



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Youth 1st recognizes Youth Fastpitch Teams  
from 2021 Down 'N Dirty Tournament in Eagan

**(Owatonna, MN) (June, 2021)** – The Minnesota Twins, Twins Community Fund and the Northwoods League Foundation in partnership with Youth 1st, Federated Insurance, Pearson, Cashwise Foods, Bennerotte & Associates, Metronet, The Retrofit Companies, Profinium and Minnesota-USA Softball are recognizing the following list of **youth softball teams** for their outstanding sportsmanship during the **2021 Down 'N Dirty Tournament**, hosted by **Eagan Fastpitch Softball**.

The Youth 1st Team Award recognizes positive behavior from players, coaches and everyone associated with the team (parents, fans and spectators). “We are placing the emphasis on how you play the game, which is ultimately more important than if you win or lose.” said Mark Arjes, Founder/Director of Youth 1st. “It has become increasingly difficult to find and retain coaches and officials for youth sports because of the abuse that they take during games. We believe it is time to model and encourage values-based actions, creating what we call a Conduct 1st environment where the focus is on the kids, competitive energies are kept in check and officials and opponents are respected.”

“The Minnesota Twins and Twins Community Fund are proud to partner on the Youth 1st Team Awards. Baseball and softball play a key role in the development of young people when the focus is on teaching life skills, developing values, and building character,” said Dave St. Peter, President and CEO of the Minnesota Twins. “We are thrilled that the Youth 1st Team Awards program recognizes players, coaches, and parents who model and encourage good sportsmanship and positive conduct in Twins Territory.”

About Youth 1st, Inc.: ([www.youth1st.com](http://www.youth1st.com)) @Youth1stMN on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

The Youth 1st Team Award was created by working with umpires and tournament directors. The umpires provide a team selection vote after each game during the tournament based on the conduct and sportsmanship exhibited by coaches, players and fans. Teams with an exemplary score from the officials are recognized as Youth 1st Teams. The mission of Youth 1st is to connect Conduct, Character and Community to youth activity programs. Youth 1st is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization headquartered in Owatonna, MN. Youth 1st is an official Playball! MN Partner.

About the Minnesota Twins Community Fund

Governed by a public board of directors, the Twins Community Fund was chartered as an independent public charity in 1991 with the mission to enrich local and regional communities by providing resources for the healthy development of children and families through an association with baseball, softball and the Minnesota Twins. The Twins Community Fund and its grant programs are supported in part by Target, U.S. Bank, Treasure Island and Delta Air Lines. For more information, visit [twinsbaseball.com/communityfund](http://twinsbaseball.com/communityfund).

About Eagan Fastpitch Softball: ([www.eaganfastpitch.org](http://www.eaganfastpitch.org))

Our mission is to have highly competitive teams with a strong emphasis on commitment, sportsmanship, teamwork, and knowledge of the game. This cannot be achieved without the dedication of our players, parents, coaches and volunteers.





## **Eagan Fastpitch Softball**

### **2021 Down 'N Dirty Tournament**

### **Youth 1st Team Awards Selections**

Congratulations to the following teams on being selected for Youth 1st Team Awards from the 2021 Down 'N Dirty Tournament. The umpires voted after each game on the conduct and sportsmanship displayed by the players, coaches and fans. The following teams received perfect scores!

#### **8U**

Chaska Purple  
Eagan Miller  
Eagan Rannow  
Lakeville Lightning Blue  
STMA Gold  
Wayzata Gold

#### **10U**

Bloomington Blast Blue  
Chaska Gold  
Cottage Grove Wolfpack Green  
Eagan Faul  
Eagan Flaskerud  
Eagan Parnell  
Edina Ganley  
Farmington Black  
Hastings Blue  
Lakeville Lightning  
Lakeville Storm Black  
Lakeville Thunder Black  
Lakeville Thunder Blue

#### **12U**

12U Rangers Johnson  
CA Heat  
Chaska Gold  
Cottage Grove Green  
Eagan Blom  
Eagan Mondelli  
Farmington Black  
Farmington Orange  
Hastings Blue  
Hastings Gold  
Lakeville Thunder  
Mankato Peppers Orange  
MV Pride  
Prior Lake  
ROSA Freeberg  
Stillwater Gold  
STMA Blue  
STMA Gold  
Wayzata Gold  
Woodbury Royals



Mankato Peppers  
Prior Lake  
ROSA 10U Black  
ROSA Freeberg  
Rosemount Gold  
Soderville  
STMA Blue  
STMA Gold  
Wayzata Gold  
Westonka  
Woodbury Blue

**14U**  
Eagan 14U Fletcher  
Faribault Fury  
Hastings Blue  
Hastings Gold  
MN Breakers  
MN Ice  
MN Royals  
MN Stars '06  
MN Stars '07  
MN Starters Herold  
MN Waves 13U  
MV Pride  
Stillwater Gold  
STMA Gold  
Whirl Gold '06  
White Bear Bears

**16U**  
Artic Blast  
Goodview Sandlot  
MH Warriors  
Misfits  
MN Starters Vandenburg  
MN Whirl '04 Gold  
MN Whirl '05 Gold  
MN Whirl 16U Black  
MV Pride  
Revolution Blue  
Woodbury

**18U**  
18U Peppers  
Artic Blast  
MN Stars '02  
MN Twisters Red  
MV Pride  
Northern Nightmare  
Richfield  
SPNAR Red

