

Space Coast BULLS (Cocoa Beach)

Win '08 Majors Little League Championship



So ... what's this got to do with CBHS alumni? Read below ... and this is for those of you who've played Little League growing up—especially in Cocoa Beach ...

All season long, the Space Coast Little League Bulls (Cocoa Beach) have been one of the best Majors division baseball teams in Brevard County. Monday, June 9, was an evening fans of the Space Coast Little League won't soon forget. As the dust settles on this year's District 22 County Little League Baseball (Majors) Tournament, the Bulls are still one of the best Majors teams, having proved their mettle on the playing field against a bevy of tough challengers from throughout the area.

On Monday night at Ron Smith Park (Wally Finney Field), the Bulls claimed the district Majors championship by shutting out Port St. John, 11-0. **The victory marked the first time a Space Coast Little League team (Cocoa Beach) has EVER won a championship at any level!**

Zach Porteous (Mother, Penny Winn Porteous '81, Uncles: Greg Winn '80, Frank Winn '79, Chick Winn '77, Ken Winn '75) was all the Bulls really needed in the title game, as he belted two home runs for five RBIs and was the winning pitcher. The Bulls closed the season with a record of 20-3 and celebrated the first championship win for a Space Coast Little League (Cocoa Beach) team ever.

Leading up to the title, the Bulls defeated the Indian River City Cardinals 14-3 last week to advance to the tournament semifinals Sunday against the North Merritt Island Yankees. In that match up, Space Coast defeated North Merritt Island 9-1.

Playmakers Christian DelValle and Josh Porteous (Mother, Penny Winn Porteous '81 & Uncles—see above) ignited the Bulls attack against Indian River City with two hits each and Neil Spencer Jr. (Father & Team Coach, Neil Spencer '69) celebrated with a big blast over the centerfield fence to reserve a place in the tournament championship game for Space Coast. The Bulls' opponent in the finals, the explosive Port St. John Mets, ousted the powerful Merritt Island White Sox 14-9 to reach the title game.

In the top of the first inning, PSJ's Austin Sweetman singled down the third base line, but was stranded on base when pitcher Zach Porteous recorded two strikeouts and induced a groundout back to the pitching mound to end the inning. The Bulls opened the scoring in the bottom of the first inning as shortstop Shane Carreja (Mother, Kim Cribbin Rivas '87) led off with a double to left field and then scored on Neil Spencer's single to right. Spencer moved to third on a fly out by Porteous to PSJ's John Frankie Galinus in centerfield. Spencer scored on a passed ball to give the Bulls a 2-0 lead.

In the bottom of the second inning, the Bulls' Zach Herbold and Chick Winn (Father, Greg Winn & Aunt Penny & Uncles—see above) walked. Shane Carreja (Mother, Kim Cribbin Rivas '87) doubled to center, scoring Herbold and Spencer swatted a double to center, scoring Winn and Carreja. C.J. Dinneno of the Bulls drew a walk before Porteous crushed a three-run homer over the center field fence for an 8-0 Bulls lead.

After Goddard (PSJ Mets) was replaced on the mound for the team because of the pitch-count limitations in the bottom of the fourth inning, Spencer smacked a triple on the first pitch to deep left field. Dinneno brought him home with a double and then Porteous ripped the first pitch he saw over the leftfield fence for his second homer of the game and an 11-0 lead. The title game marked the final games as Bulls for Porteous, (Mother, Penny Winn Porteous), Herbold, and Reed Wigglesworth.