Softball league looks to expand in 2018

Written by Jim Ecker
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Players, coaches and fans all agree that the new Iowa Women's Softball League was a smash hit in Year 1.

Now league directors are planning to make it even better in 2018 by adding more teams and expanding into Central Iowa.

The first season of the IWSL ended Sunday with exciting games at the Kirkwood and Coe softball fields.

Emil's Hideaway topped Construction Materials, 6-2, in a single nine-inning affair at Kirkwood.

Ironside Apparel and Hawkeye Convenience Stores battled to a 3-3 tie in game that ended in a deadlock due a time limit, then Hawkeye Convenience Stores took the nightcap 6-2.

Ironside Apparel, which clinched the league title last week, finished the season with an 11-6-1 record. Emil's Hideaway finished 9-8, Hawkeye Convenience Stores was 9-8-1 and Construction Materials finished at 5-12.

League directors hope to have six teams in Cedar Rapids next season. They also hope to have four teams in Central Iowa, with an East Division and a West Division.

Registration for 2018 will begin Sept. 1 on the Metro Sports Report website, with players given a choice of divisions.



Kelsey Aikey of Western Kentucky and Natalie Halvorson, an incoming freshman at Kirkwood, shared the pitching duties for Emil's Hideaway in the 6-2 victory over Construction Materials.

Aikey allowed two runs in five innings for the victory. Halvorson, an all-state pitcher at Cedar Rapids Prairie this year, tossed four shutout innings for a save. Halvorson allowed only one hit with three strikeouts.

Shelby Crist, the player/coach for Emil's Hideaway, had three hits in the victory. Adara Opiola of Northern Iowa had two hits and two RBIs. Mallory McArtor also had two hits.

Ali Herdliska belted two solo home runs for Hawkeye Convenience Stores in the 3-3 tie with Ironside Apparel. Maddie Hansen of North Dakota State had two hits and Emily Ira of Western Illinois pitched five shutout innings.

Marissa Promes of Buena Vista pitched a complete game for Ironside Apparel in the 3-3 deadlock and went 2-for-3 with two RBIs.

Erin Drahozal of Upper Iowa tossed five shutout innings for Hawkeye Convenience Stores in the

6-2 victory in Game 2.

Peyton Baskerville of Mount Mercy had two hits and two RBIs for Hawkeye Convenience Stores. Chelsea Thornley of Webster University and Katelyn Banning, a 2017 Center Point-Urbana grad who is headed to Indian Hills, also had two hits.