

30



# THE INSIDE PITCH

2018  
WEEK 2

MASTERS

NOV. 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Most Muskrats estatic about BoSox championship



Greg Wagner Photos

Muskrats manager and catcher Mike Settles (7), Muskrat Jimmy Keenan (19), Muskrat Doug Flutie (22), Muskrat John Morris (44), Muskrat Mike Smith (55)

**BY JOHN SMALL**

### Roy Hobbs Baseball

You might think a New England team from New Hampshire would be unanimous in its glee over the Red Sox's World Series victory this week.

But only about 80 percent of the players on the Winnepesaukee Muskrats were ecstatic about Boston's triumphant march to their fourth Major League

championship in 15 years.

That's because there are a couple of New York and New Jersey outliers on the Winnepesaukee (pronounced WIN-a-pa-SOCK-ee) team competing in the Roy Hobbs Masters Division (45+).

"It was awesome, Muskrats pitcher/outfielder Gary Pisa said of Boston's 4-1 series win against the L.A. Dodgers. "Plus 108 wins in the regular season."

However, Winnepesaukee manager and catcher Mike Settles, who hails from New Jersey, was not so excited. "I grew up as a Mets fan," he explained. "But I'm happy for my teammates who like the Red Sox."

Although the team was slightly split about the Bosox victory, there was great team spirit and banter in the dugout as

see *MUSKRATS* on page 2

## AAA-AA-A playoff brackets set

The 16-team AAA and AA playoff brackets are set. There is also a 15-team A bracket

Based on the 16-team brackets, teams must win 4 games Friday and Saturday to grab a championship.

Playoff brackets are included inside this edition of *Inside Pitch*.

AAA games will be at Centurylink and PDC complexes on Friday, leading to a championship round at Hammond Stadium/Centurylink Complex on

Saturday. AA games will be at JetBlue and Terry Park Friday, leading to a championship round at City of Palms Stadium on Saturday.

Meanwhile the AAAA double-elimination playoffs will continue Friday at City of Palms Stadium, JetBlue Stadium and Centurylink Stadiums.

In AAA & AA divisions, the seeds were based on record and runs allowed in best 4 games (RA, 4). Additionally, the Minnesota Bandits,

Dayton Wolves and Harry Young Builders dropped from AAAA and were placed in the divisional playoffs at Roy Hobbs' discretion.

Seeds stay the same throughout the playoffs, but in both AAA & AA divisions, matchups were adjusted to avoid rematches of games earlier in the week or first-round matchups of teams from the same neighborhood. Lower seed - i.e. 1-2-3-4 - are the home teams throughout the playoffs.





# MUSKRATS

continued from page 1

Winnepesaukee went 3-1 in its Roy Hobbs round robin Monday through Wednesday.

This is the first year the Muskrats have played in Roy Hobbs under that name, but they previously competed in the tournament for several years as the Goodfellas. This year, the Goodfellas will still play in the Legends Division (53+). The Muskrats are not to be confused with the college age Winnepesaukee Muskrats, who compete in the New England College Baseball League (NECBL).

Other comments from the Hobbs-playing Muskrats reflected rabid support and jubilation for the Red Sox victory.

"It was great, just wonderful," said first baseman Mike Smith. "Been a Red Sox fan all my life; got a jersey when I was 3." As a New Hampshire native, Smith said Carlton Fisk and Rich Gale were two of his favorites. Smith also is part owner of the college-age Muskrats team in the NECBL.

Shortstop Doug Flutie said he loved the Red Sox's victory, but added, laughing: "I was mad that they won so soon. I wanted to see more games."

"It was such an enjoyable year to watch them," Flutie added. "Everybody that was called up contributed."

It was especially thrilling to watch Brock Holt hit for the cycle during the playoffs, said Flutie, now 56, who retired from professional football at age 43 and has been playing senior baseball ever since.

Another big Red Sox fan on the Muskrats is pitcher Jimmy Keenan, 58, who saw the first two World Series wins in Boston, and one playoff game against Houston – and watched *all 18 innings* of the marathon game. He wears number 19, because so did Fred Lynn.

"I'm spoiled now," Keenan says of the fourth Bosox championship in 15 years. He has played senior baseball for 28 years, many of them in the Boston Amateur Baseball League (BABL) with some of his Muskrat teammates.

One of the non-Boston fans is Winnepesaukee catcher/pitcher Gerrad Davich, 56, a tax accountant in Belle Air, Fla. "I'm originally a New Yorker," he explains. "But I'm glad the A.L. East was represented."

Showing that the team's slight split in favorite MLB teams did not carry over to their Roy Hobbs' play, Bosox fan Flutie cheered Davich on when he beat out an infield hit. "Quick as a cat," Flutie shouted from the dugout to Yankee fan Davich. "That's why they call you 'Whiskers.'"

One other Boston fan on the Muskrats is John Morris, a bank executive and a stand-up comedian for the past 10 years.

"It's such a thrill," he said. "We suffered for so long. The kids are spoiled now. Too many championships in a short time. But they had to win it this year – after 108 regular-season wins."

Morris says his comedy career takes him mostly on the "dead animals tour – the Moose Clubs, Elks Lodges, those kinds of places."

## NOTEBOOK

### ❖ 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!



### 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**

see NOTEBOOK on page 6

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## STANDINGS

Notes: AAA -- Carolina Thunder won 2017 AA, is AAA by rule. Minnesota Bandits & Dayton Wolves dropped from 4A; 1-15 & 2-16 first round matchups to avoid having 2 Minnesota teams play in first round.

AAA Team	Win	Loss	PCT	RA	RA
1 NW Indiana Dogs	5	0	1.000	36	27
2 MaxBat	5	0	1.000	43	30
3 Chicago Knights	4	1	0.800	14	7
4 Midwest Pirates	4	1	0.800	15	7
5 Minneapolis Millers	4	1	0.800	23	12
6 Maine Indians	4	1	0.800	29	12
7 Jersey Shore Baseball	4	1	0.800	31	12
8 Baltimore Astros	4	1	0.800	31	19
9 Tidewater Drillers	4	1	0.800	35	24
10 Orlando Braves	4	1	0.800	48	32
11 Tennessee Dirtbags	3	2	0.600	31	14
12 Oakville Golden A's	3	2	0.600	25	18
13 Fort Myers Brewers	3	2	0.600	33	20
14 Carolina Thunder	3	2	0.600	42	26
15 *Minnesota Bandits	1	4	0.200	47	30
16 *Dayton Wolves	1	4	0.200	51	35

Notes: AA -- Harry Young Builders dropped from 4A, and placed in AA at Roy Hobbs Discretion.

AA Team	Win	Loss	PCT	RA	RA
1 Chicago Giants	3	2	0.600	38	22
2 New England Indians	3	2	0.600	39	22
3 Winnepesaukee Muskrats	3	2	0.600	37	24
4 Lansing Blue Jays	3	2	0.600	49	24
5 DuPage Indians	3	2	0.600	40	27
6 Windy City Warriors	3	2	0.600	45	28
7 New Jersey Thunder	3	2	0.600	52	40

8 Chicago North Redhawks	2	3	0.400	25	15
9 Canton Tigers	2	3	0.400	34	21
10 Kodak Reds	2	3	0.400	38	24
11 Jet Box	2	3	0.400	37	25
12 Baltimore Thunder	2	3	0.400	51	34
13 Lake Erie Blue Jays	2	3	0.400	53	34
14 Washington All Stars	2	3	0.400	61	34
15 Chicago Colts	2	3	0.400	58	37
16 Harry Young Builders	1	4	0.200	65	46

Notes: A -- With only 2 0-5 teams, the decision was made to put them in A, match them in first round. The bracket was set up to have that winner play #1, and all other seeding matchups were adjusted accordingly. If Nova Scotia loses its first round game, the loser to the 14-15 game will play Nova Scotia on Saturday.

A Team	Win	Loss	PCT	RA	RA
1 PSOF Rangers	2	3	0.400	61	39
2 St. Paul Senators	2	3	0.400	55	40
3 Chesapeake Redwings	2	3	0.400	63	43
4 Tallahassee Bombers	1	4	0.200	52	38
5 Bellacino's Red Sox	1	4	0.200	57	39
6 Nova Scotia Monarchs	1	3	0.250	65	39
7 Huntsville Havoc	1	4	0.200	59	42
8 Kent Mudhens	1	4	0.200	65	43
9 Doc Ford's Sea Dogs	1	4	0.200	69	43
10 Cincinnati Colt .45s	1	4	0.200	61	44
11 Kenmore Orioles	1	4	0.200	63	45
12 Ukraine Masters	1	4	0.200	62	46
13 Crystal Clinic Indians	1	4	0.200	63	46
14 Fort Myers Hooter's Blues	0	5	0.000	56	39
15 Victoria Mussels	0	5	0.000	59	40

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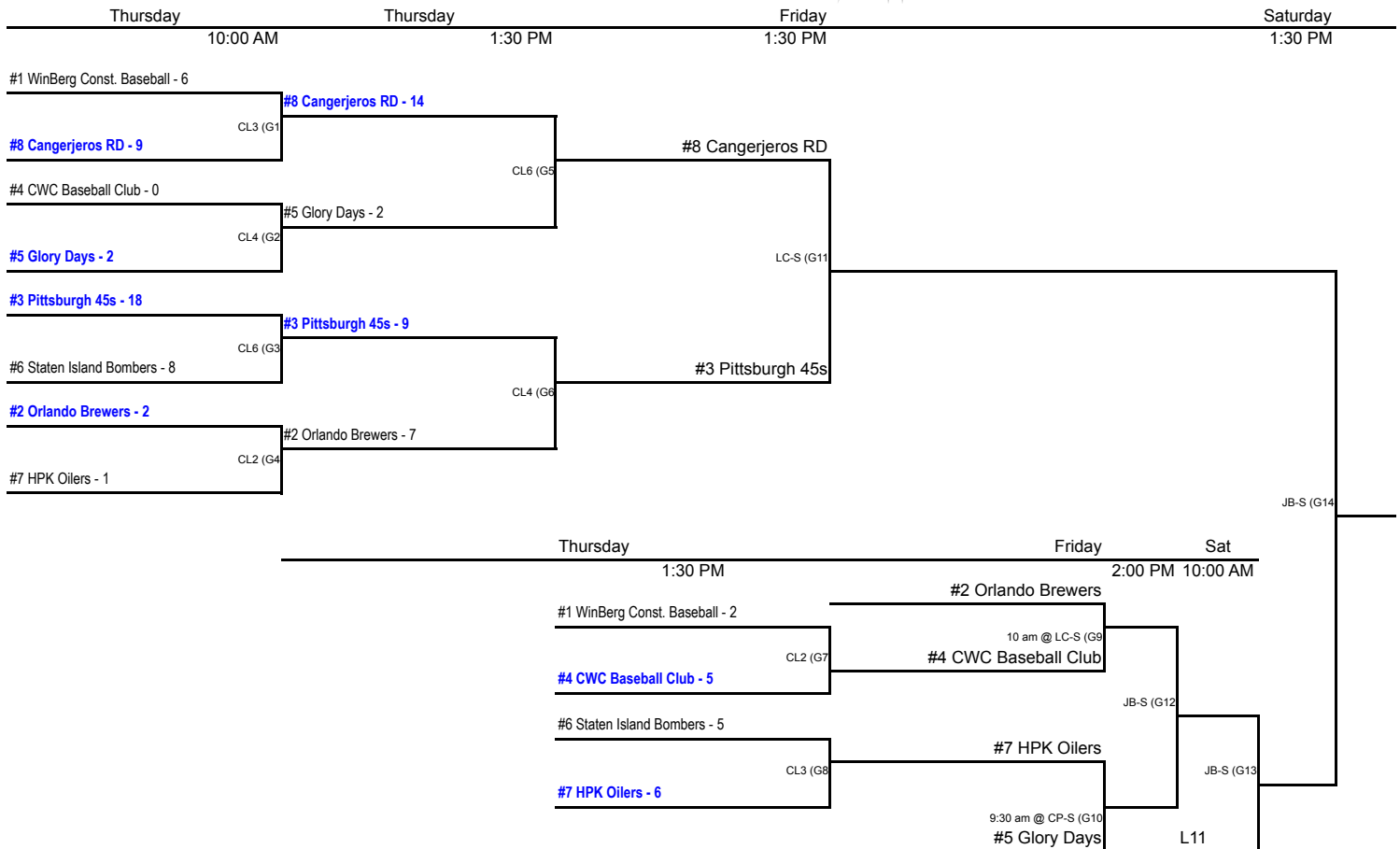


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## AAAA BRACKET

# Masters AAAA Playoffs



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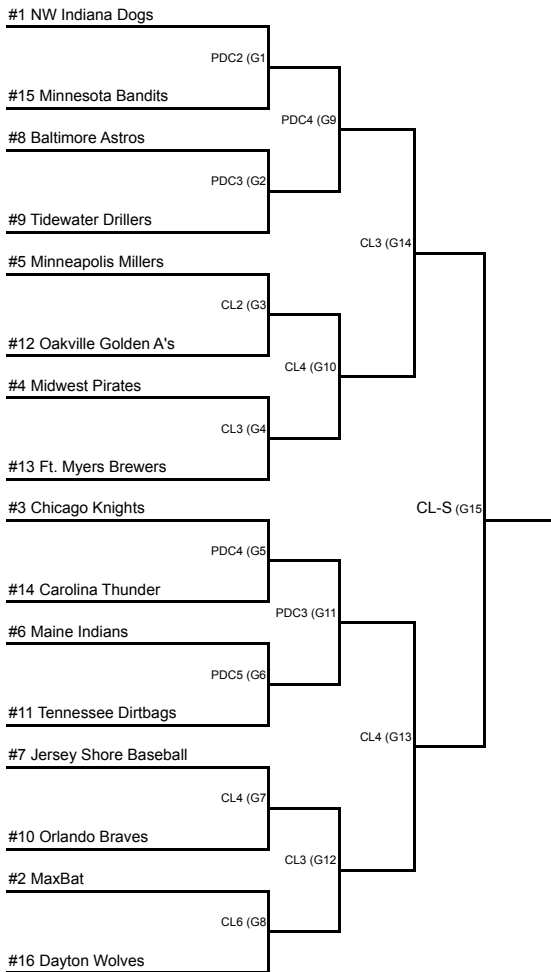
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## AAA BRACKET

### Masters AAA Playoffs

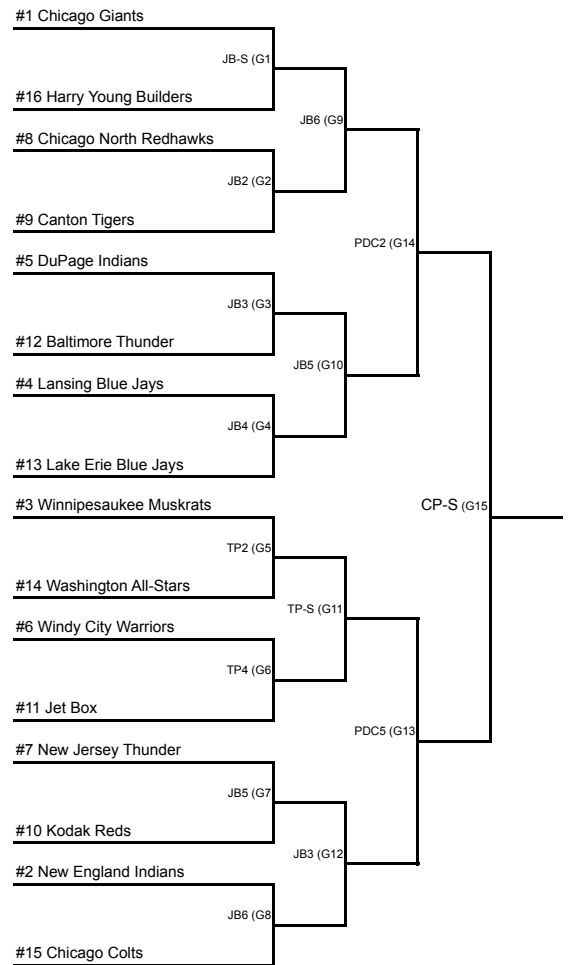
Friday 10:00 AM	Friday 1:30 PM	Saturday 10:00 AM	Saturday 1:30 PM
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## AA BRACKET

### Masters AA Playoffs

Friday 10:00 AM	Friday 1:30 PM	Saturday 10:00 AM	Saturday 2:00 PM
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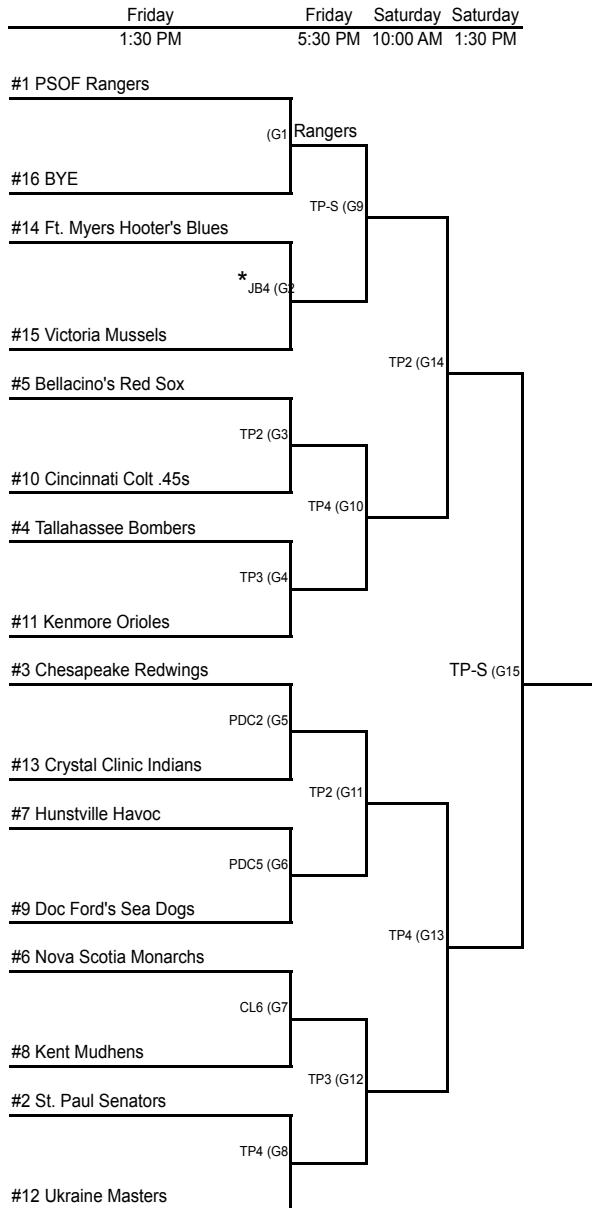






# A BRACKET

## Masters A Playoffs



\*Loser will be offered a 7th game on Saturday vs Nova Scotia Monarchs



Photo By: Greg Wagner

Baltimore Astros baserunner gets caught in a rundown vs. the Muskrats

# NOTEBOOK

continued from page 2

### 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.

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## HIGHLIGHTS



*Staten Island Bombers catcher warms up his pitcher*

*Photo By:  
Greg Wagner*

### Game Highlights

#### Tuesday

Oakville Golden A's 9, Ft. Myers Hooters Blues 5 – JB-S A's: PITCHING: M. Rochelea 2 IP, 1 ER; A. Shirali 2 IP, 0 R; BATTING: G. Macdonald 4 H, 1 2B, 1 3B, 4 RBI

Carolina Thunder 17, New England Indians 11 – JB-6 Thunder: PITCHING: G. Allen 4 IP, W; BATTING: A. Lingwall 4/5, 5 RBI, S. Wiegall 3/4, 3 R, 2 2B, 2 RBI; D. Southerland 2 H; K. Smith 2H; M. Burke 2 H

Orlando Brewers 17, Harry Young Builders 16 – JB-S HYB: BATTING: McMichael 3/3, 2 RBI; Knapp 3/4, RBI; Konczal 2/3, 3 RBI; Asher 2/3, 2 RBI; Gray 2/4, 2 RBI; Nowicki 2/4

#### Wednesday

NW Indiana Dogs 7, Harry Young Builders 4 – JB-3 HYB: PITCHING: McCormack 4 IP, 2 ER; BATTING: Knapp 2/5, 2 RBI; Konczal 2/4, RBI; Asher 2/4

Baltimore Astros 12, Winnepasaukee Muskrats 5 – TP-2 Astros: PITCHING: J. Olivacz CG, W, 2 ER; BATTING: D. Milligan 2B, 2 RBI

To view your Roy Hobbs photos go to:  
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Staten Island  
2nd baseman  
gloves a  
soft line drive  
vs.  
Pittsburgh  
in a  
Friday afternoon  
AAAA  
playoff game.

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Baltimore Astros  
2nd baseman  
covers 2nd as a  
Muskrats runner  
is safe on a steal

Photo By:  
Greg Wagner

Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> 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

**Chris Smith, Umpire:** My first Roy Hobbs World Series was in 2015 RHWS 27. The thing that makes this event special for me is to see all of the players get the very best for one solid week. No matter their age, no matter their ability, they play with the passion of a young kid as if it was their first time to ever take the field. One of my best memories was being in the 65+ Championship Game in 2017 and having my family back in Decatur, AL., watch it live on YouTube. Another of my best memories was being on the field 2015 with all of the veterans for Veterans Day. I have met so many wonderful people from the Roy Hobbs staff to the thousands of players and their families and all of the great umpires that come to this event every year. I'm always excited to get there every year and saddened when it's time to leave. It is truly a remarkable event that I look forward to every year.

**Brian Troupe, Umpire:** This will be my 15th year umpiring the Roy Hobbs World Series. I umpire this tournament for many reasons. The main reason is that I love umpiring baseball games. Being from New Hampshire, the weather

is not conducive to umpiring in late October and especially in November. So, the Roy Hobbs World Series gives me the opportunity to umpire in the late fall. I have met a lot of great people at the Roy Hobbs World Series, players and staff and enjoy the camaraderie with the other umpires, whether on the field or in the locker room. The joking around in the locker room is especially entertaining. I enjoy working in the Major League Baseball stadiums.

**Teresa Winstead, Kodak Reds:** Kodak Reds & RHWS 30<sup>th</sup> – view from the stands ... What do a lawn care owner, a courier, an auto-body worker, lineman, farmer, train engineer, accountant, roofer, professional singer all have in common...the love of Baseball. Watching our husbands playing a game they have loved their entire lives, alongside ex-major and minor leaguers, during a RHWS game. Knowing you will hear the story of how they got them out, at the next get together and for many years to come.

The "side" stories that have accumulated alongside 28 years of games won and lost. Stories that are retold at every barbeque, dinner, and birthday parties to relive those great times and great loses. When the wives could tell those stories word for word, but we don't. We

just make eye contact and smile over the dinner table, the fire pit, across the room and let the guys relive those moments. These are not just their stories, their games, these are also our stories!

We have made new friends because of the RHWS that we would never have gotten to know. RHWS has brought us together in ways life might not have.

