

Vermont Senior Baseball News

The newsletter of the Vermont Senior Baseball League Inc., founded 1984 by Floyd Brown

A hardball league for age 35 and over that plays a safe, fun, and competitive game of baseball in an atmosphere of good sportsmanship
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Champlain Wins Lower Division

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
St.J Tigers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	7	2
Champlain Whales	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	0		7	9	2

On September 18, the Champlain Whales defeated the St. Johnsbury Tigers 7-2, to win the Lower Division Championship. Pitcher Bob Tiplady went the distance for the Whales. St.J threatened in the top of the 2nd when John Palermo and Carl Edwards led off with singles, but after 2 consecutive forceouts at 3rd base Tiplady struck out Bob Regis to end the inning. That was the first of 5 strikeouts Tiplady accumulated, and he walked only one batter. He was especially dominant in the middle of the game, allowing no hits in a 14-batter stretch from the 4th to the 7th inning. A strong team defense was led by shortstop Harry Frank, who had 7 assists and 2 putouts.

Meanwhile the Whales offense was putting numbers on the board against St.J starter Keith Day. In the 3rd inning the bases were loaded with no outs after Rob Dinapoli and Harry Frank each singled and Doug Davis walked. Tiplady singled to drive in one run, and Steve Furkay and John Terko drove in a run each with consecutive forceouts at second base. In the 4th, Marty Dion singled, advanced on Eddie Krasnow's groundout and scored on Mike Krasnow's base hit, with Mike taking second on the throw to the plate. He then scored when Dinapoli followed with a hit. The Tigers then brought in Arne Johnson to pitch, and he gave up Champlain's final run in the 5th inning when Davis singled and later scored on Terko's hit. Johnson shut down the Whales after that, as did Ken Bean, who pitched the final inning for the Tigers.

The Tigers finally got on the board in the 8th inning when, with one out, Ken Bean lined a solid single to center, and after Richard Lyon walked, Brian Willey pounded a double over the left fielder's head to drive in both runners. But on the next play Eddie Krasnow, playing 3rd base, fielded John Palermo's grounder and tagged out Willey after a brief chase. Carl Edwards popped up to shortstop Harry Frank to end the inning.

see next page for more photos

Lake Region is New League Champion

On September 18 the Lake Region Rangers became the league's 8th different champion in the last 8 years by defeating the Barre Brewers, 2-0, at Montpelier's Recreation Field, in a game that took only 2:06 to play.

On the day before his 50th birthday, Lake Region pitcher Maury Tinker allowed only 3 hits in a complete game shutout. The Rangers scored in the top of the 4th inning when Rob Pforzheimer's 2-out single drove in Carbo, while Chris Royer advanced to 2nd base. Johnny Kalinen followed with a single, but Brewer left fielder Marcel Chouinard's throw to the plate nipped Royer trying to score.

Lake Region scored again in the top of the 8th when the Rangers loaded the bases with one out and Johnny Kalinen scored on Matt Kempton's flyout to center field.

Barre had 2 runners on with only 1 out in both the 3rd and 5th innings but failed to convert those chances. In the 7th inning, with one out Nate Habbep reached base on an error but Tom Fontana lined out to first baseman Rob Pforzheimer, who stepped on the base for a double play to end the inning. Tinker then retired the next 6 batters to close out the game in commanding fashion.

Marc Conti pitched the complete game for the Brewers, with 7 strikeouts and 2 walks. It looked like a disastrous start when his first pitch of the game hit Kalinen in the back, and then Conti threw low to first base after fielding James Fournier's bunt. Both runners advanced on Tinker's grounder to 1st baseman Frank Tedeschi, but Conti then struck out Matt Kempton and got Cedric Alexander to pop out to Tedeschi for the 3rd out.



Above, Maury Tinker accepts the Floyd Brown League Championship Trophy from Floyd's son Blaine Brown, as league President Mike Wagner and the Ranger players look on. Back row left to right: Cedric Alexander, James Fournier, Rob Pforzheimer, Carbo, Johnny Kalinen, Matt Kempton, Chris Royer, Kevin St. Jean. Photo by Wayne Perry.

see next page for more photos

League Championship, continued

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Lake Region Rangers	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	6	3
Barre Brewers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2



Above, Lake Region's Maury Tinker delivers a pitch during the league championship game. Photo by Virginia Gobats.

Below, Mark Conti of the Brewers. Photo by Wayne Perry.



Above, the Brewers' first hit was this 3rd inning pop fly by Frank Tedeschi which just eluded Rangers First Baseman Rob Porzheimer and Right Fielder Kevin St. Jean. Photo by Wayne Perry.

Lower Division Championship Photos



Above, Champlain's Bob Tiplady used a sidearm delivery to keep the St. Johnsbury batters off balance. Photo by Virginia Gobats.



Above, the Whales gather around their new trophy. Back row left to right, Bob Tiplady, Mark Carbone, Doug Davis, Marty Dion, Rob Dinapoli, Ernie Palasits, Steve Furkay, Bob Mulrow. Front row left to right, Eddie Krasnow, Mike Krasnow, John Terko, Harry Frank. Photo by Virginia Gobats.

Photos from the 2005 season



Above, the family of the late Floyd Brown displays the bronze plaque presented in his honor on August 14. Left to right, Floyd's daughters Faye Stocker and Gail Sheltra, his son Blaine Brown, daughter Sherry Ingalls and Floyd's widow Doris Brown.



Above, Randall McGrath, wearing the hat of his old Danville team, fills in for St. Johnsbury



Neil Stanzione displays a game ball signed by his teammates after pitching a no-hitter.



Above, Colchester manager Bob Yarnell mans the grill for a postgame barbecue while Rio Girelli and a couple of the visiting team players enjoy the results.



Above, Steve Ferreira Jr. and Sr. are teammates on the Jericho Indians and formed the battery (catcher and pitcher) for a game on July 17.



Above, umpire Kevin Eurich warms up the pitcher while Waterbury catcher Eric Potter gets ready in the dugout.



Another family battery took the field for Winooski on August 28, pitcher Rich Rollins and his wife Kelly.



Barre manager John Grearson and assistant Frank Tedeschi with their team's first place trophy.

First Place and Championship Teams 1998 - 2005

Year	1st place	League Champion	Lower Div. Champion
1998	Jericho	Newport	
1999	Lake Region	Jericho	
2000	South Royalton	South Royalton	
2001	Killington	Killington	
2002	Killington	Mad River	Montpelier
2003	Morrisville	Burlington	Chelsea
2004	Barre	Colchester	Burlington
2005	Barre	Lake Region	Champlain

Postseason Playoffs and Championships

August 28 - September 1:

Upper Division Play-in (teams 1-6 bye):
 Newport Cubs 5, Caledonia 1
 Killington 2, Burlington 1
 Lower Division Play-in (teams 11-16 bye):
 Columbia Newport 21, Winooski 2
 Waterbury 15, Northfield 3

September 4:

Upper Division quarterfinals :
 Barre 17, Killington 1
 Mad River Valley 14, Newport Cubs 6
 Lake Region 4, Jericho 2
 Colchester 5, Chelsea 4
 Lower Division quarterfinals :
 Waterbury 5, Montpelier 3
 Champlain 15, Columbia Newport 2
 Williston 2, Conn.Valley 1
 St. Johnsbury 11, S.Royalton 5

September 11:

Upper Division semifinals
 Barre 2, Colchester 0
 Lake Region 2, Mad River Valley 1
 Lower Division semifinals
 St. Johnsbury 2, Waterbury 0
 Champlain 5, Williston 4

September 18:

Upper Division / League Championship
 Lake Region 2, Barre 0
 Lower Division Championship
 Champlain 7, St. Johnsbury 2

		W	L	Pct.	GB
1	Barre Brewers	14	2	.875	----
2	Mad River Valley	12	3	.800	1.5
3	Lake Region Rangers	11	3	.786	2
4	Colchester Lakers	11	4	.733	2.5
5	Chelsea	11	4	.733	2.5
6	Jericho Indians	11	5	.688	3
7	Newport Cubs	9	5	.643	4
8	Burlington Cardinals	9	6	.600	4.5
9	Killington Summit Lodge Saints	9	7	.562	5
10	Caledonia Bucks	7	7	.500	6
11	Montpelier Monties	8	8	.500	6
12	Champlain Whales	6	6	.500	6
13	Williston Armadillos	7	9	.438	7
14	St. Johnsbury Tigers	6	8	.429	7
15	South Royalton Corner Stop Royals	6	9	.400	7.5
16	Connecticut Valley Orioles	5	10	.333	8.5
17	Columbia Newport	3	13	.188	11
18	Waterbury Warthogs	3	13	.188	11
19	Northfield North Stars	2	13	.133	11.5
20	Winooski A's	0	15	.000	13.5

Tie games (2): 5/15: Northfield 3, Chelsea 3;
 8/21: Lake Region 3, St. Johnsbury 3

Tie breakers for position in the standings:

4-5: Colchester and Chelsea did not play, but Colchester had the lower average runs allowed.
 10-11-12: Head to head among the 3 Champlain had the worst record (0-1) so they drop out and get 12th place. Caledonia had a lower average runs allowed than Montpelier.
 17-18: Columbia defeated Waterbury on May 1.

Games postponed and not rescheduled (8):

4/24 Caledonia at Champlain. 5/22 Burlington at Newport Cubs, Winooski at Caledonia, Conn.Valley at Champlain, Mad River Valley at Lake Region, South Royalton at St. Johnsbury. 7/10 Champlain at Newport Cubs. 8/14 Champlain at Colchester.



Frank Tedeschi of the Barre Brewers stretches for a throw to retire a Killington batter during a playoff game. Photo by Wayne Perry.



Montpelier Monties manager Charlie Barasch leads his team in the postgame handshake with the victorious Waterbury Warthogs after their playoff game. Photo by Wayne Perry.



Pat O'Connor of the Burlington Cardinals has something in his back yard that you don't have in yours. It's "Little Fenway", a scale model of Boston's Fenway Park, including such details as a working scoreboard, bullpens beyond the right field fence and the Citgo sign outside the left field wall, the "Green Monster". The field is designed for Wiffle ball and Pat hosts tournaments to raise funds for worthy causes.

VSBN: Are you some kind of a baseball nut?

Pat: I've been a baseball nut my whole life, starting with the fact that my parents had 9 children, enough to field a team. Since my father was in the Navy we moved around every couple of years and I got to see lots of different teams and ballparks. But my life-long favorite team has been the Angels. I was out there when they were one of the first expansion teams and played in Los Angeles before moving to Anaheim. In 2002 they were in the World Series against the Giants and after game 5 in San Francisco there was a day off before they were to play game 6 in Anaheim, so I figured this was something I shouldn't let slip away and I flew out there, bought tickets from a scalper and went to games 6 and 7, so I saw the Angels win the World Series.

VSBN: Is your wife a baseball fan also?

Pat: Beth is great. After I graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, I was stationed on the Great Lakes and that's where we met. I took her to a baseball game on our first date, in Detroit in 1977, Mark "The Bird" Fidrych pitched in a game against the Red Sox.

VSBN: When did you come to Vermont?

Pat: After my Coast Guard service I went to work for IBM in Essex Junction starting in 1981 and I'm still there. Beth teaches Spanish at Essex High School. My younger son, Kevin, is a student there. My older son Brian is now a sophomore at Georgia Tech. My daughter Katie graduated from Georgia Tech and is currently working on a project in China for Deloitte.

VSBN: Were any of your brothers or sisters as interested in baseball as you were?

Pat: Sure, in fact in August 1993 I went on a tour of the major leagues in a van with 2 of my 4 brothers. I used my 2 week vacation with a weekend before and after and we saw 22 games in 17 days. Our goal was to see every major league team at least once, plus we went to Cooperstown and to Dyersville, Iowa, which was the site of the "Field of Dreams". Our rules were that we had to stay for the whole game, we had to get a program, and we rated the hotdogs, ballparks and ball girls. That was when I decided there was no better ballpark than Fenway Park.

VSBN: Wasn't it very complicated to plan the trip?

What would you have done if a game was rained out and your schedule called for you to go to the next city?

Pat: That actually happened to us, a game in Yankee Stadium was rained out and we spent hours figuring out how to revise the schedule so we could still see those teams somewhere else. Another time we were on a tight schedule and the game we were at went into extra innings, and we really had to hustle to get to the next game before it

started. All of this was picked up by ABC's Good Morning America and various TV and radio stations.

VSBN: How did you get started in the senior league?

Pat: I knew Ronn Winn and he called me when he started the Cardinals, but I couldn't free up time until the team's second season. It was a thrill for me to be a part of our championship team in my first year. I mostly played outfield and first base just like in college. This year I also filled in at catcher. What I really enjoy most is the camaraderie of my Cardinal teammates in the dugout and traveling to different parts of Vermont that I normally don't get to a chance to see. Ronn and I and some of our teammates are also active in the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR).

VSBN: When did you build Little Fenway?

Pat: I got the idea in 2000 and started building it that fall, with a lot of help from friends and teammates. I got some dirt from the real Fenway Park and tried to match it, the same with the paint color, we worked from a paint chip that somehow flaked off the dugout there. Opening day was July 4, 2001, I let some people know about it and over 200 showed up. We started playing wiffle ball and rotated people in and out of the game. Eventually we started using the field as a way to raise money for charities. Our largest annual event is in August to benefit the Travis Roy Foundation. We also hold 10 to 15 charity games each summer when local businesses challenge the CHAMP 101.3 Corm and the Coach radio station team. We have inducted three members into the Little Fenway Hall of Fame, including senior league players Bill Livingstone and Brian Stevens, and we keep records such as the longest home run, tournament averages, and web gems, like our first triple play

VSBN: Now that Little Fenway is successful do you have something in mind for an encore?

Pat: There is still some room out in back here, and I always liked the looks of Wrigley Field in Chicago, with its bricks and ivy, so how does "Little Wrigley" sound? ♦

Below, Pat waters down the Little Fenway infield in his role as the head groundskeeper.



For directions and information about events at Little Fenway go to the web site at:
www.LittleFenway.com

Bottom of the Lineup

By Mike Wagner

From time to time it's a good idea to review the rules, whether our own league's quirky ones or baseball rules in general. Here is one that generated a lot of discussion recently.

With 2 outs and runners on first and third bases, the batter hit a ground ball to the 3rd baseman. His throw to first pulled the 1st baseman off the bag and he tagged the batter going by for the 3rd out. The runner from 3rd base had crossed the plate just before the tag. Did the run count?

All parties agreed that if the throw had not been off line and the first baseman touched the base the run would not count, but those in favor of the run counting claimed that since the runner was tagged it was no longer a force out, and therefore the run should count.

The major league rulebook, section 4.09(a) contains this wording; "A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during a play in which the third out is made by the batter-runner before he touches first base..." This doesn't mention the manner of the putout (tag or touching the base), so the ruling was the run did not count. ♦

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Letter from South Bend

Editor's note: Lefty Guillette is the 75-year-old first baseman of the Jericho Indians. He is also an assistant coach at Essex HS, as shown in this photo.

Hi Mike,

In 1967 when I was recuperating on the hospital ship on my way home from Vietnam, I made a list of 32 things I wanted to get done during my life. One of those was to go back to college and get my degree. So that's what I'm doing now. I was accepted at Notre Dame University here in South Bend, Indiana. Previously I had completed 3 years of work at the University of Michigan, so I have one year to go to get a degree in Business.



The semester started in the middle of August, so I had to miss the last couple of weeks of the season and the playoffs. Life here at ND is just absolutely beautiful and the student body are first class. No rude, undressed, loud mouth or any of what you see at other colleges. That's not to say they don't have their problems but if they do the student is gone. No second chances including jocks.

One class is War Law Ethics and there is lots and lots of reading. Reading isn't so bad but retaining what one has just read is another thing. There are 65 or so students in the class, mostly seniors and a few ROTC cadets. It's interesting to me as I have lived through most of what is being discussed. So far I have been quiet (REALLY). These kids are sharp and very interesting to listen to what they feel about our country. Mostly all positive. Mostly conservative with maybe 15 liberals, but very objective in their opinions.

Tom Brokaw is coming to campus Sept.22 when Father John Jenkins will be sworn in as the new president. I have tickets for that. I am trying to get involved with everything on campus to add to this great experience.

Please stay in touch and again as I always say - WHAT A GREAT JOB you've done for the league and yours truly.

Semper Fi,
Lefty

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