



— THE — **INSIDE PITCH**

WEEK 5

VINTAGE and
FOREVER YOUNG
DIVISIONS

NOV. 19th

‘My hero’: Hobbs players feel connection to Roberto Clemente

BY GLENN MILLER

Roy Hobbs Baseball

They patrol the same right field at Terry Park that Roberto Clemente patrolled for 14 years.

They step into the same Terry Park batter’s box where Clemente lashed and slashed line drives for 14 years.

They run the same Terry Park base paths that Clemente once scampered along with regal elegance.

Mention Clemente to Bob Sauer of Toledo McGuire Insurance and he has a simple two-word response,

“My hero,” Sauer said.

Of the 90 or so Hall of Famers who played at Terry Park, Clemente likely spent more time and played more games there than any of them.

He was a 20-year-old rookie with the Pirates in 1955, their first year training in Fort Myers. The Pirates remained in Fort Myers through 1968, which means the bulk of The Great One’s spring home games were played where Roy Hobbs has played since 1993. The Pirates have trained in Bradenton since 1969.

Sauer grew up in Pittsburgh and attended Pirates’ games at Forbes Field as a boy.

He can still see in his head a play Clemente made when Billy Williams of the Chicago Cubs cracked a shot off the right-field wall.

“Clemente picked it up and threw him out at second base,” Sauer said.

Forbes Field is gone but Terry Park remains and men such as Henry Esparza of the San Antonio Texans play where Clemente played. When he positions himself in right Esparza realizes a man who won a record 12 (tied with Willie Mays) Gold Gloves for outfield defensive excellence once stood in the same spot.

“I thank the baseball gods,” Esparza said,

see CLEMENTE on page 2



photo by Meg Giffen

Bob Sauer and Joe Monari of Toledo McGuire Ins. soak in the sun at Terry Park on Wednesday. Sauer called baseball legend Roberto Clemente “my hero.” Clemente played spring training games at Terry Park with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

CLEMENTE

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Clemente broke into the majors two years before the Gold Glove award was instituted in 1957. If the award had been around in 1955 and 1956, he may have earned 14.

Now, Henry Esparza, a political science professor at the University of Texas-San Antonio, plays in the same place Clemente played. Esparza is aware dozens of other Hall of Famers played in Terry Park.

"It's a little intimidating," Esparza said.

One of the four fields at Terry Park is named for Clemente, who was also a humanitarian. He died in a 1972 plane crash attempting to deliver supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua.

"A better person than he was a ballplayer," Esparza said.

Clemente, who died at 38, was one of the greatest players of all time so to be a better man than player is a testament to his character.

Esparza understands that playing where Clemente and other Hall of Famers played is a form of homage.

"We honor them," Esparza said.



photo by Meg Giffen
Henry Esparza of the San Antonio Texans said playing on the same field as Baseball Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente was a little intimidating.

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RESULTS

Vintage Results

- Washington Titans 18, Midwest Nine 10
- Maine Woods 14, Tallahassee Classics 4
- Toledo McGuire Ins. 18, San Antonio Texans 3
- Youngstown Astros 16, Raynham Baseball Club 3
- Philadelphia Cutters 12, Lehigh Baseball 6
- Baltimore Baseball Club 16, Philadelphia Brewers 5
- Kenmore Eastern Brewers 9, Cecil's Margin Service 8
- Long Island Yankees 11, Minnesota Goats 8
- Massachusetts Chiefs 14, North Coast Nationals 4
- South Jersey Indians 18, Cincinnati Colt .45s 11
- Livingston Dodgers 11, Asheville Sox 2

Forever Young Results

- Tri-Cities Baseball 21, Maine Woods Baseball 1



photo by Greg Wagner
USA Volers Group 1st baseman Mel Thompson takes the easy throw ahead of a Minnesota Bees runner.

Maine Woods
65s shortstop Tom
Tasheacombs up
firing to first vs. the
Washington Titans.



photo by
Greg Wagner



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STANDINGS

Vintage 65+ Standings

Teams	Win	Loss	PCT	RA
Minnesota Bees	4	0	1.000	9
Long Island Yankees	4	0	1.000	23
Washington Titans	4	0	1.000	23
South Jersey Indians	4	0	1.000	30
Massachusetts Chiefs	3	1	.750	17
Orlando Freedom	3	1	.750	26
Youngstown Astros	3	1	.750	29
Maine Woods Baseball	3	1	.750	31
Philadelphia Brewers	3	1	.750	34
Kenmore Eastern Brewers	2	2	.500	35
Baltimore Baseball Club	2	2	.500	40
Raynham Baseball Club	2	2	.500	41
North Coast Nationals	2	2	.500	42
Cincinnati Colt .45s	2	2	.500	47
Midwest Nine	2	2	.500	49
Philadelphia Cutters	2	2	.500	51
Minnesota Goats	1	3	.250	32
Cecil's Margin Service	1	3	.250	38
Toledo McGuire Insurance	1	3	.250	41
San Antonio Texans	1	3	.250	47
Livingston Dodgers	1	3	.250	48
Tallahassee Classics	0	4	.000	57
USA Volk's Group	0	4	.000	59
Lehigh Baseball	0	4	.000	65



photo by Greg Wagner
Maine Woods 75s 2nd baseman Ted Pierce throws to 1st to record the out against Tri-City Baseball.



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THURSDAY SCHEDULE

Vintage Schedule

(All games flip coin for home)

10:00

- Minnesota Bees (vs) Washington Titans, JB3
- Long Island Yankees (vs) South Jersey Indians, JB4
- Philadelphia Brewers (vs) Massachusetts Chiefs, JB5
- Orlando Freedom (vs) Kenmore Eastern Brewers, CP-S
- Youngstown Astros (vs) Maine Woods Baseball, PDC4
- Raynham Baseball Club (vs) North Coast Nationals, PDC5

1:30

- Cincinnati Colt .45s (vs) Midwest Nine, JB3
- Baltimore Baseball Club (vs) Philadelphia Cutters, JB5
- Minnesota Goats (vs) San Antonio Texans, PDC4
- Toledo McGuire Ins. (vs) Cecil's Margin Service, PDC5
- Livingston Dodgers (vs) Lehigh Baseball, TP-S
- Tallahassee Classics (vs) USA Volkens Group, TP2

Forever Young Schedule

10:00

- New England Red Sox (vs) Maine Woods Baseball, PDC3
- Iron Man Maiden Padres (vs) Tri-Cities Baseball, PDC2

1:30

- National Spirit (vs) New England Red Sox, PDC3



*photo by Greg Wagner
Maine Woods 75s Gus Manning rips one against Tri-Cities Baseball.*



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NOTEBOOK

Welcome to RHWS 2020, COVID-19 Style

Welcome to 2020 Roy Hobbs World Series. We are glad you are here, but as you can see, this is a new day, a different day.

Our goal here at Roy Hobbs is for you to have a great time and to be safe here at this tournament.

With that in mind, here are some things we expect and are doing:

1. All participants and patrons must show proof of a mask in their possession and get their temperature taken before entering any of the complexes we are using.
2. Players must have their player ID card in order to enter.
3. Wearing masks is not mandated inside the complexes; however, it is required if social distancing – 3-4 feet outside – is not possible. Specific sites for **REQUIRED** masks will be stands, outside batting cages, the Pro Shop and offices.
4. We are providing game participants bottled water in the dugouts; please recycle.
5. Headquarters offices are outside the clubhouse on the lanai area; all are welcome. All meetings will be held outside.
6. Our CV19 protocols are on pages 9-15 of your event program and available at royhobbs.com.

End of the day, we want everyone to be safe, to be able to return home safely and whole.

Please remember, know the risks, avoid risks and practice **individual social responsibility**.



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 8th and 9th innings) qualify for the playoffs by pitching at least 2 innings – 6 outs or 10 hitters – during first 4 games.

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 Monday/Tuesday to return on Thursday/Friday **MUST** turn in their player ID Card and re-check-in 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 Rob Giffen rg@royhobbs.com the night before their playoffs begin.



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.

see NOTEBOOK on page 7

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



Visit the RHWS Pro Shop to see this print.
Or visit Wagner's photo art website:
www.wagnerphotography.me

A huge thank you to all players and staff for making the 2020 RHWS a giant success! See you in 2021!

NOTEBOOK

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Revenues from the 2019 RHWS led to some \$15,000 in contributions to MD Anderson Cancer Center, St. Jude Hospital in Memphis and to Southern Florida Challenger Athletes.



Results corrections

Please check the posted results and standings EVERY DAY.

Managers should contact Rob at the Tournament Headquarters (rg@royhobbs.com or text 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.



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 water before and during the games; don't just wait until the game is starting. 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. If they are not readily available, the person in concessions can contact them.

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. While we are allowing personal coolers this year, pitchers need to plan for ice for their arms and supply it.



Admission, \$1 a game

Admission continues at the Roy Hobbs World Series.

Admission is \$1 per game or \$5 for a tournament pass. Players will use their player ID card that guarantees them ac-

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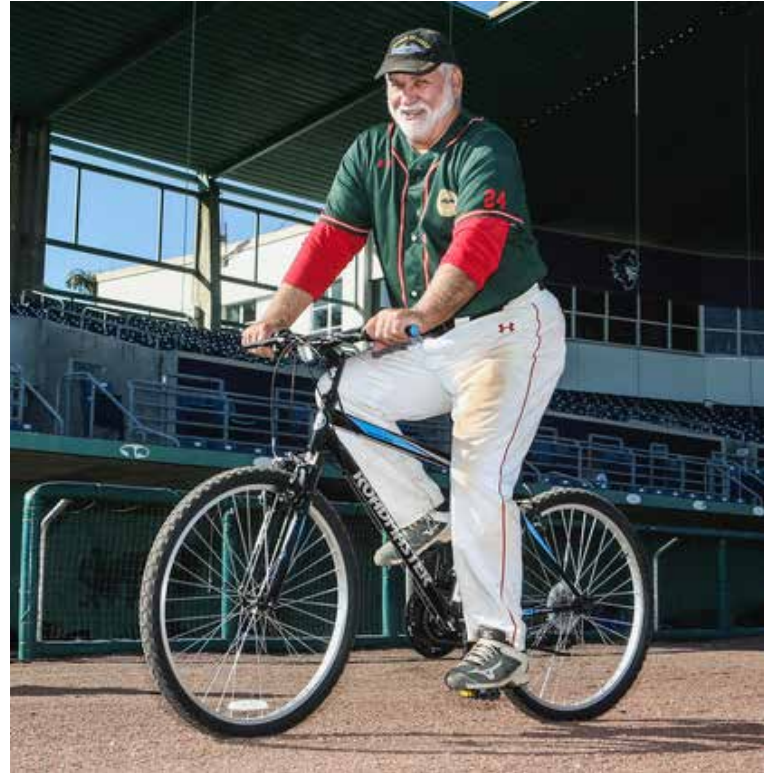


photo by Greg Wagner
Maine Woods 75s Joe Knazek goes through a unique warmup routine before the game against TriCities Baseball.

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NOTEBOOK

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cess to all sites whether they are playing or not. Non-player spectators will pay \$1 for entrance into each complex and are good for all sites for one day.

The \$5 tournament pass is available at RH Headquarters (PDC). There is no family pass, everyone 12 and up needs to have a pass. The tournament pass is a plastic card that guarantees admission for that person for the duration of the RHWS. A loop comes with the tournament pass card for easy attachment to purses, belt loops, etc.



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.

These individuals will have a view of the parking lot, and they will be available in emergencies, be enforcing our pandemic protocols and handling admissions.



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 as well.



Tri-Cities Baseball honors America prior to the game against the Maine Woods 75s.

photo by Greg Wagner

HIGHLIGHTS

Cincinnati Colt .45s 15, Asheville Sox 10: (Sox) Hitting: Tony Whitehurst 3-55, 2RBI; Dick Fusco 2-4; Al Edmiston 2-4, RBI, 3R; Mike Cory 2-5, RBI; Rick Peszko 2-2, 2R; Jin Zitney 1-2, 2BB, 1R; Ronnie Alexander 1-3, 1RBI.

Youngstown Astros 16, Raynham Baseball Club 2: (Astros) Hitting: Dave Fairman 4H.

National Spirit 12, Maine Woods 11: (Spirit) Hitting: Jorge Fuentes 3-4; Jeff Blatt 2-3; Bernie Pekala 2-4. Pitching: Doc Pekala 7IP.

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