

LINEDRIVE!



BASEBALL

Vol. 11

1993

IN BRITAIN

No. 9



Cheer up, love! There
won't be any uniforms
to wash.

LONDON WARRIORS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

TEAM ROSTER 1993

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Rupert Armitage	Rightfield	20
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
Carlos Rodriguez	Centrefield	19
Alan Smith	Pitcher/Rightfield	8
Stanley Smulders	Rightfield/Leftfield	15
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Darrin Ward	First Base	7
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

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A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

5-4-3-2-1

Yes, only five more regular season games left to play for the Warriors, and the schedules have given us the chance to be very influential with regard to the top three play-off places. Whichever of the eight Senior Division teams finish in the top three places those three teams will have home advantage for the 1st leg of the championship play-offs on September 25th. After last weekend's results, only four teams are left in contention for those three home places, namely Warriors, Saints, Spartans and Eagles.

Well, today Warriors host Enfield Spartans, next week they visit Bury Saints for a double-header, and after that they close with two games against the Essex Eagles ! With a run-in like that to the championships, London should be at their competitive best and well aware of the standard of team they'll have to beat if they want to retain the 1992 pennant.

Of course, both the 1991 and 1992 pennants were showdowns between London and Enfield, with Spartans the victors in 1991. Results so far this season have gone Warriors way, with a very tight 4-3 tussle at Enfield on June 20th, followed by a more substantial 9-2 on the 18th July, again at Enfield. However, with the on-form Bury Saints pressing for second spot, Enfield will no doubt be keen to take a win today, especially as only Spartans and Saints can catch the Warriors for the regular season top spot.

TURNING JAPANESE !

A frequent visitor to National League Baseball games in the Greater London area this season has been a Mr Yo Sato, the editor of UK Weekly, a free magazine, written in Japanese, and circulated to the Japanese speaking residents in Britain. He is hoping, via information supplied by the National League, it's London based teams, including Warriors, and *Linedrive !*, to be able to do a feature on UK Baseball in this magazine. Bearing in mind the tremendous enthusiasm with which baseball is heralded in Japan, this will hopefully be good publicity, perhaps resulting in a new

influx of players and supporters. Of course, if required, Harry Atwood will translate for us !

REPORTS & SCORES

National League - Senior Division

Sunday 15th August

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
London Warriors	2	0	0	4	0	0	6	12
Croydon Blue Jays	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4

WP Alan Smith

LP Keith Wilesmith

A closer game than the scorline indicates. Cody Cain's centrefield single in the first opened the scoring, Alan Bloomfield and Darrin Ward reaching home.

Honours were fairly even until the fourth, when Harry Atwood's single eluded Joe Rolls at short, Stan Smulders scoring the run. Then came the critical shot, Alan Bloomfield's fly to rightfield was dropped by the inexperienced Jamie Woolcott, allowing both Vincente Martinez and Harry Atwood to score.

Rightfield is normally a good slot to try out inexperienced players, but either the wind or a patchy sky made it a hard place to field on this occasion, because when Croydon switched Harvey Sakher for Woolcott in the nightcap, even a player of Harvey's experience struggled to find the ball in flight.

The fourth closed with a ground rule double for Darrin Ward, Alan Bloomfield scoring.

The bottom of the fifth saw a Blue Jay revival, and with bases loaded, Harvey Sakher hit a critical double to centrefield to clear the bags. Blue Jays player/manager, Norman Laing, then singled to bring Harvey in for 6-4 Warriors.

Not until the seventh and final inning did Warriors assert any real authority on the game, and of the six RBI's that inning, four tested the unfortunate Woolcott in rightfield. They were 2 for Alan Smith,

1 for Cody Cain and one for Stanley Smulders. The other RBI hitters were Dean Ward and Harry Atwood.

Then, to cap it all, the game finished with neat double play, the switch-hitting Keith Wilesmith hitting to Atwood at shortstop, who sent the ball on to Darrin Ward at second, relayed to Cody Cain at first, retiring Norman Laing and Keith Wilesmith for the game.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	
Croydon Blue Jays	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
London Warriors	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	1	6

LP Keith Wilesmith
WP Cody or Darrin ?

Wilesmith made immediate amends for the double play, scoring Croydon's only RBI of the nightcap, Neil Lawson reaching home. Cody Cain replied immediately, with the first of four RBI's for this game, once again hitting to that ill fated rightfield spot !

The scores remained level until the bottom of the third, Alan Bloomfield's single to (you've guessed it !) rightfield scoring an RBI for 2-1. Then came hit of the day, a soaring two run homer from Cody Cain. 4-1 Warriors.

Further RBI singles followed in the fourth, for Harry Atwood, and that man Cody Cain, again, making it 6-1 Warriors. All now that was left to be decided, was who was winning pitcher. Starter Alan Smith came off after three, and relievers Cody Cain and Darrin Ward pitched two shut-out innings each. We await the scorers verdict !

Sadly, due to illness, *Linedrive !* could not cover the London Warriors v Birmingham Brewers clash, although it was a very satisfactory 13-1 win by all accounts. Other Senior Division results for last weekend saw Bury Saints beat Waltham Forest Angels 18-7 (game one), and 10-6 (game two). The double header between Cambridge Knights and Essex Eagles was called off by the weather, and has been awarded as one 9-0 forfeit win each. The Enfield Spartans and Croydon Blue Jays double header was also called off for weather, but the league has yet to reach a verdict on how the games should be awarded.

STANDINGS

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
London Warriors	14	2	.875	
Bury Saints	10	5	.667	3½
Enfield Spartans	10	5	.667	3½
Essex Eagles	9	7	.563	5
Birmingham Brewers	7	10	.412	7½
Cambridge Knights	7	10	.412	7½
Croydon Blue Jays	4	11	.267	9½
Waltham Fst Angels	3	14	.176	11½

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

29/8/93

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

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEXT WEEK

5/9/93

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

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Look out for the new issue of Anglo American Sports, soon to decorate the shelves of the main branches of WH Smith. In it, we hope, is a half page advert, advertising the NLB grand finals at RAF Feltwell. You might recognise the style of *Linedrive !* graphics man Rex Phillips, who put the ad together, and to whom I extend my thanks.

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LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1993

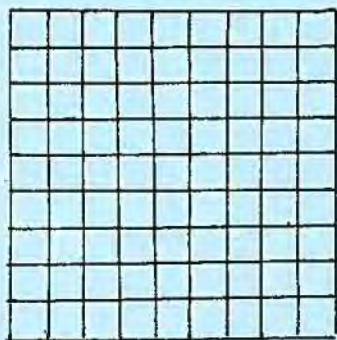
Sun 25th April	HOME TO CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS	W 7-0
Sun 2nd May	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 13-1
Sun 9th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS	W 8-1
Sun 16th May	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	W 6-0
Sun 23rd May	away to Birmingham Brewers	W 12-6
Sun 30th May	away to Croydon Blue Jays	W 13-3
Sun 6th June	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST 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	L 4-5
Sun 1st August	HOME to CAMBRIDGE KNIGHTS (<i>forfeit</i>)	W 9-0
Sun 8th August	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 19-7
Sun 15th August	HOME TO CROYDON BLUE JAYS (DH)	W 12-4
		W 6-1
Sun 22nd August	HOME TO BIRMINGHAM BREWERS	W 13-1
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 1:00 pm. All other games nine innings, start 3:00 pm.

NUMBER NINE QUIZ

Here are nine clues. Each answer is of nine letters:

- Cleveland retired his number 19.
- He had a 26 game hitting streak for Brooklyn in 1918.
- He had an E.R.A. of 1.60 in 1968.
- He switch-hit home runs in the same game for Baltimore in 1985.
- He hit his 3,000th hit in 1914 for Cleveland.
- New York Yankees retired his number 8.
- He pitched a 25-3 season.
- He and his brother hit home runs in the same half inning on two occasions.
- New York Mets retired his number 41.



Write the answers horizontally in the square so that the diagonal from top left to bottom right gives you the name of one of the best-known players of all.

That's all you have to do.

That should have warmed you up, so now here's a tricky one: How many anagrams of major leaguers can you find herein? — "At the ballpark I sat until it seemed I'd hear the midnight bell before anything exciting happened. Then a couple ran a well-hit homer inside fair ground yet the game continued to starve me of excitement. Of our attack we hazard the guess that this will not be our big year or even a moderate one. We should join a Jap league, they say, mocking you me and all the Japanese."