



ROY HOBBS WORLD SERIES INSIDE PITCH

WEEK 1 | VETERANS DIVISION | OCT. 16

Barker Will Not Be Scared Away From Baseball

BY GLENN MILLER

Roy Hobbs Baseball

Every baseball game involves risks. Every player knows that. Keith Barker of the Germain Aces knows that quite well.

A titanium plate above his left eye is a reminder.

On Sept. 25, 2022, 18 days after he had appendix surgery and three days before Hurricane Ian slammed into Fort Myers, a bad-hop grounder hit Barker in the face during a league game in Columbus, Ohio.

The game was played on artificial turf. He suffered a fractured orbital bone and sinus. His vision wasn't affected.

Now, a little more than a year later, Barker is back in the Roy Hobbs World Series.

"Baseball is my passion," Barker, 49, said Sunday morning before a game at JetBlue Park. "It's my life."

The Columbus police officer has been playing since he was 5.

Barker didn't intend to play on the day he was injured but the Aces were down to 8 players. Barker suited up and went to first base.

About a month after the incident and after the swelling subsided, he had surgery.

Baseball, though, was not far from his mind. He knew the 2022 World Series was cancelled and his thoughts shifted to 2023.

"And here we are," said Barker, whose first World Series was in 2012.

At the start of the 2023 World Series, his goals are basic.

"Obviously we want to be playing Saturday afternoon," Barker said. "Goal No. 2 is everybody gets out of here healthy."



see ACES on page 2

photo by Greg Wagner
After an injury a year ago, Keith Barker is back on the field and ready to play.



ACES

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Teammate Rich Dimel was pitching on Sept. 25, 2022. His initial move was to cover first base. But then he saw and heard the ball smack Barker in the forehead.

Barker got off the field under his own power despite bleeding and swelling that began almost immediately.

"He looked like he'd been in a 10-round heavyweight fight," Dimel said.

Dimel, like Barker and many Roy Hobbs players, can't be scared away from baseball. He's had three knee surgeries, two on the left and one on the right.

Jill Dimel was at the game when Barker was hit.

"I remember just the rocket shot coming off of the bat and then the sound of it hitting him in the eye," Jill Dimel said.

Jill knows what keeps her husband and others playing despite the risks.

"They're just true competitors and they just have a true love of the game and a love for their teammates," Jill said. "And they come together as ballplayers. They leave here as family."



Rich Dimel of the Germain Aces takes a big cut at the plate.

*photo by
Greg Wagner*

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Tennessee White Lightnin' 3rd base coach frantically trying to wipe off the sign he just gave.

There is still time to get your team signed up for a photo plan this week. Call Greg at 239-898-8677 asap.



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VETERANS RESULTS

SUNDAY

Baltimore Chop 7, Chicago Giants 4
Chicago Giants 14, Germain Ohio Aces 4
Chicago Knights 8 vs. Akron Cardinals 2
Chicago Knights 15, Cincinnati Colt .45s 7
Cobra Kai 10, Glass City Black Sox 1
Knoxville Nightmare 7, Twin Peaks Lumberjacks 6
La Makina 13, Detroit Dodgers 3

Minnesota Blenders 7, South Bend Cardinals 3
Minnesota Web Gems 5, Indiana Yankees 3
NEO Angels 11, Panhandle Pirates 7
South Florida Eagles 13, Tennessee White Lightnin' 4
Stars of Herrera 3, Vukgripz Akron A's 1
Tennessee White Lightnin' 10, Germain Ohio Aces 9
The Oilers 9, New Jersey Mets 5
Tidewater Drillers 6, T-Town Jack-Os 5
Twin Peaks Lumberjacks 16, Panhandle Pirates 11



Two Rivers baserunner diving back to 1st vs. the Evolution

photo by Greg Wagner



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VETERANS STANDINGS

Team	W	L	PCT	RA
Stars of Herrera	1	0	1.000	1
Cobra Kai	1	0	1.000	1
Minnesota Blenders	1	0	1.000	3
Minnesota Web Gems	1	0	1.000	3
La Makina	1	0	1.000	3
Baltimore Chop	1	0	1.000	3
South Florida Eagles	1	0	1.000	4
The Oilers	1	0	1.000	5
Tidewater Drillers	1	0	1.000	5
Knoxville Nightmare	1	0	1.000	6
NEO Angels	1	0	1.000	7
Chicago Knights	2	0	1.000	9
Chicago Giants	1	1	0.500	11
Twin Peaks Lumberjacks	1	1	0.500	18
Tennessee White Lightnin'	1	1	0.500	22
Vukgripz Akron A's	0	1	0.000	3
Indiana Yankees	0	1	0.000	5
T-Town Jack-Os	0	1	0.000	6
South Bend Cardinals	0	1	0.000	7
Akron Cardinals	0	1	0.000	8
New Jersey Mets	0	1	0.000	9
Glass City Black Sox	0	1	0.000	10
Detroit Dodgers	0	1	0.000	13
Cincinnati Colt .45s	0	1	0.000	15
Germain Ohio Aces	0	2	0.000	24
Panhandle Pirates	0	2	0.000	27



photo by Greg Wagner
Rounding 3rd and heading for home it's the brown-eyed handsome man.
Germaine Ohio Aces



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VETERANS SCHEDULE

Monday

10 AM

- PR Team La Makina @ Indiana Yankees, JBSt
- The Oilers @ Stars of Herrera, JB2
- Tidewater Drillers @ Detroit Dodgers, JB3
- Vukegrip Akron A's @ South Bend Cardinals, JB4
- New Jersey Mets @ Minnesota Blenders, JB5
- T-Town Jack-Os @ Minnesota WebGems, JB6
- Akron Cardinals @ Twin Peaks Lumberjacks, LCSt
- Cincinnati Colt .45s @ Panhandle Pirates, PDC2
- Baltimore Chop @ Tennessee White Lightnin', PDC3
- South Florida Eagles @ Cobra Kai, PDC4
- Glass City Black Sox @ Chicago Giants, PDC5

1:45 PM

- Minnesota Blenders @ Vukegrip Akron A's, JB2
- Minnesota WebGems @ PR Team La Makina, JB3
- Detroit Dodgers @ T-Town Jack-Os, JB4
- Indiana Yankees @ Tidewater Drillers, JB5
- South Bend Cardinals @ The Oilers, JB6
- Stars of Herrera @ New Jersey Mets, JBSt
- Chicago Knights @ NEO Angels, PDC2
- Germain Ohio Aces @ South Florida Eagles, PDC3
- Knoxville Nightmare @ Cincinnati Colt .45s, PDC4

Tuesday

10 AM

- Knoxville Nightmare @ Akron Cardinals, JB3
- Tennessee White Lightnin' @ Glass City Black Sox, JB4
- Twin Peaks Lumberjacks @ NEO Angels, JB5
- Chicago Giants @ Cobra Kai, JB6
- Minnesota WebGems @ Detroit Dodgers, JBSt
- The Oilers @ Vukegrip Akron A's, LCSt
- T-Town Jack-Os @ Indiana Yankees, PDC2
- PR Team La Makina @ Tidewater Drillers, PDC3
- Stars of Herrera @ Minnesota Blenders, PDC4
- South Bend Cardinals @ New Jersey Mets, PDC5

1:45 PM

- Cobra Kai @ Baltimore Chop, JB3
- Akron Cardinals @ Cincinnati Colt .45s, JB4
- Glass City Black Sox @ South Florida Eagles, JB6
- NEO Angels @ Knoxville Nightmare, JBSt
- Panhandle Pirates @ Chicago Knights, LCSt

5:30 PM

- Baltimore Chop @ Germain Ohio Aces, JBSt



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NOTEBOOK

AAAA Possibilities

Any team that might make it into the AAAA division or wants to be in the AAAA division need to meet with Rob Giffen at the PDC around 5:30 PM on Tuesday afternoon. We will look at the records, strength of schedule and overall runs allowed to make determination on who will be AAAA together.

**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, if they are in the dugout starting Sunday. If they check-in after Monday's games, they must pitch 5 innings (15 outs or 25 hitters).

AAAA qualifier teams may not add pitchers to their lineup after Pool Play concludes; however, AAAA teams may bring in 2 position players after Tuesday's games, but they must play the entire first game of the playoffs with no shared lineup options.

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.

**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.

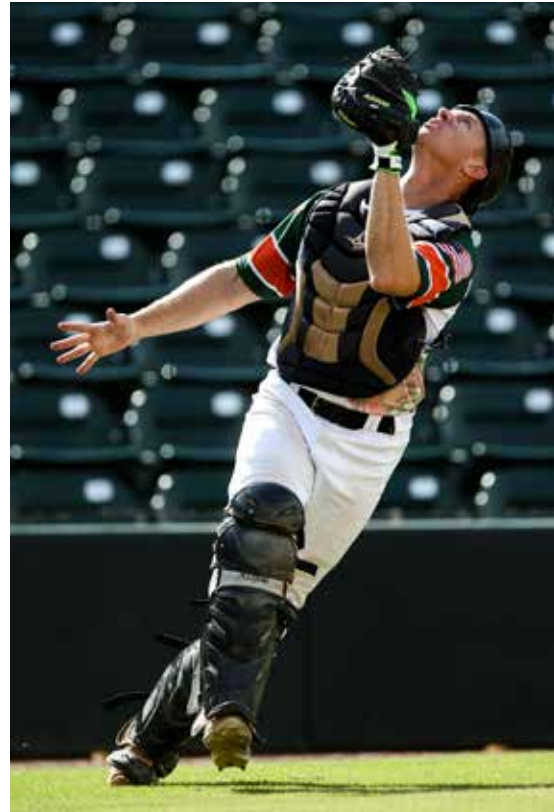
Revenues from past RHWS have led to greater than \$15,000 in contributions to MD Anderson Cancer Center, St. Jude Hospital in Memphis and to Southern Florida Challenger Athletes.

The ticket number will be posted on our website. You do not have to collect in person, just proof of the ticket.

**Score Reporting**

There is a QR code posted in every dugout that we will be using. Scan the code with your phone after every game and complete the score submission form.

see NOTEBOOK on page 7



Jack-O's catcher stayed with a high pop foul and made the catch vs. the Tidewater Drillers

photo by Greg Wagner

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NOTEBOOK



photo by Greg Wagner

Home plate ump in JetBlue afternoon game indicating a foul tip. (White Lightnin' vs So. Fla. Eagles)

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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.



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.

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.



Admission, \$1 a game

Admission continues at the Roy Hobbs World Series. Admission is \$1 per game or \$6 for a tournament pass. The player ID card grants players access to all games in which they are not playing. Spectators will pay \$1 for entrance into each complex and are good for one day.

The \$6 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.



RH Label Cigars

RH Label cigars are available at PDC headquarters from the Roy Hobbs Geezer.

Cost: \$6 each or 5 for \$25.



see NOTEBOOK on page 8



NOTEBOOK



photo by Greg Wagner

Pitchers aren't supposed to catch pop flies but this White Lightning' pitcher did vs. the Germain Ohio Aces

continued from page 7

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.

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