, Viladecans (Spain) founded 1945, Bagarmossen (Sweden) founded 1956, Comets Horsholm (Denmark) founded 1977, and Puumat Helsinki (Finland) founded 1982. In Group B were Berchem Stars (Belgium) founded 1950, P.U.C. (France) founded, or rather reactivated in 1954, and Mannheim Tornados (West Germany) founded 1973.

Results. 23rd. June. Viladecans beat Puumat 45 - 0; Bagarmossen beat Comets Horsholm 19 - 2; P.U.C. beat Mannheim 4 - 2.

24th. June. Viladecans beat Bagarmossen 5 - 3; Comets Horsholm beat Puumat 14 - 3.

25th. June. Berchem Stars beat P.U.C. 11 - 2; Bagarmossen beat Puumat 27 - 4; Viladecans beat Comets Horsholm 20 - 1; Berchem Stars beat Mannheim 9 - 2.

Group A	W	L	Group B	W	L
1 Viladecans	3	0	1 Berchem	2	0
2 Bagarmossen	2	1	2 P.U.C.	1	1
3 Comets	1	2	3 Mannheim	0	2
4 Puumat	0	3			

Then clubs placed from 1st. to third in each group played cross-over games with clubs equally ranked.

26th. June. Match for the 5th. place, Mannheim beat Comets Horsholm 6 - 5

3rd. place game, Bagarmossen beat P.U.C. 14 - 13; Final, Berchem beat Viladecans 2 - 1. This game for top spot was attended by 1,007 spectators.

Final Placings. 1 Berchem; 2 Viladecans; 3 Bagarmossen; 4 P.U.C.;

5 Mannheim; 6 Comets Horsholm; 7 Puumat.

#### XVIIIth. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP.

Played in Italy 28th. July/7th. August. Italy won a place in the Olympic Demonstration Tournament at Los Angeles next year by regaining the European championship. I have not had complete results, but list those to hand. Spain 11 - France 1; Belgium 5 - Sweden 0; Belgium 25 - France 0; Italy 7 - Belgium 0; The Netherlands 21 - Belgium 0; Belgium 3 - Spain 2; Belgium 12 - France 1; Belgium 13 - Spain 3; Belgium 25 - Sweden 2; Italy 9 - The Netherlands 5; Italy 14 - The Netherlands 1; Italy 3 - The Netherlands 2; Italy 8 -

The Netherlands 3; The Netherlands 14 - Italy 4.

Final Placings - 1. ITALY; 2 The Netherlands; 3 Belgium; 4 Spain;

5 Sweden; 6 France,

Hamilton Richardson, who had played many games for The Netherlands, and also coached the national team for some years, was coach of the Spanish team. The Belgian team was coached by Cees de Bruin, who played seventeen seasons for Sparta Rotterdam, and who had served as assistant coach to The Netherlands in the early 1970's.

#### EUROPEAN CUP

Organised by Neptunus Rotterdam and Haarlem Nicols - 7th/10th September. Clubs competing - Viladecans (Spain) which obtained entry as Berchem Stars (Belgium) decided not to compete, Parma (Italy), Leksand (Sweden), Neptunus and Haarlem Nicols (The Netherlands).

Nettuno (Italy) was in the thick of a struggle to win the Italian championship, so decided not to compete for the European Cup.

Results. 7th. September. Viladecans - Neptunus 2 - 12.

Haarlem Nicols - Leksand 13 - 0.

8th. September. Neptunus - Leksand 14 - 7.

Viladecans - Parma 1 - 17;

**EUROPACUP  
BASEBALL '83**



9th. Septemeber. Leksand - Parma 14 - 32: Neptunus - Haarlem 0 - 15:  
 10th. September. Parma - Haarlem 9 - 4:Leksand-Viladecans 5 -7:  
 Final Placings. 1. PARMALAT PARMA: 2.Haarlem Nicols: 3. Neptunus  
 Rotterdam: 4.Viladecans Barcelona: 5. Leksand.  
 Individual prizes. Best Pitcher - David Parina (Parma); Leading hitt  
 -er -Giorgio Castelli (Parma) .667: MVP John Guggiana (Parma); Most  
 Homeruns - Magnussan and Gray, both of Leksand, with 3 each.

The next issue of Baseball Mercury should appear in February. Items  
 for publication, and/or subscriptions should be sent to the editor.  
 Subscription is £1 for four issues.

## Southern England Baseball Association

The highlight of the Southern season was the visit of Pittsburgh  
 Young Pirates, culminating in the All Star game at Stamford Bridge  
 on Saturday, July 23rd. With the Pirates' party was Lew Hays, found  
 -er of PONY Baseball, and Leo Trich, PONY Baseball Commissioner.

One of the main reasons for the Pirates' visit was the conduct  
 -ing of baseball clinics, and their manner of playing in the All  
 Star game seemed to indicate that they were putting on a clinic for  
 London All Stars.

Pirates scored a 9 - 0 victory. They held London All Stars to  
 just two scratch infield hits behind the pitching of Curt Leskanic.  
 London's two hits came from Randy Napier and Lee Pierce.

From the third inning, the Pirates started to get on top of Mike  
 Ocon's pitching, starting with Norvie Miller's ground rule double.  
 Miller scored Pirates' first run, being singled home by Rob Eddie.

The Pirates led by four runs going into the ninth inning, and then  
 had a scoring outburst, with five more runs, including home runs  
 from Kevin Walsh and Tom Snowberger.

Brian Holland.

### BASEBALL AND THE OLYMPICS.

The president of Dart Transportation ushered his guest down the  
 elevator of his three-floor East Los Angeles office building. At  
 the bottom, in the lobby and in the adjoining meeting room hung the  
 pennants and the souvenirs of the man's life as amateur baseball's  
 No. 1 ambassador.

Rod Dedeaux is certainly that, and he is a lot of other things in  
 addition.

He is the baseball coach of University of Southern California.  
 He has held that post for 42 years, the longest period of any active  
 coach in college sports. With 1,240 victories, he is also the most  
 successful of all college baseball coaches. He and his Trojans have  
 won 11 College World Series, and 28 Pacific Coast Conference titles.

Dedeaux is a six-time winner of the College Baseball Coaches Asso  
 ciation Coach of the Year Award, he has twice won the Sporting  
 News' Coach of the Year Award, and he is a member of the College  
 Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

So it is fitting that this remarkable man has been named to coach  
 the United States team in the baseball competition that will take  
 place next summer at Dodger Stadium during the 1984 Olympic Games  
 at Los Angeles.

The six-team demonstration tournament is baseball's most extens  
 -ive involvement with the Olympic Games.

## Softball

The Dominican Republic dominated competition in the Central American-Caribbean softball championship for men June 24 to July 1, 1983 in Medellin, Colombia. The Dominicans won gold medal honours while the Netherland Antilles and Cuba took silver and bronze medals respectively. Ten countries participated in the competition which saw Panama win the round-robin play in Group A and the Dominican Republic win the Group B round-robin. Teams entered were Dominican Republic, Netherland Antilles, Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Virgin Islands and Colombia. In conjunction with the competition, the Central American-Caribbean Softball Confederation met and re-elected Meliton Sanchez of Panama as president. Argemiro Bermudez of Colombia was elected vice-president. Also elected was Eduardo Debello of Panama as general secretary.

### Round Robin Play

Group A	Won	Lost
Panama	6	2
Venezuela	4	4
Antilles	4	4
Cuba	3	5
Colombia	3	5

  

Group B	Won	Lost
Dominicana	6	2
Mexico	5	3
Guatemala	4	4
Puerto Rico	3	5
Virgin Islands	2	6

## Philippine teams cop SEA Titles

The Philippines, both men and women, won the South East Asian softball championship. The competition was played last December at Penang, Malaysia. Runners-up to the Philippines were Indonesia in the men's competition and Singapore in the women's. Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand trailed in the men's; and Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand followed in the women's competition. E. Panteleon (Philippines) was the men's MVP; and S. Tine of Indonesia the women's MVP.

## China bests Japan in Hong Kong Tourney

Playing and winning four games on the final day, China won the 2nd Hong Kong International Invitational Women's Tournament. China defeated Japan twice in the finals, 6-4 and 4-1. Japan had previously beaten China 1-0 in their first meeting.

In round-robin play, China won all five of its games including two no-hitters by China pitcher Li Nianming over Canada and Australia. New Zealand, the defending women's world champions, finished a disappointing fifth in the tournament.

Japan, which lost four of its five round-robin games, closed strong in the finals but could not stop China's strong pitching and hitting when it counted.

Selected as the most valuable player of the tournament was Japan's pitcher Kazuo Yamakoshi. The leading hitter was Hua Jie of China.

## Women's tourney set for Los Angeles

The eight top ranked women's teams in the world will be invited to the ISF's International Cup championship in Los Angeles, July 17-20, 1984.

The ISF will invite the top four finishers from the 1982 Women's World Championship that was held in Taipei in which 23 countries participated.

In addition four other top ranked teams from Asia, North-South America and Europe will be invited to round out the field. Women's softball popularity is growing rapidly in all parts of the world, making it a strong contender for Olympic recognition.

## PASO supports Olympic softball

The Pan American Sports Organization (PASO), meeting in Caracas, Venezuela during the IX Pan American Games, announced its support to include softball on the program of the Olympic Games.

Meliton Sanchez, president of the Panama Olympic Committee and vice president of the ISF, proposed a resolution to the PASO Congress, which was seconded by U.S. Olympic Committee delegate Eric Dennis, to support the inclusion of softball on the program of the Olympic Games. The resolution was passed unanimously by the PASO body.

The ISF has been lobbying with IOC officials and officials of the Organizing Committee for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul to include women's softball as a demonstration sport. The ISF also is working to have softball on the program of the 1986 Asian Games which will also be held in Seoul.



ASIA-ASA

Asian softball associations were to meet on October 27-29 in Manila. High on the list of agenda items were participation of softball in the 1986 Asian Games, and 1988 Olympic Games.

Ho Ming-Chang, ISF Vice President for Asia, said, "It is important that all associations in Asia work together to support softball's inclusion in the programme of the Asian and Olympic Games which will be held in Seoul". He continued, "Softball's growth has been phenomenal, to where it is played in a majority of countries in Asia.

Bert Landero, general secretary of ASA-ASIA, said, "A number of countries in Asia are developing softball within the school and physical education systems and that will help the sport further develop as a recreational and competitive sport"

Landero also said that Pakistan and Thailand had reactivated their softball organizations because of the interest and popularity of the game in those countries. India has also had a resurgence of interest.

1984 INTERNATIONAL  
SOFTBALL CALENDAR

6th.-14th July

Men's World Championship  
Midland, Michigan, USA.

17th.-20th. July

Women's International Cup  
Los Angeles, USA

August

Women's Central American-Caribbean  
Championship  
Guatemala City, Guatemala



Throw is high as member of Panama team scores against Venezuela in the Pan American Games. Panama placed third to win the bronze medal.

## Holland undefeated in European Championship

Holland went undefeated in the Women's European Championship held in Parma, Italy, in August.

Holland was 6-0 in round-robin play. It met Italy three times in the finals and won all three games. Italy was 4-2 in the round-robin and ended the series with a 4-5 record. Belgium finished with an overall 5-4 record, and defeated San Marino two out of three games in the finals.

Caroline Fris of Holland, who beat Italy three times, was selected as the Most Outstanding Pitcher. Ineke Akkerman was named Best Outfielder and the Most Valuable Player was Paola Sarassi of Italy. The top hitter was Vera Van de Ven of Belgium.

### Final Standings

	WON	LOST	TIE	POINTS	RUNS
Holland	6	0	0	18	62-1
Italy	4	2	0	8	60-15
Belgium	5	4	0	10	74-62
San Marino	0	3	0	0	11-129

## Canada wins

CARACAS, Venezuela—Canada, backed by strong hitting and good defense, took gold medal honors in both the men and women's competition during the IX Pan American Games, August 15-26.

Canada defeated round-robin winners USA in both the men and women's finals, the men downing the U.S. 11-5 and the women, 5-4. The U.S. squads had defeated the Canadians in the semi-finals of the playoffs, 11-9, in the men and 7-1 in the women's competition.

Canada was 8-1 in the round-robin play the same as the U.S. men. In women's round-robin play, the U.S. was 9-1 while Canada was 8-3 including one tie-breaker win over Puerto Rico. Winning bronze medal honors were Panama in the men and Belize in the women. Panama had beaten the Venezuelan men in the semi-finals 5-3 advancing to meet Canada who defeated them, setting up the show down with the U.S.

In the women's semi-finals, Belize downed Puerto Rico 4-2 to advance against Canada who had been beaten by the U.S. in the other semi-final game, 7-1. Canada disposed of Belize, 1-0, and then met the United States for the gold. Canada's men had taken gold medal honors in 1979 at San Juan but the women had finished fourth.

Ten teams were entered in the men's competition including Canada, USA, Panama, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Antilles, Argentina, Bahamas and the Virgin Islands. In the women's play six teams were entered including Canada, USA, Belize, Venezuela, Puerto Rico and Netherland Antilles.