

**7 MUNY-Buffalo MSBL players help East Coast Cardinals to capture crown in MSBL Fall Classic...
2014 45+ National - Fall Classic, Clearwater Florida
East Coast Cardinals 8, Chester County Cobras 7**



7 MUNY - Buffalo MSBL members are Craig Leone, Dennis Gawronski, Fred Falkowski, Curt Hoffman, Joe DeMartino, Ed Urbanik and Ralph Proulx

'Bichette Takes Control on the Hill'

By Chris Errington, Special to MSBLnational.com

Clearwater, FL., November 15, 2014 – In a see-saw battle that had multiple lead changes and came down to the wire, having a four-time MLB all-star and Silver Slugger award winner can make all the difference. Only this time, it wasn't just with his bat.

Former Colorado Rockies star Dante Bichette finished 3-for-4 with a trio of singles and the game-tying RBI, but was even more impressive on the mound, tossing 4-2/3 innings and allowing just a single run to give Cardinals manager David Hash another Fall Classic championship.

"I've already emptied the Advil bottle," Bichette joked. "When I feel good on the mound, I throw a lot of fastballs and I felt pretty good out there today. I think I could have gone a few more innings if they needed me to." Thanks to a late rally, it never came to that. After taking a quick 4-0 lead, the Cardinals found themselves behind 7-5 and just seven outs from defeat. But when Curtis Patterson and Bichette each drove in runs with two-out hits, East Coast had tied the game and set the stage for the fateful eighth.

A base on balls and a pair of infield errors, one throwing and one fielding, allowed the go-ahead run to score. And when Bichette worked around a two-out double in the ninth to induce a game-ending pop-out, another title was clinched.

"I've been through this too many times to get nervous," said Hash, who won his third Fall Classic title as a manager to go along with three others as a player. "All of the championships we've won are great. We've built a strong team and this was a special group of guys. When you put the ball in [Bichette's] hands in a championship game and he's on, he locks and loads and shuts them down."

The victory capped a stellar week for the East Coast Cardinals, who finished round-robin play 4-1, including an 8-3 victory over Chester County. Dennis Gawronski's complete game effort proved the difference in a 10-5 playoff victory over the Maryland Monarchs to set the stage for the thrilling championship game.

For the Cobras, a 3-2 round robin effort was capped with a dominant 5-0 playoff victory over the Brooklyn Royals. It looked like Chester County would continue that momentum to a tournament championship when it scored five runs in the third and single runs in the fifth and seventh to take a 7-4 lead. But it wasn't meant to be. It marked the second loss to the Cardinals in a Fall Classic title game, the other coming following the 2008 tournament.

"Despite the errors late, we can't say we handed them anything," said Chester County manager Pete Alex. "To have a man on second base with a chance to tie it in the ninth is a credit to our guys who never gave up.

"It's easier to lose when you know you're not in the game rather than have it come down to the final at-bat, but our guys won't hang their heads. They kept staying positive and kept fighting."