

Sports

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Softball: Shockers shock at GSA World Series

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Homer - Local fast-pitch softball standouts are making the most of their limited options during the recent sports slowdown.

Last month, the 16-and-under Shockers travel team, whose roster consists mostly of Union County players, traveled to Homer to take part in the 18-and-under division of the 2020 Global Sports Authority (GSA) World Series. Despite playing against older girls and dropping their second game of pool play, the Shockers earned their nickname by rattling off four-straight victories to claim the GSA World Series title.

"We just played amazing; it's one of those moments you will never forget," Shockers coach George Burnette said. "We played great defense and hit the ball great. The pitching was really good too."

In the title game, the Shockers knocked off Nitro Fastpitch, a squad made up entirely of 18-year olds, according to Burnette.

"Nitro were all 18," he said. "Half of their team had already graduated high school and we beat them with a bunch of eighth, ninth and 10th graders."

With the Shockers leading 6-1 in the second inning of the final game, lightning forced an early resolution to the contest. However, the Shockers were in the tournament driver's seat, already owning a 5-4 come-from-behind win over Nitro in the previous round. As a result, Nitro had to battle their way out of the loser's bracket to earn another shot at the Shockers, and would've needed two victories to claim the crown.

But the Shockers weren't having it - ending Nitro's upset hopes right off the bat.

Literally.



The Shockers following their GSA World Series title in Banks County. The team members are (in no particular order): Lexi Sisum, Adaley Burnette, Aubrie Banton, Addison Kennedy, Rebekah Kelley, Jessica Lara Noyola, Kaelyn Jones, Danielle Loggins (Rabun County), Kaylee Helton, Jayden Bailey (Fannin County), Kendall Masters (Rabun), Laura McGaha, Coaches George Burnette, David Kelley. Results are as follows beginning with game one of pool play: Shockers 15, Pressure 2; Shockers 0, Heat 3; Shockers 3, Assassins 2; Shockers 5, Heat 4; Shockers 5, Nitro 4; Shockers 2, Nitro 1 - Shockers were batting with a 6-1 lead when the game was called but the final score reverted back to the start of the inning. Photo/submitted

"We were crushing the ball when they called it off, but really, I think it was already over anyway," Burnette said. "We already scored four runs that inning and were still batting with no outs and runners on second and third."

The World Series got underway with pool play on Saturday, June 20. After thumping Georgia Pressure 15-2 in the opener, the Shockers suffered their only setback of the week-

end during a 3-0 loss to the Heat in game two.

"Those first two pool games didn't count and we were trying to save our pitching for tournament play," Burnette said, commenting on his team's only misstep.

In game three - the opening round of tournament play - it was apparent the Shockers had destiny on their side. Leading the Assassins 3-2 in the final inning, the Shockers

used an inconceivable game-ending triple-play to advance to round two.

With runners at first and second, a diving stab by centerfielder Kaylee Helton kickstarted the 8-4-3 walk-off triple play. Following the catch, Helton immediately doubled off the runner at second before another throw caught the runner off the bag at first.

In round two, the Shockers served up a dose of revenge

to the Heat via a 5-4 victory, secured by another outfield assist in the final inning. Later in the tourney, during the first meeting with Nitro, the Shockers overcame a late 4-2 deficit to move within a win of their coronation.

All but three Shockers call Blairsville home. The

other three hail from Blue Ridge and Clayton (2).

Even with a GSA World Series trophy, the Shockers aren't taking their gloves and going home. This weekend they travel to Alto Park in Rome for a college showcase tournament.

Local Racing Report: Tri-County Racetrack

By Blake Lynch
Racing Reporter
North Georgia News

Brasstown, N.C. - Tri-County Racetrack hosted its Independence Day Championship Race with a full program, featuring Super Late Models and the Southeastern Late Models.

Here are the top-five finishers from each class.

Super Late Models - Taking home the checkered flag was No. x15 Shaun Chastain. Coming in second was No. 85 Jason Hiatt. Finishing in third was No. 38 Jamie Oliver. Coming in fourth was No. 62 Cody King and placing fifth was No. 4 Danny Ledford.

FWD - Taking home first was No. k3 James Klaucke. Second belonged to No. 28 James Coates. Finishing in third was No. 19r Sean Rice. Coming in fourth was No. 74 DJ Worley. Rounding out the top-five was No. 10 Blake Lynch.

Street Stock - Finishing in first was No. 14 Charles Devine Jr. Coming in second was No. 32 Logan Exum while No. 3 Lynn Burchfield took home the bronze. Coming in fourth was No. 12 Roger Beaver. Finishing fifth was No. 44 Chuck Sims

Modified Street - Taking the checkered flag was No. 88

Ricky Smith. Right behind him was No. 37 Michael Barnett in second. Coming in third was No. 4 Jacob Parris. Finishing in fourth was No. 81 John Howard while fifth went to No. 44 Bobby Elkins

Beginner 602 - Coming in first was No. 03 Dante Curtis. Finishing second was No. 22 Tucker Anderson. Coming in third was No. 100 Cooper Twiggs. Placing fourth was No. 20 Clinton Raper. No. 44 Jay Lynch was fifth.

Pony - First went to No. 00 Adam Brooks. Finishing in second was No. 6 Koulten Hurbert. No. 01 Phil Wood checked in third. Coming in fourth was No. 104 Ricky Queen and fifth was No. 72 Jeremy Kimber

Crate - No. 9 Brian Kinnersley notched the victory with No. 12 Drew Deaver in his rearview. Finishing in third was No. 44 Michael Hensley. Coming in fourth was No. 49 Bo Stanley and placing fifth was No. 12r Rodney Weeks.

Southeastern Late Models - Coming in first was No. j0 John Owenbey. Coming in second was No. 30 Devin Dilbeck. Third went to No. 7 Jason Deal, fourth was No. 1jr Justin Sims and fifth was No. 4 Danny Ledford.



The pitching duo of Adaley Burnette (above) and Rebekah Kelley (above-right) provided the Shockers and Coach George Burnette with a formidable 1-2 punch in the circle. Photo/submitted



Shockers' pitcher Rebekah Kelley. Photo/submitted



Trout stocking sites week of July 6-10, 2020

Fannin: Rock Creek
Union: Cooper Creek
Note: Information is subject to change. Please call the hatchery at 706-838-4723 for questions. Stay up-to-date with stocking and events through Facebook www.facebook.com/chattahoocheeforestnfh. The hatchery also provides trout for the state. Please contact Georgia DNR for information on sites stocked by the state. N00115.291CA