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## MINNESOTA STING93 WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 14U Girls "A" Softball Team Wins Five in a Row to Take National Title

Maplewood, MN – July 27, 2008

Sting 93 won the North American Fastpitch Association's (NAFA) national 14U "A" tournament in Crown Point, Indiana Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> by defeating the Stone City (Illinois) Sharks in two straight games. The tournament started on July 23<sup>rd</sup> with the Sting 93 winning three straight to win their pool. Bracket play began the following day. Sting 93 outscored its opponents 73-18 in the tournament.

On Friday, July 25, Sting 93 won five straight seven-inning games beginning at noon and ending at 9:30 PM to win the NAFA National Tournament. The 14U team displayed the superior discipline, teamwork, determination, and mental and physical stamina necessary to win five straight games against top-level national competition. Teams from several states qualified for the opportunity to play in this prestigious tournament by winning local tournaments throughout the year.

Sting 93 started off the day by defeating Minnesota's 14U State Champions, the OMGAA Storm, (Sting 93 competed at the 16U level in MN) by a score of 8 - 2. Next up were the Warriors 93 from Colorado. The Warriors are the Colorado state champions. The Warriors were ahead 5 - 1 after the fifth inning. The Sting then scored two in the bottom of the sixth and three in the bottom of the seventh to win the game 6 - 5. This dramatic come-from-behind victory left Sting fans elated and exhausted. But the players knew there was more work to be done.

Having clinched third place with the win over the Warriors, Sting 93 needed a win over the Homer Hawks to earn a rematch with the Stone City Sharks - the team that had beaten them on Thursday. One stroke of the bat essentially ended the Homer Hawks game. In the second inning, with the bases loaded, Sting hit a long line drive that's over the fence in most ball parks, but which rolled to Crown Point's 250 foot fences. The Sting batter rounded third base nearly passing the runner in front of her, then slid into home for the grand slam. Sting93 held on to win the game 6 - 2.

There were no fingernails left on Sting fans after the two championship games against the excellent Stone City Sharks team from the Chicago area. The Sharks beat the 93's 2 - 1 on Thursday to put the

Sting into the loser's bracket. But at the 6:00 PM Friday rematch it was the Sting who scored the only run of the game in the bottom of the fourth inning to win 1 - 0. Then came the "if necessary" game for the championship. The Sharks scored first in the bottom of the second and they held that lead until the top of the sixth. With runners at second and third, the Sting batter beat out an infield single and drove in the runner on third. Then, when the Sharks assumed the play was over, Sting's aggressive heads-up base-running scored the runner from second base for the go-ahead run. Sting fans went crazy, but the players kept their cool to shut down the Sharks for two more innings to claim the 2 - 1 victory and the championship trophy.

The Sting demonstrated their outstanding talents in every aspect of the game in Indiana. From the selfless team support from the dugout to throwing the last winning strike on the field, every player did their job to the best of their ability. The result was that space had to be cleared in the minivan to bring home the biggest trophy ever won by a Minnesota girls fastpitch team!

Sting 93 ends it's 2008 summer season with a record of 47 - 14.

#### *About the Minnesota Sting 93:*

The Minnesota Sting 93 girls fastpitch softball team was created in August 2006 with the idea of putting together the very best fastpitch team possible from players who were all born in 1993. In this way, the girls would all have the same age-eligibility and would be able to play together as a group every season throughout their teen years. Mark Bayers, from Maplewood, was named the head coach and Rob Walker, from Shakopee, was named as assistant coach.

Being a member of Sting 93 requires a high level of commitment to the team by the girls, the coaches, and the parents. The goal is not only to help the girls be successful on the field, but also to help them grow as young women off the field. The other goals are to have fun, and to make friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

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For additional information about the Sting 93 please visit our website at [www.sting93.org](http://www.sting93.org)

For additional information about the NAFA tournament please visit their website at <http://www.nafaregion7.com/>

Please contact Lisa Bayers for additional information at the email or phone above.