



Julien Fountain pitched his first ever complete game for Enfield Spartans against the Birmingham Brewers, and collected a victory, as Enfield beat the Brewers 8-5. London Warriors visit to Bury Saints was postponed, the scheduled game for September 5th will now be a double-header.

National League - Rookie Division

4th July 1993

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R
Tonbridge Bobcats	1	5	0	1	2	7	27
Cambridge Monarchs	0	0	2	4	4	*	10

\* the game was halted by mutual consent after 5½ innings in order that the Senior Division tie between the Cambridge Knights and Waltham Forest Angels could be played.

Bobcats opted to rest mainstay pitcher Nick Carter, fielding four men on the mound. Steve Bacon started, keeping Monarchs scoreless for the first two innings on his pitching debut. Bobcats went delightfully mad and scored fifteen in the first, including a two run homer for Alex Malihoudis, driving in Ben Carter.

With a comfortable cushion to defend, Bobcats then handed over the hurling duties to Matt Waters, Ben Lansbury and another new pitcher, Ian Hall, whilst Steve Gilbert, at one time umpiring the game, closed the pitching for the Monarchs.

Sadly, at time of going to press, we have no scoreline for London Stormers at Lakenheath High. Details to come in *Knuckleball* ?

National League - Senior Division

11th July 1993

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Cambridge Knights	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Enfield Spartans	4	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	X	10

Losing Pitcher - Sergio Espinosa  
Winning Pitcher - Rob Nelson

A bad day on the hill for Knights Sergio Espinosa gave Enfield a dream start, two of the opening four runs being walked in, Rob Yuelles 2 RBI single being the meat in that Spartans scoring sandwich.

Espinosa had a better second inning, Brad Cruickshank scoring Oscar Marcellino for 5-0 Spartans, but this was followed by a horrible start to the third, Steve Gilbert brought in to relieve with bases loaded, none out. Julian Fountain batted in the first and ran in the last of Enfield's four run spell in the third, Marcellino sacrificing for Steve Simmons, and Ian Lanario scoring brother Rob for the other two.

Cambridge and Steve Gilbert then settled, keeping Spartans scoreless through innings four and five, and it was a Steve Gilbert bunt that brought home Blair Sharleville, and ended Enfield's and Rob Nelson's hopes of a shut out. Sharleville then added to the Knights total in inning seven, scoring Luke Martino, but Ian Lanario immediately cancelled this out, his rightfield double scoring Steve Simmons.

Essentially a tale of two starters. Rob Nelson controlled and happy for Enfield, whilst Cambridge's Sergio Espinosa struggled to find his form.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Waltham Forest Angels	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	2	11	8	5
Essex Eagles	0	0	0	7	1	2	0	4	X	14	13	7

Winning Pitcher - Vince Warner

Essex gave a debut start on the hill to Dave Read, and Waltham Forest showed him no mercy, collecting four hits, driving in eight runs, (five earned), including a triple from Mark McCrory in the third.

Eagles couldn't seem to be able to penetrate the Angels defence, until suddenly in the fourth, the dam burst, with a grand slam homer for Dave Read (*I believe the first one reported in Knuckleball for the season*), and an in-the-park homer for Matt Jennings.

Essex then introduced mainstay pitcher, Vince Warner to the mound, yielding just the one hit from innings five to eight, and by the conclusion of that inning Eagles held a 14-9 lead. Two late runs for Angels narrowed the margin, but victory went to Essex and Vince Warner.

Once again, Birmingham Brewers were without a game, as the transport they had arranged to take them to Bury Saints, cancelled at the last minute. Also, Croydon Blue Jays at London Warriors was a no play, Blue Jays could not raise a team.

National League - Rookie Division

11th July 1993

London Stormers put behind them their recent defeat at the hands of Basildon, beating the Mariners 19-10. Richard Kemp pitched throughout for Stormers, Russell Thompson pitching through till the fifth for Mariners, George Simmonds on the hill for the closing third.

The pitching was of good quality throughout, and many of the hits were scattered to the deep fielding outfielders. Both sides indulged in some aggressive base running, London holding the edge by being more competitive in the closing innings. Sadly, Mariners finished the game with eight players, Tom Keegan picking up a leg injury, which currently has him on crutches. Best wishes for a speedy recovery Tom !

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS - WEEK 12

Senior Division	W	L	Pcnt	GB	Streak	Rookie Division	W	L	Pcnt	GB	Streak
London Warriors	8	1	.889		Won 1	London Stormers	6	1	.857		Won 1
Enfield Spartans	8	3	.727	1	Won 3	Tonbridge Bobcats	6	3	.667	1	Won 4
Essex Eagles	7	4	.636	2	Won 2	Lakenheath High	2	1	.667	2	Won 1
Bury Saints	4	4	.500	3½	Won 2	Basildon Mariners	1	5	.167	4½	Lost 3
Cambridge Knights	5	5	.500	3½	Lost 2	Cambridge Monarchs	1	6	.143	5	Lost 3
Croydon Blue Jays	3	7	.300	5½	Lost 5	<i>London/Lakenheath - result unknown</i>					
Waltham Forest Angels	2	8	.200	6½	Lost 1						
Birmingham Brewers	1	6	.143	6	Lost 1						

FORM TABLE

Senior Division	W	L	Pcnt	RF	RA
London Warriors	4	1	.800	49	19
Bury Saints	3	2	.600	44	27
Enfield Spartans	3	2	.600	36	27
Essex Eagles	3	2	.600	55	44
Cambridge Knights	2	3	.400	30	54
Waltham Forest Angels	2	3	.400	47	78
Birmingham Brewers	1	4	.200	57	55
Croydon Blue Jays	0	5	.000	37	70

Blue Jays five game losing streak has changed the league from a top six/bottom two split to a five/three split, with Angels and Brewers hot on their tail. The Knights form has wavered, they were 4-1 in the form table a fortnight ago, so the mid table positions could change. Nice to see league newcomers, Waltham Forest Angels, registering .400 in the form table, however the 32 runs conceded to Birmingham does weigh heavily on their defensive record. There is another Spartans/Warriors clash due this Sunday (18th July), and those runs conceded seem to indicate a tight contest.

SCHEDULES - WEEKS 13 & 14

18 & 25/7/93

Senior Division

Cambridge Knights @ Birmingham Brewers (DH)  
London Warriors @ Enfield Spartans  
Croydon Blue Jays @ Waltham Forest Angels

Rookie Division

Lakenheath High @ Cambridge Monarchs  
Basildon Mariners @ London Stormers

\* Please note that due to non-availability of Eagles players, Essex and Bury will play a double-header on August 29th.

Senior Division

London Warriors @ Birmingham Brewers  
Waltham Forest Angels @ Bury Saints  
Essex Eagles @ Cambridge Knights  
Enfield Spartans @ Croydon Blue Jays

Rookie Division

Cambridge Monarchs @ London Stormers  
Lakenheath High @ Tonbridge Bobcats

Sorry Folks!

An extensive search of *Knuckleball* HQ has revealed no trace of Mike Brabands quiz answers from issue five. It appears your foolish editor kept the answers to the quiz before, and threw away the latest set ! Sorry !!

Contributors

Many thanks to Chris (Waltham Forest), Bill Oliver, Rosemary Malihoudis, Rob Lanario, Mike Braband & Tom Keegan.

Duty Calls

Phil Ross will be in Bristol on business 26th, 27th & 28th July, therefore all game reports for 25th July should be posted in please. Issue 7 should be in the post Friday 30th July.

Copy Deadline

Copy for Issue 7 should reach me by Wednesday July 28th. Post to Phil Ross, Flat 2 'Thanescroft' Selborne Road, Croydon CR0 5JQ. Tel 081 688 2966 (home) or 081 681 2222 ex 25829 (work - NOT friday a.m.) or call Rex Phillips on 081 654 6605. Reports for 25th July by post only please.