

June 29, 2006

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From The Cheap Seats

A Top Player's Conundrum: Cape League Or Team USA

Decisions, decisions.

Put yourself in the shoes of an elite baseball player for a moment and appreciate the unique conundrum that many face at this time of the year.

On one hand they have an invitation to play in the Cape Cod Baseball League, the premier summer league in the country. Not only does the Cape League offer the best daily competition and a chance to be noticed by a gaggle of scouts, but the other variables are nice as well. There is the beach for the rare off day. The travel from ballpark to ballpark is quite easy. The atmosphere is somewhat relaxed and the fans appreciate just about every move on the diamond.

It's a pretty sweet gig for the summer.

On the other hand, some of the best players also get another invitation for the summer—to play for Team USA. Wow, the national baseball team, a chance to put a jersey on that reads "USA" across the chest. Not only does it rate a 10 out of 10 on the cool scale, but it's an honor as well.

However, the national team isn't quite as laid back and loose as the Cape team. The national team's travel schedule is a bear, to say the least, with games lined up all over the United States and ending in Havana, Cuba. It's an interesting way to see the world, but most of the sightseeing is done from buses and in airport terminals.

So what's a player to do? Both options offer pros and cons. It would be hard to say that going either way is wrong. Unfortunately, the Cape League hierarchy has to cope with the players having to make those choices each and every summer, despite having many of them already signed on to play for their respective clubs. This year, like most, the bulk of the USA invitees were already planning to play in the Cape League. Of the first 20 players asked to tryout, 16 were on Cape League preseason rosters.

When the invitation from the national team comes, some players jump at the chance. It's something they've got to try and who can really blame them. Others, though, know right away that they have no interest in living that lifestyle for the summer and would much rather work on their game in one place, rather than sit on charter after charter and live on hotel and restaurant food.

Cotuit Head Coach Mike Roberts has seen both sides of the coin. His son Brian, an all-star second baseman with the Baltimore Orioles, spent the summer between his freshman and sophomore years with Team USA. The next summer he came to Cape Cod. The elder Roberts said that the better place, in his eyes, was the ballparks by the sandy beaches.

"You make a lot of progress if you come [to Cape Cod] to work [on baseball]," Roberts said. "Team USA is certainly glamorous, but if practicing is something that's important, and getting better at baseball, then the Cape League is the better choice, I think....[Team USA] doesn't have a lot of time to practice because of the travel, and it's hard to improve that way.

"The Cape League is a grind-it-out every night [league], like in pro ball, against great competition."

Roberts also said that, competition-wise, the Cape League can't be beat. "The Cape is the best amateur competition in the world," he said. "The national team is very different from what it was in 1984...it's not like they play against the real Cuban team now."

Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox Head Coach Scott Pickler believes the chance to play for Team USA is a tough one to turn down.

"To put USA across your chest is thrilling for a lot of kids and to put that on your resume is something you'll always have, too. A lot of kids try [Team USA] one time, and then they come here," Pickler said.

Pickler certainly would love to have the best players play in the Cape League each year, but when one of his Sox players has to leave Red Wilson Field to try out for the national team, he feels no ill will at all. "It's great either way. 'I'm happy for you if you make the team, and I'm happy to have you here' is what I tell them," Pickler said.

This week, the players are vying for the 22 spots on the national team. The roster will be finalized by the start of July. Some of those kids will be on Cape Cod within a couple of days and others will prepare to take on Taiwan in Pawtucket.

What's certain is that the best baseball players in the land will all be on a diamond somewhere this summer. Let's hope they all are on the one that works out best for them.

Rich Maclone is the sports editor for Summer Stars and Enterprise Publishing. He can be reached at sports@capenews.net.



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On The Cover: Andrew Romine follows in his father's footsteps with a stint in the CCBL. Don Parkinson Photo



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Andrew Romine Following Similar Path As His Father

BY DAN CROWLEY

Brewster Whitecaps shortstop Andrew Romine is walking in the footsteps of his father. Boston Red Sox fans will recognize the name. Andrew's father, Kevin, played for the Sox for seven seasons from 1985-91.

Andrew Romine grew up in a baseball family. "I never really knew any different," he smiled, thinking back. "I was always watching baseball, playing baseball, and going to baseball games for as long as I can remember."

Andrew was born Christmas Eve 1985 in Winterhaven, Florida, then the spring training home of the Red Sox. That year, his father was a rookie with the Red Sox and for the next six seasons whenever he could he brought his young son along to the ballpark.

"I was still pretty young when my dad finished his career," Andrew noted. "I'll have little things that will remind me of things that happened, or I'll remember something when I hear my father talking, but it's pretty vague."

Maybe Andrew was too young to realize it at the time, but his love affair with the game had begun. In the late 1980s Andrew played in the Red Sox clubhouse while his father played ball.

"I have some memories of Wade Boggs and Jody Reed," Romine remembered. "I remember one time I was hiding in Wade Boggs's locker in a pile of shoes and he found me in there. Memories like that are great. I remember some of the sons and daughters of some of the players and we still get Christmas cards from some of them once in a while. My mom and dad tell me stories of growing up around Fenway Park and how I was afraid of the wave whenever it would come by."

Andrew began playing baseball at about the same age he took his first steps, and once he was old enough to play on a team, his dad was there to coach. Kevin coached his son's Little League teams, Pony League teams, and more. He built a batting cage in the back yard to teach Andrew how to hit and turned him into a switch hitter. But most of all he instilled in his son a love of the game and a dedication to hard work that Andrew lives by today.

"There has never been a day go by that I haven't done something to improve my game," Andrew admitted, "and I have my dad to thank for that. He was always there to help and instruct me."

Andrew had a standout season at Trabuco Hills High School in Mission Viejo, California. He was named an all-star in the Area Code Games, played in the North-South California All-Star Game and was named as one of the top

100 high school players in the nation by BaseballResources.com. In his senior year, he was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies.

Wisely, when it came time for his son to enter college and take his baseball to the next level, his dad, while at his side, left the decision to Andrew.

Before joining the Red Sox, Kevin Romine was a standout player and two-time All-American at Arizona State University. He still holds the record for the highest career batting average in Sun Devil history, hitting .408 in his two seasons. He is also the school's career stolen base leader (86), with a single season high of 59. In 1981, he led the Sun Devils to a national championship at Omaha. Of course, he'd want his son to head for Tempe.

"The decision was all mine," Andrew said. "(ASU) was always in the back of my head. We've always had maroon and gold around the house. They have great traditions, you get a great education and they have a great baseball program there."

Andrew considered other schools as well, including: Cal State Fullerton, Fresno State, and UCLA. But, when it came time to decide, his trip to Tempe and ASU stood out.

"My dad gave me as much information as I needed," he explained. "Whenever I had questions, he was there. But he didn't want to make the decision for me. I was the one to choose Arizona State."

When Andrew arrived in Tempe, he was given jersey number 12, the same number his father had worn.

"They asked what number I wanted, and I said it didn't really matter," Andrew remembered. "They handed me number 12 and said this is what we want to see you wear."

Arizona State University retired the number 12 in honor of Kevin Romine last May. His son will be the last Sun Devil to wear it.

At the end of a very successful freshman year, Andrew found himself standing in Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha where his father had played 24 years earlier. ASU was once again contending for the national championship.

"I was only on the field for about 10 minutes when a guy came up to me and asked me to sign a ball," Andrew recalled. "He carefully handed it to me and said, 'Be careful, it's kind of special.' I looked on the other side and it had my dad's signature. The guy looked at me and said, 'I got that when your dad was here in the '81 college world series.'"

Life couldn't have been better for both father and son until after the College World Series when they learned that a pitch that had hit Andrew in

the face had done more damage than had been initially expected.

"We didn't realize until I got home," he said. "We called a doctor and he said I had some hair line fractures in the cheekbone."

But Andrew's troubles didn't end there. A pinched vein in his neck required surgery and the removal of a rib. It wasn't until there were just 22 games left in his sophomore season that he got back on the field. Not being able to play baseball for a prolonged period for the first time in his life was hard. When he rejoined the Sun Devils he played with such a renewed joy that the first week back he was named the Pac-10 Player of the Week and the Collegiate Baseball Foundation National Honor Roll Player of the Week.

"I was just happy to be back, I was relaxed and was having fun," he laughed. "You try all the time to do the best you can, but nothing like that happened before."

This summer, Andrew Romine is enjoying playing in the Cape League. His father played his summer baseball in 1980 in Alaska for the Mat-Su Miners.

"My dad tells me that Alaska was the league to play in back then and I tell him, 'Not anymore dad, it's the Cape now,' " Andrew laughed. "After having it taken away from me last year, I'm looking forward to this summer and some great baseball."

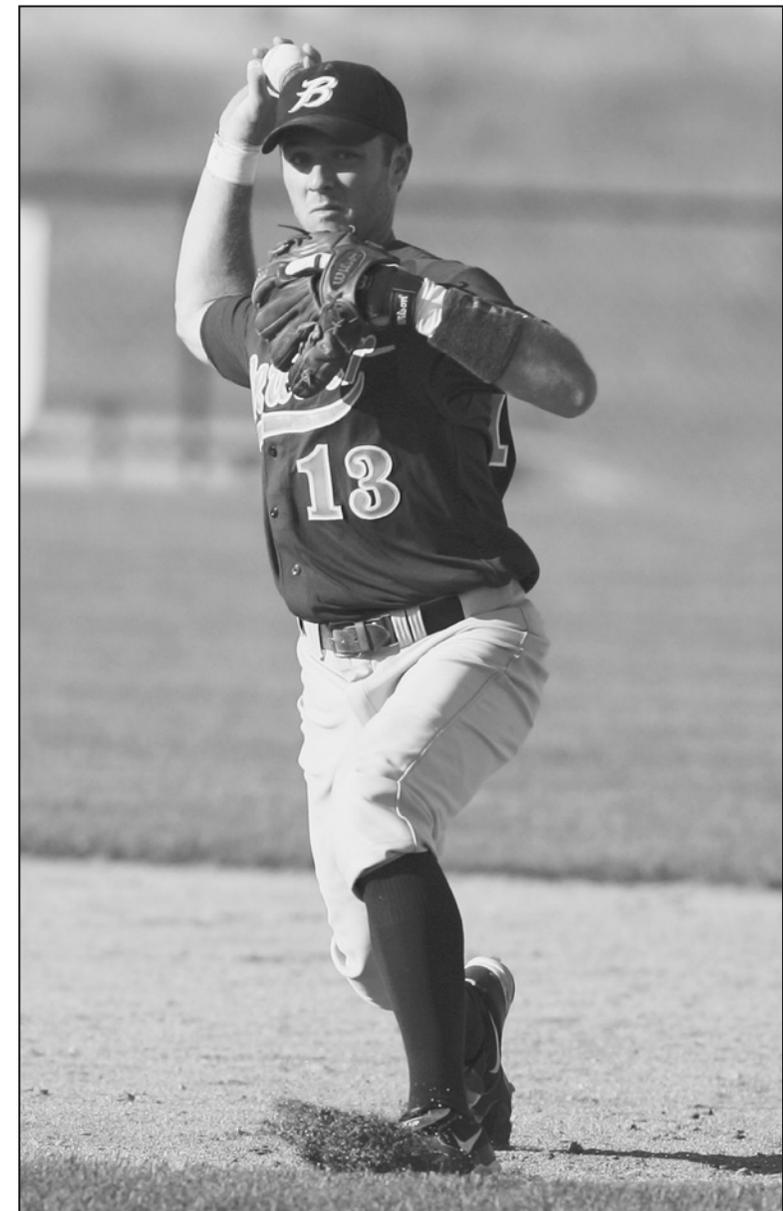
In addition to hard work, one thing his father has taught him is to always retain a positive attitude.

"The game is so difficult physically and mentally that if you aren't positive and are not ready to go, it can mess everything up," he added. "I

talk with my dad every night and he tells me to keep working hard, to stay positive, and not get down on myself."

Kevin Romine is now a Los Angeles County Police Detective and Andrew doesn't see how his father would be able to come to the Cape to watch him play. As much as Kevin might want to make the trip

east, he certainly knows that when it comes to baseball, he has done all a father can do for a son. Up to now Andrew's career has in many ways mirrored that of his father. He plans to continue to follow his father's advice, remember the lessons he taught, and hopefully, one day, follow his father's footsteps all the way to the majors.



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE Andrew Romine makes a play at short for the Whitecaps during a game last week in Bourne. Romine comes to the Cape League hoping to build on a strong year at Arizona State.



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE Andrew Romine has shown that he has very strong bat control. The infielder had struck out just twice in his first six games and was second on his team in runs scored.

World Series Has CCBL Teams Waiting Impatiently

BY MARK A. BROWN

Last Tuesday night, Matt Ranson and Chris Forbes sat looking glumly at the TV.

The two Falmouth Commodores coaches stopped at a local restaurant after returning from Chatham, where that evening's ballgame had been fogged out. (That's right, fogged out. It happens here on the Cape....)

While most patrons were gleefully watching Tim Wakefield spin a gem for the Boston Red Sox, Ranson and Forbes had their eyes fixed on the only screen in the place not tuned to the Sox game. Instead they were focused on the Miami-Oregon State Elite Eight matchup in the College World Series.

The Beavers, whose roster includes four kids slated to play for the Commodores this summer, had just tacked on a run to make it a 5-1 game in their favor. One of those kids was stud backstop Mitch Canham.

One might expect the two Falmouth coaches would be happy to see Canham's team

doing so well. So why the somber looks?

"Man, we could really use a healthy catcher right now," said Forbes with a shake of his head.

A day earlier, in a freak play, Commodores catcher Andy Walker had been struck in the arm by a bat swung by Brewster's Adam LaPlante. The bat broke on impact, and Walker's arm, while not fractured, didn't fare much better. He'll be sidelined indefinitely.

The injury ultimately led Commodores' General Manager Chuck Sturtevant to turn to Kelly LaDow, a catcher for Bridgewater State. LaDow, who redshirted this past season after breaking the thumb on his catching hand, is also a Falmouth native, the first to play for the hometown Commodores since Colin Eastman handled a few games in the outfield as a temporary player several seasons ago.

In addition to the quartet from Oregon State, Falmouth was missing four players from Clemson as well as pitcher Cole St. Clair of Rice University. "It's tough," Sturtevant

said. "During these first few weeks, you really have to play 50-50 ball to have a shot. If you fall behind in this league, by the time you get all your players in, it's too late to be competitive," he said.

Each year, the 64-team NCAA Division 1 postseason tournament puts a strain on all 10 Cape League squads. The further college teams advance in their quest for the national title, the longer it takes for their CCBL-bound players to head home, pack their belongings, and finally make their way to this summer baseball enclave.

As the tourney got underway June 2, there were 145 players from 42 teams that were slated to play on the Cape. With only 23 roster slots available to each CCBL team, nearly two-thirds of the league's 230 players were in limbo.

Falmouth and Brewster were each short 20 players. Even the team affected the least, Yarmouth-Dennis, was shy a dozen players, and opening day was just 12 days away.

"In the 20 years I've been in this league, this is the worst I

can remember it," said Sturtevant.

By the end of the NCAA first round on June 5, the tourney field had been slashed to 16 teams, freeing up 78 players to head east. But another 67 were still with their college teams in the second round, which began June 9.

Brewster and Falmouth were again the hardest hit, each short nine players. Cotuit was missing eight, and Wareham and Y-D each had seven slots to fill.

Injuries and NCAA obligations aren't the only disruptions to Cape League rosters. The Y-D Red Sox lost closer Matt Meyer last week after the Boston College lefty signed a pro contract with the Cleveland Indians.

Just this past weekend, a number of CCBL players began auditioning for 36 spots on Team USA in Pittsfield. Among those under consideration were 1B Joe Savery of Wareham (Rice), five Harwich players including ace lefty Sean Doolittle (Virginia), and four Commodores including

St. Clair, Barney, LHP Ross Detwiler (Missouri State), and RHP Aaron Shafer (Wichita State).

In an effort to bridge the manpower gap, the Cape League holds a tryout each year. This season, rain postponed the event until Sunday, June 11—a mere four days before the season opener. Officials from all 10 teams were on hand as 89 players went through drills at Wareham's Clem Spillane Field.

"I needed some bodies," said Sturtevant, one of those in attendance. He came away with six temporary players, including Brown University infielder Matt Nuzzo. In his first CCBL at-bat, the Everett native launched a 94-mph fastball 410 feet over the center field fence for a homer.

Last year, Sturtevant rolled a seven at the tryouts by snagging ex-UConn pitcher Tim Norton, who went on to share the Cape League's Most Outstanding Pitcher award.

As the College World Series continued last week, 44 Cape League players were still competing with their college squads. Over the weekend, it was down to two teams for the championship—North Carolina and those Beavers of Oregon State, which meant Sturtevant and his staff were still waiting for their healthy catcher Canham, as well as shortstop Darwin Barney, and pitchers Eddie Kunz and Joe Paterson.

As for the Tar Heels, four CCBL teams were awaiting nine of their players. Closer Andrew Carignan is headed for Bourne. Catcher Tim Federowicz, starter Rob Woodard, OF Seth Williams, and 3B Reid Fronk are bound for Chatham. The Harwich Mariners will get 1B Chad Flack, SS Josh Horton, and OF/1B Matt Spencer. Starting Luke Putkonen is destined for Wareham.

Their Cape League coaches all say they can't arrive soon enough.

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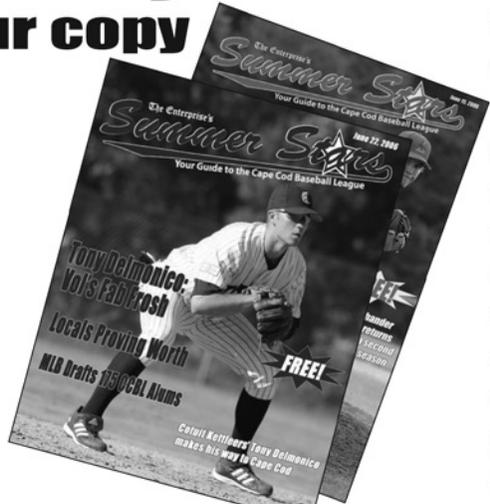
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Doing The Dirty Work: CCBL Players Are Their Own Grounds Crew

BY MICHAEL O'CONNOR

In the big leagues, the grounds crew is constantly at work. Either running the tarp out on the field during rain delays or working between innings, their job never ends. It is a round-the-clock responsibility, which keeps many a major league baseball park in pristine condition. It also adds to the atmosphere of enjoying a game.

However, here in the Cape Cod Baseball League, things are a little different. "The home team for the evening performs as the grounds crew," coach Jeff Trundy of the Falmouth Commodores explained. After both teams have practiced, the home team gets underway working on the field. It is done right before the start of the game and takes approximately a half-hour, barring any unforeseen problems.

They start off by rolling the big batting cage, also known as the "turtle," out of the way, usually done by two pitchers not starting the game, as the position players stretch out and get ready. It is wheeled into an area so as not to affect foul balls or anything in play. It is important to get the cage out of the way first so they can set up the batters box around home plate.

The "L" net is the next thing to be removed. It has a couple of wheels, but isn't nearly as large and can be moved by one player. The "L" net is set up in front of the mound during practice and allows whoever is throwing batting practice not to be taken out by a lined shot at the mound. This net also is wheeled to an area out of play so as not to interfere during the ballgame. Finally there is the "Bucket" net in the outfield to protect infielders from the balls being thrown back in from the outfielders.

The invaluable golf club car comes into play next. The only exception with this club car is it has an area where you can carry things on the back. The players roll up the field tarp on a steel pole being used around the batting cage, and then load it onto the back of the cart, which is driven to where the other equipment is being stored. The same is done with the "grass protector" out in front of the batting cage, so the grass doesn't get chewed up.

Once those things are cleared out of the way, the raking begins. One player around home plate begins raking and smoothing out the area. A drag rake is connected to the club car and the raking gets done more efficiently and quickly, out in the infield. Other players will smooth out the base lines with regular garden rakes. The players doing this are the



MICHAEL O'CONNOR

True hops and bounces wouldn't be possible if not for the painstaking work of the players prior to each game. The ballplayers are responsible for smoothing out the surface in front of the plate, and along the infield.

pitchers not scheduled that night.

One of the more intricate duties the players do is to set up home plate, including the batters box. They use a "batters box frame" to outline the imprint for the chalk to be laid down. Once this is done on both sides, home plate is put down in the middle and the chalk is run from the back part of home plate to the foul line. It's an intricate process.

Finally, one of the last jobs performed is wetting down the dirt. As coach Trundy explained, "It keeps the dust down and helps to compact the dirt and make it a little firmer."

This is literally the last thing done before the teams take the field, as you don't want it down too early or the dirt will dry out. Final touches also include spray painting home plate and the pitchers mound.

Once these things are finished, it's time to play ball. The field is in nice condition and game-ready. The smell of a barbecue and kids playing not far away enhances the atmosphere as I get comfortable in my seat. It is sure to be another great night of baseball.



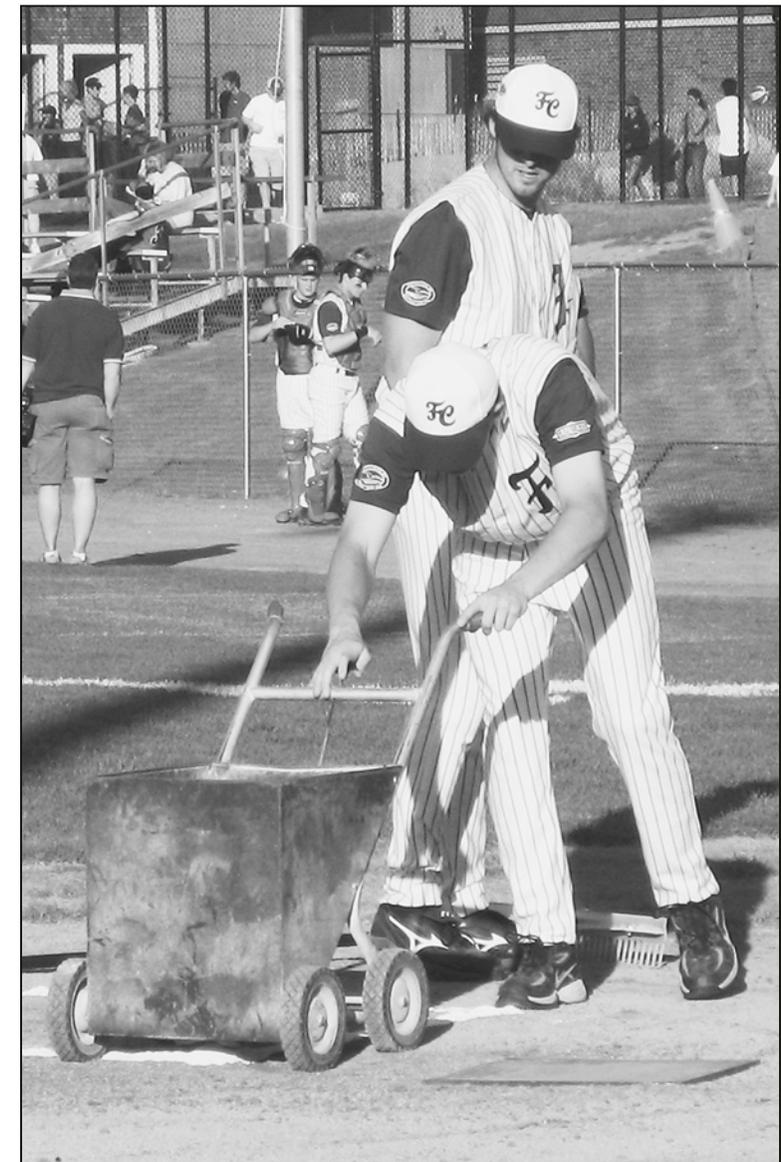
DANIEL W. WEBB

Dragging the field prior to the game is just one chore that the CCBL players and coaches are responsible for.



RICH MACLONE

The mound, and infield, are sprayed down before the first pitches are thrown.



MICHAEL O'CONNOR

Many players state that they take pride in making the batter's box perfect.

Live From The Diamond:

Cape League Broadcasters Bring Games To The Fans

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Tom Sedlacek, the 24-year-old Minnesota native, was born for this. His blond hair juts out from the sides of his Bourne Braves baseball cap. The game just ended and he can't turn it off. The radio voice goes on deep into the night after the game has ended.

In his business, you either have the voice or you don't, and you can either remember and recite stats at the drop of a hat, or you can't. Tom Sedlacek, a three-year Braves broadcasting veteran, has all the tools needed to become a broadcaster at the next level.

His voice is a one-of-a-kind broadcasting voice, different from a civilian voice in some unknown yet distinct way, much like the great Red Sox announcer Joe Castiglione's nasal tone. It is divergent. The kind of voice that you'd recall growing up to, played out of your father's small, tattered radio, as the two of

you played catch as darkness fell on a cool Cape summer night.

Sedlacek has worked hard for his shot to broadcast every game this year, finally jumping out of a rotating cast of Braves interns after last season, and he is ultimately shooting for the minor leagues.

It has been a long road to the Cape League for him, literally, and if he continues to work as hard as he did to get to the Cape League, he could become another Cape League success story.

Sedlacek, joined by his partner in crime, first-year Braves intern Matthew Silberman, 21, from Memphis, Tennessee, are just one of the many dynamic broadcasting duos you will find delivering the play-by-play via the Internet on the Cape Cod Baseball League's numerous team web sites this season.

Devotion to the national pastime is a common denominator within every one of the



MATT BURKE

Tom Sedlacek and Matthew Silberman will broadcast Braves games this season.

league's 10 broadcast teams. "I come from Minnesota to do this; I come out here specifically for the Braves," Sedlacek says. "Matt drives all the way from Providence every game day."

Silberman is a senior at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, and commutes to the games, while Sedlacek, a recent college graduate, has made the Cape his home for the past three summers after learning about the league on the Internet. He says that prior to that fateful Google search where he discovered the league, he didn't even know where Cape Cod was.

"Originally I'm from Memphis, Tennessee, so this definitely is a trek for me and my first summer spending it up here," Silberman adds. Despite some minor technical

problems experienced at the home opener, the chemistry is there and the pair looks forward to a great summer talking baseball.

"Next year I'll be going to the minor league baseball hiring fair at baseball's winter meetings," Sedlacek says enthusiastically. "Hopefully with a CD of games from this season I'll find a paid job somewhere in the minor leagues."

Silberman, a sports management major, agrees. "Yea, that would definitely be interesting, I'm going to finish my degree first and everything, and see what else I can find."

In Wareham, Patrick Gleason, a 26-year-old Wareham native who has been broadcasting the Gatemen for the past five years, is living out his dreams to one day become a Major League

broadcaster. Castiglione had better watch out because Gleason has his sights set on his job. "I would love to move up the ranks and eventually do the Sox or maybe even a network job," he said. "[The best part about broadcasting the Gatemen's games is] the fact that I have been living my dream for five years and having a blast doing it. Not many people can say that."

Gleason graduated from UMass Dartmouth in 2002. He has previous experience editing broadcasts for National Public Radio. He said that he has always known he wanted to be a broadcaster. "I use a wheelchair and cannot physically compete on the diamond," he said. "So this is the next best way for me to stay involved and contribute to the team."

Devotion to his team, the Gatemen, comes from Gleason being a hometown boy. He remembers taking hitting instruction from Sox great Mo Vaughn in the late '80s. "The field is only 10 minutes from my house, and I could never transfer my loyalty to another team after this long," he said. "The Gatemen are a top-notch organization filled with terrific people who have made me feel extremely welcome and at home since day one. They took a chance on me and I truly do appreciate it."

He said that people know his voice and approach him at games, saying that they have been listening to him

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Players, Host Families Share A Unique Bond

BY DARIN WEEKS

Every June, their doorsteps are darkened by young men with large duffel bags and heads full of baseball dreams. For over 10 weeks, a few hundred Cape Leaguers, some arriving on Cape Cod for the first time, will begin in many cases what will be a lifelong relationship with host families who open their homes to them for the summer.

The Cape Cod Baseball League offers many tests to challenge the mettle of some of America's best young ballplayers. On the field, hurlers with 90-plus mile-per-hour fastballs and hitters with the ability to hit a ball into tomorrow lurk in the shadows of every Cape League park. Off the field, these same college students must adapt to a new environment, including learning and living by the rules of families who welcome them with open arms as if they were their own children.

Though initial awkwardness and some growing pains may occur, in many cases a transformation occurs over a summertime that turns a stranger from hundreds of miles away into a family member and creates a lifelong bond centered around a shared love for America's favorite pastime.

Paul McCracken, a mortgage lender for Cape Cod Five by day and host parent for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox by night, has hosted players for the last three years and has quickly become the quintessential Cape League host parent.

"I was interested in baseball, and the Cape League has a great reputation," explained McCracken of his initial desire to host Red Sox players at his Yarmouth home. "My first player (College of Charleston alum and current Philadelphia Phillies' minor leaguer Brett Harker) was a good kid and we hit it off right away."

While some host families have small children who quickly idolize their summer housemates, others like McCracken, whose children are grown, relish the idea of helping shape the young minds of ballplayers, especially in the area of a fan's passion for baseball.

"I remember after a game Brett came home and we watched a Red Sox-Yankees game on TV," said McCracken. "What I remember is that game was so intense, he never even changed out of his uniform and really learned the intensity of that rivalry...I think he also learned that summer that (former Yankee) Bucky Dent has a middle name."

Up the Cape in Falmouth, the rooting loyalties change, but the stories remain the

same. Helen Kennedy, the director of Falmouth's Recreation Department and house parent for 11 years, has created several lifetime bonds through her years of housing Commodore players, including current Chicago Cubs' reliever David Aardsma and Tampa Bay Devil Ray Kevin Cash.

"I've met so many great players," explained Kennedy. "I've housed players for 11 years now and I still stay in touch with every kid who has ever stayed with me."

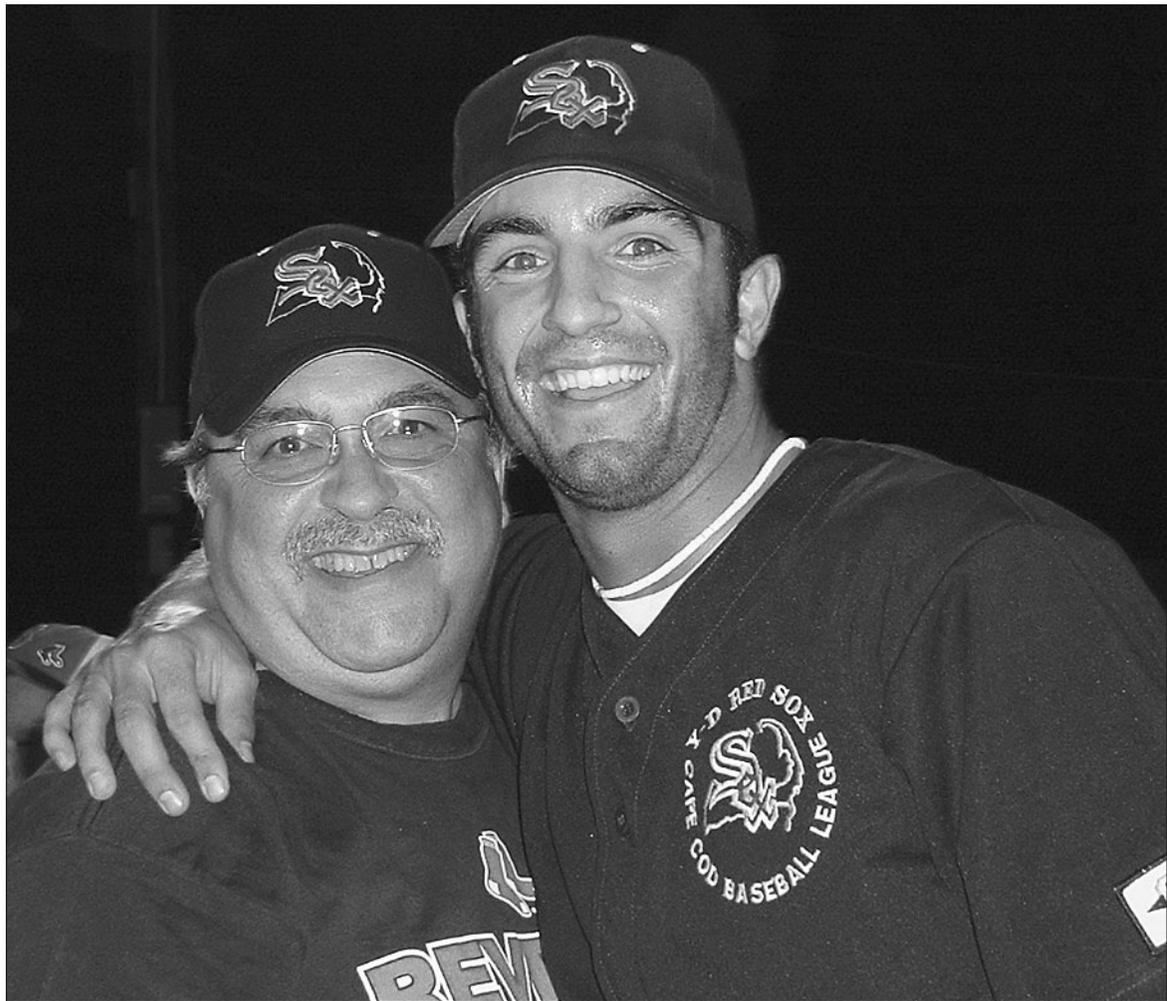
Though most Cape League fans will remember players by their on field accomplishments, host parents gain a unique perspective into the lives of these young men and tend to recollect some of the funny off the field moments that happen during the summer.

"I remember when I housed (David) Aardsma, he had borrowed someone's pink Cadillac to drive for the summer," remembered Kennedy. "He drove it to Hyannis one day and it broke down; it was hysterical."

One night last summer while housing Y-D Red Sox' Chris Errecart (a 2006 fifth-round pick of the Milwaukee Brewers), McCracken drove home one night to find a strange car in his Yarmouth driveway. When he asked Errecart whose car it was, he was stunned to learn the car belonged to Boston Red Sox President Larry Lucchino.

"A friend of Chris's was an intern for the Boston Red Sox last summer," explained McCracken. "I guess she worked for Lucchino and asked him if she could borrow his car to drive to the Cape. So I'm at my house looking out the window and see Larry Lucchino's car sitting in my driveway."

Although McCracken and Kennedy have hosted players for different amounts of time, both have realized that when the summer ends, the relationship they create with their players endures. Last spring, McCracken flew to Charleston to watch Harker play and, ironically, lived with the player again, this time under Harker's roof. Kennedy has made similar pilgrimages across America to watch her former players' progress through their careers.

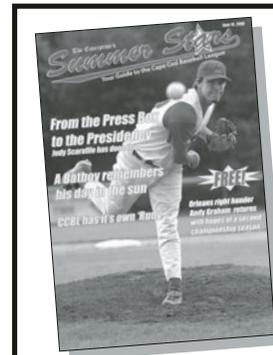


House dad Paul McCracken celebrated the 2004 Cape Cod Baseball League championship with his player Brett Harker.



Longtime house mom Helen Kennedy, and her daughter Elizabeth, visited two of her former players at Rice University, Austin Davis (left) and David Aardsma (right).

"It's great to see their different personalities," said McCracken, who will soon travel to attend Harker's wedding. "It's just a lot of fun to talk baseball and realize how young they really are...when they make it to the majors, I'll remember the times when they were living in my house and the fun we had."



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"Good Luck Commodores!"

Ballpark Review

Eldredge Park: The House that Nomar Built

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Ty Davis, a junior from Vanderbilt, took the hill for the defending Cape League Champion Orleans Cardinals and pitched an unassuming gem last Friday night at Eldredge Park off Route 28 in Orleans. The right-hander from Austin, Texas, went to work under ominous, cloudy skies, and between scattered showers, and under the threat of thunderstorms, pitched six complete innings and dazzled the Falmouth Commodores, forcing line drive out after ground ball out, on his way to getting the win, 2-1.

Brett Cecil from Maryland closed out the game and ensured a Cardinals' victory despite giving up a 400-foot solo home run to left center in the top of the ninth to Tulane's Aja Barto, who is off to an exceptional start at the plate this season. The MVP of this game was the Cardinals defense, which fended off the Commodores every time they tried to mount a comeback.

Eldredge Park has long been revered as one of the most family-friendly parks in the Cape Cod Baseball League and it has always been home to one of the Cape's most storied teams. Located at Nauset Regional Middle School, the ballpark is the furthest field down Cape, which might not draw a lot of Upper Capers, but has instead created a subculture of diehard Lower Cape, Cardinals' aficionados.

The house that Nomar built has seen its share of fantastic ballplayers, with a 1993 team that included Garciparra, Aaron Boone, and Jay Payton, 1999's Mark Teixeira, 1994's Todd Helton, and who could forget the 1988 team that included J.T. Snow and Frank Thomas.

Team General Manager Sue Horton said that the fans are so diehard that they have been known to leave chairs set up the night before a game, just to save their spot on the hill, down the first base line. Some fans choose to do it the morning of the game. Both groups cause some dismay to the town workers trying to mow the grass.

Ms. Horton said that despite the mowing difficulties, the players love the atmosphere and believe that the level of enthusiasm exuded by the fans adds to the experience, making Orleans' Eldredge Park one of the most exciting ballparks to watch a game in.

Best Place to Park: The best part about having your field at a school is the amount of available parking. As you drive up on Eldredge Park, with the field on your right, take a right after the park and drive around the outfield. You'll see the sign for the administration building. There you will see a plethora of spots about 30 yards behind the center fielder. If it's a particularly nice day, you should get there early because it will fill up fast, and not only with baseball fans. There is a playground, a tennis court, and a soccer field that also draw people in droves. Watch out for the skateboarding youngsters and the parents rushing to watch their kids as they whiz down the slide in the playground, and you are ready to enjoy the game. The Cardinals offer night games with a 7 o'clock start.

Best Place to Watch: The best place to watch a Cardinals' game ultimately is through the small crevice between the press box and the backstop behind home plate. The only problem: it's reserved for "Scouts." If it is uninhabited early in the season, make a break for the best seats in the house with your foldout chair, but if for some reason you see a man holding a radar gun, the hill is where it's at.

The hill stretches from halfway between home plate and first base, all the way to the bullpen on the other side of the right field fence. During a Cardinals game, you will watch the hill fill up with blankets and beach chairs very quickly. Families and father/son tandems dot the hillside wherever you look. This is where the majority of the homegrown fans sit. Travel further down the hill, away from home plate, and the only thing

separating you from the action is a chalk line. Bring a chair or a blanket to this park for it only seats 300, but its capacity is 6,000.

Best Buys: The best buys at Eldredge Park come in the novelty department. Baseballs with the giant red bird emblazoned on them are \$5, perfect for autographs. Cape Leaguers are more than generous when it comes to signing for kids. Cardinals key chains can go anywhere from \$1.25 to \$3. Cape Cod Baseball League baby bibs for \$8 will start even the youngest Cape League fan out in the right direction. The best buy, however, is a gratis high quality yearbook detailing everything Cardinals. This is key for the diehard fan.

Food: The Cardinals treat their fans like royalty at their home games with a large assortment of goodies. From grilled meats, like hot dogs for \$2, burgers for \$3, cheeseburgers for \$3.50, and sausages for \$3.50, to typical baseball fare like sunflower seeds, peanuts, and popcorn, fans can go to the games with a tight budget and an empty stomach and leave happy and satisfied. The most popular item at the park was by far the hot dogs, but the highest quality meal was the foot-long baseball park-style sausages. The park is so good to Cardinal fans that the condiment table even had fresh chopped onions and relish! Fenway, eat your heart out.

Best Feature: The best feature of the park is the top-notch facilities as a whole, including a playground, tennis courts, and soccer fields. Nauset Regional Middle School has something for everyone in very close proximity to one another. You can lean against the outfield fence in center and check out the game while keeping an eye on your kids on the jungle gym, and giving a thumbs up to your oldest as he does his best to imitate Brazil's Ronaldinho on the soccer field.

The Park: The landscaping is pristine, the facilities are magnificent, and nothing beats night games under the lights at Eldredge Park. The handicapped accessible restrooms are first-rate. However, the field is not very handicapped accessible and there is definitely a lack of seating. You could get a wheel chair onto the field but the slope is not optimal. But for a family, no park beats Eldredge; just don't forget to bring bug spray and a blanket or beach chairs. Your kids will love the playground and they even have an ice cream truck. Eat dinner before the game on its picnic tables next to the playground, and watch out for foul balls on the hill.

How Far I Got on 20 Bucks: I started out by purchasing a medium kids T-shirt for \$10. Then, I enjoyed sunflower seeds for \$1, and a sausage for \$3.50. Before leaving, I bought a baseball with the funky red Cards mascot on it for autographs, \$5. With the change left over, I was able to buy some candy.

The Cardinals is one of the best teams to check out at home because it fields a good team, year in and year out, and their facilities are incredible. Eldredge Park Field would get five stars because a game there, under the lights, is a phenomenal and unforgettable experience, but without a level, paved ramp down to the field for handicapped fans, Eldredge Park Field only gets four stars.

★★★★



MATT BURKE

Orleans is a fan-friendly place to visit to see a Cape League game.



MATT BURKE

Get a snack and never miss a pitch.



MATT BURKE

Youngsters find Eldredge Park a fun place to watch the games, and not just because of the action. The site also has a playground.



MATT BURKE

Don't forget to bring a lawn chair to the ballpark when you go to Orleans.



MATT BURKE

The view from the hill, along the first base line, is one of the most famous and enjoyable places to watch a Cape League game. Locals are known to drop off their chairs to secure their spot along the hill the day before a game sometimes.

Cape League Broadcasters Bring Games To The Fans

Continued from Page 6

from as far away as California. Gleason wouldn't mind the notoriety of being associated with a great home run call in the Major Leagues.

In 2002 he borrowed a chord from the famous British rock band Queen, "We are the champions," he shouted, as the Gatemen defeated the Orleans Cardinals at home for the league championship. He says that the call was not exactly the "picture of impartiality," but he says that he has "gotten a lot better since that first year."

In Cotuit, Toney Godfrey, 20, a Yankees fan from New Jersey, and Benny Gordon-Goldstein, 20, a Phillies fan also from New Jersey, are a young team of broadcasters whose passions also look toward the pro game. "I want to be a play-by-play announcer for a Major League baseball team someday," Godfrey, currently attending Virginia Tech, said. "This seemed like the perfect place to start.... The Cape League is special because it's so much different than any other league you'll see on TV today. The players in this league play because they love the game. In addition, they find different ways to give back to the community."

Gordon-Goldstein's favorite player, Chase Utley, once donned the cranberry-colored cap of his Cotuit Kettleers, which makes the Boston University student's broadcasting experience that much more interesting.



MATT BURKE

Broadcasters in Orleans enjoy the view from "Ed Mooney's Bird's Nest."

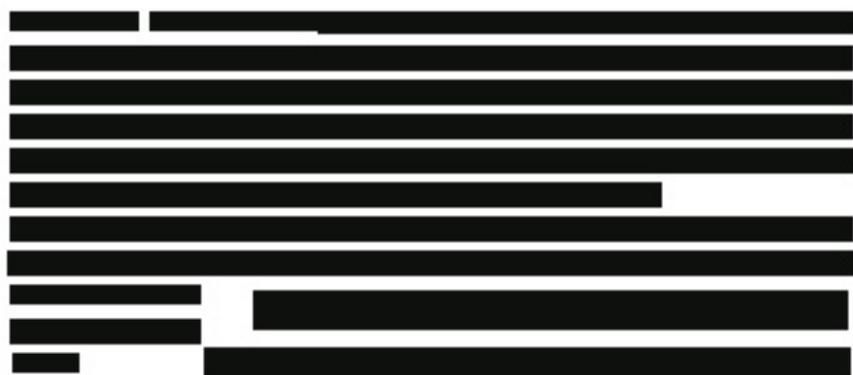
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Cape Cod Baseball League

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2006 Schedule

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



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

West Division Roundup

Cotuit Swinging Hot Bats
COTUIT, Mass. - The Cape Cod Baseball League is a summer league where players struggle adjust-

ing to wood bats at the beginning of the season. The league also plays home to some of the nation's best pitching prospects who constantly flirt with complete games and shutouts day in and day out.

Someone apparently forgot to tell the Kettleers.

In its first six games, Cotuit has scored over eight runs every time out except one, which was a 5-1 loss at the hands of Falmouth. The explosion has catapulted the Kettleers into first place in the Western Division with a healthy 5-1 record.

Despite the amount of runs scored, this team has stuck to the small ball style of play for which head coach Mike Roberts has been known. They have already swiped 17 bases, good for second in the league, and even Cotuit's power hitters have succumbed to the unselfish style of ball played in Cotuit, laying down sacrifice bunts and doing whatever it takes to manufacture runs.

The biggest contribution has come from the bat of Reese Havens (South Carolina) who has an astonishing seven RBIs in nine at-bats. Equally amazing is Jeff Dunbar (UC Riverside) and his six RBIs in six at-bats. The hot hitting has been contagious for Cotuit, where fans have seen every player on the roster record at least one RBI thus far on the young season. The Kettleers have a combined team batting average of .343, easily far and above the rest of the league, which is struggling to reach the .250 mark.

With everything seemingly functioning to perfection, Coach Roberts hasn't been shy going to the hit-and-run and taking chances on the base paths, a strategy he is more than happy to implement.

"Hitting like this makes my job a lot easier. The boys are making the games fun to manage," claimed the third-year Cotuit coach after an emphatic beating of Orleans on Wednesday.

To say the bats alone are leading to the success of the Kettleers would be a slap to the great young pitching staff that has been assembled. The staff has only allowed more than three runs in one game, and pitcher of the week Dan Delucia (Ohio State) has been nearly perfect in his 16 innings of work, scattering just five hits. His two starts have gone eight innings apiece, with a gem coming at the hands of Bourne, where he struck out seven Braves.

The pitching staff has compiled a combined ERA of 1.70.

The numbers speak for themselves. Cotuit is the league's best team in hitting and pitching. This dominance has left the loyal fans and citizens of Cotuit foaming at the mouth in hopes that their team can keep these numbers up and bring the Cape

League title to where it rightfully belongs.

By Nicholas Mucci,
CCBL Internmucci@capecodbaseball.org

Gatemen Riding High in the West



WAREHAM, Mass. - After starting the season with four straight wins, the Wareham Gatemen

have experienced their first three losses in the last four games. The Gatemen have shown strength offensively, placing themselves among the league leaders.

Shawn Haviland (Harvard) made his regular season debut on Sunday against the Bourne Braves after earning his first win in the preseason. Haviland pitched strongly over the course of 3 2/3 innings, giving up only one hit and one earned run. Leaving with two men on, Haviland was replaced by Steven Schwartz (Pennsylvania), who needed all of one pitch to get out of the jam. It was not until the eighth inning when the bats began to come around for the Gatemen. In the ninth, the Gatemen turned to the bullpen and veteran RHP Martin Beno (Mississippi Gulf Coast), who closed out the game to give the Gatemen their fourth win in as many games. Beno is currently among the league leaders in pitching, posting a record of 1-0 and giving up only five hits over the course of eight innings pitched.

Monday night brought the Gatemen their first loss of the season when they faced the Cotuit Kettleers. John Ely (Miami-Ohio) earned the loss after providing six innings of work and giving up three earned runs. The Gatemen saw little production offensively with only six hits, two of which were earned by 3B/1B Steffan Wilson (Harvard). Wilson is leading

the league in runs batted in (eight) as well as hits (13) while among the leaders with his .360 batting average. "He has done everything that has been asked from him offensively," said GM John Wylde. "He puts the ball in play."

After a day's rest, the Gatemen rebounded from their first loss by facing the Harwich Mariners Wednesday night. Travis Banwart (Wichita St.) held the mound for six innings, giving up only one run and striking out four. Banwart received help from the hard-hitting bats of the Gatemen, who posted 10 runs on 11 hits. Shortstop Beemer Weems (Baylor) and OF Diallo Fon (Vanderbilt) each had three hits in the game. Banwart turned it over again to Beno out of the bullpen, who threw three innings of three-hit shutout ball.

Costly errors made defensively proved to be the reason for Thursday's 5-1 loss to Orleans. Riley Boening (Texas) lasted 4 1/3 innings, giving up only two hits and five runs, two of which were earned. "Boening pitched well but lost his command in the bottom of the third," said GM John Wylde. "He didn't make the pitches he tried to make." Connor Graham (Miami-Ohio) came in to throw the ninth to tame the bats of the Cardinals. Graham's high velocity and strong command has put him on top of the leader board in the save category.

Tim Matthews (Baylor) pitched six strong innings for the Gatemen on Friday at Hyannis while showing movement and command of his pitches. Nick Cassavechia (Baylor) came in to pitch four no-hit innings only to earn the loss after a frustrating error was given up in the bottom of the 10th. The Mets pulled away with a 4-3 win.

After Georgia Tech's disappointing loss in the College World Series, the Gatemen are excited to welcome 1B

Luke Murton (Georgia Tech) and are looking forward to the arrival of Chris Hicks (Georgia Tech). Wylde is happy with the start to the season and looks toward an improvement defensively after an unfortunate week of errors.

Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern
scalia@capecodbaseball.org

Harwich Native Shifts Allegiance to Hyannis



HYANNIS, Mass. - With a second week in Cape League under their belts,

the Hyannis Mets captured third place in the Western Division. This is a welcome change for fans of the Mets, who last year went 7-36-1 with the worst record in the league. But this season, things appear to be different. The Mets have won four of their last five games.

Perhaps the most exciting game so far, and the first of the Mets season to go into extra innings, was on June 23 against the Wareham Gatemen. The 10th inning tested the Mets, who scored on a Wareham error with two outs. Although everyone was pleased with the win, it could not be more satisfying for veterans from last year's team. Starter Charlie Furbush (St. Joseph's - Maine) was solid for the Mets, striking out five players and walking only two for the five innings that he pitched. In addition, closer Daniel Latham (Tulane) garnered his first win of the season for the three innings (including the 10th) that he pitched. But right fielder Mark McGonigle (New Orleans) was the true hero of the game. McGonigle, who has struggled at bat this summer, came through in a big way. McGonigle's grounder to Wareham second baseman Jason Ogata (LSU) drove in the Matt Mangini (NC State) run that won the game for Hyannis.

Along with the veterans,

some new players are making names for themselves here in Hyannis. At least once in his life, almost every local boy on the Cape dreams of playing for the Cape Cod Baseball League. In 2006, Jared McGuire (Boston College) is living that dream. At the start of the season, the Hyannis Mets signed the 2005 Big East Player of the Year to a regular contract.

Although he grew up in Harwich, his family members were not always rooting for the same team. "I was a Harwich fan and my dad was General Manager of the Chatham A's. So I think it will be fun playing against teams that I'm familiar with. And we're definitely Hyannis fans now," says the 6-1 left fielder.

This season, McGuire and his BC Eagles spent their first year in the ACC, where they finished ninth - not bad for a young team starting in such a competitive league. However, McGuire notes that although it offers competition similar to the level he faces at school, the CCBL is a league like no other.

"The ACC, where I played at school, is a good league, but down here there is good competition. Everyone is an outstanding player and the competition day in and day out is unbelievable, and the pitching is good ... so it's gonna be a challenge." Some of the talented pitchers he will be up against this summer are his own Boston College teammates, including Kevin Boggan and Terry Doyle.

Both Boggan and Doyle are members of the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox, who shut out the Mets (the team's only loss in four of the past five games) in Tuesday's makeup game by a score of 5-0. McGuire and the Mets will take another crack at Y-D on Monday, June 26 at Red Wilson Field in South Yarmouth.

By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern
reilly@capecodbaseball.org

Continued on Next Page

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Batting Around

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

DIVISION STANDINGS
through June 23, 2006

EASTERN DIVISION						
W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10	
CHATHAM	5	1	11	W 2	5-1	
ORLEANS	5	3	10	W 2	5-3	
HARWICH	4	4	8	W 2	4-4	
BREWSTER	3	4	7	W 1	3-4	
YARMOUTH-DENNIS	3	5	6	L 2	3-5	
WESTERN DIVISION						
W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10	
COTUIT	5	2	10	L 1	5-2	
WAREHAM	5	3	10	L 2	5-3	
HYANNIS	4	4	8	W 3	4-4	
FALMOUTH	2	5	4	L 4	2-5	
BOURNE	1	6	2	L 2	1-6	

West Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 11
Commodores Struggling Out of the Gate



FALMOUTH, Mass. - With eight players representing two of the nation's top collegiate programs that have advanced deep into the College World Series, the Falmouth Commodores have struggled in their absence. Fortunately for Falmouth, the Clemson Tigers were eliminated from the tournament and their players should be arriving soon. Oregon State, however, has magically advanced to the finals of the Series despite losing in its first tournament game.

Falmouth has filled its roster with temporary players along with their original signees in an attempt to salvage the beginning of the season. Thus far, despite the record, Falmouth has been very competitive in every game this season. The Commodores have lost four games by one run, leaving them essentially one clutch hit away each time.

At every game you hear whispers from the crowd about the scores in the College World Series. Fans have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of their highly touted players from Clemson and Oregon State, but the players on the field are hoping that the fans notice them. The team has been out to prove its worth and a few players have flown out of the gates with exceptional starts.

Three batters have had tremendous success in the first full week, while many more have struggled adjusting to the wooden bats. Aja Barto (Tulane) and Brett Wallace (Arizona State) have been swinging the hot bats, with two and three home runs respectively, on the young season.

Barto has adjusted well and has enjoyed his stay on the Cape thus far.

"The season so far has been a thrill. Things are going great," said the 6-5 giant.

Barto is a huge presence at the plate, undoubtedly striking fear in opposing pitchers who must be conscious of the fact that Barto could go deep on any pitch. Barto's spring at Tulane didn't go as well as planned, and this summer he is out to prove something. So far he is doing quite well.

As for the fans of Falmouth who have already witnessed some difficult defeats, they can't help but ask one question - when does Oregon State play? *By Nicholas Mucci, CCBL Intern*
mucci@capecodbaseball.org
Braves Searching For Stability and Victories

BOURNE, Mass. - Suffering from a rainout in their first week, the Bourne Braves completed every game but Saturday's washout in the second week of their Cape League season. The Braves

look toward their late arrivals for improvement offensively and defensively.

The Braves began the week facing division rival Wareham. Taking the mound for the Braves was RHP Tom Farmer (Akron), who pitched extremely well over the course of six innings, giving up only one hit. Farmer was able to retire 17 out of the 23 batters he saw. In the top of the eighth, the Braves were unable to tame the bats of the Gatemen any longer and gave up five runs on three hits.

On Monday night the Braves traveled to Harwich to face the Mariners in search of their first win. Unfortunately for the Braves, they only saw offensive production by RF Brian Leclerc (Florida) and 1B Mitch Mooreland (Mississippi St.), who combined for the only hits allowed by the Mariners. Leclerc has hit safely in all but one of the games this year at Bourne. Eammon Portice (Highpoint Col-

lege) took the mound to face the bats of the victorious Harwich Mariners.

With a day of rest coming Tuesday, the Braves were looking for a chance to earn their first win against the Brewster Whitecaps. After surrendering two runs in the first, Bourne starter Michael Lee (Bellevue CC) controlled the game until the fifth. Austin Krum (Dallas Baptist) and 2B Andy Goff (Wake Forest) led the team with two hits apiece and two runs scored. Luke Tucker (Florida State) came in to close the door on the Whitecaps, giving Lee and the Braves their first win in five games by a score of 8-6. Tucker has posted a 2.25 ERA over four appearances.

Coming off their first win, the Braves were looking to add to the win column against the hot bats of the Cotuit Kettleers. Cotuit started out scoring two runs in the first on two hits. Braves starting pitcher Mickey Storey (FAU) began to settle down until he was relieved in the fifth after giving up a total of four runs on seven hits and seven strikeouts over a span of five innings. Cotuit LHP Dan Delucia (Ohio State). Delucia controlled the bats of the Braves, throwing a two-hitter in eight innings.

Friday night the Braves traveled to Chatham to face the Eastern Division powerhouse. Unable to earn the win, the Braves showed promise offensively, scoring two runs on eight hits. OF Brett Linnenkohl (Wake Forest) led the Braves with two hits while reaching base on three of his four plate appearances.

With three of the next five games at home, the Braves are looking toward the home crowd for support. The Braves are expecting the return of Bobby Bell (Rice), who has been late in his arrival due to his stint in the College World Series, within the next week. The Braves will also see the arrival of Andrew Carignan (North Carolina) and Mike Stutes (Oregon State) in the coming week.

Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern
scalia@capecodbaseball.org

BATTING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 21 PLATE APPEARANCES)

BATTER	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Carrara, Chris	CHA	.500	5	16	6	8	0	1
Macias, David	HYA	.406	8	32	3	13	0	5
Delmonico, Tony	COT	.400	6	25	6	10	0	5
Wilson, Steffan	WAR	.394	8	33	4	13	0	9
Espinosa, Danny	CHA	.385	7	26	8	10	1	5
Gaston, Sean	COT	.381	6	21	4	8	0	5
Rea, Jeff	COT	.379	7	29	9	11	0	5
Ogata, Jason	WAR	.375	7	16	9	6	0	1
Barto, Aja	FAL	.360	7	25	5	9	2	5
Bianucci, Michael	YRD	.348	7	23	6	8	1	1

HOME RUNS

Wallace, Brett	FAL	3						
Several Players Tied at		2						

RBI

Rizotti, Matt	CHA	10						
Wilson, Steffan	WAR	9						
Havens, Reese	COT	7						
Several Players Tied at		6						

STOLEN BASES

Gotcher, Ryan	WAR	7						
Leclerc, Brian	BOU	5						
Carrara, Chris	CHA	5						
Several Players Tied at		4						

TEAM	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	BB	SO	SB	CS
Cotuit	.335	242	56	81	3	40	48	18	5
Chatham	.249	225	42	56	5	37	61	20	2
Falmouth	.242	240	27	58	11	17	76	9	5
Hyannis	.241	257	25	62	2	19	51	3	4
Harwich	.240	275	30	66	1	18	67	13	8
Wareham	.235	251	44	59	3	36	46	19	3
Yarmouth-Dennis	.201	264	33	53	6	33	63	6	4
Orleans	.199	246	25	49	0	29	68	10	5
Brewster	.180	239	29	43	2	30	46	5	4
Bourne	.165	218	13	36	0	24	58	8	5

ADDITIONAL BATTING LEADERS

HITS

Macias, David	HYA	13						
Wilson, Steffan	WAR	13						
Rea, Jeff	COT	11						
Several Players Tied at		10						

DOUBLES

Wilson, Steffan	WAR	5						
Posey, Buster	YRD	4						
Several Players Tied at		3						

TRIPLES

Espinosa, Danny	CHA	2						
Several Players Tied at		1						

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

Espinosa, Danny	CHA	.692						
Barto, Aja	FAL	.640						
McFadden, Warren	FAL	.556						
Nuzzo, Matt	FAL	.545						
Wilson, Steffan	WAR	.545						



Solid coaching keeps Wareham tight with front-running Cotuit.

MATT BURKE



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

East Roundup

Winning Is More Fun Than Losing in Chatham

CHA-THAM, Mass. - You can't help but notice the infectious smile of field manager John Schiffner during a Chatham A's game. Schiffner recently commented, "It's the greatest job in the world, no question about it. How good can it be when you are in the Cape Cod League, coaching with and against the best college players in the country; you are in Chatham, Massachusetts, one of the most beautiful towns in the world. It doesn't get any better." Coach Schiffner forgot to add one thing - it's easy to smile when you are winning.

The Chatham A's are providing their coach with an abundance of smiles these days. Chatham currently stands atop the Eastern Division with a 5-1-1 record. The team has been close to flawless through seven games. Hitting collectively, they are second in the CCBL with a .249 team batting average. The pitching staff can also boast about the second best ERA in the league at 2.21, while the defense has chipped in with some spectacular plays by Daniel Espinosa (Long Beach State) at third base and short-stop.

Chris Carrara (Winthrop) has been the perfect catalyst for the offense. The leadoff hitter for Chatham, he leads the league in hitting with a .500 average. He also has stolen five bases for the A's. The hitters behind Carrara, have also done their part to fuel the offense. Matt Rizzotti (Manhattan) leads the league with 10 RBIs, while young star Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest) hit two home runs during the week. At the end of the order, Adrian Ortiz (Pepperdine) is special when he gets on base. After an infield hit on Wednesday's game against the Hyannis Mets, he quickly advanced to third on an errant pickoff attempt with his blazing speed.

Ricky Hargrove (Houston) has provided the team with solid starting pitching, allowing only three hits and without a run in two starts. The pitching staff will receive a boost with the late arrival of Robert Woodard (UNC), who is currently playing in the finals of the College World Series. However, Coach Schiffner noted that "We've dodged [Team] USA the last couple of years, but this year we got two." Tim Federowicz (UNC), currently playing in the College World Series, and Todd Frazier (Rutgers) will be absent from the Chatham A's while they compete for Team USA, but the team has plenty of players to pick up the slack.

The lone blemish for Chatham came in a breezy afternoon game at McKeon Park against the Harwich Mets. Chatham jumped out to an early lead in the third with runs from Espinosa and Rizzotti. However, with the

game tied in the bottom of the sixth at 2-2, an uncharacteristic fielding error lead by Espinosa led to a run scored by Matt Mangini (NC State). The run would be the last of the game in a 3-2 win for Hyannis. Alex Hale (Richmond) and Daniel Latham (Tulane) pitched five strong innings of relief for Hyannis, with Hale receiving the win and Latham the save.

The A's game against the Falmouth Commodores was cancelled for a second time on June 20, this time due to fog. General Manger Charlie Thoms noted, "The Cape League is one league that always has one or two games cancelled due to fog." The game will be made up on June 27 at Veterans Field. *By Jonathan French, CCBL Intern french@capecodbaseball.org*

Winning Ugly in Orleans

ORLEANS, Mass. - Fans of baseball enjoy watching games that play out like a movie script. The people in attendance want to see mammoth homeruns and dominant pitching performances. The 2006 Orleans Cardinals don't those kinds of games. Most of their games can be best characterized as "ugly," but they find a way to win. Kelly Nicholson's Cardinals currently sit in second place in the Eastern Division behind the Chatham A's. Nicholson recently noted after an Orleans win, "It's better than a well played loss, we will take a [win] anytime."

Thursday night's 5-1 win against the Wareham Gatemen illustrates the team's ability to win a game unconventionally. The team scored all five of its runs in the bottom of the fifth without a single hit. Four walks and two errors lead to five Orleans runs. The team has yet to hit a home run, has only three extra base hits, and is hitting under .200 as a team, but that doesn't stop it from winning.

In Friday night's 2-1 win against the Falmouth Commodores, Mark Hallberg (Illinois-Chicago) and Matt Scogin (Army) were each able to lay down perfect bunts that moved runners over. In each instance, the bunts lead to runs by Joe Mahoney (Richmond) and Hallberg. The RBIs on the runs were credited to Josh Satin (California) and Kody Kaiser (Oklahoma). However, the offense did explode in a win against the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox. The offense put together 15 hits to win 11-7. Scogin and Hallberg each had three hits to lead the team.

The pitching staff is holding up its end of the bargain too, as an ability to keep the game close and battle with runners in scoring position has helped the team tremendously. Nicholson recently commented, "It's easy to pitch with nobody on and out of the wind-up, with nobody on,

but the sign of a good pitcher and a good staff is the ability to pitch out of jams."

Nicholson's point about the pitching staff being able to battle was clearly noted on June 17 in a 2-1 win over the Bourne Braves. The game lasted 12 innings as the collection of Ryan Pond (NC State), Clayton Shunick (Georgia State), Brett Cecil (Maryland) and Brock Baber (Kentucky) combined to allow only one run, putting the team in position for a dramatic Josh Satin RBI single to score Shane Buscini (Georgia) and win the game in the bottom of the 12th.

The game of the week will occur on Monday, June 26 at Eldredge Park, when the Cardinals take on the first-place Chatham A's in a rematch of last year's Eastern Division playoff. *By Jonathan French, CCBL Intern french@capecodbaseball.org*

Hill Takes Over On the Mound

HARWICH, Mass. - Get used to hearing the name Nick Hill (Army), because aside from getting the win Thursday night,

he is turning out to be one of the best baseball players - or some might say, the best - to wear the Army uniform. During his three years he has made, matched or beat Army records, was invited to play for the USA Baseball National Team, was chosen by the Boston Red Sox in the draft and has achieved many other accomplishments. The south-paw from Bluff City, Tenn., has another year before he graduates, but throughout that year we are sure to see even more great pitching and record-setting.

It may take him a little time to settle into a game, but once he does, he can be outstanding. His first start as a Mariner did not go as well as he anticipated, but Thursday's win is hopefully a sign of things to come. He went deep into the game with seven strikeouts and gave up one run. The well-mannered and respectful Hill was quick to give credit to his teammates and said, "The guys behind played excellent." Defense has been a major strength for the Mariners so far this season, and Hill even got in on the action by sliding into first base to get an out.

Although defense is strong, the Mariners' greatest strength is pitching. Head coach Steve Englert said, "We have solid pitching and the bullpen is excellent but we need to be more consistent."

Tony Watson (Nebraska) had a very good outing on Monday night and led the Mariners to an 11-0 shutout against the Bourne Braves. Both Watson and Hill were supported by relief pitchers Josh Ellis (Wake Forest) and Dan McDonald (Seton Hall), both

Continued on Next Page

CAPE COD LEAGUE LEADERS

(Through Games Of 6/23/06)

PITCHING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 6 IP)

PITCHER	CLUB	W-L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO
Corgan, Chance	YRD	1-0	0.00	14	6	3	19
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	1-0	0.00	11	8	7	8
*Surkamp, Eric	OLN	1-0	0.00	10	2	6	9
*Hume, Donnie	YRD	1-0	0.00	9	3	2	7
Hargrove, Ricky	CHA	1-0	0.00	9	3	6	7
Simmons, James	COT	1-0	0.00	8	4	0	6
Beno, Martin	WAR	1-0	0.00	8	5	1	7
Matthews, Shane	COT	1-0	0.00	7	4	5	4
Hale, Alex	HYA	1-0	0.00	7	1	7	5
Lee, Gary	HYA	0-1	0.00	6	7	1	4

WINS

Delucia, Dan	COT	2					
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SAVES

Lutz, Derrik	CHA	2					
McDonald, Dan	HAR	2					
Cecil, Brett	OLN	2					
Graham, Connor	WAR	2					

STRIKEOUTS

Corgan, Chance	YRD	19					
Crowell, Cody	BRW	17					
Doyle, Terry	YRD	16					
Detwiler, Ross	FAL	14					

TEAM	W-L	ERA	H	CG	SHO	SV	HR	BB	SO
Cotuit	5-2	1.92	45	0	0	1	3	18	40
Chatham	5-1	2.21	45	0	1	4	0	18	50
Falmouth	2-5	2.55	39	0	1	0	2	25	59
Wareham	5-3	2.64	66	0	0	3	1	25	61
Orleans	5-3	3.33	55	0	1	2	6	30	49
Harwich	4-4	3.38	47	0	2	2	3	27	75
Hyannis	4-4	3.38	60	0	0	2	6	42	56
Yarmouth-Dennis	3-5	3.84	60	1	1	2	6	30	80
Brewster	3-4	4.83	80	0	0	2	3	38	61
Bourne	1-6	6.06	66	0	0	1	3	30	53

ADDITIONAL PITCHING LEADERS

GAMES

Baber, Brock	OLN	5					
Several Players Tied at		4					

COMPLETE GAMES

Hume, Donnie	YRD	1					
--------------	-----	---	--	--	--	--	--

SHUTOUTS

Hume, Donnie	YRD	1					
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INNINGS PITCHED

Delucia, Dan	COT	16.0					
Corgan, Chance	YRD	14.1					
Sirois, Rich	CHA	13.1					
Doyle, Terry	YRD	13.1					
Staehele, Christian	COT	13.0					

LOSSES

Storey, Mickey	BOU	2					
Hynes, Colt	BRW	2					
Morgan, Miles	BRW	2					
Robertson, David	YRD	2					
Several Players Tied at		1					

WALKS

Daly, Matt	HYA	8					
Doyle, Terry	YRD	8					
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	7					

HOME RUNS ALLOWED

Several Players Tied at		2					
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Batting Around

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

East Division Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 13 continuing to perform tremendously.

All-around this week, things have gone relatively well for the Mariners. Monday night's win came from offensive support throughout the entire lineup. Falling short to Wareham on Wednesday, the Mariners once again turned things around against Y-D on Thursday. Adam Amar (Memphis) hit the first home run of the season for the Mariners and now leads the team in batting. Johnny Giamvotella (New Orleans) and Devin Thomas (Brown) have been reliable run providers throughout the week as well.

This Sunday at Whitehouse Field, Johnny Dorn (Nebraska) hopes to redeem himself as he takes the mound against Aaron Brown (Houston) of the Hyannis Mets.

By Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern dechristoforo@capecodbbaseball.org

Home Sweet Home



BREWSTER, Mass. After an up-and-down week, the Whitecaps ended with an exciting

win at home over the Cotuit Kettleers. Everything seemed to be going right Friday night. Defense was great, as the infield made two important double plays.

There were continuous hits throughout the game and a solo home run by Jason Corder (Cal-Berkley), his first of the season. Pitcher Shaun Seibert (Arkansas) threw for 101 pitches and left the game without giving up a run.

All that quickly changed when relief pitcher Jeff Stallings (NC State) gave up two runs in the ninth inning. The Whitecaps brought in Barry Enright (Pepperdine), who debuted by striking out the last of the Kettleers to get his first save as a Whitecap.

General manager Ned Monthie praised his Whitecaps and said they are "all working as hard as they can to play good baseball."

Working particularly hard are three of Cape Cod's finest who are home for the summer to play for the Brewster Whitecaps. They are Harwich boys Adam Laplante (Wheaton) and Cody Crowell (Vanderbilt) and Brewster's own Jake Yagjian (Wheaton).

As they grew up in neighboring towns and watched the CCBL with the hopes of playing one day, there were many shared years of baseball and friendship and, during their high school years, a little bit of rivalry - but a lot has changed since their years at Harwich High and Nauset Regional.

Laplante and Yagjian are now teammates at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts.

These old friends are roommates, but not only do they share a room, they also shared the experience of playing in the NCAA Division III Championship

Tournament. The Lyons eventually fell short in the last game to Marietta College, but finished up an impressive season with a 42-10 record.

Deciding to leave Massachusetts for Tennessee, Crowell has been an integral part of Vanderbilt's rotation this season. After being redshirted in his first year, he has made tremendous improvements to his pitching. Throwing for the Harwich Mariners last summer also helped to polish up his skills for this year. Crowell has taken on a new role as a starter for the Whitecaps and has been great so far this season. His goals are simple: he wants to "take it game by game and try to win every game." To that end, he is currently the league leader with 17 strikeouts.

Along with the fans, GM Ned Monthie is very happy to have the hometown favorites as part of the Whitecaps organization, saying, "It is great that they were able to play for us. It's nice to have Cape kids playing out there." As for the team as a whole, Monthie said, "The season is too young; we are still working ourselves out." However, he did close with his trustworthy trademark statement, with which we would all agree: "Just looking forward to an enjoyable season."

By Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern dechristoforo@capecodbbaseball.org

Y-D's Humble Hurler



SOUTH YARMOUTH, Mass. - Lexington native and Boston College junior right-

handed hurler Kevin Boggan says of his time playing for the Y-D Red Sox: "I'm just happy to be here enjoying the moment." These humble words are coming from the No. 43 pick overall in the 2006 MLB Draft.

Boggan followed the Cape League growing up but never had allegiance to any specific team, until now. "My family comes down to almost every game and everyone is really excited."

There is a sense of familiarity for the pitcher who finished the season earning All-New England Second Team recognition for the BC Eagles after only the team's first year in the ACC.

Boggan is lucky enough to have two other members from his college team recruited to Y-D - Terry Doyle and Matt Meyer, who signed his professional contract this week. The BC players add to the dynamic of a winning team. They took on another Eagle, Jared McGuire, in Tuesday's makeup against the Hyannis Mets. Says Boggan, "McGuire's a good kid. It's fun to have a little competition going with him." The Sox beat the Mets 5-0 in a shutout on Tuesday at McKeon Park in Hyannis.

Despite the win at Hyannis, Boggan's Y-D Red Sox are in last place in the Eastern Division with a record of three wins and five losses thus far. Friday's game against Harwich marked a two-game losing streak for the Sox.

The Sox took a 5-2 loss against the Mariners on Friday. Strong pitching for Harwich and several fielding errors for Y-D contributed to the loss. The first inning started off with a Devon Thomas (Brown) single to right center off Evan Crawford (Auburn). That hit would start the scoring for Harwich as Thomas would advance to home on a throwing error by Y-D catcher Zach Etheredge (Texas-San Antonio). However, Y-D answered back in the second with a Steve Strausbaugh (Western Carolina) homer to tie the game.

Strong pitching for both ball clubs kept the game tied until the eighth inning, when Harwich scored two runs. A home run by Adam Amar (Memphis) off Crawford drove in the run by Josh Donaldson (Auburn) making the score 3-1 in favor of Harwich. But Y-D would not go quietly. Harwich closer Josh Ellis (Wake Forest) walked Alden Carrithers (UC Santa Barbara), who scored on a Buster Posey (Florida State) single. But Harwich wouldn't let up, scoring two more runs to end the game with the win. Y-D will tough it out and look forward to ending the losing streak on Sunday against the Chatham A's at Veterans Field at 7 p.m.

By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern reilly@capecodbbaseball.org



DANIEL W. WEBB

YD's pitching staff hopes to get in "the zone" to help their team along.



DON PARKINSON

A pair of Brewster Whitecaps enjoy a leisurely drive on game day.

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