

LINEDRIVE!

Vol. III No.5

BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994

IT is recommended that our graphics man avail himself of a useful book entitled "*How to draw the human figure.*" The suggestion is much appreciated, but as our artist generally draws only baseball players and umpires.....



LONDON WARRIORS
NATIONAL LEAGUE
TEAM ROSTER 1994

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Rupert Armitage	Leftfield/Rightfield	20
Harry Atwood	Second Base/Shortstop	12
Alan Bloomfield	Catcher/Second Base	4
Cody Cain	Pitcher/First Base	19
Kevin Coldiron	Second Base/Pitcher	13
Steve Dumain	Rightfield	2
Oliver Heidecker	Third Base/Second Base	14
Tom Juhase	Centrefield/Rightfield	16
Richard Kemp	Leftfield/Centrefield	17
Kevin Murphy	Leftfield/Centrefield	18
Carlos Rodriguez	Second Base	15
Alan Smith	Pitcher/First Base	8
Brad Thompson	Catcher	6
Dean Ward	Third Base	5

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RAZZLE-DAZZLE 'EM

Soccer's World Cup circus has rolled into the 'States, and there will be much singing, dancing, waving of flags, lighting of fireworks, and launching of balloons, and multinationals like Coca Cola, McDonalds, Mars, Fuji and a host of other kind souls, too numerous to mention, will be pouring inordinate sums of money into this circus to promote a global feeling of sporting brotherhood, whilst enjoying the chance to stick their corporate logos under the noses of some of the biggest television audiences of all time.

Yet somewhere, in camera, but out of focus, just over the shoulders of the dancing girls, and squeezed tantalising between several minutes of all important analysis from former players and managers, there is actually going to be a football match or two taking place.

This highlights the problem of 'successful' sport. Undoubtedly, during the televised soccer orgy now engulfing our screens, we will see some truly great play, but how much of this will have been overshadowed by all the commercialism, the razzmatazz, the gimmicks and the hype ?

When one watches baseball in Britain, there are moments of pure athletic poetry, and you feel that those moments should be captured on film for all time. Just as Ronnie Radford's belting goal for Hereford in the FA Cup is replayed over and over again, and Iorvill and Dean's Bolero get's its ninety ninth airing, so you would love to see great double plays, spectacular diving catches, and sweetly hit homers given the 'great sporting moments' repeat treatment. But, would we want the distractions that so often come with that kind of exposure ? Would we want the dancing girls ? The 'you should clap now' instructional scoreboard ? Would we relish PA systems blasting out anthematic pop songs between innings ?

The glamour, the hype, the money, the fame. All very nice, but would we remember the games and the players with the same affection that we view them now ? Surely there must be a middle ground, where the razzmatazz and the human faces and stories of sport meet ?

REPORTS & SCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R		
Bromley Blue Jays	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	LP Bob Ratcliffe (0-1)	
London Warriors	1	0	2	3	6	5	0	X	16	WP Cody Cain (3-1)

Warriors pitcher Cody Cain arrived late at Barnes following various ornithological shenanigans at his home, and our little feathered friend, having been freed from imprisonment in a chimney, expressed his gratitude to Cody by using some of Mr Cain's furniture as a toilet, so it was perhaps unfortunate for Bromley that they are the Blue Jays.

Certainly Cody treated them much as a farmer treats crop marauding crows, by throwing everything he'd got at them, striking out 7 of the first 9 batters, and he also struck a two run homer in the second to put Warriors on the scoreboard.

Oliver Heidecker extended Warriors lead in the third with an RBI ground rule double, and a line drive to centrefield for Kevin Coldiron scored two further runs for 5-0 Warriors.

Keith Wilesmith (c), had a captains inning in the fourth for the Blue Jays. His RBI single brought home Joe Rolls (ss), and advanced Bob Ratcliffe (p) to 3rd. Wilesmith then attempted a steal of second, drawing the play away from Ratcliffe, allowing him to steal home for 5-2 Warriors.

In the bottom of the fourth, an Alan Bloomfield grounder was cut short at second base thanks to a brilliant dive by Joe Rolls, but Rolls was unable to prevent Carlos Rodriguez crossing the plate for 6-2 Warriors. With Harry Atwood and Alan Bloomfield on base, Oliver Heidecker thumped a three run homer for 9-2 Warriors, and a Richard Kemp 2 RBI double concluded a big inning for the Warriors.

In the fifth, Bloomfield replayed the fourth by batting in Rodriguez again, and Harry Atwood, thanks to two pitches getting passed Blue Jay catcher Wilesmith, helped himself to second base and then home plate. A single to centrefield from Kevin Coldiron

BBF STANDINGS - WEEK 10

12/6/94

National Premier League South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Hounslow Rangers	7	3	.700	--
Bedford Chicksands	6	3	.667	#
Essex Arrows	6	3	.667	#
Crawley Conets	4	5	.444	2#
Brighton Buccaneers	4	7	.364	3#
Bristol Black Sox	1	7	.125	5

Southern Division One North

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Cambridge Monarchs	4	1	.800	--
Hemel Red Sox	4	1	.800	--
Totteridge T'blazers	4	2	.667	#
Gloster Meteors	2	1	.667	1
City Slick	4	3	.571	1
Droitwich Spa Tans	1	4	.200	3
Reading Royals	0	6	.000	5

Southern Division One South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Arun Panthers	4	0	1.000	--
Croydon Pirates	4	1	.800	#
Bournemouth Bees	4	3	.571	1#
Billingham Dodgers	3	3	.500	2
Hounslow Hawks	3	4	.429	2#
Tunbridge Wells R	2	3	.400	2#
Stevenage Knights	0	7	.000	5#

Southern Division Two

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Lashing Sluggers	6	1	.857	--
London Wolves	6	1	.857	--
Tiptree Hotspots	6	2	.750	#
Caterham Athletics	4	4	.500	2#
Guildford Mavericks	3	4	.429	3
Hounslow Falcons	2	6	.250	4#
Chichester Kyotes	2	7	.222	5
Bracknell Blazers	1	5	.167	4#

Southern Division Three North

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Milton Keynes T	4	2	.667	--
Norwich Wanderers	4	2	.667	--
Fulham Flames	3	2	.600	#
Waltham Abbey Cards	3	4	.429	1#
Cambridge Fellows	0	3	.000	3#

Southern Division Three South

	W	L	Pcent	GB
Burgess Hill Reds	6	0	1.000	--
Brighton Buccaneers	5	2	.714	1#
Gloster Meteors	2	4	.333	4
Guildford Mudcats	2	5	.286	4#
Eastbourne Aces	0	5	.000	5#

In Premier League South, Hounslow Rangers leapfrog over the Bedford Chicksands Indians having beaten them in a double-header 6-1 and 9-4, all three Indians defeats have come from the Rangers. Bristol Black Sox pipped the Brighton Buccaneers 10-8 for their first league win of the season.

In Division One North, Hemel Red Sox lost for the first time, going down 11-9 at Totteridge Trailblazers. Hemel now share the lead with

NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS

12/6/94

Essex Eagles 12, Bromley Blue Jays 2.
 London Warriors 9, Lakenheath Yankees 0 (forfeit)
 Tonbridge Bobcats 9, Bury Saints 0 (forfeit)

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 8

12/6/94

	W	L	Pct	GB
Waltham Forest A	6	1	.857	--
Enfield Spartans	5	1	.833	#
London Warriors	4	2	.667	1#
Tonbridge Bobcats	3	2	.600	2
Essex Eagles	3	3	.500	2#
Bury Saints	2	4	.333	3#
Bromley Blue Jays	0	5	.000	5
Lakenheath Yankees	0	5	.000	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

19/6/94

Enfield Spartans @ Essex Eagles
 Lakenheath Yankees @ Bromley Blue Jays (at RAF Feltwell)
 Tonbridge Bobcats @ London Warriors

NEXT WEEK

26/6/94

Bromley Blue Jays @ Tonbridge Bobcats
 Lakenheath Yankees @ Bury Saints

JAYS BACKSTOP BLUES

It's an unsettling time for the Bromley Blue Jays, trying to get organised at their new home in Orpington. At present they are experiencing some difficulties over the construction of a permanent backstop, and until these problems are overcome, look to be playing every game on the road. Let's hope they will soon have the necessary construction work completed, and that they will be able to christen their new home with a National League game.

brought in Alan Bloomfield for 14-2 Warriors, and saw the Blue Jays switch the battery around, Wilesmith to the mound, Ratcliffe receiving.

This didn't meet with immediate success for Blue Jays, a shallow fly to left with the bases loaded gave Kevin Murphy 2 RBI's, Kevin Coldiron and Oliver Heidecker reaching home.

With the score at 16-2 Warriors, Blue Jays knew they would need to score at least five runs in two innings to prevent the slaughter, and with singles for Rolls and Wilesmith, and a walk for Ratcliffe, they loaded the bases in the top of the sixth. Sadly, Matt Gill's (cf) grounder to relief pitcher Kevin Coldiron, was whisked to Alan Bloomfield at the plate, and along to Oliver Heidecker at first, the double play putting out Rolls and Gill.

Tonbridge Bobcats 13 Essex Eagles 6

5th June 1994

WP Nick Carter

LP Dave Reed

Eagles started brightly in their first National League visit to Deacons Field, and at the close of the 2nd inning led by 4-1. The Bobcats rallied with 4 runs in two innings, closing the 4th inning 5-4 ahead.

Tonbridge then added a further eight runs, highlighted by a 3 run triple for Nick Carter, who finished the day 4 for 5, moving his season batting average to .643. Not content with that, Carter also pitched eight innings, collecting 12 K's.

For the Eagles, hitting highlights came from triples by Dave Reed, (starting pitcher), and a two run triple from Matt Jennings, scoring on a fielding error.

In the remaining National League games, Enfield Spartans demolished Lakenheath Yankees 21-1, whilst the Waltham Forest Angels travelled all the way to Whittlesey to play the Bury Saints, only to find no team awaiting them, and so claim a 9-0 forfeit.

Cambridge Monarchs, a 9-0 forfeit over Gillingham Dodgers lifting Monarchs to 4-1. The winless Reading Royals lost 19-6 to the Bournemouth Bees

An 8-1 win over Tunbridge Wells Royals maintains an unbeaten first place for Arun Panthers in Division One South, but the Croydon Pirates are still in close pursuit, having demolished Hounslow Hawks 17-7 to remain ½ game back.

Division Two is developing into a three horse race, with Lashings double header victories of 11-9 and 11-6 over Caterham Athletics putting them equal first with London Wolves, who won 16-11 at Guildford Mavericks. Tiptree bounced back with a win over Hounslow Falcons having surprisingly lost to Chichester Kyotes the week before.

Division Three continues to provide monstrous scores, Norwich Wanderers 16-11 win over Gloster Meteors B having the lowest aggregate score of the weekend. Meanwhile Fulham Flames were pounding Guildford Mudcats 33-11, presumably in a seven inning slaughter !

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

30/5/94

American League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
New York Yankees	32	15	.681	--	6-4
Boston Red Sox	30	18	.625	2½	5-5
Baltimore Orioles	27	20	.574	5	5-5
Toronto Blue Jays	24	25	.490	9	5-5
Detroit Tigers	22	25	.468	10	6-4

National League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Atlanta Braves	30	18	.625	--	6-4
Montreal Expos	28	21	.571	2½	6-4
New York Mets	25	24	.510	5½	5-5
Florida Marlins	24	26	.480	7	2-8
Philadelphia Phil's	23	27	.460	8	6-4

American League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Chicago White Sox	29	18	.617	--	8-2
Cleveland Indians	26	21	.553	3	6-4
Kansas City Royals	24	24	.500	5½	4-6
Minnesota Twins	24	24	.500	5½	5-5
Milwaukee Brewers	20	29	.408	10	3-7

National League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Cincinnati Reds	28	22	.560	--	2-8
Houston Astros	28	22	.560	--	7-3
St Louis Cardinals	25	23	.521	2	5-5
Chicago Cubs	22	26	.458	5	8-2
Pittsburgh Pirates	21	27	.438	6	3-7

American League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Texas Rangers	22	26	.458	--	4-6
California Angels	23	29	.442	1	5-5
Seattle Mariners	21	28	.429	1 1/2	5-5
Oakland Athletics	14	36	.280	9	3-7

National League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB	L10
Los Angeles Dodgers	28	23	.549	--	5-5
San Francisco Giants	25	26	.490	3	4-6
Colorado Rockies	22	27	.449	5	5-5
San Diego Padres	17	34	.333	11	7-3

Apologies to all followers of the Major League scene for rather out of date standings. Initially, USA Today Baseball Weekly was arriving at *Linedrive !* HQ on Thursday, copy deadline time. Then after a few weeks it started arriving on Fridays, so it was get up early and re-edit the standings for yours truly. Now it isn't arriving until Saturdays when all the local photocopying shops are shut. Oh well c'est la vie.

Chicago appears to be the hot place at this time, both White Sox and Cubs having gone 8-2 for their previous 10, although this still leaves the Cubs 5 games off the divisional pace. The other movers and shakers are San Diego, the Padres going 7-3, including a three home game sweep of the Cardinals.

The Houston Astros are also 7-3, and are now on level terms with the Reds who are on a rocky 2-8, Cincinnati having suffered a 3-0 sweep at the New York Mets. Cincinnati's recent form is matched by the Florida Marlins, including two games at home to Montreal where they scored only two runs, losing 11-1 and 3-1.

Oakland A's appear to be floundering, their .280 percentage currently the worst of the lot, although after a three game drubbing in Cleveland, they did bounce back with victory over the Blue Jays.

TOP TIPSTERS

Good news for all you entrants to the *Linedrive !* Major League Tipsters Competition. Thanks to the generosity of Steven and Debbie Bishop, the winners (if from the UK) will receive either a £10 book or record token. Should our winner be from overseas, we'll arrange to mail a couple of books or audio tapes of roughly similar value.

THE TOP TEN 4/30/5/94

1) Steve Eischen	Yankees 0, Indians 3, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Astros 0, Dodgers 0	47
2) Enna Wallace	Orioles 5, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Expos 2, Reds 0, Dodgers 0	42
3) Harry Atwood	Orioles 5, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 3	42
4) Alan Bloomfield	Yankees 0, Indians 3, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Pirates 6, Dodgers 0	41
5) Kenny Collins	Orioles 5, White Sox 0, Mariners 1, Braves 0, Astros 0, Giants 3	40
6) Oliver Heidecker	Yankees 0, Indians 3, Mariners 1, Braves 0, Cardinals 2, Giants 3	40
7) Alex Malihoudis	Red Sox 2, Indians 3, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Cardinals 2, Giants 3	39
8) Carlos Rodriguez	Blue Jays 9, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Astros 0, Giants 3	38
9) Rich Kemp	Red Sox 2, Royals 5, Mariners 1, Braves 0, Astros 0, Giants 3	37
10) Bob Lenhardt	Blue Jays 9, White Sox 0, Mariners 1, Expos 2, Astros 0, Dodgers 0	37
10) Kevin Murphy	Yankees 0, Brewers 10, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 3	37

With almost all the entries in, it's nice to see that nobody has picked the same six teams, although some of the curious selection methods used, such as totting up the teams value in Scrabble letters take a little beating. Leading the way are two transatlantic *Linedrive ?* subscribers, our man from LA just having the edge over the lady from Boston. Kevin Murphy, having been the only entrant to top the table with a perfect score has dropped to joint tenth. The Brewers 14 game losing streak costing him dear. The *Linedrive ?* entrants, Phil Ross (33%) and Rex Phillips (1%) are off the pace !

BASEBALL GREATS - FUBBER HYDE

Cowan Hyde. Outfield/Second Base. Cincinnati Tigers 1937, Memphis Red Sox 1938-49, Chicago American Giants 1950, Indianapolis Athletics 1951, Elmwood Giants 1951-52, Brandon 1953-54.

One of the Negro Leagues fast line-drive hitters, Fubber was comfortable in the infield or outfield. Hyde was a member of one of the best southern Negro League teams, the Memphis Red Sox of the late 1930's and early 1940's. With the Red Sox Hyde played with pitcher/catcher/manager Double Duty Radcliffe, infielders Marlin Carter, Fred Bankhead and Willie Wells, and pitcher Verdell Mathis. Hyde was named to All-Star squads in 1943 and 1946 and finished his career playing in Canada with Saul Drake and Rayford Finch.

LONDON WARRIORS NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE 1994

Sun 1st May	away to Enfield Spartans	L 9-10
Sun 8th May	HOME TO BURY SAINTS	L 1-2
Sun 15th May	away to Essex Eagles	W 19-1
Sun 29th May	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 9-6
Sun 5th June	HOME TO BROMLEY BLUE JAYS	W 16-2
Sun 12th June	away to Lakenheath Yankees	W 9-0 F
Sun 19th June	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	
Sun 26th June	Rain date	
Sun 3rd July	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	
Sun 10th July	away to Tonbridge Bobcats	
Sun 17th July	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS	
Sun 24th July	away to Bury Saints	
Sun 31st July	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	
Sun 7th August	away to Bromley Blue Jays	
Sun 14th August	HOME TO LAKENHEATH YANKEES	
Sun 21st August	Rain date	
Sun 28th August	6th v 1st, 6th v 7th, 4th v 5th, 2nd v 3rd	
Sun 4th September	1st v 2nd, 3rd v 4th, 5th v 6th, 7th v 8th	

KNOCKOUT CUP

Sun 11th September	5th v 1st, 6th v 2nd, 7th v 3rd, 8th v 4th
Sun 18th September	5th/1st v 7th/3rd, 6th/2nd v 8th/4th
Sun 25th September	KNOCKOUT CUP FINAL - venue to be decided

A GOOD SPORT

GEORGE CLEVERLY was a friend of mine who had spent a good deal of his young life in Canada. He talked keenly of his experiences in Ontario, including journeys right up to James Bay. Until the time of his death he visited Toronto fairly regularly, and always came back with lively tales of the Blue Jays and their new stadium. He said the roof took so long to close when it rained that everybody got wet through anyway. Here in London George was an enthusiastic follower, home and away, of Dulwich Hamlet, and his sporting connections do not end there, for his father-in-law, Joe Deakin, won a gold medal in the 3 mile team race at the first Olympic Games held in Britain, in 1908. Mrs. Cleverly lives in South London and is justifiably proud of her father's achievement. R.P.

DO YOU KNOW ?

We all know that the Athletics went from Philadelphia to Kansas City and are now at Oakland. We also know that the Braves went from Boston to Milwaukee to Atlanta. But is it common knowledge that the Milwaukee Brewers became the St. Louis Browns? And what became of the Browns?



..... provided he tries to avoid it