

BASEBALL IN THE FLORIDA SUNSHINE

The Seacoast United Pirates recently sent five teams down south to the annual Greater Orlando Baseball Presidents Day Tournament. The tournament took place February 15th – 16th at the Northwest Recreational Complex located in Apopka, FL. The five teams competed in the 10u, 11u, 12u, and 13u age brackets. The Pirates were one of the only teams competing out of the Northeast and the only program from New England. Even though the Seacoast teams hadn't competed outside for several months, both the players and staff turned up and put in some fantastic performances. The 13 Gold, and 11u Pirates teams placed third, with 13 Navy finishing runners up, and 12 Gold and 10u taking home championships.

The Pirates combined for a record of 17-6. Director of Baseball Scott Dubben commented, "Our program started eight years ago, and both the players and the families are on board with what we are trying to achieve. The kids have been turning up every week this winter and it's pretty cool to see New England teams going toe-to-toe with some of the best talent."

The format for the tournament saw every team advance to at least the semifinals of their respective bracket with the only losses coming to the eventual champions of each bracket. The 10 and 11u Pirates were comprised of teams from multiple teams in their age groups. The 12 Gold, 13 Gold, and 13 Navy filled out their rosters with the teams they will play with during the regular season. Assistant Director of Baseball Eric Wells was more than impressed with the team's performances down south. "We were a little unsure of how the boys would come out and play seeing as how we haven't been outside since the fall. Our teams played good defense, and our pitchers threw strikes. Hitting was timely, and the teams continued to find ways to score runs in big time situations. Scott, myself, and the rest of our coaching staff are counting down the days until April."

For more information on Seacoast United Baseball please email Scott Dubben at sdubben@seacoastunited.com.