

The Enterprise's

Summer

Stars

Your Guide to the Cape Cod Baseball League

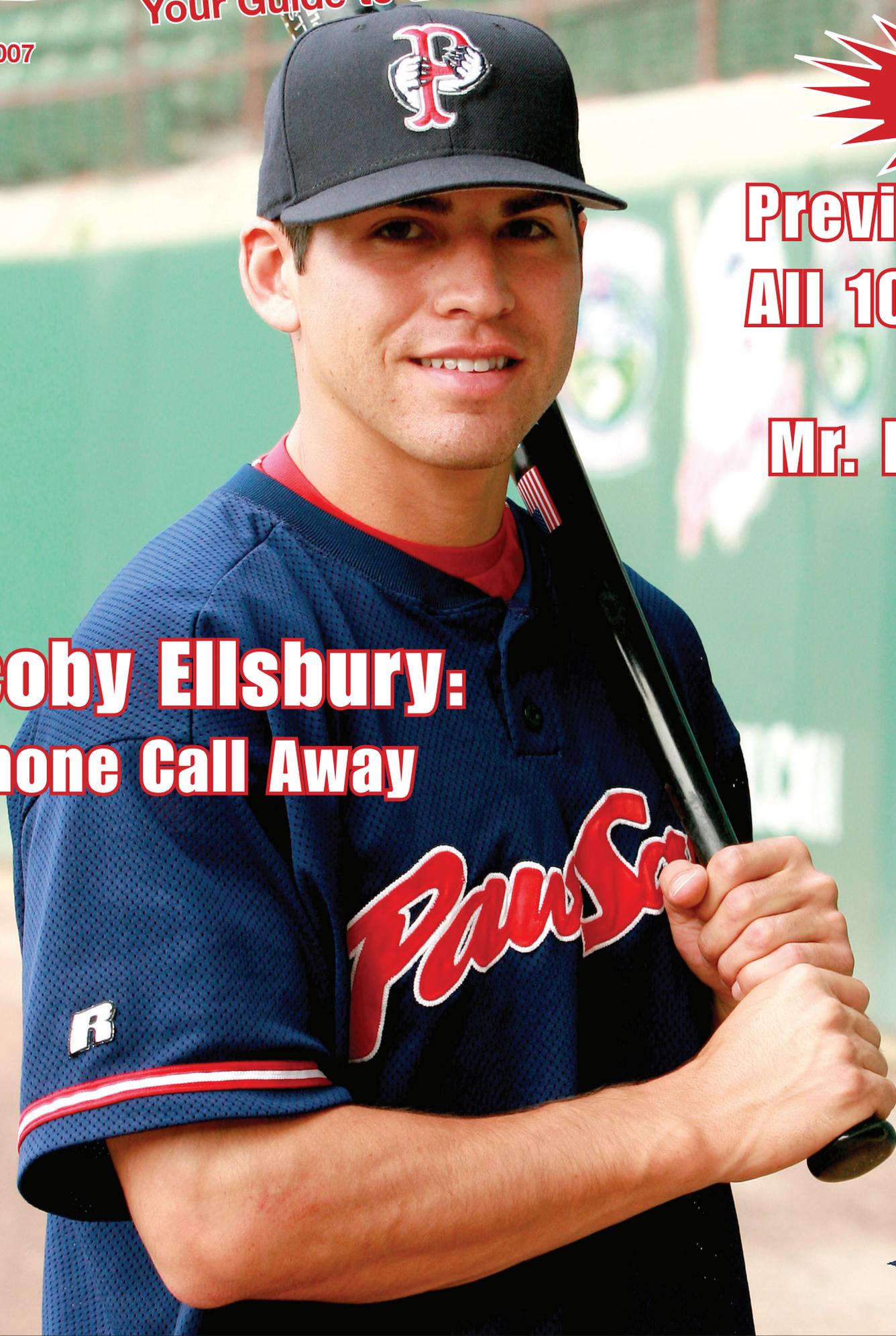
Vol. 2, #1
June 14, 2007

INSIDE!

**Previews Of
All 10 Teams**

Mr. Kettleer

**Jacoby Ellsbury:
A Phone Call Away**



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Falmouth
Publishing Co.



Now Batting... Season Two

Welcome to our second season of Summer Stars. The Cape Cod League baseball season opened for us back in February when we began planning for this year. Over the last four and a half months we have worked hard to prepare for the season and to make Summer Stars the leading source for Cape Cod Baseball League news.

This year we will continue to offer the magazine for free at all the CCBL parks and through local businesses on Cape Cod, but in addition we will be offering subscriptions nationally. By doing this we will be bringing the excitement, flavor and tradition of the country's oldest amateur summer collegiate baseball league to audiences across the nation. This year Summer Stars will find its way into every Major League Baseball front office and most radio and television broadcast booths. Division I college coaches around the country will be receiving it, as will be player agents and professional scouting agencies. Summer Stars will also be making a weekly trip to Cooperstown and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Our veteran staff of writers, and contributing writers have been following Cape League baseball for decades. They know the Cape, the parks and how to find some of the best stories the summer will have to offer. Their feature stories will take you behind the scenes, and into the dugout, with the top collegiate players and coaches in America, as well as introduce you to the people that make the Cape Cod Baseball League work.

This summer we've added a ninth issue to our usual eight recapping the playoffs and championship series. So join us for a summer of Cape Cod Baseball League excitement, come out to the games, and then sit back and read all about everything else that is happening on and off the field with Summer Stars.

Dan Crowley, Editor

Dan Crowley is also the Sports Editor for the Enterprise Newspapers and the author of the 2003 book *Baseball on Cape Cod*.



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE



 Pawtucket's Jacob Ellsbury
Page Three

 Mr. Kettleer: Arnold Mycock
Page Five

 A Life In Baseball: George Tsami
Page Eleven

Summer Star



Bourne Braves right-handed pitcher/outfielder and US Naval Academy junior Mitch Harris has two dreams. As a midshipman at Annapolis, he dreams of becoming an officer in the Navy, but as a baseball player he dreams of playing Major League Baseball. Last week Harris was drafted in the 24th round of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft by the Atlanta Braves.

This spring Harris compiled a record of 8-5, with an ERA of 2.14 in 88.1 innings of work for the Midshipmen. His 119 strikeouts were a Patriot League record. At the plate he hit .293. His eight home runs and 47 RBI led all Patriot League hitters. He was selected for the 2007 All-Patriot League second team as a starting pitcher and designated hitter. In addition, this year he was awarded the Thompson Trophy Cup, which is presented to that midshipman who has done the most during the year to promote athletics at the Naval Academy.

"I thank the Atlanta Braves for taking me," he said. "I have every intention of fulfilling my military commitment, and I'll do whatever I have to do. But playing pro ball has always been a dream."

In September, Harris will enter his senior year at Annapolis and have a five-year military service commitment.



Teammates at Falmouth
Page 7

Photo Highlights US Military All-Stars Game
Pages 8-9

League Preview East Division & West Division
Pages 11-14

Look for this issue online

@ www.capenews.net

On The Cover: Ellsbury: From Falmouth to Pawtucket
Photo by Rich Maclone

publisher
William Hough

sales manager
Chris Avis

sales
Danielle Guay
Dawn Mitchell
Trisha Herlihy
Rebecca Whittington
Nancy Medeiros
Esther Buchanan
Pam deLala

operations manager
Chuck Borge

sports editor
Dan Crowley

photo editor
Don Parkinson

design & layout
Elisabet K. Rodrigues

design services manager
Christine Stutzman

design services
Linda Stewart
Jill Spencer
Julia Balducci

press supervisor
David Pittman



50 Depot Avenue
Falmouth, MA 02540
508-548-4700 • 1-800-286-7744
Fax: 508-540-8407

Former Cape League Star Jacoby Ellsbury On The Fast Track To Fenway Park

On a typically sweaty August afternoon in The Hub Jacoby Ellsbury had just worked out for the Boston Red Sox with a group of Cape Cod Baseball League all-stars at Fenway Park. After slicing and dicing BP fastballs in the cage at the little ballpark off of Landsdowne Street Ellsbury made his way across the street to one of the slightly overpriced souvenir shops near the ballpark.

Like most baseball fans visiting Fenway for the first time the Oregon State outfielder, who would help the Falmouth Commodores to their first appearance in the CCBL championship series since 1980 – three years before he was born – had to pick up some kind of memento from his trip. It was at that moment that he became a fledgling member of Red Sox Nation, purchasing a Sox cap that caught his eye.

The lid bought in Boston would travel back across the country to Corvallis, OR. During the preseason he began to throw it atop his shortly cut hair. It went from being just a part of his college dude wardrobe and morphed into a sort of “lucky hat.”

Little did he know what it would come to represent later in the season. In the middle of the Beavers run to the College World Series the Red Sox would add a jersey to the outfit as they drafted him 23rd overall in the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft.

After completing his run with the Beavers, which would come up short of the championship (OSU won the CWS the next year), Ellsbury would begin wearing a slew of new caps in hopes of getting back to a New Era with the old English ‘B’ on top again.

While nearly every Red Sox fan across the country knows who Jacoby Ellsbury is now, and anticipates his arrival in Boston, there weren't nearly that many that knew his name, let alone could properly pronounce it, when he arrived in Falmouth back in the summer of 2004. It didn't take long for fans of the Commodores to quickly realize that the youngster patrolling center field was special. Inserted by longtime Falmouth skipper

Jeff Trundy into the leadoff spot immediately, Ellsbury began to turn heads with his hustling style, breakneck speed and flashy glove. Every night it seemed that Ellsbury did something to help the team, and the team began to ascend up the standings. On a team that was filled with high draft picks – including Dallas Buck, Dan Carte and Cliff Pennington – Ellsbury stood out.

Statistically speaking, Ellsbury didn't have eye-popping numbers on the Cape. He had a solid season, batting .245 as he averaged about a hit per game while posting an on-base percentage of .376. He had a couple of doubles, three triples and a homer and knocked in seven runs from the leadoff spot. On a team that is not known for doing a lot of running, he swiped 12 bases (in 15 attempts). And, Ellsbury played spectacular defense as he chased down anything in the same zip code.

Ellsbury earned an all-star nod and it was clear that he was moving higher and higher on MLB teams' draft radars. The blip got much bigger when he went back to OSU and hit .406 the next year with 19 doubles, three triples and six homers in 58 games.

The Sox center fielder of the future credited his time on Cape Cod with helping him make the leap to the next level. He said that his struggles in the Cape League gave him motivation to get better, and the knowledge of what he needed to work on.

“I gained a lot of knowledge, and that's the biggest thing as a player, is when you're not succeeding, I think that you have to have the right attitude and mentality, then you can improve the most,” he said prior to taking the game for the Pawtucket Red Sox against the Columbus Clippers two weeks ago. “It was definitely a fun summer, a learned a lot. I think that was the summer that I improved the most as a ballplayer mentally, and went into the offseason and worked on those fundamentals.”

He said that his biggest focus was making his swing better. Also, providing his team a big weapon at the top of the lineup was something

that he put emphasis on.

“I shortened up my swing a little bit, it was a little longer than I wanted it to be, so I made it more compact and worked on limiting my strikeouts to become a true, good leadoff hitter.”

His work on fundamentals and attention to detail has paid dividends at every level. Ellsbury joined the Sox short season ‘A’ level club, the Lowell Spinners, in July of 2005 and hit .317 that summer. He then moved to the higher level ‘A’ team, in Wilmington, North Carolina, for the start of the 2006 season and hit .299 there over 65 games before moving up to the Portland Sea Dogs, and the ‘AA’ level. At Portland he hit at a .308 clip for the rest of the season, playing in 50 games there. The year 2006 proved to a great one for Ellsbury on several levels as he would receive enough trophies to fill a shelf, being named the Red Sox Minor League Player Of The Year and Baserunner Of The Year. He was named to the Carolina League's All-Star team and named the Eastern League Player of the Week (August 6-13).

The 23-year old began the 2007 season with the Sea Dogs, but wouldn't stay there long. Ellsbury hit a gaudy .452 over the team's first 17 games and was named the Eastern League's Player Of The Month for April. He wouldn't get a chance to win the award again in May because he was promoted to the Paw Sox on May 4, getting one step closer to his dream of playing in the big leagues.

Now he's 46 miles and an opportunity away from playing for the Boston Red Sox. Ellsbury said that he is pleased with his rapid ascension up the ranks of the Red Sox minor league system, but does not plan to rest on his laurels at this point. “Just being in the minor leagues, playing every day has certainly helped improve my game,” he said. “I have high expectations of myself, but at the same time if you told me that I was just a phone call away two years later, I would have said ‘wow, that's great.’ Right now, at this level, I try not to think about it so much.



ENTERPRISE FILE PHOTO

Jacob Ellsbury while playing in 2004 for the Commodores

I know that the big league club is doing real well and all I can do is to continue to improve as a player, and continue to develop. I'm still young, so even if I get there this year, next year, or the following year, I'm going to keep developing when I get to the big leagues as well.”

Chances are that Ellsbury could don a Boston Red Sox uniform sooner rather than later. Pretty much considered universally as an untouchable player come the trading deadline by the Red Sox brass, Ellsbury could be in Beantown should one of the Sox outfielders get injured, or traded. If that doesn't hap-

pen he also has a very good chance of being promoted to the big league club after September 1 when the MLB rosters expand for the final month of the season.

“That'd be nice, just for the experience, if anything, even if I don't get into any games,” the former Falmouth Commodore said. “Just to sit on the bench and watch, I can learn a lot from just watching and being around the guys and seeing how they go about their business.”

One thing is for certain, it won't be long before the former Cape League all-star is wearing a Boston Red Sox cap again, every day.

SLIDE into



Seafood Sam's

Quality Seafood

...You'll always be SAFE!

LUNCH ■ DINNER ■ KIDS' SPECIALS
Boiled Lobster & Steamers

Cheesecake Factory Cheesecake

FALMOUTH
Rte. 28 • Palmer Ave.
508-540-7877

SANDWICH
Coast Guard Road
508-888-4629

www.seafoodsams.com

No Heart? Need Not Apply

Defending Champion

Red Sox Skipper Scott Pickler

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

The 2006 Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox team was special. Not only did they win the Arnold Mycock Award for the Cape League championship by defeating red-hot Wareham, 5-1, in the championship game, the third and final game in a best-of-three series. They also overcame adversity to do so, namely an 8-11 start to the season.

The Sox won their final game of the season at their home park, Red Wilson Field, in front of close to 8,500 of their adoring fans, a phenomenal attendance record. They won 28 regular season games, losing only 16, for their second title in three seasons, and the best regular season record in the league in 2006.

The proverbial Oz; the man behind the curtain for the Red Sox, is a four-time National Coach of the Year, on the Junior College level, and a soon-to-be 10-season veteran of the Cape Cod Baseball League (all with Yarmouth-Dennis): Coach Scott Pickler.

"It's a matter of getting hot in a short series like that," he said of the Wareham series in the dugout at Red Wilson Field, less than 24 hours after arriving on the Cape for the 2007 season.

As landscapers put the finishing touches on the field, it was eerily quiet; certainly incomparable to what it had

been like last August during the playoffs. "Well, our guys were playing pretty hard still towards the end. Maybe it was how hard they were playing towards the end? But, then you're matched up with a Wareham team that did the same thing. When you get in a short series like that, if you make a mistake, its going to come back to haunt you, and we made less mistakes in that final weekend and it paid off for us."

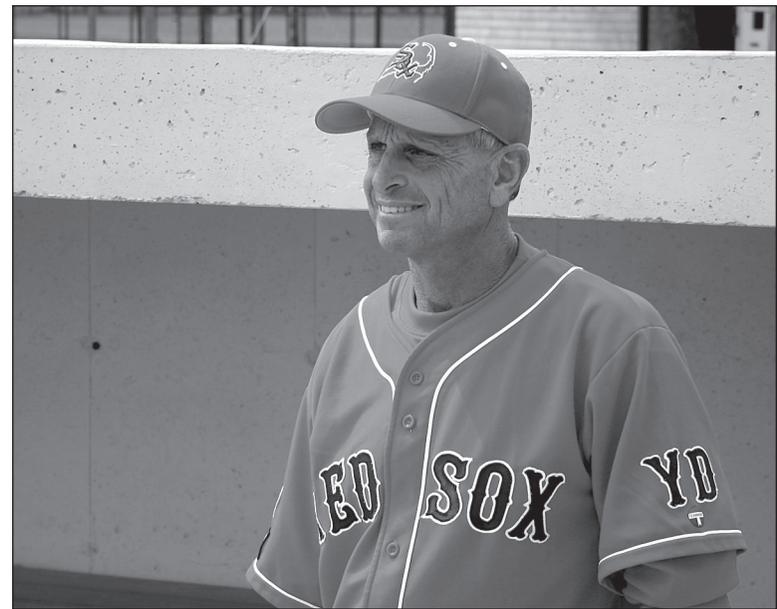
"Pick," as he is called by his friends and players alike, is a man with the stereotypical body of a second baseman, compact and agile. He is a California man with a California tan, ashy gray hair, and a trademark Cheshire cat grin. Coach Pickler, who is in his mid-50s, is quite amiable, yet is not afraid to speak his mind. Players love to play for him, and Pickler loves to teach. He has a sharp baseball mind. He considers himself an aggressive coach, willing to take chances to win.

Pickler's love for the game of baseball began over 50 years ago, when he was four-years-old. His father would bring him to Glover Stadium, in Anaheim, for a hamburger, fries, a malt, wooden bleachers, and the game of baseball. Baseball was a big deal in the Pickler household, and he says that he wanted to impress his father whose, Cambridge

roots stoked their passion for America's pastime.

Pickler played baseball in high school for Savanna High, in Anaheim, CA. He graduated in 1968 as the reigning Athlete of the Year. He later went on to play at Cypress College, where he garnered all-conference honors before transferring to San Diego State. Pickler was an aspiring

Continued on Page 7



Yarmouth-Dennis Head Coach Scott Pickler

New Season About To Begin

BY PAUL A. GALOP,
CCBL COMMISSIONER

Greetings from Cape Cod.

It's hard to believe that it was over nine months ago that the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox captured their second championship in the past three years with an exciting win over the Wareham Gatemen two games to one. The final game was played before approximately 8,300 spectators at Red Wilson Field in South Yarmouth on a picture-perfect day.

At the very moment the celebration ended, planning for the 2007 season began and has been proceeding in earnest since that very day. The Wareham Gatemen have been putting the final touches on field improvements that have been spectacular. The infield and outfield now has completely new sod and will be quite the showplace when the Gatemen host the 2007 Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game at Spillane Field on Saturday, July 28, 2007. The Cotuit Kettleers have also been completing major upgrades to their beautiful field at Lowell Park.

The Falmouth Commodores and Hyannis Mets also continue to complete major enhancements to their respective fields, some of which will be completed before the 2008 season. The Bourne Braves and the Brewster Whitecaps will be starting the second year on their new fields which were



CCBL Commissioner Paul Galop

hugely successful in 2006. Most of the other fields continue to implement changes that focus in on safety and professionalism. We are very fortunate to have the Yawkey Foundation participating in significantly underwriting many of these projects.

Another exciting addition is the major enhancement of our souvenir store on-line. You now have the opportunity to purchase any of our popular merchandise items at your convenience by simply visiting our web site at www.capecodbaseball.org and clicking on "Souvenirs" from the left column, and then 'merchandise'. Prices are extremely reasonable, quality is superb and delivery time is excellent.

After enduring 32 rainouts during the 2006 season, the CCBL voted this year to increase our roster sizes to 25 to bring in more pitchers in case we face that dilemma again. One of our

major goals is to prepare these young men for a career in professional baseball and we are very sensitive to not "over-pitch" them. The rain of 2006 forced us to play more double-headers than ever before in our storied history and we want to ensure we are giving our pitchers proper rest between assignments. Our general managers and coaching staffs have been busy recruiting and signing the most talented collegiate players in the nation. The rosters are loaded with impressive NCAA student-athletes that will again provide top-notch baseball on Cape Cod for the summer of 2007.

It is now time to hear the crack of the wooden bats and enjoy a true taste of Americana, the Cape Cod Baseball League. The dedication of our fans is unbelievable and growing. The commitment and enthusiasm that the CCBL volunteers subscribe to is astounding. It is no wonder that the Cape Cod Baseball League is widely recognized as the best collegiate summer baseball league in America. You are about to witness the future stars of Major League Baseball every night at our ballparks. Right now there are nearly 200 players in the major leagues that once played in the Cape Cod Baseball League. We are very proud of that accomplishment and you, our loyal fans, have been a very big part of that and we are most appreciative. Best wishes for a great 2007 CCBL season.

Cape Cod's Premier Baseball Store



Carrying all your favorite brands:

Rawlings	Louville	Nocona	All Star
Mizuno	Majestic	Demarini	Miken
Easton	Wilson	Diamond	Worth

Check out our shop.

You'll love
what you see!



815 West Main Street · Hyannis, MA 02601
(508) 771-4595 · 1-800-698-4310
Fax (508) 771-9644

MR. KETTLEER... How Arnold Mycock Helped Build the Modern Day Cape League from the Ground Up

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

There are 198 former Cape League baseball players now on Major League rosters. Seven players in this year's first round of the Major League Baseball draft are alumni as well, including four out of the top 10 picks. This stat is more impressive when you take into account the fact that there were 11 high school players taken out of the top 30 picks.

This quality of play and the pedigree of the league's players wasn't built over night. It took a lot of hard work. Meet Arnold Mycock, one of the men largely responsible for the Cape Cod Baseball League's meteoric rise to the upper echelons of amateur baseball...

For the Love of the Game As day breaks, Mycock, Cape League Hall of Famer and General Manager Emeritus of the Cotuit Kettleers, now 83-years old, wakes and travels to the post office to get the team's mail.

"With a team budget of over \$200,000, as you can imagine, there are quite a few bills," he said with a smile at his Cotuit home last month.

Mycock is soft-spoken and chipper, a thin man of average height; he opens the mail and sends the pieces off to the right team department, such as directing the team's bills to the treasurer. It takes him about an hour every day to complete the process.

Once that is taken care of, Mycock and his golden retriever Chuck head down to the house that Arnold built: Lowell Park, the home of the Cape Cod Baseball League's 14-time champion Cotuit Kettleers...and that is no exaggeration, according to Cotuit Kettleers General Manager Bruce Murphy; Mycock actually helped construct the field many years ago.

Mycock says that he's too old to perform maintenance at Lowell Park, but as he and Chuck walk around the field, getting exercise each day, he looks for ways to improve his beloved park, and honestly, it's simply just hard for him to stay away. In the spring and fall he mows the grass two times a week, Murphy said, which is a testament to Mycock's dedication to the ball club.

Then its back to his house where he works getting organized amidst stacks of post-



MATTHEW BURKE/ENTREPRISE

Arnold Mycock

ers, schedules, and baseball camp brochures that take up a lot of room in the kitchen of his quaint Cotuit home, which overlooks a golf course.

He continues to go about his day looking over Cape League Hall of Fame nominations on behalf of the selection committee, or organizing the annual fund drive for the Kettleers for example, which can bring in an upwards of \$50,000 every year, or even making up the league schedule for the upcoming season, depending on what time of the year it is.

Mycock says that the work recedes in the summer and his only obligation becomes attending every Kettleer game, home or away, if his health permits. He also never misses a Red Sox game on television.

The Cotuit Kettleers are the only Cape League team to maintain their field without the use of public funds. Fundraising has become a huge part of the Cape League's success over the years on its way toward becoming the best amateur summer baseball league in the country, as has scouting, and Mycock has been at the forefront of both, helping to make the modern day league what it is today.

"I'm still involved, but in a different sense," Mycock says enthusiastically, his passion for baseball shin-

ing through like a young kid at a Major League Park for the first time. "I still love the game, and I would never miss a game, but I do what I can, things that don't require a lot of running or walking."

Humble Beginnings

Mycock grew up in Somerset, MA, and he fondly remembers his love for the game growing from trips to Fenway Park, to see Ted Williams and Joe Cronin play. His love for baseball soon surpassed most children in his hometown. He would get up everyday and run two country blocks, just to pick up a newspaper to see what Williams or Jimmy Foxx had done the previous day.

He recalls the headlines... "Williams hits two (HR), or Foxx hits one," Mycock recalls with a smile and a glimmer in his eye. He gets excited. "I remember doing that! What other kid does that? I wasted hours listening to the radio."

Mycock played baseball, football, and basketball at Somerset High School where he is in the sports Hall of Fame for football. He was a star half-back and team captain.

Upon his graduation, like many ballplayers at the time, he enlisted in the military, and in 1943 he was called to serve during World War II in the Army. He was a weather observer, stationed in Canada, where he witnessed the low-

est recorded temperature in history at that time, a stunning 54-degrees below zero. It's the type of dry cold that he says a person never forgets.

When he was discharged in 1946 he returned to Somerset and joined the American Legion. He said that at the time there were a lot of guys freshly discharged just "hanging around," so for sponsors, they formed a baseball team, called the Somerset Royals, named for a typewriter company.

The Royals played in

the Suburban League and Mycock played first base, coached, and was their equipment manager. He played with the team until 1950 when he picked up and moved to the Cape.

"I was the first baseman — never could hit, but anyway — we played, and it was the town team," he said with a laugh. "I became the manager and, in 1950, I came to the Cape and worked for my brother, who had a law firm. I worked for him my whole life,

Continued on Next Page

BARBEQUE GRILLS Sales and Service

Over 15,000
Grills Sold on
Cape Cod
Since 1987

Purchase price includes:

- FREE Assembly
- FREE Capewide Delivery
- FREE Removal of your old grill
- FREE Full Tank of Gas OR 12 ft. Flexible Natural Gas Hose (where applicable)

Two Great
American Pastimes
Baseball
& Barbeque

weber

BREAKAWAY

Route 28, Mashpee

Next to Boston Interiors

508-539-1674

435 Route 134, S. Dennis

Next to Mid Cape Home Center

508-398-3831

Toll-Free: 866-398-3831 • www.barbequegrills.com

MR. KETTLEER...

Continued from Page 5
the Suburban League and Mycock played first base, coached, and was their equipment manager. He played with the team until 1950 when he picked up and moved to the Cape.

"I was the first baseman — never could hit, but anyway — we played and it was down the town team," he said with a laugh. "I became the manager and, in 1950, I came to the Cape and worked for my brother, who had a law firm. I worked for him my whole life, as the title examiner."

In 1950 he also became the scorekeeper, business manager, and General Manager of the small town baseball team from Cotuit, named the Kettleers several years before.

According to Mycock it was his love for the game and his love for his community that sparked the fervent volunteerism in him, as it did across the Cape with volunteers for all of the teams; it still exists to this day. Mycock fondly remembers carrying around the team's equipment in the back of his car.

Mr. Kettleer
When Mycock arrived on the Cape, there were two summer baseball leagues. Mycock's Cotuit squad was in the Upper Cape League. There was a Lower Cape League at the time as well. He said that the two leagues were distinct and both included everyone from local kids and high school players, to older players who still had the skills to cut it.

Mycock's nemesis at the time was the Sagamore Canalmen, who won four championships from 1951 to 1959. Barnstable and Mashpee both had town teams as well that have since faded.

Mycock said that the Canalmen started what is commonplace today, bringing in hired muscle to play on the team. Not in the literal sense of course, but their players were not native to the area in which the team played. Mycock said that the Canalmen brought in players from

Harvard and Boston College among other Boston area colleges and universities.

Mycock watched the Canalmen's success grow, and soon, at the start of the 1960's, he decided that he too would scout and recruit players from Boston just to be able to continue to compete.

"I said, hell, we've got to do that too," he said as he leaned forward in his chair, surrounded by an aura of sincerity. "But it was a tough time for us because we didn't have housing history or anything like that. [The players] would have to get jobs. We started off just like they did with the local colleges, and it made all the difference in the world with the teams. Pretty soon we spread out."

At that time, most of the players that were brought in lived in Plymouth, or the outlying areas, for example, and would commute to their games. They played 30-game schedules, playing only twice a week.

Soon after, the teams began to expand their horizons and look at players outside of Boston, vying for a competitive edge. Mycock said that he became a scout of sorts for the Kettleers, attending college coach's conventions each year. The relationships that he was able to build with these coaches would prove to be very important to the development of the league, as well as with the Kettleer franchise.

"That's how we did our recruiting," he said. "That's why we've had a lot of success over the years and we've had 14 championships since 1961, which is a lot in a 10-team league."

In 1962, the town teams began to fail. Mycock says that there wasn't a lot of interest, or players, left in the two leagues. The Lower Cape League was down to four teams, the Upper Cape had six. Mycock sat on the organizing committee that merged the two leagues that fall after the 1962 season. The modern day Cape League was born from those meetings.

The Best Collegiate Baseball League in the Country
Mycock said that the league started gaining prestige as early as 1965 when Major League Baseball took an interest and donated money to the league through the NCAA. He said that they got a small grant that year, followed by a much bigger one in 1967. But with that second grant came stipulations. The CCBL could only use freshman, sophomores, and juniors for eligibility reasons, and could only have four non-college players per team. This rule didn't last long, and it soon transformed into the modern format of using only college players.

Historically, two major factors led to the rise of the Cape Cod Baseball League: fundraising and recruiting, and Mycock's recruiting talents are now legendary.

He says that both he and Jim Hubbard, the Cotuit manager at the time, would travel to various colleges and universities to watch the games and scout players every weekend. Joe Cronin, who had played, and later worked in the front office for the Red Sox, slipped Mycock the names and contact information of every pro scout in the country, Mycock said with a smile, adding that you can purchase such books nowadays. Cronin was President of the American League at the time.

Mycock then typed out a sheet that had blanks to rate a player's arm, speed, hitting, among other attributes, and he sent these sheets to pro scouts to rate potential Kettleers, not their collegiate coaches, who would more often than not recommend a player even if he wasn't talented enough. Mycock said that the scouts did not hold back any punches and would shred a potential candidate if they felt he wasn't cut out for professional baseball.

"[The scouts] didn't horse around," he said. "They'd say 'He'll never make it, too short, not enough speed.'"

Mycock said that longtime Major League scout, and Cape League Hall of Famer, Bill Enos, told him that his system was better than any Major League Baseball club because he had the entire country covered as far as scouting and recruiting.

His practices would eventually be adopted as he had adopted those of the Canalmen years before, distributing talent evenly across the league, and making the league a

powerhouse in the realms of collegiate summer baseball.

Mycock said that he got a lot of good players from Minnesota and places like UMass-Amherst, where he and Hubbard would go twice a year. That's where Mycock discovered a young right-handed pitcher named Jeff Reardon, one of the many future professional ballplayers that Mycock scooped up to play for Cotuit.

Mycock remembers Reardon as a "hot-head," but he also remembers recommending him to New York Mets New England scout Len Zanke to play in the New York Penn League, which is how Reardon got a chance at professional baseball. He says that Reardon was one of his favorite players to come through Cotuit, playing for him for three years. Mycock jokes that Reardon could throw a baseball "through a brick wall" and he can even rattle off Reardon's lifetime statistics at the drop of a hat.

"He was a good kid," Mycock recalls. "He progressed quickly, in three years he was up with Montreal."

Mycock also recruited players from Terry Steinbach (Minnesota) to Will Clark (Mississippi State), both All-Stars in the Major Leagues. He said that Steinbach loved to hit so much that they would have to watch him to make sure that he didn't bat out of order. Mycock joked that Steinbach "was always on deck." And Mycock would know as he was the only non-uniformed player allowed into the dugout during games, an unwritten rule that was grandfathered in due to his tenure with the team.

Legacy

Mycock has a sharp mind and is a wealth of baseball knowledge. He jokes that nowadays, whole teams in the Cape League seem to get drafted. He remembers every player from teams as far back as the 1950's and he says that his favorite players include those never drafted.

The 1964 Kettleer team is especially dear to Mycock's heart, and he can recite their lineup and where they played, down to a pitcher's position in the rotation. He said that it was before Major League Baseball took a real interest in the league. He recalls fondly veteran CCBL umpire Curly Clement, who has since died, about going on and on about how good the '64 Kettleers were. Several of the team's players did play profes-

sional ball, but he said that the entire team should have been drafted. They won the league championship that year.

The championship trophy is now called the Arnold Mycock Award in his honor. He was inducted into the Cape Cod Baseball League's inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2000 alongside Bill Enos and Jeff Reardon.

Mycock was forced to retire full-time duties as General Manager in 1995 after heart surgery. He retired from his brother's law firm at this time as well. He was given the General Manager Emeritus title and has held it ever since.

So just what is Arnold Mycock's legacy? The championship trophy? Lowell Park? Perhaps the quality of play in the Cape League? Maybe the 10-team format? Fundraising? Or maybe even connections with Major League Baseball and scouting? It's none of the above.

Arnold Mycock's legacy is his love of the game.

When asked if he ever thought the Cape Cod Baseball League would be as integral to developing professional caliber talent as it has become in recent years Mycock smiles.

"I could see it because we always had great leadership, tremendous leadership, and we always increased volunteerism," he said. "All the teams always seemed to be fixing their fields and doing something else. When it started out these fields weren't much. We started really doing well when Judy (Walden Scarafille, the current President of the CCBL) came aboard, because she cultivated all these sponsorships. It's just for love of the game and love of the community. It's still on its way up as far as I can see"

The Cape League's budget is now over \$600,000. They spend approximately \$100,000 each summer on umpires alone and well over 1,000 professional baseball players have crossed the two Cape bridges to play summer ball.

"He started the youth clinics about 27 years ago," Murphy said. "Now over 500 children enjoy these camps each summer. He still keeps score at each home and away game. He remembers all the past players. He is a true gentleman and liked by all within the organization, league, and community. He is Mr. Kettleer."

Matthew M. Burke can be reached at Burke@capenews.net.

**HAVEN'T USED ...
YOUR CLEATS IN YEARS?**

LIST YOUR
ITEMS AT...

cape  auction .net

Teammates, Roommates To Temp With Commodores

BY DAN CROWLEY

The Cape Cod Baseball League Annual Tryout attracts players from across the country and this year was no exception, but for Seton Hall sophomores Greg Miller and Keith Cantwell the trip up from New Jersey paid off.

While Miller knew coming in that he had a temporary spot with the Falmouth Commodores, Cantwell was looking for a job.

"We were both really excited," Miller said of their tryout opportunity. "The night before we went out to dinner, but we didn't talk about (the tryout) too much; we talked about the Yankees and Red Sox. We just relaxed."

Seton Hall Head Coach Rob Sheppard arranged a spot for Cantwell and Miller at the tryout with Miller making the trip to Spillane Field, home of the Cape League's Wareham Gatemen, hoping to parlay his temporary contract in something more.

When the sun rose the next day, as Cantwell said, it was all business. The 6-5, 225 pound right-hander out of Trinton Falls, N.J. finished his second season with the Pirates at 4-1. He made 14 appearances pitching 73.1 innings, striking out 64, walking 23 and posting an ERA of 2.95.

Miller, at 6-4, 220 pounds from Shamong, N.J., played 50 games for Seton Hall at third base and in right field. He slugged .481 and finished the season with a .312 average at the plate. A two-way player, Miller also pitched, making seven appearances. Over the course of 33 innings of work the right-hander struck out 30, while walking just five. He finished the year at 4-1 with an ERA of 1.36.

For both players getting to play in the Cape League was a young boys' dream.

"I was 11 or 12 when I heard about the Cape League," Miller recalled. "I knew there had been some great players that had played there. Growing up I knew one day I wanted to get to the Cape. It has been a goal."

Cantwell also set a goal to one day play in the Cape League.

"It's a chance to go up against the nation's best players," he said. "As a player you always want to compete at the top level."

Both have previous summer league and wood bat experience. Cantwell played in the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League last year and Miller was with the Atlantic Baseball Confederation Collegiate League.

Miller got an early opportunity to throw some pitches and when he lit up the radar guns with a low 90's fastball, coaches and GM's from the other league franchises stopped to watch. Later he showed an above average arm in deep right field with long throws into the left side of the infield and at the plate knocked a ball off the centerfield fence. Cantwell was forced to wait until later in the afternoon before he had a chance to show his stuff, which included an 88-92 mph fastball, but Falmouth General Manager Dan Dunn knew the Seton Hall right-hander was something special. After watching him warm-up, Dunn knew he wanted to see Cantwell in a Commodore uniform and met him immediately after he stepped off the mound with a temporary contract in hand.

Seton Hall teammates and teammates, this week Cantwell and Miller will put on Falmouth Commodores uniforms and get their chance to compete in some of the best collegiate baseball in the nation, with the hope of earning full season contracts.



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAN CROWLEY

Greg Miller and Keith Cantwell, teammates and roommates from Seton Hall each earned temporary contracts to open the Cape Cod baseball season with the Falmouth Commodores.

No Heart? Need Not Apply

Continued from Page 4

accounting major at the time, but as he watched his teammates having fun working towards degrees in physical education, he knew he too had found his calling in the field.

"I was doing okay in accounting, but I saw that they were having a lot more fun being PE majors," he said with a smile. "And then I thought about it and said, 'I can be in an office all day, or I could maybe — I'm not good enough to play pro ball — go into coaching. So I did that after my first semester at San Diego State.'"

Upon his graduation, Pickler dove into the business of coaching baseball head first. He compiled a 123-36 record in six seasons at both Savannah High and Loara High, winning the California Interscholastic Federation title in 1983 with Loara. Two years later, he took over coaching duties at Cypress College, in Santa Ana, CA, and he has been there ever since.

At Cypress, Coach Pickler has led the Chargers to four state championships, a better than .600 winning percentage, and has produced over 80 Major League draft picks, 13 Major League players, and six Division I All-Americans, including his son Jeff (University of Tennessee), a former AAA prospect now working the front office for the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Chargers lost in the state finals this season.

Coach Pickler says that he was originally invited to coach in the Cape Cod Baseball League through connections to David Newhan, who now plays for the New York Mets. Pickler coached Newhan at Cypress in 1992 and Newhan played in the Cape League for the Red Sox for two years from 1993-1994. Newhan and his father Ross, a Hall of Fame baseball writer from the L.A. Times, both recommended Pickler for the position. Pickler also coached MLB all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman, and they remain close friends.

Pickler was already familiar with the league when he got the call to coach, because his son Jeff played for Coach Don Reed's championship Wareham club in 1997 (Major League aces Barry Zito and Mark Mulder faced each other in the first game of that championship series).

When Pickler stepped into the role as Y-D skipper, he was given recruiting control by the franchise, something that has to this day, under General Manager Jim Martin. Pickler said that people within the organization will suggest players from time to time, but ultimately, all of the personnel decisions are left up to him.

Pickler said that when he recruits players, he asks fellow coaches that know his coaching style, as well as former players, to make recommendations. He said that the players he looks to recruit must be a hard workers, skillful, willing to learn, and must also be "good human beings."

"I'm bringing people into Yarmouth and Dennis, in the two towns here, and asking people to put these kids in their houses," Pickler said. "So not only do they have to be good players, but they have to be good people as well." Pickler says that he feels obligated to the towns to perform background checks on all of his players prior to the season.

Pickler won his first championship in 2004, defeating the Falmouth Commodores in two games. In 2006, he said that the team wasn't as stacked with first round talent as, say Cotuit, but the players worked together as a team and he said that some of them had something to prove. This scrappy, blue collar, mentality is something that Pickler looks for in his players and it simply worked last season, he said.

"It's not, 'Come here to have fun,'" Pickler said. "I come in here to win for myself, the team, and the people of Yarmouth and Dennis. They work all year for this and they want us to produce a winner. Winning is a big factor for us up here, and these kids are coming up here to improve themselves and to get themselves better; to show the scouts what they can do."

Returning this year for Y-D is Florida State's All-American sophomore Buster Posey, who switched from shortstop to catcher prior to the 2007 collegiate season. He is up for the Johnny Bench Award, after another stellar season at FSU, and will be leaving the Sox for a few days for the ceremony. Posey was a Cape League all-star last year and, according to Pickler, turned down Team USA to return.

Also returning is Boston College ace, and last season's co-BFC Whitehouse Award winner for the league's most outstanding pitcher, Terry Doyle. Doyle was drafted in the 21st round by the Dodgers this year but he has yet to decide whether to sign or go back to school.

Pickler said he is also equally excited to welcome Gordon Beckham, a sophomore shortstop from Georgia; Grant Green, a freshman infielder from USC; and the Rice infield combination of Diego Seastrunk and Aaron Luna, to this year's squad.

Currently Coach Pick is on a year-by-year verbal contract with the team. He hopes to have at least one more year after this season. He enjoys coaching at Cypress and says that he has a good situation. He doesn't want to rule out taking a Division I job, or even one in professional baseball, but he has turned down the single-A Staten Island Yankees three times, because he would have to give up coaching in the Cape League.

With one more championship win, Y-D could become a dynasty. So is there any pressure for Coach Pickler and the Red Sox in 2007?

"I put my own pressure on," Pickler said. "I don't want to cheat [the fans and volunteers]. I don't want to let those people down, that work all year. Boston baseball fans are a lot tougher than Los Angeles baseball fans—they want to win. They're with you, win or die."

We Have *All* Your Bases Covered!

POLAR CAVE ICE CREAM PARLOUR

Route 28
Mashpee/Cotuit Line

(508) 477-5553
info@polarcave.com



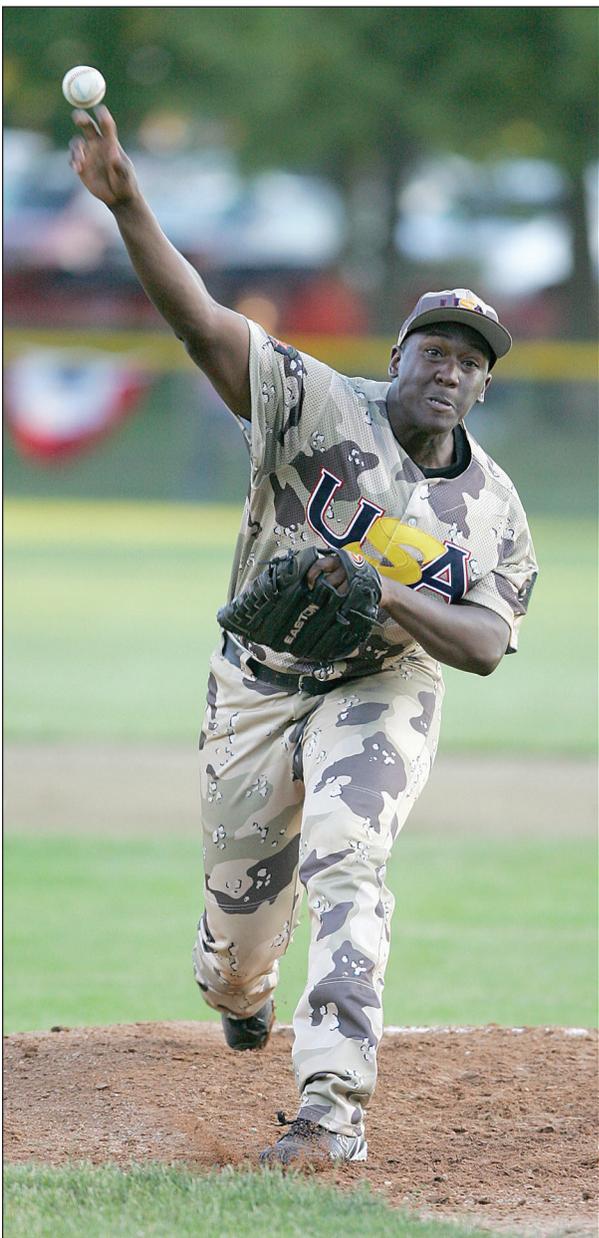
Members of the 2007 Military All-Star team along the third base line at Eldredge Park in Orleans prior to Sunday night's game.



The US Military Red, White and Blue dropped both of their games against the Cape League All-Star squads over the weekend.

U.S Military And Cape League All-Star Game

Photographs by DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE



Right-handed pitcher Jahsan Page got the opening nod for the US Military All-Stars



Emcee John Garner, Jr. Director of Public Relations & Media for the Cape Cod Baseball League.



Patriotic fans watch the game Sunday night at Eldredge Park.



Six-year old Sebastian Vecchione of Eastham throws out the first pitch Sunday night with the help of his mother Lori Vecchione. Grandmother Cindy DesLauriers, the GOLD STAR mother of Mark Vecchione, who was killed in action in Iraq, looks on.



The Cape League All-Stars take on members of the US Military team under the lights at Orleans.



A coach from the US Military team watches from the dugout.



Flags from the different branches of the Armed Services flew Sunday at Eldredge Park.

From Little League To The Pros, Cape League Alum George Tsamis Still In The Game

BY MARK A. BROWN

He played only one year in the majors, but 20 years after his days as a sly Cape Leaguer, George Tsamis has still carved himself out quite a baseball career.

A member of the Falmouth Commodores in the summers of 1986 and 1987, the former southpaw hurler now finds himself managing the St. Paul Saints of the independent American Association, a position he has held since 2003.

In 2004 Tsamis led St. Paul to the Northern League championship. Prior to joining the Saints, he managed the Northeast League's New Jersey Jackals to consecutive national titles in both his years at the helm, 2001 and 2002, when the winners of the Northern and Northeast leagues squared off for the independent baseball crown.

An interesting run, and an equally interesting journey.

A native of Campbell, CA, Tsamis first displayed his talents on a grand stage at age 12 when he pitched Campbell's Little League team to the US championship. The day after his clinching start, he manned first base in the internationally-televised Little League World Series title game, which his team lost to Taiwan.

After moving with his family to Clearwater, Florida, he earned a baseball scholarship at nearby Stetson University. Tsamis, tall and lean, brought

a versatile arsenal with him to Falmouth, from Florida, mixing a lively fastball with an effective curve and forkball.

Like all Cape Leaguers, Tsamis worked during his hours away from the field. His job was keeping shelves stocked at a Falmouth liquor store.

Among his Commodores teammates was future New York Yankees slugger Tino Martinez. Tsamis also faced a bevy of talented opposition during his summers on the Cape, the second of which included an appearance in the league all-star game in Orleans.

"There were so many good players in that league," he said, rattling off a list that includes ex-Chatham sluggers Jeff Bagwell and Albert Belle, former Wareham Gatemen Mo Vaughn and Chuck Knoblauch, and Craig Biggio and Mike Bordick of Yarmouth-Dennis.

After being drafted by the Toronto Blue Jays, in the 33rd round of the 1988 major league draft, he returned to Stetson for his senior season. Tsamis set a single-season Hatters record with 130 strikeouts, helping them to a third straight Atlantic Sun Conference title.

Tsamis saw his stock rise as Minnesota made him their 15th pick in 1989 - just one round after another ex-Commodore pitcher, right-hander Mike Trombley, was selected by the Twins.

"It was pretty cool coming up through the system together," Tsamis said of Trombley. "We'd played for the same Cape League team, and we were roommates in the minors."

After toiling four years in the lower levels, Tsamis got the call to the big leagues, spending most of 1993 with the Twins in the bullpen, alongside Trombley. "When they tell you you've finally made it, there's nothing that can top that," he said.

Tsamis can reel off the memorable moments from that season without much prodding, including his major league debut in Milwaukee ("I hit the first guy I faced"); his first strikeout ("Tom Brunansky. Got him swinging on a forkball"); and the first home run he gave up ("Marco Armas, Tony's brother. He took my fastball deep. That was the only homer he ever hit").

He earned his only major league win in Oakland by quelling an Athletics rally. "They had the bases loaded with two out, and I got brought in to replace Rick Aguilera," he recalled. "It was cold and raining, just a miserable day out there, but I struck out Kevin Seitzer looking."

There were also some dubious moments that season.

In a long relief stint at Yankee Stadium, New York hammered him for three home runs in one game. "It was weird," Tsamis said "I

retired Bernie Williams, Wade Boggs and Don Mattingly all three times I faced them, but the guys who got me were Matt Nokes, who hit two, and Spike Owen. Go figure."

Tsamis also gave up a towering blast against the Chicago White Sox to an ex-NFL running back named Bo Jackson. "He really tagged it to right center. It got out of the park pretty quick," he said.

His most enjoyable memories from that year with the Twins center on the greats he played with, including Aguilera, Knoblauch, Kent Hrbek, and future Hall of Famers Dave Winfield and the late Kirby Puckett. "They were all such good guys and great teammates," Tsamis said. "Kirby always reached out to me and the other rookies. He was all class."

After being released by the Twins in 1994, Tsamis spent the next five years in the minors with the Seattle Mariners and Pittsburgh Pirates organizations. A pair of shoulder operations finally brought his playing days to an end in 1998 with the Waterbury (CT) Spirit of the independent Northeast League. "It was frustrating, but my fastball was never that fast to begin with. After I had the surgeries, it was a lot slower," he joked.

Little did he know at the time that there was plenty of baseball ahead of him.

When the Spirit pitching coach position became vacant, he took over for the remainder of the 1998 season. "I'm really competitive and I wanted to stay in the game, so I decided to give it a shot," he said. The Spirit promoted him to manager in January 1999 and he kept the helm for the next two seasons until the team folded.

In his lone season with Twins, Tsamis had played under two-time World Series winner Tom Kelly, known for his even-keeled temperament. Yet, as a manager, Tsamis displayed the same competitive fire and tenacity he had shown during his days as a pitcher.

After taking the reins of the Jackals, the results came quickly. His teams compiled a 107-72 record, playing nearly 600 ball over his two championship seasons.

With the Saints, Tsamis has maintained his success rate, with a 238-166 record and a .589 winning percentage through June 9.

Tsamis, who turned 40 on June 14, is proud of his record but takes it in stride. "Winning is always fun, but I get to manage a lot of young kids and some veterans trying to work their way back to the big leagues," he said. "I remember what it was like to be both. I'm just happy I can still play a role in this game."

During the offseason, Tsamis lives in Colchester,

Looking for Summer Stars?

If you can't get out to the Ball Game... Let us take you there!
Stop by one of these convenient locations for your copy

BREWSTER

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

CHATHAM

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

HARWICH

- Christies-Route 39(Harwich Center)

WAREHAM

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

YARMOUTH-DENNIS

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

COTUIT

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

MASHPEE

- Mashpee Mart-Route 28

HYANNIS

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

FALMOUTH

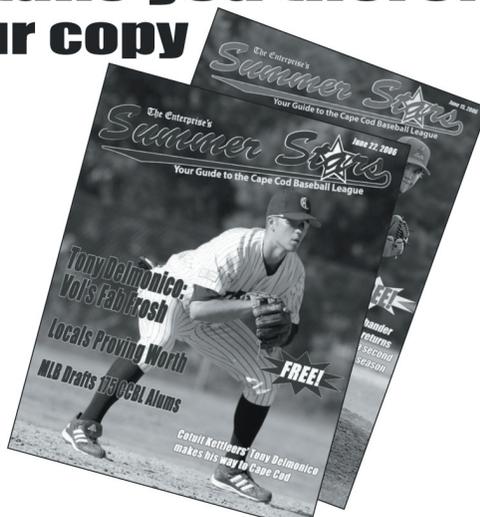
- Kenyon's Market-Route 28
- Tedeschi's-Route 28 East Falmouth
- Cumberland Farms-Route 28/Davisville
- Family Foods-Route 28-East Falmouth
- Falmouth Food Mart-Route 28
- Bert's Quik Mart-Rte 151/Sandwich Rd

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

BOURNE

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

and your local Chamber of Commerce!





Batting Around

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

Eastern Division Roundup

Cardinals Rely On Pitching

With Cape League baseball attracting collegiate talent from across the nation, the

Orleans Cardinals know the road to a league championship will be difficult. To endure the rough road ahead, the Cardinals will rely on a solid pitching staff and strength in the field.

Returning for the Cardinals are North Carolina State pitchers Eric Surkamp and Clayton Shunick. Surkamp, a lefty, is second-team All-ACC and has been a leader in the Wolfpack pitching rotation with a 3.47 ERA. Shunick was one of the most effective right-handers in the Cape League during the 2006 season, with a 2.21 ERA.

Orleans is excited to bring LHP Josh Satow (Arizona State) into the league. Satow, a junior, leads the Sun Devils with a 2.56 ERA and has won a dozen games this season. The Cardinals welcome back shortstop/second baseman Mark Hallberg (Florida State). Hallberg has been instrumental for the Seminoles' offense this season with a .360 batting average and 56 RBI.

Brandon Crawford (UCLA), a member of Team USA last year, joins the Cardinals' infield this summer. Crawford was named the Bruins MVP during his freshman season and started all 58 games for the team at shortstop. Crawford has remained an important asset offensively, with a batting average of .338 and 53 RBI. Crawford, Hallberg and high-profile outfielder, and newcomer, Jon Gaston (Arizona) will give the Cardinals a strong tandem in the middle of the infield and a reliable outfield corps. Gaston is truly impressive in the outfield with only three errors and 55 put-outs for the Wildcats this season. At bat, Gaston had a .319 batting average and six home runs.

Highly anticipated is freshman infielder Mark Sobolewski (Miami). Sobolewski has dem-

onstrated significant hitting power to both sides of the field this season with a .345 batting average, 54 RBI, 88 hits and eight home runs. At third base, Sobolewski contributed 48 put-outs and 56 assists to the Hurricanes this season. The Cardinals' defense is rounded out with freshman catcher Travis Tartamella (Pepperdine). Tartamella has an impressive 212 putouts and only three errors for the Waves this season, along with a .987 fielding percentage. Orleans' solid infield will be the key to winning a Cape League Championship, as the league remains one of the most competitive in the country.

Cardinals Coach Kelly Nicholson recognizes the hard work required to continue to defeat talented teams throughout the summer. "They are all very good and can beat you on any given night," says Nicholson. "You look at the rosters on any team in the league and they all have exceptional talent." The Cardinals open their season at home Friday, June 15 at 7 PM against the Brewster Whitecaps.

Gabriella Remington, CCBL Intern (remington@capcodbaseball.org)

Chatham Looks To Pitching



The Chatham A's look for strength in numbers this season. A six-man rotation is the key to a strong pitching staff, paired with strong defense up the middle and a potent batting line-up.

Among the A's pitching staff is returning A's player Vance Worley (Long Beach State). Worley is the number one starting pitcher at Long Beach, with an ERA of 3.40, he is expected to step into a starting role for the A's. Worley will be joined by 2006 A's teammate Nathan Moreau (Georgia). Moreau showed dramatic improvement during the A's 2006 season and

finished out the summer with an ERA of 2.53.

Worley will also be joined by Long Beach teammate Danny Espinosa. With a .319 batting average and 24 RBI, Espinosa will be a central contributor to the A's not only offensively, but also defensively at the short stop position with a .967 fielding percentage.

The A's excitedly await the return of Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest), one of the top first basemen in the country. Dykstra has been dynamic for Wake Forest with an impressive .340 batting average, 15 home runs and 49 RBI. Other returning players include pitcher Matt Giannini (Rutgers), and local outfielder Richie Tri (Central Connecticut State).

Four North Carolina newcomers are highly anticipated after having a stellar season with the No. 3 ranked Tar Heels. Dustin Ackley (North Carolina) has an explosive batting average of .467 and is a top candidate for Freshman of the Year. Offensively, Ackley has six home runs and 50 RBI for the Tar Heels this season.

Tim Federowicz (North Carolina) is heralded as one of the best catchers in the nation and is also used as a relief pitcher. Federowicz is equally effective at the plate, with a .363 batting average. Kyle Seager (North Carolina) has maintained a .322 batting average for the Tar Heels this season. In his roles as second basemen and short stop, Seager has proved to be a central element in the North Carolina defense.

Alex White (North Carolina) is the most exciting Tar Heel addition to the A's roster this season. White is expected to be a starter in the A's pitching rotation. With an ERA of 3.26, the A's look to White to continue the Tar Heel/A's pitching legacy of Robert Woodard (2006 Chatham A's) and Andrew Miller (2004 Chatham A's).

Newcomer Aaron Miller (Baylor) is the A's token lefty. Miller is expected to stand out at the plate, with a .296 batting average and 35 RBI. Miller was ranked third na-

tionally in Baseball America's 2007 preseason top 50 freshmen list.

With five highly anticipated newcomers, along with the proven performances of returning players, the A's have all the ingredients of a winning season. The distribution of talented players throughout the Cape League, however, has made the road to a league championship tougher each year.

Despite a difficult course, the A's continue to have the same goal. "Every year the A's have the goal of reaching the play-offs and then winning in the "second season" for the league's championship," said Bob Sherman, sports information coordinator for the A's. "The formula for winning in the CCBL has not changed over the years; strong pitching and defense along with timely hitting are the ingredients for a successful season."

Gabriella Remington, CCBL Intern (remington@capcodbaseball.org)

Brewster Has Speed And Power



Fresh off building a new ballpark in their hometown, the Brewster Whitecaps enjoyed a banner season in 2006, making it all the way to the Eastern Division finals.

This year the roster will almost completely turn around, but the goal remains much the same.

The Whitecaps bring back Bob Macaluso, who enters his fifth season as coach. Each year it seems Brewster's roster becomes more competitive and athletic.

One player who thrives on offense and defense is first baseman Yonder Alonso (Miami). Alonso led the Hurricanes in home runs (10) and runs batted in (69) in 2006 and also with the glove, attaining a .994 fielding percentage.

The Whitecaps look for speed at the top of their lineup and infielder Greg

Miclat (Virginia) will fill that roll. Miclat had 21 steals last season and was named a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American in 2006.

One player on the roster has baseball tradition attached to his name. Austin Yount (Stanford) is the nephew of Major League Hall of Famer Robin Yount. Yount will be able to fill multiple positions on the field; he can play both infield and pitch out of the bullpen. On the mound the Whitecaps feature some quality arms that can relieve and start. Tyson Ross (California) was named Pac-10 Honorable Mention as a freshman with a 6-4 record and a 3.19 era last spring. Another electric arm is right hander, Kyle Shinaberry (Texas). Shinaberry will be a key component to the bullpen as he can relieve and start. Last year he put up solid numbers with a 3.31 earned run average as a freshman.

Brewster fans will be happy to see a couple of familiar faces return to the team this season. Ryan Babineau (UCLA) will be staying behind the plate for the Whitecaps. Last year, Babineau posted a .340 on-base percentage for the summer and caught in 27 games. Also returning is pitcher Preston Guilmet (Arizona), who led Arizona in innings pitched and strikeouts this past season.

The Whitecaps begin the season on the road as they face the Orleans Cardinals on Friday, June 15. The home opener comes the next day against the Cotuit Kettleers at 5 PM.

John Hannemann, CCBL Intern (honnemann@capecodbaseball.org)

Harwich Loaded With Talent

One of the Cape Cod Baseball League's most historic teams hopes to bounce

back from a disappointing 2006 season. Last year, the

Continued on Next Page



Batting Around

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

Eastern Division Roundup

Continued from Page 11
Mariners recorded a 20-24 record and finished last in the Eastern Division. Despite the record, Harwich features some of the best fans on the Cape. Last year the Mariners were in the top six in attendance. This proves the town is eager to see the Mariners return to the top.

With a new group of talented players, Harwich should not have much of a problem

returning to the elite of the Cape League this season. Coach Steve Englert returns for his 10th season with the Mariners. This will be his fifth season as the Head Coach.

The Mariners roster should be versatile and feature many strong arms in their rotation. One player Mariner fans will be very excited to see is Cole Figueroa (Florida), Figueroa is a player that brings everything to the table. This year, Figueroa batted .332 and had 11 home runs for the Gators. Figueroa can also flash the leather, as he has only five errors this season as the Gators starting shortstop.

Arkansas Razorback Logan Forsythe attracted some attention from Team USA, but was not selected in the first round of 11.. Forsythe hit an impressive .347, for the Razorbacks with 55 runs batted in. Look out for Jared Bolden (Virginia Commonwealth) who may end up being the most electrifying player in the whole league this season. Bolden hit .383 this season and had 49 RBI. Bolden also has 17 stolen bases and boasts a .997 fielding percentage. Bolden can pitch out of the bullpen as well. In his college career, he has thrown 36 innings and recorded three wins.

The Mariners have put together a strong pitching staff with a lot of power arms that produce strikeouts. Look for lefty Scott Barnes (St. John's) to be a major contributor this season. Barnes fired a no-hitter for St. John's early in the season; he struck out 14 in that game. For the entire season Barnes recorded a 7-2 record with a 2.93 earned run average. Barnes also has 99 strikeouts in 95.1 innings pitched. Another promising pitcher is Danny Farquhar (Louisiana-Lafayette). Farquhar can pitch in multiple roles for the Mariners. For Louisiana-Lafayette, Farquhar started five games and also was the Rajin Cajun's

closer. He went 6-3 with six saves and a 3.08 ERA. The most eye-popping stat is his 115 strikeouts in only 87.2 innings.

In middle relief look for Matt Frevert (Missouri State) to see action. This season for the Bears, Frevert posted a miniscule 0.47 earned run average, allowing only one earned run all season. In 19 innings pitched, he struck out 33 and recorded two wins. A couple familiar faces will return to the Mariners this season. Infielder Johnny Giavotella (New Orleans) and pitcher P.J. Zocchi (Clemson) are back for their second season with the club. Giavotella had a banner season hitting .385 with 15 home runs. Zocchi has been struggling with a 5.27 earned run average for Clemson and is looking to regain the touch that led to his 2.87 ERA in the Cape league last summer.

Harwich will carry three catchers this season: Kyle Day (Michigan St.), Jeff Lanning (Nebraska) and J.B. Paxon (Western Kentucky). The infielders are Alex Avila (Alabama), Terrence Dayleg (Western Kentucky), Jake Optiz (Nebraska), J.T. Wise (LSU) and power-hitting Chris Dominguez (Louisville). The outfield is comprised of Kyle Colligan (Texas A&M), Matt Miller (Georgia Southern) and do-it-all utility man Jim Gallagher (Duke).

Rounding out the pitching staff is Sean Black (Seton Hall), Evan Crawford (Auburn), Dan Hudson (Old Dominion), Brett Jacobson (Vanderbilt), Miers Quigley (Alabama), Aaron Weatherford (Mississippi St.), Mark Willinsky (Santa Clara), Corey Young (Seton Hall) and Josh Zeid (Vanderbilt). The Mariners open their season at home as they play the Chatham A's on Friday, June 15 at 7 PM.

John Hannemann, CCBL Intern (hannemann@capecodbaseball.org)

Y-D Is The Team To Beat



The Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox have been the team to beat in

recent years, winning the Cape League championship two of the past three years. This year they look to continue their success and will look to 10-year veteran coach Scott Pickler for leadership.

Returning from last year's team, which not only won the league championship, but also finished with the best overall record (28-16), are Buster Posey (Florida State), who will once again be doubling as an infielder and pitcher, as well as infielder Gordon Beckham (Georgia), named a Freshman All-American by Baseball America after the 2006 season.

Two fellow Baseball America Freshman All-Americans will join Beckham in helping Y-D remain dominant in the Eastern Division: right-handed catcher Luis Flores (Houston) who will also be pitching, and infielder Aaron Luna (Rice).

Joining the infield will be David Anderson (Coastal Carolina), Johnny Ayers (Boston College), Nick Romero (San Diego St.), and Luke Stewart

(Georgia). Also joining the Y-D this summer is Grant Green (USC), who played for the 2005 U.S. Junior National Team.

Several players will be called to fill multiple roles including Jeremy Barnes (Notre Dame), D.J. Mauldin (Cal Poly State University) and Diego Seastrunk (Rice), who will all be doubling as right-handed pitchers as well as infielders. The Red Sox will rely heavily on right-handed pitchers Nich Conaway (Oklahoma), Steve Dodson (Georgia), Robby Donovan (Stetson), Bobby Gagg (Coastal Carolina), Shawn Sanford (South Florida), Jeff Inman (Stanford), and Shawn Tolleson (Baylor).

The lone projected left-handed pitcher was Joshua Romanski (San Diego), who has joined Team USA this summer. Rounding out the current roster for the Red Sox is Jason Castro (Stanford) who will be catching and covering first-base, catcher Sean Ochinko (Florida State) and outfielders Matt Long (Cal/Santa Clara) and Mike Tamsin (Northeastern).

The Red Sox will open Friday, June 15 against the Hyannis Mets at McKeon Field. Yarmouth-Dennis opens at home Sunday, June 17 against the Wareham Gatemen.

Kevin Wolfe, CCBL Intern (wolfe@capecodbaseball.org)

Western Division Roundup

Gatemen Always A Contender



The Wareham Gatemen came within one run of sealing the Cape Cod Baseball League Championship

in a two-game sweep last season. However, a ninth-inning, three-run rally in Game two fell short and Yarmouth-Dennis went on to take that game, and the next, to win the 2006 title.

The Gatemen return 10 players from that roster, in-

cluding four that came to the plate in that 11th-hour rally, and with the infusion of new talent from the nation's best college teams, Wareham will be at it again in 2007.

Three returnees; Luke Murtton (Georgia Tech), Beamer Weems (Baylor) and Bradley Suttle (Texas), drove in the Gatemen's final four runs of 2006 and nearly completed the Game two comeback themselves with three hits, two runs scored, and all three ninth-inning RBIs. This veteran trio is a threat on offense and defense, comprising

Continued on Next Page

SHOP AT HOME

CARPET BARN

CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

YOUR COMPLETE DECORATING CENTER

"Nobody Does It Better"

FULL DESIGN SERVICES AVAILABLE

High on Quality
High on Selection
Low on Price!

MASHPEE:
106 Falmouth Road,
Route 28
508-477-7847

FALMOUTH:
719 Main Street
508-548-1443

DENNISPORT:
377 Route 28
508-398-4784

Falmouth & Mashpee open Sunday Noon to 5pm
Mashpee open Thursday until 8pm

ESTABLISHED 1971

PROFESSIONAL INSURED INSTALLERS

A LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS FOR OVER 35 YEARS

KITCHENS • COUNTERS • CABINETS

To Subscribe Call
1-800-286-7744 or 508-299-8379



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

Western Division Roundup

Continued from Page 12
three-quarters of an infield that returns intact from last season and combined for a .234 average and a quarter of the teams RBIs last season.

Suttle split third base duties with fellow returnee Seth Henry (Tulane), and Murton played all but seven games last summer at first base. They join a middle infield of second baseman Jason Ogata (Oregon State) and Weems, who played 34 games at shortstop last summer. This duo is a double threat. Ogata hit a team-best .316 in 2006 and Weems had a team-high 11 extra-base hits. Suttle, however, was selected in the fourth round of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft with the 154th pick by the New York Yankees and could swap his Gatemen uniform for pinstripes.

While their infield remains solid, and reinforced by new talent, the Gatemen have some holes to fill in the outfield with the loss of Jordan Dodson, Brandon Glover and Ryan Gotcher. But the lone returnee to the outfield, sophomore Diallo Fon, is enjoying a gem of a season at Arizona, where he transferred following an injury-plagued and redshirted freshman year at Vanderbilt.

The biggest new arrival to Wareham is freshman Mike Minor from top-ranked Vanderbilt. It was courtesy of Minor's career-high nine strikeouts, against former top-ranked South Carolina, that the Commodores took the top spot, and Minor has paced his team from the mound all season. He posted a 3.09 ERA and compiled 88 strikeouts and just 19 walks this season.

Joining Minor is a stocked bullpen that includes two starters from the 2006 Gatemen in Jeremy Bleich (Stanford) and Riley Boening (Texas), as well as Brandt Walker (Stanford), Matt Petition (UNC), Chris Hicks (Georgia Tech), Riley Boening (Texas), Andy Oliver (Oklahoma State), Dallas Keuchel (Arkansas), Scott Gorgon (UC

Irvine) and Matt Langwell (Rice). Boening, who led the Gatemen in 2006 with four wins in 10 starts, is battling a stiff shoulder this season and has yet to take the mound for Texas, but is working with his coaches in Austin and is expected to return to Spillane Field again this summer.

"If all, or most of our players arrive, I would anticipate that pitching would be our strong point," said Wylde.

"We have some good arms."
Liz Hoffman, CCBL Intern
(hoffman@capecodbaseball.org)

Cotuit: Roberts Will Run



Last season was almost perfect for Coach Mike Roberts and the Go-Go Cotuit Kettleers. The team posted an impressive 27-16-1 record, the most wins for the storied Cape Cod Baseball League franchise since 1995. The Kettleers also captured the regular season Western Division title and led the league in team batting average (.256) and pitching, with a staff ERA of 2.36. Eight Kettleers were named to the Western Division All-Star team, including first baseman Justin Smoak (South Carolina), whose outstanding season for Cotuit earned him the coveted Cape Cod Baseball League Pat Sorenti MVP Award. The team capped its awards collection with the Commissioner's Cup for Top Team of the Year in 2006.

Although the speedy Kettleers had the makings of a championship team in 2006, their fairy tale season was cut short in the divisional playoffs by the Wareham Gatemen. Unfortunately, for the rest of the Cape League, the 2007 Kettleers are ready to pick up where they left off last season.

Having already been named the top summer team in the nation by Baseball America Editor Allan Simpson, the Kettleers' combination of veteran players and fresh talent will be tough to beat in 2007.

With the loss of big hitters Eric Farris (Loyola Marymount) and Matt Angle (Ohio State), along with pitcher James Simmons (UC-Riverside), the Kettleers will be looking to veteran players to step up and have stellar performances in the big games.

Returning for Coach Roberts will be pitchers Jordan Meaker (Dallas Baptist), Dave Duncan (Georgia Tech), and Michael Cisco (South Carolina), along with shortstop Reese Havens (South Carolina) and second baseman Tony Delmonico (Tennessee).

Fresh faces, such as rookie pitcher Jeff Lockwood (Tennessee) and first baseman Aaron Baker (Oklahoma) should give Cotuit's fans plenty to talk about. Lockwood made the most of his rookie season with Tennessee, hitting .315 for the Vols and compiling a 3.20 ERA on the mound. He led the SEC in saves, with eight. In SEC play, Lockwood's batting average sat at a solid .320 and he was named the conference's Freshman of the Week twice. Lockwood was the Vols' top hitter in the NCAA Regional, going 5-for-11 (.455) as the DH. The Freshman All-SEC selection also made two relief pitching appearances for UT in the SEC Tournament.

Vying for one of the catching spots, and relief pitching roles, will be versatile Robert Stock (Southern California). He was the Trojans' starting catcher, but also showed the ability to close games on the mound. A member of the 2004 and 2005 U.S. Youth National Team, he was named 2005 Baseball America Youth Player of the Year after his junior season at Agoura (Calif.) High. He capped his high school career when he batted .456 with six home runs and 25 RBI, while posting a 5-3 record with a 2.69 ERA, with a fastball clocked as high as 95 miles per hour.

Freshman right-hander Michael Leake led Arizona State with a 12-1 record. Also joining the pitching staff is Josh Lindblom (Purdue). Josh was named Baseball America's top overall prospect in

Indiana. Jordan Meaker, a 6-6 right-hander out of Dallas Baptist joins the Kettleers this summer as does 6-8 righty Chris Fetter (Michigan), who captured Baseball America Freshman All America and All-Big Ten Freshman honors in 2006. Ryan White led Purdue in hitting with a .452 average in 53 games. He was a 2006 Freshman All America choice, along with being named to the All-Big Ten Conference Team. Left-hander JB Shuck (Ohio State) is a versatile outfielder/pitcher. JB was named Big 10 Freshman of the Year and was picked for the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America team as well. Hard-hitting infielder Joshua Harrison (Cincinnati) was a Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America selection in 2006. Last summer, he played in the Great Lakes League, where he was named the Co-Top Hitting prospect and was ranked the sixth best prospect in the league by Baseball America.

Outfielder Mike Bianucci (Auburn), who played at Yarmouth-Dennis last year, joins the Kettleers for 2007. He was tabbed this past season as a Second Team All-SEC. Infielder Corey Figueroa from Saint Petersburg, Fla., is particularly looking forward to Cotuit's games with Harwich, where his twin brother is playing. Oklahoma must be happy to have freshman Aaron Baker on its side as the first baseman started his collegiate career with a 22-game hitting streak and tallied a .323 batting average with a whopping 50 RBI.

Cotuit fans are expecting another strong season from coach Roberts and his squad, who open the season at home against the Bourne Braves on Friday June 15 at 5 PM

Erica Bailey, CCBL Intern
(bailey@capecodbaseball.org)

Falmouth To Heat Things Up



After finishing 2006 with a third place finish in the Cape Cod Baseball League's Western Division and a league

high .249 team batting average, the Falmouth Commodores are back and ready for another successful summer on the Cape. Led by veteran Coach Jeff Trundy, the 2007 rotation is anchored by returning standout pitcher Shooter Hunt (Tulane). Hunt, a sophomore transfer from Virginia to Tulane, went 3-0 on the mound for the Commodores and led the Cape League in strikeouts with 54 in 2006.

The Commodores are focused on developing a strong bullpen. While Hunt will likely be the go-to starter, he will be accompanied by teammate and fellow pitcher Preston Claiborne (Tulane), along with hurlers Luke Burnett (Louisiana Tech), Kyle Gibson (Missouri), Brett Gaffy (Notre Dame), Alex Wilson (Winthrop), and Aaron Shafer (Wichita State).

In his freshman year, Shafer went 11-3 in 16 starts with a 2.63 ERA, which earned him First Team All-America honors by Collegiate Baseball and also Missouri Valley Conference Pitcher of the Year in 2006. Shafer has been invited to the USA Team Trials this year where pre-tour training takes place June 19-28.

Brett Wallace, who the Commodores were expecting at first base again this season, was signed by Team USA. With the loss of big hitters Brad Chalk (Clemson), Warren McFadden (Tulane), and Mitch Canham (Oregon State), the Commodores look

Continued on Next Page

Visit The Enterprise Website
www.capenews.net



Batting Around

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

Western Division Roundup

Continued from Page 14 to their mix of veteran and rookie players to pick up the slack.

In 2006 Chalk posted the third highest batting average in the league at .305, with 46 hits while McFadden was second in the league with eight home runs. Canham held an impressive .300 batting average with a slugging percentage of .473.

Returning hitters include Aja Barto (Tulane), and Jeremy Farrell (Virginia). Barto hit .269 for the Green Wave, while Farrell, a 2006 Louisville Slugger All-American, had a .349 batting average for the Cavaliers. The Commodores' roster is studded with players from Top 25 teams in Division I baseball, including Vanderbilt (No. 1), Arizona State (No. 6), Virginia (No. 8) and Missouri (No. 13).

Virginia will be adding two infielders to the Commodores' family with David Adams and Jeremy Farrell. Adams is no stranger to the Cape League, playing his 2006 season with Brewster and batting .214 for the Whitecaps. Adams hit .372 at Virginia, while teammate Farrell is looking to have a great first season with the Cape Cod Baseball League.

Outfielder John Wallace will be making the trip from Oregon State to the Cape this season. Wallace held

an impressive .326 batting average for the Beavers during his 2006 rookie year and will be adding his bat to the Commodores' lineup. Arizona State is sending lefty pitcher Joey Parigi, a sophomore transfer from Texas where he threw 35 innings and struck out 25, earning a 3.86 ERA in 2006. Coming off last season with a winning record, the Commodores look to 2007 with high hopes and a competitive squad.

The team will open its season at home on Friday, June 15 against the Wareham Gatemen.

Erica Bailey, CCBL Intern (bailey@capecodbaseball.org)

Braves Look To Bounce Back

If this team is all there, the last-place finish of 2006 may have no place in 2007. Balance is a key attribute of the 2007 squad, as Bourne's recipe mixes speed, power and a lot of two-way talent.

Nine players hit above .300 in the regular season, and eight posted 80-plus total bases. Together, the top five hitters on the roster; catcher Preston Paramore (Arizona State), shortstop Brian Friday (Rice), outfielder T.J. Steele (Arizona State), 3B/LF Brian

Pruitt (Stetson), and second baseman Addison Maruszak (Oklahoma), average .344 from the plate and 42 RBI, and combined for 112 extra-base hits during the regular season.

Paramore hit .371 for the Sun Devils, and his patience at the plate gave him a team-high 48 walks for an on-base percentage of just under .500. Friday rocketed 84 hits, 26 of them doubles, while starting every game at shortstop for the Owls. Southern Florida leadoff man and 2B Aljay Davis brings a .328 average and 44 RBI into the summer, and Pruitt finished the season at .337 with eight home runs and just 19 strikeouts in 210 at-bats. This spread-out power is complemented by a wealth of speed down the roster. Steele leads the pack with 19, and four more Braves nabbed at least 13 steals during the regular season.

In the field, the Braves are especially deep at key positions. With 10 infielders on the 26-player roster, the competition is fierce on the dirt; Friday, Maruszak and Kyle Smith (Cal Poly) have started every game for their respective teams at shortstop, and Davis and Kevin Hoef (Iowa) both have plenty of experience at the position. Matt Hall (Arizona State), the lone returnee to Bourne, started 42 games at third base this season, and is joined on the depth chart by Jared Baehl (Evansville) and Josh Workman (Wichita State).

First base will likely be covered by Andrew Clark, who posted a .311 average and 12 RBI through the first 30 games of the season before leaving Mississippi to transfer to Louisville. But with the roster stacked with listed infielders, and only two true outfielders in Steele and Dave Dinatale (Miami), Shapiro and Carrier will be counting on general athleticism to translate into a flexible lineup. Pruitt is listed as an outfielder on the roster, despite playing 57 games at third base for Stetson, and Hall, originally a shortstop coming into

Arizona State, played mostly third base and outfield for the Braves last year and will likely do the same this season.

The pitching staff includes the aces from Navy (right-hander Mitch Harris, ERA 2.14) and Elon (right-hander Steven Hensley, ERA 3.93). Harris is a double-threat; his .293 batting averages glosses over a powerful bat that has hammered out 10 doubles, four triples and eight home runs this season. Clemson sophomore D.J. Mitchell also bats as well, and has a .221 average to go with his 3.42 ERA, another example of the double-duty talent that stacks the Bourne roster. Garrett Bullock (Wake Forest), Jesse Haney (UNC Wilmington), Nate Reed (Pittsburgh), and Rick Zagone (Missouri) and Wade Kapetyn (Evansville) round out the rotation.

Liz Hoffman, CCBL Intern (Hoffman@capecodbaseball.org)

Mets Look For Improvement

After finishing the 2005 season with a dismal record of 7-36-1, the Hyannis Mets took a major step in the right direction last year by going 16-24-3, good for fourth place in the West Division. Five players from last year's roster return to Hyannis this summer and look to take the team to its first playoff since 2004. Right-handed pitcher Matt Daly (Hawaii), infielder James Darnell (South Carolina), hard-hitting shortstop Ryan Flaherty (Vanderbilt), outfielder David Macias (Vanderbilt) and Austin Wood (Texas) a left-hander pitcher, are the returning veterans who look to lead the team to a winning record.

Daly leads Hawaii with an ERA of 3.38 and will look to continue that success with the Mets as well as continuing his offensive output he enjoyed last year leading the team with 25 runs scored. Flaherty and Macias, teammates from No. 1 Vanderbilt, will help the Mets by continuing their success at the plate, as they have batting averages

of .365 and .298 respectively for the Commodores.

Flaherty, a sweet-swinging southpaw batter, was named one of the Top 30 Prospects in the Cape League last summer by Baseball America. Another teammate at Vanderbilt, catcher Shea Robin, has had a hot bat for the Commodores as well as batting .303 this season and will look to carry that over to the Mets this summer. Shane Peterson (Long Beach State) is a hard-hitting infielder and leads his team in both RBI's (40) and batting average (.344). Joining him in the infield will be Kiko Vazquez (Central Florida), who also wields a powerful bat, leading his team in home runs (9), RBI's (57), and batting average (.364).

Other infielders for the Met are Patrick Long (Georgia Tech), Scott Elmendorf (Southern Illinois), Dan Brewer (Bradley), and Ryan Jackson (Miami). Dale Cornstubble (Central Michigan) and Francis Larson (UC Irvine) will both be bidding for time behind the plate along with Robin. Rounding out the position players are Wilson Boyd (Clemson) and Chris Nelson (Long Beach State), who will both be patrolling the outfield.

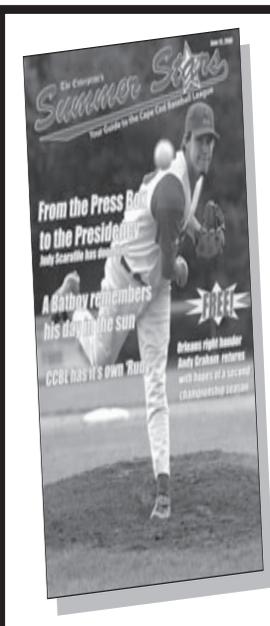
Joining Wood and Daly will be a solid mix of lefties and righties to round out the pitching staff. Leading the left-handed pitchers will be the Miami ace Eric Erickson, who finished the season with the Hurricanes with a 2.50 ERA. Other southpaws for the Mets include Carmine Giardini (Central Florida), and Ricardo Pecina (San Diego). Jason Franzblau (Winthrop) and Jimmy Jolicouer (Cal State Northridge) head up the right-handed pitchers, as they rank number one at their schools in wins with eight and five respectively.

Hyannis hosts the defending champion Y-D Red Sox, at McKeon Park to start the season, Friday, June 15 at 5 PM. The 5 PM start time will be the same for all of their home games scheduled originally for 7 PM.

Kevin Wolfe, CCBL Intern (wolfe@capecodbaseball.org)

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

Surf in for the latest on the
Cape Cod Baseball League



Finding Host Families Year Round Job For Cape League Teams

BY CHRISTOPHER KAZARIAN

At Guv Fuller Field, home of the Falmouth Commodores, there is a section of the stadium that has been dubbed Host Family Hill.

It is named after the people who sit there, the ones who open up their homes to complete strangers for eight weeks of the summer. These families, not just in Falmouth, but elsewhere may just be the unsung heroes of the Cape Cod Baseball League.

"They are tremendously important," John Wylde, the general manager of the Wareham Gateman, said.

"We wouldn't have a league if it wasn't for them. Where would you house the players if you didn't have host families?"

Because they are such an integral part of league, Bruce Murphy of the Cotuit Kettleers said, the process of finding and retaining host families is a year-round job.

Each team in the league has its own housing coordinator who is assigned this task. Their job is to hopefully convince current families to return for the next season.

Usually, that is not a difficult task if the player and family get along. Murphy has taken on the role of a surrogate father to Cape League players for the past 13 years. "It is enjoyable when you get attached to the players," he said.

The Gatemen have a few host families that have been doing it for 25 years. Of the five clubs interviewed, this is not unusual; they all have stories of similar families that have become mainstays for their teams.

In the event a family chooses not to return, the challenge becomes finding replacements. Word of mouth, Murphy said, is the best way to do this.

A lot of the recruiting, he said, is done at youth sporting events in Cotuit, whether it be soccer, baseball, or hockey. Since many involved with the Kettleers, including host families, have children of their own, he said, these are natural settings for discussions to turn to Cape League baseball.

That is the bait and once people are hooked, it is relatively easy to keep them coming back year after year, Christine Clark, housing coordinator for the Commodores

said. "They love it. They are almost like addicts. Once you get them hooked, they are there for a long time."

Clark writes to local churches, utilizes the team's baseball clinic and the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce for leads on possible families. She too relies on word of mouth.

This year the Commodores have 24 families, five of them are new.

Smaller towns, such as Brewster, can be a blessing and a curse for housing coordinators. "In April, people will see me coming down the aisle in the supermarket or I try to hit up the neighbors, and they hide," Nancy Whitehurst, the Whitecaps housing coordinator, joked.

She said towns on the Lower Cape, such as Brewster, Chatham, Orleans, and Harwich are sometimes at a disadvantage because they are smaller and are in close proximity to each other.

They have to rely on residents in the town, whereas a team like Wareham can draw upon Onset, Buzzards Bay, Plymouth, Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester.

Cotuit has the luxury of having Osterville, Centerville, Mashpee, and Marstons Mills nearby, all towns or villages that do not have teams in the league. The Kettleers already have a waiting list of families that want to host players next year, an anomaly around the league.

Because they don't have this advantage, both Brewster and Harwich have to rely on other sources. Ms. Whitehurst places announcements in the local newspaper, while Andrea Chute, housing coordinator for the Harwich Mariners, utilizes the town's local cable channel. "We just got a new family that way," Ms. Chute said. "They were watching and I was talking about how we needed a family."

Once a family is found, the first step of the process is for the housing coordinator to visit their home. Teams require that a family provide a bed as well as kitchen and sometimes laundry privileges. Beyond that, there are few obligations placed on the family.

The initial visit gives housing coordinators a chance to make sure the player will be comfortable during their stay on the Cape. Ms. Clark said

that is vital, as players come with aspirations of moving on to the next level.

If they are in a supportive setting, then it is one less thing the player has to worry about. "My philosophy is that if he is in a good home, eating right, and enjoying himself, he will play good ball," she said.

For new host families, the biggest concern is what to expect from the players. Whitehurst said this is an important issue because "summer is valuable. They don't want people staying in their house they don't like or are uncomfortable with."

Typically, however, players in the Cape league tend to be on their best behavior. Since 2000, when she became the housing coordinator for the Whitecaps, only one player has been sent home for misconduct.

She attributed much of that to the rules laid out by the league. "The league is conscious of their national exposure," she said. "Not that behavior has been bad, but now if you screw up, you are out of here. They want guys with good character, who are happy to be here, and want to do good."

Although indirect, Ms. Clark said, Major League Baseball also has an influence on how players act when on the Cape. She has hosted players many times in the past and received calls from scouts who are curious about a player's personality. "They call to find out how players are in the home, do they clear the table, make the bed, are they in by curfew, and are they clean," she said. "These young men know what is at stake."

In recent weeks, teams have hosted orientations for the families, a way to answer questions and prepare them for the next eight weeks of summer.

Of the five teams interviewed, all agreed that the key to a successful stay is communication.

They have players fill out questionnaires before arriving as one way to guaranty a positive experience. Ms. Chute said it is important to know a player's needs and wants so that they can be matched with the appropriate family. Questions range from allergies to computer habits.

Occasionally families will make requests for specific

players, but most teams try not to conduct their placements this way. "Their reasons for picking the people are not the best," Ms. Chute said. "That becomes a headache on our end."

General requests are much easier to satisfy. There is one family in Harwich, she said, that simply likes hosting pitchers from the midwest and the south. "I don't know why, but that is what they like," she said. "They have formed nice friendships that way."

Some teams, such as Cotuit, Falmouth, and Brewster try to maintain a one-to-one player to family ratio. Of those, only Cotuit will be successful this year, with Falmouth and Brewster doubling up some players.

The logic behind this, Mr. Murphy said, is that it helps the player develop a solid relationship with the family.

In Wareham and Harwich, however, the system works differently. Ms. Chute said the Mariners have 15 families, most who will host two, and one with three and another with four. Their system, she said, is based on availability and space.

Mr. Wylde said the Gatemen double up their players just in case the host family has other obligations. "Two tend to become companions for each other, rather than one just sitting at home by himself," he said.

Another reason, they do it this way, he said, is for transportation. Host families are not obligated to provide rides to practices or games, so Wareham ensures at least one of the players has his own car.

Over this past week, players arrived on the Cape. They were welcomed not by shouts of adoring fans or the prospects of making the big leagues, but by the families who will provide for them over the summer.

In Wareham, the Gatemen encourage their families to sit down with players during this introductory period to discuss expectations. Mr. Wylde said the team provides each family with a checklist of items to talk about including television use, curfews, and doing laundry. "It is helpful," he said. "These are really things that should be discussed between the player and family because if it is not you are sort of reluctant to

raise it up after a pattern has been established."

Over the course of the summer, housing coordinators will be in contact with players and families on a weekly basis to ensure that everything is going well.

Because of conflicts with the NCAA Division I Baseball Championship some of the permanent players will not arrive for another few weeks.

Most teams try to procure host families specifically for the temporary players. Because families will become attached to these players, Mr. Murphy explained, it can be awkward to suddenly replace them with a permanent player.

For families considering the option of hosting a player, he said, this is a good way to see if the experience is right for them.

In addition to attending games, the host families often gather throughout the summer, with the highlight typically a Fourth of July cookout that each team holds.

At the end of the season, each team will recognize these unsung heroes of the Cape Cod Baseball League, at their host family nights.

Because of NCAA rules, each player has to pay a stipend to the family, which ranges between \$50 and \$90, depending on the team. In Falmouth, Clark said, "We have host families who will donate that money back to the Commodores as a gift in the player's name."

It is clear, that most Cape families do not do this for the money. It is the relationships they form that are most important.

"Our host families open up their homes, hearts and refrigerators to the players and develop a relationship that lasts," she said. "We still hear from our first ballplayer we hosted. We went to his high school brother's graduation at Brown [University]. Sean Morgan [of Tulane] invited us down to Texas to sit with him on the draft. His mom will come up here to visit for a week this summer. It is the friendships you make that are rewarding. It is not monetary rewards, but in things you can't see or touch. They are like extended family."

2007 Cape Cod Baseball League Schedule

Cape Cod Baseball League

www.capecodbaseball.org

2007 Schedule

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