

## Victoria's Thomas took circuitous route to RHWS



Tom Giffen Photo

Eric Thomas (left) started playing baseball at 42 after being a boom-operator on KC135 tankers; Jim Swanson has bathed in baseball all his life. They are playing together on the Victoria Mussels this week.

### BY GLENN MILLER Roy Hobbs Baseball

Eric Thomas of the Victoria Mussels didn't arrive at the Roy Hobbs World Series through the usual route of many participants.

He didn't start playing baseball until he was 42. Growing up in California as a youngster he participated in football, track and BMX racing. He wanted to race motorcycles in high school, but his mom forbade him from trying that sport.

No baseball. Not Little League or high school or college. He raced motorcycles for a while as an Air Force enlisted man who served as

a boom operator on Boeing KC-135 Stratotankers and KC-10 Extender tankers.

That's quite a contrast to his Mussels teammates and manager. They have deep baseball backgrounds. Catcher Jim Swanson, for example, is the managing partner of the Victoria (British Columbia) HarbourCats, a team in a collegiate summer league.

Mussels Manager John Schnaderbeck played collegiate baseball at Southern Illinois and is attending his 12<sup>th</sup> World Series.

"Basically, Jim owns the Victoria

see MUSSELS 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 5<sup>th</sup> pool game Wednesday and take Thursday off.

The 8 teams advancing to the Masters AAAA playoffs are: the Orlando Brewers, WinBerg Construction, Pittsburgh, Staten Island Bombers, Glory Days, HPK Oilers, CWC Baseball and Cangrejeros RD, which is a team moving from the general pool to AAAA, per Roy Hobbs discretionary rules of placing teams in divisions where they belong.

Harry Young Builders, Minnesota Bandits and Dayton Braves drop to the general pool and play Wednesday.

The AAAA Double-elimination Bracket will be announced Wednesday.

The remaining 47 teams will play Wednesday and take Thursday as an off day. One team – Nova Scotia Monarchs – drew the bye that goes to the 1-3 team that has given up the most runs and advances to A playoffs on Friday.

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 around 8 p.m. Thursday evening.

There will also be an A bracket and perhaps a B bracket, but final standings will dictate how that will play out.

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

■ Tom Giffen



# MUSSELS

*continued from page 1*

HarbourCats," said Schnaderbeck, wearing a Mussels uniform before a game. "This is the throwback uniform they use."

While Swanson and Schnaderbeck have played baseball since boyhood that is not the case with Thomas.

Thomas was a crewman in a plane flying between 400 mph and 500 mph when another plane streaking across the sky flies nearly to the tanker's tailfin to gas up.

Thomas flew hundreds of missions, including some in Desert Shield and Desert Storm and vividly recalls seeing Scud missiles firing up from the ground.

Thomas retired in 2005 and is still astounded at the technology of the planes and the skill of the pilots who make aerial re-fueling possible.

"It still amazes me," Thomas said before a game Monday at JetBlue Park.

He now teaches the skill of boom operating and remains in awe of aerial refueling 34 years after joining the Air Force.

"It never gets old to me," Thomas said of serving in an airborne tanker flying more than 20,000 feet high. "It always excites me."

An Air Force friend got him started on baseball in 2003. The friend invited Thomas over and they went for a ride on a cold

New Jersey winter evening.

"So, we go to this warehouse and I'm looking at him like, 'what's going on here?'" Thomas said.

The warehouse was an indoor batting facility.

"And the rest is history," Thomas said. "I've been playing baseball ever since."

At first, though, he had to make an adjustment that many Roy Hobbs players have likely had to make. Thomas had played slow-pitch softball in the Air Force.

Did he have a big, looping softball swing?

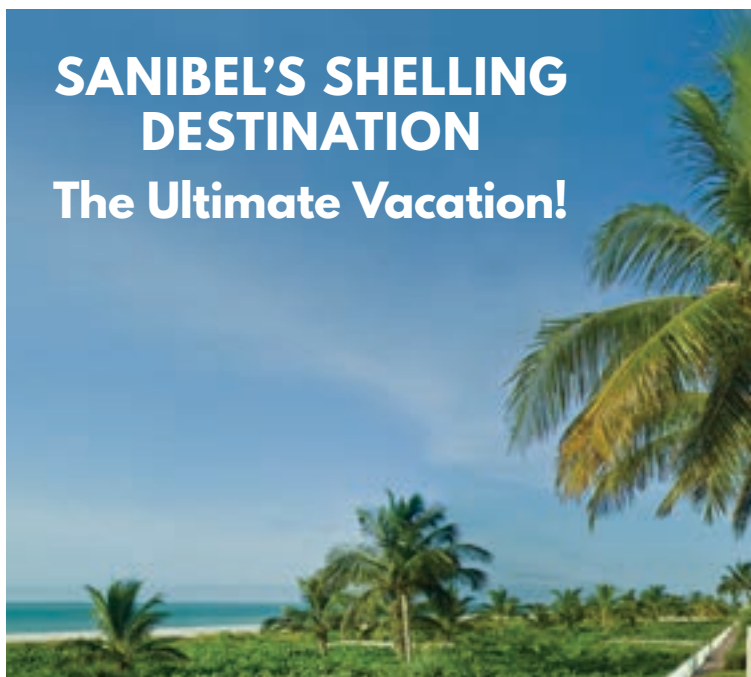
"Exactly," Thomas said. "So, for my first couple of seasons I did a lot of bunting. Got pretty good at bunting because I could use my speed."

Thomas wishes now he had started playing baseball before he was 42.

"I wish I had played when I was a kid," Thomas said.



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## NOTEBOOK

### New Location For The Pairings Parties!

Our weekly Thursday night Pairings Parties are now being held at our Headquarters at PDC in the open area beside our building.

All players and their wives, girlfriends or significant others are encouraged to attend. Door prizes, special 50/50 raffle, corn hole competitions, snacks and a cash bar for beer and wine will be available.

A shout out to Sidelines Sports Grille for catering this event and providing the alcoholic beverages for your enjoyment.

The evening gets started around 5:30 and wraps up with the announcement of Friday's pairings.

Join us for the fun and baseball fellowship!



### 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.



*see NOTEBOOK on page 6*





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## SCHEDULE



*Washington All-Stars center fielder makes an outstanding catch of a short fly ball vs. the Canton Tigers*

*Photo By: Greg Wagner*

### Flip For Home Team

#### 10:00 AM

Huntsville Havoc VS Victoria Mussels JB-S  
Harry Young Builders VS NW Indiana Dogs JB3  
Chicago Giants VS Washington All-Stars JB4  
Kodak Reds VS Tallahassee Bombers JB5  
Maine Indians VS MaxBat JB6  
Tennessee Dirtbags VS Orlando Braves PDC1  
Jet Box VS Crystal Clinic Indians PDC2  
Minnesota Bandits VS Chicago Colts PDC3  
Dayton Wolves VS Kent Mudhens PDC4  
Kenmore Orioles VS Ukraine Masters PDC5  
Midwest Pirates VS St. Paul Senators TP-S

Winnepesaukee Muskrats VS Baltimore Astros TP2  
Canton Tigers VS Carolina Thunder TP3  
New England Indians VS Chesapeake Redwings TP4

#### 1:30 PM

Oakville Golden A's VS Tidewater Drillers JB-S  
Ft. Myers Brewers VS Jersey Shore Baseball JB3  
Bellacino's Red Sox VS PSOF Rangers JB4  
Cincinnati Colt .45s VS Ft. Myers Hooter's Blues JB5  
Chicago Knights VS New Jersey Thunder JB6  
Minneapolis Millers VS Windy City Warriors TP-S  
Baltimore Thunder VS Lansing Blue Jays TP2  
DuPage Indians VS Lake Erie Blue Jays TP3  
Chicago North Redhawks VS Doc Ford's Sea Dogs TP4



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## RESULTS

### Tuesday

Baltimore Astros – 26, Nova Scotia Monarchs - 1  
 Baltimore Astros - 13, Bellacino's Red Sox – 2  
 Baltimore Thunder – 15, St. Paul Senators - 8  
 Cangrejeros RD - 7, Chicago Knights – 1  
 Carolina Thunder – 17, New England Indians - 11  
 Chesapeake Redwings - 11, Ukraine Masters – 8  
 Chicago Giants – 12, Baltimore Thunder - 2  
 Cincinnati Colt .45s - 5, Kodak Reds - 17  
 CWC Baseball Club - 16, Dayton Wolves - 6  
 DuPage Indians - 16, Cincinnati Colt .45s – 4  
 Ft. Myers Brewers - 18, Victoria Mussels - 6  
 HPK Oilers - 11, Glory Days - 9  
 Kent Mudhens - 14 Tallahassee Bombers – 4  
 Lake Erie Blue Jays - 7, Chicago Colts - 0  
 Lake Erie Blue Jays – 14, Ukraine Masters - 4  
 Lansing Blue Jays – 19, PSOF Rangers - 7  
 Maine Indians - 16, Orlando Braves - 4  
 Maine Indians – 18, Kenmore Orioles – 3  
 MaxBat – 19, Jersey Shore Baseball - 9  
 Midwest Pirates - 11, DuPage Indians - 4  
 Minneapolis Millers - 10, Chicago North Redhawks - 4  
 Minneapolis Millers – 12, New Jersey Thunder - 2  
 New England Indians – 18, Bellacino's Red Sox - 1  
 NW Indiana Dogs - 12, Jet Box - 7  
 Oakville Golden A's – 9, Ft. Myers Hooter's Blues - 5  
 Orlando Brewers – 17, Harry Young Builders - 16  
 Pittsburgh 45s – 5, Minnesota Bandits - 3  
 St. Paul Senators – 8, PSOF Rangers - 7  
 Tennessee Dirtbags – 4, Chicago North Redhawks - 2



*Photo By: Greg Wagner*  
 Minnesota Bandits 2nd baseman about to tag out a CWC Baseball Club batter trying to stretch a single into a double

Tidewater Drillers - 15, Crystal Clinic Indians - 3  
 Washington All-Stars – 8, Canton Tigers – 3  
 WinBerg Construction BBC - 13, Staten Island Bombers - 5  
 Windy City Warriors - 17, Huntsville Havoc - 11  
 Windy City Warriors – 10, Crystal Clinic Indians - 7  
 Winnepesaukee Muskrats - 17, Kent Mudhens - 9  
 Chicago Colts -14 , Doc Ford's Sea Dogs - 7



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## STANDINGS

AAAA Team	Win	Loss	PCT	RA					
1 WinBerg Construction BBC	4	0	1.000	24	New England Indians	2	2	0.500	31
2 Orlando Brewers	4	0	1.000	29	DuPage Indians	2	2	0.500	32
3 Pittsburgh 45s	3	1	0.750	26	Baltimore Thunder	2	2	0.500	34
4 CWC Baseball Club	2	2	0.500	23	Chicago Giants	2	2	0.500	34
5 Glory Days	2	2	0.500	33	Chicago Colts	2	2	0.500	37
6 Staten Island Bombers	2	2	0.500	34	Carolina Thunder	2	2	0.500	39
7 HPK Oilers	2	2	0.500	37	Lake Erie Blue Jays	2	2	0.500	39
8 Cangrejeros RD	4	0	1.000	6	Chesapeake Redwings	2	2	0.500	43
					Lansing Blue Jays	2	2	0.500	47
					Washington All Stars	2	2	0.500	54
Team	Win	Loss	PCT	RA					
Maine Indians	4	0	1.000	12	Chicago North Redhawks	1	3	0.250	24
MaxBat	4	0	1.000	30	Jet Box	1	3	0.250	34
NW Indiana Dogs	4	0	1.000	32	Kodak Reds	1	3	0.250	34
Chicago Knights	3	1	0.750	14	Tallahassee Bombers	1	3	0.250	38
Tennessee Dirtbags	3	1	0.750	14	Bellacino's Red Sox	1	3	0.250	45
Midwest Pirates	3	1	0.750	15	Ukraine Masters	1	3	0.250	46
Oakville Golden A's	3	1	0.750	18	Crystal Clinic Indians	1	3	0.250	47
Minneapolis Millers	3	1	0.750	20	Kent Mudhens	1	3	0.250	52
Fort Myers Brewers	3	1	0.750	22	Doc Ford's Sea Dogs	1	3	0.250	54
Winnipesaaukee Muskrats	3	1	0.750	25	*Harry Young Builders	1	3	0.250	58
Baltimore Astros	3	1	0.750	26	PSOF Rangers	1	3	0.250	59
Windy City Warriors	3	1	0.750	28	Nova Scotia Monarchs	1	3	0.250	65
Jersey Shore Baseball	3	1	0.750	30	*Minnesota Bandits	0	4	0.000	30
Tidewater Drillers	3	1	0.750	30	Fort Myers Hooter's Blues	0	4	0.000	40
Orlando Braves	3	1	0.750	39	*Dayton Wolves	0	4	0.000	48
New Jersey Thunder	3	1	0.750	41	Victoria Mussels	0	4	0.000	51
St. Paul Senators	3	1	0.750	44	Huntsville Havoc	0	4	0.000	54
Canton Tigers	2	2	0.500	30	Kenmore Orioles	0	4	0.000	57
					Cincinnati Colt .45s	0	4	0.000	58



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# NOTEBOOK

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## 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rg@royhobbs.com) by 7 p.m. the night before their playoffs begin



*Chesapeake  
Red Wings  
leadoff hitter  
takes a mighty  
hack against  
the Ukraine  
team*



Photo By:  
Greg Wagner

## 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.



## 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.

see NOTEBOOK on page 7

The Enterprise Way

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# NOTEBOOK

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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.



## Game Highlights

### Sunday

Maine Indians 4, Ft Myers Hooters Blues 3 – JB-5  
Indians: BATTING: J. Howland 4/5, 2 2B, RBI, R; J. Hoyt, P. Geanellis, J Griffin 2 H

Glory Days 14, Harry Young Builders 8 – PDC-2  
Builders: PITCHING: Oehlers 3 IP, 0 ER; Durham 2 IP, 0 R; BATTING: Knapp 2/4, 3B; Gray 2/4, 2 RBI; Mills 2/4, RBI; Kornaciewzski 2/4; Konczal 2/4; Durham 2/5

Oakville Golden A's 8, Kenmore Orioles 6 – TP-2  
A's: PITCHING: T. Lessard 2 IP, 1 ER, W; G. Macdonald SV; BATTING: G. Flinnerty 2 RBI; M. Rocheleau 2 RBI

### Monday

Winnepesaukee Muskrats 10, Cincinnati Colt 45s 0 – TP-2  
Muskrats: PITCHING: R. Hatcher 7 IP, 0 R, 2 K, 0 BB, 5 H; BATTING: B. Ricci, M. Smith, R. Serrano 2 H; G. Curtis, J. Guerra, J. Mauk 2 RBI

Oakville Golden A's 6, Windy City Warriors 1 – PDC-5  
A's: PITCHING C. Newman CG, 5H, 1ER; BATTING: D. Nikolakaos 2 RBI; D. Berlin 2 RBI

Maine Indians 6, Oakville Golden A's 2 – PDC-2  
A's: PITCHING A. Schiralli 3 IP, 0 R, 4 K; BATTING: S. Pepi 1 RBI; M. Snider 1 RBI



Photo By: Greg Wagner  
Chesapeake Red Wings 3rd baseman takes a late throw vs. the Ukraine team

To view your Roy Hobbs photos go to:  
[www.wagnerphotography.com](http://www.wagnerphotography.com)



Chesapeake  
Red Wings  
runner leads  
off of 1st base  
vs. the  
Ukraine Masters.

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



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

### Gary Yordan, Tallahassee Bombers:

The year was 1981 and Bill Dillon was a 22-year-old first baseman being scouted by the Detroit Tigers. He arrested and sentenced to life in prison for a murder he didn't commit. Twenty-seven years later DNA evidence proved he could not have committed the crime and it led to the actual murderer. Bill was released in 2008 with a full pardon.

Now 49 years old, we thought it was time Bill realized his dream of one day putting on a uniform and stepping up to the plate. So we asked him to join The Tallahassee Bombers at the 2009 Roy Hobbs Tournament.

National news cameras were there to record Bill walking up to home plate and seeing a pitch for the first time in 27 years. The pitch he thought he would never get to see. Bill hit a ground ball to short and was so overcome with emotion he could barely make it to first base. It was the first time in his life he could be around a group of men he could trust.

Roy Hobbs is all about making dreams come true. That was never truer than the day Bill Dillon stepped up to the plate.



Photo courtesy of: Gary Yordan  
Bill Dillon (left) and Gary Yordan



**Bart Leathers, Tennessee Dirtbags:** The World Series has given me the opportunity to meet great people nationwide. Many have become good friends. The chance to compete on fabulous fields against talented players cannot be missed. Mostly, though, the time spent with teammates in the dugout or locker room has created bonds that will last a lifetime. And all this occurs through the administration of Roy Hobbs baseball. These relationships continue even after each tournament is over. While the common bond is baseball, the relationships keep me coming back. It is one of the anchor points of my life. I start looking forward to the next tournament the day the last one finishes.

**Brian Mullen, Roy Hobbs Staff:** In early September 1994, I was finishing up my summer of working on the night stat crew at Howe Sportsdata International in Boston when I received a call from Bill MacKay, who at the time was the Boston Red Sox Florida Operations Director. He explained that a two-week tournament was going to be held at the Red Sox spring training home, City of Palms Stadium, as well as other sites around the Fort Myers area, and they were looking for someone to do statistics in addition to other duties. When I arrived in Florida, I met with Roy Hobbs President Tom Giffen and he hired me as a statistician and field manager. My first game was a contest between a team from Italy and the Kodak Reds, from Tennessee. All these years later, the Kodak Reds still attend the series. The 2018 Roy Hobbs World Series is my 25th. I look forward to it each year as an end to my baseball season and beginning of my Hobbs Season. I have been lucky to meet and become friends with a diverse group of people from all over the world that come together every year in October and November for the same thing, a love of baseball.

**Christopher Poli, Bergen Yankees:** I come to the RHWS (10 years now) for many reasons. But mostly, I come to the Roy Hobbs World Series because it makes me feel like a kid again – where else can you play ball, celebrate/comiserate with friends over the results, grab a meal together and do the same thing tomorrow and the day after ... for a couple of weeks in a row – if you are lucky! When I think about the Roy Hobbs World Series, a quote from the movie "The Rookie" comes to mind: "You know what we get to do today Brooksie? We get to play BASEBALL!"

**Luis Sierra, Umpire:** I've been coming down to the Roy Hobbs World Series since 2002. I always love to finish my college and summer ball season in Fort Myers working this Tournament. I've made lots of friends with umpires and players and I always look forward to coming down and being with my Roy Hobbs family and friends. Thank you for all the good memories and the new ones to come.