

Pigs Heaven back in Baseball Heaven



Egerton Maitland and his iconic baseball jersey.

Photo By: Greg Wagner

BY GLENN MILLER
Roy Hobbs Baseball

The name Pigs Heaven stands out at the Roy Hobbs World Series. Sort of like a ham sandwich at a vegetarian picnic.

Its sponsor is not a barbecue restaurant.

The name is not a tribute to Porky Pig. It isn't a salute to former big-league catcher Joe Pignatano.

Pigs Heaven Manager Egerton Maitland said the team was sponsored for one season perhaps 15 years ago by a New Jersey demolition company called Pigs Heaven.

"We just kept the name," Maitland said. "We like it."

By whatever name this team comprised largely of New Jersey

ballplayers comes to Fort Myers for the same reasons as others. Pigs Heaven doesn't make it every year, but they are here now.

"Some of them could make it and some of them could not," said Maitland, who is a dentist and turns 65 in December. "As we get older, it's not a priority."

But it is still something Maitland and his players love. As he spoke, some of his players sprawled on the grass in the shade of trees after a tough 8-7 loss to the Baltimore Chop.

Maitland will have back surgery on two herniated discs after the World Series. He's not the athlete he was in the 1970s when he played football and baseball at Fordham.

see PIGS HEAVEN on page 2

8 teams advance to AAAA Playoffs; Friday pairings set Thursday evening

Eight teams have advanced to the AAAA double-elimination playoffs, which start Thursday and will be played at the JetBlue Quad fields.

General pool teams will play their 5th pool game Wednesday and take Thursday off.

The 8 teams advancing to the Veterans AAAA playoffs are: the New Jersey Mets, Chicago Woodpeckers, Stars of Herrera, Vukgripz Akron A's, JetBox, Stars Baseball Academy, New Jersey Twins and Minnesota Oilers. The Minnesota Bulldogs and Bronx Warriors drop to the general pool and play Wednesday.

The AAAA Double-elimination Bracket will be announced Wednesday.

The remaining 32 teams will play Wednesday and take Thursday as an off day.

The AAA and AA playoffs, both 16-team brackets with no byes, will be announced Thursday evening at the Players Party, scheduled for 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the PDC Clubhouse Complex. All players are welcome. The Friday schedule will be posted on royhobbs.com and put on the phone lines no later than 8 p.m. Thursday evening.

Note: PDC will be open for business as usual Wednesday, including T-shirts, etc. PDC will be closed Thursday.



PIGS HEAVEN

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But he's still stepping to the plate.

"Can't give it up," Maitland said.

Although surgery and a return to work loom on his calendar, this week is devoted to baseball and friends.

Next week?

"Back to reality," Maitland said. "It (back) hurts like hell but work hurts more sitting down for eight hours a day hunched over."

What keeps him going?

"Love of the game," Maitland said. "A lot of it is hanging out with the guys. Camaraderie. Playing ball."

The team is renting a house for the week on Fort Myers Beach. Only one player brought his wife this week and is staying elsewhere. The rest of Pigs Heaven is enjoying a week of baseball and sunshine.

Pigs Heaven infielder Johnny Melendez, 50, is one of those guys. He will retire April 1 after 25 years with the Atlantic City Fire Department. This week, he's a baseball player spending time with pals.

"Everybody is in the same house," Melendez said. "Everybody gets along. We got guys that fit in with the group."

Pigs Heaven opened the week with a loss, but the players know this week they are in Baseball Heaven.

Strike three!...
yelled the
man in the
maroon shirt.



Photo By:
Greg Wagner

NOTEBOOK

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.



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.



Playoff pitching guidelines

Roy Hobbs requirement is that all pitchers who will be starters or closers in save situations (3-run or less difference

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RESULTS

Tuesday

Americans Baseball Club - 10, Tidewater Drillers - 0
 Can-Am Padres - 15, Bellacino's Red Sox - 2
 Chicago Knights - 15, Akron Cardinals - 7
 Chicago Woodpeckers - 5, Minnesota Oilers - 2
 Cincinnati Colt .45s - 13, South Bend Cardinals - 3
 DRS Astros - 7, Baltimore Chop - 5
 Estrellas de Herrera - 13, Bronx Warriors - 3
 Germain Ohio Aces - 14, NEO Angels - 2
 Glass City Black Sox - 17, Flint Tigers - 1
 Jet Box - 21, New Jersey Twins - 2
 Kodak Reds - 11, Flint Tigers - 1
 MaxBat - 17, Panhandle Pirates - 7
 MaxBat - 16, Tennessee Dirtbags - 10
 Minnesota Web Gems - 3, Yamasa Beisball Club - 2
 New Jersey Mets - 10, Stars Baseball Academy - 4
 Nova Scotia Alpines - 15, TTown Jack-Os - 7
 Panhandle Pirates - 19, Detroit Dodgers - 14
 Pigs Heaven - 18, NEO Angels - 8
 Puerto Rico Braves - 8, Miami Cubs - 7
 RusStar Baseball Club - 17, Kodak Reds - 4
 RusStar Baseball Club - 19, Ft Myers Hooter's Owls - 4
 South Bend Cardinals - 15, Pensacola Sharks - 3
 Tallahassee Tomahawks - 16, Nova Scotia Alpines - 3
 Tallahassee Tomahawks - 8, DRS Astros - 7
 Tidewater Drillers - 20, Can-Am Padres - 5
 Vukgripz Akron A's - 12, Minnesota Bulldogs - 8



*New Jersey
Twins batter
drives a single
to right field.*

*Photo By:
Greg Wagner*



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STANDINGS

AAAA Team	Win	Loss	PCT	RA					
New Jersey Mets	3	1	0.750	8	Flint Tigers	1	3	0.250	43
Chicago Woodpeckers	3	1	0.750	12	Can-Am Padres	1	3	0.250	44
Estrellas de Herrera	3	1	0.750	20	Pigs Heaven	1	3	0.250	44
Vukgripz Akron A's	3	1	0.750	27	Ft Myers Hooter's Owls	1	3	0.250	46
Jet Box	2	2	0.500	22	Kodak Reds	1	3	0.250	48
Stars Baseball Academy	2	2	0.500	28	TTown Jack-Os	1	3	0.250	50
New Jersey Twins	2	2	0.500	37	Bronx Warriors*	0	4	0.000	40
Minnesota Oilers	1	3	0.250	18	Tennessee Dirtbags	0	4	0.000	49
					Bellacino's Red Sox	0	4	0.000	62

*dropped from AAAA

Team	Win	Loss	PCT	RA
Puerto Rico Braves	4	0	1.000	14
MaxBat	4	0	1.000	23
Yamasa Beisbol Club	3	1	0.750	7
Minnesota Web Gems	3	1	0.750	7
Americans Baseball Club	3	1	0.750	9
Tallahassee Tomahawks	3	1	0.750	21
Tidewater Drillers	3	1	0.750	22
Baltimore Chop	3	1	0.750	24
Detroit Dodgers	3	1	0.750	30
Nova Scotia Alpines	3	1	0.750	31
Germain Ohio Aces	3	1	0.750	31
Chicago Knights	2	2	0.500	18
RusStar Baseball Club	2	2	0.500	21
Glass City Black Sox	2	2	0.500	24
South Bend Cardinals	2	2	0.500	26
DRS Astros	2	2	0.500	28
Cincinnati Colt .45s	2	2	0.500	39
Panhandle Pirates	2	2	0.500	42
Akron Cardinals	2	2	0.500	46
Miami Cubs	1	3	0.250	26
Minnesota Bulldogs*	1	3	0.250	30
Pensacola Sharks	1	3	0.250	36
NEO Angels	1	3	0.250	40



Photo By: Greg Wagner
Tennessee Dirtbags battery discussing strategy vs. the South Bend Cardinals



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SCHEDULE

Wednesday

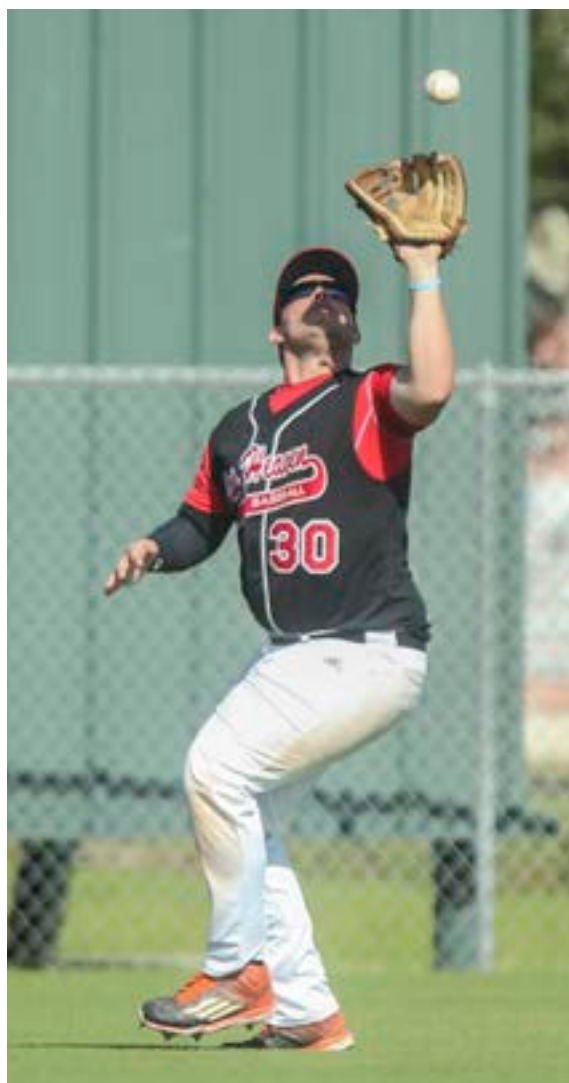
– All games flip coin for home.

10:00 AM

MaxBat VS Puerto Rico Braves PDC2
Americans Baseball Club VS Minnesota Web Gems PDC3
Germain Ohio Aces VS Nova Scotia Alpines PDC4
Bronx Warriors VS Cincinnati Colt .45s PDC5
Baltimore Chop VS Minnesota Bulldogs TP-S
Kodak Reds VS Pensacola Sharks TP2
Tidewater Drillers VS Yamasa Beisbol Club TP3
Detroit Dodgers VS Tallahassee Tomahawks TP4

2:00 PM

Chicago Knights VS Glass City Black Sox PDC2
Miami Cubs VS NEO Angels PDC3
Panhandle Pirates VS RusStar Baseball PDC4
Can-Am Padres VS Pigs Heaven PDC5
Bellacino's Red Sox VS Tennessee Dirtbags TP-S
South Bend Cardinals VS DRS Astros TP2
Flint Tigers VS Ttown Jack-O's TP3
Akron Cardinals VS Ft. Myers Hooter's Owls TP4



*Pig's Heaven
center fielder
tracks down
an Angels fly
ball*

Photo By:
Greg Wagner



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ROY HOBBS MEMORABILIA





NOTEBOOK

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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.



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 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.

see NOTEBOOK on page 7



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Americans turn a double play vs. the Tidewater Drillers





NOTEBOOK

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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.



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.

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.



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.



Game Highlights

Sunday

Stars Baseball Academy 3, Bronx Warriors 1 – CP-S: Warriors: PITCHING: W. Pagan 9IP; BATTING: M. Nunez -2/2; W. Pagan – 0/1, BB, Sac RBI

Tuesday

Panhandle Pirates 19, Detroit Dodgers 14 – PDC-4: Dodgers PITCHING: S. Dobson SP; P. Ben-Ezra RP; BATTING: A. Wick 2B; M. Dawson 2B; JC 2/3, 2B



*Photo By: Greg Wagner
City of Palms grounds crew preps the field for the afternoon game*

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



New Jersey
Twins
outfielder
vs. Jet Box on
Tuesday afternoon.

*Is your team playing next week?
Call Greg at 239-898-8677 to get
signed up for a photo plan.*



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

Jason Murray, South Bend Cardinals: I was hooked from the first moment I walked out on the field for practice. One memory that really stands out for me is the first year our team went to the championship game. We fought hard through the first 3 games and fought hard in the championship game, but it wasn't to be. No one hung their head. We had a great week and I was very proud of how we jelled together and picked each other up. That was 2014 and the bulk of that team is still playing together every year. They're my chosen family.

Randy Moss, Stars Baseball Academy:

I've been bringing a team to the RHWS since 2007. When I think about the tournament, I think of the Players that are in my Dugout, because at this age, we play for us! Baseball keeps us all young at heart, even though each year gets harder and harder. We will continue to train and grind in preparation for each World Series. To be in the best of your life for one week for the best baseball on the planet! Playing on Spring Training sites and living the dream we grew up with is priceless to all of us! In 2017, we did it and won the Veteran's Division Championship against the very strong Chicago Woodpeckers team. World Series Champs, that's us! It took a lot of skill, a little bit of luck and timely hitting and pitching and most importantly, a great group of guys. I'll never forget Eric Smith for carrying all of us on his back in his last Tournament ever as he enlisted in the military.

Anthony Guiliante, Umpire: The RHWS started for me as a player back in 1993. Then in 1994 I brought my first team as The Player Manager of the South Jersey Seminoles. One year, the Inside Pitch called us the Heavy Hitting Seminoles after we hit 9 home runs in a week all shots out City of Palms, Hammond and Terry Park Stadiums. I am now a 20-year man in the RHWS organization as I have moved to the Dark Side, as some of the Players say, as an Umpire. I keep coming back to the RHWS because this organization has always presented

a professional atmosphere for the player, the manager and the umpire. Happy 30th Anniversary RHWS!!

Igor Gribovsky, RusStar Baseball: Since 1998, we have participated in 15 tournaments of the Roy Hobbs World Series with our Russian team. For us it is a long trip – it takes more than 24 hours from door to door. But well worth it! The event atmosphere is fantastic. This is a place where your dreams come true. Where else you can step and play on the same field as Boston Red Sox MLB big guys? Where else you can play the same team and catch for Bill "the Spaceman" Lee, the guy who pitched Game 7 of World Series for Boston Red Sox? I did that all here and that memories will never be gone.

... And while our countries are battling on political stage, Russian and Americans play on the same team here in Fort Myers, hand-in-hand breaking all borders and making great friends for the years. Politicians will never manage to do the same things as baseball players can. I am happy to be here again for the 30th Anniversary of this great tournament!!!

Kenny Fried, NJ Mets: My fondest memory dates back to the first year the New Jersey Mets 35s fielded a team for the tournament. Tom was skeptical that our team was at the level to compete in the AAAA division, especially after 4 games in 2 days! However, we all pulled together and somehow won the next four to find ourselves in the Saturday night championship against the

Palm Bay Americans. Literally dragging, we fought hard and in the 27th inning, we fell behind and lost 7-6; however, this experience really brought together teammates and highlighted, for me, what is great about the game of baseball. Today, 8 years later, the core of the team remains together. We are proud to represent New Jersey at the Roy Hobbs World Series!

Troy Cox, Americans Baseball: In the past 30 years of the RHWS, there have been many memories for the Americans Baseball Club aka Palm Bay Americans aka Space Coast Yankees. 8 World Series Championships 1991-1998-2000-2006-2008-2010, & (2) in 2011. Each year we came back to compete, party, and simply to have fun together. Truly it's been 30 baseball family reunions (including this year) and that's the best part of this first-class baseball world series experience. We never get tired of it---BASEBALL, BEERS, & our BASEBALL tribe. God willing we intend to set the RHWS record of most appearances by a fun team – so far we made every World Series on record.