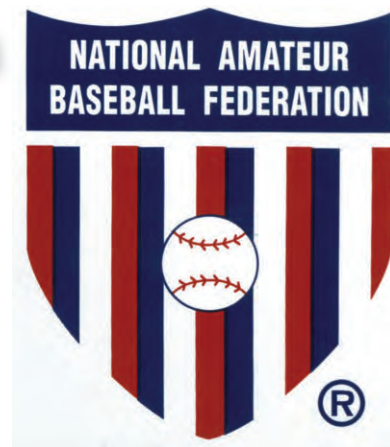


Tournament News



On the web at
www.nabf.com

October 1, 2013

Bowie, Maryland

Price \$1.00

99th Year



Michael Lance Lynn second straight Cardinal to be honored

For the second straight year, a St. Louis Cardinal is being honored as the NABF Graduate of the Year.



Michael Lance Lynn (mlb.com)

Cardinal pitcher Michael Lance Lynn follows last year's selection, St. Louis third baseman David Freese.

Freese was a Major League Baseball World Series Most Valuable Player after leading the Cardinals to a world championship in 2011. He previously had led a St. Louis Amateur Baseball League summer collegiate team from Fenton, Missouri (see article on page 3) to the NABF College World Series championship in 2003.

In 2004, Lynn played for the NABF National Team in USA Baseball's Tournament of Stars in Joplin, Missouri. He also played for the Indiana Bulls and their coach, Quinn Moore. The Bulls played in the NABF High School World Series in Millington, Tennessee in 2003 and 2004.

Lynn (born May 12, 1987) has played as Freese's teammate for the St. Louis Cardinals since 2011.

Lynn was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, graduating from Brownsburg High School, where he was teammate of fellow major league pitcher Drew Storen. His team went 33-0 his senior year and won the 4A state championship.

He was drafted by the Seattle Mariners in the sixth round of the June 2005 Major League Baseball Draft, but did not sign. He

(continued on page 3)



Pittsburgh St. John's players celebrate a NABF Major Division championship.

100th Major title taken by Lefty's

By Nick Buckley
Battle Creek Enquirer

Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty's manager Tom McCarthy was standing on the infield at C.O. Brown Stadium Sunday when suddenly he was hit.

Except it wasn't a line drive, a broken bat or a player colliding with him. Instead, it was a container full of ice and water his team dumped on him to celebrate winning the 100th National Amateur Baseball Federation's Major Division World Series.

The St. Johns Lefty's capped off the five-day tournament at Bailey Park with a 10-1 victory over the Bridgeport (Conn.) Fedell's Mechanics.

"We've been chasing this for a couple

(continued on page 4)



NABF Annual Meeting to be in Pearl, Mississippi

The 99th Annual Meeting of the National Amateur Baseball Federation will be held Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9, 2013 in Pearl, Mississippi, a suburb of Jackson, the state capital.

The Board of Director's Meeting is Friday, November 8 and the Delegates Meeting, for all NABF franchised member delegates, is Saturday, November 9.

All NABF meetings are planned to be held at the Holiday Inn Pearl, 110 Bass Pro Drive, Pearl, Mississippi 39208. The hotel phone number is (601) 939-5238 or visit their website — www.holidayinn.com. NABF Representatives must mention Code: BAS for NABF Baseball for special room rates.

This event will be hosted by Mississippi NABF Baseball. For additional information, members may contact Derek Topik at dtopik@bellsouth.net or Amy Topik at atopik@bellsouth.net of Mississippi NABF.

The Holiday Inn Pearl is conveniently located close to many attractions:

- Bass Pro and Outdoor World Shop. Walking distance
- Jackson Convention Center. Walking distance
- Mississippi Braves Trustmark Park. Walking distance

The Holiday Inn Pearl is minutes from Jackson-Evers International Airport, located at Allen C. Thompson Field, east of the city in Pearl. The airport has non-stop service to 12 cities throughout the United States and is served by five scheduled carriers (American, Delta, United, Southwest, and US Airways).



Two local batboys enjoy the moment after the St. Louis Dodgers won the NABF College World Series title in Toledo.

NABF Graduates of the Year

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1968 Bill Freehan (Detroit Tigers) | Giants) |
| 1969 Pete Rose (Cincinnati Reds) | 1990 Barry Larkin (Cincinnati Reds) |
| 1970 Bernie Carbo (Cincinnati Reds) | 1991 Steve Farr (New York Yankees) |
| 1971 Ted Simmons (St. Louis Cardinals) | 1992 Marquies Grissom (Montreal Expos) |
| 1972 John Mayberry (Kansas City Royals) | 1993 Paul O'Neil (New York Yankees) |
| 1973 Sal Bando (Oakland Athletics) | 1994 No selection (MLB Players Strike) |
| 1974 Jim Wynn (Los Angeles Dodgers) | 1995 Charles Nagy (Cleveland Indians) |
| 1975 Frank Tanana (California Angels) | 1996 Brian Jordan (St. Louis Cardinals) |
| 1976 Rick Manning (Cleveland Indians) | 1997 Jeff Reed (Colorado Rockies) |
| 1977 Kenton Tekulve (Pittsburgh Pirates) | 1998 Scott Rolen (Philadelphia Phillies) |
| 1978 Lary Sorenson (Milwaukee Brewers) | 1999 Paul Byrd (Philadelphia Phillies) |
| 1979 Willie Horton (Seattle Mariners) | 2000 Pat Burrell (Philadelphia Phillies) |
| 1980 Britt Burns (Chicago White Sox) | 2001 Billy Koch (Toronto Blue Jays) |
| 1981 Tom Paciorek (Seattle Mariners) | 2002 Roy Oswalt (Houston Astros) |
| 1982 Leon Durham (Chicago Cubs) | 2003 B.J. Surhoff (Baltimore Orioles) |
| 1983 Robert Bonnell (Toronto Blue Jays) | 2004 Brian Roberts (Baltimore Orioles) |
| 1984 Jack Perconte (Seattle Mariners) | 2005 Mark Tiexiera (Texas Rangers) |
| 1985 John Franco (Cincinnati Reds) | 2006 J.J. Putz (Seattle Mariners) |
| 1986 Jesse Barfield (Toronto Blue Jays) | 2007 Jake Peavy (San Diego Padres) |
| 1987 Brian Fletcher (Texas Rangers) | 2008 Gavin Floyd (Chicago White Sox) |
| 1988 Allen L. Anderson (Minnesota Twins) | 2009 Zack Grienke (Kansas City Royals) |
| 1989 Dave Dravecky (San Francisco Cardinals) | 2010 David Price (Tampa Bay Rays) |
| | 2011 Johnny Damon (Tampa Bay Rays) |
| | 2012 David Freese (St. Louis Cardinals) |
| | 2013 Michael Lance Lynn (St. Louis Cardinals) |



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- World Series Results
- World Classics Results
- Regional Results
- Tournament of Stars
- National Youth Baseball Scholarship Application
- Special Recognition Awards

NABF
P.O. 705
Bowie, Maryland 20718

CONTACT US

Charles M. Blackburn
Executive Director, NABF
Franchise Membership
Chairman
P. O. Box 705,
Bowie, MD 20718
TEL: 410-721-4727
FAX: 410-721-4940
E-mail:
NABF1914@aol.com

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President
Thomas Stout
Altoona, Pennsylvania

1st Vice President
Vincent DiLauro
New Haven, Connecticut

2nd Vice President
Derek Topic
Brandon, Mississippi

3rd Vice President
Glenn "Buzz" McNish
Knoxville, Tennessee

Immediate Past President
Greg Reddington
Louisville, Kentucky

2013 NABF Directors
Richard Crumback
Ft. Wayne, IN

Greg Reddington
Louisville, KY

Robert Frellich
Fairview, NC

Ronald Leib
Buffalo, NY

William Ball
Orlando, FL

Robert Chiara
Malverne, NY

Ronald "Lefty" LeBlanc
Taftville, CT

Robert Mingo
Youngstown, OH

Leonard Renna
Kings Park, NY

J. Patrick Eaken
Perrysburg, OH

Connie Brown
Troy, OH

Frederick Feaver III
Galloway, OH

David E. Jerome
Northville, MI

Aaron Myers
Toledo, OH

Michael J. "Jay" Tewell
Louisville, KY

Mandy Bello
Cincinnati, OH

From the Executive Director,

TO: ALL NABF MEMBERS:

I would like to take a moment to thank all Tournament Host Organizations for a great job in making this 2013 season a very big success.

New Champions were crowned as they emerged from every age group this year in our National Championship Tournaments;
Major Division- St Johns Lefty's of Pittsburg, PA
College Division – St. Louis Dodgers of Missouri
Senior Division – Maryland Monarchs of Maryland State Baseball Association
High School Division – Marucci Titans of Long Island, NY
Junior Division – Team Cincinnati of Ohio
Sophomore Division – Saratoga Stampede of New York
Freshmen Division (12 & U) - LIDS Indiana Bulls of Indianapolis, IN

Kudos goes out to Terry Newton and his entire Major Division World Series National Tournament committee for well planned and attended event.

Special thanks to both the 100th National (NABF) Champions from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and our gracious host Battle Creek Michigan, for one of the most successful World Series events ever for the Major Division. It was well attended and had the full support of the city of Battle Creek, Michigan, Cereal Capital of the World.

My thanks to Tom Stout, NABF President, and Greg Reddington, NABF Director of Major Division for their attendance and representation of NABF during this historic championship series.

Thanks to the following National Tournament Directors and their committees for a successful championship series: Aaron Myers of Toledo- (College World Series), Scott Ruark of Struthers, OH (Senior World Series), Buzz McNish of Knoxville, TN (High School World Series), Bill Flohr and Carrie Slominski of Northville, MI (Junior World Series), Rob Finch and his Altavista Virginia Baseball Committee (Sophomore World Series), and Scott Baker of South Haven, MS (Freshman National Championship series)

My personal thanks go out to Derek Topic for a great job overseeing the 2013 NABF Classics Tournaments. Also, I'd like to extend my great appreciation to all the Regional Directors and the NABF Franchise Organization for their success this season.

Last but not least, my many thanks to all our members for your get well wishes following my open heart surgery on August 12th. I had planned to be apart of our 100th National championship series for the Major Division in Battle Creek. I certainly was disappointed missing out on both the College and Major Division World Series Events.

I now look forward to the 2014 Season and the Umpires' call "Play Ball"

Charles M. Blackburn
 Executive Director, NABF



Charles M. Blackburn



A Buckeye Cable Sports Network cameraman at the NABF College World Series. For videos of televised games, visit www.bcsn.tv.

From the President,

TO: ALL NABF MEMBERS:

The 2013 baseball season has come to a close. I would like to thank all of our teams for their participation in NABF tournaments and league play.

The 2013 NABF season was a success due to the work of our Executive Director, Charles Blackburn and his staff. A special thank you to Camden, grandson of Charles Blackburn, for working in the NABF office during Charlie's hospital stay. I would also like to thank our League Officials and Board of Directors as well as all of the organizations that hosted tournaments. I am looking forward to our next season. In the meantime, continue to promote NABF Baseball!

Tom Stout
 President, NABF



Tom Stout

Meet Jennifer...

Assisting executive director Charles Blackburn at the national headquarters is intern Jennifer Larimore from the University of Pittsburgh.

Ms. Larimore is currently a senior, graduating in December of 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She has maintained status on the Dean's List throughout each semester of college, and has received awards including the University of Pittsburgh Scholar-Athlete Award, the Big East All-Academic Award, and the Scholar-Athlete 4.0 Club Award. Additionally, Ms. Larimore is a member of both the Golden Key International Honour Society, as well as The National Society of Collegiate Scholars. During her extensive athletic career Ms. Larimore has played competitive tennis at the national level since the age of twelve, with accomplishments including two Pennsylvania State Championships. After injury interrupted her continuance, Ms. Larimore returned to competition as a member of the University of Pittsburgh Women's Tennis Team; where she remained until her career was terminated, again due to injury. Upon completion of her undergraduate education Ms. Larimore plans to pursue a Masters degree in Sports Management or Athletic Administration.



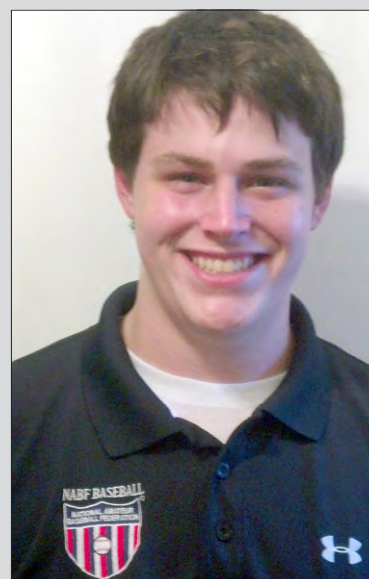
Jennifer Larimore

Meet Camden...

During the summer of 2013 Camden Quinn from Chesapeake College assisted executive director Charles Blackburn in our National Headquarters. In addition to his NABF duties, Camden volunteered his time assisting the commissioner of the Eddie Brooks Baseball League with baseball operations; including league statistics, scheduling games, and coordinating schedules with game officials.

He is a Certified Microsoft Office Specialist and has helped with the sports program at Chesapeake College. Mr. Quinn is currently a sophomore and plans on transferring to Towson University and receiving his Bachelors Degree in Sports Management in May of 2016. He will use the tools that he gained from this experience to help his future endeavor of a sports related career.

During this summer, 2013 Charles Blackburn, Executive Director, underwent open heart surgery and was out of the office for almost the entire month of August. During that time, Mr. Quinn stepped in as a liaison for Mr. Blackburn for many of the day to day operations in the National Office. The NABF is extremely proud and grateful for his service during this time.



Camden Quinn



Ronald E. "Lefty" LeBlanc

Ronald E. "Lefty" LeBlanc passes

Our long time friend Ronald "Lefty" LeBlanc passed away from an apparent massive heart attack.

Lefty was on the Board of Directors this year along with many previous years of contribution to the NABF.

We will all miss him very much.....

For those of you that want to send a note to his wife, her name is Jeanne LeBlanc and the home address is 41 Henry Street, Apt B-2, Norwich, CT 06360
God Bless Lefty and his family!

You can contact our office if you want any additional details.

Here is Lefty's obituary, as it appeared in the *Arundel Voice* —

NORWICH – Ronald E. "Lefty" LeBlanc (1934-2013), 79, of Norwich, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, September 10, 2013.

On March 27, 1934 he was born in Norwich, the son of the late Ernest and Cecile (Gaudet) LeBlanc. He grew up in Norwich and was a graduate of the Norwich Free Academy class of 1951.

Athletics were always a big part of his life, and it was while playing basketball at the former SHYMA Club in Taftville where he met his wife of 57 years, the former Jeanne St. Amour. They dated for two years and were married on May 5, 1956 at St. Joseph Church in Occum.

They settled in Taftville and Lefty began a long career in the paper container manufacturing industry. He worked at Robertson Paperbox for many years and was currently the purchasing manager at Atlantic Packaging in Norwich.

His involvement with sports as a fast pitch softball player and basketball player eventually led him into coaching, which he did for many years in a variety of youth leagues and city leagues. For over thirty years he was the coach of the Al Abraham's baseball team in the Norwich City League. He was a member of the Norwich Sports Hall of Fame and was a current board member of the National Amateur Baseball Federation.

He was also a very spiritual person and has been a faithful parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Taftville for many years. He was wonderful man with a great sense of humor who was well known and well loved by many, but most of all, he was a loving husband and father and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne LeBlanc of Norwich; three sons, Stephen LeBlanc and wife Sandie of North Stonington, Daniel LeBlanc and wife Debra of Norwich and Kenneth LeBlanc and wife Lynn of Oxford; one daughter, Linda Mullin and husband Sherwin of Hamden; and several grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his brother Ernest "Jr" LeBlanc. Donations in his memory may be made to Sacred Heart Church, 156 Providence St, Taftville.



Top, the 2012 NABF Graduate of the Year David Freese after being named Most Valuable Player of the 2011 MLB World Series, leading his St. Louis Cardinals to a world title. Cardinal teammate Michael Lance Lynn is this year's NABF honoree. (mlb.com)

Freese joins teammates at NABF reunion

By Warren Mayes
West Newsmagazine

The St. Louis Cardinals' David Freese had some fun meeting old teammates during the recent All-Star break.

Freese went to the St. Louis Metro Collegiate Baseball League's All-Star event to attend the 10th reunion of the league's Fenton team that was coached by longtime baseball veteran Rick Fiala.

Fiala has coached several Major League players including Mark Buehrle, Cliff Polite, Jay Marshall, Matt Cepicky and Freese.

It was during the 2003 St. Louis Metro Collegiate season that Fiala's team won the League Championship and then went on to capture the National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series. It was the league's first ever national championship.

"It was fantastic," Fiala said about the reunion. "It was a challenge to try and get a hold of all of them. We had 16 who still live here and a couple from out of town came in. One was from South Carolina. It was a great time."

In that 2003 season, Fiala said he thought he had a solid squad.

"I knew we would be decent but I never knew we'd be that good," Fiala said. "A lot of them were eventual starters for their college teams. My shortstop (Bryan Smith) was only a high school kid from Parkway South and hadn't even played in college yet. We had some inexperienced players. The thing is they all had a desire to be really good. They all showed up on time. We never had any problems with them."

"We just got better and better. By the end of the year, we had a really good team."

The NABF Series was held in Dayton, Ohio. The Fenton team went 5-1, losing a game in pool play. In the semifinals, Fenton beat the Michigan Bulls 7-1. In the finals, Fenton defeated the Cincinnati Stars 5-2.

"Winning that championship was a highlight for me," Fiala said. "To win a national championship, it was really special."

Eight players on the team went on to play professional baseball.

Fiala said it was great to have Freese attend.

"We were happy to see David there," Fiala said. "He spent half of his time signing autographs and he was great about it. He's still the same guy. He hasn't forgotten where he came from."

100th anniversary is here...

TO: ALL NABF MEMBERS:

I would like to take a few minutes to thank each of you, individually, as representatives of your respective league associations. Without your good work and your many contributions that made this season and seasons past possible, sandlot baseball would not exist.

Our Officers and Directors thank you for your service: your personal sacrifices, including the time you have devoted to your local league programs, your personal resources that provide so many baseball players with the opportunity to participate in your local league programs, along with our NABF National Championship Tournaments.

As we approach our 100th anniversary, the oldest continually operating national amateur baseball organization in America (est. 1914), it is time for all of us to reflect on the many contributions each of our members and associations provide to make this centennial celebration a reality. We would like to include your franchise member organizations and their outstanding representatives as part of our history. Any information you wish to contribute to our 100th Anniversary book, which will be published and issued in 2014, would be most appreciated. In addition to information, any pictures, newspaper articles, ect may be included.

Again, many thanks for your membership and participation in the National Amateur Baseball Federation programs for all ages. We look forward to the renewal of your membership in 2013.

Kind Regards,

Charles M. Blackburn, Jr.
Executive Director, NABF

Michael Lance Lynn

(continued from front page)

played at the University of Mississippi.

In 2007, he set the Ole Miss single season (146) and career (332) strikeout records. He was named All-Southeastern Conference 2nd-team pitcher in 2007 and 2008.

He is 6-foot-5, 250 pounds. He married Lauren (Grill) Lynn in November 2010, who was a softball player at Ole Miss. Their home base is near Wilsonville, Oregon. On MLB's *Now You Know* he stated that if he was not a professional baseball player he would be a UPS man.

Lynn was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in the first round (39th) of the 2008 MLB June Amateur Draft. In 2009, Lynn was named the Cardinals organizational Pitcher-of-the-Year after jumping three levels in his first full professional season. On September 10, 2010, Lynn broke the Memphis Redbirds franchise strikeout record, fanning 16 against the Oklahoma City RedHawks.

Lynn was activated on June 2, 2011 and made his major league debut that night at home against the San Francisco Giants. On October 10, 2011, Lynn was awarded the win after throwing exactly one pitch in Game 2 of the 2011 NLCS.

In the 2011 World Series, Lynn gave up back-to-back home runs in the top of the 7th to Adrián Beltré and Nelson Cruz. He won the 2011 World Series with the Cardinals, making 10 appearances during the postseason. He only appeared in 18 games during the 2011 regular season.

Lynn announced he would begin wearing the number 31 after arriving at Cardinals spring training in February 2012. In 2012, he was promoted to the role of starting pitcher, replacing the injured Chris Carpenter in the rotation. Lynn started strong in 2012, winning his first six games with an ERA of 1.40. One of his best games came on June 13, against the Chicago White Sox. He went 7 innings, struck out a career-high 12 batters, and gave up only 3 hits. He also became the second player that season to win 10 games behind RA Dickey. He was later removed from the starting rotation in August after Carpenter's return, but added back after Jaime Garcia was added to the disabled list due to a rotator cuff injury in the NLDS.

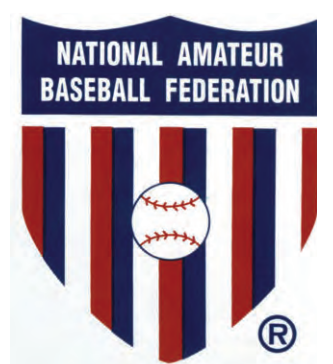
Lynn throws four pitches: a four-seam fastball (92–95 mph), a two-seam fastball (91–94), a cut fastball (87–90) and a curveball (78–81). He uses his cutter mostly against right-handed hitters.

Besides his four-seam fastball, his curve is his most commonly thrown pitch with two strikes. His four-seamer has one of the highest whiff rates among fastballs thrown by relief pitchers. He has been a good strikeout pitcher, finishing third in the National League in 2012 in K/9, at a 9.2 rate.



NABF

Your part in the
Major League Baseball Network.



Major World Series

Pittsburgh St. John Lefty's win 100th Major Division title

(continued from front page)

years. Got beaten last year in the finals, and made a vow to get back here," a drenched McCarthy said. "Most of our pitching is young, which is the way we build it. We have a bunch of great veteran guys. I got a couple guys who are 40, 38, 39 (years old), and they refused to not win this championship. Sprinkling in some young guys really helped."

Pittsburgh starting pitcher Greg Frederick earned the championship win on the mound, allowing one earned run on eight hits with eight strikeouts. Following the championship contest, Frederick was named the tournament's Co-MVP, along with teammate and tournament batting champion Jim Pasquine.

The St. Johns Lefty's finish the summer with an impressive 37-1-1 record.

"We love Battle Creek. Came up here and once we got into it, the tournament was ideal," McCarthy said. "We're just proud to represent Pittsburgh, the Greater Pittsburgh Federation League and our regional. And to be the NABF champion in Battle Creek for the 100th year, there's nothing better."

There was quite some buildup for the NABF's 100th World Series, considering the void left when the American Amateur Baseball Congress' Stan Musial World Series left town eight years ago. Battle Creek had previously hosted the Musial World Series since 1937.

Tournament Director Terry Newton said he felt the 2013 NABF World Series was a success.

"We hadn't done something like this in a long time, and we had good community support to get this here. And I think the teams performed well," Newton said. "You think about it, for a long time those efforts to get the Musial back here are kind of in the dark. And when this opportunity came about I think we tried to make the most of it."

The NABF, the oldest continually operated national amateur baseball organization in the country, accepted Battle Creek's bid to host the tournament on a one year deal. But NABF president Tom Stout said he could foresee the World Series returning to the Cereal City.

"I thought it was excellent. I don't think anybody could have done a better job than what they did here," Stout said. "Terry Newton has done a tremendous job. All his staff are very knowledgeable people in sports. It's really a well-run organization and it will be a success in the future."

Patrick Eaken, who serves on the NABF Board of Directors, said an estimated \$1-million can be brought into the local economy through an NABF tournament. He echoed Stout's thoughts on the World Series returning to Battle Creek.

"When we saw the bid for Battle Creek, this was the right place," Eaken said. "The



Pittsburgh St. John's Lefty's — 2013 National Amateur Baseball Federation Major Division champions. (Photos by Art Frick)



MVP's Greg Frederick (20) and Jim Pasquine (18), Pittsburgh St. John Lefty's

history for amateur baseball here is incredible. There were a couple other cities bidding for it. But I hope we're here for a lot of years to come."

As for Battle Creek submitting a bid to host the 2014 NABF World Series, Newton said there's a good possibility.



Major Division batting champion Jim Pasquine, Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty's

"We are certainly interested and will entertain the idea. We still have some bills to pay, but I think the NABF was happy coming to Battle Creek this year," he said. "And we're not discouraged — we're encouraged from what we saw that we can build upon it, if in fact we do it again."



2013 NABF Major World Series All-Tournament Team

BATTING CHAMPION:
Jim Pasquine-Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty's

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS:
Greg Fredrich-Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty's
Jim Pasquine-Pittsburgh St. John's Lefty's

PITCHERS:
Andy Eggleston-Fedell Mechanics
Brett Conner-Fedell Mechanics
Greg Frederick-Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty's

Simon Matthews-Bay Brook Remodlers
Kyle Penny-Bay Brook Remodlers
Garrett Weijach-Ft. Wayne John Jacks
Kevin Hughes-The U-Diesel
Nick Davito-Joliet Dirtbags
Cam Bortell-Battle Creek Behnke
Reggie Walters-Battle Creek Merchants

CATCHERS:
Sean Kelley-Clifton Canes
Mike Delellis-Fedell Mechanics
Nat Themonis-Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty's

INFIELDERS:
Jim Pasquine-Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty's
Jim Jackowski-Pittsburgh St. John's Lefty's
Nick Ramgoli-Clifton Canes
Neal Demartin-The U-Diesel
Mike Olsznk-Fedell Mechanics
Alex McKinstry-Ft. Wayne John Jackers
Sam Greenberg-Bay Brook Remodlers

OUTFIELDERS:
Cody Columbus-Joliet Dirtbags
B.J. Stark-The U-Diesel
Ryan Baroundi-The U-Diesel
Karl Derbacher-Bay Brook Remodlers

100th NABF World Series — Amateurs play for 'love of the game'

By Bill Broderick
Battle Creek Enquirer

They aren't getting paid to play, but they come out to the park year after year — some many seasons past the time when they did play in high school and college — just because they love the game.

And they are coming to Battle Creek this week for one thing — to be able to call themselves World Series champs.

The National Amateur Baseball Federation will play its Major Division World Series in Battle Creek this week, starting play at Bailey Park tonight.

It is the 100th anniversary for the NABF, as the oldest continually running national amateur baseball organization continues its tradition of crowning the best adult-league baseball team in the country with its World Series.

"You are going to see teams with some ex-pros, some up-and-coming young players, but basically players that love the game of baseball," said NABF World Series tournament director Terry Newton. "When you are playing amateur baseball as an adult, you are playing for the love of the game. You aren't getting paid, so you are playing to go home with some hardware, so it should be good competition."

The kind of players fans of baseball

in Battle Creek this week will see, include some household names in the sport. Players who have participated in the NABF in the past include Pete Rose, Frank Tanana, Willie Horton, Barry Larkin, Johnny Damon, Roy Oswalt and Zack Grienke.

Players on the Chicago Clout joined that prestigious group after winning the 2012 NABF Major Division World Series, beating St. John's Lefty's out of Pittsburgh, 8-2, last year. Both teams return for another shot this season.

Battle Creek is no stranger to championship teams itself as it was long the host of the Stan Musial World Series of the American Amateur Baseball Congress. But even though Battle Creek is in its first year in hosting the NABF World Series, there is still a connection between the city and the 100-year run of the organization. In 1944, a year when the AABC did not hold a World Series due to World War II, Battle Creek Clark's Equipment played in the NABF World Series that year and finished as runner-up.

Behnke's, this year's host team out of the Battle Creek city league, is looking to make some history itself and become the first adult league national championship team from the Cereal City since Ferrari's won it all in 1986. Also locally, the Battle Creek Merchants are in the field.

"I don't think we'll be overmatched," said Behnke's manager Russ Bortell. "I think if we play up to our potential, I think this club has everything in place to make a good run."

"I like our makeup. We have a little bit of everything up and down the roster."

Behnke's has some veterans who were part of a World Series squad the last time a national tournament was held in Battle Creek eight years ago. But mostly, the team is going through a youth movement.

"With some of the younger kids, we keep telling them these World Series games are a big deal. But they haven't had a chance to experience it yet," said Kyle Kracht of Behnke's. "But I think we're ready because of what we've done on the season and some of the games we've played on the weekends against different competition."

His Behnke's teammate agreed with that comment.

"I've been playing in this for 21 years now and I've played in eight or nine World Series' and it's a blast. We all love the sport and it's really nice to have it back in Battle Creek," said Dave Larson of Behnke's. "We have a young team. We still have the core guys, the fat guys with experience, but it's nice to be younger and athletic, so it might be a pretty good mix."

Major World Series

Battle Creek sees 'The Series of the Century'

By Bill Broderick
Battle Creek Enquirer

(Published by The Enquirer before the World Series)

Battle Creek made its name as a baseball town by hosting a World Series as far back as 1937.

The National Amateur Baseball Federation is the oldest continually operated national amateur baseball organization in the country.

So it was a match made in baseball heaven as the NABF decided to hold its 100th anniversary World Series in Battle Creek, starting this week at Bailey Park.

The 100th NABF World Series will be held Wednesday-Sunday at Bailey Park in Battle Creek, continuing a tradition of baseball in this town that started with the Stan Musial World Series in 1937.

"Adult baseball in 1937 is the starting point for baseball in Battle Creek as we hosted the World Series here basically uninterrupted for years, except for during some of the war years," said Terry Newton, World Series tournament director. "This is what Battle Creek baseball has been based on and that's how we grew our reputation.

"And as for the NABF, 100 years of doing something is pretty special, and we are just honored we were selected to share that with them and to host their 100th World Series."

Battle Creek had a long relationship with the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC) and the Stan Musial World Series, that started in 1937. But that event ended its run in Battle Creek eight years ago.

The NABF sees Battle Creek as a good fit for its World Series and is excited about coming to what it sees as a baseball town.

"We know Battle Creek has a history of baseball and has people that are familiar with what it takes to put on a national world series and have done so over the years. It's a beautiful town for baseball," said NABF Executive Director Charles Blackburn. "And it's a milestone for us. We pressed on through two World Wars and a major recession and it's been a struggle at time. In the early 60s we had about \$25 in our net worth, but we battled to keep everything going.

"But thank goodness we were able to pick ourselves up and now we are where we are today and we are better off. It's the first amateur baseball organization to reach this (100 year) mark and we are very happy to reach this occasion."

Many in Battle Creek wondered if an adult World Series event would ever return to the city. Following the AABC pulling the Stan Musial out of town, local officials fought to get it back, but were turned away.

Other age-group World Series events have come to Battle Creek over the past several years, but there was still a goal to bring adult baseball to town to follow in the footsteps of the people that started it all in the early part of the 1900s.

Having the NABF bring its World Series to Battle Creek rewarded the efforts of the locals that wanted to keep high-level amateur baseball as a cornerstone of this community.

"We are elated to have the NABF World Series come here," Newton said. "It's been a lot of work by a lot of people to get this done.

"I think we were kind of shocked when we received it back in November. It's been a labor of love and it's been a seven-year trek to make it happen and sometimes that trek seems pretty bleak, but we have been rewarded."

And Newton points out that, for those who followed the Stan Musial World Series, this event this week will be very familiar.

"Yes, they are different organizations, but they are different organizations doing the same thing," Newton said of comparisons between adult baseball in the NABF and the AABC. "People can get caught up in four letters. There's not a lot of difference. Some of the same teams you might see in AABC over the years you could see in NABF baseball.

"To us, it is a continuation of the world series we've had here before. Different letters, a different organization we are working with, but a great organization and they have been very good to work with."

Players that have been involved in



Pittsburgh St. John's Lefty's manager Tom McCarthy accepts the NABF trophy.

both, see this World Series as a great opportunity to regain some of those past feelings they enjoyed with Stan Musial.

Opening ceremonies for the NABF will include a tribute to Battle Creek baseball, including members of former local national championship teams from 1973, 1963 and 1953.

Teams hoping to win the championship this year include squads from nine different states, plus two teams locally - the Battle Creek Behnke's team as the host and the Battle Creek Merchants, who earned an at-large bid when a team from Florida pulled out due to travel issues.

Some members of this year's host team Behnke's were a part of World Series squads in Battle Creek, the last time the Stan Musial was in town.

"I'm really excited about the World Series coming back to Battle Creek," said Kyle Kracht, who plays for Behnke's. "It's especially exciting for a couple of us who are a little older because we remember how special it was when it was here before. We are grateful that a (World Series) has been brought back because when we think of Battle Creek, we think of baseball."

"Guys who remember what a big event it used to be, and how special it was our excited," added Behnke's manager Russ Bortell. "The younger guys don't get it too much, yet, but they will."

By the end of the week, there will be a new NABF World Series champion crowned.

But we may also find out if Battle Creek is a big winner as a successful tournament could lead to the organization staying in town for future events.

Currently, the NABF and Battle Creek are under a one-year agreement - both looking to decide if future World Series events will work here. It is a good possibility there could be a continuation of the relationship



Nothing like another base hit for the Lefty's in their 10-1 championship win.

since the NABF originally came to Battle Creek officials, asking them to put in a bid for the tournament in the first place.

"We see this as a possible future permanent site if things work out for both parties and everybody is happy and everything comes out success. We are looking to entertain that idea," Blackburn said.

The event is already a success in some ways as local organizers have received good support from Battle Creek-area businesses with the tournament in good shape financially before a game is played. However, Newton would also like to see good attendance numbers on top of that to show some support for such an event by the community.

"We are looking to do something special with this. We are on a one-year deal. They are looking at us to see if it works for them and we are looking at this and see if we can make this successful for us," Newton said. "We think we have already done the work to make this successful financially, we just have to see if the fans show up."

"At the end of this, you are looking for three things. The NABF leaves here and they say this is just what we wanted. We can say, sponsorship was great and we paid our bills. But also, you have to look at the fans and if the fans come out, we can say we have the opportunity to make this work in the future and we want to do this again."

"I'm really excited about the World Series coming back to Battle Creek. We are grateful that a (World Series) has been brought back because when we think of Battle Creek, we think of baseball."

Baseball history runs deep in Battle Creek

The history of baseball in Battle Creek runs deep. To this day, out at Bailey Park you will find the mark left by two of the individuals responsible for bringing a championship series to Battle Creek, Arch Flannery and C.O. Brown. It was the work of these two men that first brought a national amateur baseball championship series to Battle Creek in 1937, with the inaugural series being won by a team from St. Paul, Minnesota.

Since that time Battle Creek has had its share of great amateur teams compete during the summer months. In the early years we saw teams such as IPI, Fort Custer and Hall Drug. In more recent years we have watched Behnke/Bud compete for a title, and of course we saw Ferrari's win the Stan Musial title in 1986. The people of the Battle Creek community have had the privilege to watch local legends like Carl Angelo, Rick Beck, Larry Bentz, and Dave "Spider" Clark; to Major League ballplayers such as Carl Pavano, Roy Oswalt, Andre Ethier, and Johan Santana. We have even seen the likes of Babe Ruth, Hank Greenberg, and Lou Gehrig!

All of these great players and many more, graced the same fields that we play on today. This is because John W. Bailey Park has been a cornerstone for baseball in Battle Creek, MI since 1895.

For nearly 60 years Battle Creek was home to the Stan Musial World Series. In the past our facilities have been the home of Major League Baseball affiliates of the Houston Astros, The Boston Red Sox, The Tampa Bay Rays, and The New York Yankees. Currently, CO Brown Stadium is the home of the Battle Creek Bombers of the Northwoods League. Now we can say that are honored and humbled to be able bring an amateur baseball championship series back home to Battle Creek.

It is a privilege to be able to host this 100th Anniversary National Amateur Baseball Federation event. We hope that we can make proud all of those individuals that laid the groundwork before us. And we hope that we can make proud the people of the Battle Creek community. To many people in our area this is more than just baseball, it is an experience. We hope that you'll come be a part of Battle Creek's rich baseball history and come be a part of this wonderful experience.

2013 NABF WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS: PITTSBURGH ST. JOHNS LEFTY'S

POOL A

FT. WAYNE JOHN JACKERS (2-1)
FADELLS MECHANICS (2-1)
JOLIET DIRTBAGS (2-1)
BATTLE CREEK BEHNKE (1-2)

POOL B

PITTSBURGH ST. JOHNS (3-0)
BAY BROOK REMODELERS (2-1)
CHICAGO CLOUT (1-2)
BATTLE CREEK MERCHANTS (0-3)

POOL C

THE U-DIESEL (3-0)
CLIFTON CANES (2-1)
LOUISVILLE STAR DRYWALL (0-2)
WINDSOR STARS (0-2)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH

C.O. BROWN STADIUM

Battle Creek Behnke (0) vs. Ft. Wayne Jackers (1)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH

NICHOLS FIELD

Fedells Mechanics (6) vs. Joliet Dirtbags (7)

Louisville Star Drywall (0) vs. Clifton Canes (16)

Chicago Clout (0) vs. Bay Brook Remodelers (3)

C.O. BROWN STADIUM

Pittsburgh St. Johns (3) vs. Chicago Clout (0)

The U-Diesel (3) vs. Windsor Stars (2)

Battle Creek Behnke (1) vs. Fedells Mechanics (6)

MORRISON FIELD

Battle Creek Merchants (1) vs. Bay Brook Remodelers (2)

Ft. Wayne John Jackers (1) vs. Joliet Dirtbags (2)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH

NICHOLS FIELD

Pittsburgh St. Johns (12) vs. Battle Creek Merchants (0)

Ft. Wayne John Jackers (6) vs. Fedells Mechanics (7)

Louisville Star Drywall vs. Windsor Stars

C.O. BROWN STADIUM

Clifton Canes (8) vs. Windsor Stars (5)

Chicago Clout (15) vs. Battle Creek Merchants (0)

Battle Creek Behnke (10) vs. Joliet Dirtbags (0)

MORRISON FIELD

Louisville Star Drywall (1) vs. The U-Diesel (11)

Pittsburgh St. Johns (14) vs. Bay Brook Remodelers (9)

Clifton Canes (6) vs. The U-Diesel (11)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH

NICHOLS FIELD

Fedells Mechanics (4) vs. Clifton Canes (0)

C.O. BROWN STADIUM

Joliet Dirt Bags (2) vs. Bay Brook Remodelers (8)

Pittsburgh St. Johns (5) vs. Ft. Wayne John Jackers (2)

Buffalo U-Diesel (12) vs. Battle Creek Behnke (2)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH

C.O. BROWN STADIUM

Fedells Mechanics (11) vs. Buffalo The U-Deisel (1)

Pittsburgh St. Johns (6) vs. Bay Brook Remodeler (0)

C.O. BROWN STADIUM

Pittsburgh St. Johns (10) vs. Fedells Mechanics (1)

MAJOR DIVISION WORLD SERIES

OFFICIAL PHOTOS

in the NABF Tournament News

BY ART FRITH
www.battlecreekworldseries.com
artfrith@att.net

Articles reprinted with permission from the Battle Creek Enquirer

College World Series

Ten years later, Dodgers bring trophy back to St. Louis

By Warren Mayes
West Newsmagazine

It doesn't matter how you get there and the St. Louis Dodgers of the St. Louis Metro Collegiate Baseball League are living proof.

The Dodgers captured the North American Baseball Federation Collegiate World Series for teams with players 22 years old and under. The Dodgers went 7-0 in the tourney, scoring a 9-5 victory over Peppino's Pizza, of Grand Rapids, Mich., to earn the NABF crown.

Another St. Louis Metro League team, the Saints, also were in the tournament and reached the semifinals before losing 6-1 to Peppino's Pizza.

The last NABF title for St. Louis was 10 years ago. Now, the Dodgers, who have played in the World Series for three consecutive years, have given St. Louis a second title.

"It was really sweet," said Gus Lombardo, the Dodgers coach for the last five years. "It was exciting to win it all. The boys played really well."

Despite overall great play, there were a few tense moments.

In the quarterfinals, the tourney nearly ended for the Dodgers. The squad held on for a 10-9 win over the Oil City Stags, of Mount Pleasant, Mich. The Dodgers were up 10-4 but almost let the lead slip away.

"The team got a little lackadaisical," Lombardo said.

In the semifinal game, the Dodgers defeated the defending NABF champion Michigan Bulls, of Livonia, Mich., 4-2.

"The Michigan Bulls, that's a great team," Lombardo said. "They had a great pitcher who threw a really heavy ball. We broke four bats in the game. We started Andrew David in our first game and we brought him back to this game. His change-up was great."

Michigan took a 2-1 lead. In the eighth inning, Matt Donovan hit a two-run single with runners on second and third to give the Dodgers a 3-2 lead.

That set up the championship game.

The Dodgers started Tyler Omlid, who will be a sophomore at Maryville University and is Parkway South graduate. Omlid pitched six innings before being hit by a line drive on the ankle, forcing Lombardo to pull him. That was not the only injury. Outfielder Mitchell Lovelace hit a double and pulled a hamstring going into second base. Derek Page replaced Lovelace.

"We were playing with eight players and a pitcher," Lombardo said. "I didn't have a designated hitter."

The Dodgers were losing 5-3 going into the top of the ninth. Josh Stevens led off and struck out on a 3-2 count.

"It was a high pitch," Lombardo said. "It would have been ball four."

However, catcher Mark Henken, a Eureka graduate who plays at Southwestern Illinois College, hit a double down left field line. Pinch hitter Kyle Schikore, a St. Charles graduate who plays at Alabama-Huntsville, drew a walk after fouling off four pitches.

Eureka graduate Aaron Schnurbusch, who attends Johnson County Community College, doubled off the right center field wall to score Henken. Donovan was walked intentionally to load the bases. Then, Matt Brown, a 2013 graduate from Vianney who will play at Arkansas, doubled down the right field line to give the Dodgers a 6-5 lead. Wentzville's Blake Farley, who plays at Missouri Baptist, hit an infield single over the pitcher's head for another run. A passed ball allowed one more and the Dodgers were in good shape.

"We scored six runs in the top of the ninth inning," Lombardo said. "That says something about this team. They never quit."

Marquette graduate Dustin Graves, who plays at Fontbonne, closed out the win for the Dodgers. Graves gave up a single to start inning. However, a 6-4-3 double play left him one out away. A fly out to center field sealed the championship.

Dodgers pitcher David, who is from Pacific, was named the Series' MVP.

Peppino's Pizza players included Corey Sessions (Davenport University), Ian Yetko (Oakland University), Cameron Cooper (Davenport), Kory Brown (Muskegon CC), Caleb Barager (Jackson CC), Conner Seymour (Davenport), Mitch Trzeciak



St. Louis Dodgers — 2013 NABF College Division champions. Team members are Tyler Omlid (Maryville University), Matt Duнавant (Eastern Illinois), Aaron Schnurbusch (Johnson County), Mark Hencken (SWIC), Kyle Schikore (Alabama Huntsville), Mike Patterson (Jefferson College), Drew Schlereth (Fontbonne), Dustin Dalton (SWIC), Kyle Pennington, Blake Farley (Missouri Baptist), Josh Stephans (Lindenwood University), Derek Page (Eastern Illinois), Andrew David (Tufts University), Kyle Wilson (SWIC), Ryan Simmons (SWIC), Dustin Graves (Fontbonne), Nathan Lambert (Jefferson College), Matt Brown (Arkansas), and Mitchell Lovelace (Jefferson College). The manager is Gus Lombardo and coaches are Scott Brown and Adam Stahl.



The St. Louis Dodgers celebrate the NABF College World Series championship 9-5 win over Peppino's Pizza in style at Mercy Field, home field for Lourdes College.

(Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne), Timothy Steffes (Davenport), Ryan Eible (Miami University), Drew Farmer (Western Michigan), Jordan Zystra (Ball State University), Brendan Bender (Davenport), Jamie Potts (Grand Valley State), Dylan VanPutten (Grand Rapids CC), Corey Murphy (Davenport), Corbin Clouse (Davenport), Michael Meade (Davenport), Steven Schulling (Davenport), Skylar Hoke (Grand Valley State), Jerry Ferris (Davenport), Ryan Butzer (Davenport), Derek Dennis (Davenport), Zachary Johnson (University of Michigan), and Jacob Morton (Oakland University).

Peppino's manager is Kevin Tidey and coaches are Ryan McCosky and Chris Opel.

Other teams participating were the Toledo Hawks (host), Crystal Lake Cardinals, Dunkirk Boilers, Strongsville Americans, Michigan Rams, P&W Painting, Shrub Oak High Impact, Ohio Glaciers, Long Island Astros, Buffalo Leibs, Maryland Black Barons, Dix Hills Dodgers, and Rotterdam Rangers.

Multiple games were telecast by Buckeye Cable Sports Network, the presenting sponsor. To purchase game videos, visit www.bcsn.tv. Peppino's represented the Western Michigan Baseball League.



St. Louis Dodgers manager receives the College World Series trophy from tournament official Sherrie Shipman.

2013 NABF College World Series All-Tournament Team

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:
Andrew David, St. Louis Dodgers
Batting Champ:
Alex Borglin, Michigan Bulls

PITCHERS:
Steven Schulling, Peppino's Pizza (Davenport University)
Andrew David, St. Louis Dodgers (Tufts University)
Jeremy Gooding, Michigan Bulls (Madonna University)
Dustin Dalton, St. Louis Dodgers (SWIC)
Evan Piechota, Michigan Rams (Madonna University)
Kevin Hughes, Buffalo Leibs (University of Buffalo)

CATCHERS:
Zachary Johnson, Peppino's Pizza (University of Michigan)
Mark Henchen, St. Louis Dodgers (SWIC)

INFIELDERS:
Utility: Alex Ricica, Toledo Hawks (Purdue University)
1B: John Lauro, Michigan Bulls (Madonna University)
2B: Alex Borglin, Michigan Bulls (Central Michigan University)
3B: Ian Vetsko, Peppino's Pizza (Oakland University)
SS: Blake Farley, St. Louis Dodgers (Missouri Baptist)

OUTFIELDERS:
Drew Farmer, Peppino's Pizza (Western Michigan University)
Aaron Schnurbusch, St. Louis Dodgers (Johnson County)
Nathan Pollock, Crystal Lake Cardinals (Western Illinois)
Louie Payetta, Crystal Lake Cardinals (Fresno State University)
Sam Fischer, Toledo Hawks (Adrian College)

Senior World Series

Maryland Monarchs nip Creekside Fitness for 18U trophy

By Steve Wilaj

In a championship game that saw numerous momentum swings, Creekside Fitness manager Terry Landis thought his team caught the final break.

Trailing by one run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, Creekside's Brandon Ritchie lifted a short popup to right field. Although it appeared catchable, the ball dropped between the Maryland Monarch defense and tied the National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series matchup at 6.

"I thought that gave us the boost to win the game," Landis said.

But as was the case all afternoon, Creekside couldn't take full advantage. The Monarchs escaped the ninth inning with the game still tied and went on to win the NABF championship, 7-6, in 10 innings Sunday at Cene Park. The winning run scored on a sacrifice fly by tournament MVP Isaiah Pasteur.

The Monarchs, managed by Minnesota Twins scout Tom Keating and American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame coach Bernie Walter, were a perfect 6-0 during the four-day tournament in Struthers, Ohio. The Monarchs are based in Gambrills, Maryland, located in Anne Arundel County. It is their second NABF Senior national championship, previously winning in 2009.

"It was like a roller coaster of emotions," said Maryland manager Tom Keating. "You think the game's over with a routine pop, but that happens and right then you're a little vulnerable as a team. But these kids didn't blame anyone. They just said, 'We got out of that inning and now we have to play to win.'"

In Creekside pitcher Dave Lemaster's ninth inning of work, Jon Lucido singled to start the 10th. Jimmy Davis followed with a sacrifice bunt, Raekwon Sample singled and Syeed Mahdi was intentionally walked to load the bases with one out. That set the stage for Pasteur.

"Both teams played well," Landis said. "But the difference in the game was they hit when they were supposed to and we didn't."

With the game tied at 4, Creekside loaded the bases with nobody out in the top of the fifth inning. But Maryland pitcher Ryan Callahan struck out Ritchie looking and got Nick Staller to hit into a 4-6-3 double play.

In the bottom half, a two-out single by Lucido brought home two runs to give the Monarchs a 6-4 advantage.

"Yeah, that was a big key to the game," Creekside catcher Dan Ferguson said of the fifth. "But they have to do their part and make plays, too. They weren't gonna give us the game."

Each team committed three errors, but the Monarchs turned three double plays.

"They left some runners on and we played good defense at the right times," Keating said. "We had some errors and they did as well, so it wasn't a real clean game. But it was definitely a battle."

Creekside answered with one run in the sixth on a run-scoring bunt by Steve Sada. From then on, both pitchers settled in. Lemaster worked 82/3 innings in relief and took the loss. He allowed four runs on eight hits.

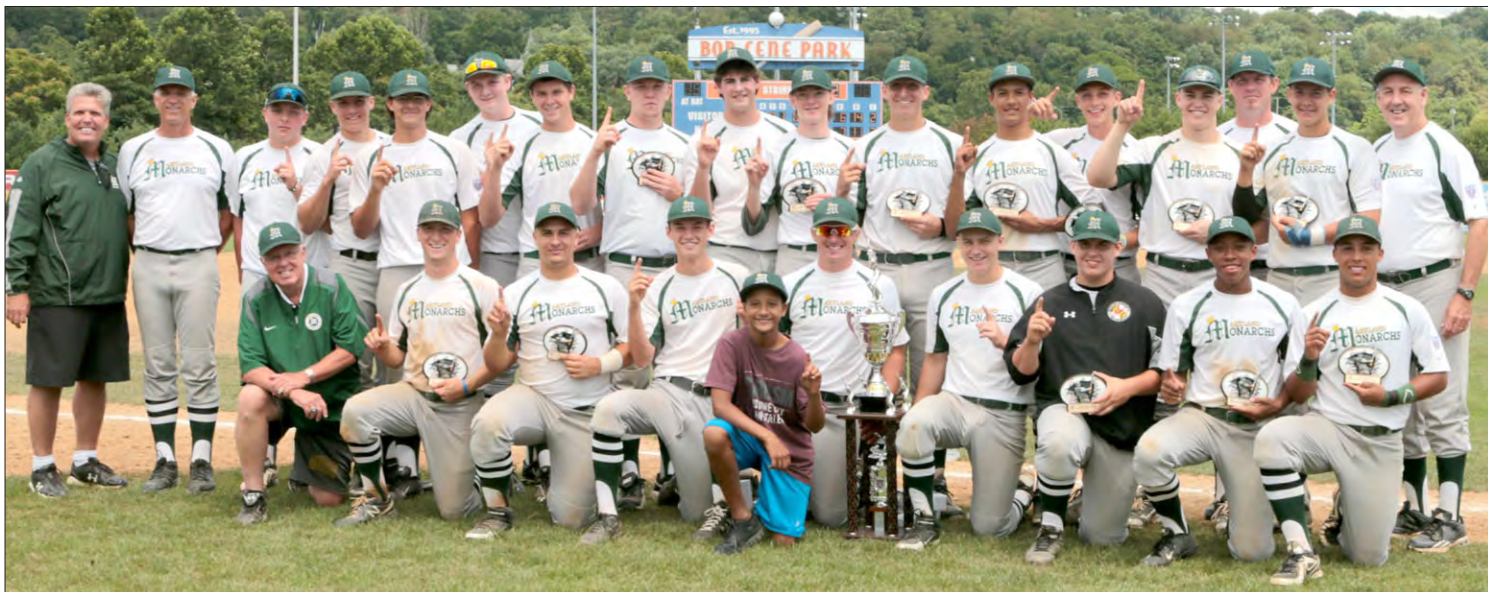
"He was only on a couple days rest and gave eight strong innings, so that's a stud for you," Ferguson said. "I was just out there dealing," Lemaster said. "I was just doing what I'm supposed to do."

Callahan maintained the lead for Maryland, as he went 4 1/3 innings in relief and allowed just one run. Drew Spinnenwebber (Chesapeake High School) picked up the victory, allowing one run in pitching the final two innings. Lucido, Sample and Davis all had two hits for the Monarchs. Ferguson and Sada paced Creekside with three hits each.

"They did a great job with this tournament and everything came down to how you wanted it," Keating said. "An exciting 10-inning game – but somebody's gotta win and somebody's gotta lose. We were lucky enough to be on the winning end."

Monarchs finish 29-5

In the semifinal, the Monarchs defeated the Michigan Bulls, 4-1, behind Pasteur (Winter Mills HS), who was the winning pitcher. Lead-off hitter Syeed Mahdi (Arundel HS) reached base three times, including a double and two walks to lead the offense.



Maryland Monarchs — 2013 National Amateur Baseball Federation Senior Division champions.



Jon Lucido (St. Paul's for Boys High School) scoring the winning run for the Maryland Monarchs.



Maryland Monarch's Connor McCowan pitching in the championship game.

The Monarchs opened pool play with a 4-2 victory over Toyota of Warren (Ohio). Steve Hogan (Southern HS) was the winning pitcher and Tom Dyson (Broadneck HS) earned a save.

Then, the Monarchs routed the Easton St. Louis Tigers, 17-0. Koby Overstreet (North County HS) pitched a no-hitter with five strikeouts in seven innings. Jon Lucido (St. Paul's for Boys HS) went 2-for-4 and drove in the winning run. Syeed Mahdi racked up three RBIs on two hits. Nic Fisher (Chesapeake) homered in the rout.

In their third pool play contest, the Monarchs downed Chicago's Top Tier, 11-6. Drew Spinnenwebber was the winning pitcher. Brian Parreira's (Broadneck HS) two-run



Maryland Monarch's Ryan Callahan pitching in the championship game.

single put the Monarchs ahead to stay.

In its final pool play game, the Monarchs routed the Troy American Legion, 15-1. Dyson was the winning pitcher. Pasteur had two RBIs on three hits, including a home run.

Monarchs all-tourney players were Pasteur, a shortstop and pitcher, Fallon, a first baseman, Lucido, an outfielder, right-handed pitcher Koby Overstreet (North County HS), and Raekwon sample, an outfielder from Bennett High school.

The Monarchs finished with a 29-5 record, which included a 12-0 record in tournament play. That also included a championship in the Beast of the East Tournament in Wheeling, West Virginia.

2013 NABF Senior World Series All-Tournament Team

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:
Isaiah Pasteur, Maryland Monarchs
Batting Champ:
Steve Sada, Creekside Fitness

PITCHERS:
Coby Overstreet, Maryland Monarchs
Brandon Ritchie, Creekside Fitness
Eli Flynn, Creekside Fitness
Ryan Colombo, Topeka Stars
Connor Riley, Top Tier
Jake Lee, Michigan Bulls

CATCHER:
Dan Ferguson, Creekside Fitness

DESIGNATED HITTER:
Jake Forgraves, Team Ontario

UTILITY:
Isaiah Pasteur, Maryland Monarchs
Kolt Nealeigh, Troy American Legion
Zak Moses, Brownlee Lookouts

INFIELDERS:
1B: Tim Fallon, Maryland Monarchs
2B: Glen Reeves, Team Ontario
3B: Frank Perrone, Top Tier
SS: Steve Sada, Creekside Fitness

OUTFIELDERS:
Raekwon Sample, Maryland Monarchs
Jon Lucido, Maryland Monarchs
Dylan Jones, Creekside Fitness
Evan Bowling, Troy American Legion
Jordan Rabits, Martin Oil
Jason Barton, Brooklyn Bonnies
Brandon Wells, Astro Falcons

High School World Series

Long Island's Marucci Titans muscle way to championship

After a rain soaked Sunday afternoon and canceled semi finals and championship, the High School World Series resumed on Monday afternoon.

The Marucci Titans, from Long Island, New York, faced off with the Maryland Monarchs. The Marucci Titans flexed their muscle out of the gate and never looked back, winning 8-2.

Jack Piekos dominated on the mound for the Marucci Titans pitching a complete game. Piekos gave up four hits and struck out eight.

Marucci was led offensively by tournament MVP Aaron Floyd who went 2-for-3 with a homerun and two walks. All Tournament performer Rob Calabrese went 3-for-4.

Trailing 4-0 in the bottom of the third inning, the Maryland Monarch mounted their only threat, but Piekos pitched out of the jam by forcing Will O'Hara to ground in to a double play. The Monarchs were led offensively by Jarius Hampton, who went 2-3 and scored a run.

More than 700 athletes from across the United States and Canada competed for the World Series Championship. Events concluded July 21 with the ultimate National Championship game at Lindsey-Nelson Stadium on the University of Tennessee campus.



The Marucci Titans from Long Island, N.Y., won the 2013 National Amateur Baseball Federation High School Division World Series championship in Knoxville, Tenn.

2013 NABF High School World Series All-Tournament Team

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:
Aaron Floyd, Marucci Titans

Batting Champ:
Jon Lane, Maryland Monarchs

PITCHERS:
Chris Weiss, Marucci Titans
Matt Kreeke, Team Cincinnati
Connor Van Hoose, Virginia Shamrocks
Blake Bird, Virginia Shamrocks
Clay Walker, Halls Red Devils
Logan McMahon, Halls Red Devils

CATCHERS:
Seth Strong, Troy Bombers
Rob Callabrese, Marucci Titans

UTILITY:
Trey Carpenter, Gibbs Eagles
Chris Sambour, Midwest Outlaws


INFIELDERS:
1B: Zack Gray, Team Cincinnati
2B: Will O'Hara, Maryland Monarchs
3B: Juan Villalobos, Brooklyn Cougars
SS: Michael Metz, Top Tier

OUTFIELDERS:
David Donbrinich, Top Tier
Aaron Floyd, Marucci Titans
Steve Foster, Marucci Titans
Jack Piekos, Marucci Titans
Drew Spinnerwebber, Maryland Monarchs
Jon Lane, Maryland Monarchs



USABASEBALL.COM
THE OFFICIAL WEB SITE OF USA BASEBALL





Frazier Insurance Agency, Inc.

Specialty Brokers

8002 Discovery Drive, Suite 415
Richmond, Virginia 23229

Contact Us For Your Insurance Needs

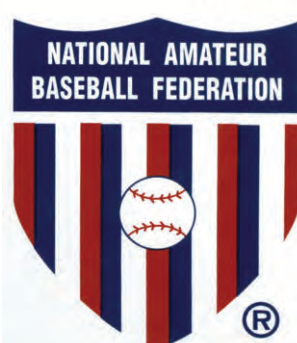
<p>Sports Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Camps/Clinics Fund Raising Events Tournaments Medical Teams Leagues 	<p>Special Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Sports Fund Raisers Prize Events Carnivals Festivals Dinners/Dances Concerts Picnics
---	---

PH: (804) 754-7610

FAX: (804) 754-7613

E-Mail: Frazierins@aol.com

WEB: www.frazierinsurance.com



Trophies By

VILLAGE TROPHY CO.

1217 W. THIRD AVE. COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

(614) 299-7570

Quality - Value - Service



Trophies - Plaques - Awards

Junior World Series

Team Cincinnati gets late charge to down SAYO Grays, 11-4

The Junior Division World Series championship was a tight game until Team Cincinnati scored four late runs for the 11-4 victory over SAYO Grays on Sunday, July 28 at Hillside.

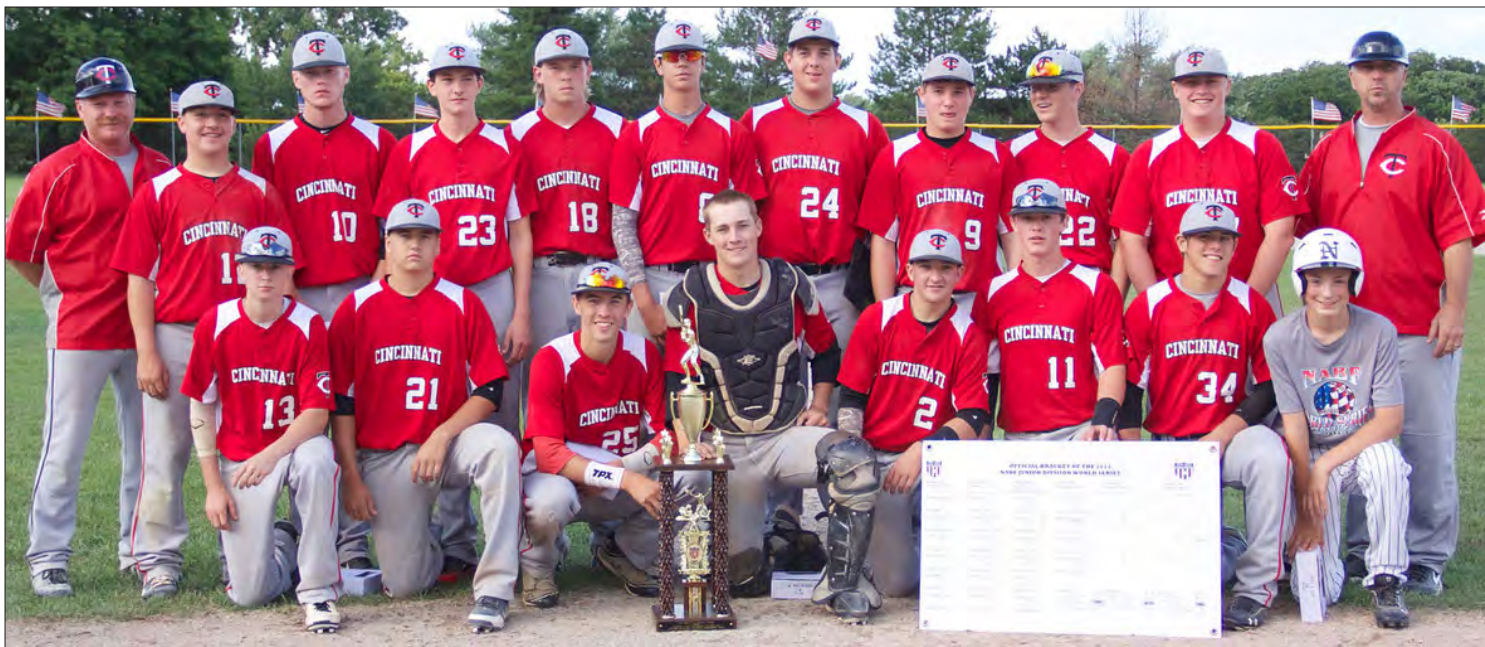
The teams traded runs for most of the contest, leading to five lead changes in the game. Team Cincinnati, from Hamilton, Ohio, pulled out the win over the Grays, from Brooklyn, N.Y., thanks to a strong fifth inning. They scored on an RBI single by Andrew Kreke off Christopher Sanchez, scoring Alex Holderbach. Team Cincinnati's Dallas Robinson, the tournament MVP, was perfect at the dish, going 2-for-2. He singled in the first inning and homered in the third inning.

Harland Poch got the win in relief for Team Cincinnati. Poch pitched four innings and allowed one run. The top of the first saw Team Cincinnati take an early lead, 2-0. Their offense woke up as Ryan Robinson singled before Dallas Robinson singled, plating R. Robinson. Team Cincinnati then tacked on more runs when Holderbach scored on an RBI single by Jacob Stewart.

It didn't take long for SAYO Grays to answer as they scored two runs of their own in the first. They scored on an RBI single by Anthony Rosario and a sacrifice fly by Jonel Ramon Ozuna. SAYO Grays scored another run in the third with a solo home run by Anthony.

Team Cincinnati added four more runs in the top of the seventh to stretch their lead even more. Team Cincinnati's Jacob Stewart was named Batting Champion of the tournament with a .538 batting average. This was the second time in two years the Sayo Grays made it to the championship game.

Team Cincinnati went 4-2 in the tournament after being placed in Pool B. The SAYO Grays were 4-2, qualifying out of Pool A. Other teams participating were the Northville Broncos (Northville, Mich.), Lincoln Park Rails (Lincoln Park, Mich.), Creekside Fitness (Youngstown, Ohio), Long Island Titans (NY), PAL Nationals (Hauppauge, NY), Allen Baseball Club (Houston, Tex.), Toronto Mets (Canada), Top Tier Nationals (Chicago), Hurricanes Select (Cleveland), and Twin Town Devil Cats (North Greenbush, NY).



Team Cincinnati — 2013 National Amateur Baseball Federation Junior Division champions



SAYO Grays — 2013 National Amateur Baseball Federation Junior Division runner-up



Cincinnati pitching performed well.



Team Cincinnati celebrates with their Junior World Series championship trophy.



2013 NABF Junior World Series All-Tournament Team

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:
Dallas Robinson, Team Cincinnati
Batting Champ:
Jacob Stewart, Team Cincinnati

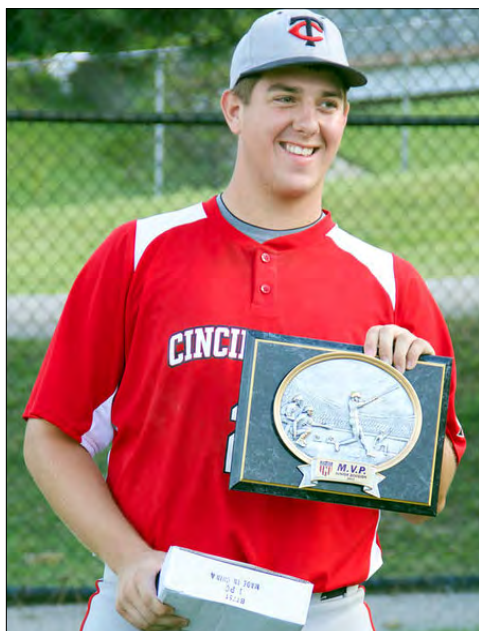
PITCHERS:
Evan Layne, SAYO Grays
Ivan Rivera, SAYO Grays
Joe Williams, Twin Town Devil Cats

CATCHERS:
Rick Svetiak, Creekside Fitness
Brandon Knapp, Hurricanes Select

UTILITY:
Osman Quintana, Allen Baseball Club
Dallas Robinson, Team Cincinnati

INFIELDERS:
1B: Anthony Rosario, SAYO Grays
2B: Alex Holderbach, Team Cincinnati
3B: Joseph Watts, Hurricanes Select
SS: Caleb Brachbill, Top Tier Nationals

OUTFIELDERS:
Darlan Blanks, Twin Town Devil Cats
Andrew Hetterich, Team Cincinnati
Jacob Stewart, Team Cincinnati
Nick Rutherford, Hurricanes Select
Tony Kwon, Toronto Mets
Ian Wilson, Toronto Mets
Jack Ernst, Northville Broncos



Junior World Series Most Valuable Player Dallas Robinson, Team Cincinnati.



Team Cincinnati delivers at the plate in the championship game.

BE BASEBALL EXPRESS

PRESENTED BY TEAM EXPRESS | AMERICA'S PREMIER TEAM DEALER | TEAMEXPRESS.COM



Baseball Express is the Official Online Retailer and Team Dealer for the National Amateur Baseball Federation®



Baseball Express is a Proud Sponsor of the NABF® Scholarship Fund

TEAMEXPRESS.COM TOLL-FREE 866.816.9892
TEAMSALES@TEAMEXPRESS.COM

BASEBALLEXPRESS.COM 800.937.4824
USE MEDIA CODE PTNABF13* AND TAKE \$10 OFF
YOUR NEXT ORDER OF \$99 OR MORE!

*Enter code PTNABF13 at checkout. Offer available for a limited time with your purchase of \$99 or more (pre-tax and pre-shipping). Offer is limited to \$10 off purchase. Offer valid for online purchases only. Entire order must be shipped to a single address. Does not apply to retail store purchases, prior purchases, or open orders and cannot be combined with any other offer. Customer is responsible for shipping costs on returned merchandise. May not be used towards purchase of gift cards, gift certificates, pitching machines, balls, drop ship items, team orders or select items. May not be redeemed for cash. Promotion may be modified or terminated at any time. Certain restrictions may apply.



2007 Champs

2009 Champs

When You've Earned It!

As the exclusive manufacturer of NABF Championship Rings, we help celebrate your victories and participation in the NABF. Visit our website to see the complete range of Championship Rings designed for champs like you.

Walt McDonald, your exclusive representative
Tel: 919-933-3389 | swltd@nc.rr.com
www.ringawardsmtm.com



Centennial



2005 Champs

Sophomore World Series

Saratoga Stampede wins 1-0 battle over Rangers in title game

By Chris Humphreys
Lynchburg News and Advance

The Saratoga Stampede's Jake Kerr and Jake Fauler combined to throw a three-hit shutout against the PAL Rangers as the Stampede scored a 1-0 victory over the Rangers in the championship game of the 2013 NABF Sophomore Division World Series on Sunday in Altavista's War Memorial Park.

Together Saratoga's pitchers allowed just three hits, a walk and struck out six. Kerr started the game and went 3 2/3 innings. Fauler picked up the victory by throwing the last 3 1/3.

"Those two guys pitched outstanding," Stampede manager George Coleman said. "All of our pitchers pitched outstanding (during the tournament). Five guys started games for us (on the mound) and in most cases also pitched in relief. They are the strength of our team; pitching and defense."

"I had my fastball (working)," Kerr said. "I just tried to blow it past them and just pretty much overpower them. I started struggling a little bit, but it was easy to pass (the ball) onto the next guy because I have confidence in all my teammates."

"It feels great (to win the tournament)," Fauler said. "The curveball was working good and my fastball. That last pitch was huge. I didn't even look (back to center field). I knew Keegan (Leffler) was going to catch it."

The Stampede scored the game's only run in the top of the sixth. Alex Hite and Austin Patterson drew walks to lead-off the inning. Then Leffler dropped down a sacrifice bunt, but PAL pitcher Sciarrotta threw to third, but his throw was late, which loaded the bases with nobody out.

Finally, Brendan Frank rifled a ball into left that was inches away from getting over left fielder's head, but was deep enough to allow Hite tag-up and score. The Rangers best chance to score came in the third inning when they had runners on the corners and nobody out, but couldn't get a run across home plate.

Kerr coaxed a groundball to Saratoga shortstop, Danny Coleman, who spotted that PAL's Jake Sciarrotta had strayed into no-man's land between third and home.

Coleman wheeled toward Sciarrotta and eventually caught the Rangers' player in run-down to get the first out. Then with runners on first and second, Kerr got cleanup hitter, Evan Ambos, to hit a groundball to the second baseman, Frank, who shoveled the ball to Coleman to get the force-out at second base.

Finally with runners on first and third, Kerr got Dylan Towey to pop-up to Coleman for the last out of the inning and escape the jam unscathed.

"It's the little things," Coleman said. "I've been telling these guys all year that it could come down to a bunt, a sac-fly or a groundball that is a productive out. We didn't do a lot of that this year, but we did it today."

Sciarrotta was collared with the loss. He went six innings allowed one run, four hits, walked five and struck out two. Sciarrotta, John Marti and Mike Kennedy each had a single for the Rangers. Joe Barbuto worked a scoreless seventh for PAL.

Kerr was 2-for-4, Austin Patterson drew a pair of walks and Frank went 1-for-1 with a sacrifice bunt, a sacrifice fly and a stolen base. Coleman was the tournament's batting champion and Fauler was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

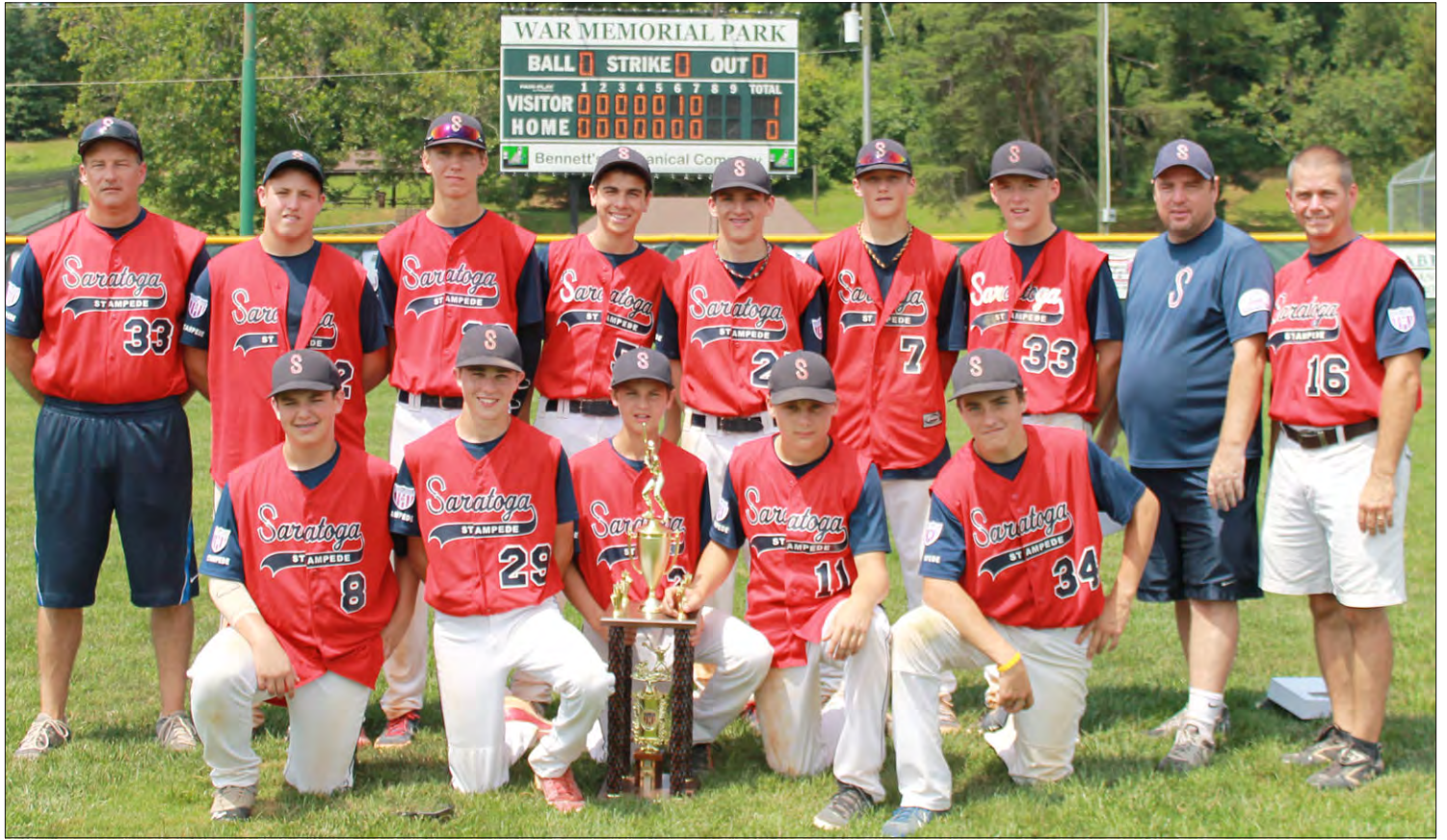
"I am very proud," Coleman said. "They worked hard. They progressed tremendously from day one until today. I think they all matured a lot and understood the little things mean a lot. They are baseball players."

"They were great hosts here in Altavista," Coleman said. "They did a tremendous job and we are very happy to be bringing the trophy home."

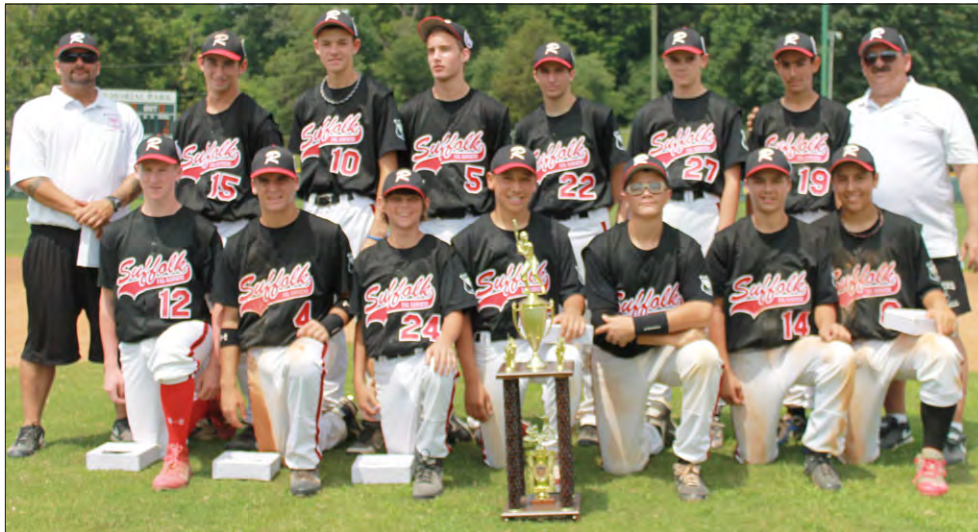
Saturday's game story

After rallying in sixth inning to defeat E.C. Glass in the semifinals of the NABF 2013 Sophomore World Series, Amherst just couldn't seem to get anything going against the Saratoga Stampede in the semifinals and had its dreams of an undefeated season dashed in a 15-1 loss.

"We had a pretty emotional game earlier in the day," Lancers coach Jerry Hise said. "We came back late (to knock off the Hilltop-



Saratoga Stampede — 2013 National Amateur Baseball Federation Sophomore Division champions — 1st Row L to R: Nick Lushkevich, Keegan Leffler, Will Messier, Brendan Frank, and Will Navin. 2nd Row L to R: Team Manager George Coleman, Austin Patterson, Alex Hite, Colin Bradley, Jake Fauler, Danny Coleman, Jake Kerr, Coach Chris Kerr, and Coach Matt Fauler.



PAL Rangers — Sophomore Division runner-up — 1st Row L to R: Kyle Wappaus, Jake Sciarrotta, Wade Gagliano, Miguel Almanzar, Dylan Towey, Cody Dilworth, John Marti. 2nd Row L to R: Coach Joe Strazza, Matt Murray, Steve Burke, Evan Ambos, Joe Barbuto, Mike Sangiamo, Mike Kennedy, Team Manager Jon Zaturon (not pictured - Ed Crohan, Bench Coach).



MVP Jake Fauler and Tournament Director Rob Finch.



Batting Champ Danny Coleman and Tournament Director Rob Finch.

pers). No excuses, but I thought we came a little flat tonight. Then we got down. Not to take anything away from them. They hit the baseball and their kid threw it really well."

Saratoga advances to today's championship game against PAL Rangers at 10 a.m. at Altavista's War Memorial Park. The game was originally scheduled for 1 p.m., but moved up to hopefully avoid the thunderstorms predicted in the afternoon.

The Stampede pounded out 14 hits and drew seven walks. Eleven different players had either a hit or a walk. Five different players drove in at least one run and seven different players scored at least a run. Saratoga scored at least two runs in each of the first four innings.

"We've been hitting the ball well all tournament except when we (lost to Am-

herst 2-1 during pool play)," Stampede coach George Coleman said. "Amherst is a solid team. Everything happened just right for us and we put 15 runs on the board."

Meanwhile Saratoga's starting pitcher Keegan Leffler was shutting down Amherst. Leffler went the distance allowing just one run, five hits, walked none and struck out three.

"He pitched a great game," Coleman said. "He threw strikes, got a lot ground balls and we played great defense behind him."

The Lancers were 12-0 in the regular season. They were the only team to win all three of their games during the World Series' pool play stage and they defeated Glass in the quarterfinals before falling to Saratoga and finishing with a 16-1 record.

2013 NABF Sophomore World Series All-Tournament Team

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:
Jake Fauler, Saratoga Stampede
Batting Champ:
Danny Coleman, Saratoga Stampede

PITCHERS:
Keegan Leffler, Saratoga Stampede
Jake Fauler, Saratoga Stampede
Steve Burke, PAL Rangers
Will Knight, Amherst
Travis Savino, SAYO Grays
Luke Bryant, EC Glass

CATCHERS:
Nathan Loyd, Amherst
Sam Brioso, SAYO Grays

UTILITY INFELDERS:
Danny Coleman, Saratoga Stampede
Hunter Hall, EC Glass

INFELDERS:
1B: Jake Fauler, Saratoga Stampede
2B: Brendan Frank, Saratoga Stampede
3B: Austin Patterson, Saratoga Stampede
SS: Will Knight, Amherst

OUTFIELDERS:
Tre Alexander, EC Glass
Donald Drummond, Creedside Fitness
Evan Ambos, PAL Rangers
Steve Burke, PAL Rangers
Steven Farmer, Altavista
Rob Chiarelli, Long Island Titans

DESIGNATED HITTER:
Paco Bello, Jackson 96ers

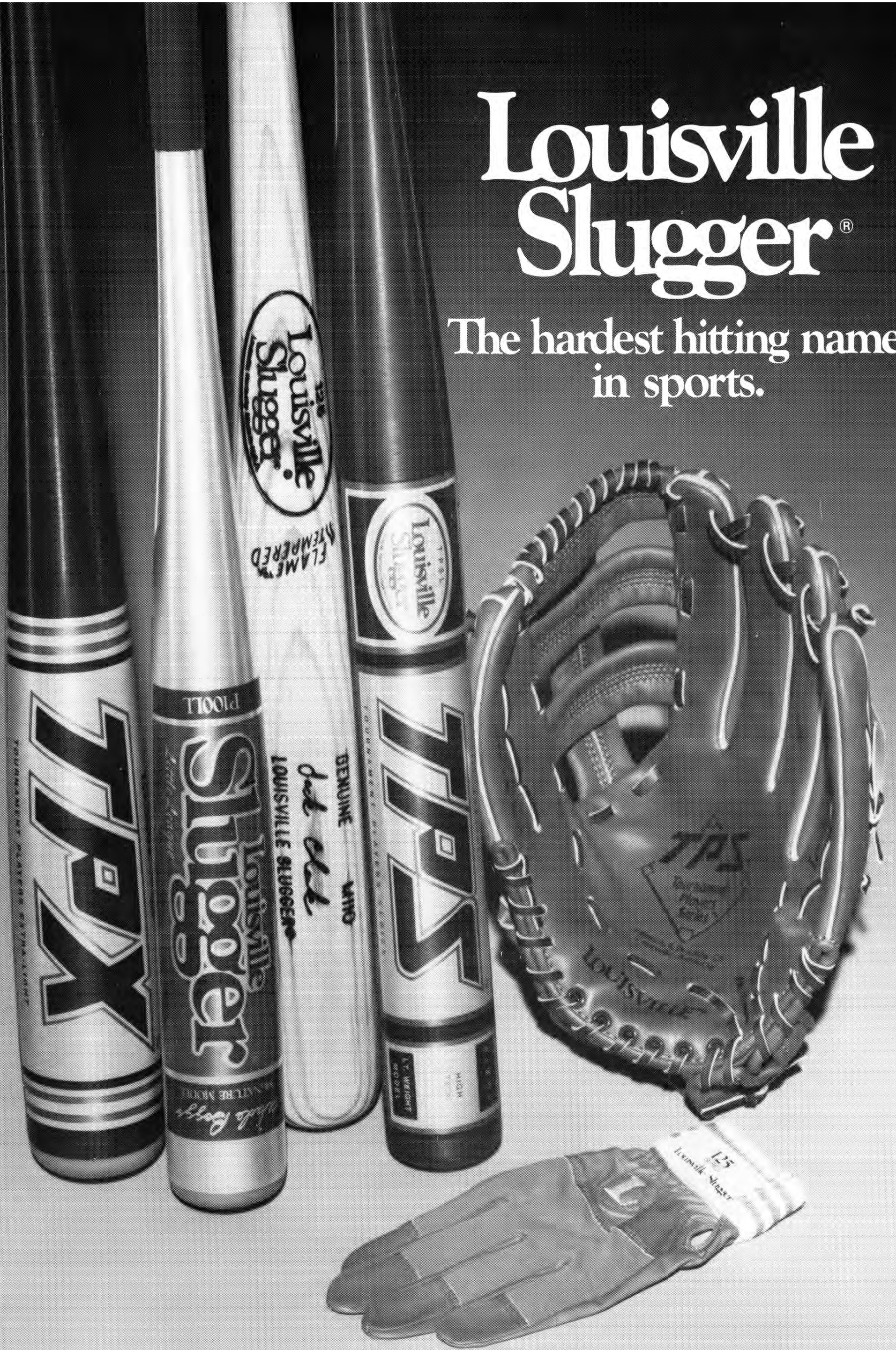
"It was a tough way to lose your first game of the season, but that is a talented bunch of kids and they play really hard," Hise said. "We had a blast. It was a privilege for coach Roy (Dix) and I to get the chance to come out here and represent Lancers' baseball. We are very pleased to have played as well as we did."

Will Knight was 2-for-3 and drove in the Lancers' only run. Thomas Thacker was 1-2 and scored Amherst's only run. Logan Rosser was 2-for-2.

Amherst rallied for seven runs in the bottom of the sixth inning in the 10-4 victory over E.C. Glass. In that game Knight earned the victory on the mound and was 2-for-3. Travis Wood and Mike Morgan were both 2-for-4 with two RBIs. Rosser was 2-3 with an RBI.

Louisville Slugger®

The hardest hitting name in sports.



Freshman World Series

Indiana Bulls avenge loss to Canes, win Freshman championship

By Chris Van Tuyl

Time had run out on the Lids Indiana Bulls during their last youth baseball encounter with the Evoshield Canes.

The 12-year-old division contest was played May 5 at White Top Creek Park in Bristol, TN. It was won by Evoshield, 4-3.

Just over two months later, the Bulls got a little revenge, defeating the Canes to capture the National Amateur Baseball Federation World Classic championship at Snowden Grove Park in Southaven, MD.

With ample contributions from Luca McNew, the TravelballSelect.com 11U National Player of the Year for 2012, Indiana rallied for a 6-3 victory and will now represent the NABF at the National Youth Baseball Championships of Memphis. The sixth annual event runs from Aug. 22-26 at the Gameday Baseball Complex.

"We came here for one reason," said Bulls coach Mike Helton, "and that was qualifying for the NYBC. And we did it." Indiana saw McNew belt a pair of home runs — a solo shot in the second inning and a two-run blast in the fifth. He also walked, stole second and scored on Brodey Heaton's two-run homer in the fourth inning. Said Helton: "He did his job. He shows up everyday... he's the best 12-year-old player I've seen."

Both the Bulls and the Canes entered the title game undefeated at 7-0. Evoshield jumped on the scoreboard early after Joseph Nunn's second-inning, two-run homer.

"Big-time effort," said Canes coach Brian Singsank. "We hit the ball well all week — probably the best we've hit it all spring and summer."

Stephen Hazlett broke a 3-3 tie in the fifth for the Bulls with an RBI single. Two batters later, McNew put the finishing touches on his big day.

The success was attributed to one main thing: "Lots and lots of practice," he said. "(The win) feels great."

McNew started on the mound and threw four strong innings, including striking out the side in the top of the first. The Canes got to Hazlett, the first of two Indiana relievers, with Garrett McMillan's RBI single in the fifth. Evoshield's Nate Burton doubled to left with two outs in the sixth,

2013 NABF Freshman World Series All-Tournament Team

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:
Lucas McNew, LIDS Indiana Bulls

PITCHERS:
Rob Hill, Warriors
Steven Hazlett, LIDS Indiana Bulls
Cameron Derryberry, Spalding Athletics
Joseph Nunn, Evoshield Canes
Blake Adams, Arkansas Mighty Ducks
Lucas McNew, LIDS Indiana Bulls

CATCHERS:
Kyren Williams, Rawlings Prospects
William Cialone, PTI Maniacs

INFIELDERS:
1B: Brock Pounders, Arkansas Mighty Ducks
2B: Brandon Dixon, Dallas Tigers
3B: Cade Morgan, Spalding Athletics
SS: Alex Hernenway, LIDS Indiana Bulls

OUTFIELDERS:
T. Rios, PTI Maniacs
Dominic Johnson, Academy Sun Devils
Jaden Woodson, Dallas Tigers

but Jack Vanover closed the door by coaxing Jake Brown to ground out to first.

The Bulls won three of their four pool-play games by one run — scoring 24 times. Upon the arrival of bracket play, the offense flexed its muscle with victories over Dodgers Baseball (11-3), the Missouri Gators (8-0) and AR Mighty Ducks (9-6).

"Our bats always do the talking and that's basically what happened," Helton said. "It was a total team effort." The Canes posted three shutouts and scored a tournament-best 83 runs. "We couldn't be prouder of the kids," Singsank said. "Lids, in my opinion, is one of the five or six best teams in the country, so it's not something to hang your head about."



LIDS Indiana Bulls— 2013 NABF Freshman Division champions.



Evoshield Canes — 2013 NABF Freshman Division runner-up.

National Youth Baseball

SY Titans top BPA DeMarini for National Youth Baseball title

By Spencer Fordin
MLB.com

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — David Lawrence is running out of motivational techniques.

Lawrence, coach of the SY Titans, found himself bursting at the seams with pride and emotion on Monday, when his team was crowned the champion of the National Youth Baseball Championships.

Those four groups — the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), the National Amateur Baseball Federation (NABF), Super Series Baseball of America and the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSA) — come together at the NYBC to crown one national champion in the age group. The LIDS Indiana Bulls represented the NABF.

The Titans, a late qualifier to the tournament, capped off their fantastic run with a 12-2 mercy rule victory over BPA DeMarini in the championships. And in the moments after their victory, Lawrence told his players to cherish the moment and to take a little time away from the baseball diamond.

"As punishment for winning, you're getting a month off," quipped Lawrence.

And who could blame him? The Titans, playing out of Santa Ynez, Calif., played an even 100 games during their 12-year-old season, and they traveled all over the country in pursuit of the NYBC title.

Lawrence saw his team qualify by winning a tournament in Memphis three weeks ago, and then he watched as the Titans put together a dominant performance on their biggest stage. Alejandro Murillo

had a no-hitter for four innings Monday, and Cooper Benson homered twice in the win.

But despite the top-notch performances from that pair of players, Lawrence stressed that it's been the entire team working together.

All 13 of his players got to bat in the championship game, capping off a season that saw the Titans earn a 75-24-1 record and a national title to boot.

"It's unbelievable just to make it here. It was obviously a goal of ours this season, but it's been something we've been thinking about for four or five years," said Lawrence. "So many of these kids have been playing with us for a long time. It's a culmination of a lot of hard work, a lot of hours, a lot of time and travel and money. Hopefully, it's something they'll cherish for the rest of their lives."

Cecil Fielder, a two-time home run champion in the Major Leagues, served as the ambassador to the NYBC title game, and he gave a noteworthy speech to the players before the game. Fielder told the players to remember the moment and to savor playing with their teammates while they could.

The drama dissipated early on Monday, as both Benson and Gavin Haimowitz homered in the bottom of the first inning. Benson homered again in the second inning and the Titans left that rally with a 6-0 cushion, and they'd lead by nine runs before BPA DeMarini notched its first hit.

The Titans had earned a narrow 3-2 victory in Sunday's semifinal, and Benson hit a game-tying homer in the sixth inning of that one. One day later, he was the key



element in a full team effort.

"If you had to pick one guy you want up in a situation like that, it's him," said Lawrence of Benson, the tournament's Most Valuable Player. "He wants the ball every time we're in a closer situation, and when the game is on the line at the plate, he wants to be up there. He's a pretty special player."

BPA DeMarini, based out of Lake Forest, Calif., eliminated the two-time defending champion Houston Banditos in the quarterfinals and ousted fellow Californians Diamond MVP in Sunday's semifinal. But they ran out of steam Monday, and coach Wade Jackson found solace in the team's journey.

"There's a lot of people out there that didn't think we deserved to be here. And we proved a lot of people wrong," said Jackson. "The boys know that. They battled for 12 months, and it's been a long 12 months from the beginning to this end. I'm just going to tell them, 'Be proud. Not a lot of 12-year-olds got to do this.' Their last three games as 12-year-olds have been on national TV."

BPA DeMarini scored 10 runs in the quarterfinals and 12 in the semifinals, but it didn't get a hit until the fifth inning in

Monday's title game. The visitors managed to scratch out two runs in that inning, but the Titans were just too much, and they scored three more times to salt away the win.

"We missed our spots. And they hit the ball. And they shut us down," said Jackson. "I didn't think anybody shut us down this weekend, and then finally someone shut us down. Hats off to Alejandro [Murillo]. He pitched a heck of a game and he shut us down until that one inning."

Indeed, Murillo was just too much. The right-hander also took the victory in the quarterfinals, and he struck out nine of the 19 batters he faced on Monday. Murillo didn't walk anyone in 9 1/3 innings of this tourney, and Lawrence said his team's pitching was a huge part of its success.

"Our pitching staff has been pushing each other. One of the coaches in the dugout said it reminded him of the Braves in the 90's -- [Tom] Glavine and [Greg] Maddux and [John] Smoltz," he said. "One guy goes out there and throws a gem, then the next guy one-ups him. Alejandro has been our horse. He's probably been our best pitcher. Him and [Isaac] Coffey have been battling it out all year. They're both outstanding."

Ensure YOUR team communicaitons aren't

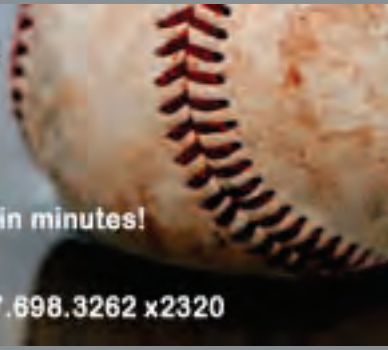
RAINED OUT

with One Call Now!

Get the same information out to everyone in minutes!

Special NABF prices.

Contact **One Call Now**, Justin Lucas, 877.698.3262 x2320



HEADS UP
CONCUSSION
IN YOUTH SPORTS

TAKE THE FREE
ONLINE CONCUSSION
TRAINING
for Coaches



NEW ERA

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE

NATIONAL

AMATEUR

BASEBALL FEDERATION



NEWERACAP.COM

For your Custom Team Caps Contact:
Linda
New Era Park
1-888-685-2313
Linda@newerapark.com

World Classics

New Jersey, Tennessee, Mississippi host World Classic events

12 & Under Division National Classics Championship Series

Hackensack, NJ

Champion: Bandito Black, TX
Runner-Up: Lamorinda Spartans, CA
Final Game Score: Bandito Black 10 vs. Lamorinda Spartans 4

By Joe Clemente

This 12 team Tournament had teams from New York, New Jersey, Maryland in addition to the number one and number two 12U nationally ranked teams coming from Texas & California.

The Bandito Black TX didn't have trouble with many teams. They were put to the test facing their strongest opponent Lamorinda Spartans-Northern California in the championship game.

Lamorinda Spartans had to fight their way with some of the toughest teams in the area which included NY Diamond Buddies who made it to the final four, the Brooklyn Bonnies & NJ Marlins.

The Championship game was tied 3-3 till the bottom of the 4th inning when the Banditos broke it open with 7 runs. It was just too much for the Lamorinda Spartans to overcome. We would like to congratulate all of the teams that participated in this tournament making it a spectacular even for both teams and the spectators.

15 & Under Division National Classics Championship Series

White House, TN

Champion: Cincinnati Stars
Runner-Up: Cincinnati Hornets
Final Game Score: Did Not Play due to inclement weather; Stars won as result of "Tiebreaker Rule"

13 & Under Division National Classics Championship Series

Southaven, MS

Champion: Viper Baseball Academy
Runner-Up: Central Mississippi Reds
Final Game Score: Viper Baseball Academy 17 vs. Central Mississippi Reds 5

18 & Under Division National Classics Championship Series

Knoxville, TN

Champion: East TN Select
Runner-Up: Knoxville Bulls
Final Game Score: East TN Select 9 vs. Knoxville Bulls 2

18 & Under Division National Classics Championship Series

Raymond, MS

Champion: West Ouachita, LA
Runner-Up: MS Dukes, MS
Final Game Score: West Ouachita 8 vs. MS Dukes 1

17 & Under Division National Classics Championship Series

Raymond, MS

Champion: West Ouachita, LA
Runner-Up: Jackson 96ers, MS
Final Game Score: West Ouachita 3 vs. Jackson 96ers 1

16 & Under Division National Classics Championship Series

Raymond, MS

Champion: MS Dukes, MS
Runner-Up: Golden Spikes, MS
Final Game Score: MS Dukes 9 vs. Golden Spikes 0



Viper Baseball Academy — 2013 NABF Classics champions



Central Mississippi Reds— 2013 NABF Classics runner-up.



Join the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's newest educational initiative.

The BASE Program teaches lessons of healthy habits, while encouraging individuals of all ages to live and play free of performance-enhancing substances.

NABF Scholarship Application

The National Amateur Baseball Federation has a history of helping sandlot baseball to grow. The organization was brought into existence in 1914. Since then, in times of peace and prosperity, despite wars and recession, there always has been the year-after-year excitement of the NABF National Tournaments.

In 1984, the NABF Scholarship Fund was established, and the first scholarship was presented in 1985. Named after the NABF executive director emeritus of the NABF and his wife, The Ronald and Irene McMinn Scholarship, is an annual award. In 1988, Mr. McMinn, in memory of his late wife Irene, generously endowed the fund so that several NABF scholarship awards

could be made each year.

In 2000 Edward "Red" Carrington, past President of the NABF and long time President of Fort Wayne Baseball Federation, bequeathed a generous scholarship fund in memory of both him and his wife, Germaine. Red Carrington has a remarkable, durable and effective relationship

with the NABF which he joined after the conclusion of World War I. The Germane and Edward "Red" Carrington Fund and the McMinn Fund are the basis for the overall NABF Scholarship program.

Anyone in good standing who has been or is a current participant in any league properly sanctioned

with the National Amateur Baseball Federation member association is eligible.

Selection of the award winner will be made by the federation's scholarship fund committee. It will be based on grades, financial need, and previous awards to candidates from a sponsoring association.

Scholarship Application

Applicant's Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Telephone Number: _____
 Social Security Number: _____
 NABF Member Association: _____
 Sponsor: _____
 Association's Approval _____, Pres.

Items required with application:

1. A copy of the letter of acceptance from or evidence of enrollment in an accredited two or four year College or University must accompany the scholarship application which must be received by September 1st.
2. A transcript of high school grades or College University grades if already enrolled.
3. Two letters of recommendation. One must be obtained from a teacher and the other from his/her baseball coach who is in a position to evaluate the applicant's academic and athletic performance.
4. A concise written statement from the applicant detailing scholastic, athletic and personal achievement, community involvement, and any other information in support of the applicant. No more than two pages please. The Selection Committee may require and request additional information from an applicant or sponsor.
5. No application will be considered if the above items are not included with the application.
6. Applications must be received by September 1st.
7. Successful applicants, scholarship award winners, must submit, a proof of enrollment by December 1st before the scholarship check may be issued.
8. Please mail fully completed application with the required items to Bruce Edwards, 4638 Shale Lane, Toledo, Ohio 43615.



'Flying High at Second' — Art Frick's photo from the Chicago Clouts-St. John game during the 100th NABF Major Division World Series in Battle Creek, Michigan.



Pittsburgh St. John's baserunner Jim Pasquine turns third to score during the Major Division championship in Battle Creek, Michigan. (Photo by Art Frick)



2013 NABF SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Man of the Year

Charles Avery
Rockland Baseball
New City, New York

John Mengelkamp
Diamond League
Willoughby, Ohio

Woman of the Year

Carrie Slomanski
Northville Baseball
Northville, Michigan

Ronald E. McMinn Award

Aaron Myers
Toledo Federation
Toledo, Ohio

NABF Award of Merit

Scott Ruark
Youngstown Class B League
Struthers, Ohio

John Benedict Sports Journalism Award

Bill Broderick, Columnist
Battle Creek Enquirer

Nick Buckley, Reporter
Battle Creek Enquirer

Appreciation Awards

Citizens for Altavista Baseball
Sophomore Division
Rob Finch, Altavista, Virginia

Northville Baseball/Softball Association
Junior Division
Bill Flohr, Northville, Michigan

East Tennessee Baseball Association
City of Knoxville, Tennessee
High School Division
Glenn "Bush" McNish, Knoxville, Tennessee

Youngstown Class B Baseball
Senior Division
Scott Ruark, Tom Otto, Tony
Gorvet
Youngstown, Ohio

Greater Toledo Amateur Sports Foundation
College Division
Aaron Myers, Toledo, Ohio

Battle Creek Parks & Recreation
Major Division
Terry Newton, Battle Creek,
Michigan

Derek & Amy Topik
Annual Meeting Host
Jackson, Mississippi

MAJOR DIVISION 2013 REGIONAL RESULTS

PITTSBURGH, PA

Winner: St. John's Lefties
Runner-Up: Cleveland Blackwolves
Final Game Score: St. John's Lefties 4
vs. Cleveland Blackwolves 1

SAGINAW, MI

Winner: Windsor Stars
Runner-Up: Michigan Area Braves
Final Game Score: Windsor Stars 10
vs. Michigan Area Braves 8

HACKENSACK, NJ

Winner: Clifton Canes
Runner-Up: Hackensack Troasts
Final Game Score: Clifton Canes 9
vs. Hackensack Troasts 4

LOUISVILLE, KY

Winner: Louisville Star Drywall
Runner-Up: Cincinnati Cobalts
Final Game Score: Louisville Star
Drywall 9 vs. Cincinnati Cobalts
5

FREDERICK, MD

Winner: Fedell's Mechanics
Runner-Up: Perdue Chicks
Final Game Score: Fedell's Mechan-
ics 10 vs. Perdue Chicks 1

KANKAKEE, IL

Winner: Joliet Dirtbags
Runner-Up: Beecher Muskies
Final Game Score: Joliet Dirtbags 9
vs. Beecher Muskies 0

WEST HAVEN, CT

Winner: Baybrook Remodelers
Runner-Up: Thermaxx Jackets
Final Game Score: Baybrook Remod-
elers 4 vs. Thermaxx Jackets 3

FORT WAYNE, IN

Winner: John's Jackers
Runner-Up: Summit City Cougars
Final Game Score: John's Jackers 12
vs. Summit City Cougars 10

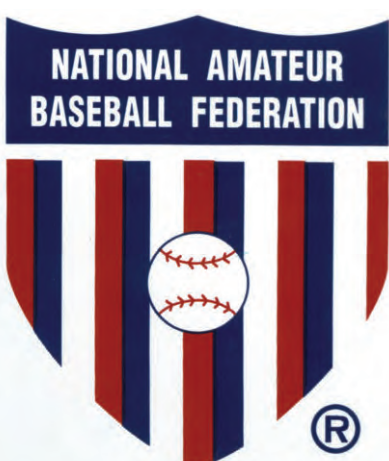


A foul ball is just out of reach of the Fedell's Mechanics (Bridgeport, Conn.) catcher during the Major World Series. (Photo by Art Frick)



Pittsburgh St. Johns Lefty players having fun in the dugout during the championship game. (Photo by Art Frick)

NABF Tournament News



Published by the

National Amateur Baseball Federation

P.O. Box 705, Bowie, Maryland 20718
410-721-4727
FAX: 410-721-4940
NABF1914@aol.com
www.nabf.com

NABF Tournament News is edited by J. Patrick Eaken, Sports Editor, The Press Newspapers, P.O. Box 69, Millbury, Ohio 43447 with contributions from NABF staff and volunteers. NABF Tournament News is the official newspaper of the NABF and is sent to NABF league contacts. For franchise membership information, please contact the NABF in Bowie, Maryland. Printed by Douthit Communications, Inc., Sandusky, Ohio.

Tournament of Stars

NABF fourth out of USA Baseball's 8-team Tournament of Stars

Babe Ruth defeated Pony 3-2 to win the 2013 Tournament of Stars championship in Cary, North Carolina. The NABF finished fourth of eight teams.

The USA Baseball Tournament of Stars (TOS) presented by Major League Baseball is made up of 144 of the nation's best ball-players that are international age-eligible for 18U National Team consideration (born in 1995 or 1996).

They are invited by USA Baseball to play for one of our seven National Member Organizations (AABC, American Legion, Babe Ruth, Dixie, PONY, NABF and RBI) or via an "at-large" team selected by USA Baseball (Stars).

USA Baseball and Major League Baseball cover all costs associated with the event which includes players' travel, lodging (USA Baseball Host Family Program) and uniforms. TOS participants form the primary pool of talent from which USA Baseball will select its 18U National Team to represent our country at the 2013 IBAF 18U World Cup in Taichung, Taiwan.

The NABF's games and some other key games are highlighted below by the NABF Tournament News, courtesy of mlb.com.

Bronze medal: DIXIE 12, NABF 2

Braxton Davidson hit his third home run of the Tournament of Stars and Greg Deichmann hit his second, leading DIXIE to a third-place finish.

Davidson, a North Carolina commitment from Arden, N.C., was 2-for-3 and drove in four runs for DIXIE, the tournament's highest scoring team.

Deichman, an LSU commitment from Metairie, La., was 1-for-3 with two RBIs and scored three times.

DIXIE's third double-digit output of the tournament came in Sunday's third-place game.

Tyler Kolek, the starter for NABF, allowed Davidson's homer and took the loss. He allowed three runs, two earned, on two hits, struck out four and walked two.

DIXIE starter Derek Casey, a Mechanicsville, Va., resident who has committed to Virginia, got the win. He needed only 71 pitches to go 5 1/3 innings, giving up two runs on four hits and striking out six. He walked one.

Notes: Mitch Hart had a rough outing for NABF, giving up eight runs, five of them earned, in three innings. Deichman's homer came off Hart. ... Stone Garrett went 2-for-4 with a double for DIXIE. ... Davidson was hit by a pitch twice on Sunday, meaning he reached base in four of his five plate appearances ... Jeren Kendall had two hits for NABF, the only player with more than one.

Fifth place: Stars 9, American Legion 4

Alex Destino went 2-for-5 and drove in four runs, and Brandon Vicens, Elijah Skippy and Evan Skoug had two hits each in the victory.

Jeff Bain allowed one run in three innings and struck out two for the win. Stars starter Keith Weisenberg struck out six in three innings, allowing two runs on three hits.

Ryder Ryan doubled and drove in a run for American Legion, and Chase Val-lot also had a double. Leadoff hitter Khalil Macklin had two hits.

American Legion starter Colton Hock took the loss, giving up three runs in 2 2/3 innings, walking four and striking out one.

Notes: Gage Hinsz struck out four in two innings of relief for American Legion. He allowed two hits and walked one, but didn't allow a run. ... Zachary Carter was 1-for-1 and walked four times for the Stars. He scored two runs. ... Four Stars pitchers allowed only four hits and combined for 11 strikeouts.

Seventh place: AABC 4, RBI 3

Spencer Levine's sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth scored Jack Flaherty with the go-ahead run for AABC.

Flaherty walked to lead off the inning, and Travis Jones was hit by a pitch.

One out later, Cole Tucker's infield single loaded the bases before Levine hit a ball to center that was deep enough to score Flaherty.

Michael Kopech pitched a hitless ninth for the save.

The ninth inning completed a comeback for AABC.

NABF ROSTER

1	Sheffield	Justus	Tullahoma	TN Tullahoma HS	2014LHP	L/L 5-9	190
2	Kendall	Jeren	Holmen	WI Holmen HS	2014OF	L/R 5-10	172
3	Paisley	James	Cookeville	TN Cookeville HS	2014RHP	R/R5-11	156
4	Hart	Mitch	Granite Bay	CA Granite Bay HS	2014RHP/IF	R/R6-2	174
5	Godfrey	Jake	New Lenox	IL Providence Catholic HS	2014RHP	R/R6-2	212
6	Patten	Jonah	Ossian	IN Norwell HS	2014RHP	R/R6-1	192
7	Verdugo	Alex	Tucson	AZ Sahuaro HS	2014LHP/OFL/L	6-0	200
8	Cody	Charlie	Chesapeake	VA Great Bridge HS	2014IF	R/R6-0	184
9	Thomas	Lane	Knoxville	TN Bearden HS	2014OF	R/R6-0	168
10	Eaton	Keenan	Parker	CO Chaparral HS	2014OF	R/R5-11	198
11	Pinder	Chase	Poquoson	VA Poquoson HS	2014OF	R/R6-0	172
12	Wright	Kyle	Huntsville	AL Buckhorn HS	2014RHP/IF	R/R6-2	190
13	Ducock	Jonathan	Kingwood	TX Kingwood Park HS	2014IF	R/R6-1	194
14	Hickman	Michael	Katy	TX Seven Lakes HS	2015C	L/R 5-11	195
16	Helms	Griffin	Duluth	GA Norcross HS	2014C	R/R5-9	218
20	Shumpert	Nick	Lone Tree	CO Highlands Ranch HS	2015UTL	R/R5-9	175
22	Reed	Cody	Athens	AL Ardmore HS	2014LHP/IF	R/L 6-2	238
23	Kolek	Tyler	Shepherd	TX Shepherd HS	2014RHP/IF	R/R6-5	260

Denz'l Chapman's bases-loaded single in the second, and a bobble on the play in the outfield, had given RBI a 3-0 lead.

Chapman reached base four times -- with three singles and a hit by pitch. He executed a hit-and-run in the fourth and finished with two stolen bases, giving him seven in four games at the Tournament of Stars.

The rally started in the fourth, when AABC's Jacob Gatewood singled to left to score Michael Rivera in the fourth, cutting RBI's lead to 3-1.

Consecutive singles by Jack Flaherty and Travis Jones started the AABC seventh, and a passed ball, an errant throw by the catcher and Shane Mardirosian's safety squeeze scored them to tie the game at 3.

The score stayed there until the ninth.

Notes: RBI left fielder James Davison made a great catch on a drive to the fence by Tanner Gardner, over the shoulder, then slammed into fence. ... RBI starter Nathan Hadley pitched well, striking out five and displaying a nice changeup in three innings.

Saturday June 22, 2013

Game 9: PONY 9, NABF 6

The PONY team had a pretty good idea of what it needed to do in the final game of pool play at the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars on Saturday if it wanted to reach Sunday's championship game. Win -- by a lot.

PONY scored nine runs in the first two innings, then held off NABF for a 9-6 victory.

Jeremy Vasquez, JJ Schwarz and Liam Sabino drove in two runs each for PONY, which improved to 2-1 in the Tournament of Stars.

PONY won the tiebreaker, by virtue of the Stars' victory over AABC, and advanced to Sunday's Tournament of Stars championship game, which starts at 12:30 p.m.

Vasquez, a Florida commitment from Palm City, Fla., reached base four times -- three singles and a walk.

"We got the nine runs, and I think we had to beat that team by seven to make it to the championship," Vasquez said. "But I'll take a win."

Vasquez had struggled in the Tournament of Stars before Saturday, going 1-for-5 in the first two games. But a good skills day and Saturday's performance improved his outlook.

"I've had a lot more fun after today, with the good game," he said. "I started out a little slow the first two games, but I found my rhythm today."

"They were throwing a lot of balls, so I was expecting a lot of fastballs to come. When they did, I just put a good swing on them."

Four PONY pitchers combined to limit NABF to nine hits and struck out 13. Reliever Jake Latz, an LSU commitment from Lemont, Ill., got a six-out save, striking out three and never allowing a ball out of the infield.

"I knew the hitters had seen three pitchers before me, so I wanted to keep them off balance and mix in all three pitches," Latz said. "I knew if they were sitting on my fastball I wouldn't have as much success."

Latz said the outing, and his experience at the Tournament of Stars, was a baseball highlight for him.

"It's been awesome -- the weather, the field, the facility over here, it was really cool," he said. "I love the experience USA Baseball gives us, it's really nice. It's defi-

nately one of the top things I've ever been a part of."

On Sunday, he and the other 143 players at the USA Baseball National Training Complex will find out who made the cut to 40 players for trials in Los Angeles in mid-August. That group will be cut to 20 members of the 18U National team, which will play in the IBAF 18U World Cup in Taichung, Taiwan, starting in late August.

Latz hopes he makes that cut.

"I feel good, I did well," he said. "I thought I could do a little more, but I just went out there and did the best I could, and I feel good about what I did."

Alex Verdugo was the starter and loser for NABF, giving up seven runs in an inning-plus. He remained in the game as the designated hitter, though, and went 3-for-4 with an RBI and three stolen bases, including second and third on consecutive pitches in the sixth.

Notes: Vasquez said he did well on skills day, but "felt a little small at first base compared to the other ones." He's listed at 5-foot-11, 198 pounds. ... Chandler Avant stole two bases for PONY, and Derek Hill and Matt Railey stole one each. ... Jonathan Ducock and Nick Shumpert had doubles for NABF, and Michael Hickman had two hits.

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Game 6 - NABF 1, Stars 0

Jeren Kendall got an infield hit in the eighth, moved to third on an errant pickoff throw and scored on a Lane Thomas single for the only run.

Kendall, of Holmen, Wisc., and Thomas, of Knoxville, Tenn., had two of the four hits for NABF.

NABF starter Justus Sheffield, a Vanderbilt commitment from Nashville, Tenn., was dominant on the mound, throwing 64 pitches in five innings and striking out six. He allowed two hits and walked two. He was joined by Mitch Hart of Granite Bay, Calif., and Kyle Wright of Huntsville, Ala., in the shutout.

Four Stars pitchers combined to strike out 11. Zachary Carter of Arlington, Texas, pitched 3 1/3 hitless innings. Jeff Bain of Pasadena, Calif., took the loss.

NABF improved to 2-0 in the Tournament of Stars, and the Stars are 0-2.

Game 7 - PONY 1 AABC 5

Kyle Molnar (Aliso Viejo, Calif.) drove in two runs and Brandon Murray (Hobart, Ind.) pitched 3 2/3 innings of hitless relief for the victory.

Spencer Levine (Miami) was 2-for-4 with a triple and Scott Hurst (Glendora, Calif.) doubled and scored a run for AABC.

PONY's only run came on a come on a homer to right by leadoff hitter Matt Railey, a Tallahassee, Fla., resident and Florida State commitment.

Wednesday June 19, 2013

Game 1 - AABC 0, NABF 3

Tyler Kolek, Cody Reed and Jake Godfrey combined on a two-hit shutout as NABF beat AABC, 3-0, in the Tournament of Stars opener for both teams.

Kolek, a TCU commitment from Shepherd, Texas, was the winner, going four innings, striking out three and allowing only a bunt single to Jack Flaherty.

Godfrey, who is committed to Notre Dame, got the save.

Lane Thomas led NABF at the plate with a double and a triple for two of the

team's four hits. Jeren Kendall and Alex Verdugo had a hit apiece, and Justus Sheffield walked twice and stole a base.

Thomas also scored the game's first run. After a double to the gap in left-center, he took third on a groundout and scored on a wild throw from first.

Another unearned run scored on a throwing error by catcher Bryce Carter on a double-steal in the third.

NABF scored again with the aid of an error and a wild pitch in the seventh. Justus Sheffield walked, took second on a bad throw on a sacrifice bunt attempt, moved to third on a double-steal and scored on a wild pitch.

AABC starter Michael Kopech took the loss, giving up two runs, neither earned.

Travis Jones had the other hit for AABC.

Game 4 - Pony 7, USA Stars 2

With all that is on the line this week at the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars, including the pressure of being evaluated for a potential spot on the 18U National Team that will play in the IBAF 18U World Cup in Taichung, Taiwan, once the players take the field, it's baseball.

Do your job, expect the next guy to do his, and in theory everything will work out.

That was the formula the Pony team used in Wednesday night's 7-2 victory over the USA Stars in the final game of Day 1 at the USA Baseball National Training Complex.

Prime among those doing their job well were two players from Florida -- Tallahassee's Matt Railey and Miramar's Brian Gonzalez.

Railey, batting leadoff, was 1-for-2, walked twice, stole a base and scored two runs, both in the first two innings, setting the tone for the Pony team.

Gonzalez produced at the plate, going 2-for-3 with a two-run single in the second inning, and on the mound, where he went the final 1 1/3 innings in relief, allowing only one hit and striking out two.

For those two, it was just baseball. And both say they have already bonded with their Tournament of Stars teammates despite the short time frame and the underlying competition.

"We've done this a lot, come in and they put us together," said Railey, an outfielder who has committed to Florida State. "If we all play the game right, if everybody knows their role and gets their job done, it's not a big deal."

Gonzalez agreed that bonding won't be difficult.

"Especially when we're winning, I think it will be easier," he said. "But all these guys are tremendous guys. They're so talented and so nice, they don't really care who you are or what you do, they just come up and talk to you. They're not shy."

The ability to both pitch and play a position gives Gonzalez more chances for his pursuit of Team USA, he said.

"It just gives me options, really," he said. "Maybe they could see me at one position and maybe they could see me on the mound. It gives me more chances to make the team, make the cut."

"It's nice being a two-way player."

At a solid 6-foot-2, 250 pounds, he's even versatile as a pitcher. He closed out Wednesday's game, although it wasn't a save situation, and said he can also start.

"It's either-or, right now," Gonzalez said. "I could do both. It's kind of like two (different) people out there: When it's a closing situation you've got to get it done, and starting is all about going the distance. It's two different types of pitching."

His versatility, though, also gives him a choice to make for Friday's skills-evaluation day. He'll have to pick a position group to be measured against. What will he do?

"People ask me, but I'm not sure," he said. "I could go either way. I probably am a little bit more confident on the mound, but I feel just as strong at the plate or at first. I guess I'll just have to decide."

For Railey, there is no such decision. He knows what he has to do to help his team, and to have a chance to make Team USA.

"I'm just trying to go out and play the game right, work hard, do the little things," he said. "I'm not trying to hit the ball over the fence, just do my job as a leadoff. I'm trying to get to second every time so the person behind me can get me around to score."



**BASEBALL
FACTORY™**



**BASEBALL FACTORY IS PROUD TO BE THE
OFFICIAL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT &
COLLEGE RECRUITING PARTNER OF THE NABF**



FOCUS ON YOUR GAME!

OPPORTUNITY IS EVERYTHING

**BUILD YOUR WAY TO GREATNESS
AT A BALLPARK NEAR YOU!**

**45 STATES
150 CITIES
600 EVENTS**

BASEBALL FACTORY IS ON TOUR

PLEASE CHECK WWW.BASEBALLFACTORY.COM FOR OUR FULL SCHEDULE

USE PROMO CODE **NABF
TO RECEIVE **10% OFF** EVENT REGISTRATION**



www.baseballfactory.com/tryouts | 800.641.4487



*covers all the bases in offering the best selection
of sporting goods and athletic equipment, footwear and
apparel, with rapid delivery, shipping within 24 hours M - F.*



**Exclusive Vendor
for NABF Patches**

**Order yours today.
Click for order form.**





NATIONAL AMATEUR
BASEBALL FEDERATION
Proud To Be The Official Baseball



Official Baseball
NABF

Of The NABF



Official Baseball
NABF

D1-NABF



Official Baseball
NABF

DOL-A NABF

Sold through fine team dealers.
For more information:
(800) 366-2999

www.diamond-sports.com