

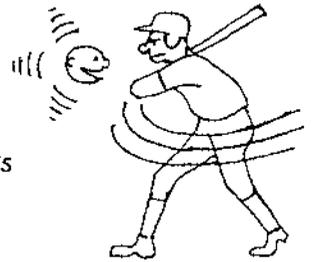


THE UPS

KNUCKLE
AND DOWNS

AND INS

BALL
AND OUTS



of NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL

Volume **II** _____ 1994 _____ Number **8**

Another dramatic but unwanted incident unfolded during last Sunday's game between Enfield Spartans and Essex Eagles, (see report), and this has highlighted a real need in our sport. As any sports participant is aware, no matter how professional their attitude, how frequently they practice, nor what standard of excellence they achieve, accidents, and consequentially, injuries, will always occur.

Admittedly not often, though on this point the Spartans may wish to differ, such accidents merit hospital attention, and very rarely, immediate remedial treatment is required in order to prevent a tragedy occurring.

Each team should ask of themselves, would they know how to respond to a serious injury on their field? Aside from the obvious requirement to call an ambulance, how many of their team could come to the assistance of a distressed colleague, knowing what they were doing?

Perhaps, with a view to safety, team members should consider seeking advice from organisations such as the St John Ambulance service, or attending medical aid courses from your local council or health centre, or consulting with other sporting organisations in their locality who have a professional medical officer as part of their set up.

These skills may never be called upon, but it could well be, that the one time they are required, serious permanent injury or even death, may be avoided. It should perhaps be viewed as essential, that every team has at least three members with some degree of first aid knowledge, so that at no time is their team without a member they could describe as a medical officer or first aider, on the field.

RESULTS & SCORES

21/8/94

1 1 1 2 1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6 1 7 1 8 1 9 1 R.
Essex Eagles.....1 0 1 0 1 4 1 0 1 1 0 1 0 0 1 2 71
London Warriors:1 1 2 1 0 1 2 1 4 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 41

Losing Pitcher - Vince Warner
Winning Pitcher - Alan Smith

To the casual observer, this game produced the curious sight of the pitcher, and large parts of the infield, apparently giving base coaching signals to opposing hitters. There were arms being stretched, necks slapped, ears tugged, chests rubbed, and hands waving all over the place. The reason for this bizarre behaviour? Ants. Millions of bloody ants, in spite of the fact that almost everyone playing, and quite a few watching, got badly bitten, it still produced a competitive game with only a few fielding errors.

Warriors opened the scoring in the bottom of the first with Alan Brockfield (second man up) batting in lead-off, Harry Atwood, with a sacrifice fly. Further runs were added at the second with RBIs from Dean Vera and Alan Brockfield. Brad Thomson walked with the bases loaded to score Dean Vera for 1-0 Warriors, to be followed by a RBI triple from Andy Bain. Having missed out on a grand slam, Bain received a little compensation, being batted in by next man up, Oliver Robertson, for 2-0 Warriors.

Essex were not going to relinquish their unbeaten sequence without a fight, and the top of the third brought RBIs from Steve Smith and Matt Jennings with a two out double. Jennings was then batted in himself by Ian Colvin to make Warriors lead 1-1.

Eagles announced a starting change for the bottom of the third. Todd Cookman and Matt Jennings switching 1st base and centrefield duties. For Warriors, Dean Ward hit a grounder to third, beating the throw to first. Next man up, Harry Atwood, hit a line drive to second, which was plucked out of the air by Essex shortstop, Dave Read, and his relay to Jennings at first, caught Dean Ward still retreating from second for a neat double-play.

In the bottom of the fourth, London added two further runs with RBI's for Oliver Heidecker and Alan Smith making the score 10-4. Eagles replied in the top of the fifth with a Vince Warner RBI, and then Ian Colvin then hit a grounder to pitcher, Alan Smith, who initiated the 1-6-3 double play with Harry Atwood and Cody Cain, and to the Eagles total amazement, the Warriors left the field with only two Essex outs !

London pulled further ahead in the bottom of the fifth, with an RBI double for Harry Atwood (11-5), and an Alan Bloomfield sac fly (12-5). Brad Thompson was then walked, and Cody Cain intentionally walked to load up the bags. Oliver Heidecker then hit a fly ball to centrefield, bringing in Atwood and Thompson for 14-5 and putting London within a whisker of the slaughter rule.

The introduction of Cody Cain reduced the Essex run rate and base activity, but also seemed to spur on Vince Warner to react in kind, with no further runs scored until the top of the ninth, the deadlock broken, ironically, by the bat of Vince Warner, hitting a line drive to centrefield that scored Matt Jennings and Dave Read for 14-7. Cody Cain was rapidly avenged, a Carl Blackburn single for Essex was followed by Ian Colvins grounder to Oliver Heidecker at second, who started the 4-6-3 double-play to finish the game.

Meanwhile the Waltham Forest Angels won 15-1 at Tonbridge. The Bobcats acquitted themselves well, registering quite a number of hits, whilst staying low on errors. Sadly another stat was high, and that was the Bobcats left on base. Bearing in mind the relative ages of the two sides, it was probably that 5% extra physical power that helped Angels convert their hits to runs, whilst the Bobcats had to settle for second or third bases.

28/8/94

London Warriors	11213141516171 31	Winning Pitcher - Alan Smith
Waltham Forest Angels	101711131014151201	Losing Pitcher - Matthew Poggi

For the second week running, Warriors went on a seven run spree in the second inning. Kevin Coldiron started with a huge triple to third, and was promptly batted in by Oliver Heidecker. Heidecker was in turn batted in by Richard Kemp, and he in turn scored when Alan Bloomfield walked with the bases loaded. Graham Haslam reached first thanks to a fielding error, collecting two RBI's as Dean Ward and Harry Atwood reached home. Matthew Poggi then faked a throw to first, wilding a balk to advance Haslam to second and Bloomfield to home for 6-0, and Kevin Coldiron came up to the plate again to get on Graham Haslam for 7-0 Warriors

Angels replied with a Noel Umehi single, a Matthew Poggi walk, and a well executed double steal that took Umehi to third and Poggi to second. They were then batted in by an Oliver Millett single for 7-1.

In the top of the third, Richard Kemp then made it two RBI's from two at bats, his well placed single just beyond the grasp of the diving Kamiyama at third. The fourth started like the second, Graham Haslam being the triple hitter this time, Kevin Coldiron betting in Haslam with ground rule double to left. Coldiron's attempted steal at third was thwarted by the Angels catcher Vulgaris, his throw to Kamiyama getting there first. Brad Thompson then added a solo homer for 10-2 Warriors, and singles for the next three Warrior batters, Oliver Heidecker, Alan Smith and Richard Kemp, loaded the bases. A Dean Ward sacrifice fly brought in Oliver Heidecker for 11-2 Warriors, walk was added to see off Matthew Poggi, and bring in reliever, Tony Dyson. Angels added a third run in the bottom of the fourth, Noel Umehi hitting a solo homer to centrefield.

Although both sides loaded the bases in the fifth, the respective pitchers remained calm, and backed up by their defences, finished the fifth without any runs scored. In the sixth, however, the runs piled in again. In the visitors half, Warriors started with a single for Harry Atwood batting in Richard Kemp for 12-3, and Alan Bloomfield's double brought in Atwood for 13-3. Graham Haslam got on base with a single, and he and Alan Bloomfield were batted in by Kevin Coldiron's ground rule double for 15-3

In the home half, Noel Omechi hit his second solo round tripper, making the score 15-4 Warriors, and an Oliver Millett double was converted into a run by a Tony Dyett single for 15-5. Dyett then stole second and third bases, from where John Swanson batted him in with a single for 15-6.

The top of the seventh brought five further runs for Warriors, starting with a Dean Ward ground rule double to bat in Alan Smith, followed by a Harry Atwood ground out that scored Richard Kemp for 17-6 Warriors. A Graham Haslam single batted in Dean Ward for 18-6, and with he and Alan Bloomfield on the corners, a well executed double steal, Haslam to second to draw the play, Bloomfield to home to score, put the Warriors 13 runs ahead. Kevin Coldiron then registered his third extra base hit of the day to bat in Haslam for 20-6 Warriors, and secure a seven inning victory and top of the standings for the Warriors.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Essex Eagles	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	6	10
Enfield Spartans	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	2

By all accounts a very tight and exciting contest, but a game very much overshadowed by an unfortunate and dramatic incident in the top of third. Spartan's Chris Stein was in pursuit of a shallow fly ball, also being tracked out from the infield by Rob Lanario. In the collision that followed, Stein received a blow to the head, and his team mates quickly realised that in the fall he had swallowed his tongue.

Quick thinking resulted in Steins tongue being retrieved and a normal flow of air being resumed, but it had taken a little while to acheive, and Steins complexion and condition had given justifiable cause for alarm. Having been unconscious for a spell, Stein was checked into hospital, and although now fit enough to be resting at home, is under strict medical orders not to resume play this season. I'm sure all of National League wishes Chris a quick recovery, and that we all hope to see him back on the field of play next season.

Following a discussion, the Spartans opted to play on, but obviously felt a little removed from the task, as the playing of a game must have seemed almost banal after such an incident.

The game turned on a three run homer thumped by Vince Warner in the fifth to put Essex 5-2 ahead, and although Gary Bedingfield hit back with a solo homer in the bottom of the fifth, the bite seemed to have left the Enfield attack.

A Clive Smith double followed by a Dave Read RBI, brought in the Eagles, and the games final score of 6-3, and now beggars the question, who will play whom in the play-off semi finals on the 18th ?

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS - WEEK 19

28/8/94

	Wn	Lt	Pont	GB	Best%	Mid%	Worst%
London Warriors	11	4	.733	--	.750		.688
Waltham Forest Angels	10	4	.714	½	.750	.688	.625
Essex Eagles	11	5	.688	½	.688		
Enfield Spartans	9	5	.643	1½	.688	.625	.563
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	11	.267	7	.313		.250

The right hand columns show the range of possible finishing percentages.

SCHEDULES

4/9/94

Enfield Spartans at Waltham Forest Angels
Tonbridge Bobcats at London Warriors

11/9/94

Waltham Forest Angels at Enfield Spartans

For the play-off semi finals, the known factors are as follows. Tonbridge Bobcats are out of it. London Warriors are definitely at home, they can finish no lower than second. This is because should they finish on 11-5, they have beaten Essex Eagles in two of their three meetings, and they have beaten Enfield Spartans in two out of three meetings. Only Waltham Forest can pass London by winning both their games. However, a Warriors victory over Bobcats secures first place for London, having also beaten the Angels, twice from three.

Enfield Spartans are definitely away, as two victories over Waltham Forest puts them on an equal record with the Essex Eagles, but the Eagles have beaten the Spartans twice out of three. Waltham Forest must win twice to retain home diamond, as they have lost twice to the Essex Eagles. Assuming a split of one game each in the two Angels/Spartans games the play off semi's on the 18th would be Enfield Spartans at London Warriors and Waltham Forest Angels at Essex Eagles.

Contributors

Many thanks to Margaret Borley, Chris Morgan, Brad Thompson, Bill Oliver and Mike Agha.

Copy Deadline

Copy for Issue 9 should reach me by 14th September. Please note my daytime work number of 081 686 4355 ext 2285 should now stand until the end of the season.

*Knuckleball edited by Phil Ross, Flat 2 Thanescroft, Selborne Road, Croydon, CR0 5JQ
Telephone 081 686 7727 (answerphone) or 081 686 4355 ext 2285.*