



# Beacon

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A publication of the Ban Johnson Amateur Baseball League

## Mustangs grab the title

The Milgram Mustangs captured their 15th Ban Johnson League title with a 12-4 victory in the fifth game of the finals of the championship tournament, but it wasn't easy for the Mustangs.

They faced UMB Bank in the best of three quarter-finals, losing the first game, but coming back to win the next two to advance to the semifinals.

In the semifinals against Natural Baseball Academy, they again lost the first game, but came back to win the next two to vault into the best of five finals against defending champ Seaboard.

They won the first two nine-inning games by counts of 6-3 and 7-4.

But they dropped the third nine-inning contest 3-2, forcing a possible two seven-inning doubleheader to decide the champion.

Seaboard won the first game 6-4, but the Mustangs shot out to a 10-0 lead in the second game, capturing the contest 12-4.

It was the first title for the Mustangs since 2008 and

the first for third-year manager **Kevin Shaw**.

Shaw was a coach for the Mustangs for 14 years before leaving to become the UMB manager for two seasons, before coming back to the Mustangs in 1996.

"This group of young men were focused on sharing the goal of winning a championship," Shaw said.

"Leaders like **Ryan Lasneske**, **Sam Morman** and **Andrew Blackwell** have been with me sharing the goal of a championship.

"I am proud of them and we shared our determination. They helped encourage the new Mustangs to work hard."

Lasneske and Blackwell were right-handed pitchers and Morman was an outfielder.

Morman was voted the MVP of the championship series by league officials.

He was eight-for-21 with a double and seven RBIs in the five-game finals.

"This feels pretty good," he said. "This is likely

See Mustangs, page 4



**CHAMPIONS** - Milgram Mustangs won the fifth and deciding game in the tournament finals against Seaboard to capture the league championship July 31 at Mid-America Sports Complex. The Mustangs beat Seaboard, 12-4, in the title game.

*Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.*

**(Final unofficial)  
Batting Average**

(based on a minimum of 64 plate appearances)

1. Luke Lucchetti, Regal Plastics	.432
2. Coleman Waheed, BJ Raiders	.420
3. Jake Jones, Midwest Orioles	.414
4. Anthony Miller, Seaboard	.390
5. Bryan Porting, Regal Plastics	.371
6. Brett Anderson, Building Champions Gold	.368
7. Aaron Stubblefield, Milgram Mustangs	.363
8. Dylan Christie, Milgram Mustangs	.359
9. Gabriel Greenbaum, Bandits	.350
10. Andrew Warner, Seaboard	..347

**Home Runs**

1. Dylan Christie, Milgram Mustangs	4
2. Daniel Lamunyon, UMB Bank	3
2. Danny Kralicek, UMB Bank	3
2. Andrew Curry, Milgram Mustangs	3
2. Andrew Warner, Seaboard	3
6. (13 tied with two each)	

**Runs Batted In**

1. Sam Morman, Milgram Mustangs	26
2. Ian Barker, Midwest Orioles	25
3. Coleman Waheed, BJ Raiders	25
4. Brett Anderson, Building Champions Gold	24
4. John Hatch, Seaboard	24
6. William Mahnken, BJ Raiders	22
7. Andrew Warner, Seaboard	21
7. Braden Brown, Seaboard	21
9. Bryan Rezin, BJ Raiders	20
10. (three tied with 19 each)	

# Beacon

**Publishers:** Nancy Milgram, Nat Milgram  
**Advertising Manager:** Sally Milgram  
**Executive Director:** Bob McFarlane  
**Head Scorer:** Richard Dawson  
**Ban Johnson League office:** (913) 383-7765  
 P.O. Box 7869; Shawnee Mission, KS 66207  
**E-Mail:** banjohnson@aol.com  
**Web site:** www.bjbaseball.com

**Pitching  
Earned Run Average**

(based on a minimum of 28 innings)

1. David Reese, NKC Apartments	0.75
2. Tyler Meeks, Natural Baseball Academy	1.23
3. Devin Stubbings, BJ Raiders	1.31
4. Eric Smith, BJ Raiders	1.32
5. Logan Bausch, Midwest Orioles	1.51
6. Alex Thornton, UMB Bank	1.81
7. Andrew Blackwell, Milgram Mustangs	1.86
8. Brandon Martinkus, Natural Baseball Academy	1.93
9. Brendan Beatty, NKC Apartments	2.227
10. Cade Brummer, MSBL Royals	2.231
11. Zachary Maskill, Midwest Orioles	2.43
12. Caeden Harris, Building Champion Navy	2.46

**Strikeouts**

1. David Reese, NKC Apartments	45
2. John Rector, MidAmeriCare Nationals	44
2. Tyler Meeks, Natural Baseball Academy	44
4. Zachary Maskill, Midwest Orioles	43
4. Cade Brummer, MSBL Royals	43
6. Ryan Lasneske, Milgram Mustangs	40
7. Matthew Reilly, Natural Baseball Academy	38
7. Christopher Mancha, BJ Raiders	38
9. Blake Stephens, Mid-AmeriCare Nationals	37
10. Jake Slocum, Building Champions Navy	36
11. Steven Damico, UMB Bank	35

**Ban Johnson  
League Standings**

FINAL

	W	L	GB
Seaboard	22	6	----
Milgram Mustangs	21	7	1.0
BJ Raiders	20	8	2.0
Natural Baseball	18	10	4.0
Regal Plastics	16	12	6.0
NKC Apts.	14	12	7.0
UMB Bank	13	15	9.0
MidAmeriCare Nationals	11	17	11.0
Building Champions Navy	10	17	11.5
Bandits	9	17	12.0
MSBL Royals	9	19	13.0
Building Champions Gold	8	19	13.5
Midwest Orioles	8	20	14.0

## All-Star Game more than just winning and losing

The BJ All-Stars walked around the dugouts, field and bullpens before the game won 5-3 by the J All-Stars.

They were in awe of a chance of a lifetime to live a childhood dream - playing at Kauffman Stadium.

“This is a dream come true for me,” NKC Apartments first baseman **Matt Stacks** said. “I was a Royals fan growing up.”

BJ Raiders shortstop **Coleman Waheed** grew up in the Dallas area attending Dallas Hillcrest, but came to Kansas City to attend college at William Jewell.

How did he end up in Liberty, Mo.?

“I had a best friend that I went to middle school with, Zach Flores, commit there and call me saying they were looking for another infielder and to check it out,” he said.

His friend left the school but Waheed stayed.

“I remember watching games from here (Kauffman Stadium),” he said. “This is the greatest thing I’ve ever done. It’s something I will never forget.”

He had a double in the first inning.

MSBL Royals DH **Aaron Gile** said. “I grew up around here. This was a once in a lifetime thing.”

Gile had a two RBI double in the game.

Bandits shortstop **Erik Benson** said, “It’s great to play here with everyone else in the league. I finally got a chance to play here (Kauffman Stadium).”

BJ Raiders DH **Victor Brancato** added, “This is a great experience to play in a major league park. It is a great honor to play in the all-star game.”

“This is the best experiencae of my life,” Seaboard first baseman **Anthony Miller**, who had an RBI double in the game, said. “It was great to play on this field where so many great players have played.”

Regal Plastics third baseman **Bryan Porting** added, “It means the world to play in this park and to play in front of my family.”



**ROYAL RECOGNITION** - **Aaron Stubblefield**, Milgram third baseman (left), receives the All-Star Game MVP Award from Toby Cook, Royals vice-president, July 27, at Kauffman Stadium. The Mustang was two-for-three in the game with an RBI and a run scored.

“Photo by Chris Vleisides.”

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**Continued from page 1**

my biggest accomplishment.

“I thought this was a championship team from the start of the season. We had such a talented group of guys, and every single one of them stepped up when they were called upon.”

Lasneske added, “For the past few years we have felt that we were one of the best teams in the league and our goal was to win the very last game of the year.

“We really came together as a team right away, I think all the guys knew the talent that was on the roster and everyone knew their role and we came to play everyday.”

He added that more than half of the wins this season were come from behind victories.

“We called it Milgram Magic,” he said. “And that’s a testament to the chemistry we had.

“We were the best hitting team all year, had some key veterans and new guys that stepped up offensively and defensively all year. For me pitching was more relaxed knowing the offense was going to score runs and the guys would play solid defense behind me.”

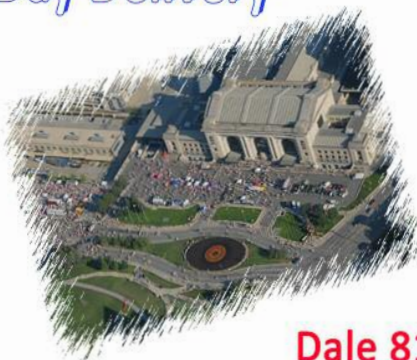


**FANS** - Watching the Ban Johnson finals at Mid-America Sports Complex were **Carl Dean** (right) and **Annette Dean** (left), parents of Milgram Mustang outfielder **Cameron Dean**, and **Phil Nehring** (standing).

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# Tournament highlights Presented by Steve Stillwell's Bushidokan

## Championship Tournament Finals Best of Five July 28

### Milgram Mustangs 6, Seaboard 3

The Mustangs scored four runs in the sixth inning. **Aaron Stubblefield** was three-for-five with a double and **Wes Jones**, two-for-three.

### July 29

### Milgram Mustangs 7, Seaboard 4

The Mustangs won the game with three runs in the bottom of the eighth.

**JJ Wesley** went two-for-four; **Andrew Curry**, two-for-three and **Dylan Christie**, two-for-four.

### July 30

### Seaboard 3, Milgram Mustangs 2

**Matt McHugh** was one-for-four with two RBIs and pitched six innings, walking two and fanning 10. **David White** was one-for-two and **Sam Mrstik**, two-for-three.

### July 31

### Seaboard 6, Milgram Mustangs 4

Seaboard scored two runs in top of seventh.

**Matt McHugh** went two-for-four with two doubles and two RBIs and **David White**, two-for-three with an RBI.

### Milgram Mustangs 12, Seaboard 4

**Aaron Stubblefield** went two-for-five with a double and two RBIs; **Andrew Curry**, two-for-two with two doubles and two RBIs and **Wes Jones**, two-for-three.



**READY FOR TAG** - Milgram Mustang second baseman **Chase Watt** (center), backed up by teammate shortstop **Zac Shaw** (left), prepared to tag Seaboard's **Braden Brown** out at second base in the first game of the Ban Johnson League tournament finals July 28 at the Mid-America Sports Complex.



**TOURNAMENT MVP - Sam Morman**, Milgram outfielder, is congratulated by manager **Kevin Shaw** after being named Tournament MVP July 31 at Mid-America Sports Complex. Morman was eight for 21 with a double and seven RBIs in the five-game final series.



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**DIFFERENT ERAS** - Ban Johnson players (from left) **Chris Halford** (KC Life, 1980, Hustle Award), **Ron Zuber** (Western Auto, 1966, MVP Award), **Moe Lago** (Western Auto, 1958, MVP Award) and **Andrew Blackwell** (Milgram Mustangs, 2013, Hustle Award) threw out ceremonial first pitches prior to game one of the Tournament Finals July 28 at Mid-America Sports Complex.



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## Alumni Corner presented by Moe Lago

# BJ Alums in professional baseball

There are a number of Ban Johnson League alumni active in professional baseball in various capacities.

Here is a look at a who's who of alums in the professional baseball:

**Trevor Rosenthal**, pitcher St. Louis Cardinals (Building Champions).

**Jason Adam**, pitcher, Omaha Storm Chasers, PCL -AAA, Royals (Building Champions).

**Lee Ridenhour**, pitcher, Clearwater Threshers, FSL-High A, Phillies, (Midwest Orioles).

**Ryne Stanek**, pitcher, Charlotte Stone Crabs, FSU-High A, Rays (Building Champions).

**Bralin Jackson**, outfielder, Hudson Valley Renegades, NYPenn League-SS A, Rays (Milgram Mustangs).

**John Means**, pitcher, Aberdeen IronBirds, NYPenn-SS A, Orioles (Building Champions.)

**Sean McHugh**, catcher, Williamsport Crosscutters, NYPenn, SS A, Phillies (Building Champions).

**Justin Chigbogu**, first baseman, Ogden Raptors, Pioneer, R, Dodgers (Milgram Mustangs).

**Derek Gordon**, pitcher, Kansas City T-Bones (Independent) (UMB Bank)

**Bubba Starling**, outfielder, Wilmington Blue Rocks, Carolina League, High A, Royals

(Building Champions).

**Adam Giacalone**, first baseman, Joliet Slammers, Independent (Building Champions).

**Ray Chang**, infielder, Pensacola Blue Wahoos, Southern League, AA Reds (Milgram Mustangs).

**Keith Lieppman** is the Oakland A's director of player development.

**Mike Rojas** is the bullpen coach for the Seattle Mariners

**Russ Morman** is the manager of the Richmond Flying Squirrels in the AA Eastern League. Club is a team in the San Francisco Giants organization.

**Cullen McRae** is the video coordinator for the Florida Marlins.

**Frank White** is the first base coach for the Kansas City T-Bones.

There are a number of alums in the scouting end of the game, including; **Jeff Cornell**, Tampa Bay Rays; **Mike Grouse**, Texas Rangers; **Mike Hankins**, Detroit Tigers; **Darryl Monroe**, NY Yankees; **Brittan Motley**, Kansas City Royals; **Paul Provas**, Chicago White Sox and **Mike Roberts** of the St. Louis Cardinals.

There are two alums who are TV analysts:

**David Cone** with the NY Yankees.

**Rick Sutcliffe** with ESPN

And who will be the next alum to make it to the big leagues? Only time will tell.

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| ◆ Dennis Boatright<br><i>P</i> Bill Boyd<br>◆ Jim Cash<br>◆ Darrell Corwin<br>Bill Fenton                  | Boyle's Corned Beef early 1980s<br>Western Auto 1968-70<br>Katz 1949-52<br>Moody's/Feld 1957-60<br>Country Club Dairy 1963-67<br>Coach 1968-80  | ◆ Don Motley<br><i>P</i> Gary Patton<br>◆ John Peterson<br>◆ Mike Peterson                                                                                 | Milgram manager/coach 1968-2011;<br>General manager 2012-present<br>Boyle's Corned Beef 1973-76<br>KC Bandits sponsor/coach 2008-11<br>Country Club/Milgram 1966-70,<br>Coach 1975-2011;<br>Asst. general manager 2012-current<br>Boyle's Corned Beef 1974-79<br>Milgram player/coach 1967-75<br>Milgram 1977-79<br>Milgram 1957-60<br>Lapetina's 1955-57<br>Player/Coach/Manager/E.D./<br>Board of Directors 1960s-present<br>KC Life 1975-79<br>Milgram 2000-03<br>Gateway/Country Club Dairy 1966-72<br>Katz 1959-60<br>Umpire 1970s/80s<br>UMB 1980-84<br>Milgram 1970-71<br>Meyer Dairy/KC Life 1976-80 |
| ◆ Matt Forret<br>◆ Robbie Gentry<br>◆ David Gershon<br>◆ Stuart Goldman                                    | Milgram 1990-92<br>Milgram 1956-59<br>Guys 1965-66<br>Sports Information Director 1992-94<br>"Diamond Connections" Author                       | ◆ Tim Presko<br>◆ Paul Provas<br>◆ Martin Rankin<br>◆ Don Saint<br><i>P</i> Carl Shortino<br>◆ John Stipetch                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| ◆ Mark Goodwin<br><i>P</i> Jeff Hanson<br>◆ Tom Higgins<br>Steve Jacobus<br>◆ Jerry Lafferty<br>◆ Moe Lago | Milgram 1980-85<br>Milgram 1979-84<br>Guy's 1968-72<br>Milgram 1960-62<br>Scout, KC Royals<br>Lapetina's/Western Auto<br>1955-59; Coach 1965-69 | <i>P</i> Jack Talley<br><i>P</i> Charlie Tholl<br>Roger Twibell<br>Bill Wakefield<br>◆ Terry Welsh<br><i>P</i> Rich Wieligman<br>◆ Bob Wright<br>Matt Zych |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| ◆ Allen Laffoon<br>◆ Richard Ludwig<br><i>P</i> Kevin McIntosh<br>◆ Curt Mathews<br>◆ Ken Monaco           | Katz, 1954-59<br>Boyle's Corned Beef 1977-79<br>Milgram 1991-93<br>Katz 1953-57<br>Meyer Metalcraft/Moody's/<br>Lapetina's 1952-56              | <i>P</i> = Platinum<br>◆ = Diamond Club                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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## Van Horn leads USA Collegiate National Team

**Dave Van Horn**, the head baseball coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks, coached the USA Collegiate National Team this summer.

He led the USA collegiate players in games against collegiate national teams from China,

Japan, the Netherlands and Cuba.

Van Horn is a member of the Ban Johnson League Hall of Fame and played Ban Johnson League baseball for Boyle's Corned Beef under legendary manager **Pat Nolan**.