



—THE— INSIDE PITCH

WEEK 5
VINTAGE
FOREVER YOUNG
DIVISIONS
NOV. 17th

'Miracle on the Mound' taps emotions

BY GLENN MILLER

Roy Hobbs Baseball

Hal Young of the Sacramento Solons doesn't remember the last pitch he threw, one that could have been his last moment on Earth.

"He was dead a week ago," Solons catcher Jeff Hetherington said.

Young doesn't recall falling off the mound Nov. 10 in a game at CenturyLink No. 4 against the Baltimore Baseball Club with two outs in the top of the fourth inning of a 10 a.m. game. He doesn't recall teammates rushing to his side or a retired paramedic from another field coming to his aid or hearing bleak news about chances for survival.

Now, about a mile away from where he tumbled off a mound, in Room 5202 at Gulf Coast Medical Center, the 73-year-old pitcher is recovering and alert.

He doesn't recall the ambulance ride or paddles being placed on his chest to jolt a heartbeat back or the worried looks on teammates or calls to his seven children, six of whom were on a cruise. He doesn't recall that a pulse was detected on the mound.

What about the thunderbolt from a defibrillator that a teammate said lifted him completely off the ground?

Or being placed on a gurney and the ambulance ride?

Or a medical procedure called therapeutic hypothermia being used to lower his body temperature in the hospital?

Or that, as teammate Lanny Ropke said, he was turning blue on the green grass and brown dirt of CenturyLink? Or that a teammate recalls the ambulance shaking as EMTs frantically worked to save Hal Young?

"I don't remember anything," Young said Tuesday morning as he sat up in bed.

Now, his sternum is sore from where



Hal Young with Sacramento baseball colleagues Gordy Olson (L) and Pat Kelly

teammates and paramedics repeatedly compressed his chest to kick-start his heart.

A shiny white baseball signed by all the Solons sat a few inches away. Teammates Pat Kelly and Joe Soto sat with their backs to a window chatting with their pitcher, a few feet to Young's left. To his right his son Jake stood and videotaped the meeting with a cellphone. His children Lea and Greg were on their way.

The transformation from near death

to sitting up in bed and alert has been dubbed "The Miracle on the Mound" by Diana Ropke, wife of Ropke,

The Miracle required many hands and many prayers. There were the teammates and the players from other teams and the quick EMT response and trip to Gulf Coast Medical Center, which is only 1.4 miles away from CenturyLink. Then came the medical professionals at the nearby hospital, which requires only a

see MIRACLE on page 2



MIRACLE

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four-minute journey according to Google Maps.

Teammate and opposing players and those from other teams prayed.

"We weren't going to give up on our teammate and friend," Hetherington said. "He wasn't going to give up."

But it looked bleak. Ropke said doctors told them there was nothing they could do. Yet, Young pulled through and now Ropke says each day his friend is getting better.

Young had struck out the first two batters in the top of the fourth with his team leading 8-4. Hetherington had thrown the ball down to third to start the around-the-horn ritual when Young keeled over. He didn't brace himself. Hetherington sprinted to the mound and yelled for somebody to call 9-1-1.

Hetherington could not find a pulse in his friend. A retired paramedic from Chicago named Jeff Purtell was playing on another field and hustled over to help.

Hetherington reached out to Young's family to let them know. Jake Young asked Hetherington to represent the family at the hospital.

"Jeff was able to BS his way into the emergency room," Kelly said.

The game was suspended.

"There was no way on God's green Earth we could continue," Kelly said

What exactly happened to Young?

"They said I had cardiac arrest," Young said.

He said that before coming to Florida he knows there was a blood clot in a lung.

At first, a week ago signs of life were weak. Hetherington said an encouraging sign came when he asked Young if he knew who he was.

"You're my catcher," Young told Hetherington.

By Saturday, Young was sitting up in a chair and leading conversations, according to Hetherington.

Now, sitting in that bed, talking with family and friends, only days away from a duel with death, Young is looking ahead.

"My main goal is to get clearance to start conditioning," Young said.

The short-term memory is still shaky.

From his bed, Young asked, "Did I come into the game?"

He was told he started the game and pitched into the fourth inning.

What about returning to the field?

"I would love to see him play ball," Jake, 47, said.

But first things first.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. Christmas is a bit more than a month away. Then there are the 25 grandchildren. Baseball?

"We need him around for other things," Jake said.

Hal Young is around for those other things.

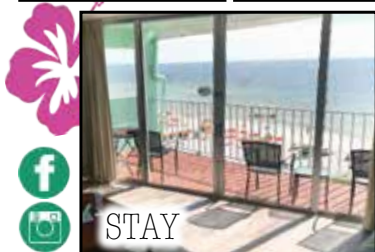
"He went someplace else," Hetherington said. "And he's back."

Back with his friends and teammates and children and grand-children...

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Maine Woods 75's pitcher Bob Fortier vs. the
New England Red Sox on a beautiful morning in SW Florida.



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VINTAGE / FOREVER YOUNG RESULTS

Tuesday's Vintage Games

Cincinnati Colt .45's 28, Philadelphia A's 6
 DC Mets 9, San Antonio Texans 8
 Huntsville Havoc 18, Tampa Sharks 6
 Kent Mudhens 21, Silver Foxes 5
 Livingston Dodgers 22, Tallahassee Classics 15
 Long Island Yankees 17, Rhode Island Rockies 4
 Minnesota Bandits 13, Kenmore Eastern Brewers 1
 Minnesota Bees 15, Maine Woods Baseball 0
 Nova Scotia Monarchs 15, Long Island Express 8
 Philadelphia Cutters 13, Midwest Nine 11
 Sacramento Buzzards 10, North Coast Nationals 1
 Sacramento Tribe 21, JD's Jaguars 3
 South Jersey Spikes 10, Baltimore Orioles 8
 St. Louis Chiefs 13, Bronx Cardinals 3
 Toledo McGuire Group 24, Carolina Rockies 14
 USA Volkers Group 12, Orlando Freedom 8
 Washington Titans 14, Philadelphia Brewers 1
 Youngstown Astros 4, Raynham Baseball Club 3

Tuesday's Forever Young Games

Avengers 11, Ironman Maiden 5
 Maine Woods Baseball 25, New England Red Sox 75's 3
 Minnesota Saints 75's 25, Toledo McGuire Group 2
 Sacramento Solons 9, South Dakota Rushmores 8
 Team America 75's 12, Wonderboys-Cardinals 5
 Tri-Cities 17, Kent Mudhens 75+ 7

*Kent MudHens
 75's catcher Gary
 McGee warms up
 the pitcher during
 the game vs.
 Tri-Cities*



*photo by
 Greg Wagner*



*photo by Greg Wagner
 I got it, I got it! Maine Woods 75s Bill Burgess 1st baseman vs. the
 New England Red Sox*



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VINTAGE / FOREVER YOUNG STANDINGS

Vintage Division

	W	L	PCT	RA
Minnesota Bees	3	0	1.000	1
Sacramento Tribe	3	0	1.000	10
Washington Titans	3	0	1.000	10
St. Louis Chiefs	3	0	1.000	15
DC Mets	3	0	1.000	27
Baltimore Orioles	2	1	0.667	15
South Jersey Spikes	2	1	0.667	16
Minnesota Bandits	2	1	0.667	17
Bronx Cardinals	2	1	0.667	18
Kent Mudhens	2	1	0.667	20
Sacramento Buzzards	2	1	0.667	22
Midwest 9	2	1	0.667	23
Youngstown Astros	2	1	0.667	24
Tallahassee Classics	2	1	0.667	28
Maine Woods Baseball	2	1	0.667	30
Toledo McGuire Group	2	1	0.667	34
Carolina Rockies	2	1	0.667	37
JD's Jaguars	2	1	0.667	38
Silver Foxes	2	1	0.667	38
Huntsville Havoc	1	2	0.333	24
San Antonio Texans	1	2	0.333	25
Raynham Baseball Club	1	2	0.333	28
Long Island Yankees	1	2	0.333	29
Long Island Express	1	2	0.333	30
Philadelphia Cutters	1	2	0.333	30
Philadelphia Brewers	1	2	0.333	32
USA Volkers Group	1	2	0.333	36
Nova Scotia Monarchs	1	2	0.333	37
Cincinnati Colt .45's	1	2	0.333	43
Livingston Dodgers	1	2	0.333	56
Orlando Freedom	0	3	0.000	25
North Coast Nationals	0	3	0.000	36
Tampa Sharks	0	3	0.000	40
Rhode Island Rockies	0	3	0.000	43
Kenmore Eastern Brewers	0	3	0.000	44
Philadelphia A's	0	3	0.000	54

Forever Young Division

	W	L	PCT	RA
Avengers	3	0	1.000	8
Minnesota Saints	3	0	1.000	9
Ironman Maiden	2	1	0.667	18
Sacramento Solons	2	1	0.667	19



photo by Greg Wagner
Kent MudHens 65s manager John Berger leading off of 1st base
vs. the Silver Foxes

South Dakota Rushmores	2	1	0.667	20
Tri-Cities	2	1	0.667	23
Team America	1	2	0.333	27
Maine Woods Baseball	1	2	0.333	41
Kent Mudhens	1	2	0.333	44
Toledo McGuire Group	1	2	0.333	48
Wonderboys-Cardinals	0	3	0.000	40
New England Red Sox	0	3	0.000	55



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VINTAGE / FOREVER YOUNG SCHEDULE

Wednesday Vintage Games

10 AM

Tallahassee Classics @ Toledo McGuire Group CLS
USA Volkers Group @ Baltimore Orioles JB4
Nova Scotia Monarchs @ DC Mets JBS
Carolina Rockies @ Sacramento Tribe PDC2
Sacramento Buzzards @ Kent Mudhens PDC3
Maine Woods Baseball @ South Jersey Spikes TP2
Midwest 9 @ Long Island Express TP4

1:45 PM

Raynham Baseball Club @ Minnesota Bandits CLS
Bronx Cardinals @ Washington Titans JB3
Philadelphia Brewers @ Orlando Freedom JB4
North Coast Nationals @ Cincinnati Colt .45's JB5
Silver Foxes @ St. Louis Chiefs JB6
JD's Jaguars @ Long Island Yankees JBS
San Antonio Texans @ Youngstown Astros PDC2
Rhode Island Rockies @ Kenmore Eastern Brewers PDC4

Philadelphia A's @ Huntsville Havoc PDC5
Philadelphia Cutters @ Livingston Dodgers TP2
Tampa Sharks @ Minnesota Bees TPS

Wednesday Forever Young Games

10 AM

New England Red Sox 75's @ Avengers JB3
South Dakota Rushmores @ Minnesota Saints 75's JB5
Toledo McGuire Group @ Team America 75's JB6
Wonderboys-Cardinals @ Sacramento Solons PDC4
Ironman Maiden @ Tri-Cities PDC5
Kent Mudhens 75+ @ Maine Woods Baseball TPS

1:45 PM (flip a coin for home team)

Avengers vs. Minnesota Saints JB1
New England Red Sox vs. Wonderboy-Cardinals JB2
Ironman maidens vs. Sacramento Solons PDC3
Maine Woods Baseball vs. Toledo McGuire Group CL3
Kent Mudhens vs. Team America CL4
South Dakota Rushmores vs. Tri-Cities CL6



Silver Foxes manager and Roy Hobbs Hall of Famer Paul Doucette at home plate meeting with Kent MudHens 65s manager John Berger and umpires Scott Rosenberg (L) Norm Gordon

*photo by
Greg Wagner*

NOTEBOOK

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 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 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.



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.

Revenues from the 2020 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 each day.

Managers should **contact Tom** at the Tournament Headquarters. Email to tg@royhobbs.com 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 fluids while playing; don't just wait until the game is over. Water will be available at the fields.

see NOTEBOOK on page 7



Maine Woods 75's catcher Dave Cundy wears his war wounds proudly! Back in the game today after taking a shot to the face yesterday.

photo by
Greg Wagner

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NOTEBOOK

continued from page 6

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.

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Admission, \$1 a game v


Admission continues at the Roy Hobbs World Series.

Admission is \$1 per game or \$5 for a tournament pass. Spectators will pay \$1 for entrance into each complex and are good for one day.

The \$5 tournament pass is available at RH Headquarters or from the Site Concierges at each security table; there is no family 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, beltloops, etc.


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see NOTEBOOK on page 8



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*photo by Greg Wagner
Kent MudHens 65's starting pitcher Bill Russo vs. the Silver Foxes*



NOTEBOOK



Maine Woods 75s Ken Wargo had squared to bunt but pulls the bat back from a high, inside pitch vs. New England Red Sox

*photo by
Greg Wagner*

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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 and at the entrance to the Quad fields at Lee County.

These individuals will have a view of the parking lot, and they will be available in emergencies, be enforcing cooler guidelines 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.