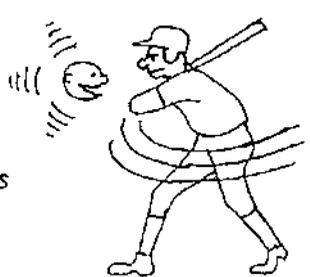


THE UPS
KNUCKLE AND INS
 AND DOWNS

BALL
 AND OUTS



of NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL

Volume **II** _____ 1994 _____ Number **1**

Hallo and welcome to another season of National League Baseball. Its been an unsettling start with news of teams joining the BBF (Birmingham and Cambridge), of teams folding (London Stormers), and of others being unable to raise a squad for the season (Alconbury). However, baseball is still being played, and by all accounts played to a high standard.

At present, with the league membership standing at eight, there is some question as to the schedule for the season. Certainly the current schedule stands until the end of June, with those teams due to play Alconbury or Stormers having the week off. From July onwards, there is still some debate as to whether the split season concept survives, or whether it will be one league of eight teams. As soon as news is received, we will circulate all clubs.

WEAR THE NAME WITH PRIDE !

National League has a dynamic, new three colour logo, as the enclosed sample demonstrates. Enquiries are currently being made about reproducing this fetching design on a T shirt, with Rob Lanario (Enfield Spartans), enquiring about costs. Obviously, the more definite orders we have, the cheaper it will be to order. As editor of the news letter I have asked Rob to put me down for two T shirts providing the costs don't exceed £10 a shirt. If you would like to order (with a maximum price if applicable), please send your details to me. Remember the more definite orders we can get, the cheaper it will be for everyone. It's still in the enquiry stage, so don't send any money yet !

National League

24th April 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Enfield Spartans	1	0	2	1	4	4	0	0	0	11
Bromley Blue Jays	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3

WP Julien Fountain (1-0)
 LP Keith Wilesmith (0-1)

With Bury Saints unable to raise a team for the opening day, and thereby forfeiting this match to the Enfield Spartans, Enfield, and the newly re-located Bromley Blue Jays brought forward their May 29th encounter to get the season under way.

Despite the action taking place at Enfield, it was actually Blue Jays home game, and so Spartans batted first. It proved to be a day of mixed fortunes for the Enfield trio of Lanario brothers, as starting pitcher Iain Lanario lasted just five batters, conceding RBI's to John Harrington and Bob Ratcliffe.

Then, in the top of the second, Simon Lanario, attempting to reach second, stepped awkwardly on the bag and fell injured. The ambulance was summoned, and Simon is currently sitting out games with a leg in plaster. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

In the third, Rob Lanario opened the Enfield scoring, courtesy of a bases loaded walk, and Steve Simmons was then batted in to tie the game. Bromley replied swiftly with new Jay, Brett Marty (2b), doubling to score Wilesmith.

In the fourth, Wilesmith began to waver, first hitting Julien Fountain, and then advancing him two more bases with wild pitches, acknowledging the second with a nod to

his battery mate. A single for Simmons then scored Fountain to put Spartans level again.

In the fifth, a weak fielding throw allowed Chris McGovern to bunt and reach first, and score Gary Bedingfield, and Rob Lanario cracked open the Blue Jay defence with a bases loaded triple. In the sixth, RBI's for Chris Stein, Chris McGovern and Justin Horner prompted Blue Jays to switch the battery around, and when Bob Ratcliffe took over, he already had Julien Fountain and Rob Lanario on base. Ratcliffe started shakily by walking two more batters for 11-3, but that would be the close of scoring for Enfield.

An RBI in the seventh for Keith Wilesmith reduced the arrears to 11-4, and in the bottom of the eighth, Spartans brought Gary Bedingfield in to pitch, so we were now closing the game with both starting catchers on the hill.

Blue Jays closed the game with more from the impressive Brett Marty, scoring Harrington and Wilesmith with a double, and then reaching home himself courtesy of a stolen base and a Matt Gill single.

In the days other games, the Essex Eagles played a tough 9 innings with the Lakenheath Yankees. Dave Reed pitched the first six for Eagles, and going into the sixth lead 5-4. However a rally from the Yankees put them 7-5 ahead, and so Eagles called on the experienced Vince Warner to close the game.

Warner held the home side, and the Eagles offence claimed four more runs over the closing innings to win 9-7.

Meanwhile, Waltham Forest Angels severely mauled the Tonbridge Bobcats 19-0. Matthew Poggi pitched the seven innings for a win, restricting the 'Cats to just two hits. For Angels, Noel Omechi scored a solo homer.

Bobcats had only restricted use of their main pitcher, Nick Carter, resting a sore arm. Alex Malihoudis took 1-4, his first National League spell on the hill. Steve Bacon threw one third, and Anthony Clarke two-thirds, with Carter coming on for the close

National League

1st May 1994

	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	
<u>London Warriors</u>	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	4	0	2	11 9
<u>Enfield Spartans</u>	2	1	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	4 10

LP Cody Cain (0-1)
WP Rob Lanario (1-0)

Warriors started their National League 94 campaign with the opponents and venue that closed their National League 93 campaign, but whilst Spartans looked as polished as they had last September, the Warriors were wobbling. Two infield errors in the bottom of the first loaded up the bases, and Chris McGovern and Julien Fountain capitalised with RBI's.

In the third, McGovern and Fountain claimed a further one and two RBI's respectively, and in the fourth, Chris McGovern walked with the bases loaded for 6-0 Spartans. Warriors pulled two back in the fifth with RBI's for Alan Bloomfield and Oliver Heidecker, and Harry Atwood, Alan Bloomfield and Cody Cain (2), added four more RBI's in the sixth to tie the game.

Singles for Heidecker and Dean Ward put Warriors two ahead in the eighth, and with no outs and bases loaded in the ninth, Rob Lanario took over pitching from Spartans starter, Julien Fountain. Cody Cain walked for 9-6 Warriors, and then took to the mound as Warriors closer, replacing Alan Smith.

Unfortunately, the pitcher with National League's best ERA last season, made a poor start, walking the first five batters for 9-8 Warriors, and yielding a 2 RBI single to the jubilant Rob Lanario for 10-9 Spartans.

Of the days other games, Bromley Blue Jays forfeited to Waltham Forest Angels, whilst Tonbridge Bobcats and Essex Eagles have re-arranged for June 5th.

National League

8th May 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H
Bury Saints	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1
London Warriors	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	5

WP John Nevelle (1-0)
LP Alan Smith (0-1)

Combining some of the pitchers stats for this game tells the story. Both pitched throughout to make it 18 innings, 15 hits, 25K's, 4 BB, 1 HBP and 2 earned runs, but both sides had towering hits that touched the boundary fence and fell inside to deny them home runs.

Warriors took an early lead courtesy of a Cody Cain RBI, but the speed of John Nevelle restricted Warriors to just four more hits all game. In the fourth, Bury turned a neat double play. Kevin Murphy's single was followed by an infield shot from Alan Smith. Saints pitcher Nevelle turned the ball to Johnson who relayed to Hawk for a 4-3 double play.

Saints almost got on the board in the sixth, starting with a triple to right for Durnell, but Nevelle's attempted sac-fly to centre was turned into a double play with Rich Kemp's catch and huge throw to home.

Three consecutive Saints hits in the eighth resulted in RBI's for Heffner and Howard Braband, putting them ahead to stay, and despite getting men on second in both the eighth and ninth, Warriors could not get the tying run across.

Waltham Forest continued their unbeaten start to the season with an 8-2 victory over Essex Eagles collecting his second win over the combined pairing of Dave Reed and Vince Warner for Eagles.

At Lakenheath, Yankees and Bobcats fought out a 26 run thriller, Nick Carter collecting the win 14-12 over Yankees hurler, Croad. Carter collected 2K's in the first, and finished with 11K's and 1 earned run on the day.

The hitting was highlighted by John Carter, hitting 2 triples and 4 RBI's, and for Yankees, a home run for Buchanan. Bobcat's Nick Carter also hit a triple, and a double for Jay Malihoudis gave Tonbridge the winning margin.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

Week 3 8/5/94

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Enfield Spartans	3	0	1.000	--
Waltham Forest Angels	3	0	1.000	--
Bury Saints	1	1	.500	1½
Essex Eagles	1	1	.500	1½
Tonbridge Bobcats	1	1	.500	1½
Bromley Blue Jays	0	2	.000	2½
Lakenheath Yankees	0	2	.000	2½
London Warriors	0	2	.000	2½

Please note that these standings include a Bury forfeit to Enfield and a Bromley forfeit to Waltham Forest. These games can, by mutual agreement, be re-arranged for later in the season. If so please inform *Knuckleball* so the forfeits can be removed from the standings.

SCHEDULES

Week 4 15/5/94

- Bromley Blue Jays @ Bury Saints
- Enfield Spartans @ Tonbridge Bobcats
- London Warriors @ Essex Eagles
- Waltham Forest Angels @ Lakenheath Yankees

Week 5 22/5/94

Bromley Blue Jays @ Tonbridge Bobcats
Enfield Spartans @ Waltham Forest Angels
Lakenheath Yankees @ Bury Saints

RESULTS

At present, the BEF are getting results coverage in the Daily Telegraph. This cannot go un-opposed. Please phone in your result (plus innings if other than 9) to 081 686 7727, leaving your message on the answerphone, as soon as you possibly can, and we'll do our best to hit the newspapers.

COMPETITION TIME !

Okay, okay, don't go mad ! In association with *Linedrive !* baseball fanzine, we are running a little competition for all you Major League pundits. Sadly there are no prizes on offer (unless you would like to volunteer some !), but we will print a table showing the best pundits scores.

You have to select the six divisional winners from the American and National Leagues, and starting with a perfect score of 50 points, you have the GB for your choice deducted from that score. Of course the idea is to retain a perfect fifty. All entries must be phoned or written in by 31st May 1994.

Contributors Many thanks to Mike Agha, Bill Oliver, Rosemary & Alex Malihoudis and Rob Lanario.

Copy deadline Please ensure your reports, scores and news are in by Wednesday May 25th. Please write to :- Phil Ross, Flat 2 'Thanescroft', Selborne Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5JQ, or call 081 686 7727 (answerphone).