

Easley Baseball 11U in South Carolina wins Myrtle Beach Ripken Experience Columbus Day Championship

Submitted By Stace Cassell

The Easley Baseball 11U tournament team defeated the Richmond Rockets 8-7 to take first place in the "Ripken Experience" Columbus Day Tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Jacob Henderson drove in Aaron Schaff with the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Easley the championship. JT Spitzmiller picked up the win, throwing two scoreless innings in relief. Austin Morgan led the Easley hit attack, belting two doubles and scoring twice. Andrew Stanifer hit a two-run double past the first baseman to tie the game in the bottom of the sixth inning and send the game into extra innings. Outstanding defense by Chase Stephens, Colton Barbary and Mason Stewart helped to seal the victory. Griffin Cassell was named Tournament MVP, adding two hits and pitching four innings of solid ball.

Easley rallied to win four consecutive games after falling in the opening round game to the Glen Allen Extreme (Virginia) 19-4.

Easley defeated the Myrtle Beach Stars 13-5 with Aaron Schaff picking up the first of his three wins for the tournament. Once again, defense was the key to the victory as Easley completed a double play and turned a 6-4-5 triple play in the third inning to kill a Myrtle Beach scoring threat.



Easley then defeated the CBC Cougars (North Carolina) 7-2 to finish 2-1 in pool play and advance to the elimination round. Reagan Baumgarner had a two-run triple late in the game helping Easley to take the victory. Aaron Schaff got the win while Austin Morgan pitched the final two innings of relief. Mason Stewart had several defensive plays to help seal the victory.

In the elimination round, Easley defeated their cross county rival, Southern Steal (Greenville) 6-5 to advance to the championship game. Andrew Stanifer went 3-3 with two runs scored in a closely played game. Trailing late in the game, Cole Smith lined a two RBI single into right field to give Easley the lead for good. Aaron Schaff pitched two shutout innings of middle relief to pick up his third win and Griffin Cassell pitched the final two innings to earn the save.

Team members include: Austin Morgan, Chase Stephens, Colton Barbary, Mason Stewart, Jacob Henderson, Griffin Cassell, Reagan Baumgarner, Cole Smith, Andrew Stanifer, JT Spitzmiller and Aaron Schaff and is coached by Stace Cassell, Chuck Stephens and Bill Stanifer.