

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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Softball enthusiasts enjoy annual fraternal competition at Kirby Park Fields

Teams from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio compete at 29th International Softball Tournament in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

MVP honors go to Kevin Matlon and Robert Marakovitz of Group 1



Members of the host, Group 7 team of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. are shown above and include, seated, from the left, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Degnan, Rob Palchanis, Heather Horvath and Jeremy Francis. Standing, l-r, Ashlee Choman, Michelle Radar, Steve Hvozdozovic, Kelly Palchanis, Steven Hvozdozovic, Jr., Paul Zablotney, Jr. and Josh Hvozdozovic.

The 29th International Slovak Catholic Sokol Softball Tournament was held in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 9th. The fraternal competition took place at the Kirby Park ball fields,

where the softball tournament had its beginnings nearly three decades ago. The participants were housed at the Gus Genetti Best Western hotel in downtown Wilkes-Barre where a hot breakfast buffet was served on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Hosting this year's competition was Group 7, "Rev. Joseph Murgas" of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. As always, the

Story & Photos by
Frank P. Laury, III
Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics

Group 7 Sokols and Sokolky provided a wonderful welcome to the tournament participants.

Last year at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board, a decision was made to try CO-ED softball, since we have had great success and excitement with CO-ED volleyball at our International Slets. The Physical Fitness Board felt it would promote more family involvement and make the tournament more enjoyable for the athletes participating. It was so encouraging to see everyone having a great time while maintaining

a competitive spirit at this year's tournament. This year the tournament had something very special, allowing for moms to compete with their sons and husbands, dads to compete with their daughters and wives, uncles and aunts to compete with their nieces and nephews,

and brothers to compete with their sisters. After seeing the fun everyone was having, I feel our Softball Tournament will grow each year.

At this year's tournament we had a total of four teams participating, with two teams, (A) and (B) from Group 1, Passaic, N.J., a team from Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and a team from Group 5, Cleveland, Oh. The Group 1B/7 combined team took the Championship in a Round Robin format, in which each team gets to play everyone once and best 2 records play for the championship. The tournament's traditional Most Valuable Player honor was awarded to two players this year. The unanimous decision for the CO-MVP went to Kevin Matlon of the Group 1 B team and Robert Marakovitz of the Group 1 A team.

Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon set the tournament up and took care of all the arrangements and equipment with the aid of the Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics Frank P. Laury, III. In attendance at the tournament were members of the Board of Directors which met for its quarterly meeting

on July 8. These included Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, Supreme President Michael J. Horvath, Supreme Vice President Edward D. Moeller, Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Treasurer Dennis J. Zifcak and Chairperson of Supreme Auditors James G. Jerek. Supreme Physical Director John M. Underation and Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen Watkins from Group 14 volunteered to play in the tournament, Brother Underation on the Group 5 team and Sister Watkins on the Group 1 B team. Also participating in the tournament were Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Martin Degnan and Julie Laury. It was great to see the involvement of the Supreme Officers in the tournament, especially having a total seven Supreme Officers competing.

On Friday evening, July 8 many of the tournament participants visited the North End Slovak Citizens Club located in Wilkes-Barre's north end enjoying fabulous hospitality and great service provided by the staff, including Ashley Ev-

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Members of the Group 1, Passaic, N.J. B team pose for a photo at this year's competition. Standing from the left are: Joseph Krzysik, Sr., Claire Matlon, Renee Pizzella of Group 7; Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C., Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon, and Kevin Lamonico. Seated from the left are: Joseph Krzysik, Jr., Jason Adamo, Olivia Pizzella of Group 7; Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen Watkins, and Kevin Matlon. Not pictured: A.J. Palchanis of Group 7.