

Baseball biker: Knazek wheels way around World Series



photo by Greg Wagner

This year's Roy Hobbs World Series team photo of the Maine Woods 75s included Joe Knazek's bicycle.

GLENN MILLER Roy Hobbs Baseball

Every Roy Hobbs player, manager, staff member and fan this week has likely noticed a fellow pedaling a bicycle at ballparks.

He has a name - Joe Knazek. He plays for the Maine Woods 75s. A photo of Knazek and his bicycle in City of Palms Park was on Page 7 of Thursday's Inside Pitch.

"At least I can show my wife I was here," Knazek said Thursday at the PDC before a game. "She didn't believe me." Knazek was joking about his wife back in Medford, N.J. not believing he was playing baseball.

When Knazek arrived in Fort Myers in his Prius he didn't have a bicycle. He typically rides five miles a day back home. He wanted to continue cycling while at the Roy Hobbs World Series and purchased a Roadmaster mountain bike at a Wal-Wart for \$95.

What kind of bike does he ride at home?

"A bike on two wheels," Knazek said.

Knazek isn't one of those hard-core cyclists who spends thousands on a fancy bike and even more on cycling togs.

What about that New Jersey bike he rides? What brand is it?

"You know what, I don't know," said Knazek, an Army vet who served a tour in Vietnam in the mid-1960s and later taught history and civics for 40 years in New Jersey. "I'm not going to buy one of those thousand-dollar bikes and all that clothing,"

see BASEBALL BIKER on page 2

ROY HOBBS WORLD SERIES 32

BASEBALL BIKER

So, no black cycling shorts and jerseys that look as if they belong in the Tour de France.

"That's crazy," Knazek said. "You see me, I got my holey pants on."

That is holey as in pants with holes and not holy as in a sacred religious object.

Knazek turned 75 in August and after playing in the 65s and 70s this is his first World Series in the 75s.

He believes pedaling his Roadmaster around the PDC or JetBlue or Terry Park serves a useful function.

"It's a good way for me to loosen up my legs," Knazek said.

He transports the bike in his Prius by folding the seats down.

"It's a small car," Knazek said. "But it fits. It fits perfectly." He believes the cycling he does in New Jersey and in Florida helps prepare him for baseball.

"It helps keep the legs going," Knazek said, "It's something I look forward to. If you miss you get depressed."

When the Maine Woods 75s posed for their team photo, Knazek's bicycle was in the photo.

Roy Hobbs photographer Greg Wagner said it was the first time in 35 years of taking team photos that he included a bicycle.



photo by Meg Giffen

Joe Knazek of the Maine Woods 75s sits next to the bicycle he purchased when he got to the World Series. He rides the bike around the different complexes to keep his legs loose.







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RESULTS

Vintage Division

Minnesota Bees 14, Washington Titans 4 South Jersey Indians 12, Long Island Yankees 2 Massachusetts Chiefs 19, Philadelphia Brewers 11 Orlando Freedom 8, Kenmore Eastern Brewers 2 Youngstown Astros 16, Maine Woods Baseball 10 Raynham Baseball Club 20, North Coast Nationals 6

1:45

Cincinnati Colt .45s 14, Midwest Nine 12 Baltimore Baseball Club 14, Philadelphia Cutters 11 San Antonio Texans 9, Minnesota Goats 6 Toledo McGuire Ins. 17, Cecil's Margin Service 9 Livingston Dodgers 15, Lehigh Baseball 3 USA Volkers Goup 8, Tallahassee Classics 6

Forever Young Division

Tri-Cities Baseball 21, Maine Woods Baseball 1 Maine Woods Baseball 11, New England Red Sox 10 Tri-Cities Baseball 10, Iron Man Maiden Padres 9

1:30

National Spirit 13, New England Red Sox 4



photo by Greg Wagner A study in contrast. Maine Woods 65s runner Louis Cirineo and Youngstown Astros 1st baseman Dave Fairman.



VISIT THE **ROY HOBBS GEAR** STAND AT THE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX



STANDINGS

Vintage Standings

| AAAA Division | Win | Loss | РСТ | RA RA4 |
|-----------------------|-----|------|-------|--------|
| Minnesota Bees | 5 | 0 | 1.000 | 13 9 |
| South Jersey Indians | 5 | 0 | 1.000 | 32 21 |
| Orlando Freedom | 4 | 1 | .800 | 28 11 |
| Massachusetts Chiefs | 4 | 1 | .800 | 28 17 |
| Long Island Yankees | 4 | 1 | .800 | 35 23 |
| Washington Titans | 4 | 1 | .800 | 37 23 |
| Youngstown Astros | 4 | 1 | .800 | 39 26 |
| Raynham Baseball Club | 3 | 2 | .600 | 47 31 |

Notes: 8 teams, single elimination; teams retain seeds but matchups adjust to avoid rematches from games already played this week, i.e, Bees played Titans, Astros & Raynham this week.

| AAA Division | Win | Loss | РСТ | RA RA4 |
|--------------------------|-----|------|------|--------|
| Maine Woods Baseball | 3 | 2 | .600 | 47 31 |
| Baltimore Baseball Club | 3 | 2 | .600 | 51 32 |
| Philadelphia Brewers | 3 | 2 | .600 | 53 34 |
| Cincinnati Colt .45s | 3 | 2 | .600 | 59 41 |
| Kenmore Eastern Brewers | 2 | 3 | .400 | 43 29 |
| Livingston Dodgers | 2 | 3 | .400 | 51 34 |
| San Antonio Texans | 2 | 3 | .400 | 53 35 |
| Toledo McGuire Insurance | 2 | 3 | .400 | 50 36 |

Notes: 8 teams, single elimination; teams retain seeds but matchups adjust to avoid rematches from games already played this week, i.e, Brewers vs. Dodgers.

| AA Division | Win | Loss | РСТ | RA | RA4 |
|------------------------|-----|------|-------|----|-----|
| North Coast Nationals | 2 | 3 | .400 | 62 | 42 |
| Midwest Nine | 2 | 3 | .400 | 63 | 45 |
| Philadelphia Cutters | 2 | 3 | .400 | 65 | 46 |
| Minnesota Goats | 1 | 4 | .200 | 41 | 30 |
| Cecil's Margin Service | 1 | 4 | .200 | 55 | 38 |
| USA Volkers Group | 1 | 4 | .200 | 65 | 45 |
| Tallahassee Classics | 0 | 5 | 0.000 | 65 | 47 |
| Lehigh Baseball | 0 | 5 | 0.000 | 80 | 58 |

Notes: 8 teams, single elimination; teams retain seeds but matchups adjust to avoid rematches from games already played this week, i.e, Cutters vs. Volkers. AA Division added, so we will have to ship Gold & Silver medals to those teams.



photo by Greg Wagner Youngstown Astros Ed Derrick steals 2nd as Maine Woods 2nd baseman Stan Lederman takes the late throw.





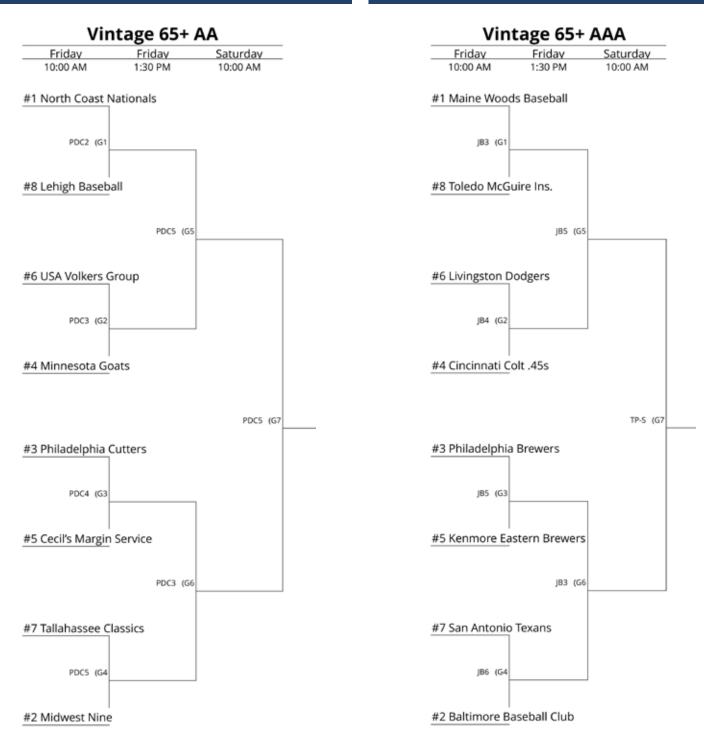


VINTAGE AAA BRACKET

20

5

VINTAGE AA BRACKET



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VINTAGE AAA BRACKET

20

FOREVER YOUNG BRACKET



.45s Tom Huetter on the mound vs. the Midwest Nine.

Cincinnati Colt

photo by Greg Wagner

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 as 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.
- 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.

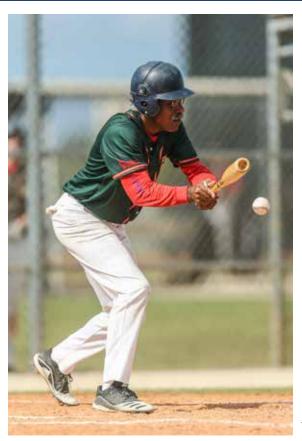
see NOTEBOOK on page 8

To view your Roy Hobbs photos go to: WWW.Wagnerphotography.com



Wright Field Reds catcher warms up his pitcher.

Get your team signed up for a photo plan this week. Call Greg at 239-898-8677 asap.



Maine Woods 65s Gad Holland lays down a bunt but the ball rolled foul.

photo by Greg Wagner



NOTEBOOK

continued from page 7

- 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**.



photo by Greg Wagner Cincinnati Colt .45s catcher Mike "Mad Dog" Day runs back to his position after a brief time out.



ROY HOBBS WORLD SERIES 32

photo by Greg Wagner Baltimore Baseball Club shortstop Ralph Leasure forces Philadelphia Cutters Bob Rausch and completes a double play as Ferris Allen watches.



Maine Woods 65s Dennis Fischer is safe at home as Youngstown Astros pitcher Don Christian applies a late tag.

photo by Greg Wagner