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From The Cheap Seats Think You Know Who's Going Deep? Think Again

With the season now more than half over, one can't help but look at the standings and start to examine possible playoff matchups. It's just natural.

But, which teams will make the postseason tournament and vie for the Cape League title? Your guess is as good as mine in that department because at the time of this writing, there were hardly any sure things.

At first glance the Cotuit Kettleers seem like a very safe bet as they had opened up a two-and-a-half game lead over their next closest competitors, the Wareham Gate-men. However, thanks to unruly Mother Nature, the Ketts hadn't even played half of their schedule just yet, meaning that down the stretch, there will not be many days off for them.

The west will be won by someone, but who it is a big question mark. Not only is Cotuit right there, but you cannot discount the aforementioned Gatemen, or the resurgent Falmouth Commodores, or, lurking under the radar, the Hyannis Mets. Those three teams are separated by one game in the standings in second through fourth places. It is going to come down to the wire.

Even the Bourne Braves, who have had a rough season at best thus far, cannot be considered a complete after-thought. Cotuit manager Mike Roberts, who has seen a race or two here on Cape Cod, suggested that Harvey Shapiro's team is one winning streak away from being in the thick of things. "If Bourne wins seven in a row, they're right back in it. The last weekend in the season, every year, it comes down to the wire. That last weekend there are always three or four teams in contention and every game really matters," Roberts said. "Any team is capable of that happening [to them]."

Roberts, who says that the Cape League is more about attitude and teamwork than just the ability of the ballplayers, likes his team's chances of hanging around until the playoffs start because the club that he has, which features some very talented players—including Sean Gaston, Reese Havens, and Justin Smoak, to name a few—is playing for the right reasons. "We're a team, period. The guys like each other, they trust each other and they believe in T-E-A-M."

A Tough Blow

Things have been tough in Chatham over the last couple of weeks. The league's most high profile franchise endured a long losing streak in which it couldn't score any runs and went just 2-8 over a 10-game stretch. But, things got worse.

Head Coach John Schiffner lost the player that he said had taken his game to a level that was unexpected, just as the team entered the season. Infielder Aaron Reza of Oklahoma had batted .260 with two RBIs as a sophomore last year. He was a nice player on the team, but hardly a cornerstone.

How things had changed for Reza this go-round. The A's third baseman was seeing the ball very well and owning Cape League pitching. Reza led the Cape League in hitting at .358 through 14 games of action, and then an aggressive base-running play ended his season prematurely. Reza was attempting to stretch a single into a double in the second game of a doubleheader against the Falmouth Commodores in Chatham when he broke his finger with a head-first slide.

"He did a great job. He just improved his ability to hit and hit inside the ball," said Head Coach John Schiffner. "[Losing him from the lineup] certainly hurts."

Reza had batted all over the lineup for the A's throughout the season. Schiffner said he expects Reza to be on many scouts' radar screens and that he has a bright future.

Let's Play Two, We Have To

Thanks a lot Mother Nature. With rain being more common than sunburned tourists this summer, the Cape League players will not be enjoying many days off between now and the end of the season. In fact, at this point, the only one guaranteed is August 3 when the All-Stars will be honored at Fenway Park. Other than that, games will be played whenever possible. Several teams have doubleheaders scheduled down the stretch and in some cases the games are against two different teams.

Rich Maclone is the Sports Editor for Summer Stars and also covers the Falmouth Commodores for Enterprise Publishing. He can be reached at sports@capenews.net.



SPORTPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT



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On The Cover: Cardinals' right-hander Andrew Brackman.
Photo by Nicole Zartarian



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Andrew Brackman, A True Double Threat

BY DARIN WEEKS

Life is full of choices. Whether it's "left or right," "yes or no," or "paper or plastic," there comes a time when you must choose a path when confronted with a proverbial fork in the road. For most young athletes gifted in more than one sport, deciding which individual sport to pursue usually happens prior to enrolling in college. Once in a long while, a rare athlete is so blessed in two sports that deciding which to follow is an easy one. "Both."

Such an athlete is Orleans Cardinals and North Carolina State star Andrew Brackman.

Growing up in Middle America and standing 6 feet, 10 inches tall, while attending Moeller High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, Brackman appeared destined to spend his athletic life fighting for rebounds and blocking shots. While college basketball scouts gasped over his physical skills on the court, baseball scouts were equally impressed at Brackman's ability to throw a baseball 95 miles per hour.

Following his senior year at Moeller, Brackman's list of accolades in both sports was seemingly as long as he was tall. His basketball prowess earned him First-Team honors in the state of Ohio and he was named Co-Mr. Basketball in the Buckeye State as well. On the diamond, his 1.04 career ERA was seventh best in the history of Ohio High School baseball. Seeing how he was ranked the 42nd best basketball prospect in the nation by Insiders.com while simultaneously being listed as the 18th best senior per Team One Baseball,

Brackman's decision on which sport to choose from was obvious.

"I wanted to play both sports," explained Brackman on his decision to enroll at NC State. "It came down to Georgia Tech and NC State. Georgia Tech wouldn't let me play basketball, so I went to NC State. I definitely made the right choice."

The first athletic challenge for Brackman at NC State would be living up to the hype that surrounded him as he arrived in the basketball-crazy state of North Carolina. Hopes were high for the Wolf Pack as they advanced to the second round of the NCAAs the previous spring and the freshman Brackman did his best to live up to his reputation.

He helped lead NC State to a Sweet 16 appearance following a freshman season that saw him play in all 34 games, starting 14, and scoring 7.4 points per game. Once basketball season ended, Brackman switched gears to baseball as he started his first game on the mound for the Wolf Pack just seven days after the hoops season came to an end. The transition, although challenging, was one to which Brackman had become quite accustomed.

"It's hard to juggle both sports, but I've been doing it my whole life," said Brackman. "It's nothing new to me, but (in college) it's a higher level of competition. There are different demands in both sports...it's hard, but I'm used to it...it's not that hard of a transition anymore."

Once Brackman put away his sneakers for the spring and put on his cleats, the

transition appeared seamless. Although arriving late because of his basketball requirements, Brackman won every game he appeared in for the Wolf Pack during his freshman year. In four starts, he went 4-0 with a 2.09 ERA, while striking out 43 batters and only walking 18.

Despite playing just a small portion of NC State's baseball season, Brackman's numbers earned him Second-Team All-American Freshman honors from Baseball America.

"It was a privilege to be named to that team," said Brackman. "It'd be nice to play a full season one of these years so I can show people what I can really do."

With one full year of balls and books completed at NC State, the two-sport athlete Brackman finally had a

chance to catch his breath and reflect on a freshman year that left him with little time for himself, considering the fact he's a college student with academic requirements as well.

"Playing two sports definitely adds pressure with school. I'm not just juggling two sports; I'm juggling three things with school, too," Brackman explained. "Sometimes when you get off the court or field, you just want to go home and sleep. You don't want to have to go sit at a table with a tutor, but if you want to play, you have to get your schoolwork done, too."

When fall semester came during his sophomore year, Brackman once again found himself being a key component for the ACC hoops power that is North Carolina

State. Again the Wolf Pack won 20 games and qualified for the NCAA tourney and Brackman continued to play significant minutes, scoring 7.6 points per game and blocking 28 shots, good for second overall on the team.

Though he played in all 32 basketball games for the Wolf Pack in 2005-2006, Brackman was initially unaware that he had suffered a minor hip injury late in the season that would eventually worsen and haunt him throughout the baseball season.

On March 5 during his first start of the year for NC State baseball, Brackman initially noticed the pain in his hip in a game against UCLA. Trying to work through it, he suffered his worst start in a Wolf Pack uniform as he lasted just 2

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NICOLE ZARTARIAN

Andrew Brackman is a double threat as both a baseball and basketball player in college.

A True Double Threat...

Continued from Page 3
1/3 innings and allowed five earned runs in a 13-2 loss to the Bruins.

A few weeks later, after a key match up against Andrew Miller and the North Carolina Tar Heels, Brackman, realizing the pain wasn't going away, chose to shut it out for the rest of the season. He left the mound for the last time in 2006 after pitching seven innings and allowing five runs in a loss to the Tar Heels on April 21. His final stats for his sophomore season were 1-3, with a 6.35 ERA in just seven games.

"It was a basketball injury and I tried to gut it out through baseball season, but it got to be too much," admitted Brackman. "I decided to take the rest of the season off and come up here to Cape Cod and try and play this summer."

He arrived on Cape Cod in late June and quickly assimilated with his new team, the Orleans Cardinals. Though his work load has been light, appearing out of the bullpen in just three games without allowing a run, Brackman has enjoyed his visit on the Cape so far.

"I've only been here two weeks, but I'm loving every minute of it," Brackman said. "The Cape League is everything I thought it would be. The guys are great and we all mesh really well. We have a common bond in that we just like to play every day and the coaches here are great. They treat us like men."

Though Brackman can blend in with the extraordinary talent on the Cape, he knows that someday soon the summer will end and the rigors of being a two-sport Division 1 athlete will begin again. He does realize that eventually the time will come to say good-bye to a sport he's loved since he was a boy.

"I haven't decided how long I'm going to play two sports", admitted Brackman

who is currently ranked as the number-two sophomore in the country, according to Baseball America. "I love both, but I'm leaning more toward baseball because that's where I think my future is."

For the time being, Brackman is enjoying the life of a ballplayer on Cape Cod, despite the fact that he's allergic to seafood. He also knows that being named an alternate to Team USA could mean he could be leaving Orleans if a player on its current roster gets hurt.

"The Cape is a great opportunity for players to see if they can play at the next level," Brackman said. "But if someone gets hurt on Team USA, I'll be heading down there, too."

In other words, given the choice of which elite summer baseball program he wants to be a part of, his answer is, "Both."



N.C. STATE MEDIA
Wolfpack hurler Andrew Brackman was a late arrival on Cape Cod but his presence is already being felt.



N.C. STATE MEDIA
N.C. State's Andrew Brackman drives to the Hoop in basketball action against the North Carolina. Pick-up basketball on Cape Cod may never be the same.

Cardinals and Kettleers Lead the Way in the East and West

CAPE COD, Mass. - The season is halfway over and it has been a soggy one. The feel of that new glove is long gone; cleats have been broken in, players have learned how to prepare a field for a game and they have learned that the three main roads on Cape Cod are Routes 6, 6A and 28. This season, no matter how wet, is still the best for players who are winning games.

Sitting atop the Eastern and Western Divisions at the halfway point of the season are the Orleans Cardinals (14-9 in the East) and the Cotuit Kettleers (14-6-1 in the West).

The success of both teams comes as no surprise, as each team ended the 2005 season on a strong note, with Orleans winning the championship.

After last year's championship, Cardinals general manager Sue Horton "[did] not know what to expect of the team. It is always changing and even until this point of this season it is still changing with lineups. It is fun to watch each personality come together and be able to work as a collective unit."

The Cardinals have come together and been able to keep their winning ways with pitching and defense. They currently have three players in the Top 10 in pitching - Brett Cecil (Maryland), Ty Davis (Vanderbilt) and Clayton Shunick (Georgia State). Meanwhile, they hope to turn around their hitting woes in the second half of the season as they know it cannot be all up to Matt Wieters (Georgia Tech), who leads the league in hitting to power the Cards through.

Players are always adjusting to the Cape League, as the use of wooden bats is especially hard on the hitters. "Hitters are still learning how to hit the ball inside and pitchers are learning how to pitch inside," said Cotuit GM Bruce Murphy.

Murphy felt last year's playoff experience was not disappointing, even though they did not win the championship. "The goal year in and year out is to just make the playoffs because you never know what can happen. With every year we hope to advance further and further until we win the championship." This year bodes well for the Kettleers, as they have many returning players and are 3-0 against the defending champion Orleans Cardinals.

In 2006 so far, the Kettleers are a well-rounded team in both hitting and pitching. They lead the league with a team average of .275 and have scored the most runs with 102. Their pitching has been phenomenal with a league-low 1.87 ERA helped out by six shutouts.

The Kettleers plan to steal more bases in the second half of the season, as head coach Mike Roberts - the father of Brian Roberts of Baltimore - has a knack for implementing steals. The Kettleers have several players who can run, such as Matt Angle (Ohio State), Eric Farris (Loyola Marymount), Tony Thomas Jr. (Florida State) and Tony Delmonico (Tennessee).

"It has been a group effort. Everyone on the team is contributing and you get that when the team is winning," said Murphy. When asked if he felt there was a MVP on the team in the first half, no one was able to stand out in his mind. "On pitching we have Cory Gearrin (Young Harris) who runs full charge out of the bullpen and to the mound every time. When you see him with such enthusiasm you cannot help but believe you will win."

Murphy also talked about the offense and defense. "On the offensive side we have Justin Smoak (South Carolina), a switch hitter who leads the league in hitting, and Eric Farris (Loyola Marymount), who has had many clutch hits. In the field there is Jeffrey Rea (Mississippi State) who adds versatility by not only playing second base but also the outfield. Behind the plate is 2005 MVP Sean Gaston (Notre Dame), who adds his leadership and knowledge about the game. He works one-on-one with the coaches and they allow him (Gaston) to call the game, which is very rare at the collegiate level."

As with any team, in order for the Kettleers to continue their winning ways they will need to stay healthy and be consistent, a difficult task when players are not used to playing day in and day out. With all the wet weather across the Cape, Murphy believes, it will come down to the team that is able to hold it together and also have some luck. "I have never seen a summer with so much rain. It is affecting us all; the fans, the players, the volunteers, concession stands and the revenue."

There are 22 Cape League games left (for most teams) before the playoffs start, and look for Orleans and Cotuit not to let up anytime soon as they are prepared for the tough stretch ahead. Both of these seasoned teams should be in it to the very end and into the playoffs. Cotuit and Orleans only play each other one more time this season, on August 4 in Orleans. It comes in the last three days of the season, so it may be a pivotal game to see who ends up with the best record.

By Chad Burkart, CCBL Intern burkart@capecodbaseball.org



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A DAY IN THE LIFE Of A Cape League Coach

BY ADAM WARCHAL

Coaching in the Cape League hasn't quite been what I've expected. That's a good thing. It's my first year with the Cotuit Kettleers and, for that matter, the league itself. As I've quickly learned, coaching in the country's premier college summer league isn't just a "nine-to-five". Here's a glimpse into how you might find yourself spending time as an assistant coach on the Cape.

The following is an average day in the life of what I go through here in the Cape League. July 7 was like most days, but inside of the norm are some interesting things.

7 AM: Last night, after our game against the Y-D Red Sox (Loss, 5-2), we ran out of daylight and weren't able to work on the field. This morning, I wanted to get some quality work in, so that Lowell Park would look sharp for the campers. Camp on Fridays is at Lowell Park, home of the Kettleers, and it begins at 8:45. Over a six-week period, the Kettleer organization runs two camps at separate sites (Cotuit Elementary and Centreville Elementary schools). At the end of the each week, both camps combine and meet at the Kettleer field. After about an hour working on the pitcher's mound, batters' boxes and bullpens, the field was set up for 75 campers.

8:45 AM: Camp begins. I've worked baseball camps in the past, both as a player during my time at Penn State and during the last year coaching in the college ranks. Youngsters always like interacting with the players. That's a constant. What's fun with camp this time around in Cotuit is that the players truly enjoy and look forward to making friends with the children. Once the campers forget most of the baseball they learned during the week, there's something that will remain. These youngsters have new heroes. You can see it in their eyes. For me, it's gratifying to do my best to set a positive example for our players to follow. That's what I try to do today.

We cover outfield, infield, baserunning, hitting, and pitching during the first half of camp. After a snack break, the campers are herded across the street to an area, where a giant slip-and-slide is waiting for them. Camp ends at noon.

Noon: Now that camp's over for the day, there's a chance to run to the local deli for some lunch. Coach (Jeremy) Boles and I drive to the store for some snacks before we need to be back at the field for early batting practice.

1:20 PM: Early BP starts around 1:30 PM each day. As coaches, early BP is code for lots of throwing. Luckily for me, Coach Boles and Coach

(Mike) Roberts have pinpoint control and enjoy throwing. Early BP isn't mandatory but it's a great time for some of the guys who are struggling to find their groove again.

Six players show up for early hitting today. Three of them haven't been swinging well during the games and are working of specific things. The other three are just getting in some extra swings to stay locked in and feeling good at the plate. The trick as a coach is to recognize which three may need a confidence boost or find a hitting tip useful and knowing which guys to just leave alone. Most mistakes in coaching come through overcoaching. The best way to mess with a good hitter is to get him thinking.

2:40 PM: Team batting practice means that I'll be hitting ground balls to our infielders for the next 40 minutes. As a former infielder, I appreciate watching our players day in and day out. In a game, the average fan may see our middle infielders spin one or, maybe, two double plays. We may field six or seven ground balls. As impressive as some of the plays may appear during a game, what most spectators don't get to see is that what appears to be spectacular, is really routine.

Eric Farris and Reese Havens are the middle infielders for today's game. In between Coach Roberts peppering the strike zone, Coach Boles and I alternate hitting ground balls to short and second. Eric and Reese get a solid 30 minutes worth of honing their double play feeds.

4:30 PM: Following pre-game BP and infield/outfield, all three assistant coaches

are responsible for making the field ready for game time. At first, the three of us were tripping on each other, not having worked together previously. Now, 16 games into the season, we're as close to a well-oiled operation as can be expected. In less than 15 minutes, Coach McIntosh, Coach Boles, and I have Lowell Park ready for the first pitch.

4:58 PM: The Star-Spangled Banner. Best time of the day. This is my daily reality check. Like anyone else, at times, I lose sight of what's important and have a tendency to take myself too seriously. This sets my mind straight again and puts me back into the proper perspective. Win or lose, baseball is, and will always be, just a game.

5:01 PM: Jay Brown throws the first pitch against the Orleans Cardinals. Jay gives the Kettleers eight tough innings and leaves with a 3-0 lead. Since he's near his pitch count limit, Coach Roberts decides to use someone else for the ninth. Corey Gearrin finds out he's the guy. Now, there are always interesting personalities on a baseball team. The Kettleers aren't any different. Gearrin is one of the friendliest players I've coached. He's great with kids at camp. He's hardworking at practice. He's as humble as can be off the field, no better than anyone else. But when I relay the message that he's going to enter to close a game, he flips a switch and becomes one nasty ballplayer. It's best to leave him alone and not talk unless you want to get barked at.

Corey sprints onto the mound and wastes no time recording the final three outs. The Kettleers win with a final

score of 5-0. A two-game slide is over, and our sights are now set on Chatham tomorrow.

When you play every day, especially in the summertime, you can't let your emotions get too high after a win or too low over a loss. For our players, winning and losing is important but it's our main responsibility as Cape League coaches to make sure they develop their games and return to their universities better than when they left.

8:05 PM: Coach Boles and

I drive out to the end of main street in Cotuit, walk the sea wall for about half a mile, and come to a small channel in the bay. High tide seems to be rolling in, and the striped bass aren't biting, but we manage to catch a few before dusk. Tomorrow, we will do it all again.

(Adam Warchal is an assistant coach for the Cotuit Kettleers. Warchal played college baseball for Penn State and is an assistant at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.)



DON PARKINSON

Cotuit Assistant Coach Adam Warchal surveys the field prior to a CCBL matchup.



DON PARKINSON

Tending to the field, Assistant Coach Adam Warchal has found CCBL responsibilities extend beyond the game itself.

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Passing Along All That They've Learned

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

The game of baseball is a game of inches. For a pitcher, missing the strike zone by an inch can cost your team the game. For a hitter, not being able to take a pitch the other way can cost the team a base hit and a game-tying run. The only way to master the game is to learn it from people who know the intricacies of it, the correct form, the most beneficial training regimens, and the most advantageous drills; all of which will help young players master the fundamentals.

In Harwich, as well as in every other Cape League town, the players and the coaching staffs take this very seriously and have been helping to raise a new, more prepared, breed of ballplayer.

For Harwich pitching coach, Justin Gordon, 27, there is no better feeling in the world than teaching the game to the next generation. In his first year with the Mariners staff, the pitching coach from Western Illinois University is taking his prior teaching experience and applying it to make the kids of Harwich and the surrounding areas better ballplayers.

"It's important to me," Coach Gordon said. "There are so many kids that don't know the proper way to do things. When you're working with a kid for a week or a month, they're getting better. There is no better feeling."

Coach Gordon grew up in Taunton and as a freshman at



TOM UNDERWOOD

Mariners players stretch out with a group of youth players at a recent clinic in Harwich.

Massasoit Community College pitched well enough to be drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 32nd round in 1999. In the mid-90s, Gordon was credited with having a fastball and a strong work ethic.

In the winter of 2000, just prior to reporting to spring training, Gordon began teaching at the Taunton Hitting Academy. He showed youngsters how to pitch and

hit while conveying his vast knowledge about the game of baseball. The kids shared his passion and his dreams for eventual Major League stardom equally.

Gordon left school to pursue his dreams and spent six years in the Brewers system, playing for Helena, Ogden, and Beloit, where he recorded a career high 103 strikeouts in a season. He played his last two years with the Brewers for the High Desert Mavericks.

He kept teaching during the off-seasons and ran an All-Star baseball camp for Little Leaguers for three years. He also coached the Southeast Region team to a 6-0 record and a Bay State Games gold in 2004, not to mention the fact that he coached at Nomar Garciaparra's baseball camp when he was in Boston.

By this time, the private les-

sons he had started giving in 2000 were expanding, and he was soon teaching approximately 40 lessons per week. He was getting more than he could handle, he said, and he was forced to delegate some of the lessons to friends.

After he was released by the Brewers in 2003, he pitched for the North Shore Spirit in the Northeast League, based in Lynn, for one season. He said that he had a .7 ERA and the Spirit were within one game of the championship, but there were no offers from professional teams. It was time to move on. High A was the closest to the big leagues that Gordon would get, but despite all of that, he could never let go of the game he loved.

He decided that he wanted to go back to college and wanted to continue teaching the game to kids. So he took a job at Western Illinois

University, where he has been the pitching coach for two years. He is one year away from getting his double major degree in turf and sports management. He is also in his first year as a coach in the Cape Cod Baseball League, performing pitching coach duties for the Harwich Mariners.

"You can't do anything nowadays without a degree," he said. "I didn't want to be old and starting to work on it."

So now Coach Gordon guides kids in three different age groups through the different stations at the Mariners baseball clinic, which takes place at Whitehouse Field in Harwich. The stations include base running, hitting, infield, and outfield to name a few. Stations last approximately 20 minutes.

The clinic runs Monday
 Continued on Next Page



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CCBL All-Star Game To Be Broadcast On National Public Radio

The 44th annual Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game on July 29th at 4 p.m. at Red Wilson Field in South Yarmouth, will be broadcasted live on WCAI (90.1 FM), WNAN (91.1 FM) and WZAI (94.3 FM), the Cape and Islands NPR stations, and streamed at www.capeandislands.org.

"We're excited about reaching a new audience through our partnership with The Cape and Islands NPR stations," said League president Judy Walden Scarafile. "It's outstanding having our premier event broadcasted on such a prestigious medium."

Cape and Islands NPR stations Broadcast Director Steve Young added, "Some people have been surprised to hear that an NPR station is broadcasting sports, but this game fits right into our stated mission to 'celebrate the uniqueness of the communities that we serve.'

"Baseball fans the world over know that Cape Cod communities, in the summer, are THE places to watch the major league players of tomorrow. We're very excited that, with our wide listening area and our online streaming, we'll be bringing the very best of those future players, and the very best of Cape Cod, to our listeners, wherever they might be," said Young.

Dan Rubin, Internet broadcast voice of the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, will provide play-by-play, with color commentary from the league's Director of Public Relations & Broadcasting, John Garner, Jr.

Forty-six of the top players in the Cape League, 23 from both the East and West Divisions, will be selected by the field managers on July 25 and announced by CCBL Commissioner Paul Galop.

In addition to www.capeandislands.org, the CCBL All-Star Game will also be streamed on www.capecodbaseball.org, along with all 10 Cape League team Web sites, on the Cape Cod Baseball League Network powered by Cape.Com. Listeners will also be able to listen to the broadcast by dialing one of the five designated local phone numbers.

Who's Hot ... And Who's Not

Matt Wieters (Georgia Tech) of Orleans is the current CCBL leader with a .344 batting average, while Chatham's **Chris Carrara** (Winthrop) and Harwich's **Josh Donaldson** (Auburn) are tied for second at .333 ... Falmouth outfielder **Warren McFadden** (Tulane) leads the CCBL with six homers and 19 runs scored, while **Matt Rizzotti** (Manhattan) of Chatham is still the league leader with 18 RBIs ... **Buster Posey** (Florida State) of Y-D has accounted for a pace-setting 31 hits, while Donaldson leads with nine doubles ... **Shaun Seibert** (Arkansas) of Brewster in 29 innings and **Jay Brown** (Young Harris) in 20 innings are the pitching leaders with a 3-0 record and a perfect 0.00 ERA ... **Joshua Fields** (Georgia) of Y-D leads the CCBL with seven saves, while Brewster's **Cody Crowell** (Vanderbilt) has struck out a league-leading 35 batters ... Cotuit still leads the league with a .274 team batting average and is also the pitching leader with a 1.97 team ERA ... Bourne is at the bottom of the league statistics in team batting (.204) and pitching (4.42 ERA).

John Garner, Jr.,
Director of Public Relations
& Broadcasting

Passing Along All That They've Learned

Continued from Page 6

through Friday and participants can just show up any Monday morning just before the beginning of the session to register at the concession stand. For ages 5 to 9, clinic instruction begins at 9 AM and ends at 10:30 AM and costs \$65 per week; for ages 10 to 14, instruction begins at 10:30 and ends at noon and also costs \$65 per week; for ages 15 to 17, instruction begins at 9:15 and ends at 11:15 AM and costs \$125 per week.

Ages 15 to 17 get more one-on-one instruction, according to Coach Gordon. On Friday all the kids play in games and get to show off what they learned during the week.

"The instruction is second to none right now," Coach Gordon said. "The kids (Mariners players) are great. I couldn't ask for it to go any better. These (Mariners team) are the best 25 guys I've ever been around. They get there early, and it's a total team effort. It's going to be a tough team to lose when mid-August comes around."

Daniel MacDonald, 20, a pitcher from Seton Hall works at the camps and feels that they benefit the players as well as the kids. Not only does he have a summer job that involves baseball, he said, but also getting up early and being mentally and physically active prepares him for the games that follow that evening.

"It's something we should do," he said of giving back to the community and imparting baseball knowledge to Cape Cod's youth population. "Teaching kids what I've learned is my favorite part. If I could pass that on, that's the best."

Teammate Devin Thomas, a 21-year-old catcher from Brown, played for Cotuit last year and took part in their summer clinics. He said that while the Cotuit clinic is bigger than the Mariners, the objective is still the same. "I just try to make sure [the kids] have fun," he said. "It's a great way to spend a summer if you're a baseball player." He said that the friendships he forges with the kids has been a wonderful part of the experience.

Jim McGonigle, who serves as treasurer for the Mariners as well as director of com-

munications for the CCBL, has been deeply involved in the clinics in Harwich for almost five years now. He said the clinics benefit not only the communities and the players but also the organization. "The clinics help pay for travel and uniform expenses," he said, which can be quite costly. "They help contribute to the financial viability of the franchise." McGonigle said that the clinics are the "largest single moneymaker" for each team.

"We've got a great staff," McGonigle added. "These kids look up to [the Mariner players] like they were playing for the Boston Red Sox. These are all memories that kids carry for a long, long time." McGonigle said that the motto of Mariner clinic is "fun-damental." The Mariner staff teaches but the number one goal is for the kids who attend to have fun playing the game.

For MacDonald and Thomas, the teaching experience they receive now could possibly carry over should they not make the Major Leagues. This way, like Coach Gordon, they can be a part of baseball for the rest of their lives.

"I'm hoping to take baseball as far as I can go," Thomas said. "Maybe down the road... coaching definitely appeals to me." MacDonald emphatically added, "I'm definitely into coaching, I want to stay a part of the game. I'm going to coach for the rest of my life."

So while the kids learn to play ball, the ballplayers learn to teach, and in the end, everyone at the Harwich clinics has fun in the process.



CHUCK BORGE

Commodore Chris Dabrowiecki gets a turn behind the plate at a recent youth clinic in Falmouth.

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Ballpark of the Week

Welcome To Margaritaville

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

McKeon Park isn't just a ballpark; it represents something more important. The white posts that hold up the netting behind home plate resemble a piece of a sailboat; the white seashells that decorate the grounds are a portal to the beach. Even the solid blue paint job on the wooden bleachers and the Margaritaville style 'Mets Mart' merchandise store, were crafted in the quintessential Cape Cod style. McKeon Park, only two miles from the Kennedy compound, on Irving and Marchant avenues in Hyannisport, is a symbol of Cape Cod and all the classic elements that have made the Cape a premier tourist destination.

The Hyannis Mets are a storied Cape League franchise. They have churned out Major Leaguer after Major Leaguer, in-

cluding Red Sox catchers Doug Mirabelli and Jason Varitek.

On July 12, another classic element of Cape Cod emerged at McKeon: the weather.

The Hyannis Mets hosted the Harwich Mariners last Wednesday night and, with one out in the bottom of the second inning, the game was called off due to rain. Mets staff, armed with rakes and buckets of sand, attempted to save the day by keeping the field dry at the mound and around the plate, but in the end, the umpires felt that the game could not continue as fans scrambled for their cars.

The score was even at 1-1 when the game was called due to the elements. The game will be made up in its entirety on Monday, July 24, at 5 PM.

Best Place to Park: The best place to park at McKeon is in one of the parking spots that surround the Pope John



MATTHEW BURKE

The best view in the park is along the third base line up on the hill.

Paul II High School. The field is located behind the school.

For some reason there doesn't seem to be enough parking at McKeon. The parking lot seemed remarkably full for a rainy day. There were cars parking on the lawn and in unorthodox spots on the property, yet the stands were not nearly filled to capacity.

Despite the absence of students at the school during the summer months, there is always the possibility that there was a meeting or teachers working inside, but the number of cars seemed disproportionate to the number of fans.

Patrons of McKeon should get to the park early for the best spot. Games start at 5 PM, so fans should plan on arriving at 4:15 PM.

Best Place to Watch: The best place to take in a game at McKeon Park is down the third base line, adjacent to the leftfielder, up on the hill. The Mets have even put wooden bleachers up to accommodate fans that prefer that particular view. The bleachers seem out of place, set back from the field, but they are just right.

There are metal bleachers behind home plate that also offer an amazing view, but they are usually filled with scouts. If you bring a foldout chair to McKeon, you simply can't go wrong.

Best Buys: Free is always the best buy and if you are lucky enough to be standing in the right place at the right time, you may be lucky enough to catch the best buy at McKeon Park. The Mets announce before their games that thanks to

a generous philanthropist, fans can keep the foul balls they catch. At most other parks, fans are encouraged to turn the balls in, often exchanged for a 50/50 raffle ticket. The balls are sold at McKeon for \$6.

Other best buys at McKeon include Mets key chains for \$2, lanyards for \$3, Mets pennants for \$3, fridge magnets for \$1.50, beach balls for \$3, pencils for \$1, baby bibs for \$8, and large CCBL pennants for \$5. All of the Mets merchandise looks good and is extremely well made.

According to Karen Hurley and Maura Bussiere, who work the Mets Mart during Mets home games, there are normally two merchandise racks put out for the fans, but due to the rain on July 12, the racks holding T-shirts, jackets, and golf shirts were nowhere to be seen.

Ms. Hurley and Ms. Bussiere said that the Mets offer both home and away fitted caps for \$25. They are very popular items and given the look and quality, the hats are a best buy for the price.

The Mets offer a member discount of 20 percent off on merchandise. Memberships are \$20 for an individual and \$40 for a family.

Food: The food at McKeon is typical baseball park food. Their hot dogs for \$1.50 looked tasty, but even in the rain, children flocked to the concession stand for nachos with cheese for \$2.50. Soda, water, and coffee for \$1 were normal for CCBL parks as was popcorn for \$1, peanuts for \$1, and ice cream for \$1 or \$2. Pizza is normally available, but not for

the game I attended.

Best Feature: The best feature of McKeon Park is the Cape Cod feel created by the crushed shells, white posts, and matching blue paint on the wooden bleachers. The quaint, cozy, snack shack and souvenir stand look like a small Cape Cod cottage or scenes from a ballfield Jimmy Buffet might build. McKeon will surely leave an imprint of the Cape on tourists and make residents proud to be at the park. The seashells were an impressive touch. The beautiful landscaping also added to the atmosphere.

The Park: McKeon Park is a wonderful park to take in a game, rain or shine. The facilities are excellent, despite the lackluster Pope John Paul II High School facilities that were roped off with yellow tape on July 12. Also, the road into McKeon was filled with potholes, which took away from an otherwise beautiful ballpark.

The approach road and parking issues aside, the park makes for a great experience that every Cape Cod resident and every visitor should enjoy at least once. However, because of the shells, a wheelchair would have difficulty getting down to the field.

Several female patrons offered me shelter from the rain for a spell under their umbrella, which showed that McKeon's fans are some of the nicest.

How Far I Got on 20 Bucks: I ran for my car after seeing two exciting innings of baseball, my camera and notebook getting wet, and my clothing soaked. I realized that I had not spent the \$20 that I normally do to see how far I could get. It was too late to turn back.

But if I had had the chance, I would have purchased a hot dog for \$1.50 and a drink for \$1 to try the food. I would have purchased a Mets key chain for \$2 and matching lanyard for \$3. The orange and blue colors of the Mets were quite appealing.

I also would have purchased a Hyannis Mets baby bib for \$8 as a gift for a friend of mine's newborn son and a Mets pennant for \$3 as a gift to my father. I'm a sucker for a good ice cream and on that hot summer night, I would have most likely spent my last \$1.50 in that manner.

McKeon Park was beautiful, despite the school facilities. The parking situation was worrisome and the handicapped accessibility issue played on my mind... But anything is worth watching a baseball game in Margaritaville. 4 stars.

★★★★



MATTHEW BURKE

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MATTHEW BURKE

The Mets Mart doubles as a perch for the local broadcasters and offers a wide array of goods for fans.



MATTHEW BURKE

Scouts assemble behind home plate with their usual arsenal of radar guns and notebooks.



SPORTSPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT

Wally, the Green Monster, made his way from Fenway to Brewster to celebrate the Whitecaps' new field grand opening.

Cotuit

Pitcher

Jay BROWN

Kettleers

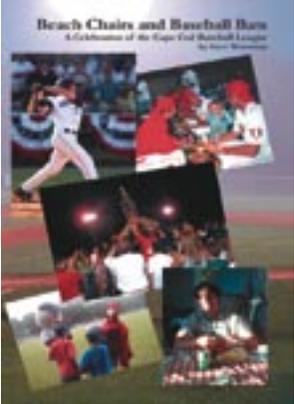
KK Codders' Player of the Week

Jay Brown, of the Cotuit Kettleers and Young Harris, Georgia, has had quite an outstanding summer thus far. The right-handed pitcher recently went to 3-0 with an eight innings of five-hit, shut-out baseball, with eight K's and no walks, against Orleans as the Kettleers took down a 5-0 win in a matchup between the top two teams in the Cape League. Brown, who has worked out of the pen and as a starter, leads the league with a 0.00 earned-run average and had an amazing 5-to-1 strikeout-to-walk ratio, fanning 20 and walking just four.

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SPORTPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT

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Cape Cod Baseball League

www.capecodbaseball.org

2006 Schedule

Sun 6/11	Mon 6/12	Tue 6/13	Wed 6/14	Thu 6/15	Fri 6/16	Sat 6/17
			*Major League*	Cot @ Bou PPD	Bre 2 @ Cot 8	Cha 8 @ Bre 8
			Baseball	Orl 2 @ Bre 0	War 5 @ Hya 3	Hya @ Cot 9
			Scouts Days	Y-D @ Hya (6-20)	Cha 6 @ Y-D 5	Y-D 3 @ Har 1
				Fal 10 @ Cha 1	Bou 0 @ Fal 4	Bou 1 @ Orl 2
				Har 1 @ War 10	Orl 0 @ Har 2	Fal 6 @ War 7
Sun 6/18	Mon 6/19	Tue 6/20	Wed 6/21	Thu 6/22	Fri 6/23	Sat 6/24
War 6 @ Bou 2	Fal 2 @ Bre 4	Y-D 5 @ Hya 0	Bre 6 @ Bou 8	Cot 12 @ Bou 8	Cot 2 @ Bre 2	Har @ Bou rain
Bre 6 @ Hya 4	Y-D 1 @ Cha 3		Orl 1 @ Cot 17	Cha 13 @ Bre 0	War 3 @ Hya 4 (10)	Orl @ Hya rain
Orl 12 @ Y-D 7	Bou 0 @ Har 11		Cha 2 @ Hya 3	Har 5 @ Y-D 2	Bou 2 @ Cha 5	Cot @ Y-D rain
Cot 1 @ Fal 5	Hya 3 @ Orl 1		Y-D 6 @ Fal 5	Hya 5 @ Fal 4	Y-D 4 @ Har 5	Bre @ Fal rain
Har 2 @ Cha 5	Cot 7 @ War 2		War 10 @ Har 3	War 1 @ Orl 5	Fal 1 @ Orl 2	War @ Cha rain
Sun 6/25	Mon 6/26	Tue 6/27	Wed 6/28	Thu 6/29	Fri 6/30	Sat 7/1
Orl @ Bre rain	Fal 1 @ Bou 0	Bre 6 @ Y-D 5 (10)	Cot @ Bou rain	Cha @ Bou rain	Orl 5 @ Bou 4	Fal 2 @ Hya 2 (10)
Bou @ Cot rain	War 4 @ Bre 3	Bou 4 @ Fal 7	Orl 11 @ Hya 2	Fal 4 @ Cot 3	War @ Y-D 5:00	Bou 5 @ Y-D 8
Fal @ War rain	Har 0 @ Cot 3	Cha 2 @ Har 4	Bre 1 @ Fal 2	Har 3 @ Hya 5	Bre 3 @ Cha 2	Cot 4 @ Cha 0
Hya @ Har rain	Hya 0 @ Y-D 1	Cot 4 @ Orl 0	Y-D 2 @ Cha 3 (10)	Y-D 6 @ Orl 3	Hya 4 @ Fal 0	Bre 8 @ Har 5
Y-D @ Cha rain	Cha 1 @ Orl 2	Hya 4 @ War 6		Bre 2 @ War 1	Cot 2 @ Har 0	Orl 7 @ War 0
Sun 7/2	Mon 7/3	Tue 7/4	Wed 7/5	Thu 7/6	Fri 7/7	Sat 7/8
Hya 7 @ Bou 7	Har 5 @ Bre 1	War 1 @ Bou 6	Har @ Bou 5:00	Y-D 5 @ Cot 2	Bou 2 @ Bre 0	Y-D 2 @ Bou 0
Y-D 0 @ Bre 2	Cot 5 @ Hya 3	Hya 6 @ Cot 1	Cot @ Y-D 5:00	Bou @ Hya (rain)	Orl 0 @ Cot 5	Hya 5 @ Bre 3
War 6 @ Cot 2	Y-D 7 @ Fal 4	Bre 13 @ Y-D 5	Orl @ Bre 5:00	Har 11 @ Fal 6	Fal 5 @ Y-D 3	Cha 0 @ Cot 1
Har 1 @ Orl 2	Cha 5 @ Orl 6	Orl 2 @ Cha 0	War @ Cha 7:00	Bre 7 @ Orl 3	Har 4 @ Cha 2	War 2 @ Fal 9
Cha 14 @ Fal	Bou 7 @ War 8	Fal 3 @ Har 9		Cha 3 @ War 4	Hya 4 @ War 2	Har 1 @ Orl 2
Sun 7/9	Mon 7/10	Tue 7/11	Wed 7/12	Thu 7/13	Fri 7/14	Sat 7/15
Bou 5 @ Hya 0	Bou 1 @ Cot 8	Bou 3 @ Cot 3	Fal @ Bou (rain)	Hya @ Cha (rain)	Cha 7 @ Bou 2	Orl 5 @ Bou 4
Cot 6 @ War 4	Har 2 @ Y-D 6	Fal 9 @ War 2	War 1 @ Bre 2	Cot @ Fal (rain)	Orl 3 @ Bre 3	Y-D 4 @ Hya 1
Orl 1 @ Y-D 7	Hya 0 @ Cha 1	Hya 7 @ Har 2	Cha @ Cot 5:00	Bou @ Har (rain)	Cot 7 @ Hya 1	Bre 8 @ Fal 7
Bre 8 @ Har 7	Orl 6 @ Fal 2	Orl 1 @ Bre 7	Har @ Hya (rain)	Bre 4 @ Orl 2	Fal 8 @ Y-D 11	War 5 @ Cha 6
*Fal 1 @ Cha 0	Bre 0 @ War 1		Y-D @ Orl (rain)	Y-D 8 @ War 4	Har 2 @ War 0	Cot 12 @ Har 4
Sun 7/16	Mon 7/17	Tue 7/18	Wed 7/19	Thu 7/20	Fri 7/21	Sat 7/22
Bou 2 @ War 5	Cot @ Bou 5:00	Bou @ Hya 5:00	Bre @ Bou 5:00	Cot @ Bre 5:00	Bou @ Bre 5:00	Fal @ Bre 2:00
Hya 8 @ Bre 7	Y-D @ Bre 5:00	Cor @ Y-D 5:00	Y-D @ Cot 5:00	Bou @ Cha 7:00	War @ Cot 5:00	*Har @ Cot 5:00*
Fal 2 @ Cot 0	Fal @ Hya 5:00		War @ Hya 5:00	Hya @ Har 7:00	Cha @ Hya 5:00	Hya @ Y-D 5:00
Har 1 @ Orl 0	Cha @ Har 7:00		Orl @ Cha 7:00	Fal @ Orl 7:00	Orl @ Y-D 5:00	Bou @ Orl 7:00
Cha 0 @ Y-D 2	War @ Orl 7:00		Har @ Fal 7:00	Y-D @ War 7:00	Fal @ Har 7:00	Cha @ War 7:00
Sun 7/23	Mon 7/24	Tue 7/25	Wed 7/26	Thu 7/27	Fri 7/28	Sat 7/29
Y-D @ Bou 2:00	Cot @ Bou 1:00	Bou @ Cot 5:00	Hya @ Bou 5:00	*Bre @ Hya 5:00*	Har @ Bou 5:00	All-Star Game
Cot @ Hya 5:00	Cha @ Bou 5:00	*War @ Y-D 5:00*	Y-D @ Bre 5:00	Cot @ Cha 7:00	Bre @ Y-D 5:00	Y-D
War @ Fal 5:30	Har @ Hya 5:00	Har @ Cha 7:00	*Fal @ Cot 5:00*	Bou @ Fal 7:00	*Orl @ Cha 7:00*	Gates Open 11:30
Orl @ Har 5:30		Hya @ Fal 7:00	Cha @ Har 7:00	War @ Har 7:00	Cot @ Fal 3:30 & 7	HR Contest 2:15
Bre @ Cha 7:00		Bre @ Orl 7:00	Orl @ War 7:00	Y-D @ Orl 7:00	Hya @ War 7:00	Game 4:00
Sun 7/30	Mon 7/31	Tue 8/1	Wed 8/2	Thu 8/3	Fri 8/4	Sat 8/5
Hya @ Bou 5:00	Har @ Bre 5:00	Cha @ Cot 4:30	Fal @ Bou 1:30 & 4:30	All-Star Player	Cha @ Bre 4:30	War @ Bou 4:30
Bre @ Cot 5:00	Hya @ Orl 7:00	Bou @ Har 7:00	War @ Cot 4:30	Recognition	Bou @ Hya 4:30	Hya @ Cot 4:30
War @ Fal 5:30	Bou @ Y-D 5:00		Orl @ Hya 4:30	Night at	Har @ Y-D 4:30	Orl @ Fal 5:30
Orl @ Har 5:30	Cha @ Fal 7:00		Cha @ Y-D 4:30	Fenway Park	Cot @ Orl 7:00	Bre @ Cha 7:00
Y-D @ Cha 7:00	Cot @ War 7:00		Bre @ Har 7:00	Boston	Fal @ War 7:00	Y-D @ Har 7:00
Sun 8/6	Mon 8/7	Tue 8/8	Wed 8/9	Thu 8/10	Fri 8/11	Sat 8/12
Har @ Bre 4:30	Open	Divisional Games	Divisional Games	Divisional Game(s)	Championship	Championship
Fal @ Hya 4:30		East: Game 1	East: Game 2	East Game 3 (if nec)	Game 1 or 2	(if nec)
Cot @ Y-D 4:30		West: Game 1	West: Game 2	West Game 3 (if nec)		
Bou @ War 5:00				or Championship		
Cha @ Orl 7:00				Game 1		

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Batting Around

A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League

West Division Roundup

Kettleers Still Out in Front

Since the season's start, the Cotuit Kettleers have been much like a ball rolling down a hill, picking up steam as they go. Consistency is an understatement to describe the way this team has played thus far. Despite a few minor letdowns each week, the team goes to the park, hits some batting practice and simply takes care of its opponent with ease.

Success, which should be spelled with a capital "S" for the Kettleers, has spawned from some pretty basic, fundamental baseball that anyone can understand. Timely hitting, unselfish play, and some dominant pitching by a staff that is the premier bunch this side of Fenway have propelled this team to the top of the standings.

The Kettleers' team accomplishments have been most impressive through this point in the season. They lead the league in batting average at .278, 17 points higher than the next team despite recent slips in production. Their pitching staff is 15-6 with a 1.88 ERA, good for first in the league as well. This staff led by Dan Delucia (Ohio State), James Simmons (UC Riverside), and Jay Brown (Young Harris) has been at the top of the league from the beginning as well. They don't lead the league in strikeouts; in fact, they stand dead last in that category, which makes this feat even more unbelievable. Cotuit doesn't boast an overpowering staff - they simply know how to pitch. They are intelligent pitchers who have one of the league's best catchers in Sean Gaston (Notre Dame) calling the shots.

On offense, they do possess some power led by the big bats of Justin Smoak (South Carolina), Kyle Russell (Texas) and Jeff Rea (Mississippi State). Each has driven in over 10 runs and has been known to have a little extra power to hit a few long balls as well.

Cotuit is sitting on top of the West for the time being, with a comfortable seven-point lead on Wareham and eight points on a hot Falmouth team that has won six of its last seven games.

Assuming they keep the ball rolling, there may be no stopping this team whose attack is led by head coach Mike Roberts, who has instilled in his players an unselfish mentality that may be unmatched in this league. It's this attitude that has brought

them to the top, while more and more fans at Lowell Park are hoping and believing this ball may roll pretty far.

By Nicholas Mucci, CCBL Intern
mucci@capecodbbaseball.org

Holding onto Second in Wareham



After posting a strong record early in the season, the Wareham Gatemen

have seen better days come week's end. Still maintaining the second-place spot in the Western Division, the Gatemen have been experimenting defensively in efforts to find the perfect lineup.

Beginning the week with a three-game homestand, the Gatemen were hosts to the Cotuit Kettleers. Despite multi-hit games by both Bradley Suttle (Texas) and Diallo Fon (Vanderbilt), including a solo home run by Suttle in the second, Wareham's share of costly errors eventually led to the loss. With a late-inning rally started by Robert Lara (LSU) in the seventh, the Gatemen could no longer tame the bats of the streaking Kettleers in the 6-4 defeat.

Coming into the game with a three-game losing streak, the Gatemen battled the Whitecaps of Brewster in a pitcher's duel between Wareham's Chris Hicks (Georgia Tech) and Brewster's Cody Crowell (Vanderbilt). With only four hits generated offensively in the win, the Gatemen saw the first and only run cross the plate in the fourth when Jason Ogata (LSU) followed a leadoff single with two stolen bases and a passed ball, leading to a 1-0 victory. Hicks was awarded his first win in as many starts for the Gatemen, throwing six innings of three-hit baseball. Nick Cassavechia (Baylor) and Connor Graham (Miami-Ohio) closed it out, with Graham being awarded his fourth save.

The Gatemen followed their first and only win of the week with two strong pitching performances by Riley Boening (Texas) and Travis Banwart (Wichita State). Banwart left his outing Wednesday night clutching his right elbow, but is expected to appear for his next start. Wareham has always been known for dominance on the mound, but unfortunately has seen little offensive production in the past week. Posting just seven hits in two consecutive

losses, the Gatemen have had little help at the plate.

Despite falling seven of their last eight games, the Gatemen have received help in the Western Division and continue to remain in second place. Wareham will take the four-game losing streak (through Friday) back home on Sunday to face the Bourne Braves before an afternoon home crowd.

By Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern
scalia@capecodbbaseball.org

Hunt Shooting for Perfection



Here's a name for you: Shooter Hunt. Commodore fans or casual onlookers who engross themselves

in great Cape League action this summer may pick up a stat sheet and wonder, how did he get this name? Funny you should ask.

"After Dennis Hopper's character 'Shooter' in the movie Hoosiers," said the six-foot-three righthander from Wyckoff, New Jersey.

Born in 1986, the same year that USA Today's best

sports movie of all time was released, Shooter was born into a sports crazed family whose love for Hoosiers was undoubtedly incomparable.

Much like Hopper in the film, Shooter has delivered a stellar performance thus far for the Commodores. After pitching out of the bullpen early in the season to get acclimated to the league, Hunt has settled in nicely to a starting role and has positioned himself among the league's elite pitchers. This is quite an accomplishment, knowing the caliber of players that annually pass through the league.

In three starts with Virginia this past spring, the freshman didn't factor in any decisions, but managed to strike out an impressive 33 batters in 33 innings. Highly recruited out of high school, Shooter was named the Gatorade Player of the Year for New Jersey merely one year ago. This spring, Hunt found himself in the late innings against ACC rival and then top-ranked Clemson University on the opening weekend of ACC play.

Hunt's work ethic and "Hoosier" attitude has helped mold him into the player is today, and it is paying big

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Local fans get a chat session with Mets' shortstop Ryan Flaherty during a rain delay.



Batting Around

A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League

West Roundup Continued...

DIVISION STANDINGS through July 16, 2006

EASTERN DIVISION		W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10
YARMOUTH-DENNIS		16	11	0	32	W 8	9-1
BREWSTER		15	11	2	32	L 1	6-4
ORLEANS		15	12	1	31	L 1	3-7
HARWICH		11	14	0	22	W 1	5-5
CHATHAM		10	14	1	21	L 2	3-7
WESTERN DIVISION		W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10
COTUIT		16	7	1	33	L 1	7-3
WAREHAM		14	14	0	28	W 2	3-7
FALMOUTH		12	13	1	25	W 1	6-4
HYANNIS		11	12	2	24	W 1	5-5
BOURNE		4	16	2	10	L 3	3-7

BATTING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 70 PLATE APPEARANCES)

BATTER	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Cash, David	BOU	.338	16	65	11	22	0	5
Wieters, Matt	OLN	.333	19	72	6	24	3	12
Sommer, Luke	YRD	.317	25	63	10	20	2	13
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	.315	24	92	15	29	3	14
Posey, Buster	YRD	.312	27	109	15	34	1	12
Carrara, Chris	CHA	.306	19	62	13	19	0	2
Bianucci, Michael	YRD	.306	18	62	13	19	3	7
Angle, Matt	COT	.303	24	76	15	23	1	6
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	.301	23	93	19	28	0	14
Farris, Eric	COT	.299	22	67	9	20	0	8

HOME RUNS

BATTER	CLUB	HR
McFadden, Warren	FAL	6
Dykstra, Allan	CHA	4
Smoak, Justin	COT	4
Wallace, Brett	FAL	4
LaPorta, Matthew	BRW	4

RBI

BATTER	CLUB	RBI
Rizzotti, Matt	CHA	18
Emaus, Brad	YRD	16
Mooreland, Mitch	BOU	15
McFadden, Warren	FAL	15
LaPorta, Matthew	BRW	15

STOLEN BASES

BATTER	CLUB	SB
Carrara, Chris	CHA	11
Gotcher, Ryan	WAR	11
Kaiser, Kody	OLN	11
Leclerc, Brian	BOU	10
Brown, Corey	CHA	9

TEAM	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	BB	SO	SB	CS
Cotuit	.269	788	124	212	11	110	175	30	19
Falmouth	.255	926	113	236	24	69	252	25	19
Hyannis	.244	812	81	198	4	85	176	17	10
Harwich	.229	830	91	190	10	79	196	40	22
Yarmouth-Dennis	.224	875	123	196	20	91	173	31	14
Brewster	.223	913	117	204	15	116	181	19	14
Orleans	.222	898	90	199	9	92	229	32	14
Wareham	.213	898	105	191	7	113	207	48	11
Chatham	.210	803	89	169	9	100	220	40	10
Bourne	.205	696	65	143	4	78	188	21	13

ADDITIONAL BATTING LEADERS

HITS

BATTER	CLUB	HITS
Posey, Buster	YRD	34
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	29
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	29
Mangini, Matt	HYA	28

DOUBLES

BATTER	CLUB	DOUBLES
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	9
Russell, Kyle	COT	8

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

BATTER	CLUB	SLUGGING PERCENTAGE
Smoak, Justin	COT	.525
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	.511
McFadden, Warren	FAL	.510
Wallace, Brett	FAL	.500
Bianucci, Michael	YRD	.500

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 dividends right now in the Cape League. Hunt is boasting a 2-0 record, a minuscule 1.48 ERA, and is second in the league in strikeouts with 32, three shy of the league-leading Cody Crowell (Vanderbilt) of Brewster.

Shooter gives much praise to his father, who was the coach of his high school team. Seeing him through years of ups and downs, it should come as no surprise that Hunt's parents attended one of their son's two dominating starting performances this season. On that day, Shooter gave them a Hoosiers-like outing, mowing down opposing batters and letting his parents do nothing but smile.

The Commodores have held on to third place in the West through this week, hoping to climb in the standings when they get a shot at first-place Cotuit on Sunday.

By Nicholas Mucci, CCBL Intern
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Rain, Rain Go Away

The Hyannis Mets are in need of a rest. Although the Mets had two "off" days this week due to the inclement weather, they appear tired. Hyannis has lost its last three games and fallen from third to fourth place in the Western Division. The three-game losing streak started off against the Bourne Braves, who hold the worst record in the league (4-13-2). Sunday's 5-0 loss to Bourne produced a domino effect, as the team fell to Chatham, Harwich and Cotuit later in the week.

The loss to Bourne came in large part on account of a slow start on the pitching mound. Alex Hale (Richmond) lasted only two innings. The Braves' Austin Krum (Dallas Baptist) and Mitch Mooreland (Mississippi) capitalized on Hale's struggle to put up two homers in the first inning. Bourne would continue from there and never look back. Although Matt Daly (Hawaii) and Gary Lee (South Carolina-Aiken) provided strong pitching for the rest of the game, the Braves offense remained unfazed. Offensively, the Mets faced several missed opportunities and the closest chance to scoring was in the fifth inning when Mark McGonigle (New Orleans) advanced to third on a David Macias (Vanderbilt) single.

Monday, despite a strong seven innings by pitcher Aaron Brown (Houston), Hvan-

nis was once again shut out, this time by Chatham. The Mets, who have displayed strong offense in the past few weeks, struggled in Chatham and throughout the remainder of the week.

However, players remain positive. Mets pitcher Matt Daly (Hawaii), who had his best outing yet against Bourne on Sunday, notes, "I think this week we were in a slump. It happens. We have confidence that we will get back on track in the weeks leading up to the All-Star Game and playoffs."

The Mets look to rebound at Brewster on Sunday, and with four of their next five games after that at home, hopefully Mother Nature won't rain on their parade.

By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern
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Braves Starting to Turn Things Around

Unfortunately for the Bourne Braves, the weather continues to be uncooperative and the rainouts continue to pile up. With their fifth week in a row featuring at least one rainout, the Braves have had two games postponed due to the weather this past week.

In efforts to quiet the recently hot bats of the Hyannis Mets, the Braves viewed an impressive performance thrown by Tom Farmer (Akron) on Sunday. Farmer began the game with five no-hit innings, pushing the Braves along to their third win in their last four games. Despite Hyannis putting the leadoff man on in the first five innings, the Braves witnessed four double plays turned by middle infielders Brett Bartles (Duke) and Andy Goff (Wake Forest). Austin Krum (Dallas Baptist) led the Braves offensively in the first with a solo homer of his own followed by a Mitch Mooreland (Mississippi State) two-run shot just two batters later. The Braves scored three runs in the first on pace to the 5-0 victory.

With one inning proving to be the significant turning point of the game, the Braves looked again to Krum for support against the streaking Cotuit Kettleers. Cotuit managed all of their eight runs in the fourth inning to defeat the Braves. Bourne was unable to generate any runs offensively until the ninth inning, which featured a double by Ty Wright (Oklahoma State). Krum displayed excellence at the plate once again (going 2-for-3) and received help from

Wright. The Braves traveled to Cotuit the following night to face the Kettleers in a game that ended in a tie. The game was stopped after nine innings of play due to darkness at Lowell Park. The Braves struck early, scoring one run in each of the first three innings. Bourne once again sought support from Krum, who went 3-for-4 at the plate in the tie.

Following back-to-back nights of rainouts, the Braves headed back home to face the Chatham A's in a battle between cellar dwellers. The Braves starter, Bobby Bell (Rice), pitched well over 5 1/3 innings, giving up two earned runs and striking out five. Despite the strong effort at the plate by David Cash, who went 2-for-5 with a triple and a run scored, the Braves struggled offensively in their losing efforts.

Performing impressively for the Braves in the bullpen, Andrew Carignan (North Carolina) has struck out seven batters in three innings of relief in three appearances since his arrival from the College World Series.

By Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern
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Dave Gavitt Honored By Big East

Former CCBL field manager and basketball coaching legend Dave Gavitt will be honored by The BIG EAST Conference with a special tribute event for its founder and 2006 Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame inductee at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, R.I. on August 10 at 5:30 p.m. The conference has scheduled this tribute because tickets to the enshrinement ceremony in Springfield, Mass. are limited. Tickets for the event are \$100 per person and should be made payable to the BIG EAST Conference: Attn: DAVE GAVITT TRIBUTE, BIG EAST Conference, 222 Richmond St. Suite 110, Providence, R.I. 02903. The conference will assemble a unique "video tribute book," which will run during the event. It is designed to allow both individuals and organizations to offer their formal congratulations and best wishes to Dave and his wife Julie and help to offset costs of the event.



Batting Around

A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League East Division Roundup

Red Sox on a Roll

Despite the rainy weather and cool temperatures, the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox are hot. The Sox have won six of their last seven games and are now in third place in the Eastern Division. Y-D started the season in last place, but this week thanks to strong offense and unyielding defense, they have proved they are stiff competition in the race for the championship.

After a week filled with rain, stir-crazy fans took in the sun as they flocked to Red Wilson Field to see Y-D take on the Falmouth Commodores. One week before, the Sox fell to Falmouth 5-3, but this week they literally came out swinging. Y-D set the tone in the first inning as Tyler Henry (Rice) scored on a Buster Posey (Florida State) out at second. They would add another run to the board in the second when a Danny Lehmann (Rice) single to right field allowed Jordan Pacheco (New Mexico) to advance to third. Luke Sommer's (San Francisco) sacrifice bunt allowed Pacheco to score and the Sox were up 2-0. The Commodores answered back with a combined five runs in the second and third innings. But the fourth inning exhibited just how much the Sox have improved since the start of the season. Y-D scored a total of six runs and left Commodore starter Kris Dobrowiecki (Northeastern) and his teammates in dismay. Sean Morgan (Tulane) replaced Dobrowiecki later that inning, but the damage had already been done.

The sixth-inning scoring extravaganza that resulted in six runs for Y-D was kicked off by a Mike Bianucci (Auburn) home run that drove home Pacheco and Lehmann. Not to be outdone, Sommer followed Bianucci with another homer for the Sox. With two outs, Brad Emaus (Tulane) stepped up to the plate ... the result? You guessed it ... another home run! The Sox took the lead at 8-5 and never looked back.

The Commodores tried to answer back, but only managed to score a total of three runs in the sixth and ninth innings. After the homer-filled fourth, the Sox put up five more runs to end the game with the 11-8 win.

Yarmouth-Dennis provided its fans with a taste of what

Cape Cod Baseball is all about. They hope to continue their success on Sunday, hosting the Chatham A's at Red Wilson Field at 5 p.m. *By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern reilly@capecodbaseball.org*

Moving On Up



The Whitecaps are moving on up, to first place in the Eastern Division. Having won four and tied one of six games this week, Brewster has been on a roll - and from the looks of the Whitecaps, they are hungry for a championship. It seems their previous lucky streak has turned into solid performance, and from hitting to pitching the Whitecaps are getting the job done.

Now, it is true that no one person is responsible for a win or a loss, but there is no denying the effect Matt LaPorta (Florida) has on the Whitecaps. Brewster head coach Bob Macaluso said, "He has been a boost to our offense and is playing nice first base as well."

Matt is very well known on the Cape. Being chosen by the Boston Red Sox in the draft is one reason he is a Cape Cod favorite. Then add what he did to help the 2004 Y-D Red Sox get to the championship along with what he has been doing for the 2006 Whitecaps. And with all the autograph seekers around him, some might argue he is practically a celebrity. Matt loves it, saying, "It's good to be back enjoying the fans."

He is a native of Port Charlotte, Fla., and has been a Gator for three years. This will be his final year at Florida, where he has made a lasting impression on his team. One of his many accomplishments is being only two home runs away from beating a school record of 55.

Although Matt can hit all over the field, which is why he is leading his team and tied at second in the league with 15 RBIs, he is well known for his home run hitting ability. He is currently tied for second in the league with four homers. Matt attributes his success to his faith: "I rely on God for my strength and to let me have fun in the game."

Matt said he is here to "play against good competition, make friends, and win a championship for Brewster."

There are a couple other guys who are certainly working hard to help bring home

that trophy, too. Backing up Matt on offense and starting the home run derby this week among the Whitecaps is Justin Snyder (San Diego), who hit his second homer of the season Sunday and increased his RBI total to 10 with a two-run double against Orleans Friday. Justin is also doing well in the outfield; former Whitecaps president Gene L'Etoile said, "some of the catches he makes are unbelievable."

Continuing with the home run count, Colin Cowgill (Kentucky) hit his second homer on Tuesday and is tied for first with Snyder and Matt Cusick (USC) in doubles with four apiece. Jared Clark (CS Fullerton) also hit his second homer of the season Tuesday.

Colt Sedbrook (Arizona) hit a leadoff home run to start his tally on Tuesday and came in as a pinch-hitter in the ninth inning Friday to hit an RBI single that tied the game at 3-3. That game eventually ended in a tie against Orleans, which kept the Whitecaps in first place.

Last but definitely not least is pitcher Shaun Seibert (Arkansas), the top pitcher in the league who got his third win of the season this week, giving him a record of 3-0. He has a mind-blowing 0.00 ERA in 28 2/3 innings with 25 strikeouts.

At this time, the team is all here and has been able to play together for a couple of weeks, and it is obvious Coach Macaluso and his staff put together a great group of ballplayers. So, if all things remain constant, we are looking at a definite playoff team. *By Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern dechristoforo@capecodbaseball.org*

Cardinals Bid Farewell to Valencia



The best song to summarize the roster for a Cape Cod Baseball League team would probably be David Bowie's "Changes." An ordinary roster will see several additions and subtractions throughout the year, and it is up to the field manager to adapt to these changes.

The Orleans Cardinals lost one of their top hitters last week to Major League Baseball. Danny Valencia (Miami) was drafted by the Minnesota Twins in the 19th round of June's amateur draft but delayed signing with the Twins until last week. This allowed him to make a stop with the

Continued on Next Page

CAPE COD LEAGUE LEADERS

(Through Games Of 7/16/06)

PITCHING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 20 IP)

PITCHER	CLUB	W-L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	3-0	0.00	29	16	17	25
Brown, Jay	COT	3-0	0.00	20	10	4	16
Hargrove, Ricky	CHA	2-0	0.59	31	13	13	21
Kopp, David	FAL	2-1	0.77	23	16	6	13
Cecil, Brett	OLN	1-0	0.87	21	9	8	27
Davis, Ty	OLN	2-1	0.94	29	17	13	25
Bleich, Jeremy	WAR	1-1	1.23	22	16	5	19
Simmons, James	COT	3-1	1.26	36	25	1	27
Farmer, Tom	BOU	1-1	1.26	29	16	14	25
Moreau, Nathan	CHA	0-2	1.29	21	12	6	13

WINS

Watson, Tony	HAR	4					
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SAVES

Fields, Joshua	YRD	7					
Demel, Sam	FAL	6					
Cecil, Brett	OLN	6					
Latham, Daniel	HYA	6					

STRIKEOUTS

Doyle, Terry	YRD	39					
Crowell, Cody	BRW	37					
Watson, Tony	HAR	33					
Hunt, Shooter	FAL	32					
DeVries, Cole	BRW	32					

TEAM	W-L	ERA	H	CG	SHO	SV	HR	BB	SO
Cotuit	16-7	1.93	163	0	6	4	8	64	162
Chatham	10-14	2.41	159	2	2	5	7	80	180
Wareham	14-14	2.85	224	1	2	7	6	83	208
Orleans	15-12	2.87	196	0	3	8	15	114	188
Harwich	11-14	3.16	176	1	4	6	11	96	229
Yarmouth-Dennis	16-11	3.22	202	2	4	11	15	110	243
Hyannis	11-12	3.24	209	0	1	7	13	95	190
Brewster	15-11	3.38	238	1	1	9	14	106	206
Falmouth	12-13	3.51	191	0	4	7	17	102	211
Bourne	4-16	4.48	180	0	2	2	7	89	180

ADDITIONAL PITCHING LEADERS

GAMES

Cassavechia, Nicki	WAR	16						
Demel, Sam	FAL	14						
Lee, Gary	HYA	12						
Graham, Connor	WAR	12						

SHUTOUTS

Woodard, Robert	CHA	1						
Doyle, Terry	YRD	1						
Hume, Donnie	YRD	1						

INNINGS PITCHED

Boening, Riley	WAR	39.0						
Shunick, Clayton	OLN	37.0						
Crowell, Cody	BRW	36.2						
Simmons, James	COT	35.2						
Doyle, Terry	YRD	35.2						

LOSSES

Gardner, Matt	BOU	4						
Several Players Tied at		3						

WALKS

Surkamp, Eric	OLN	18						
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	17						
Daly, Matt	HYA	17						
Doyle, Terry	YRD	17						

HOME RUNS ALLOWED

Dobrowiecki, Kris	FAL	9						
DeVries, Cole	BRW	5						
Don, Johnny	HAR	4						



A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League

East Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 13
Orleans Cardinals, where he played third base and hit .269 with 3 home runs.

The announcement of Valencia's signing was made last Saturday, July 8 at Eldredge Park and the fans showed their support with a large ovation. His former teammates showed their support with a 2-1 win over the Harwich Mariners. Matt Wieters (Georgia Tech) hit a game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the 11th and Brett Cecil (Maryland) pitched three innings of scoreless relief to get the win over Harwich.

The Cardinals are in the middle of a grueling stretch of baseball where they will play 11 games in 11 nights. However, they continue to play solid baseball and currently sit in second place of the Eastern Division behind the first-place Brewster Whitecaps.

After a tough 7-1 loss to the Yarmouth Dennis Red Sox on Saturday night, the Cardinals traveled to Arnie Allen Diamond to take on the Falmouth Commodores. Michael Hyde (Florida State) received the win for the Cards, giving up only one run in five innings of work. Despite his size, 6-foot-2 and 240 pounds, Joe Dunigan (Oklahoma) looked impressive on the basepaths with two steals and a heads-up base running play in top of the sixth to score the go-ahead run. Andrew Davis (Kent State) enjoyed a nice night by going 2-for-3 with two RBIs and a run scored as the Cardinals rolled to a 6-2 win.

After the win on Monday night, Orleans entered a rough stretch, relinquishing first place of the Eastern Division to the Brewster Whitecaps. The Whitecaps took first place with a 4-2 win over the Cardinals on Thursday night. However, the Cards had a chance to take back first place on Friday night, when they traveled to Stony Brook Field to take on the Whitecaps again. With the score tied at two, Dunigan appeared to play the role of hero with a RBI single in the top of the ninth, but his heroics were matched by Colt Sedbrook (Arizona), who provided a pinch-hit RBI single in the bottom of the ninth for the Whitecaps. The teams played a 10th inning before the game was called for darkness in a 3-3 tie.

The Cardinals hope to cement their roster and get back to first place in the coming week. They host the Harwich Mariners at Eldredge Park in a 5 p.m. twilight game on Sunday.

By Jonathan French, CCBL Intern
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Tough Times in Harwich

This week has not been very pleasant for the Mariners, as losing four in a row and having two straight rain days has only moved the Mariners further away from first place and mounted frustration on the team. But through all the negativity, there is still good news to report.

The main story is Josh Donaldson (Auburn). This spring, Josh finished his sophomore year at Auburn University and led his team with 10 home runs. His hitting ability has made him a starter and steady offensive force for two seasons with the Tigers.

This summer Josh is making headlines for the Harwich Mariners. Josh has been quite the standout these past couple weeks, being rightfully named the Cape League Player of the Week for July 3-9. He leads the Mariners with 13 RBIs and a .333 batting average, good for second in the league. He is also first in doubles with nine and second in hits with 28 - only a few of the many categories his name reads on the league leaders list.

As a third baseman and rotating catcher, Josh has a real appreciation for game preparation. He credits his own preparation and the playing time offered by the coaches for how quickly he was able to adapt to the league: "I prepare a lot and the coaches give us great opportunities so I've been able to adjust quickly."

Josh is using his time on the Cape to make a name for himself and to find out how he stacks up against the others. The CCBL is the top amateur baseball league in the country, so these players have a chance to compete against the best in the nation while scoping out their competition at the same time. He is taking advantage of this opportunity, saying, "I'm finding out what's out there - you want to play against the best competition." It is safe to say that Josh is holding his own.

Like so many young men, Josh dreams of playing major league baseball, but unlike so many he is well on his way of making that dream come true. His main objective for this 2006 Cape League season is to "try to get an opportunity to better myself to get to the next level." The opportunity is here and he is improving on a daily basis

and showing the baseball community all he has to offer.

As Josh wants to showcase his dominance at the plate, he is also fueled by his desire to "win games and get better." Although the Mariners are hitting a rough patch right now, it is not due to lack of effort by Josh or the rest of the Mariners team.

Another infielder showing off his stuff and making a big impact on the Mariners is Sergio Miranda (Virginia Commonwealth). Miranda is second on the team to Donaldson in hits with 19 and is tied for first in stolen bases with five. Brandon Menchaca (Delaware) has also been getting more comfortable with the bat, and along with Miranda, hit his first home run of the season Sunday against Brewster. And Antone DeJesus (Kentucky) is obviously doing something right with an on-base percentage of .446, making him second in the league.

There's so much talent but so few wins, but the Mariners are hoping to turn that around. After their losing streak and days off they came away with a win against Wareham on Friday. Maybe it can be chalked up to just a few bad outings, but we will see just what this Mariners team can do this week when they go up against some teams that seem to be dealing with a similar situation.
By Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern
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Woodard Performs Like An Ace



The battle to make the playoffs for the Chatham A's continues to be an uphill climb. The team endured a tough weekend and ran into a number of quality starters from the opposing sides, but the offense came on strong at the end of the week.

The A's lost three games over the weekend and only managed two runs during their three-game slide. Despite the losses, Chatham continued to get strong performances out of their starting pitchers. Nathan Moreau (Georgia) gave up one run in eight innings of work on Saturday's 1-0 loss to Cotuit. Sunday gave the fans at Veterans Field a chance to see a doubleheader. General Manager Charlie Thoms commented,

"The doubleheader gives the kids a well deserved day off from games." However, the doubleheader didn't work out well for Chatham. The Falmouth Commodores swept the two games, with much of the credit landing on the great pitching performances of Cory Riordan (Fordham) and David Kopp (Clemson), who combined for two wins and only one earned run.

Robert Woodard (North Carolina) would step up Monday night and prove to be the team's ace. Woodard had a strong college season in 2006 for the North Carolina Tar Heels but spent most of the season in the shadow of Roger Clemens' award winner Andrew Miller. Woodard stepped out of this shadow with his performance on Monday night. The three-year CCBL veteran pitched nine innings of one-hit baseball to give the A's a 1-0 win. Adrian Ortiz's (Pepperdine) RBI in the bottom of the fifth gave Woodard the only run he would need all night.

Tuesday's night off turned into three nights off due to rain showers on Wednesday and Thursday. The time off gave the A's offense some time to regroup and finally come alive at the end of the week. The A's ended the week with a win against the Bourne Braves. Reid Fronk (North Carolina) and Corey Brown (Oklahoma State) both took one for the team and drove in two important runs when they were hit by consecutive pitches in the top of sixth. Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest) then blew the game wide open with a single that drove in two runs, as the A's rolled to a 6-2 win.

The Chatham A's continue their climb towards a playoff spot in the coming week as they hope for more great performances out of their pitching staff. Robert Woodard's next start is on Monday night, when the A's travel to Harwich to take on the Mariners.
By Jonathan French, CCBL Intern
french@capecodbaseball.org



SPORTSPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT
Orleans manager Kelly Nicholson talks things over with visitors to the ballpark before a recent game.

Will PLAY for food

BY STEVE WEISSMAN

A Cape League player's day is a long one: working in the morning (either in the community or as a counselor at the Kids Clinic his team puts on), tending the field and taking batting and fielding practice in the afternoon, and playing the daily game in the evening. By the time all is said and done, there usually is but one thing left on his mind: food!

Maybe he grabbed a quick lunch around noon, and if he was lucky, he had some sort of snack around game time (typically either 5 or 7pm, depending upon whether the game field has lights). Either way, he ate lightly all day because he didn't want to risk playing on a full stomach, which would make him feel lethargic and slow. But now that the game is over, it's dark outside, and he's flat-out HUNGRY. And if there's one thing a college athlete knows, it's when the dinner hour has come and gone!

Getting By With A Little Help From Their Friends

This regimentation and routine is something of a new sensation for many players, who certainly work hard during their college seasons but do not play games every day, do not face the same high level of competition every time out, and do not have trouble fitting in a quality meal when they need one. Former Brewster Whitecap pitcher Scott Lonergan described the feeling as being in "Ground Hog Day," a reference to the Bill Murray movie of the same title in which the lead character wakes up every morning only to discover he is reliving the day before. As you might imagine, this takes a little getting used to.

Fortunately, help is available in the form of a growing network of people who work to make sure Cape Leaguers are fed after each game. Standard practice is for each team to cajole a local restaurant, shop, or other club supporter into providing "real" food after each game, be it home or away. Sometimes, a team volunteer or a local supporter will buy pizza for the gang; other times, a local restaurant will send box lunches up to the field, or invite the team to come in for a traditional "sit-down" experience. Occasionally, a family even will bring its own barbecue grill to the field or set out a spread in the parking lot, and essentially bring its back yard to the ballyard.

The players, needless to say, are appreciative of all this effort - especially after their first slate of night games, after which the issue becomes particularly acute. "You're not at home, and

Mom or your girlfriend aren't cooking for you, cleaning for you, or doing your laundry," says Ex-Harwich Mariner and former major league star Cory Snyder. So the most memorable occasions do seem to be when someone invites the guys back to the house for a good ol' fashioned feast, and the players can relax in a setting that feels a little more like home.

There's No Place Like Home

Knowing this, the Weissman/LaFrance and Neylon families of South Yarmouth recently banded together and had the Y-D Red Sox over for dinner, and they watched with satisfaction as the players ate their meals and then hung around to chat among themselves and to play with the families' children and their friends. Such fun was being had that a coach at one point asked that he be informed if anyone was getting too rambunctious - and it was clear he was more concerned about his players than the kids!

The game that night ended around eight o'clock, and by eight-thirty, 23 uniformed ballplayers (plus team interns and other volunteers) crowded the backyard. Though traveling in different cars, most of the players arrived at nearly the same moment, and the hungry horde advanced on the house like an invading army. The players were still in uniform, and a wave of red lapped over the lawn, flowed through the fence, and pooled in the back yard.

The menu consisted of lasagna, meatballs, spiral-cut ham, baked beans, tossed salad, cookies, ice cream, and pie, and if the size of the portions the players dealt themselves was any guide, it was just what the doctor ordered. "We've done this for several years now, and the coaches tell us it's as much of a highlight for the players as it is for us," said co-host Andrea LaFrance. "Our whole family looks forward to it all winter, and it's especially great when someone we've had over goes on to do something special." As an example, she points to Y-D pitcher Terry Doyle (Boston College), who just pitched a no-hitter against Chatham.

Bob and Linda Riedl provide the same sort of amenity for the Brewster Whitecaps, for whom they host a cookout every year at their house in the woods. There are hamburgers and hot dogs aplenty, but also clam bisque and the most tender steaks on the planet. Already impressed by the instructions they received earlier to park their cars between the tennis courts and the swimming pool, the players are not quite sure what

to make of this gustatory largesse, but they all appreciate the effort and welcome the opportunity to eat somewhere other than at field-side.

Something to Remember Us By

This fêting and feasting continues through the season and even just beyond, as the teams of the league generally host send-off events to bid their players adieu. The Wareham Gatemen, for example, holds a clambake and barbeque that provides more than a fitting end to another season. And there's nothing quite like the sight of a bunch of West Coast ballplayers trying to figure out which end of a lobster to open, and what to do with it once they've opened it!

By this point in their Cape careers, the players understand that the dinner that magically appears every night

is more than a daily meal: rather, it's a tangible sign that their temporary community is glad to have them, and supports them both as athletes and as people. "We know they're far from their families, and we want them to know that we like having them here," said Y-D co-host Diane Neylon. "For us, nothing short of having the boys over would do, and Red Sox team coordinator Mike Patkoske made it very easy for us to schedule." The players always appreciate that little touch of home, and when Y-D pitcher Brett Harker last year

told his host parent "I am beyond full," it was clear that the mission had been accomplished.

Steve Weissman is the author of *Beach Chairs and Baseball Bats: A Celebration of the Cape Cod Baseball League*, excerpts of which were included in this article. The book itself provides a behind-the-scenes tour of the nation's premier summer college league, and is available at all 10 Cape League ballparks, at selected Cape bookstores, and online at www.theballyard.com and Amazon.com.



Players loaded up on an old-fashioned Cape Cod lobster meal.



PHOTOS BY STEVE WEISSMAN/THEBALLYARD.COM

Former Gateman and professional infielder Casey Lambert enjoys his 'lobstah' at Wareham's annual end-of-year clam-bake and barbeque.



Fans and friends gathered for a team meal in Yarmouth recently.

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can make you
really, really hungry.



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