

# Softball games about more than just wins, losses

*Thomas Zimmerman, Army War College Public Affairs Office*

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Oct. 1, 2008 – The 2008 USAWC Seminar Softball league crowned its champion today with Seminar 15 defeating Seminar 13 by a score of 5-0, but that's not the end of the story.

Sports activities and athletics are an integral part of the USAWC experience. A healthy atmosphere encourages vigorous individual exercise, as well as organized sports and games. The Army Physical Fitness Research Institute provides a Sports Injury Prevention Program in coordination with Dunham Army Health Clinic, and game officials. This program maximizes sports participation and minimizes the risk of sports injury. Each student seminar organizes itself for seminar level competition in softball, basketball, and volleyball.

"I am a big fan of the seminar intramural program in general and of the softball program in particular," said Col. George Teague, USAWC Deputy Dean. "Students and faculty alike learn more about each other in an environment that is generally more relaxed and fun than the classroom, and the seminars begin to bond in a way that would likely not occur otherwise."

After going through the regular season with a record of 3 wins and 1 loss, they ran through the post-season tournament setting up the finale against Seminar 13, the Division B #1 seed.

The team is made up of Army War College students and staff and brings together officers from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, government and interagency civilians and International Fellows.

The effects of the games reach beyond the field according to Teague.

"I have found that sharing time on the field with students is a great way to break down some of the communications barriers that sometimes exist between students and faculty early in the year," he said. "It is often hard for military folks in particular to forget about rank when debating serious issues in the classroom, but not so hard when playing together in athletic events."

Others agreed.

"It helps break the ice in the beginning of the year when the students are a little more timid," said Col. Dennis Tewksbury, Academic Affairs Chairman. "It pays off in the seminar for the rest of the year."

"The championship game was a defensive battle between two teams that made very few errors," said Jim Price, Sports Office. "We should have very good team this year for Jim Thorpe Sports Day."

The next opportunity for the seminar to clash in athletics is the Seminar Volleyball season, which kicks off Oct. 14 according to Price.

"You will find that Volleyball is a little less strenuous on the body so everyone heal up in the next two weeks and we hope to see you on the court."

