



Making wishes come true

Legendary ASA Men's Modified team makes a child's wish come true

In May of 2013, David Rocco, a manager of the Erie Hardchrome Rack N' Roll, received a phone call from the Erie Regional Offices for the Make-A-Wish Foundation with a very special request: Would the Erie Hardchrome Rack N' Roll consider getting back together to play in a charity game to benefit Skylar Gibbs, who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis.

The Rack N'Roll squad made quite a name for themselves in the Men's Major Modified Division, capturing nine Pennsylvania 10-Man Major Modified State Championships. Add on three ASA/USA 10-Man Major Modified National Championships and you can see why the Rack N' Roll squad made a name for themselves during the late 80's through early 2000's.

So when the team hung up their cleats after the 2001 season, the thought of playing again as a team never came to fruition until they received the call from the Make-A-Wish group.

"We had played as a team in the Make-A-Wish Charity Tournament many times and thought it was a good way for us, as well as ASA, to give a little something back to the community," said Rocco. "We felt that to be a true champion, a team

had the responsibility of doing a lot more than winning tournaments."

When the team took to the field on September 6, 2013, those in attendance knew something special was about to happen. With the same starting line-up from their last game 13 years ago, the Rack N' Roll took the field against Mellon's Softball squad. A full seven-inning (and then



Above: Walt Porter, a long time ASA Umpire, volunteered to umpire home plate during the full dress.

some) game was played with ASA umpires in full dress.

"We can't begin to express the feeling and emotions that ran through us as we took the field that night with Skylar on the side lines," said Rocco. "As the game progressed into the late evening hours, it became quite apparent that this may have been the more important and rewarding game of our careers. A truly special night indeed."

Right: Skylar Gibbs is pictured with the Championship trophy. Below: The Mellon's softball squad out of Franklin, Penn.



Below: The members of the Erie Hardchrome Rack N' Roll team.

