



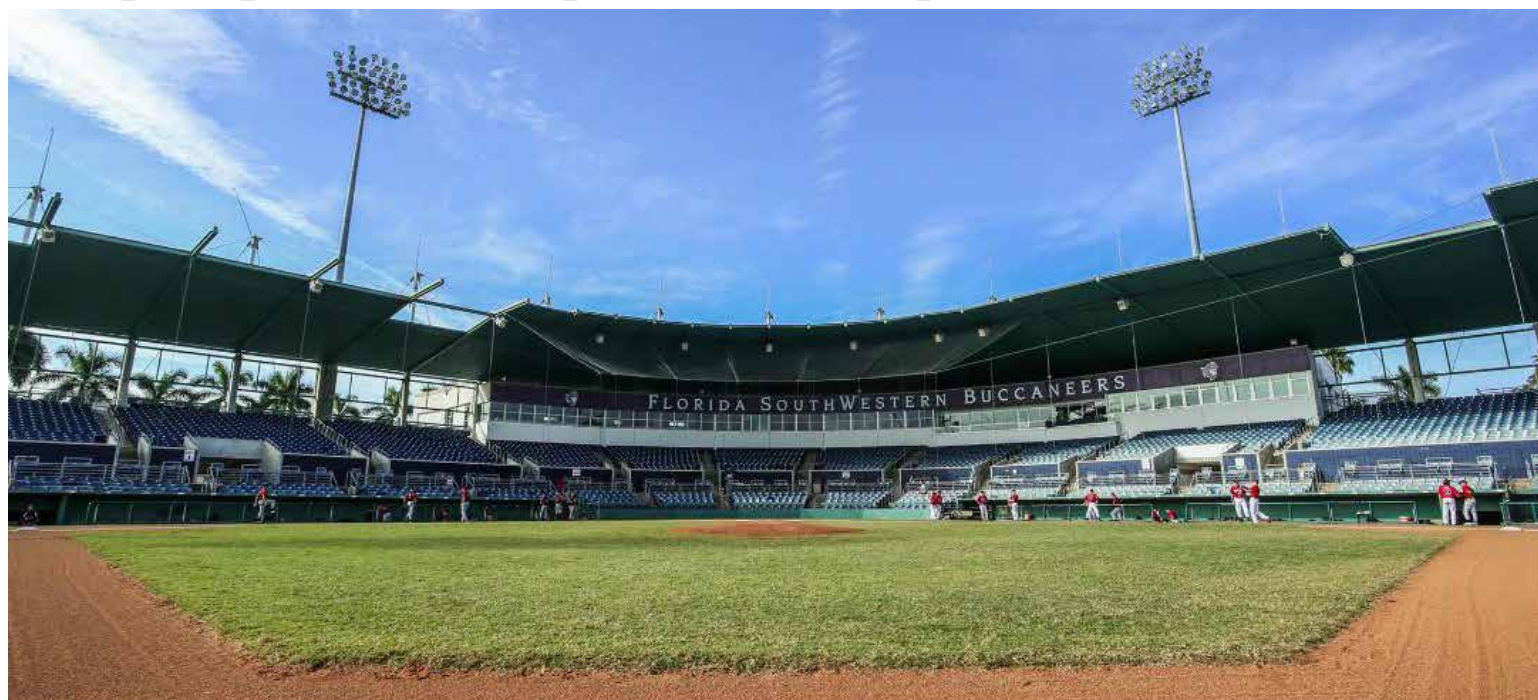
# THE INSIDE PITCH

WEEK 5

VETERANS  
FOREVER YOUNG

NOV. 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Saying Goodbye to City of Palms Park



*photo by Greg Wagner*

**BY GLENN MILLER**  
**Roy Hobbs Baseball**

Henry Leitner of the Silver Foxes didn't know City of Palms Park's rich history Wednesday as he chatted by the third base dugout on a sun-spangled fall day this week.

The Harvard computer science professor learned the park opened in 1993 and served as the Boston Red Sox spring training home from that year until 2011, the year before they moved to JetBlue.

"The Red Sox came here?" Leitner said in astonishment. "Wow!"

The Red Sox's first year in City of Palms Park was also the first year the Roy Hobbs World Series moved here from Orlando. It was serendipitous timing for the thousands of Roy Hobbs players who would over more than a quarter of a century troop into the charming ballpark fringed by royal palm trees.

This ballpark - with an old-time feel to it - has been the site of countless Roy Hobbs World Series games. This week that glorious era comes to an end as city of Fort Myers and Lee County officials move forward on plans to raze the park as part of a "mid-town" redevelopment effort in that part of the city.

As Leitner learned more he glanced up into the stands and excitedly told his wife, Catarina, some news.

### SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 8

"Nomar Garciaparra played here!" Leitner said, So did Henry Leitner. And thousands of others.

In his famous 1960 New Yorker essay "Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu" on Ted Williams' final game in Fenway Park, John Updike described that gem as "a lyric little bandbox of a ballpark."

That description also fits City of Palms Park.

"It has a lot of class," Leitner said. "Back home we have Fenway Park. This is how this feels. It has a lot of history. I don't know the history, but you can feel it."

Minnesota Goats Manager Vic Marotta recalls a trip to City of Palms when he reflected on the park's beauty.

"I sat here and thought how lucky we were to play in a place like this," Marotta said.

Melancholy might describe the mood these days at City of Palms.

"You're uprooting history," the Goats' Tom Flournoy said.

Roy Hobbs president Tom Giffen certainly knows the park's history. As he and his wife, Ellen, prepared and planned to move the World Series from central Florida to Fort Myers, they were able to see City of Palms under construction.

*see CITY OF PALMS on page 2*



## CITY OF PALMS

*continued from page 1*

"We were in love with the park at first sight," Giffen said. "It's cozy with a throw-back feel, it's a great playing surface. I have many good memories of playing there, including a couple of exhibition games against the Coors Silver Bullets."

Like many ballplayers in the years since, Giffen was able to pitch in the park. He vividly recalls a '96-'97 game against a Russian team when he spotted players bringing cases of beer into their dugout. Mid-batter, Giffen called "time" and more than suggested to the Russians that the beer was not a good idea and to take the beer and place it in a car in the parking lot.

Giffen is not 100 percent sure of the park's fate but believes it will fall to the wrecking ball. "We've been told this is what will happen," he said.

The facility will remain open for several more months and serve as the baseball and softball homes of the Florida

SouthWestern College baseball and softball teams, which compete on the JUCO level. Giffen said the park will remain in operation thru the end of FSW's season, probably into June of 2020.

Then?

"At that point, it's anybody's guess," he said. "Maybe we will squeeze one more World Series out of it, but I am not holding my breath."

That's the future.

When speaking of the ballpark's past, Brian Mullen likely knows more of that history than anybody. He was the official scorekeeper for every Red Sox spring training game played at the ballpark from 1993 through 2011.

"I'll feel bad when it's gone," said Mullen, the man

behind the name of the Roy Hobbs Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball Award. "I have a lot of great baseball memories there."

He won't be the only one who feels bad that City of Palms, that lyric little bandbox of a ballpark, is no more.



*photo by Greg Wagner*

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## STANDINGS

### Vintage Division

	AAAA Team	W	L	PCT	RA	RA4
1	Sacramento Tribe	5	0	1.000	7	4
2	Minnesota Bees	5	0	1.000	8	4
3	South Jersey Indians	5	0	1.000	18	11
4	Washington Titans	4	1	0.800	29	14

NOTES: 4 teams, double-elimination, teams selected distinguished themselves, and with just 4, Roy Hobbs made the decision at its descretion to make it a DE playoff.

	AAA Team	W	L	PCT	RA	RA4
1	Minnesota Goats	4	1	0.800	33	17
2	Maine Woods Baseball	4	1	0.800	35	18
3	Baltimore Baseball Club	4	1	0.800	32	21
4	Austin Express	4	1	0.800	34	23
5	TSP Fire	4	1	0.800	42	30
6	Raynham Baseball Club	3	2	0.600	34	23
7	DHBA Athletics	3	2	0.600	38	25
8	Cincinnati Colt .45s	3	2	0.600	39	26
9	USA Volkers Group	3	2	0.600	42	28
10	Midwest 9	3	2	0.600	54	34
11	Vintages Baseball Club	3	2	0.600	57	36
12	Toledo McGuire Insurance	3	2	0.600	70	47
13	Potomac Senators	2	3	0.400	52	29
14	Livingston Dodgers	2	3	0.400	41	29
15	Long Island Yankees	2	3	0.400	43	29
16	Kent Mudhens	2	3	0.400	47	30

NOTES: 16 teams, ranked by record, runs allowed in best 4 games (RA4). Kent Mudhens defeated Rhode Island Rockies head-to-head to win that tiebreaker.

	AA Team	W	L	PCT	RA	RA4
1	Rhode Island Rockies	2	3	0.400	52	30
2	Kenmore Eastern Brewers	2	3	0.400	44	31
3	Asheville Sox	2	3	0.400	55	33
4	MBI Baseball	2	3	0.400	53	37
5	Naturals	2	3	0.400	60	41

6	St Louis Braves	2	3	0.400	70	50
7	Tallahassee Classics	2	3	0.400	61	36
8	Nova Scotia Monarchs	1	4	0.200	61	42
9	Lehigh Baseball	1	4	0.200	63	43
10	North Coast Nationals	1	4	0.200	67	48
11	Philadelphia Brewers	1	4	0.200	68	50
12	San Antonio Texans	1	4	0.200	69	52
13	Wilmington Thunder	1	4	0.200	78	54

NOTES: 13 teams, #21 thru #33, ranked by record and runs allowed in best 4 games. 3 byes; Tallhassee's 2nd victory was Thursday in a 65-75 matchup and therefore occupies the final 2-3 slot in the rankings. Seeds 12 & 13 switched spots in the bracket to avoid a rematch of a Thursday game, but they retain their respective seeds since they could face each other in second round.

	Non-Playoff Teams	W	L	PCT	RA	RA4
	Silver Foxes	0	5	0.000	74	53
	Philadelphia A's	0	5	0.000	92	67

### Forever Young

	AAA Team	W	L	PCT	RA	RA4
1	San Diego Padres	5	0	1.000	18	13
2	Avengers	5	0	1.000	27	18
3	South Dakota Rushmores	4	1	0.800	22	16
4	National Spirit	3	2	0.600	29	15

	AA Team	W	L	PCT	RA	RA4
1	Tri-Cities	3	2	0.600	32	17
2	Kent Mudhens	2	3	0.400	36	22
3	New England Red Sox	2	3	0.400	45	30
4	Team America	2	3	0.400	47	30
5	New Jersey Cardinals	1	4	0.200	52	38

	Non-Playoff Teams	W	L	PCT	RA	RA4
	Toledo McGuire Insurance	0	5	0.000	66	45
	Maine Woods Baseball	0	5	0.000	74	54





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## RESULTS

### Thursday

#### Vintage

Asheville Sox - 9, Lehigh Baseball - 2  
Austin Express - 13, Cincinnati Colt .45s - 8  
DHBA Athletics - 13, Kent Mudhens - 3  
Long Island Yankees - 7, Livingston Dodgers - 6  
MBI Baseball - 24, Wilmington Thunder - 3  
Midwest 9 - 13, Kenmore Eastern Brewers - 12  
Minnesota Bees - 11, Baltimore Baseball Club - 0  
Minnesota Goats - 10, USA Volkers Group - 9  
Nova Scotia Monarchs - 14, Philadelphia A's - 4  
Raynham Baseball Club - 10, Naturals - 5  
Rhode Island Rockies - 7, Philadelphia Brewers - 6  
Sacramento Tribe - 12, TSP Fire - 0  
San Antonio Texans - 12, Silver Foxes - 11  
South Jersey Indians - 17, Maine Woods Baseball - 7  
St Louis Braves - 19, North Coast Nationals - 13  
Vintages Baseball - 23, Potomac Senators - 9  
Washington Titans - 23, Toledo McGuire Insurance - 10

#### Forever Young

Tri-Cities - 12, Toledo McGuire Insurance - 4  
Tallahassee Classics 65+ - 19, National Spirit 75+ - 3  
New England Red Sox - 14, New Jersey Cardinals - 8



*photo by Greg Wagner*  
Roy Hobbs Hall of Famer and manager Bob Hawkins telling his batter to swing away vs. Maine Woods 65's



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## SCHEDULE

## Forever Young Division

## AAAA Playoff

#4 National Spirit @ #1 San Diego Padres, 1:30 PM @ JB3

#3 South Dakota Rushmores @ #2 Avengers, 1:30 PM @ PDC5

## AA Playoff

#5 New Jersey Cardinals @ #4 Team America, 10:00 AM @ JB2

Winner from JB2 @ #1 Tri-Cities, 1:30 PM @ JB2

#3 New England Red Sox @ #2 Kent Mudhens, 1:30 PM @ CL6

## Non Playoff Teams

Maine Woods Baseball @ Toledo McGuire Insurance, 10AM @ TP-S

## Vintage Division

## AAAA Playoff

#4 Washington Titans @ #1 Sacramento Tribe, 10:00 AM @ JB3

#3 South Jersey Indians @ #2 Minnesota Bees, 10:00 AM @ JB6

Winner JB3 @ Higher Seed Winner JB6, 1:30 PM @ JB1

Loser JB3 @ Higher Seed Loser JB6, 1:30 PM @ JB-S

## AAA Playoff

#16 Kent Mudhens @ #1 Minnesota Goats, 10:00 AM @ CL2

#9 USA Volkers Group @ #8 Cincinnati Colt .45s, 10:00 AM @ CL4

Winner CL2 @ Higher Seed Winner CL4, 1:30 PM @ CL3

#12 Toledo McGuire Insurance @ #5 TSP Fire, 10:00 AM @ CL3

#13 Livingston Dodgers @ #4 Austin Express, 10:00 AM @ CL6

Winner CL3 @ Higher Seed Winner CL6, 1:30 PM @ CL4

#14 Long Island Yankees @ #3 Baltimore Baseball Club, 10:00 AM @ PDC2

#11 Vintages Baseball @ #6 Raynham Baseball Club, 10:00 AM @ PDC3

Winner PDC2 @ Higher Seed Winner PDC3, 1:30 PM @ PDC4

#10 Midwest 9 @ #7 DHBA Athletics, 10:00 AM @ PDC4

#15 Potomac Senators @ #2 Maine Woods Baseball, 10:00 AM @ PDC5



photo by Greg Wagner

*Old friends at the Roy Hobbs World Series ... NE Red Sox first baseman Dick Pavlak, 88, bumps fists with Don Booth, 76, of the Kent Mudhens after Booth's base hit*

Winner PDC4 @ Higher Seed Winner PDC5, 1:30 PM @ PDC3

## AA Playoff

#9 Lehigh Baseball @ #8 Nova Scotia Monarchs, 10:00 AM @ JB4

Winner JB4 @ #1 Rhode Island Rockies, 1:30 PM @ JB4

#13 Wilmington Thunder @ #5 Naturals, 10:00 AM @ TP2

#12 San Antonio Texans @ #4 MBI Baseball, 10:00 AM @ TP4

Winner TP2 @ Higher Seed Winner TP4, 1:30 PM @ TP3

#11 Philadelphia Brewers @ #6 St Louis Braves, 10:00 AM @ JB5

Winner JB5 @ #3 Asheville Sox, 1:30 PM @ JB5

#10 North Coast Nationals @ #7 Tallahassee Classics, 10:00 AM @ TP3

Winner TP3 @ #2 Kenmore Eastern Brewers, 1:30 PM @ TP2

## Non Playoff Teams

Philadelphia A's @ Silver Foxes, 1:30 PM @ TP-S

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## HIGHLIGHTS

**Kent Mudhens 65s 14, Tallahassee Classics 4:** (Mudhens) Pitching: Don Hileman- 9 IP, CG, 2 ER, 7 K, BB; Hitting: Lou Munoz-3/4, 2R, 3SB; Bob Lay-2/4, R; Dusty Stauffer-2/3, RBI, R, BB; Bob Anderson-1/2, R, 2b, 2 RBI; John Berger-2/4, 2 R, 2 2b, 2 RBI

**Kent Mudhens 65s 5, Rhode Island Rockies 1:** (Mudhens) Pitching: Louie Munoz-7 IP, 0 ER, 5 K, 3 BB; Hitting: Louie Munoz-7 IP, 0 ER, 5 K, 3 BB

**Vintages Baseball 22, Asheville Sox 9:** (Sox) Hitting: Al Edmiston: 3 for 4, 2 Runs scored. Gary Graham: 2 for 3, 1 RBI, 1 Run scored. Ronnie Alexander: 2 for 2, 1 RBI. JD Hinson: 2 for 4, 2 RBI's, 1 Run scored. Carlton Blackburn: 2 for 4, 2 Runs scored. Bruce Jensen: 1 for 2, 1 run scored.



*Kent Mudhens  
65's starting  
pitcher Ed  
Clark vs.  
Potomac  
Senators*

*photo by  
Greg Wagner*

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## 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 Thursday or Saturday.**

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

Players will need their RHWS ID card to get their shirts in person, no exceptions. No driver's 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 a piece or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held in the patio area at the Player Development Complex around 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 2018 RHWS 50/50 led to nearly \$5,000 in contributions to MD Anderson Cancer Center, St. Jude Hospital in Memphis and to Southern Florida Challenger Athletes.



*photo by Greg Wagner*

*Maine Woods 65's Gad Holland lays down a bunt vs. the Cincinnati Colt 45's*

### 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

To view your Roy Hobbs photos go to:  
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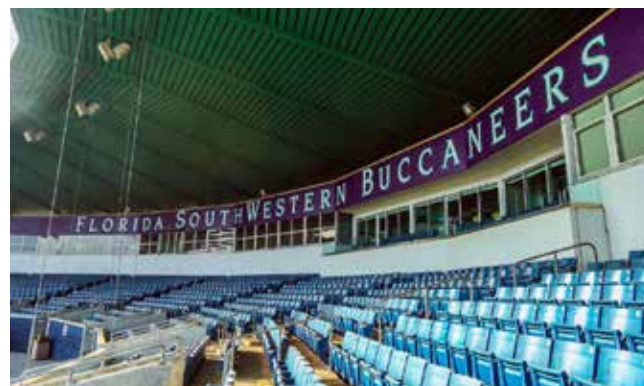
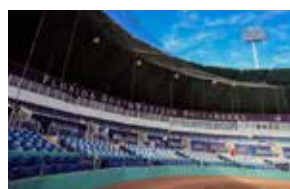
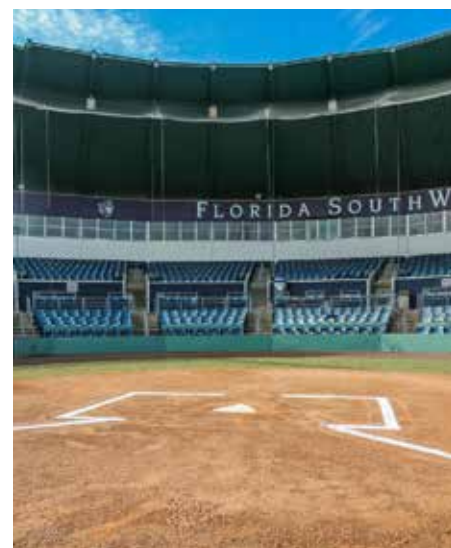
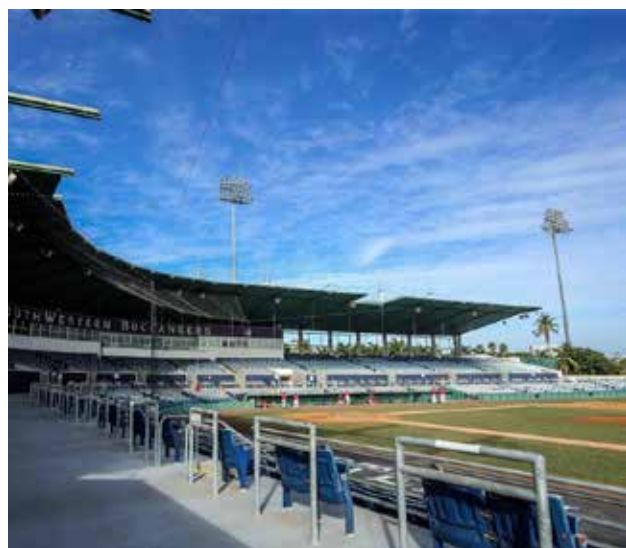
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*photos by Greg Wagner*