

# Young Men's Softball News

For all your YMSL Softball News and Reports



## Lumber Kings, but Leather Peasants

Associated Press

The Lumber Kings are atop the leaderboard in almost every offensive category this year, but their record remains a paltry 1-5. The main reason for that is their defense has been porous. They have managed to lead the league in errors, even though that is a stat that is not kept in the YMSL, so go figure.

Abe Saka, starting pitcher and captain of the Lumber Kings, is not panicking. He has led two previous 1-5 teams to the World Series – Grip It & Rip It, and the Fountain of Yoots.

“Grip It went all the way and won the Championship, but they had a supreme defensive core of guys,” said league analyst Moses Eastman. “I’m not sure the defense is there for this year’s Lumber Kings. I guess we’ll wait and see.”

Saka did address the glaring need – he made two trades during the Passover break – he started by shipping out Nussi Jacobovitch to Butter, in exchange for gold-glove-caliber short-center, Abe Seruya. In another move, he sent Eddie Malakh packing to the White Walkers, for Marcus “Koos” Adjmi.

The Lumber Kings’ first test of their new roster will be at Fireman’s West, against Butter (2-4) this Sunday.



## ‘Keeping Score’ with the Scorekeepers

Norman Jemal

“What’s the score?” “What inning is it?” How many times have players, coaches, captains, fans, and even umpires asked these ubiquitous questions? It is at that point that the young 13-year old man, becomes the most important player on the field. The Scorekeeper.

Scorekeepers come from many different backgrounds, and are motivated by many different factors. This year, we have been blessed to have landed a winner in the Scorekeeping community – Mr. Steve S. Shalom.

“Triple S,” as he’s known by some, met with us to discuss the highs and lows of scorekeeping, or the homeruns and strikeouts, as he likes to put it.

Q: What is your first memory of the YMSL?  
A: When Montreal won the Cup.

Q: What was your role on that Expos team?  
A: Fan. Nothing more.

Q: Why have you chosen to only score Maccabees games this year?  
A: Because I know the players and because my dad is the manager of the team.

Q: Does that provide a conflict of interest? People could say you might cheat to help your dad’s team...  
A: I would not cheat to help my dad’s team.

Q: What if he told you to?  
A: He would never tell me to, but if he did, I still would not cheat. **If you score, you gotta be fair.** (Continued on next page).

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## (Continued...) 'Keeping Score' with the Scorekeepers

An in-depth Q and A with Steve Shalom

Norman Jemal

Q: What is your funniest moment of scoring games so far?

A: When Ikey Mevorah was imitating JT from the other field. We watch a few hits in a row land against the Phillies, and we all saw JT put his arms out. Then Ikey started to imitate that. It was very funny.

Q: What is the hardest part of the job?

A: Keeping track of who took drinks.

Q: Are players serious about their stats?

A: Yes. Some of them are crazy.

Q: In what way?

A: Some tell me over and over about what they did and how it should be scored. Obviously I know what a sac fly is already.

Q: What team are you most impressed by?

A: Mean Machine. I never expected them to be tied in first place.

Q: Which player in the league was "Wow"ed you the most?

A: JoCo. He pulled his hamstring, but came back the next week and played injured, and got the game ball.

Q: Who is the best player, talent-wise, that you've seen so far?

A: Definitely Allie Marshall.

Q: What grade are you in? What is your favorite subject? Who is your favorite teacher?

A: I am in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, my favorite subject is Humash, and my favorite teacher is Rabbi Leon Cohen.

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?

A: A Real Estate agent.

Q: Are you aware your grandfather ran this league for many years?

A: No. I do not know that. But I do know he won a bunch of rings.

Q: How did you get this job?

A: It was easy. Ronnie asked me and I said 'yes.'

Thank you Stevie Shalom!



Scorekeeper Stevie Shalom has dreams of playing YMSL one day in the future.



Various types of Tuna ^^



Barracuda fish, as seen off of Turks & Caicos Island, British West Indies

POETRY CORNER

## "EVOLUTION"

A poem by JACOB JIGGA JEMAL

'Twas once a minnow  
'Twas once a fish  
'Twas once a Tuna  
Who could not pitch

'Twas once devoid  
As a young boy  
Of any chance  
To have the joy

To hold the trophy  
To hold the ball  
In the final inning  
Of it all

Then in an instant  
True elation  
Tuna is Cuda  
Transformation

Cuda cannot make  
Even one mistake  
The corners of the plate  
Are his to take

HERE YE HERE YE  
Thy Cuda is here!  
No longer a Tuna  
Batters shall FEAR.

- *Jacob Jigga is an award-winning poet-laureate, YMSL. Jacob Jigga has 132 published works.*

## Is Mean Machine just another version of Sak-Attack?

Fans everywhere have assumed that the Mean Machine squad of 2019 would be similar to the Sak-Attack teams of years' past. At first glance, you have a team with a multitude of Sakii – from the captain, Elliot, to his brother, Charles, to their father, Sammy, his cousin, Charles, and his uncle, Jeffrey, there are Sakas are every turn.

But when you take a deeper view, you see a more relaxed Michael Mount Sabon, a perennial champ in Steven Chalouh, and the Braha brothers, newcomer Sonny, and future-meteorologist, Harry. "Either way, we've fielded a team of winners," says Sammy Saka. We didn't just draft talent alone, but we looked into guys that have won before, guys that know how to win again."

So far, Mean Machine is 4-2, in first place.



### OPINION SECTION

## PREDICTION FICTION?

**SAUL R. TAWIL, Chief of Staff**

Funny things happen on a diamond. For centuries men have fought wars over the sparkling rock that is worth so much. Men are dropped to their knees holding this rock, asking their love to create a family. Our diamond is no different. On our diamond there are battles. There are wars. There are victories and defeats. Our majestic diamond is where we have raged for decades upon decades. The diamond can tell stories of yesteryear, and predict bounces and hops for tomorrow. There are 96 soldiers on our diamond, and only 12 can conquer it. So here goes. **The world series will be played by the Lumber Kings and the Phillies.**

Hear me out. Currently, Lumber sits at the sea level, barely standing, at 1-5. However, we all know that Lumber can go up against any team. They have the third most runs scored in the league and are now improved on defense with new additions. They have a battle-tested pitcher and champion in Abe Saka. They tie the league in homeruns (Butter also 6), and are second in walks drawn. They have the strongest OPS in the league. Most of all they are hungry and ready. They are a team with many former champions and a newfound drive to win. Look for them to start their run. The Phillies are 3-3. They have scored the league leading amount of runs (46), and have given up the 2nd least amount of runs (31).

They are a team that has had 2-3 of their losses taken out of their hands (whether it was their fault or not). The team is captained by 2018-champion captain Jackie Tawil. They have a powerful offense and a defense that is not breaking. Abe Cohen is showcasing his merits for Cy Young considerations, and is pitching to the tune of a 3.50 era. **The Phillies are real and I don't see them backing down.** *Like I said, funny things happen on the diamond. No other sport or league amateur or professional, from boxing, to golf, to rugby, is played as intensely as YMSL. So I may be terrible at the weekly predictions, but i clearly have the long term in mind. See you on the diamond...* -Chief of Staff, Saul Tawil

## PHILLIES BOTTOM OF THE ORDER GETTING THE JOB DONE!

**Phillie Fanatic**

From Mike Schmidt to Bryce Harper, Chase Utley to Jordy Rumeld, and Ryan Howard to Allie Marshall, Phillies history is rich with superstars. But what's the real difference for the 2019 edition of the squad? It is the bottom of the lineup. Back in the day, the guys batting 7-8-9-10 were considered easy outs. But this year, it is the guys batting in those spots that are producing the most for Philadelphia.

Nathan Kushner is batting .467. Solly N Tawil has 9 RBIs, and Billy Miz is one hit short of a .500 batting average. If these players are able to reach base consistently, it opens the floodgates for the top of the lineup – Jordy, JT, Allie, and the newest Phillie, Steven Safdieh. So, the next time you see Sol Dweck or Edmond Dweck in the batters' box, just remember, these are not 'easy outs.' They get on often, and then the big bats bring them home – and that's been the formula for Philly since day one.

**Mike Schmidt – 548 Homeruns, 1595 RBIs, 3x MVP, 12x All-Star, 10x Gold-glove.**

