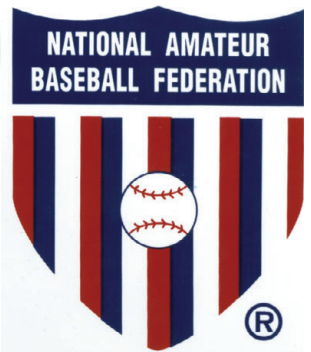




Tournament News



January 26, 2023

• Brandon, Mississippi

• Price \$2.00

• 109th Year



Connie Brown

Brown breaks baseball's glass ceiling

By Jack Butler
NABF Public Relations

Connie Brown became the 56th NABF President two years ago, making her the first woman of the 108-year history of the NABF. It is believed she is the first female president of any national amateur baseball organization. Her term ended last November but she'll stay on bringing valuable experience.

Brown has decades of experience in baseball which began in the late 1990s with the founding of the American Legion team in 1997 and then a year later with the NABF Regional in Columbus. This would not have been possible without being exposed to baseball at a young age as her father was an umpire. He took an 8-year-old Connie to her first Chicago Cubs game against the Cincinnati Reds, and she became a Cubs fan because of it.

Her husband Frosty Brown has coached baseball for 50 years, and she has three children, six grandchildren, a great-grandson, and a great-grand-daughter, who are involved in baseball one way or another. So, baseball is strong with Connie and her family.

Connie organizes fundraising events for the teams all year long which started in 1997 with four NABF Regionals. In 1999, she ran a Regional for Charlie Blackburn and

(Continued on page 3)

20-game winner Kyle Wright NABF Grad of Year

On Sept. 24, 2022, Atlanta Braves pitcher Kyle Wright won his 20th game of the season, and became the first Braves pitcher since Russ Ortiz in 2003 to reach that milestone.

Before the season had begun, Wright had only recorded two career wins. On Oct. 1, 2022, Wright matched Ortiz's 2003 win total and ended the regular season as the major league leader in victories. It's been over two decades since a Braves pitcher last led MLB in wins when Tom Glavine won 21 games in 2000.

Wright finished the season 21-5 with a 3.19 ERA in 30 starts. He pitched 180 1/3 innings and had 174 strikeouts. He is the 2022 NABF Graduate of the Year.

Wright is from Huntsville, Alabama. He attended Buckhorn High School and played for the NABF Tournament of Stars Team in 2013 that played in USA Baseball's Bronze Medal game.

Wright then went to Vanderbilt University. As a freshman at Vanderbilt, he competed in the championship series of the NCAA College World Series. He also pitched for the U.S. Collegiate National Team in 2016.

He was selected by the Braves as the fifth overall selection in the 2017 MLB Draft. Wright was called up to the major leagues for the first time on Sept. 1, 2018. He was the first player from the 2017 draft class to make it to the majors. He made his major league debut on Sept. 4 against the Boston Red Sox.

At the start of the 2019 season, Wright made the Braves' starting rotation, but struggled through three starts.

In 2020, he made eight starts, compiling 38 innings to go 2-4 with a 5.21 ERA. With 24 walks, he tied ninth in the NL. His pitching arsenal included a 95 mph four-seam fastball, 94 mph sinker, 88 mph slider, 88 mph change-up, and 82 mph curveball.

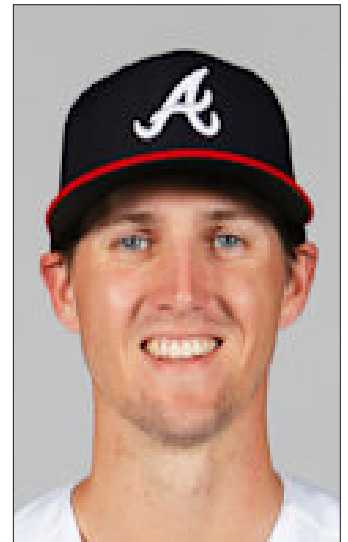
On Oct. 8, he got his first taste of the postseason by starting Game 3 of the National League Division Series versus the Miami Marlins. Wright tossed six innings of shutout ball in the Braves' 7-0 win, sending the club to the National League Championship Series. He lasted less than an inning in

his NLCS Game 3 start, where he gave up seven earned runs to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

It was announced on Oct. 26, 2021, that Wright would be placed on the Braves World Series roster against the Houston Astros. Wright struck out the side in Game 2, and then in Game 4, he entered the game in the first inning with one out and the bases loaded. He went on to work out of the jam with just one inherited runner scoring, then tossed four more innings, giving up just one additional run. The Braves scored three runs, two in the seventh on back-to-back home runs by Dansby Swanson and Jorge Soler, and won it 3-2.

On Oct. 12, 2022, Wright won his second postseason game after tossing six scoreless frames in the NLDS against the Philadelphia Phillies. He struck out six, walked one, and gave up two hits.

Over a month later, Wright finished 10th in NL Cy Young voting, receiving a single fourth and fifth place vote.



Kyle Wright became the 91st pitcher in Atlanta Braves history to win 20 games and is the first Braves player to be NABF Graduate of the Year. (Mary DeCicco/Getty Images)

NABF Graduates of the Year

1968 Bill Freehan (Detroit Tigers)	1994 No selection (MLB Players Strike)
1969 Pete Rose (Cincinnati Reds)	1995 Charles Nagy (Cleveland Indians)
1970 Bernie Carbo (Cincinnati Reds)	1996 Brian Jordan (St. Louis Cardinals)
1971 Ted Simmons (St. Louis Cardinals)	1997 Jeff Read (Colorado Rockies)
1972 John Mayberry (Kansas City Royals)	1998 Scott Rolen (Philadelphia Phillies)
1973 Sal Bando (Oakland Athletics)	1999 Paul Byrd (Philadelphia Phillies)
1974 Jim Wynn (Los Angeles Dodgers)	2000 Pat Burrell (Philadelphia Phillies)
1975 Frank Tanana (California Angels)	2001 Billy Koch (Toronto Blue Jays)
1976 Rick Manning (Cleveland Indians)	2002 Roy Oswalt (Houston Astros)
1977 Kenton Tekulve (Pittsburgh Pirates)	2003 B.J. Surhoff (Baltimore Orioles)
1978 Lary Sorenson (Milwaukee Brewers)	2004 Brian Roberts (Baltimore Orioles)
1979 Willie Horton (Seattle Mariners)	2005 Mark Tiexiera (Texas Rangers)
1980 Britt Burns (Chicago White Sox)	2006 J.J. Putz (Seattle Mariners)
1981 Tom Paciorek (Seattle Mariners)	2007 Jake Peavy (San Diego Padres)
1982 Leon Durham (Chicago Cubs)	2008 Gavin Floyd (Chicago White Sox)
1983 Robert Bonnell (Toronto Blue Jays)	2009 Zack Grienke (Kansas City Royals)
1984 Jack Perconte (Seattle Mariners)	2010 David Price (Tampa Bay Rays)
1985 John Franco (Cincinnati Reds)	2011 Johnny Damon (Tampa Bay Rays)
1986 Jesse Barfield (Toronto Blue Jays)	2012 David Freese (St. Louis Cardinals)
1987 Brian Fletcher (Texas Rangers)	2013 Michael Lance Lynn (St. Louis Cardinals)
1988 Allen L. Anderson (Minnesota Twins)	2014 Sonny Gray (Oakland Athletics)
1989 Dave Dravecky (San Francisco Giants)	2015 Pedro Alvarez (Pittsburgh Pirates)
1990 Barry Larkin (Cincinnati Reds)	2016 Logan Forsythe (Tampa Bay Rays)
1991 Steve Farr (New York Yankees)	2017 J.A. Happ (Toronto Blue Jays)
1992 Marquies Grissom (Montreal Expos)	2018 Luke Gregerson (St. Louis Cardinals)
1993 Paul O'Neil (New York Yankees)	2019 Willie Bloomquist (Seattle Mariners)
	2020 Tommy Hunter (Philadelphia Phillies)
	2021 Curtis Granderson (Detroit Tigers)
	2022 Kyle Wright (Atlanta Braves)

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Ohio (2005-06)

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Ohio (1995-96)

Robert Frellick
Michigan (1991-92)

Lou Tiberi
Ohio (1989)

Charles M. Blackburn
Maryland (1967)

From the Executive Director...

To all NABF members,

I want to thank our Franchises, Volunteers, Directors, Officers, Board Members, and Sponsors for the support they have shown over the past year. That support has been outstanding. Their continued support over the years has made the NABF an even stronger amateur baseball organization.

I want to thank all NABF Franchise's, Members, Directors, Officers, World Series Hosts and Regional Hosts for their dedication to the NABF in 2022.

This was a very exciting year for our World Series Championships where great games were played and new and old teams were crowned World Series Champions.

A special thanks to those host organizations and cities; SMABA Battle Creek, MI-Major Division Unlimited Age (Charles Blackburn Division), Sports Force Parks Sandusky, OH-College Division (22U), Youngstown Class B Struthers, OH-Senior Division (18U), East TN Baseball District Knoxville, TN-High School Division (17U), Youngstown Class B Struthers, OH-Junior Division (16U), Great Midwest Baseball O'Fallon, IL (15U Classic) and Youngstown Class B Struthers, OH-Sophomore Division (14U).

Sincerely,

Derek J. Topik
Executive Director
NABF



Derek J. Topik

From the President...

To all NABF members,

I would like to thank all our leagues, league officials, coaches, players, and umpires for their participation in 2022.

I commend all of you for your hard work and commitment to baseball and the NABF. It is greatly appreciated.

Also, a very special thank you to all leagues and communities that hosted our NABF tournaments.

Thanks to all NABF Officers and Board Members who attended and helped with the management of the tournaments.

To our Executive Director Derek Topik, thank you for making the 2022 season run smoothly.

This is the second and final year of being President of the NABF. It has truly been an honor to be the first woman President in the 108 years of the organization.

Going forward, we intend to keep spreading our message and increase our social media following.

Best regards,

Connie Brown
NABF President

NABF Tournament News

Published by the



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Baseball Federation**

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NABF Tournament News is edited by Jack Butler, Public Relations Chairman, and NABF Board Member J. Patrick Eaken with contributions from NABF staff and volunteers. NABF Tournament News is the official newsletter of the NABF. For franchise membership information, please contact the NABF in Brandon Mississippi.

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Brown

(Continued from page 1)

the Senior Division Regional both held in Troy, Ohio, and that's how she got into the NABF. One year later, Connie was named the 1999 Woman of the Year for her contributions to the NABF.

In 2012, she was put on the Board of Directors of the NABF and named Senior Division Director in 2013, which she is still part of and manages. Two years later, Connie was named 3rd Vice President and then NABF President. Regarding the future of the NABF, Connie discussed plans for the oldest amateur baseball federation in the country.

She would like to see the NABF become more digital, which the BaseballBluebook application — the baseball directory for players, coaches, and includes rosters — will make a huge difference, and the easier it is, the more teams will be there to compete with less time spent checking in as it's all in one place. Connie is excited for the NABF College World Series that's being held at Sports Force Parks in Sandusky, Ohio as Cedar Point is right there and she hopes it increases the chances of bringing in more Midwest teams to compete in the tournament.

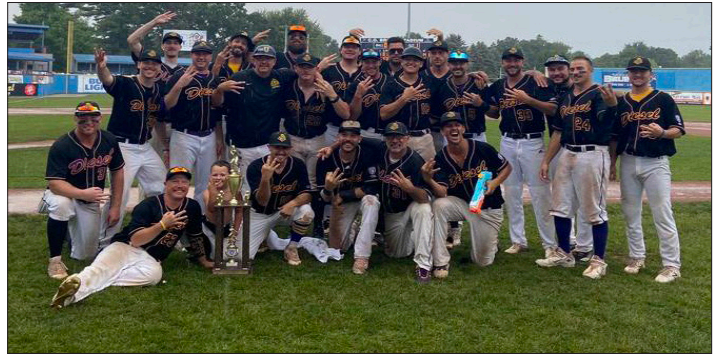
Major Division World Series

Buffalo Diesel wins third title in seven years

By Jack Butler
NABF Public Relations

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — The 108th Charles Blackburn Major Division World Series was hosted by the Southern Michigan Amateur Baseball Association for the ninth time in 10 years with all 31 games being played at Bailey Park. Like last year, 16 teams were placed into pools of four where the top two teams from each pool advanced to the quarterfinals

Teams were from the Midwestern, Northeastern, and Southern United States. Addison Braves, Beecher Muskies, Chicago Clout, and Lombard Orioles represented Illinois, and Fort Wayne Blues and the South Bend Royals were from Indiana. Michigan was represented by the Battle Creek Merchants and Manistee Saints, while Mississippi had the Hattiesburg Black Sox. Hackensack SoX and Hackensack Troast and Brooklyn Sports Fever, Buffalo Diesel and Team Deb were from New Jersey and New York, respectively. Lastly, the Berea Blue Sox and Mahoning



NABF Major Division Champions – Buffalo Diesel

Valley Buckeyes represented Ohio in the World Series.

It was the one of the most competitive in recent memory, where the tournament featured nine one run games with four in the quarterfinals alone, which didn't feature the two-time defending champions in Berea. After losing 6-1 to Team Deb to finish Pool D play, they entered a tiebreaker against the Clout, who each gave up a total of nine runs in games except ones against Addison. Runs scored in the same games went next, and Chicago scored 15 to Berea's five, sending the Clout to the quarterfinals and the Blue Sox home

Team Deb won Pool D and faced the Orioles in the first extra-inning quarterfinal, which saw the Birds win 8-7 on a walk-off walk, advancing to the semifinals. The Pool C winner, the Muskies, faced Brooklyn Sports Fever and the former won 7-6 in come from behind fashion. In the first semi, the Orioles took care of the Muskies in a 4-1 defeat and headed to Sunday's championship game. The Pool A winners were the Black Sox, who took on an experienced Buffalo squad which ended on a thrilling game-winning hit to left, giving

(Continued on page 6)

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College World Series

Stark County goes from runners-up to 2022 NABF World Series champions

By Jack Butler
NABF Public Relations

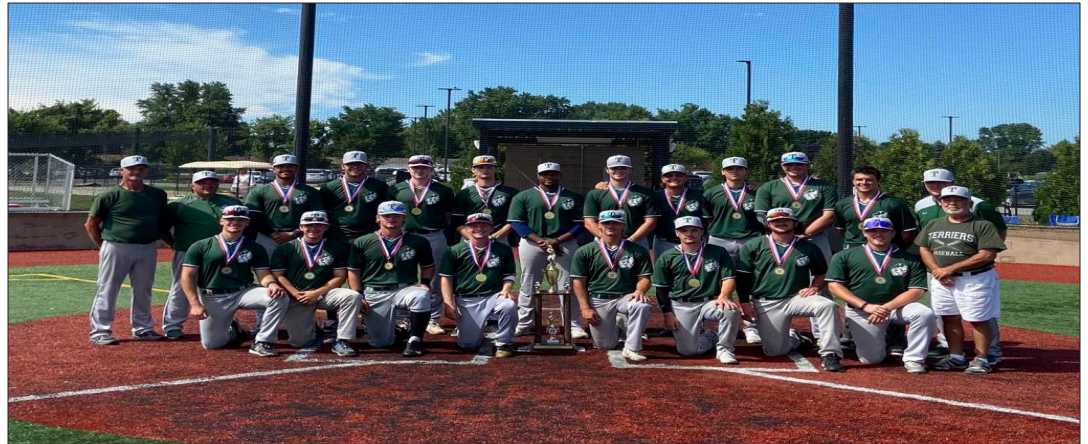
SANDUSKY, Ohio — The 38th NABF College World Series consisted of 10 teams from the Midwestern and Eastern United States. Jasper Reds were from Indiana, Grand Rapids Brewers, Wyoming Nationals, and Byron Center Killer Bees representing Michigan, SAYO Grays from New York, and T3 Warhawks, Erie Muffleheads, Stark County Terriers, Toledo Hawks, and Bay Boaters representing Ohio. The 10 teams were up by a pair from the previous year for a 25% increase, making two pools of five. Each Pool winner and runner-up advanced to the semifinals that saw the Terriers defeating the Warhawks 4-3 in 11 innings and the Brewers outslugging the Hawks 11-7. So, Stark County and Grand Rapids were once again facing each other in the championship with the first matchup going to the Brewers 11-2 after the Terriers ran out of pitching.

This time around Stark County got out to an early lead and had enough arms in the bullpen to take down Grand Rapids 9-5. John Buford Jr. was given the ball to start for the Terriers on two days' rest, who struck out Malcolm Gaynor, Dominick Cowdrey, and Spencer Verburg.

Stark County's bats were hot in the first when they scored three times off Brewers starter Jeremy Marble. Ben Lefebvre reached on a double and motored to third on Shea Simmer's single. On the first pitch, Davis Burick hits a single to drive in Lefebvre, making it 1-0 Terriers. Following Lane Marshall reaching on a Joe Kelley error at first, JC Philippi brought home a pair on a base hit.

The Brewers cut the deficit to two in the second with the help of playing small ball. Jared Bujdos led off with a double who was moved up on a Luke LaCross sacrifice bunt. Then, Kelley drove Bujdos home with a sacrifice fly to make a 3-1 Stark County.

Buford Jr. continued to look in control on the mound by setting down Payton Young, Gaynor, and Cowdrey in order. Then, the



NABF 2022 College Division Champions – Stark County Terriers



Past NABF President Connie Brown with MVP Breydan Cavey. (Jack Butler/NABF)

Terriers added another run in the fourth on a two-out single to right-center field by Breydan Cavey to drive in his 10th run of the NABF World Series.

The Terriers inserted Jordan Shearer to pitch the fourth, where he retired Kitchen and Verburg on 10 pitches, but a walk to Bujdos led to a LaCross two-run home run, making it a 4-3 game. Stark County responded with two in their half to have a three-run advantage again. Evan Swan got aboard on a walk and two batters later, Simmer reached on a drawing error by Marble to have runners at second and third. Grand Rapids decided to intentionally walk Burick to

load the bases, which backfired as Marshall drew an RBI walk with a balk allowing Simmer to score.

Shearer recorded two outs in the fifth but issued a pair of walks and hit a batter to load the bases for the Brewers. Ben Mohler entered to get the final out of the frame by striking out Verburg, meaning Grand Rapids wasted an opportunity to cut into the deficit.

The Terriers jumped to a 7-3 lead on left fielder Andrew Micalé's solo shot he hit over the left field fence, and the bullpen took care of the rest. Mohler allowed a lead-off single to Bujodos in the sixth but sent down the next three to retire the side.

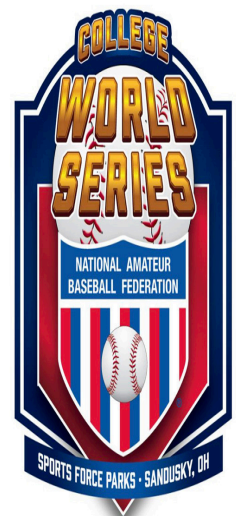
In the seventh, Mohler gave up a two-out Cowdrey solo homer which cut it to a 7-4 game. Christian Harris ended the inning by producing a Verburg fly out to Micalé in left field.

Leatherman, who worked the sixth for Grand Rapids, came back out for the seventh and walked Swan, which led to a Simmer RBI knock. The Brewers got a run closer when Kelley hit a 1-3 groundout to drive in Bujdos from third.

The Terriers added some insurance in the bottom of the eighth on a two-out RBI knock from their speedy center fielder Lefebvre, making it a 9-5 advantage. Harris picked up two outs on the first three he faced in the final frame but allowed a Gaynor base hit which gave way to Spencer Atkins, who struck out Kitchen, giving the Terriers the NABF College

World Series championship. Stark County players began heading to the mound from their position on the field and from the third base dugout to celebrate as a team.

The MVP and Batting Champion were awarded to Cavey —.444 batting average, one double, three home runs, 10 RBIs, and four runs scored —, and Alex Stegman of T3 Warhawks — hitting .500 with two doubles, five RBIs, and four runs scored.

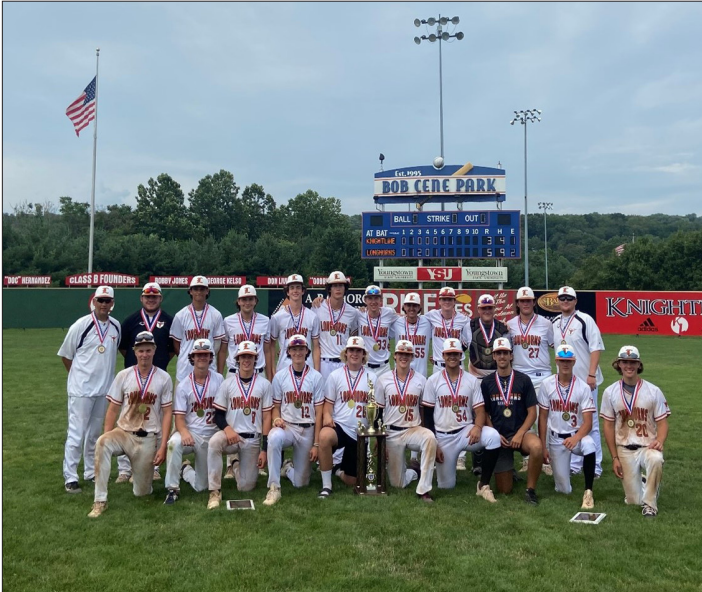


The 39th NABF College World Series will be hosted once again by Sports Force Parks in Sandusky, Ohio from Thursday, July 27 to Sunday, July 30. If interested, please visit nabf.com/college-ws or contact John Mengelkamp.

Senior Division World Series

Ohio Longhorns-DeMarino defeat Knightline, win World Series

For information on 2023 NABF World Series and World Series Classics head over to www.nabf.com



NABF 2022 Senior Division Champions – Ohio Longhorns-DeMarino

Jack Butler
NABF Public Relations

STRUTHERS, Ohio — The 2022 NABF Senior World Series at Bob Cene Park hosted 14 teams from Canada, Michigan, New York, and Ohio. Team Ontario Astros and East Coast Michigan represented the province of Ontario and the "Great Lakes State," respec-

tively. Astro Falcons, Ohio Avalanche, Creekside Fitness, Knightline, Ohio Longhorns-DeMarino, BHM Buckeyes, Diamond Hit Club, ProNine Baseball, North Coast Select, Premier Ohio-Abella, and Troy Legends were all from Ohio. The SAYO Grays was the only team from New York out of the borough of Brooklyn.

The Senior Division had two

pools of five and a pool of four where each pool winner and wild card advanced to the semifinals. In the pools of five, each team would be played once while the pool of four had one club that they played twice.

After the first three days of the tournament, the Falcons and Knightline were the winners of pools A and B, but a tiebreaker was decided to determine the final pool winner and wild card. The Avalanche and Longhorns-DeMarino were even at each tie breaker, so a coin flip was needed. The Avalanche lost the flip, which meant the Longhorns won pool C, and the Avalanche was the wild card. In the semifinals, Knightline barely hung on by a thread to defeat the Avalanche 8-7, and the Longhorns took down Astro Falcons 9-4.

The championship was a tightly contested one that the Longhorns won 5-3 behind the right arm of Dominic King and the bat of Trevor Vojtkofsky. King worked around a pair of walks to Alec Grzyb and Chance Laczko with help from Alex Parker, gunning down a runner attempting to steal third. Knightline starter Grzyb also got himself in trouble in his half by allowing a single to Vojt-

kofsky followed by a walk to John Simecek and a Drew McKenna base hit. Grzyb escaped by getting a pop-up to Anthony Massucci at first.

Knightline got on the board first on a Teagan McCurdy RBI single, but the Longhorns answered right back. After Grzyb retired the first two he faced in the second, he walks Nicholas Herbele, and then three consecutive singles by AJ Caggiano, Parker Monday, and Vojtkofsky resulted in two runs scoring. With a slim 2-1 advantage, King threw up a zero in the third inning, where the Longhorns added a tally in their half. Parker drove home Donovan Daetwyler on a single, making it a 3-1 game.

King once again worked out of trouble in the fourth after Mike Sciortino got aboard via a walk and Gavin Shrum moved him up

(Continued on page 7)

High School Division World Series

Jackson 96ers Blue wins second consecutive World Series with win over Knoxville Tribe

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Jackson 96ers Blue 18U out of Mississippi defeated Knoxville, Tennessee Tribe 6-2 on Sunday, July 24, 2022.

In the first inning, Jackson 96ers Blue got their offense started when Seth Sterling singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run.

Jackson 96ers Blue 18U notched three runs in the second inning, Jackson 18U's big bats in the inning were led by a triple by Parker



NABF 2022 High School Division Champions – Jackson 96ers Blue

(Continued on page 8)

Junior Division World Series

Astro Falcons offense leads to a NABF Junior World Series championship



NABF 2022 Junior Division Champions – Astro Falcons

By Jack Butler
NABF Public Relations

STRUTHERS, Ohio — The 2022 NABF Junior World Series consisted of 15 teams that were from Maryland, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The teams were split evenly into three pools and played each opponent once

in pool play. The three pool winners and one wild card advanced to play in the semifinals on Sunday morning. The semifinals featured Creekside Fitness, who faced the wild card FTB Mid-Atlantic along with Astro Falcons and East Coast Michigan. FTB defeated Creekside 5-1 while the Falcons shut down East Coast 4-0, setting up a cham-

Buffalo Diesel

(Continued from page 3)

the Diesel the 4-3 victory in 10 innings. In the final quarterfinal, the 3-0 Saints fell to the Chicago Clout, the Pool D runners up, 10-9 in a contest that went 11 innings. The last semi saw the only blow-out of bracket play with the Diesel scoring 12 runs, its highest output of the tournament, in a nine-run win over the Clout. In the championship, the Orioles were seeking their second title while Diesel looked for a third in seven years. Lombard manager Jeff Vukovich gave the baseball to left-hander John Veselick who allowed a lead-off home run to Max Giordano but sent down the next three to retire the side. Joe DiLeo took the ball for Diesel, who retired the Orioles one-two-three, where he struck out Jack Sheri and Nate Mieszkowski.

Veselick kept Buffalo off the scoreboard after having a clean inning despite allowing a one-out

single to Max Schmarler. Lombard took a 3-1 lead in the home half on one swing by Carson Roberts. Kyle Fitzgerald and Jake Novak were hit by a pitch and walked, respectively, and then two batters later, Roberts launched a three-run homer putting his club in front.

The Orioles' lead didn't last long as in the very next frame Diesel scored three runs with a pair coming with two outs. Giordano hit his second home run of the game to the same spot, left field, making it now 3-2 Orioles. Matt Wiestlispach, Nick Jasinski, and Mike Wagner reached on three consecutive singles to load the bases. Schmarler laced a single to left center field that scored Wiestlispach while an error by Lombard center fielder Andy Gayton on the play also allowed Jasinski to cross the plate.

With the Orioles behind 4-3, they needed a rally that looked promising after Gayton singled and stole second, however, was picked off by Buffalo catcher Tom LaCongo. Scheri followed with a

championship between a pair of 4-1 teams.

The contest was a high-scoring affair with a total of 17 runs scored in the Falcons' 11-6 victory over Mid-Atlantic. After Astro starter Brendan Ray allowed a Colton Bordick RBI single in the first, the Falcons exploded for five runs in their half. Drew Kaschak led off the frame with a walk, and then Ryan DiLullo singled. Conner Ripppo, Mid-Atlantic starting pitcher, retired Carter Wilson, and Evan Tice, but would allow four consecutive RBI hits by Jake Schneider, Anthony Triveri, Kolten Ruark, and Ray. Ripppo finally ended the frame by getting DiLullo to pop out to Colton Bordick at second.

Mid-Atlantic added a tally in the second on a Mark Cap single, bringing Colton Bordick to score, which made it a 5-2 game in favor of the Falcons. That would be the closest FTB got since the Falcons sent nine to the plate during their half where six reached base and three scored on back-to-back hit-by-pitches and a Kaschak RBI knock off reliever Chase Tubbs.

Ray took care of FTB from the

double, and instead of it being 4-4, there was a runner at second and one out. Mieszkowski flew out to Giordano in center field, and two batters later, Novak grounded out to Neal Demartin at first.

Veselick threw up a zero in the fourth where he faced the minimum despite allowing a Ryan Baroudi one-out single, who eventually was caught in a 1-3-6-4 rundown. Lombard's bats went quiet in their half as DiLeo generated weak contact, keeping it a 4-3 Diesel lead.

Buffalo had a chance to add on in the fifth when Jasinski and Wagner collected back-to-back two-out base hits, but Veselick struck out Schmarler swinging. All Lombard could muster in the bottom half off DiLeo was a walk that didn't advance on Mieszkowski's at-bat since he lined one right back to the mound that the Diesel right-hander snagged. At the start of the sixth inning, the clouds started getting darker as Buffalo scored three times to increase its lead to 7-3. DiLeo only faced

third to fifth innings even if a base runner reached in each frame for Mid-Atlantic. Their best chance to score came in the fourth when pinch-hitter Brinden Floyd got aboard on a single, however, Ryland Yinger and Cap failed to bring him home. During the same first two innings of that stretch, the Falcons got a pair of runners on the base paths, which resulted in not cashing in and went down one-two-three in the fourth. Astro took a commanding 11-2 lead in the fifth after scoring three runs, two of them unearned, off Drew Branstetter, who was in his third inning of relief work.

Mid-Atlantic finally got to Ray when they had a four-run sixth, which yanked the Astro starter out of the game. Bordick led off the inning with a walk, and drove him home on an RBI hit, and then Cap had his second RBI of the contest making it 11-4 Falcons. Two batters later, Bennett Secrest brought in a pair with a two-bagger, and now FTB was behind by five runs.

Branstetter kept the Falcons off the board in the sixth and Mid-

(Continued on page 7)

who he punched out before the rain started falling hard at C.O. Brown Stadium. The teams went to their respective dugouts, and fans looked for cover. Roughly 40 minutes later, the game was called and declared Buffalo the winners over Lombard 4-3 in five innings.

The Diesel began to celebrate on the wet field while being drenched by the rain where they were awarded the NABF Charles Blackburn Major Division World Series championship trophy.



Joe DiLeo was the winning pitcher for the Diesel after tossing five innings, giving up three hits and three runs, all earned, while striking out four. (Al Lassen/For the Enquirer)

Junior WS

(continued from page 6)

Atlantic had a tall task to come back in the seventh. The Falcons shut them down in the final inning to take home the 2022 NABF Junior World Series championship.

The Falcons began celebrating on the field and proceeded to start the handshake line. Then, both teams stood on their respective baselines — the Falcons on the third base side and FTB on the first base side — with the presentation of the runners-up and championship trophies and medals.

The presentation continued with the All-Tournament Team and the announcement of the Batting Champion and MVP. Andrew Gault of the Ohio Avalanche was the Batting Champion after he hit .571 with four runs scored, two doubles, and four RBIs. The Falcons' Carter Wilson won MVP after hitting .368 with five runs scored, four doubles, and six RBIs while pitching once for seven innings, allowing four hits, and zero runs along with eight strikeouts in their semifinal victory over East Coast Michigan.

108th Annual Meeting

NABF Officers, Directors, Past Presidents and Special Guests were in Florence, Kentucky for the Annual Meeting from Nov. 10-12, 2022, at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport.

Committee meetings took place on Nov. 10 while the Board of Directors Meeting happened on Nov. 11. In the latter meeting, we planned for the 110th year of NABF baseball. Following the Board of Directors meeting, NABF members and guests enjoyed the dinner cruise on the Bell of Cincinnati.

We also planned for 2023 during the Delegates Meeting on Nov. 12 with our Franchise's taking part. After the meeting, our luncheon began with six awards given out to Charles M. Blackburn Jr.: NABF Award of Merit; Robert Frelick; Ronald E. McMinn Award; Caitlin Barbour: NABF Woman of the Year; John "Jack" Butler: NABF Man of the Year; Roy LaFountain: John Benedict Sports Journalism Award; and Connie Brown: President's Award, President 2021-2022.

(Photos on page 10)

Sophomore Division World Series

Fielder's Choice defeats Astro Falcons 9-2, takes home Sophomore NABF World Series

By Jack Butler
NABF Public Relations

STRUTHERS, Ohio — The 2022 Sophomore NABF World Series included 12 teams from three different states — Maryland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. After 26 games were played, Astro Falcons, Pittsburgh Spikes-Forbes, Ohio Longhorns and Fielder's Choice became the last four teams who battled in semifinals. The Falcons narrowly defeated Spikes-Forbes 5-2, while Fielder's Choice dominated the Longhorns in every facet of the game in a 13-0, five-inning

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NABF 2022 Sophomore Division Champions – Fielder's Choice

Senior WS

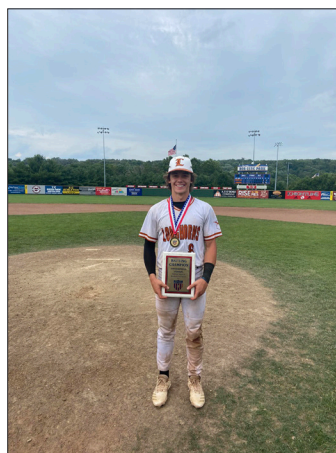
(Continued from page 5)

on a sacrifice bunt. Then, McCurdy reached and stole second, where Knightline had an opportunity to tie the game with a base knock. King had other ideas as he fielded a soft tapper back to the mound and his center fielder Monday made a tremendous catch to end the threat.

Knightline kept the Longhorns off the board in the fourth, and it looked promising in the top half of the fifth for the Youngstown Class B team following a Jake Hettrick pinch-hit double, but Hettrick got caught in run down after Grzyb's sacrifice bunt. Laczko popped up to Parker behind the plate to retire the side.

The Longhorns made it a 4-1 game on a Caggiano RBI single which equaled their largest lead of the afternoon. Knightline cut the deficit to two by scoring an unearned run in the sixth on a Schrum sac fly to center. Just as Knightline was inching closer, the Longhorns gained the momentum back on an inside-the-park home run by Vojtkofsky.

In the seventh, Knightline scored a lone tally, and King took care of the next three hitters making the Longhorns the NABF Senior World Series Champions. De-



Batting Champion Trevor Vojtkofsky hit over .700 in the Senior World Series. (Jack Butler/NABF)

Marino's team began to gather on the field, which was followed by both teams standing on their respective baselines to start the presentation of the runners-up and championship trophies and medals. Then, the All-Tournament Team was announced, which concluded with the Batting Champion and MVP. Vojtkofsky was the Batting Champ after hitting .706 with three extra-base hits, five RBIs, and an OPS of 1.809. The MVP went to Caggiano, who hit .500 with two doubles, one triple, six RBIs, and a 1.250 OPS.

ALS ASSOCIATION

The National Amateur Baseball Federation has partnered with the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association in the fight against this horrific disease, and in spreading knowledge and awareness of the disease as well. The ALS Association is the only national nonprofit organization fighting Lou Gehrig's disease on every front — supporting cutting edge research, enhancing access to clinical care, and promoting better public policies.

Our nationwide network of Chapters comprise one team with a single mission: to discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people with ALS. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Eventually, people with ALS lose the ability to initiate and control muscle movement, which often leads to total paralysis and death within two to five years of diagnosis.

Visit ALSA.org to learn more about the tremendous work being done throughout the Association. We will continue our work to help people with ALS live their lives to the fullest while we search for new treatments and a cure.



Mason Decker of T3 Warhawks with Western Reserve Collegiate League President John Mengelkamp.

2022 NABF Scholarship Recipient

By Jack Butler and John Mengelkamp

Each year, the NABF Scholarship Committee examines many scholarship applications and chooses the recipients of the NABF Scholarships. Below is the \$1,500 scholarship winner from the NABF:

Mason Decker received the NABF Scholarship this year. After his first year at Baldwin Wallace University, studying Sports Management and playing baseball, he competed in his first Western Reserve Collegiate League season for Coach Don Bliss of T3 Warhawks this summer. Decker helped the team win the 2022 WRCL Regular Season League Championship and reach the semifinals of the NABF College World Series for a 21-9 overall record. He was among the leaders in three different batting categories for the Warhawks, which included first in home runs with three, second in RBI with 17, and sixth with a .418 slugging percentage.

Decker enjoyed playing in the WRCL and competing in the NABF World Series this summer. The best parts of his experience playing collegiate summer ball were the "good teams you were playing against," he said, and "going to the NABF World Series."

Playing in the summer led to Decker changing his pre-game routine. After struggling to find his swing early in the season, he discovered a new method that resulted in success. "A week into the season, I warmed up more before the game at the Baldwin Wallace University field," Decker said. "Swing started to get better throughout the year."

Besides finding his swing, he

learned something important to apply when he plays at Baldwin Wallace. "Relax, have fun with it, and stay loose," Decker said. He believes this will help him get some playing time at Baldwin Wallace.

When he finishes at Baldwin Wallace as a student and infielder in 2025, Decker hopes to "end up having a gym and own my sports facilities," he said.

Decker will be back for the Warhawks next summer once his season with the Yellow Jackets is complete.

NABF Scholarships

The NABF has given out 265 scholarships to ballplayers and volunteers since 1985. If interested, the individual must be enrolled in an accredited college or university and be in good standing. Also, the applicant needs to be a current participant in a league properly sanctioned and sponsored by the National Amateur Baseball Association member association. To apply for the scholarship, please visit nabf.com/scholarships or contact Robert Chiara.

High School WS

(Continued from page 4)

Fulton, a single by Jake Halter, and a groundout by Caleb Thompson.

Kemper Meacham earned the victory on the pitcher's mound for Jackson 96ers Blue 18U. Meacham surrendered two runs on three hits over four innings, striking out three. Charlie Appleton threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen. Appleton recorded the last three outs to earn the save for Jackson 96ers Blue 18U.

Ryder Storm took the loss for Knoxville Tribe. Storm lasted three innings, allowing six hits and four runs while striking out four and walking one.

Jackson 96ers Blue 18U tallied 11 hits in the game. Alford Hill, Sterling, Charles Chisolm, and Fulton each had multiple hits for Jackson 96ers Blue 18U. Fulton, Chisolm, Sterling, and Hill each collected two hits to lead Jackson 96ers Blue 18U.



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Sophomore WS

(Continued from page 7)

victory. Fielder's Choice, an Ohio Prospects League team, was going up against one of the premier Youngstown Class B teams in Astro Falcons.

The Falcons reached the championship through timely hitting and quality pitching — Collin Resetar tossed a complete game shut-

victories by Dominic Williams, Cole Gurka, Johnny Neal, and Ryan Wiehe.

Fielder's Choice used their recipe of solid starting pitching to silence the Falcons bats in a 9-2 win at Cene #1. Head Coach Juan Sanchez gave the baseball to Matthew Mansbery and allowed a run when Anthony Groner singled home Andrew Corfield with two outs. Falcons led 1-0, which didn't last long as Fielder's Choice tied it up on a JaVon Clayton ball hit to Kirlik who bobbled the grounder that deflected off his glove into shallow right field, allowing Mansbery to score. Julian Tranovich, Falcons starter, picked up his teammate at second by getting Gurka to line out to Drew Snyder in center field.

Mansbery settled in nicely on the mound and pitched two scoreless frames in second and third. After his first zero, Fielder's Choice scored thrice on a Shawn Sullivan bases-clearing triple hit over Gabe Hammerton's head in left field. It increased their lead to 4-1, and in the fourth added another tally on Clayton's RBI single, which came off reliever Joey Cappuzullo.

Fielder's Choice had another three-run inning in the fifth where Neal singled home one and Nolan Ignacio drove in a pair on a two-RBI double. Their advantage increased to 8-1 as the game entered the sixth that saw Clayton replace Mansbery on the hill. His first inning went smooth, despite a one-out walk that didn't cause any runs to score, eliminating the Falcons' chance to get back in the contest. Fielder's Choice put the game out of reach with an RBI single by Neal, his second of the game, making it a 9-1 lead. In the seventh, the Falcons got a run closer on Vincent Butto's pinch-hit knock, which was all they got before Clayton retired Kirlik by producing a fly ball to center field. Fielder's Choice won the Sophomore NABF World Series and began celebrating on the field together.

Following the game, both teams lined up on their respective foul lines as the trophy presentation got underway, handing medals to each player on both the runners-up and champion squads. Then, the All-Tournament team was announced, including Mansbery, named Batting Champion, who hit .565 — 13-for-23 — and Sullivan was given MVP honors after compiling a .444 batting average, seven runs scored, six extra-base hits, one home run, and 11 RBIs in six games.



MVP Blake Channel with High School Division Director Glen "Buzz" McNish.



out in the club's opening 1-0 victory over Spikes-Forbes — with the latter resulting in giving up just seven runs, which was the least number of runs allowed through five contests. This meant that their opponents only scored 1.4 runs a game while Astro Falcons scored 8.2 runs a game. Fielder's Choice crossed the plate 56 times over their first five games for 11.2 per contest, the highest mark in the tournament. Additionally, the OPL team had consistent starting pitching from their second through fifth games that included four consecutive complete games

NABF World Series Champions

2022 NABF World Series Results			
	Winner	Runner-Up	Final Score
Sophomore Division	Fielder's Choice, Brecksville, Ohio	Astro Falcons, Youngstown, Ohio	9-2
15U Classic	Canes Kentucky West Premier, Murray, Ky.	Missouri Mariners, Cottleville, Mo.	14-3
Junior Division	Astro Falcons, Youngstown, Ohio	FTB Mid-Atlantic, Bowie, Md.	11-6
High School Division	Jackson 96ers Blue, Jackson, Miss.	Knoxville Tribe, Knoxville, Tenn.	6-2
Senior Division	Ohio Longhorns-DeMarino, Stow, Ohio	Knightline, Youngstown, Ohio	5-2
College Division	Stark County Terriers, Canton, Ohio	Grand Rapids Brewers, Grand Rapids, Mich.	9-5
Major Division	Buffalo Battistoni Diesel, Buffalo, N.Y.	Lombard Orioles, Lombard, Ill.	4-3

2023 NABF World Series Schedule

110th Year of the NABF			
	Location	Dates	Edition
Rookie Division	Sloatsburg, N.Y.	Fri-Sun, Jun 16-18	21st
Freshman Division	Sloatsburg, N.Y.	Fri-Sun, Jun 16-18	29th
Sophomore Division	Struthers, Ohio	Thu-Sun, Jul 13-16	49th
15U Classic	O'Fallon, Ill.	Thu-Sun, Jul 13-16	
Junior Division	Struthers, Ohio	Thu-Sun, Jul 13-16	61st
High School Division	Knoxville, Tenn.	Thu-Sun, Jul 20-23	34th
Senior Division	Struthers, Ohio	Thu-Sun, Jul 20-23	79th
College Division	Sandusky, Ohio	Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30	39th
Major Division Regionals	Brooklyn, N.Y. Buffalo, N.Y. Fort Wayne, Ind. Hackensack, N.J. Kankakee, Ill. Manistee, Mich. Youngstown, Ohio	Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30 Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30 Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30 Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30 Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30 Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30 Thu-Sun, Jul 27-30	
Major Division World Series	Battle Creek, Mich.	Wed-Sun, Aug 2-6	109th

NABF Awards

(Continued from page 7)



NABF Award of Merit – Charles M. Blackburn Jr.



NABF Woman of the Year – Caitlin Barbour



John Benedict Sports Journalism Award – Roy LaFountain



Ronald E. McMinn Award – Robert Frellick



NABF Man of the Year – John "Jack" Butler



President's Award – Connie Brown





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