

LINEDRIVE!

Vol. III No. II

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	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
Graham Haslam	First Base	20
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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A BRITISH BASEBALL FANZINE

THE ILIAD AND OTHER CLASSICS

In the week that sees the commencement of a new scholastic year, it is perhaps appropriate that our cover should have an academic motif. Whilst Homer, a blind minstrel and poet of the 8th century BC, might well blench at the thought of his name being associated with a ball game, there is another word he has given to the English language, the title of his other great work, The Odyssey, and that certainly seems appropriate to this season of National League Baseball.

Websters dictionary defines an odyssey as 'a long adventurous journey', and certainly the ups and downs that National League has experienced since bat first hit ball on the 24th April 1994, seems to fit that definition well. A number of teams have departed, and one team in particular, the Enfield Spartans, seems to have had more than it's share of personal misfortune, with barely an issue of *Linedrive !* being published without some unhappy tale to tell of an Enfield player receiving hospital treatment.

However, with just one regular season game left to play, the countdown is now on for a modern day classic, the National League Championship Final. Whatever the result of the Enfield Spartans and Waltham Forest Angels game today (11/9), National League will finish with only two games covering the top four teams, and it is those same top four teams who will play-off for the National League Championship. Each of those four have beaten each of the other three, so no permutation of games can be readily forecast.

Whilst the previous three Championship Finals have been the sole preserve of the London Warriors and Enfield Spartans, whoever wins through is bound to produce as great a nail-biter as we have seen in recent years. Even if your team is not represented, or even if you've only just found out about baseball in Britain, you would be very poorly advised to miss the play-off final. If you want stirring memories to last you through a long, baseball free winter, then look no further. *Linedrive !* will be there with Issue 12 to close and review season '94. We look forward to your company !

REPORTS & SCORES

28/8/94

11213141516171 R1London Warriors 101711131014151201

WP Alan Smith

Waltham Forest Angels101210111013101 61

LP Matthew Poggi

For a team that had topped the standings from the start of the season, the Angels seemed surprisingly subdued, however the first inning produced the expected tough contest, each teams opening three batters failing to make any impact.

The second inning seemed to be from a different game altogether, producing RBI's for Oliver Heidecker (lf), Richard Kemp (rf) and Alan Bloomfield (c), who's walk with the bases loaded made it 3-0 Warriors. Next man up, Graham Haslam (1b), reached first thanks to a fielding error, adding two further runs scored by Dean Ward (3b), and Harry Atwood (ss).

Angels pitcher, Matthew Poggi, then balked, feigning a throw to first, which advanced Alan Bloomfield to home for 6-0, and Kevin Coldiron promptly batted in Poggi's intended pick-off victim, Graham Haslam, for 7-0.

Poggi helped recover two of the runs conceded, his walk, followed by a double steal with fellow runner Noel Omechi (ss), was converted into two runs by an Oliver Millett (cf) single, but Warriors claimed another run in the 3rd, Richard Kemp getting his second RBI from two at bats, with a single placed beyond the grasp of Medeo Kamiyama, Angels excellent third baseman.

The top of the fourth saw three consecutive extra base hits for the Warriors producing two more runs. Graham Haslam matched Kevin Coldiron's first inning triple, and was then batted in by Coldiron's ground rule double for 9-2. The Warriors second baseman was then caught stealing third, which was a pity, as next man up, Brad Thompson (cf), hit a solo round tripper over the head of his opposite number for 10-2 Warriors. Singles for Oliver Heidecker, Richard Kemp and Alan Smith, loaded the bases, but the only loss

then suffered by Poggi was a sacrifice fly from Dean Ward for 11-3.

Angels then imitated the Warriors, with Medeo Kamiyama getting on base, then being caught stealing, followed immediately by a Noel Omechi home-run, that could so easily have been two.

Although the scoreline shows the fifth as a shut-out, it was not short on excitement, with first Angels relief pitcher Tony Dyett, loading up the bases and escaping unscathed, followed by Alan Smith for the Warriors doing the very same thing.

No such joy for the pitchers in the sixth, with an RBI single for Harry Atwood, followed by ground rule doubles for Alan Bloomfield (1 RBI) and Kevin Coldiron (2 RBI's). With the score at 15-3, the seven inning slaughter looked a possibility. Angels fought back though, starting with Noel Omechi's second homer of the day. Tony Dyett added an RBI for 15-5, and was himself batted in by John Swanson (rf) to stave off the slaughter.

Warriors were having none of it though, and RBI's for Dean Ward, Harry Atwood and Graham Haslam put Warriors 18-6 ahead. Alan Bloomfield then stole home plate, and Kevin Coldiron notched another extra base hit with an RBI ground rule double for 20-6 Warriors. Coldiron then took to the hill for the Warriors, and although Noel Omechi reached third base for the Angels, Coldiron finished his brief spell in relief without loss.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E			
Essex Eagles	1	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	6	10	4	28/8/94
Enfield Spartans	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	WP Vince Warner

A very tense and exciting contest, but sadly one that was marred by an unfortunate accident in the third inning. Spartan's Chris Stein, playing the outfield, was in pursuit of a shallow fly ball. His team mate, Rob Lanario, was also back-pedalling from short. In attempting to make the play, they collided. Stein was knocked unconscious, and in falling, swallowed his tongue. Only rapid reactions from his team mates averted a serious injury, and

although Chris has been discharged from hospital for several days now, he has been advised not to play for the remainder of the season.

Despite this happening, Spartans decided that they would continue the game, but obviously, they must have felt rather distanced from the task at hand, and they could have been forgiven for throwing in their hand altogether when Vince Warner cracked a three run homer in the fifth.

However, Gary Bedingfield replied with a solo homer of his own, and with only two runs separating the teams, three tense scoreless innings followed. Eagles finally broke the deadlock, Clive Smith's double being converted by Dave Read for the final run of the game.

Last weekend (4/9), Warriors finished their regular season and secured first place with a 21-1 drubbing of the Tonbridge Bobcats. Sadly for the Bobcats, a string of heavy defeats has caused a few of their regular team to quit playing, and although even their best side would find it very hard to beat the Warriors, the weakened line up that came to Barnes, stood no chance at all.

Enfield Spartans went one better in their visit to Marsh Lane. A massive twelve runs scored in the first inning against the Waltham Forest Angels put them on their way to a 22-1 victory. This means that the final regular season game, Waltham Forest Angels at Enfield Spartans, will decide who finishes third, and plays the Essex Eagles away, and who will finish fourth and play the London Warriors away in the play-off semi finals.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEEK 20

4/9/94

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
London Warriors	12	4	,750	--
Essex Eagles	11	5	,688	1
Enfield Spartans	10	5	,667	1½
Waltham Forest A	10	5	,667	1½
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	12	,250	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE TODAY

11/9/94

Waltham Forest Angels at Enfield Spartans *

NEXT WEEK - PLAY-OFF SEMI-FINALS

18/9/94

Game 1 - Losers of * at London Warriors

Game 2 - Winners of * at Essex Eagles

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

25/9/94

Winners of Game 1 vs Winners of Game 2 - venue to be decided

BASEBALL SOUTH WEST - FINAL STANDINGS

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Torbay Tigers	13	1	.929	--
Teignmouth Rebels	8	5	.615	4½
Plymouth Mariners	8	6	.571	5
Norton Braves	7	6	.538	5½
Wessex Kings	7	7	.500	6
Crewkerne Cutters	5	9	.357	8
Bristol Buccaneers	4	10	.286	9
Plymouth Pirates	3	11	.214	10

MANNY RUBIN CUP - FIRST ROUND

4/9/94

Torbay Tigers - bye (Norton Braves withdrew)

Crewkerne Cutters - bye (Teignmouth Rebels withdrew)

Bristol Buccaneers 10 Plymouth Mariners 6

Wessex Kings 21 Plymouth Pirates 1

A remarkable performance from Kings' pitcher Jeff Cherson, pitching a no hitter, striking out 19, yielding 2 walks, and facing only 29 batters over the nine innings.

MANNY RUBIN CUP - SEMI FINALS

11/9/94

Bristol Buccaneers at Torbay Tigers

Crewkerne Cutters at Wessex Kings

BRF STANDINGS - WEEK 22

4/9/94

National Premier League South

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Crawley Comets	12	6	,667	---
Essex Arrows	11	6	,647	½
Hounslow Rangers	11	6	,647	½
Bedford Chicksands	10	8	,555	2
Brighton Buccaneers	7	12	,368	5½
Bristol Black Sox	2	15	,118	9½

Northern Division One

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Menwith Hill Pirates	14	0	1,000	---
Nottingham Pirates	10	3	,769	3½
Liverpool Tigers	8	6	,571	6
Tamworth Strykers	7	6	,538	6½
Stretford A's	5	8	,385	8½
Hull Mets	4	7	,364	8½
Barnsley Strikers	5	9	,357	9
Hull Royals	5	9	,357	9
Hull Giants	2	12	,143	12

Scottish Division One

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Glasgow Comets	7	1	,875	---
West Lothian W'cats	5	3	,625	2
Fayside Cobras	4	3	,571	2½
Dundee Dodgers	5	4	,556	2½
Edinburgh Reivers	2	5	,286	4½
Dalriada Diamonds	2	7	,222	5½

Southern Division One North

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Hemel Red Sox	15	1	,938	---
Cambridge Monarchs	15	2	,882	½
Gloster Meteors	7	6	,538	6½
City Slick	8	8	,500	7
Totteridge T'blazers	7	7	,500	7
Droitwich Spa Tans	4	11	,267	10½
Reading Royals	3	14	,176	12½

Southern Division One South

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Arun Panthers	11	1	,917	---
Croydon Pirates	10	5	,667	2½
Bournemouth Bees	8	8	,500	5
Tunbridge Wells R	7	7	,500	5
Gillingham Dodgers	5	11	,313	8
Hounslow Hawks	5	11	,313	8
Stevenage Knights	0	13	,000	11½

Northern Division Two

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Newark Giants	12	1	,923	---
Preston Bobcats	9	6	,600	4
Leeds City Royals	6	7	,462	6
Birmingham Dodgers	6	8	,429	6½
Hessle Astros	4	8	,333	7½
Sheffield Bladerunners	2	9	,182	9

Despite best efforts to obtain information, National Premier League North appears to have finished it's schedule well ahead of the original deadline, and all, it would appear have packed up and gone home, so to speak. *Linedrive !* understands that the Humberside

Mets won, followed by the Leeds City Royals, with Birmingham Braves about fourth.

Southern Division Two

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
London Wolves	16	2	,889	---
Lashing Sluggers	11	7	,611	5
Guildford Mavericks	9	9	,500	7
Caterham Athletics	8	10	,444	8
Chichester Kyotes	7	10	,412	8½
Hounslow Falcons	7	10	,412	8½
Tiptree Hotspots	6	12	,400	9
Bracknell Blazers	5	11	,313	10

Southern Division Three North

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Milton Keynes T	11	3	,786	½
Norwich Wanderers	13	4	,765	---
Fulham Flames	8	7	,533	4
Waltham Abbey Cards	7	9	,438	5½
Cambridge Fellows	0	13	,000	11

Southern Division Three South

	Wn	Lt	Pcent	GB
Burgess Hill Reds	15	1	,938	---
Brighton Buccaneers	14	3	,824	1½
Gloster Meteors	6	9	,400	8½
Guildford Mudcats	4	12	,250	11
Eastbourne Aces	0	14	,000	14

Whilst Menwith Hill Pirates have gone throughout their Division One North campaign unbeaten, their is only talk of their gaining a championship, and no mention of actual promotion. This is because the BBF are aware of the reduction in size of National League to five teams, and are not making any cast iron statements about who will be in which of the two Premier Divisions next season.

However, one piece of madness is being contemplated. Whilst the increase in size of Premier Division South to eight teams is sane enough, the BBF are considering a 42 game regular season ! They believe that by scrapping the BBF Cup, and instituting a regime of single games home and away, and double-headers, home and away, against each teams prospective opponents, making six meetings in all, there will be enough time to fit in 42 matches.

Bearing in mind the number of single pitcher teams around, and the sheer bloody awfulness of English summers, watching a load of

make-up rain date double-headers in September will be nothing short of a marathon feat of endurance. 20 games is optimum. Be sensible BBF, please !

FINAL MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

11/8/94

American League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB,	L10
New York Yankees	70	43	,619	---	5-5
Baltimore Orioles	63	49	,563	6½	7-3
Toronto Blue Jays	55	60	,478	16	5-5
Boston Red Sox	54	61	,470	17	3-7
Detroit Tigers	53	62	,461	18	5-5

National League - East

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB,	L10
Montreal Expos	74	40	,649	---	8-2
Atlanta Braves	68	46	,596	6	6-4
New York Mets	55	58	,487	18½	5-5
Philadelphia Phil's	54	61	,470	20½	3-7
Florida Marlins	51	64	,443	23½	6-4

American League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB,	L10
Chicago White Sox	67	46	,593	---	6-4
Cleveland Indians	66	47	,584	1	6-4
Kansas City Royals	64	51	,557	4	6-4
Minnesota Twins	53	60	,469	14	6-4
Milwaukee Brewers	53	62	,461	15	3-7

National League - Central

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB,	L10
Cincinnati Reds	66	48	,579	---	5-5
Houston Astros	66	49	,574	½	7-3
Pittsburgh Pirates	53	61	,465	13	4-6
St Louis Cardinals	53	61	,465	13	6-4
Chicago Cubs	49	64	,434	16½	2-8

American League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB,	L10
Texas Rangers	52	62	,456	---	2-8
Oakland Athletics	51	63	,447	1	4-6
Seattle Mariners	49	63	,438	2	9-1
California Angels	47	68	,409	5½	4-6

National League - West

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB,	L10
Los Angeles Dodgers	58	56	,509	---	6-4
San Francisco Giants	55	60	,478	3½	4-6
Colorado Rockies	53	64	,453	6½	3-7
San Diego Padres	47	70	,402	12½	6-4

CONGRATULATIONS !

Well done to Emma Wallace of Boston for winning our Major League Tipsters competition, your chosen prize of a CD of Rachmaninov Piano Concertos is on its way. The final top four were :-

1)Emma Wallace	Orioles 6½, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Expos 0, Reds 0, Dodgers 0	43%
2)Steve Eischen	Yankees 0, Indians 1, Rangers 0, Braves 6, Astros ½, Dodgers 0	41%
3)Harry Atwood	Orioles 6½, White Sox 0, Rangers 0, Braves 6, Reds 0, Giants 3½	34
4)Bob Lenhardt	Blue J's 16, White Sox 0, Mariners 2, Expos 0, Astros ½, Dodgers 0	31%

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	W 14-4
Sun 3rd July	HOME TO WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS	L 5-7
Sun 10th July	away to Tonbridge Bobcats	W 28-1
Sun 17th July	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS	W 15-5
Sun 24th July	away to Lakenheath Yankees	W 9-0 F
Sun 31st July	away to Essex Eagles	L 7-16
Sun 14th August	away to Enfield Spartans	W 6-4
Sun 21st August	HOME TO ESSEX EAGLES	W 14-7
Sun 28th August	away to Waltham Forest Angels	W 20-6
Sun 4th September	HOME TO TONBRIDGE BOBCATS	W 21-1
Sun 11th September	rain date	

PLAY-OFFS

Sun 18th September	HOME TO ENFIELD SPARTANS or WALTHAM FOREST A
Sun 25th September	FINAL - venue to be decided

All games commence 3 p.m. unless shown otherwise

The play-off semi final (18/9) may be played at another venue.
Please call *Linedrive 1* to confirm the details.

HISTORY LESSON

IF WE had the space to compile a history of baseball in Britain, we could use the following extract from the Brooklyn Eagle of May 16, 1862:

".... the scheme of establishing the 'Union Base Ball and Cricket grounds'... has now been carried into execution. It is a fair specimen of the enterprise of our citizens, this being the first of the kind in Brooklyn. At the Central Park, N.Y., there are ball grounds on the same plan.... and during the past year or two there have been numbers established in London and in other European cities. The chief object of the Association is to provide a suitable place for ball playing, where ladies can witness the game without being annoyed by the indecorous behaviour of the rowdies who attend some of the first-class matches...."

Further to this evidence of baseball in Britain more than 130 years ago, just take a note of this: The Boston Red Stockings and the Philadelphia Athletics played a regular championship baseball game at Lord's in 1874. While they were here the Americans, 18 of them, played 7 cricket matches, each against 12 home players. The Americans won them all.

The striking thing is the parallel development originally of baseball and cricket, as variations upon the same theme.