



AAA teammates reunite in Hobbs WS locker room after 37 years in a 'magical experience'

By **MIKE MURPHY**

Roy Hobbs Baseball

The last time Bob Strampe and Don Leshnock crossed paths was 1972 when Strampe was headed back down to AAA from his 60-day stint on the roster of the Detroit Tigers, and Leshnock was headed up from AAA to take his place.

The two young pitching prospects had spent years together with Montgomery – the Tigers AA team – and the Toledo Mudhens in AAA.

“I was a starter, but they put me in the bullpen with the Tigers, and I didn’t do particularly well there,” Strampe recalled. “My last outing was in Yankee Stadium. I relieved for Mickey Lolich and walked two guys. I got yanked and that day they called up Don and sent me back.”

Billy Martin, the Tigers manager, didn’t care much for rookies, and cared less for pitchers. So rookie pitchers didn’t fare well that season in Detroit.

“Billy went through a bunch of us,” Strampe said. “Donnie spent a month on the roster and got sent back.”

Almost 40 years later, the baseball gods have brought Strampe and Leshnock back together in the Roy Hobbs World Series locker room. Strampe, of Cheney, Washington, is here this week pitching for the DHBA Athletics. Leshnock, who lives in Columbus, Ohio, is throwing for the Toledo Mudhens. Both teams are participating in the clubhouse service offered for the week, so they’ve had time to reminisce.



Photo by Tom Giffen

Bob Strampe (L) and Don Leshnock, pitchers for the Athletics and MudHens in the 2009 RHWS, last saw each other in the Toledo MudHens locker room in 1972, when both were AAA farmhands in the Detroit Tigers system.

a guy named Bob Strampe, who is a long-time friend and neighbor of Steve’s in Cheney.

For years, Strampe had resisted Larson’s appeals to come out and play baseball in local leagues.

Following their professional careers, both me left the game for many years. Leshnock started playing again 8 years ago.

“The guy who caught both Bob and I in the minor leagues was Dave Bike,” Leshnock said, “and he has coached basketball at Sacred Heart (college) for the past 25 years. I went to see Dave when they came to play Cleveland State.”

At the game that night, Leshnock ran into an old high school buddy, Angelo Ford. Ford told him about the Roy Hobbs league and the Roy Hobbs World Series, and Leshnock decided he would give baseball a try again.

Last year, Ford and Leshnock were both in the locker room for the Roy Hobbs World Series and they struck up a conversation with Steve Larson who plays for the DHBA Athletics, and also helps run the locker room program. Learning of Leshnock’s ties to the Tigers system in the early 70’s, Larson asked Leshnock if he remembered

‘I see us guys in our twilight years, finishing up our various careers, getting close to retirement, and we’ve put ourselves back into this almost magical experience.’

-- Bob Strampe

“But then Steve called me up after he got home last year and said he’d talked with Don,” Strampe said. “I thought, boy I haven’t heard that name in a long time. And then Steve described the (World Series) event down there, and I thought, ‘man, I’d love to go there and see Donny again. That sounds like fun.’”

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EXPERIENCE

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So Strampe came out of a 35-year retirement for the 2009 Roy Hobbs World Series. And one of the highlights has been seeing Leshnock.

Although both men only had a brief stint in the Majors, both look back with great pride on the accomplishment. At any given time, there are only 750 people out of the entire human population who are good enough to be on a Major League roster. And they got there.

“Of all the people who sign professional contracts, only one in a thousand ever makes it,” Strampe pointed out.

“I was up for 1 month,” Leshnock said, “and I only pitched 1 inning. There’s a book called ‘Once Around the Bases,’ about guys only 1 inning or 1 game in the Majors, so I’m a chapter in that book.”

But look at the odds, he says, of everyone who puts on a uniform to play Little League ever getting to the Major Leagues.

“It doesn’t matter how long we were there,” Leshnock said. “We had a good time in the minors because we all had the same goal. We were all in the same boat. Back then no one made any big money, not even the Major Leaguers. We all were worried about money and taking care of our families. And when one of us made it up, we celebrated, because it was like you made it, too.”

Leshnock has been playing baseball in the Roy Hobbs World Series for 8 years now. This is Strampe’s first venture back onto the field. And even though the skills around him are nothing like those that he left so many years ago, he’s found the experience to be almost overwhelming.

“I see us guys in our twilight years, finishing up our various careers, getting close to retirement, and we’ve put ourselves back into this almost magical experience,” Strampe said.

“You know we are all of the era that as kids we woke up and the first thing we thought about was grabbing a bat and a glove and getting on our bikes and going to play ball all day at the sand lot. That was a magical time. And here we are doing that same thing again.”

The older you are, the more you savor the thrill every time you get the chance to step back onto a baseball field.

“I lost that feeling for a long time,” Strampe said, “and now I’ve found it again.”

SCHEDULE

2009 RHWS Legends Division AAAA

Double-Elimination Bracket

Throughout the playoffs the higher seeded team is home with the exception of the Championship game where the winners bracket finalist will be home team.

Thursday, November 19

First Round

10:00 AM

G1: #1 Washington Titans 8, #8 Rhode Island Rockies 1
G2: #5 Youngstown Astros 12, #4 NorCal Giants 11
G3: #6 Twin Cities Crosstown Traffic 7, #3 Akron Blues 1
G4: #2 New England Red Sox 18, #7 DuPage Lugnuts 2

Second Round

1:45 PM

G5: #1 Washington Titans 9, #5 Youngstown Astros 3
G6: #2 New England Red Sox 11, #6 Twin Cities Crosstown Traffic 3

see SCHEDULE on page 3



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SCHEDULE

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Losers Bracket

5:30 PM

G7: #4 NorCal Giants 6, #8 Rhode Island Rockies 0

G8: #3 Akron Blues 14, #7 DuPage Lugnuts 13

Friday, November 20

Winners Bracket Final

1:45 PM

G11: #2 New England Red Sox @ #1 Washington Titans, LCS

Losers Bracket

1:45 PM

G9: #6 Twin Cities Crosstown Traffic @ #4 NorCal Giants, CPS

G10: #5 Youngstown Astros @ #3 Akron Blues, CPP

5:30 PM

G12: G9 winner VS G10 winner, CPS

Saturday, November 21

Losers Bracket Final

10:00 AM

G13: G11 loser VS G12 winner, LC5

Championship

1:30 PM

G14: G13 winner @ G11 winner, LCS

2009 RHWS Legends Division AAA

Single-Elimination Bracket

Throughout the playoffs the higher seeded team is home.

Friday

First Round

10:00 AM

G1) #8 Baltimore Baseball Club @ #1 ES3 Stone Age, TPS

G2) #5 Orioles Legends @ #4 Tallahassee Classics, TP2

1:45 PM

G3) #6 Cincinnati Colts @ #3 Philadelphia Cutters, TP2

G4) #7 Minnesota Bees @ #2 Windy City, TPS

Saturday

Semifinals

10:00 AM

G5) G1 winner vs. G2 winner, TPS

G6) G3 winner vs. G4 winner, LC3

Championship

2:00 PM

Semifinal winners at City of Palms Stadium

2009 RHWS Legends Division AA Single-Elimination Bracket

Throughout the playoffs the higher seeded team is home.

Friday

First Round

10:00 AM

G1) #10 Tavern Legends @ #8 South Florida Suns, PDC5

G2) #12 Comox Valley Cubs @ #5 SilverHawks, PDC2

G3) #13 Cleveland Pirates @ #4 Atlanta Chiefs, PDC1

G4) #14 Snowbirds @ #3 Maine-Boston Braves, CPP

G5) #11 Asheville Sox @ #6 DC Dodgers, PDC3

G6) #9 Wilmington Old Salts @ #7 Tampa Bay Rebels, PDC4

Quarterfinals

1:45 PM

G7) G1 winner @ #1 DHBA Athletics, PDC5

G8) G2 winner VS G3 winner, PDC2

G9) G4 winner @ G5 winner, PDC3

G10) G6 winner @ #2 Houston Colt .45s, PDC4

see SCHEDULE on page 4



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SCHEDULE

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Saturday Semifinals

10:00 AM

G11) G5 winner VS G6 winner, LC1

G12) G7 winner VS G8 winner, LC2

Championship

2:00 PM

Semifinal winners at City of Palms Practice field (CPP)

2009 RHWS Classics Division AAAA

Single-Elimination Bracket

Throughout the playoffs the higher seeded team is home.

Friday

First Round

10:00 AM

G1) #8 New Jersey Wonderboys @ #1 Ohio Classics, LCS

G2) #5 Asheville Tourists @ #4 NorCal Antiques, LC1

G3) #6 Kansas City Cubs @ #3 Detroit 60s, LC2

G4) #7 Lehigh Baseball @ #2 Chicago National Wind, LC5

Semifinals

1:45 PM

G5) G1 winner vs. G2 winner, LC5

G6) G3 winner vs. G4 winner, LC2

Saturday

Championship

10:00 AM

Semifinal winners at Lee County Stadium

2009 RHWS Classics Division AAA

Single-Elimination Bracket

Throughout the playoffs the higher seeded team is home.

Friday

First Round

10:00 AM

G1) #9 New England Red Sox @ #8 Huntsville 60s, LC3

G2) #10 Silver Foxes of Rhode Island @ #7 Livingston

Dodgers, TP4

Quarterfinals

10:00 AM

G4) #5 Springfield Classics @ #4 Tallahassee Classics, TP3

1:45 PM

G3) G1 winner @ #1 Toledo MudDogs, LC3

G5) #6 Washington Nationals @ #3 Kent MudHens, TP3

G6) G2 winner @ #2 Shields ATM Guards, TP4

Saturday

Semifinals

10:00 AM

G7) G3 winner vs. G4 winner, TP2

G8) G5 winner vs. G6 winner, TP4

Championship

1:30 PM

Semifinal winners at Terry Park Stadium

NOTEBOOK

Player ID cards

Just a reminder that all players must have their player I.D. cards with them at games.

No card, no play, and Roy Hobbs Baseball reserves the right to do card checks at games. Players without their ID cards will not be allowed to continue to play and will be required to bring his ID card to the Tournament Director or Site Manager before being allowed to return to the playing field.

Replacement cards are available at the Roy Hobbs Headquarters. Bring a photo ID to verify identity, and the fee is \$10.

So, please don't lose the card and please keep it with you.

10-, 15- & 20-year recognition

Have you been at the Roy Hobbs World Series 10 or more years?

If so, Roy Hobbs has a recognition pin for players with 10 or 15 or 20 years at the Tournament. See Todd, Tony, or Tom at RHWS headquarters to get your pin.

Vendor Sales

Roy Hobbs has created a vendors area on the concrete pad next to the Lee County Stadium batting cages.

Currently, bat vendors are setting up there.

Massage therapists are setting up nearby, in the shade of the trees off the third base side of Preston Lyles Field (field 5) at Lee County Sports Complex.

The site was chosen to accommodate hard goods vendors, especially so that bat buyers would have a place to swing and get the feel of the merchandise.

It should be noted that Vendors are prohibited from selling bats or other merchandise from trunks of cars, in parking lots or at the playing fields, either in the stands or in the dugouts.

see NOTEBOOK on page 6

STANDINGS

Legends AAAA	W	L	PCT	RA
Washington Titans	4	0	1.000	8
New England Red Sox	4	0	1.000	8
Akron Blues	4	0	1.000	24
NorCal Giants	3	1	0.750	14
Youngstown AstroFalcons	3	1	0.750	22
TC Crosstown Traffic	3	1	0.750	23
DuPage Lugnuts	3	1	0.750	26
Rhode Island Rockies	3	1	0.750	17

Legends AAA	W	L	PCT	RA
ES3 Stone Age	4	1	0.800	23
Windy City	3	2	0.600	19
Philadelphia Cutters	3	2	0.600	29
Tallahassee Classics	3	2	0.600	40
Orioles Legends	3	2	0.600	34
Cincinnati Colts	3	2	0.600	38
Minnesota Bees	3	2	0.600	40
Baltimore Baseball Club	3	2	0.600	50

Legends AA	W	L	PCT	RA
DHBA Athletics	2	3	0.400	37
Houston Colt .45s	2	3	0.400	46
Maine-Boston Braves	2	3	0.400	32
Atlanta Chiefs	2	3	0.400	41
SilverHawks	2	3	0.400	48
DC Dodgers	2	3	0.400	52
Tampa Bay Rebels	2	3	0.400	58
South Florida Suns	1	4	0.200	29
Wilmington Old Salts	1	4	0.200	42
Tavern Legends	1	4	0.200	42
Asheville Sox	1	4	0.200	48
Comox Valley Cubs	1	4	0.200	48
Cleveland Pirates	0	5	0.000	60
Snowbirds	0	5	0.000	86

Classics AAAA	W	L	PCT	RA
Ohio Classics	5	0	1.000	12
Chicago National Wind	5	0	1.000	40
Detroit 60s	4	1	0.800	31
NorCal Antiques	4	1	0.800	31
Asheville Tourists	4	1	0.800	32
Kansas City Cubs	3	2	0.600	27
Lehigh Baseball	3	2	0.600	36
New Jersey Wonderboys	3	2	0.600	35

Classics AAA	W	L	PCT	RA
Toledo MudDogs	2	3	0.400	38
Shields ATM Guards	2	3	0.400	40
Kent MudHens	2	3	0.400	45
Tallahassee Classics	2	3	0.400	50
Springfield Classics	2	3	0.400	56
Washington Nationals	1	4	0.200	49
Livingston Dodgers	1	4	0.200	52
Huntsville 60s	1	4	0.200	49
New England Red Sox	1	4	0.200	65
Silver Foxes BBC of R.I.	0	5	0.000	77

Timeless	W	L	PCT	RA
Western Silver Foxes	4	0	1.000	19
New England Red Sox	2	2	0.500	33
New Jersey Cardinals	0	4	0.000	73



Shortstop Denny Brown of the NorCal Antiques tags a Springfield Classics runner caught in a rundown.

Photo by Greg Wagner

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NOTEBOOK

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MVP & team awards

MVP and team award certificates should be redeemed at the Roy Hobbs World Series Headquarters at the Lee County Stadium ticket office when the time comes.

Every team has an MVP certificate to redeem, and Managers or the honored player can come to the office and see Tony Anarumo or Rob Giffen to get the award order taken care of.

The team award, which goes to any team winning at least 5 games in the World Series, can be redeemed at the office as well. Please see Tony Anarumo or Todd Windhorst to redeem your award.

50/50 raffle

50/50 raffle tickets, to benefit the Roy Hobbs Foundation, are available each day at the concession stands at each of the playing venues and at the World Series T-shirt pickup stand at Lee County Stadium.

The 55s/60s/70s week pot has surpassed \$600 to the winner through Wednesday.

Tickets are \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be on sale

at the Pairings Party Thursday night at Matanzas Inn.

The Roy Hobbs Foundation was established to raise monies for research on finding a cure for Leukemia and to assist our Challenged Athlete friends.

Picking up T-shirts ...

The tournament T-shirt is available for all registered players outside the main concession stand near the Roy Hobbs Store on the Concourse at Lee County Stadium.

Hours to pick up the Tournament T-shirt are from Noon to 6 p.m. With the shirt, each player gets a tournament patch.

Players will need their RHWS ID card to get their shirts – No drivers licenses needed.

Please help with dugouts

Roy Hobbs Baseball needs your help in the dugouts.

First, if there is a problem with water or cups, please let us know and we will attend to your concerns.

Second, when your games are over and you are leaving the dugout, please police it for trash and cups, etc. Your assistance in cleaning up the dugouts each day will be greatly appreciated.

RESULTS

Legends

Thursday, November 19

Baltimore Baseball Club 16, Silverhawks 12
Cincinnati Colts 55s 8, Atlanta Chiefs 4
Comox Valley Cubs 10, Cleveland Pirates 9
DC Dodgers 17, Snowbirds 2
DHBA Athletics 13, Asheville Sox 5
ES3 Stone Age 11, Philadelphia Cutters 7
Houston Colt .45s 8, Wilmington Old Salts 7
Minnesota Bees 3, Maine Boston Braves 1
Tallahassee Classics 4, South Florida Suns 2
Tampa Bay Rebels 16, Tavern Legends 13
Windy City 5, Orioles Legends 4

Classics

Thursday, November 19

Asheville Tourists 9, New Jersey Wonderboys 7
Chicago National Wind 9, Kansas City Cubs 6
Kent MudHens 13, Huntsville 60s 3
Lehigh Baseball 6, Shields ATM Guards 5
NorCal Antiques 60s 14, Springfield Classics 1
Ohio Classics 6, Detroit 60s 5
Tallahassee Classics 14, New England Red Sox 60s 13
Toledo MudDogs 5, Livingston Dodgers 4
Washington Nationals 12, Silver Foxes Rhode Island 1

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Ace & King of the Diamonds

Legends Division

Friday's Legends' 'Ace' and 'King' of Diamonds are:

Ace: Doug Hanson of the Minnesota Bees: In a 3-1 victory over the Maine Boston Braves, Doug pitched a complete game, allowing 6 hits and 1 ER, striking out 3 and walking 3 (Reported by MB Braves).

King: Ron DeGrand of the Akron Blues: In two games Thursday, Ron had 2 doubles, 5 singles and an RBI as the Blues split 2 AAAA playoff games.

Classics Division

Friday's Classics' 'Ace' and 'King' of Diamonds are:

Ace: Sonny Tate of Lehigh Baseball: In a 6-5 victory over Shields ATM Guards, Sonny pitched a complete game, allowing 5 runs and striking out 9.

King: Cobe Haskell of the Kent MudHens: In a 14-2 victory over the Huntsville 60s, Cobe had 4 singles, 3 stolen bases and scored 3 runs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from Tuesday's games

Legends

Orioles Legends 9, Cleveland Pirates 8: (Orioles) Ivan Lanier 3x3, 2-2b, 2 runs, RBI; Dan Gilliam 3x4, 2 runs, 2 RBI; Ralph Beachley 2x3, 2 RBI; John Purcell 2x4; Bob Finn 1b, GWRBI.

Highlights from Wednesday's games:

Legends

Cincinnati Colts 55s 9, DHBA Athletics 8: (DHBA) Russ Bickwell 2x5, 2 RBI; Steve Larson 2x5, 2 RBI; Mike Mello 3x5, RBI; Gary Hopper 2x3; Doc Gayhart 2x4, 2 RBI; Don Lues 2x5.

Wilmington Old Salts 18, Cleveland Pirates 2: (Salts) Chris natale WP, 6 IP 2 runs, 6 hits, 2 Ks, 2 BB; Old Salts turned 3 double plays; Thurston Watkins 3x3, 3 RBI, 2 Sac; Jimmy Moore 4x4, 1 run, 2 RBI; Chris Gardner 2 hits, 2 runs, 2 RBI.

Highlights from Wednesday's games:

Legends

Akron Blues 14, DuPage Lugnuts 13 (10 innings): (Blues) Blues score 5 runs in bottom of 10th to win after Lugnuts score 3 in top of 9th to tie and 4 in top of 10th to take 13-9 lead; Ron DeGrand 2-2b, 1b, RBI; Jim Havens 3-1b, RBI; John Hoovers 2-1b; Dave Greer 2-1b; Dan Gates 3-1; Steve Richardson 2-1b.

Baltimore Baseball Club 16, Silverhawks 12: (Hawks) Ron Kimble 2x4; Wade Currence 2x5, 2b; Kip Kuebler 2x5; Doug Lane 2x3.

DHBA Athletics 13, Asheville Sox 5: (DHBA) Bob Strampe WP, 5 IP, 1 run; Lee Sitton 3x5, RBI; Mike Murphey 1x2, 3 runs;



Photo by Greg Wagner

Akron Blues catcher Ron DeGrand makes a nice catch of a DuPage Lugnuts pop foul.

Steve Larson 2 RBI; Mike Mello 2 RBI.

Houston Colt 45s 11, Wilmington Old Salts 8: Houston scored 7 runs in 5th on 2 hits, 4 walks and 2 HBP; Old Salts scored 4 runs in 6th on 3 hits and 4 walks; (Salts) Jay Harrington 2 hits; Barry Esther 2 hits.

Minnesota Bees 3, Maine Boston Braves 1: (Braves) Jack Deheer 2x4; Matt Babacy LP, CG, 8 IP, 3 ER, 5 hits, 1 k, 1 BB; (Bees) Doug Hanson WP, CG, 9 IP, 1 ER, 6 hits, 3 Ks, 3 BB; Vic Mareta 2b; Paul Lucktenberg 2b.

Tampa Bay Rebels 16, Tavern Legends 13: (Rebels) Joey Lomascolo 3x5, save as pitcher; Jose Ortiz 3x5; Bill Siart 4x5, 3 RBI; Kevin Minto 2 RBI; Edwin Gernbolini 2x4, 4 RBI; Jim Price WP.

Twin Cities Crosstown Traffic 7, Akron Blues 1: (Blues) Ron DeGrand 4-1b; John Graef 2-1b; Dave Greer 1b, RBI.

Windy City 5, Orioles Legends 4: (Orioles) Dan Gilliam 3x5, run, RBI; Ralph Beachley 3x4, RBI; GaryDonovan 2x3, run; Ivan Lanier 3x4, 2 runs, 2b; Frank Carter 2x3, RBI.

Classics

Kent MudHens 14, Huntsville 60s 2: (MudHens) Cobe Haskel 4-1b, 3 SB, 3 runs; Jim Hostler 3-1b, 2 RBI, WP; Joe Sekely 3-1b, 2 runs, 2 RBI; Don Booth 2-1b, SB, 4 RBI; Dave Vowles 2-1b, run.

Lehigh Baseball 6, Shields ATM Guards 5: (Lehigh) Sonny Tate WP, CG, 9 IP, 9 Ks.

NorCal Antiques 14, Springfield Classics 1: (Antiques) Terry Gammil WP, 5 IP, 1 run, 4 Ks, and 2x4, 3 RBI.

Cactus Classic events at a glance

All Cactus Classic event games will be played at the Kino Sports Complex, home of the spring training sites of the Arizona Diamondbacks and formerly the Chicago White Sox.

Here is a synopsis of the events:



Wood Bat Cactus Classic

January 31-February 6, 2010

- 7 games guaranteed
- Individual players and team event
- All ages welcome, with modified roster guidelines: Must have 3 players 60+, maximum 5 players under 45, all pitchers must be at least 45
- All players will have locker room and trainer privileges
- 3 ex-professionals will conduct clinics on hitting, defense and pitching over 4 days and do individual instruction during games they observe; manage daily Kangaroo Court sessions and host evening bull sessions at the host hotel
- Opening Locker Room reception and late week Steak-Out for all participants
- Host hotel is the Desert Diamond Casino Hotel – 6 nights (double occupancy) at the hotel is included in the cost
- Limited van transportation between Desert Diamond and Kino Sports Complex scheduled each day
- Cost: \$995 per player (double occupancy for 6 nights) if paid by January 4. After January 4, cost is \$1169.
- Single rooms (kings) and extra nights are available.



Presidents Day Cactus Classic

February 11-15, 2010

- 38+ and 55+ team event; 4 teams per age division required
- Free agent list will be posted for pool players.
- 5 games guaranteed
- All players will have locker room and trainer privileges
- Opening Locker Room reception and late week Steak-Out for all participants
- Kangaroo Court scheduled
- Host hotel is the Desert Diamond Casino Hotel – 4 nights (double occupancy) at the hotel is included in the cost
- Limited van transportation between Desert Diamond and Kino Sports Complex scheduled each day
- Cost: \$525 per player (double occupancy for 4 nights) if paid by January 15. After January 15, cost is \$625. (2009 participants get 09 pricing, adjusted with hotel, of \$495 until Jan. 15.)
- 30 double rooms available at Desert Diamond, so first-come, first serve on doubles. Overflow hotel is Holiday Inn Palo Verde; limited van service to Desert Diamond Casino from Holiday Inn will be available
- Single rooms (kings) and extra nights are available.



Father Son Cactus Classic

February 25-28, 2010

- 5 games guaranteed; 4 teams needed to complete division
- Minimum age is 16
- Use H2Baseball/Roy Hobbs Baseball game rules
- All players will have locker room and trainer privileges
- Kangaroo Court scheduled
- Opening Locker Room reception and late week Steak-Out for all participants
- Host hotel is the Holiday Inn Palo Verde – 4 nights (double occupancy) at the hotel is included in the cost
- Limited van transportation between the Holiday Inn Palo Verde and the Desert Diamond Casino
- Cost: \$495 per player (double occupancy for 4 nights) if paid by January 29. After January 29, cost is \$595.
- Single rooms (kings) and extra nights are available.



For more information, go to www.cactusclassich2baseball.com or call (330) 923-3400.

The website will be active on Friday, Nov. 20, 2009.