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From The Cheap Seats

Cape League Probably Won't Expand Territory

It seems every year we hear the word expansion in regards to the Cape Cod Baseball League.

That's right, around opening day, whispers are heard regarding the Cape League exploring its own version of manifest destiny and growing its territory. Some of these rumors involve towns on Cape Cod and some even flirt with the idea of the CCBL taking its brand of baseball beyond the Cape.

Personally, I don't see it happening any time soon, and the Cape League hierarchy has said that there is nothing immediate in the planning. Still, the whispers can be heard.

One great problem that expansion would bring up is scheduling. As we all know, with the weather in these parts, especially early in the summer, it just isn't easy to get all 44 games in. Off days are few and far between to begin with and adding a team or two would only gum up the works even more. Adding one team would be a horrendous problem with scheduling as it would necessitate one team having a day off every day of the season, which would be great for the teams, but tough for the schedule makers. The league would have to play a balanced schedule and doubleheaders on the weekends would be the norm.

Adding two teams isn't much easier, and again scheduling becomes a big problem. Staying with the two-division format would mean that teams would most likely have to play an odd number of games both in and out of division, and no one would be happy to be on the short end of the total number of home games.

Of course, there's one other way to bring in a new market, without messing with the schedule, but it's not an option that I can see any teams seriously considering: relocation. Had new parks not been opened in Brewster and Bourne this season there would have been a pair of prime candidates to pull up their stakes and try a new place, but now that the new fields are opened, that's simply not happening with those teams. There really aren't, in my mind, any other candidates to move. The league is doing well in just about every market and the clubs are quite entrenched in their homes. Something tells me the Orleans Cardinals like Eldredge Park a little too much to go elsewhere. Nor do I see the Falmouth Commodores, who draw the biggest crowds on the Upper Cape, making a change any time soon.

There is one town nearby that would be a great location for a new club, and I'm sure the league would love to get into it. It is a huge town and it has a large potential fan base. It also is a rather wealthy town, meaning that getting support wouldn't be that tough.

The Cape League would love to open a team in Plymouth. It's just over the bridge, and it's not like having a nonCape team would be taboo. After all, Wareham is on the other side of the canal.

Plymouth is the perfect place for a new franchise, but finding a way to get in there is the problem.

The other off-Cape location I've heard brought up is in New Bedford. Sorry, but that's not one I can really get behind. The Cape League is baseball by the beach and short road trips. I can't imagine the Chatham to New Bedford road trips would be much fun for the A's, and God forbid someone schedule one of those games on a Sunday evening when the bridge traffic is at its most road rage-inducing.

As for on-Cape locales, there aren't too many that come to mind. Sure Mashpee and Sandwich make sense in some ways, but each town already supports other clubs in a big way. The Cotuit Kettleers draw a lot of fans from the Mashpee and New Seabury areas, and some also trek down to Falmouth, while a great number of Sandwich baseball fans attend the nearby Bourne contests. To put teams in either of those towns would hamstring two other clubs. It's a cut-off-your-nose-to-spite-your-face scenario, in my estimation.

So it seems that the Cape League is going to stay at 10 teams for the time being, and that's a good thing. Sometimes not messing with a good thing is just the best option.


Rich Maclone is the sports editor for Summer Stars and Enterprise Publishing. He can be reached at sports@capenews.net.



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On The Cover: Falmouth Commodores' Warren McFadden swings for the fences.
Rich Maclone photo.



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Falmouth's Biggest Weapon Does It With A Smile On His Face

BY DARIN WEEKS

If you saw a pair of photographs taken of Falmouth Commodores' Warren McFadden, one after going 0-for-4 and the other following a 4-for-4 effort, you'd likely struggle to tell one from the other. Despite a collegiate career that has had its highs and its ultimate lows, the Tulane outfielder wears a persistent smile on his face as if it were a required part of his uniform.

Baseball pundits have known McFadden for a long time. Hailing from baseball-prospect rich Broward County, Florida, McFadden's star has been on a steady rise since bursting onto scouts' radar as an outfielder for the Nova High Titans in 2003. After earning Broward County's Player of the Year honor following both his junior and senior years, McFadden committed to Tulane. With Baseball America's High School First-Team All-American honors in his back pocket and a smile on his face, McFadden moved to New Orleans and began his career with the powerful Green Wave.

"I like to have lots of fun, hustle, and not take the game for granted," explained McFadden on his baseball philosophy. "I'm always looking for ways to improve my play."

His first year at Tulane was a successful one for the Green Wave, advancing to the 2005 College World Series, but for McFadden personally, it proved to be the first of many character-building life lessons for the Plantation, Florida, native. Arriving as Baseball America's

seventh best freshmen in the country, McFadden injured his wrist, played in just six games, and was ultimately given a medical redshirt for his first season of NCAA baseball.

As depressing as it was, the experience paled in comparison to the hardship he would experience later that year. Following his aborted freshman season at Tulane, McFadden began to show his promise during his first summer with the Falmouth Commodores in 2005. In 27 games, he hit .232 with one home run and 12 RBI while recovering from his wrist injury. Less than two weeks after his summer season came to a close, his life and the lives of many of his teammates would change forever on the morning of August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

"A lot of people had everything taken away from them," McFadden said about the storm that killed 1,836 people. "Some of the guys' houses were completely messed up and you could see it on their faces and knew it took a toll on them."

On the positive side for McFadden and his Tulane teammates, many of whom grew up in the Gulf Coast, the tragedy was an opportunity for the team to grow and bond in a way that will keep them close forever.

"When Katrina hit, a lot of the guys' families had to go to Houston or other places a few states away," said McFadden. "We didn't look

Continued on Next Page



RICH MACLONE

Commodores slugger Warren McFadden crushes a batting practice pitch with an ever-present trademark grin.



RICH MACLONE

Falmouth's master of the long-ball, Warren McFadden, lays down a bunt in BP, something we don't see much of in games.

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Falmouth's Biggest Weapon...

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at it as an excuse. We helped each other get through it and I think the experience helped make us all better people."

When baseball season rolled around, McFadden and his Tulane teammates found themselves in Lubbock, Texas, sharing the field with Texas Tech, and eventually played its home games at Zephyr Field in Metairie, Louisiana, while their on-campus Turchin Stadium was under construction.

Though McFadden had experienced more than most 20-year-olds should face at such an age, he did his best to put the past behind him and focus on his passion, baseball. With his wrist injury now healed, it didn't take long until his Conference USA opponents learned what scouts had known about him for years, that he could flat out play.

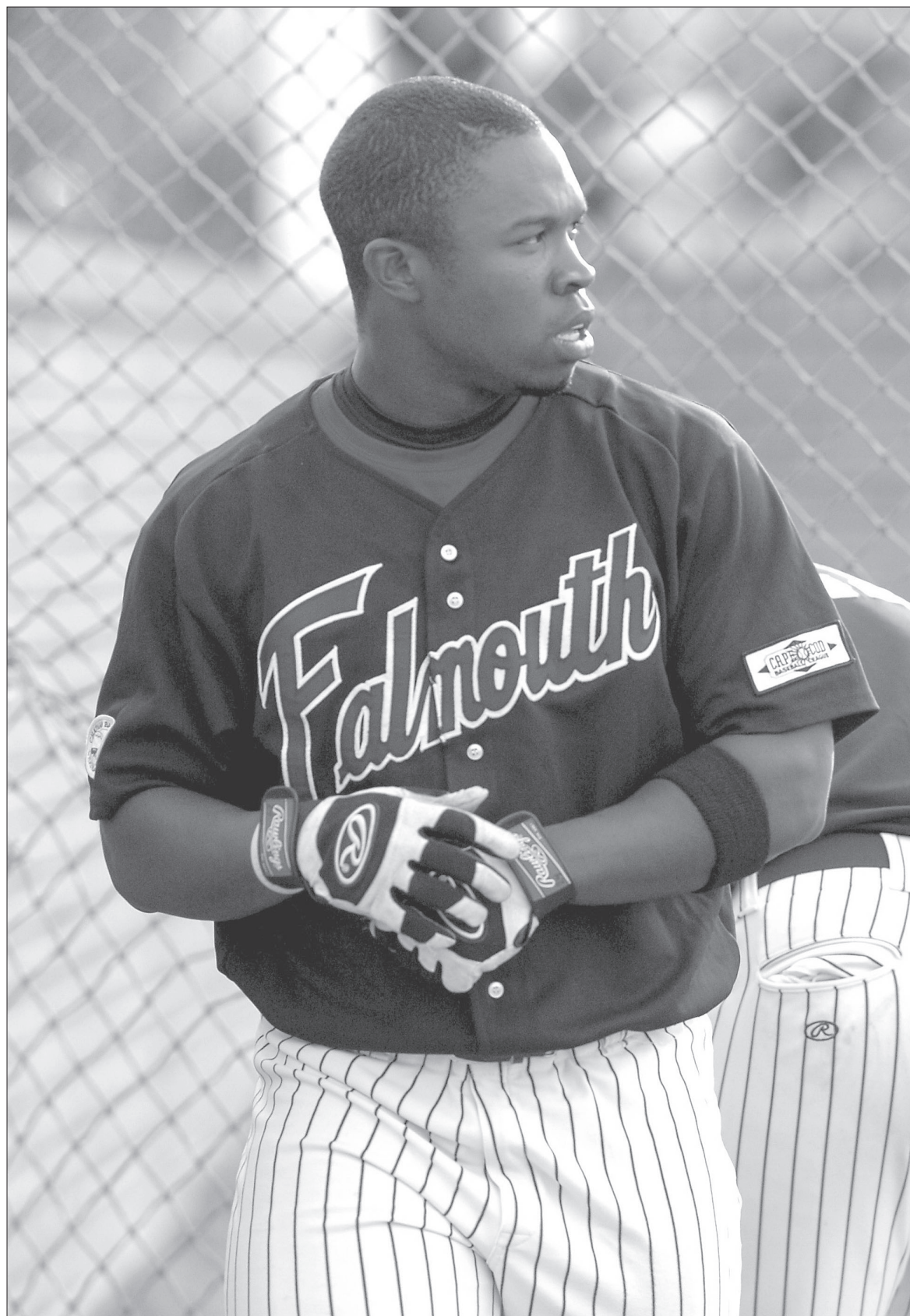
In 2006, McFadden, still a freshman thanks to his medical redshirt, hit at a .382 clip, with 50 RBI and 24 doubles. His season was also highlighted by a 21-game hitting streak and when the campaign came to an end following Tulane's loss to Ole Miss in the Super Regional Final, McFadden found himself earning Conference USA Freshman of the Year honors. Nationally, he was named to Baseball America's First-Team All-America freshman team.

With a strong season behind him at Tulane, McFadden is once again spending his summer wearing the pinstripes of the Falmouth Commodores and his sensational spring has certainly carried over into the summer. Through 16 games in Falmouth, McFadden was hitting .250 with nine RBI and most surprising, with a CCBL-leading five home runs. That's quite a few long balls, considering he hit just one last spring at school.

"I'm just getting good swings when I get to the plate," admits McFadden on his summer power surge. "I'm not trying to hit it out of the park. I think I'm just getting lucky some times."

McFadden, who works at the Commodores' youth clinics during the day and is a fan favorite due to his infectious smile and affable nature, is happy to be back in Falmouth and feels the year he had in Tulane will only make him better this summer.

"The competition we played in Conference USA, the ACC, and other conferences was strong and I'm playing a lot of

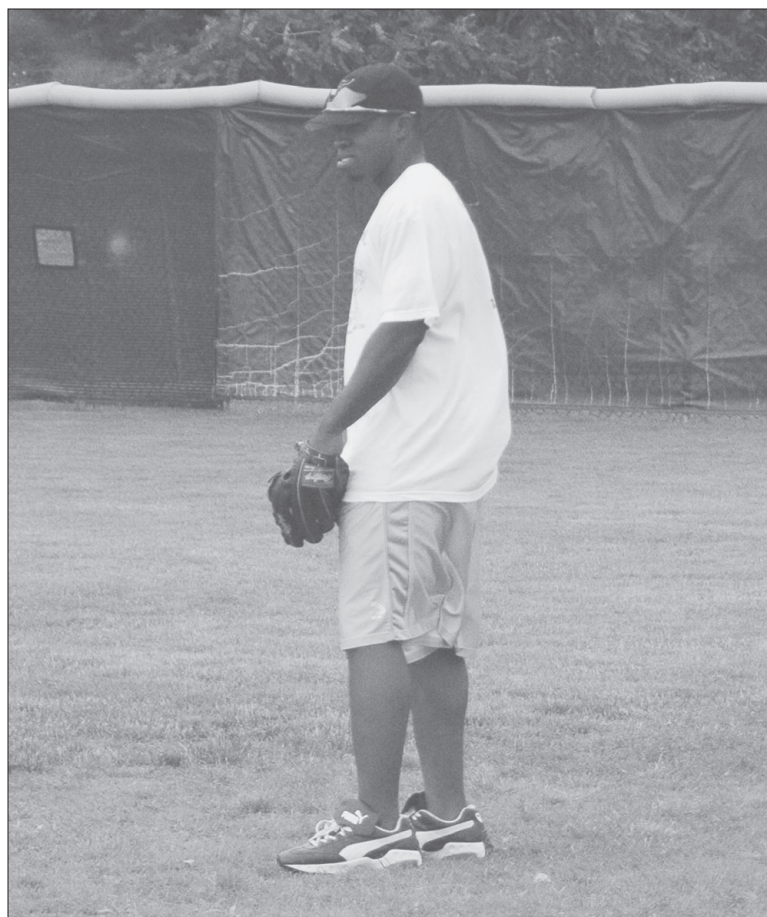


SPORTPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT
Commodores' outfielder Warren McFadden is leading the league in home runs and runs scored thus far this season.

those same guys this summer," McFadden said. "Like I said to (Tulane and Falmouth teammate) Aja Barto, it's a lot of fun to play for the Falmouth Commodores and you get accustomed to seeing top talent every night here."

As much fun as McFadden is having patrolling right field at the Arnie Allen Diamond for Falmouth, make no mistake, he's all business between the lines and imagines how he'd like this current season to end. Though he sees himself as a player in the mold of Twins' outfielder Tori Hunter due to his defense, McFadden's dream scenario is one that would make Red Sox' slugger David Ortiz proud.

"Championship game, last play of the season, I hit a walk-off home run like Big Papi and the Commodores win the Cape Cod League championship," said McFadden with a grin on his face. "Winning League MVP would be nice, too."



CHUCK BORGE
McFadden helped out at the Commodores' Youth Clinic recently.

Who's Hot... And Who's Not

There's a heated battle cooking up in the Cape League batting race as Aaron Reza (Oklahoma) of Chatham at .378 and Brett Wallace (Arizona St.) of Falmouth at .377 are the leading hitters ... After slugging a two-run homer to lift Falmouth to a 5-3 win at Y-D Friday night, Warren McFadden (Tulane) leads the CCBL with six home runs, while Chatham's Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest) is right behind with four round-trippers ... Matt Rizzotti of Chatham is still the league leader with 18 RBIs ... Cotuit's Jay Brown (Young Harris) is 3-0 with a perfect 0.00 ERA in 14 innings pitched, including a six-hit, eight inning 5-0 shutout over East Division leader Orleans, when he struck out eight and didn't allow a walk. Shaun Seibert (Arkansas) of Brewster in 23 innings and Chance Corgan (Texas A&M) of Y-D in 14 innings are both 1-0 with a 0.00 ERA. Brett Cecil (Maryland) of Orleans leads the league with five saves, while after a slow start, Jared McGuire (Boston College) of Hyannis has improved his batting average from .161 to .276 and compiled multiple hits four times in five games ... Cotuit leads the league with a .279 team batting average and is also the pitching leader with a 1.97 team ERA ... Bourne, which has struggled with a 3-11-1 record, is at the bottom of the league statistics in team batting (.201) and pitching (4.77 ERA), but is starting to play better with two wins this past week.

John Garner, Jr., CCBL
Director of Public Relations
& Broadcasting

MLB Scout Days in July

The Cape League will again schedule pre-game player workouts for the major league scouts during a six-day period known as Scouts Days. They will take place at the following games: Harwich at Cotuit, July 22; Y-D at Bourne, July 23; Wareham at Y-D, July 25; Falmouth at Cotuit, July 26; Brewster at Harwich, July 27; and Orleans at Chatham, July 28. Workout drills include batting practice, fielding practice, and short-distance sprints.



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Cape Cod Baseball League

Steffan Wilson is Quietly Slugging His Way Into Becoming a Top Major League Prospect

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

The starting right fielder and cleanup hitter for the Wareham Gatemen, Steffan Wilson, is an unassuming star: he is a dirt dog.

A dirt dog is a special breed of team-oriented player who seem to thrive on pressure and is not afraid to get dirty. A dirt dog does the little things that win games, like switching positions to shore up a team's defense after the injury of a starter, dropping a sacrifice bunt to move a runner into scoring position at the expense of personal stats, and getting a base hit when the game appears out of reach to spark a rally.

A dirt dog doesn't always bedazzle people with towering home runs, but rather with hustle. He is not necessarily the best player on a team, but is one of the most complete. Steffan Wilson is that breed of player.

Several hours prior to game time, Wilson, the shy, stocky right-hander goes through the normal pregame preparation. He takes swings in the cage with his teammates and practices his fielding.

Unlike most Cape League ballplayers, an hour prior to game time, Wilson appears as though he has already played an entire baseball contest, his uniform decorated with dirt, his face dripping with sweat. The quiet offensive leader of the Gatemen club is only a sophomore at Harvard, where he is majoring in government, yet he carries himself on the field like a veteran. His appearance tells the tale of his work ethic.

According to Joe Walsh, his coach at Harvard, Wilson is a "throwback player"—a nearly extinct breed of athlete who tirelessly works on their game and who selflessly gives everything they have for the team concept.

The 20-year-old State College, Pennsylvania, native can hit for power, hit for average, he can go the other way, and he can bunt. He seems undaunted by pressure-packed situations, scoring the game-tying run on a sac fly in the bottom of the ninth on July 3. The Gatemen came back from a 7-0 deficit in the eighth inning to defeat the Bourne Braves. He also bunted the game-winning run into scoring position and

finished the game with two RBI. Wilson immerses himself in the one thing he came to Cape Cod this summer to accomplish, which is to face the best pitchers in the country and to get better at the plate.

He is off to a great start, and as of July 4, he led the Gatemen in batting average, games played, games started, at-bats, hits, doubles, RBIs, total bases, and slugging percentage. Every time he steps into the batters box, one thing is for sure: the ball will be hit hard. Despite not having the reputation as a home run hitter, something he wants to change, he is crushing the ball this summer, as well as stereotypes about Ivy League players.

Coach Walsh, speaking from a recruiting trip in Atlanta on July 5, said that he had been in contact with pro scouts as early as that morning. He said that they are keeping an eye on Wilson. "He's a roll-your-sleeves-up kind of guy," Coach Walsh said. "What can I do to help the team? He's tough. He loves the challenge [of top-notch Cape League pitching]."

It all started in State College. Wilson tried his hand at football while attending State College Area High School, but quit to concentrate on baseball after his freshmen year. He also played summer ball for State College Legion, where Coach Walsh said he hit an incredible amount of home runs and was a "phenom."

"I guess it sort of just came together," said Wilson of his



Gatemen slugger Steffan Wilson has been on a tear this season, helping Wareham stay in close with West leading Cotuit.

MATTHEW BURKE

SPORTSPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT

Steffan Wilson has been opening some eyes as he continues where he left off at Harvard to help keep the Gatemen in the hunt in the East.

decision to stop playing all other sports to concentrate on baseball. "I always played, and baseball, I feel like, took the most time to prepare for and dedicate yourself to. For that reason, it consumed all of my time."

Wilson set records in home runs (13), RBI (74), and extra base hits while at State College High. He finished second

on the all-time list for runs (66), and hits (74). He hoped to become a Wake Forest Demon Deacon and play in North Carolina for the next four years after Stanford rejected him. He said that he looked at schools down South and also on the West Coast due to his hatred of cold weather.

"Harvard was actually the last school I thought I was going to be going to," he said. "Harvard got in late in the game. I was going to sign early in November and they brought me up for a visit, my last visit, and I had a blast... I met everyone on the team and they were all great... When I had an idea that I'd be getting in to Harvard it was tough to turn down."

In his first season, Wilson

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Wilson Slugging...

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excelled, garnering the Ivy League Rookie of the Year Award, First Team All-Ivy honors as a third baseman, Second Team All-Ivy honors as a relief pitcher, and Second Team All-New England honors. Coach Walsh said that he always had that look in his eye, like he wanted the ball, and wanted to take the mound when the game was on the line. Wilson throws a good fastball, curveball, and change-up. He had six saves for Harvard that year. He also saw time at first base and in left field.

Last season, the versatile Wilson saw limited pitching action, but that was okay with him. Instead he made a statement with his bat, batting .331 with 53 hits in 150 at-bats. Wilson also hit five home runs, and had 43 RBIs. He led the team in slugging, hits, RBIs, doubles, total bases, at bats, games, games started, and stolen base percentage. He was again named to the Division I All-New England Second Team, and to think when he arrived at Harvard he was concerned about riding the pine.

"I came in to Harvard and I got a shot basically," Wilson said. "They threw me out there freshman year, and I didn't have a choice but to get used to the pitching, get used to the competition, and to be the best I could. At the end of the year when things were all said and done and everything's voted on, I was lucky enough to get a lot of awards...I think the biggest thing was just getting a shot at it."

Coach Walsh said that Wilson stepped into a leadership role as a freshman and immediately became an ambassador for Harvard baseball. When recruits come in, Wilson shows them around,



A dirty uniform is nothing new to Wareham's Steffan Wilson.

MATTHEW BURKE

and Walsh said he has helped recruiting efforts by making young players feel at home. "I wouldn't mind putting [Steffan's] face on the media guide," Walsh said of his team leader. He added that

he doesn't throw around such glowing praises that often.

The 1997 and 1998 Northeast Region Division I Coach of the Year said that Wilson loves spending time in the gym and needs to work on his speed if he wants to take his game to the next level. Walsh also said that they are trying to train Wilson as a catcher due to his strong arm and size. "He's going to work on his speed for the next level," Walsh said, adding, "I think he's going to hit with a lot of power someday."

What's next for Wilson? Is there life after baseball?

"I don't like to think that far ahead," he said with a smile. "I'd like to play as long as possible obviously. Hopefully, playing here gets me some looks to do that." Wilson said that he had a leg up on kids his age growing up. His brother Jon, a right-handed pitcher, is also a special ballplayer. The Texas Rangers drafted him last year.

This season, Jon plays for the Rangers' Single A affiliate, the Bakersfield Blaze. The elder Wilson brother has a one win, two-loss, record,

in 13 games to go along with a 2.16 ERA. In 25 innings, he struck out 20 and walked only eight, giving up 26 hits. Steffan said that they are each other's biggest supporters. Jon calls from California every night to inquire about Steffan's Cape League performance.

"I look to follow in his footsteps," Steffan said. "When it came down to it, he always let me play with him, and I had the opportunity to play with his teams. Playing with guys older than me, I think that is actually what helped me come here and do the things I've done in the game. I owe him everything for giving me that chance."

Steffan said that he has been working closely with Coach Cooper Farris and the rest of the Gatemen's coaching staff every day in the batting cage and that he hopes he can finish the summer strong. He praised Walsh for helping him with his game and getting him to the Cape League. Coach Walsh was the Gatemen's pitching coach for seven years, from 1991 until 1998. "It's been

a great experience," Wilson said of his hot start. "I know that [being able to compete] was one of my fears coming here. These guys are the best in the country, all over the country...I've never been surrounded by everyone so willing and so knowledgeable about the game."

Despite the "Hahvahd Yahd" jokes that are inevitable, Wilson said that everyone has opened up to him and has shared their knowledge of the game with him. He hopes to be drafted next year. "I think I speak for myself and everyone else who's here, at least who's draft eligible next year, that that's their ultimate goal: to get drafted and to go play at the next level...Hopefully that's in the cards. Hopefully, I do get a shot to do that, and if not, if they'll have me here, I'd love to come back and play."

Coach Walsh said that the future for a dirt dog like Steffan is predictably rooted in baseball. "He loves practice," he said of his prized third baseman. "You're going to have to tear that uniform off his back one day."



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Inside The Game

Being In The Right Place Makes All The Difference

BY MARK A. BROWN

It's a close game in the late innings in Hyannis. The Mets trail Chatham by a run, but have a man on third base with one out. As the next batter strides to the plate, the four Chatham infielders move in toward the inner edge of the grass.

Meanwhile in Orleans, the Cardinals and Bourne Braves are scoreless in the fifth inning, when up comes a powerful first baseman for Bourne who bats from the left side of the plate. As he takes his practice swings, all three Orleans outfielders move several steps to their left.

In the Cape Cod Baseball League, strategy comes in many forms. While most of a game's outcome is decided by how pitchers throw and how hitters react to them, the nuance of fielder positioning can often make the difference. This is especially the case early in the season, when many hitters are still adjusting to wood bats and most games are low-scoring affairs.

Each of the league's 10 coaches has a different philosophy of defensive alignment. Some play the percentages, expecting left-handed hitters to pull the ball toward right field and vice versa for righties. Others track a hitter's tendencies and position their fielders accordingly. Some simply let the young men play the game.

As in checkers or chess, the wrong setup can be costly. If that slugging Bourne first baseman lofts a pitch into left field instead of pulling it to the first-base side of the diamond as expected, odds are he'll reach base if the defense was aligned toward right field.

Sometimes it's more than an oddity that bucks an anticipated trend. Smart hitters and opposing coaches can exploit a defensive alignment. A bunt can be dropped down the third base line, if the third baseman is playing deep, or an outside pitch can be swat-

ted to the opposite field for extra bases.

Often situations with baserunners dictate where fielders play. With a runner on first and less than two outs, the second baseman, shortstop, and third baseman will usually play back at double-play depth. The goal is to prevent any balls from getting to the outfield.

The first baseman, meanwhile, might be holding the runner at first base awaiting a pick-off throw from the pitcher. While he's anchored to the bag, the hitter has a hole between first and second base to poke a ball for a single.

Late, in close ballgames, if a tying or lead run gets to third base, the infield will instead play in. It's easier in this case for a hitter to get one past the infielders, since their range is reduced, but their chances of throwing out a runner at home are improved.

Similarly, outfielders will play shallow in the above situation if there are less than two outs. The strategy involves being ready for the baserunner to try and score by tagging up from third base. A shallower positioning for the outfielder means a shorter throw to home plate.

Assistant coaches usually have the task of shifting defensive positions. Infielders are close enough to the bench to hear audio calls, but hand signals are generally used to move outfielders.

To move a player in closer, a coach might move his hand up and down in front of his face. To move him back, the coach might wave the hand behind his head. Shifting him left or right usually involves the simple point of an arm in the proper direction.

Brewster Whitecaps Coach Bob Macaluso is a big believer in getting a defensive edge. "We chart each hitter and position our defenders accordingly, and we know how we're going to pitch them," Macaluso said. "If we're going with a fastball

away against a right-handed hitter, we might align our guys toward right field and the fielders are ready to break in that direction."

For some teams, it takes some familiarity with their opponents before trends can be identified. "The first time we see hitters, we don't shift that much, so it's definitely tough," Macaluso said. "After the first game, we have a pretty good idea of who's a first ball hitter, and by the second or third game we can tell some of their tendencies."

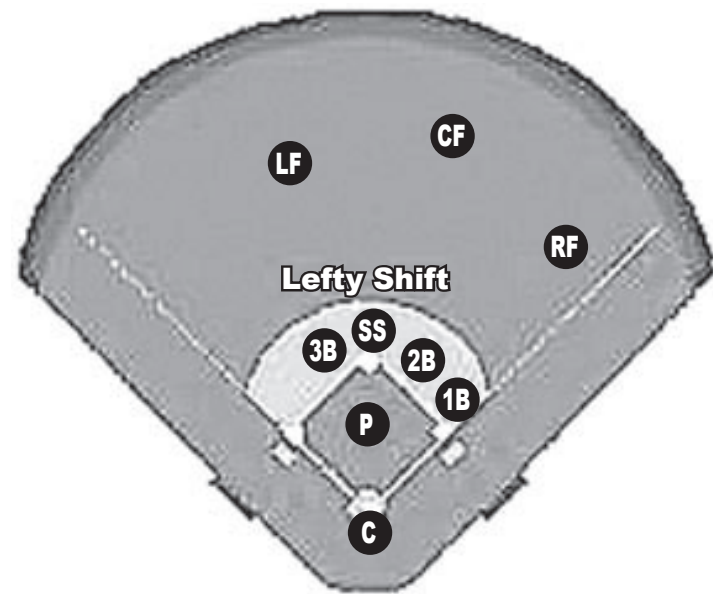
Charting players from clubs within a team's own division yields more fruit, Macaluso said, because they face each other more often. "We see them six times during the season," he said.

Which position carries the most weight on defense when it comes to positioning? Opinions vary, but Coach Macaluso thinks it's pretty clear-cut. "The position of the third baseman is most important, especially with all the bunts we see in low-scoring games," he said. "In fact, we might lay down two or three bunts a game ourselves for that very reason."

The majority of hitters in the league bat right-handed, so more pitches are hit to the left side of the infield. That extra workload lends some credence to Coach Macaluso's theory.

Not all CCBL coaches are as sold on the importance of defensive positioning as Macaluso. Take Mike Roberts of Cotuit, who said he's been coaching his players the same way during his 27 years in the Cape League. "I don't try to outsmart anybody," he said. "We don't see hitters enough to know how to play them extremely well."

Rather than placing his fielders where he thinks the ball will wind up, Roberts prefers that his players focus on the pitches being delivered and anticipate accordingly. For example, if a sinkerball pitcher is on the mound, the infield needs to be alert for



ground balls and be prepared to block them in the event of a bad hop. "We play to our pitcher's strengths, and I move our fielders around very little," he said.

The same holds true when the Kettleers are at the plate. "We don't pay any attention to what the defense does. We just play straight fundamental baseball," Coach Roberts said. "If our hitters do their

jobs and focus on the pitches, we're going to come out okay."

Coach Roberts preaches a simple and fundamental approach, which is how his son, Baltimore Orioles all-star second baseman Brian Roberts, a member of the Chatham A's in 1998, learned to play ball. "I try to teach our players here exactly the way I taught Brian."

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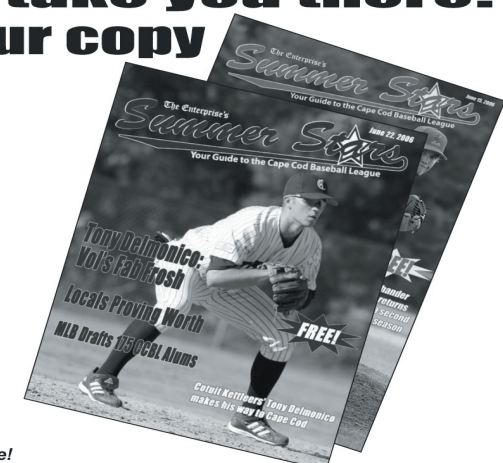
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Mobil Mart-cranberry Hwy

- YARMOUTH-DENNIS**
White Hen Pantry-Route 28 Dennis
Christies-Route 28 Dennis
Tedeschi's-Route 28/134
Exxon-Route 28/Station Ave
Seven/Eleven-Route 28/Old Main St
Seven/Eleven-Route 28(across from Christies)
Christies-Route 28
- COTUIT**
Quick Stop-Route 28
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- MASHPEE**
Mashpee Mart-Route 28

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Seven/Eleven- Route 28/W Main St
Tedeschi's-Route 28 Centerville
28 Convenience Mkt-Route 28 Centerville
White Hen Pantry-Rte 28-Marstons Mills
- FALMOUTH**
Kenyon's Market-Route 28
Tedeschi's-Route 28 East Falmouth
Cumberland Farms-Route 28/Davisville
Family Foods-Route 28-East Falmouth
Falmouth Food Mart-Route 28
Bert's Quik Mart-Rte 151/Sandwich Rd

- Dean's Variety-Rte 28A N. Fal.
- Tedeschi's-County Rd N.Fal.
- Village Pantry-Rte 28A N.Fal.
- W. Falmouth Mkt-Rte 28A W. Fal.
- No. Falmouth Hardware - Main Street
- Whites Food Mart-Rte28/Jones Rd
- Tedeschi's-Locust St
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Ballpark of the Week

Wareham's Spillane Field Boasts an Amazing Number of Places to Watch

BY MATTHEW BURKE

As a small part of the Wareham faithful filed out of Spillane Field on July 3, all seemed lost for the Gatemen. With fireworks exploding in the background, the Gatemen trailed the visiting Bourne Braves 7-0 in the top of the eighth inning.

To stage one of the greatest comebacks of this young Cape Cod Baseball League season, the Gatemen would need fireworks of their own, and it wouldn't come easily. Bourne starter Eammon Portice, from Highpoint University, had already pitched a seven-inning, three-hit, shutout masterpiece.

It seemed as though the Braves had the game locked up, but Bourne coach Harvey Shapiro, one of the winningest coaches in CCBL history, decided to let Portice come out for the eighth. Portice's fastball seemed sluggish and his off-speed/breaking pitches seemed to hang up in the zone. The Gatemen made the Braves pay, scoring one run, and getting several hits off Portice before he was relieved with one out.

The stadium-style bleacher seating began to fill up again. Departing fans that had begun to leave from the center-field bleachers and from the road that runs alongside the third baseline, stopped their trek toward the parking lot and took seats again in the



MATTHEW BURKE

Fans of all ages enjoy a Gatemen home game at Spillane Field.

bleachers. An elder Braves fan in the crowd could see the writing on the wall, saying that should Bourne lose the game, it would be quite demoralizing and could spell an end to their season.

The Gatemen rally continued, and they scored five more runs, thanks in part to a three-run jack from Luke Murton (Georgia Tech), leaving the score 7-6 at the end of eight. In the bottom of the ninth, Steffan Wilson's (Harvard) sac fly scored the game-tying run for the hometown team and led to extra innings.

Magic was in the air at Spillane. The fans clapped in unison; the Gatemen clearly had the momentum.

They threatened with the bases loaded in the 10th, but Bourne narrowly escaped. It was obvious who would win the game; the Braves were on the ropes.

In the 11th, Dominic de la Osa's (Vanderbilt) walk-off single won the game for the Wareham club. The fans cheered. It was another example of the mysticism surrounding Spillane, a meat and potatoes ball park, whose atmosphere perfectly suits the dirt dog Gatemen personality. Tied with Cotuit at 10 wins, Wareham retained a share of first place in the Western Division after the victory.

Best Place to Park: The best parking spot at Spillane Field is on the right-hand side of Viking Drive, approximately 50 yards after turning onto the street from Route 6. Wareham High School has plenty of parking, but the small lot is convenient and is only a short walk around the corner of the school to the ball park.

Best Place to Watch: The great thing about Spillane is the amount of amazing places from which to watch the game. With that said, the best place to take in a game is on the first and third base lines, where you will find stadium-style bleacher seating built for football games. The view is incredible, and you can watch the game from above the players. Bring a chair and watch the game from behind home plate, another great view, if you can get to the park early enough. The stands out in centerfield are also very popular.

Handicapped patrons should arrive for the 7 o'clock night games about 45 minutes prior to game time. The best place for wheelchair accessibility is on the pavement behind home plate, or at a break in the green fence covering next to the home dugout, on the first base line.

Best Buys: The best buys at Spillane Field include both good food and affordable high quality souvenirs. Chicken noodle soup for \$1 is a great buy, as is Italian ice for the same price. Bug spray is probably the best buy at

Spillane, and not because of the price, but for the simple fact that they sell it. Most of the other Cape League clubs like to think that they don't have a bug problem. The Gatemen choose to admit that the bugs are annoying and sell spray for \$5.50. Gatemen mouse pads, mini bats, and baseballs for \$5 are all good buys. They also sell pens for 25 cents and sharpies for \$1 for autographs.

Food: The food at Spillane is typical fare but on the high end of that spectrum. Besides the chicken noodle soup, there are well-cooked, plump, and juicy hot dogs for \$1.75. Jumbo dogs cost \$2.75. They also offer cheese and chili toppings, and a condiment table complete with chopped onions and relish. The popcorn was fresh and tasty, at \$1.25 for a medium-sized tub. Their candy, ice cream, and drink menu was exceptionally large and affordable. Nachos were one of the most popular items at \$2.25, with chili and cheese add-ons: \$1 for cheese, \$1.75 for both.

Best Feature: The best feature at the park is the view from the first and third base line stands. It is easily one of the best in the league. To expect a seat, fans should arrive no later than 15 minutes before game time. Wareham enjoys one of the largest fan bases and fills up the stands at every home game when nice weather is anticipated. The center field stands are seldom filled and serve as a legitimate fallback option.

The Park: The field itself is one of the only downfalls

for the Gatemen. A gravel infield is an abrasive surface that pro ballplayers dread, but don't take my word for it. On a recent visit to a gravel-surfaced Little League field in Bourne, Baseball Hall of Fame members Carlton Fisk and Lou Brock both commented on the gravel playing surface as soon as they walked onto the field. "I would hate to slide on that," Brock said. "I don't think I like the gravel," Fisk added.

The green plastic wrapping on the outfield fence is also a hindrance. Fans who like obscure places to watch the games quickly run out of options at Spillane.

How Far I Got on 20 Bucks: At Spillane, \$20 went a long way. During the course of the 11-inning contest, I bought a hot dog for \$1.75. Later on, I enjoyed popcorn for \$1.25 and sunflower seeds for \$1. On the hot July night, two bottles of water for \$1 each definitely came in handy. For souvenirs, I bought a Gatemen mouse pad for the office at \$5, a media guide for \$3, and a mini bat for \$5. With the dollar I had left, I bought three raffle tickets.

The Gatemen are clearly one of the most entertaining teams in the league. The facilities at Spillane are average, but the people there are above average, both the fans and the Gatemen staff. Because there are no clearly marked handicapped bathrooms (only portable toilets), and because of the green wrap on the fence and the gravel infield, I give it a three-and-a-half star rating out of five. ★★☆☆



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The view from the outfield bleachers at Spillane Field.



MATTHEW BURKE

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SPORTSPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT

This Brewster coach enjoys a healthier 'chew' at a recent game.

Chatham

2nd Base



CHRIS CARRARA

A's

KK Codders' Player of the Week

Infielder Chris Carrara, of Winthrop University, has been scorching the baseball for the Chatham A's this year. The second baseman leads the Cape League with a .378 batting average and is reaching base at a clip of .531. He is scoring just under one run per ballgame for the Athletics and also averages more than a hit per contest. A native of Charlotte, North Carolina, Carrara is majoring in business at nearby Winthrop, which is just across the border in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

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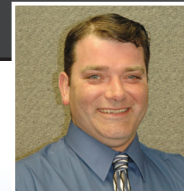
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2006 Schedule



Major League
Baseball
Scouts Days

Sun 6/11	Mon 6/12	Tue 6/13	Wed 6/14	Thu 6/15	Fri 6/16	Sat 6/17
				Cot @ Bou PPD Orl 2 @ Bre 0 Y-D @ Hya (6-20) Fal 10@ Cha 1 Har 1 @ War 10	Bre 2@ Cot 8 War 5 @ Hya 3 Cha 6 @ Y-D 5 Bou 0 @ Fal 4 Orl 0 @ Har 2	Cha 8 @ Bre 8 Hya @ Cot 9 Y-D 3 @ Har 1 Bou 1 @ Orl 2 F al 6 @ War 7
Sun 6/18	Mon 6/19	Tue 6/20	Wed 6/21	Thu 6/22	Fri 6/23	Sat 6/24
War 6 @ Bou 2 Bre 6 @ Hya 4 Orl 12 @ Y-D 7 Cot 1 @ Fal 5 Har 2 @ Cha 5	Fal 2 @ Bre 4 Y-D 1 @ Cha 3 Bou 0 @ Har 11 Hya 3 @ Orl 1 Cot 7 @ War 2	Y-D 5 @ Hya 0	Bre 6 @ Bou 8 Orl 1 @ Cot 17 Cha 2 @ Hya 3 Y-D 6 @ Fal 5 War 10 @ Har 3	Cot 12 @ Bou 8 Cha 13 @ Bre 0 Har 5 @ Y-D 2 Hya 5 @ Fal 4 War 1 @ Orl 5	Cot 2 @ Bre 2 War 3 @ Hya 4 (10) Bou 2 @ Cha 5 Y-D 4 @ Har 5 Fal 1 @ Orl 2	Har @ Bou rain Orl @ Hya rain Cot @ Y-D rain Bre @ Fal rain War @ Cha rain
Sun 6/25	Mon 6/26	Tue 6/27	Wed 6/28	Thu 6/29	Fri 6/30	Sat 7/1
Orl @ Bre rain Bou @ Cot rain Fal @ War rain Hya @ Har rain Y-D @ Cha rain	Fal1 @ Bou 0 War 4 @ Bre 3 Har 0 @ Cot 3 Hya 0 @ Y-D 1 Cha 1 @ Orl 2	Bre 6 @ Y-D 5 (10) Bou 4 @ Fal 7 Cha 2 @ Har 4 Cot 4 @ Orl 0 Hya 4 @ War 6	Cot @ Bou rain Orl 11 @ Hya 2 Bre 1 @ Fal 2 Y -D 2 @ Cha 3 (10)	Cha @ Bou rain Fal 4 @ Cot 3 Har 3 @ Hya 5 Y-D 6 @ Orl 3 Bre 2 @ War 1	Orl 5 @ Bou 4 War @ Y-D 5:00 Bre 3 @ Cha 2 Hya 4 @ Fal 0 Cot 2 @ Har 0	Fal 2 @ Hya 2 (10) Bou 5 @ Y-D 8 Cot 4 @ Cha 0 Bre 8 @ Har 5 Orl 7 @ War 0
Sun 7/2	Mon 7/3	Tue 7/4	Wed 7/5	Thu 7/6	Fri 7/7	Sat 7/8
Hya 7 @ Bou 7 Y-D 0 @ Bre 2 War 6 @ Cot 2 Har 1 @ Orl 2 Cha 14 @ Fal	Har 5 @ Bre 1 Cot 5 @ Hya 3 Y-D 7 @ Fal 4 Cha 5 @ Orl 6 Bou 7 @ War 8	War 1@ Bou 6 Hya 6 @ Cot 1 Bre 13@ Y-D 5 Orl 2 @ Cha 0 Fal 3 @ Har 9	Har @ Bou 5:00 Cot @ Y-D 5:00 Orl @ Bre 5:00 War @ Cha 7:00	Y-D 5 @ Cot 2 Bou @ Hya (rain) Har 11 @ Fal 6 Bre 7 @ Orl 3 Cha 3 @ War 4	Bou 2 @ Bre 0 Orl 0 @ Cot 5 Fal 5 @ Y-D 3 Har 4 @ Cha 2 Hya 4 @War 2	Y-D 2 @ Bou 0 Hya 5 @ Bre 3 Cha 0 @ Cot 1 War 2 @ Fal 9 Har 1 @ Orl 2
Sun 7/9	Mon 7/10	Tue 7/11	Wed 7/12	Thu 7/13	Fri 7/14	Sat 7/15
Bou 5 @ Hya 0 Cot 6 @ War 4 Orl 1 @ Y-D 7 Bre 8 @ Har 7 *Fal 1 @ Cha 0	Bou 1 @ Cot 8 Har 2 @ Y-D 6 Hya 0 @ Cha 1 Orl 6 @ Fal 2 Bre 0 @ War 1	Bou @ Cot 5:00 Fal @ War 7:00 Hya @ Har 7:00 Orl @ Bre 5:00	Fal @ Bou 5:00 War @ Bre 5:00 Cha @ Cot 5:00 Har @ Hya 5:00 Y-D @ Orl 7:00	Hya @ Cha 7:00 Cot @ Fal 7:00 Bou @ Har 7:00 Bre @ Orl 7:00 Y-D @ War 7:00	Cha @ Bou 5:00 Orl @ Bre 5:00 Cot @ Hya 5:00 Fal @ Y-D 5:00 Har @ War 7:00	Orl @ Bou 5:00 Y-D @ Hya 5:00 Bre @ Fal 5:30 War @ Cha 7:00 Cot @ Har 7:00
Sun 7/16	Mon 7/17	Tue 7/18	Wed 7/19	Thu 7/20	Fri 7/21	Sat 7/22
Bou @ War 2:00 Hya @ Bre 5:00 Fal @ Cot 5:00 Har @ Orl 5:00 Cha @ Y-D 5:00	Cot @ Bou 5:00 Y-D @ Bre 5:00 Fal @ Hya 5:00 Cha @ Har 7:00 War @ Orl 7:00	Bou @ Hya 5:00 Cor @ Y-D 5:00	Bre @ Bou 5:00 Y-D @ Cot 5:00 War @ Hya 5:00 Orl @ Cha 7:00 Har @ Fal 7:00	Cot @ Bre 5:00 Bou @ Cha 7:00 Hya @ Har 7:00 Fal @ Orl 7:00 Y-D @ War 7:00	Bou @ Bre 5:00 War @ Cot 5:00 Cha @ Hya 5:00 Orl @ Y-D 5:00 Fal @ Har 7:00	Fal @ Bre 2:00 *Har @ Cot 5:00* Hya @ Y-D 5:00 Bou @ Orl 7:00 Cha @ War 7:00
Sun 7/23	Mon 7/24	Tue 7/25	Wed 7/26	Thu 7/27	Fri 7/28	Sat 7/29
Y-D @ Bou 2:00 Cot @ Hya 5:00 War @ Fal 5:30 Orl @ Har 5:30 Bre @ Cha 7:00	Cot @ Bou 1:00 Cha @ Bou 5:00	Bou @ Cot 5:00 *War @ Y-D 5:00* Har @ Cha 7:00 Hya @ Fal 7:00 Bre @ Orl 7:00	Hya @ Bou 5:00 Y-D @ Bre 5:00 *Fal @ Cot 5:00* Cha @ Har 7:00 Orl @ War 7:00	*Bre @ Hya 5:00* Cot @ Cha 7:00 Bou @ Fal 7:00 War @ Har 7:00 Y-D @ Orl 7:00	Har @ Bou 5:00 Bre @ Y-D 5:00 *Orl @ Cha 7:00* Cot @ Fal 7:00 Hya @ War 7:00	All-Star Game Y-D Gates Open 11:30 HR Contest 2:15 Game 4:00
Sun 7/30	Mon 7/31	Tue 8/1	Wed 8/2	Thu 8/3	Fri 8/4	Sat 8/5
Hya @ Bou 5:00 Bre @ Cot 5:00 War @ Fal 5:30 Orl @ Har 5:30 Y-D @ Cha 7:00	Har @ Bre 5:00 Hya @ Orl 7:00 Bou @ Y-D 5:00 Cha @ Fal 7:00 Cot @ War 7:00	Open	Fal @ Bou 4:30 War @ Cot 4:30 Orl @ Hya 4:30 Cha @ Y-D 4:30 Bre @ Har 7:00	All-Star Player Recognition Night at Fenway Park Boston	Cha @ Bre 4:30 Bou @ Hya 4:30 Har @ Y-D 4:30 Cot @ Orl 7:00 Fal @ War 7:00	War @ Bou 4:30 Hya @ Cot 4:30 Orl @ Fal 5:30 Bre @ Cha 7:00 Y-D @ Har 7:00
Sun 8/6	Mon 8/7	Tue 8/8	Wed 8/9	Thu 8/10	Fri 8/11	Sat 8/12
Har @ Bre 4:30 Fal @ Hya 4:30 Cot @ Y-D 4:30 Bou @ War 5:00 Cha @ Orl 7:00	Open	Divisional Games East: Game 1 West: Game 1	Divisional Games East: Game 2 West: Game 2	Divisional Game(s) East Game 3 (if nec) West Game 3 (if nec) or Championship Game 1	Championship Game 1 or 2	Championship (if nec)
Sun 8/13	Mon 8/14	Tue 8/15	Wed 8/16	Thu 8/17	Fri 8/18	Sat 8/19



Batting Around

A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League

West Division Roundup

Cotuit's Brown Leading the Charge

After an eight-inning gem in front of his home fans on Friday, Jay Brown is well on his way to having a great summer for the first-place Cotuit Kettleers. On a team full of pitching studs, Brown has set the bar leaving it up to his teammates to match him. Brown, along with teammate and closer Cory Gearing, has represented Young Harris very well and is surprising fans around the league.

Although the tiny northern Georgia school located in the mountains isn't very well known, Brown has done his best to put it on the map. He is following in the footsteps of recent Cape Leaguer and Baltimore Orioles outfielder Nick Markakis, who also played at Young Harris. The school has been a feeder program for many of the nation's best college baseball programs, and Brown is one of seven players who will be playing elsewhere next spring. South Carolina will be fortunate enough to receive his services next spring, and are more than happy to have this young arm on board.

Brown had a stellar season for Young Harris, earning him not only a chance to play ball with the Gamecocks one of the nation's powerhouse baseball schools, but also All-Conference Team honors. In 51 innings of work, Brown struck out 55 batters and posted an impressive 2.63 earned run average.

At six foot, four inches, Brown stands tall on the mound - and the right-hander is able to use this along with his blistering fastball to strike fear in opposing batters. After one trip around the batting order, players have quickly learned to respect his stuff and are constantly on their toes, not knowing what Brown may deliver to them. One thing that has made Brown and so many pitchers successful in this league is his ability to change speeds and be very deceiving with his pitches.

Thus far Brown has three victories, his third coming from his tremendous effort Friday against a dangerous Orleans lineup who happens to lead the league in victories. To top things off on Friday, the game was closed out by none other than Gearing, giving a Cotuit a much needed victory at home.

In 20 innings of work Brown has struck out 16, recorded a save, and has yet to allow

an earned run. Not bad for a pitcher whose name was not even recorded in the Cape League program at the season's start.

After an eight-inning gem, Cotuit fans are left to wonder what he can do for an encore.

By Nicholas Mucci,
CCBL Intern

mucci@capecodbbaseball.org

Gatemen Climb Back to the Top

WAREHAM, Mass. - After beginning the week in second place, the Gatemen were able to regain control of first place by the week's end. As the final roster date was approaching, players were seeing new positions in an effort to stay in Wareham.

The Gatemen began the week by facing the Cotuit Kettleers, their top rival in the West. Having only seen the Kettleers once this year, Wareham was looking to regain the lead by posting a strong win. Jeremy Bleich (Stanford) was sent to the mound in an effort to tame the recently strong bats of the Kettleers. The Gatemen started off quickly by posting a 5-0 lead coming into the sixth inning. Bleich pitched very well in the win and held the Kettleers scoreless through six. The bats of Cotuit made Bleich pay on the one mistake pitch that was thrown all game and turned it into a two-run homer. Martin Beno (Mississippi Gulf Coast CC) came in the eighth to hold Cotuit scoreless for the last two innings, allowing only one hit.

Heading back home for a two-game holiday series against the Braves, the Gatemen put on a show for the fans by coming back from a 7-0 lead late in the game to earn the win. Unable to generate any offense off Bourne starter Eammon Portice (Highpoint College), the Gatemen were anxious for the first pitching change out of the Braves bullpen. Trailing in the eighth with one out, Bradley Suttle (Texas) began the inning with an RBI single followed by a three-run homer off the bat of slumping Luke Murton (Georgia Tech). Murton struggled coming into the week, but in the past three games has started to heat up. Heading into the ninth down by one run, the Gatemen played small ball with a leadoff walk from Diallo Fon (Vanderbilt), who eventually tied the game after a sacrifice



SPORTSPIX PHOTO BY MATTHEW SCOTT
Wareham's Ryan Gotcher steals another base to keep him on top of that category thus far this season. Gotcher is an invitee making the most of his time in the CCBL.

fly by Steffan Wilson (Harvard). Neither team was able to generate any runs until the 11th. With two on and two outs, Dominic de la Osa (Vanderbilt) delivered a game winning single to left field.

Wareham saw little production offensively the next night when they headed back to Bourne for Game Two of the series. The Gatemen saw only five hits in the game and did not score until the fifth on an unearned sacrifice fly. Recently added Luke Putkonen (UNC) made his first start for the Gatemen in front of a strong crowd of 1800 people. Putkonen struggled in his debut, lasting only five innings and allowing three earned runs while striking out six in the loss. De la Osa generated two hits of his own in an effort to spark the Gatemen bats.

The Gatemen were scheduled for a make-up game against the Chatham A's that was postponed earlier in the season; however, weather was not permitting once again and the game was delayed to a later date. Wareham was able to see Chatham the following night in the second extra-inning game of the week. They were trailing, once again, heading into the bottom of the ninth with two outs. A walk and pinch-run later, the game

was tied with a Suttle RBI double. Suttle came up to bat again in the 11th with the bases loaded and one out and delivered a game-winning infield hit, scoring de la Osa. Wareham starter Riley Boening (Texas) pitched well over the course of seven innings, letting John Lalor (Mississippi State) to relieve him for four strong innings of one-hit baseball while striking out six. Lalor received the win in the late-inning rally. John Wylde, Gatemen GM, added, "The kids cannot get used to the extra-inning games; it's not how the game is supposed to be played."

Friday night the Gatemen were featured as the home team at an unfamiliar site. The city of New Bedford hosted a regular season matchup between the Gatemen and the Hyannis Mets. "The field played very well, the hops were true and overall it was a very good field," commented Wylde. Bleich took the mound in the 3-2 loss, pitching well over eight innings while allowing one earned run. The Gatemen struck early, scoring two runs in the first off a two-run double by Suttle. But Wareham was unable to generate any more runs offensively. "Hyannis relief is what won the game for the Mets, all

hats off to them," said Wylde. Gatemen bats saw only four hits over the last eight innings of work.

Through Friday night's games, the Gatemen have posted an 11-7 record, good enough to be a first-place contender. The Gatemen bullpen is continuing to impress, led by Nick Cassavechia (Baylor), who has been turning heads with both his delivery and consistency. This coming week, the Gatemen look to add to their win total in front of the home crowd in five of the next six games.

By Daniel Scalia,
CCBL Intern

scalia@capecodbbaseball.org

Demel Dominant in Closing Role

In their last seven games, the Falmouth Commodores have only been able to pull away with a single victory and a

tie against Hyannis. The one consistent thing they have going - besides the sweet-swinging Warren McFadden, who has been hitting home runs at a league-leading pace - is solid closer Sam Demel, who will make sure the Commodores win those close games.

Born and raised in Texas, Demel attends Texas Christian University. Out of high school, he was drafted by none other than the Rangers in the 35th round. That year, the Texas Baseball News named him the 11th best prospect in the state.

In 2005 Demel had a stint in the Cape League and struck out 45 batters in 34 1/3 innings as a starter and closer. Thus far this season, Sam is off to an even better start. He has pitched ten-plus innings and has only allowed a run with 14 strikeouts. If you look hard enough behind the Falmouth diamond, it is easy to see scouts drooling over this rising sophomore.

The Commodores have been living by the long ball this season, but if they can find a way to play small ball and produce some runs for the nice core of starting pitchers they have, Falmouth fans are more than confident that their young closer can pull out a win any time, any place.

By Nicholas Mucci, CCBL Intern
mucci@capecodbbaseball.org

Continued on Next Page



Batting Around

A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League

DIVISION STANDINGS through July 10, 2006

EASTERN DIVISION		W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10
ORLEANS		13	8	0	26	L 1	6-4
BREWSTER		11	9	1	23	W 1	7-3
YARMOUTH-DENNIS		10	11	0	20	W 2	6-4
HARWICH		9	11	0	18	L 2	4-6
CHATHAM		7	12	1	15	L 7	3-5
WESTERN DIVISION		W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10
COTUIT		13	6	0	26	W 3	6-4
WAREHAM		11	9	0	22	L 3	4-6
FALMOUTH		10	10	1	21	W 4	5-5
HYANNIS		9	9	2	20	L 1	5-5
BOURNE		4	12	1	9	W 1	3-7

BATTING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 21 PLATE APPEARANCES)

BATTER	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Reza, Aaron	CHA	.358	14	53	4	19	0	4
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	.342	19	76	13	26	2	13
Wallace, Brett	FAL	.333	17	66	13	22	4	8
Macias, David	HYA	.324	20	74	10	24	0	9
Smoak, Justin	COT	.322	15	59	11	19	4	11
Carrara, Chris	CHA	.320	15	50	11	16	0	1
LaPorta, Matthew	BRW	.319	12	47	4	15	2	12
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	.314	18	70	15	22	0	10
McGuire, Jared	HYA	.303	18	66	9	20	0	6
Sommer, Luke	YRD	.302	19	53	6	16	1	8

HOME RUNS

McFadden, Warren	FAL	6	Smoak, Justin	COT	4
Dykstra, Allan	CHA	4	Wallace, Brett	FAL	4
Several Players Tied at	3				

RBI

Rizotti, Matt	CHA	18					
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	13					
Several Players Tied at		12					
Latham, Daniel	HYA	5					
Several Players Tied at		3					

STOLEN BASES

Leclerc, Brian	BOU	10					
Leclerc, Ryan	WAR	10					
Brown, Corey	CHA	8					
Carrara, Chris	CHA	8					
Glover, Brandon	WAR	7					

TEAM	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	BB	SO	SB	CS
Cotuit	.271	619	94	168	8	84	127	26	15
Falmouth	.255	730	85	186	21	57	209	17	16
Hyannis	.254	649	64	165	3	67	134	13	10
Harwich	.240	671	80	161	8	63	155	34	19
Chatham	.223	664	75	148	9	82	178	34	10
Brewster	.218	669	86	146	8	90	139	16	15
Wareham	.218	656	86	143	7	80	151	40	8
Orleans	.213	662	69	141	8	75	183	21	12
Yarmouth-Dennis	.210	686	86	144	11	79	134	25	10
Bourne	.197	539	53	106	4	58	149	20	10

ADDITIONAL BATTING LEADERS

HITS

Donaldson, Josh	HAR	26					
Manging, Matt	HYA	25					
Macias, David	HYA	24					
Posey, Buster	YRD	24					
Several Players Tied At		22					

DOUBLES

Donaldson, Josh	HAR	8					
Russell, Kyle	COT	7					
Wilson, Steffan	WAR	7					
Several Players Tied at		6					

TRIPLES

Espinosa, Danny	CHA	2					
Rea, Jeffrey	COT	2					
Several Players Tied at		1					

SLUGGING PERCENTAGE

Smoak, Justin	COT	.610					
Wallace, Brett	FAL	.561					
Donaldson, Josh	HAR	.526					
McFadden, Warren	FAL	.506					
LaPorta, Matthew	BRW	.489					

West Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 11

Catching a Break

HYANNIS, Mass. - The Hyannis Mets may not be Cape League champions...

yet, but they have already accomplished one major goal they set out for this season. In the fourth week of play, the 2006 Mets have broken their predecessor's total win record for the entire season of 2005. Last year, Hyannis went 7-36-1 with the most losses in Cape League history, but clearly this year's team has proved they have what it takes to win it all.

To date, Hyannis is third in the Eastern Division and gaining ground. The Mets' 3-2 win over Wareham on July 7 marked their eighth win of the season. Although starting pitcher Austin Wood (Texas) allowed two runs in the first inning, the Mets would regroup and come back in the third. The Gatemen's two scoring opportunities came from Bradley Suttle's (Texas) double which drove home both Ryan Gotcher (Arkansas-Little Rock) and Dominic de la Osa (Vanderbilt). In the bottom of the third, a David Macias (Vanderbilt) single to right field drove Ramon Corona (NC State) to put the Mets on the board. Good fielding and pitching by both ball clubs accounted for the scoreless fourth and fifth innings. However, Ryan Flaherty's (Vanderbilt) single to short drove in another Ramon Corona (NC State) run to tie the score.

Gary Lee (South Carolina-Aiken) replaced Austin Wood (Texas) in the fifth and shut down Wareham's scoring. The winning run for the Mets came from a Matt Mangini (Oklahoma) single to right field that drove Macias home. Adam Reifer (UC Riverside) closed the game as the Mets took their eighth (and most meaningful) victory of the season.

The Mets' success this summer has truly been a team effort. Last year's pitchers, Charlie Furbush (St. Joseph's-Maine) and Daniel Latham (Tulane) have shown coaches and fans alike how much they have improved from last year's stint with the Mets. Latham is a CCBL pitching leader with four saves. His counterpart Furbush had the best game of his Cape League career against Cotuit, pitching 8 1/3 innings for a Hyannis victory of 6-1 on July 4. In addition, the team batting average is second in the entire league at .255 (Cotuit holds first place

with .279). Talented hitters in Week Four include Macias and Jackson Williams (Oklahoma).

The Mets look to continue their winning streak on Sunday at home against the Bourne Braves.

*By Courtney Reilly, CCBL Intern
reilly@capecodbaseball.org*

Braves Turn To Bullpen To Find Strength

BOURNE, Mass. - With the final team rosters being assigned for July 5, the Bourne Braves are looking to their new, "refined" bullpen to provide a boost of confidence to the general aura of the team.

After a disappointing loss to the Y-D Red Sox on Saturday, the Braves headed back home to host the Hyannis Mets. Tom Farmer (Akron) came back from a frustrating loss to complement the recently hot bats of the Braves with a victory. With an eventual no-decision awarded to the pitcher, the team showed offensive promise by posting four runs on three hits in the bottom of the sixth. The fans were able to see new arrival Bobby Bell (Rice) pitch for the first time this season at their home field. Together Bell and Ben Hunter (Wake Forest) held the Mets scoreless over the last two innings, giving up only one hit and striking out three. With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Brian Leclerc (Florida) singled to center and immediately moved into scoring position by stealing second, his tenth of the season. Brett Bartles (Duke) followed with an RBI single, tying the game at 7-7. The nightfall secured the Braves their first tie of the season.

The bats continued for the Braves the following night, when they traveled over the bridge to Spillane Field at Wareham. The Braves were able to score seven runs over eight innings against Wareham pitching. Bourne starter Eammon Portice (Highpoint College) pitched outstanding over the course of 7 1/3 innings until relieved after putting two on in the eighth. Braves relief gave up six runs in the bottom half of the eighth, eventually leaving the game to be decided in extra innings. The Braves were unable to produce anything offensively in the extras and failed to close out the game in the 11th with two outs, giving up a game-winning RBI single.

Following a disappointing loss, the Braves were eager

to get back on the field again to face the Gatemen. Using the Fourth of July weekend as a promotional venture, the Braves officially opened the new field by acknowledging everyone that was involved in completing the process. Swinging the bats early, the Braves posted five runs in the first two innings and held the Gatemen scoreless until the fifth. Braves starter Kyle Walker (Texas) held the Gatemen to three hits and one unearned run over the course of six innings. Brett Bartles (Duke) and Mitch Mooreland (Mississippi State) led the Braves offensively posting individual multi-hit games. Relief pitching combined to hold the Gatemen to only two hits over the last three innings, led by Chris Salberg (Florida Atlantic).

The Braves were scheduled to make up a game this weekend, but unfortunately were called again due to the disappointing weather. With a total of seven rain outs, the Braves are looking for some much needed help over the next few weeks in order to complete the necessary games.

With two days' rest, the Braves traveled to Brewster to take on the Whitecaps at their new field. Coming off a strong win over first-place Wareham, the Braves were looking to continue their success in the Eastern Division. Making his first start of the season, Bell was no less than stellar in his performance, throwing six innings and allowing only two hits in the shutout victory.

"Bell pitched a brilliant performance and has shown tremendous success since coming to the Cape," commented Braves GM Mike Carrier. Recently transferred to the bullpen, Mickey Storey (Florida Atlantic) has shown his dependability in the late innings, throwing two innings while striking out four. Andrew Carignan (UNC) came in the ninth to close out the 2-0 victory for the Braves. David Cash (Florida) led the Braves with two more hits of his own, putting him on top of the list in batting this year. Carrier added, "Being able to hold a 2-0 lead with the relief coming in for three innings develops confidence amongst the team."

The Braves bullpen has been much improved with the recent additions of Andrew Carignan and Mickey Storey. The team is showing tremendous potential after losing a total of four games this year in the eighth inning and later.

*By Daniel Scalia, CCBL Intern
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A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League

East Division Roundup



Orleans Goes Streaking
ORLEANS, Mass. - The world of streaking has been a constant in the world of sports over the past couple of weeks. The Minnesota Twins and Boston recently embarked on winning streaks of 11 and 12 games, respectively, while Maria Sharapova encountered an actual streaker during her quarterfinals match at Wimbledon during the week. The Orleans Cardinals did their own streaking during the past week, and to the joy of their fans, it involved winning.

The pitching staff helped to stretch the streak to three with a 7-0 win over Wareham on Saturday night and a 2-1 win over Harwich on Sunday night. Ty Davis (Vanderbilt) pitched six innings of shutout ball against the Gateman and had a season-high 10 strikeouts. Kody Kaiser (Oklahoma) and Danny Valencia (Miami) provided the offense with a home run and three RBIs each. Ryan Pond (NC State) matched his teammate's great outing with his own effective pitching performance. Pond gave up one run in seven innings of work to get the win in Orleans' 2-1 victory over the Harwich Mariners.

The Fourth of July holiday provided back-to-back games with Orleans' chief rival, the Chatham A's. In Monday night's win against Chatham, Matt Wieters (Georgia Tech) came within a triple of completing the cycle. His mammoth three-run homer in the bottom of the fourth propelled the Cardinals to a 6-5 win. The homer rang off of the band-dome situated in right-center field of Eldredge Park. On the Fourth, Orleans traveled to Chatham to play in front of a packed house at Veterans Field. Chatham's Robert Woodard (North Carolina) kept the Orleans offense in check by pitching a perfect game into the sixth inning. Luckily for Orleans, Clayton Shunick (Georgia State) also pitched a no-hitter into the sixth inning for Orleans. Mark Hallberg (Chicago-Illinois) broke up Woodard's no-hitter with a bunt single in the top of the sixth. The bunt broke the momentum of Woodard, who ended up giving up two runs and failed to get out of the inning. The two runs were more than enough for Shunick, who gave up his no-hitter in the sixth but stayed focus and almost completed the game with a shutout. However, Coach Nicholson

took out his starter with one out in the ninth and let Brock Baber (Kentucky) get the save. The 2-0 victor gave the Cardinals their third win in as many games against the Chatham A's.

The streak was now pushed to five games but their momentum came to a screeching stop with a rain delay on Wednesday. After a 7-3 loss against Brewster, the Cardinals traveled to Lowell Park to face the Cotuit Kettleers, a team featuring both of last week's Coca-Cola Players of the Week. Pitcher Jay Brown (Young Harris) and first baseman Justin Smoak (South Carolina) showed why they earned those honors. Smoak hit a two-run bomb in the bottom of the fifth and Jay Brown pitched eight innings of scoreless baseball to lead the Kettleers to a 5-0 win.

Orleans ended the week in first place of the Eastern Division. On July 8, they will host the Harwich Mariners and will attempt to go on another winning streak.

By Jonathan French, CCBL Intern french@capecodbaseball.org

Things are Busy in Brewster
BREWSTER, Mass. - The Whitecaps' homecoming celebration was a great success, including a win against the Y-D Red Sox. Their record has improved, moving them to second in the division, and their hitting has been outshining their pitching.

Stony Brook Field was filled with almost 2,000 people on Sunday, but the one man that stood out in the crowd was Chester Robinson, the project manager for the field. He was presented with the picnic park being named in his honor. Chester said, "I feel elated!"

"Seeing this happen is my accolade."

The success of the field and the day was also touched upon by general manager Ned Monthie when he spoke on the behalf of the entire Whitecaps organization by saying, "We have waited a long time and it really came through ... this was a great day all the way around." The Whitecaps brought in almost \$2,000 at the gate and the fans practically covered every inch of grass around the park.

Sunday was topped off with a big win against the Y-D Red Sox. Southpaw Ryan Turner (Georgia Tech) got the win in his second outing for the Whitecaps. His man behind

the plate, catcher Ryan Babi-neau (UCLA), hit a two-RBI single that eventually would be the only runs needed to shut out the Red Sox.

The Whitecaps have been somewhat lucky to win games purely with good pitching, but as they found out Monday with a loss to Harwich, pitching doesn't do it all. The Whitecaps answered back on Independence Day by putting up 13 runs. Designated hitter David Cooper (CS Fullerton) started things off with four RBIs from a grand slam in the first inning. Teammate Jared Clark (CS Fullerton) added to the runs by hitting his first home run of the season. And Matt LaPorta (Florida) has continued to be an offensive threat by adding runs to the board; he has 10 RBIs on the season.

The week rounded off with another packed house at Stony Brook Field on Friday. Former Whitecaps President Gene L'Etoile, the innovator of the field, was honored by throwing out the first pitch. Unfortunately, the Whitecaps did not walk away with the win this time; they were shut out 2-0 by the Bourne Braves. The Whitecaps will face another Western Division team when they head to Spillane Field in Wareham on Monday.

By Johnna DeChristoforo, CCBL Intern dechristoforo@capecodbaseball.org

Veterans Return to Y-D
SOUTH YARMOUTH, Mass. - With a year of experience with the Cape

League and two successful college seasons under their belts, Danny Lehmann (Rice) and Bryan Henry (Florida State) return to the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox this summer ready to compete. In their fourth week of play, the Sox are in fourth place in the Eastern Division. But with the help of Lehmann and his Rice teammate Evan Crawford, who are coming to the Sox fresh from finishing third in the college championship, things are looking up.

Lehmann recalls his summer last year with Y-D as one of the best summers of his life, saying, "Not only did I improve on what I set out to, but I also played in the all-star game which was an incredible and humbling experience." As far as his personal goal for this year, he hopes

Continued on Next Page

CAPE COD LEAGUE LEADERS

(Through Games Of 7/10/06)

PITCHING TOP 10 (MINIMUM 6 IP)

PITCHER	CLUB	W-L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	2-0	0.00	23	14	14	19
Brown, Jay	COT	3-0	0.00	20	10	4	16
Hargrove, Ricky	CHA	1-0	0.36	25	9	9	15
*Cecil, Brett	OLN	1-0	0.54	17	7	7	20
Davis, Ty	OLN	2-1	0.78	23	12	10	24
*Watson, Tony	HAR	3-0	0.90	20	9	4	20
Shunick, Clayton	OLN	3-1	1.08	25	14	5	11
Kopp, David	FAL	1-1	1.10	16	15	3	8
*Bleich, Jeremy	WAR	1-1	1.23	22	15	5	19
Simmons, James	COT	2-0	1.35	20	14	1	17

WINS

Brown, Jay	COT	3	Watson, Tony	HAR	3
Shunick, Clayton	OLN	3	Several Players Tied At		2

SAVES

Demel, Sam	FAL	5					
Cecil, Brett	OLN	5					
Fields, Joshua	YRD	5					

STRIKEOUTS

Hunt, Shooter	FAL	32					
DeVries, Cole	BRW	28					
Robertson, David	YRD	26					
Merklinger, Dan	HAR	25					
Several Players Tied At		24					

TEAM	W-L	ERA	H	CG	SHO	SV	HR	BB	SO
Cotuit	13-6	1.92	126	0	6	4	7	47	126
Chatham	7-12	2.49	132	1	1	4	6	64	145
Orleans	13-8	2.78	145	0	3	6	9	86	145
Wareham	11-9	2.81	166	0	0	5	5	63	154
Harwich	9-11	3.09	132	1	2	4	8	76	181
Hyannis	9-9	3.19	161	0	1	6	11	79	147
Falmouth	10-10	3.29	153	0	3	6	12	76	179
Yarmouth-Dennis	10-11	3.52	168	1	3	8	12	93	190
Brewster	11-9	3.81	185	0	1	6	11	86	154
Bourne	4-12	4.32	140	1	2	2	6	65	138

ADDITIONAL PITCHING LEADERS

GAMES

Demel, Sam	FAL	11	Cassavechia, Nicki	WAR	11
Lee, Gary	HYA	10	Several Players Tied At		9

COMPLETE GAMES

Moreau, Nathan	CHA	1	Dorn, Johnny	HAR	1
Hume, Donnie	YRD	1	Several Players Tied At		0

SHUTOUTS

Hume, Donnie	YRD	1					
Several Players Tied At		0					

INNINGS PITCHED

Sirois, Rich	CHA	27.1					
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	27.0					
Several Players Tied At		25.0					

LOSSES

Gardner, Matt	BOU	3					
Niesen, Eric	CHA	3					
Brant, Robert	HAR	3					
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	3					
Coulon, David	OLN	3					

WALKS

Daly, Matt	HYA	15	Robertson, David	YRD	13
Seibert, Shaun	BRW	14	Several Players Tied At		12
Surkamp, Eric	OLN	13			

HOME RUNS ALLOWED

Dobrowiecki, Kris	FAL	6	DeVries, Cole	BRW	4
Dorn, Johnny	HAR	4	Several Players Tied At		3



A weekly roundup of reports from around the Cape Cod Baseball League

East Division Roundup Continued...

Continued from Page 13

to work more on his offensive game, noting that every pitcher in the Cape League is an ace for their school, which makes competition harder but also leaves room for improving his batting skills. Lehmann believes this year's team, despite its position in the standings right now, has a shot at winning the title. "We have great pitching, a strong lineup, and good defense. I definitely think we have the talent to take it all." Some of that talent includes Bryan Henry (Florida State), another veteran for Y-D. Henry looks forward to working on his game this summer, noting that at times it can be difficult for a pitcher as "batters 1-9 for every team are extraordinary talented here." This summer, Henry looks to improve on his speed first and foremost then concentrate on other aspects of his pitching. He feels the league offers to him not only the opportunity to improve his baseball skills, but also to make lasting friendships during his time here. "I still talk to a lot of the guys from last year's team, and this year the guys are great too. I've made some of the best friends of my life here. I see some of these guys when we [Florida State] plays them and it's just a fun experience."

Lehmann and Henry hope to help their teammates adjust to the Cape League both personally and athletically this season. Although the Sox came up short to the Falmouth Commodores, losing 5-3 on Friday, that doesn't imply that they couldn't get the job done - simply that they couldn't respond enough when time called for it. Bryan Henry (Florida State) struggled in the second, allowing two runs by Commodores Brett Wallace (ASU) and Warren McFadden (Tulane). However, the Sox would answer back in the same inning to tie the game. Lehmann advanced to third as Steve Strausbaugh (Western Carolina) took first on a fielder's choice (Mike Bianucci of Auburn was called out). A throwing error by Falmouth pitcher Kris Dobrowiecki (Northeastern) allowed Lehmann to score Y-D's first run. A Luke Sommer (San Francisco) single to left field allowed Strausbaugh to tie the game.

Scoring action would come again in the sixth in the same form as the first. Brian Wallace (ASU) advanced to home, this time on a Taylor Harbin (Clemson) single to left field. The Sox were quick

to answer back in the seventh as Brad Emaus (Tulane) singled off his teammate and Falmouth relief pitcher Brandon Gomes (Tulane) as Luke Sommer (San Francisco) scored. Unfortunately, the Sox were unable to capitalize on any more scoring opportunities and allowed Falmouth two runs in the eighth to lose the game 5-3.

The Red Sox will be back at it Sunday at 5 p.m., hosting the Orleans Cardinals.

By Courtney Reilly,
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There's No Lone Star on This Team



HARWICH, Mass. - A team can be packed with talented players, but if they don't play well

together, then they don't win ballgames. Well, fortunately for the Mariners, that saying does not apply. Everything seems to be coming together smoothly for Harwich, and the proof is in the recent record.

It is so difficult to separate the talent on this team. Each of the now-permanent players have a major role in the outcome of every game. The entire coaching staff is very excited about the recent addition of players. General manager John Reid said, "it's a whole different team with the addition of these players ... we are happy with the team as a whole."

As usual, Mariners' pitching has been outstanding. Let us give praise to the widely talked about southpaw Tony Watson (Nebraska), who has already posted a 3-0 record, an amazing 0.90 ERA, and 20 strikeouts in the same amount of innings.

How about returning Mariner Dan McDonald (Seton Hall), who has appeared in seven games with three saves and has a 0.00 ERA, and with the Mariners' history of closers, McDonald has a lot to live up to. Reid talked about the Mariners luck with closers, namely Craig Hansen and Tim Lincecum, and "hopes Dan can follow the same path."

After that it doesn't seem like it could get any better, but it does. Welcome to Harwich, Damon Sublett (Wichita State). A recent addition from the Team USA tryouts, Sublett has made quite an impact on the Mariners. He is a good second baseman, he is solid at the plate, and he can throw a mean 92 mile-per-

hour fastball. Sublett had his first appearance as a relief pitcher in the Monday game against Brewster. A lot of people were surprised to see the second baseman walk over to the mound, but what people were more surprised by was his ability to strike out three of the four batters in the bottom of the ninth inning to end the game.

There is no doubt these pitchers have been great but the support they have received has become more and more of a hot topic. The support is not just from hits; the Mariners have speed and have capitalize on a lot of slip-ups made by opposing teams while making sure they keep theirs to a minimum. Make no mistake, though, the hits have been coming.

The entire lineup is consistently hitting well and putting up runs in a real team effort. However, Thursday night turned into the Eric Fryer (Ohio State) Show. Fryer hit a three-run blast (his first of the season) over the left field fence in Falmouth during the fourth inning and a two-run homer in the seventh inning, helping the Mariners to the 11-6 win.

Friday night was again a combination of good baseball played by all, but it was McDonald who got the job done by holding the Chatham A's through two scoreless innings, while Josh Donaldson (Auburn) banged out a two-run homer in the 11th to get the Mariners the win.

The Harwich Mariners are now on a four-game winning streak, and with their pitching and surge of offensive support, the Mariners are closing in on the gap in the standings and just might settle into first place if they keep this up.

By Johnna DeChristoforo,
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Chatham Welcomes Back Woodard



CHATHAM, Mass. - In the world of Cape Cod Baseball, anyone with over a year of league

experiences qualifies for veteran status. Robert Woodard (North Carolina) can now be considered a serious veteran due to his rookie season with Chatham in the summer of 2004. Woodard brings leadership and stability to a team that is currently struggling. General Manager Charlie Thoms commented, "We are delighted to have (Woodard) back for another year."



SPORTSPIX PHOTO BY BILL VAUGHAN

Mariner Brandon Menchaca gets back to first in a hurry as the Cardinals' Joe Mahoney awaits a pick-off attempt. The Cards remain atop the East division and are hoping to repeat as CCBL Champs.

Woodard's debut came in a crucial game against Orleans on the Fourth of July. Chatham lost to Orleans the previous night placed added pressure on Woodard's debut, but the veteran would not disappoint. The large crowd at Veterans Field saw a magnificent pitching performance to start off the night. Both pitchers, Woodard and Clayton Shunick (Georgia State), carried no-hitters into the sixth inning, and Woodard had an actual perfect game. Working from his rapid windup, Woodard baffled the Orleans hitters and retired the first 15 batters he faced. Woodard's momentum ended on a Mark Hallberg (Chicago-Illinois) leadoff bunt single. A series of singles and walks lead to two runs, and Woodard eventually came out with two outs in the sixth inning to the sound of a large ovation.

Shunick came into the sixth with his own no-hitter, but his bid was disrupted by an Aaron Reza (Oklahoma) single. Misfortune followed for the A's when Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest) smoked a line drive to the right-field gap. The hit would have certainly scored Reza from first, but the ball disappeared under the fence and was ruled a ground-rule double. The A's ended up stranding both runners and lost the game 2-0. The Cardinals continue to be a thorn in the side of Coach Schiffner's Chatham A's. Over the past two seasons, the A's have lost a combined nine games to their rivals from the north.

Heartbreak followed for the A's when they traveled to

Wareham to face the Gatemen on July 6. Chatham took a 3-2 lead against the west division leading Gatemen heading into the ninth. The Gatemen then rallied with two outs and eventually won the game in bottom of the 12th. John Lalor (Mississippi State) pitched four innings of gutsy relief to get the win. The frustration continued on Friday night when they again went to extra innings against the Harwich Mariners. Josh Donaldson (Auburn) hit a dramatic two-run homer in the top of the 11th to give the Mariners a victory.

Chatham currently sits in last place of the Eastern Division but still has a shot at the playoffs. The team has the talent to get back on track and continues to get great individual performances out of Matt Rizotti (Manhattan) and Reza. Rizotti leads the league with 18 RB's while Reza's .378 batting average places him at the top of the league in hitting.

The Cape League uses a point system for their standings that rewards wins with two points and ties with one point. Chatham currently has 15 points, but has played only 17 games compared to 19 games for most teams in the league, giving Chatham an advantage down the stretch. The A's will play a special doubleheader on Sunday, July 9 against the Falmouth Commodores. The games will be played at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Veterans Field.

By Jonathan French,
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