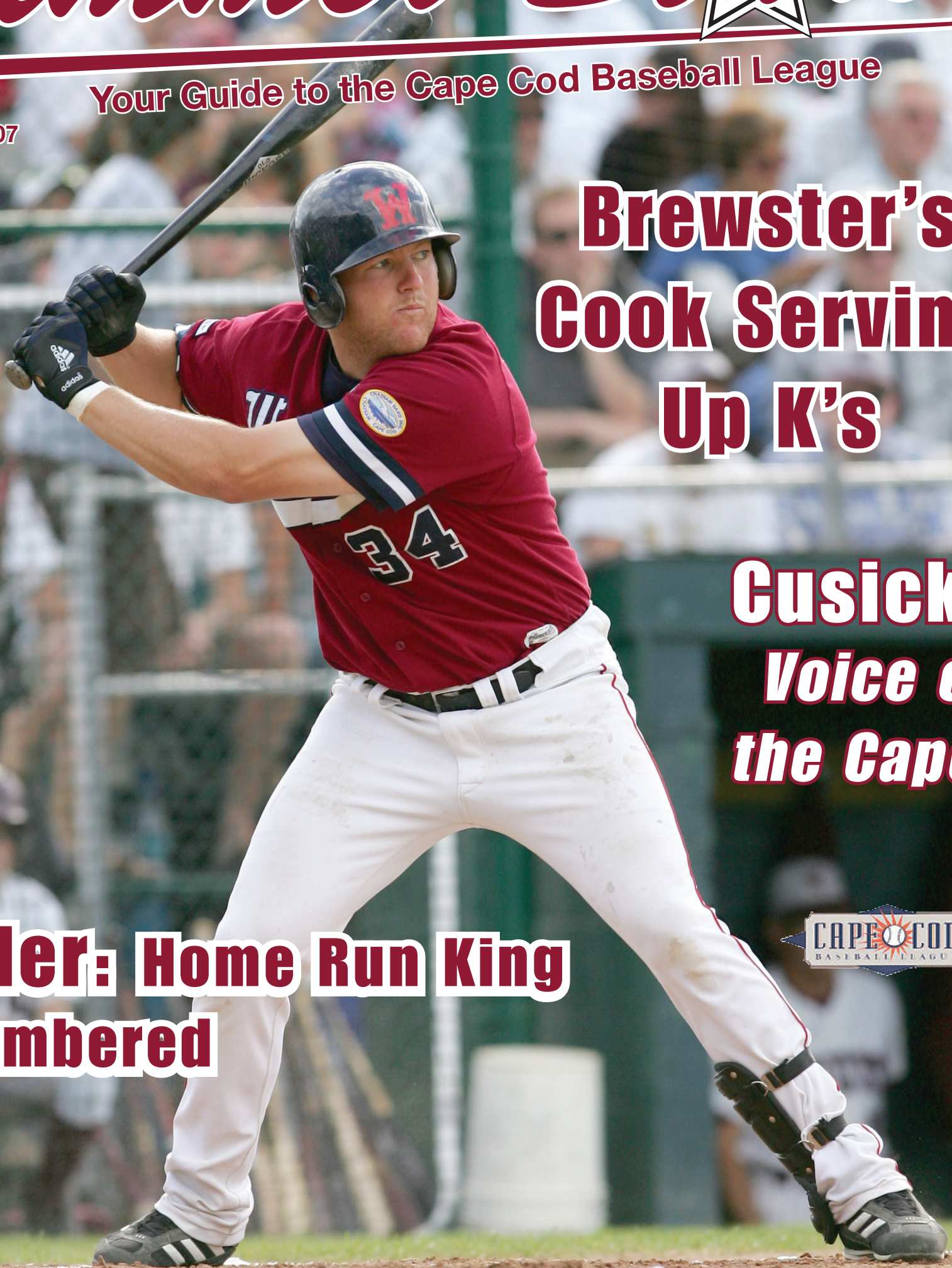


The Enterprise's

# Summer Stars

Your Guide to the Cape Cod Baseball League

Vol. 2, #3  
June 28, 2007



**Brewster's  
Cook Serving  
Up K's**

**Cusick:  
*Voice of  
the Cape***

**Snyder: Home Run King  
Remembered**



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# Y-D Off To A Fast Start

At 6-2 Yarmouth-Dennis is off to the hottest start in the Cape League. The Red Sox are stacked with talent; from at pitching staff led by second-year starter, and last year's co-Pitcher Of The Year in the Cape League, Terry Doyle (Boston College), to the league's leading hitter, Gordon Beckham (Georgia). Y-D Coach Scott Pickler has certainly done his homework, and it seems that once again the defending Cape League champion Red Sox might be the team to beat.

But will the road to the 2007 championship run through Red Wilson Field as it did last summer? If everyone stays healthy Y-D has a good chance to repeat. But to do so once again they will have to face down some very talented teams.

In their corner the Red Sox have players like second baseman Joey Railey (U of San Francisco) leading off. Railey puts the ball in play and, not surprisingly, can run. He leads the team in runs scored. Sean Ochinko (LSU) is a tenacious catcher/first baseman who is hitting over .300 and Collin Cowgill (Kentucky) owns centerfield. There are few balls hit into his zip code that the speedy Cowgill doesn't track down.

In right field the Red Sox have more speed and athleticism with Johnny Ayers (Boston College). Ayers shocked New England and Boston Red Sox fans across the country when he was the first to get a hit off Boston's newest pitching acquisition Daisuke Matsuzaka in spring training. His brief moment of fame behind him, Ayers has settled into a groove with Y-D and is playing solid baseball.

Fans of Coastal Carolina University know Bobby Gagg and soon, if they don't already, Cape League fans and Major League Baseball scouts will be watching the sophomore right-hander more closely. Gagg has been almost untouchable, allowing just four hits over 11 innings.

And how about pitchers Steve Dodson (Georgia) and Scott Green (Kentucky), who have respective ERA's of 2.19 and 0.90? These guys can pitch.

So will Y-D repeat? There are nine other clubs in the league that say 'no.' We'll just have to watch.

*Dan Crowley, Editor*



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

A taste of Cape Cod.



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Luke Murton is enjoying playing in the Cape League

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**Meet The President**  
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## Summer Star



After two starts, and 11 innings pitched, Orleans Cardinals right-handed pitcher Brad Boxberger has some of the top hitters in college baseball shaking their heads. While he doesn't have a win to show for his work, Boxberger has been outstanding on the mound. He has faced 41 batters thus far, allowing only five hits and no runs. His ERA stands at a perfect 0.00.

A freshman out of the University of Southern California, he went 3-5 with an ERA of 3.20 this spring for the Trojans. In 14 starts, and 90 innings of work, he gave up 78 hits, 32 earned runs, struck out 72 and walked 34. This year he earned Rivals.com All-America second team honors.

A Pac-10 Pitcher of the Week for USC, he was born in 1988, the same year that current and former major league players Jeff Bagwell (Chatham), Jeromy Burnitz (Hyannis), Mo Vaughn (Wareham), Jeff Kent (Cotuit), Mike Myers (Brewster), Tim Salmon (Cotuit), J.T. Snow (Orleans), Dan Wilson (Cotuit) and Frank Thomas (Orleans) among others played on the Cape.

His father Rod Boxberger (12-1) pitched for the USC 1978 national championship team that went 54-9 and was named the MVP of the College World Series.



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*Look for this issue online @ [www.capenews.net](http://www.capenews.net)*

**On The Cover: Luke Murton of the Wareham Gatemen. Photo by Don Parkinson.**

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# Life's Still Good For Luke Murton

BY RICH MACLONE

Life was good for Luke Murton as a freshman at Georgia Tech. The big first baseman/outfielder for the Ramblin' Wreck was a one-man wrecking crew for his college team, hitting .339 for the year with some big power numbers, smacking six homers and 44 runs batted in.

That summer he came to Cape Cod to play in the country's premier summer baseball league and again Murton put up some quality numbers. While his .234 batting average for the summer was not by any means earth shattering, it was a point of pride after a tough start to the season, which saw him go hitless over his first 23 at-bats.

Murton, the younger brother of the Chicago Cubs' Matt Murton, who also played for the Wareham Gatemen, was riding high as he got ready for year No. 2 with the Yellow Jackets. The sweet-swinging right-handed hitter had experienced a great deal of success, and expected more of the same.

He didn't get it, though. Things went the other way for Murton as a sophomore. As good as things were his freshman year, they were the exact opposite. The Georgia native struggled mightily and doesn't know why. Each trip to the batter's box lacked confidence for Murton, and it just got worse.

Expectations could not have been higher. Murton said that his coaching staff at GT believed he could hit near .400 for the spring season, crack 20 homers and drive in a plethora of runs.

Instead his batting average dipped 100 points and his power numbers fell as well. He hit just .239, although he did hit nine homers with 14 doubles.

With that type of history, one might expect Murton to be a ball of nerves, strangling the bat at the plate and ready to do the same to those around him. The truth, though, is far from that.

After drilling a ball out to right field in batting practice, and lining one through the box in his final cut, Murton runs out to the field and dances around the infield as his teammates finish up their swings. He dares them to take aim at his linebacker-like frame and smiles all the way back to the dugout.

With the struggles he's had, one might think he doesn't have much to be smiling about. Luke Murton, though, would beg to differ.

"You've got to (have fun). You're playing a game that you love, so you've got to have as much fun as you can. Usually when you're having fun, success is happening, so you want to keep it light-hearted and keep things in perspective.

Murton said that his struggles began at the start of the season and then manifested into something big. No matter what he tried, how he tinkered with his swing, the results were not what he was used to, and he admitted it was frustrating.

"I just got into a rut and it was hard for me to get out of it. There was no consistency all year, I just couldn't stay consistent. I tried some



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

First baseman Luke Murton of the Wareham Gatemen

different things at the beginning, but I just didn't feel myself. It's just a matter of getting back into my own comfort zone and hopefully playing the way I think I can play."

Hitting is a lot like the stock market, past profits do not guarantee future earnings. That's why Murton is going about things the old fashioned way in his quest to regain his stroke at the plate.

"I have confidence in myself and in my ability to play the game. I think I have the ability to be a really good player. But it's a matter of confidence breeds success and success breeds confidence. What comes first, the chicken or the egg? It's the kind of thing you have to work through, come here every day and work hard in BP and know what you want to do at the plate and accomplish that."

The good thing about downward trends is that they are usually followed by upward ones. Murton, who is still fighting things at the plate right now early on in the Cape League season (1-for-19 through six games), said that when the going is rough, it seems like the count is 0-2 when he steps to the plate. However, when times are good, they're really good, and those are the times he lives for as a baseball player.

"Sometimes you'll go up to the plate and be sitting in the

on-deck circle and think, I'm going to get out here, you tell yourself that. And then there's other times when you're in the batter's box and you think, I'm probably going to hit a double here. Sometimes, when you start struggling, the game starts moving a little faster and the balls a little smaller and a little faster and it's just a matter of slowing everything down and getting comfortable," he said. "I love being up there on a day when a guy's throwing 90-miles per hour, with good stuff, and you're like 'you know what, it doesn't really matter what he's going to throw me because I believe what I can do and I'm going to do it.' Those are the better days when you're up at the plate. That's what you practice and what you play for, those

days."

In Murton's younger days, he spent a lot of time watching his big brother play baseball. When Luke was in junior high school, Matt was tearing things up at Eagle's Landing High. When Luke was tearing it up at Eagle's Landing, Matt had moved onto Georgia Tech, where he was a star. The elder Murton brother would then spend some time playing for the Wareham Gatemen. Like Matt, Luke did both of those things as well. He decided upon GT for college, and this is his second summer just over the Bourne Bridge in Wareham.

While some might believe that there is a lot of pressure to be the younger brother continually following in his older brother's footsteps,

Continued on Next Page



DAN CROWLEY/ENTERPRISE

Luke Murton wears #34 for the Gatemen and at Georgia Tech

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# T.J. is Bourne's Man of "Steele"

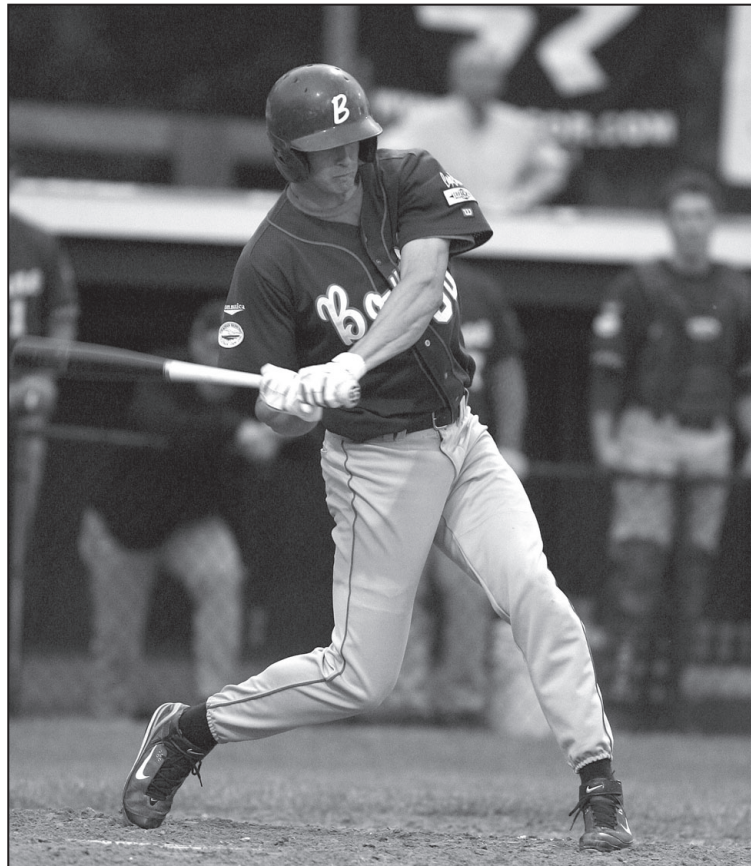
BY DARIN WEEKS

"That's legit".  
If you happen to hear those words coming out of the mouth of Bourne Braves' outfielder T.J. Steele, it is to be understood that he is offering his highest praise. Since arriving in Bourne a week ago, the University of Arizona Wildcat has shown that not even Kryptonite could slow down a man who has hit .421 and dominated Cape League pitching through the first six games of this summer.

The son of Tommy Steele, a former member of the NFL's Houston Oilers, T.J. grew up in an environment where the necessary ingredients of hard work and determination were ingrained in the heart of the already physically gifted athlete. Though he was the son of a professional athlete, young T.J. never felt the pressure to succeed in sports coming from either of his parents.

"(Growing up the son of a professional athlete), I don't think that there was any kind of pressure," Steele said. "What it did was teach me a really good work ethic."

Like most players in the Cape League, success has followed Steele throughout his athletic life. During his days at Canyon Del Oro High School in Arizona, Steele picked up three varsity baseball letters and earned second team All-State in a part of the country where outstanding ballplayers are as common as sunburns. When he completed his high school career, he found



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Bourne's T.J. Steele (Arizona) is off to a hot start at the plate.

himself ranked as the 29th best high school outfielder in the country by Team One Baseball.

Ironically, when draft day came, it would be another Houston team, this time the Astros, who called looking to employ another member of the Steele family, this time T.J. Despite overtures from the Astros, and other collegiate programs, he would fulfill his lifelong dream of wearing the cardinal red and navy blue of his hometown University of Arizona. Not surprising, the success he achieved in high school fol-

lowed him to college.

"Arizona was my hometown team, I've lived there my whole life," explained Steele on his decision to join the Wildcats. "I got recruited by New Mexico and Gonzaga, but it was always been my dream to play for the University of Arizona."

After a freshman campaign that saw Steele hit a Pac-10 Conference-best .418 in conference games, he hit .323 with seven home runs and 47 RBI in 57 games at Arizona during his sophomore campaign, helping to lead the Cats to a 42-17 record before falling to Wichita State in the NCAA Regional.

With his season at school over, the next hurdle for Steele to attack was the Cape League. So far he's been impressed, especially with his Manager Harvey Shapiro.

"(Shapiro) is a great coach who makes all the right

Continued on Next Page

## Life's Still Good

Continued from Page 3  
Luke insists that is not the case.

Luke hopes that one day, he can follow his brother's footsteps once again, into the Major Leagues.

"I know nothing else, so it's cool. I saw him play in high school, and went to the same high school. I saw him play in college, and ended up going to the same college, so it was pretty cool to get to see him and be around him ... growing up with someone that that plays in the big leagues you just realize that everyone puts their pants on the same way."

The chance to play big league baseball has already been offered to the recently-turned 21-year old. Murton was a draft-eligible sophomore at Georgia Tech and was selected in round No. 40 of the draft by the New York Yankees. The Yanks told Murton that they would monitor his progress over the summer before making an offer to him. If that offer comes later this summer it will be decision time for the youngest child of Bill and Sue Murton, who also have a 23-year old daughter, Sarah.

Murton believes that, most likely, another college season is in his future, but he would not rule out going pro after the Cape League finishes up. "You can make a lot of money up here in the Cape Cod League, and I feel like if I play up to my potential, like I think I can play, (depending on what) the offer is, I might take it. But, if I feel like there's a lot left for me to prove then I'll go back for my junior year."

Where his baseball odyssey eventually takes Luke Murton will be decided down the line. He also acknowledges that when all is said and done, there is a chance that baseball

might not be his ultimate profession. There are no guarantees in pro sports, even for the brother of a big leaguer.

"I love the game, and I feel like I'm just blessed to play the game, but if it's not what I'm supposed to do with my life, then I'm fine with that," he said. "Right now, I feel like this is where I'm supposed to be and this is what I'm supposed to be doing. If (pro baseball) is what happens in a year or two, that's great, but if not, there's something else out there."

"It's a dream, something I'd love to do, and it would be awesome (playing pro ball). You never know what can happen ... you have live day by day."

If baseball doesn't work out, Murton has given thought to other ventures. While his major at school is management, that's not what he sees himself pursuing. "If I didn't play baseball, I think I'd really like to do something with the ministry ... my two passions right now are that and baseball."

And that other passion is what helps drive him to succeed on the diamond. "If baseball was it for me, I'd be dying right now. Don't get me wrong, this spring was tough, and I'm working hard to get (back on track hitting). At the same time, you've got to keep things in perspective. Am I doing it for myself, or am I doing it for Christ? By realizing that it's not all about you, it helps put things in perspective."

So Murton's in an interesting position as he figures out which road he will travel.

"What do I want to do with my life? Do I want to do what I want to do or do I want to do what God wants me to do? You don't want the game to end. I love the game. When that pitcher's out there on the mound, I want to beat him as bad as he wants to beat me, and I'm going to work hard to do that. But, when it's all said and done, if my job's not to beat him every day, then it is what it is."

Whatever it ends up being, Luke Murton will be satisfied.

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## Warrior Code

# For Whitecap's Pitcher Ryan Cook It's All About Battling

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Brewster's Ryan Cook has pitched in two Cape League contests thus far this summer. In the first, Cook was spectacular, recording 11 strikeouts in six innings, only giving up one hit and zero earned runs. His fastball was live, sinking without a moments notice, and dancing in the Orleans night sky. Despite his strong outing, Brewster lost to the Cardinals, 1-0, on Opening Day.

In his second outing, Cook admits he didn't have his best stuff, but the six foot, two inch USC sophomore battled, recording four more strikeouts (At press time, Cook was one strikeout behind Harwich's Danny Farquhar for the league lead) over five and a third innings, giving up only four hits and three earned runs. Brewster defeated Wareham 8-7 on June 21.

Whitecaps skipper Bob Macaluso said that despite Cook's own admission that he didn't have his best stuff in his second start, which includes both a two and a four-seam fastball, a slider, a change-up, and a curveball, Cook fought hard, not giving up many hard hit baseballs, and even had improved velocity.

Thus far, Cook, who says that he hasn't lived up to his full potential in his first two seasons at USC, has shown signs of a breakthrough junior season at the Pac-10 baseball powerhouse, and has been one of the reasons that the Whitecap's starting pitching is the best in the league thus far this summer (Brewster leads the league in team pitching with a collective 2.22 ERA through eight contests).

Cook is a warrior and has shown that he can fight through his worst days and still give his team a chance to win. On his best days, he can be dominating.

"[Last night] I didn't have my best stuff so I had to battle," he said. "My first outing I had my best stuff so, it wasn't easy, but it was easier than last [time]."

Cook hails from Clovis, California, a small country town right outside of Fresno. At the age of three, he was given a bat and glove set from his father. As a kid, father and son were competitive, and would throw the ball back to each other harder and harder while

practicing drills, which is how Cook says he developed as a pitcher.

Cook adds that his friends growing up were always baseball players, so it was all he knew. Until it was time to get serious about baseball in college for the Trojans, Cook was a racecar driver, running sprint cars on oval dirt tracks.

Cook's freshman season for USC, he went 4-4 in 15 games, chalking up 31 strikeouts and a 5.97 ERA in 69 and a third innings pitched. He walked 34, giving up 49 runs (46 earned) on 93 hits. This season Cook improved, going 7-4, also in 15 games. He struck out 52 on his way to a 5.06 ERA in 90 and 2/3 and he walked 27 over the course of the season. Cook gave up 59 runs (51 earned) on 114 hits.

But better just isn't good enough for Cook. "I had an okay freshman year, I mean, it wasn't anything to be happy with," he says after jogging the warning track at the Stony Brook School Field, one day after his second Cape League start, a beard starting to grow in. "It wasn't anything to frown on ... And then I had a little bit better of a year this year."

Cook is a Californian, which is evident by his thick accent. He is relaxed and pleasant, laughing often while he speaks. When it comes to baseball however, he is all business. The smile fades and he instantly grows determined and focused.

He says that he isn't satisfied after finishing with a 5.06 ERA in 2007. "My ERA wasn't good," he said matter-of-factly. "It was matter in the beginning, but a couple of things got off in my mechanics in the second half of the year, and I was battling, getting back. I didn't really have my best stuff at all for the second half of the year."

Cook's coaches at USC got him involved with the Cape League this summer, something that Cook is grateful for, calling it "an unbelievable opportunity."

By coming to the Cape, Cook hopes that his fortunes turn and 2008 is his coming out party as one of the Pac-10's top pitchers. "I'm hoping that my junior year is my year," he said with an air of sincerity. He just hopes to be able to perform this summer for Coach Mac while still resting his arm after logging a lot of innings at SoCal this past season.



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Brewster's Ryan Cook (USC) has Cape hitters guessing.

Cook says that he is learning a lot from all of the talented players and knowledgeable coaches that are in the league. Brewster pitching coach Phil Davidson has already helped him stay over the rubber more when he pitches, and has instructed Cook not to jump out toward the plate.

Cook adds that he had one of the best experiences that he's ever had on the field during his second start when

two-year veteran Whitecap's catcher Ryan Babineau came out to the mound early in the contest (after a strikeout) to tell Cook that he was standing up and wasn't finishing his pitches.

"I was like, 'Wow,'" Cook said. "That just tells you the kind of baseball kids that are out here. The catcher at this level can already look and see what I'm doing wrong as he's trying to catch my

Continued on Next Page

## Man of "Steele"

Continued from Page 4

moves," said Steele. "He's got a very different style from (Arizona Manager) Andy Lopez, but Shapiro is always there to help you when you need it."

Despite his hot start, Steele judges himself not by his statistics, but by something instilled early in his life by his father, hard work and effort. Though many Cape Leaguers set goals such as a home run title or All-Star appearance, Steele's goals are less quantifiable when looking at a stat sheet.

"My goals this summer are to have fun and try my best," admits Steele. "I'm not a 'stat guy' and the way I see it, whatever happens in my career happens."

Although this "Man of Steele" wears a "B" on his cap rather than an "S" on his chest, Steele's impact to a Braves team that won just nine games a year ago to a team that is leading the Western Division is just as important. Needless to say, his effort so far this summer would be "legit" in anyone's book.

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Third baseman Kevin Hoef (Iowa) of the Bourne Braves leads the league in hitting with an average of .433 after the first eight games.

# It's All About Battling

Continued from Page 5 game. That goes for everybody here. The guys on this team are incredible baseball players, and it's easy to pitch when you got all that behind you."

Coach Macaluso says that Cook is an aggressive pitcher, and his fastball is his best pitch because of its movement; Cook agrees. The righty throws an 89-91 mph fastball that sinks and dances. He keeps hitters guessing by commanding both sides of the plate. Cook throws two seam fastballs to his arm side of the plate and four-seamers to his glove side. He jams right-handed hitters when the fastball sinks, coming right inside on the hands. He mixes in sliders and off-speed pitches as well to keep hitters off balance.

"He's doing very well for us," Coach Macaluso said. "He's tough to hit." Coach Mac applauded Cook for keeping his pitches out of the middle of the plate. "Both [of his fastballs] have a lot of movement. He's got good off-speed stuff; his slider's pretty good."

Coach Macaluso added that as the season progresses, Cook and the rest of the Brewster pitching staff will be expected to go deeper into games, perhaps even seven



MATT BURKE/ENTERPRISE

Ryan Cook has opened the summer season as one of the hottest pitchers on the Cape.

or eight innings. He added that Cook will have the opportunity to work with Davidson to improve on a daily basis, and he said that he will work with the pitchers personally on their approach and demeanor on the ballfield.

Coach Mac hopes that Ryan can help the team win ballgames this summer and hopefully propel the Whitecaps into the playoffs. "Ryan's key [to our success]," he said. "Hopefully he'll be our top starter [this summer]."

As for Cook, Cape Cod

reminds him of home, and the team he's playing for this summer is the most talented ballclub he has ever been a part of. He swears that Brewster would win a National Championship if they were a school team. He is just excited to be apart of it all.

"The caliber of the baseball players that are here is unbelievable," Cook said. "It's one of the best league's in the country. I'm pretty excited to come here and see what I can do, see if I can't open some eyes."

## Swinging With Wood

BY DAN CROWLEY

There are some guys out there that have hit a groove working with wood. Wood bats can whittle down batting averages as can some of the best college pitching talent in the nation. However, a few Cape League hitters have shown an early love for lumber.

Leading the list after one week in the Cape League is Yarmouth-Dennis shortstop

Gordon Beckham, out of the University of Georgia, who hit .307 his sophomore season with the Bulldogs. This summer, after his first week in the Cape League, Beckham has shown that he is a hitter with whatever he swings as his average stood at .424. At Georgia this spring he hit 13 home runs. In the opening week of the Cape League season he already has three.

University of Iowa sophomore Kevin Hoef plays third base for the Bourne Braves. With the Hawkeyes this spring Hoef hit an even .300 with aluminum and slugged .365. When he picked up the wood he settled into a groove at the plate that has him hitting 123 points higher. Hoef is second in the Cape League in average after seven games with an average at the plate of .423.

Coming from Maine, one would think Kevin McAvoy understands a little bit about lumber, as he apparently does. Third in the league in hitting after one week, McAvoy hit .271 with the Black Bears up north before joining the Chatham A's where he has swung wood at an even .400 clip.

Fourth in hitting after one week is Harwich's Cole

Continued on Next Page

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# "I Don't Think that Record will Ever be Broken"

## Former Harwich Coach Steve Ring

### Remembers Cory Snyder, the Home Run King

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

The 1983 season was magical for Harwich coach Steve Ring. Not only did his Mariners club win the Cape League Championship, but Ring made lifelong friends, and won while doing the right thing, something that doesn't always happen in the realm of competitive sports.

Things were different in 1983 than they are now. Team USA didn't snipe players from Cape League rosters at the beginning of the season. Back then they did it right before the league playoffs.

Coach Ring got the call from Team USA heading into the playoffs that year while in third place; they were after his star home run hitter, Cory Snyder.

The friendly and enthusiastic coach had a tough decision to make. He could tell Cory that Team USA had come calling, but he risked losing him for the team's upcoming playoff run, or he could "forget" that Team USA had called and possibly win a title, which would have been his first, and would end up being his only title in six total seasons at the helm in Harwich (Ring coached Harwich for five summers, from 1983-1988, and again in 1992 for one, leaving both times to concentrate on his several businesses).

Ring, a former minor leaguer in the Detroit Tigers organization, said that the "camaraderie" he experienced with his players was worth more to him than any accolades, so he approached Cory. Not only did he tell Cory that the National Team was looking for him. He told Snyder that, for his career, he had to leave and suit up for the red white and blue.

Ring says today, by phone from his Cummaquid home, that he never would have been able to live with himself had he not told Cory of the opportunity to play for his country; so Snyder left the club.

In the playoffs that season, the Mariners beat the Cotuit Kettleers, a team featuring that year's batting champion, league MVP, playoff MVP, and current Cape League Hall of Famer Greg Lotzar (class of 2006), and former Major League All-Star Will

"The Thrill" Clark (HOF class of 2004).

Ring said that they were facing elimination, down 5-3 in Game 5, with two outs in the ninth inning. Twice the Cotuit players were on the top steps of the dugout ready to celebrate after logging two strike counts, and twice, the Mariners rose to the occasion, first on a double by Cape League Hall of Famer Pat Pacillo of Seton Hall (class of 2005), which was followed by a two-run homer by Stetson's John Pequignot, to tie the game in the ninth.

After some small ball, with a runner on second in the 10th inning, Johnny Sacco from St. John's hit the game-winning base hit for the Mariners, a looping line drive that touched outfield grass.

They had defeated Cotuit three games to two, finishing the season with a 24-17-1 record.

Ring was a champion, Harwich's first. And he had done it without Cory Snyder, a man who had broken the Cape League's home run record that year with 22 homers (six more than the two all-time second place finishers). The record stands to this very day, and appears it will never be broken.

When reached last week, Ring pulled out his scrapbook from that season, and it is dominated by press about the right-handed hitter's towering homers. Ring is still in touch with Snyder and speaks about him, and the 1983 team, with pride; like a father talking about his children.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "That was one of the greatest games I've ever been involved with in my life ... Twice they were on top of the dugout steps, and twice we came through. Every one of those guys came to play every single night. The kids we had in 1983 played with blood, sweat, and tears. We wanted it more than anyone. Without Cory's 22 home runs, we probably don't get there."

Cory Snyder is the home run king of the Cape Cod Baseball League with 22 homers all-time, which is six more than Dave Staton, who hit 16 for Brewster in 1988, and Tim Teufel, who hit 16 for Cotuit in 1979. Sure, he did it with aluminum bats, which were used

until 1985, but so did four of the top five hitters in the all-time home run category. According to Ring, he would put Snyder's record up against any home run hitter in league history, "wood or metal," and he says that Snyder, who is now a Cape League Hall of Famer (class of 2003), would still be king.

"I don't think that record will ever be broken," Ring said. "[Wood or metal], nobody ever came close to that... There were balls that he'd hit that would have been out anywhere."

Ring fondly remembers the game against Wareham during the regular season that summer in which Snyder hit three, two-run homers to defeat the Gatemen 6-1. He also recalls Snyder's blast that cleared the light tower in left-center field at Whitehouse Field, which he swears was more than 500 feet. Cory was just that special.

Coach Ring said that Cory was one of the nicest kids he has ever coached. He said that some kids were unapproachable when it came to constructive criticism, but not Snyder. He remembers

recruiting Snyder to play for him out of Brigham Young University as a sophomore, where Snyder batted third, protecting the BYU cleanup hitter and future Major Leaguer Wally Joyner.

Ring said that he got Cory's father, Jim, a former minor leaguer, a sales job

at Puritan Clothing so that he could watch his son play all summer long, and he got Cory a job working for him, making deliveries, at Ring Brothers, so Cory Snyder became a Mariner.

"My first impression was that he was a super kid,"

Continued on Page 10



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT PREW JR.

Cape League home run king Cory Snyder at his CCBL Hall of Fame Induction.

## Swinging With Wood

Continued from Page 6  
Figueroa. In his freshman year at the University of Miami Figueroa hit .332. Coming on strong toward the end of his first week on the Cape, the Harwich shortstop is hitting .389.

University of Washington junior first baseman Matt Hague is making a case for a roster spot with the Falmouth Commodores in the league's opening week. With the Huskies Hague hit .353 this spring with 13 home runs. As the Cape season goes along Hague is settling in and has posted a .381 average.

Brian Pruitt, of Bourne, and Shane Peterson, of Hyannis, share the sixth spot in hitting after one week.

Long Beach State first baseman Shane Peterson proved he can hit with aluminum this spring with a .327 average. He did have a little practice last summer using a wood bat with a stint in

the Alaska League, with the Anchorage Bucs, but only played 14 games, hitting .147. After his first week in the Cape League, with the Hyannis Mets, Peterson is tearing it up to the tune of .375 at the plate.

Pruitt hit .260 in his sophomore season for the Stetson University Hatters. With a piece of wood in his hands this summer he is hammering the ball at a .375 clip.

Holding down the eighth spot on the leader list of top 10 hitters on the Cape after one week is Chatham's Trey Watten, a sophomore from Division II Abilene Christian. Watten hit .351 for the Wildcats with an aluminum bat. Swinging a wood bat this summer for the A's he has pushed his average at the plate to .360 in the season's opening week.

Third baseman/designated hitter Alex Avila, of the Harwich Mariners, hit .296 with the University of Alabama

this season. When he arrived on the Cape and picked up a wood bat, the Crimson Tide sophomore began flirting with the .400 mark and after a week was hitting .357.

Rounding out the top 10 hitters in week one is University of Arizona sophomore T.J. Steele, the third member of the Bourne Braves to make the list. Steele hit .323 with an aluminum bat this spring for the Wildcats and slugged .516. A week into his summer on the Cape the Bourne Braves outfielder is swinging the bat at a .348.

Holding onto a top 10 spot in hitting as the summer heats up will be difficult as several very good hitters sit just a few percentage points back. Working with wood is only one of the challenges that a Cape League season presents. For now these 10 hitters have earned themselves top ranking as some of the best of the best.





Pitcher Keith Shinaberry (Texas) of the Brewster Whitecaps gives Cape League hitters a different look with a sidearm delivery.

# Work With Le

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON PAR



Jake Oplitz (Nebraska) of the Harwich Mariners applies the tag to a runner (Michael Demperio of South Tech).



Orleans Cardinals' third baseman Chase D'Amaud (Pepperdine) gets the runner at first.



Shortstop Reese Havens (South Carolina) of Cotuit applies the tag to a runner (Michael Demperio of Texas).



# king weather

KINSON/ENTERPRISE



...he tag to Cotuit right fielder Curtis Dupart (Georgia



...he tag at second base to Wareham second baseman



Harwich Mariners' shortstop Cole Figueroa (Florida) has his eye on the ball.



Cotuit's Tony Delmonico (Tennessee) makes a nice backhanded grab at shortstop for the Kettleers.



Cotuit Kettleer catcher Aaron Baker (Oklahoma) blocks the plate as Steve Strausbaugh (Western Carolina) of the Harwich Mariners goes into a slide.



# Coach Ring Remembers Cory Snyder

Continued from Page 7  
Ring said, remembering Snyder and his father getting off a Plymouth/Brockton bus from Logan holding mitts and bats in front of his Cape business headquarters. "You couldn't help but like him. He was personable, smart, and talented."

Snyder arrived for his first practice and during BP, he hit about 19 balls over the fence at Whitehouse Field. Ring knew he had something special on his hands. And Snyder had an arm to go along with his stick, playing shortstop and third base for the Mariners that year (He started out in the infield in Cleveland but was moved to the outfield after several seasons.).

According to CCBL stats guru John Wylde, General Manager of the Wareham Gatemen, Cory finished the 1983 CCBL season batting .321 in 40 overall games with 165 at-bats.

Snyder scored 47 runs (three behind the all-time record), had 53 hits, and 126 total bases. He had five doubles, one triple, 22 homers, and 50 RBI's. Snyder walked 21 times, struck out 46 times, and had eight stolen bases in 1983. He finished with a .764 slugging percentage and a .394 on-base-percentage for 18th overall in the league in hitting that year.

Ring remembers the 1983 season fondly, with a glimmer in his eye. He is still close to Cory to this day; Snyder

is currently the coach of the St. George Roadrunners of the Golden Baseball League, a professional/independent league, located in Utah.

"I'm extremely happy for him," Ring said. "He's back managing in pro ball; I think he's happy."

Ring will never forget the kid with the straight up stance, a slight upper cut swing, and extremely fast wrists that could power a ball out of the park effortlessly. He says that Snyder was just a natural.

A few years after Cory became a professional, Ring took his son Jason to Fenway Park to see the Red Sox play the Indians, and he said that they waited for Cory outside the visitor's clubhouse. Cory came out in full uniform to meet his old coach. He had made an errant sidearm throw to first base from the infield (before he was moved to the outfield) during the game. Being the coach that he is, Ring brought it up. Cory wouldn't let him finish. "I know... It wasn't overhand."

When Cory was inducted into the CCBL Hall of Fame in 2003, he asked Ring to introduce him. Ring couldn't due to an annual trip to Aruba, but he said that he was "flying high." Just like a Cory Snyder home run.

"Not only was he a great player, but he was a great human being," Ring said with a smile. "He was a great role model. I'm glad I got to know him and still know him."



PHOTO BY ROBERT PREW JR.

Cory Snyder with his HOF presenter, Harwich General Manager Mike DeAnzeris



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

Yarmouth-Dennis pitcher Bobby Gagg (Coastal Carolina) is one of the top performers in the Cape League.

## Notes From: The Cape League Summer



**Y-D Red Sox**  
Yarmouth-Dennis right-handed sophomore Bobby Gagg

out of Coastal Carolina University hadn't made an

appearance in relief since his freshman season. This spring he started 17 times for the Chanticleers working a total of 112 innings and compiling a 12-2 record. Opening Day Gagg was called on in the sixth inning. He tossed four per-

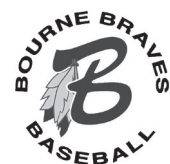
fect frames earning a save before getting a start and picking up a win four days later.



**Cotuit Kettleers**

It comes as no surprise that the Cotuit Kettleers lead

the lead in stolen bases. Coach Mike Roberts loves to run and the team has swiped 24 bases in the first week of the Cape Cod Baseball League season. Mike Bianucci (Auburn) leads the club with seven steals in seven games.



**Bourne Braves**

In 2006 Brian Leclerc (Florida) led the Bourne Braves

in stolen bases with 10. This year just six games into the season temporary player Ben Guez (William & Mary) has swiped six.



**Orleans Cardinals**

After eight innings of scoreless baseball, Tampa's

Jose Jimenez drove a ball over the right field fence

Continued on Next Page

## Snyder: Home Run King

Cory Snyder played one year for the Mariners in 1983 before playing for Team USA, the first ever USA Olympic baseball team (1984).

Snyder was a three time All American at Brigham Young University. He would hit three homers on three consecutive pitches in his first three at-bats for BYU. In 1983 they were ranked No. 1 in the nation.

He would win a silver medal in the 1984 Summer Games in Los Angeles with Team U.S.A. Snyder was drafted fourth overall in 1984.

In nine Major League seasons with the Indians, White Sox, Blue Jays, Giants and Dodgers, Snyder finished with 149 home runs, 488 RBI's, a .247 batting average in 1,068 games and 3,656 at-bats, and 439 runs over the course of his career. Snyder

compiled an impressive 902 hits, had an on-base-percentage of .291, and a slugging percentage of .425.

One of Snyder's best seasons was his rookie year, in 1986, with the Indians, where he hit .272, with 24 homers, and 69 RBI in 416 at-bats. He placed fourth that year in Rookie of the Year voting. The next season, Snyder hit 33 homers and had 82 RBI. In 1988 he led the American League in outfield assists.

From 1986-1988, Snyder hit over 20 homers, and missed the mark by two in 1989. Snyder averaged a home run every 25th at-bat over the course of his nine-year career, according to Sports Illustrated. He was plagued by back injuries later in his career that according to SI, affected his career numbers.



# The Voice of the Bruins becomes the Voice of the Cape League

**BY MATTHEW M. BURKE**  
 The 2007 Cape League premier season marks the premier season in a partnership with WBZ News Radio 1030-Boston in which games will be webcast live in a Game of the Week available on www.wbz.com and www.capecodbaseball.org. The broadcasts feature streaming audio and video from three different cameras set up at the fields being featured from week to week.

The Game of the Week will feature all 10 CCBL teams at one point or another and kicked off on June 18 at Red Wilson Field. The defending champion YD Red Sox defeated the visiting Cotuit Kettleers 15-1.

Calling the games are Boston icon, and Hockey Hall of Famer, Fred Cusick, the "Voice of the Bruins," and Cape League director of publications and broadcasting John Garner Jr. Garner will be the color man with Cusick doing the play by play.

Cusick called Bruins games on television from 1971-1997 and is famous for shouting "Score," after each Bruins goal. The old Boston Garden was his office; Cusick was the radio voice of the team during their Stanley Cup winning season in 1970. He also called the first Boston Patriots game amongst other notable achievements.

For Garner, calling games

with a Boston sports icon like Cusick is a dream come true. "I am absolutely thrilled and honored to be doing these games with Fred," he said. "As a kid, I remember growing up listening to Fred." He added that at the time, the Bruins were the biggest draw in town in the late '60's and early '70's, during the Bobby Orr years.

"He's a consummate professional," Garner said. "He really prepares very well for this. It's the thrill of a lifetime. He's the voice of the Bruins."

Cusick, who has been retired now for 10 years, said that he was approached last winter by the Game of the Week's executive producer Steve Lipman. Lipman had

asked him to do some high school games. After he completed the high school contests, Lipman then asked if he would be interested in doing games for the CCBL. Cusick said 'yes.'

"It feels good to be back broadcasting," Cusick said over a cheeseburger at Marshland Restaurant in Sandwich last week. "I'm a little rusty. It feels good...It keeps me busy and I like that."

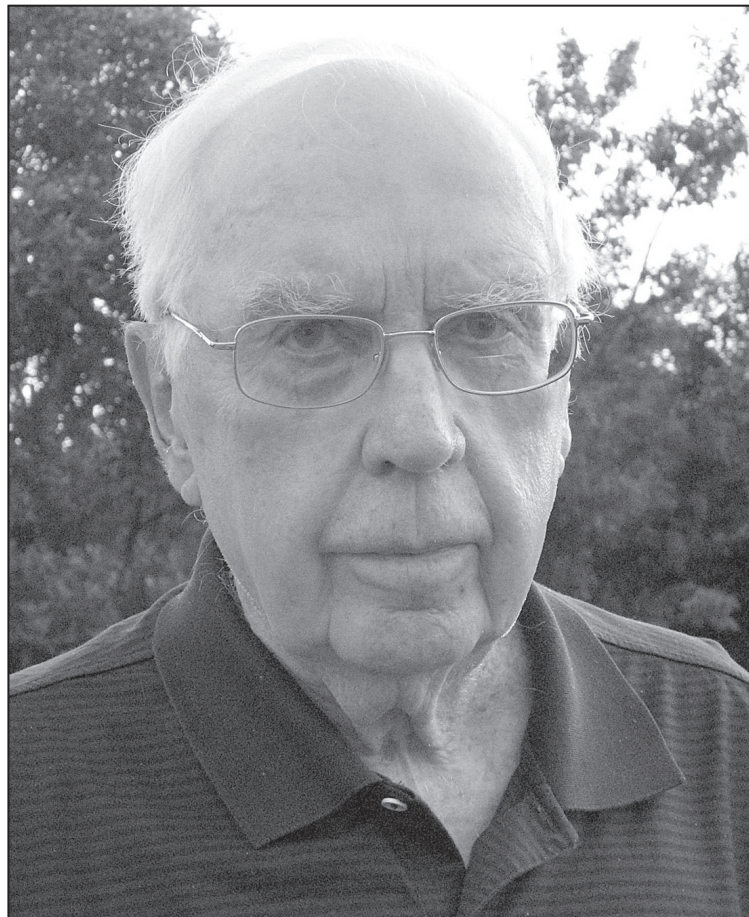
Cusick is no stranger to the national pastime. He grew up in Brighton, and says that he played baseball for the Brighton Civics in the Boston Park League; he was a catcher. For Cusick, who lives in Barnstable, by join-

ing up with the Cape League again, he is coming home. Unbeknownst to many, Cusick played in the Cape League for Yarmouth in 1946 when the league had a town team format.

After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Cusick got his first broadcasting job on the Cape. He established a rapport with Marshall Piper, who ran the Cape League's Yarmouth town team. Piper invited him to play.

"I wasn't able to make every game," Cusick says, "but I played in several. I was a terrible hitter, couldn't hit a curveball." Five years later Cusick called the very

Continued on Next Page



MATTHEW BURKE/ENTERPRISE

Fred Cusick, the Voice of the Cape League

## Notes From: The Cape League Summer

Continued from Page 10  
 at Brewster's Stony Brook School field to give the Orleans Cardinals a 2-0 victory June 22. Jimenez, a sophomore and team captain for the NCAA Division II Tampa had 14 dingers this spring for the Spartans. It was his first Cape League home run.



**Wareham Gatemen**  
 Wareham left fielder Blake Dean, an LSU freshman, knows how to hit with wood. In high school he played in the World Wood Bat Series in his native Florida. After hitting seven home runs with an aluminum stick for the Tigers, Dean has put two out of the yard for the Gatemen. He has yet to put one over the fence at Wareham's Spillane Field.

**Harwich Mariners**  
 Danny Farquhar has 16 strikeouts in 10 innings of work for the Harwich Mariners. This spring with the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns the All-Sun Belt Conference right-handed sophomore compiled 115 strikeouts in 87.2 innings. Farquhar started the season as a closer for the Ragin' Cajuns collecting a team high six saves before moving into the starting role and finishing the spring at 6-3.

**Chatham A's**  
 Chatham's Kevin McAvoy hit .271 for the University of Maine Black Bears this spring; however,



the sophomore third baseman seems to prefer to swing with wood. After a week of Cape League action McAvoy was third in the league lead in hitting at .400. Teammate Trey Watten (Abilene Christian) is second on the club at .360.



**Brewster Whitecaps**  
 Brewster sophomore first baseman David Cooper hit one

home run last season for the Whitecaps. This year in six games he has two. A transfer to the University of California from 2006 College World Series contender Cal State Fullerton, he came close to a CWS record last year when he had seven consecutive hits in Omaha, tying current Boston Red Sox Manager Terry Francona (1980), but

Continued on Next Page

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# Native Cape Codder Finally Crosses Bridge For Former Bourne Braves Star Kevin Youkilis

BY CHRIS KAZARIAN

Cape Codders often joke about never wanting to leave the 65-mile-long peninsula, but for almost 40 years Stanley Eldridge did just that. He had a great reason not to, one that happened on an icy snowy night in the 1960's. From there, the night got worse, much worse for the Bourne native.

As he was crossing over the Bourne Bridge, his truck did the seemingly unthinkable. "I crashed on the bridge," he said. "My truck was right on the abutment. I was up on the curbing looking over." As his truck teetered on the edge, he said, "I left it there and went home... I saw about enough for me up there. I decided I'll stay here." It was not until 2003 that he dared to venture off

Cape Cod for the first time in roughly four decades.

The reason comes down to one man – Boston Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis.

The two have known each other since 2000, when Stanley and his wife Penny started opening up their home to Bourne Braves players.

That first year, the family welcomed Dwight Edge, from the University of Florida, and Youkilis, a third basemen from the University of Cincinnati.

Eldridge's easily recalled his initial opinion of the future major leaguer. "He was difficult to read and I can read people pretty good," he said. "All he ate was chicken, salad, and tuna fish. And then he would mix them up differently the next day." After a few days of witness-

ing his odd diet, Eldridge said, he pulled Youkilis aside. "I finally asked him what's wrong. 'You don't like it here? Are you homesick?' He said, 'Everything is fine,'" Eldridge recalled. "He told me he was part Jewish. After we broke that barrier, you couldn't ask for a better kid." By the end of the summer, he laughed, "He didn't care what he ate." That included lobster, a Cape Cod staple that Eldridge used to motivate both Youkilis and Edge. "I had a deal with [them] that if they hit a home run, I would give them lobster that night for dinner," he said.

Early in the season Eldridge realized it might turn out to be an expensive summer. Youkilis went yard in his first at-bat of the year against Cotuit on June 13, 2000. "It was a beauty, 330 feet," Eldridge said.

While he always wants his players to do well, Eldridge has since stopped using lobster as a motivational tool. "It got too expensive," he said.

Of the more than two dozen players who have stayed with the family since 2000, Eldridge said, Youkilis may have been the most special. "His baseball skills were the best that I have ever seen," he said.

He remembers him as a player whose sole reason for coming to the Cape was to improve. "He and Dwight concentrated on baseball," he said.

Just as important to Eldridge was that Youkilis was a funny, down to earth human being. "He was a character," he said. "What you see with Kevin is what you get." It is that, perhaps more than anything that forced Eldridge to finally leave the confines of Cape Cod in 2003.

After Youkilis left, Eldridge followed his progress as he made his mark with the Lowell Spinners, the Sarasota Red Sox, Trenton Thunder, the Portland Sea Dogs, and the Pawtucket Red Sox.

The two would occasionally talk by phone, usually about life, but during one conversation Youkilis asked Eldridge to come to a game after he had made it to AAA.

"I told him one day I will show up unannounced," he said.

That trip came at the prodding of friends, who wisely rented a limo so Eldridge



CHRIS KAZARIAN/ENTERPRISE

Stanley Eldridge at Doran Park in Bourne

## Voice Of The Cape League

Continued from Page 11 first United States network broadcast of the NHL. Garner said that Cusick broadcast several Cape League games (of Lower Cape teams) in the 1970's.

Cusick said that he has to approach baseball broadcasting differently than he did for his famed hockey broadcasts. "The difference is in hockey there is continuous action so it's just a matter of keeping up with it," he said. "With baseball, there isn't. And what I've learned is that I've got to get more information to fill in the gaps of time where nothing's happening, and I'm doing that now. As the league goes along there'll be more statistics."

Cusick feels there were too many gaps in the first few games he has called thus far due to a lack of statistics, but he says that it is improving. He applauded Garner for his color.

Cusick said that Coach

Scott Pickler's Y-D Red Sox have been the most impressive team that he has seen thus far, and Cusick says that he has been attending many games to soak it all in. He adds that it's too early to pick a champion yet, with several teams still without players due to the College World Series. He looks forward to being involved when the playoffs come.

According to Garner, the WBZ broadcast is a part of a three-pronged media approach, new to the Cape League this season. Garner said that the success of the Cape League, coupled with the popularity of the Boston Red Sox has led the league to partner with TV38's television show called "Red Sox Stories" for future content. In addition, the league is also being promoted by Fox, with a Cape League website on the site of its local affiliate (<http://media.myfoxboston.com/sports/ccbaseball.html>).

## CCBL Game Of The Week On WBZ.COM

MONDAY, JUNE 18 COTUIT @ YD 5 PM

MONDAY, JUNE 25 FALMOUTH @ HYANNIS 5 PM

TUESDAY, JULY 3 BREWSTER @ HARWICH 7 PM

MONDAY, JULY 9 BOURNE @ WAREHAM 7 PM

MONDAY, JULY 16 HARWICH @ ORLEANS 7 PM

MONDAY, JULY 23 HYANNIS @ WAREHAM 7 PM

MONDAY, JULY 30 BOURNE @ CHATHAM 7 PM

AUG 5 OR 7 GAME OF MOST SIGNIFICANCE

would not be behind the wheel as they went over the Bourne Bridge.

The sights on the opposite side of the canal, he said, were foreign to him. "They knocked down a lot of wood and old Route 6 and 28 weren't there anymore," he said.

He arrived an hour before the opening pitch and as he walked down the steps of McCoy Stadium, he called out, "Youk."

Staring back at him was an astonished Youkilis, with his mouth wide open. The image was captured on camera and the framed photo now sits in a mini-shrine devoted to the former Bourne Brave in the Eldridge household.

After the game, he said, Youkilis took them into the depths of McCoy Stadium where they talked much like they did during the summer of 2000.

At one point, he said, Youkilis relayed a story more than a year prior in which his father, who works in the diamond business, offered him a job working alongside him. "He said, 'Dad, I'm going into baseball,'" Eldridge said.

He was able to fulfill that promise, Eldridge added, because "he was a work-a-holic and had great baseball ability." It is why, Eldridge said, Youkilis has been so successful with the Red Sox and has earned him the nickname the Greek God of Walks. "He could squeeze a walk out of a rock," Eldridge said. "He

has perfect vision... You can tell he knows the game inside and out. Patience is a virtue with him." These days, the conversations between Eldridge and Youkilis are far and few between. Occasionally he talks with Youkilis' father, who gave him one of the first Youk bobbleheads from a Lowell Spinners tribute to the first baseman in 2005. That piece is also displayed proudly in Eldridge's home.

To this day, Eldridge takes delight in Youkilis' success. One of his proudest moments was seeing him get a ring with the club in 2004. "That was phenomenal," he said. "A 23-year-old kid got a World Series ring and some guys play the game their whole life and never get one." The only complaint the Eldridge's have about Youkilis has nothing to do with baseball and more to do about his appearance, specifically his beard. "My wife says, 'Kevin will you shave that.' She hollers at the television every time she sees him," he said. Other than that, he said, "my wife just adores him." Although it is thrilling to have one of his former players in the major leagues, Eldridge said, it is not why he opens up his home for wide-eyed college students who come to the Cape with dreams of the major leagues.

"If they do well in whatever they endeavor I am happy for them," he said. "If they keep in touch with us that is a blessing."



**BATTING TOP 10**

(Through Games Of 6/24/07)  
(MINIMUM 24 PLATE APPEARANCES)

BATTER	CLUB	AVG	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Hoef, Kevin	BOU	.433	8	30	5	13	0	4
Fon, Diallo	WAR	.423	8	26	4	11	0	2
Pruitt, Brian	BOU	.414	7	29	2	12	0	11
Figueroa, Cole	HAR	.409	7	22	2	9	0	1
Beckham, Gordon	YRD	.405	9	37	6	15	3	9
Hague, Matthew	FAL	.400	7	25	5	10	0	3
Peterson, Shane	HYA	.394	9	33	9	13	0	4
Baker, Aaron	COT	.364	8	33	5	12	1	6
Watten, Trey	CHA	.360	7	25	4	9	0	1

**HOME RUNS**

BATTER	CLUB	HOME RUNS
Beckham, Gordon	YRD	3
Cooper, David	BRW	2
Dean, Blake	WAR	2
Several Players Tied at		5

**RBI**

BATTER	CLUB	RBI
Pruitt, Brian	BOU	11
Cooper, David	BRW	10
Guez, Ben	BOU	9
Beckham, Gordon	YRD	9
Several Players Tied At		8

**STOLEN BASES**

BATTER	CLUB	STOLEN BASES
Bianucci, Mike	BOU	7
Guez, Ben	BOU	6
Bell, Phil	HYA	5
Fon, Diallo	WAR	5
Ayers, Johnny	YRD	5

TEAM BATTING	AVG	AB	R	H	HR	BB	SO	SB	CS
Yarmouth-Dennis	.292	295	50	86	7	29	74	18	5
Bourne	.287	286	51	82	0	35	80	16	5
Cotuit	.270	259	45	70	3	20	45	24	7
Hyannis	.262	294	44	77	2	33	73	11	6
Harwich	.254	276	27	70	1	28	53	7	5
Brewster	.253	289	50	73	3	46	77	12	4
Chatham	.233	266	33	62	1	35	81	7	3
Orleans	.228	281	26	64	4	21	80	9	6
Wareham	.228	254	24	58	3	23	68	10	4
Falmouth	.217	254	32	55	2	41	76	8	7

**ADDITIONAL BATTING LEADERS**

**HITS**

BATTER	CLUB	HITS
Beckham, Gordon	YRD	15
Hoef, Kevin	BOU	13
Peterson, Shane	HYA	13

**DOUBLES**

BATTER	CLUB	DOUBLES
Avila, Alex	HAR	5
Glenn, Brad	BRW	4
Peterson, Shane	HYA	4
Several Players Tied at		3

**ON-BASE PERCENTAGE**

BATTER	CLUB	ON-BASE PERCENTAGE
Hoef, Kevin	BOU	.553
Figueroa, Cole	HAR	.536
Fon, Diallo	WAR	.529
Hague, Matthew	FAL	.483
Pruitt, Brian	BOU	.471

**SLUGGING PERCENTAGE**

BATTER	CLUB	SLUGGING PERCENTAGE
Beckham, Gordon	YRD	.730
Dean, Blake	WAR	.640
Peterson, Shane	HYA	.576
Hague, Matthew	FAL	.560
Cowgill, Collin	YRD	.548

*Notes From:*

**The Cape League Summer**

Continued from Page 11 falling one short of Dave Magadan (1983) and Barry Bonds (1984). Cooper led all players at the 2006 CWS with a .533 average with five RBI and was selected to the CWS All-Tournament team.



**Hyannis Mets**  
Hyannis Mets first baseman

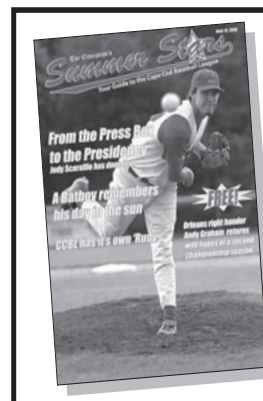
Shane Peterson has seen a lot of America, but mostly from above 30,000 feet. The Long Beach State sophomore has played his baseball on both coasts. Last summer he played in the Alaska League for the Anchorage Bucs. This year Peterson traded the mountains for the beaches and it appears to be to his liking as he is hit-

ting .375 and slugging .563 after one week of play.



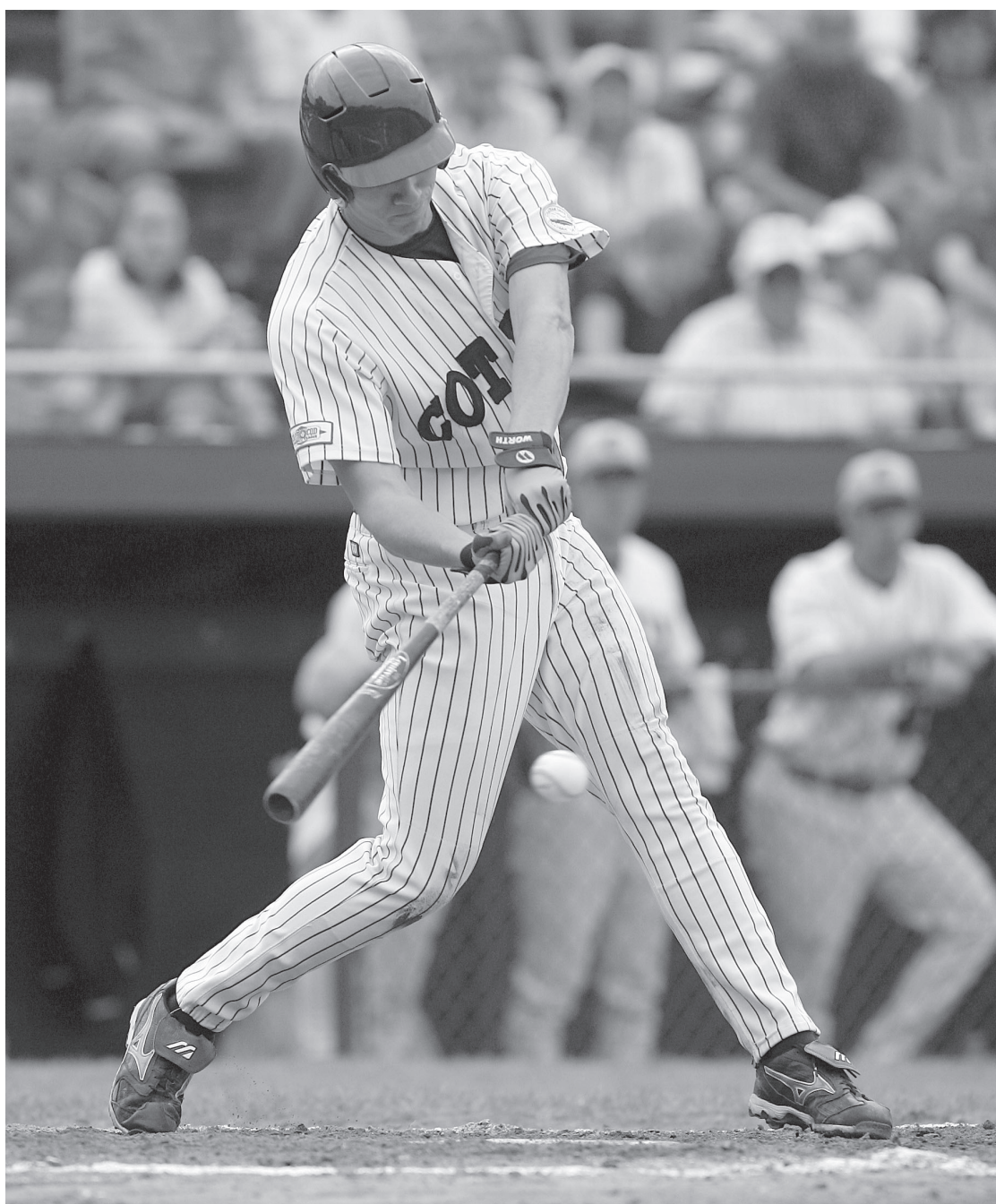
**Falmouth Commodores**  
Falmouth's Kevin Dubler is zoned in at the plate. The sophomore

catcher out of Illinois State hit .317 for the Redbirds and stole 16 bases this spring. Dubler leads the Commodores in hitting with a .346 average after one week of Cape League play. He has just one stole base, but his .444 on base percentage should help to change that.



The spotlight is on *Summer Stars* at [www.capenews.net](http://www.capenews.net)

Surf in for the latest on the Cape Cod Baseball League



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE  
Curtis Dupart (Georgia Tech) of the Cotuit Kettleers has been tearing up Cape League pitching.



# Mets Hurler Shuts Down Opposing Batters

BY MARK A. BROWN

Hyannis Mets pitcher Tyler Stohr isn't hurt. Far from it, in fact. Though after his first three starts at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville this spring there were some who wondered if something was ailing him.

Squaring off against a trio of nationally ranked teams, all with potent offenses, the tall, lean righthander got hammered, yielding 20 hits and 20 earned runs to No. 7 Virginia, No. 22 Tulane and No. 2 Florida State over just 8.2 innings. Tyler walked five and surrendered four homers while striking out just two. Opposing hitters batted .476 against him, and his ERA over those three outings was a whopping 20.77.

His struggles prompted Ospreys head coach Dusty Rhodes to send Tyler to the bullpen.

"Those first few games were tough, and the results were not there," said Stohr Saturday afternoon as he and his Mets teammates prepared to face the Mariners in Harwich. "Coach thought that going to the pen would help me get my mind right."

While many pitchers might view the move as a demotion, Tyler saw it as an opportunity. "I told myself that I'd win over the closing spot."

The initial results from the pen were encouraging. In his first three relief outings he worked six scoreless innings, allowing just four hits and a walk while whiffing seven.

Stohr believes the adjustment from starter to reliever was more mental than physical. "I just decided to throw harder, and concentrated on being more aggressive," he said. "As a starter my fastball was 87 to 89 (miles per hour) and occasionally topping out at 90. By the end of the year, I was hitting 94."

Tyler made steady progress and soon achieved his goal as Coach Rhodes began trusting him with tight leads in the late innings. By season's end, over 20 relief appearances, he was showing pinpoint control with 25 strikeouts and just six walks, and he had compiled a sharply lower ERA of 3.08.

However, even that improved ERA figure doesn't fully illustrate Stohr's relief success. Take away his two rough outings, where he allowed six earned runs to Indiana and East Tennessee

State in just two-thirds of an inning, and his ERA was a sparkling 1.05 in his other 18 relief stints, six of which were saves.

In addition to honing his mental focus, Tyler altered his pitch mix. "I'm essentially a two-pitch pitcher now," he said, explaining that he now relies on fastballs and sliders. "I'll mix in a splitter every now and then, but not too often."

ing major league hitters, and has returned to that role this year. Ironically Jonathan's brothers, twins Jeremy and Josh, both pitched for the Ospreys in college, and Tyler hopes to follow their lead to the pros.

Stohr is a first-year Cape League player, but he is certainly no stranger to the area. His father, Chicago Cubs scout Keith Stohr, coached Hyannis in the 2002



MARK BROWN/ENTERPRISE

Hyannis Met's closer Tyler Stohr

The stress induced by the split-fingered fastball, thrown with the index and middle fingers spread wide apart on the ball, is the main reason he throws it rarely, he said. "It's a tough pitch to use when you have to throw every day."

Stohr has abandoned his curveball and changeup, but has worked diligently to "tighten the slider" to gain extra movement and velocity. While his fastball whizzes in the mid-90s, his slider hums toward the plate at around 85 miles per hour, before darting late away from opposing bats.

His route to the closer's role mirrors the path followed by Boston Red Sox star Jonathan Papelbon, who enjoyed success as a starter as he rose through the minor league ranks. Jonathan was named Boston's closer last season, dominat-

and 2003 seasons. Tyler lived with his family in Mashpee as a teenager, attending local schools and playing for American Legion Post 188 in Sandwich.

Tyler moved to Florida prior to his senior year in high school. "I wanted to focus on my game down there."

However, he headed north after graduation, playing baseball at the US Military Academy in West Point, New York. It seemed he would be following in the military footsteps of his older brother, Brad, a US Marine.

After posting a 1-3 record with a 4.50 ERA in 30 innings over seven starts, Tyler decided to enroll at North Florida, though he had no guarantee of a spot on the Ospreys roster. "Coach didn't make me any promises, so I went there as a

Continued on Next Page

## PITCHING TOP 10

(Through Games Of 7/30/06)  
(MINIMUM 7 INNINGS PITCHED)

PITCHER	CLUB	W-L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO
Gibson, Kyle	FAL	0-0	0.00	11	9	2	11
Boxberger, Brad	OLN	0-0	0.00	11	5	5	8
Gagg, Bobby	YRD	1-0	0.00	11	4	4	7
Kledzick, Brad	BRW	1-0	0.00	7	3	0	3
*Miley, Wade	WAR	0-1	0.60	15	8	4	15
Couch, Matt	BRW	0-0	0.75	12	9	2	7
Green, Scott	YRD	0-0	0.90	10	7	2	10
*Crawford, Evan	HAR	0-0	1.08	8	1	3	14
Harris, Mitch	BOU	1-0	1.13	8	3	1	8
*Young, Corey	HAR	1-0	1.13	8	3	2	2

### WINS

Several Players Tied At	2						
-------------------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

### SAVES

Stohr, Tyler	HYA	3					
Several Players Tied At	2						

### STRIKEOUTS

Fargquhar, Danny	HAR	16					
Cook, Ryan	BRW	15					
Kupillas, Chris	BRW	15					
Miley, Wade	WAR	15					
Several Players Tied At	14						

TEAM PITCHING	W-L	ERA	H	CG	SHO	SV	HR	BB	SO
Yarmouth-Dennis	7-2	2.28	61	0	0	4	3	24	59
Brewster	6-3	2.54	66	0	1	3	2	19	68
Orleans	5-4	2.73	68	0	3	3	1	36	81
Chatham	6-3	2.76	60	0	0	3	2	30	78
Harwich	3-6	3.09	61	1	1	2	1	34	86
Wareham	1-7	3.15	63	1	0	1	4	17	63
Hyannis	5-3	4.10	80	0	0	4	3	32	57
Bourne	4-3	4.38	71	0	0	1	2	34	65
Falmouth	1-7	5.29	76	0	0	0	3	40	85
Cotuit	4-4	6.65	91	0	0	3	5	45	65

## ADDITIONAL PITCHING LEADERS

### GAMES

Kupillas, Chris	BRW	5							
Shinaberry, Keith	BRW	5							
Moore, Josh	WAR	5							
Several Players Tied At	4								

### INNINGS PITCHED

Doyle, Andrew	HYA	15.0							
Miley, Wade	WAR	15.0							
Milone, Tom	CHA	13.1							
Keuchel, Dallas	WAR	13.0							
Burns, Eddie	YRD	13.0							

### LOSSES

Kupillas, Chris	BRW	2							
Copp, Brandon	FAL	2							
Daly, Matt	HYA	2							
Whelan, Sam	WAR	2							

### WALKS

Kapteyn, Wade	BOU	7							
Rook, Jason	COT	7							
Elam, Sam	FAL	7							
Hudson, Dan	HAR	7							
Franzblau, Jason	HYA	7							

### HOME RUNS ALLOWED

Phelps, David	FAL	2							
Pecina, Richardo	HYA	2							



# DIVISION STANDINGS

through June 24, 2007

EASTERN DIVISION						
W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10	
YARMOUTH-DENNIS	7	2	0	14	W 1	7-2
CHATHAM	6	3	0	12	W 5	6-3
BREWSTER	6	3	0	12	W 2	6-3
ORLEANS	5	4	0	10	L 1	5-4
HARWICH	3	6	0	6	L 3	3-6
WESTERN DIVISION						
W	L	T	PTS	STREAK	LAST 10	
HYANNIS	5	3	1	11	W 3	5-3
BOURNE	4	3	1	9	W 1	4-3
COTUIT	4	4	0	8	L 1	4-4
WAREHAM	1	7	0	2	L 7	1-7
FALMOUTH	1	7	0	2	L 4	1-7

# Record 202 Former CCBL Players Selected

If the success of an amateur league is measured by how many players go on to play professionally, then the Cape Cod Baseball League undoubtedly sets the bar. In the 2007 Major League Baseball First Year Players Draft, 202 former Cape League players were chosen, representing all 10 Cape League teams.

This is a record for the CCBL, whose previous high was 194 in 2005 and before that 183 in 2005. These 202 young men will look to work their way up the ladder and join the 198 Cape League alumni occupying spots on Major League rosters today.

Seven players went in the first round alone, led by Daniel Moskos (Clemson), who played for Cotuit in 2005 and was picked at No. 4 by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The six other first-rounders were catcher Matt Wieters (George Tech) of Orleans selected by Baltimore at No. 5, LHP Ross Detwiler (Missouri) of Falmouth by Washington at No. 6, first baseman Matt LaPorta (Florida) of Brewster and Y-D by Milwaukee at No. 7, slugging infielder Beau Mills (Lewis & Clark) of Bourne by Cleveland at No. 13, RHP James Simmons (Cal-Riverside) of Cotuit by Oakland at No. 26 and behemoth 6'10" RHP Andrew Brackman (North Carolina St) by the Yankees with the 30th and final selection of the first round.

Seven picks in the first round is impressive, but the 195 drafted after those seven

illustrates the true strength of the CCBL -- its incredible depth. That depth applies to every team in the league. For instance, 16 former Hyannis Mets were picked, led by Matt Mangini (North Carolina St.), last year's Thurman Munson Award winner as league batting champ with a .310 average. Mangini went No. 52 overall to the Seattle Mariners.

Yarmouth-Dennis had the most former players drafted with 28. Terry Doyle (Boston College), the 2006 co-Outstanding Pitcher of the Year, was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 21st round at No. 656. Doyle is currently pitching for the Y-D Red Sox again and awaiting a call from L.A., at which point he will have to make a decision of whether to stay on the Cape or sign with the Dodgers and enter their minor league system.

The Atlanta Braves took Doyle's teammate, Josh Fields, winner of the Russ Ford Relief Pitcher of the Year award in 2006, at No. 69.

Other notables include Charlie Furbush (LSU), picked at in the fourth round at No. 151 by Detroit and who pitched two years in Hyannis and earned the New England Top Prospect Award last summer; Matt Rizzotti (Manhattan), who went to the Philadelphia Phillies after finishing third in the league last year with 27 RBI for the Chatham A's; and Matt Cusick (Southern Cal) of Brewster, the CCBL leader in on-base

percentage (.425), taken by Houston with the 321st pick.

This year's group of Cape alumni should be no different than those that have gone ahead of them, successful. With great players such as Mo Vaughn (Wareham '87-'88), Mike Flanagan ('72), Bobby Valentine (Yarmouth '67) and Thurman Munson (Chatham '67) having paved the way and standouts such as Tim Lincecum (Chatham '05), Barry Zito (Wareham '97-'98), and Jason Varitek (Hyannis, '91, '93) currently in the majors, it should be just a matter of time before many of these 202 draftees make their mark on the game.

Kevin Wolfe, CCBL intern, wolfe@capecodbaseball.org.

## Mets Hurler Shuts Down Opposing Batters

Continued from Page 14  
walk-on," he said.

Mets coach Greg King marvels at the talent Stohr has shown early in the season. "He can definitely bring it," he said. "He hit 95 against Bourne the other night."

Tyler worked the final three innings of the 10-inning contest June 19, which was called due to darkness with the score tied, 2-2. He fanned five of the 12 batters he faced.

His skills were once again on display Saturday night when he was brought in to protect a 3-1 lead over Harwich in the ninth. After walking leadoff hitter Jared Bolden on four pitches, Tyler settled down and retired the next three Mariners on 11 pitches. The last two batters, J.B. Paxson and Matt Miller, both took hard sliders for called third strikes as Stohr earned his second save in three Cape League outings this season.

Tyler knows that determination is the path to continued success, and he diligently works on all aspects of his game. Standing 6 feet, 2 inches, he has bulked up to 205 pounds. "I try to keep as fresh as possible. I run after I pitch and do a lot of [elastic] band work to increase my arm strength," he said.

His in-game approach follows the age-old cliché of taking things one pitch at a time. "I'm just trying to hit the corners and keep the ball in the black."

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# 2007 Cape Cod Baseball League Schedule

Cape Cod Baseball League			www.capecodbaseball.org			2007 Schedule	
Sun 6/10	Mon 6/11	Tue 6/12	Wed 6/13	Thu 6/14	Fri 6/15	Sat 6/16	
			*Major League* *Baseball* *Scouts Days*		Bou @ Cot 5:00	Fal @ Bou 5:00	
					Y-D @ Hya 5:00	Cot @ Bre 5:00	
		War @ Fal 7:00			Orl @ Hya 5:00		
		Cha @ Har 7:00			Y-D @ Cha 7:00		
		Bre @ Orl 7:00			Har @ War 7:00		
Sun 6/17	Mon 6/18	Tue 6/19	Wed 6/20	Thu 6/21	Fri 6/22	Sat 6/23	
Har @ Bou 2:00	Orl @ Bou 5:00	Bou @ Hya 5:00	Cha @ Bou 5:00	War @ Bre 5:00	Cot @ Bou 5:00	War @ Cot 5:00	
Hya @ Cot 5:00	Har @ Hya 5:00	War @ Cha 7:00	Hya @ Bre 5:00		Orl @ Bre 5:00	Bre @ Y-D 5:00	
War @ Y-D 5:00	Cot @ Y-D 5:00	Cot @ Fal 7:00	Har @ Cot 5:00		Hya @ Y-D 5:00	Fal @ Cha 7:00	
Bre @ Fal 5:30	Cha @ Fal 7:00	Bre @ Har 7:00	Fal @ Y-D 5:00		Har @ Cha 7:00	Hya @ Har 7:00	
Cha @ Orl 7:00		Y-D @ Orl 7:00	War @ Orl 7:00		Fal @ War 7:00	Bou @ Orl 7:00	
Sun 6/24	Mon 6/25	Tue 6/26	Wed 6/27	Thu 6/28	Fri 6/29	Sat 6/30	
Fal @ Bre 5:00	Bou @ Bre 5:00	Bre @ Cot 5:00	Open	Bre @ Bou 5:00	Hya @ Bou 5:00	Har @ Bre 5:00	
Cot @ Hya 5:00	Fal @ Hya 5:00	Bou @ Y-D 5:00		War @ Hya 5:00	Cha @ Bre 5:00	Fal @ Cot 5:00	
Y-D @ War 5:00	Cot @ Cha 7:00	Har @ Fal 7:00		Cha @ Y-D 5:00	Y-D @ Cot 5:00	Orl @ Y-D 5:00	
Bou @ Har 5:30	Y-D @ Har 7:00	Hya @ Orl 7:00		Cot @ Har 7:00	War @ Fal 7:00	Bou @ Cha 7:00	
Orl @ Cha 7:00	Orl @ War 7:00	Cha @ War 7:00		Fal @ Orl 7:00	Orl @ Har 7:00	Hya @ War 7:00	
Sun 7/1	Mon 7/2	Tue 7/3	Wed 7/4	Thu 7/5	Fri 7/6	Sat 7/7	
Y-D @ Bou 2:00	Open	Bou @ Cot 5:00	War @ Bou 2:00	Orl @ Cot 5:00	Cot @ Bre 5:00	Y-D @ Fal 5:30	
Cha @ Hya 5:00		Hya @ Y-D 5:00	Har @ Fal 4:00	Bre @ Y-D 5:00	Orl @ Hya 5:00	Bre @ Hya 5:00	
Cot @ Orl 5:00		Fal @ Cha 7:00	Y-D @ Bre 5:00	Hya @ Cha 7:00	Y-D @ Cha 7:00	Har @ Cha 7:00	
Bre @ Fal 5:30		Bre @ Har 7:00	Cot @ Hya 5:00	Bou @ Har 7:00	Bou @ Fal 7:00	Bou @ Orl 7:00	
War @ Har 5:30		Orl @ War 7:00	Cha @ Orl 7:00	Fal @ War 7:00	Har @ War 7:00	Cot @ War 7:00	
Sun 7/8	Mon 7/9	Tue 7/10	Wed 7/11	Thu 7/12	Fri 7/13	Sat 7/14	
Hya @ Bou 2:00	Har @ Y-D 5:00	Open	Har @ Bre 5:00	Har @ Bou 5:00	Cha @ Y-D 5:00	Bre @ Bou 5:00	
Orl @ Bre 5:00	Bre @ Cha 7:00		War @ Cot 5:00	War @ Bre 5:00	Bou @ Fal 7:00	Hya @ Cot 5:00	
Cha @ Cot 5:00	Cot @ Fal 7:00		Cha @ Hya 5:00	Orl @ Cot 5:00	Cot @ Har 7:00	Cha @ Fal 5:30	
War @ Y-D 5:00	Hya @ Orl 7:00		Orl @ Y-D 5:00	Fal @ Hya 5:00	Bre @ Orl 7:00	War @ Har 7:00	
Fal @ Har 5:30	Bou @ War 7:00		Fal:Bou @Sand 7:00	Y-D @ Cha 7:00	Hya:War @NB 7:00	Y-D @ Orl 7:00	
Sun 7/15	Mon 7/16	Tue 7/17	Wed 7/18	Thu 7/19	Fri 7/20	Sat 7/21	
Fal @ Bre 2:00	Cot @ Bou 5:00	Open	Orl @ Bou 5:00	Bou @ Bre 5:00	Y-D @ Bou 5:00	Bre @ War 2:00	
Har @ Hya 5:00	Y-D @ Bre 5:00		Bre @ Cot 5:00	Har @ Y-D 5:00	Cha @ Bre 5:00	Bou @ Hya 5:00	
*Cot @ War 5:00*	Hya @ Fal 7:00		War @ Hya 5:00	Hya @ Cha 7:00	War @ Cot 5:00	Orl @ Fal 5:30	
Bou @ Y-D 5:00	Har @ Orl 7:00		Y-D @ Fal 7:00	Cot @ Orl 7:00	Fal @ Hya 5:00	Cot @ Cha 7:00	
Orl @ Cha 7:00	Cha @ War 7:00		Cha @ Har 7:00	Fal @ War 7:00	Orl @ Har 7:00	Y-D @ Har 7:00	
Sun 7/22	Mon 7/23	Tue 7/24	Wed 7/25	Thu 7/26	Fri 7/27	Sat 7/28	
Cha @ Bou 2:00	Cot @ Bou 5:00	*Orl @ Bre 5:00*	Open	*Hya @ Bou 5:00*	War @ Bou 5:00	<b>All-Star Game</b> <b>Wareham</b> <b>6:pm</b>	
Hya @ Bre 5:00	Bre @ Y-D 5:00	Bou @ Cot 5:00		Bre @ Cha 7:00	Fal @ Cot 5:00		
Har @ Cot 5:00	Orl @ Fal 7:00	Y-D @ Hya 5:00		Fal @ Har 7:00	Bre @ Hya 5:00		
*Fal @ Y-D 5:00*	*Cha @ Har 7:00*	Har @ Cha 7:00		Y-D @ Orl 7:00	Har @ Y-D 5:00		
War @ Orl 7:00	Hya @ War 7:00	War @ Fal 7:00		Cot @ War 7:00	Cha @ Orl 7:00		
Sun 7/29	Mon 7/30	Tue 7/31	Wed 8/1	Thu 8/2	Fri 8/3	Sat 8/4	
Open	Orl @ Y-D 5:00	Y-D @ Bre 5:00		Open	Cha @ Cot 4:30	War @ Bou 4:30	
	Bou @ Cha 7:00	Fal @ Cot 5:00			Hya @ Fal 7:00	Har @ Bre 4:30	
	Cot @ Fal 7:00	Bou @ Hya 5:00			Y-D @ Har 7:00	Cot @ Hya 4:30	
	Hya @ Har 7:00	War @ Cha 7:00			Bre @ Orl 7:00	Cha @ Y-D 4:30	
	Bre @ War 7:00	Har @ Orl 7:00			Bou @ War 7:00	Fal @ Orl 7:00	
Sun 8/5	Mon 8/6	Tue 8/7	Wed 8/8	Thu 8/9	Fri 8/10	Sat 8/11	
Hya @ Cot 4:30	Fal @ Bou 4:30	Cha @ Bre 4:30	Y-D @ Cot 4:30	Open	Divisional Games	Divisional Games	
Y-D @ War 5:00		War @ Hya 4:30	Orl @ Cha 7:00		East: Game 1	East: Game 2	
Bou @ Fal 5:30		Cot @ Y-D 4:30	Hya @ Fal 7:00		West: Game 1	West: Game 2	
Orl @ Har 5:30		Har @ Orl 7:00	Bre @ Har 7:00				
Bre @ Cha 7:00			Bou @ War 7:00				
Sun 8/12	Mon 8/13	Tue 8/14	Wed 8/15	Thu 8/16	Fri 8/17	Sat 8/18	
Divisional Game(s)	Championship	Championship	Championship				
East Game 3 (if nec)	Game 1 or 2	(if nec)	(if nec)				
West Game 3 (if nec)							
or Championship							
Game 1							



# Working With Leather

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE



Pitcher Keith Shinaberry (Texas) of the Brewster Whitecaps gives Cape League hitters a different look with a sidearm delivery.



Jake Oplitz (Nebraska) of the Harwich Mariners applies the tag to Cotuit right fielder Curtis Dupart (Georgia Tech).



Harwich Mariners' shortstop Cole Figueroa (Florida) has his eye on the ball.



Cotuit's Tony Delmonico (Tennessee) makes a nice backhanded grab at shortstop for the Kettleers.



Orleans Cardinals' third baseman Chase D'Amaud (Pepperdine) gets the runner at first.



Shortstop Reese Havens (South Carolina) of Cotuit applies the tag at second base to Wareham second baseman Michael Demperio (Texas).



Cotuit Kettleer catcher Aaron Baker (Oklahoma) blocks the plate as Steve Strausbaugh (Western Carolina) of the Harwich Mariners goes into a slide.