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Defending the Title

Submitted by Buddy Rowell



From left, bottom row: Tyler Schenone, Simon Oh, Gareth Kwok, Parker Windatt, and Seppi Ortman; top row: John Torchio, Coach Craig Mizell, Jake Finegold, Robby Rowell, Coach Buddy Rowell, Ryan Regan, Kyle Mizell, Vince Mossotti, Brian Merken, and Coach Greg Ditmer; not pictured: Sam Walker and Coach Conner Hulse Photo provided

Advanced Baseball's (AB) 14U Blues (34-3) team defended their tournament title by winning this year's Walnut Creek Memorial Weekend Bulldawg Brawl. The Blues went undefeated in pool play, which included complete games pitched by Tyler Schenone and Ryan Regan and a pivotal RBI single in the final game by Simon Oh, setting up the Blues for the No. 1 seed going into bracket play.

Then, in the semifinals of bracket play, the Blues beat the Clayton Valley Eagles 2-0 behind a complete game gem thrown by lefty Brian Merken, and two big doubles by Robby Rowell and John Torchio.

In the finals, after a shaky first inning falling behind the Fairfield Tigers 3-0, the Blues rallied behind gutsy pitching by Kyle Mizell, stellar team defense, and big hits to tie the game at 3-3 by the bottom of the fourth. Vince Mossotti closed the game with three dominant shutout innings. In the bottom of the sixth, after working the count full, Seppi Ortman hit a chopper up the middle, scoring Parker Windatt for the go-ahead run.

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