

4 Tribal members join Toledo HotShotz in NAFA National Championships

Girls' fast-pitch softball team in best end-of-season tournament on West Coast

By Natasha Kavanaugh

As this issue of *Siletz News* went to press, the Toledo HotShotz 10U girls' fast-pitch softball team was participating in the 2012 North American Fast-pitch Association's National Championships on July 26-29 in Keizer, Ore.

"The girls have come so close to that weekend tourney trophy. We play big-city kids and have been very competitive with them this year. We seem to be getting stronger and better; this tournament will wrap up their season," said Coach Howie Richards.

The 12-member team includes four Tribal members – Cameron Fisher, Mahala Fisher, Maddy Metcalf and Miakoda Scott. Also on the team are Hannah Smith, Rylee Richards, Tena'ya Barnhart, Kalea Blodgett, Erika Schones, Kiya Lair, Hannah Harris and Izzy Haverland.

Cameron and Mahala Fisher are the daughters of Mike and Amie Fisher. Cameron is in her first year of playing softball and plays the outfield; she plans to play next year. She is in the third grade at Toledo Elementary School.

Mahala has been playing for two years; she plays first base.

"If you play summer league and regular, you get to learn more. He (Richards) coaches for high school and, yeah, he's pretty good," she said. Going to nationals, she added, "I'm excited, but scared a little."

Mahala also plays basketball and wants to play volleyball this year. She is in the fifth grade at Toledo Elementary School.

Metcalf is the daughter of Willie and Chuvonne Metcalf. She is in the fourth grade at Toledo Elementary School. Chuvonne said Maddy has "been playing since she could throw a ball."

"I did summer ball last year and regular this year and summer this year ... so three times," Maddy said.

Last year, she played coach-pitch as a second baseman and pitcher. For the HotShotz, she is the starting pitcher and leadoff batter. When she's not pitching, she plays shortstop.



Photos by Natasha Kavanaugh

HotShotz team members at the car wash, l to r: Izzy Haverland, Hannah Smith, Cameron Fisher, Erika Schones, Rylee Richards, Kiya Lair, Hannah Harris, Tena'ya Barnhart, Maddy Metcalf and Mahala Fisher. Not pictured: Miakoda Scott and Kalea Blodgett.



Maddy Metcalf



Cameron Fisher

"Maddy not only loves softball, but is crazy about basketball," said Chuvonne.

"I like to do a lot of things – T-ball, coach-pitch, basketball, coloring, getting wet," said Maddy. Going to nationals, she said, is, "exciting, nervous."

Scott is the daughter of Trish Carey and the late Tyrone Scott; her stepfather is Josh Holmes. Scott attends Siletz Valley School and is in the fifth grade. She also is an honor roll student.

"I've been practicing with my dad and I really wanted to start playing," said Scott. This is her first year of softball.

"Everybody helps me and they cheer me on so I get more confidence," she added. Scott plays third base and catcher and plans to play next year.

Scott also likes basketball and participates in pow-wows and feather dancing. She likes to bead, listen to music – and she loves Bruno Mars.

Scott says she thanks, "my mom and my dad because they help support me and they pay for me to get to the games."

"These girls have really excelled and are doing awesome," said Carey.

In July, the team held a bat-a-thon and car wash to raise money to play in the tournament.

For more information about the Siletz Tribe, please visit ctsi.nsn.us.

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Left: Miakoda Scott

Below: Mahala Fisher

