

10U 2011 Top 25 Rankings

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TravelBallSelect releases the first edition of the 2011 Rankings. While many teams in Southern California and South Florida have already played as many as 30 or 40 games, teams in the mid south and Northern areas of the USA are just beginning to get their seasons underway. These rankings will be continuously updated as more tournament results play out and more teams get their seasons into full swing.

TravelBallSelect's 2011 Rankings of the Top 25 10U teams across the USA ***Top 25 plus teams earning "Honorable Mention"***

- 1). The **Oakley Stingrays Green** (of Whittier/Norwalk, CA) finished last season by winning the USSSA Elite 32 World Series capping off a 70+ win season. This season, they are picking up where they left off. They have already compiled an overall record of 32-1 with 6 tournaments. These wins include 1 USTSA event plus winning 5 of their 6 USSSA tournament appearances. They are also an early qualifier to USSSA's Elite 32 with their recent win at the Southern California USSSA MLK Super NIT Classic. So, for nearly 100 weeks running, the Stingrays (Green) remain on top of the mountain as our #1 team.
- 2). **TEAM MIAMI** (Miami, FL) finished their 2010 season with 50+ wins in major tournament play along with a strong 3rd Place finish at the USSSA Elite 32. Thus far this season, they have compiled an overall record that now stands at 54-11 (when one adds their results in tough local league play. They have compiled a 13-5 record playing 10U Major and 11U tournaments and have won 2 of their 4 USSSA appearances. It is worth noting that all of their losses have come against 11U and 12U teams. Their big wins include wins over top 20 ranked MO Steel along with an 8-5 win over top 10 ranked Bullets Blue. In addition, they also have a couple of huge wins over Top 5 ranked Team MVP when they faced them in their own hosted event "Clash of the Titans". No doubt about it, this is a "Knockout" solid team from top to bottom.
- 3). The **San Diego Show** has returned much stronger this year. Thus far this season, they have established a record of 11-2 playing against some of the toughest competition in the country. They have 2 tournament wins including USTSA Ultimate State Title along with winning USSSA's California Thanksgiving Super NIT gaining an early Elite 32 berth. In finals of this event, they earned the distinction of being the only team to beat the #1 ranked Oakley Stingrays Green (edging them 6-5). They have also beaten other nationally ranked teams including wins over the Nomads Elite along with the San Diego Stars. The Show has proven that they are a very good team, but have thus far seen limited tournament play. But that is changing soon. Next, they will be competing at the Arizona Spring Training Super NIT which is loaded with the best teams from the Pacific/West Region.
- 4). **TEAM MVP** (Miami, FL) is another team that is loaded with talent. This year's team combines many of the best players from last year's 9U TEAM Miami and MO Steel rosters. Thus far, they are off to a very strong start this season. They have played the most active major tournament schedule of any team in the country. As of the 1st of March, they have already compiled an impressive overall record of 48-10-1 with 9 total tournament wins including a 42-10-1 record while winning 8 of their 12 USSSA 10U Major and 11U tournament appearances. This impressive record puts them on track to be among the first teams to reach the 100 win milestone this season. The only real blemish to their performance thus far has been their 2 losses to TEAM Miami. With this record, TEAM MVP is clearly a top 5 team.
- 5). The **Nomads Elite** of Garden Grove, California - After finishing last season with 50+ wins and a Triple Crown World Series Championship along with being ranked as the #3 team in the nation, the Nomads have returned and are looking very solid once again this year. Thus far, they have already

racked up 30 wins and have won 5 tournaments. They finished as the Runner-up at the MLK Super NIT after a close 6-5 loss to top ranked Oakley Stingrays. They are a very strong team playing in an area that is filled with many of the best teams in the nation.

6). The **Georgia Yard Dogs Black** (Atlanta, GA) finished last season with a 35-4 record in elite travel baseball circuits. They were ranked as the #4 team in the nation after going 7-1 with a 4th place finish in the Elite 32 (losing very close 2-0 game in the semi-finals against the Bullets/Titans of Tampa, Florida). They are returning 12 players from that team - with 11 of those having played together since they were 8 years old. In addition, they have added an outstanding player who spent last season playing up against top level 10U competition. Thus far in 2011, they have played a very limited schedule exclusively against 11U teams. In 2 USSSA 11U tournament appearances, they have compiled an early record of 3-3. However, no one doubts that these Yard Dogs will once again be one of the best teams in the nation. Their talent is reason enough to give them a top 10 ranking. They are one of the elite Georgia teams that have been invited to compete in the Georgia-Florida Showdown coming up in April.

7). The **Sandlot All-Stars** of Tempe, Arizona compiled a 27-4 record as 9U's while winning 5 of their 7 USSSA tournament appearances last season. Thus far this season, the 10U All-Stars have started even stronger. Already, they have compiled a 20-2 record and have won four straight USSSA tournaments including the Arizona Winter Nationals Super NIT (earning an early Elite 32 berth) and the Arizona MLK NIT. This is a very talented team and their performance in big events is more than enough to earn them their top 10 ranking.

8). The **IE Elite** of the Inland Empire California have compiled an overall record of 46-6 thus far this season playing against very solid 10 and 11U teams from Southern California. In fact 4 of their 6 losses came against 11U's and 1 loss against the #5 ranked Nomads Elite. This IE Elite is a team has several outstanding players that can keep them in big games against the best of the best. Their impressive 46 wins, coupled with their talented roster, has earned their ranking among the Top 10 teams in the nation.

9). The **Banditos Black** of the Houston Texas area rounds out our pre-season list of the top 10 teams. They finished last season with an overall record of 42-11 and ranked as the #8 team in the nation. As 9U's, they won the 10U Triple Crown SlumpBuster®. Thus far this season, they have been playing mostly against 11U competition and have established an 8-1 record in USSSA play while winning both of their USSSA tournament appearances. In addition, they compiled a 24-4 record in Nations Baseball events. They are returning 10 players from last year's team and have added 3 excellent new players. We rate them as the #10 team to start, but they clearly have the potential to move higher in the rankings as their season gets into full swing.

10). **Lightning Baseball** of Lakeland, Florida has compiled a record of 35-13-2 in USSSA play thus far this season. They are fresh off their Championship win at the USSSA Central Florida Showdown this past weekend where they beat the Bullets Blue by a score of 10-3 in the title game. Thus far, they have won 3 USSSA tournaments and finished Runner-up in 3 others. Much of their play has been against 11U teams (accounting for 7 of their 13 losses). They are returning 10 players and have added 3 very solid new players to boost their roster. This is a good team that has a lot of wins in a region where good teams are plentiful and every game is very tough.

11). **East Cobb Longhorns** (Marietta, Georgia) finished their 2010 9U season by reaching the semi-finals at 9U AAU Nationals held in Florida. They also compiled an impressive 61-7-5 overall record last season. This is a solid team that is returning 10 players - 8 of which have played together for 3 years or more. In addition, the Longhorns have added 2 new pitchers and another player who is a very solid hitter. The Longhorns are just now beginning to ramp up their 2011 spring season play. They will likely spend much of their time playing up against 11U competition. This is a talented team with potential to move up in the rankings as they get their season in full swing.

12). The **Orlando Tigers** compiled a 44-17 record last season in 9U USSSA action. Thus far this season, they have already racked up a 15-5 record playing against quality teams in South Florida.

They have won 2 of their 4 USSSA tournament appearances including the Global Winter World Championship. In addition, they finished as the Runner-up at the Florida USSSA Thanksgiving Super NIT losing a close 5-4 game to #3 ranked TEAM MVP. This team has plenty of talent and has stacked more skilled players on their roster this year. They are one of the 4 select teams invited to compete in the April 22nd Florida-Georgia Showdown in Lake City, Florida. Their performance against good teams shows that these Tigers are for real in 2011.

13). The **Bullets Blue** of Tampa, FL (last year Bullets/Titans) have returned strong after their outstanding 9U season where they compiled a record of 54-10 with 5 tournament wins that culminated in their 2nd place finish at the Elite 32. They are off to a good start this season having already compiled a record of 28-10-1 to go along with winning 4 of their 9 USSSA tournament appearances. It's key to note that 6 of their 10 losses have come against 11U teams. This team proved last season that they were a team to fear and they are once again proving that they among be best in Florida this season.

14). **Avenger Force Baseball** (now Hunter Pence Academy sports of the Houston, TX area). Last year, this team compiled an overall record of 72-17 as 9U's. Thus far this year, they have compiled an overall record of 23-8-1 playing USSSA and Nations events. They have already racked up 3 tournament wins. This team returns 10 players from their outstanding 2010 9U team. In addition, they have added an outstanding pitcher. This is enough to convince us that they are a Top 15 team.

15-Tie) **Carolina Cubs** of Triangle, NC finished their 2010 9U season with a 46-12 record and 10 tournament wins. They are off to another very strong start thus far in their 10U 2011 season while focusing much of their play against 11 and 12U teams. At the end of February, they had compiled a record of 17-6 in USSSA play with 5 of their 6 losses coming against 11U's. Along this path, they have won 1 of their 6 USSSA tournament appearances with 4 Runner-up finishes. This is a very good team that can continue to improve as they get more play under their belts. They return 10 players from last season's squad and have added an excellent pitcher. These cubs are a solid team again in 2011.

15-Tie) The **Arkansas Mighty Ducks** (Ft. Smith, AR) is another outstanding team that finished their 2010 9U season with an overall record of 49-6 including a 26-6 record playing against older age groups. They also won 9 of their 12 USSSA Tournament appearances including winning the World Series held in Ellisville, Missouri. Thus far this season, the Mighty Ducks have played a limited fall schedule going 3-0 playing up against 11U teams. They are returning 9 players from their 2010 championship team, while adding two excellent new players including an MVP class athlete who played up as a 10U last season. In addition, they added an excellent lefty pitcher. The experience of their core roster along with their additions combine for a talent loaded team that can keep these Mighty Ducks in contention in games against the best of the best.

16). The **MO Steele** returns from a very successful 9U season where they compiled a 58-7 record. However they have lost 5 key players, 3 of which were pitchers. While losses of such quality players can understandably deal a setback, the MO Steel has picked up some good ball players. They returned 8 solid players and have added 6 new players to replace athletes who have moved on. Thus far, the Mo Steel Baseball has compiled a 20-9 record playing in USSSA 10U and 11U events. They won the Kendall Craze after defeating Team MVP 4-3 with a complete game from Yordani Carmona (who many say is the best 10U pitcher in Florida). With all the changes, the Steel's big wins against top 10 teams proves that they are still a very formidable team for 2011.

17). The **San Diego Stars** finished as the Runner-up at the Triple Crown World Series last year. Thus far this season, they have compiled a 7-3 record in USSSA play while competing in both the Southern California Thanksgiving and MLK Super NIT events. They also won the USTSA Ultimate Division State Championship edging past their local rival and top 5 ranked, San Diego Show, by a score of 11-10 to win that title. That impressive showing and their tough schedule earns them a top 20 ranking in our book.

18). **TEAM Booya** of Salinas, California compiled a record of 18-10 as a 9U Majors team in USSSA

play. Thus far in 2011, they have compiled a 12-4 record in USSSA 10 and 11U events. They have won 2 of their 4 USSSA tournament appearances including their recent win at the President's Day Super NIT held in Northern California. They are returning 9 players and have added three outstanding new players who are "MVP/Player to Watch" class athletes. While the Booya have only played a limited schedule, their reinforced roster and their play thus far has them looking like a team that can compete with the best. Clearly, at this point in this young 2011 season, they are a top 20 team in anyone's book.

19). **Texas Legends** (Pearland, TX-S) compiled an overall record of 40-11 in USSSA last season as 9U's. Thus far this season, they have compiled an overall record of 19-7-1 playing in Nations Baseball and USSSA events. They are a very capable team that has the talent to compete with any team in Texas - another state that has an abundance of excellent baseball teams. This is worth an early Top 20 ranking.

20). The **KC Sluggers** of Kansas City, Missouri were World Series Champions as 8U's. They compiled a 48-12 record last season and reached the semi-finals at the St. Louis World Series. Thus far this year as 10U's, they have compiled a 19-2 record and have won 5 straight USSSA tournaments - two of which were 11U events. This team returns 7 starters from 2010 and has added 4 strong difference makers to complete their lineup. The Sluggers play an aggressive schedule that matches against the best teams from Oklahoma-Texas and all across the Midwest. This team not only has the potential to be among the best teams of the Southwest, but also challenge the best teams on a national level.

21-Tie). **East Cobb Yankees** (Marietta, Georgia) finished their 2010 9U season after compiling an overall record of 51-11. Key wins as 9U's include the Triple Crown Georgia State Fall Championship and Nations Baseball's Cooperstown Showdown Championship. This year, the Yankees have seen limited action, but have compiled an overall record of 11-2. They return 8 players from last year's team, 7 of which have been playing together for 3 seasons. They have added 2 outstanding new players who each were solid players in 10U action last season. The Yankees have excellent talent and we expect that they will be at least as strong as last year's team that racked up 50+ wins. We rank them as a top 25 team as they get their 2011 season underway.

21-Tie). The **Rawlings Jr. Prospects** of St. Louis, Missouri finished last season with a strong Runner-up finish the 2010 Midwest USSSA World Series. In addition, they compiled an overall 48-17 while playing in both USSSA and Super Series events. The 2011 10U Jr. Prospects are returning 8 core players while enhancing their team with 3 new very talented athletes that can help make them even better this year. Although the Prospects have not yet returned to action in 2011, they have the potential to be among the best teams in the country as they get into their stride in 2011 Spring season play.

22-Tie). The **SC Cyclones** of Spartanburg, South Carolina are returning after their dominating 9U season. They compiled an overall record of 55-11 while winning 12 of their 16 USSSA tournament appearances that culminated with their win at the Global World Series held in Charleston, SC. Thus far this season, they have returned in strong form having already compiled a 17-5 record as 10U's in USSSA play. Along this path, they have won 4 of their 5 USSSA tournament appearances plus 1 Runner-up finish. They are returning 6 players from last year's dominating team, and have added 4 new players. Once they build their team chemistry after these changes, we look for them to return to form as one of the best teams in the Carolinas and the Southeast.

22-Tie). **TEAM Desoto** of Olive Branch, Mississippi where travel baseball is a favorite pastime. Last season, they compiled a 46-14 record last season to go along with 6 tournament wins. Thus far this season, they have started out very strong. Thus far, they have already racked up a 22-4 record along with winning 4 of their 6 USSSA tournament appearances (3 of which have been 11U events). They play in the center of the baseball capitol of the mid-south and are looking like a solid top 25 team.

23-Tie). The **Mac-N-Seitz Indians** (Kansas City, MO) finished their 2010 9U season with a record of 43-12. They wrapped up their 2010 season by finishing as the D2 Runner-up at the 2010 Triple Crown World Series and ranked as the #21 team in the nation. Thus far this season, the Indians have played a very limited fall/winter schedule due to conflicts with other sports and weather. However, they always field a talented team that battles to their last at bat.

23-Tie). The **Lamorinda Spartans** of Moraga, California Thus have been playing exceptionally well thus far this season. They have compiled a 18-5 record in USSSA play, and have won 2 of their 3 tournament appearances and finished as the Runner-up in the Fall State Championship. Their record against 11U teams now stands at 11-4. They have talent are clearly one of the best teams from the Northern California area. Their play thus far has us believing that they are a top 25 level team.

24). The **Montgomery Crush** of Alabama start this season ranked in the same spot where they finished last season. They compiled a 59-21 record w/4 tourney wins as 9U's. Thus far this season, they have racked up a 22-3 record and have won 6 of their 8 USSSA tournament appearances. They are a feared competitor in every tournament they enter and are playing an aggressive schedule. This earns them a top 25 ranking as the 2011 spring season gets underway.

25). The **Nor Cal Titans** of Brentwood, California finished last year with an overall record of 52-15 along with 8 championships and were the Runner-up in 5 other tournaments. Thus far this year, they have compiled a record of 19-4 and won 3 of their 6 USSSA tournament appearances to go along with 2 Runner-up finishes. The Titans are returning 6 players from last year's team and have added 6 new players. With this many changes, they will have to adjust quickly as they have a very competitive schedule ahead. If their adjustments go smoothly, they have the potential to move higher in the national rankings.

HONORABLE MENTION

(Teams to watch with potential for moving up into national rankings)

ST	TEAM	COMMENTS
AL	Traveling Tide	12-1 with 2 tournament wins, playing good teams
CA	SY Titans	coaches say these Titans are an up and coming team
	Wolverines Baseball	This team can play with the best on a given day
	So Cal United	A solid team that plays tough in a league filled with top teams
FL	Florida Pokers	A team that is respected and feared in South Florida
	Top Prospects	
	Nationals	playing like they will be a factor, 2 tournament wins, 1 Runner-up finish
GA	OTC Bearcats	A team that is respected by top teams in Georgia
IW	Iowa Rockies	A solid team from last season that has yet to return to Spring play
MI	Motor City Hit Dogs	A solid organization that always seems to produce winners
MO	Midwest Diamond	
	Dogs	Tough in the fall, but have not yet returned for spring play
	Missouri Gators	Solid fall, 2 tourney wins, lots of talent, soon to return for spring play
MS	Orange Crush	One 11U event with 4th place
	PSA Worth Sox Red	A top 10 team last year, slow start this year with only 1 tourney win
OH	Cincy Flames	A solid organization that always seems to produce winners

PA	Beaver Valley Reds	A solid organization of winners that will start 2011 season play soon
OK	Oklahoma Naturals Oklahoma Thunder	A very good team last season who is just returning for spring play A very good team last season who is just returning for spring play
SC	Greenville Pirates	losses are agains 11's
TN	Fultz Prospects	a top 20 team last season, slow start this year, but now returning
TX	Canes Baseball Dallas Tigers Avengers Force Gulf Coast Shockers	a team that showed a lot of promise in the fall a solid organization, 19-4 record 3 tourney wins, now returning for spring a good team last season, soon to return for 2011 spring play Won AAU nationals last year, 8-6 record in the fall, a team to watch