



THE UPS

KNUCKLE AND DOWNS

AND INS

BALL AND OUTS



of NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL

Volume ② _____ 1994 _____ Number ⑤

We have now, in terms of time, past the halfway point in season '94, and after the turbulent opening spell of 'will we play, won't we play' baseball, we are now have a settled schedule to keep everyone occupied from now until the 4th September (weather permitting).

With only five games covering the whole league, and a minimum seven games still to play, nobody can be written out of the divisional top spot yet, never mind the other three qualifying play-off places, so it looks to be an interesting run in to the end of the season. The Essex revival puts pressure on the top trio, whilst Enfield, handicapped by terrible misfortune with injuries, still manage to put out a strong challenge to any would be opponent. Any team thinking to write off Tonbridge or Lakenheath is making a big mistake, and could well end up with their backs to the wall. There's an awful lot of good baseball left to be played, and we could end up with final standings a lot tighter than early season form might have indicated.

REPORTS & SCORES

10/7/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
London Warriors	3	1	1	1	4	7	1	3	7	26
Tonbridge Bobcats	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	11

WP Harry Atwood or Cody Cain
LP Mark Borley

Fate can be unkind. On July 3rd, London Warriors were well beaten by the Waltham Forest Angels, and the London Warriors post game discussion was very much a determined attitude they they were going to try harder, work harder, play harder, and it was unfortunate for the Tonbridge Bobcats that they bore the brunt of that new determination.

This takes no account of Bobcats own problems, with pitcher Nick Carter sidelined from hurling duties with an arm injury, and the influential GB youth cap Alex Malihoudis, (also a pitcher), being unavailable to play, whilst his brother Jay was also sidelined following an accident. Fortunately Jay was more shaken than actually hurt.

So with less than their best side, Tonbridge took on a highly motivated Warriors team, and were shown no mercy at all. Bobcats opened brightly with a neat 6-4-3 double play to put out Harry Atwood and Alan Smith, but when the only fielding error of the first inning cost them a three run homer struck by Kevin Coldiron, they knew they were in for a hard afternoon.

Bobcats run came from a well struck triple by John Carter, and whilst Mark Borley's attempted sac fly fell shallow to Oliver Heidecker at second base, Carter was able to take advantage of a poor fielding throw to score.

Alan Smith pitched the first three innings for Warriors, with Harry Atwood and Cody Cain taking two innings apiece, leaving the scorer to adjudicate a winner from the two relievers. Smith thought he had struck a grand slam home run in the fourth, but the umpire reminded him that any ball that bounced into the undergrowth in the far outfield was in fact a ground rule triple, and so he returned to third base.

Bobcats deserve credit for a cheerful and determined attitude throughout the afternoon, as there have been instances of players of supposedly greater maturity, getting

themselves ejected from games, or refusing to change over between innings, or simply walking out on the team in mid game because they were being beaten. Bobcats wanted to play, and wanted to either take the best hit, catch or play of the game, and try to meritoriously steal a little of the Warriors' thunder.

10/7/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H
Enfield Spartans	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	7	7
Essex Eagles	1	4	5	7	1	0	5	X	22

LP Ian Lanario
WP Vince Warner (4-1)

Essex stormed into this game scoring sixteen runs in the first three innings ! Spartans tarted strongly with four runs in the first, and could have been forgiven for thinking that they were in for a comfortable afternoon, but the Eagles matched them courtesy of doubles from Dave Read and Vince Warner.

Warner blanked the Spartans in inning two, but Spartans pitchers Ian and Rob Lanario suffered the indignity of twelve runs conceded over innings two and three, with a triple from Dave Read, and doubles from Matt Jennings and Vince Warner. This particular trio of Eagles batters finished the day with 4 RBI's each.

Gar Bedingfield took over the pitching duties foir Enfield in the fourth, stabilising things for Enfield for two innings before Eagles broke through with five more runs in the sixth, thanks to doubles from Carl Blackburn and Matt Jennings. With Enfield unable to reply in the top of the seventh, Essex claimed their second slaughter rule victory in succession.

In the remaining game for this weekend, Waltham Forest completed the sequence of results, also winning in seven innings, in a game with an aggregate score of 29 runs, by beating the Lakenheath Yankees 22-7.

17/7/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H
Enfield Spartans	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	5	
London Warriors	1	5	0	2	1	0	1	15	

LP Oscar Marcellino
WP Alan Smith

A game that was very nearly over as soon as it began. With Steve Simmons on first, Gary Bedingfield came to the plate as the third batter of the day, and hit a grounder to Warriors pitcher, Alan Smith.

Initiating the double play, Smith threw to Harry Atwood at second, who immediatly threw his relay to first, but the ball struck Steve Simmons, a matter of feet from the bag, full in the face, driving the frames of the sunglasses he was wearing into the skin around his eyebrows. Play was halted immediately, and an ambulance called.

Steve spent a night in Queen Mary's hospital, receiving fourteen stitches to the exterior wound, and also suffering a fractured cheek bone. He was subsequently discharged to go home, but must report regularly to his local hospital in Southend. I'm sure as editor that I can speak for the whole league membership in wishing Steve a speedy recovery, and look forward to his return to the baseball field.

It was noted, with some gratitude, that despite his injury, Steve made a point of shaking Harry Atwood by the hand, and letting him know that a play had to be made, and that what happened was unfortunate, but was one of the risks of playing baseball. Such sporting behaviour is to be applauded.

With Simon Lanario, still limping from the ankle injury sustained on the opening day of the season, accompanying Steve Simmons to hospital, Enfield were left with just eight players. Fortunately, both Bob Ratcliffe and Joe Rolls, members of the now defunct Blue Jays, were watching the game, and Bob stepped into the breach and became a Spartan for the afternoon.

Once play had resumed, Warriors opened the scoring with a 2 run homer for Cody Cain, followed by a three run homer for Brad Thompson. Warriors were then held scoreless in the second inning, an Oliver Heidecker grounder to shortstop made into a double play by Rob Lanario (6-3), Alan Bloomfield being the other victim.

Spartans opened their scoring in the third courtesy of an Oscar Marcellino fly to rightfield, batting in Eob Ratcliffe, but Warriors restored the five run margin in the home half by Cody Cain stealing home, whilst the Spartans infield were dealing with Kevin Murphy's dropped third strike, and then Brad Thompson's ground out to short brought in Kevin Coldiron for 7-1.

Kevin Coldiron then batted in Alan Blomfield for 8-1 in the fourth, but an RBI for Gary Bedingfield and a two run homer for Oscar Marcellino brought the score to 8-4 Warriors by the middle of the fifth. 2 RBI's apeice for Alan Bloomfield, Oliver Heidecker and Brad Thompson put the ten run margin on the board, and ended Oscar Marcellino's spell as starting pitcher for the Spartans.

Likewise, Warriors started the sixth with a relief pitcher, and Cody Cain completed the sixth without loss. Rob Lanario's spell as releiver started well, with another double play, this time Oliver Heidecker's grounder went to third, and a neat 5-4-3 double play ensued, again putting out the Warrior pairing of Heidecker and Bloomfield.

In the top of the seventh, conscious of the ten run margin, Gary Bedingfield worked the squeeze bunt, Rob Lanario running the important fifth run home, but the game was shortlived, when Carlos Rodriguez hit the slaughter rule 15th in the bottom of the seventh, batting in Cody Cain.

17/7/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	E	H
Waltham Forest Angels	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	6	11
Essex Eagles	1	2	0	3	3	0	2	1	1	X	12	17

LP Matthew Poggi
WP Vince Warner (5-1)

The Eagles rich vein of form continues, with Vince Warner pitching four consecutive wins. The Eagles took an early 5-2 lead, thanks to doubles from Dave Read and Matt Jennings, and a triple from Clive Smith.

A further 3 runs in the third, initiated by Lee Read's lead off double, his first in his rookie season, was enough to see off Angel's starting pitcher, Matthew Poggi, Tony Dyett taking over from the sixth.

However, Dyett was given a shaky introduction, his first pitch resulting in a solo homer for Matt Jennings, (the first for the Eagles squad this year), and was the followed by a double for Dave Read and an RBI for Colvin, to make it 10-3 Eagles.

Angels then fought back, claiming three runs on three hits in the seventh to make it 10-6, but Essex retained their composure to finish 12-6 winners. Eagles bat stat of the day goes to Dave Read, 4 for 5, 2 RBI's and 2 doubles.

In the remaining National League game, Lakenheath Yankees beat Tonbridge Bobcats 19-7 in seven innings. Bobcats were still without the pitching services of both Nick Carter and Alex Malihoudis, and could perhaps be dwelling too long on the margin of defeat from the week before.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS AFTER WEEK 13

17/7/94

	W	L	Pct	GB
Waltham Forest Angels	8	2	.800	--
Enfield Spartans	7	3	.700	1
London Warriors	7	3	.700	1
Essex Eagles	6	4	.600	2
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	6	.400	4
Lakenheath Yankees	3	7	.300	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE WEEKS 14 & 15

24/7/94

Essex Eagles at Tonbridge Bobcats
London Warriors at Lakenheath Yankees
Waltham Forest Angels at Enfield Spartans

31/7/94

Lakenheath Yankees at Enfield Spartans
London Warriors at Essex Eagles
Tonbridge Bobcats at Waltham Forest Angels

California Dreaming

Bill Oliver of the Essex Eagles is currently on a fortnights holiday in California, taking in the Angels vs Yankees and the Rockies vs Giants. Those of you needing to contact the Eagles should get in touch with Matt Jennings, 96 Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex, CM8 1LU, tel 0376 510133.

Contributors

Many thanks for material sent to Bill Oliver, Rosemary Malihoudis, Chris Morgan and Alan Smith.

Copy Deadline

Please send all information for Issue 6 by Wednesday August 3rd

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