

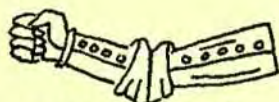
LINEDRIVE!

Vol. III No.12

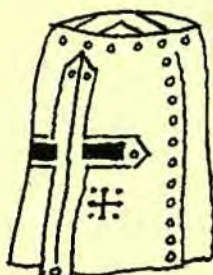
BASEBALL IN BRITAIN

1994

The Old World's Series



PITCHER'S ARM



UMPIRE'S MASK



BATTER'S HELMET



DOUBLE HEADER



MVP

ENFIELD SPARTANS
NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 1994

TEAM ROSTER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>	<u>Uniform Number</u>
Gary Bedingfield	Catcher	7
Amos Begum	First Base	29
Darren Cobb	Rightfield	21
Julien Fountain	Pitcher/First Base	15
Justin Hornet	Third Base	18
Ian Lanario	Pitcher/Rightfield	11
Rob Lanario	Shortstop/Catcher - Manager	3
Simon Lanario	First Base	15
Oscar Marcellino	Third Base	23
Chris McGovern	Centrefield/Shortstop	16
Chris Morgan	Rightfield/Leftfield	52
Gavin Mower	Leftfield	26
Rob Nelson	Pitcher	28
Steve Simmons	Second Base	2
Chris Stein	Leftfield/Centrefield	12
Darren Stevens	Leftfield	14
Rob Yuille	Rightfield/Leftfield	20

*Linedrive ! edited by Phil Ross, Flat 2 'Thanescroft', Selborne Road,
Croydon, CR0 5JQ. Tel 081 686 7727.*

GOOD AND BAD - HAPPY AND SAD

The Championship Finals always creates mixed emotions. There is the anticipation and tension of a build up to an annual event that has never failed to thrill everyone associated with the game, but there is also the sorry realisation that this is it folks ! After this one, all too brief game, there will be no more competitive 'ball to be seen until next spring.

Of course, there are always the stirring memories from the season just passed to tide you through the dark months ahead, but even they are something of a mixed blessing this season, with continuing stories of baseball teams folding, players suffering serious injuries, and even the normally stabilising and focusing influence of the continuity of the Major League season, being thrown into disarray by strike action.

However, many seasoned British baseball fans assure me that they have seen the greatest number of top quality British games in one season in National League this season. In terms of quality, some pundits are referring to season '94 as some form of 'golden age' for British baseball. Unfortunately, the greatly reduced quantity has diminished the impact of a quite thrilling season, and thoughts about the future structure of the game in this country have loomed over all concerned with the sport, taking the edge off an extraordinary seasons' play.

Certainly one thing to be glad of is that this fourth National League Championship Final features a new finalist, the Waltham Forest Angels. Whilst the previous three contests between London Warriors (aka Athletics) and Enfield Spartans, have all been exciting games, the introduction of a new face shows that National League has encouraged and promoted the skill level in other teams, rather than being a contest run merely for the benefit of either Spartans or Warriors.

There has been a lot of pleasure derived from this National League season, there has been a lot to concern us too, but one thing we can be sure of, we'll remember this season for many years to come.

 REPORTS & SCORES

11/9/94

 11|2|3|4|5|6|7|8|9|R|

 Waltham Forest Angels 1|1|1|0|0|4|1|1|1|1|0|9|

WP Tony Dyett

 Enfield Spartans 1|4|2|1|0|0|1|1|0|0|1|1|0|8|

LP Ian Lanario

This final game of the regular season should have, by rights, been some kind of formality. Both teams had qualified for the play-offs. Both teams were nominally going to be the away side in the play off matches, and all that was really at stake was would they be away at London Warriors, who had beaten both of them twice, or away at the Essex Eagles, equally capable of beating both of them. However, much to the delight of the fans, both sides went out to play to win !

Angels were back at almost full strength, with only Mick Moseley and Bucky O'Hare missing from the usual starting line-up. The visitors started brightly, with lead-off man Takao Imura coming home on a dropped third strike taking play to first. In the home half of the inning Angel's Tony Dyett took time to settle in, and by the fourth Enfield batter, he was facing bases loaded.

Darren Cobb batted in Steve Simmons with a single, Chris Stein walked to score Rob Lanario, and Simon Lanario added another RBI single, brother Ian crossing the plate. Justin Hornet hit the fourth Enfield RBI, batting in Darren Cobb for 4-1 Enfield.

The top of the second also saw the bases loaded, Spartans pitcher Rob Nelson, looking a little troubled. Medeo Kamiyama batted in the only Angels run this inning, Nelson being bailed out by an alert fielding display. Takao Inamura hit a fly ball to centrefield, which was caught by Ian Lanario, who quickly rifled the ball to Chris McGovern at second, beating Imura to the tag up for a neat double-play.

Enfield forged further ahead in the bottom of the second with an RBI double for Ian Lanario, and a second RBI in 2 at bats for Darren Cobb to make it 6-2 Spartans.

Although the third inning was scoreless, there was still plenty to enthral. Waltham's Noel Omechi and Mark McCrory had opportunities to consider what might have been, both being caught between bases. In the bottom of the third, Steve Simmons watched from the batters box as his fly ball looped towards the fence running along the foul territory at first, and saw the nimble Takao Imura scale the fence and glove the ball for a spectacular catch.

The fifth inning brought about a revival from the Angels, doubles for Kamiyama and McCrory (RBI), where both converted to runs by singles from Takao Inamura and Daniel Namorah. Namorah then escaped a run down by seemingly ignoring everybody's advice, and was then batted in for the tying run by Shozi Vozumi.

Enfield regained the lead in the bottom of the fifth, Simon Lanario batting in Darren Cobb with a single, but the 7-6 lead was short lived. Tony Dyett got on base with a single in the top of the seventh, and consecutive ground-outs for Imura and Kamiyama brought him home to tie up the game once more, and conclude Rob Nelson's spell on the hill.

Ian Lanario's spell in relief in the seventh had an inauspicious start, walking the first batter, Noel Omechi, who then stole second and third bases, and then scored, when catcher Rob Lanario, whisked a ball down the leftfield line out of the reach of Justin Hornet at third.

Angels forged further ahead with an RBI for Takao Inamura to make it 9-7 Waltham, but Enfield were not about to give in. In the bottom of the inning, first two men up, Chris McGovern and Steve Simmons, were both walked, prompting the Angels manager, Mike Agha, to visit the hill, and call on reliever, Nao, to close for the Angels.

Rob Lanario then reached first on a fielders choice, McGovern out at third, and Ian Lanario batted in Steve Simmons to make it 9-8 Waltham, and make the ninth inning a real nailbiter. Both relieving pitchers worked well, keeping both offences off base, and giving Waltham Forest the narrowest of victories.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Enfield Spartans	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	7
London Warriors	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	5

18/9/94

WP Rob Nelson

LP Cody Cain

This Championship Play-Off semi final ensured that it would not be a fourth consecutive London & Enfield Championship Final, but it did reproduce all the tension and drama of those previous three thrilling contests.

The top of the first alone produced action galore, with a walk and stolen base for first man up, Chris McGovern, followed by a bunt for Steve Simmons to put men on the corners. Gary Bedingfield then hit a grounder to Alan Smith, who initiated the 1-6-3 double play, Harry Atwood and Cody Cain teaming up to put out Simmons and Bedingfield, with McGovern reaching home simultaneously. Rob Lanario then extended Enfield's lead to 2-0, batting in Ian Lanario.

Warriors replied in the bottom of the second with the bases loaded. Dean Ward hit a grounder to third, and Oscar Marcellino's overthrow to first allowed Kevin Coldiron and Oliver Heidecker to score for 2-2.

Two tense, scoreless innings followed, culminating in a moment of controversy in the bottom of the fourth. Warrior's Oliver Heidecker struck a grounder down the left line, which he managed to stretch to a double with a head first slide to the bag his fellow countryman, Jurgen Klinsmann, would have envied ! This was followed by a grounder to short by Richard Kemp. The runner, Heidecker, fielder, Rob Lanario, and struck ball, all converged on the base path, and protests about interference seemed initially to draw two different calls from the umpires. After consultation and clarification of the call at issue, interference was given, and Heidecker called out.

The top of the fifth saw London introduce releiver Cody Cain, Alan Smith moving to first base. Cain added a further shut-out innings to Smith's previous three, and then scored in the bottom of the inning, courtesy of a Kevin Coldiron double. Oliver Heidecker then extended London's lead to 4-2 with an RBI single. (cont page 6)

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP 1994

ENFIELD SPARTANS

WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS

Chris McGovern (cf)	1	Takao Imura (1b)
Steve Simmons (2b)	2	Medeo Kamiyama (3b)
Gary Bedingfield (c)	3	Takao Inamura (ss)
Ian Lanario (p)	4	Noel Omechi (2b)
Oscar Marcellino (3b)	5	Mark McCrory (lf)
Rob Lanario (ss)	6	Daniel Namorah (cf)
Darren Cobb (rf)	7	Shozi Vozumi (c)
Chris Stein (lf)	8	Oliver Millett (rf)
Simon Lanario (1b)	9	Tony Dyett (p)

SUB

SUB

SUB

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E

(Above line-ups where the the most recent starting formations for each team, today's line-up may vary considerably)

(continued from page 4) Cody Cain pitched another shut-out in the sixth, and battery-mate Alan Bloomfield added another insurance run with a sacrifice fly, Dean Ward running in London's fifth and final run.

After five scoreless innings, Ian Lanario stopped the Enfield drought, his single to short batting in pinch runner Rob Yuille, but at the expense of Gary Bedingfield, out at second. Oscar Marcellino then reduced the deficit to just one run, batting in Chris McGovern with a double to centrefield.

An expensive error for the Warriors proved to be the turning point in the eighth. Spartans substitute first baseman, Amos Begum, in his first plate appearance for the game, got three strikes against him, but the ball was dropped, and the overthrown, converting a potential out into two bases. This produced the tying run, courtesy of a Steve Simmons RBI single.

Gary Bedingfield then hit a single to short, and although Steve Simmons was out at second, the throw to first was wild, Chris McGovern scoring to put Spartans 6-5 ahead.

Enfield added a further run in the ninth, Marcellino hitting a triple to centrefield, and then being batted in by a well placed Rob Nelson sac bunt.

Warriors tried to fight back, with both Kevin Coldiron and Alan Bloomfield in scoring positions, but the converting hit never came, and it was Enfield, not London, who made it four consecutive National League Finals.

There was staggering news from the other play-off semi final. Despite numerous calls to National League members during the preceding week enthusing about the prospect of playing the semi-final, Essex Eagles pulled out on the Saturday, unable to raise a team, effectively given Waltham Forest a bye to the finals. With much of the Essex membership in the retail trade, one wonders whether Sunday opening, and the resulting commercial pressures, is really such a neat idea after all.

NLB - Final Standings

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
London Warriors	12	4	,750	--
Essex Eagles	11	5	,688	1
Waltham Forest	11	5	,688	1
Enfield Spartans	10	6	,625	2
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	12	,250	8

BBF National Premier League North

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Humberside Mets	16	4	,800	--
Nottingham Hornets	13	5	,722	2
Leeds City Royals	9	9	,500	6
Birmingham Braves	8	12	,400	8
Liverpool Trojans	8	12	,400	8
Humberside Warriors	4	16	,200	12

BBF National Premier League South

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Essex Arrows	13	7	,650	--
Crawley Comets	13	7	,650	--
Hounslow Rangers	13	7	,650	--
Bedford Chicksands	11	9	,550	2
Brighton Buccaneers	8	12	,400	5
Bristol Black Sox	2	18	,100	11

BBF Northern Division One

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Menwith Hill Pirates	16	0	1,000	---
Nottingham Pirates	13	3	,813	3
Liverpool Tigers	10	6	,625	6
Tanworth Strykers	9	6	,600	6½
Hull Royals	7	9	,438	9
Barnsley Strikers	5	10	,333	10½
Stretford A's	5	11	,313	11
Hull Mets	4	12	,250	12
Hull Giants	2	14	,125	14

BBF Scottish Division One

	W	L	Pcnt	GB
Glasgow Comets	9	1	,900	--
Dundee Dodgers	6	4	,600	3
West Lothian W'cats	6	4	,600	3
Tayside Cobras	5	5	,500	4
Edinburgh Reivers	2	8	,200	7
Dalriada Diamonds	2	8	,200	7

BBF Southern Division One North

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Henel Red Sox	17	1	,944	---
Cambridge Monarchs	16	3	,842	1½
Gloster Meteors	11	6	,647	5½
City Slick	9	10	,474	8½
Totteridge T'blazers	9	10	,474	8½
Droitwich Spa Tans	4	13	,235	12½
Reading Royals	3	15	,167	14

BBF Southern Division One South

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Arun Panthers	15	1	,938	---
Croydon Pirates	12	5	,706	3½
Tunbridge Wells R	11	6	,647	4½
Bournemouth Bees	8	11	,421	8½
Gillingham Dodgers	5	12	,294	10½
Hounslow Hawks	5	14	,263	11½
Stevenage Knights	0	18	,000	16

BBF Northern Division Two

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Newark Giants	14	1	,933	---
Preston Bobcats	9	6	,600	5
Birmingham Dodgers	6	8	,429	7½
Leeds City Royals	6	9	,400	8
Hessle Astros	6	9	,400	8
Sheffield Blades	3	11	,214	10½

BBF Southern Division Two

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
London Wolves	17	3	,850	---
Lashing Sluggers	12	8	,600	5
Guildford Mavericks	10	9	,526	6½
Caterham Athletics	9	11	,450	8
Hounslow Falcons	8	10	,444	8
Chichester Kyotes	9	12	,429	8½
Tiptree Hotspots	8	12	,400	9
Bracknell Blazers	6	14	,300	11

BBF Southern Division Three North

	W	L	Pcnt	GB
Milton Keynes T	9	4	,692	--
Norwich Wanderers	9	4	,692	--
Fulham Flames	5	8	,385	4
Waltham Abbey Cards	4	9	,308	5

BBF Southern Division Three South

	Wn	Lt	Pcnt	GB
Burgess Hill Reds	12	1	,923	--
Brighton Buccaneers	10	3	,769	2
Gloster Meteors	3	10	,231	9
Guildford Mudcats	0	13	,000	12

BASEBALL SOUTH WEST - MANNY RUBIN CUPSemi Final Results

11/9/94

Torbay Tigers 24 Bristol Buccaneers 6
 Wessex Kings 24 Crewkerne Cutters 1

Manny Rubin Cup Final

25/9/94

Torbay Tigers vs Wessex Kings (at Crewkerne)
 Bristol Buccaneers vs Crewkerne Cutters (third place play-off)

WALTHAM FOREST ANGELS
NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 1994

TEAM ROSTER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Usual Fielding Position</u>
Mike Agha	Manager
Po Chen	Leftfield
Tony Dyett	Pitcher/First Base
Takao Inamura	Shortstop/Catcher
Takao Imura	First Base
Medeo Kamiyama	Third Base/Shortstop
Mark McCrory	Leftfield/Centrefield
Oliver Millett	Rightfield/Centrefield
Mick Moseley	Shortstop
Daniel Namorah	Centrefield/Leftfield
Bucky O'Hare	Rightfield
Pavel Masek	Leftfield
Noel Omechi	Second Base/Shortstop
Matthew Poggi	Pitcher
Karl Ralph	Second Base
John Swanson	Rightfield
Steve Voulgaris	Catcher
Shozi Vozumi	Catcher

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NEVER SAY DIE

IN THE front office of the Chattanooga Choo-choos the despondent owner and his general manager played a sombre game of checkers. The Choo-choos wanted just one win for their first ever five-game streak and their first ever 500 percentage. But they were on strike. The ball park was enveloped in gloom.

"I can't just sit here," said the owner. "Let's go over to the Old Country and take a look at my railroad there."

"But your railroad is on strike too."

"Strike two," moaned the owner. "Now tell me my ball club in the Old Country is on strike. That's all I need."

Dismal Desmond, the general manager, had felt nothing but remorse ever since he had spent a million dollars of his boss's money on the Barrelston Badgers. He winced at the mention of them.

"Your so-called ball club," he sighed. "Do you know what, boss? Your ten-cent no-good outfit is going to play another ten-cent no-good outfit in what they call — listen to this, boss — the Championship Play-off Final. Ha!!"

For a moment the owner stared into space. Then he beamed. Suddenly he gave Desmond a hearty thump on the back.

"Snap out of it, Pieface!" the owner roared. "We've struck it rich again. Get hold of Cosmos TV and sell them the sole rights of the Old World's Series, for a million dollars!"