

NAILBITER!

METS CLAIM 2017 NSS CROWN

(AP) LaVista, NE – Tense. Nail-biting. Edge of seat uncertainty.

Pick an adjective along those lines and it will fit one of the most closely fought championship contests in the history of Nebraska Senior Softball as the Mets, managed by **Richard Wyllie**, held off the Pirates 19-18 to secure the 2017 title.

In the semi-final match ups, the Mets overcame three home runs by **Ted Japp**'s Angels and scored 5 runs in the 5th inning to change a 10-9 deficit into a 14-10 lead. The Angels defense stiffened, holding the Mets scoreless the rest of the way, but fell just short in dropping the contest by a score of 14-13.

The other tilt featured the top seed Pirates led by **Gil Stephens** against **Alan Hardt**'s Athletics. The Bucs prevailed holding off the Green Machine to move on to the title bout.

The championship fight turned out to be a battle of the two top seeded teams in the league and it was worthy of charging admission to the game!

The #1 seeded Pirates jumped out to a 5-0 lead after the 1st inning and traded scoring punches with the Mets through the 5th holding a 17-12 leader after 5 full and 18-14 after six frames.

However, in the 7th, the Mets made their late move. With a runner on base, **Pat Sweaney** laced a line drive into the gap and raced to the plate with a 2-run inside the park home run cutting the deficit to two runs.

With one out, **Mike Steen** cut the Pirates lead to one by driving in a run with a double. Following a second out, **Colin Andersen** stepped up to the plate and knotted the contest with another clutch double.

Then, with a runner on first, **Bob Garcia** burned a shortened up Pirate outfield to drive in the go ahead run and the Mets claimed their first lead of the game, 19 to 18.

But no lead is safe against the Pirates and heading into the bottom of the 7th, the Bucs just needed one to tie and two to win.

The first two Pirates in the 7th went down and the Mets were looking for one more out to begin the celebration. However, after a single and an error put runners on first and third, the Pirates turned the lineup over to the top looking for a single to tie the score.

However, a Dave Boyer drive to right field settled in the glove of **Wayne Hahn** and the Mets began to pop the cork on the champagne.

All four teams involved in the playoffs showcased the talent, sportsmanship, and excitement of Nebraska Senior Softball.