

30



THE INSIDE PITCH

2018
WEEK 1

VETERANS

OCT. 25th

Americans BBC, Roy Hobbs' only 30-year team!

BY JOHN SMALL

Roy Hobbs Baseball

Just one team has participated in every Roy Hobbs World Series during the tournament's 30-year run.

That would be the Americans Baseball Club from the City of Palm Bay in Brevard County on Florida's Space Coast. The team has undergone some name changes over the years, but a nucleus of players has stuck with the team and maintained its identity, said longtime Manager Troy Cox. One player, Darrell Miller, now 64, has been to all 30 Hobbs tournaments with Cox.

What keeps them coming back year after year is "well, it's in Florida, and, of course, the competition," Cox says. "The only way you get better is to play good teams; we like playing the best teams."

Some of the team's other names were the Space Coast Yankees, the Florida Juice, and the Palm Bay Americans, Cox says.

He is most proud of the fact that, competing mostly in the younger divisions, the team has won 8 World Series titles and played in some 15 championship games. "All championships are great," he says, but he points to the team's triumph in 1998 in the Open Division and the 4A victory in 2010 in the 35+ division as especially exciting.

At age 63, Cox now concentrates

see AMERICANS on page 2



Photo By: Greg Wagner

*Diane and Troy Cox ... the "God Parents" of the Americans Baseball Club,
30 years of Roy Hobbs play and counting.*

Friday AAA-AA pairings released at Thursday's Players Party at PDC

The pairings for the Veterans Division AAA and AA brackets will be announced at the Players Party Thursday evening at the PDC Party Patio.

All players are welcome to the Party, sponsored by Sidelines Sports Grill, which will supply a cash bar for beer and wine and provide finger foods, which Roy

Hobbs will supplement.

The party runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with 2 raffles and the Friday pairings announced at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Both the AAA and AA brackets will be 16-team affairs with no byes.

Meanwhile the AAAA division begins its double-elimination playoffs on

Thursday with 2 winners' bracket rounds and 1 round of losers' bracket games at JetBlue Complex.

First-round matchups are: Minnesota Oilers at NJ Mets, JetBox at Vukgripz Akron A's, Stars of Herrera at Estrellas de Herrera, and NJ Twins at Chicago Woodpeckers.



AMERICANS

continued from page 1

mostly on managing. He says he quit playing full-time in the 1980s because he believes he can be a better manager by giving it his full attention. His management style mostly emphasizes "scoring lots of runs and making sure of getting all the routine outs."

The Americans team competing in the Veterans Division (35+) this year is a mixture of older and younger players and has an average age of 47, Cox says.

It also includes one player famous in another sport – Doug Flutie, who starred in football at Boston College, the Canadian Football League and the NFL. Flutie, now in his 50s, plays on the Americans team in the Veterans Division as a pitcher-second baseman. His older brother Bill plays on the version of the team competing in the Legends Division (53+). The Fluties grew up in the Melbourne Beach, Fla., area on the Space Coast.

The 2018 Veterans Division team features a number of high-powered offensive players, including Erick Enriquez, 47, who's been with the team about 4 years. Since migrating to the United States at age 9 from Cuba, he has played baseball every year (at all 9 positions) and estimates he may have hit as many as 1,000 home runs in his competitive career.

A father-son combo playing for Cox is Jim Anderson, who at 69 is playing on the Legends Division team, and Mike Anderson,

35, playing in the Veterans Division.

Another player, catcher Rob Dimare, 46, with the team 11 years, says of Cox, "I've never seen a guy with this much passion for baseball. He's so well-prepared, and he treats us all like we're 18, which is good because we need it."

Dacks Rodriguez, 47, has played nearly 20 years with the Americans team and has played in leagues with Cox since Dacks was 17 years old.

Finally, there's the No. 1 fan of the team, Troy's wife Diane. An avid follower of the team's fortunes, she has lots of good anecdotes about them, but the one she mostly wants to talk about is the time she got an autographed baseball from Willie Mays in the San Francisco Giants clubhouse because Troy is a longtime friend of manager Bruce Bochy. But that's another story.



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Americans left and center fielders converge on a fly ball as a Minnesota Web Gems runner tags up at 2nd base

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RESULTS



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Umpires Brian Wild (left) and Brian Troup go over ground rules with Max Pearson of Bellacino's Red Sox and Jelly Copeland of the Tennessee Dirtbags at Terry Park Stadium Wednesday afternoon.

Wednesday

Bronx Warriors – 15, Cincinnati Colt .45s - 13
Chicago Knights – 10, Glass City Black Sox – 7
DRS Astros – 5, South Bend Cardinals – 4
Flint Tigers – 12, TTown Jack-O's – 8
Fort Myers Hooter's Owls – 13, Akron Cardinals – 3
MaxBat – 13, Puerto Rico Braves - 3
Miami Cubs – 9, NEO Angels – 5
Minnesota Bulldogs – 7, Baltimore Chop - 3

Minnesota Web Gems - 15, Americans Baseball Club - 3
Nova Scotia Alpines – 11, Germain Ohio Aces - 10
Panhandle Pirates – 15, RusStar Baseball – 11
Pensacola Sharks – 17, Kodak Reds - 7
Pigs Heaven – 13, Can-Am Padres – 10
Tallahassee Tomahawks – 11, Detroit Dodgers - 5
Tennessee Dirtbags – 16, Bellacino's Red Sox – 6
Tidewater Drillers – 5, Yamasa Beisbol Club – 5



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STANDINGS

AAAA Team

	Win	Loss	PCT	RA
New Jersey Mets	3	1	0.750	8
Chicago Woodpeckers	3	1	0.750	12
Estrellas de Herrera	3	1	0.750	20
Vukgripz Akron A's	3	1	0.750	27
Jet Box	2	2	0.500	22
Stars Baseball Academy	2	2	0.500	28
New Jersey Twins	2	2	0.500	37
Minnesota Oilers	1	3	0.250	18

Team

	Win	Loss	PCT	RA
MaxBat	5	0	1.000	26
Minnesota Web Gems	4	1	0.800	10
Tidewater Drillers	4	1	0.800	25
Tallahassee Tomahawks	4	1	0.800	26
Puerto Rico Braves	4	1	0.800	27
Nova Scotia Alpines	4	1	0.800	41
Yamasa Beisbol Club	3	2	0.600	12
Americans Baseball Club	3	2	0.600	24
Chicago Knights	3	2	0.600	25
Baltimore Chop	3	2	0.600	31
DRS Astros	3	2	0.600	32
Detroit Dodgers	3	2	0.600	41
Germain Ohio Aces	3	2	0.600	42
Panhandle Pirates	3	2	0.600	53
South Bend Cardinals	2	3	0.400	31
Miami Cubs	2	3	0.400	31
Minnesota Bulldogs	2	3	0.400	33
Glass City Black Sox	2	3	0.400	34
RusStar Baseball Club	2	3	0.400	36
Pensacola Sharks	2	3	0.400	43
Pigs Heaven	2	3	0.400	44
Fort Myers Hooter's Owls	2	3	0.400	49
Flint Tigers	2	3	0.400	51



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Troy to Matt: That last play was bananas!

Cincinnati Colt .45s	2	3	0.400	53
Akron Cardinals	2	3	0.400	59
NEO Angels	1	4	0.200	49
Bronx Warriors	1	4	0.200	52
Tennessee Dirtbags	1	4	0.200	55
Can-Am Padres	1	4	0.200	57
TTown Jack-Os	1	4	0.200	62
Kodak Reds	1	4	0.200	65
Bellacino's Red Sox	0	5	0.000	78



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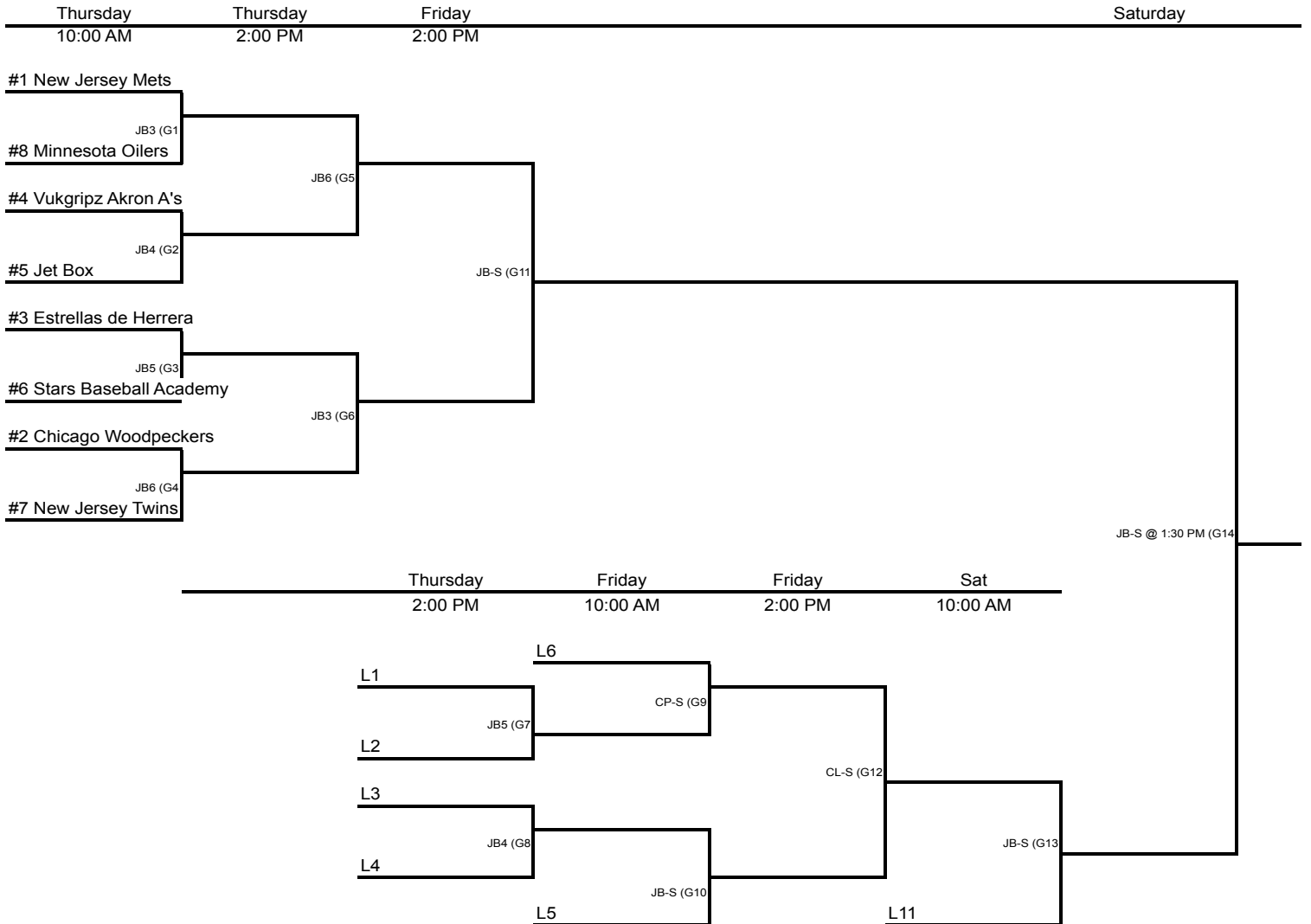


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VETERANS AAAA DIVISION BRACKET



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NOTEBOOK



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Americans 2nd baseman makes a great diving play on a Minnesota Web Gems ground ball

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.



❖ Broadcast plans

Roy Hobbs is working on a plan to broadcast selected World Series games, both live-streaming via the internet and as a posted post-game podcast on the Roy Hobbs website.

The immediate goal for 2019 is to be able to offer teams the opportunity to have one of their games broadcast from Hammond Stadium at the Centurylink Complex. Teams buying into the plan – we would broadcast 2 games a day Sunday through Wednesday – would have their stadium game at Centurylink. Roy Hobbs would then broadcast 2 championship games each Saturday. We are talking broadcasting 48 games.

Preparing to be able to present that option to its members, Roy Hobbs plans to broadcast 4 games this year – 2 championship games on both November 4 & 11. This is our test drive, so to speak, and our opportunity to be able to show teams what can be done in this format.

Stay tuned!

see NOTEBOOK on page 7

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



Tennessee Dirtbags 1st baseman
holds a Bellacino's Red Sox runner close.

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



NOTEBOOK

continued from page 6

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.

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 Challenged Athletes.



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.



Photo By: Greg Wagner
Tennessee Dirt Bags 1st baseman takes the throw vs. Bellacino's Red Sox.

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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 ...



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Joe Adams, NJ Twins: In a word, Camaraderie. It is all because of the bonds that we have formed over the years, the thrill of competing together against worthy opponents and the fun of a week or two in a professional setting with teammates that you truly appreciate. My first year I played with a long-lost teammate from high school. It surfaced memories and good times from our high school playing days and hooked me into the RHWS for life. For the last 18 years I have had the privilege of playing with the same base of 10 players which has really enhanced the chemistry and camaraderie and even more embellished our stories of years past when we recant them in the off season just waiting for another chance to touch down in Fort Myers for the start of another week of baseball.

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 hard. 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!!!



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Jet Box baserunner steals 2nd vs. the New Jersey Twins