

July 6, 2006

# The Enterprise's *Summer Stars* Your Guide to the Cape Cod Baseball League

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## Making His Mark with the Mets

## More Than Balls and Strikes

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*From The Cheap Seats*

# Gammons Means So Much To Baseball Fans

The news spread around the Arnie Allen Diamond at Guv Fuller Field quickly last Tuesday afternoon. Whispered voices asked the question over and over: "Did you hear about Peter Gammons?"

Then my cellphone began to buzz, more questions about The Commissioner. "Is he okay? Man, I hope he pulls through."

Peter Gammons, of ESPN and ESPN.com, suffered a brain aneurysm that day. The man who made his name by producing his Sunday baseball notebook in the Boston Globe before moving on to The Worldwide Leader as their go-to seamhead was put out of commission by an unforeseen medical condition that will leave him out of the lineup for a while.

I can't think of any other reporter that could get sick and have the story not only be on the news, but end up as one of the lead stories. This man is adored by New Englanders, and beyond, and everyone wants him to recover quicker than a Roger Clemens fastball.

The interviews with other reporters told the story of just how important this guy is, in and out of the game of baseball. Sean McAdam, the respected Providence Journal baseball columnist, nearly came to tears speaking of his respect and friendship with the man.

I've been lucky enough to make Peter's acquaintance on several occasions and all I can tell you is that I adore the man. As a young baseball writer he took the time to talk about the game with me when he certainly could have been doing just about anything else.

The first time I met him was at the Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star game, back in 1998 I believe, in Chatham. He was talking baseball with an up-and-coming young pitcher by the name of Mark Mulder and it was apparent right away that not only did he know just about everything there was to know about the game, but he knew everyone, too. And they all like him. That's quite an accomplishment for a journalist, whose job is to dig deep, get the best information and tell it like it is. We talked about the game a bit and then parted ways and I left feeling like I had just spent time with an oracle.

Every year Gammons comes to Fuller Field in Falmouth and speaks with the players prior to a game, and he always tells the same story. He relays how Darin Erstad made a name for himself playing in Falmouth and also was a good person off the field, which is just as important. Gammons loves to relay how Erstad was Bradlees Employee Of The Month. The ballplayers all soak in every word, because they know they're listening to someone that counts. Then, like boys younger than they are, they all ask to have their picture taken with Peter Gammons, because that is a cool photograph to have on your mantel when you're a ballplayer on your way up.

I have rubbed shoulders with Peter several other times along the way, and it's not always baseball that is the topic of conversation. He loves good rock and roll and we share a love for the greatest American rock band in circulation, Pearl Jam. I remember seeing him standing side stage at the first of a three-night stint at the Tweeter Center back in 2003 and he was rocking out nearly as much as those of us in the seats. Later in the show Eddie Vedder grabbed his acoustic guitar and played "Thumbing My Way" and said it was dedicated to a friend that was hanging out with them that night. You should know that Peter was previously on record as saying that was one of the best songs he'd heard put to vinyl in the last several years and it was one of his favorites.

This past week Vedder dedicated another song to Gammons from a concert in Minnesota, and like everyone else wished Pete a quick recovery.

A statement by Gammons's wife this week said that Peter was doing well and that he would be resting and recovering at home. She asked that people respect their privacy, which is a reasonable request. However it must not be easy to rest when the phone is ringing off the hook nonstop because everyone in the baseball world wants to check in and make sure you're doing okay. This is, after all, a man whose list of contacts could fill a phone book.

I am sure that Pete will be back in action very soon. It's only a matter of time before we see him filing a report from his back yard on the Upper Cape, telling us who is being traded and why or why not the deals get done. He's Peter Gammons, who else is going to tell us?

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



DANIEL W. WEBB



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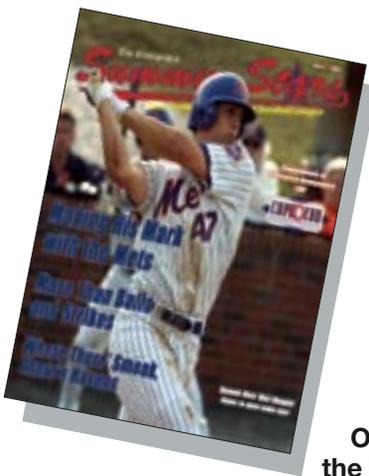
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**On the Cover: Matt Mangini hopes to display his power with the bat for the Hyannis Mets this summer. SportsPix photo by Matthew Scott.**



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# Matt Mangini Making His Mark With The Mets



MIKE RACITI/HYANNIS METS  
Hyannis Mets third baseman Matt Mangini looks for a sign from third before stepping into the batters' box.



MIKE RACITI/HYANNIS METS  
Matt Mangini patrols the infield for the Hyannis Mets.



MIKE RACITI/HYANNIS METS  
Hyannis Mets third baseman Matt Mangini its for a chance to take off for second in recent action.

## BY WILL BUSSIERE

Matt Mangini, like the fans in Hyannis who watched him jump out to a .318 average in the first two weeks of the Cape League season, kept one eye on last weekend's Team USA trials. His teammate in Hyannis and at North Carolina State, second baseman Ramon Corona, was one of 35 players invited to try out for the national team this summer.

"I called him and wished him the best of luck, and everybody's supporting him here, trying to keep track of him, see how he's doing," Mangini said. "We're behind him 100 percent."

But the buzz around McKeon Park is for Mangini, the player Team USA didn't tab. And given the start that he had to his sophomore season with the Wolfpack, it's a wonder that they didn't.

At the plate, he started hotter than anyone in the country this spring for NC State, going 20-for-25 to begin the season for a superhuman .800 average. The honors rolled in from Collegiate Baseball—who named him the National Player of the Week in back-to-back weeks—and from the ACC, who gave him their first Player of the Week award. While he was busy doubling Ted Williams's mythical mark, he showed off his power skills as well. He hit two triples in a game against Hofstra on February 12, and followed that up with two homers in a game against Richmond on February 18.

"That was a weird way to start the season," Mangini said. "It was almost more bad than good, because you know you're going to come back down to earth eventually."

He stayed above the .500 mark well into March, riding a 16-game hitting streak to one

of the nation's best averages. Around that time in Hyannis, members and supporters of the Mets organization came together for a pre-season function, where they all but crossed Mangini off the roster—after all, how long could he play like this without appearing on the national team's radar?

"I thought that he'd be a Team USA guy right from the start," Mets head coach Greg King said, "and I was actually looking to see if we had any other third basemen that might be able to come in if we lost him."

Mangini did inevitably fall off his torrid pace, finishing the season with a .343 average. But his contributions were impressive on an NC State team that batted .333 and challenged numerous school records along the way (including a record for team hits with 767, a new mark formalized by Mangini himself with an infield hit in the Austin Regional title game on June 4).

His skills with the bat have transferred nicely to Hyannis, where he started the season in the heart of the order and among the team's leaders. That .318 average may not tell the whole story, according to Mets general manager John Howitt.

"Mangini has a lot of power that he hasn't shown," Howitt said. "He shows it in batting practice. He really can whack

that ball. We're gonna see home runs from Mangini."

In the field, Mangini has started every game of the young season for the Mets at third base, where he has quickly won over the home fans with the perfect mix of flash and steadiness. He shows off unmatched ability on screaming line drives and slow-rolling bunts, having committed only one error at the hot corner in 44 chances through the first 11 games of the season.

The signature shot on Mangini's Hyannis highlight reel came in the 10th inning of a game on June 23 at McKeon Park against the Wareham Gatemen, who loaded the bases with nobody out and threatened to put the game well out of reach. Playing in on the grass, Mangini charged in front of the mound on a dribbler by Jason Ogata. With no time even to go to the bare hand, Mangini gloved the ball and shoveled it to home plate, just retiring Steffan Wilson for the inning's first out.

"It was just something I envisioned in my head before it happened," Mangini said. "I knew it was a do-or-die, it's just you and the runner, and you've just got to get to the ball first and make a good toss."

Hyannis escaped the jam and Mangini, who was hit by a pitch to lead off the bottom of the 10th, came around to

score the game-winner and give the Mets a 4-3 win, then their third straight. But it was Mangini's defense that put the Mets in position for their payoff.

"It was a fun play," he said. "I'm just glad I was prepared for it."

Mangini has gotten Mets fans and team personnel excited about baseball in Hyannis again. His hitting and fielding skills have been drawn out with a strong work ethic that has quietly drawn the attention of everyone from his coaches to pro scouts.

"Every time he's out of the box, he's running a full 90, whether it's hit to the pitcher or anywhere else, and that's the sign of a kid that's gonna go somewhere," King said.

Sure enough, to find him before the game in Hyannis, one needs look no farther than the batting tunnel beyond the left field fence, where he takes his extra swings after batting practice ends.

"You've got to find some time on your own just to go and get some of your work done," Mangini explained. "Just doing this right here is helping me a little bit, coming down here with a few guys after BP or before BP and taking some extra hacks."

"That's the only way to get the feel for it. You just kind of hurt yourself if you don't do some extra work."

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# For Umpires, It's *Much More* Than Just Balls And Strikes

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

As you watch the Cape Cod Baseball League this summer pay extra special attention to the multitude of differing personalities on both sides of the chalked foul lines.

You will undoubtedly see boatloads of talent in people who love the game of baseball, people who hold Major League aspirations dear, and a subsection of that group who have worked tirelessly their whole life for MLB action but don't have a shot. That is the nature of the beast.

A lot of Cape League fans watch the players; they even watch the managers. In a game out of reach, fans will take a walk down to the bullpen and watch the relievers throw. They watch broadcasters and scouts, guys throwing t-shirts in Orleans and downright jolly donation collectors in Cotuit. If ESPN's Peter Gammons, a Bourne native, is at a game, forget it (Get well soon Peter!).

Nobody ever thinks about the umpires... until one of their calls decides the game.

You either love them or hate them, and in the Cape League even the umpires have interesting stories to tell. So the next time you think about throwing out that good-hearted heckle regarding an umpire's eyesite, take into account what they might have gone through to get here.

Oh the stories they'll tell... Jim McNally, 54, a 22-year-resident of Sandwich, has always loved the game of baseball, and has been playing since he was four years old. Like most young males, he shared a special bond with his father through the national pastime, growing up a Red Sox diehard in Quincy.

This year, on top of Cape League action, Mr. McNally umpired in the Independent League (AAA) thus completing a journey he started over 14 years ago. He's finally back in professional baseball.

It's been a long road for Mr. McNally. The short, weathered, stone-faced man in blue has umpired on every level, including in the Major Leagues at one point. He enjoyed a significant stint in the once revered Boston Park League that earned him a spot in their Hall of Fame. His voice is loud and authoritative, and he is very kind. Mention baseball, and he will enthusiastically clear his schedule for the conversation.

To be an umpire on this level you have to be prepared for physically and mentally demanding rigors, the 2005 Curley Clement Award Winner said. The Curley Clement award is the award for the Cape League's Umpire of the Year. Mr. Clement umpired



DANIEL W. WEBB

The familiar "you're out," as exemplified by this Cape Cod Baseball league umpire.

in the Cape League for 35 years. The award is voted by coaches and general managers and was named in his honor at its inception two seasons ago.

Mr. McNally took the road that most male umpires take as a former ballplayer infatuated with the game. At 19, he attended Major League Umpiring School in Daytona Beach. "I thought that a lot of those guys [umpires at the time] were out there for the money," Mr. McNally said. "I knew I could do a better job than them."

He would umpire in the Cape League from 1972-1984. In 1979 and again in 1981 he reached the pinnacle of umpiring success and enjoyed stints in the Major Leagues, umpiring approximately 30 American League games. "It felt like being out there with executives, not ballplayers," he said of the Major League experience. "You [umpires] are as important as the players at the level... It was intense pressure."

In 1984, after Major League action and 12 years in the Cape Cod Baseball League, Mr. McNally quit umpiring to concentrate on his construction business. He stayed retired from the game, that he loved so much, for 14 years, returning in 1998.

In fact, the last game he umpired was a U.S. Olympic Baseball Team game at Fenway Park in 1984. The 1984 team included Mark McGuire, Cory Snyder, and Oddibe

McDowell.

Fourteen years is a long time, and he said that coming back from the layoff was the toughest thing he has ever done in his life. He worked over 50 Cape League games in 1998 to get back into umpiring shape. He said that coming back took a toll on his body, but with an empty nest at home, he finally had time to do what he had always done: catch a baseball game.

Mr. McNally currently works for the Eastern College Athletic Conference and works college baseball in every division. In April he crossed the picket lines to work AAA, Independent League, games for two months. "When that came up, I wanted that," he said. He added that he didn't mind taking advantage of an umpire strike to work AAA games, including the PawSox where he saw the likes of Coco Crisp and Craig Hansen during the two months of minor league ball. He said that his glory days are behind him now. "I gave it everything I had," he said. "I'm too old to go back [to the Major Leagues], my age is against me now."

Mr. McNally is an old school baseball fan and a gentleman. He is happy working for the ECAC and being the field general at college baseball games. He is content with it, for he just loves the game. He doesn't need Major League glory. He is a purist in a game where the players at the highest level

resemble executives. The fact that he always carries baseballs around with him wherever he goes is proof of that.

On vacation in the Caribbean he once gave out baseballs to local children much like he does in his daily travels in this country. He has pulled his car over while passing local baseball fields to give away baseballs to kids who play with scuffed and worn rags. "I always wished that someone would have done that for me," he said.

Just as hard as Mr. McNally's comeback, one might say, would be a woman's plight in a game dominated by men. Perry Barber, 53, a philosophical baseball aficionado, native to New York City, has done just that. For the past three summers she has made the trek from NYC to the Cape for what she calls a "great experience."

"When I started [with Little League in 1981] a woman umpiring was not a common thing," she said. "There was and still is resistance."

Ms. Barber added that her intent by becoming an umpire was for enjoyment and also to learn and grow as a person and not to become the face of the women's rights movement. She wasn't trying to educate people.

"I just like to have fun," she said. "There's always going to be someone out there who thinks women don't belong... I earned my way out there and I belong... I don't want it to become a part of my attitude. I don't want a chip on

my shoulder [because of it]."

How many of Ms. Barber's detractors, how many male umpires, would put off knee surgery until the end of the summer so they can finish their season? The answer: not many. Ms. Barber, who recently found out that she tore her MCL, has curtailed her season but she surprisingly hasn't canceled it. She said that surgery is imminent. "I'm trying to put it off until after the summer," she said.

Ms. Barber started with umpire school and then worked Little League games starting in 1981. She has worked her way up to the ECAC and to the Cape Cod Baseball League. She loves the league for the quality of play and for the pitching. She enjoys the low-scoring, close games and the league's wooden bats. She was chosen as an umpire for the 2004 Cape League All-Star Game.

She said her reason for coming back to baseball year after year was the fact that she takes something from every game. She enjoys the mental challenge. Baseball has made her a happier and better person, she said. "Even in a blow out you can still learn something."

Ms. Barber added that she has at least 10-15 years left in her. She couldn't help but apologize for philosophizing about baseball during an interview last week. "We [umpires] want to be the facilitators," she said. "I see myself as a conduit through which everything [in the game] flows."

Continued on Next Page

## Former CCBL Umpire Curly Clement Passes Away

HAMPTON, N.H. - Robert "Curly" Clement, a Cape Cod Baseball League Hall of Famer and umpiring legend, passed away June 29 at the Hampton Healthcare Center in Hampton, N.H.

The charismatic Clement was an umpire for four decades and was inducted into the CCBL Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Amateur Baseball Umpires Hall of Fame.

Curly Clement began working Cape League games in the 1960's and was still active at the turn of the 21st century, serving as both an umpire and evaluator.

A native of Manchester, N.H., he had a long and interesting career in college baseball, umpiring in 16 NCAA Regionals, 12 ECAC Baseball Tournaments and two NCAA College World Series.

"Curly was truly an ambassador of the Cape League," said CCBL President Judy Walden Scarafite. "He will be sorely missed by those who knew him, however he will be missed more by those who never had the chance to know him."

Curly began his umpiring career in the 1950's and realized a dream in 1979 when he umpired a major league game at Fenway Park during the umpires strike, even ringing up Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski on an attempted steal.

Clement was affectionately known as the Candy Man for settling arguments on the field with a handful of sugar-coated licorice.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, his son Don Clement, his daughter Gail Wiley and their families. Funeral arrangements are being made to be held in Exeter, NH.

Clement was remembered this 4th of July weekend with a moment of silence and flag flying at half mast before each game.

John Garner, Jr. - Director of Public Relations and Broadcasting for the Cape Cod Baseball League



DANIEL W. WEBB

Umpires get the best view in the house. Whether it's behind the plate or on the field. For those who love the game, there isn't a better place to be... other than playing, that is.



**Continued from Page 4**  
Despite the fact that she may not want to be a hero or a role model for young females on Cape Cod, she is one. "When I first started, people thought I was looking for a boyfriend," she said. "I would laugh hysterically." Now the four-time umpire school graduate is training for Beijing (Olympics) in 2008. "I have some work to do to get there. It's not impossible, but a lot of people are standing in line."

Al Lanni, 55, an ex-catcher who knows the strike zone, has been an umpire for 37 years, with four or five years in the Cape League. The Woburn native said that today's prospective umpires have a much easier road to becoming an umpire than he did in the 1970's thanks to ever increasing amounts of opportunities.

"We kind of had to learn on our own," he said. He added that he was luckily taken under the wings of older umpires. He intends on returning the favor to the next generation. "We got a real good thing going [with the quality of today's umpires]," he said.

The chances of reaching the Major Leagues are astronomical for umpires much like it is for players, Mr. Lanni said. "I don't do it as a vocation. I do it as an avocation. I do it because I love the game of baseball."

Mr. Lanni got his start when a family friend, former AAA umpire Strokio Nello suggested that he give it a shot.

Now he is overseeing games being played by athletes that he rates above AA ballplayers and among the best players in the country. He makes a day out of every night game he officiates on Cape. He leaves Woburn at 1 PM for a 7 PM start. He gets a sandwich, reads the rulebook, and

relaxes as he waits to get behind the plate.

He fondly recalled a chance encounter with Red Sox utility infielder Alex Cora while he played in the league several years ago. He characterized Cora as a "sociable, nice, kid," "Now he's playing for the Red Sox. He'll probably never

remember me but I'll always remember him."

So as umpires filter in and out of the league, they leave an indelible mark on the game and the lives they touch along the way. Remember that they too have stories to tell and have fought long and hard to be where they are today.

Walter Bentson, a Boston native, epitomizes all that an umpire should be. He is gracious and loves the game of baseball. He retired from the league two years ago to fight ALS and is truly a courageous role model. He was an umpire with the league

from 2001-2004 and umpired the 100-inning marathon in the spring to benefit ALS. "I really enjoyed traveling down [Cape] two or three nights a week," said the 2004 Curley Clement Award winner.

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# Rained Out

## On Cape Cod, There's Always The Question Of Weather The Game Will Get Played

*Note: The following is an excerpt from Steve Weissman's book - Beach Chairs and Baseball Bats: A Celebration of the Cape Cod Baseball League. We found it most timely given the weather woes of this young season...*

### Rain, Rain Go Away

There is a sumptuous variety about the New England weather that compels the stranger's admiration - and regret. The weather is always doing something there; always attending strictly to business; always getting up new designs and trying them on people to see how they will go. - Mark Twain

It is misting heavily today, the way it can on the Cape, not quite raining, but definitely umbrella weather, and it promises to get worse before it gets better. And yet, several hundred fans are settled into place along the left- and right-field lines, and on the cold, damp aluminum bleachers that glisten behind the dugouts.

What are they all doing here? From the looks of things, the teams will be lucky to play at all, never mind to get in the requisite five innings. But here they are nonetheless, ready to root, root, root for the home team, and then go home happy, win, lose, or drown.

The players, meanwhile, huddle in their dugouts and speak of better days ahead. It is early in the Cape League season - barely a week after opening day - and for many, this is foreign territory indeed. What kind of beach resort is only 60° in the third week of June?

Former Harwich Mariner and major league star Cory Snyder remembers being very surprised by the conditions on the Cape because of how different they are from those he experienced when he played in Alaska. "The weather there was nice all the time," he recalls, "but it can get a little cold on the Cape at night! Especially in Orleans and Chatham, when you're right next to the water."

### Foggy, Foggy Dew

The fog, too, makes a dramatic first impression on unsuspecting players. "I've had snow delays and rain delays, but never fog delays!" Hyannis catcher Chris Robinson says. The experience also was something new for former Commodore moundsman and current major leaguer Eric Milton, who remembers well the first time fog caused one of his games to be scrubbed. "We were in Falmouth," he says, "and it was pretty amazing. The fog rolled in little by little, and the next thing you knew, you couldn't see anything!"

Snyder recalls being fogged out of two or three games during his time on the Cape. "I think I hit three home runs in one game over in Wareham," he says, "and you could barely even

see the outfield to see if they went over." As a California kid, Snyder had not seen anything quite like this before. But even local products find the Cape Cod fog to be somewhat unusual.

Roy Bruninghaus grew up in Millbury, Massachusetts, and pitched for Orleans in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. As a Cape League rookie in 1933, he found himself rather damp to the core one day. "One of my teammates said, 'What's the matter, Grunie?'" he remembers. "'I said, it's raining!' He said, 'Rain? This is just a mist.' And I said, 'Where I come from, this would be rain!'"

This summer, Robinson and his Hyannis mates traveled to Nantucket to play a game against Y-D, only to have that contest held up three times because of fog. "By the time they called the game, I could only see the center fielder's legs," he says. In typical Cape fashion, the weather everywhere else in the region - including on Nantucket itself - was sunny and clear: only when the teams arrived at the field in the center of the island did they run into problems. Unfortunately, the delays ate up so much time that the teams had to hustle back to town to catch the last ferry home, and the players could not play tourist as well as baseball as they had originally hoped.

This fickle weather is not unusual for Cape Cod and can confound the decision to continue or postpone a given game. Umpire Gary Shingleton tells the tale of a "fog-out" he officiated in Harwich, in which play was stopped in the fifth inning, resumed when the fog lifted, and halted altogether in the eighth when the fog returned.

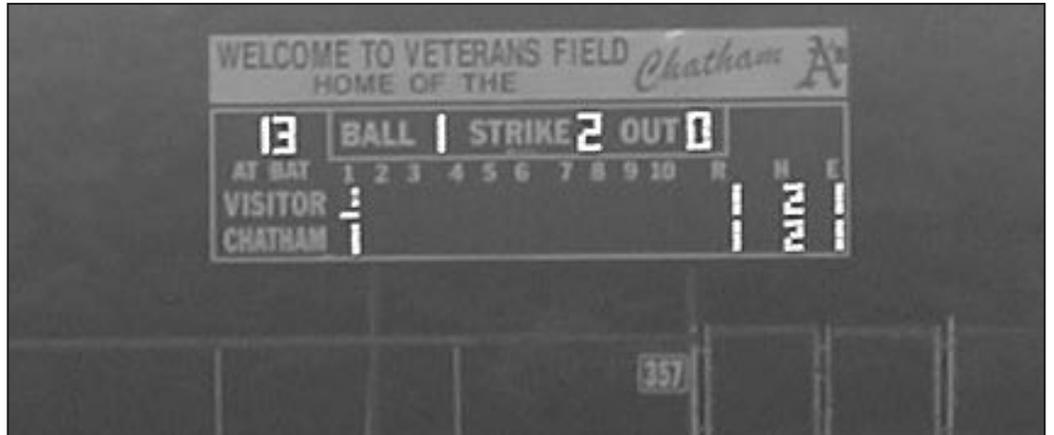
"The evening prior I was in Cotuit and using sunscreen," he says. "What is that, 20 minutes south? The crew in Harwich that night called the game in the third inning because of fog. When I arrived there [for my game] the following evening, the Harwich GM informed me that the fog had lifted 30



PHOTOS BY STEVE WEISSMAN

### Lost In The Fog

Harwich and Chatham players visit during a fog delay in which the scoreboard disappeared at Whitehouse Field.



minutes after the umpires suspended play.

But the crew waited 20 minutes and left Whitehouse Field promptly after that time," so the game did not resume. Needless to say, the Mariners were not pleased with this outcome and were not especially happy the next night when the situation repeated itself.

Bearing the previous night's weather pattern in mind, Shingleton constantly interceded with the umpire behind the plate (who also was umpire-in-chief) and at third base, imploring them to take their time before calling the contest. But in the end, the decision had to be made, and no one was surprised when it was unpopular in the Mariner dugout and in the stands. "I had the unfortunate task of handling the Harwich manager in the parking lot while my two partners and their wives made a particularly quick exit from the premises. Had I backtracked to the field, my experience would not have been a pleasant one considering the host of Harwich fans I would have needed to pass along the way. It was not the best of evenings!"

### It's Not the Heat ...

The flip side of the cold and fog found on the Cape is the heat and hu-

midity that can arise almost instantly in their place. There are days in July and August where it is as sticky on the Bass River as it is along the Potomac, a fact that might surprise the sweaty denizens of our nation's capital but is all too familiar to Cape Codders. For players who come from our country's warmer climes, the soaring of the thermometer can actually be a welcome reminder of home. "90 degrees here is like a spring day back in Texas," says Brewster's Will Rhymes, who hails from Houston and finds it all quite familiar.

Perhaps the ones to feel sorry for are the players from Northern California, where it never seems to get either too cold or too hot. One member of the Y-D Red Sox is observed warming himself by the heat of a citronella torch at a backyard barbeque: a San Francisco native, this poor soul is not used to the Cape's cool early summer evenings, and he's left his jacket at the field. At the same time, he's heard tell of the steamy days to come, and he mutters to himself about this strange world he now inhabits.

*Excerpted with permission from the book Beach Chairs and Baseball Bats: A Celebration of the Cape Cod Baseball League. © Steve Weissman/TheBallyard.com. All rights reserved.*

# Where There's Smoak, There's Havens

BY DARIN WEEKS

They say the best friendships are the ones that begin during childhood. For Kettleers' hitters Justin Smoak and Reese Havens, their bond was forged on the baseball diamonds of South Carolina long ago. As time went on, these two former rivals have gone from competing against each other to watching their baseball fortunes becoming linked to one another with every passing day.

Smoak and Havens's paths crossed for the first time during the eighth grade when they played together on the Diamond Devils, a team for 11-year-olds, and have been intertwined ever since. Though they lived in different towns, their reputations on the diamond were already being cast.

"I was from Mt. Pleasant (South Carolina) and he was from Goose Creek," explained Havens. "We lived about 30 miles apart, but I knew about (Smoak) when he was in Little League."

As the two phenoms grew and their baseball prowess was becoming the talk of the Palmetto State, they remained friends, even though destiny seemed to be lining them up as classic rivals. Havens would attend Bishop England High School while Smoak found himself at Stratford High. "We played against each other every year in high school," said Havens. "Our coach at Bishop England used to coach at Stratford, so it was fun."

Not surprising, Smoak and Havens dominated high school pitchers from all over South Carolina. During their senior seasons, Smoak hit .558 with 18 home runs and 49 RBI, while Havens hit .530 with five homers and 48 RBI. Their offensive feats earned them Mr. Baseball co-honors for 2005 in South Carolina and each got significant attention from major league scouts during their high school careers. Fortunately for Gamecock fans, both chose to attend college instead of sign out of high school.

"I committed to USC during my sophomore year in high school," explained Havens. "I wanted to talk Justin (Smoak) into committing, too, since he was the type of player they wanted." Havens's next task was to convince his rival from Stratford High that the University of South Carolina would be the ideal collegiate spot for him as well.

"We were playing AAU ball together in the summer and we were watching the College World Series and South Carolina was in it," Havens said. "We decided that we wanted to go (to college) together." Not long after that conversation, Smoak joined Havens by committing to USC.

When draft day came in June 2005, both received calls that they had been drafted. Despite the fact that the Boston Red Sox had shown a lot of interest in Havens, he was drafted by Colorado surprisingly low in the 29th round. Havens balked at Red Sox GM Theo Epstein's offer of \$1.35 million to sign as the second of their two first round picks that year, so Boston ultimately passed.

"I have always dreamed of playing for South Carolina, and I had decided that the only way I wouldn't was if I got life-changing money and I felt like \$1.75 million was that figure," Havens told Scout.com. "It was fun going to tryout camps and being scouted, but I went with my gut in turning down the offer from Boston."

Similarly, Smoak was picked by Oakland, but not until the 16th round as his adviser balked at the \$950,000 offer he would receive to sign if, as originally planned, the Athletics chose him with the 36th overall pick. Although the money was significant, like Havens, Smoak's desire to play for South Carolina outweighed his desire for money.

"I'll sign for one million dollars, and nothing less," Smoak told Scout.com. "Right now, I'm planning to follow my dreams to South Carolina and play for (Coach) Ray Tanner," said Smoak. "Coach Tanner has been in constant touch with me, and I've always wanted to play at South Carolina."

For Smoak, the opportunity to play with Havens has been a great experience. "I'm impressed by Reese because he plays hard," said Smoak. "We were always close and it's great to play with him, it's like playing in a comfort zone...He's a dedicated and a good leader."

When Smoak and Havens arrived at South Carolina's

Columbia campus, they were ranked as the fifth and sixth best freshmen in the nation, respectively, by Baseball America. Both started as freshmen and contributed to a Gamecock squad that had a successful campaign, but fell to Georgia in three games during the NCAA's Super Regionals.

Although they were late arriving to Cotuit, it's obvious that for Kettleers fans, both were worth the wait. Their first game was on June 21, a 17-1 destruction of the defending Cape League champion Orleans Cardinals that saw Havens smack two homers and Smoak notch a pair of hits himself.

Through just four games in Kettleer uniforms, Smoak is hitting .500, while Havens, the reigning Coca Cola Player of the Week, is hitting .412 with seven RBI that rank him third in the CCBL despite playing in just half as many games as the competition. For Cotuit, the impact of the pair has been astounding. Since arriving, the first-place Kettleers have gone 3-1 and have outscored their opponents 35-4 in that span. As a team, the Kettleers have four total home runs this year, two for Smoak and two for Havens.

For a couple of ballplayers hailing from the "low country" of South Carolina, Cape Cod appears to be suiting them just fine. From the early days playing together with the "Diamond Devils" to the Kettleers and several teams in between, Justin Smoak and Reese Havens continue to make sweet baseball music together and are happy to be applying their crafts this summer on the Cape.

"The competition in the Cape League is great," said Havens. "Also, I like to eat. The chowder is good, and I had an incredible six-pound lobster recently."



RICH MACCLONE

A scene as timeless as baseball itself. Young fans take advantage of the incredible access they have to players and the field as they hunt autographs of potential major leaguers at Cape Cod Baseball League games.



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## Ballpark Review

# Lowell Park Not Just A Field...It's An Experience

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

The Tulane connection stayed hot for the Fall-mouth Commodores, this time dispatching the Cotuit Kettleers as early as the third inning. Dan Delucia, from Ohio State, took the hill for the Kettleers who were undefeated at home. He would last four innings and gave up six hits on his way to the loss. The real story of the day was that of Tulane's Warren McFadden and Aja Barto. McFadden hit a two-run homer to put the Kettleers up and Barto's RBI double sealed the deal later in the third as the Commodores rolled to a 4-3 victory. McFadden was 2-for-3 with 2 RBI. The Kettleers tried to mount a comeback and threatened in the fifth and sixth, but were unable to overtake the Commodores, falling just short. Despite the loss, the Kettleers made a game out of it and were in it until the very last out. They have become almost invincible at their home, Elizabeth Lowell Park, this season. One look at the field and it's understandable; it is one of the top ball parks in the Cape Cod Baseball League, with gourmet food, plenty of stands and seating, and a proximity to the players which is rivaled.

**Best Place to Park:** The best place to park at Elizabeth Lowell Park is on Main Street, Cotuit, about 100 yards before the park on the right hand side of the street, and, unless you get there early, you have no chance of being closer to the field. There will always be a sign indicating where parking is located.

**Best Place to Watch:**

There really isn't a bad place to take in the ball game at Lowell Park. Behind home plate seems to be the most popular spot as people line up chairs and even stand to watch the game right next to a section taped off for scouts. As in Orleans, it's not unusual to find families sitting on enormous blankets, utilizing the space down the right field line. Behind the dugouts is also a great spot to take in the game; it's so close to the action, you can hear the players discussing the complexities of the opposing pitcher's stuff. There are picnic tables down the left field line, which is also a great spot, and the field is flanked by enormous stadium-style bleachers that fill up quickly.

**Best Buys:** The best buys at Lowell Park are a little different than in other parks around the Cape League. The Kettleers boast the most expensive 'best buy.' For \$175 to \$345, you can purchase a brick, in various sizes and styles, which can be engraved with names or a message that will immortalize you and your family at Lowell Park. The beautifully rendered bricks decorate the ballpark behind home plate. New Mexican Governor Bill Richardson, Kettleer alumni, has a brick. There are also bricks with messages to family members who passed on and company logos. It is one of the more amazing sites in the league. Other best buys at the park include Kettleer license plate frames for \$2, Kettleer beach balls for \$4, Kettleer pennants for \$4, Kettleer mugs for \$5, and new this year, Kettleer Frisbees

for \$3.

**Food:** Elizabeth Lowell Park has some of the best food you will ever find at a ball game. The father and son team of John and Joe Cotellessa, owners of The Original Gourmet Brunch on Main Street in Hyannis, are in their second year of catering to the hungry fans at the snack bar. They have two more years under contract after this season. The Cotellessa's stopped entering their award-winning clam chowder and chili in competitions last year in order to be able to offer it to fans over the summer at Lowell Park. For \$3 you can get a taste of heaven. Their chowders have won first place three times at the WCOD Cape Cod Chowder Festival held every year at the Cape Cod Melody Tent. Their chili has also won top honors at the annual chili festival at Harry's. They also

offer typical fare, candy, ice cream, hot dogs, sausages, pizza, nachos, and jumbo pretzels, all reasonably priced.

**Best Feature:** The park's best feature is the home bullpen on the other side of the fence in left field. During the game the players sit on a wooden elevated platform and talk to kids who play catch and imitate what they see. The fenced in bullpen area is reminiscent of a pro bullpen at a Major League venue and adds that much more excitement to the game.

**The Park:** The landscaping at Lowell Park is immaculate and the facilities have a new feel to them. Roped off areas with small signs dangling from them look like something you'd see at Disney World and the architecture follows suit. The brick memorials and messages add to the quality

of the facilities. Lowell has some of the best views of any of the ball parks and it offers some of the best souvenirs to help fans enjoy the game even more. The park is handicapped accessible and they even broadcast the games at the snackbar so you don't miss a second of the action. The only downfall is the parking situation, which can be a challenge at times as the streets become congested with cars parked on the sidewalks. Another drawback is the absence of lights, which means 5 PM games.

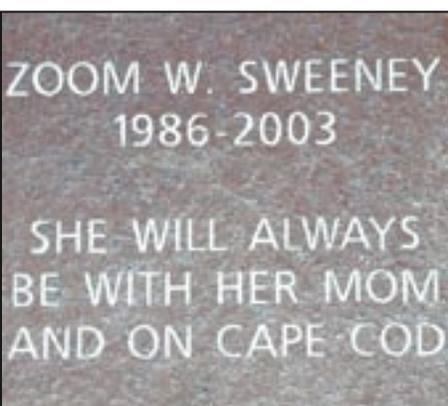
**How far I got on \$20:** \$20 goes a long way at Lowell Park. I started off by getting a Frisbee for \$3 and a kid's T-shirt for \$10. For dinner I had a cup of the famous Cotellessa clam chowder for another \$3, and a sausage for \$5.

Lowell Park is not just a field, it's an experience. Five Stars. ★★★★★



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW BURKE

The game of baseball spans generations. At Lowell Park the span is never that far at all.



Among the unique fundraising ideas at Lowell Park are engraved bricks to remember or be remembered at this beautiful ballpark. At left is a sample of a brick purchased to remember a loved one.



Lowell Park's Kettleers' Kitchen boasts some of the finest food you will ever find at a ballpark.



CHUCK BORGE

Above, a camper at the Falmouth Commodores' Youth Clinic last week makes a terrific basket catch on in infield fly ball. Meanwhile, below, Commodores slugger Warren McFadden gets a taste of his own medicine as he delivers a soon-to-be home run ball.



# Yarmouth - Dennis Pitcher



SportsPix photo by Matthew Scott

## CHANCE CORGAN RED SOX

### KK Codders' Player of the Week

Right-handed starting pitcher Chance Corgan has been outstanding on the hill for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox thus far this season. Through June 29, Corgan led the league in strikeouts with 19 in two starts and had posted a 1-0 record with a perfect 0.00 earned run average. Over 14.1 innings he had walked just three and surrendered a single unearned run. The Texas A&M right-hander has helped Y-D stay in the hunt early on and should be one of the top starters in the league "Cape Cod Dining as it should be!" all summer.

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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
			*Major League*	Cot @ Bou PPD	Bre 2 @ Cot 8	Cha 8 @ Bre 8
			*Baseball*	Orl 2 @ Bre 0	War 5 @ Hya 3	Hya @ Cot 9
			*Scouts Days*	Y-D @ Hya (6-20)	Cha 6 @ Y-D 5	Y-D 3 @ Har 1
				Fal @ 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 2 @ Bre 2	Har @ Bou rain
Bre 6 @ Hya 4	Y-D 1 @ Cha 3		Orl 1 @ Cot 17	Cha 13 @ Bre 0	War 3 @ Hya 4 (10)	Orl @ Hya rain
Orl 12 @ Y-D 7	Bou 0 @ Har 11		Cha 2 @ Hya 3	Har 5 @ Y-D 2	Bou 2 @ Cha 5	Cot @ Y-D rain
Cot 1 @ Fal 5	Hya 3 @ Orl 1		Y-D 6 @ Fal 5	Hya 5 @ Fal 4	Y-D 4 @ Har 5	Bre @ Fal rain
Har 2 @ Cha 5	Cot 7 @ War 2		War 10 @ Har 3	War 1 @ Orl 5	Fal 1 @ Orl 2	War @ Cha rain
Sun 6/25	Mon 6/26	Tue 6/27	Wed 6/28	Thu 6/29	Fri 6/30	Sat 7/1
Orl @ Bre rain	Fal 1 @ Bou 0	Bre 6 @ Y-D 5 (10)	Cot @ Bou rain	Cha @ Bou rain	Orl 5 @ Bou 4	Fal 2 @ Hya 2 (10)
Bou @ Cot rain	War 4 @ Bre 3	Bou 4 @ Fal 7	Orl 11 @ Hya 2	Fal 4 @ Cot 3	War @ Y-D 5:00	Bou 5 @ Y-D 8
Fal @ War rain	Har 0 @ Cot 3	Cha 2 @ Har 4	Bre 1 @ Fal 2	Har 3 @ Hya 5	Bre 3 @ Cha 2	Cot 4 @ Cha 0
Hya @ Har rain	Hya 0 @ Y-D 1	Cot 4 @ Orl 0	Y-D 2 @ Cha 3 (10)	Y-D 6 @ Orl 3	Hya 4 @ Fal 0	Bre 8 @ Har 5
Y-D @ Cha rain	Cha 1 @ Orl 2	Hya 4 @ War 6		Bre 2 @ War 1	Cot 2 @ Har 0	Orl 7 @ War 0
Sun 7/2	Mon 7/3	Tue 7/4	Wed 7/5	Thu 7/6	Fri 7/7	Sat 7/8
Hya 7 @ Bou 7	Har @ 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 0 @ Bre 2	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 6 @ Cot 2	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 1 @ Orl 2	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 14 @ Fal 3	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 3 & 7	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



# Batting Around

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

## West Division Roundup

### Cotuit's Chiefs of Staff



The Cotuit Kettleers have flexed their muscles early this season by putting up incredible amounts of runs in what is supposed to be a pitcher's league. Lost in the mix has been a great pitching staff bolstered by three studs who are among the league's best. James Simmons is the leader of the three, posting a 2-0 record and allowing no runs in 15 innings, while striking out 14 opposing batters thus far. At UC-Riverside, Simmons was one of the team's best pitchers, recording a 9-5 record with a 2.96 ERA and 94 strikeouts.

Along with Simmons, Dan Delucia has carried his spring success as an Ohio State Buckeye into the summer season. He has already been named Coca Cola Pitcher of the Week, and rightfully so. His numbers go like this: two victories, a 0.56 ERA, 16 innings pitched and 11 strikeouts. As a sophomore with the Buckeyes, Delucia went 10-2 with a 3.25 ERA and 69 strikeouts.

As a staff the Kettleers are 7-2 as of Thursday and they are bolstering a nearly flawless 1.48 ERA. With this combination of steady pitching and powerful bats, there's no telling where the Kettleers can go from here.

Don't forget about the recent complete game performance of Jay Brown (Young Harris) earlier in the week. Brown pitched a gem, striking out seven in nine impressive innings of work. This past season for Young Harris, the sophomore was named a member of the all-conference team.

With a staff that is headlined by these three, general manager Bruce Murphy is pleased with his club's consistency. "We've got a great staff across the board; I'm very pleased with our depth." Murphy and head coach Mike Roberts are very happy with the position their team is in and can't complain about their mix of great pitching and offense that they possess. Don't forget the Kettleers have claims on one of the best college baseball players in America in Kellen Kulbacki, who has yet to begin hitting the ball very well.

Opposing teams are hoping the home run king doesn't get going, in fear of what this already dangerous Kettleers team could do.

By Nicholas Mucci, CCBL Intern  
mucci@capecodbbaseball.org

### Gatemen Thrive on Tight Games



Starting off the week with yet another rainout, the Wareham Gatemen were looking forward to returning to the diamond after two days' rest. The close games have been a familiar foe to the Gatemen, leaving them to rely on the dominant bullpen.

The Gatemen set out to Brewster on Monday night for the first matchup of the season between the two teams. Coach Cooper Farris sent veteran righty John Lalor (Mississippi State) to the mound in hopes of finding his second win. Despite the valiant effort, giving up only one run over six innings pitched, there was a no-decision awarded to Lalor and the game was handed over to the seemingly "automatic" bullpen. After surrendering two runs in the eighth and moving the game into extra innings, the Gatemen looked to dominant right-hander Connor Graham (Miami-OH). Beemer Weems (Baylor) led off the 10th with a single, then advanced to second on a fielder's choice and took third on a passed ball. Weems was able to score on another fielder's choice that came off the bat of OF Ryan Gotcher (Arkansas-Little Rock). Graham pitched the last two innings of one-hit baseball, giving the Gatemen their sixth win.

Coming back home for a two game skid, the Gatemen were looking to offset the evened series over two games with the Hyannis

Mets. John Ely (Miami-OH) took the mound in search of his first win in his second start and looked to the bats of the Gatemen for the support he needed. Ely pitched strong over 5 2/3 scoreless innings, only allowing four hits while striking out five. The Gatemen struck first and were able to hold the lead with a three-run eighth. Once again Weems proved his ability both offensively and defensively, going 3-for-4 and making an incredible defensive play with the bases loaded to end the game. John Wylde, GM of the Gatemen, believes that "Weems, quite possibly, could be the best defensive shortstop we have ever had."

Facing the Brewster Whitecaps for the second time in three days, the Gatemen sent strong and highly scouted Travis Banwart (Wichita St.) to the hill in an effort to continue his recent success and find his second win in as many starts. Banwart lasted five strong innings giving up no runs on six hits and striking out six in the no-decision. Tim Mathews (Baylor) came in for 3 1/3 innings of relief giving up two runs (one earned) and striking out four. It wasn't until the eighth inning that the Gatemen were able to score any runs. After a leadoff single and two passed balls, Seth Henry (Tulane) crossed the plate to give the Gatemen their first run of the game. A rare and unfortunate defensive error allowed the Whitecaps to score in the ninth, giving the Gatemen their first loss of the week.

The Gatemen traveled to South Yarmouth on Friday to face the Red Sox in an attempt to rekindle the success they achieved in their 2005

season series. Wareham's starter for the night was LHP Riley Boening (Texas), who allowed five hits and one earned run over five innings to earn the win for Wareham. The team scored three runs in the fifth and brought in relievers Martin Beno (Mississippi Gulf Coast) and Graham, who combined for four innings of two-hit relief. The two have been the leaders in the bullpen this year for Coach Farris and his team. The bats began to come around for the Gatemen when they saw Bradley Suttle (Texas) hit his second homer of the summer in the second. After trailing 2-1 in the fifth, Gotcher and Steffan Wilson (Harvard) complemented each other's RBI singles, giving the Gatemen their first lead of the game. In addition to the two-hit game, Gotcher stole two bases in the Gatemen win, moving him to first amongst the league leaders.

Wylde sees the 2006 Gatemen team as "a nice group of young men," adding that "the general overview of the guys is they seem to want to work to become better players and listen to Coach Farris for improvement." Through Friday, the Gatemen are tied with Cotuit for first place in the Western Division with a record of 8-4.

Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern  
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### From the Bottom to the Top



A lot has changed in a year for 6'5" flame-thrower

Charlie Furbush (St. Joseph's-Maine). Last year, Furbush entered the Cape

League as a temp for Hyannis, only to find himself signing an official contract with the injury-plagued 2005 Mets. Furbush, whose personal goal for this season is to pitch in the All-Star Game, impressed both fans and scouts alike last year ending with 55 strikeouts in 12 appearances.

Furbush, now being scouted by some of the nation's top Division 1 programs, including ASU, UNC, and Oklahoma State University, credits the league for the amount of exposure he has had, as well as the improvement of his game in the past year.

He notes, "The competition here is a lot better than at St. Joe's. Playing these games all summer makes me a better player. Having a year under my belt playing with these guys at the level they play, I've learned a lot about myself as a pitcher."

However, fans at Wednesday night's game against Orleans may have been disappointed not only by the inclement weather, but also by the pitching. Furbush struggled at the start of the game, allowing the Cardinals' five runs in only four innings, leading to his early exit at the top of the fifth. In the first inning, the Cardinals hit on their first four at-bats, scoring on two.

But the loss was not entirely caused by poor pitching. The Mets offense remained stagnant until the bottom of the eighth (also the end of the game due to inclement weather). In that inning, Cardinals closer John Goodman (Georgia Tech) let up the only runs by the Mets.

Goodman walked Ryan Fla-

Continued on Next Page

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# Batting Around

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

### West Roundup Continued...

DIVISION STANDINGS through July 2, 2006	EASTERN DIVISION						
	W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10	
ORLEANS	10	5	0	20	W 3	7-3	
BREWSTER	8	6	1	17	W 4	6-4	
CHATHAM	7	5	1	15	W 1	5-5	
YARMOUTH-DENNIS	6	9	0	12	L 1	4-6	
HARWICH	5	9	0	10	L 4	4-6	
WESTERN DIVISION							
W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10		
COTUIT	9	4	0	18	L 1	7-3	
WAREHAM	9	5	0	18	W 1	5-5	
HYANNIS	6	7	2	14	W 0	6-4	
FALMOUTH	6	7	1	13	L 1	4-6	
BOURNE	1	10	1	2	L 0	1-9	

### BATTING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 37 PLATE APPEARANCES)

BATTER	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Smoak, Justin	COT	.389	9	36	8	14	3	8
Carrara, Chris	CHA	.382	10	34	10	13	0	1
Wallace, Brett	FAL	.375	10	40	6	15	3	4
Espinosa, Danny	CHA	.365	13	52	11	19	1	7
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	.346	13	52	11	18	0	8
Macias, David	HYA	.333	15	57	6	19	0	7
Posey, Buster	YRD	.328	15	61	9	20	0	7
Wilson, Steffan	WAR	.327	13	49	5	16	0	10
DeJesus, Antone	HAR	.325	12	40	7	13	0	2
Williams, Jackson	HYA	.324	9	34	3	11	0	4

#### HOME RUNS

Dykstra, Allan	CHA	4						
McFadden, Warren		4						

#### RBI

Rizotti, Matt	CHA	15						
Dykstra, Allan	CHA	11						
Satin, Josh	OLN	11						
Wilson, Steffan	WAR	10						
Barto, Aja	FAL	9						

#### STOLEN BASES

Leclerc, Brian	BOU	10						
Gotcher, Ryan	WAR	10						
Carrara, Chris	CHA	7						
Glover, Brandon	WAR	7						

TEAM	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	BB	SO	SB	CS
Cotuit	.296	432	74	128	6	64	88	22	13
Hyannis	.249	481	47	120	2	53	99	9	10
Chatham	.240	438	64	105	9	61	115	27	4
Harwich	.239	456	43	109	3	35	103	18	11
Falmouth	.237	489	47	116	15	28	154	12	7
Wareham	.226	447	65	101	5	60	95	33	6
Orleans	.208	471	55	98	5	50	121	18	6
Yarmouth-Dennis	.204	494	57	101	6	57	100	17	9
Brewster	.197	461	54	91	5	61	100	12	12
Bourne	.195	375	33	73	2	44	107	18	8

### ADDITIONAL BATTING LEADERS

#### HITS

Posey, Buster	YRD	20						
Espinosa, Danny	CHA	19						
Several Players Tied at		18						

#### DOUBLES

Wilson, Steffan	WAR	6						
Several Players Tied at		5						

#### TRIPLES

Espinosa, Danny	CHA	2						
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	2						

#### SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

Smoak, Justin	COT	.694						
Wallace, Brett	FAL	.625						
Espinosa, Danny	CHA	.538						
Dykstra, Allan	CHA	.524						
McFadden, Warren	FAL	.509						

Continued from Page 11 herty (Vanderbilt) and allowed two singles by Matt Mangini (NC State) and Brian Juhl to load the bases. A James Darnell (South Carolina) single allowed Flaherty to score. The standout hitter for the Mets was Jared McGuire (Boston College), who singled in the third and doubled in the fifth while walking to drive home the second run in Juhl in the eighth.

The prime benefactor of the Mets loss was Orleans Cardinal Josh Satin (California), who went four for five with two doubles, three runs scored and four RBIs in the 11-2 Orleans victory.

By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern reilly@capecodbaseball.org

### Falmouth Living by the Long Ball



In Falmouth, balls are leaving the park as much as game-winning hits are coming off the bat of the world's greatest player, the lovable "Big Papi." The team is leading the league in home runs with 12 through Thursday; the next team in the standings only has six.

How are they doing this, you may ask? The Commodores' long ball assault has been led by two sluggers, outfielder Warren McFadden (Tulane) and first basemen Brett Wallace (Arizona State). Both players have hit three home runs each. This would put these two alone tied atop the league for most home runs by an entire team.

Thus far in their college careers, neither of these two would have been classified as sluggers. Neither player has had a season with double-digit home runs, despite each of them having the size and frame to do so.

McFadden, who hails from Plantation, Florida, has returned for his second season at Falmouth after hitting .232 and driving in 12 in 17 starts in 2005. His 2005 season at Tulane was injury-plagued and he wound up using a medical redshirt for the season. This spring proved to be a more successful season for Warren, who earned Freshman All-American honors and was deemed Freshman of the Year by the Louisiana Sports Writers. Warren led the Green Wave with a .383 batting average, 91 hits and 24 doubles. Highly touted out

of high school, Warren was a first team All-American and the Tulane coaching staff feels as though he has lived up to the billing.

Wallace has also been putting up some good numbers, hitting .370 with four RBIs. Out of high school in his home town of Sonoma, California, Wallace was a member of the 2002 Junior Olympic team and was a Collegiate Baseball/Louisville Slugger All-American after his senior season. Wallace was also selected in the 2005 MLB Amateur Draft in the 42nd round by the Blue Jays. The freshman has lived up to the billing by hitting .371, driving in 32 runs with seven homers.

Wallace and the rest of the Commodores are happy to have the four highly touted players from Clemson as part of the mix. Hopefully short-stop Stan Widmann, center fielder Brad Chalk and second baseman Taylor Harbin, who hit back-to-back-to-back in the lineup, can help the team with its league-leading strikeout total.

How they contribute is still a mystery, but one thing is for sure. If the Commodores continue hitting the ball out of the park at this pace, they could be on track for all sorts of records.

By Nicholas Mucci, CCBL Intern mucci@capecodbaseball.org

### Braves Watch Week Drip Away



Once again the Braves witness Mother Nature take her course, as she has for the entire summer. The Braves were unable to complete two of their games this week due to the immense amount of rain that has hit the Cape.

The Braves began the week at an unfamiliar site when they took on the Falmouth Commodores at Sandwich High School. The varsity high school and American Legion teams usually occupy the field; however, each year the Cape League uses Sandwich as a promotional site. Featured as the home team, Bourne was able to attract the interests of over 1,800 fans in the loss. Bourne starter Tom Farmer (Akron) was impressive for the fans in his second start, striking out 10 in 6 2/3 innings of work and allowing one earned run on five hits. The lone run came on a mistake pitch given to Falmouth's Warren Macfadden (Tulane), who struck his third homer of the summer to relatively short center field. Brian Leclerc (Florida) was able to generate two of the

five hits allowed by Falmouth in Bourne's losing effort.

Bourne saw great pitching once again on Tuesday night when Eammon Portice (High-point College) set forth to face Falmouth. Facing Falmouth for the second time in as many games, the Braves looked to redeem themselves and generate some much-needed offense. Portice struck out 12 in six innings of work, allowing two hits and two walks. Braves GM Mike Carrier added, "You hate to see a great performance like this one be written as a loss; he certainly didn't deserve to lose." All of the runs scored by Falmouth were unearned and came in the bottom of the eighth, erasing a 4-1 deficit. Brett Bartles (Duke) and Mitch Mooreland (Mississippi State) combined for three of the four runs, including two home runs, in the Braves loss.

After an off day and a rain out, the Braves headed back home after the two days' rest to host the first-place team in the East, the Orleans Cardinals. After trailing 3-0 in the third, the Braves quickly responded with some runs of their own in the fourth. With the first five batters reaching, including an RBI single off the bat of Mooreland and a two-run double by Andy Goff (Wake Forest), the Braves were able to generate four runs to take their first lead of the game. The lead didn't last long, with the Cardinals posting two runs of their own in the top half of the fifth. Neither team was able to generate any offense in the last four innings with their impressive bullpens. The Braves saw the last appearance by Luke Tucker (FSU), who will be headed back to school for the remainder of the summer to complete an internship. Carrier was sure to add how much he enjoyed having Tucker for the short time he was a part of Bourne.

With a multitude of rain-outs, Carrier and the Braves are anticipating a grueling few weeks ahead of them in an attempt to complete the 44-game season. The Braves are looking to complete their roster with future newcomers Andrew Carignan (UNC), Bobby Bell (Rice) and Mike Stutes (Oregon State). Carignan and Bell are expected to arrive by Monday, while final arrangements are being made for Stutes. The Braves are anxiously awaiting the grand opening of the field on the Fourth of July when they face the Wareham Gatemen. The field will hold a mass amount of festivities and games for all the fans that attend.

Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern scalia@capecodbaseball.org



# Batting Around

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

### East Division Roundup

#### Orleans Welcomes Two Big Bats to the Lineup



Going into the second full week of regular season baseball, the Orleans Cardinals' offense was struggling. They were hitting under .200 as a team and had only produced a total of three extra-base hits. Luckily for Orleans, they had an ace up their sleeve - actually, two of them.

The Oregon State Beavers weren't the only team celebrating at the end of the College World Series. The Cardinals were patiently awaiting the arrival of Matt Wieters (Georgia Tech) and Danny Valencia (Miami-FL), who were busy representing their universities in the College World Series. Matt Wieters had a monster sophomore campaign as the catcher for the Yellow Jackets, hitting .355 and leading the team with 15 home runs and 75 RBIs. Wieters arrived in Cape Cod on Saturday and made his debut for the Cardinals in Monday night's game against the rival Chatham A's.

The fans at Eldredge Park were delighted to see the six-foot, six-inch Wieters positioned behind the plate and situated in the three-hole of the Orleans lineup. Wieters hit a number of deep fly balls, but they were caught by the Chatham outfielders as the game would become a pitcher's duel between Orleans's Ryan Pond (NC State) and Chatham's Chris Wiman (Abilene Christian). After 10 and a half innings, the game was tied at 1-1. In the bottom half of the 11th, Wieters had a chance to be a hero in his first CCBL game. With runners on second and third and two outs, Wieters stepped to the plate, but he never even had a chance to swing the bat because Chatham's Derrik Lutz (George Washington) ended up balking in Ryan Sontag (Arizona State) as the winning run. Trey Martin (Tulane) received the win for Orleans with a scoreless top of the 11th.

On Tuesday night, Orleans faced one of the league's hottest pitchers in Cotuit's James Simmons (UC Riverside). Simmons, who has not yielded a run all season, pitched eight innings of scoreless baseball to get the win in a 4-0 victory for Orleans. The next night would be a coming-out party for Matt Wieters. In Orleans' 11-2 win over Hyannis, he went 3-for-4 with a home run and 3 RBIs. A setback occurred

on Thursday night with a 6-3 loss to Yarmouth-Dennis, but Friday night's game would see the debut of Valencia against the Bourne Braves.

Coach Kelly Nicholson placed Valencia in the clean-up spot behind Matt Wieters, a move that would pay off for the Cardinals. After a RBI single by Wieters in the bottom of the third, Valencia crushed a triple for two RBIs and a 3-0 lead. The lead didn't last long, and Bourne came back to take a 4-3 lead heading into the top of the fifth. With Kody Kaiser (Oklahoma) on third and first base open, the Braves decided to pitch to Valencia, a move they would soon regret. Valencia hit a home run to left field and Orleans took a 5-4 lead that they would not relinquish. Elih Villanueva (Florida International) and Brett Cecil (Kentucky) pitched four innings of scoreless relief, while Eric Surkamp got the win for Orleans.

The win bolted Orleans into first place of the Eastern Division in front of their rivals, the Chatham A's. Orleans hosts Chatham on Monday night as they hope Matt Wieters and Danny Valencia form a David Ortiz/Manny Ramirez-like combo in the heart of the Orleans order.

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

#### Brewster Starting to Take Shape

Following a scary incident days ago, RHP Erik Davis (Stanford) was back with the Whitecaps on Tuesday. Davis was hit by a line drive and sustained an eye injury but is on the road to recovery.

There was a lot of applause for Davis when he returned to the team at the Y-D game; however, those cheers didn't carry on when the Whitecaps went to extra innings to eventually take the game from the Red Sox.

The Whitecaps played a great offensive game. Michael Fisher (Georgia Tech) had two singles, and Andrew Romine (Arizona State) had a single and stole home on the front end of a double steal. But it was Justin Snyder (San Diego) who hit his first home run of the season in the 10th inning to give Brewster the 6-5 win.

Great offense was not the case in the Whitecaps' make-up game against Falmouth. Maybe it was due to the weather, but there

was no power in the bats on Wednesday.

The story changed again, this time for Matt Laporta (Florida), who also hit his first home run of the season in the game against the Wareham Gatemen. This is Laporta's second summer with the Cape League - he played for the 2004 Y-D Red Sox and placed second in the Home Run Hitting Contest at the All-Star Game that year. This year he was chosen by the Boston Red Sox in the 14th round of the MLB draft.

Two other promising players on the Whitecaps' roster are Jemile Weeks (Miami-FL) and Pedro Alvarez (Vanderbilt). Both are with the USA Baseball National Team at this time but could be joining the Whitecaps soon.

Weeks was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the eighth round but decided to attend the University of Miami. He is the brother of Rickie Weeks, who is currently an infielder for the Milwaukee Brewers.

Alvarez, meanwhile, had an outstanding year with Vanderbilt and was just named an All-American by Baseball America.

Friday night's game against Chatham gave the Whitecaps another win, putting them at .500. The team is steadily improving, and with the addition of players such as Weeks and Alvarez, they will only get better.

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

#### Rivals Face Off for the First Time in 2006

When you think rivalry in baseball, what teams come to mind? Most people might think Yankees-Red Sox or Dodgers-Giants. The A's-Cardinals rivalry doesn't appear in the minds of most baseball fans, but in the Cape League, the Chatham A's and Orleans Cardinals form a great rivalry. A's general manager Charlie Thoms calls the two teams "definite rivals."

In the 2005 season, Chatham put together an impressive 27-15 record. However, they struggled against the Orleans Cardinals and lost six of nine games to their rivals from the north. Two of these six losses were in of the Eastern Division playoffs. In the best-of-three series, Chatham won the first game but lost the next two to the

**Continued on Next Page**

### CAPE COD LEAGUE LEADERS

(Through Games Of 7/2/06)

#### PITCHING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 11 IP)

PITCHER	CLUB	W-L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	1-0	0.00	17	11	10	11
Simmons, James	COT	2-0	0.00	15	7	1	14
Corgan, Chance	YRD	1-0	0.00	14	6	3	19
Brown, Jay	COT	2-0	0.00	12	4	4	8
Davis, Ty	OLN	2-1	0.50	18	9	7	21
Hargrove, Ricky	CHA	1-0	0.54	17	6	6	9
Beno, Martin	WAR	1-0	0.61	15	10	5	12
*Watson, Tony	HAR	2-0	0.69	13	6	3	13
*Cecil, Brett	OLN	0-0	0.71	13	5	6	14
Banwart, Travis	WAR	1-0	0.82	11	11	2	10

#### WINS

Several Players Tied at	2						
-------------------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

#### SAVES

Cecil, Brett	OLN	4					
Demel, Sam	FAL	3					
McDonald, Dan	HAR	3					
Graham, Connor	WAR	3					

#### STRIKEOUTS

Doyle, Terry	YRD	23					
Davis, Ty	OLN	21					
Robertson, David	YRD	21					
Several Players Tied at	20						

TEAM	W-L	ERA	H	CG	SHO	SV	HR	BB	SO
Cotuit	9-4	1.57	81	0	4	2	5	29	83
Chatham	7-5	2.31	76	0	1	4	1	38	89
Wareham	9-5	2.49	111	0	0	5	5	48	102
Orleans	10-5	2.50	100	0	2	4	7	60	104
Harwich	5-9	3.07	88	1	2	3	6	49	122
Falmouth	6-7	3.12	99	0	2	4	8	45	115
Yarmouth-Dennis	6-9	3.31	116	1	2	5	8	67	146
Hyannis	6-7	3.52	125	0	1	3	8	68	115
Brewster	8-6	3.79	134	0	1	6	5	63	104
Bourne	1-10	5.39	112	0	0	1	5	46	102

### ADDITIONAL PITCHING LEADERS

GAMES							
Several Players Tied at	7						

COMPLETE GAMES							
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	1					
Hume, Donnie	YRD	1					

SHUTOUTS							
Hume, Donnie	YRD	1					
Several Players Tied at	0						

INNINGS PITCHED							
Sirois, Rich	CHA	21.1					
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	21.0					
Delucia, Dan	COT	20.0					
Pond, Ryan	OLN	19.2					
Doyle, Terry	YRD	19.0					

LOSSES							
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	3					
Several Players Tied at	2						

WALKS							
Daly, Matt	HYA	13					
Doyle, Terry	YRD	13					
Several Players Tied at	10						

HOME RUNS ALLOWED							
Dobrowiecki Kris	FAL	6					
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	3					



# Batting Around

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

## East Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 13  
 eventual CCBL champs. The taste of defeat was tough to swallow for Coach John Schiffner's Chatham A's, who had a chance for redemption on Monday night.

The game was played at Eldredge Park in Orleans, where fans reserved spots hours before game time. Chatham had numerous opportunities throughout the game, but left 13 players on base and failed to deliver the necessary clutch hit. The score was tied going into the bottom of the 11th, where the game would end in controversy, as Chatham's Justin Segal (UC Santa Barbara) balked in the winning run. Schiffner vehemently argued the call, but to no avail as Orleans continued to have Chatham's number.

The game sent Chatham into a frustrating week of play. During the week they went on to lose two of their next three, their lone win of the week coming against the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox on Wednesday night. Chatham's Ricky Hargrove (Houston) pitched effectively against Yarmouth-Dennis with eight innings of two-run baseball. Centerville's Rich Tri (Central Connecticut) went 3-for-4 and had the game-winning RBI in the bottom of the 10th. Adrian Ortiz (Pepperdine) scored on Tri's hit and showed off his great speed by scoring from second base.

The problem throughout the week was the lack of timely hitting. The A's continued to put batters on base but had trouble coming up with a clutch hit to drive in runners. For the week, they averaged 11 men left on base per game. They also ran into a number of hot pitchers, including Brewster's Scott Maine (Miami) and Harwich's Tony Watson (Nebraska).

The rough week left the A's in second place of the Eastern Division behind the Orleans Cardinals. They hope to make up ground against the Cardinals on July 3, when they travel to Eldredge Park once again. If you watched them play last Monday night, Cardinals-A's starts to sound more like a rivalry.

By Jonathan French, CCBL Intern french@capecodbbaseball.org

### Y-D's Finish to Start

After seven scoreless innings, Y-D reconnected with fans



as Buster Posey (Florida State) scored on a Brad Emaus (Tulane) double, which led to a 1-0 Red Sox win over the Hyannis Mets on Monday. Emaus' double to left center came with two outs, after Posey stole second on a strikeout. Posey, who finished 2-for-3 on the night, reached on a base hit slashed off Mets pitcher Alex Hale's (Richmond) glove and towards the left side of the infield. One run was all Y-D needed to beat the Mets and end their three-game winning streak.

The win is no doubt attributed to outstanding pitching, particularly by Auburn University's Luke Greinke, who took the win after striking out seven in 4 2/3 innings. Greinke, normally a closer for the Auburn Tigers, was pleased with his performance.

"I was excited to go five innings. At school, I'm used to throwing one to two innings at the most. I'm hoping to be a starter next year and I'll need to be able to throw a lot of pitches."

Although he has only been on the Cape for a short time, Greinke has noticed a personal improvement in his game. "I've definitely improved because I've already thrown more innings than I have at school."

When comparing the competition to what he and his Auburn Tigers face in the SEC, Luke acknowledges the extraordinary talent of both his teammates and opponents in the CCBL. He is already working on techniques to outsmart such gifted hitters, practicing a new pitch, the cut fastball. Before this summer he had never thrown the pitch, but with Monday's win, it's clear that it's working for him.

By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern reilly@capecodbbaseball.org

### Days Off Ruin the Mariners' Momentum



Weather has not made things easy for the Harwich Mariners. After their two days off due to rain, the Mariners' winning streak came to an end with a loss to Cotuit. The Mariners were back on track Tuesday with a win against Chatham, but with an off day on Wednesday came two more losses to the Hyannis Mets and the Cotuit Kettleers.

The rain, fog and utterly miserable weather did not stop the fans from coming out to watch some baseball,

though. A couple of special fans were in the stands cheering on their summertime sons. Jeanne Keefe is in her fourth year of housing Cape League players and is currently housing Johnny Dorn (Nebraska) and Antone DeJesus (Kentucky). She previously housed Mariner alum and current Boston Red Sox pitcher Craig Hansen. Keefe revealed a fun fact about Hansen some Red Sox fans might not like to hear: he's a big New York Yankees fan.

Jan and Bill Wilson were also at the game to support their players, Eric Fryer (Ohio State) and Brian Oats (Trinity). Both the Keefe and Wilson families said they try never to miss a game, and that having the players stay with them is a lot of fun.

When the rest of the permanent players join the team, other Mariners fans will have more reasons not to want to miss a game either. This Monday was the end of the College World Series, and making it to the final game was North Carolina, a team that holds three of the Mariners' key players: Chad Flack, Josh Horton and Matt Spencer.

The Mariners also have a good amount of players with the USA Baseball National Team, but within a few days the finalization of the Team USA roster will be announced. Therefore, the Mariners are looking forward to getting some of those guys to the Cape soon and get the team situated for what should be an exciting remainder of the season.

By Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern dechristoforo@capecodbbaseball.org

### Some Like It Hot

Enjoying a wide margin in the CCBL batting race so far is Chris Carrara (Winthrop) of Chatham, who was hitting at a torrid .476 clip after Wednesday's action. Tony Delmonico (Tennessee) of Cotuit was next at .400 ... Delmonico's Kettleers' teammate James Simmons was 2-0 with a 0.00 ERA in 15 innings pitched, while Y-D's Chance Corgan was 1-0 with a 0.00 ERA in 14 IP ... Early home run leaders were Justin Smoak (South Carolina) of Cotuit, Warren McFadden (Tulane) of Falmouth and Commodores teammate Brett Wallace (Arizona St.) with three round-trippers apiece ... Cotuit leads the league with an impressive .322 team batting average and is also the pitching leader with a 1.48 team ERA.



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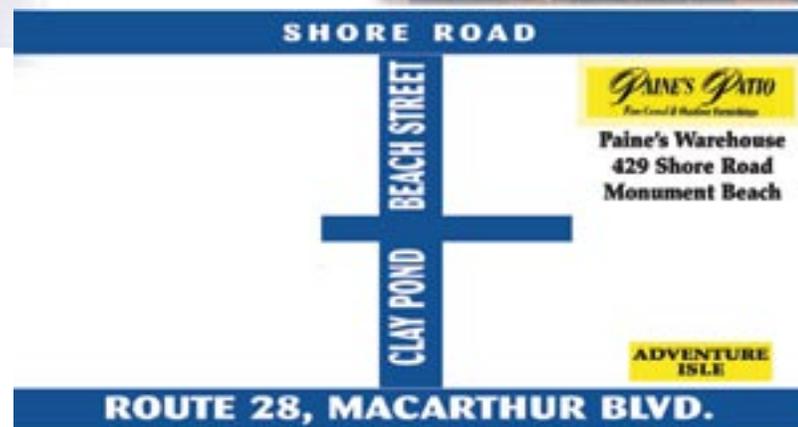
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