

# The Enterprise's *Summer Stars*

Your Guide to the Cape Cod Baseball League

Vol. 2, #7  
July 26, 2007

*History of  
the All-Star  
Game*

**Mitch Moreland  
at the Top with  
Bourne**

**John Wylde  
of the  
Wareham  
Gatemmen**

*Cuban Links:*  
**Yonder  
Alonso**

**Brewster**



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# All-Star Game Features

## The Best Of The Best

Saturday, July 28, at 6 PM, the 45th Annual Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game will be held at Wareham's Spillane Field. The game will feature 44 of the league's best players from the Eastern and Western Divisions.

Activities will begin early in the afternoon, with batting practice at 1:45 PM for members of the East. While they are hitting, the Western all-stars will be available to sign autographs. At 2:30 PM players from the Eastern squad will sign autographs for fans while the West takes BP.

At 3:30, the East will take infield, with the West following at 3:45 PM.

Mitch Moreland (Mississippi State), of the Bourne Braves, will be returning to defend his home run-hitting championship. Last year Moreland drove 25 balls over the fence at Red Wilson Field in Yarmouth. The Home Run Hitting Contest will feature Moreland, as well as Blake Dean (LSU) and Luke Murton (Georgia Tech), of Wareham, representing the West with Dennis Raben (Miami), of Orleans, Chris Dominguez (Louisville), of Harwich, and Yonder Alonso, (Miami) of the Brewster Whitecaps, hitting for the East.

The Home Run Hitting Contest is slated to begin at 4 PM.

The teams will be introduced at 5:15 PM followed by National Anthem. The ceremonial first pitch will be at 5:50 PM.

The league all-stars are selected by the 10 Cape League head coaches. Falmouth and Yarmouth-Dennis lead the player list with seven representatives each.

Eddie Burns (Georgia Tech) of the Y-D Red Sox will get the start for the East and will face Western Division starter Aaron Crow (Missouri) of the Falmouth Commodores.

Y-D Red Sox coach Scott Pickler will manage the East All-Stars and be assisted by the head coaches from Brewster (Bob Macaluso), Chatham (John Schiffner), Harwich (Steve Englert) and Orleans (Kelly Nicholson).

The West is being led by Wareham Gateman coach Cooper Farris. He will be assisted by the other Western Division head coaches; Mike Roberts (Cotuit), Harvey Shapiro (Bourne), Jeff Trundy (Falmouth) and Greg King (Hyannis).



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Hyannis Mets players Dan Brewer (Bradley) and Andrew Doyle (Oklahoma) water down the infield prior to a game



MATT BURKE/ENTERPRISE

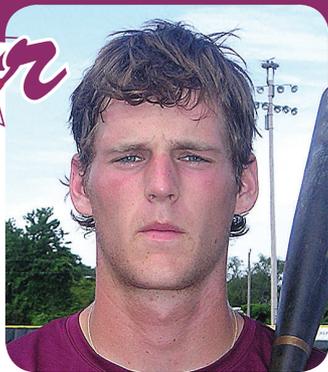
Yonder Alonso of the Brewster Whitecaps

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# Summer Star



Falmouth third baseman Conor Gillaspie (Wichita State) is taking the season one at-bat at a time. His approach this summer has him at the top of the Cape League in hitting with an average of .356.

"I'm taking it one at a time, at least that's what I'm trying to do," Gillaspie said. "You're going to have days where it doesn't work out; that happens to everybody."

Gillaspie earned the Western Division starting third baseman honors for the 2007 Cape League All-Star game.

"There are so many good third basemen here," he smiled. "I've worked hard. I'm sure there are others guys that can play there too."

Last summer he played in the wood bat California Collegiate Coastal League, for the Santa Barbara Foresters. This year that experience is paying off as Gillaspie is hammering the ball. He is leading the Cape League in slugging (.712) and is third in home runs (5), RBI (17) and doubles (9).

His father played professional baseball for eight seasons in the San Diego Padres and Chicago Cubs organizations, and, Conor admits, that having a father who played has helped him make adjustments and be a better ballplayer.

A native of Omaha, Nebraska, Gillaspie hit a home run for state champion Millard North High School at the championship game at Rosenblatt Stadium.



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On The Cover: Yonder Alonso, the first baseman for the Brewster Whitecaps. Photo by MATT BURKE/ENTERPRISE

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# For Brewster's Cuban Star Yonder Alonso, Home Is Where The Diamond Is

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Brewster first baseman Yonder Alonso moved to the United States from Cuba with his parents, Luis and Damaris, when he was 10-years-old, leaving behind family and friends in the tropical baseball Mecca.

According to Alonso, whose father played ball for 13 years in a Cuban baseball league, the move to the States was a tough adjustment. However, whenever he stepped onto a baseball diamond, the 6-2, 210-pound, left-handed power hitter said that he felt like he was back in his homeland, and it was a comforting feeling.

Brewster coach Bob Macaluso added that Alonso has emerged as the leader of the third place Whitecaps this season, and one of the Cape League's best hitters. In addition, Alonso was named a starter for the Eastern Division All-Stars last Saturday.

If Brewster is to make a push past Chatham this summer, and challenge Y-D for eastern division supremacy, it will be because Alonso helped propel them there, Macaluso said. At press time, Brewster was just two points behind Chatham for the second playoff spot in the division.

Alonso is a fun player to watch, and the sheer joy he gets from playing the game is both unrivaled and refreshing. This love for the game is evident in his ear-to-ear smile, and calming presence on the diamond. Alonso is one of a few players who plays the game like a young child, with the most unbridled, sincere, reverence, intensity, and appreciation.

Last Saturday against Wareham, Alonso went 1-for-4 in the 3-0 win. He smiled as he stood on first base after getting a base hit to right in the ninth, mostly because his unquenchable work ethic had bore fruit after a three day hitless slump that followed the end of his 18-game hitting streak.

He had spent his time in the cage at Spillane Field after batting practice, prior to the pre-game warm-ups, working on his mechanics until he was drenched in sweat while the majority of his teammates took a few moments to rest.

Alonso's "enjoy the game" attitude has clearly defused the nerves of teammates this season, and has inspired. He

has truly been at home on the Cape this summer.

After he was left stranded on base following his lone base hit, Alonso greeted teammates exiting the dugout to take the field. "I got a hit," he said smiling, high-fiving teammates. The smiles were reciprocated momentarily, and then it was back to business.

"I went three days without getting a hit," he said after the game, with another smile. "Then, finally, I went 1-for-4 today, and I was so happy. Start another streak going, or whatever ... but I hit the ball hard and that's what matters."

Alonso said that he learned the game in Cuba, a place where intensity and this love for the game is second nature. He said that the ballplayers in Cuba play the game differently than in the states, playing "so rough" and "so hard." He said that he misses his homeland for that style of play.

He added that the game of baseball is similar in the States in the presence of a strong desire to win, and in getting base hits, and in striking out opposing hitters.

"Once I got over here, I just started playing baseball," Alonso said of his family's journey to the states. "I moved over here and it was all different for me, but for some reason every time I stepped onto the field, I felt like I was home ... so it really didn't matter. Every time I step on the field it brings me back memories of where I'm from. So, I just appreciate the game a little better than any other baseball player would."

Alonso describes himself as an overall strong hitter; one who gets a lot of homers in collegiate play, despite the fact that he says that he doesn't try to hit them. He came to the Cape after a sophomore campaign at the University of Miami where he finished fifth in the ACC in hitting, right behind Y-D's Buster Posey (Florida State, .382).

Alonso, a criminal justice major, batted .376, reaching base 79 times in 210 at-bats. He also recorded 74 RBI and 18 homers, and finished the season with an impressive .705 slugging percentage and a .519 on-base-percentage, starting every one of the Canes' 61 contests.

He led the Hurricanes in batting average, homers, RBI, slugging, walks (64),



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Yonder Alonso (Miami) of the Brewster Whitecaps brings a Cuban style of baseball to the Cape. Alonso will be the starting first baseman for the Eastern Division All-Stars in the 45th Annual Cape League All-Star Game.

OBP, and put outs (566). The Canes lost to Louisville, 8-7, on June 3 in the NCAA Regional, to have their streak of 13 consecutive regional titles broken.

The previous collegiate season, Alonso became the second Hurricane freshman in history to lead the team in homers (10) and RBI (69). He also led the team in sac flies (8), put outs (587), and fielding percentage (.994). Last summer, he played in the Virginia Valley League, and was named the league's top prospect by Baseball America.

Alonso grew up in Miami from the age of 10, and played high school baseball at Mike Lowell's (Boston Red Sox third baseman) alma mater, Coral Gables High School. The three-time team MVP, and captain, garnered single season school records in batting (.530), RBI (33), and walks (33). He was named All-State twice and was a three-time All-Dade choice.

Alonso was drafted in 2005 by the Minnesota Twins in the 15th round.

This summer, Alonso is seeing the ball well, and is concentrating on making contact. He has flirted with the league leaders in hitting throughout the season, currently batting .314 (32-for-102), with 17 runs, 15 RBI, two homers, 48 total bases, 29 walks, and six stolen bases.

Alonso's 10 doubles currently have him in second place in the CCBL, with only

Falmouth's David Adams (12) ahead of him in that category. He also leads the league in on-base-percentage, at .466. He is slugging an impressive .471.

"It's going alright," Alonso said following the Wareham contest. "I was hitting like .380, and just before you think you have it figured out, you have nothing figured out. I went down like 40 points, or something, like that ... but I just have to stay through it and not try to do too much."

Alonso said that the most important thing he has learned this summer playing on the Cape is just learning to play every day. He said that at Miami, he was

used to playing on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. On the Cape, teams play every night.

"The everyday thing, I feel like that's a lot different than it is in college," he said. "Everyday you gotta bring it. It doesn't matter who you face, or who you're playing, you just gotta bring it. You gotta bring your game and hopefully you win."

Alonso has not struggled by any means this summer, playing with wood bats, but he said that he has had mixed feelings about his performance, after making the switch from aluminum. He said that sometimes wood is great, but sometimes it

Continued on Next Page

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# FROM LAST TO FIRST Moreland Back With The Braves

BY DAN CROWLEY

Last year Mitch Moreland (Mississippi State) battled through a tough season with the Bourne Braves as the club managed just nine wins, finishing last among all Cape League teams, with a record of 9-32-2. His dreams, along with those of his 2006 Braves teammates seemed shaken by the end of August. Hopes of performing well before the many major league scouts that come to the Cape, and going home a winner, with the numbers to back it up, had dissolved.

"It was tough," Moreland said recalling the 2006 season. "It makes the summer longer when you're not winning. No one likes losing. Last year, we just put too much pressure on ourselves, but it was still a great experience. We may not have had a great year, but we made new friends. It got out of hand; we just couldn't pull it together to win."

Moreland finished the 2006 campaign with a batting average of .239. A left-handed, two-way player, he also pitched for the Braves, going 0-1 with a 3.00 ERA in nine innings of work. This summer, in just 53 at-bats, he is hitting .283. He has pitched five innings in relief, and has an 0-1 record, with a 1.80 ERA and eight strikeouts.

A junior at Mississippi State, Moreland was drafted in the 17th round of the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft this June by the Texas

Rangers. The Mississippi State Bulldogs reached the College World Series, and later that month he was on the field at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha. Life was good, until, in just two games, Mississippi State was out, and talks with the Rangers began to slow down.

"When I left last year Coach Harvey Shapiro told me I had a spot this summer if I wanted to come back," Moreland explained. "Coach Shapiro has been good to me. I was happy to come back."

It's still the Cape League, and the Amory, Mississippi southpaw had something to prove. He had tasted success with the Bulldogs, reached the CWS and had put last year's Cape League season behind him.

"I guess you could say I wanted to come back," he said. "When Coach Shapiro called me I said, 'yes'."

Moreland arrived on the Cape on Sunday, July 1. Monday, fortunately was an off day, allowing him to meet with a new host family and quickly visit old friends. At 5 PM Tuesday, July 3, he was back in a Braves' uniform wearing No. 25 (he wore No. 16 last year).

Mooreland played right field, had a hit, and drove in a run in his first game. Matt Hall (Arizona State), the only other returning player from the 2006 Bourne Braves team, had arrived just days earlier.

"He wasn't here much before me," Moreland noted,

"but he saw this team was different. He told me that what we lacked last year, this team had. We were going to win some games."

One of the first things to stand out this summer was just how close the players on the team were. They were friends, they liked one another and were having fun. While there is always a certain amount of pressure to win, it wasn't like 2006, when the pressure had been high.

"Everybody gets along, and its just fun to play baseball," he said. "This is a close group of guys, there are no worries, we just go out and play. Things are a lot looser."

The 2007 Bourne Braves are getting the job done, and Mitch Moreland is very happy to be a part of their success. When he looks back at the summer of 2006 he remembers knocking 25 balls over the fence at Red Wilson Field in Yarmouth, and winning the Cape League All-Star home run-hitting contest. He'll be back participating in the home run derby on Saturday, July 28, in Wareham.

With 18 wins already in the bank this summer, along with the rest of the Braves, he is looking back at the rest of the Western Division. That nine-win summer of 2006 is only a memory.

With less than three weeks left in the summer season, like almost every other



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Bourne's Mitch Moreland (Mississippi State) in a recent plate appearance. Moreland, the defending Home Run Derby champion, will defend his title at this year's Cape League All-Star Game.

player on the Cape, Moreland wants to finish strong. A three-time Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll player, he knows a strong finish this summer could increase his bargaining position with the Rangers.

"I'm having fun," he

added. "I'm still friends with the guys from last year, and there are a lot of great guys on the team this year. Some of the best things about summer baseball are the experiences you have, and making new friends. But, really, as long as I can play, I'll be happy."

## Home Is Where The Diamond Is

Continued from Page 3 can also be pretty tough. However, he added that this constant up and down is a "part of baseball," much like playing every single day.

For Alonso, he just focuses on enjoying himself on the ballfield. He closes his eyes, and, for a split second, he is back in Cuba. He sees relatives, friends, and other kids

playing their hearts out in the game they all love. This love of the game, coupled with his work ethic and natural ability, have worked out well thus far for Brewster this summer, and will no doubt lead to a successful season regardless of whether or not they win a league championship.

"He has a real good work ethic," Macaluso said after

the Wareham game. "Shoot, he's been playing the game for a long time and he works hard at it. He's got good hands and good balance ... and he's disciplined ... and he really likes to play the game. He does a lot of things right, and he's strong. He has a lot of qualities that make him a good hitter."

Macaluso said that Alonso is versatile as well. In addition to playing a solid first base, he also plays third base, and can even catch. "He's got a good arm," he said. "He's versatile and can play a lot of positions. He's our leader. He's real important for us both offensively and defensively."

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# Two Time All-Star Will Atwood Making The Most Of His Cape League Summer

BY DAN CROWLEY

Like many of the ball players coming out of Coach Ray Tanner's program at the University of South Carolina, Will Atwood is showing scouts on the Cape that he knows how to pitch.

"Since I got to college I've gained some velocity and a little more power," the southpaw explained, "but I'm more of a finesse pitcher than overpowering. I try to get my breaking ball over for strikes, spot my fastball and get guys out with my change-up. I'm not a big strikeout guy. I'm just looking to keep the ball off the barrel of the bat."

Atwood throws a fastball, curveball and change-up. This summer, with the help of Orleans Cardinals' teammates Nick Christiani (Vanderbilt) and Michael Schwimer (Virginia), he is developing a slider. Just two weeks ago he began using his slider in game situations, and he has been pleased with the results.

This is the second time around in the Cape League for Atwood. He played last

summer for the Brewster Whitecaps. This is also the second time Atwood will play in the Cape League All-Star game.

"It's a privilege," he said of once again being selected for the All-Star team. "It is not something that you plan on. You come up here and get your work in. I didn't necessarily expect it, but I'm pleased, and thankful, that it happened again."

Atwood has a baseball heritage. His father, Ken Atwood, was an outfielder for Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina.

"My dad has been my greatest motivation in baseball," Atwood said. "He has shown me some of the ins and outs of how the game is supposed to be played. He has never been demanding, has always let me be my own person."

A member of the Gamecocks, Atwood doesn't have to go far to find some South Carolina teammates. At school his roommate is Justin Smoak, who played for the Cotuit Kettleers last summer, was the Cape

League MVP, and is with Team USA now. Still, a trip to Cotuit reunites Atwood with fellow Gamecocks Reese Havens and Mike Cisco. When the Cardinals play Chatham there is South Carolina teammate Andrew Crisp, and in Hyannis there is James Darnell.

"I've been down to see Mike and Reese a couple of times in Cotuit," he smiled. "It's nice to be near friends. We hung out and did some fishing."

Two seasons in the Cape League is a good way to improve your game and Atwood has taken full advantage of the opportunity.

"Coming back, know-

ing what the fields are like, knowing what to expect from your host family; it's comforting knowing where you are, and how things work," he said. "It allows me to be myself on the ball field, and, hopefully, get the results I want."

Atwood will be one of three South Carolina Gamecocks taking the field on Saturday, July 28, for the Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star game. As a member of the Eastern Division squad, he will be facing fellow Gamecocks Havens and Darnell, who will play for the West.

Atwood uses his head, as well as his skill and talent, when it comes to pitching. Hitters know they aren't going to get a blazing fastball from the crafty lefty, but what will come their way is anybody's guess.

"I think you can learn from failure, and playing in this league, against the best college athletes in the county, you are going to experience some failure," he added. "Being able to play in the Cape League has definitely helped me become a better baseball player."



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Orleans Cardinal pitcher Will Atwood (South Carolina) is making his second appearance as a Cape League All-Star. Atwood played for the Brewster Whitecaps last summer.

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# Bleich Back To His Winning Ways For Wareham



RICH MACLONE/ENTEPRISE

Jeremy Bleich (Stanford) has been one of the bright spots of the Wareham pitching staff this summer.

BY RICH MACLONE

Jeremy Bleich is technically working. Yes, he's sitting on a bench that runs parallel to the right field fence, watching his teammates take batting practice, but he's got a job to do. When balls clear the fence, he has to chase them down and put them back in a bucket.

Okay, so it's not exhausting work, and Bleich does look like he might be asleep with his eyes open, but this is what he's been assigned to do with this non-pitching day.

Last Thursday afternoon wasn't a stressful one for the pitcher from Stanford University. That was a nice change of pace because things haven't always been so laid back for Bleich this year. The lefty did not have the type of season he was hoping to have with the Cardinal in 2007.

Coming off a stellar Cape League season in 2006 with the Wareham Gatemen, Bleich hoped that the good times would carry over into the Pac-10 season. Unfortunately, though, it didn't quite work out that way.

Making 16 starts for a club that would ultimately finish at a dead-even .500 (28-28), Bleich couldn't seem to find his rhythm. The poor results piled up, and when it was

all said and done, Bleich's final numbers were nothing to write home about as he posted a 2-8 win-loss record with an earned run average of 5.56.

Bleich wasn't fooling many batters. In 98.2 innings of work, he struck out only 60 and surrendered 119 base hits.

The Louisiana native was looking forward to getting back to Cape Cod and the change of scenery that it provides, and with a view of the ocean from his host parent's home, the scenery is certainly good.

Since arriving back in Wareham things have turned around for the junior-to-be. In five games thus far this season for the Gatemen, four of which were starts, Bleich has returned the form that landed him a spot on the west division All-Star team last year. Even though he didn't earn a return trip to the All-Star game this year, the numbers speak for themselves.

"I had a good year here last year and I was definitely wanted to get back here and get that feeling of success back," Bleich said.

On a team that has struggled all season long, Bleich has been one of the lone dependable performers on the Wareham club, posting a quarter of the team's victories with a 3-1 overall record and an ERA of 2.84. Over 25.1 innings of work, Bleich has given up less than a hit per inning (21) and has averaged better than a K per frame (25). His walks are way down, having issued just six bases on balls.

Bleich can see the improvements, but he said he's always looking to improve upon his last outing.

"Baseball is a game of failures ... it's what keeps us coming back for more," he explained. "If you're a competitive person, and you fail, you're not going to walk away. You're going to come back for more."

On July 15 Bleich had his best start of the Cape League season as he stymied the Cotuit Kettleers over eight innings. The Kettleers managed just three hits while striking out 11 times against the left-hander, who did not issue a walk.

Even though that game provided plenty of good things for Bleich to look at, he was not completely satisfied. "You have to get better, you catch breaks during each game that can help put you over the top. You've got to go back and learn from what you did wrong. Two outings ago, I threw seven innings, and had another good outing, but in the first five innings, the leadoff man got on base ... that's an example of something I'm focusing on to try to make things better, and easier, in the future," he said.

With a few starts left to make before the season concludes, Bleich's main focus is simple: to make the most of things. Getting better and improving is what he wants to do.

"You're only as good as your next outing. You have to try to stay consistent and build off of each outing and then see where you are down the road," he said.

With a three-pitch repertoire that he throws for strikes, consisting of a fastball, change-up and curveball, Bleich feels like he can stay ahead of hitters if he's hitting his spots. When pressed to name one of those three offerings as his "out pitch," he struggled at first. "In school my fastball was my best pitch, but right now my change-up's been working pretty well, but my curveball's been pretty good, too. Yeah, my curveball, I'd say my curveball, but I'm pretty much a three pitch pitcher."

And right now those three pitches are getting the job done for Bleich.



Jan Aubrey, RN  
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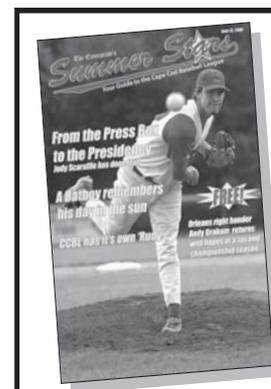
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Cape Cod Baseball League



PHOTO BY MARK A. BROWN

Sean Ochinko (LSU) has played first and worked behind the plate for the Y-D Red Sox this summer. He is a member of the Eastern Division Cape League All-Stars.

## Y-D Slugger Well-Positioned For Success

BY MARK A. BROWN

Give Sean Ochinko, of Yarmouth-Dennis, some credit. He knows his place.

A standout freshman catcher at LSU this spring, Ochinko has spent most of his first Cape League season playing first base instead — and he's been doing it with a smile.

"When I came up here, we already had two older guys playing catcher, so I was prepared to be a backup," said Sean, referring to Y-D teammates Buster Posey and Jason Castro, both sophomores. "Fortunately, I started out hitting well enough for Coach [Scott Pickler] to keep me in the lineup."

Offense has been the big calling card for the Red Sox, who lead the Cape League in nearly every statistical category. Ochinko's bat helped propel Y-D to the best record in the league, and a commanding nine-point lead over Chatham in the Eastern Division heading into last weekend's games.

Through July 19, Sean was hitting .321 for the Sox, good enough for 10th in the CCBL. His four home runs were tied

for third in the league.

While Ochinko is happy playing first base this summer, he believes his future in baseball lies behind the plate. "There aren't too many first basemen in the majors who are 5-foot-10 and 200 pounds," he quipped.

Sean's success this season, coupled with his "team first" attitude, has made it easier for him to accept the position switch. However, first base isn't exactly alien to him. "At LSU, I arrived expecting to play mostly first, and back up at catcher," he explained. "Then, our starting catcher got hurt two weeks into the season, and I wound up replacing him."

Ochinko struggled early at the plate for the Tigers. "I kind of got thrown into the fire. I was batting fourth or fifth, and pitchers were eating me up on curveballs," he said. "Eventually I heated up."

He finished the season batting .276, with a team-high seven homers and 32 RBI.

Sean, who grew up in the Parkland, Florida, just

Continued on Page 11

BY DAN CROWLEY

To have been a member of the Vanderbilt Commodores during the spring of 2007 was truly living a baseball dream. Ranked as the No. 1 team in the country, the Commodores appeared to cruise to the SEC Championship. Expectations were high, and fans were making plans for Omaha.

Vandy won the SEC Tournament and moved into regional action, and that's where the dream turned into a nightmare for the Commodores when Michigan dealt Vanderbilt a 4-3 loss, in extra innings, to end the season, and the CWS dreams.

"It was an unbelievable season," Vanderbilt sophomore right-hander, and current Orleans Cardinal pitcher, Nick Christiani recalled. "We had a pretty good season my freshman year. We brought the majority of the guys back, we only lost two players. Everybody was close, we meshed together well and that carried over onto the field. We had great coaching, and we played as hard as we could every game. We had talent, but I think it was the way we played together that made us good. It was a special year, and I know I'll never forget it."

Last summer Nick Christiani was a starting pitcher in the New England Collegiate Baseball League for the Manchester Silkworms. This summer, the Vanderbilt Commodore has brought his versatility and ability to Orleans, where he has taken on the role of Closer.

"I guess I'm just able to come into any situation," Christiani explained. "Some guys are great starters, but don't seem to handle the middle relief or late inning situations as well. At Vanderbilt I started, I pitched some middle relief and I closed. I've gotten a taste of different game situations."

Vanderbilt Coach Tim Corbin put the versatile tag on Christiani, and it seems to fit. In his freshman season he led the team in appearances (25), but made just three starts. In his sophomore season with the Commodores he pitched mainly in relief, and, this summer, Orleans Cardinals Coach Kelly Nicholson has used Christiani as his closer.

"I just see myself as a pitcher," he said. "I think

that's why I can handle coming in at any time; I just don't look at it any different. If I'm coming on in the ninth inning, into a save situation, I approach that the same way as if it was the first inning of the game. I'm there to get three outs. I'm a pitcher; no matter what inning or what role."

Christiani made 11 appearances last summer for Manchester. He made four starts, collected two saves and was selected for the NECBL All-Star team.

"I enjoyed that summer, and the Manchester organization," he added. "I met some great people and had

Continued on Page 12



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Nick Christiani (Vanderbilt) of the Orleans Cardinals can handle any pitching assignment.

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# A Look Back At The Storied History Of The

BY BRUCE HACK

Baseball and All-Star games have been a great combination since 1933, when Major League Baseball played its first mid-summer classic at Chicago's Comiskey Park.

The Cape Cod Baseball League was reborn with the merger of the Upper Cape League and Lower Cape League in 1963. It did not take long for the league to put on its own version of a mid-summer classic. The first All-Star game in the modern era was played at Sagamore's Keith Field on August 5 of that year. The tradition will continue this year as the mid-season classic, an event that has become a major part of the season for both players and fans, returns to Wareham for the first time since 1999.

The first game in 1963 was an inter-league contest between the best of the Cape League and the best from the Cranberry League. This was the first time a Cape League All-Star team had played another league in an all-star game. The game was played on August 6 at Keith Field under the lights. Cotuit's Cotton Nash, a basketball All-American at Kentucky, provided the heroics for the Cape stars as he hit the first home run --- a three-run blast to center --- to climax a six-run second inning, as the Cape League powered its way to a 15-2 win. Orleans' Tom Yankus also homered for the Cape and pitched two innings, striking out one. Cotuit's Bernie Kilroy started, and was the winner, as he struck out four in two innings.

The competition between leagues lasted only one year and, from 1964-69, the league played an Upper Cape Division (west) vs. Lower Cape Division (east) contest.

The first all-star game happened in 1946, when the Cape League resumed play after a six-year hiatus. The first all-star game in the Cape's history took place at Brooks Park, in Harwich. The game was a match-up between a team made up of stars from league clubs and a team made up of the outstanding players selected from candidates at the Boston Red Sox tryout school, in Hyannis.

The league continued to hold All-Star games, and in 1958 an estimated crowd of 2,000 poured into Ezra Baker

Field, in South Dennis, for an all-star game between the Upper and Lower Cape leagues. The Upper Cape All-Stars came away with a 6-4 victory

This year will be the fourth time the Cape's best head to Wareham's Spillane Field to battle each other for bragging rights.

The first all-star game in Wareham took place in 1965, and was the second meeting between the Upper and Lower Cape divisions. The Upper Cape won 10-9 for its second straight victory. Cotuit catcher Ray Ilg singled to drive in one run, and a two-run error allowed the winning run to score in the bottom of the eighth.

The game featured a match-up of future Cape League Hall of Fame inductees Joe Jabar and Noel Kinski. Though neither starter was involved in the decision, Kinski fared better for his Upper Cape team, as he pitched three innings, allowed no hits, walked one and struck out four. The Upper Cape was guided by Sagamore manager Lou Lamoriello, who went on to become the General Manager of the NHL's New Jersey Devils.

The Cape League's best returned to Wareham in 1993 for the sixth meeting between the East and West. The West won 9-3, with Hyannis' Matt Morris (now with San Francisco) getting the win. Home team favorite Roy Marsh was named West MVP, and tied the game record with four hits, including a double and an RBI. Brewster's Geoff Blum (now with the San Diego Padres) was named East MVP, as he went 2-for-2 with two RBI. Also playing in the game that year were Orleans' teammates Nomar Garciaparra (LA Dodgers) and Aaron Boone. Starting catcher for the West was Hyannis' Jason Varitek (Boston Red Sox), while the starting right fielder was Darin Erstad, from Falmouth (Chicago White Sox).

The most recent all-star game in Wareham was in 1999, and the West won again, 6-4. Each division had a future major leaguer take home MVP honors. For the West, current Colorado Rockies Garret Atkins (Cotuit) won, as he went 2-for-3 with two walks, a double and two RBI. Atkins doubled in a run in the four-run, game-winning rally in the seventh. The East MVP was Mark Teix-

eira (Orleans, and now with Texas), who hit a two-run home run in the first inning, on his way to a 2-for-4, two RBI game.

Orleans' Lance Niekro (San Francisco Giants) and 2007 NL All-Star starting second baseman Chase Utley (Cotuit, and now Philadelphia) were also in the game. The home run hitting contest was won by Falmouth's Doc Brooks, who knocked balls

deep into the left field stands at Spillane Field.

Change came about in 1970 as the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League invited the Cape League to play an All-Star game. The first one was played at Yankee Stadium, and the Cape League won 6-3. Future major-leaguer Paul Mitchell (Falmouth) was the winner, the first of his two all-star victories.

The classic returned to Falmouth in 1972, after the ACBL and CCBL took a year off. A group of Cape League all-stars played the defending champion Commodores, and lost 8-1, as Jim Rigglesman hit two home runs.

Rigglesman was the hero in 1973 as he hit the first all-star game grand slam in a 13-7 win over the ACBL at Yankee Stadium.

The game made its second

## 2007 Eastern Division All-Stars

### Starting Lineup

#	POS	NAME	TEAM	B/T	HOMETOWN	CLASS	SCHOOL	STATS THRU 7/20/07
27	C	Jason Castro	Y-D	L/R	Castro Valley, CA	2009	Stanford	.333, 2 HR, 13 RBI
19	1B	Yonder Alonso	Brewster	L/R	Corla Gables, FL	2009	Miami	.316, 2 HR, 15 RBI
13	2B	Cole Figueroa	Harwich	L/R	Tallahassee, FL	2010	Florida	.308, 1HR, 11 RBI
42	3B	Jermaine Curtis	Chatham	R/R	Fontana, CA	2009	UCLA	.299, 2 HR, 15 RBI
6	SS	Gordon Beckham	Y-D	R/R	Atlanta, GA	2009	Georgia	.311, 8 HR, 25 RBI
11	LF	Charlie Cutler	Brewster	L/R	San Francisco, CA	2009	California	.307, 1 HR, 11 RBI
11	CF	Collin Cowgill	Y-D	R/L	Lexington, KY	2008	Kentucky	.301, 2 HR, 14 RBI
25	RF	Dennis Raben	Orleans	L/L	Hollywood, FL	2009	Miami	.272, 5 HR, 25 RBI
10	DH	Allan Dykstra	Chatham	L/R	San Diego, CA	2009	Wake Forest	.306, 1 HR, 18 RBI
40	P	Eddie Burns	Y-D	R/R	Douglasville, GA	2009	Georgia Tech	4-0, 2.25 ERA, 28 SO

### All-Star Reserves

#	POS	NAME	TEAM	B/T	HOMETOWN	CLASS	SCHOOL	STATS THRU 7/20/07
2	C	Buster Posey	Y-D	R/R	Leesburg, GA	2009	Florida State	.266, 2 HR, 14 RBI
16	IF	Sean Ochinko	Y-D	R/R	Parkland, FL	2010	LSU	.303, 5 HR, 16 RBI
8	OF	Kyle Day	Harwich	L/R	Fort Wayne, IN	2009	Michigan State	.281, 2 HR, 9 RBI
5	OF	Blake Tekotte	Brewster	L/R	Columbia, MO	2009	Miami	.260, 16 SB, 14 RBI
22	P	Brad Boxberger	Orleans	R/R	Tustin, CA	2010	USC	1-0, 1.38 ERA, 22 SO
14	P	Corey Young	Harwich	L/L	Shrewsbury, NJ	2009	Seton Hall	2-0, 2.17 ERA, 19 SO
36	P	Will Atwood	Orleans	L/L	Piedmont, SC	2009	South Carolina	2-0, 1.69 ERA, 16 SO
34	P	Mike Colla	Brewster	R/R	Fresno, CA	2009	Arizona	2-1, 2.17 ERA, 28 SP
15	P	Matt Couch	Brewster	R/R	Sacramento, CA	2008	San Diego	1-1, 2.77 ERA, 32 SO
12	P	Ryan Perry	Orleans	R/R	Marana, AZ	2009	Arizona	1-2, 4.70 ERA, 19 SO
18	P	Evan Crawford	Harwich	R/L	Prattville, AL	2009	Auburn	3 SV, 0.84 ERA, 33 SO
17	P	Nick Cassavechia	Y-D	R/R	Dallas, TX	2008	Baylor	8 SV, 0.96 ERA, 20 SO

# Cape Cod Baseball League's All-Star Game

appearance at Fenway Park in 1977, and Steve Balboni (Yarmouth and Falmouth) hit two three-run blasts over the Green Monster to power the Cape to a 8-3 win.

The last inter-league contest between the ACBL and the Cape League came at Yankee Stadium in 1980, and Ron Darling (Cotuit) showed why he was called "All-World" by his teammates. Darling started in right, and singled,

doubled, homered and drove in two runs as the Cape came back from a 3-1 deficit to take a 10-9 lead. With runners on first and second and one out, Darling came in from left and struck out the first batter he faced, and retired the final batter on a pop-up to first, to save the win.

In 1984 a trio of Harwich Mariners led the CCBL to a 7-3 win over the ACBL in Philadelphia. Mike Loggins

and Casey Close combined to drive in seven runs. Loggins was named MVP as he tripled, scored three runs and drove in four. Future major-leaguer Joe Magrane earned the win with two shutout innings.

In 1988 the league returned to an intraleague game, which featured the best of the West against the best of the East. Orleans hosted the game, and the

West won 4-3. Future major league stars Jeff Bagwell (Chatham) and Mo Vaughn (Wareham) each hit a home run. The home run-hitting contest was won by Orleans' Frank Thomas (twice AL MVP), who used a bat given to him by his Auburn teammate Bo Jackson.

Current New York Mets closer Billy Wagner (Brewster) was East MVP in the 1992 game won by the West 3-1. Wagner, a hard-throwing lefty, struck out the side in his only inning of work. Rick Ellstrom (Cotuit) was named West MVP for his two-run home run.

In 1997 Falmouth's Jason Edgar was West MVP with two hits, two runs and an RBI on a solo home run as the West won 5-4 at Hyannis. The West starting pitcher was Mark Mulder (Bourne). With his start for the American League representing Oakland in the 2004 Major League All-Star game, Mulder became the second pitcher to start a Cape

League All-Star game and a Major League All-Star game.

The 2004 game in Orleans saw the East knock out four home runs in the first two innings on the way to a record 13-0 blanking of the West. Y-D's Frank Curreri hit a two-run home run in the first, and Jordan Brown of the host Cardinals added a solo shot to close out a four-run first. Brewster's Ryan Patterson led-off the second with a home run and Jon Aughey, of Harwich, added a two-run shot to give the East a 7-0 lead after two innings. While the East offense was exploding, the pitchers were holding the West hitless for five and two-thirds innings, the longest stretch in an All-Star game. Wareham's Warner Jones singled with two outs in the sixth for the West's first hit. In the seventh, Bryan Harris, of Cotuit, doubled for the West's second and final hit. The two hits tied the record for the fewest hits in an All-Star game.

## 2007 Western Division All-Stars

### Starting Lineup

#	POS	NAME	TEAM	B/T	HOMETOWN	CLASS	SCHOOL	STATS THRU 7/20/07
16	C	Josh Phegley	Wareham	R/R	Brazil, IN	2010	Indiana	.293, 0 HR, 6 RBI
21	1B	Shane Peterson	Hyannis	L/L	Temecula, CA	2009	Long Beach State	.340, 1 HR, 17 RBI
26	2B	Kevin Hoef	Bourne	R/R	Troy, IL	2009	Iowa	.350, 8 SB, 5 RBI
14	3B	Conor Gillaspie	Falmouth	L/R	Wichita, KS	2009	Wichita State	.356, 5 HR, 17 RBI
10	SS	Reese Havens	Cotuit	L/R	Sullivan's Island, SC	2009	South Carolina	.299, 2 HR, 13 RBI
14	LF	Aja Barto	Falmouth	R/R	Houston, TX	2009	Tulane	.298, 13 SB, 9 RBI
8	CF	Ben Guez	Bourne	R/R	Houston, TX	2009	William & Mary	.272, 3 HR, 23 RBI
13	RF	Matt Hague	Falmouth	R/R	Kent, WA	2008	Washington	.321, 2 HR, 16 RBI
4	DH	Dan Brewer	Hyannis	R/R	Gulf Breeze, FL	2009	Bradley	.330, 4 HR, 18 RBI
8	P	Aaron Crow	Falmouth	R/R	Wakarusa, KS	2009	Missouri	3-1, 0.64 ERA, 25 SO

### All-Star Reserves

#	POS	NAME	TEAM	B/T	HOMETOWN	CLASS	SCHOOL	STATS THRU 7/20/07
21	C	Robert Stock	Cotuit	L/R	West Lake, CA	2010	Southern California	.261, 3 HR, 15 RBI
20	IF	James Darnell	Hyannis	R/R	Danville, CA	2009	South Carolina	.256, 6 HR, 18 RBI
1	OF	Josh Satin	Bourne	R/R	Hidden Hills, CA	2008	California	.263, 4 HR, 20 RBI
20	P	Kyle Gibson	Falmouth	R/R	Greenfield, MO	2010	Missouri	1-0, 1.06 ERA, 37 SO
2	P	T.J. Hose	Bourne	R/R	Hagerstown, MD	2008	East Carolina	3-2, 1.27 ERA, 26 SO
21	P	Wade Miley	Wareham	L/L	Lornager, LA	2009	SE Louisiana	1-5, 1.86 ERA, 46 SO
45	P	Josh Lindblom	Cotuit	R/R	West Lafayette, IN	2009	Purdue	4-0, 3.29 ERA, 29 SO
18	P	Christian Friedrich	Falmouth	R/L	Evanston, IL	2009	Eastern Kentucky	3-1, 1.86 ERA, 42 SO
23	P	Chris Hicks	Wareham	R/R	Alpharetta, GA	2009	Georgia Tech	7 SV, 0.59 ERA, 16 SO
13	P	Jordan Flasher	Bourne	R/R	Manassas, VA	2009	George Mason	5 SV, 1.72 ERA, 19 SO
23	P	Tyler Stohr	Hyannis	R/R	Viera, FL	2009	North Florida	5 SV, 2.08 ERA, 14 SO
47	P	Luke Bumett	Falmouth	R/R	Carthage, TX	2009	Louisiana Tech	3 SV, 4.86 ERA, 28 SO

## All-Star Game Facts

### BY BRUCE HACK, BASEBALL HISTORIAN

Did you know that only two pitchers have started a Cape League All-Star game and a Major League All-Star game? Jack Armstrong (Wareham) started for the CCBL in the 1986 game, at Shea Stadium, against the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League. Armstrong was named MVP pitching two innings, allowing no hits and striking out two. In 1990 he started for the NL in the game at Wrigley Field. Bourne's Mark Mulder started for the West in the 1997 CCBL game. In 2004 he was the AL's starting pitcher, representing Oakland, in the game played at Houston.

Did you know that two Cape League Alumni have won the ML All-Star game MVP award? In 1988 the Oakland A's Terry Steinbach (Cotuit) was named MVP, for helping the AL win 2-1. In 1995 Jeff Conine (Orleans), of the Florida Marlins, earned MVP honors in the NL 3-2 win.

Did you know that the first grand slam hit in a Cape League All-Star game was hit in 1973 by Falmouth's Jim Riggelman. The round tripper powered the CCBL to a 13-7 win over the ACBL at Yankee Stadium. Riggelman holds the career record for home runs, as he hit two in the 1972 game played in Falmouth. His grand slam was 10 years before the first grand slam in a Major League All-Star game. Fred Lynn did the major league honors in a game played at Comiskey Park in 1983.

Did you know that the 2007 MLB All-Star game featured seven former Cape Leaguers? The NL starting second baseman was Chase Utley (Cotuit & Philadelphia), and also on the NL team were Aaron Rowand (Brewster & Philadelphia), Ben Sheets (Wareham/Orleans & Milwaukee) and Billy Wagner (Brewster & New York Mets). Playing for the AL were Brian Roberts (Chatham & Baltimore), Mike Lowell (Chatham & Boston) and JJ Putz (Y-D/Hyannis & Seattle).

Did you know that the 2007 MLB All-Star game had the first ever inside-the-park home run by Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki? Though it is unknown for sure, there is no record of an inside-the-park home run being hit in a Cape League All-Star game.

# 2007 Cape Cod Baseball League Schedule

## Cape Cod Baseball League

www.capecodbaseball.org

## 2007 Schedule



\*Major League\*  
\*Baseball\*  
\*Scouts Days\*

Sun 6/10	Mon 6/11	Tue 6/12	Wed 6/13	Thu 6/14	Fri 6/15	Sat 6/16
					Bou @ Cot 5:00 Y-D @ Hya 5:00 War @ Fal 7:00 Cha @ Har 7:00 Bre @ Orl 7:00	Fal @ Bou 5:00 Cot @ Bre 5:00 Orl @ Hya 5:00 Y-D @ Cha 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 Hya @ Cot 5:00 War @ Y-D 5:00 Bre @ Fal 5:30 Cha @ Orl 7:00	Orl @ Bou 5:00 Har @ Hya 5:00 Cot @ Y-D 5:00 Cha @ Fal 7:00	Bou @ Hya 5:00 War @ Cha 7:00 Cot @ Fal 7:00 Bre @ Har 7:00 Y-D @ Orl 7:00	Cha @ Bou 5:00 Hya @ Bre 5:00 Har @ Cot 5:00 Fal @ Y-D 5:00 War @ Orl 7:00	War @ Bre 5:00	Cot @ Bou (Rain) Orl @ Bre 5:00 Hya @ Y-D 5:00 Har @ Cha 7:00 Fal @ War (Rain)	War @ Cot 5:00 Bre @ Y-D 5:00 Fal @ Cha 7:00 Hya @ Har 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 Cot @ Hya 5:00 Y-D @ War 5:00 Bou @ Har 5:30 Orl @ Cha 7:00	Bou @ Bre 5:00 Fal @ Hya 5:00 Cot @ Cha 7:00 Y-D @ Har 7:00 Orl @ War 7:00	Bre @ Cot 5:00 Bou @ Y-D 5:00 Har @ Fal 7:00 Hya @ Orl 7:00 Cha @ War 7:00	Open Cot @ Bou 5:00 Fal @ War 7:00	Bre @ Bou 5:00 War @ Hya 5:00 Cha @ Y-D 5:00 Cot @ Har 7:00 Fal @ Orl 7:00	Hya @ Bou 5:00 Cha @ Bre 5:00 Y-D @ Cot 5:00 War @ Fal 7:00 Orl @ Har 7:00	Har @ Bre 5:00 Fal @ Cot 5:00 Orl @ Y-D 5:00 Bou @ Cha 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 Cha @ Hya 5:00 Cot @ Orl 5:00 Bre @ Fal 5:30 War @ Har 5:30	Open	Bou @ Cot 5:00 Hya @ Y-D 5:00 Fal @ Cha 7:00 Bre @ Har 7:00 Orl @ War 7:00	War @ Bou 2:00 Har @ Fal 4:00 Y-D @ Bre 5:00 Cot @ Hya 5:00 Cha @ Orl 7:00	Orl @ Cot 5:00 Bre @ Y-D 5:00 Hya @ Cha 7:00 Bou @ Har 7:00 Fal @ War 7:00	Cot @ Bre (Rain) Orl @ Hya (Rain) Y-D @ Cha 7:00 Bou @ Fal 7:00 Har @ War 7:00	Y-D @ Fal 5:30 Bre @ Hya 5:00 Har @ Cha 7:00 Bou @ Orl 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 Orl @ Bre 5:00 Cha @ Cot 5:00 War @ Y-D 5:00 Fal @ Har 5:30	Har @ Y-D 5:00 Bre @ Cha 7:00 Cot @ Fal 7:00 Hya @ Orl 7:00 Bou @ War 7:00	Open Cot @ Bre 5:00 Orl @ Hya 5:00	Fal @ Bou 5:00 Har @ Bre 5:00 War @ Cot 5:00 Cha @ Hya 5:00 Orl @ Y-D 5:00	Har @ Bou 5:00 War @ Bre 5:00 Orl @ Cot 5:00 Fal @ Hya 5:00 Y-D @ Cha 7:00	Cha @ Y-D 5:00 Bou @ Fal 7:00 Cot @ Har 7:00 Bre @ Orl 7:00 Hya:War @NB 7:00	Bre @ Bou 5:00 Hya @ Cot 5:00 Cha @ Fal 5:30 War @ Har 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 Har @ Hya 5:00 *Cot @ War 5:00* Bou @ Y-D 5:00 Orl @ Cha 7:00	Cot @ Bou 5:00 Y-D @ Bre 5:00 Hya @ Fal 7:00 Har @ Orl 7:00 Cha @ War 7:00	Open	Orl @ Bou (Rain) Bre @ Cot (Rain) War @ Hya (Rain) Y-D @ Fal (Rain) Cha @ Har (Rain)	Bou @ Bre 5:00 Har @ Y-D 5:00 Hya @ Cha 7:00 Cot @ Orl 7:00 Fal @ War 7:00	Y-D @ Bou 5:00 Cha @ Bre 5:00 War @ Cot 5:00 Fal @ Hya 5:00 Orl @ Har 7:00	Bre @ War 2:00 Bou @ Hya 5:00 Orl @ Fal 5:30 Cot @ Cha 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 Hya @ Bre 5:00 Har @ Cot 5:00 *Fal @ Y-D 5:00* War @ Orl 7:00	Cot @ Bou 5:00 Bre @ Y-D 5:00 Orl @ Fal 7:00 *Cha @ Har 7:00* Hya @ War 7:00	*Orl @ Bre 5:00* Bou @ Cot 5:00 Y-D @ Hya 5:00 Har @ Cha 7:00 War @ Fal 7:00	Orl @ Bou 5:00 Bre @ Cot 5:00 War @ Hya 5:00 Y-D @ Fal 7:00 Cha @ Har 7:00	*Hya @ Bou 5:00* Bre @ Cha 7:00 Fal @ Har 7:00 Y-D @ Orl 7:00 Cot @ War 7:00	War @ Bou 5:00 Fal @ Cot 5:00 Bre @ Hya 5:00 Har @ Y-D 5:00 Cha @ Orl 7:00	All-Star Game Wareham 6:pm
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 Bou @ Cha 7:00 Cot @ Fal 7:00 Hya @ Har 7:00 Bre @ War 7:00	Y-D @ Bre 5:00 Fal @ Cot 5:00 Bou @ Hya 5:00 War @ Cha 7:00 Har @ Orl 7:00	All Star Player Recognition Night Fenway Park	Open	Cha @ Cot 4:30 Hya @ Fal 7:00 Y-D @ Har 7:00 Bre @ Orl 7:00 Bou @ War 7:00	War @ Bou 4:30 Har @ Bre 4:30 Cot @ Hya 4:30 Cha @ Y-D 4:30 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 Y-D @ War 5:00 Bou @ Fal 5:30 Orl @ Har 5:30 Bre @ Cha 7:00	Fal @ Bou 4:30	Cha @ Bre 4:30 War @ Hya 4:30 Cot @ Y-D 4:30 Har @ Orl 7:00	Y-D @ Cot 4:30 Orl @ Cha 7:00 Hya @ Fal 7:00 Bre @ Har 7:00 Bou @ War 7:00	Open	Divisional Games East: Game 1 West: Game 1	Divisional Games East: Game 2 West: Game 2
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)			



DON PARKINSON/ENTEPRISE

Chatham first baseman Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest) has a knack for driving in runs.

# MR. RBI

## Chatham's Allan Dykstra

BY DAN CROWLEY

In June of 2005 the Boston Red Sox drafted Chatham A's first baseman Allan Dykstra in the 34th round, but in Dykstra's mind there was no question, he was going to play ball at Wake Forest.

"When I was drafted, it was a draft and follow type of thing, just in case college didn't work out," Dykstra explained. "I got some calls, and some offers as early as the 10th round, but I had committed to Wake Forest University."

In his first season with the Demon Deacons, the 6-5, 230 pound left-handed hitter earned Atlantic Coast Conference Rookie of the Year honors, and was named an All-American. He started all 55 games, hitting .324 with a team-leading 15 home runs. Dykstra also led the team in RBI, with a total of 56.

"I got an opportunity to play everyday as a freshman," he explained, "which

was one of the big reasons I went to Wake Forest."

One organization that saw Dykstra's potential was the Chatham A's. Last summer he played 14 games at first base, and four in the outfield, for the A's, posting a .232 batting average in his first collegiate wood-bat season. But, more importantly, in 42 games, some as a designated hitter, and 142 at-bats, he drove in a Cape League-leading 29 RBI.

"I got off to a slow start," he recalled. "I got it together at the end. I was a little surprised to be leading the league in RBI at the end."

Only 19 years-old when he came to the Cape in the summer of 2006, there were adjustments to make.

"Like I said, I struggled in the beginning last summer. I put too much pressure on myself. There were some high expectations; I was the ACC Rookie of the Year. I was trying to do a little too much with a wood bat. Once

I settled in everything was okay."

For those who hadn't notice it yet, Dykstra was serving notice that he could drive in runs. He collected a team-leading 60 RBI in his sophomore season at Wake Forest. He was a clutch hitter, who could put the ball in play.

"We had a really good season as a team this spring, and I was glad to be a part of it," he said. "I started the season really well, and people started to pitch around me, but it eventually got to the point where other teams had to pitch to me. I just want to be at the plate, to be the guy that comes up in the ninth inning with the game on the line. I want to be in that situation."

Dykstra's patience at the plate makes opposing pitchers work. He is selective, looking for that pitch in the striking zone that he can drive.

"This summer, I'm not  
 Continued on Page 13

## Yarmouth-Dennis Slugger Poised For Success

 Continued from Page 7 outside Boca Raton, is no stranger to wood bats. "My dad [Peter] set up a batting cage in our back yard, and I've always taken swings in it with wood," he said. "You can get a lot of cheap hits with metal bats, but, with wood, you've really got to square it up to make solid contact."

Unabashedly aggressive at the plate, Sean said he likes to take his cuts "as early in the count as possible. I look for fastballs on 2-0 or 3-1 counts."

He admits that finding his pitches in the Cape League isn't easy. "Every day the pitching here is unbelievable," he said. "Every starter is a number one or two for his college team, and most relievers are starters who can throw in the mid-90s"

Ochinko hits the gym for 90-minute workouts five days a week. "I've gotten a lot stronger in my legs and upper body, and it's definitely helped my swing," he said.

When he pulls the trigger, Sean rotates his hips as quickly as any hitter in the Cape League. "I'm big on getting my front foot down early, and I try not to move my head as I pull the bat through,"

he said. "But I need to keep working on shortening up my swing and getting the bat around quicker."

Sean grew up in a household divided along baseball lines, with his father a Mets fan and his mother pulling for the rival Phillies. His choice of a role model, catcher Mike Piazza, satisfied both sides. "He had

some great years with the Mets, and he's from Norristown, Pennsylvania, my Mom's hometown," Sean said. "He hits to all fields with power, and I love his confidence, and how he stays relaxed and loose."

Ochinko is no stranger to the Cape, having been chosen to play in the Cape Cod National High School Clas-

sic in Wareham in 2005, just before his senior year. He and his family also attended the Cape League All-Star Game that weekend. "Andrew Miller started that game," he said of the former Chatham A's hurler who debuted in the majors last August with the Detroit Tigers. "I kept thinking how great it would be to have a chance to play in this league."

Last Saturday Sean was named to the 2007 Cape League All-Star team.

Now that he's here, Sean is making the most of it. And, while he takes his baseball seriously, he also finds time to play video games with his teammates and fish for striped bass. "As far as the whole experience goes, it doesn't get any better than this."

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# Cotuit Shortstop Reese Havens Makes His Second All-Star Start

**BY DAN CROWLEY**  
 For the second time in as many years, Cotuit's Reese Havens is a Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star. Last summer, after a freshman season with the South Carolina Gamecocks in which he hit .274 in 65 games, Havens arrived on the Cape and quickly became a solid performer for

the Kettleers. This summer, with a season of wood bat experience behind him, Havens is not only ranging the left side of the infield with steady consistency, he's hitting the ball at a .287 clip. "I think I've definitely improved as a player over last summer, and I think Coach (Mike) Roberts is a big reason for that," Havens

said. "He is a great coach, and I enjoy working with him. It's definitely an advantage being a second year guy, which, in this league, I guess, makes me a veteran. But, still, the competition this year is just as good as it was last year."

Last summer three South Carolina Gamecocks wore Cotuit colors, but, this year, Havens, and college teammate Mike Cisco, are without Justin Smoak, who is playing with Team USA. But like SC teammate Will Atwood, of the Orleans Cardinals, Havens keeps track of his friend.

"He just got back from Brazil, and is playing at Hank Aaron Stadium in Mobile," Havens said. "We miss him here. He is a great guy to be around, both on and off the field. When you play on the same field as someone with that kind of talent, it raises your level of play. He's having a good time with Team USA, but it would be nice to have him here."

After his 2006 all-star Cape League summer, Havens hoped that he'd get a chance to return to the Cape. That became possible when, midway through the spring collegiate season, he answered a call from Coach Roberts.

"He invited me back," Havens smiled. "I didn't hesitate. I wanted to come back and play for him again."

While he throws from the right side, Havens has always hit from the left side of the plate, something that he says, for him, was just natural. He is an aggressive

hitter, who knows the strike zone and can work his way on base. This summer he is second on the team with 10 walks. He has a .351 on-base percentage, and is slugging .416.

"I am aggressive, but I'm patient," he said. "I'm feeling pretty comfortable up there."

Now, with two weeks left to his second Cape League season, Havens is reflective about how playing in the league has helped him.

"The competition is great here; it's like facing a Friday night starter every night. Having the chance to play here has definitely helped my game. I think I'm a much better player after two years of playing here. It has been fun."

Havens was drafted out of high school, in 2005, by the Boston Red Sox. He is eligible for the June Major League Baseball Amateur Draft again next year, and is hoping, in this case, that history repeats itself.

"If there is one team that I could play with, it would be the Red Sox," he added. "I love everything about the organization. I would be nice to play for them."

Saturday, Reese Havens will join his all-star teammates at Spillane Field in Wareham for the 45th Annual Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game as the starting shortstop for the Western Division. On August 1, he'll have the chance to walk onto the field at Fenway Park, when he joins his all-star teammates from both East and West for the league's Recognition Night.



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Cotuit Kettleer Reese Havens (South Carolina) will be the starting shortstop for the Cape League Western Division All-Stars.

## Mr. Versatility

Continued from Page 7

fun. The NECBL is very competitive, and there are a lot of good players there. But the talent is a little better here on the Cape."

When Christiani takes the mound, batters can expect a four- or two-seam fastball, curveball, change-up or slider. Part of his versatility is that he'll use any pitch in any situation. The two-seam fastball he likes to use to get ground balls, but whatever the situation, it could be any one of those five, and it will hit the catcher's glove for a strike. In a pinch, he likes to rely on his slider.

Articulate and to the point, Christiani won't hesitate to express his utter disgust with metal bats.

"I hate metal bats. With wood, you really have to have a good swing, and there aren't as many cheap hits," he said. "With metal bats, a hitter can be jammed, or not get all of it, and the ball still ends up going into the gap, or something. The sweet spot on some of these metal bats is too long. These hitters are already good; they don't need any more help."

Cape League hitters won't get much help from Christiani this summer. Mr. Versatility could show up at any time and start dealing a mix of pitches that is going to keep hitters on their toes.

"I've had two rough outings this summer. I gave up four runs in one outing. If you take that away, it hasn't been a bad summer. I just want to go out there and help my team win. The majority of the time I've been able to do that."

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## FATHER KNOWS BEST

### John Wylde: Patriarch of the Wareham Gatemen...

#### *Past, Present, and Future*

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

John Wylde, 69, and his wife Patty never had kids of their own, but the Wylde's have had hundreds of children over the years, from Maurice "Mo" Vaughn to Diallo Fon (Arizona).

Wylde has been the patriarch of the Wareham Gatemen ever since 1983, when he decided to take over the team somewhat reluctantly as General Manager and Treasurer - with financial backing from both he and several friends - after a dispute between the former financial supporter of the team, John N. Decas of Decas Bros. Wholesale Fruit in Wareham, and the league, led Decas to pull his support.

The Gatemen franchise was summarily thrown out of the league after refusing to participate in the league's playoffs that year due to the dispute over their number of roster spots and their future remained uncertain: Enter John Wylde.

"It's kind of funny," he said of his start in the league.

"I sort of came in the back door. Along we came and sort of picked up the pieces [of the Gatemen franchise]."

Wylde grew up outside of Boston and went to work for his father in the ocean shipping business, not as

the owners of ships, but as steamship agents, which he said was almost like insurance agents, handling ships when they would come into Boston. He said that he was first introduced to Wareham in 1942 when his family began summering there; his father loved the ocean and fishing.

Wylde married Patty, a Chatham native, in 1962. He soon transformed her into a Gatemen fan. Nine-years later he was a full-time resident of Wareham, renting at first, until his home was built two years later. "As far as I'm concerned, I'll die here," Wylde said affectionately of the town that has become his home.

Wylde first became acclimated to the talent and quality of baseball in the Cape League in 1981 after his family's Boston-based ocean shipping company purchased the Chicago based Howe News Bureau "somewhat by mistake," and moved the company to Boston.

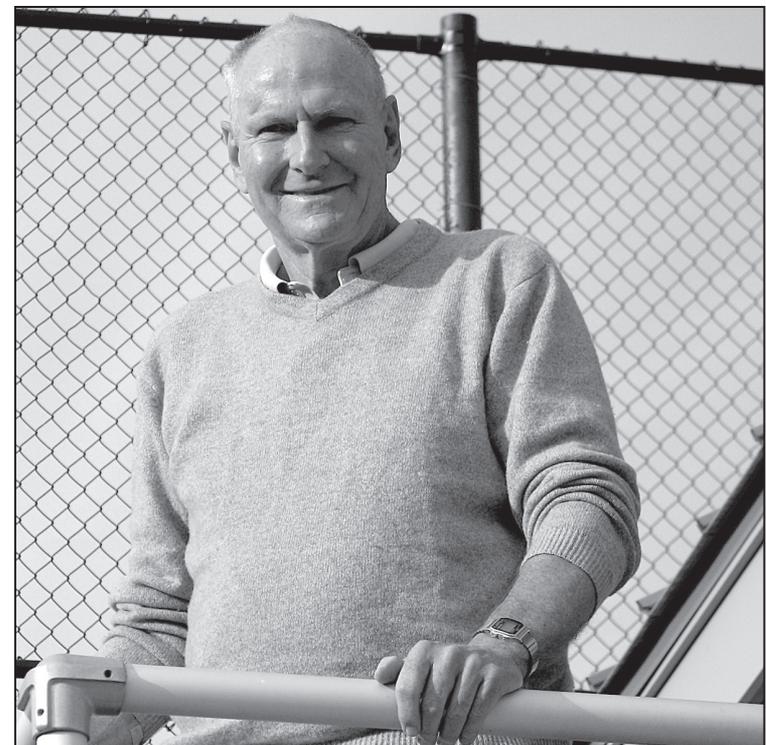
Wylde knew that the company was doing the statistics for the Central Illinois Collegiate League, so he put together a proposal for the local boys of summer, the Cape Cod Baseball League. This opened his eyes to the level of play in the league as

he began to attend Gatemen games, meeting Decas at one point.

Despite summering in Wareham and knowing numerous former players, he had never been to a CCBL game before the purchase of Howe. The Howe News Bureau was the predecessor to the PA SportsTicker, who still has the Cape League's statistical contract.

Although Wylde got his start in the Cape League in 1983 when he took over for the Gatemen, today, he has many posts and jobs within the league administration. His beginnings were humble however, mostly working for the Gatemen, improving Spillane Field, which he agrees was deservedly regarded as the "worst field in the league." He put up the wooden sheets around the field and painted them, long before the left field bleachers at Spillane were switched from wood to metal, and the wood sheets were replaced by green mesh.

In 1986 he took over supervising the league's statisticians to fill a vacancy and around the same time he got involved in the league tryout, which is today called the Frank Finn Invitational Tryout, which was designed to give local players, perhaps from smaller schools,



MATTHEW BURKE/ENTERPRISE

General Manager John Wylde has guided the Wareham Gatemen for more than two decades.

a chance to make a CCBL roster. He also took over duties as the Gatemen's PA announcer at home games and is responsible for their numerous sponsorships.

Wylde has built the Gatemen franchise from the ground up, eventually garnering field improvement funds from the Yawkey Foundation to turn one of the "worst fields in the Cape League" into a fun family park, complete with t-shirt tosses from the players, and a place where the kids can keep the foul balls thanks to sponsors. Wareham's Spillane Field has come a long way, and will host this summer's All-Star game.

Not to mention the fact that Wylde has turned the league's statistical information into the most com-

prehensive in the baseball world. All of the stats from the day are funneled through him, and he helps the statisticians get every call uniform. He said that their system is widely regarded as the most accurate in all of baseball. He also does the transactions report and does the statistical studies for the league, calculating how many former Cape Leaguers are on Major League rosters.

Wylde's quote/un-quote, children, have repaid their father by winning titles in 1988, 1994, 1997, 2001, and 2002. The Gatemen have been a perennial playoff contender and have incorporated Wareham's blue-collar mentality into their dirt dog playing style, gritting out victories over more talented

Continued on Next Page

## MR. RBI: ALLAN DYKSTRA

Continued from Page 11 swinging at too many balls out of the strike zone," he smiled, "but when they're in the zone, you have to get the bat moving."

He is hitting .317 for the A's, and slugging .426, with a team-leading 20 RBI, currently sixth this summer among Cape League hitters.

"Coming back for a second year, I was more comfortable with everything," he pointed out. "I'm with the same host family. Coming here as a freshman, I knew this was the best summer league, it's the place to be if you want to become a better baseball player, and move on."

Last Saturday, the San Diego, California native was chosen as the starting designated hitter for the Eastern Division All-Stars for the 45th Annual Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game.

"This is a great honor," he added. "I turned it on recently, and got up over .300. I'm looking forward to having some fun in Wareham."

In the meantime, Dykstra, who is of no relation to Leney Dykstra, who played 12 major league seasons for the New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies, has stayed in touch with the Boston Red Sox. He is draft eligible again next June.

"Hopefully, they'll draft me again," he smiled. "The Red

Sox are a good organization. I have been talking with some of their scouts. I have even been to a couple of their games. They have really good fan support all around the country."

Allan Dykstra will have the chance to attend another Boston Red Sox game August 1, when, as a member of the Cape League All-Stars, he attends Fenway Park for the league's Recognition Night as a guest of the team.



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## FATHER KNOWS BEST

### John Wylde: Patriarch of the Wareham Gatemen...*Past, Present, and Future*

Continued from Page 13  
teams over the years.

However, all is not well for Wylde and his Gatemen. Their current situation has Wylde worried about their future as he mulls retirement. He said that after 2008, he will be year to year, with both the league and with the team.

"The absolute dream

Wareham but fears that the team could get run out of town by the current board of selectmen, who he said kicked the team off the town website without warning, and in some cases have been outwardly hostile. He said that he feels they do not appreciate the economic impact of the team.



MATTHEW BURKE/ENTERPRISE

Wareham GM John Wylde outside the press box at Spillane Field.

would be to be able to ensure that the Wareham Gatemen could exist as something that we'd all be proud of for many years after my death," Wylde said of the future. "That would really be the ultimate dream...[But] I'm not sure how one can achieve that dream. We've had a very disappointing summer with the board of selectmen."

On this day, Wylde is his usual happy self yet he is uneasy when talking about the team's future. He loves

So with the Gatemen's future in limbo, Mr. Wylde worries about "his children," namely the hundreds of ballplayers who will come to Wareham in the future, after he is gone. He hinted that if the political climate did not change in Wareham soon, he would be in favor of a move to New Bedford, something he said he is not alone in feeling, amongst team officials.

Wylde says that he is perhaps in the twilight of his Cape League career, and the future of the Gatemen remains

uncertain once again. He said that not only does he want to set up a trust for the team to take care of them after he is gone, but he also wants to make sure that they are in a stable community, one that truly appreciates them and wants them there.

"I look at New Bedford and I look at Scott Lang (New Bedford's Mayor)," Wylde said, adding that Lang has a "burning desire" to get a CCBL franchise. "He recognizes what that would mean for the city of New Bedford and its just so disheartening to have the Wareham public officials attitude, and then contrast that with Scott Lang and New Bedford."

Wylde said that he is also tired of coming under attack from the media. He said The Wareham Observer newspaper had written stories about the team, hinting that the Yawkey Foundation funding used to benefit Spillane Field, was illegal; something he says is not true. He also said that a recent story of theirs said that Mr. Wylde and team officials accept perks and have "cushy deals," something he also denies is true. He said that he couldn't understand why the team has come under attack.

"I seem to be on the enemies list," he said. "That's why the dream at the moment is in the trash can. The future I would have to say is definitely uncertain."

Because of Wareham's blue-collar roots, Mr. Wylde said that there just isn't the

money available to the team from the community as there is in Orleans and Chatham, something that has not made him jealous, it has just meant that Wylde himself has had to pay for the team himself over the years, including travel expenses to and from the Cape for each player, something he promised Decas when he took over the team.

But Mr. Wylde is a true baseball fan, and he is happy to dip into his own pocket to the tune of approximately \$125,000 each year. He said it wouldn't be possible if he had biological children, so the Gatemen have become his children. He considers it his way to get the kids prepared for Major League Baseball, something that cannot be equated to a price tag. He just worries what will

happen when he is gone.

With retirement on the horizon, this modern Cape League founding father, is concerned about future financing for the club.

"It's my interest in life," he said in conclusion. "So the only way I could see to make it go for the future would be to leave in effect a trust to the Gatemen, so at the time I die, they still had, maybe not that much income, but income from the trust that would give them a huge step forward, but I'm just scared to death that if I do that, and I'm gone, you'll get the town officials," and possibly school officials, trying to dip into the trust meant for the team.

"Our number one objective is to prepare kids for pro baseball," he said in conclusion. "The challenge is to keep doing that."

## All-Star Game Broadcasts

The 45th edition of the Cape Cod Baseball League All-Star Game at Clem Spillane Field in Wareham, will be broadcast live on WCAI, the Cape and Islands NPR stations and also televised on a delayed basis by NESN, the New England Sports Network. The game is scheduled to begin at 6 PM on Saturday, July 28.

Legendary broadcaster Fred Cusick, longtime radio and TV voice of the Boston Bruins and the CCBL's Game of the Week commentator on

WBZ1030.com, will provide play-by-play on WCAI, while John Garner of the Cape League will do color commentary, along with Sam Eshelman, voice of the Wareham Gatemen.

Mindy Todd, of WCAI's "The Point," and reporter Henry Rome will do live interviews between innings.

Veteran Boston-area broadcaster Bob Neumeier will provide play-by-play of the CCBL All-Star Game for NESN, while former New York Yankees and Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Jim Beattie, who played for the Harwich Mariners in 1974, and more recently served as Executive VP of the Baltimore Orioles, will do color commentary.

The telecast on NESN will be shown on Monday, July 30, at 7 PM, during the regular time slot of the Boston Red Sox, who are off that day.

The Cape and Islands NPR stations, WCAI 90.1 FM, WNAN 91.1 FM and WZAI 94.3 FM, are listener-supported public radio stations serving Cape Cod, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and the South Coast.

The All-Star radio broadcast will also be available on the Internet by going to the CCBL Web site, [www.cape-codbasedball.org](http://www.cape-codbasedball.org), or to [www.gatemen.org](http://www.gatemen.org) for the feed provided by Cape.Com.

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## Cape League Becomes A Second Family

BY CHRIS KAZARIAN

It may be difficult to measure love, but when it comes to the Cape Cod Baseball League, Judy and Art Arnold, owners of the Old Manse Inn in Brewster, may be at the top of the list.

In 2005, the couple left Orlando, Florida, where they had to been living for three years to move to the Cape. "We wanted to get involved in the Cape League," Art said. "It was always a part of the goal."

Since then they have served the league as a host family. Last year, they hosted shortstop Tavo Hall, of the University of San Francisco. This year, Hall is back in the Arnold homestead, joined by relief pitcher Lee Land, out of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

They have hosted cook-outs, regularly attend games, and, most importantly, developed a strong bond with those they care for. "On the Cape, the league is a special thing," Art said. "It is not necessarily about baseball, but to be a part of these kids' lives when they are trying to get to that next level. That is really what it is all about." The seed was planted more than 20 years ago, he said, when the family, raising two daughters, Jennifer, a recent graduate of UMass-Amherst, and Jacqueline, now a senior at the University of Connecticut, spent their summer vacations in Nantucket.

Those trips always ended with a few days spent on the mainland. "That was primarily because of base-

ball," he said. "We are big baseball fans, and would catch Chatham and Orleans games." They enjoyed the laid back atmosphere of the league, and, as fans, connecting vicariously with certain players. Roughly seven years ago, Art said, they took delight in following Chatham A's third baseman Michael Moon, of the University of Southern California.

"He was a classic character, unlike most players these days," Art recalled. "He just really enjoyed himself, was always joking around, and seemed to be a real guy. We followed him around for several days wherever the team we went. Every team had one of those guys, and it was just fun to follow somebody." These days, those players are with the Brewster Whitecaps. Although the Arnold's rarely saw a Brewster game prior to moving to the Cape, now they are loyal fans. "We root for the Brewster team no matter what," he said, adding that "you always find yourself rooting for your guy." When Tavo plays, Art said, "You live and die with what he does." It is the same with relief pitcher Lee Land, he said, who quite possibly could sign with the Oakland Athletics in the near future. In a recent game against Bourne, he said, Land got the requisite three outs, striking out two to end the game.

"He obviously was showcasing his future," Art said. "We felt it. We felt every pitch." The fact that he has major league potential excites the innkeepers, but

Art noted that the simple conversations and bonding time is even more meaningful to him.

Before and after dinner, they will talk about the game, professional sports, and life. "It is very personal for me that I get to hang around with the guys," he said. "The thing I think I enjoy the most is the camaraderie, where you can talk about sports, or anything at all." He will also, on occasion, enjoy a golf outing with the two ballplayers also. This summer they have hit the links three times, with Art currently in the lead. "They play as a team. They play their best ball against mine," he said. "We have some fun. Subliminally I think it is a guy thing ... I am not sure if this is Freudian, but this is an opportunity to live in a male-dominated household, not counting pets. It is really a cool thing for a guy who has lived in a female-dominated household for a long time." At least with Tavo, the relationship has extended past the actual Cape League season. Last year the Arnold's met up with the New Mexico native in Las Vegas, in December, when they were ringing in the New Year.

For the Arnold's, and in particular Art, who grew up playing baseball, this is what the Cape League is all about. It has nothing to do with a mitt, glove, or a baseball. It has everything to do with the connections that are made, not just during the season, but beyond. "It really is about the relationships, now and into the future," he said.



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE  
Cotuit pitcher Chris Fetter (Michigan) barehands the ball and makes the play at first base.

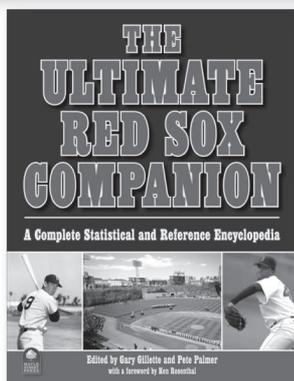
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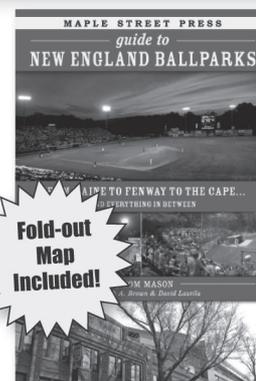
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