

Kia ora whanau,

Despite a shaky start against the Washington Hurricanes we rallied and scored 5 runs with 5 hits to win the game. Our opposition could only muster 1 hit with no runs and we were error less in the field. The play of the day would have to be in the second inning when we were fielding with 2 outs, runner on 2, hit to centre field, with a throw to home for a clean tag out on a fast sliding runner. Was an awesome play that set the tone for the rest of the game.

However, despite the win, Coach Kevin and Venita both agree that there is room for improvement and told the team so at the after match team talk. Every player has things to work on.

I hope that the live stream was working some of the time but I am aware that it wasn't as good as we were hoping. The players were really excited that family and friends could be watching and they talked about playing their best.

The day started early with a trip on the Sky Train (light rail that runs on elevated tracks above the roads) into Vancouver city. It was novel and a bit exciting especially when the players realised that there was no driver and we had a close call with a staff member and an automatic door! All good fun. From there we had a short walk to an Aqua Bus and a ride around the harbour to a place called Granville Island which is an amazing gourmet food and arts and crafts market. Because it was a game day we arrived back to the hotel in the early afternoon to have a rest out of the sun.

Around 4pm we headed back to Softball City for a parade of teams / celebration of softball. As there are more than 40 teams competing here in the various divisions it was quite an event. When we marched, flags flying, onto the main diamond we were introduced as the first of the international teams "Team New Zealand" and a huge cheer went up from the Canadian crowd. We are obviously favourites because players and staff are constantly approached by people wanting to talk to us. I saw some players today signing balls and other items for some youngsters with proud parents snapping pictures.

Overall it has been a busy and full, but very rewarding day.

Tomorrow we have the last of the pool games against the Delta Heat who are leading our pool and the Surrey Storm who are at the bottom. The top 4 teams in each pool go onto the championship round whilst the bottom two teams are out. I took a picture (see attached) of the point scores / leader board but it has not yet been updated with our latest game.

Time for bed, signing off

Aroha Metcalf
Team Manager

NZ Junior White Sox at the Future Gold, Canada Fastpitch Championship (the Canada Cup).

