

Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times

Softball: Ellis Park wins on tie-break

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By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 6 Oct 2008

[Softball](#)

Veteran pitcher Peter Mathieson led defending champion Ellis Park to a 13-11 win over the Cardinals on the tie-breaker rule in the opening round of Dunedin premier softball on Saturday.

The Dodgers and the Saints also picked up wins in the competition, which involves four teams and has two playing a double-header.

Mathieson kept cool on the mound for Ellis Park in the late game and also batted .500 for the day.

The sides were tied 9-9 going into the sixth inning.

Ellis Park smashed four runs and the Cardinals could only respond with two.

There was a promising all-round performance from Ellis Park infielder Adam Whelan (18), who had two hits in three at-bats and made some nice plays at third base.

The Dodgers smacked the Cardinals 9-2, with the game called off under the mercy rule after five innings.

Both sides scored twice in the first inning and the game was still tied 2-2 at the top of the fourth, when the bats opened up.

The Dodgers scored three runs in that inning and a further four at the top of the fifth.

Junior Black Sox batter Jonathan Campbell made his premier debut for the Dodgers, who out-hit the Cardinals 5-2.

In the third game, played under a 90min time limit, the Saints beat Ellis Park 9-6 after five innings.

Former Ellis Park catcher Tim Howard paced the Saints against his old team, batting two-for-three, with Kyle O'Neill also getting two hits.

Seven different Ellis Park batters had a hit.

Saturday marked the first time Dunedin softball was scored using a new electronic system.

Sandy Wallace, New Zealand's chief scorer, said the system worked well with only "a few hiccups", which was to be expected.

Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times.

Softball: Crowley leads Saints to unbeaten record after two rounds

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 13 Oct 2008
[Softball](#)

Former Junior Black Sox representative Michael Crowley powered the Saints to an unbeaten record after two rounds of the Dunedin premier men's competition on Saturday.

The Saints smashed the Cardinals 14-4 and came from behind to beat the Dodgers 10-8.

Crowley had two hits, including a home run, and three RBIs in three bats against the Cardinals, and across the doubleheader he went to the plate seven times for four hits, two walks and a solitary ground-out.

The Saints batted consistently in the first game, scoring five runs in the first inning, two in the second, four in the third and three in the fourth to beat the Cardinals on the mercy rule.

With the support of his batters, pitcher Sam Jones performed well to take the win for the Saints team.

It was a much tighter battle in the second game.

The Dodgers led 8-4 at the top of the fourth inning and it seemed they would be the only unbeaten club after the round.

But the Saints batters were given some free tickets when Dodgers pitcher Ben Watts, the talented 16-year-old national representative playing his first season of premier softball, lost his control.

Watts walked the first three batters he faced in the fourth inning.

Saints batters Tim Howard and Mike O'Neill then each drove in two runs.

In the third game, Dodgers staged a remarkable comeback to beat Ellis Park 5-4.

Ellis Park took a 4-0 lead into the bottom of the fifth but infield errors proved costly as Dodgers scored five runs to win the game.

Softball: A nail-biter alongside a thumping

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By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 3 Nov 2008

[Softball](#)

Leading clubs Ellis Park and the Saints maintained their good form with contrasting wins in the Dunedin premier competition on Saturday.

The Saints were in irresistible form in an 18-1 thumping of the Cardinals, while Ellis Park had to score a late run to beat the Dodgers 9-8 at the bottom of the seventh inning.

Just two games were played, with both badly affected by high winds.

The Dodgers started strongly and led Ellis Park 4-0 halfway through the dramatic early game.

Ellis Park then smashed six runs in the bottom of the fifth, with the Dodgers committing five errors in the inning.

Ben Watts (passed ball) and Aran Bailey (error) scored at the top of the sixth to level the scores, but Ellis Park immediately pushed ahead 8-6.

In the crunch seventh inning, the Dodgers levelled the scores yet again, with Scott Cartwright and Jeremy Tisdall scoring on a Ben Watts single.

Ellis Park had the bottom of the seventh to claim the win and managed it with ease.

Player-coach Willie Tarapi was walked, and was batted in by Adam Mathieson's double.

There was no exciting finish in the other game, with the Saints brutalising the Cardinals to win in four innings on the mercy rule.

The Saints scored just one run in the first inning when Michael Crowley was batted in by Mark Ahlfeld.

Cardinals lead-off hitter Doug Hill then doubled and was brought home by a Chris Harpur double, but that was as good as it got for the competition's straggler.

Saints shortstop Michael O'Neill batted 1.000, with two singles, a double and a triple, while Michael Crowley also had a perfect day with two walks, a double and a home run in four trips to the plate.

There will be no premier softball this weekend as the Otago Softball Association celebrates the official opening of its No 1 diamond at Ellis Park.

Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times

By [Steve Hepburn](#) on Mon, 17 Nov 2008
[Softball](#)



Peter Mathieson

A pitching and catching duo with a combined age of more than 90 led Ellis Park to a double triumph in Dunedin softball on Saturday.

With Dodgers playing in Christchurch in a South Island club tournament, the remaining three teams played each other, and it was the Ellis Park side which came out on top.

Ellis Park's regular pitcher, Daniel Tarapi, was one of two Ellis Park players drafted into the Dodgers side, leaving 50-year-old Peter Mathieson as the only pitching option for Park.

But he did not let age get in the way, helping his side to two wins, with player coach Willie Tarapi, in his 40s, doing the catching.

In the first match, Ellis Park hit eight runs at the top of the 5th inning, and ran out 12-5 winner over Cardinals.

Tarapi had two hits as did Simon Wallace, and Cardinals, although scoring two runs at the bottom of the sixth inning, lost on the mercy rule.

Mathieson then went straight back out on the diamond and proceeded to pitch well in a tight match against Saints, as Ellis Park won 2-1.

Ellis Park hit its two runs in the first inning, then defended its lead, with Saints getting only one run on the board, which came at the top of the third inning.

Mathieson, watched by his son Adam, who played first base for Ellis Park, was on the mound for more than three hours altogether.

In the final game, Saints, disappointed it had dipped out against Ellis Park, let out some of its frustration against Cardinals, winning 14-0.

Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times

Softball: Dunedin club may appeal default

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By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 24 Nov 2008

[Softball](#)

A Dunedin softball club was defaulted for allegedly showing dissent to an umpire during a premier men's game on Saturday but is considering appealing its punishment.

The Cardinals were trailing the Dodgers 3-2 at Ellis Park on Saturday when umpire Dowie Sutton called the game off and awarded the points to the Dodgers.

The Cardinals club had 48hr after the game to decide whether to lodge an appeal on the default.

Cardinals coach Glenn Forrester told the Otago Daily Times he believed the umpire had acted hastily in calling the game off in the top of the third inning.

Forrester claimed one of his batters, called out by Sutton on a third strike, had drawn a line in the turf to indicate where he felt the ball had pitched outside the strike zone.

"The umpire then ejected the player from the game, and I'm not aware there was any previous warning," Forrester said.

"Myself and my captain questioned the umpire and asked him to get the rulebook out.

"He told us to carry on with the game. We refused because we wanted to be shown the rule.

"He then canned the whole game."

Forrester said he was satisfied he and his captain had acted in an appropriate manner.

The Cardinals were considering whether to lodge a protest but were unsure whether the game could be replayed, either from scratch or from the point it ended.

Otago Softball boss Jill Johnson was aware of the incident and was waiting to see whether the Cardinals appealed their punishment.

"We'll have independent people to deal with any protest should one be lodged," Johnson said.

Ellis Park had wins against the Dodgers (9-3) and the Saints (7-6) in the two full games played on Saturday.

In the top-of-the-table clash between Ellis Park and the Saints, Ellis Park's Daniel Tarapi hit a key two-run homer to give his side the win.

Tarapi also hit a home run and batted 1.000 in the early game, with 14-year-old Tyrone Pelasio hitting 2-from-2.

Scott Cartwright slammed one over the fence for the Dodgers.

In provincial action yesterday, the Otago men regained the Bates Shield by beating Southland 8-1 in Dunedin.

Cartwright and Jeremy Tisdall belted home runs in the third inning, while Tim Howard also cleared the fence but had his run erased for missing home plate.

Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times

Softball: Ellis Park first-round champion

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By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 8 Dec 2008

[Softball](#)

The Dodgers' bats ran hot in a key double-header win against the Saints but Ellis Park held its cool as the final pre-Christmas round of Dunedin premier softball staged a thrilling finish on Saturday.

On the last competitive day of the year, three teams had a chance to win Otago Softball's first-round trophy.

The decision came to the final inning of the final game, with Ellis Park (9-3, 38 points) finishing just clear of the Dodgers (8-4, 37) and the Saints (7-5, 35).

Scott Cartwright led the powerful batting line-up as the Dodgers claimed 8-3 and 12-7 wins against the Saints.

A six-run Dodgers splurge in the bottom of the second inning that made the offensive difference in the early game.

Cartwright had whacked a homer in the first inning and Josh Thom and Aran Bailey added further dingers in the second, as the Dodgers built an unassailable lead.

The batters, of course, are only as good as their starting pitcher, and promising Dodgers hurler Ben Watts was in outstanding form on the mound.

Watts retired the first 10 batters he faced before walking Tim Howard, and he held the Saints to just two hits in six innings.

Cartwright was feeling it again in the late game, smiting a three-run homer in the first inning as the Dodgers racked up an early 8-0 lead.

Jamie Robinson also cleared the fence as the Dodgers again got hold of struggling Saints pitcher Mark Ahlfeld.

The Saints fired back with four runs at the bottom of the second, with a Michael Crowley double bringing home both Mitchell O'Neill and Michael Wilson, but the damage had been done.

The back-to-back wins were revenge for the Dodgers, which had twice been beaten (10-8 and 7-6) by the Saints in earlier rounds.

In between the top-of-the-table games, Ellis Park cruised to a 10-1 win against the winless Cardinals.

Ellis Park led just 1-0 after two innings but exploded for seven runs in the fourth, an inning during which the Cardinals committed five errors.

Adam Whelan led Ellis Park with four singles and three runs.

The Otago men's and women's teams will play at the Jefferies Cup tournament in Christchurch this weekend

Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 2 Mar 2009
[Softball](#)

Last beat first in the upset of the season in Dunedin premier club softball on Saturday.

The Cardinals have struggled all summer, losing all 12 of their games before Christmas and starting the second leg of the season with three consecutive losses, while the Saints have been in a three-way tussle at the top.

But the Cardinals dug deep for something special on Saturday and conjured up a 6-5 win through five innings.

The Saints took a predictable 2-0 lead after the first, with Michael Crowley (base on balls) and Tim Howard (single) scoring, but the Cardinals quickly scored two of their own runs at the top of the second.

A Howard triple led to more runs for both him and Crowley at the bottom of the second, but again the Cardinals immediately replied, getting Glenn Forrester and Ben Steele home at the top of the third.

The Saints took a 5-4 lead into the fifth inning before the Cardinals moved ahead with only one man out in the fifth.

Two quick strike-outs ended the innings and all eyes returned to the Saints.

Forrester was on the Cardinals mound in the final inning and watched as Mitchell O'Neill hit a sacrifice bunt to get Lachie Brensell, the game-tying run, to third base.

When Forrester walked Michael King, it looked like game over for the Cardinals.

But Forrester got Sam Jones out and then struck out Michael Wilson to win the game.

Earlier, the Cardinals had been thumped 14-4 by the Dodgers after conceding 13 runs in the first three innings.

The Dodgers capitalised on errors and made consistent hits through the first two innings, then got a boost in the third when Wayne Sangster scored a three-run homer.

The Cardinals rallied with four runs at the top of the fourth.

In the day's final game, the Saints bounced back from their shock loss to score seven runs in the final inning in a 8-3 win against Ellis Park.

The game was in the balance with Ellis Park leading 2-1 through six before the Saints' offence exploded.

Brensell tripled and both Wilson and Michael O'Neill hit home runs to crush Ellis Park's hopes.

Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Sat, 21 Mar 2009
[Softball](#)

Star batters Michael Crowley, Tim Howard and Michael O'Neill hold the key to the Saints' chances in today's Dunedin premier club final at Ellis Park.

The Saints will face the winner of the major semifinal between the Dodgers, the defending champion, and Ellis Park in a best-of-three final series.

Saints captain Mark Ahlfeld hopes his line-up will continue the hot form it has shown in the post-Christmas leg of the competition.

"We've pretty much had every player in our starting nine put the ball out of the park," Ahlfeld said. It's not all about home runs but we've certainly had a lot of success with the bat."

Saints batters have hit two grand slams - home runs with the bases loaded - this season, one by Ahlfeld and one by O'Neill's brother, Mitchell, last week.

Ahlfeld holds down another key role for the Saints as he will start on the pitching mound in the first game, with Sam Jones scheduled to start the second.

The Saints beat Ellis Park last week to qualify straight to the final, while the Dodgers beat the bottom-placed Cardinals to get into the semifinal.

It has been a close-fought competition all summer. The Saints (5-1) claimed the post-Christmas title but could only finish third pre-Christmas after losing both their games on the final day.

The Saints' only setback in the second half of the season was a shock 6-5 loss to the Cardinals.

The Dodgers, who beat the Saints in last year's final, were 8-4 before the break but just 2-4 after it. They will again rely on the leadership of experienced Otago player Scott Cartwright.

Ellis Park, led by Daniel Tarapi, won the pre-Christmas title with a 9-3 record and went 4-2 over second half of the summer.

The Dodgers v Ellis Park game is at noon on the main diamond, with the first final at 1.45pm and the second at 4.30pm. A third, if needed, will be played tomorrow.