



Beacon

A publication of the Ban Johnson Amateur Baseball League

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- Volume 37
- Issue 2



FOOT RACE - Natural Baseball Academy outfielder **Zach Pirrello** makes it to first base before Midwest Orioles first baseman **Gene Parnell** June 21 at Mid-America Sports Complex. The Naturals scored 11 runs on nine hits and won the five-inning game, 11-1.

The early winner has been rain

The first month of the 2015 season has seen a great deal of rain with a number of games not played.

Going into the games of June 23. UMB Bank had only played two games while the Milgram Mustangs had played 13.

Among the early season leaders are the BJ Raiders, the NKC Apts. Giants and MSBL Royals.

The Raiders have a new manager in **Jake Bradshaw**.

“All of our of starting pitchers have done an incredible job so far,” he said. “We have had two complete game shutouts by **Tyler Funk** and **Andrew Miller**, while **Dylan Pollock**, **Zach Hutcherson** and **Taylor Ross** have all had quality starts. The strength of our team has been our starting pitchers who have kept our bullpen fresh. **Jake Huffman** has thrown three no-hit innings out of the bullpen.”

And the hitting has been good for the Raiders.

“All of our hitters have done a great job of getting on base and moving runners around the bases,” Bradshaw said. “Our top hitters has been **Tyler Cox** who had a home run in his first at bat of the year. **Andrew Miller**, **Tanner Foerschler** and **Craig Straws** have been a big part of our offense.”

The NKC Apts. Giants also have a new manager in

Dan Stacks.

“We have been playing well as a team and our pitchers have kept us very competitive throwing lots of strikes,” he said. “The hitters have been moving runners and getting key hits when we needed them.”

Leading the way in hitting for the Giants have been **Louis Pener**, **Michael Valdivia** and **Nick Pascuzzi**.

Pitchers **Jamison Raines**, **Joe Thomas**, **Devon Stubbings** and **Cooper Gardner** haven’t given up a run in games through June 18.

The MSBL Royals have a veteran manager in **Tony Hurla**.

“Pitchers **RJ Burrola**, **Dennis Martine** and **Jesse Smallwood** have done a great job of keepin us in ball games from the starting pitching aspect,” he said. “**Brody Slocum** has been consistent in relief.”

And from the hitting side of the game he said that outfielders **Chase Redick**, **Ryan Fisher** and Burrola have started off hitting well along with infielder **Cameron Pope**.

“We haven’t been exceptional but we’ve done what we needed to this point and hope to continue that,” Hurla said.

Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.

(Statistics are through June 23)

Batting Average

(based on a minimum of 20 at bats)

1. Seth Lieser, Midwest Orioles	.500
2. Daniel Reilly, KCSC Blaze	.469
3. Joshua Hare, NKC Apts. Giants	.455
4. Louis Pener, NKC Apts. Gians	.429
5. Blake Shinkle, Buidling Champions	.423
6. Chase Redick, MSBL Royals	.419
7. Luke Viestenz, KCSC Blaze	.400
7. Nick Pascuzzi, NKC Apts. Giants	.400
9. Chris Pinne, Seaboard	.394
10. Andrew Vogelbaugh, Prodigy Baseball	.387

Home Runs

1. Andrew Vogelbaugh, Prodigy Baseball	3
2. Dylan Christie, Milgram Mustangs	2
2. Cody Gregory, NKC Apts. Giants	2
2. Mitchell Rogers, Seaboard	2
2. Chris Pinne, Seaboard	2
2. Tim Mahoney, NKC Apts. Giants	2
2. Jack Pauley, Natural Baseball Academy	2
8. (18 tied with one each)	

Runs Batted In

1. Jack Pauley, Natural Baseball Academy	14
2. Andrew Vogelbaugh, Prodigy Baseball	12
3. Jared Gage, MidAmeriCare Nationals	11
4. Daniel Reilly, KCSC Blaze	10
4. Dylan Christie, Milgram Mustangs	10
4. Cameron Dean, Milgram Mustangs	10
4. Andrew Curry, Milgram Mustangs	10

8. Nicholas Gutzmer, Regal Plastics	9
8. Nick Gavin, Building Champions	9
10. (three tied with eight each)	

Pitching Earned Run Average

(based on a minimum of 10 innings)

1. Jamison Raines, NKC Apts. Giants	0.00
2. Dakota Graham, Milgram Mustangs	0.41
3. Dennis Martine, MSBL Royals	0.50
4. Tyler Funk, BJ Raiders	0.58
5. Sean Goostree, MidAmeriCare Nationals	0.67
6. Wally Nellor, Seaboard	0.74
7. Shamus Kearney, Milgram Mustangs	1.17
7. Andrew Vogelbaugh, Prodigy Baseball	1.17
9. Drake Herrman, Building Champions	1.20
10. Jesse Smallwood, MSBL Royals	1.24

Strikeouts

1. Zachary Hegger, Prodigy Baseball	42
2. Zachary Maskill, Midwest Orioles	34
3. Tanner Strickbine, Seaboard	29
4. Sean Goostree, MidAmeriCare Nationals	27
5. Drake Herrman, Building Champions	26
5. Alex Smith, MidAmeriCare Nationals	26
7. Shamus Kearney, Milgram Mustangs	24
8. Samuel Gilbert, KCSC Blaze	21
9. London Collins, Midwest Orioles	20
9. Dakota Graham, Milgram Mustangs	20

Ban Johnson League Standings

(thru June 24)

	W	L	GB
NKC Apts. Giants	8	1	---
BJ Raiders	8	2	0.5
Milgram Mustangs	10	5	1.0
Building Champions	5	3	2.5
KC Sports Club Blaze	8	5	3.0
MidAmeriCare Nationals	8	5	3.0
MSBL Royals	6	6	3.5
Seaboard	6	6	3.5
Natural Baseball	8	8	3.5
Regal Plastics	3	8	6.0
Prodigy Baseball	3	10	7.0
Midwest Orioles	2	10	7.5
UMB Bank	0	2	4.5

Beacon

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

Awesome performances presented by North KC Apts. Giants.

Awesome performances

June 9

* **Nicholas Gutzmer** of Regal Plastics had two doubles and two RBIs in his team's 12-2 win over Natural Baseball Academy.

* The MSBL Royals scored nine runs in the top of the seventh in an 11-4 win over UMB Bank. **Jack Thies** was two-for-five with a double and three RBIs.

* **Jared Gage** went three-for-three with a triple and three RBIs in MidAmeriCare Nationals' 6-3 victory over Prodigy Baseball.

* Natural Baseball pitcher **Alex Knight** tossed a no-hitter in his teams' 7-0 victory over Regal Plastics. He fanned nine and walked four.

* **RJ Burrda** had both RBIs in the Royals' 2-1 win over UMB Bank.

* **Tanner Rozell** of the KC Sports Club Blaze was two-for-three with three RBIs in his teams' 11-9 victory over the Midwest Orioles.

June 10

Andrew Vogelbaugh of Prodigy Baseball pitched a three-hitter in the 1-0 win over the Milgram Mustangs. He fanned five and walked two. And he had the only RBI in the game going one-for-three.

June 12

The BJ Raiders' **Tyler Funk** tossed a two-hitter in a 4-0 win over the Milgram Mustangs. He struckout nine and didn't walk a batter.

AJ Salinas' two-out single to center in the bottom of the seventh gave the Milgram Mustangs' in a 2-1 win over the BJ Raiders.

June 14

NKC Apts. Giants **Louis Peneer** was three-for-four with two doubles and two RBIs in a 10-0 win against Regal Plastics.

Cameron Pope of the MSBL Royals was two-for-three with a double and four RBIs in a victory over the Midwest Orioles.

June 16

The Kansas City Sports Club Blaze had three home runs from **Garrett Smith, Dan Wells** and **Ben Calvano** in 8-1 win over Building Champions.

Building Champions' **Matt Hall** went three-for-three with two doubles in a 4-1 victory.

Matt Milner of the Milgram Mustangs was three-for-four with an RBI in a 4-0 win over the Royals.

June 17

Seaboards' **Chris Pinne**'s three-run homer provided all the scoring in a 3-2 win over Natural Baseball Academy.

Pinne and **Mitchell Rogers** homered in a 7-3 win over Natural Baseball in the second game.

June 19

KC Sports Club Blaze outfielder **Ben Calvano** was three-for-three with three doubles and four RBIs in an 8-1 win over Natural Baseball Academy.

The Milgram Mustangs scored a run in the top of the 10th inning on a two-out single by **Matt Milner** in the 5-4 win against the MSBL Royals. Milner was four-of-six in the game.

Jordan Robben of Prodigy Baseball was three-for-three with a triple, homer and five RBIs in a 12-2 win over Seaboard.

Dan Reilly of the KC Sports Club Blaze was three-for-four with a double and three RBIs in 7-5 victory against Natural Baseball Academy.

June 21

Jack Pauley of Natural Baseball had a double, triple and drove in four runs in an 11-1 win against the Midwest Orioles.

June 22

The Nationals' **Jared Gage** went three-for-four with double and two RBIs in a win over the Royals.

Ryan Fisher of the Royals had a three-run homer and a fourth RBI in a 7-1 win over the Nationals.

See Awesome page 8



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Notes from around the Ban Johnson League

There were three former Ban Johnson League players who were selected in the June First-Year Player Draft:

* **Anthony Miller** was taken by the Cleveland Indians in the 18th round. The first baseman played for Seaboard in 2013 and 2014. He played for Blue Valley Southwest and Johnson County Community College.

He signed with the Indians and reported to the AZL Indians in the short season Arizona Rookie League.

During his JCCC season he was an NJCAA second-team All-American. He hit a school record 26 home runs and 79 RBIs. He hit .443, which was ranked 12th nationally.

* **Bobby Wernes** was drafted in the 30th round by the Houston Astros and he signed with the Astros.

He reported to the Tri-City Valley Cats in short season Low A New York-Penn League.

He played third base for Arkansas playing in this year's College World Series.

His defense for the Razorbacks made the ESPN Top 10 list several times during the season.

Wernes was named to the All-Southeast Conference

defensive team.

He played for Natural Baseball Academy in the Ban Johnson League in 2013. He was the 2013 Frank White Award for Fielding Excellence recipient.

He graduated from Blue Valley West and played at Neosho County CC.

* **Dean Long** was taken in the 38th round by the Texas Rangers. He played first base for Lebanon HS, KCKCC and Emporia State. He played for the KC Barnstormers in the BJ in 2012.

* * * *

The Ban Johnson League was represented at the 2015 College World Series by Arkansas third baseman Bobby Wernes and Arkansas coach **Dave Van Horn**.

Wernes hit .279 for the Razorbacks with five home runs and 27 RBIs as the team's third baseman.

Coach Dave Van Horn played in the Ban Johnson League with Boyle's Corned Beef and is a member of the Ban Johnson League Hall of Fame.

Van Horn has taken four Arkansas teams and two Nebraska teams to the annual College World Series in Omaha.



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Spring player honors

A number of Ban Johnson League players achieved honors with their spring high school or college teams.

Here is a look at some of the player honors as reported to the Beacon by the managers:

Natural Baseball's **Alex Cargin** was a honorable mention second baseman at Corcordia University in the Great Plains Athletic Conference and **Josh Schribner** was a MHSBCA All-Star catcher for Raymore-Peculiar.

Outfielder **Jackson Layton** was a second-team class 5A all-state pick and a first team All-East Kansas League for Blue Valley West.

* **Collin Rice** of Building Champions was a first team

All-Conference pick for Lee's Summit North.

* Mid-AmeriCare Nationals outfielder **Anthony Biondo** was an honorable mention pick for Avila University in the HAAC.

* KC Sports Club Blaze outfielder **Ben Calvano** was a first team all-conference pick for Johnson County Community College.

* The BJ Raiders' **Tanner Foerschler** played first base for Kansas City Kansas Community College.

He was a ABCA/Rawlings Gold Glove winner and a second-team All-Conference selection.



HIGH FIVES - First baseman **Luke Knight** of Natural Baseball Academy is congratulated by teammates after scoring a run in the first game of a doubleheader at Mid-America Sports Complex. The Naturals beat Midwest Orioles, 11-1.

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Spotlight

Plethora of new managers in the league

There are seven new managers to their teams this year in the Ban Johnson League.

Here is a chance to meet some of them.

First-year Building Champion manager **Ryan Kisner** graduated from Rockhurst High School and the catcher played for El Camino College in California before a shoulder injury ended his player career.

Before the injury he played internationally in Holland and the Czech Republic.

He turned to coaching in California before returning to the Kansas City area in 2006.

Kisner coached at Rockhurst University and served as a coach for Milgram Mustangs in 2006-2008.

In 2012, he coached for NKC Apartments and 2013-2014 coached the Mac-N-Seitz 16 Under team.

* **Jake Bradshaw** is the new manager of the BJ Raiders.

He played for MSBL Royals in the league winning the BJ Hustle Award in 2006.

He played at Kansas City, Kansas Community College and Northwest Missouri State.

He also played for the Kansas City T-Bones.

“This helped me to see how they do things at the professional level,” he said.

He has been an assistant coach at Liberty North and two years with the MSBL Royals.

“I have always been a student of the game and worked hard to get a win,” he said. “I expect the same out of my players.”

* **Dan Stacks** takes over the NKC Apts. Giants club.

He has coached at various levels for 15 years.

“I love helping players learn the game and get the most out of their abilities.”

* **Jesse McSpadden** is the manager of one of the new teams in the league Prodigy Baseball.

He was a pitcher for William Jewell and he was an assistant coach for William Jewell for four years.

“I was a Ban Johnson League All-Star 2005-2007 and was the Pitcher of the Year in 2006 with an ERA of 0.15 and a 12-0 record,” he said.

McSpadden played for the BJ Raiders in the league.

He along with **Michael Younghanz** are co-owners of the Prodigy Baseball Academy.

He managed the Midwest Orioles for a season.



New NKC Apts. Giants manager **Dan Stacks** (left)

“It means a lot to be a manager in this league,” he said. “I had a lot of success as a player in the league and want to pass my knowledge on the next wave of local talent.”

* **Cary Lundy** is back managing UMB Bank for the third time.

He has been the most successful manager in league history managing UMB to four consecutive titles in 1987-1990. He also won championships in 1996 and 2001.

Lundy didn't manage the club in 2005 and 2006, but was back for three years 2007-2009. He left the bench from 2010-2014.

Now he is back for the 2015 season.

Lundy has been the head baseball coach at Park University for the past 14 years.

The other two new managers are Hunter Brown for Regal Plastics and Jaime Bluma for the new Kansas City Sports Club Blaze.

Bluma has extensive baseball playing experience.

He is a graduate of Wichita State and played in three consecutive College World Series in 1992-1994.

Bluma was drafted by the Royals in 1994 and he played in the Royals' farm system through the 2000 season.

The pitcher played in 17 games for the Royals in the 1996 season.

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McDonald ends long coaching career

Long time high school baseball coach **Bill McDonald** hung up his coaching cleats for the last time following his Blue Valley West Jaguars' third place finish at the Class 5A state tournament in Wichita on May 29.

This put a finish to a head coaching career that spanned 42 years. He started the program at Shawnee Mission South in 1974 and moved to Blue Valley West in 2001 when that school opened its doors.

In his career at SM South his teams won four state titles - 1975, 1979, 1981 and 1985. His Raider teams were second five times.

At BV West, he captured two state championships in 2007 and 2013. He finished second three times.

His overall career record was 678-256.

"We had so many wonderful people to coach and teach it is off the charts how lucky I have been to look back on my 42 years as a head coach," he said. "My 48 years (of coaching) went by in a flash."

McDonald graduated from Shawnee Mission North in 1962 and went on to play his freshman year at the University of Kansas before an injury ended his player career.

But that didn't stop him from giving back to the game he loved.

And the 70-year-old McDonald does remember playing in the Ban Johnson League.

"As a young man growing up playing baseball, you always wanted to be good enough to play in the Ban Johnson League," he said. "I got hooked up with Katz. The manager was **Lew Denny** and **Pat Nolan** was his assistant.

"I didn't pitch much at the beginning of my time with Katz as I was just coming home from playing on the freshman team at KU."

His first game pitching was against Milgrams.



Bill McDonald

It was 0-0 in the fifth inning when he hurt his arm.

"Pat Nolan was a great deal of encouragement to me," McDonald said. "He was my cheerleader as I tried to get back on the mound after a series of cortisone shots."

McDonald made it back to the mound but had lost his velocity.

He did get to play some outfield for his team.

"I did hit a home run over the short rightfield wall at Satchel Paige Stadium," he said. "Katz made the playoffs

and **Steve Mingori** was our ace. We lost the five-game series to Feld."

McDonald learned a lot in his time in the Ban Johnson League.

"That was the first time in my life I realized I could not throw my fastball by everyone," he said. "As a young player I struck out a lot of batters, but that didn't work in the Ban Johnson League. I had to learn to pitch."

McDonald has had many players play in the league down through the years.

"I am amazed that the Ban Johnson League still is going," he said. "That has to be a tribute to the Milgram family."



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Awesome performances

June 23

Chase Leavy had a three-run homer in NKC Apts. Giants 9-1 win over the Mid-AmeriCare Nationals.

Brandon Martinkus of Natural Baseball allowed just one hit in an 2-1 win over the Royals.

The Giants' **Cody Gregory** was two-for-two with a homer and two RBIs in a 10-0 win against the Nationals.

June 24

The Midwest Orioles **Ian Barker** was two-for-two with two doubles and an RBI in a 4-2 victory against the BJ Raiders.

Seaboard's **David White** went four-for-four with two doubles and three RBIs in a win over the Milgram Mustangs.



ONE HITTER - **Michael Popp**, Natural Baseball Academy right-hander, allowed just one hit in an 11-1 win over the Midwest Orioles June 21 at Mid-America Sports Complex.

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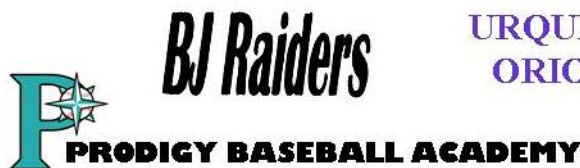
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| <i>P</i> Tom Higgins | Guy's 1968-72 | ◆ Carl Shortino | Lapetina's 1955-57 |
| ◆ Steve Jacobus | Milgram 1960-62 | ◆ John Stipetich | Gateway late 1960s; KC Life manager/
coach 1970s; BJ executive director/
board of directors 1982-present |
| ◆ Jerry Lafferty | Scout, KC Royals | <i>P</i> Jack Talley | KC Life 1975-79 |
| ◆ Allen Laffoon | Katz, 1954-59 | <i>P</i> Charlie Tholl | Milgram 2000-03 |
| ◆ Moe Lago | Lapetina's/Western Auto
1955-59; Coach 1965-69 | ◆ Bill Wakefield | Katz 1959-60 |
| ◆ Rick Ludwig | Boyle's Corned Beef 1977-79 | ◆ Terry Welsh | Umpire 1970s/80s |
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2015 Ban Johnson League Team Sponsors



All-Star Game is set for July 12

The 47th Annual Ban Johnson League All-Star Game is slated for Sunday, July 12 at Kauffman Stadium in the morning prior to the Royals-Blue Jays game.

the game.

The teams will be picked in early July.

Further information will be in the next edition of the Ban Johnson League Beacon and the BJ website.

This will be the 47th time that the Royals have hosted