



4-5 SEP 2010, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD



[www.britishbaseball.org](http://www.britishbaseball.org)

# PLAY BALL...!

*It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring when everything else begins anew, and it blossoms in summer, filling the afternoons and evenings... and then, as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone. You count on it. Rely on it to buffer the passage of time, to keep the memory of sunshine and high skies alive and then just when the days are all twilight, when you need it most, it stops.*

The end of the season approaches, and as is tradition the National Baseball Championships are upon us. To some followers of other sports in Britain it may not seem traditional to play for a few months solid, and yet not necessarily win the 'real' title. I see other sports do this more and more, and applaud the fact that we were already doing it, continue to do so, and do a great job of putting together a spectacle befitting the occasion.

For the last few years, Croydon have put on the show we have become accustomed to. However in the best traditions of the sport, we have a different venue this year. And isn't it right that **Herts Baseball Club** should be celebrating their brand spanking new second diamond with our season finale?

So to the BBF Board and the legion of organisers at Herts, Dave Ward at Croydon has set the tone recently and has laid down the gauntlet. I know you will put on a show for us. I for one am looking forward to it immensely.

And to all the clubs, players, officials, spectators and maybe even the odd walk-up/passers-by, welcome to the 2010 BBF NBC's at Grovehill Ballpark, enjoy the Finals, and may the best teams win.

*This is not a day for concerns. This is a day for pleasure. There are concerns in baseball but they get dissolved in the bright sunshine...and this is my weather, I want credit for it.*

*Mark Salter*

BBF President



Can the **Bracknell Blazers** stage a repeat victory, after their stunning three-game comeback in 2009?

photo by dephoto.biz



# 2010 NATIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE ELIGIBLE ROSTERS



## BRACKNELL BLAZERS

Record: 21-5

*2009 National Champions*

CATTERMOLE Mike  
COKE Leigh  
COLLINS Henry  
CUNLIFFE Brendan  
FORD Jamie  
KIRBY Brooks  
MAITLAND Matt  
MARTINEZ Reiniel  
MATTHEWS Phil  
NOGAMI Leo  
RANCE Rob  
SHEPPARD Gordon  
SIMPSON Marcus  
TRASK Michael  
TRASK Ryan



## SOUTHAMPTON MUSTANGS

Record: 13-15

*2010 NBL Inductee*

ARIETA Ross  
BARNES Simon  
BARNES Steve  
BIBBY Richard  
COOPER Ash  
DAVIS Ben  
DAVISON Gary  
JINNAH Alex  
JOHNSON Phil  
NORMAN James  
RALPH Lee  
SIERRA Oscar  
SMITH Simon  
TRUELSON Charles  
URBANAVICIUS Marius  
WRIGLEY Dave



## RICHMOND FLAMES

Record: 17-11

*2006 National Champions*

BIRD Ryan  
CAIN Cody  
CASTRO Luis  
COOK Chris  
DELZOPPO Grant  
FRANCIS Dave  
MANCHINO Carlos  
McANENEY Dan  
NAUMCZIK George  
NIEDRINGHAUS Kevin  
OSBORN Michael  
PEREZ Franklin  
SAITO Yoshi  
SHIELDS Euan  
SHINKAWA Tetsuro  
SPAULDING Matt  
UNSELL Robbie  
VISSER Martin



## LONDON METS

Record: 24-4

*2007/08 National Champions*

ANDERSON Bryan  
ANTHONY Rob  
CASCIELLO Alberto  
CLARK Phil  
COOK Derrick  
CRAMMAN Jonathon  
DE CAIRES Eduardo  
DE LA ROSA Hairon  
HESTERBURG Matt  
HICKSON Kyle  
JONES Graeme  
LINTERN George  
LINTERN Will  
MARCUS Jonathan  
MATOS Rodolfo  
MONTEROSSO Robbie  
PIKE Alex  
RANDALL Carl  
REYNOSO William  
ROBERTS Jason  
STABE Martin  
STERN Rafi  
WILLIAMS Daniel  
WILSON Reid

## 2010 NATIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS CREW

Delorenzo, Bernard (N) - Technical Commissioner  
Muller, Darrin (S) - Crew Chief  
Brownlie, Ray (N)  
Fannon, Eddie (M)  
Hare, Geoff (S)

Haywood, Thomas (N)  
Miles, Darik (S)  
Nordwall, Petter (S)  
Smith, Dave (S)

# SCHEDULE OF PLAY 4-5 SEPTEMBER 2010, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

## National Baseball League

### Saturday 4 September

09:30	Diamond 1	Game 1	Richmond Flames	@	Bracknell Blazers	7 innings
12:00	Diamond 1	Game 2	Soton' Mustangs	@	London Mets	7 innings
14:30	Diamond 1	Game 3	Game 1 Winner	@	Game 2 Winner	7 innings
17:00	Diamond 1	Game 4	Game 1 Loser	@	Game 2 Loser	7 innings

### Sunday 5 September

09:30	Diamond 1	Game 5	Game 4 Winner	@	Game 3 Loser	7 innings
15:30	Diamond 1	Final	Game 5 Winner	@	Game 3 Winner	7 innings

## AAA League

### Saturday 4 September

09:30	Diamond 2	Game 1	Herts Eagles	@	Liverpool Trojans	7 innings
12:00	Diamond 2	Game 2	Menwith Hill Patriots	@	Oxford Kings	7 innings
14:30	Diamond 2	Game 3	Game 1 Winner	@	Game 2 Winner	7 innings
17:00	Diamond 2	Game 4	Game 1 Loser	@	Game 2 Loser	7 innings

### Sunday 5 September

09:30	Diamond 2	Game 5	Game 4 Winner	@	Game 3 Loser	7 innings
17:00	Diamond 2	Final	Game 5 Winner	@	Game 3 Winner	7 innings

## AA League

### Sunday 5 September

12:00	Diamond 1	Final	Leicester Blue Sox	@	Richmond Knights	9 innings
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## Single-A League

### Sunday 5 September

12:00	Diamond 2	Final	MK Bucks	@	Guildford Mavericks	9 innings
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photo by dephoto.biz





**Bracknell's Michael Trask led the NBL in base hits (37) and tied his brother Ryan for most runs scored (37).**

photo by dephoto.biz

# STATS NBL SEASON LEADERS

Leaders in offense and pitching categories have been announced by the **Great Britain Baseball Scorer's Association** (GBBSA) at the conclusion of the 2010 National Baseball League regular season.

## MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS

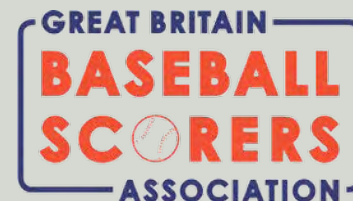
The GBBSA has named **Daniel Williams** "Most Valuable Batter" and **Jason Roberts** "Most Valuable Pitcher" in 2010. Both play for NBL pennant winners London Mets.

OFFENSIVE LEADERS			
Batting average	0.579	<b>Daniel Williams</b>	<i>London</i>
On-base percentage	0.647	<b>Daniel Williams</b>	<i>London</i>
Slugging average	1.000	<b>Daniel Williams</b>	<i>London</i>
Home runs	6	<b>Maikel Azcuy</b>	<i>Croydon</i>
Runs batted in	37	<b>Daniel Williams</b>	<i>London</i>
Base hits	37	<b>Michael Trask</b>	<i>Bracknell</i>
Runs scored	37	<b>Michael Trask</b>	<i>Bracknell</i>
	37	<b>Ryan Trask</b>	<i>Bracknell</i>
Stolen bases	23	<b>Robbie Unsell</b>	<i>Richmond</i>

PITCHING LEADERS			
Wins	15	<b>Jason Roberts</b>	<i>London</i>
Innings pitched	99.0	<b>Jason Roberts</b>	<i>London</i>
Strikeouts	119	<b>Jason Roberts</b>	<i>London</i>
ERA	2.64	<b>Jason Roberts</b>	<i>London</i>
WHIP	1.39	<b>Jason Roberts</b>	<i>London</i>
Strikeouts per 9 inns	12.0	<b>Matt Maitland</b>	<i>Bracknell</i>

Find much more statistical information (including historical comparisons) at the website of the Great Britain Baseball Scorer's Association:

<http://www.gbbsa.org.uk>



# OFF THE BEATEN BASEPATH NOTES ON SOME NEGLECTED STATS

by Joe Gray

NBL League Statistician [www.gbbsa.org.uk/historical.html](http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/historical.html)

Project Cobb founder [www.projectcobb.org.uk](http://www.projectcobb.org.uk)

The National Baseball League's star players spend the regular season vying for the poster-worthy stats titles of highest batting average, most home runs, and lowest earned-run average. But baseball breathes numbers, and in this new world of political correctness it is perhaps time to invite the more obscure figures down from the bleachers and into the front row behind home plate. I'm not talking about the formulae dropping off the sabermetric production line each month, but instead the raw numbers that are mere footnotes in box scores, being heartlessly chopped from the game-by-game stats tables to allow the summaries to conform to the tyrannical constraints of column width.

## HUMAN DARTBOARDS

One of the more sadistic departures from the banality of batting average is tracking hit by pitch tallies. The vintage of 2010 proved to be a fine one in this category, thanks to **Ryan Trask's** season total of nine. This matched **Alex Malihoudis's** plunder with the Brighton Buccaneers in 2005 and fell agonisingly – yes, pain is an especially valid metaphor here – short of the modern single-season record of 10. Both **Chris Lange** (Windsor Bears) and **Cody Cain** (Richmond Flames) were almost forced to move to their toes in tallying their baseball bruises, after exhausting the counting space on their fingers in 2004 and 2009, respectively.

We can extend this all a step further, by comparing career hit by pitch tallies. Cain leads the way with 49, which includes his independent national league haul from 1993 and 1994. Second and third in this illustrious list are Trask (39) and Malihoudis (38). But, of course, without adjusting for playing time (opportunities to get hit, that is, expressed in its most brutal form), the comparison is not a fair one. Fortunately, it is a simple task to take times hit by pitch and divide it by plate appearances to see who is the real human dartboard. Among qualifying players (225 top-tier plate appearances is the "pain threshold" here), the clear stand-out is Malihoudis, who has a rate of 7.8%. Second is Cain, with 7.1%, and third is Lange, with 6.3%.



## THE “GOLDEN SYRUP GLOVE” AWARD

Catchers are a strange breed. They spend their time gazing towards centre-field while all their teammates are – very wisely – pointing to face home plate. They often interrupt play to go and give the pitcher a pat on the derrière (after a short, carefully concealed conversation to warn the recipient of their intention). And, most worryingly, when the pitcher is trying hard to decide between the curve and the fastball, they just sit there with the fingers of one hand shifting around between their legs (although, in their defence, they do try their best to avoid the opposition having to watch what they are up to). But without them, the umpire would get hit a lot more, which no spectator would want to see.



I'm joking here, of course. In fact, I think that the “tools of ignorance” is a harsh moniker for their apparel, and so the next of the neglected stats is offered with the intention of saluting these fine ballplayers. It is the passed ball (or its avoidance, to be specific). This year, two players caught at least 50 innings without being charged with one. **Will Lintern** of the London Mets successfully navigated 62.0 innings behind the plate without allowing advancement on a spilt pitch, while **Grant Delzoppo** of the Richmond Flames managed 54.0 innings. This feat was not seen in 2009, but two seasons back it was also achieved twice. And the players? Will Lintern of the London Mets (51.0 innings) and Grant Delzoppo of the Richmond Flames (67.0 innings).

## ONE LETTER SHORT OF AN ALPHABET

Some batters seem to live a perfectly normal life despite functioning with only 25 letters in their alphabet. The recurring theme is that they are all blissfully unaware of the existence of the letter “K”. In 2000, Kevin Coldiron of the London Warriors went 92 plate appearances without encountering the letter (never before had someone been given such inappropriate initials – “Kc” is a scoring shorthand for a called strike-out). This is the modern high-water mark, but since that season three other players have racked up 50 or more plate appearances without being sent down on strikes: Nathan Bashaw, with 63 for the Windsor Bears in 2001; Josh Chetwynd, with 56 for the London Mets in 2007; and Troy Kantor, with 61 for the same team as Chetwynd but in the following year.

No-one achieved the feat this year, but one player came very close. That was Ryan Bird of the Richmond Flames. He took what he presumed to be ball three in the second inning of a game against the London Mets on 3 July, but a loud shout from behind the plate indicated that someone else with a say in the matter felt otherwise. Without this aberrant (or is that “abhorrent”?) event, Bird would have completed 54 plate appearances with no “K” against his avian appellation.

Visit **GBBSA** online to read about **Project Cobb** and the **British Baseball Hall of Fame**:  
<http://www.gbbsa.org.uk>

by **Matt Smith**

Editor, BaseballGB [www.baseballgb.co.uk](http://www.baseballgb.co.uk)

It's a familiar, joyful feeling every year. With pre-season training out of the way, everyone looks forward with hope and expectation for what the new season will bring. 'Plenty', was the answer in 2010.

Few could have been looking forward to the new season quite so much as the NBL's proud **Croydon Pirates** after they suffered the indignity of an 0-24 regular season in 2009. Losing their season opener 23-3 against Richmond Flames would have left lesser teams on the floor, but the Pirates showed true character by winning the second game 6-5, quickly ensuring another win-less season would not be on the cards in Croydon.

However, that wasn't the most impressive response to an opening defeat. The AA-South's **Richmond Knights** took that honour by reeling off seventeen straight wins after an opening day loss to Sidewinders.

The Knights were one of several teams getting used to new surroundings, either as newly-formed teams or sides moving to a new level within the BBF structure.

Good starts can be a confidence booster in that situation, but sometimes a challenging opening can be the making of a team. **Essex Redbacks** began their AAA-South campaign with six losses, but they finished with an impressive 14-10 win-loss record. **Southampton Mustangs**, promoted to the NBL from AAA, lost eight of their first twelve games before finding their feet in the top-tier with a five-game winning streak, finishing with a highly creditable 13-15 record.

This theme of showing spirit in adversity also tips the balance when it comes to picking the most memorable date of the 2010 regular season.

Under normal circumstances, that would go to the events of 13 June when the three final valiant attempts at a perfect season, by **Oxford Kings** (AAA-South), **Poole Piranhas** (AA-South) and **Richmond Dragons** (A-South) respectively, were all brought to an end. But that incredible day was surpassed by 4 July and arguably the result of the season. **Herts Raptors** had an 0-9 record heading into their game with the then A-South Pool B leaders **Braintree Rays**. No one gave them a prayer, yet they

*BaseballGB is British baseball writers providing news, features and resources about MLB, British baseball and anything else relating to life as a baseball fan in the UK, all year long...*

came out on top 22-18. It was the rookie Raptors' only win of the season, but what a win it was.

The season deserved a memorable climax and that's exactly what we were treated to, especially in the North and the Midlands.

The history-rich **Liverpool Trojans** swept their final double-header over their closest rivals, **Menwith Hill Patriots**, to win their first league title (AAA-North) since 2007. **Bolton Robots of Doom** matched that display in AA-North, winning the league thanks to two victories over **Humber Pilots** in their final two games.

And few will forget the AA-Midlands title decider between **Birmingham Maple Leafs** and **Leicester Blue Sox**. The showdown inspired the local TV news cameras to pitch up at Western Park and the two teams did British baseball proud; the Blue Sox securing the title with a last-gasp victory in Game One and the Maple Leafs earning a share of the spoils in Game Two as a consolation.

The games were far from being the only positive aspects of the 2010 season. For instance, there was some high-profile exposure for British baseball on BBC One's Saturday breakfast show, the two inaugural 'Special Events' in the NBL were a success, and players and supporters benefitted from further improvements to facilities, such as the new dugouts at the **Essex Arrows/Archers** club, the new diamond in Chelmsford used by **Essex Redbacks** and **Chelmsford Clippers**, and the new second diamond being utilised to great effect this weekend at **Herts Baseball Club**.

It all amounted to a memorable 2010 season. Sure, not everyone achieved all that they had hoped for, but that's what makes the sport so competitive. Every game finishes with a winner and a loser; to misquote a famous baseball movie line, 'there's no tying in baseball'. As soon as the NBC is completed, league winners and playoff champions will start thinking about repeating their successes, while the rest will be learning lessons from this season and looking to make next year their year instead.

In fact, the best thing about the 2010 season is the promise it showed for the 2011 season.

And that's exactly how it should be.





photo by sa-images.com

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF BRITISH BASEBALL.

1890	Preston North End	1959	Thames Board Mills	1984	Croydon Blue Jays
1892	Middlesborough	1960	Thames Board Mills	1985	Hull Mets
1893	Thespians (London)	1961	Liverpool Tigers	1986	Cobham Yankees
1894	Thespians (London)	1962	Liverpool Tigers	1987	Cobham Yankees
1895	Derby	1963	East Hull Aces	1988	Cobham Yankees
1896	Wallsend-On-Tyne	1964	Hull Aces	1989	Enfield Spartans
1897	Derby	1965	Hull Aces	1990	Enfield Spartans
1899	Derby	1966	Stretford Saints	1991	Enfield Spartans
1900	Nottingham Forest	1967	Liverpool Yankees	1992	Leeds City Royals
1906	Tottenham Hotspur	1968	Hull Aces	1993	Humberside Mets
1907	Clapton Orient	1969	Watford Sun-Rockets	1994	Humberside Mets
1908	Tottenham Hotspur	1970	Hull Royals	1995	Menwith Hill Pirates
1909	Clapton Orient	1971	Liverpool Tigers	1996	Menwith Hill Pirates
1910	Brentford	1972	Hull Aces	1997	London Warriors
1911	Leyton	1973	Burtonwood Yanks	1998	Menwith Hill Patriots
1934	Hatfield (Liverpool)	1974	Nottingham Lions	1999	Brighton Buccaneers
1935	New London	1975	Liverpool Tigers	2000	London Warriors
1936	White City (London)	1976	Liverpool Trojans	2001	Brighton Buccaneers
1937	Hull	1977	Golders Green Sox	2002	Brighton Buccaneers
1938	Rochdale Greys	1978	Liverpool Trojans	2003	Windsor Bears
1939	Halifax	1979	Golders Green Sox	2004	Croydon Pirates
1948	Liverpool Robins	1980	Liverpool Trojans	2005	Croydon Pirates
1949	Hornsey Red Sox	1981	London Warriors	2006	Richmond Flames
1950	Burtonwood Bees	1982	London Warriors	2007	London Mets
1951	Burtonwood Bees	1983	Cobham Yankees	2008	London Mets
				2009	Bracknell Blazers

### MOST NATIONAL TITLES

- 5 – Hull Aces (1972, 1968, 1965, 1964, 1963)
- 4 – London Warriors (2000, 1997, 1982, 1981)
- 4 – Cobham Yankees (1988, 1987, 1986, 1983)
- 4 – Liverpool Tigers (1975, 1971, 1962, 1961)
- 3 – Brighton Buccaneers (2002, 2001, 1999)
- 3 – Menwith Hill Pirates/Patriots (1998, 1996, 1995)
- 3 – Enfield Spartans (1991, 1990, 1989)
- 3 – Liverpool Trojans (1980, 1978, 1976)
- 3 – Derby (1898, 1897, 1895)

**YOUTH  
NATIONAL BASEBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**11-12 September  
John Mills Field,  
Halton**

# STATS 2010 NATIONAL LEAGUE TEAMS

## PITCHING

	INN	BF	AB	R	ER	H	HR	BB	HBP	K	WP	BK	ERA	WHIP	K/9I	BB/9I
Bracknell Blazers	161	772	648	121	85	172	8	92	17	184	29	1	4.75	1.640	10.29	5.14
Croydon Pirates	171	959	754	238	141	210	3	157	40	134	59	6	7.42	2.146	7.05	8.26
London Mets	172	809	659	113	81	151	2	118	26	189	31	1	4.24	1.564	9.89	6.17
Essex Arrows	153 2/3	968	805	309	199	319	12	136	16	160	63	0	11.66	2.961	9.37	7.97
Herts Falcons	164 1/3	938	749	253	154	235	12	144	38	106	50	7	8.43	2.306	5.81	7.89
Richmond Flames	154	695	609	91	59	140	6	67	14	175	33	0	3.45	1.344	10.23	3.92
Soton' Mustangs	176 1/3	940	808	195	128	267	9	103	25	121	13	3	6.53	2.098	6.18	5.26
Mildenhall Bulldogs	105 2/3	501	412	126	86	142	7	69	20	110	21	0	7.32	1.997	9.37	5.88

## BATTING

	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	GDP	SH	SF	BB	HBP	I/O	SB	K	RBI	BA	OBA	SLA	OPS	PA/K
Bracknell Blazers	901	742	239	259	51	4	11	4	3	10	114	32	0	66	155	192	0.349	0.451	0.473	0.924	5.8
Croydon Pirates	896	758	184	207	35	5	10	7	1	5	110	21	1	77	191	134	0.273	0.378	0.372	0.750	4.7
London Mets	868	698	247	234	53	6	11	8	3	6	128	33	0	55	122	196	0.335	0.457	0.476	0.932	7.1
Essex Arrows	775	645	113	149	20	2	5	8	1	7	96	26	0	48	169	80	0.231	0.350	0.291	0.642	4.6
Herts Falcons	883	741	147	203	36	1	6	8	6	7	100	21	2	59	152	108	0.274	0.373	0.350	0.722	5.8
Richmond Flames	802	623	181	181	35	3	7	5	4	3	147	24	0	75	123	136	0.291	0.442	0.390	0.832	6.5
Soton' Mustangs	916	753	190	242	40	3	7	3	4	4	130	22	0	70	192	149	0.321	0.433	0.410	0.844	4.8
Mildenhall Bulldogs	577	494	151	166	34	4	3	3	0	5	60	19	0	52	77	108	0.336	0.424	0.439	0.863	7.5

Find much more statistical information (including historical comparisons) at the website of the Great Britain Baseball Scorers' Association: <http://www.gbbsa.org.uk>

# HERTS

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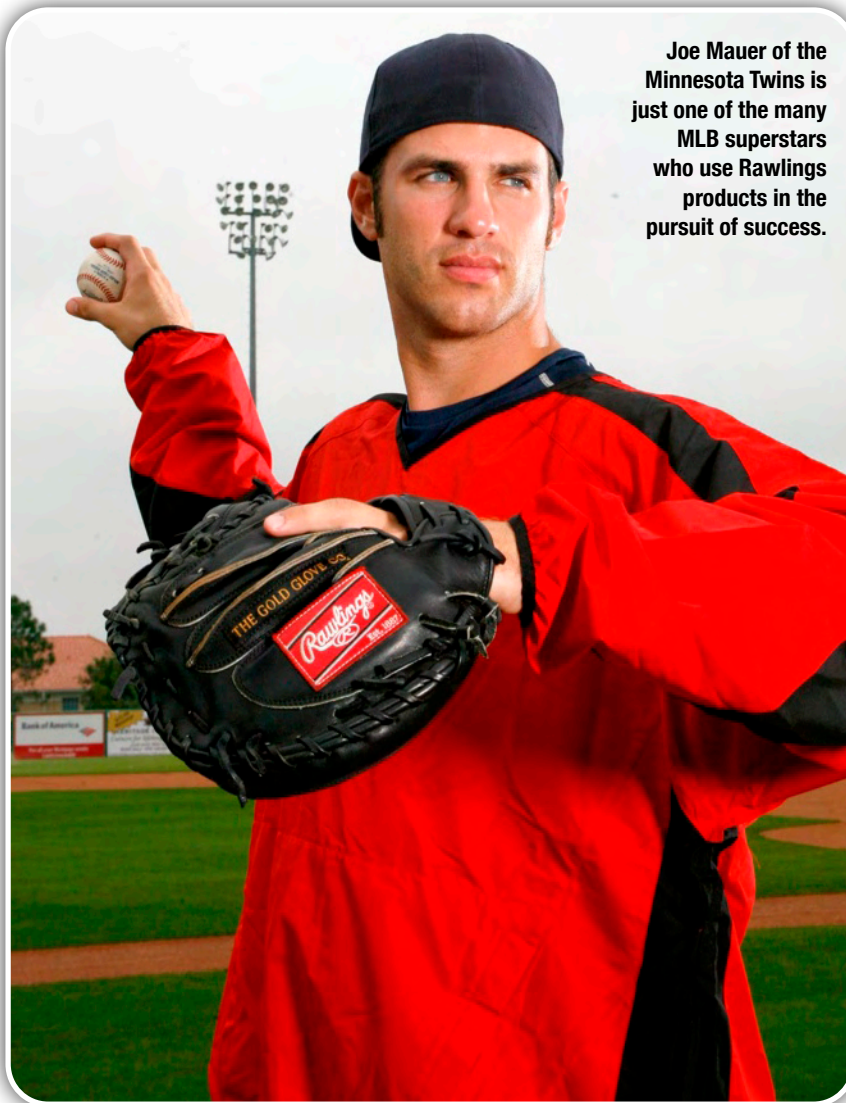
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## TITLE CONTENDERS

### National Baseball League

London Mets (24-4)  
Bracknell Blazers (21-5)  
Richmond Flames (17-11)  
Southampton Mustangs (13-15)

### AAA League

Liverpool Trojans (19-5)  
Oxford Kings (19-5)  
Menwith Hill Patriots (18-6)  
Herts Eagles (18-6)

### AA League

Richmond Knights (17-1)  
Leicester Blue Sox (15-5)

### Single-A League

Milton Keynes Bucks (13-7)  
Guildford Mavericks (9-4)

**Baseball • Softball**   
**UK**

Did you know that three UK baseball fields were enhanced in 2010 through BSUK's facilities grants scheme:

- ◆ *Herts Baseball Club*
- ◆ *Essex Arrows*
- ◆ *London Mets*

The 2011 Grants Award process will open in this off-season. Check the BSUK website for details:

**[www.baseballsoftballuk.com](http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com)**

# NATIONAL BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 4-5 Grovehill Playing Fields, Hemel Hempstead

