

Strike Zone

Day Four – Saturday, February 23

Twist of fate

If Auckland United manage to retain their national men's club title in Christchurch this weekend, they might reflect on one no-call that seemed to turn their fortunes.



Auckland United's Ben Enoka in Black Sox action

resume the inning and Black Sox outfielder Ben Enoka – playing on first base at this event – sent the very next pitch over the centrefield fence for a two-run homer. They would be the winning runs in United's 4-2 victory.

Their clash with unbeaten second seeds Parklands Christchurch United – respective champions of the country's two top provinces – loomed as the match-up of the Open Men's Club Championship so far and didn't disappoint.

But the result swung on an incident in the bottom of the fourth inning, when PCU bobbled a routine fly ball in the outfield, but secured it on the second attempt and seemed to also have the base runner out for not tagging up. End of inning and PCU retired to their dugout.

But wait, after long consultation, umpires decided they were unsighted and couldn't rule on the runner leaving early.

The Devils returned to the field to

2013 OPEN MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
MAINLAND FOUNDATION BALLPARK, CHRISTCHURCH

In the context of the tournament, that no-call could prove pivotal.

“Very much so,” agreed United coach Duncan Enoka. “There’s always a bit of banter with the ‘blues’ [umpires], but that’s all part of the game.

“We do respect them and sometimes they have to make some tough calls.”

Enoka was full of praise for his young squad – all aged 23 or under – and their composure under pressure.

“We’ve come down with a depleted team,” he said. “Everyone talks about us defending our club nats title, but last year is over and it’s a new year.

“We’re here to win it, not defend it.”

They further helped their cause with a 3-1 afternoon result over Northcote, but around them, the vultures are beginning to circle.

PCU bounced back with a win over 2012 runners-up Poneke Kilbirnie, ranked third, in the afternoon, while in the other quarterfinal group, fourth seeds Hutt Valley Dodgers showed they were coming into form, knocking off the other previously unbeaten side, Albion.

Statistically speaking

Batting Average

Tyron Bartorillo (Papanui)	0.867
Rhys Casley (Dodgers)	0.636
Kallan Compain (United)	0.625
Lee Rudolph (Northcote)	0.571
Luke Peters (Bears)	0.545

Runs Batted In

Dave Bishop (Porirua)	11
Daniel Tarapi (PK)	10
Three players	8

Home Runs

Four players	4
--------------	---

Earned Run Average

Regan Manley (PCU)	0.57
Nik Hayes (Dodgers)	0.70
Thomas Enoka (United)	0.93

Meet the Black Sox World Champions!

Don’t forget, our world champion Black Sox will be celebrated at the Mainland Foundation Ballpark on Sunday, March 24.

Players and coaches will be available for autographs and photos, so bring your kids and show them what they can achieve in the sport of softball.



Yesterday ...

Friday, March 22

Group A		P	W	L	For	Against
(4)	Hutt Valley Dodgers	2	2	0	14	2
(7)	Waitakere Bears (Auckland)	2	2	0	9	4
(8)	Albion (Canterbury)	2	0	2	1	8
(6)	Mt Albert Ramblers (Auckland)	2	0	2	5	15

Bears 6 Ramblers 3, Dodgers 5 Albion 0, HV Dodgers 9 Rambler 2, Bears 3 Albion 1

Group B		P	W	L	For	Against
(1)	Auckland United	2	2	0	7	3
(2)	PCU Devils (Canterbury)	2	1	1	5	6
(3)	Poneke Kilbirnie (Wellington)	2	1	1	13	3
(5)	Northcote (North Harbour)	2	0	2	1	14

Auckland United 4 PCU 2, Poneke Kilbirnie 11 Northcote 0, Auckland United 3 Northcote 1, PCU 3 Poneke Kilbirnie 2

Group E		P	W	L	For	Against
(9)	Poirura City United (Wellington)	2	2	0	14	9
(10)	Roosters (North Harbour)	2	1	1	12	10
(11)	Miramar (Wellington)	2	1	1	8	8
(13)	Fastpitch (Hawke's Bay)	2	0	2	3	12

Porirua City 7 Fastpitch 3, Roosters 6 Miramar 3, Miramar 5 Fastpitch 2, Porirua City 7 Roosters 6

Group H		P	W	L	For	Against
(17)	Demons (Southland)	2	2	0	10	8
(12)	Papanui Tigers (Canterbury)	2	1	1	5	5
(19)	Eden Roskill (Auckland)	2	1	1	7	6
(15)	Johnsonville (Wellington)	2	0	2	9	12

Eden Roskill 6 Johnsonville 4, Demons 4 Papanui 3, Demons 6 Johnsonville 5, Papanui 2 Eden Roskill 1

Group X		P	W	L	For	Against
(14)	Halswell Hornets (Canterbury)	2	1	0	18	2
(18)	Stoke Eagles (Nelson)	2	1	1	12	12
(20)	Howick (Auckland)	2	1	1	5	8
(16)	Auckland Marist	2	1	1	6	11

Halswell 11 Auckland Marist 2, Stoke 8 Halswell 7, Marist 4 Howick 0, Howick 5 Stoke 4



2013 OPEN MEN'S CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
MAINLAND FOUNDATION BALLPARK, CHRISTCHURCH



Today ...

Saturday, March 23

9am	Papanui Tigers v Johnsonville
	Roosters v Fastpitch
	Howick v Halswell Hornets
	Auckland Marist v Stoke Eagles
11am	Waitakere Bears v HV Dodgers
	Auckland United v Poneke Kilbirnie
	Demons v Eden Roskill
	Porirua City v Miramar
1pm	Albion v Mt Albert Ramblers
	PCU v Northcote
	Stoke Eagles v Halswell Hornets
	Auckland Marist v Howick

Playoffs

3pm	E-1 v H-2
	E-2 v H-1
5pm	A-1 v B-1
	A-2 v B-2
	E-3 v H-4
	E-4 v H-3