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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(Neb.)-Fourteen advance in local Pitch, Hit and Run



By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 05/06/2013 12:15 PM

The winners of this year's Chadron Pitch, Hit and Run competition, front row, from left: Allie Watson, Jacey Garrett, Paige Denke, Broc Berry, Dawson Dunbar, Trey Hendrickson and Kolby Denke. Back row, Kristian Bartlett, Cooper Heusman, Sam Rischling, Coy Bila, Jonathan Sherer, Kennedy Trueblood and Jesse Stoley.

Fourteen contestants advanced to the next round after competing in the annual Pitch, Hit and Run competition on Sunday, May 5.

The Pitch, Hit and Run, sponsored locally by the Chadron Kiwanis Club and nationally by Scotts, is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball. The event provides a venue for boys and girls to showcase their talents in baseball and softball, with scores determined by individual performances in each of the three skills events. The entrants compete in four divisions, ranging in age from 7-14.

The Chadron event attracted about 30 entrants. The winners are eligible to compete in the sectional competition May 26 in Sturgis, S.D. The all-around champions at Sturgis become eligible for the "team championship" round at Coors Field in Denver.

The top three scores in each division among the 30 MLB team champions will move on to the national finals at this summer's All-Star Game at the Mets' Citi Field in New York. Coy Bila of Chadron, who was among the winners Sunday, placed second in the nation in the boys' 11-12 age group last year after beginning his journey at the Chadron event.

The winners:

Boys 13-14: Coy Bila, Chadron, all-around, pitching (tie), hitting, running; Sam Rischling, Chadron, pitching (tie).

Girls 11-12: Allie Watson, Chadron, all-around, pitching, hitting, running.

Boys 11-12: Cooper Heusman, Chadron, all-around, pitching; Kristian Bartlett, Chadron, hitting; Jonathan Sherer, Rushville, running.

Girls 9-10: Jacey Garrett, Chadron, all-around, pitching, hitting (tie); Paige Denke, Chadron, running, hitting (tie); Kennedy Trueblood, Chadron, hitting (tie).

Boys 9-10: Dawson Dunbar, Chadron, all-around, pitching, running; Jesse Stolley, hitting.

Boys 7-8: Broc Berry, Chadron, all-around, hitting; Trey Hendrickson, Chadron, pitching; Kolby Denke, Chadron, running.