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The Michigan Cricket Association

MCA is also very grateful to our many other sponsors, whose individual donations helped to make this tournament possible, and to the continued efforts and commitment of our parent volunteers, without whom nothing could be achieved.

Michigan Cricket Academy is a nationally and confessionally diverse organization which welcomes anyone interested in making the world’s second-most-popular sport available to Michigan’s children. Our teams play in at least three tournaments a year. The Academy practices at Lyon Oaks Park from spring until late fall and then indoors throughout the winter. We also have an outreach program designed to interact with schools, community sports organizations, parks, and rec. and ed. departments. If you would like to support our work through sponsorship, or if your family would like to participate in the Academy, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information about MCA go to our website, www.micricket.org, or contact coaches Shyam Mayasandra (248-342-9305) or Vasanth Krishnaswami (734-223-7586).
The Michigan Cricket Academy annual tournament, held over Labor Day Weekend, saw excellent cricket played in beautiful weather at two of Metro Detroit’s most pleasant grounds, Lyon Oaks Park, Wixom (pictured on the cover), and Bloomer Park, Rochester Hills. Players aged from seven to sixteen played the world’s second-most-popular sport with enthusiasm, skill, and sportsmanship, watched by parents enjoying the early fall sun. MCA, founded in 2004, hosted teams from the Midwest Cricket Academy (Chicagoland) and the youth section of the Michigan Cricket Association at this, its fourth annual tournament.

In the two-match U-16 series MWCA triumphed over MCA, despite stern resistance from the host, especially on the second day. Among many outstanding performances, pride of place goes to MWCA’s fourteen-year-old MVP Abhijit Joshi, who scored 57 and 70 n.o. for the U-16s, while also performing well with the ball, and making a guest appearance behind the stumps for the U-14s. Other distinguished performers for the U-16s included MWCA’s Fahad Babar and Akhil Sridhar, and MCA’s Kishen Patel and Wasim Patel, who took 3-19 and scored 24 in the first match of the series.

At the U-14 level, three teams played a double round-robin in twenty-over format, with the top two advancing to a final on Labor Day. Each team finished the round-robin with two wins and two losses — an accurate reflection of the very even competition. Run-rate took MCA and MWCA to the final, which MCA won by six wickets (brining the club its first ever winners’ trophy, which the captain and vice-captains are pictured receiving on the cover). MichCA U-14s (also seen on the cover, fielding against MCA at Lyon Oaks) must have counted themselves unlucky not to make the final, having twice defeated MWCA in round-robin play. The U-14 matches saw many fine performances, as the teams showed increasing confidence over the three days, both with bat and ball and also in the field, (a reminder of the value of tournament play in a sport where matches are still all too few and far between for youth academies). MCA MVP Ani Mayasandra scored 32 vital runs in the crucial second meeting with MWCA, as well as 13 n.o. in an earlier meeting, took key wickets and made a fine stumping; captain Koushik Yadati, playing despite recent arm surgery and unable to bat, returned superb figures of 5-6 in the final and bowled well throughout, while Amir Jairazbhoy also bowled with distinction; Mughil Govardhanan and Krishna Kompella made key contributions with the bat, while Shashank Subramanayam and ten-year-old Rohit Mogalayapalli (the latter often keeping wicket) distinguished themselves in every area of the game; MCA’s Young MVP Gordon Makin also put in a solid performance. For the losing finalists Akhil, Sunny, Nandu, and captain Gautam all distinguished themselves as batsmen, while seven-year-old Samvit stood out as the tournament’s youngest player, his top score of nine and his five overs and one wicket testifying to great promise. MichCA’s batsmen Hamza, Haseeb, and Haris all recorded healthy double-digit totals. Experienced umpires Mr. V. V. Giri and Mr. Jayanth Canchi, assisted by coaches and senior players, ensured a high standard of play.

On Labor Day, between innings during the U-14 final at Lyon Oaks, everyone enjoyed a complementary Indian lunch, accompanied by Masala tea. The finals were followed by an awards ceremony, at which guest of honor, Mr. P. K. Guha, erstwhile VP of the USACA, congratulated team and individual trophy winners and emphasized the importance of developing American-born cricketers. This year’s MCA tournament, promoting youth cricket in the Midwest, has played a significant role in that very development process and shows that the future of the game in the US is as bright as was the weekend’s glorious weather.