



## Cambra coaches CT Naturals to Ultimate Victory

On the heels of a remarkable season in 2006 in which the Connecticut Naturals won the State and Regional 10 and under championships, played in the AABC World Series, and capped the year by receiving the Triple Crown Sports Team of the Year in the Northeast for all age groups. The Naturals under the leadership of Paul Cambra just concluded its 2007 season with its 6th tournament win. Playing this year as an 11 and under baseball team composed of kids from New Haven, Hamden, East Haven, North Haven, Cheshire, Wallingford, Middletown, and Waterbury, the Naturals further built on its reputation as one of the premiere programs in the country by continuing to dominate play in the State of Connecticut and reaching the semi-finals of the AABC world series, placing 3rd and falling one run short in the bottom of the 7th with the bases loaded from the title game to claim best eleven and under team in the country. Paul Cambra, who grew up in Monroe and distinguished himself at the University of New Haven, has run the Naturals out of his facility in Wallingford called Ultimate Sports. His unique leadership style, his understanding of the game, and his commitment to the players has brought the team to National prominence. Richard Neely, the President of the American Amateur Baseball Congress, the largest and oldest baseball affiliation commented, "Paul Cambra exemplifies what a coach should be, by teaching the game at the highest level with great sportsmanship the priority. I watched the CT Naturals play in the AABC World Series, and I am proud to have such a wonderful group of kids, skillfully coached represent us." Over a season of more than 100 games, the Naturals compiled a record of 62 wins and only 3 losses as an eleven and under team, two of the losses were in one run games against nationally ranked programs in Georgia and Maryland.

An additional 40 games were played as eleven year old players competing against twelve year old teams. Even against older kids, the Naturals maintained an amazing record. The Naturals, in addition to its three 11U Triple Crown victories, won two 12U Triple Crown Tournaments, and is once again in the running for Triple Crown team of the year in the Northeast. Grant Stanis, Director of Triple Crown Sports praising the program stated, "The Naturals are an extremely well coached team. Their discipline and heart is a direct reflection of their coach, Paul Cambra. His leadership is displayed through his player's loyalty to both his philosophy and his coaching strategies." On the night that the Red Sox concluded their season with the victory over the Rockies, the Naturals also concluded their season with a final game victory in a wood bat tournament, but the season never truly ends. The quest for the 12U World Championship has already started for next year. Paul Cambra has brought an amazing love of the game to the kids in this program, and utilizes techniques that he learned under the watchful eye of legendary coach, Frank, "Porky" Viera. Porky has reflected on Paul's unique talents, indicating that during spring trips to Florida, all the other players would be roaming around, while Paul would be on the beach conducting batting practice by using popcorn seeds. Even to this day, at every Naturals game, all the other teams watch with amazement as the Naturals easily crack small seeds with every swing. Pork remembering one of his stars fondly remarked, "Paul Cambra is different than others in the business. He is in it for the kids, to teach them to learn the game he loves. He will go beyond the call to provide a truly unique experience for the kids to bring out the best in his team."