



# ROY HOBBS WORLD SERIES INSIDE PITCH

WEEK 1 | VETERANS DIVISION | OCT. 20

## It Seems All Pucketts Find Baseball Eventually

BY GLENN MLLER

### Roy Hobbs Baseball

The name Kirby Puckett Jr. likely jumps off every lineup card at the Roy Hobbs World Series.

How many Roy Hobbs players are sons of Hall of Famers and carry Jr. in their name? Kirby Puckett Jr., is likely the only one.

His father died after a stroke in 2006 at the age of 45. Puckett's career ended in spring training in Fort Myers in 1996 when the Minnesota Twins centerfielder was diagnosed with glaucoma.

Junior is only 31. His father's career ended when he was toddler and he was only 13 when he died. Puckett, Jr. did not grow up playing baseball. He was a basketball and football guy,

But earlier this year he attended a Twins fantasy camp at a facility his father played in from 1991 through 1996. His coaches included former Twins Al Newman, Gene Larkin, Tommy Watkins and Jacque Jones.

"I wish my dad could have been at the fantasy camp," Puckett Jr. said.

Dad didn't pressure his son to play baseball.

"He told me to do anything," said Puckett Jr., who moved with his wife, Hailee, and 1-year-old son, Kirby Puckett III, to Fort Myers last week from Minnesota. "Don't do anything you don't want to do."

It was only in the past couple of years that baseball was one of those things. The fantasy camp triggered interest. It took one day at the Roy Hobbs World Series

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Kirby Puckett Jr. of the Chicago Knights

photo by Greg Wagner



## PUCKETT

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ries for Puckett, Jr. to see a difference between fantasy camps and Roy Hobbs.

"There's a big difference," Puckett, Jr. said. "I would say the competition is a little bit better here because of the age difference."

It was at the fantasy camp that umpire Igor Negrón, who plays and coaches for the Chicago Knights, met Puckett Jr. He noticed how Puckett, Jr. invariably said "yes, sir" or "no, sir" when older people talked to him. He seemed like a good fit for the Knights.

"The playing part was kind of second," Negrón said.

It was a character reference from Negrón that convinced Knights manager Bob Dearth to sign up the inexperienced baseball player.

"He (Negrón) said, 'Bob, he's one of the nicest kids you'll ever meet, respectful, solid player, of course,'" Dearth said.

What if Kirby Puckett saw his son playing now?

"He'd be surprised because I didn't grow up playing baseball," Puckett Jr. said. If he could ask his father about playing in the Roy Hobbs World Series, he expects he would say go for it.

And, Kirby Puckett, Jr is doing just that.



*The bat died a hero: Tidewater Drillers batter gets sawed off but manages to drive in a run vs. the MN Web Gems*

*photo by  
Greg Wagner*

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## VETERANS STANDINGS

### RHWS 34 Veterans Division

	AAAA Division	W	L	PCT	RA
1	Minnesota Blenders	4	0	1.000	15
2	The Oilers	4	0	1.000	28
3	Minnesota Web Gems	3	1	0.750	14
4	Detroit Dodgers	3	1	0.750	27
5	Tidewater Drillers	3	1	0.750	15
6	Indiana Yankees	2	2	0.500	17
7	New Jersey Mets	2	2	0.500	28
8	La Makina*	1	3	0.250	24

\*Defending Champion

	AAA Division	W	L	PCT	RA
1	Baltimore Chop	4	1	0.800	34
2	Twin Peaks Lumberjacks	4	1	0.800	39
3	South Florida Eagles	4	1	0.800	42
4	Knoxville Nightmare	4	1	0.800	45

5	Chicago Giants	3	2	0.600	38
6	Chicago Knights	3	2	0.600	40
7	Stars of Herrera	2	3	0.400	27
8	Vukgripz Akron A's	2	3	0.400	34

	AA Division	W	L	PCT	RA
1	Tennessee White Lightnin'	3	2	0.600	44
2	Panhandle Pirates	2	3	0.400	52
3	NEO Angels	2	3	0.400	57
4	South Bend Cardinals	1	4	0.200	33
5	Akron Cardinals	1	4	0.200	56
6	T-Town Jack-Os	1	4	0.200	59
7	Germain Ohio Aces	1	4	0.200	59
8	Cobra Kai	1	4	0.200	87
9	Cincinnati Colt .45s	1	4	0.200	66
10	Glass City Black Sox	0	5	0.000	67



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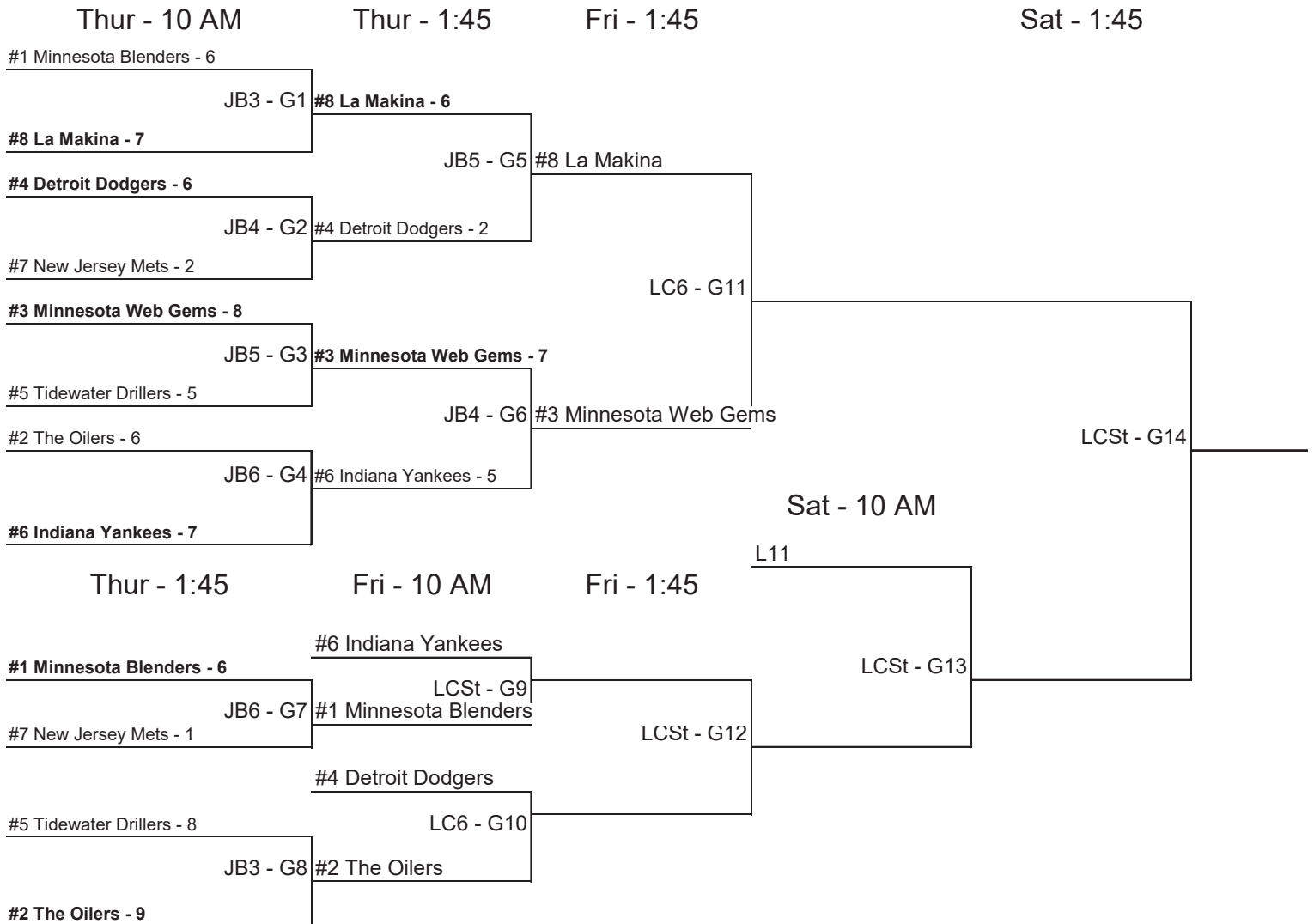


Head to *Sidelines* to replay the game and tell lies

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## VETERANS BRACKETS

### Veterans AAAA Playoffs



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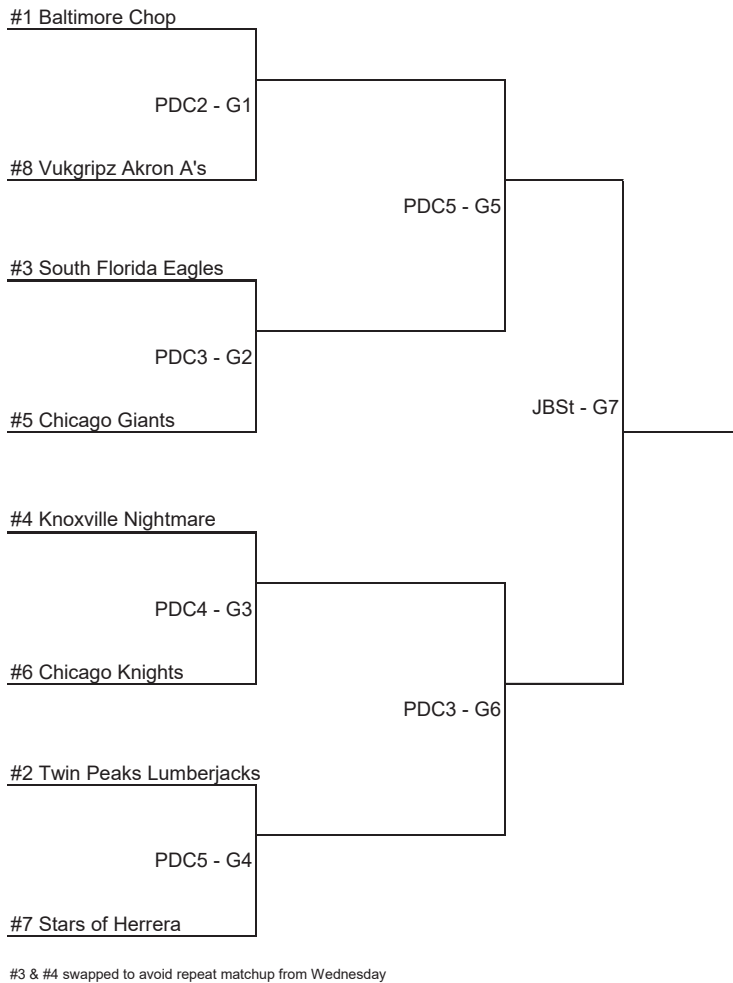
## VETERANS BRACKETS

### Veterans AAA Playoffs

Fri - 10AM

Fri - 1:45

Sat - 10AM



Akron Cardinals shortstop getting loose before the inning starts vs. the Twin Peaks Lumberjacks

photo by  
Greg Wagner



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## VETERANS BRACKETS

## Veterans AA Playoffs

Friday

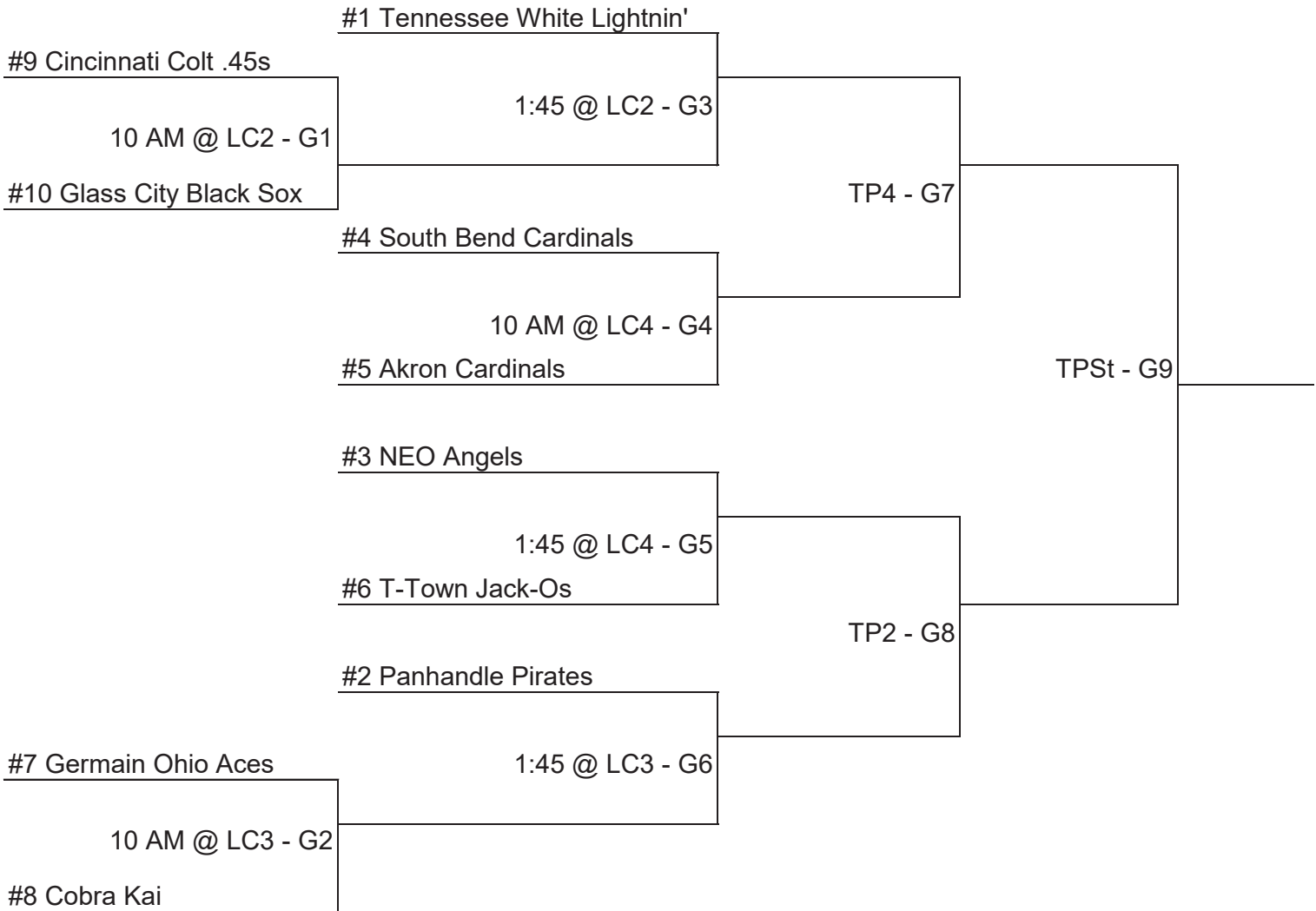
Friday

Saturday

10:00 AM

Saturday

2:00 PM



## NOTEBOOK

## Thank You &amp; Travel Safe

Roy Hobbs Baseball would like to thank all of you for coming to the Roy Hobbs World Series, helping to make this event a success. For those who are traveling to get home, We wish a safe journey and we look forward to seeing you all next year.



## 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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## NOTEBOOK

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### 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.



### 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.



### 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



photo by Greg Wagner

Tidewater Drillers 3rd baseman puts the tag on a Minnesota Web Gems runner in their AAAA playoff game

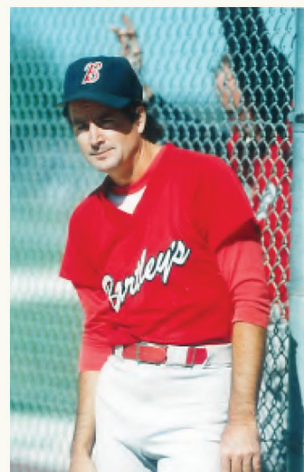
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## NOTEBOOK

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### 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.



### 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.



*photo by Greg Wagner*  
 Germain Ohio Aces shortstop dealing with afternoon shadows at jetBlue Park

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