

July 27, 2006

The Enterprise's Summer

Your Guide

to the Cape Cod

Baseball League

Stars



Compliments of
Enterprise Newspapers
and



Buster Posey just keeps getting better

Boston Red Sox star Mark Loretta recalls the Cape League

A fans guide to watching the CCBL All-Star Game



CAPE COD
BASEBALL LEAGUE
All-Star Game
Saturday, July 29
Red Wilson Field,
Y-D

Y-D Red Sox pitcher/infielder
Buster Posey

Treating people better, **like always**. Surprising them **like never before**.
Please visit Saturn of Hyannis for all the exciting details.



All new 8 passenger
Saturn Outlook.
Available this fall.



2007 Sky Roadster



2007 Vue Hybrid



2007 Saturn Aura



www.saturnofhyannis.com



From The Cheap Seats

It's Been A Tough Year For The Bourne Braves

Back in early June there was nothing but excitement in Bourne. The Braves' organization could not wait to unveil the new Braves Field at Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School, which brought them into the upper tier of Cape Cod Baseball League facilities after enduring substandard Coady Field for years and years. The team entered the season hoping to defend its 2005 west division championship and, on paper, had a roster that looked like it should have them right back in contention.

Yes, things were looking pretty good in Bourne back before the season began.

Fast forward to the latter half of July and the optimism surrounding the club has receded. What looked like it might be the most fun summer of baseball in years has become one that the organization is looking forward to ending. Not only have the losses piled up—the team was 5-19-2 at this writing—but the Braves have also been one of the hardest hit teams in terms of bad weather this year. Down the stretch, the club will have to play a handful of doubleheaders and has only the all-star game to look forward to as an off day.

Head Coach Harvey Shapiro, who has tasted both good and bad seasons in his many years skipping Cape League clubs, does not want much out of the rest of the year, just to see his team compete day in and day out "I'm not looking at making the playoffs now, I just want to be competitive," Shapiro said before his team got on the bus for a road trip Friday afternoon.

Shapiro said that last year's club, in terms of position players, was pretty close to what he's got right now. The difference, though, has been the pitching. Last year the Braves were rock solid in terms of starting pitching, with 35 starts (out of 44 games) in which his starter gave him six innings. In 25 games a year ago, the starter went at least seven.

How much things change over the course of one year. This year the Braves have had one pitcher twice pitch into the seventh. The bullpen has been taxed and the club has not been winning. The Braves find themselves dead last in team earned-run average, entering last weekend's round of games with a combined ERA of 4.30, nearly a full run behind the ninth-place team. "If our pitching was near where it was last year, we'd have at least five more wins. That might not put us in the playoffs, but we'd be in the thick of things," Shapiro said.

To be fair, the hitting hasn't exactly been that great either. The Braves are dead last in team batting average (.207), have hit the fewest home runs (four), and scored 21 fewer runs than the next-to-last team in that category.

Injuries and roster changes have been a huge reason for the team's woes. Shapiro said that his team is employing its 11th catcher of the season right now, having lost the first two before the year even began, with one accepting an invitation to Team USA and the other getting injured during the College World Series. The turnover, as a whole, has been so big that there have been times the coaching staff wondered who some of the guys were on the bus.

"It's just one of those years," lamented general manager Mike Carrier. "Half of the players we signed didn't show up, for a variety of reasons, and that leaves you scrambling to replace those players. A big part of being successful in this league is getting all, or at least most, of your players in for the start of the season and staying healthy."

Last year the Braves needed only two temporary players to remain with the club. This year Carrier said he had "lost count" of the roster shuffling they've had to do.

Unfortunately this seems to happen to at least one CCBL team every year; it's nothing new. For whatever reasons, the team just can't get the job done and fights through adversity from day one until the welcomed close of the season.

But there is still plenty to play for, Carrier said. "If I was a scout, down here watching the Bourne Braves, I'd want to see what kind of intensity these guys play with. I'm looking to see if the shoulders are slumped or if they're still playing with desire and trying hard. That's what I would look for, because its not like you're going to go to the minor leagues and not end up on a bad team someday. It happens, and you've got keep playing hard every day."

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.



DANIEL W. WEBB



Ready To Bust-A-Move
3

MATTHEW BURKE

 *Loretta Recalls the Cape League*
Page Five

 *Fans Guide to Attending the All Stars*
Page Six

 *Inside the Game: Pitching Inside*
Page Seven

Full Cape Cod League Game Schedule
Page 10

By the Numbers
Pages 12-13

Batting Around
Pages 11-14

Look for this issue online @ www.capenews.net

On The Cover: Freshman phenom Buster Posey just keeps on getting better.
SportsPix photo by Matthew Scott



publisher
William Hough

sales manager
Steve Krammes

sales
Danielle Guay
Tricia Keough
Dawn Mitchell
Trisha Herlihy
Barbara Warner
Nancy Medeiros
Esther Buchanan

project manager
Chuck Borge

sports editor
Rich Maclone

photo editor
Daniel W. Webb

design & layout
Elisabet K. Rodrigues

design services manager
Christine Stutzman

design services
Linda Stewart
Jill Spencer
Julia Balducci

press supervisor
David Pittman

BUST-A-MOVE

AFTER A SENSATIONAL FRESHMAN SEASON, BUSTER POSEY IS STILL GETTING BETTER...AND IT'S SCARY

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Three-time National Coach of the Year Scott Pickler, of Cypress College, has spent nine years as the head coach of the YD Red Sox. He is a man who can take any good player and make them great, and he has proven himself as a skipper in the Cape League time and time again, culminating with a CCBL title in 2004.

At Cypress, a junior college in Cypress, California, he has seen 12 former players make it to the big show, including Rangers catcher Gerald Laird, Orioles outfielder David Newhan, A's pitcher Keith Ginter, and Padre's all-star closer Trevor Hoffman.

Buster Posey, a 19-year-old shortstop/pitcher from Leesburg Georgia, is Coach Pickler's newest project, and under Pickler's guidance, he has come alive this summer for the YD Red Sox.

This is not an unusual phenomenon in the CCBL. Every year, college coaches send their talented players and young stars-to-be to the Cape League to finetune their skills with a summer's worth of top-notch instruction. Posey's coach at Florida State University, Mike Martin, did just that.

Posey, who is coming off a very impressive freshman season for Florida State, where he finished second on the team in batting average, .346, hits, 85, and at bats, 246, was named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American before the start of baseball this summer. He finished in the top five in every other offensive category.

He impressed his coaches with nine stolen bases, four home runs, 48 RBI, and a .433 on base percentage. Besides playing a slick shortstop, he is also a talented pitcher. According to Coach Martin, Posey possesses a fastball in the mid-nineties, and a good breaking ball. So much for the rookie jitters; Posey came to FSU already equipped with the tools for immediate success.

But with the good comes the bad, and Posey recorded a high number of strikeouts (45), errors (20), and hit into more double plays (7) than any of the other Seminole players this past season. Coach Martin said that his change-up needs some work, but he remained confident that Posey could make the necessary adjustments.

Buster is working with "Pick," his nickname for Coach Pickler, and has been learning to be successful with a wooden bat, so that he can take his hitting to the next level. Pickler said that Posey

has been able to tweak his swing on the fly, which is integral, because swinging a wooden bat is different than an aluminum bat. Pickler said that kids can sometimes get lift in their swing with aluminum bats and hit only the bottom half of the ball. This can lead to a lot of popups. He said he has been working with Posey to use his legs a little bit more in his swing and to swing through the ball.

The instruction and guidance that Coach Pickler has given him seems to be working as Posey leads the Sox in batting average, at .298, and is ranked sixth in the league. He also leads the league with 37 hits, and stands poised to earn himself a roster spot at the upcoming CCBL All-Star Game that is being held this year in Yarmouth on July 29.

"I'm not as polished as some guys are," the self-described line drive hitter said while discussing his weaknesses. "I just need to get up there and get more experience. The rest will take care of itself."

Posey hails from a small farm town in rural southern Georgia. Leesburg has approximately 3,000 residents. He learned to play baseball with his father in the backyard of their home, in the midst of scattered residential homes, silos, farms, and an old railroad depot.

The official sport of Leesburg is baseball, not football. Posey garnered All-American honors while in High School at Lee County. He was pegged as the 18th best prospect in the country by Prospectus Plus and won a slew of awards. He went 23-4 in his pitching career in school and won the Region 1-AAAAA championship with a grand slam. In 2005, the California Angels drafted him in the 50th round.

"Buster was our number-one recruit last year," Coach Martin said. "He's just a guy we're looking to lead our ball club next year." Coach Martin fondly recalled asking Posey if he would play shortstop and put his pitching aspirations on hold, for now. Posey was a good shortstop in high school as well. "After the fall, he said that he didn't care where he played just as long as he could help the team," Coach Martin said of Posey's unselfishness. He added that these character traits had led to Posey being such a highly sought-after recruit. "We could see he was going to be a solid kid. He carried himself with a lot of poise and integrity."

Posey said that when he was leaving high school, everyone told him that he

was going to be used primarily as a pitcher in the future. But Posey wasn't ready to give up hitting. He added that playing short was fun last season for FSU. Coach Martin said that next season Posey might wind up at third,

pitch). Hopefully I'll get back on the mound some next year and see if everything pans out."

Coach Martin first saw Posey play in the summer of 2004, while he played for the US Junior Olympic Team.

teammates.

"The main thing that I liked about Florida State was I liked how comfortable I felt with the coaches," Posey said. "For me it's a good location, too. It's two hours away from my home, and just



SPORTPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT

Buster Posey hits a long fly ball in recent action. Posey leads the Red Sox in batting this season.

but that's okay with any type of team-oriented and unselfish player like Buster. He plays shortstop for YD and has only pitched seven innings this summer.

"I just don't know yet," Posey said of where he prefers to play. "I still have a couple of years before I have to make a decision as to what I want to do (play infield or

Posey dazzled the opposition, pitching more innings than any other Team USA pitcher, while maintaining a 1.23 ERA in Taiwan. He also recorded clutch hits against Missouri and Kansas all-star teams in exhibition games. Living 75 miles away from the FSU campus made it a short trip to fall in love with the school, the coaches, and his

the guys on the team are a lot like me." He said that he had opportunities out West and up North. He added that FSU was his best option due to its location.

"To me, it's the best place to play that I've played at," he said of FSU. "There's an electricity. We've got great knowledgeable fans who

Continued on Next Page

POSEY BUSTS A MOVE...

Continued from Page 3
stay focused on the game and know what's going on, which makes it more fun as a player."

He said that next season at FSU, they expect to win and hope to make it to Omaha. Posey hopes that by playing in the CCBL and by learning all of the knowledge that Coach Pickler has to offer, Omaha is a reasonable goal. He added that after another year in the CCBL, he'll start to think about starting a professional career.

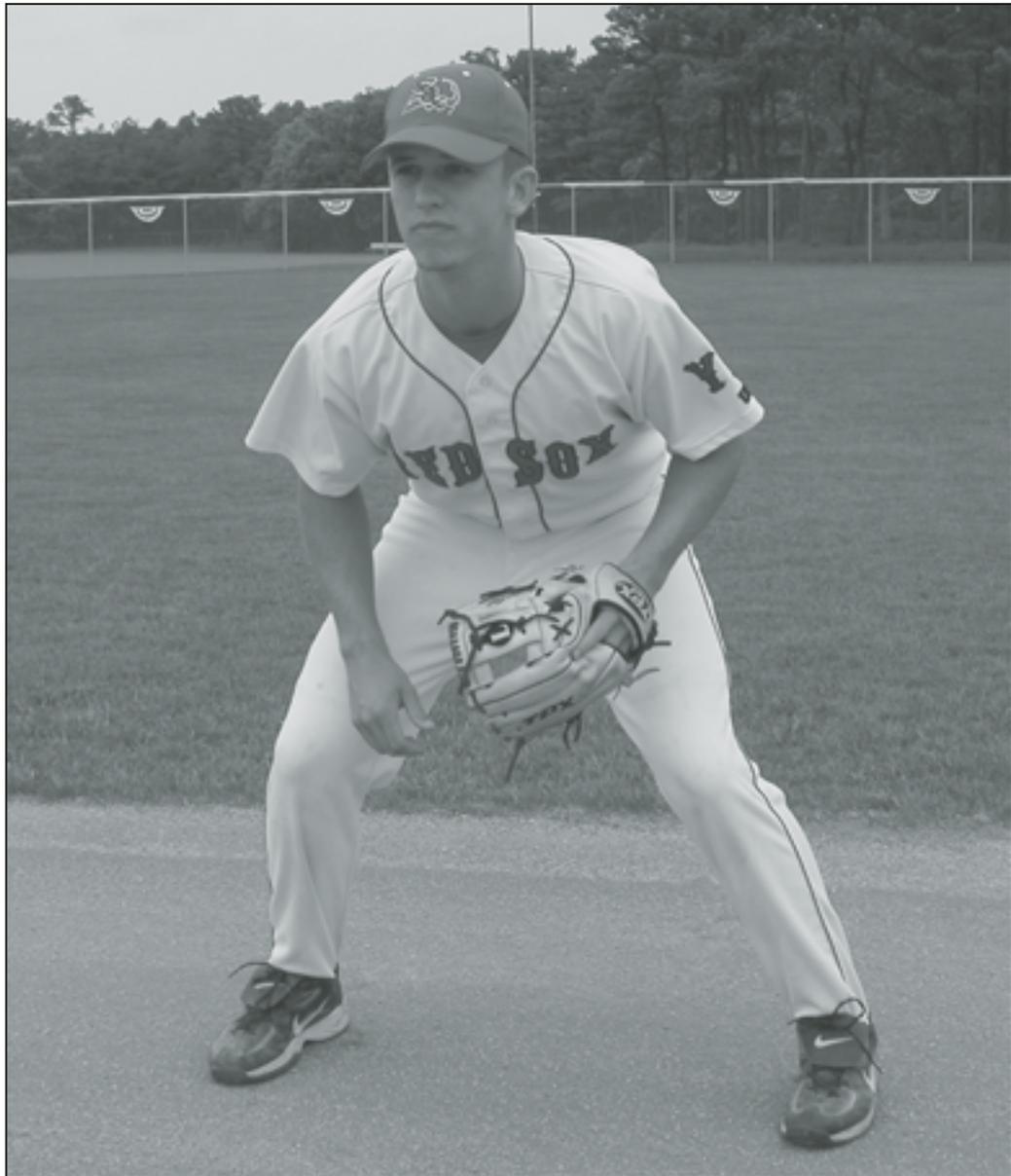
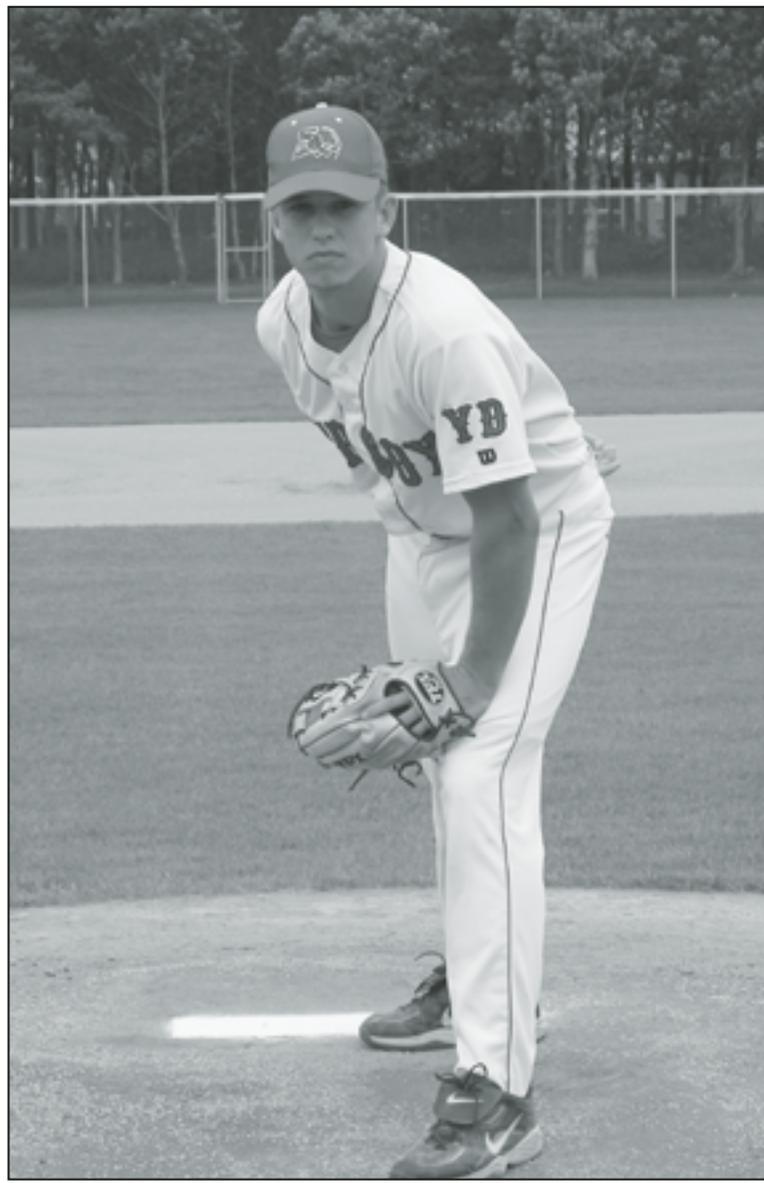
Posey said that this summer, he has been working on staying through the ball like Coach Pickler has been

instructing him. Coach Martin wants Buster to learn to be more selective as far as pitching goes, and to cut down on strikeouts, along with that change-up. "He can break the game open with one swing of the bat," Coach Martin said. "And if he can learn to spot his fastball well, he'll be very effective." Coach Martin expects Buster to assume a leadership role at FSU next season. He is learning a lot this summer in YD.

Coach Pickler predicts Posey signing as an infielder and if that doesn't work out, "going to the bump." He said that he knows that

Posey throws hard but has lost some velocity due to his low number of innings pitched. "They key to him is he's a baseball player," Pickler said. "I had another kid that played for me at Cypress, Trevor Hoffman, who pitched one time in junior college ball and you know what he's done since then." He said that Hoffman went to the University of Arizona as a shortstop much like Posey. "Buster's got those qualities, same type of work ethic."

He said that he'd love for Posey to come back next year. There's always more work that can be done.



Photos by MATTHEW BURKE

Y-D's Buster Posey is equally at home with a bat, in the infield or on the pitchers' mound.

Looking for Summer Stars?

If you can't get out to the Ball Game... Let us take you there!

Stop by one of these convenient locations for your copy

BREWSTER
Pleasant Lake Gen'l Store-Route 124
Ferretti's Market-137
Brewster Farms- Route 6A
East End Liquor Store Route 6A

CHATHAM
Chatham Coffee Company-Route 28
Larry's PX-Route 28
Merservey's Market-Route 28

HARWICH
Christies-Route 39(Harwich Center)

WAREHAM
Seven/Eleven-Cranberry Hwy
Mobil Mart-cranberry Hwy

YARMOUTH-DENNIS
White Hen Pantry-Route 28 Dennis
Christies-Route 28 Dennis
Tedeschi's-Route 28/134
Exxon-Route 28/Station Ave
Seven/Eleven-Route 28/Old Main St
Seven/Eleven-Route 28(across from Christies)
Christies-Route 28

COTUIT
Quick Stop-Route 28
Pepper's Pantry
The Barn-Route 28

MASHPEE
Mashpee Mart-Route 28

HYANNIS
Hyannis Market-Center St.
Christies-South St
Seven/Eleven-North St
Seven/Eleven- Route 28/W Main St
Tedeschi's-Route 28 Centerville
28 Convenience Mkt-Route 28 Centerville
White Hen Pantry-Rte 28-Marstons Mills

FALMOUTH
Kenyon's Market-Route 28
Tedeschi's-Route 28 East Falmouth
Cumberland Farms-Route 28/Davisville
Family Foods-Route 28-East Falmouth
Falmouth Food Mart-Route 28
Bert's Quik Mart-Rte 151/Sandwich Rd

Dean's Variety-Rte 28A N. Fal.
Tedeschi's-County Rd N.Fal.
Village Pantry-Rte 28A N.Fal.
W. Falmouth Mkt-Rte 28A W. Fal.
No. Falmouth Hardware - Main Street
Whites Food Mart-Rte28/Jones Rd
Tedeschi's-Locust St
Seven/Eleven-Main St

BOURNE
Bourne Bridge Exxon-Rotary
Sunoco-Rotary-
Citgo Mart-Main St.Buzzards Bay
Tedeschi's-Trowbridge Rd
Mobil Mart-MacArthur Blvd
Tedeschi's-MacArthur Blvd
PortSide Liquors-MacArthur Blvd

and your local Chamber of Commerce!



Sox All-Star Loretta Recalls Cape League Days

BY NICOLE ZARTARIAN

Mark was a college student, moving across the country to a new place. Arrangements were made for him to live with a complete stranger and he was ordered to report to a job with minimal training.

At the new job at the grocery store, Mark fumbled while keying in the correct code for Red Delicious apples and the line to Mark's register grew long with irritated shoppers who rolled their eyes, and snickered at his inexperience.

Come nightfall, the eye-rolling irritated shoppers' jeers changed to cheers as they watched him compete on the baseball diamond. The announcer introduced him as he walked up to the plate, "Now batting for the Commodores, from Northwestern University, Mark Loretta."

Three days later, another bag of Red Delicious apples crossed the conveyer belt and Mark remembered the code this time. The cheerful customer said, "You played well the other night, Mark."

The year was 1991 and Mark Loretta, now an all-star with the Boston Red Sox, was in Falmouth for his first summer as a member of the Cape Cod Baseball League.

Like all his Cape League peers, he had been dropped into a foreign community where he would become viewed as shining star.

Hailing from Southern California, Loretta attended St. Francis High School before making his debut with the Northwestern Wildcats in 1990. Before coming to the Falmouth Commodores, he was named to the 1991 All-Big Ten Third Team and then again in 1992. By the end of his sophomore year, Loretta was viewed as being among the elite in collegiate baseball and returned to Falmouth to become a Commodore for the summer months.

The tradition of the Cape Cod Baseball League is that players reside with community members who open up their homes and welcome the boys of summer with open arms. Mark remembers his host mother fondly, "I lived with a lady named Vera Brabrook, an older widow. A teammate of mine and I lived with her for two summers. She really knew a lot about Cape Cod and had lived there a long time." Over the course of the two summers that Mark lived with Vera, he came to know her well. Even Mark's wife, then girlfriend, tells stories of Vera. She would call and ask for Mark and she [Vera] would say "who?"

"Mark."

"Mark? Oh you mean Maaahhk," Vera would say. She had that accent.

Living with Vera helped Loretta become part of the Falmouth community, but his summer employment really put him in the middle of it. "The first year I worked at Stop and Shop. I was a checker and a bagger, and I chased carriages. I didn't know what carriages were coming from Southern California, they're called carts there. They train us for, like, two days then turn us loose on the register, so I was scuffling and I was like 'ahhh.' I didn't know all the codes for fruits and vegetables so people would get annoyed with me at times, but it was

fun."

Mark's time at Stop and Shop gave him a chance to meet the people who came to the games to cheer him and his teammates on.

On the diamond, Mark worked hard to sharpen his baseball skills. Coming into his first Commodore summer he was hitting .273 with the Wildcats. In the summer months of 1991 Mark had a batting average of .224. He returned to the Wildcats for the 1992 season and his average sprang to .355, a dramatic increase from the previous season. Mark's second season with the Commodores was a success and earned him a spot on the All-Star team; he was also named team MVP. His All-Star



SAM MELNICK

Former Commodore Mark Loretta spent some time talking baseball with Falmouth intern Nicole Zartarian in the Red Sox dugout before a recent game at Fenway.

honors rank high in his book, "Making the All-Star team the second [summer] I was there, that was a lot of fun, probably the highlight."

Loretta credits his time with the Commodores for his success. "I have told this to many people; I think the two summers I spent on Cape Cod really were the most beneficial for me as an amateur. Using the wooden bats, facing the best college players in the country really did more for my career than anything else."

The numbers Mark put up in his final season with the Wildcats mirrored his improvement. In 1993 he was again named to the All-Big Ten First Team, was Big Ten "Player of the Year," and was an ABCA All-American. To this day, his name graces the pages of the Northwestern Wildcats record book.

His outstanding play while on the Cape caught the eye of Major League Baseball scouts and he was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the seventh round of the 1993 amateur draft. By 1995 he had moved through the ranks of Milwaukee's minor league system and made his MLB debut with the Brewers in September.

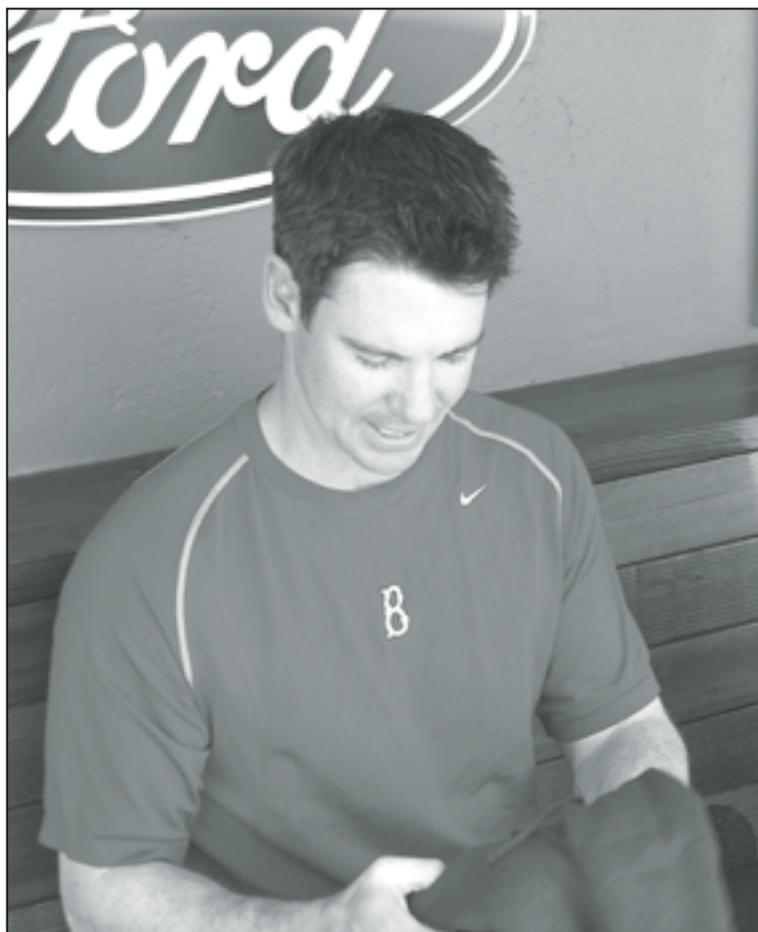
He stayed with the Brewers until the 2002 season.

He moved to the San Diego Padres for the 2003 season where he hit .314 with an on-base percentage of .372. In the 2004 season Loretta hit his career high average of .335 and earned himself a spot on the National League All-Star team.

Eleven years after his Cape Cod All-Star honors, Commodore fans were celebrating his 2006 All-Star American League appearance, especially since he was representing the Boston Red Sox. "It's a great honor and I am very flattered to be voted in. Anytime you make an All-Star team, whatever level you are at, it's very special."

Loretta has come a long way since his check out register days at Stop and Shop. Although many years have passed since his Cape League days, he still enjoys reflecting on the time he spent in Falmouth. "I really had a great time there, not only baseball-wise, but working in the community," he said.

And the communities enjoy watching their players play. Who knows? The kid battling to figure out how to ring up your order at the grocery store could be the same guy that brings your team a World Series title some day.



SAM MELNICK

Red Sox star Mark Loretta looks at a Falmouth Commodores sweatshirt and remembers his summer on the Cape.

Miss your OLD TIME Ice Cream Flavours?

- ❖ Frozen Pudding ❖ Ginger ❖ Grapenut ❖ Peppermint
- ❖ Orange Pineapple ❖ Malts, Frappes, Floats

1/2 Price Cone or Sundae
When You Buy One at Full Price

Polar Cave Ice Cream Parlour
Rte 28 Mashpee/Cotuit Line
Call Ahead 508-477-5553



TOTAL ORTHOPEDIC CARE

Paul M. Dimond, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON
Allyson Foss, PA-C • Lara Baldasaro, PA-C

360 Gifford Street • Falmouth, MA 02540
PHONE: 508-457-4900 • FAX: 508-457-4911

"Good Luck Commodores!"

\$500 GAS CARD
With Any New Or Used Purchase!
JUST BRING US THIS AD!

LIGHTHOUSE FORD
508-548-1900 WWW.LIGHTHOUSEFORD.COM

Prior sales excluded. Retail sales only. Must finance through Lighthouse Ford. Expires July 31, 2006.

KETTLE HO

12 School Street, Cotuit • 508-428-1862

JOIN US BEFORE OR AFTER THE GAMES!
Open 4pm for Dinner 7 days a week ... 11:30 Fri. & Sat. for Lunch

Enjoy quesadillas, calzones, pizzas, your favorite fried seafood, steaks, burgers, plus daily specials.



All items available for take-out. **KENO**
Great Food. Good Times. Nice People.

FANS GUIDE TO ATTENDING THE ALL-STAR GAME

BY RICH MACLONE

If you love baseball, and the Cape Cod Baseball League, you have to make plans to get out to the CCBL all-star game on Saturday afternoon at Yarmouth-Dennis's Red Wilson Field. The all-star game is the crown jewel of the Cape League's season as it brings together the best of the best on one field for a day of fun and competition.

Fans planning on attending the game should do one thing first and foremost: get there early. Parking is always an issue at the all-star game, no matter which field the league holds the game at, and with construction at Dennis-Yarmouth High School there is no doubt that that, once again, will be the case on Saturday.

Getting there early does not mean that you will be sitting around with nothing to do, though. The Cape League offers plenty to keep both young and old distracted throughout the day. Autograph seekers can get their favorite mementos inked by both teams at designated times and also share a few words with the league's best players. There will be plenty of vendors on hand selling stuff that fans can have signed, with baseballs and bats being the most popular items. Don't forget to bring a Sharpie, as those pens hold up the best over time. Also protection for the items after they've been signed is a good idea. Cubes for baseballs and tubes for bats work best. If you are lucky enough to find

a parking spot within walking distance, you will have plenty of time to get back to your car to store the items for the day.

After the autograph sessions and infield practice for each team, the most fun part of the day is the home run derby. The ball travels pretty well at Red Wilson, so there should be lots of long balls to gawk at. The best places to watch, if you're hoping to bring home a souvenir is the areas between the foul poles and the power alleys in right and left field. There will be more space to watch in left field at Red Wilson, as the woods are thick from center to right field and moving from side-to-side is not going to be easy.

Also, if you are coming to the home run derby in hopes of bringing home a ball, bring a glove. Yes, it is usually frowned upon by baseball purists to bring your mitt to the park—after all, they aren't going to ask you to play—things are different at the derby. Catching a baseball with bare hands is not an easy thing to do, and can result in mangled hands and fingers. Having a glove on, you will protect your digits and give yourself a good chance to come down with a ball. Once the ball hits the ground, there will be a mad scramble for it, and mixing it up with 12-year-olds is not advised for adults. Not only do you look silly, but they have a distinct advantage in quickness and will win most of the battles.

Adults who participate

in trying to catch homers should remember one thing above all else: baseball is at heart a kid's game. Catching one and taking it home is acceptable. Catching a horde of balls and not handing them out to the kids is immature and mean. Share the wealth. Besides, what are you going to do with a half-dozen baseballs at the

age of 38?

When game time starts, make sure to buy a 50-50 ticket. Even if you don't normally participate in the nightly drawing at the ballgames, this is a chance to both help the league as a whole, and maybe take home a gangster's wad of cash. The tally that the winner takes home is always several hundred dollars, making it worth throwing a finski into the pot.

Make sure to bring a lawn chair out to the game, as bleacher seating is very limited at Red Wilson. As stated previously, getting there early is important. At that time you can get a prime spot to watch the game from, with the best views at Red Wilson coming right down the foul lines. If you do sit close to the action, make sure to pay attention to the game; a foul ball can find you pretty quickly and you don't want to be the person who ends up with an egg on your fore-

head because you weren't watching the game.

And when you watch the game, cheer for both sides. These are the best players in the league, and divisional loyalty is superseded by the overall talent on the field. Not only are these guys good, but they do their best to put on a show. There will most likely be diving catches, long balls, and hustle all around. The players are going to entertain, and the fans owe it to them to show their full appreciation.

So get out to Red Wilson on Saturday for the all-star game and have fun. It only comes once a year and it is an afternoon that should be treasured. Don't forget to bring some dough to spend because you'll want to take home a T-shirt and a program and feed yourself. It's a long day, and it will tire you out by the end, but you'll leave with a huge smile on your face. You have to love baseball.

CCBL All Star Schedule of Events

Saturday, 29 July, 2006

Red Wilson Field • Yarmouth, MA

11:00 Gates open to public

12:00 Players available to media

12:30 East Batting Practice / West Autograph / Media

1:15 West Batting Practice / East Autographs / Media

2:00 East Infield

2:15 West Infield

2:30 Home Run Hitting Contest

3:15 Field preparations

3:40 All Star Player Introductions / Lineup

3:50 National Anthem

3:58 Ground Rule Conference

4:00 First Pitch Ceremony / Presentation

4:05 Game Start

7th In God Bless America

7:00 Scouts choose MVP

7:15 Post-game Awards at home plate immediately following the game by CCBL President Judy Scarafile and Commissioner Paul Galop

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

CAPE COD, Mass - 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."

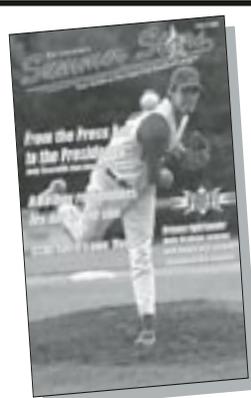
"Cape and Islands NPR stations Broadcast Director Steve Young added, "Some people have been surprised to hear that an NPR station is broadcasting sports, but this game fits right into our stated mission to 'celebrate the uniqueness of the communities that we serve.'"

"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.



The spotlight is on
Summer Stars
at www.capenews.net

Surf in for the latest on the
Cape Cod Baseball League

Inside The Game

The Inside Story Of Jamming Batters

BY MARK A. BROWN

Seventeen inches. In its simplest element, that's what the game of baseball comes down to—a battle between a pitcher and a hitter over a five-sided slab of rubber, called home plate, that's less than a foot and a half wide.

The pitcher knows he has to get his pitches across the plate for strikes, while the hitter is intent on making sure he gets his pick of the litter to swing at for a hit.

How this battle takes shape in the Cape Cod Baseball League is a bit different from how it develops in other leagues and levels of play. For nearly all CABLE hitters, it's their first time swinging with wooden bats after using metallic bats in college. The adjustment comes slowly for most. Opposing pitchers and coaches know this and try to exploit the weakness.

The nuances of a pitcher's actions and a batter's reactions are a chess game of sorts. The most successful Cape League pitchers, those with the best chance of advancing in their careers, become adept at keeping hitters off-balance and out of their comfort zones.

The secret? Pitching inside. This means throwing pitches, usually sizzling fastballs, that are aimed above the inner edge of the plate. For batters, the sight of a cowhide sphere coming toward them at 90 to 95 miles per hour can cause uneasiness at best and instill fear at worst.

Pitching inside does not mean throwing directly at a batter, though it's been known to happen. Since the game's infancy hitters have had to be wary of getting pitches "in their ear," aimed at their heads, but stricter penalties at all levels of the game have decreased those incidents.

Of course, batters some-

times do get hit by pitches. It's part of the game. But most pitchers try to avoid that, not just because of penalties, but because it gives the opposing team a free runner at first base.

For a batter facing an inside pitch, especially one up and in toward his head and shoulders, his reaction is tested. He needs to decide within a split second how to take evasive action by jumping, lunging, or lurching out of the way.

However successful inside pitches aren't confined to those that force a hitter to move out of the batter's box. Just as effective are those pitches that "jam" the hitter such that he can only swing at it with the narrow portion of his bat—the part closest to his hands and below the meat of the barrel.

Pitchers may often try to "nibble" by throwing an inside pitch that nicks the inner edge of the batter's strike zone. Many inside pitches are out of the strike zone, which would seem to contradict the pitcher's goal of throwing strikes. However, an effective inside pitch has a far more valuable effect than a strike call—it forces the batter to change his approach, and decreases his chance of reaching base.

How a batter adjusts to an inside pitch will vary. Cooper Farris, head coach of the Wareham Gatemen, said some hitters may back their stance away from the plate slightly, while others become wary of balls coming in on them. "That lets a pitcher set up his pitches on the outside half of the plate," Coach Farris said. "It also sets up breaking pitches," such as curves, sliders, and change-ups, which are slower than fastballs and often change direction.

When a pitcher can effec-

tively throw inside for strikes, he can usually get ahead in the count. This forces the batter to "protect the plate" by swinging at subsequent outside pitches that, while they may be in the strike zone, aren't within his preferred comfort zone.

Matt Ranson, pitching coach for the Falmouth Commodores, said certain types of hitters are better targets for the inside pitching approach, and that makes it important for pitchers to study the mechanics of opposing batters. "There are tendencies a hitter might have. If his weight distribution is on his front foot, we can pitch inside to set up the fastball outside where he's lunging at the ball," he said.

Aggressive hitters are also good candidates to be pitched inside. "There are a lot of guys, who'll swing at the first pitch," Coach Ranson said. "If we can get them to swing at an inside pitch early on, that gives us an edge."

While Cape League hitters have the unenviable task of learning to use different bats, their counterparts on the mound have no such drawbacks to contend with. Coach Ranson said he encourages his pitchers to work the inner part of the strike zone more often early in the season. "During the first couple of weeks we're pounding it inside and really challenging hitters," he said.

Pitching inside carries some risks, Coach Farris said, especially for pitchers who lack pinpoint control.



SPORTSPIX PHOTO BY BILL VAUGHAN

Cotuit outfielder Kyle Russell gets brushed back by a pitcher.

"We've had a lot of guys trying to go inside, and we've hit a lot of batters," he said.

There's also a danger of not coming far enough inside on a batter and leaving the pitch out over the plate, allowing a hitter to take a quality swing. Coach Farris said this often happens when a pitcher tries to use a breaking pitch inside instead of a fastball. "When you come up and in on a hit-

ter, it needs to stay up and in," he said. "We've given up six home runs, and four of them have been on breaking pitches," he said.

When confronted with inside pitches, Coach Farris said, it's critical that batters learn to temper their approach. "A lot of guys just want to turn and burn," he said, referring to hitters that

Continued on Page 16

SLIDE into

Seafood Sam's
Quality Seafood

...You'll always be SAFE!

LUNCH ■ DINNER ■ KIDS' SPECIALS

FALMOUTH Rte. 28 • Palmer Ave. 508-540-7877	SANDWICH Coast Guard Road 508-888-4629
HARWICHPORT Rte. 28 508-432-1422	SOUTH YARMOUTH 1006 Rte. 28 508-394-3504

www.seafoodsams.com

Cape Cod Five is a player.

We also enjoy a leadership role in
Mortgage Lending • Personal Banking
Business Banking • Government Banking
Trust and Investments



CAPE COD'S COMMUNITY BANK
SINCE 1855®

1-888-225-4636 • www.capecodfive.com



Member FDIC / Member DIF

Ballpark of the Week

In Falmouth, It's About The Overall Experience

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

While seeking photos of the on-field action from Falmouth broadcast duo Darin Weeks and Richard Maclone's nest on Wednesday, July 19, high above the Arnie Allen Diamond at Guv Fuller Field on Main Street in Falmouth, I had a moment of clarity.

The two lighthearted fellow Summer Stars writers were in the middle of their broadcast, the Harwich Mariners versus the hometown Commodores, when I let my presence be known by snapping several photos. Darin started busting my chops about going easy on some of the fields that I have rated thus far for Summer Stars now that we are halfway through the CCBL season. How could I think so highly of all of the fields?

I laughed and started to think back on all of the fields I have rated, from Wareham to Orleans, and Cotuit to Hyan-nis. I looked back at some of the fields and some of the ratings and thought to myself, "maybe they didn't match up." I quickly shook off those feelings and immediately came to the realization that I haven't been rating the various parks per se; I have been rating the overall experiences that go along with them.

Every CCBL park has some lackluster aspects, but, at the same time, you'd be hard pressed to find a baseball fan who had a bad time at a game anywhere.

As I watched fill-in player Matt Nuzzo from Brown, a guy who nobody expected to be on the team past the first few weeks, hit the game-winning home run, a three-run, 335-foot job to left in the bottom of the seventh, I knew my rating system has worked thus far, because although the Arnie Allen Diamond at Guv Fuller Field doesn't have the best facilities, the experience can't be beat.

For Nuzzo, a 19-year-old from Everett, poetic justice was once again served to the non-believers. I'm sure he will

remember that blast as will the Commodore faithful, who came out in droves to watch the Mariners fall 3-1; I know I will.

Best Place to Park: The best place to park at Guv Fuller is not an easy question to answer. I found the parking situation to be worse than at any other ballpark I had been to, and this time I was early! I ended up parking on the side of Morse Pond Road, located behind the park, which you might get a ticket doing, but there weren't any available spots in the small parking lot off Main Street.

The Commodores have a fan base similar in size to Cotuit, Orleans, and Wareham, and fill up their park for every game. I recommend getting to the game an hour to 30 minutes prior to the start for a spot.

Best Place to Watch: The best place to watch the game while at Guv Fuller is in one of two spots: leaning on the home dugout, down the first base line, or sitting on the grassy knoll located down the left field line. Both spots are optimal and offer a completely different view.

Leaning on the Commodores dugout allows an unhindered, close-up view of the pitcher and the batters at the plate. It is the best view for a small group of fans or a person attending the game alone.

The best place to watch for a family or someone who wants to relax is on a blanket on the slight grassy incline adjacent to the left fielder. There is no fence blocking the view here and the only thing separating the left fielder and the fans is chalk, just like right field in Orleans.

Best Buys: The best buys at Guv Fuller Field were mini batting helmets for \$15, bumper and window stickers for \$1, Homer (the Commodores mascot) T-shirts for kids at \$10, adjustable visors for \$10, and CCBL golf towels for \$8. The Commodores make it affordable to be an autograph seeker as well, with baseballs



MATTHEW BURKE

A magnificent sunset as the lights come on over the field at Falmouth.

for \$4, plastic cubes for baseballs at \$3, and silver writing pens for \$1.50.

Food: The food at the park was typical fare, except for the grilled meats. Local Ron Braga manned the grill, cooking burgers for \$3.50, cheeseburgers for \$4, and sausage subs complete with grilled peppers and onions for \$5.50, on top of dancing flames. The sausage subs were juicy and cooked just right. The grilled peppers and onions made the subs to die for. The burgers were above average size and looked like they were worth every penny. The nachos with cheese for \$3.75 were the biggest hit with the hordes of kids who flock to the family-friendly park.

Best Feature: The best feature of the park was the events, promotions, and facilities designed for the kids. The reigning "most family friendly" park, Orleans, falls to Falmouth, which can boast basketball courts, numerous sports fields, a playground, a lovable baseball-headed mascot named Homer, and free inflatable baseball-looking beach balls (the promotion of the evening). A list of autograph nights was posted on the souvenir stand (the next one is July 31), and the batting cage behind the

press box was filled with kids imitating their favorite CCBL players all night long.

The Park: Guv Fuller is not the best looking park. The field and the aging fence that surrounds all but one side of it, look like a glorified high school field, reminiscent of Spillane in Wareham, only minus the ridiculously amazing views. However, at Guv Fuller I had one of the best experiences yet at a ballpark, as did the hundreds of kids who were in attendance. Kids of all ages could be heard yelling words of support for the Falmouth players, most of whom they knew by name. I was a Commodores fan Wednesday night as I got caught up in the festivities.

Due to the amount of things kids can do while at the field, they are bred on the Commodores, starting at an early age. This might have something to do with the attendance numbers, as all age groups were represented. I loved the way the Commodores staff played snippets of songs in-between batters to give the park that "Major League" feel.

Before the ninth inning, Homer led the kids in a hip-hop hokey pokey that even had the players on the Falmouth bench clapping along.

Guv Fuller is handicapped accessible and had many great spots to view the game. Another drawback is the long lines at the concession stand.

How Far I Got on 20 Bucks: Twenty bucks will get you far at any CCBL baseball game if you want it to. I got a sausage sub at the concession stand for \$5.50 and lemonade to wash it down for \$1.25. I got a Homer T-shirt for my girlfriend, \$10, and a plastic baseball cube for \$3 to house my Lou Brock autographed baseball that I got several weeks ago in Bourne, all good buys.

To sum it up, the facilities in Falmouth aren't terrible, but they aren't that great, either. The parking situation was troublesome and the concession stand lines long, but the field was handicapped accessible, the views good, and the atmosphere was electric. It was a great baseball experience.

I give the Arnie Allen Diamond at Guv Fuller Field four stars. ★★☆☆



MATTHEW BURKE

The view from the pressbox in Falmouth puts the broadcasters right on the field.



MATTHEW BURKE

There are plenty of great places to see a game, including a gentle incline along the first base line.



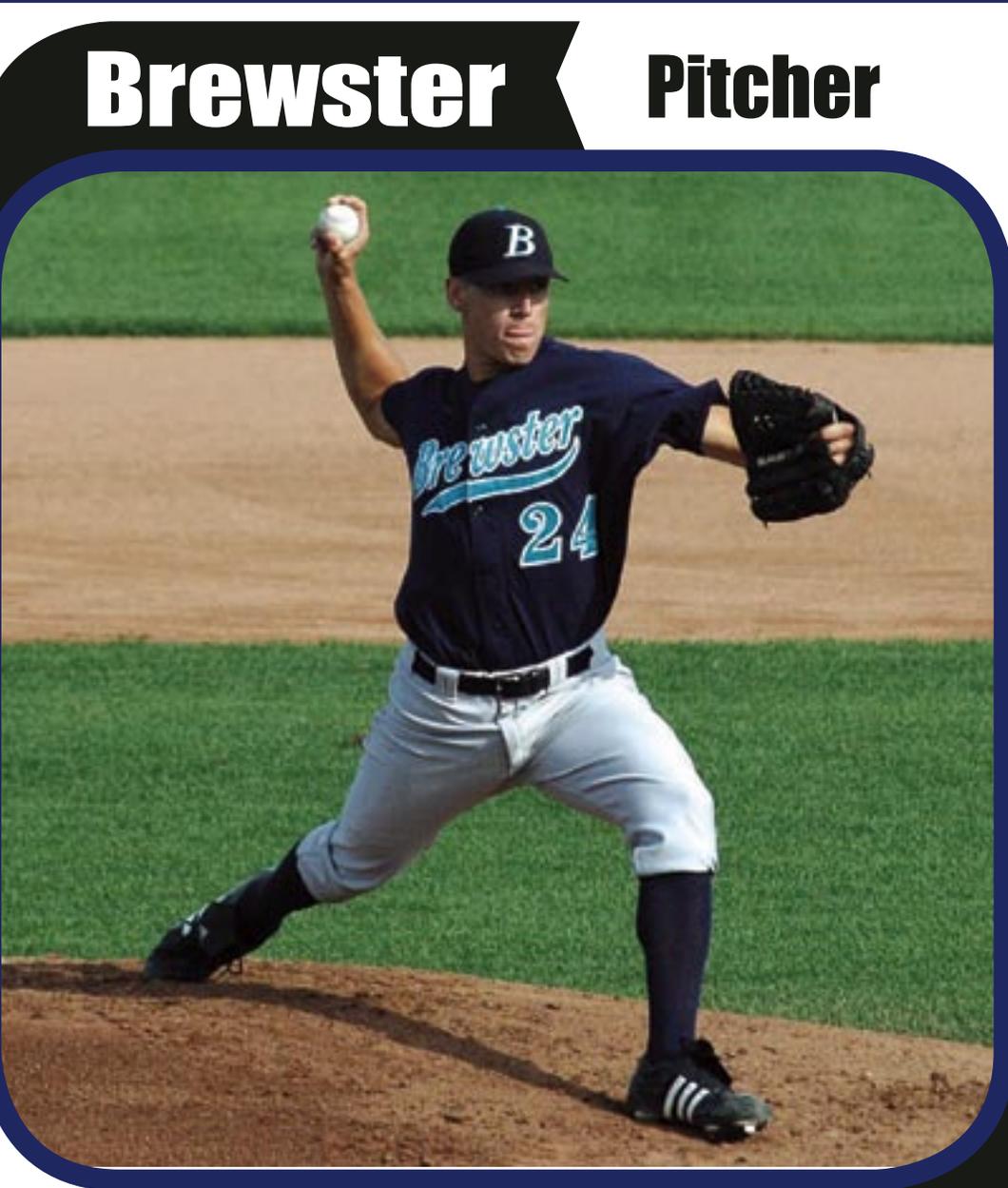
MATTHEW BURKE

The Commodores' mascot, Homer, stands ready with pen in hand to sign autographs and meet fans at Falmouth home games.



CHUCK BORGE

The Umpire crew, consisting of Steve Koneski Peter Smith and Ken Kenworthy, talks things over before a recent game hosted by the Bourne Braves.



Brewster

Pitcher

Shaun SEIBERT

WHITECAPS

KK Codders' Player of the Week

Shaun Seibert is having the type of summer that a pitcher dreams about having. The right-hander from the University of Arkansas has been brilliant all summer long, posting a perfect 0.00 earned-run average through his first six starts. Seibert has surrendered just 18 base hits in 34.2 innings of work and has a record of 4-0 for the Brewster Whitecaps. Seibert has fanned 30 and walked 20 with only five unearned runs marring his otherwise perfect record.



“Cape Cod Dining as it should be!”
465 Grand Avenue, Falmouth Heights

508-299-8200

Check out SummerStars on the web @ www.capenews.net

WWSE

WORLDWIDE SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT, INC
“Managing the Needs of Athletes and Sought after Entertainers”

FRANK ZAINO
VP Baseball Operations

31 Deepwood Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536

Phone/Fax 508-457-5342
Cell 774-836-7173

zaz94@adelphia.net • www.seworldlive.com

Advising & Negotiations



Harbor Chevrolet



Kevin Sanders • Mashpee



Adam Meehan • Falmouth



Steve Ross • Falmouth



Renee Garcia • East Falmouth



Cape Cod's Largest Selection of New and



171 Worcester Court • Falmouth 508-548-4400 • capecodchevy.com

Sales Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-7:30; Fri. 8:30-6:00; Sat. 8:30-5:00 Service and Parts: Mon.- Fri. 8-5; Sat. 8-12 Body Shop: Mon.- Fri. 8:00-5:00

\$500 Military Discount Available

Onde Melhores Amigos Envian Amigos

Cape Cod Baseball League

www.capecodbaseball.org

2006 Schedule



Major League
Baseball
Scouts Days

Sun 6/11	Mon 6/12	Tue 6/13	Wed 6/14	Thu 6/15	Fri 6/16	Sat 6/17
				Cot @ Bou PPD Orl 2 @ Bre 0 Y-D @ Hya (6-20) Fal 10@ Cha 1 Har 1 @ War 10	Bre 2@ Cot 8 War 5 @ Hya 3 Cha 6 @ Y-D 5 Bou 0 @ Fal 4 Orl 0 @ Har 2	Cha 8 @ Bre 8 Hya @ Cot 9 Y-D 3 @ Har 1 Bou 1 @ Orl 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 Bre 6 @ Hya 4 Orl 12 @ Y-D 7 Cot 1 @ Fal 5 Har 2 @ Cha 5	Fal 2 @ Bre 4 Y-D 1 @ Cha 3 Bou 0 @ Har 11 Hya 3 @ Orl 1 Cot 7 @ War 2	Y-D 5 @ Hya 0	Bre 6 @ Bou 8 Orl 1 @ Cot 17 Cha 2 @ Hya 3 Y-D 6 @ Fal 5 War 10 @ Har 3	Cot 12 @ Bou 8 Cha 13 @ Bre 0 Har 5 @ Y-D 2 Hya 5 @ Fal 4 War 1 @ Orl 5	Cot 2 @ Bre 2 War 3 @ Hya 4 (10) Bou 2 @ Cha 5 Y-D 4 @ Har 5 Fal 1 @ Orl 2	Har @ Bou rain Orl @ Hya rain Cot @ Y-D rain Bre @ Fal rain 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 Bou @ Cot rain Fal @ War rain Hya @ Har rain Y-D @ Cha rain	Fal1 @ Bou 0 War 4 @ Bre 3 Har 0 @ Cot 3 Hya 0 @ Y-D 1 Cha 1 @ Orl 2	Bre 6 @ Y-D 5 (10) Bou 4 @ Fal 7 Cha 2 @ Har 4 Cot 4 @ Orl 0 Hya 4 @ War 6	Cot @ Bou rain Orl 11 @ Hya 2 Bre 1 @ Fal 2 Y-D 2 @ Cha 3 (10)	Cha @ Bou rain Fal 4 @ Cot 3 Har 3 @ Hya 5 Y-D 6 @ Orl 3 Bre 2 @ War 1	Orl 5 @ Bou 4 War @ Y-D 5:00 Bre 3 @ Cha 2 Hya 4 @ Fal 0 Cot 2 @ Har 0	Fal 2 @ Hya 2 (10) Bou 5 @ Y-D 8 Cot 4 @ Cha 0 Bre 8 @ Har 5 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 Y-D 0 @ Bre 2 War 6 @ Cot 2 Har 1 @ Orl 2 Cha 14 @ Fal	Har 5 @ Bre 1 Cot 5 @ Hya 3 Y-D 7 @ Fal 4 Cha 5 @ Orl 6 Bou 7 @ War 8	War 1@ Bou 6 Hya 6 @ Cot 1 Bre 13@ Y-D 5 Orl 2 @ Cha 0 Fal 3 @ Har 9	Har @ Bou 5:00 Cot @ Y-D 5:00 Orl @ Bre 5:00 War @ Cha 7:00	Y-D 5 @ Cot 2 Bou @ Hya (rain) Har 11 @ Fal 6 Bre 7 @ Orl 3 Cha 3 @ War 4	Bou 2 @ Bre 0 Orl 0 @ Cot 5 Fal 5 @ Y-D 3 Har 4 @ Cha 2 Hya 4 @War 2	Y-D 2 @ Bou 0 Hya 5 @ Bre 3 Cha 0 @ Cot 1 War 2 @ Fal 9 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 Cot 6 @ War 4 Orl 1 @ Y-D 7 Bre 8 @ Har 7 *Fal 1 @ Cha 0	Bou 1 @ Cot 8 Har 2 @ Y-D 6 Hya 0 @ Cha 1 Orl 6 @ Fal 2 Bre 0 @ War 1	Bou 3 @ Cot 3 Fal 9 @ War 2 Hya 7 @ Har 2 Orl 1 @ Bre 7	Fal @ Bou (rain) War 1 @ Bre 2 Cha @ Cot 5:00 Har @ Hya (rain) Y-D @ Orl (rain)	Hya @ Cha (rain) Cot @ Fal (rain) Bou @ Har (rain) Bre 4 @ Orl 2 Y-D 8 @ War 4	Cha 7 @ Bou 2 Orl 3 @ Bre 3 Cot 7 @ Hya 1 Fal 8 @ Y-D 11 Har 2 @ War 0	Orl 5 @ Bou 4 Y-D 4 @ Hya 1 Bre 8 @ Fal 7 War 5 @ Cha 6 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 Hya 8 @ Bre 7 Fal 2 @ Cot 0 Har 1 @ Orl 0 Cha 0 @ Y-D 2	Cot 5 @ Bou 1 Y-D 3 @ Bre 1 Fal 6 @ Hya 7 Cha 8 @ Har 2 War 5 @ Orl 4	Bou 4 @ Hya 3 Cot 6 @ Y-D 5	Bre 1 @ Bou 0 Y-D 12 @ Cot 0 War 7 @ Hya 0 Orl 4 @ Cha 5 Har 1 @ Fal 3	Cot 1 @ Bre 3 Bou 1 @ Cha 6 Hya 1 @ Cha 7:00 Fal @ Orl (rain) Y-D 3 @ War 2	Bou 1 @ Bre 3 War 0 @ Cot 7 Cha @ Hya 5:00 Orl 8 @ Y-D 5 Fal 1 @ Har 4	Fal 6 @ Bre 4 *Har 1 @ Cot 7* Hya 3 @ Y-D 5 Bou 1 @ Orl 2 Cha 3 @ War 4
Sun 7/23	Mon 7/24	Tue 7/25	Wed 7/26	Thu 7/27	Fri 7/28	Sat 7/29
*Y-D 5 @ Bou 2 * Cot 6 @ Hya 4 War 6 @ Fal 5 Orl @ Har (rain) Bre 3 @ Cha 2	Cot @ Bou 1:00 Cha @ Bou 5:00 Har @ Hya 5:00 Fal @ Orl 7:00	Bou @ Cot 5:00 *War @ Y-D 5:00* Har @ Cha 7:00 Hya @ Fal 7:00 Bre @ Orl 7:00	Hya @ Bou 5:00 Y-D @ Bre 5:00 *Fal @ Cot 5:00* Cha @ Har 7:00 Orl @ War 7:00	*Bre @ Hya 5:00* Cot @ Cha 7:00 Bou @ Fal 7:00 War @ Har 7:00 Y-D @ Orl 7:00	Har @ Bou 5:00 Bre @ Y-D 5:00 *Orl @ Cha 7:00* Cot @ Fal 3:30 & 7 Hya @ War 7:00	All-Star Game Y-D Gates Open 11:30 HR Contest 2:15 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 Bre @ Cot 5:00 War @ Fal 5:30 Orl @ Har 3&5:30 Y-D @ Cha 7:00	Har @ Bre 5:00 Hya @ Orl 7:00 Bou @ Y-D 5:00 Cha @ Fal 7:00 Cot @ War 7:00	Cha @ Cot 4:30 Bou @ Har 7:00 Hya @ Har 3:00	Fal @ Bou 1:30 & 4:30 War @ Cot 4:30 Orl @ Hya 4:30 Cha @ Y-D 4:30 Bre @ Har 7:00	All-Star Player Recognition Night at Fenway Park Boston	Cha @ Bre 4:30 Bou @ Hya 4:30 Har @ Y-D 4:30 Cot @ Orl 7:00 Fal @ War 7:00	War @ Bou 4:30 Hya @ Cot 4:30 Orl @ Fal 5:30 Bre @ Cha 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 Fal @ Hya 4:30 Cot @ Y-D 4:30 Bou @ War 5:00 Cha @ Orl 7:00	Open	Divisional Games East: Game 1 West: Game 1	Divisional Games East: Game 2 West: Game 2	Divisional Game(s) East Game 3 (if nec) West Game 3 (if nec) or Championship Game 1	Championship Game 1 or 2	Championship (if nec)
Sun 8/13	Mon 8/14	Tue 8/15	Wed 8/16	Thu 8/17	Fri 8/18	Sat 8/19

IS IT A RAIN OUT? CALL 508-432-6909



Batting Around

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

West Division Roundup

Smoak Blazing Quite a Trail

The Cape League is one full of young talent whose players go on to become the stars of tomorrow. Justin Smoak is just one of these young stars. After being thrown into the mix as a freshman at one of the nation's finest baseball programs at the University of South Carolina, Smoak immediately demonstrated his talents.

Out of Goose Creek High School in South Carolina, Smoak, along with Gamecock and Kettleer teammate Reese Havens, was named Co-Mr. Baseball in South Carolina. Drafted in the 16th round by the Oakland Athletics in 2005, he spurned the draft for his chance at a College World Series title.

One look at this first baseman reveals his talent. At 6-foot-3 and an even 200 pounds, Smoak carries an intimidating presence similar to that of a grizzled major league veteran.

After having an unbelievable year for the Gamecocks in which he set USC freshman records with 17 home runs and 63 RBIs, Justin was named to the Baseball America Freshman All-American squad. Not only were these numbers good enough to set freshman records, but they also were team highs.

After South Carolina was ousted in the College World Series, the young first baseman did what any natural competitor would do, shrugging it off and continuing to improve as a ball player. Smoak didn't waste much time, recording two hits in his first game for Cotuit and not looking back since. Although his average has dipped below .300 as of late, by no means is this slugger slowing down. With five home runs good for second in the league, he has helped set the tone for some big innings this season.

Coach Roberts has Smoak in the two-hole, a place where Justin has been very comfortable. With a great pitching staff that has recorded seven shutouts this season, Justin and his fellow position players feel less pressure to put up big numbers. This fits nicely with the Kettleers' small-ball style of play, in which laying down a bunt or executing a hit-and-run is commonplace.

With the home run contest a week away, Smoak is likely to be one of the competitors. Look for this power hitter to

put on a show in his coming-out party to the national audience that now follows the Cape League.

By Nicholas Mucci,
CCBL Intern
mucci@capecodbbaseball.org

Gatemen Stay Steady in the West



After posting a five-game losing streak last week, the Wareham Gatemen returned this week with a promising record of 3-2. Following a two-game road trip the Gatemen began the week at home when they faced the Bourne Braves.

Struggling to find any production down offensively until the seventh inning, Riley Boening (Texas) held the Braves to two runs (one earned) over nine innings. Allowing just three hits and striking out nine, the Gatemen came around in the seventh to produce five runs on five hits, giving Boening the win. Wareham received their offense from Jason Ogata (LSU) and Ryan Gotcher (Arkansas-Little Rock), who both had RBI singles, followed by a patient at-bat by Steffan Wilson (Harvard) that resulted in driving in the game-winning run.

The Gatemen tested their bullpen Monday night when they traveled to Orleans for an extra-inning battle. Wareham was able to score in the top of the 14th, with Tim Matthews working four scoreless innings for the win.

Heading into the off-day with a three-game winning streak, the Gatemen were anxious to continue their success against the recently hot bats of the Hyannis Mets. Wareham sent Travis Banwart (Wichita State) to the hill to continue the winning streak. In an impressive performance Banwart lasted six scoreless innings, allowing just seven hits while striking out four. Currently, Banwart leads the team with a 0.90 ERA over 20 innings pitched. The right-hander has shown nothing but excellence on the mound for the Gatemen this season. The Gatemen witnessed an impressive performance at the plate by San Diego State's Brandon Glover, who had three hits in five plate appearances while stealing two bases.

Despite his strong performance, Luke Putkonen (UNC) received a hard loss after throwing the complete game against Y-D. After five shutout

innings and the first two outs of the sixth, the Gatemen saw the first runs cross the plate on back-to-back singles by the Red Sox. Wareham cut the lead to 3-2 in the eighth on a Seth Henry (Tulane) two-out, two-run double to left center. In the ninth, the Gatemen viewed men on second and third with one out after a single by Bradley Suttle (Texas) and a double by Joel Collins (South Alabama), but they were unable to generate any more runs.

Through Friday, the Gatemen continue to hold the second-place spot in the Western Division.

By Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern
scalia@capecodbbaseball.org

Kopp Looking For a Summer of Improvement



Falmouth boasts a lineup that is leading the league in hits, home runs and, unfortunately, strikeouts. The Commodores have been putting up some crooked numbers all season, but this offensive success hasn't turned into as many victories as hoped. At 14-15-1, Falmouth is miles away from the frontrunners in the West, Cotuit, but it is not too late for the team to turn things around and make a playoff push.

Falmouth has simply been unlucky this season, with a few breaks seeming always to go in favor of the opposition. Their pitching staff is full of talent from top to bottom and can't be blamed for the early season problems. David Kopp is one of the many young arms Falmouth fans have been able to enjoy watching this season.

A member of the Clemson Tigers, the sophomore played a key role in their run to the College World Series. Along with his three teammates, Brad Chalk, Stan Widmann and Taylor Harbin, Kopp is hoping to improve this summer and help Clemson make another championship run in 2007. The spring of 2006 was magical for the Tigers, and Kopp and the boys felt as though they should have been crowned champions, but that is why they play the games.

"It was an amazing run, full of comeback victories, big home runs and just plain emotion, something I will not soon forget, but you hate to

lose and always think about 'what if,'" said Kopp.

For Clemson fans and players the loss was hard to swallow, as this team was one that brought so much energy to the park every day and one that took their fans on an amazing ride. No opponent's lead was ever safe, and fans would seldom leave Doug Kingsmore Stadium.

Despite the difficult loss in Omaha, the Clemson boys have kept their head high even though it seemed impossible to do. Kopp, a Florida native, has enjoyed his stay on the Cape and feels honored to be a part of the league.

"This scenery has been amazing and the caliber of athletes among us is hard to compare to," said the 6-foot-3 rightly.

Kopp showed signs of improvement as a sophomore and there is no doubt in his mind, nor in that of his coach Jack Leggett, that he may very well become a dominant pitcher for the Tigers next season. Kopp knows as well as anyone there is no better place to hone your skills than the Cape, where he will face the best of the best day in and day out.

Things have gone well so far for Kopp, who has started three games and has two wins to show and a 0.77 ERA. He started the summer in relief in order to build back his arm strength and was able to record a save and come up with some big innings for the Commodores.

With the will and work ethic Kopp has shown in his two years in Tigertown, Kopp has the ability to be a star. Improving his velocity and mixing up his pitches are two things he needs to improve on, and with the guidance of the knowledgeable Jeff Trundy and the coaching staff in Falmouth, fans may see Kopp develop into a star right under their own eyes.

By Nicholas Mucci,
CCBL Intern
mucci@capecodbbaseball.org

Pack Your Bags, We're Heading to J-Town



Jon Townsend (Florida) is not your typical Cape Leaguer. The Hyannis Mets second baseman is a far cry from the prototypes fans would expect to be playing on the Cape this summer. Townsend, a London, Ky. native, arrived to Hyannis this year out of Saddleback Community College, a college with

a style of play much different than the fast-paced world of the Cape Cod Baseball League. But he was ready for the challenge, and has definitely risen to the occasion.

Townsend, who came to the Cape confident in his defensive skills as a shortstop, has excelled for the Mets as second baseman. He credits the talent of other players in the league for helping him improve upon his own game, noting, "Although it's only mid-season, I have noticed a large improvement in my offensive game. The Cape League has been extremely beneficial to me, in that the fast pace and strong pitching will help me in my college career this year when I transfer to Florida. It will be similar to what I will face next spring and now I have an idea of what to expect out there."

At the start of the season, he struggled offensively, as most players often do when switching from the aluminum bats to the wooden bats of the CCBL. But at Tuesday's game against the Bourne Braves, Townsend proved to coaches and fans alike that he had officially arrived. In the sixth inning he hit his first home run of the season, allowing Jared McGuire (Boston College) to advance home as well and the Mets to take the 3-1 lead.

However, the Braves would re-capture the lead in the eighth to beat the Mets with a final score of 4-3. Starter Josh Collementer (Central Michigan) provided a strong 5 1/3 innings for Hyannis, fanning four and keeping Bourne hitless the first time through the lineup. Other standouts for the Mets offense were

Continued on Next Page



It's not too late to advertise in Summer Stars!

Call the Enterprise 508-548-4700





Batting Around



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

DIVISION STANDINGS through July 23, 2006

EASTERN DIVISION		W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10
YARMOUTH-DENNIS		21	13	0	42	W 2	8-2
BREWSTER		19	13	2	40	W 1	7-3
ORLEANS		17	14	1	35	W 2	4-6
CHATHAM		14	17	1	29	L 3	5-5
HARWICH		12	17	0	24	L 1	3-7
WESTERN DIVISION		W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10
COTUIT		21	9	1	43	W 3	7-3
WAREHAM		18	16	0	36	W 2	6-4
FALMOUTH		14	16	1	29	L 1	4-6
HYANNIS		13	17	2	28	L 2	3-7
BOURNE		5	22	2	12	L 5	1-9

West Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 11
 Matt Mangini (Oklahoma) and Jared McGuire (Boston College) who both went 2-for-3 on the night. In addition, Ben Jeffers (Georgia) pitched a perfect ninth inning.

Clearly Townsend's homer proved to be the highlight of the game for Mets fans. As far as his time spent on the Cape League, he is just thankful to be here. "It's always been a dream of mine to play here. Baseball is extremely important to me, but also, being given the opportunity to play in such a great league, I want to take in everything the Cape has to offer, including those things outside of baseball."

As far as a favorite moment on the Cape, he notes that although his home run is definitely high on the list, he has enjoyed being surrounded by so many great people and bonding with his teammates, who will now be his lifelong friends. In addition, he credits his host family, the Conti's, with helping him to adjust to life on the Cape and showing so much kindness in taking him into their home as family.

Townsend and the Mets look forward to the coming weeks and hope to have a shot at the championship: "We're very optimistic about making the playoffs. We have strong hitting and pitching and we just need to put it all together. I think in the coming weeks we will move up in the standings." So although he is not your typical Cape Leaguer, Townsend clearly has

mastered the role to a tee.
By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern
reilly@capecodbaseball.org

Braves Find Cash Valuable

Making it through for the first week this summer, the Braves were able to complete all their games as scheduled, including one make-up game. Unfortunately for the Braves, by week's end they were only able to post one win over six games.

In spite of the number of losses the Bourne Braves have had this season, they still manage to draw a strong crowd at all their home games. The relief pitching continues to present the biggest problem despite the recent changes. Beginning the week by traveling to Wareham, the Braves saw starter Tom Farmer (Akron) pitch well over six shutout innings, allowing just two hits. The Braves took an early lead coming off the bat of Mitch Mooreland (Mississippi State), who doubled in Brett Bartles (Duke), followed by a Cat Everett (Tulane) sacrifice fly in the fifth. The Braves' relief pitching could not hold the small lead, giving up a five-run seventh in the loss.

Stranding 12 runners on 10 hits in the loss to Cotuit, the team with the best record in the Cape League, was detrimental to the late-hitting bats of Bourne. Offensively, the

Braves showed success led by Bartles, who went 3-for-5, and Ty Wright (Oklahoma State), who went 2-for-4 and scored the only Braves run on a sac fly in the fifth. Austin Krum (Dallas Baptist), David Cash (Florida) and Wright all had two hits for the Braves in the loss.

The Braves have seen great success at Hyannis this summer and continued their path with another win at McKeon Park. Bourne posted a three-run rally in the eighth to pick up their fifth win of the season. Bartles and Cash both had two hits in the win, while timely hitting by Krum tied the game in the eighth with an RBI single. Andrew Carignan (UNC) earned his second save, throwing two scoreless innings of relief to give the Braves a 4-3 victory.

With an umpire appeal closing the door on a late-inning rally for Bourne in the ninth, the Braves were unable to come back from a 1-0 deficit to the Brewster Whitecaps. Trailing 1-0 in the ninth, Krum was called out for missing the first base bag en route to second in what appeared to be a leadoff double. Krum has been his own highlight reel for the Braves this summer with a batting average that flirts around .300 and performing strong plays defensively. Meanwhile, Cash is the spark for the Braves in the leadoff spot. With his .310 batting average, the outfielder has performed well for Bourne this summer.
By Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern
scalia@capecodbaseball.org



BATTING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 86 PLATE APPEARANCES)

BATTER	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Farris, Eric	COT	.344	29	96	11	33	0	12
Wieters, Matt	OLN	.329	23	85	12	28	5	15
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	.320	27	103	16	33	4	17
Chalk, Brad	FAL	.308	23	104	9	32	0	7
Mangini, Matt	HYA	.306	31	121	7	37	1	13
Cash, David	BOU	.301	23	93	12	28	0	5
Posey, Buster	YRD	.299	34	124	17	40	2	15
Havens, Reese	COT	.295	25	88	13	26	2	12
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	.293	30	123	24	36	0	18
Smoak, Justin	COT	.287	27	108	18	31	6	19

HOME RUNS

Smoak, Justin	COT	6						
McFadden, Warren	FAL	6						
Wieters, Matt	OLN	5						
Several Players Tied At		4						

RBI

Rizzotti, Matt	CHA	21						
Emaus, Brad	YRD	20						
Smaok, Justin	COT	19						
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	18						
Several Players Tied At		17						

STOLEN BASES

Carrara, Chris	CHA	14						
Kaiser, Kody	OLN	14						
Gotcher, Ryan	WAR	13						
Several Players Tied At		10						

TEAM	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	BB	SO	SB	CS
Cotuit	.268	1027	156	275	17	136	231	40	21
Falmouth	.259	1093	134	283	28	84	297	27	22
Hyannis	.243	1029	104	250	6	104	234	19	14
Yarmouth-Dennis	.238	1106	161	263	27	124	224	41	19
Harwich	.226	956	99	216	12	92	228	45	24
Brewster	.225	1099	132	247	15	139	228	27	24
Wareham	.220	1121	129	247	8	137	263	60	12
Orleans	.218	1032	108	225	13	123	254	39	16
Chatham	.214	1017	120	218	13	136	289	47	13
Bourne	.202	917	75	185	6	97	246	26	13

ADDITIONAL BATTING LEADERS

HITS

Posey, Buster	YRD	40						
Mangini, Matt	HYA	37						
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	36						
Farris, Eric	COT	33						
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	33						

DOUBLES

Smoak, Justin	COT	9						
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	9						
Satin, Josh	OLN	9						
Russell, Kyle	COT	8						

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

Smoak, Justin	COT	.537						
Wieters, Matt	OLN	.529						
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	.524						
McFadden, Warren	FAL	.487						
Bianucci, Michael	YRD	.460						



Brewster's Andrew Romine is caught in a rundown by Bourne third baseman Matt Hall.

CHUCK BORGE



Batting Around

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

East Division Roundup

Y-D Has Its Eyes on the Prize

Y-D Red Sox pitcher Donnie Hume (Long Beach State) tallied another win for his record (3-0) against the Hyannis Mets on Saturday, July 15. Two of his three wins are credited to his strong pitching against Hyannis. Week 2's Coca-Cola Pitcher of the Week went eight innings and struck out four batters as Y-D beat Hyannis 4-1.

Although he has exhibited tremendous talent in his first season on the Cape, Hume remains humble, stating that every time he plays, his main goal is to "give my chance a team to win and get one win closer to that championship trophy." As far as personal goals, Donnie hopes to be pitching at his home field, Merrill "Red" Wilson Field, at the All-Star Game on July 29.

Hume feels that he has improved on his game by simply sticking to his routine: "I just keep working hard day in and day out and it seems to fall together for me. I've been very fortunate." Along with his Y-D teammate Terry Doyle (Boston College), Hume is a CCBL category leader for shutouts, with one thus far in the season (against the Mets on June 20). Hume realizes that at this point, another shutout may be hard to come by, as most batters have adjusted to hitting with wood.

Although his pitching was a determining factor in Y-D's victory, the offense proved to be stronger than Hyannis could handle in the ninth inning. The Red Sox, down 1-0 in the sixth, tied the game on a Danny Lehmann (Rice) hit to left center which allowed Buster Posey (Florida State) to score.

The Sox offense remained quiet and the score tied until the top of the ninth inning, when they took advantage of two throwing errors on the same play by Hyannis. Alden Carrithers (UC Santa Barbara) advanced to second on one throwing error and quickly to third on another, which allowed Mike Bianucci (Auburn) to score. A Luke Sommer (San Francisco) single to center filed drove home Carrithers. Finally a Brad Emaus (Tulane) single sealed the deal as Sommer scored the third run of the ninth, resulting in the final 4-1 score.

Hume and his teammates, now in first place in the Eastern Division, started the year

struggling and, for a short time, were in last place in the standings. Hume feels that the turn around came from simply "coming together and having some fun, which will hopefully take us all the way to a championship trophy."

The Sox will continue "having fun" on Sunday in an afternoon game at Bourne. *By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern reilly@capecodbaseball.org*

The Race Is On



The Whitecaps have moved into second place this week behind the red hot Y-D Red Sox. No worries, though, as Brewster is putting up some big wins too and keeping the race for first place very tight. A major reason the Whitecaps have kept up their winning ways is their pitching staff.

Perhaps the most overlooked pitching talent in the CCBL, Shaun Seibert (Arkansas) had another great outing Wednesday against the Bourne Braves, going six scoreless innings.

Seibert remains the top pitcher in the league and has been able to keep his ERA at 0.00 after 34 2/3 innings of work. He is leading the league with a 4-0 record and can take on any hitter that comes to the plate.

Whitecaps head coach Bob Macaluso said Seibert has "been outstanding ... Shaun is pitching smart and not giving into hitters."

The Illinois native thinks

he's been "under the radar" when it comes to scouting, which is really hard to imagine considering his performance so far this year. He ended his sophomore year at Arkansas with a familiar 4-0 record and a 2.79 ERA.

Now, if for some strange reason the scouts don't come knocking, Shaun has other plans. He is studying teaching and would like to one day join his brother in the field, though he would prefer to have a long career in professional baseball first.

In contrast to Seibert, there has been a lot of talk about pitcher Scott Maine (Miami). Scott has endured a lot of pain and maybe some bad luck over the last couple years. After having Tommy John surgery in 2004, he was injured in an automobile accident last summer. Scott made it back for the spring and ended this season with a 12-3 record.

This summer, Scott is one of the Whitecaps' best starters, proving he has what it takes to make it to the big leagues. He got his third win Thursday over the league-leading Cotuit Kettleers. Scott went 7 1/3 innings, gave up one run and struck out six, leaving him with a 1.80 ERA.

Relief pitcher Adam McDaniel (Georgia) is yet another name that has been tossed around. Adam has appeared in 11 games thus far and has struck out 14; and most importantly, he has not given up an earned run.

Adam played his first two years at Georgia as an infielder. This year was his first

Continued on Next Page



No IPTC Header found
No Published Caption

CAPE COD LEAGUE LEADERS

(Through Games Of 7/23/06)

PITCHING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 25 IP)

PITCHER	CLUB	W-L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	4-0	0.00	35	18	20	30
Hargrove, Ricky	CHA	2-0	0.76	36	17	14	27
*Merklinger, Dan	HAR	3-0	1.04	35	25	12	38
Simmons, James	COT	4-1	1.24	44	30	1	33
Farmer, Tom	BOU	1-2	1.56	35	19	20	26
*Bleich, Jeremy	WAR	1-1	1.60	34	27	12	26
*Atwood, Will	BRW	2-0	1.61	28	13	13	20
Davis, Ty	OLN	2-1	1.62	33	21	18	26
Staehely, Christian	COT	4-1	1.64	38	28	10	18
Shunick, Clayton	OLN	3-3	1.70	37	25	8	21

WINS

Several Players Tied at	4						
-------------------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

SAVES

Fields, Joshua	YRD	9					
Demel, Sam	FAL	8					
Cecil, Brett	OLN	8					
Latham, Daniel	HYA	7					

STRIKEOUTS

Portice, Eammon	BOU	45					
Doyle, Terry	YRD	43					
DeVries, Cole	BRW	41					
Boening, Riley	WAR	39					

TEAM	W-L	ERA	H	CG	SHO	SV	HR	BB	SO
Cotuit	21-9	2.25	228	0	7	7	12	80	206
Chatham	14-17	2.47	209	2	2	7	9	103	234
Wareham	18-16	2.75	277	2	3	10	7	113	262
Orleans	17-14	2.91	227	0	3	10	16	138	220
Brewster	19-13	3.12	280	1	2	13	18	123	250
Yarmouth-Dennis	21-13	3.16	250	2	5	14	22	125	310
Harwich	12-17	3.27	207	1	4	7	13	112	258
Falmouth	14-16	3.60	232	0	4	9	20	131	258
Hyannis	13-17	3.62	267	0	1	8	18	126	254
Bourne	5-22	4.16	232	0	2	3	10	121	242

ADDITIONAL PITCHING LEADERS

GAMES

Cassavechia, Nick	WAR	19						
Demel, Sam	FAL	17						
Graham, Connor	WAR	15						

SHUTOUTS

Woodard, Robert	CHA	1						
-----------------	-----	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

INNINGS PITCHED

Boening, Riley	WAR	46.0						
Simmons, James	COT	43.2						
Doyle, Terry	YRD	40.2						
Matthews, Tim	WAR	39.1						
Hume, Donnie	YRD	39.1						

LOSSES

Gardner, Matt	BOU	5						
Portice, Eammon	BOU	5						
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	4						
Putkonen, Luke	WAR	4						

WALKS

Daly, Matt	HYA	24						
Several Players Tied at		20						

HOME RUNS ALLOWED

Dobrowiecki, Kris	FAL	9						
DeVries, Cole	BRW	6						
Several Players Tied at		4						



Batting Around

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

East Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 13
season as a pitcher for the Bulldogs. After a rough start, he turned it around and was a big factor in getting Georgia to the College World Series.

Not only is Brewster's pitching fantastic, but at the plate the Whitecaps scored 23 runs this week. Helping out with that was Matt Cusick (USC), who went 4-for-4 with his first home run of the season against the Falmouth Commodores on Saturday. Also going 4-for-4 was David Cooper (California State Fullerton) on Thursday against Cotuit. David's Titans teammate, Jared Clark, was among the home run hitters this week, hitting his third of the season. And the ever-reliable Colt Sedbrook (Arizona) has continued to get on base and score runs.

It is hard not to mention everyone because it really is a team effort; all of the guys are working extremely well together and doing their jobs. So, stay tuned to see what the Whitecaps have up their sleeves this week to keep them in the race for the playoffs.

By *Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern dechristoforo@capecodbaseball.org*

Dunigan Steps Up for Cardinals



The Orleans Cardinals were extremely happy to see Danny Valencia

(Miami) fulfill his wish of signing a professional contract with the Minnesota Twins, but his departure left a hole in Cardinals lineup. Valencia provided protection for Matt Wieters (Georgia Tech) in the middle of the lineup. Orleans needed somebody to step up and provide protection for Wieters or risk having their star catcher receive the Barry Bonds treatment. No, not perjury indictments, but instead being pitched around and receiving a disproportional number of walks. The 6-foot-2, 240-pound Joe Dunigan (Oklahoma) has provided sacrifice bunts, steals, walks, and a great arm for the Cardinals, but this week he stepped into the role of cleanup hitter.

Saturday, July 15 saw the Orleans Cardinals travel to Bourne, where they took on the Bourne Braves. Joe Mahoney (Richmond) provided the offense for the Cardinals with three hits and an RBI.

Brett Cecil (Maryland) was extremely impressive as he closed the game with a 1-2-3

bottom of the ninth. Cecil has been one of the league's top closers with a 1.59 ERA and seven saves.

Sunday night was a pitchers' duel between Orleans' Clayton Shunick (Georgia Tech) and Harwich's Tony Watson (Nebraska). Shunick's only mistake came when Josh Horton (North Carolina) hit a two-out RBI double in the first inning. The run was all Watson needed in 1-0 Harwich win. After a 5-4 loss against the Wareham Gatemen on Monday night, the Cardinals traveled to Chatham to take on the A's, against whom they were undefeated on the season. After a Wieters walk in the top of the third, Joe Dunigan hit a three-run homer to put the Cardinals on top 3-0. However, the A's battled back and took a 5-4 lead heading into the top of the ninth. The Cardinals were able to load the bases, but they ultimately came up short and suffered their first defeat of the season to their rivals from Chatham.

The Cardinals were in the midst of a three-game losing streak when they traveled to Red Wilson Field to take on one of the hottest teams in the league. The Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox had won nine of their last 10 games and were currently sitting on the top of the Eastern Division. But they finally made the mistake of allowing Matt Wieters to have a chance to swing the bat, and he made them pay by smacking a pair of homers. Wieters had spent most of the week being pitched around while accumulating eight walks, thus elevating his league-leading on-base percentage to .455. In top of the ninth, Wieters received an intentional walk, but Joe Dunigan once again proved why he deserved the cleanup spot with a three-run blast that propelled his team to an 8-5 win. The game featured four lead changes and another strong performance from Brett Cecil in the bottom of the ninth.

The Orleans Cardinals currently sit in third place of the Eastern Division and hope to make a late-season surge towards a playoff berth. The combo of Matt Wieters and Joe Dunigan once again provides a great 1-2 punch in the heart of the order.

By *Jonathan French, CCBL Intern french@capecodbaseball.org*

Chatham Goes on Midweek Run

Chatham's offense was shut out twice the previous week and showed signs of an ominous event unfolding

for the Chatham A's hitters. In the world of baseball, this



event is known as the no-hitter, and on Sunday, July 17, the Chatham A's suffered

through the frustrating ordeal of the no-hitter. Yarmouth-Dennis's Terry Doyle (Boston College) was masterful on Sunday and yielded only one base-runner all night. Doyle commented, "When you have everything going for you, it's just a good feeling." The Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox cruised to a 2-0 win and left the A's with a long bus ride back to Chatham. However, the game may have served as a wake-up call for the A's. Instead of festering on the loss, the team warmed up their bats and went on a mid-week run that put them back in the hunt for a playoff spot.

Baseball is often noted for having its own language. In baseball terms, the word "stopper" is used to describe a starting pitcher who stops a team from going on losing streaks. Robert Woodard (North Carolina) has been the Chatham A's "stopper" this season, and he proved this again on Monday night. Woodard pitched seven effective innings to get the win for Chatham and the offense finally woke up by smacking 12 hits and eight runs. Reid Fronk (North Carolina) led the offense with three hits and two RBIs. In contrast to Sunday night's performance, eight of the nine Chatham batters recorded at least one hit.

After a day off on Tuesday, Chatham took on the Orleans Cardinals at Veterans Field. Chatham was looking to reverse their 0-3 record against the Cardinals and would have to do so from behind. Joe Dunigan (Oklahoma) hit a three-run homer in the top of the third that put the A's down 3-0. However, the A's battled back and took a 5-3 lead when a lazy fly ball from Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest) found a way to drop into shallow left field. The play netted two runs for the A's and gave them a lead they would never surrender. The game ended in dramatic fashion when Paul Koss (USC) struck out Mark Hallberg (Chicago-Illinois) with the bases loaded to preserve a 6-5 Chatham win.

Chatham continued their streak of strong play with a pair of wins in a double-header on Thursday. Against the Hyannis Mets, Chatham

won 3-1 behind a Matt Rizzotti (Manhattan) home run. The second game featured a different opponent in the form of the Bourne Braves. Adrian Ortiz (Pepperdine) had a Ricky Henderson-type day from the leadoff spot, starting the game with a homer and leading the offense with four hits and three RBIs. Eliot Cribby (Washington) got the win for the A's with seven strong innings of work as they cruised to a 6-1 win over the Braves.

Through Friday, Chatham sits in fourth place of the Eastern Division with 29 points, nine behind the second-place Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, who control the last playoff spot. The A's hope to use Woodard in the stopper's role again on Sunday night, when he faces the Brewster Whitecaps. The game will be played at Veterans Field at 7 p.m.

By *Jonathan French, CCBL Intern french@capecodbaseball.org*

A Summer Philosophy



There are only two weeks before the playoffs and the Harwich Mariners

find themselves in last place of the Eastern Division. Unfortunately, it has been many years since Harwich has seen a divisional playoff game and decades since they captured a championship.

The Mariners have so much talent, but with players coming and going it is hard to keep a rhythm and it's difficult to know which team is going to show up on a daily basis. Some days the Mariners are doing everything right, but on their off days they can really do a lot of damage.

In last Saturday's game against the West-leading Cotuit Kettleers, the Mariners had eight errors, four in the third inning alone. Obviously this was a rare occasion, but it shows that the Mariners' struggles can be contagious at times.

It is true that head coach Steve Englert is not particularly thrilled about some of their recent performances, but on the flip side, winning is not the most important thing to him.

"The most important things about this league are showcasing talent and getting the kids better," Englert said. Of course the M's would like to win games and bring a championship home to Harwich, but the first priority is to prepare these players for the

next level without compromising them physically.

The Mariners' philosophy is different from what one may follow in the spring, so during the summer Englert is willing to "sacrifice things to accomplish the goal." And there is plenty of evidence that Harwich has consistently allowed players to showcase their talents and improve their skills. That proof is in the draft stats.

Harwich has a history of recruiting top players and having those players drafted. Since the 2000 season, Harwich has had many first-round draft picks and have continued to recruit the top players in the nation. Former Mariners who have ascended to the ranks of MLB include Adam Stern of the Boston Red Sox, Kelly Shoppach of the Cleveland Indians, Jason Bartlett of the Minnesota Twins, and most recently Craig Hansen of the Boston Red Sox.

The current Mariners team is not without its own up-and-coming prospects. One can't help but notice Josh Donaldson (Auburn), who hit his fourth homer of the season on Friday night, adding two more RBIs to give him 19 on the season. He is still leading the league with nine doubles; he is also second in slugging with a .524 and third in batting average with a .320 and hits with 33.

Antone DeJesus (Kentucky) has been a steady presence for the Mariners, both by getting on base and by fielding. DeJesus is sixth in the league with a .411 on-base percentage. And his performance in center field has saved the Mariners from a lot of scored runs.

Pitcher Tony Watson (Nebraska) is 4-1, good for a tie for first place in wins. Teammates Dan Merklinger and Dan McDonald (both of Seton Hall) are also both proving to be standouts on the team. Friday night, the veteran Merklinger became the No. 3 pitcher in the league with a win over Falmouth. He is tied for third in the league with 38 strikeouts and has a perfect 3-0 record with a 1.04 ERA. McDonald has a 2-0 record and also has himself a 1.04 ERA.

The list of players could go on, but what it comes down to is that these guys are taking the opportunity of playing in the CCBL and trying to perform at their best while having fun at the same time. The Mariners might not have the best record, but one could argue that they have the best philosophy.

By *Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern dechristoforo@capecodbaseball.org*

WOODEN BATS: A First For Some Cape Cod Baseball League Players

BY STEVE KRAMMES

Some things are just meant to go together. Blue sky goes with sunshine, hamburgers go with fries, movies go with popcorn, apple pie goes with vanilla ice cream and baseball goes with wooden bats.

And every summer baseballs and wooden bats say Cape Cod League. Even though the college players who come to the Cape Cod Baseball League (CCBL) each summer to play "authentic baseball" have been playing the sport for most of their lives the CCBL introduces at least one aspect of the game that may be a first for them: wooden bats. From Little League, though all the other levels up to and including the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) baseball, they have played America's pastime using metal bats.

What, you say, metal bats? Why, it's incomprehensible! Who ever heard of, "The ping of the bat?" It just doesn't work. "The crack of the bat"...now that says baseball.

According to an article in USA Today, a patent was issued in 1924 for the first metal baseball bat. Metal bats gained in popularity in the 1970s with the manufacturing of aluminum bats.

Most baseball purists agree that metal bats are being used at virtually every level of organized baseball for one main reason: money. Aluminum bats don't break like wooden bats. They dent. You get dents in your car, not in your baseball bat, right? Next thing you know someone will be offering baseball bat insurance. OK, I admit that metal bats do last through several seasons, not just one or less. But is it that simple? Does money really rule baseball? (Well, that's a whole other story, I guess.)

Let's examine a few differences between the traditional wooden bats and aluminum bats. To start with, aluminum bats are hollow, wooden bats are solid. That fact alone has important consequences. An aluminum bat can be constructed with length, width and weight nearly any way you like without changing

the dynamics of balance and weight. Not so with wooden bats. To do the same things with wood means longer, heavier and more unwieldy bats. Never mind the balance and center of gravity.

Then there's the velocity with which the ball comes off the bat. With aluminum bats there is actually a "trampoline"-type effect wherein the bat compresses during the collision with the ball and springs back, much like a trampoline. That results in the ball literally jumping off the barrel of the bat. That doesn't sound like the game Abner Doubleday invented to me. Balls hit off aluminum bats travel at higher speeds than balls hit off wooden bats, which are almost incompressible and have virtually no trampoline effect.

How does this affect safety? If a ball jumps off an aluminum bat that much quicker it would stand to reason that there would be more injuries occurring, especially to pitchers, right? Yes, in fact, that is true. During a recent NCAA baseball season 375 injuries were directly attributed to the lack of reaction time for pitchers. Thirty-four of those pitchers had to exit the game and six of them received injuries so serious that they missed an entire season. Now that sounds pretty dangerous to me.

How about the hitter's perspective? When queried about this issue, University of California catcher Tyler LaTorre said he likes metal bats because his confidence grows when hitting with them. Part of that confidence comes from knowing that his bat will make solid contact with the ball and not break. Any player who has tried both wooden and metal bats and is being honest will tell you the ball simply goes further and faster when it makes contact with metal bats. It's a physical fact proven by science more than once.

I spoke to Al English, a Falmouth native, who has been watching baseball here on the Cape since the early 1930s. He said he's watched several future major league players struggle with the tran-

sition from metal to wood. In fact, one of the main reasons college players come to play in the CCBL is to learn how to hit with wood so they can pursue a professional career. Professional teams still use wooden bats, partly because of tradition and partly because of the dangers of using metal bats at a major league skill level. Professional teams encourage potential draftees to learn how to hit with wood before they are drafted. If players can prove they can make that transition ahead of time, it means money in the bank for them later.

In the 1980s the CCBL actually experimented with using metal bats but switched back to wood in 1985.

Another less apparent difference between wooden and metal bats is the way in which some colleges recruit players. Colleges that use aluminum bats look for bigger, stronger hitters. Some college conferences, like the Northeast 10 Conference, have actually switched to wood. According to Assistant Coach Jay Hoyt, from Southern New Hampshire University, a member of the NE10, the team now focuses more on quickness and defensive abilities as much as hitting. Chalk it up again to the difference between wooden and aluminum bats, according to Coach Hoyt, wood means more ground balls, so better defense and quickness means more outs.

Since there are only 27 outs per team in a game, it stands to reason that the easier the outs are to get, the better the team's chance of winning the game.

Currently approximately one out of every six major league players has come to the Cape Cod League to learn the subtle differences of hitting with wood after using metal in college or to pitch to batters using wood instead of metal. Well-known pro players such as Jason Varitek, Nomar Garciaparra, Tino Martinez, J.T. Snow, Pat Burrell, and Todd Helton all used the CCBL to refine their hitting talents using wood after stellar NCAA careers. Not all

were immediately successful. Sometimes the demands of losing bad habits forged by using metal bats along with the top-line pitching in the CCBL means a long summer for some players.

This introduction to failure may be a first-time experience for many of the players in the league.

Did these young baseball players come here to experience the informal atmosphere of the Cape league? After all, the beaches are always calling. Not to mention that after all, they are college-aged young men. Enough said. The truth is most players come here to refine their skills so they can move on to professional careers. I can hear virtually every manager saying over and over, "You're here to play ball!" That task can seem almost impossible given the distractions here.

However, one distraction every player here is most assuredly looking for is the large number of Ma-

ior Baseball League scouts at the games, radar guns in hand, notepads on their laps. Scouts are here to see these players play it "real" with wood! They're hoping to hear their own "crack of the bat" and make some impressions. I'm quite sure pitchers are hoping to break a few bats, too. For many of them, it may be a first-time experience that they have been looking forward to for a long time.

It's a fact, wooden bats mean an advantage to the pitcher, metal bats mean an advantage to the hitter. Wooden bats mean more bunts, more hit-and-run plays, more stolen base attempts, and more defense, but less scoring and fewer home runs. To a purist like me, that's real baseball! Give me a well-pitched, well-executed and exciting 4-3, 3-2 ball game any time. Summer on the Cape, watching good baseball using authentic wood bats, now that's something worth experiencing.



Save Up To

50% OFF plus

SUMMER CLEARANCE!

FREE Financing until 2007*
No Down Payment, No Interest, No Monthly Payment Required.

L A Z B O Y
FURNITURE GALLERIES®

HYANNIS: Rte 132 & Airport Road 508-771-7045

www.capecodlazboy.com

Mon. 9-7, Tues. - Thurs. 9-6, Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 12-5

In Home
FREE
Design Service

*With approved credit and minimum purchase. 30% deposit required on custom orders. See store for details.

Inside The Game**The Inside Story Of Jamming Batters**

Continued from Page 7

rotate their hips and try to pull inside pitches. "But when it runs down to the thin part of the barrel, the bat often shatters."

The trick, he said, is to learn to avoid the instinct to pull and instead hit an inside pitch to the opposite field.

Chris Forbes, the Commodores' hitting coach, said the count can dictate a hitter's approach on an inside pitch. "If he's looking for a fastball on the outer half of the plate, and he gets one inside instead, and there's less than two strikes, he just needs to let it go" and not swing, Coach Forbes said. "We've got a few guys, such as Warren McFadden, who can get the bat around quickly on inside pitches, but for a lot of others it takes time to adjust and learn."

The ability to pitch inside is something many Major League Baseball scouts look for in a prospect. "When a kid's not afraid to pitch inside, and he does it consistently, it tells me what's in his head and in his heart," said Keith Stohr, a former Hyannis Mets coach, who now scouts the Cape League for the Chicago Cubs. "A lot of us like to see pitchers with a bulldog approach."

There are those who claim that pitching inside at the professional level has become a lost art. Former star relief pitcher Rich "Goose" Gossage blames modern flexible body armor, such as the large, thick elbow pads worn by San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds, for reducing a batter's fears. Others, such as ex-MLB hurler Jim Kaat, have cited a shrinking strike zone that's designed to increase scoring and make the game more marketable.

Joe Rigoli of the St. Louis Cardinals, who's been scouting the Cape League for more than 20 years, said the effect has trickled down to the amateur level. "There's been a tendency to get away from it," he said.

Coach Forbes agrees. "At the college level, there's not enough emphasis on teaching players how to hit inside pitching effectively," he said. "It becomes a real challenge for them once they get to the Cape League."

Bits & Pieces**Around the Cape League Horn**

The Stars Will Come Out: Selections for the 44th annual Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game will be announced Tuesday, July 25 by CCBL Commissioner Paul Galop. Forty-six of the top players in the Cape League, including 23 on both the East and West Divisions, will comprise the two rosters. The mid-summer classic will be played Saturday, June 29 at 4 p.m. and 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. 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 hear to the broadcast by going to one of the five designated local phone numbers available at the league Web site.

Schiffner wins No. 300

Chatham A's head coach John Schiffner won his 300th career Cape League game on Monday, July 10 when the A's defeated the Hyannis Mets 1-0 at Veterans Field. Schiffner, who became head coach of the A's in the 1993 season, joins CCBL Hall of Famers Eddie Lyons and Don Reed as Cape League skippers who have amassed 300 victories in their Cape coaching careers.

Leading Banks of Cape Cod

For the fourth straight year, the CCBL All-Star Game will be presented by the leading banks of Cape Cod: Bank of America, TD Banknorth, Cape Cod Five Charitable Foundation and Sovereign Bank. Also sponsoring the game are Cape Cod Cooperative Bank, The Community Bank and Citizens Bank. Don't miss the autograph sessions at 12:30 p.m. and the popular Baseball Factory Home Run Hitting Contest at 2:30 p.m. The gates open at 11 a.m.

The All-Star Game will also feature the Eye Health Services-sponsored Field of Dreams whale from the Cape Cod Whale Trail. The whale will be visiting from its summer home at Heritage Museum and Gardens. For the second straight All-Star Game, the national anthem will feature Hyannis Sound, a renowned group of 10 collegiate men singing a capella.

The Baseball Express

For the second consecutive season, the Baseball Factory and Team One are teaming up to host the Baseball Express Cape Cod High School Classic. The top high school players in the country will compete in this All-Star Game on Friday, July 28 at noon at Spillane Field, home of the Wareham Gatemen. The home run hitting contest starts at 8:30 a.m. Seventeen players from last year's game were drafted by the major leagues in June. traditionally attracts 100 employees and their families.

Does insurance on Cape Cod have you lost at sea?***Let Reid-Hofmann Insurance guide you back to shore.***

It must seem that your insurance options are limited on Cape Cod. You **do** have the option of choosing your insurance agent.

Reid-Hofmann Insurance has over 80 years of experience and a reputation for providing outstanding customer service .

Call us or email to learn how partnering with Reid-Hofmann Insurance can benefit you.

**Reid-Hofmann
Insurance Agency, Corp.**

Auto

Home

Life

Business

Bonds

128 Route 6A, PO Box 1839, Sandwich, MA 02563

www.reid-hofmann.com • 508-444-8841

We believe Reid-Hofmann Insurance is the right choice!**Providing outstanding service and excellent insurance products to create exceptional value.****That's our policy! *Have you looked at your policy?***