

# Let's Play **SOFTBALL**

Softball and baseball's favorite newspaper since 1987

and

# Let's Play **BASEBALL**

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## BATTLE OF THE BATS

The inaugural Let's Play Baseball bat review and contest pitted the top hardball bats in the business

By **Derek Johnson**  
Let's Play Baseball

The Let's Play Baseball bat review and contest was a huge success with a lot of winners. The contest consisted of 15 adult (-3) bats from 10 manufacturers and each bat was rated on a 1-10 scale, with 10 being the best, in seven categories. The seven categories were: the grip/handle, swing, pop, feel, sweet spot, appearance and sound. In addition, to make the contest fair for each entry, the bats were put into two groups – one for bats over \$300 and the other for bats under \$300.

The review/contest took place on July 19 at a baseball field in the Twin Cities area. Included on the testing panel were several high school and college baseball players. Each panelist took 10 swings with each bat (with solid contact) with pitches coming from a pitching machine using real baseballs at 50 mph.

In the group of bats over \$300, the grip/handle category had two winners from the same manufacturer – Nike. The **Nike Aero Fuse** is a two-piece, ultra-high performance bat with a new



Speedlink System carbon composite handle and alloy barrel for quicker bat speed and reduced bat vibration, making this one of the smoothest bats on the market. Priced at a reasonable \$300, this is a must-have type of bat!

The judges gave this bat high marks for its excellent grip, nice feel and its overall appearance as the judges commented on how sharp this bat looked. The Nike Aero Fuse received a 9.75 out

of 10!

The **Nike Aero CX-2** is loaded with technology to make this one of the hottest bats around! The Aero CX-2 also has the new Speedlink System carbon composite handle and alloy bat technology. The Aero CX-2 also has a Power Belt technology that maximizes the size of the sweet spot location. This is a lightweight, durable, two-piece elite bat that would increase any hitter's batting av-

erage and power hitting stats. With all the technology that is loaded into this bat, it is very reasonably priced at \$400!

The judges were attracted to this bat from the get-go with its appearance and sound. After taking a few swings, the judges didn't want to put the bat down. The Nike Aero CX-2 received a 9.78 out of 10!

The winner of the best swing category went to the **Miken MV3 AB 100 Composite**. This bat has advanced InnerFlex technology that has taken the performance of this bat to the next level. The bat has a multi-layer Biaxial and MPA7 Resin System to enhance the sweet spot on the bat for all those power hitters! If you want a bat that has a superior feel and want to hit the long ball, this is the bat to have! The bat is priced well at \$300.

The judges were impressed by the swing and feel, and enjoyed how quickly they were able to put the bat on the ball. The Miken MV3 AB100 Composite received a 9.62 out of 10!

Demarini bats have been known for their exceptional pop in the bat and how

*Continued on page 4*

## Celebrating a championship baseball season



The bulk of the youth baseball season came to a close last weekend in Minnesota with the conclusion of the Metro Baseball Tournaments, Gopher State Tournament of Champions and Minnesota Sports Federation State Tournaments. Nearly 50 youth baseball teams wrapped up their 2010 season with a state championship. Check inside for complete coverage of all the Minnesota youth baseball state tournaments. Photos courtesy Constance Tsuchiya and Amy Dvorak

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