



Pfc. Cory D. Polom

Matthew Lange, second baseman for Cherry Point, slides head first into third base during the 2011 East Coast Regional Softball Tournament at the Softball Complex Aug. 19.

Cherry Point places second to Quantico in regional tournament

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MCAS Green Point

The tournament started off with round-robin play Friday with a nail-biter between Cherry Point and New River. Cherry Point was tied 10-10 going into the bottom of the 7th inning when James Swindell stepped up to the plate and hit a grand slam to deep left field to push Cherry Point to a victory with a final of 14-10.

The ECR tournament involved eight teams, Cherry Point, New River, Camp Lejeune, Quantico, Albany, Norfolk, South Carolina Marines and Pensacola, who played each team once to set up the seeding for single elimination tournament play that started Tuesday.

"Going into the bracket play as the top seed it is very exciting," said Basso. "We had to fight hard to take that spot. I knew going

into the bracket we had to hit as a team, play as a team and minimize the mistakes. We win and lose as a team."

Basso added he enjoys playing in the regional tournaments and feels it is the easiest way to demonstrate the talents the Marines and Sailors have to offer.

Basso and the other coaches pushed issues aside in hopes to capture the gold before the end of the tournament and be able to say they are the best installation on the east coast for the upcoming year.

The tournament saw great matches leading up to the championship game between Cherry Point and Quantico that took place Wednesday. Quantico won the 2011 East Coast Regional Tournament Championship Game

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with a final of 19 - 8.

The ECR Softball Tournament not only determines who has the best team on the East Coast, it also gives the All-Marine coaches and athletic directors a chance to see who the elite athletes are for a spot at the All-Marine tryout camp, which is held at Cherry Point every year and will begin today.

After the championship game the selections for the All-Marine camp were announced. Twelve Marines total were selected from the ECR tournament, two from Cherry Point.

"This tournament gives the players a chance to stand out from the rest," said Gil D. George, the assistant athletic director for Cherry Point. "Players have to come out and prove themselves day in and day out. There are some players who went to the All-Marine camp last year that will not go this year because their play on the field wasn't as spectacular as last year."

George said he feels this tournament helps build a greater team for the armed forces tournament and it is a great way to help build solidarity between the players and installations.

"This tournament is great for helping build camaraderie and friendships," said Kevin "K.J." Basso, coach and pitcher for the Cherry Point Eagles. "The regional tournament gives us an easy way to scout out the great talent that the east coast Marines have to offer."