

LINEDRIVE!

Volume III No. 2

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994



LONDON WARRIORS
NATIONAL LEAGUE
TEAM ROSTER 1994

| <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 |
| Cody Cain | Pitcher/First Base | 19 |
| Steve Demain | Rightfield | 16 |
| Oliver Heidecker | Third Base/Second Base | 14 |
| Steve Juhase | Rightfield | 16 |
| Richard Kemp | Leftfield/Centrefield | 17 |
| Kevin Murphy | Leftfield/Centrefield | 18 |
| Carlos Rodriguez | Centrefield/Rightfield | 15 |
| Alan Smith | Pitcher/First Base | 8 |
| Stanley Smulders | Rightfield/Leftfield | 15 |
| Brad Thompson | Catcher | 6 |
| Dean Ward | Third Base | 5 |

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Alternatively, follow the LONDON WARRIORS through the season and get your *Linedrive !* FREE !!!

LINEDRIVE ! VOL III ISSUE 2

A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

THE WORKS OF ART

By courtesy of Art Bloomfield we are privileged to browse in his extensive archive material relating to baseball over the years in Britain. It is comforting to know that *Linedrive !* is not a venture into uncharted waters, but is in every way grounded in tradition. Mr Bloomfield's archive contains magazines, posters, schedules, statistics, league constitutions, agendas and a host of other material, together with photographs. Pictured are, among others, the Sutton Braves of 1973, the Richmond Red Sox of 1962, and the Leatherhead Maple Leafs of 1956. And a direct link wit the present is the young lad with bushy curly fair hair batting in a red top bearing the number four.

Of the magazines, the comparatively recent Baseball Mercury is a challenge to *Linedrive !* in the breadth of it's coverage, and the whole of this archive opens up our remit, for in addition to reporting present events and looking to the future, we feel bound to draw on the fascinating evidence of the days when baseball here at home, judging by the photographs, drew what could almost be called crowds.

Within our scope, we hope to feature as much as we can of past pleasures while reflecting the current game, thereby forming a link between the time when baseball in Britain was popular and the time when it will again acheive the support it deserves

Rex Phillips

JUST LIKE IN ENGLAND

Across the pond in 'The Show', theories ranging from the profound to the absurd, are being put forward to explain the early home run bonanza. Some claim the ball is livelier, though Rawlings deny any change in it's composition, whilst other's feel that expansion has diluted the pitching strength, by spreading the talent too thinly.

Another darkly humorous theory suggests players are striving to acheive high home run stats before the season is curtailed by industrial strife.

Whatever the reason, an unexpectedly high score gave rise to a moment of confusion at a *Linedrive !* editorial meeting, when Phil Ross (editor) and Rex Phillips (artwork and research), were thumbing through a recent *Baseball Weekly*. They reached the American League Box Scores for April 12th. "22-11 !" squawked the editor incredulously, spotting the Red Sox - Royals game. "No, " said Mr Phillips "I make it five past ten "

Whatever the reason, Major League run rates are growing, and whilst the majority of games finish with single figure scores, it seems that one or two teams are taking it into their heads to try and exceed any scoreline put up in Britain. Perhaps the effect of the UK game is more profound than we imagine !

REPORTS AND SCORES

NATIONAL LEAGUE

24th April 1994

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | R | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|--------------------------|
| <u>Enfield Spartans</u> | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | LP Keith Wilesmith (0-1) |
| <u>Bromley Blue Jays</u> | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 | WP Julien Fountain (1-0) |

Pay attention ! We'll be asking questions later. Croydon Blue Jays moved to Orpington during the winter, and now call themselves the Bromley Blue Jays. So where did they play their first home game of the season ? Enfield !

It proved to be a mixed day for the Spartans trio of Lanario brothers. Opening pitcher Iain, lasted 0.333 of an inning, allowing two runs and hitting a Blue Jay batter to load the bases. Julien Fountain came in for the next 6.667, conceding just two more runs in his spell.

Then in the top of the second, Simon Lanario (1b), running to second stepped awkwardly on the bag, and fell injured. The ambulance was called, and Simon is now sitting out the early weeks of the season with his right leg in plaster. *Linedrive !* conveys our sincerest wishes to him for a rapid recovery.

However, for Rob Lanario (ss), his three RBI triple in the fifth began to open up the tiring Wilesmith, and three more runs in the sixth, saw Blue Jays switch the battery around as Wilesmith racked up his ninth walk of the day.

Bob Ratcliffe inherited two men on (Fountain and Rob Lanario) and one out. He then walked the next two batters (Simmons (2b) and Iain Lanario (of)), to make it 11-4 Spartans.

The Spartans then rounded off the day by using their opening catcher, Gary Bedingfield, as closing pitcher. He conceded three runs, including the second and third RBI's of the day to new Blue Jay, Brett Marty (2b), who in turn was then batted in by Matt Gill (rf) for an impressive debut performance.

1st May 1994

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | R |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| <u>London Warriors</u> | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| <u>Enfield Spartans</u> | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 14 |

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

The two sides who have contested the National League championship over the last three seasons, produced another nailbiter, just as they have done many times before.

Warriors' starter, Alan Smith, struggled to find his true form, but in fairness, infield errors lead to two unearned runs in the opening frame. Enfield forged further ahead with singles from Chris McGovern (cf) (1 RBI) and Julien Fountain (p) (2 RBI's).

Smith then walked Chris Stein (lf) and Gary Bedingfield (c) to load up the bases with no outs, but great defensive teamwork saw Smith put out Fountain at home, and a 4-3 double-play from Oliver Heidecker to Cody Cain eliminated the potential run feast for the Spartans.

RBI singles for Alan Bloomfield (c) and Oliver Heidecker, put Warriors on the scoreboard in the fifth, and RBI singles for Harry Atwood (ss), Bloomfield again, and a 2 RBI double for Cody Cain, tied the game at 6-6.

Heidecker and Dean Ward (3b) batted in two further runs for Warriors in the eighth, and after Julien Fountain faced three batters in the ninth to load up the bases, Rob Lanario took to the hill. He walked Cain for 9-6 Warriors, but then got the three outs without further loss.

Cody Cain then took to the mound for the ninth, and with National League's lowest ERA for the 1993 season, this looked like a good move. Unfortunately, he walked five batters to concede two runs, and yielded a further two runs on a Rob Lanario single to give Spartans their second victory in two weeks.

With National League only two weeks into their season, it is, as yet too early to give standings.

BBF Southern Division One

1st May 1994

Croydon Pirates 22 Stevenage Knights 11

After an opening day defeat, Pirates have notched three consecutive victories, two of them slaughters, batting in an impressive 57 runs in 21 innings played, a rate just over 2.71.

Initially Pirates struggled, Harvey Sahker conceding five runs in the first inning, in his first spell on the hill for Pirates. However, the offense powered back to close the game after seven innings.

Pirates are away to Lashing Sluggers (8th May) in the First Round of the BBF Knockout Cup.

Meanwhile in Southern Division Two, the Caterham Athletics finally got their season underway. The experienced Mike English, formerly of the Sutton Braves, opened for Caterham, and initially all went well as they held the all conquering London Wolves to 3-3 after six innings.

However, their fortunes dipped, and Wolves, with the previous victories under their belts, stormed ahead to win 11-5.

BBF STANDINGS AFTER WEEK 4

1/5/94

National Premier League - South

| | W | L | Pcent | GB |
|---------------------|---|---|-------|----|
| Bedford C Indians | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | -- |
| Essex Arrows | 3 | 0 | 1.000 | -- |
| Hounslow Rangers | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1½ |
| Crawley Comets | 1 | 2 | .333 | 2 |
| Bristol Black Sox | 0 | 2 | .000 | 2½ |
| Brighton Buccaneers | 0 | 3 | .000 | 3 |

Southern Division One - North

| | W | L | Pcent | GB |
|---------------------|---|---|-------|----|
| Gloster Meteors | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | -- |
| Hemel Red Sox | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | -- |
| Totteridge T'blazrs | 2 | 1 | .667 | ½ |
| Cambridge Monarchs | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1 |
| Droitwich Spa Tans | 0 | 2 | .000 | 2 |
| Reading Royals | 0 | 2 | .000 | 2 |
| City Slick | 0 | 3 | .000 | 2½ |

Southern Division One - South

| | W | L | Pcent | GB |
|--------------------|---|---|-------|----|
| Arun Panthers | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | -- |
| Gillingham Dodgers | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | -- |
| Hounslow Hawks | 2 | 1 | .667 | ½ |
| Bournemouth Bees | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1 |
| Croydon Pirates | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1 |
| Tunbridge W Royals | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1 |
| Stevenage Knights | 0 | 3 | .000 | 2½ |

Southern Division Two

| | W | L | Pcent | GB |
|---------------------|---|---|-------|----|
| London Wolves | 2 | 0 | 1.000 | -- |
| Lashing Sluggers | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | ½ |
| Tiptree Hotsports | 1 | 0 | 1.000 | ½ |
| Guildford Mavericks | 1 | 1 | .500 | 1 |
| Bracknell Blazers | 0 | 0 | .000 | 1 |
| Caterham Athletics | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1½ |
| Chichester Kyotes | 0 | 1 | .000 | 1½ |
| Hounslow Falcons | 0 | 2 | .000 | 2 |

Southern Division Three, both North & South, still features many teams with only one game played. Standings should be issued in *Linedrive ! 3*

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

25/4/94

American League East

| | Wn | Lt | Pcent | GB | L10 |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|----|-----|
| Boston Red Sox | 13 | 6 | .684 | -- | 7-3 |
| New York Yankees | 12 | 6 | .667 | ½ | 8-2 |
| Toronto Blue Jays | 12 | 7 | .632 | 1 | 6-4 |
| Baltimore Orioles | 11 | 7 | .611 | 1½ | 6-4 |
| Detroit Tigers | 6 | 12 | .333 | 6½ | 3-7 |

American League Central

| | Wn | Lt | Pcent | GB | L10 |
|--------------------|----|----|-------|----|-----|
| Milwaukee Brewers | 11 | 7 | .611 | -- | 6-4 |
| Cleveland Indians | 10 | 7 | .588 | ½ | 4-6 |
| Chicago White Sox | 11 | 8 | .579 | ½ | 6-4 |
| Kansas City Royals | 8 | 9 | .471 | 2½ | 6-4 |
| Minnesota Twins | 7 | 13 | .350 | 5 | 4-6 |

American League West

| | Wn | Lt | Pcnt | GB | L10 |
|-------------------|----|----|------|----|-----|
| California Angels | 8 | 12 | .400 | -- | 3-7 |
| Seattle Mariners | 7 | 11 | .389 | -- | 5-5 |
| Oakland Athletics | 7 | 12 | .368 | ½ | 2-8 |
| Texas Rangers | 5 | 11 | .313 | 1 | 3-7 |

National League East

| | Wn | Lt | Pcnt | GB | L10 |
|---------------------|----|----|------|----|-----|
| Atlanta Braves | 14 | 6 | .700 | -- | 5-5 |
| New York Mets | 9 | 9 | .500 | 4 | 4-6 |
| Montreal Expos | 9 | 10 | .474 | 4½ | 5-5 |
| Florida Marlins | 9 | 10 | .474 | 4½ | 5-5 |
| Philadelphia Phil's | 8 | 11 | .421 | 5½ | 4-6 |

National League Central

| | Wn | Lt | Pcnt | GB | L10 |
|--------------------|----|----|------|----|-----|
| Cincinnati Reds | 12 | 5 | .706 | -- | 6-4 |
| St Louis Cardinals | 11 | 7 | .611 | 1½ | 6-4 |
| Houston Astros | 10 | 8 | .556 | 2½ | 5-5 |
| Pittsburgh Pirates | 8 | 9 | .471 | 4 | 5-5 |
| Chicago Cubs | 5 | 12 | .294 | 7 | 2-8 |

National League West

| | Wn | Lt | Pcnt | GB | L10 |
|---------------------|----|----|------|----|-----|
| San Francisco Gnts | 11 | 8 | .579 | -- | 5-5 |
| Colorado Rockies | 9 | 9 | .500 | 1½ | 6-4 |
| Los Angeles Dodgers | 8 | 11 | .421 | 3 | 5-5 |
| San Diego Padres | 6 | 14 | .300 | 5½ | 5-5 |

AL East has the two form teams, with New York Yankees 8-2 for the last 10 played, whilst Boston Red Sox are 7-3. By contrast the most in form teams in NL East, Atlanta Braves, Montreal Expos and Florida Marlins, are all 5-5 for the last ten played.

Meanwhile the California Angels head the AL West knowing that their winning percentage (.400) would place them no higher than 4th in any other division !

In NL Central, the Cubs look ready to become the first team to reach double figures in games out of first, with the lowest winning percentage in the majors, and a three game series (May 2-4) against Cincinnati to be added to the standings.

COMPETITION TIME !

Don't forget to enter the *Linedrive !* Major League Baseball Competition. You have until the end of May to name your nominations for the six Major League Divisional Champions.

Each pundit will start with 50 points, and they will then have the games out of first (GB), for each of his nominations deducted from that score. The idea, of course, is to keep a perfect 50.

Periodically, we will publish a table of the top pundits, and although we cannot offer a prize, it will be nice to be able to see your name in print, to prove to people you were right all along !

The editor boldly stuck his neck out and put down his divisional predictions in Issue 1, and his score is currently 46 having droipped 2½ points on the Houston Astros, 1 point on the Toronto Blue Jays and ½ point on the Cleveland Indians.

Drop us a line, see if you can't beat that score !

NATIONAL LEAGUE

8/5/94

Bury Saints @ London Warriors
Essex Eagles @ Waltham Forest Angels
Tonbridge Bobcats @ Lakenheath Yankees

15/5/94

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

LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1994

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Sun 1st May | away to Enfield Spartans | L 9-10 |
| Sun 8th May | HOME TO BURY SAINTS | |
| Sun 15th May | away to Essex Eagles | |
| Sun 22nd May | | |
| Sun 29th May | away to Waltham Forest Angels | |
| Sun 5th June | HOME TO BROMLEY BLUE JAYS | |
| Sun 12th June | away to Lakenheath Yankees | |
| Sun 19th June | HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS | |
| Sun 26th June | Rain date & revised schedule starts. | |
| Sun 3rd July | HOME | |
| Sun 10th July | away | |
| Sun 17th July | HOME | |
| Sun 24th July | | |
| Sun 31st July | away | |
| Sun 7th August | | |
| Sun 14th August | HOME | |
| Sun 21st August | HOME | |
| Sun 28th August | away | |
| Sun 4th September | away | |
| Sun 11th September | | |

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sat 18th September | |
| Sun 25th September | |

WHO SAID WHAT?

1. The way sport has developed in this country is a matter of history and it is really quite impossible to attempt to wipe it all out and start again.
2. I thought baseball was a sport when I became a commissioner. I was mistaken. The semi-bandits own it.
3. I am afraid I play no outdoor games at all, except dominoes. I have sometimes played dominoes outside French cafés.
4. I've never seen a manager win a pennant. Players win pennants.
5. It was not very wonderful that Catherine should prefer cricket, baseball, riding on horseback and running around the country to books.
6. In a way an umpire is like a woman. He makes quick decisions, never reverses them and doesn't think you're safe when you're out.
7. The only real way you know you've been fired, is when you arrive at the ball park and find your name has been scratched from the parking list.
8. Baseball gives every American boy a chance to excel, not just to be as good as, but to be better than someone else. This is the nature of man and the name of the game.

Unfortunately the names belonging to these quotations have become deprocessed. Can you do us a favour by reprocessing them and attaching them to their respective quotations?

TRY ZERO GAL

ANN USE A JET

LIMITED LAWS

CHIPPIN PERIL

TRY MINI BALL

RADIO CLEWS

HYPER HANDCLAP

SON'S PA DRANK RYE