

# Hard top league returns

By Lisa Knight

**A**fter a long and anticipated three season wait for pool repairs at the Joe DiMaggio (previously known as North Beach) playground in San Francisco, the North Beach SF Winter League Softball Championship finally resumed this year.

Unfortunately for East Bay, with a regular season record of seven and one, without the use of their normal playing grounds determined to take the best of them at this year's tournament.

What's special about this league is the fact that the game of softball is played on a hard top in the inner city. For over 26 years now SF players have been flocking to play the exciting sport on a paved surface. The field's dimensions are slightly smaller than that of a regular softball field. Right field is extremely larger than left field, and is notoriously referred to by players as "Death Valley." None the less, the unique playing grounds accommodates with rules to fit the size, and softball players still enjoy playing the game just the same as one would on any textured surface.

At this year's championship game, North Beach stole the title from previous three-time winner East Bay.



North Beach, who came in third in the regular season, beat second place finishers Gino & Carlo's Heroes nine to four to

play in the championship game. In the intense final against East Bay, North Beach was up by one in the third inning, but didn't lock up the game until a home run by Scott Chirco in the fifth inning. North Beach pitcher Devant Walker shut out the struggling East Bay hitters in the sixth and seventh innings to win the game 13-9. North Beach looks forward to defending their title at next year's hard top tournament.



"North Beach" & "East Bay" teams. Chris Gaggero is League Director..standing back row, 5th guy in from left side.