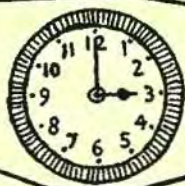


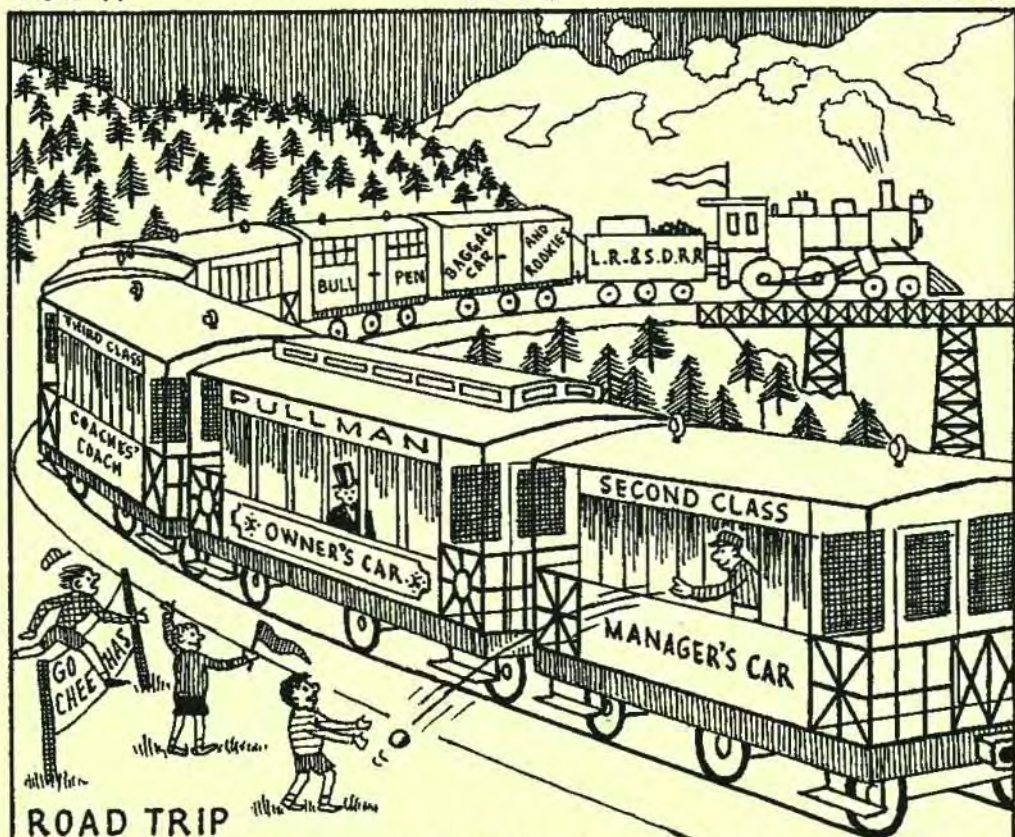
LINEDRIVE!



BASEBALL
Vol. II

1993

IN BRITAIN
No. 7



ROAD TRIP

on the Lazy River & Sitting Duck Railroad
known locally as the Let's Retire and Settle Down

Rex

We hope this picture won't make our American friends homesick. We don't want to lose them.

LONDON WARRIORS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM ROSTER 1993

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Harry Atwood	Second Base/Shortstop	12
Alan Bloomfield	Catcher/Second Base	4
Justin Brown	Shortstop/Pitcher	20
Cody Cain	Leftfield/Pitcher	19
Julian Dodwell	Centrefield	17
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Vincente Martinez	Pitcher	16
Steve Marzo	Rightfield	13
Kevin Murphy	Rightfield/Centrefield	18
Alan Smith	Pitcher/Rightfield	8
Stanley Smulders	Rightfield/Leftfield	15
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Darrin Ward	First Base	7
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

LINEDRIVE : VOL II ISSUE 7

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

VARIATIONS ON A THEME

Knowing my interest in baseball, a member of my family kindly loaned me a book that claimed to have a potted history on the origins of most popular ball games. The section covering baseball certainly covered the Cooperstown/Abner Doubleday 'legend', but also revealed certain references to the game in American literature pre-dating Abner Doubleday, but did not conclusively decide quite where the origins of the sport lay. However, it was upon completion of the section on baseball that the interesting bit started, with two national variations of the sport having a section all to themselves.

Welsh baseball is an eleven-a-side affair, with the players scoring by completing a diamond shape course, but this is marked out with three posts rather than bases, and a home plate. The rules are to a very large extent similar, with the bat and ball being of similar dimensions and weight. However, a Welsh baseball bat has one flattened face, rather than being wholly round. There have been some noises made that it was this Welsh game that travelled overseas and became the game known all over the world today, but there is little documentary evidence to either support or refute this claim.

Finnish baseball is a very different game. Bat and ball are the same as the American game, but the pitch must be delivered in a loop, so that it actually hits the plate, much as a cricket bowler aims at the wicket. The bases are bases, and are laid out in a zig-zag, the distance between each base increasing as the runner progresses. The 'batter' may run as soon as the pitch is thrown, with no need for him to actually 'bat', but of course, he will be out if the pitched ball strikes the plate that he's supposed to defend. If a batter hits the ball, and is caught, he is not out, but his completion of the four base course does not count as a run scored. He can, of course, be put out by getting the batted ball to first base before the batter arrives, but sadly the article was too brief to go into details about stealing, tagging up and so forth.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS

Okay folks, concentrate ! This seasons National League playoffs will involve the top six sides in the Senior Division at the close of the regular season. There will be three matches played on the Saturday, 25th September, with first place at home to sixth, second place at home to fifth, and third place at home to fourth. Of the three sides who win on Saturday, the highest placed side in the final table will have a bye straight to the final, whilst the other two must play-off on Sunday morning. Both the morning qualifier and the afternoon final, will be played at RAF Feltwell, the service base for the US forces stationed at Lakenheath and Mildenhall. This will mean a purpose built diamond, with team dugouts and scoreboard, and excellent spectator facilities, including refreshments. This could certainly be quite an event, and if the standard of play seen in the previous finals can be repeated, it will be well worth going to see.

REPORTS & SCORESNational League Senior Division

Sunday 18th July

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E	
<u>London Warriors</u>	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	0	9	10	11	WP Cody Cain (5-0)
<u>Enfield Spartans</u>	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	5	LP Rob Nelson (?-?)

Warriors had endured a three week lay-off as scheduled games at Bury Saints and home to Croydon Blue Jays, failed to materialise. Meantime the Spartans had beaten Essex, Birmingham and Cambridge, and looked to be on a roll. However, it was Spartans who looked most like a team that hadn't played for three weeks, as Warriors took an early lead.

Cody Cain opened his account with a double to rightfield, scoring Alan Bloomfield, with Alan Smith then batting home Cody Cain, courtesy of an infield single, poorly dealt with by Spartans shortstop Julien Fountain.

A sac fly from Gary Bedingfield halved the deficit for Enfield at the close of the first, Rob Lanario doing the legwork, but London forged ahead with three further RBI's in the third, Brad Thompson, Alan Smith and Steve Marzo, wielding the bat in each case.

A well worked double steal, men on first and third, brought Enfield's second run of the day in the bottom of the fourth. Chris McGovern, on his Enfield debut, set off for second, drawing the play, whilst the pacy Rob Yuille, slipped home from third.

The introduction of Cody Cain to the mound for London, and with Spartans Rob Nelson settled into his rhythm, the game stayed at 5-2 Warriors until the top of the eighth, when Spartans opted to relieve Rob Nelson, Ian Lanario taking his place. RBI's then followed for both Darrin and Dean Ward, as well as Cody Cain and Oliver Heidecker, and with a seven run lead to protect, Cain calmly retired the Enfield batters for a London victory.

Batting stat honours of the day must go to Spartans Rob Yuille, batting three for four, (that's half his sides hits !), closely followed by Warriors Alan Smith, 2 for 3, and Cody Cain and Oliver Heidecker, both 2 for 4.

National League Rookie Division

Sunday 25th July

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
<u>Lakenheath Yankees</u>	3	7	10	3	0	1	10	0	0	14
<u>Tonbridge Bobcats</u>	3	0	0	3	1	3	0	1	0	11

WP Croad
LP B Carter

Having received a gracious invitation from the Tonbridge Bobcats to attend one of their games, and with work requirements precluding the long trip to Birmingham, I took up their offer, and spent a very enjoyable afternoon in their company.

The majority of the Bobcat team have been promoted from their youth squad, as a number of the older team members left Tonbridge to join Lashing Sluggers in BBF Division Two East, and sometimes moments of inexperience let them down slightly, and certainly nervy fielding plays, including a number of overthrows, appeared to have

gifted the game to the Yankees by the close of the second. However, manager Nick Carter, called for some fielding changes to settle things down, and gradually a much tidier and more enjoyable game came about.

Amongst many fielding changes, each of the Tonbridge players apparently capable of playing several positions quite well, one that really stood out was the move of Alex Malihoudis from 2nd base to catcher. Despite being 14, and a very slightly built 5ft 4in, he can already throw a mean peg to second, and it was only the fielders old cricketing habit of getting the whole body behind the ball, rather than leaning from the bag, into the ball, that prevented him claiming several assists on the afternoon.

For the Yankees, Croad pitched well throughout, though his tendency to rely on speed (at least in terms of the British game), rather than guile, did lead to a few walks conceded, but having batted in three RBI's himself, his overall performance has to be described as good.

STANDINGS

Senior Division

	W	L	Pcnt	GB
London Warriors	9	1	.900	
Enfield Spartans	8	4	.667	2
Essex Eagles	7	4	.636	2½
Bury Saints	4	4	.500	4
Cambridge Knights	5	7	.417	5
Croydon Blue Jays	4	7	.364	5½
Birmingham Brewers	3	6	.333	5½
Waltham Fst Angels	2	9	.182	7½

Table to 19/7/93

Rookie Division

	W	L	Pcnt	GB
London Stormers	6	2	.750	
Lakenheath Yankees	3	1	.750	1
Tonbridge Bobcats	6	3	.667	½
Basildon Mariners	1	5	.167	4
Cambridge Monarchs	1	6	.143	4½

Table to 12/7/93

Sadly more recent results were not available at time of going to press. I hope to have more up to date information next issue.

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LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1993

Sun 25th April	HOME TO CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	W 7-0
Sun 2nd May	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 13-1
Sun 9th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS	W 8-1
Sun 16th May	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	W 6-0
Sun 23rd May	away to Birmingham Brewers	W 12-6
Sun 30th May	away to Croydon Blue Jays	W 13-3
Sun 6th June	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	W 17-2
Sun 13th June	away to Cambridge Knights	L 3-5
Sun 20th June	away to Enfield Spartans	W 4-3
Sun 18th July	away to Enfield Spartans	W 9-2
Sun 25th July	away to Birmingham Brewers	
Sun 1st August	HOME to CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	
Sun 8th August	away to Waltham Forest Angels	
Sun 15th August	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS (DH)	
Sun 22nd August	HOME TO BIRMINGHAM BREWERS	
Sun 29th August	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS	
Sun 5th September	away to Bury Saints (DH)	
Sun 12th September	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sun 19th September	away to Essex Eagles	
Sat 25th September	Championship Playoff Game 1	
Sun 26th September	Championship Playoff Games 2 & 3	

DH = Double header - start times to be arranged, but likely to be 1:30 pm. *All other games nine innings, start 3:00 pm.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters don't come flooding in to Linedrive, so if we publish a few might-have-beens they may have the effect of the china egg one puts in a hen's nest to encourage it to lay.

Dear Editor, Why must runners always run anti-clockwise? Is there a reason? I think it would help left-handed batters if they ran clockwise. Surely they have a right to choose.

London, W.I. Society for the Protection of Southpaws.

Dear Sir, Please can you tell me why baseball teams invariably declare with only three wickets down, even if they haven't scored any runs? It is so exceedingly risky.

Marylebone, N.W.

M. C. Secombe.

Dear Mr. Editor, My dad says I ought to play baseball. He says it will give me a good character. Why didn't my dad play baseball? When I asked him he said shut up.

Croydon, Surrey.

Mike.

Dear Sir, I found a copy of Linedrive. It sure is entertaining. I'm almost convinced there really is baseball in Britain.

New York, N.Y.

Yankee.

Dear Editor, I swooned when I read recently about a catcher who got his foot tangled in his mask while trying to catch a foul fly. Such a strain! Why ever didn't he swat it?

Great Malvern, Worcs.

(Miss) Dora Goodman.

Dear Sir, This Roundshaw, the famous ballpark you feature. And this Lindbergh, who played there. I searched all over in vain for his career stats. All I heard, he tended to fly out.

St. Louis, Mo.

Missourian.