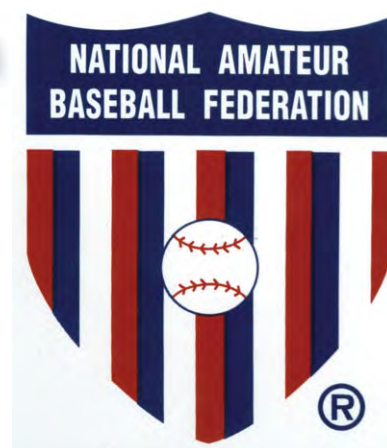




National Amateur Baseball Federation

Tournament News



On the web at
www.nabf.com

October 1, 2017

Bowie, Maryland

Price \$1.00

103rd Year



Ron Coomer (courtesy mlb.com)

Coomer speaking at banquet

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the National Amateur Baseball Federation, hosted by the Chicago Suburban Baseball League, will be held Friday, November 10 and Saturday, November 11 in Tinley Park, Illinois.

This year's Saturday banquet and awards presentation speaker is former Major League player and Chicago Cubs radio broadcaster Ron Coomer.

The 2017 season marks Coomer's fourth year alongside Pat Hughes as the analyst on Cubs radio broadcasts.

Coomer played for the Cubs in 2001, batting .261 (91-for-349) with 19 doubles, 8 home runs and 53 RBI. In nine major league seasons with the Minnesota Twins (1995-2000), the Cubs (2001), the New York Yankees (2002) and the Los Angeles Dodgers (2003), he batted .274 (827-for-3,019) with 92 home runs and 449 RBI in 911 games.

Coomer was selected to the 1999 American League All-Star Team with Minnesota and appeared in the 2002 American League Divisional Series with the Yankees.

Prior to joining the Cubs broadcast team, he worked for FOX Sports North (2005-13) as a pre/post game analyst for Twins games. With the Twins, he won four Emmy awards as a baseball analyst: two individual awards as a sports analyst and two as a member of the team's broadcast.

Coomer was born in Chicago and graduated from Lockport (Ill.) High School. He and his wife, Paula, reside in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Getting to Chicago

The NABF Board of Directors' meeting will be held on Friday, November 10. The Delegates' meeting for all NABF franchise member delegates will be held at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, followed by a luncheon and awards presentation at 1 p.m.

The Hilton Garden Inn - Tinley Park is located roughly 30 minutes from Midway International Airport and an hour away from O'Hare International Airport. The Hilton Garden Inn - Tinley Park is conveniently located via Interstate 80 and the Chicago Southland has six major interstates running throughout the region.

The Chicago Southland region includes —

- Great Shopping in Tinley Park and nearby Orland Park
- Convenient Metra Access to Downtown Chicago (30 miles)
- Harrah's Casino & Hollywood Casino in nearby Joliet

Please call the hotel directly at (708) 429-2266, and mention the National Amateur Baseball Federation room block OR the three-letter code of NAB. You have until October 11 to reserve your room. Rooms are \$119 per night, base rate plus tax. Breakfast is included.



Battle Creek Merchants catcher Travis Snyder reaches high for a throw to the plate, unable to make a tag during action in the National Amateur Baseball Federation Charles M. Blackburn Major Division World Series. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)



J.A. Happ (courtesy mlb.com)

J.A. Happ the 2017 NABF Grad of Year

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher James Anthony "J. A.," or "Jay," Happ, a 20-game winner last year, is this year's National Amateur Baseball Federation Graduate of the Year.

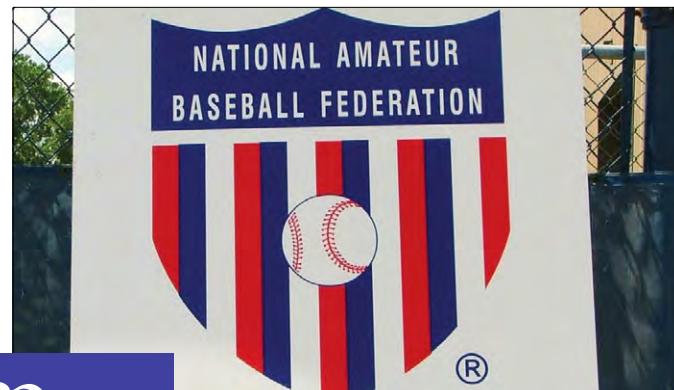
Happ has also played in MLB for the Philadelphia Phillies, Houston Astros, Seattle Mariners, and Pittsburgh Pirates.

Though his name is James Anthony and his initials are "J. A.," he pronounces his name as "Jay". He is 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 205 pounds.

Happ was born in Peru, Illinois, and raised with two older sisters. He attended high school at St. Bede Academy, where he was a four-year letter winner in baseball and basketball. He was named Bureau County Athlete of the Year during his senior season.

After graduating from high school in 2001, Happ enrolled

(continued on page 18)



NABF Graduates of the Year

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

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Ohio (1995-96)

Robert Frellick
Michigan (1991-92)

Robert Frank
Pennsylvania (1990)

Charles M. Blackburn
Maryland (1967)

New Jersey Axemen win YBN national title

The Youth Baseball Network 12 and Under Champion for 2017 is the New Jersey Axemen.

The National Amateur Baseball Federation representative completed an undefeated run through the event by knocking off AAU's Team Swarm Elite 10-4 in the finals.

New Jersey won their pool play game and all of their bracket games, including the title contest against the team from Florida.

The NABF was represented by their 12U national champions, the Axemen of Wayne, New Jersey. The Axemen are led by head coach Glenn Polansky and players Allen Hernandez and Nazier Mule, who combined for a whopping seven home runs, five doubles, eight singles, and 19 RBIs.

Other Axemen players are Ryan Polansky, Angel Colon, Conner Praschil, Enzo Carpentiere, Andrew Antigua, Luca Reyes, Andrew Castaneda, Albert Ramos, Jace Gilligan, Jonny Gilligan, Pablo O'Neil, Breily Polanco, Jackson Sommerstein, Kyle Hard, Ryan Coolbest, Peter Diktas, Alex Cavego, Josue do Paula Brito, and Matt Fais. Helping Coach Polansky were Dan Gilligan and Lou Colon.

AAU was represented by Team Swarm Elite from Tampa, Florida. Team Swarm was led by head coach Steve Burkhardt.

The Third Annual YBN Championship was played at the fabulous Ballparks of America youth baseball complex in Branson, Missouri.

The Youth Baseball Network National Championship is the most prestigious youth baseball national tournament in the country. The tournament brings the youth baseball industry together by featuring multiple major youth baseball organizations' 12U national champions.

The YBN Championship begins with



New Jersey Axemen

the Road to Branson™, which showcases the 12U World Series tournaments of the following major youth baseball organizations: American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC), Amateur Athletic Union of the United States (AAU), Continental Amateur Baseball Association (CABA), Dixie Baseball, Dizzy Dean Baseball, National Amateur Baseball Federation (NABF), and the Jacoby Ellsberry World Series. A host team of Missouri players was represented by Greater Midwest Baseball of St. Louis.

Multiple games were streamed live on

YouthBaseballNetwork.com and ASBN.tv. In addition, the YBN championship finals were seen on millions of TVs, nationwide.

The City of Branson, nestled in the lake-side beauty of the Ozark Mountains, is truly a one-of-a-kind family vacation destination. It features dozens of live performance theaters, an international award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, a historic downtown district, and championship golf courses. It is the ultimate family destination – and voted the No. 1 best value city in America by trivago.com.

From the Executive Director..

Congratulations to all participating NABF franchised member league organizations that took part in our 104th consecutive season and all the teams representing their leagues and states advancing through regional and NABF national championship tournaments. Each of our age groups provided an excellent field of teams, providing excellent competition.

None of our member leagues or champion tournament events starts or finish without the good work by many volunteers, planning well in advance, and management of the game-by-game league play required to have a successful program.

To those organizations hosting our Regional and World Series tourney play, hats off and many thanks to you and your members. You keep this game alive and well at the grassroots level, providing the opportunities for so many young players to be recognized by colleges and MLB scouts.

All of us in the NABF-our officers, directors and members- are so very grateful, and extend our special thanks to all sponsors of our NABF national program: Hoosier Bat Company, Village Trophy Company, Sports Factory, Baseball Factory, Major League Baseball, USA Baseball, Diamond Baseball (our official NABF baseball), MTM Recognition (NABF's only official champion rings provider), Frazier Insurance Company (NABF team liability and medical coverage), and Youth Baseball Network.

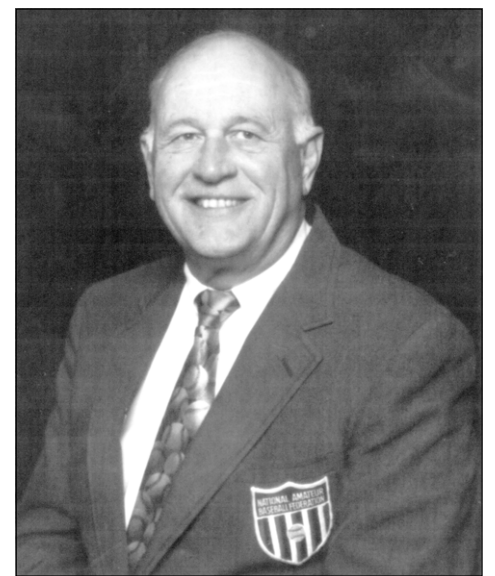
Special thanks also to Rockland Baseball Association for hosting the Rookie and Freshman Division World Series; Youngstown Class B Baseball League; Bob Cene Park; City of Toledo, Ohio; City of Battle Creek, Michigan; Mississippi NABF Baseball; and all those NABF franchise members, businesses, and individuals too numerous to list, having contributed their time and resources for NABF sandlot baseball for all ages.

And now, we look forward to still another new season in 2018, our 105th consecutive year of NABF baseball for all ages.

Again, our many thanks to all having made this season a success, and we welcome the many seasons to come with all of you as our loyal members, striving to improve upon each past season.

Kind regards to all,

Charles M. Blackburn, Jr.
Executive Director, NABF



Charles M. Blackburn, Jr.

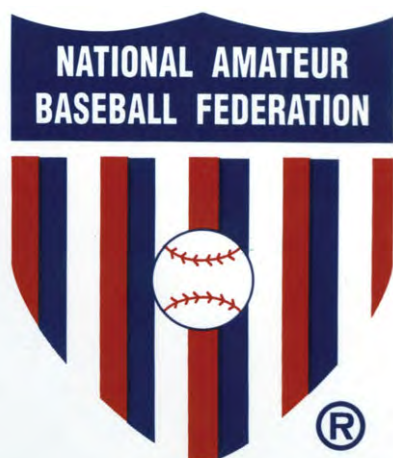
NABF Tournament News

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Nine innings with Mike Reilly...

By Will Kowalski
Sports Editor/Asst. Editor
Battle Creek Shopper News

It would be SAFE to say that Battle Creek's Mike Reilly – a Major League umpire from 1977 to 2010 – knows all the words to “Take Me OUT To The Ball Game.”

It would also be FAIR to say that while Reilly might have heard some FOUL language on MLB diamonds over the years, his love of umpiring and the game of baseball makes it easy for him to STRIKE up lots of great memories.

With that in mind, following are NINE INNINGS of questions and answers with Mike Reilly. BATTER UP!

Top Of The 1st

Question: Who was the best MLB hitter you ever umpired? Best pitcher? Best manager? Best fielder? Funniest player?

Bottom Of The 1st

Answer(s): “As with a lot of these questions ... I covered a long period of time in the Major Leagues. So they're very difficult to answer. But here we go:

“Best hitters? Probably Rod Carew, George Brett and Miguel Cabrera. Carew could hit the ball wherever it was pitched. Brett was a great line-drive hitter who could hit home runs and for high average. And Cabrera, I've never seen a hitter with as much power, especially opposite-field power. Carew, Brett, Cabrera in their prime – all great hitters. But I guarantee you, I'm probably missing another 10.

“Best pitchers? Most overpowering: Nolan Ryan and Randy Johnson. Ryan's fastball was his best pitch, but he also had a great curve. Johnson, at 6-foot-9 or 6-10, he was scary coming at you from lots of different slots. And I also remember telling people, when he was coming up with the Diamondbacks, keep an eye on Max Scherzer, who was then traded to the Tigers and has since gone to Washington. Scherzer, even as a young commodity, had lightning stuff. Still does.

“Then, talking about pitchers who threw strikes and pitched with control: Catfish Hunter, Greg Maddux and John Smoltz. Catfish threw strikes and he could go a half-inch one way or the other so easily. Maddux pinpointed stuff, and Smoltz threw hard but also hit all his spots with everything he had. All three had greatness, and they're all in the Hall of Fame.

“Best manager? Back a few years, Billy Martin. More recent years, Tom Kelly of the Minnesota Twins. With the talent he had, and the small market he was in, his teams were built through the draft. And after being a coach for years, he got to manage, and somehow he was just able to make the best of what he had and take it to a high level. The playoffs. The World Series. The players liked him, all the umpires respected him. Great, great manager.

“Best fielders? I never saw a better combination up the middle, shortstop-second baseman, than Detroit's Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker. And then there's Cal Ripken Jr. He was not only a great hitter, but I never saw him make a bad throw from shortstop. He was always in position to make the throw.

“And funniest player? By far, George Brett. He just had such a great personality, he always had a smile on his face, and he'd talk to you and tell you stories. I remember one time, I'm in my second year in the Bigs, and he turns around in the batter's box one time and out of nowhere says to me: ‘Hey, glad you're here tonight, Mike! I have no confidence in those other umpires! But you're all right!’ He was just always saying stuff that was humorous and good-natured and funny. We're both big Notre Dame fans, we got along very well, and George was also just a genuinely nice and outgoing guy who'd freely talk and communicate with all umpires.”

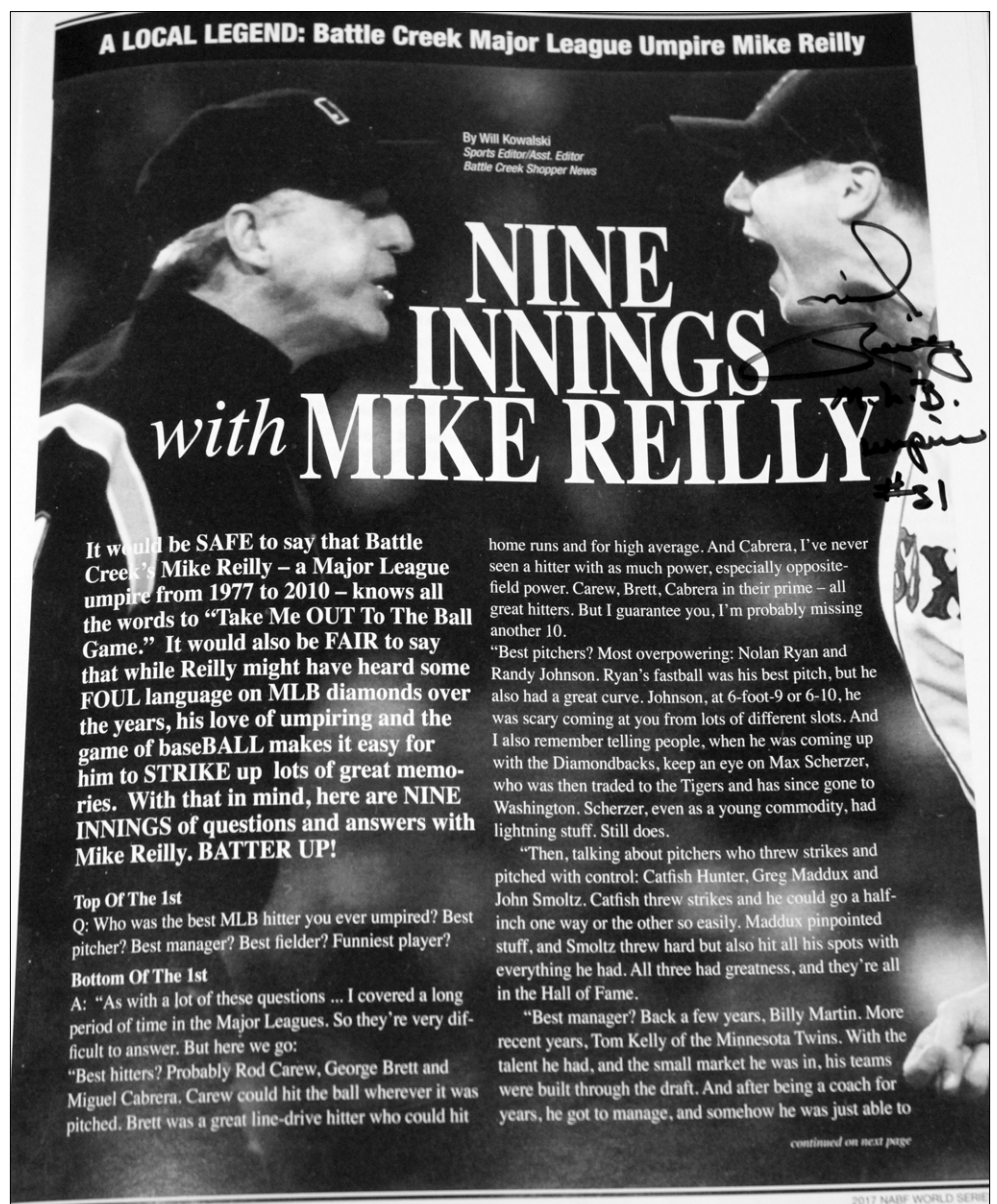
Top Of The 2nd

Q: In today's game, who do you think is the best hitter? Pitcher? Manager? Fielder?

Bottom Of The 2nd

Answer(s): “Hitter? Aaron Judge of the Yankees. I live in Florida during the winters and springs – I live half of the time in Florida, and the other half of the year in Battle Creek – and I saw him a lot in spring training. He's like 6-7 and 270 pounds, and he has a nice fluid swing, and he crushes the ball. Tremendous. He's also a great fielder.

“Pitchers? Scherzer is still electric, and Chris Sale of Boston. I had both of those guys when I was still umpiring, and they both have the stuff. Also, Clayton Kershaw



Battle Creek's Mike Reilly, a longtime Major League Baseball umpire, was honored during NABF World Series Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday, Aug. 9 at C.O. Brown Stadium inside B.C.'s Bailey Park. (Photo by Roy LaFountain)

of the Dodgers. He works well up in the strike zone, and has that great curve ball.

“Managers? Terry Francona of the Indians. I had him as a player, and also as a younger and older manager, and players like to play for him and he runs ballgames like they should be run. And also Dave Roberts of the Dodgers. I also had him as a player and as a young manager, and he knows the game and he really communicates well with the players and keeps them all happy. Both of those guys respect their players, and players and umpires respect them.”

Top Of The 3rd

Q: What's your best MLB memory?

Bottom Of The 3rd

A: “Probably the best was when I was selected to work my first World Series in 1984. I was a relatively young umpire, and I was not expecting to get the assignment, figuring it wasn't my time yet. So at the end of the season, I came home to Battle Creek and

home runs and for high average. And Cabrera, I've never seen a hitter with as much power, especially opposite-field power. Carew, Brett, Cabrera in their prime – all great hitters. But I guarantee you, I'm probably missing another 10.

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continued on next page

The Life Of Reilly

Battle Creek's Mike Reilly was a professional umpire for 39 years – working in the minors for five, then in Major League Baseball for 34 – starting in 1977, until his retirement in 2010. He worked 4,687 MLB games (ranked No. 5 on the all-time list) – including 23 postseason assignments, four All-Star Games and five World Series – with his first 25 years spent in the American League and the last nine in both leagues.

Mike was born July 2, 1949 in Sioux City, Iowa, the son of Eugene and Loretta, and has four brothers – Tim, Dennis, Patrick and Kevin. He moved with his family from Iowa to Battle Creek when he was in eighth grade. He got married in 1982 to Mary (Poat), whom he started dating in the spring of 1978, and they have four children – Katie, Ryan, Patrick and Conor.

Mike graduated from St. Philip Catholic Central High School in 1968 (where he played on the baseball, basketball, football and track teams,) and then took a sports officiating class at Kellogg Community College – which led to him officiating local amateur basketball and baseball games, and eventually heading off to professional umpire school in 1972. He worked Class A ball in the Florida State league in 1972-73; was promoted to the Class AA Eastern League for 1974-76; was promoted to Class AAA ball in 1976; had his contract bought by the American League in the winter of 1976; and reached the Big Leagues in 1977.

These days, the 68-year-old Reilly spends his winters in Naples, Fla., and his summers in the Cereal City. And, he was on hand at Bailey Park for the National Amateur Baseball Federation's Charles Blackburn Major Division World Series.

(continued on page 18)

Major World Series

One World Series — five champions in Battle Creek

By Will Kowalski
Sports Editor/Asst. Editor
Battle Creek Shopper News

One World Series, four champions.
How can that be?
Well, let's put it into context:

- The 104th National Amateur Baseball Federation Charles M. Blackburn Major Division World Series took place for the fifth straight summer in Battle Creek's Bailey Park, Aug. 9-13, and coming away with the tournament's bats-and-balls title trophy was the Battistoni Diesel squad from Buffalo, N.Y. The Diesel topped another Buffalo team, the Orvilles, 8-5, in last Sunday's championship game at C.O. Brown Stadium.

This year's Series with games at C.O. Brown Stadium, Nichols Field and Morrison Field was the first in a new five-year deal with the NABF to keep the tourney in the Cereal City — meaning the event will continue to take place in B.C. through at least 2021.

- Another champion was the local and national ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) Association.

As part of the tourney's bevy of side events, last Friday night (Aug. 11) was a "Pack the Park for Barb" night at C.O. Brown, which raised \$2,500-and-counting for the ALS' Michigan chapter ("Strike Out ALS" was the night's catch-phrase). The fundraising effort was named in honor of Barbara Newton (wife of tourney director Terry Newton) who passed away this past January from the disease.

The evening drew a crowd of over 1,500 to the ballpark — C.O. Brown's largest in several years — and had the feel of old-time Stan Musial World Series gatherings during which community members of all ages swarmed to Bailey Park to watch some great baseball, rekindle friendships and join together for a wonderful cause.

ALS, by the way — more commonly known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease" (the former New York Yankee star and Hall of Famer died from the ailment at the age of 37 in 1941) — is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord, and which still has no cure.

So impressed by what he saw at C.O. Brown Stadium last Friday night — from the size of the crowd, to the sizeable amount of funds raised, to the magnitude of community spirit that was on display — Charles M. Blackburn Jr. himself, executive director of the NABF, said that the NABF will take a vote at its next annual meeting in November that would make ALS the official cause of the NABF with all of its events nationwide.

"I highly think that the vote will be in favor of the NABF adopting the ALS Association as its partnering fundraising group," Blackburn said. "The NABF is over 100 years old, Lou Gehrig is one of the greatest baseball players who ever lived and his disease wound up taking his life at a young age, the showing here in Battle Creek was wonderful in raising money for the ALS Association ... it just seems like the sensible thing — a very positive thing — for the National Amateur Baseball Federation to do."

- Also last Friday, another big winner: Receiving the inaugural Barbara Newton Memorial Award honoring Women in Baseball in Battle Creek was Micki Bortell.

- And, the final winner of the Series: The Battle Creek Merchants squad, host team for the tourney.

On a night during which the stands were packed and all eyes were on the action on the diamond (Friday, Aug. 11), manager Jack McCulley's Merchants posted a 11-4 victory over the Portland Rockets of Fort Wayne — the team that eliminated B.C. HBC/Behnke from its regional in Indiana the previous weekend (with the Merchants having prevailed over HBC/Behnke in the city league playoff championship series to earn the right to host the World Series).

"Another great World Series here in Battle Creek with great baseball, great weather, lots of things for fans to see and participate in, a sensational turnout for Barb's night on Friday — although it's

bitter-sweet, because of what my wife went through with ALS — and lots of positive things to take along as we soon start working on the plans for hosting the NABF World Series here again next year and for the next few years," Terry Newton said.

"We had lots of volunteers, lots of workers from the regular Bailey Park staff putting in a lot of hours, lots of positives all around. We just know, with all the experience we have, how to put on great tournaments here in Battle Creek, and this was another great tournament."

That all said ...

It's impossible in the space available here in today's edition of the Shopper News to go into detail about all of the things that went on in this year's Series. But following are condensed, day-by-day highlights:

Opening Night

On Wednesday, Aug. 9, the only game played was between the host B.C. Merchants and the defending national champion Brooklyn (N.Y.) Sports Fever.

The Merchants played excellent ball, and took Brooklyn into extra innings before falling, 7-3, in the 13th. The game was tied 3-3 after the regulation nine innings in the all-wooden-bat tourney opener.

B.C. scored early in the game via an RBI singles by Brandon Haynes and Luke Ragotzy, and tied it in the bottom of the ninth via a hit by Mickey Barea. Trevor Hurley started on the Merchants' mound.

Prior to the game, even before Opening Ceremonies took place at C.O. Brown Stadium, seven new members to the Wall of Fame at Nichols Field were inducted.

Then, during ceremonies at Brown, retired Major League Baseball umpire from Battle Creek, Mike Reilly, was honored; Blackburn addressed the crowd; B.C. Mayor Dave Walters presented a Key to the City to Brooklyn Sports Fever; and Walters threw out the Series' first pitch.

Thursday, Aug. 10

The tourney field of 12 — the host B.C. Merchants, defending champ Brooklyn and 10 regional champs — got the round-robin portion of the Series going in earnest (the tourney started with three pools of four teams each, with the top eight teams from pool play advancing to Saturday's quarter-finals).

The Merchants did not fare well in their only game of the day, getting mercied 11-1 in eight innings by the Beecher (Ill.) Muskies. B.C. trailed 7-0 after the first inning; the Merchants' lone run scored on a wild pitch in the fifth.

Indeed, "Thirsty Thursday" left a lot of B.C. baseball fans parched — except for the fact that the family of Don Veeder, longtime supporter of amateur baseball in the Cereal City who passed away earlier this year, was honored prior to game between the Merchants and the Muskies. On hand were widow Linda Veeder, their children and grandchildren, plus many former ballplayers and friends of the old Verona Barber Shop squad.

Friday, Aug. 11

Most of what took place that evening was explained in previous paragraphs — except for the fact that Friday was "Senior Day" (see accompanying article) and a closer look at the Merchants' one-sided win over Fort Wayne.

In that victory for B.C., catcher Travis Snyder had the hot bat with four hits and six RBI. Also superb offensively were Beau Langs, Mickey Losey, Caleb Prokesch, Jason Mueller, Barea, Drake Ellens, Haynes and Ragotzy. Reggie Walters starred on the mound.

"That was just a fantastic win for us in front of that big crowd, with us being the host team, with our players being really young for the most part and battling hard against a lot of older, veteran players, many of whom aren't that far removed from playing professional ball," Merchants manager McCulley said.

"We wanted to do well in this Series, but we lost that tough game in the opener, we didn't play well in the second game ... but in that third game I think we did ourselves proud and we really fed off all the support we got from that great crowd. It's

(continued on page 5)



Terry Newton, NABF Major Division (unlimited age) World Series tournament director, went through a lot of emotions during this year's Series (Photo by Art Frith)

From the NABF President...

As the 2017 season comes to a close with our 103rd Annual Meeting in Tinley Park, IL this November, it will mark another great year of baseball with many great experiences and accomplishments by franchise members and teams. I want to congratulate the New Jersey Axeman who won our 12U World Series. They would go on to win the prestigious YBNNC in Branson, MO, defeating teams from AABC, AAU, CABA, Dixie and Dizzy Dean for our first title! I want to thank all of the franchise members who hosted NABF World Series Events and Regional Events. The hosting of a world series or regional event is very demanding and time consuming.

The number of hours that tournament committees and its many volunteers put forth is amazing. Our World Series events are hosted at great facilities such as Bob Cene Park in Struthers, OH, Bailey Park in Battle Creek, MI, the City of Toledo, OH, and MS College in Clinton, MS, where the grounds crew, gate workers, scoreboard operators and concession workers work tirelessly to make our world series events an experience for the whole family.

The NABF had a few losses this year in our "immediate family". We lost some great supporters of NABF baseball; such as George Kelso, Marilyn Benedict and Becky Blackburn. Our condolences go out to each of these families.

I want to thank our many great sponsors and advertisers who help the NABF and its franchises. They contribute financially, with equipment and discounts for our organization and its members. It is so imperative that our franchise members help support our advertisers also using their equipment and services. We would not be as successful without their support.

The NABF needs to move forward into the 2018 season with a common goal; the growth of youth baseball through traditional NABF Leagues and through the NABF Classics. As a national organization, we need to adapt to the many changes that youth baseball is going through. We need to use our franchise members as a resource to help them grow and hence the NABF grows. Our Franchises need to look at expanding the number of divisions in their league and also need to recruit others to join our great organization. The NABF needs to look at supporting our franchises more also.

In conclusion, I want to thank all our Officers, Board Members and Franchise Members who will be in attendance for our annual meeting. This will be a time of fellowship, debate and contemplation as we look to the future of NABF baseball and the road that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Derek Topik
NABF President
NABF Special Events Director



Derek Topik

Major World Series

Five Champions

(continued from page 4)

something I'll never forget, and something these players won't ever forget."

Said Snyder, a former Lakeview High star who this past spring played his freshman season for Kellogg Community College: "Tonight was something that all of us can take with us for the rest of our lives. We played great in a World Series game, in front of a really big crowd of cheering fans, and on a very special night for this community. Everybody on this team is just so, so happy that we were able to play like we did and win a game for ourselves and for Battle Creek."

Saturday, Aug. 12

After the end of pool play on Friday, four teams were eliminated: The Merchants; Flanagan Associates of West Haven, Conn.; the Oswego (Ill.) Cats; and the New Rochelle (N.Y.) Robins.

In Saturday's quarterfinals, the Pittsburgh St. Johns-Lefty's – the 2013 champs – eliminated Portland 6-1; Buffalo Battistoni defeated Brooklyn 10-6; Buffalo Orvilles beat the Hackensack (N.J.) Troast 8-7; and Troy Jet Box (national champs in 1997 and 2007) edged the Beecher Muskies (the 2010 champs) 4-3.

In the semifinals,

Buffalo Battistoni downed Pittsburgh 12-8; and Buffalo Orvilles topped Troy 9-3 – setting the stage for Sunday's title-game affair.

Also on Saturday, there was a "Touch A Truck" activity for kids as well as a KCC youth baseball clinic and a Post Cereals giveaway.

Sunday, Aug. 13

As appeared early in this story, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel beat Buffalo Orvilles for the crown. It was the first time in six tries this season that Battistoni was able to defeat the Orvilles (Battistoni even lost twice to Orvilles during its regional, forcing the Diesel to head to Maryland to win a regional there and qualify for the Series).

Lots of "Battle Diesel, Michigan" t-shirts were worn by the Buffalo Battistoni fans in attendance – as a result of the squad's four trips to B.C. for the Series in the past five years – and Battistoni manager Paul Wolf praised his team, the Orvilles, and Battle Creek after clinching another World Series championship in the Cereal City.

"We love it here in Battle Creek. Great tournament, great facilities, great people," Wolf said. "And hopefully, we can return here and win another championship again."

The Closer

As has been the case since Terry Newton, the Southern Michigan Amateur Baseball Association and the City of Battle Creek worked together to bring an amateur baseball World Series back to B.C. after the long-running Musial left town in 2004, the NABF World Series in 2018 is expected to be another fun- and event-filled extravaganza.

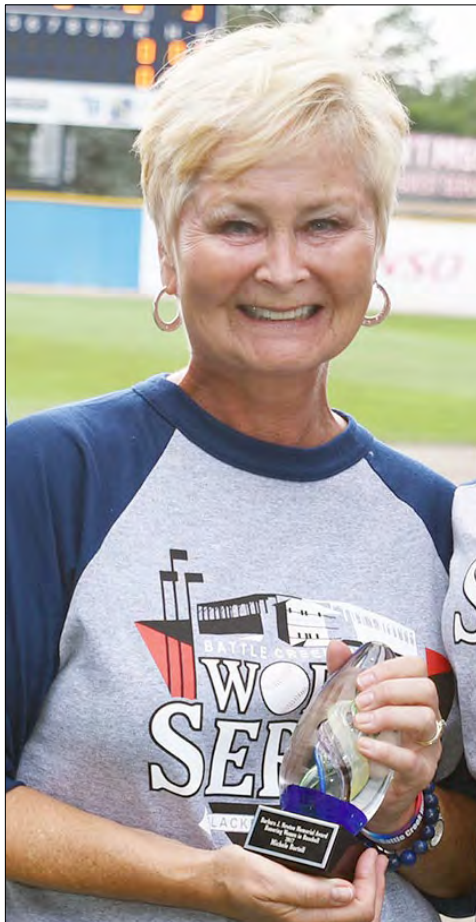
For more and complete information on this year's NABF World Series in Battle Creek – including scores of all pool-play games, the all-tournament team list and a plethora of tourney photos – please visit battlecreekworldseries.com or nabf.com.

Will Kowalski, winner of the 2016 NABF John Benedict Sports Journalism Award, is a veteran sportswriter who is currently Sports Editor and Assistant Editor of the Battle Creek Shopper News. Contact him at will@j-adgraphics.com.



Benny Clark, a former Kellogg Community College baseball standout, works with kids during a KCC Youth Baseball Clinic on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 12 – in conjunction with the playing of the 104th NABF World Series at Battle Creek's Bailey Park. (Battle Creek Shopper News photo by Will Kowalski)

For Major Division Tournament Photos by Art Frith and Roy LaFountain, see page 6



Micki Bortell won the first-ever Barbara Newton Memorial Award at this year's NABF World Series, signifying women's contributions to Battle Creek baseball. (Photo by Art Frith)



The Newton Family presents a check to the ALS Association in honor of Barbara Newton, during the NABF World Series last Friday night on 'Pack The Park Night For Barb' at C.O. Brown Stadium. The NABF is considering making the ALS Association its official charity nationwide. (Photo by Art Frith)



The Veeder Family, and friends of the family, were honored last Friday night at the NABF World Series. Don Veeder, a longtime supporter of amateur baseball and amateur sports in Battle Creek, recently passed away. (Battle Creek Shopper News photo by Will Kowalski)



NABF
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Major League Baseball Network.



Major World Series

And...the 'Battle of Buffalo' winner is...Battistoni Diesel

Under the bright sunshine, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel captured their second national championship in three years.

The "Battle of Buffalo" goes to the Diesel, as they defeated fellow league member Buffalo Orvilles 8-5 in the championship game on Sunday, August 13 at C.O. Brown Stadium. It was the 104th NABF Major Division title game.

Buffalo Orvilles, who were the only remaining undefeated team in the World Series, jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the second inning before Coach Paul Wolf's veterans responded with a run in the third inning, and two runs in the fourth, to take the lead...a lead they would not relinquish.

The Diesel added a solo run in the sixth inning before striking for four runs in the ninth inning to lead 8-2, with three outs to play. The youngsters from the Orvilles refused to give up, striking for three runs in the bottom of the ninth inning. The Orvilles put two runners aboard, bringing the tying run to the plate. Zach Jordan produced a pop-up to the infield, and the Diesel (who finished as runner-up to Brooklyn Sports Fever in 2016) captured the Charles Blackburn trophy for the second time in three years.

The Diesel's road to the championship included defeating a pair of former champions, as they avenged their 2016 title loss, defeating Brooklyn Sports Fever in the quarterfinal, and outlasting the 2014 champion Pittsburgh St. John's Leftys with a final score of 12-8 in the semifinal showdown on Saturday night. They ended the journey against fellow league member Buffalo Orvilles, who dominated the season series between the two teams.

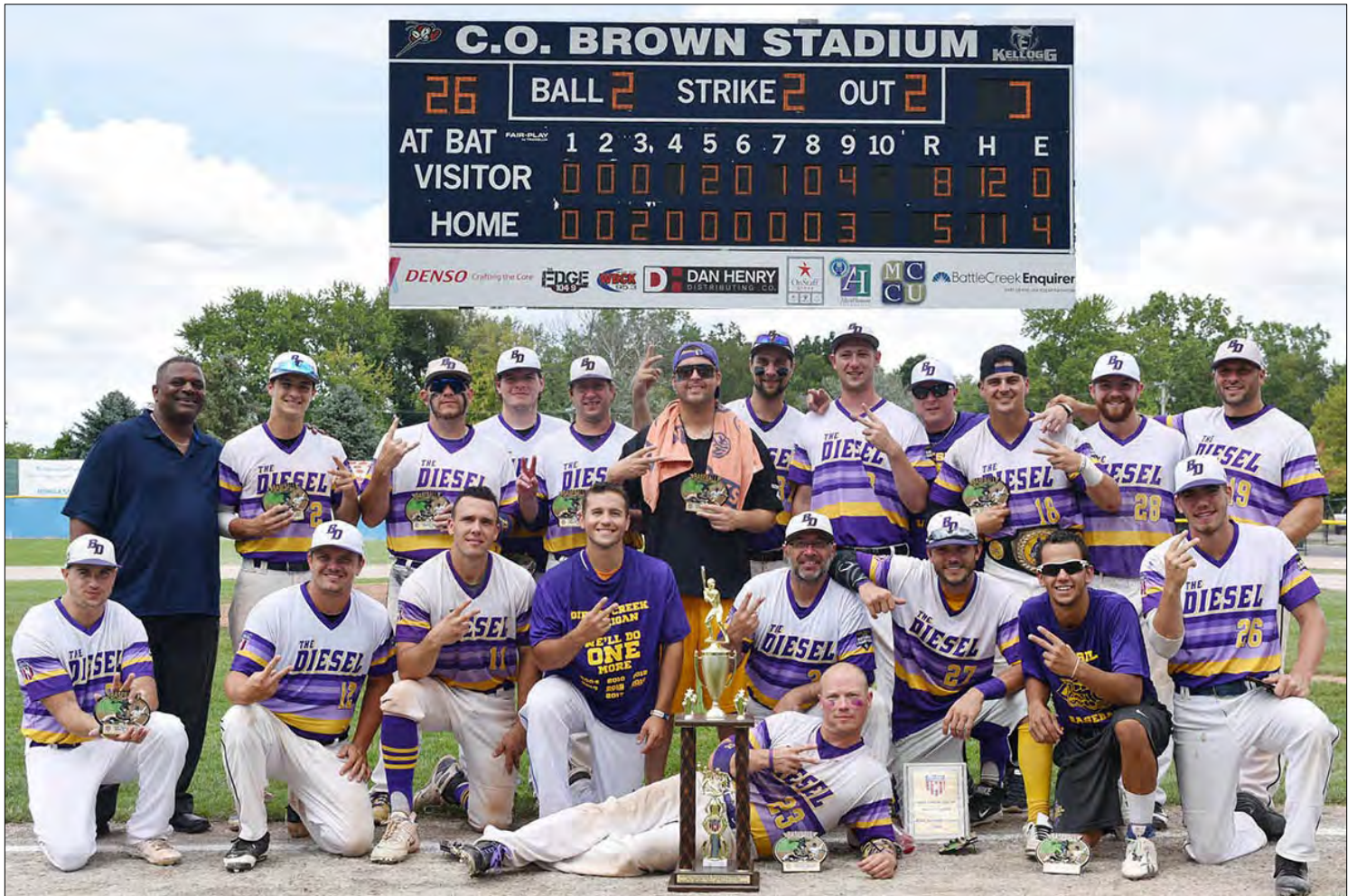
Battistoni Diesel players are pitcher/utility Matthew Schoepflin, outfielder/pitcher Ryan Baroudi, outfielder/infielder Justin LaRosa, utility player Nicholas Galenti, infielder Neal Demartin, infielder/pitcher Alex Dusenberry, outfielder Jacob Victory, infielder Rob Luehrsen, outfielder Randy Moley, outfielder/infielder Chris Kwitzer, catcher Andrew Russo, infielders Alex Seifert and James Spano, outfielder Bart Stack, pitcher/infielder Mike Wagner, catcher/pitcher Joe Barbario and utility player Nick Jasinski.

Diesel pitchers include Dave Brozyna, Matt Wilhelm, Brad Smith, Adam Curyto, Kevin Hughes, Anthony Magoveny, Zach Jordan and Tim Sell. The Diesel are managed by Paul Wolf and coaches Rob Luehrsen and James Spano. The Diesel won the Buffalo regional to qualify for the World Series.

Position players for the Orvilles include outfielder Dawson Bailey, catcher



A celebration is in order for the Battistoni Diesel players after their championship win. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)



The Battistoni Diesel squad from Buffalo, N.Y., defeated the Buffalo Orvilles 8-5 in last Sunday's championship game of the NABF World Series. It was the Diesel's second national crown in the past three seasons. Laying down — BJ Stack (All-Tourney). Kneeling (L-R) — Ryan Baroudi, Dave Brozyna, Andrew Russo (All-Tourney), Kevin Hughes (All-Tourney), Paul Wolf (Manager), Mike Wagner (Tourney MVP), Nick Galenti, Jacob Victor. Standing (L-R) — Mark Manson (Sponsor), Joe Barberio, Rob Luehrsen, Zach Jordan (All-Tourney), Neal DeMartin (All-Tourney), Jimmy Spano, Nick Jasinski, Adam Curyto, Eric Moley (Sponsor), Chris Kwitzer (All-Tourney), Alex Seifert, and Randy Moley. (Photo by Art Frith)

Ryan Bonafede, infielder Matt Grace, catcher Dennis Gagliardo, infielder/outfielder Ben Serrano, infielder Brandon Nicholson, outfielder/infielder Caleb Lang, infielder Bobby Newbury, outfielder Derek Penman, catcher/infielder Pat Sheehan, pitcher/outfielder Zach Von Kramer, outfielder Brendan Toughy, infielder/catcher Tyler Utz and infielders Paul Wujek and Dominick Troll.

Orvilles pitchers include Kyle Bell, Sal Carroccia, Caleb Kish, Dylan Hillabush, Luke Kuczewski, Matt Matre, Garrett Pauly, Damian Powers, Zach Lyman and Ben Vey. The Orvilles are managed by Glenn Toughy and coaches Paul Wujek and Dean Penman. The Orvilles won the Brunswick, Maryland regional to qualify.

Other teams competing were the Battle Creek Merchants (host), Brooklyn Sports Fever (2016 champions), Beecher Muskies

(Kankakee, Illinois regional winner), Portland Rockets (Fort Wayne, Indiana regional), New Rochelle Robins (West Haven, Connecticut regional), Pittsburgh St. John's Leftys (Cincinnati regional), Oswego Cats (Lombard, Illinois regional), Hackensack Troasts (Hackensack, New Jersey regional), North Haven Flanagan Association (West Haven, Connecticut regional) and Troy Jet Box (Saginaw, Michigan regional).

The 104th NABF Major Division World Series saw the largest total attendance figures since the World Series arrived in the Cereal City in 2013. This was, in part, due to a record crowd on Friday night as the host team Battle Creek Merchants defeated a very good Portland Rockets team on "Pack the Park Night" to strike out ALS. The 105th Charles Blackburn Major Division World Series will be held at the Bailey Park Complex in Battle Creek, August 8-12, 2018.



Battistoni Diesel shortstop Mike Wagner — Major Division Most Valuable Player. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)



The Buffalo Orvilles coaching staff accepts the World Series runner-up trophy. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)

NABF MAJOR DIVISION ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- C Marty Cole, Beecher Muskies
- C Andrew Russo, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- Utility IF Rich Guillod, Hackensack Troasts
- Utility IF Ben Serrano, Buffalo Orvilles
- 1B Tyler Utz, Buffalo Orvilles
- 1B Mitch Waters, Portland Rockets
- 2B Frank Jenny, Troy Jet Box
- 2B Neal Demartin, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- 3B Andrew Heck, Pittsburgh St. John Leftys
- 3B Chris Kwitzer, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- SS Mike Wagner, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- SS Zach Tanner, Portland Rockets
- OF Ray Renshaw, Hackensack Troasts
- OF Greg Stokes, Pittsburgh St. John's Leftys
- OF Brandon Reaman, Portland Rockets
- OF Bart Stack, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- OF Tyler Bradner, Troy Jet Box
- OF Jalen Cox, Beecher Muskies
- OF Corey Krupske, Beecher Muskies
- P Max Habbeger, Portland Rockets
- P John Bachman, Pittsburgh St. John's Leftys
- P Luke Kuczewski, Buffalo Orvilles
- P Kevin Hughes, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- P Kyle Bell, Buffalo Orvilles
- P Zach Jordan, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- P Tim Sell, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- MVP — Mike Wagner, Buffalo Battistoni Diesel
- Batting Champion — Ray Renshaw, Hackensack Troasts, 11-for-15, .733

College World Series

Cleveland's Blaze Black downs Oil City Stags in title game

The Blaze Black, champions of the Cleveland based Diamond League, defeated the Oil City Stags 6-2 to win the 2017 National Amateur Baseball Federation College Division World Series championship at Mercy Field in Toledo, Ohio. The Black avenged an earlier loss to the Stags in taking the national title.

The Blaze Black were led by left fielder T.J. Lett (Notre Dame College), who was named the tournament Most Valuable Player by Buckeye Cable Sports Network, which televised the tournament. Game broadcasts are available at www.bcsn.tv.

Other Blaze Black All-Tournament players were pitchers Brendon Borkey (Capital University) and Joseph Borkey (Capital University) and designated hitter Anthony James "A.J." Strnad (Coker College).

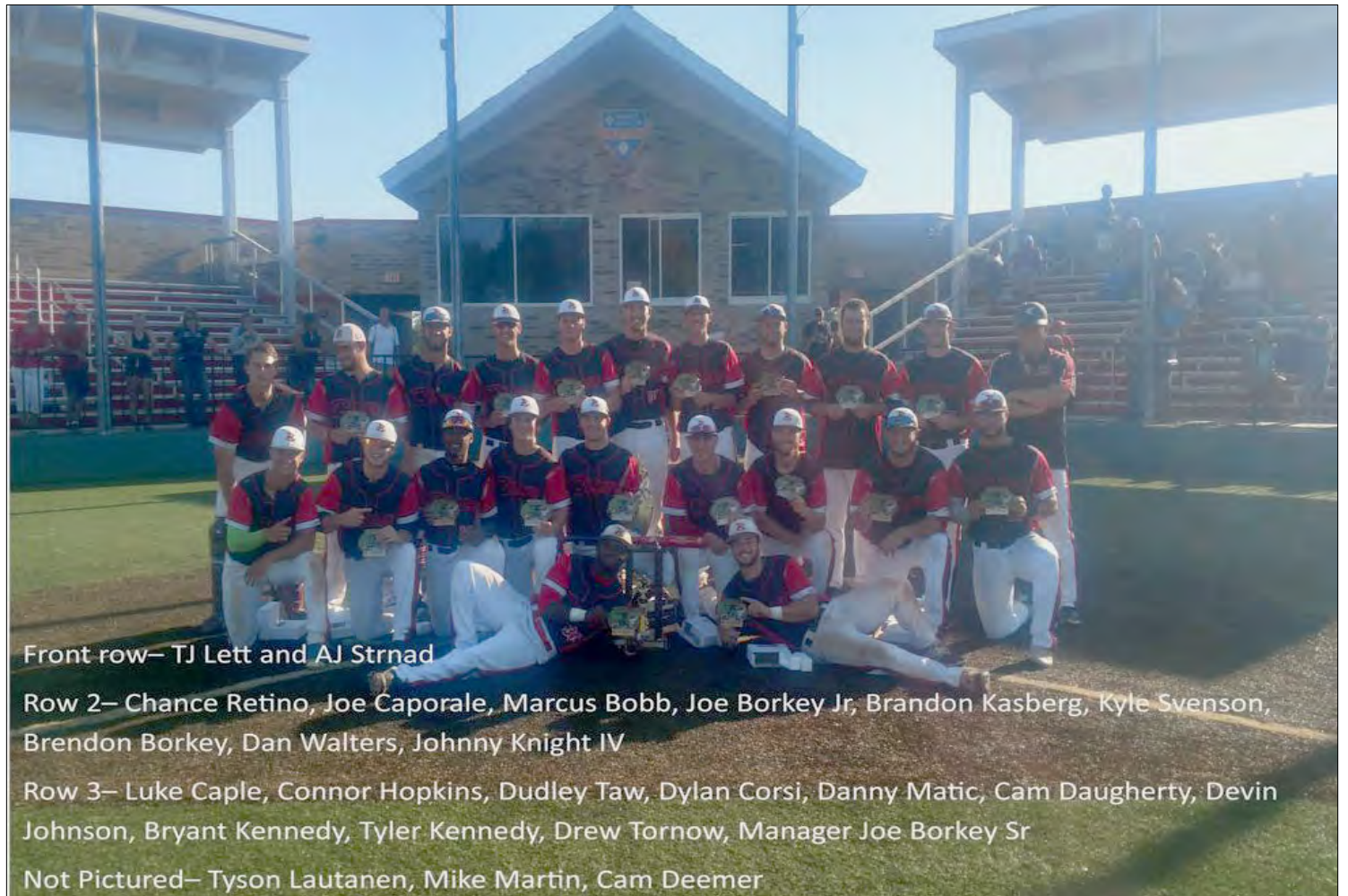
Blaze Black went 2-1 in pool play, finishing as runner-up behind the Stags, which were undefeated in the same pool and defeated the Black, 6-4, in the opening round.

The Black rebounded to win five straight games, defeating the two-time national champion Crystal Lake Cardinals 5-2 and the Toledo Expos, 11-0 in pool play. In the quarterfinals, the Black defeated the three-time champion Toledo Hawks (once as Ohio Monarchs Gold) and the Black reached the championship by downing the Michigan Braves.

The Black was the only Ohio team in the national final four, as all the other three teams were from Michigan, but the Cleveland-based team took down two Michigan teams in the semifinal and championship.

The Blaze Black, which is out of the Cleveland-based Diamond League, are managed by Joe Borkey and coaches Elwood Walters and Brendon Borkey.

Other players are second baseman/outfielder Marcus Bobb (Walsh University), catcher Luke Caple (Walsh University), second baseman/shortstop Joseph Caporale (Capital University), pitcher Dylan Corsi (Illinois Tech), third baseman/first baseman Cam Daugherty (Bowling Green State University), pitcher Cameron Deamer (Heidelberg University), outfielder Connor Hopkins (Capital University), pitcher Devin Johnson (Ohio Northern University), shortstop Brandon Kasberg (Ohio Northern University), third baseman Bryant Kennedy (University of Mount Union), pitcher Tyler Kennedy (University of Findlay), outfielder John Knight IV (Walsh University),



Front row— TJ Lett and AJ Strnad
 Row 2— Chance Retino, Joe Caporale, Marcus Bobb, Joe Borkey Jr, Brandon Kasberg, Kyle Svenson, Brendon Borkey, Dan Walters, Johnny Knight IV
 Row 3— Luke Caple, Connor Hopkins, Dudley Taw, Dylan Corsi, Danny Matic, Cam Daugherty, Devin Johnson, Bryant Kennedy, Tyler Kennedy, Drew Tornow, Manager Joe Borkey Sr
 Not Pictured— Tyson Lautanen, Mike Martin, Cam Deemer

pitcher/third baseman Tyson Lautanen (Walsh University), pitcher Michael Martin (University of Mount Union), pitcher Danny Matic (Notre Dame College), first baseman/third baseman Kyle Svenson (John Carroll University), pitcher/outfielder Ross Thompson (Capital University), second baseman/shortstop Chance Retino (Rollins University), outfielder Dudley Taw (Baldwin Wallace University), outfielder Andrew Tornow (Wooster University) and catcher/first baseman Daniel Walters (Capital University).

The Stags, which were out of the Great Lakes UBL, were managed by Josh Russell and coached by Tim Atkinson.

All-Tournament players include shortstop Vann Acker (Alma College), outfielders Zack Booth (Delta College) and Maxwell Trucks (Alma College) and pitcher Joshua Riggs (Alma College).

Besides defeating the Blaze Black in pool play, the Stags downed the Expos, 3-1, and the Cardinals, 4-1. In the quarterfinals, the Stags defeated the Michigan Rams to advance.

Other team members include catcher Brady Leppek (Delta College), outfielder

Ty Rollin (Central Michigan University), infielder Riley Creamer (Kellogg CC), infielder Derrek Clyde (Saginaw Valley State University), pitcher Guy Henika (Delta College), outfielder Austin Koin (Saginaw Valley State University), infielder Ty Jones (Delta College), infielder Tyler Snover (Delta College), pitcher Thomas Fortney (Delta College), infielder Logan Huff (Alma College), outfielder James Rosebrock (Delta College), outfielder Dean Marais (Delta College), catcher Z-Michael Westley (Delta College), infielder Hunter David (Delta College), pitcher Jeffery Wright (Delta College), catcher Carson Eby (Lansing CC), pitcher Jacob Wright (Delta College), pitcher Brandon Wise (Saginaw Valley State University), pitcher Antonio Jacobs (San Jacinto CC), pitcher Max Swan (Kellogg CC) and pitcher Chase Beyersdorf (Delta College).

Besides Mercy Field, a turf field stadium that is host for the Lourdes University and Central Catholic baseball teams, tournament sites included Dan Kober Field (St. Francis De Sales) and Ottawa Hills.

The Michigan Rams won Pool A with a 3-0 record, outscoring opponents 17-3 in pool play. The Hawks (22-8 in scoring

were 2-1, the E80 Iron Pigs (8-12) were 1-2 and the Greenfield Yellow Jackets 0-3 (6-30).

The Braves won Pool B with a 3-0 record, outscoring opponents 25-8. The Capitol City Reds (25-20) were second at 2-1, Spartans Baseball (19-18) was third at 1-2 and the Indiana Bandits (13-36) finished 0-3.

The Stags outscored opponents 14-5 to finish Pool C undefeated, the Black outscored opponents 20-8, the 1-2 Cardinals outscored opponents 14-11 and the 0-3 Expos were outscored 26-2.



"It's All Wood," says the Battistoni Diesel. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)

NABF COLLEGE DIVISION WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Year	Champion	Runner-up	Score
1984	Smithtown, NY Seaman Oil	vs Detroit, MI LaDuke	9-7
1985	Detroit, MI Dearborn Vacuum	vs Louisville, KY Star Drywall	4-2
1986	Triangle, VA Greys	vs Detroit, MI Dearborn Vacuum	15-10
1987	Dearborn, MI Vacuum	vs Triangle, VA Greys	6-5
1988	Livonia, MI Holzer	vs Falls Church, VA Rebels	5-0
1989	Troy, MI Buff Whelan	vs Dayton, OH Miami County	4-0
1990	Ann Arbor, MI Wendy's	vs New York, NY New York Cubs	4-3
1991	Kansas City, MO McDonald's	vs Livonia, MI Waters Appliance	5-3
1992	Buffalo, NY Buffalo Leib's	vs Middletown, DE Green Acres	8-0
1993	Cincinnati, OH Fairfield Rangers	vs Macomb, MI Mustangs	14-3
1994	St. Clair Shores, MI	vs Cincinnati, OH Fairfield Rangers	9-2
1995	Arlington, VA Washington Senators	vs Cincinnati, OH Fairfield Rangers	4-3
1996	Rome, GA Mid-South Braves	vs Melrose, IL Melrose Park	5-3
1997	Dayton, OH Miami Valley Bulldogs	vs Baltimore, MD Mt Airy Sharks	3-1
1998	Hyattsville, MD Bombers	vs Miami Valley, Ohio Bulldogs	10-7
1999	Salisbury, MD Swann's Insurance	vs Mt. Airy, MD Sharks	3-2
2000	Enon, OH Warhawks	vs Bethesda, MD Big Train	6-1
2001	Springfield, OH Warhawks	vs Keystone, PA Diamonds	1-0
2002	Cincinnati, Ohio Stars	vs Springfield Ohio Warhawks	5-4
2003	Fenton, Mo, Metro Collegiate	vs Cincinnati, OH, Stars	5-2
2004	Normal, IL Twin City Scrappers	vs Livonia, MI Michigan Bulls	5-3
2005	Livonia, MI Michigan Bulls	vs Pittsburgh, PA Pittsburgh Pandas	17-3
2006	Pittsburgh, PA, Pittsburgh Pandas	vs Long Island, NY, Long Island Astros	9-3
2007	Long Island, NY Long Island Astros	vs Philadelphia, PA Lower Bucks Indians	8-1
2008	Oregon, OH, Ohio Monarchs Gold	vs Long Island, NY, Long Island Astros	4-3
2009	Crystal Lake, IL Crystal Lake Cardinals	vs Dix Hills, NY Dix Hills Dodgers	3-0
2010	Youngstown, OH Ohio Monarchs - Gold	vs St. Louis, MO Alton, Indians	13-5
2011	Utica, NY Utica Brewers	vs Crystal Lake, IL Crystal Lake Cardinals	10-1
2012	Livonia, MI Michigan Bulls	vs Toledo, OH Toledo Hawks	14-4
2013	St. Louis, MO St. Louis Dodgers	vs Sparta, MI Peppino's Pizza	9-5
2014	Crystal Lake, IL Crystal Lake Cardinals*	vs Caledonia, MI River City Rapids*	
2015	St. Louis, MO St. Louis Dodgers	vs Jackson, MI Michigan Monarchs	8-1
2016	Toledo, OH Toledo Hawks	vs St. Louis, MO St. Louis Bandits	5-4
2017	Cleveland, OH Blaze Black	vs Mt. Pleasant MI Oil City Stags	6-2

*NABF tie breaker rule.

NABF COLLEGE DIVISION ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- C Omar Prieto, Capital City Reds
- C Richard Perez, E80 Iron Pigs
- Utility Ben Richard, Toledo Hawks
- Utility Jordan Anstandig, Michigan Braves
- Utility Nathan Clark, Indiana Bandits
- 1B Korey Knowles, Michigan Rams
- 2B Mitch Morley, Michigan Braves
- 3B Chandler Dippman, Toledo Hawks
- SS Vann Acker, Oil City Stags
- OF TJ Lett, Blaze Black
- OF Bailey Watson, Indiana Bandits
- OF Jon Parker, Greenfield Yellow Jackets
- OF Zack Booth, Oil City Stags
- OF John MacDonald, Spartans Baseball
- OF Patrick Downing, Michigan Rams
- OF Richard Gulley, Toledo Hawks
- OF Maxwell Trucks, Oil City Stags
- DH Noah Childress, Toledo Hawks
- DH Anthony Strnad, Blaze Black
- P Zachary Schmidtke, Michigan Rams
- P Josh Riggs, Oil City Stags
- P Brendon Borkey, Blaze Black
- P Joseph Borkey, Blaze Black
- P Ryan Davila, Crystal Lake Cardinals
- P Alexander Theiss, Toledo Hawks
- P Jacob DePillo, Crystal Lake Cardinals
- MVP — TJ Lett, Blaze Black
- Batting Champion — Kory Knowles, Michigan Rams

Senior World Series

In close game, Jackson 96ers pull off win, earning fourth title

By Greg Gulas
The Vindicator
sports@vindy.com

The Astro Falcons and Jackson (Miss.) 96ers are two sandlot baseball programs that know a little bit about World Series championships.

Between the two, they have a combined 10 title game appearances with the 96ers advancing to the title tilt on six previous occasions.

Looking to become just the eighth team — second locally — to defend their title, Astro Falcons saw their last inning rally fall short as the 96ers held on for a 3-2 victory to win the NABF Senior Division World Series at Cene Park.

It was the 96ers fourth title overall, having previously won the 1994, 1996 and 2006 crowns.

Leading 3-2 in the seventh inning with no outs, runners on first and second and the count 2-0 to Astros Mike Turconi, 96ers manager Derek Topik removed starter Darius Taylor in favor of reliever Javian Stone, who promptly threw two quick balls to load the bases.

Turconi joined Matt Gibson, who led off the inning with a triple and Zach Campbell, who also walked with the hopes of either tying the game to force extra innings or take the lead and hope to hold the 96ers in their half of the seventh inning.

Stone then proceeded to get Jack Anderson to pop out to second baseman Chris Hart, struck out Noah Laster and then got Dakota Bingham to foul out to first baseman Eldeshun Miller to preserve the victory.

“The only thing going through my mind was not to let anyone get a piece of the ball so they couldn’t score,” Stone said. “I used my fast ball to set up my curve because that’s a pitch that I had relied on most of the season. It’s a great feeling to part of a championship team.”

Astro Falcons opened the scoring in the second inning when Laster reached on an error by shortstop Jovante Dorris, advancing to third on an error by Hart. He then raced home when Craig Palidar was caught stealing at second base on a double steal attempt.

The 96ers tied the game at a run apiece in the third when Albert Hughes led off with a walk, stole second and proceeded to score on Dorris’ double down the left field line.

“It’s disappointing, but this team went 43-9 overall and that tells you a lot about their character,” Astro Falcons manager Andy Timko said. “They swing the bats well, pitch and field just as well and they never gave up. It’s an excellent team that just fell a little short today of their goal and that was to repeat as World Series champions.

In the fifth inning, the 96ers took a 3-1 lead as Albert Hughes tripled with one away, scored on a single by Dorris with



NABF Senior Division World Series champions, Jackson 96ers — Kneeling (L-R) Elisha Hickman, John David Topik, Kevin Brown, Chevalier Dorris, Jr, Jekobe Knight, Garrett Harmon, DJ Lewis, and Albert Hughes (MVP). 2nd Row (L-R) Coach Eric Murphy, Edwin Smith, Darius Taylor, Julian Murphy, Jovante Dorris, Jordan murphy, Chris Hart, Talyn Schaffer and Manager Derek Topik. 3rd Row (L-R) Coach Darren Harmon, Kace Garner, Eldeshun Miller, Duncan Jones, and Javian Stone.

Dorris then scoring after D.J. Lewis followed with the second triple of the inning.

Astro Falcons pulled to within 3-2 in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly by Palidar that scored Laster, setting up the dramatic seventh inning showdown.

“We had a great bunch of players who gave an all-out effort every game, but that was to be expected of this entire group,” said Gibson, who will play collegiately at Mercyhurst College this fall.

Catcher-first baseman Jack Anderson is headed to Northwestern University in the fall to play for the Wildcats and major in business.

“After our loss in the first tournament game, we knew that we had to buckle down and that’s exactly what we did,” Anderson said. “This is a great group of players, a group that doesn’t know the meaning of the word quit.”

It was the third trip to the NABF senior World Series for Astro Falcons, previously winning title in 2012 and again last season.

For the 96ers, Albert Hughes ended up as the tournament’s Most Valuable Player and he was joined on the All-Tournament Team by 96ers Kace Gardner, Eldeshun Miller, Garrett Harmon, Elisha Hickman and Darvis Taylor.

- NABF SENIOR DIVISION ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**
C Mike Turner, Baird Brothers
C Kace Gardner, Jackson 96ers
Utility Sammy Frontino, Release Baseball
Utility Noah Laster, Astro Falcons
1B Jack Anderson, Astro Falcons
2B Drew Ellis, Ohio Longhorns
3B Eldeshun Miller, Jackson 96ers
SS Mike Turconi, Astro Falcons
OF Eric Wentz, Release Baseball
OF Zach Campbell, Astro Falcons
OF Dom Pilolli, Astro Falcons
OF Garrett Harmon, Jackson 96ers
OF Albert Hughes, Jackson 96ers
P Cory Levy, Team Ontario
P Joe McBride, Ohio Longhorns
P Nick Smith, Release Baseball
P Dom Michael, Astro Falcons
P Elisha Hickman, Jackson 96ers
P Darvis Taylor, Jackson 96ers
MVP — Albert Hughes, Jackson 96ers
Batting Champion — Mike Turconi, Astro Falcons



The man in charge on the basepaths. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)

All-Time NABF Senior Division World Series Championship Results

Year	Champion	Runner-up	Score
1944	Dayton, OH Dayton K. Fittings	vs Pittsburgh, PA Matrona Post	48, 3-0
1945	Louisville, KY Hasenhour Cafeman	vs Pittsburgh, PA Bombers	9-6
1946	Detroit, MI Sam’s Inc.	vs Louisville, KY Hasenhour Cafeman	9-6
1947	Dayton, OH Dayton Frigidaires	vs Louisville, KY Merchants	5-4
1948	Dearborn, MI Dearborn Movers	vs Detroit, MI Joe Gentile	7-5
1949	Cincinnati, OH Wood Insurance	vs Detroit, MI Joe Gentile	11-2
1950	Dayton, OH Inland vs Detroit, MI Trumbell Chevrolet		5-1
1951	Detroit, MI Trumbell Chevrolet	vs Atlanta, GA Merchants	9-4
1952	Cincinnati, OH Andy Schain	vs Chicago, IL Sun Dodgers	2-0
1953	Detroit, MI Arthurs Clothes	vs Dearborn, MI Optimists	4-2
1954	Cincinnati, OH Frisch’s	vs Louisville, KY Braves	6-4
1955	Detroit, MI Arthurs Clothes	vs Cincinnati, OH Frisch’s	7-2
1956	St. Louis, MO Meramec Caverns	vs Cincinnati, OH Eagle Savings	9-1
1957	Altoona, PA Kelly’s Stars	vs Louisville, KY Firefighters	1-0
1958	Detroit, MI Lundquist Insurance	vs Altoona, PA Tenth Ward	5-1
1959	Detroit, MI Lundquist Insurance	vs Cincinnati, OH Schiff Shoes	5-1
1960	Detroit, MI Lundquist Insurance	vs Cincinnati, OH Schiff Shoes	6-4
1961	Detroit, MI R.G. Moeller Co.	vs Cleveland, OH Go Team	7-6
1962	Detroit, MI Citizens Mutual Ins.	vs Pittsburgh, PA McKees Rocks	12-0
1963	Detroit, MI Citizens Mutual Ins.	vs Pittsburgh, PA McKees Rocks	14-6
1964	Detroit, MI Favro’s	vs Chicago, IL Bruins	2-0
1965	Hyattsville, MD Cheverly-Volks.	vs Cincinnati, OH Wilson Freight	8-4
1966	Detroit, MI A & B Brokers	vs Cleveland, OH Go Team	10-3
1967	Detroit, MI A & B Brokers	vs Youngstown, OH McAuley Awn	6-3
1968	Detroit, MI Fireman’s Fund	vs Buffalo, NY Hank Nowak Post	1-0
1969	Detroit, MI A & B Brokers	vs Chicago, IL Tomchanev Mohawks	6-2
1970	Detroit, MI Larco’s Inn	vs Cincinnati, OH Wilson Freight	6-0
1971	Youngstown, OH Campbell A.C.	vs Toledo, OH Dave White Chevrolet	4-3
1972	Chicago, IL Pequodsn	vs Bowie, MD Cheverly	16-3
1973	Detroit, MI Womac	vs Dayton, OH Johnny’s	7-2
1974	Castro Valley, CA Marmount	vs Joliet, IL Comets	10-1
1975	Cincinnati, OH Master Charge	vs Youngstown, OH Livi Steel	1, 5-2
1976	Cincinnati, OH Midland Warriors	vs Westland, MI American Legion	10-8
1977	Cincinnati, OH Midland Warriors	vs Prince George’s County, MD	6-5
1978	Niles, OH Livi Steel	vs Flushing, NY Tigers	15-2
1979	Niles, OH Livi Steel	vs Hilliard, OH Toronto Bus Equip.,	7-6
1980	Joliet, IL Comets	vs Niles, OH Livi Steel	13-2
1981	St. Louis, MO Russel Sporting	vs Atlanta, GA Mustangs	5-0
1982	Dolton, IL Comets	vs Utica, MI Technical Service	9-3
1983	Melrose Park, IL Mighty Meteors	vs Youngstown, OH Campbell A.C.	6-1
1984	Youngstown, OH Campbell A.C.	vs Dayton, OH Moraine Body Shop	7-2
1985	Utica, MI Technical Services	vs Long Island, NY Tigers	8-3
1986	Randallstown, MD Liberty Road	vs Long Island, NY Tigers	6-4
1987	Randallstown, MD Liberty Road	vs Long Island, NY Tigers	7-6
1988	Randallstown, MD Liberty Road	vs Chicago, IL Norwood Blues	8-3
1989	Baltimore, MD Putty Hill	vs Lexington, KY Dixie	7-6
1990	Baltimore, MD Putty Hill	vs South Holland, IL Midwest Angel	3-1
1991	Atlanta, GA Astros	vs Bedford, NY TWA Baseball Acad	13-3
1992	Long Island, NY Bayside Yankees	vs Youngstown, OH Fab. Goldsteins	9-4
1993	Marietta, GA East Cobb Ringers	vs Bayside, NY Yankees	10-8
1994	Jackson, MS Jackson 96ers	vs Seattle, WA Chaffay Baseball	12-5
1995	Enon, OH Warhawks	vs East Cobb, GA Ringers	4-0
1996	Jackson, MS Jackson 96ers	vs New Lenox, IL	6-2
1997	Hammond, LA Bill Hood Broncos	vs Springfield, OH Enon Warhawks	10-8
1998	Marietta, GA East Cobb Astros	vs Olympia, WA Pepsi	11-4
1999	Hammond, LA Bill Hood Broncos	vs Chicago Norwood Blues	11-3
2000	Northern Virginia Barnstormers	vs Bloomington, IN Blue Storm	7-3
2001	Central Florida Renegades	vs Lexington, KY Dixie	10-2
2002	Columbus, Ohio Cobras	vs Jackson, Mississippi 96ers	15-6
2003	White Oak, PA, Batting Practice	vs Orlando, FL, Orlando Scorpions	9-7
2004	White Oak, PA Diamond Dogs	vs Indianapolis, IN Indiana Bulls	7-6
2005	Long Island, NY Bayside Yankees	vs Jackson, MS Jackson 96ers	7-1
2006	Jackson, MS, Jackson 96ers	vs Long Island, NY, Bayside Yankees	5-4
2007	Houston, TX Houston Heat	vs Evansville, IN Evansville Razorbacks	4-2
2008	Long Island, NY, Bayside Yankees	vs Marietta, GA, TNL Sports	8-0
2009	Gambrills, MD Maryland Monarchs	vs Jackson, MS Jackson 96ers Blue	12-5
2010	Houston, TX Houston Raiders	vs Gambrills, MD Maryland Monarchs	9-2
2011	Toronto, ON Toronto Mets	vs Houston, TX Houston Raiders	6-1
2012	Struthers, OH Astro Falcons	vs Houston, TX Houston Raiders	8-7
2013	Gambrills, MD Maryland Monarchs	vs Youngstown, OH Creekside Fitness	7-6
2014	Youngstown, OH Ohio Glaciers	vs Youngstown, OH Creekside Fitness	8-1
2015	Maryland HCYP Raiders	vs Livonia, MI Michigan Bulls	7-5
2016	Struthers, OH Astro Falcons	vs Baltimore, MD Crab University	5-4
2017	Jackson, MS Jackson 96ers	vs Youngstown, OH Astro Falcons	3-2

High School World Series

Jackson Diamond 96ers take NABF High School World Series, too

The Jackson 96ers (Jackson, Mississippi) won their second National Amateur Baseball Federation World Series in 2017 on Sunday, July 30th with a 13-2 victory over the North Mississippi Indians in the NABF High School World Series.

This is their third NABF World Series championship in the past two years. In 2016, the Jackson 96ers won the 16 and under Junior World Series championship and in 2017, the Jackson 96ers won the NABF High School World Series championship and the 18 and under Senior Division World Series champions.hip.

Jackson 96ers Manager Derek Topik is very proud of these young men, saying, "their hard work and desire to win is very evident in their unprecedented accomplishments over the last two years. They bought into the belief that everyone has a role to play and when it is your turn, no matter what the role, you get the job done."

The 96ers used the same formula to win the NABF High School World Series that has worked over the past two years; solid pitching and timely hitting.

Kace Garner, Jackson 96ers, would gain MVP honors because of his bat and solid catching. Kade Dees, Jackson 96ers, would win the batting title with a .545 average.

In the championship game, the North Mississippi Indians would jump on 96ers starter, JT Carney, for two unearned runs in the bottom of the first. Carney would then blank the Indians for the remainder of the game, striking out five and only giving up two hits. The 96ers offense would come alive in the top of the second inning. Eldeshun Miller would hit a single up the middle to score the tying runs and make the score 2-2.

The third inning would be all the 96ers would need to win the championship as 14 batters came to the plate in the top of the third. They would score 10 runs on seven hits. Kace Garner, World Series MVP, would hit two doubles and get four RBIs, to put the 96ers ahead for good. The game would end on a 6-4-3 double play and the 96ers would celebrate their fifth total NABF national championship.

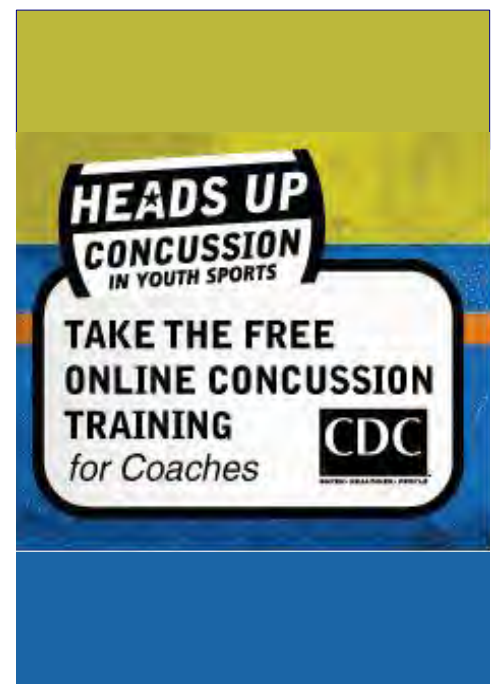
The 96ers would go 2-1 in pool play as solid pitching propelled them into the semifinals. Javian Stone (All Tournament), beat the 365 Stars 10-0 and John Topik (All Tournament), beat the North Mississippi Indians 2-0 in pool play. Darius Taylor, (All Tournament) would win the semifinal game, 12-0, on a one hitter, striking out four.



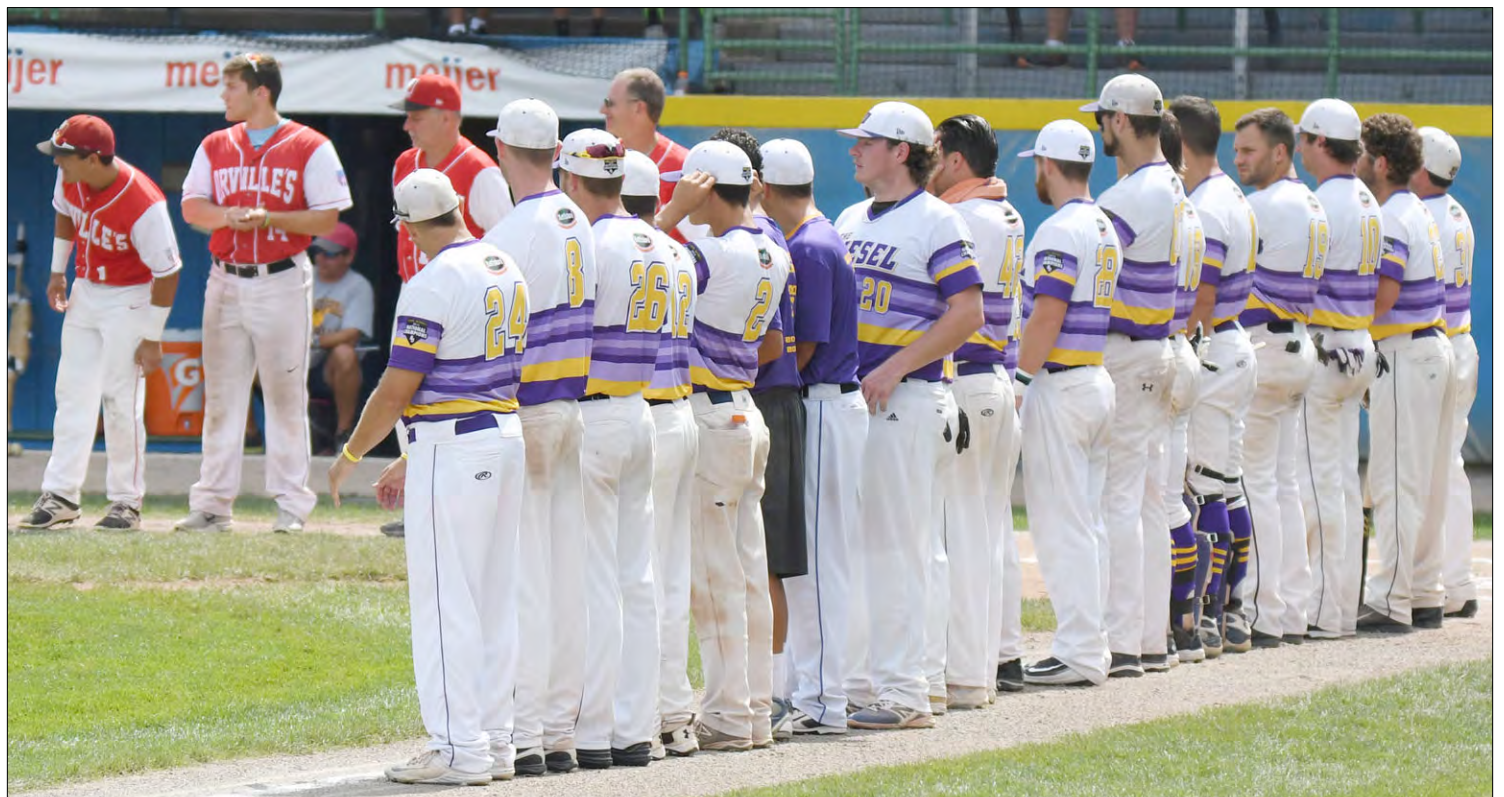
Jackson 96ers High School World Series champions —Front Row Kneeling (L-R): Garrett Harmon, Spencer Wright, John David Topik, Connor Stec, Elisha Hickman, and Kade Dees. 2nd Row Standing (L-R): Coach Darren Harmon, Jovante Dorris, Kace Garner, Edwin Smith, Jordan Murphy, JT Carney, and Manager Derek Topik. 3rd Row Standing (L-R): Eldeshun Miller, Chris Hart, Brady Tynes, Darius Taylor, and Javian Stone. Not Pictured: Coach Brian Wright, Kyle Tynes, and DJ Lewis

NABF HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Year	Champion	Runner-up	Score
1990	Orlando, FL Bates Team Sport	vs Winter Park, FL	10-1
1991	Orlando, FL Bates Team Sport	vs Apopka, FL Apopka Baseball	12-2
1992	Apopka, FL Apopka Baseball	vs Lexington, KY Dixie 17's	5-4
1993	Apopka, FL Apopka Baseball	vs Orlando, FL Bates Team Sport	5-2
1994	Boone vs Apopka, FL Apopka Baseball		6-5
1995	Long Island, NY Suffolk County	vs Apopka, FL Apopka Baseball	3-2
1996	Indianapolis, IN Indiana Bulls	vs Apopka, FL Apopka Baseball	4-0
1997	Carmel, IN Indiana Bulls	vs Suffolk County, NY Islanders	14-2
1998	Twitty City, TN Hallmark	vs Memphis, TN Bill Speros	7-0
1999	Germantown, TN Diversified Sec.	vs Long Island, New York Bulls	11-8
2000	Germantown, TN High School	vs Ontario, Canada Team Ontario	10-4
2001	Miamisburg, OH Rawlings Nationals	vs Midwest, Missouri Prospects	10-5
2002	Memphis, Tennessee Team Dulin '03	vs Apopka, FL Apopka Baseball	2-1
2003	Memphis, TN, Bill Speros	vs Carmel, IN, Indiana Bulls	8-2
2004	Clinton, MS Mississippi Stars	vs Ontario, Canada Team Ontario	9-0
2005	Kennesaw, GA East Cobb Braves	vs Long Island, NY Long Island Titans	9-5
2006	Long Island, NY, Midville Dodgers	vs Frederick, MD, Frederick Hustlers	15-6
2007	Dayton, OH Kinect Nationals	vs Chesapeake, MD Chesapeake Clippers	9-1
2008	Long Island, NY, Long Island Tigers	vs Wilmington, DE, Delco Diamonds	9-1
2009	Burke, VA Virginia Barnstormers	vs Baltimore, MD Maryland Orioles	3-0
2010	Burke, VA Virginia Barnstormers	vs Huntington, WV Huntington Hounds	6-4
2011	Gambrills, MD Maryland Monarchs	vs Houston, TX Allen Baseball	6-0
2012	Chicago, IL Top Tier Baseball	vs Allen, TX Allen Baseball	7-5
2013	Ronkonkoma, NY Marucci Titans	vs Gambrills, MD Maryland Monarchs	8-2
2014	Toronto, Ontario Toronto Mets	vs Ellicott City, MD HCYP 17s	7-6
2015	Greenbelt, MD Greenbelt Post 136	vs Gambrills, MD Maryland Monarchs	7-4
2016	Ellicott City, MD HCYP Raiders	vs Springfield, VA Metro Senators	4-1
2017	Jackson, MS Jackson 96ers	vs Pontotoc, MS North Mississippi Indians	13-1



Below, NABF players stand for the National Anthem before the Major Division World Series championship game. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)



NABF HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- C Kade Dees, Jackson 96ers 17U
- C Alan Hall, North Mississippi Indians
- Utility Tre Spires, Jackson 96ers Reed
- 1B Eldeshun Miller, Jackson 96ers 17U
- 2B Eli Bryson, Mississippi Stars 17U
- 3B Austen Izzo, Mississippi Stars 17U
- SS Jovante Dorris, Jackson 96ers 17U
- OF Garrett Harmon, Jackson 96ers 17U
- OF Jacob Jaudon, North Mississippi Indians
- OF Carson Dallas, North Mississippi Indians
- OF Kameron Robinson, Jackson 96ers 16U
- OF Tyler Starnes, 365 Mississippi Stars
- DH Julian Murphy, Jackson 96ers 16U
- P John Topik, Jackson 96ers 17U
- P Darius Taylor, Jackson 96ers 17U
- P JT Carney, Jackson 96ers 17U
- P Kirby Ross, North Mississippi Indians
- P Collin Jones, Mississippi Stars
- P Darius Anderson, Jackson 96ers 16U
- MVP — Kace Garner, Jackson 96ers 17U
- Batting Champion — Kade Dees, Jackson 96ers 17U



Senior Day a hit at NABF Major Division World Series

Senior Day at the Ball Park on Friday, Aug. 11 at Battle Creek's Bailey Park was deemed another hit this year. Seniors were invited out for a day at C.O. Brown Stadium to watch the National Amateur Baseball Federation's Charles M. Blackburn Jr. Major Division World Series, said Lora Stevens, Calhoun County Senior Millage spokeswoman. 'Many colorful signs were held up as they cheered for their favorite team,' she said. Seniors also enjoyed lunch, sponsored by Calhoun County Senior Services, Senior Health Partners, Care-Well Services Southwest, Walgreen's, Bronson Battle Creek, the City of Battle Creek, CentraCare, Evergreen Senior Care and Rehab Centers, and Oaklawn. Sherwin-Williams paid the entrance fees. (Photo provided)



2017 NABF AWARDS

To be presented at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the NABF Saturday, November 11th, 2017

Ronald E. McMinn Award of Merit
Sam Hamstra, Jr.
Downers Grove, Illinois

NABF Award of Merit
Jim Kosmerick
Grand Blanc, Michigan

John Benedict Sports Journalism Award
Art Frith
Nashville, Michigan

NABF "Woman of the Year"
Nancy Mikos
Canfield, Ohio
&
Chelsey Labadie
Toledo, Ohio

NABF "Man of the Year"
Mike Rupert
Battle Creek, Michigan
&
Ike Ranger
Battle Creek, Michigan



Trying to avoid a tag in the NABF Major Division championship game. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)



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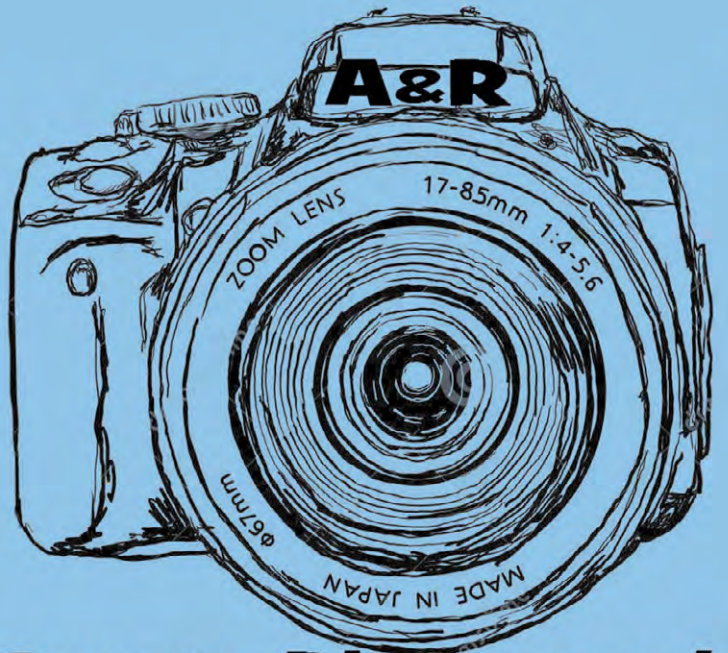
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Buffalo Orrville's pitcher going to the plate during the NABF Major Division World Series at OC Brown Stadium, Bailey Park, Battle Creek. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)



Sports Photography

Art Frith and Roy LaFountain are the official photographers of the National Amateur Baseball Federation Major World Series held at Bailey Park in Battle Creek, Michigan

Between them, Art and Roy have over 50-years' experience in covering sports & other events

They capture the action of the NABF World Series frame-by-frame so that you can sit back, relax and enjoy the game and not worry about getting "the shot"

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Junior World Series

Astro Falcons shut out HYCP Raiders in championship game

Shortstop Vincent Armeni (Youngstown Ursuline) was named the Most Valuable Player and Batting Champion as the Youngstown Astro Falcons defeated the HYCP Raiders, 3-0, to win the 2017 National Amateur Baseball Federation Junior Division World Series championship.

The Astro Falcons scored three runs in the second inning and then hold on behind strong pitching to take the title. Astro Falcons southpaw pitcher William Shaffer (Butler) was named to the All-Tournament Team.

The rally began when lead-off batter Ricky Havrilla (Canfield) was hit by a pitch, and then with one out already on the board, Connor Miller (Boardman) reached on a fielder's choice.

Johnnie Mikos (Youngstown Cardinal Mooney) then singled to left and Cameron Kreps (Boardman) reached base on a walk. Armeni then stepped to the plate and with a hit to the gap in right center field, three runs scored.

In their semifinal, the Astro Falcons held on behind another strong pitching performance to defeat the Bonnie Rockets (Brooklyn, New York), 1-0.

Again, the Astro Falcons scored the game's only run in the second inning. Designated hitter Nick Guarnieri (Niles) led off with a hit to left field and eventually scored on a hit along the left field line by Kreps.

The Raiders got to the championship by defeating the Youngstown Baird Brothers, also of the Youngstown Class B Baseball League, with a 6-4 semifinal vic-

tory, avoiding an all-Youngstown national championship.

Besides Armeni and Shaffer, outfielder Brayden Beck (Canfield) also made the all-tournament team representing the Astro Falcons.

Astro Falcons team members include Armeni, Guarnieri, Havrilla, Kreps, Mikos, Miller, Beck, Shaffer, Colin Balas (Ursu-

line), Andrew Clark (Springfield), Michael Fetsko (Boardman), Corbin Foy (Niles), Chase Franken (Columbiana), Dylan Gurski (Boardman), John Herold (Butler), Mike Kusher (Poland), Andrew Sabella (Ursuline), Kenny Misik (Austintown Fitch), Jake Bowen (West Middlesex) and Carter Chinn (Grove City).

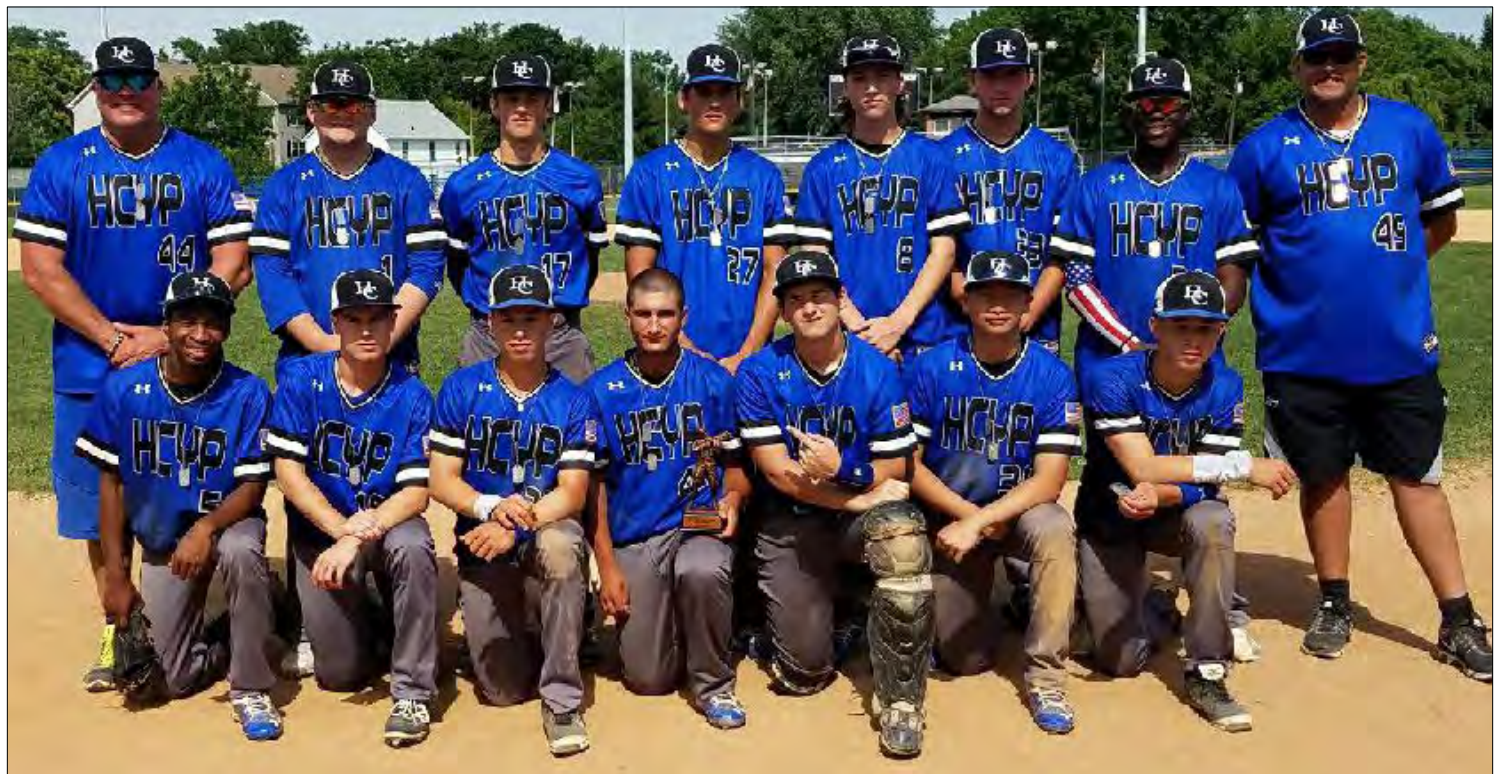
HYCP Raiders making the all-tourna-

ment team include first baseman Anthony Richards, pitcher Josh Olsufka, and outfielder Jarres Muray.

The team manager is Steve Leslie and coaches are T.C. Guarnieri and Rick Havrilla. The Junior World Series was played in Toledo, Ohio and televised by Buckeye Cable Sports Network. Game videos can be purchased at www.bcsn.tv.



Astro Falcons, 2017 NABF Junior Division World Series champions — Bat boy Logan Miller. Kneeling- Coach Chad Miller, Coach TC Guarnieri, Vince Armeni, Nick Guarnieri, Rick Havrilla, Chase Franken, Colin Balas, Brayden Beck, and Connor Miller. Standing — Coach Rob Armeni, Drew Clark, Corbin Foy, Johnnie Mikos, Mike Kushner, William Shaffer, Kenny Misik, Dylan Gurski, Andrew Sabella, Jake Bowen, Head Coach Steve Leslie, Carter Chinn, and Cam Kreps.



2017 NABF Junior Division Runners-Up — HYCP Raiders

- NABF JUNIOR DIVISION ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**
- C Nathan Stutz, Baird Brothers
 - C Zachary Rachfal, Michigan Bulls
 - Utility IF Travis Harvey, Baird Brothers
 - Utility IF Jared Yalon, HDMH Titans
 - 1B Anthony Richards, HCYP Raiders
 - 2B Andrew Dinopoulos, Team Ontario
 - 3B Logan Tiell, Toledo Hawks
 - SS Vincent Armeni, Astro Falcons
 - OF Derek Yalon, HDMH Titans
 - OF Justin Espinal, West New York Tigers
 - OF Brayden Beck, Astro Falcons
 - OF Jarres Muray, HCYP Raiders
 - OF Jeremy Rosado, Bonnie Rockets
 - OF Bryson Varwig, Toledo Hawks
 - DH Christopher Castellano, Brooklyn Cougars
 - P Noah Collins, Ohio Longhorns
 - P Adrien Espinal, Bonnie Rockets
 - P Josh Olsufka, HCYP Raiders
 - P Aric McAtee, Michigan Bulls
 - P Grant Metzger, Baird Brothers
 - P William Shaffer, Astro Falcons
 - MVP — Vincent Armeni, Astro Falcons
 - Batting Champion — Vincent Armeni, Astro Falcons

All-Time NABF Junior Division World Series Championship Results

Year	Champion	Runner-up	Score
1962	Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	vs Cleveland, OH Crozier AC	20-2
1963	Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	vs Cleveland, OH Crozier AC	12-4
1964	Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	vs Akron, OH McDonald Drive Inn	11-1
1965	Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	vs Hyattsville, Maryland	13-2
1966	Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	vs Cuyahoga Falls, OH Kiwanis	4-2
1967	Maryland State College Park Post	vs Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	2-1
1968	Detroit, MI Ludington News	vs Buffalo, NY Kensington's	8-7
1969	Detroit, MI East Side Sports	vs Cincinnati, OH Frisch's	9-2
1970	Cincinnati, OH Midland Chiefs	vs Detroit, MI William Green	6-3
1971	Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	vs Cincinnati, OH Midland	8-2
1972	Detroit, MI Kowalski Sausage	vs Pittsburgh, PA Perry Atoms	8-2
1973	Cincinnati, OH Sweeney Chevrolet	vs Maryland State Prince George's	12-5
1974	Pittsburgh, PA Springfield	vs Maryland State Prince George's	4-3
1975	Joliet, IL Elks	vs Dayton, OH Johns Amoco(10 Inn)	6-5
1976	Joliet, IL West Jefferson	vs Plymouth, MI Canton	11-6
1977	Glenhead, NY North Shore A's	vs Brooklyn, NY Ty Cobbs	5-3
1978	Independence, MO Hi Boy	vs Cincinnati, OH Midland Indians	7-6
1979	Bel Air, MD Boys Club	vs Plymouth, MI Canton	8-3
1980	Baltimore, MD Highland Federal	vs Miamisburg, OH Post 165	3-2
1981	Baltimore, MD Harbor Federal	vs Cuyahoga Falls, OH Wildcats	3-2
1982	Westland, MI Wayne	vs Baltimore, MD Liberty Road	12-1
1983	Bayside, NY Yankees	vs Miamisburg, OH Moraine Body	12-11
1984	Baltimore, MD Harbor Federal	vs Bayside, NY Yankees	8-3
1985	Pikesville, MD Pikesville	vs Bremerton, WA Ace Paving	8-3
1986	Bayside, NY Yankees	vs Victoria, BC Firefighters	14-6
1987	Lexington, KY Lexington Dixie	vs Jericho, NY Tigers	6-4
1988	Baltimore, MD Putty Hill	vs Bayside, NY Yankees	12-3
1989	Lexington, KY Dixie	vs Westland, MI	9-5
1990	Akron, OH Manchester A's	vs Lexington, KY Lexington Dixie	3-2
1991	Cincinnati, OH Marion Merrell Dow	vs Redmond, WA Dow Commercial	7-0
1992	Lexington, KY Dixie Stars	vs Long Island, NY Tigers	9-5
1993	Bayside, NY Yankees	vs Dearborn, MI Stitt Post 32	7-5
1994	Bayside, NY Yankees	vs Cincinnati, OH Midland	3-0
1995	Bayside, NY Yankees	vs Lexington, KY Lexington Dixie	4-2
1996	Long Island, NY Bayside Yankees	vs Mobile, AL Mobile Bears	9-5
1997	Long Island, NY Bayside Yankees	vs Marietta, GA East Cobb Ringors	6-5
1998	Long Island, NY Bayside Yankees	vs Gambrills, MD Athletics	6-0
1999	Indianapolis, Indiana Bulls	vs Long Island, New York Tigers	9-8
2000	Baltimore, Maryland Orioles	vs Indianapolis, Indiana Bulls	12-1
2001	Indianapolis, Indiana Bulls	vs Dayton, OH Classics	10-9
2002	Baltimore, Maryland Orioles	vs Indianapolis, Indiana Bulls	11-5
2003	Fairfield, OH Diamond Stars	vs Huntington, WV, Huntington Hounds	11-0
2004	Long Island, NY Bayside Yankees	vs Indianapolis, IN Indiana Bulls	7-4
2005	Fort Wayne, IN Summit City Sluggers	vs Columbia, MD Columbia Maryland Reds	17-6
2006	2006 Springboro, OH, Kinect Nationals	vs Long Island, NY, Bayside Yankees	5-4
2007	Albany, NY Greenbush-Shodack Devilcats	vs Independence, MO Independence Hammers	6-2
2008	Fort Wayne, IN, Summit City Sluggers	vs Garden City, NY, Long Island Mustangs	14-1
2009	Long Island, NY Long Island Titans	vs Dayton, OH Dayton Dirtbags	2-0
2010	Rotterdam, NY Rotterdam Rangers	vs West Islip, NY West Islip Lions	10-0
2011	Youngstown, OH Ohio Glaciers	vs Bloomington, IL BNBA Gold	3-1
2012	Youngstown, OH Creekside Fitness	vs Brooklyn, NY SAYO Grays	7-5
2013	Hamilton, OH Team Cincinnati	vs Brooklyn, NY SAYO Grays	11-4
2014	Brooklyn, NY SAYO Grays	vs Struthers, OH Astro Falcons	9-3
2015	Youngstown, OH Creekside Fitness	vs Ontario, Canada Toronto Mets	4-3
2016	Jackson, MS Jackson Diamond 96ers	vs Albany, NY Frozen Ropes Outlaws	9-1
2017	Youngstown, OH Astro Falcons	vs Ellicott City, MD HCYP Raiders	3-0

Sophomore World Series

Bonnie Paws blanks Baird Brothers in Sophomore championship

By Dan Hiner
The Vindicator
sports@vindy.com

The Baird Brothers 14-U baseball team came a couple plays away from claiming the National Amateur Baseball Federation championship at Cene Park on Sunday.

But a couple well-placed hits and a quality pitching performance gave the Brooklyn Bonnie Paws a 2-0 win.

Brooklyn put the first run on the board in the bottom of the fifth inning. With two outs and runners on first and third, Bonnie Paws' pitcher Thomas Pallazotto hit a popup just beyond the cut of the infield. As the right fielder and second baseman converged, no one called for the ball and it dropped in between both players.

Brooklyn right fielder Tony Holden scored and gave the Bonnie Paws a 1-0 lead.

The only other run of the game was scored in a similar play in the sixth inning.

With two outs and a runner on third, Brooklyn shortstop Antonio Pena hit a pop-up behind first base. The first baseman, second baseman and right fielder all ran under the ball as it drifted toward the foul line. But no one called for the ball and the second baseman made a last-second attempt at the catch — only to have the ball drop just inside fair territory.

Pena's RBI single drove in Brooklyn second baseman Samuel Urena and gave the Bonnie Paws a 2-0 lead.

Baird Brothers head coach Matt Desalvo said a short fly ball is one of the toughest plays to make in the 14-U division. He said it involves communication and the players are still learning that aspect of the game.

Baird Brothers attempted to tie the game in the top of the seventh after back-to-back batters reached with two outs. Both runners advanced after a double steal to put runners on second and third.

But Pallazotto clinched the shutout with a strikeout.

Baird Brothers starting pitcher Trey Pancake pitched four innings and allowed one run on five hits, four walks and struck out five. Pancake also went 1 for 3 at the plate.

Austin Vogt came in for relief in the fifth inning and allowed one run on three hits and a walk. He also struck out two in his two innings pitched.

Baird Brothers recorded four of their six hits and the first three innings. But the Bonnie Paws were prepared for Baird



NABF Sophomore World Series champions, the Bonnie Paws, standing left to right: Coach Tony Holden, Manager Kevin Rice, Matthew Savedoff, Bryan Abraham, Ryan Rodriguez, Antonio Pena, Justin Austin, Samuel Urena, Aaron Rice, Bryan Jerez, Lucas Slesinski, Coach Felix Jerez, and Coach Danny Slesinski. On one knee left to right: Ocrayvyn Boucard, Thomas Palazotto, Joseph Narvaez, Tony Holden, Stephen Tejada, Manai Hutchinson, and Corey Savedoff.

Brothers' aggressive base running. Four of the first nine outs were a result of Baird Brothers base runners being caught stealing or picked off at first base.

"That's our style and they all know that," Desalvo said. "We did a double steal with two outs in the seventh. What other team would do that? It's the right baseball and we're pushing other teams to make adjustments. You can't second guess something that got you to this point."

Desalvo said Brooklyn made the proper defensive adjustments after their last meeting and the Bonnie Paws were prepared heading into the game.

Pallazotto allowed six hits and two walks with five strikeouts. He also was the driving force behind the Bonnie Paws' offense, finishing 3 for 3 with an RBI.

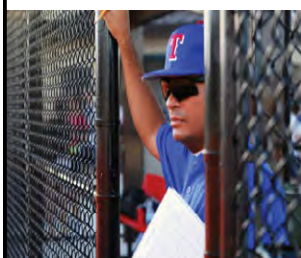
Brooklyn head coach Kevin Rice said he knew Baird Brothers were a "good fast-ball hitting team." So the coaching staff wanted to slow the pace down and keep Baird Brothers off balance.

"[He threw] first-pitch strikes and he

(continued on page 14)

NABF SOPHOMORE DIVISION ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- C Colton Shaffer, Astro Falcons
- C Al Warner, Oil City Stags
- Utility Antonio Pena, Brooklyn Bonnie Paws
- 1B Justin Austin, Brooklyn Bonnie Paws
- 2B Dan McGonegal, Broadview Heights Eagles
- 3B Manal Hutchinson, Brooklyn Bonnie Paws
- SS Zach Leonard, Astro Falcons
- OF Dalton Maxon, Devil Cats Baseball
- OF Dylan Mattocks, Roth Brothers
- OF Jordan Edmundson, Roth Brothers
- OF Mitch Seymour, Baird Brothers
- OF Jordy Sheehan, Baird Brothers
- DH Trey Pancake, Baird Brothers
- P Jeremy Kreuzwieser, Astro Falcons
- P Trent Milliren, Roth Brothers
- P Brendan Kilpatrick, Baird Brothers
- P Thomas Palazotto, Baird Brothers
- P Jacob Gehring, Brooklyn Bonnie Paws
- P Bryan Jerez, Brooklyn Bonnie Paws
- MVP — Thomas Palazotto, Brooklyn Bonnie Paws
- Batting Champion — Zach Leonard, Astro Falcons



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Freshman World Series

New Jersey Axeman win Freshman title to advance to YBC

The New Jersey Axemen just added another major World Series Title to its collection.

The National Amateur Baseball Federation held its World Series event July 13th-16th and the Axemen were able to walk away with the championship, beating the Clarkstown Stars 9-6.

Teams from New York, New Jersey and the New England Area competed for the World Series title and the chance to compete for another national title in Branson, Missouri on August 15th – 19th to be held at Ballparks of America.

The National Amateur Baseball Federation with its affiliation with Major League Baseball is one of the most prestigious organizations in the country and the event from start to finish even with battling the weather conditions was run with pure professionalism said Glenn Polansky, Coach and Co-Founder of the NJ Axemen.

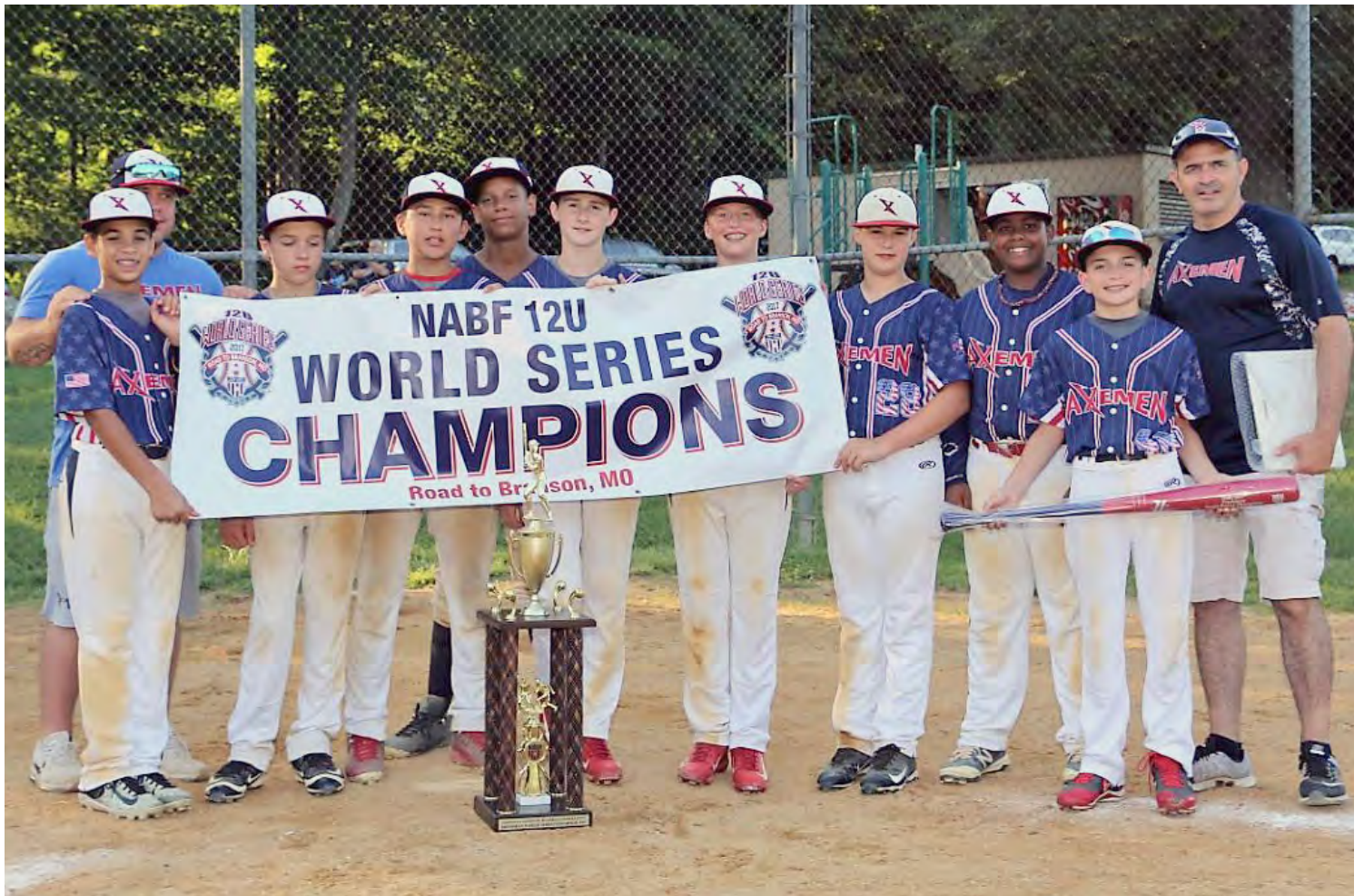
“The event at Ballparks of America is a great opportunity for our organization and our team will be competing against some of the top teams in the Country. We may be from a cold weather state but we have so much talent on this team I believe we can win this. Either way these players will have memories that will stay with them forever, said Dan Gilligan Coach and Co-Founder of the NJ Axemen.”

This past season under the 12u division the Axemen won the Ripken Natural Qualifier, the Wood Bat Classic, the Spring Invitational and other events in the tri-state area. The NJ Axemen will be heading to Cooperstown to play at Dreams Park on July 28th for the week and then take two weeks off to prepare for this national title.

“These players are truly dedicated and have the drive to get better, that’s what I love about these kids. They work hard all year long at the new facility and on the fields,” said Dan Gilligan, Coach of the Axemen, and owner of Players Edge baseball training facility in Wayne, NJ.

“The boys are definitely up for some top-level competition and they should fare pretty well said, Coach Colon.” We have great group of players and they are eager to learn and they will be exposed to better talent and get an idea of what they will need to work on.

These athletes will receive a unique experience in Branson, Missouri and they



New Jersey Axeman pictured are coaches Glenn Polansky and Dan Gilligan, with team members Ryan Polansky, Andrew Antigua, Conner Praschil, Nazier Mule, Jace Gilligan, Angel Colon, Matthew Fais, Luca Reyes, and Alex Cavegn.

have worked hard during Winter Training at the training facility and have absorbed a lot of information especially in preparation for this World Series Tournament.

The NJ Axemen is a non-profit registered 501 c3 charitable organization. Due to financial constraints some parents will not be able to travel so the Axemen will be able to broadcast their games from their website using an app called “iScore” and for those that wish to follow the Axemen during their quest to win another national title, you can go to www.njaxemen.com and click the 12 and under team to follow the live-game.

NABF FRESHMAN DIVISION ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- C Ryan Fenion, Clarkstown Stars
- C Jace Gilligan, New Jersey Axeman
- 1B Brandon Delarosea, Brooklyn Bonnie Robins
- 1B Andrew Castaneda, New Jersey Axemen
- 2B Jonny Gilligan, New Jersey Axeman
- 3B/P Nazier Mule, New Jersey Axeman
- SS Ryan Frondi, Clarkstown Stars
- SS/P Christian Jerez, Brooklyn Bonnie Robins
- SS/P Angel Colon, New Jersey Axemen
- IF/P Jackson Brooks, DB Razorbacks
- CF/P Jason Abraham, New Jersey Axemen
- CF/P Roberto Garcia, New Jersey Axemen
- LF/P Willie King, Brooklyn Bonnie Robins
- RF/P Freddy Flugger, New Jersey Axemen
- OF Billy Silver, Clarkstown Stars
- OF/P Ryan Polansky, New Jersey Axemen
- P Kieran Bellew, Clarkstown Stars
- MVP — The entire NJ Axemen team, for their hard work & dedication to get this far, say tournament officials
- Batting Champion — Ryan Frondi, Clarkstown Stars, .688 BA, 3 HR

Bonnie Paws

(continued from page 13)

got his off-speed stuff over. And we made some plays defensively. Also like I said, we had some pickoffs, those were key as well,” Rice said.

In addition to the Baird Brothers, Rice cited teams like the Astro Falcons who won the title last season while he was discussing the quality of baseball in the state. He said his team needed to play well because they were playing a good team in their home state.

“Through experience, those guys have really good baseball programs in Ohio—very good, top notch,” Rice said. “I knew it was gonna be tough but we succeeded so I’m very happy about that.”

For Baird Brothers, Desalvo and Pancake agreed that there was nothing significant the team could have done to swing momentum in the game. Pancake said Brooklyn was a good team and sometimes things aren’t going to go their way.

“Everything they hit, it would find a hole and they would do anything they possibly could to get on base. And after they got on base, they’d capitalize off that,” Pancake said. “That’s just how baseball works right there. They were finding them better than we could.”

The Bonnie Paws include Coach Tony Holden, Manager Kevin Rice, Matthew Savedoff, Bryan Abraham, Ryan Rodriguez, Antonio Pena, Justin Austin, Sammuell Urena, Aaron Rice, Bryan Jerez, Lucas Slesinski, Coach Felix Jerez, Coach Danny Slesinski, Octrayvyn Boucard, Thomas Palazotto, Joseph Narvaez, Tony Holden, Stephen Tejada, Manai Hutchinson, and Corey Savedoff.



Sportsmanship — when two managers, one a champion and one a runner-up, celebrate the game of baseball afterward. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)

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World Classics

Brooklyn Bonnies take down Adirondack A's to win 15U Classic

After an initial day of rain, the Brooklyn Bonnie Bees (Brooklyn, NY) began their pool play with a 0-2 record, being defeated 7-5 by the Diamond Spikes Heat (Massapequa, NY), and then a defeat of 3-1 at the hands of the Devil Cats 15U (North Greenbush, NY).

With a double elimination bracket beginning the next day, the Bonnies placed their first win of 5-2 over the Tri-City Bombers (Troy, NY), and then faced the No. 1 seed Adirondack A's (Queensbury, NY) with their second win of 6-2, giving the A's their first loss.

The final championship round, the Bonnies faced the Adirondack A's for the second time. The Bonnies prevailed with a 3-2 victory over the A's.



Brooklyn Bonnie Bees

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- C David Camara, Adirondack A's
- IF Thomas Fish, Adirondack A's
- IF Josuel Santos, Brooklyn Bonnie Bees
- IF Andy Alcantara, Brooklyn Bonnie Bees
- IF Tylor Daley, Columbia Clippers
- IF Andrew Caslo, Diamond Spikes Heat
- IF Christian Brown, Devil Cats 14U
- OF Alonso Barret, Tri City Bombers
- P Ethan Patch, Adirondack A's
- P Spencer Brown, Devil Cats 15U
- MVP — David Sierra-Perez, Brooklyn Bonnie Bees
- Batting Champion — Dalton Maxon, Devil Cats 14U

ROOKIE DIVISION WORLD SERIES

The National Amateur Baseball Federation Rookie Division World Series is set to take place on October 14-15 in Guilderland, New York. For information, visit www.guilderlandbaseball.com/Keenholts-park.



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Nine innings with Major League umpire Mike Reilly...

(continued from page 3)

for a couple days and just relaxed and didn't go to the mailbox or anything. And then I check the mail – remember, this is before email – and a letter had been sitting there for two days from Major League Baseball. So I opened it up, and it said that I would be working the '84 World Series. Little did I know it would be a World Series that would be taking place in my home state and home-state ballpark, Tiger Stadium. And pretty soon, I'm busy rounding up tickets for my mom and dad and brothers and neighbors – even for people I'd not seen in 20 years. That's got to be my fondest memory."

Top Of The 4th

Q: What's your saddest MLB memory?

Bottom Of The 4th

A: "When Steve Palermo got shot in Dallas (July 1991) while trying to help two waitresses who were being robbed outside a restaurant, after we had worked a Texas Rangers game together against the California Angels. I'd left earlier from the restaurant that evening, Steve was good friends with the owner and stayed, and later on, two of the waitresses were getting mugged outside and he went to help them and got shot and wound up paralyzed.

"I got a call at 5 in the morning in my hotel room after that happened, and I ran right to the hospital. Also there at the hospital was George Bush Jr., Rangers owner before he became President of the United States. Anyway, Steve was a good friend of mine who I came up with in the minors. He saw somebody getting hurt, and he tried to help them. He was that type of person.

"But he got shot, he was paralyzed, and he never umpired again. But he did wind up working in the Commissioner's office, and did some broadcasting, and he did work hard and eventually was able to walk a bit again. That's testimony to the kind of man he was. Sadly, we lost him to cancer just a bit ago (May 14, 2017). Great man, great friend."

Top Of The 5th

Q: Do you like the way MLB has gone very high-tech in umpiring the last few years, with its now-standard replays and reviews system? Or did you like the all-human-element way of officiating MLB baseball better?

Bottom Of The Fifth

A: "I really liked the old way, without reviews and replays. But for the betterment of today's game – we now live in a society where you're not allowed to make mistakes, and we have all that technol-



Mike Reilly speaks during the ceremony. (Photo by Art Frith/Roy LaFountain)

ogy – well, there are a lot of good aspects to the new system, especially for umpires. You no longer have Jim Joyces or Don Denkings with their controversial calls. It takes umpires off the hook.

"On the other hand, these days, if I'm watching a game on TV or live, and there's a close play, immediately you've got the umpire's call. But then you also have the challenges, the replays, lots of time passes, then technology makes the official call.

"So, all in all, it's kind of a Catch 22 thing for me. I like some parts, like when it helps the umpires, but on the other hand, everything in life is not perfect, and the review thing takes away from the 'moment' of the situation."

Top Of The Sixth

Q: If anything, what would you like to see changed in MLB today?

Bottom Of The Sixth

A: "One thing that drives me nuts is the fact that the game is slowing down to a pace where so many fans, especially fans watching at home or on TV somewhere, can't make it through a whole ballgame anymore. I fully understand that the Commissioner's office has been trying, and is still trying, to do everything it can to speed the game up. But my opinion is, the game won't speed up until the players allow it to speed up.

"See, these days, lots of pitchers take lots of time between pitches, lots of batters take time between pitches, pitchers are throwing around hitters more these days and that turns into more pitches per batter and more time taken per at-bat ...

"OK, so the Commissioner's office tells umpires to keep a close eye on how long certain things should take now – things that are now in the rule book – and umpires are doing that. Still, the game has slowed down. When I first came in as an MLB ump, in 1977, games took 2 hours and 30 minutes to play. Then it was 2:45, then 2:50, and now it's well over 3 hours.

"So, in my mind, there's nothing else the Commissioner's office can do. When the players decide to speed up the game, it will happen. Until they do, it won't."

Top Of The Seventh

Q: Why do you love baseball, and why – in this ever-changing world – do you think baseball remains our national pastime?

Bottom Of The Seventh

A: "I love baseball because I started playing as a young person in the cornfields in Iowa with family members and friends and other kids, and reading the box scores in the newspapers. And then when we moved to Battle Creek, I played here, and my father used to take me and my brothers to Tiger Stadium in Detroit to watch games – plus, I'd listen to Ernie Harwell, maybe the nicest person I ever wound up meeting, on the radio. And I think people still grow up playing baseball and talking baseball and loving baseball, keeping it a generation-to-generation thing.

"It's a simple game, but at the same time, it's also the toughest game to play that there is. And although there have been some changes to the game, it pretty much remains the same game it was a hundred years ago. Players are bigger and faster and better, but the game itself hasn't changed. Baseball's a fun game to play, to watch, to follow ... and in my mind, there's still nothing better than taking in a baseball game for overall enjoyment – for men, for women, kids, older folks, everybody."

Top Of The Eighth

Q: How was it that you went from being an umpire in Battle Creek to an umpire in the Big Leagues in a relatively short amount of time?

Bottom Of The Eighth

A: "You know, I only worked maybe a few handfuls of games here in Battle Creek before I went into professional baseball. And that's because I had a big-time mentor here, Jim Drikakis. He saw me refereeing

basketball and then baseball, he sensed I had talent, and he encouraged me to give professional umpiring a try.

"So one year, I took a semester off from school at Kellogg Community College, I went to umpire school down south, I did well, and all of a sudden I'm umpiring in the minor leagues. But then I'd come back home after the minor league season was done, before the Musial World Series was done here, and I'd be asked to do some amateur games, which I did – because Jim would say 'It would mean so much to the community.' Well, that was enough to convince me.

"All I can say is, I have so many great memories of baseball here in Battle Creek. Playing as a kid. Jim Drikakis, Mike Hume at St. Philip – he'd have me working with the kids, he'd tell me the kids idolized me and that I'd be able to help kids here understand that they, too, can realize their dreams.

"Those early years of being a pro umpire, that kind of came natural to me. But I'll tell ya: Coming back home after a pro umpiring season to do a Musial, that was what made me nervous, umpiring in front of everyone I know. But it was such a thrill for me back then – and it's a great feeling I'll cherish forever."

Top Of The Ninth

Q: The Musial World Series is gone, but now the NABF World Series is here. Why does Battle Creek remain such a great baseball town, year after year after year?

Bottom Of The Ninth

A: "Because Battle Creek has a long history of being a great baseball town, and keeping that history alive is Terry Newton. I did a radio interview here in town recently, and the guy referred to me as 'Battle Creek's Mr. Baseball.' But I quickly corrected that. Because Terry Newton is the real 'Mr. Baseball' here.

"Terry is the backbone of all you see here in Bailey Park, he works his butt off for baseball year in and year out, and he goes out and gets lots of good people to help him – to keep baseball here alive and strong. I just have so much respect for Terry. He's been a dear friend of mine for a long time, and the City of Battle Creek and all its players and umpires and fans owe him a great amount of gratitude for the job he does."

Will Kowalski, winner of the 2016 NABF John Benedict Sports Journalism Award, is a veteran sportswriter who is currently Sports Editor and Assistant Editor of the Battle Creek Shopper News. Contact him at will@j-adgraphics.com.

NABF Scholarship Application

The National Amateur Baseball Federation has a history of helping sandlot baseball to grow. The organization was brought into existence in 1914. Since then, in times of peace and prosperity, despite wars and recession, there always has been the year-after-year excitement of the NABF National Tournaments.

In 1984, the NABF Scholarship Fund was established, and the first scholarship was presented in 1985. Named after the NABF executive director emeritus of the NABF and his wife, The Ronald and Irene McMinn Scholarship, is an annual award. In 1988, Mr. McMinn, in memory of his late wife Irene, generously endowed the fund so that several NABF scholarship awards

could be made each year.

In 2000 Edward "Red" Carrington, past President of the NABF and long time President of Fort Wayne Baseball Federation, bequeathed a generous scholarship fund in memory of both him and his wife, Germaine. Red Carrington has a remarkable, durable and effective relationship

with the NABF which he joined after the conclusion of World War I. The Germane and Edward "Red" Carrington Fund and the McMinn Fund are the basis for the overall NABF Scholarship program.

Anyone in good standing who has been or is a current participant in any league properly sanctioned

with the National Amateur Baseball Federation member association is eligible.

Selection of the award winner will be made by the federation's scholarship fund committee. It will be based on grades, financial need, and previous awards to candidates from a sponsoring association.

Scholarship Application

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Social Security Number: _____

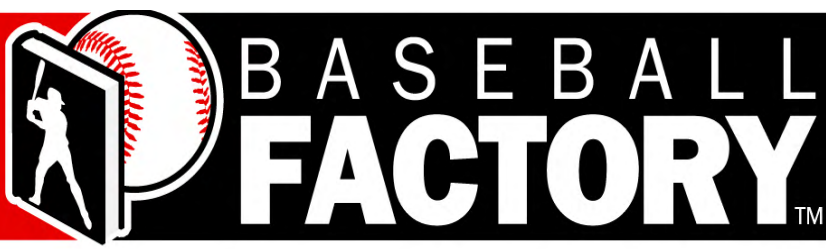
NABF Member Association: _____

Sponsor: _____

Association's Approval _____, Pres.

Items required with application:

1. Evidence of enrollment in an accredited two or four year College or University must accompany the scholarship application which must be received by September 1st.
2. A transcript of high school grades or College University grades if already enrolled.
3. Two letters of recommendation. One must be obtained from a teacher and the other from his/her baseball coach who is in a position to evaluate the applicant's academic and athletic performance.
4. A concise written statement from the applicant detailing scholastic, athletic and personal achievement, community involvement, and any other information in support of the applicant. No more than two pages please. The selection Committee may require and request additional information from an applicant or sponsor.
5. Application must be signed by the president of your NABF Franchised League.
6. No Application will be considered if the above items are not included with the application.
7. Successful Applicants, Scholarship Award winners, must submit a head and shoulder picture for publication and proof of enrollment by November 15th, before scholarship check may be issued.
8. Please mail fully completed application with the required items to: NABF Office, P.O. Box 705, Bowie, MD 20718.



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NABF picks 20-game winner with 1,000-plus Ks as Grad of Year

(continued from page 1)

in Northwestern University, where he majored in history. He was named to the All-Big Ten First Team in his freshman, sophomore, and junior seasons, during which he compiled a 16-11 win-loss record, an ERA of 2.88, and a 251/90 strikeout-to-walk ratio over 228.1 innings pitched. Happ chose to forgo his senior season and entered the 2004 Major League Baseball draft, where he was selected in the third round (92nd overall) by the Philadelphia Phillies.

J.A. "Jay" Happ pitched for the Lombard Orioles of the NABF's Chicago Suburban Baseball League in the summer of 2002 following his freshman year at Northwestern University. He went 9-0 for Jeff Vukovich's Orioles squad that summer, including posting a 6-0 record in CSBL play. He is one of 21 CSBL players who have appeared in Major League Baseball.

Last year for Toronto, not only was Happ a 20-game winner, a rare feat nowadays, he went 20-4 (.833) in 195 innings with 163 strikeouts, 60 walks and a 3.18 ERA. This year, as of mid-September, he was 9-10 in 131.2 innings with 127 strikeouts, 44 walks and a 3.76 ERA. His career ERA over 11 years is 3.76 in 1,339.1 innings with 1,149 strikeouts.

Happ is also a first cousin of Wisconsin Badgers basketball player Ethan Happ.

Pitching style

"Jay" Happ throws five pitches: a four-seam fastball (89-95 mph), a two-seam fastball (89-93), a slider/cutter (83-86), a curveball (76-79), and a changeup (82-84). Happ relies on all of his pitches against right-handed hitters, but does not use the changeup against left-handers. He commonly mixes his curveball with his fastball in two-strike counts.

Minor leagues

Immediately after agreeing to terms with the Phillies on June 16, 2004, Happ was assigned to the Batavia Muckdogs of the Short-season A-level New York-Penn League, where he posted a 2.02 ERA in eleven starts, averaging more than one strikeout per inning pitched. Happ again impressed in 2005 with the low-A Lakewood BlueClaws. While Happ played for only half of the season, he compiled a 2.36 ERA in 72 innings. He was promoted to Double-A for a single game at the end of the season, in which he gave up only one earned run in six innings and struck out eight.

In 2006, Happ began the season for the Clearwater Threshers of the High-A Florida State League, but earned a promotion to the Double-A Reading Phillies at midseason. He also pitched one game at the end of the season for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons, then the Phillies' Triple-A affiliate. Combined for the year, Happ went 10-9, with an ERA of 2.69, 162 strikeouts, and 49 walks in 160 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings. He was rewarded, during the following offseason, with his first appearance in Baseball America's "Top Ten Prospects" list for the Phillies organization, in which he was ranked eighth. Prior to this, Happ had rarely been identified as a prospect despite his impressive performances in 2004 and 2005 due to his average pitch velocity.

After pitching in the Arizona Fall League in the fall of 2006, Happ moved with the Red Barons to Ottawa for the 2007 season.

Major league debut and return to Triple-A

On June 30, 2007, while suffering from a spate of injuries to their starting rotation, the Phillies purchased Happ's contract from the Lynx. At the time, Happ's record in Triple-A was 1-2 with a 4.02 ERA. He made his major league debut against the New York Mets and allowed five runs, all earned, in four innings. He was then returned to the Lynx and did not pitch at the major league level again that season, thus ending the year with an 11.25 major league ERA.

Happ struggled upon his return to Ottawa. Despite striking out 36 batters over five starts in the months of July and August, Happ's ERA ballooned to 5.02 by the end of the season. It was later revealed that he had been pitching that season with elbow fatigue. As a result, he did not participate in any fall or winter leagues during the following offseason.

2008

Happ began the 2008 season with the Phillies' new Triple-A affiliate in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Valley IronPigs. He went 5-6 with a 3.54 ERA in his first seventeen starts, striking out 104 batters in 101 innings.

On July 4, Happ was called up to take the place of Brett Myers in the Phillies' starting rotation, after the struggling Myers went to the minors in an effort to regain his form. That same night, Happ made his season debut against Johan Santana and the Mets. He fared better in his second major league start, pitching four innings, giving up three hits, two earned runs, four walks while striking out three. He earned a no-decision as the Phillies went on to win the game, 3-2. Happ was also awarded a no-decision in his third career start (second of the season), in which he pitched six innings and gave up two runs, but the Phillies went on to defeat the Cardinals by a 4-2 score. He was then optioned back to Lehigh Valley, as the Phillies would not need a fifth starter for two weeks. Myers regained his place in the rotation on July 23.

Happ was recalled to the major leagues on July 29 when the struggling Adam Eaton was demoted to Lakewood. However, Happ never took Eaton's spot in the rotation, as the Phillies had already acquired starter Joe Blanton from the Oakland Athletics on July 17. Happ instead pitched out of the bullpen, appearing in two games (in which he struggled), and was then sent to Triple-A once again. He ended the Triple-A season at 8-7, with a 3.60 ERA. He was second among International League pitchers with 151 strikeouts in 135 innings.

Happ joined the Phillies for the third time in 2008 on September 1 when the rosters expanded. On September 16, Phillies manager Charlie Manuel announced that Happ would start on the following night against the Atlanta Braves, replacing the struggling Kyle Kendrick. Happ pitched six shutout innings in the game, earning his first major league win in a 6-1 Phillies victory. Happ was named to the postseason roster, and pitched in one game in the National League Championship Series. In total, Happ posted a 1-0 record in 2008, with an ERA of 3.69 and 26 strikeouts over 31 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings. He received a World Series ring after the Phillies defeated Tampa Bay, for their second championship.

2009

Happ became a member of the starting rotation after fifth starter Chan Ho Park struggled in his starts and was sent to the bullpen. Happ threw his first career complete game and shutout against the Toronto Blue Jays on June 27, 2009. He got his first major league hit on July 2, against the Atlanta Braves. It came during the fifth inning with two outs and no one on base. On August 5, Happ pitched his second career shutout, giving up four hits and striking out ten in a home game against the Colorado Rockies. In that game, he also collected his first career extra-base hit, an eighth-inning double off Rockies pitcher Josh Fogg. He became the first rookie pitcher to 10 wins on August 22 against the New York Mets. He made his first career post-season start against the Rockies on October 11, 2009.

On October 20, 2009, Happ was named Sporting News NL Rookie of the Year. He was also named by his fellow players as Players Choice Awards NL Outstanding Rookie. Baseball fans voted him the MLB "This Year in Baseball Awards" Rookie of the Year (in both leagues). He came in second in balloting for MLB's Jackie Robinson Rookie of the Year Award (in the NL). He was also selected as the left-handed pitcher on the Topps MLB All-Star Rookie team. Baseball America chose him as one of the five pitchers on its All-Rookie Team. The Philadelphia chapter of the Baseball Writers' Association of America presented him the "Steve Carlton Most Valuable Pitcher" award. In 2009, Happ posted a 12-4 record, 2.93 ERA, 119 strikeouts, and a 1.24 WHIP.

With the Phillies in 2010, Happ made three starts totaling 15.1 innings and earned a 1-0 record, 1.76 ERA, nine strikeouts, and a 1.63 WHIP.

Houston Astros

On July 29, 2010, Happ was traded to the Houston Astros along with minor leaguers Anthony Gose and Jonathan Villar in exchange for Roy Oswalt. He would make 13 starts with Houston in 2010, going 5-4 with a 3.75 ERA, 61 strikeouts, and a 1.32 WHIP in 72 innings. The following season, Happ would post his worst career numbers, with a 6-15 record, a 5.35 ERA, 134 strikeouts, and a 1.54 WHIP in a career-high 156.1 innings pitched.

On June 13, 2012, Happ earned a place in history as the opposing starting pitcher for Matt Cain's perfect game. Happ pitched 3.1 innings, gave up 11 hits, and 8 runs, all of which were earned runs. With Houston in 2012, he posted a 7-9 record with a 4.83 ERA, 98 strikeouts, and a 1.45 WHIP in 104 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings.

Toronto Blue Jays

Happ was traded to the Toronto Blue Jays on July 20, 2012, along with Brandon Lyon, and David Carpenter, for Francisco Cordero, Ben Francisco, Asher Wojciechowski, David Rollins, Joe Musgrove, Carlos Pérez, and Kevin Comer. Happ worked as a reliever for the Blue Jays until the demotion of Brett Cecil allowed him to be promoted to the vacant starting role. On September 7, the Jays announced that Happ would undergo surgery on a fractured right foot and miss the rest of the season. Happ made 10 appearances (6 starts) with the Blue Jays in 2012, and finished with a 3-2 record and a 4.46 ERA. On January 18, 2013, it was announced that the Blue Jays had avoided arbitration with Happ, signing him to a one-year contract worth \$3.7 million.

On May 7, 2013, in a game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Happ was hit in the head by a line drive hit by Desmond Jennings. He collapsed immediately, but remained conscious and after lying on the mound for 11 minutes, he was taken off the field on a stretcher and taken to Bayfront Medical Center. The nursing supervisor told the Associated Press that Happ had been admitted to the hospital and was in stable condition. Happ remained in hospital overnight, and was released the next morning with a head contusion and a laceration to his left ear. Happ was placed on the 15-day disabled list after being released from the hospital. He was then transferred to the 60-day disabled list on May 24 to make room for Sean Nolin. Happ was activated from the disabled list on August 5, and retook his role in the starting rotation. After making his start on August 12, Happ was placed on the bereavement list due to the death of his grandfather.[30] In his first start at Tropicana Field since he was struck by a line drive, Happ recorded the win, pitching 5.1 innings and giving up 2 earned runs on 5 hits with 5 strikeouts. In total in 2013, Happ made 18 starts totaling 92.2 innings, and posted a record of 5-7, a 4.56 ERA, 77 strikeouts, and a 1.45 WHIP.

On March 26, 2014, Happ was placed on the disabled list. He began the season pitching out of the bullpen. When Dustin McGowan was removed from the rotation, Happ was given the 5th starter spot and made his first start of the season on May 5. On August 7, he set a career-high for strikeouts, with 12, in a 2-1 loss to the Baltimore Orioles. Happ earned his 50th career win on September 22, when the Blue Jays defeated the Seattle Mariners 14-4. He pitched 7 innings and yielded 2 earned runs, while also

earning his 700th strikeout. He made his final start of the 2014 season on September 27, against the Baltimore Orioles. Taking the win, 4-2, Happ leveled his record for the season at 11-11, and finished with a 4.22 ERA, 133 strikeouts, and a 1.34 WHIP in 30 appearances (26 starts) totaling 158 innings pitched. On November 1, the Blue Jays picked up Happ's \$6.7 million option for the 2015 season.

Seattle Mariners

On December 3, 2014, Happ was traded to the Seattle Mariners in exchange for outfielder Michael Saunders. Happ made 20 starts and 1 relief appearance for the Mariners, compiling a 4-6 record with a 4.64 ERA and 82 strikeouts.

Pittsburgh Pirates

On July 31, 2015, Happ was traded to the Pittsburgh Pirates for Adrian Sampson. In 11 starts for Pittsburgh, Happ posted a 7-2 record, 1.85 ERA, and 69 strikeouts.

Second stint with the Toronto Blue Jays

On November 27, 2015, Happ signed a three-year, \$36 million contract with the Blue Jays. He became the Blue Jays' first pitcher to earn eleven wins prior to the All-Star break since Roy Halladay in 2008, when he defeated the Cleveland Indians 17-1 on July 3, 2016. In his next start, Happ recorded his 12th victory of the 2016 season, 6-0 over the Detroit Tigers, which tied his career-high and matched the twelve wins Halladay posted before the All-Star break in 2006. On July 24, Happ earned his 13th win of the season, defeating the Seattle Mariners 2-0 and establishing a new single-season high in wins. Happ tied Stephen Strasburg for the MLB lead in wins on August 4, and took the outright lead with his 16th victory of the season on August 10. Happ earned his 20th win of the 2016 season on September 20, defeating Seattle 10-2. In doing so, he joined Halladay, Roger Clemens, Pat Hentgen, David Wells, and Jack Morris as the only pitchers to win 20 games or more for the Blue Jays in a single season. Happ finished the 2016 season with a 20-4 record, 3.18 ERA, and 163 strikeouts in 195 innings. Happ started game two of the 2016 American League Division Series and earned the win, pitching five innings and allowing a single run on nine hits with five strikeouts. The win gave the Blue Jays a 2-0 series lead over the Texas Rangers. Happ finished sixth in voting for the 2016 American League Cy Young Award, receiving three third-place votes, two fourth-place votes, and one fifth-place vote. (*— bio from Wikipedia.com*)



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