



The Fermin Baseball Academy participated with a U15 team at the Tenerife Winter league for a weeklong tournament. 12 players made up the roster that battled young talents in Puerto De La Cruz from all over Europe in a total of 5 games.

In their opening game they played against Team Gold, made up mostly with players from BPI (Bullpen Institute). Starting pitcher Jannik Uhlmann (Main-Taunus Redwings) set the tone early in his 3 innings of work allowing no hits and striking out 4 batters. Relief pitchers Nolan Egan (Bad Homburg Hornets) and Henri Lieb (Main-Taunus Redwings) never gave the game out of their hands. On the offensive side, innings 4 and 5 saw the 5 run limit rule come into effect as the gold team struggled with pitching, errors and FBA strong batting, that found the gaps. In the end it was a deserved 13:4 win to start the tournament.

The next opponent was a very good Team Orange. The FBA boys did most of their damage right away in innings 1 and 2 when they scored 4 runs each playing without Nolan Egan (sick) and Leon Post (Cologne Cardinals), who rolled his ankle in the first inning while running to first on an RBI groundout. Team Orange proved they can hit when they collected 4 hits for 3 runs but solid pitching by starter Fynn Weiss (Mannheim Tornados) and relief pitchers Samuel Gühring (Heidenheim Heideköpfe), Ikuma Tanabe (Bad Homburg Hornets) and closer Luis Fermin (Mainz Athletics) kept scoring low. Nelson Castañeda (Mainz Athletics) was the leading batter for FBA going 3-3 with 4 RBI's on 2 singles and a double in the 10:6 win.

Unfortunately, Game 3 was lost against an undefeated Navy team. After a strong first inning, scoring 4 runs and seeing 3 strikeouts for starting pitcher Ikuma Tanabe, the team lost some focus and found no answer to the navy pitching for 5 innings. Relief pitcher Canyon Hunter (Bad Homburg Hornets) was able to slow down the navy scoring in innings 5 and 6 but a 7th inning FBA batting effort with 4 hits and runs was too little, too late. Final score 14:8.

With that, the semi final was set for FBA to play the perceived favorite in this tournament. Team Aqua that boasted about 50% of players from the Dominican Republic had dominated their group through bracket play. Whispers could be heard all over the field about this game potentially being an early final and a close game. The FBA boys however had other ideas, starting the game off right away with 4 runs in the first inning and never looking back, keeping the pressure on an aqua team that became more and more frustrated as the game went on and their errors started adding up. The pitching trio of Jannik Uhlmann, Samuel Gühring and Nolan Egan only allowed a combined 4 hits to team Aqua through 7 innings. Nolan Egan racked up 5 RBI's on 3 hits and a HP. The dominant team performance earned a 14:2 win.

And with that the U15 FBA team followed their U13 team mates from the previous week in qualifying for the championship game under the lights against team Royal. All the people saying the semi final should have been the final were proven wrong as this championship game had everything needed to go down in history as one of the most exciting games played during this week in Tenerife. Royal wasn't holding back as they came out swinging in the first inning scoring right away with a double, a triple and a HR.



However, FBA stayed focused and put the bat on the ball with only 1 K in 4 innings but just had some bad luck with the location of their hits. Coach Fabi Fermin was not concerned and kept his boys fighting. Solid pitching by Nolen Egan and reliever Leon Post kept the game close. The 5th inning saw the game turn in favor of FBA. Jannik Uhlmann hit a single, Henri Lieb walked, Leon Post (Cologne Cardinals) was hit by pitch and with bases loaded Luis Fermin plated the first FBA run of the game with a single. Samuel Gühring followed that up with a 2 RBI single and Nelson Castañeda loaded bases again when he was hit with a misplaced curveball. That brought Fynn Weiss to the plate that has been batting great throughout the tournament. He sent a hard hit ball into center field for a single and was able to round all bases on an error of the centerfielder which would have brought the score to 7:4 but the tournament has a 5 run rule per inning. Nonetheless FBA took their first lead of the game with 5:4. Their patience finally paid off. Team Royal managed to even the score in the bottom of the fifth. But the Fermin team was not done. They kept on rolling in inning 6, lead-off Nolan reached on error, Robert Haffner (Mainz Athletics) walked, Jannik laid down a beautiful bunt single to load the bases and Jannes Schewe (Main Taunus Redwings) lined a beautiful ball down 3 baseline that was unfortunately called foul. He ended up popping out to 2nd base. With bases still loaded and one out Canyon Hunter (Bad Homburg Hornets) came up to bat. On a 2-2 count he hit a double into right field, that scored 3 runs to re-take the lead 8:5. Leon Post batted Canyon forward to 3rd base on a groundout to 2nd base before speedy Luis Fermin pushed the 4th run of the inning across with another well placed double. But the royal team did not give up without a fight and plated 2 runs themselves with a couple hits in the 6th inning. The 7th inning started with Fabi Fermin's team being only ahead by 2 runs. Closing pitcher Fynn Weiss took the mound as excitement mounted. An untimely walk and a double by royal placed runners on 3rd and second. A strikeout by Fynn resulted in the first out but a 4-3 groundout pushed one run across the plate. With the tying run on third base, 2 outs and one of the better batters of the tournament at the plate all eyes were on Fynn. Unphased he secured the last strikeout to win the championship game 9:8.