

30



THE INSIDE PITCH

2018
WEEK 1

VETERANS

OCT. 23rd

AAAA group to set playoff field; Wednesday Pool schedule available Tuesday evening

The Veterans Division AAAA managers will meet Tuesday afternoon following the completion of their 4th pool game to discuss the make-up of the AAAA double-elimination playoffs, starting Thursday.

Veterans play began Sunday with 10 teams in the AAAA hunt. The managers will assist Roy Hobbs in determining the 8 teams advancing to AAAA playoffs. Those 8 teams get Wednesday off.

The 2 teams not making that playoff would play a 5th pool game Wednesday and move into the AAA or AA playoffs on Friday at the discretion of Roy Hobbs Baseball.

The Wednesday game pairings, times and field assignments for the general pool will be announced Tuesday evening at the Roy Hobbs Managers Reception at PDC.

The seeding and scheduling for Wednesdays games and the AAAA playoff games will be posted at World Series Headquarters at the Player Development Complex and be available on royhobbs.com/world-series.



Photo By: Greg Wagner

A beautiful Opening Night at CenturyLink Stadium



RusStar veteran Igor Gribanovskiy (right) and RHWS rookie Alexendr Vasilev at Centurylink Complex Monday.

RusStar Baseball back at RHWS, chasing medals

BY GLENN MILLER
Roy Hobbs Baseball

This is not fake news.

The RusStar Baseball Club has returned to the Roy Hobbs World Series after missing the 2017 event. RusStar has been a World Series fixture for many years but issues cropped up last year that could affect any team.

"A combination of things," Manager Igor Gribanovskiy said. "It was like some personal issues like divorce and also like financial crises."

see RusStar on page 2



RusStar

continued from page 1

Now, the Russians are back. How often has RusStar played here? Gribanovskiy estimated it's been 15 or 16 times.

The 9 Russians on the team endured a 12-hour flight from Moscow to Miami and then drove to Fort Myers. Their roster is supplemented with 5 Americans.

Although baseball is a minor sport in Russia it has taken a foothold in Moscow where a 16-team league exists, Gribanovskiy said. Two new fields have also opened in the past year.

"All fun," said Gribanovskiy, who is the chief commercial officer for the Siberian Coal Energy Company. "We played just 2 weeks ago a best of 5 series and we lost 2-3."

Players from the teams that met in the finals are part of the team playing in the Veterans Division. RusStar opened play Sunday against the Baltimore Chop.

At practice Saturday several players wore T-shirts with these words: "Russian-American United Baseball Forces."

Any American attending a RusStar practice or game might hear words that sound familiar. Russians have directly transported the game's basic terms into their language. For example, a foul ball is called a foul ball and a double play is called a double play and so on.

In any language, their approach might sound familiar.

"We're going to go as far as possible in the playoffs,"

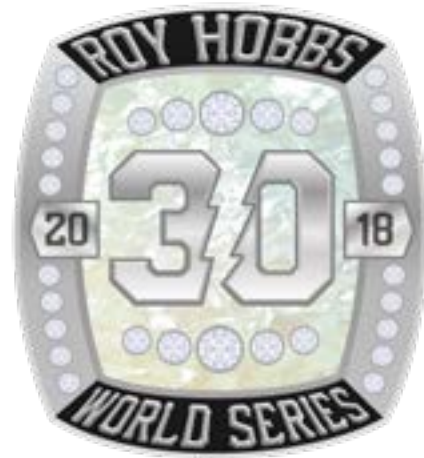
Gribanovskiy, 46, said. "So we want some medals to be brought back. ... We have to be more focused now in strategy and use the pitching rotation in the right way. I think this time we have 5 guys who can pitch well, maybe not super level but pitch quite consistently."

A promising new player is Alxendr Vasilev, who recently hit 5 homers in a game. Now the word about Vasilev is out in *Inside Pitch*.

"Everyone is going to be scared of the Russian team," joked Veronika Ermilova, Gribanovskiy's girlfriend.

RusStar has yet to win a World Series title.

If anybody wants to wish RusStar good luck, the word for that in Russian is "udachi."



NOTEBOOK

Playoff pitching guidelines

Roy Hobbs requirement is that all pitchers who will be starters or closers in save situations (3-run or less difference in the 8th and 9th innings) qualify for the playoffs by pitching at least 2 innings – 6 outs or 10 hitters – during pool play.

AAAA qualifier teams may not add pitchers to their lineup after Pool Play concludes; however, Open Division teams may have pitchers arrive Wednesday – those pitchers must throw 5 innings or 25 hitters to qualify for the playoffs.

Finally, in the playoffs, those "non-qualified" middle-inning pitchers will come to the mound from their normal defensive positions where they started the game. That is as important as the "spirit of the rule" that these *non-qualified* pitchers who are used as "inning-eaters" are players who ordinarily are playing other positions.

And, please remember that any players leaving the RHWS today (Monday) to return on Thursday MUST turn in their player ID Card and re-register upon their return. They must return before the quarterfinals of the playoffs, regardless of division.

Managers should email a list of their qualified pitchers to Roy Hobbs in case of rg@royhobbs.com by 7 p.m. the night before their playoffs begin.

see NOTEBOOK on page 6

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RESULTS

Sunday

Akron Cardinals - 19, Bellacino's Red Sox - 8
Americans Baseball Club - 1, Chicago Knights - 0
Americans Baseball Club - 10, Miami Cubs - 4
Baltimore Chop - 8, Pigs Heaven - 7
Baltimore Chop - 8, RusStar Baseball Club - 5
Chicago Woodpeckers - 6, New Jersey Twins - 1
Detroit Dodgers - 14, Tennessee Dirtbags - 4
Detroit Dodgers - 4, Cincinnati Colt .45s - 3
Estrellas de Herrera - 4, Minnesota Bulldogs - 1
Fort Myers Hooter's Owls - 15, Kodak Reds - 5
Germain Ohio Aces - 9, Pigs Heaven - 6
MaxBat - 10, South Bend Cardinals - 4
Miami Cubs - 14, Can-Am Padres - 0
Minnesota Oilers - 3, New Jersey Mets - 1
Minnesota Web Gems - 10, Fort Myers Hooter's Owls - 0
NEO Angels - 3, TTown Jack-Os - 0
Nova Scotia Alpines - 9, DRS Astros - 3
Panhandle Pirates - 4, Tennessee Dirtbags - 3
Pensacola Sharks - 20, Cincinnati Colt .45s - 3
Puerto Rico Braves - 18, Akron Cardinals - 2
Stars Baseball Academy - 3, Bronx Warriors - 1
Tallahassee Tomahawks - 4, Minnesota Web Gems - 0
Tidewater Drillers - 16, Bellacino's Red Sox - 0
Vukgripz Akron A's - 6, Jet Box - 3
Yamasa Beisbol Club - 12, Glass City Black Sox - 0
Yamasa Beisbol Club - 6, Flint Tigers - 1

Monday

Akron Cardinals - 8, Can-Am Padres - 5
Baltimore Chop - 16, Germain Ohio Aces - 5
Chicago Knights - 12, Bellacino's Red Sox - 0
Chicago Woodpeckers - 9, Jet Box - 4
Cincinnati Colt .45s - 8, Panhandle Pirates - 6
Detroit Dodgers - 14, Pensacola Sharks - 4
DRS Astros - 28, TTown Jack-Os - 6
Estrellas de Herrera - 13, Stars Baseball Academy - 7
Flint Tigers - 12, Fort Myers Hooter's Owls - 9
Germain Ohio Aces - 11, Tallahassee Tomahawks - 7
Glass City Black Sox - 15, Kodak Reds - 1
Jet Box - 7, Minnesota Oilers - 5
MaxBat - 4, Pensacola Sharks - 2
Minnesota Bulldogs - 6, Bronx Warriors - 0
Minnesota Web Gems - 10, Glass City Black Sox - 1
New Jersey Mets 18, Bronx Warriors - 0
New Jersey Mets - 9, Estrellas de Herrera - 1
New Jersey Twins - 13, Vukgripz Akron A's - 7
New Jersey Twins - 5, Minnesota Oilers - 3
Nova Scotia Alpines - 8, NEO Angels - 5
Puerto Rico Braves - 10, Chicago Knights - 1
Puerto Rico Braves - 5, Americans Baseball Club - 4
South Bend Cardinals - 15, Tennessee Dirtbags - 0
Stars Baseball Academy - 14, Minnesota Bulldogs - 4
Tidewater Drillers - 8, Miami Cubs - 7
TTown Jack-Os - 9, Pigs Heaven - 4
Vukgripz Akron A's - 5, Chicago Woodpeckers - 3
Yamasa Beisbol Club - 5, RusStar Baseball Club - 3



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STANDINGS

AAAA Team

	Win	Loss	PCT	RA
New Jersey Mets	2	1	0.667	4
Chicago Woodpeckers	2	1	0.667	10
New Jersey Twins	2	1	0.667	16
Estrellas de Herrera	2	1	0.667	17
Stars Baseball Academy	2	1	0.667	18
Vukgripz Akron A's	2	1	0.667	19
Minnesota Oilers	1	2	0.333	12
Minnesota Bulldogs	1	2	0.333	18
Jet Box	1	2	0.333	20
Bronx Warriors	0	3	0.000	27

Team

	Win	Loss	PCT	RA
Yamasa Beisbol Club	3	0	1.000	4
Puerto Rico Braves	3	0	1.000	7
Detroit Dodgers	3	0	1.000	11
Baltimore Chop	3	0	1.000	17
MaxBat	2	0	1.000	6
Tidewater Drillers	2	0	1.000	7
Nova Scotia Alpines	2	0	1.000	8
Minnesota Web Gems	2	1	0.667	5
Americans Baseball Club	2	1	0.667	9
Germain Ohio Aces	2	1	0.667	29
Akron Cardinals	2	1	0.667	31
NEO Angels	1	1	0.500	8
South Bend Cardinals	1	1	0.500	10
Tallahassee Tomahawks	1	1	0.500	11
Panhandle Pirates	1	1	0.500	11
Flint Tigers	1	1	0.500	15
DRS Astros	1	1	0.500	15



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Baseball at home plate on Opening Night at CenturyLink Stadium

Chicago Knights	1	2	0.333	11
Miami Cubs	1	2	0.333	18
Pensacola Sharks	1	2	0.333	21
Glass City Black Sox	1	2	0.333	23
Fort Myers Hooter's Owls	1	2	0.333	27
Cincinnati Colt .45s	1	2	0.333	30
TTown Jack-Os	1	2	0.333	35
RusStar Baseball Club	0	2	0.000	13
Can-Am Padres	0	2	0.000	22
Pigs Heaven	0	3	0.000	26
Kodak Reds	0	2	0.000	30
Tennessee Dirtbags	0	3	0.000	33
Bellacino's Red Sox	0	3	0.000	47



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SCHEDULE

9:30 AM

MaxBat @ Panhandle Pirates CP-S

10:00 AM

Flint Tigers @ Kodak Reds CL-S

Pigs Heaven @ NEO Angels CL3

Tidewater Drillers @ Americans Baseball Club CL4

Bellacino's Red Sox @ Can-Am Padres CL6

DRS Astros @ Baltimore Chop JB-S

Miami Cubs @ Puerto Rico Braves JB3

South Bend Cardinals @ Pensacola Sharks JB4

Minnesota Bulldogs @ Vukgripz Akron A's JB5

Akron Cardinals @ Chicago Knights PDC1

Tallahassee Tomahawks @ Nova Scotia Alpines PDC2

Yamasa Beisball Club @ Minnesota Web Gems PDC4

12:45 PM

Jet Box @ New Jersey Twins CP-S

2:00 PM

Can-Am Padres @ Tidewater Drillers CL-S

Glass City Black Sox @ Flint Tigers CL3

NEO Angels @ Germain Ohio Aces CL4

Kodak Reds @ RusStar Baseball Club CL6

Cincainnati Colt .45s @ South Bend Cardinals JB-S

Chicago Woodpeckers @ Minnesota Oilers JB3

New Jersey Mets @ Stars Baseball Academy JB4

Bronx Warriors @ Estrellas de Herrera JB5

Tennessee Dirtbags @ MaxBat PDC2

Nova Scotia Alpines @ TTown Jack-Os PDC3

Panhandle Pirates @ Detroit Dodgers PDC4

Tallahassee Tomahawks @ DRS Astros PDC5

6:00 PM

RusStar Baseball Club @ Ft Myers Hooter's Owls CL-S



Stars Baseball Academy 2nd baseman takes the throw to force a Bronx Warriors runner at 2nd base

Photo By: Greg Wagner



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NOTEBOOK

continued from page 2

Picking up T-Shirts . . .

The tournament T-shirt is available **through Friday only** for all registered players outside the Roy Hobbs Store in the screened in patio at the Player Development Complex. **No Shirts will be given out on Thursdays or Saturdays.**

Hours to pick up the Tournament T-shirt are from Noon to 6 p.m. With the shirt, each player will get a tournament patch and a World Series Gift.

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

50/50 raffle

50/50 raffle tickets, to benefit the Roy Hobbs Foundation, are available each day at the Player Development Complex. Tickets are \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held in the patio area at the Player Development Complex at 5 PM Friday.

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

Chicago
Knights
shortstop
leaps for a
high throw
as Americans
runner Doug
Flutie slides in



Photo By:
Greg Wagner

Revenues from the 2017 RHWS led to some \$15,000 in contributions to MD Anderson Cancer Center, St. Jude Hospital in Memphis and to Southern Florida Challenger Athletes.

Results corrections

Please check the posted results and standings each day. Managers should contact Rob at the Tournament Headquarters (330.352.2175) with corrections to scores.

That's the best way to make sure that playoff seedings and pairings are as accurate as we can make them.

Please help with dugouts

Roy Hobbs Baseball and the grounds crews need your help in the dugouts.

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.

First Aid

Two key First Aid items: Drink plenty of fluids while playing; don't just wait until the game is over. Water will be

see NOTEBOOK on page 7

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NOTEBOOK

continued from page 6

available at the fields.

Second, be sure to stretch and loosen up before playing, or even re-entering a game.

In case of an emergency, contact the field manager at your site. He has the First Aid supplies and will contact 911 services as needed.

Ice is available for injuries ... check with the field manager on duty or go to the nearest concession stand to have the appropriate personnel paged. Roy Hobbs requests that managers plan for pitchers needing ice for their arms and to supply it.



Admission, \$1 a game

Admission continues at the Roy Hobbs World Series.

Admission is \$1 per game. Players will pay their \$1 at check-in for their player ID card that guarantees them access to all games in which they are not playing. Spectators will pay \$1 for entrance into each complex and are good for one day.

Roy Hobbs will have available a Tournament pass for

each adult for \$5; the family pass has been eliminated. The tournament pass is a wristband that guarantees admission for that person for the duration of the RHWS.

The Tournament wristband passes are available at check-in registration, at the Hobbs headquarters at PDC or from the Site Concierge at each of the playing sites.



Playing site security

The active steps taken several years ago to deal with parking lot security will continue as parking lot theft issues have – knock on wood – not been an issue the last 7 years.

Are we out of the woods? No, it is a daily procedure and effort to make sure parking lots are safe.

Once again, Roy Hobbs will have personnel posted at the player/spectators' entrances to Terry Park, PDC, JetBlue Complex and at the entrance to the Quad fields at Lee County.

These individuals will have a view of the parking lot, and they will be available in emergencies, be enforcing cooler guidelines and handling admissions.



Customer Service

Roy Hobbs Baseball is proud of its record on customer service.

Staff members are required to wear identifying staff shirts during the working hours of the tournament and should be easily identifiable. At least two are assigned to each of the satellite complexes daily.

In the case of **emergency**, please go to the nearest concession stand at the satellite complexes, where someone will be available to summon help.

Roy Hobbs field managers and key personnel are Red Cross First Aid **certified**, and Roy Hobbs Baseball has guidelines in place on the handling of injuries. Additionally, **AED devices** are available at each of the facilities, and Roy Hobbs personnel have been trained on those devices.

Game Highlights

Roy Hobbs will publish your game highlights in the daily Inside Pitch; however, teams need to supply those highlights.

The link to submit your team's highlights is on the Roy Hobbs website: Go to royhobbs.com/world-series and click on the link.

Roy Hobbs will get your submissions published as soon as possible.

The following were received Monday:

Americans Baseball 1, Chicago Knights 0 (11, shootout)

– Americans: Winning pitcher Arnie Munoz threw 11 complete innings, struck out 23 (struck out 19 in 9 innings).

To view your Roy Hobbs photos go to:
www.wagnerphotography.com



Americans
Baseball Club
starting pitcher
vs. the
Chicago Knights
Sunday night
at
CenturyLink
Stadium.

*There is still time to get your team
signed up for a photo plan this week.
Call Greg at 239-898-8677 asap.*



Welcome to the 30th renewal of the Roy Hobbs World Series.

As the Hobbs internal family talked about what to do to make #30 special, we decided to ask participants – after all you are the ones who make the Roy Hobbs World Series special – why it is special to them.

We received many, many comments and stories, thank you.

Please enjoy ...

30 30 30 30

Rick Winstead, Kodak Reds: RHWS has been a big part of our lives for the past 28 years (consecutively).

On our first day, of our first year we attended, we got to practice on the Kansas City Royals Stadium. As the Reds were walking out onto the field for batting practice, the song “Do you like Pina Coladas” was playing over the loud speakers. To this day, that song takes me back to That moment in 1991. Reds clean-up hitter, Doyle Clabo, hit the last pitch of practice out of the stadium, over the right field fence. THAT was our first day with RHWS, and we’ve been hooked ever since.

Just as baseball does, we’ve had great games and great heartaches.

In 1997, the Kodak Reds were playing in their first RHWS championship game. The Reds took a 4-1 lead into the 9th inning. We had one out, and gave up a single, a double and an inside the park HR to tie the game. The Kodak Reds lost 6-5 in 12 innings.

Over the next 15 years, The Kodak Reds made the finals 6 more times only to lose. Four of those 6 games, the Reds took a lead into the 9th.

2015, we make the finals, during 45’s week with RHWS. We have a 3½-hour lighting delay, the game is shortened to 7 innings; without lights we have to move from Jet Blue to Lee County Stadium. In the bottom of the seventh inning, what would have been the winning run, is thrown out at the plate; we were going to extra innings!

In the bottom of the 12th, the Canton Tigers lead off the inning with a triple. The Reds walked the next 2 batters to load the bases. With NO outs, bases loaded, the pitcher goes 3-0 on the next batter. Strike 1, Strike 2, a ground ball hit to third – what would have been the winning run for the Tigers is thrown out at the plate! The infield and outfield were playing in. The next batter pops out to the Reds centerfielder that was playing just behind second base. There are now two outs, everyone is back in their normal positions on the field. A soft fly to our shortstop ends the 12th. The Kodak Reds scored 4 runs in the top of the 13th half to win.

It took 25 years, a lighting delay, field change, and 13 exciting innings to win our first championship.

Ross Vukovich, Akron A’s: It’s really kind of become “just who we are and what we do”.

Paul Thompson, Akron Cardinals: Year after year, what I love most about the RHWS is the pure kid-like joy of playing baseball in October in 80-degree weather (when snow might actually be falling back home) and getting to step on those pristine, immaculate fields – the same ones that my baseball heroes both past and present have graced. But getting to do it with my best friends – the guys I play ball with every summer – makes it even more special. We talk about the RHWS and “who is going this year” all 12 months out of the year. ... I always love recalling the comment by the guy in one of the promotional videos, who basically says “After I get a guy to come down, I won’t have to ask him again. He’ll ask me.” I use that line all the time.

Iran Negron, Miami Marlins: My best memories of the RHWS are the ones I make with my family. My nephews play with me and it’s priceless. I have been part of this awesome tournament for the past 9 years and I enjoy everything about it! My highlights would be facing Tetsu Yofu, ex major league pitcher and playing with my friend Jose Contreras, ex-major league pitcher.



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