

Passionate players embrace RHWS #35



Dan Morgan



Louie LiVecche



Tom Delullo



Thorstein Beckmann



Drew Van Loy

BY GLENN MILLER

Roy Hobbs Baseball

At 8:30 a.m. Sunday the Terry Park diamonds and dugouts were empty of players. The base lines and batter's boxes were chalked in white. The white bases gleamed. The grass was green, the temperature mild and a breeze rustled the palm fronds.

The 35th Roy Hobbs World Series was about to begin.

Dan Morgan, 57, is playing this week with the Chi-Sox in the 35-plus age division.

"I like the challenge," he said of playing against younger men.

Morgan had just walked into the Terry Park stadium. He travels from Panama City in the Florida Panhandle to play.

"This is amazing, especially this field with the history," he said of a park where dozens of MLB

Hall of Famers played.

People in Panama City can't seem to grasp what Morgan does every fall.

"They can't believe it's baseball," Morgan said. "They think it's softball. They're surprised there are teams from all over."

This week's lineup includes teams from Texas, Ohio, Minnesota, Tennessee, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida. Louie LiVecche, 77, of the Lakeville Lobos of Minnesota is in his third World Series. Baseball has been in his blood since he was a boy. He is the oldest Lobo. He has sons 51 and 53 who are older than his teammates. He revels in the company of others who love the game.

"Just look at the enthusiasm you have," LiVecche said.

The enthusiasm hasn't waned even after all the years.

"Any opportunity to play is wonderful," he said.

A few steps away at Terry Park 2, a 31-year-old Roy Hobbs rookie named Tom Delullo of the Akron Cardinals was on the field taking photos or videos with his cell phone. He was recruited to come to Florida by Chuck Miller.

"He just said it would be a blast," said Delullo, who is an architect. "He said you play baseball in Florida for a week."

Who could say no? Not Delullo. It didn't take much of a sales pitch from Miller. What did he say to Delullo?

"You're going to have the best time," Miller said. "You're going to play on the best fields you've ever played on. Everybody who comes down here on this team has a blast I really didn't have to do much selling after that. Who doesn't want to play baseball in October?"

German citizen Thorstein Beckmann of the Akron Cardinals travels all the way here every October to play. Camaraderie as well as the weather helps lure him here.

"I like hanging around with the guys," Beckmann said.

Over at the PDC Sunday morning 6-foot-4, 260-pound Drew Van Loy of the Minnesota Web Gems blasted a home run to left-center on Field 1 against the Chicago Knights. The ball was last seen headed toward Edison Avenue, or perhaps the Gulf of Mexico.

Van Loy said he usually hits one home run a year in the World Series. In his first at-bat of the 2024 World Series he took care of his home run.

"Takes the pressure off," Van Loy said.

Nobody knows what the rest of this week or the following four weeks will bring in the 35th Roy Hobbs World Series.

A banner hanging over the Terry Park gate that players see on the way out sports these words: "Thank You For The Memories."



Tennessee White Lightning' starting pitcher Alex Rodriguez vs. the South Bend Cardinals

photo by Greg Wagner

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Hey, nice hit!
 T-Town Jackos vs. Germain Ohio Aces.

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VETERANS SUNDAY RESULTS

Sunday

Akron Cardinals - 20, Chi-Sox - 14
 Chicago Giants - 6, Minnesota Blenders - 5
 Cincinnati Colt .45s - 7, Austin Saltdogs - 2
 Germain Ohio Aces - 7, T-Town Jack Os - 3
 JR Bats - 11, Germain Ohio Aces - 9
 JR Bats - 7, Austin Saltdogs - 2
 Knoxville Nightmare - 18, Akron Cardinals - 8
 Knoxville Nightmare - 3, Lakeville Lobos - 2

Lakeville Lobos - 16, Tennessee White Lightnin' - 4
 Minnesota Web Gems - 21, Chicago Knights - 2
 Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs - 16, Glass City Black Sox - 6
 South Bend Cardinals - 15, Chi-Sox - 4
 South Bend Cardinals - 8, Tennessee White Lightnin' - 3
 Stars of Herrera - 10, New Jersey Mets - 3
 The Oilers - 8, Jet Box - 3
 Tidewater Drillers - 8, Baltimore Chop - 3
 Vukgripz Akron A's - 9, South Florida Eagles - 8



Germain Ohio Aces 2nd baseman Nick Geno makes a great catch vs. JR Bats.

photo by Greg Wagner



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VETERANS SUNDAY STANDINGS

Team	W	L	PCT	RA
Cincinnati Colt .45s	1	0	1.000	2
Minnesota Web Gems	1	0	1.000	2
Stars of Herrera	1	0	1.000	3
The Oilers	1	0	1.000	3
Tidewater Drillers	1	0	1.000	3
Chicago Giants	1	0	1.000	5
Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs	1	0	1.000	6
South Bend Cardinals	2	0	1.000	7
Vukgripz Akron A's	1	0	1.000	8
Knoxville Nightmare	2	0	1.000	10
JR Bats	2	0	1.000	11
Lakeville Lobos	1	1	0.500	7
Germain Ohio Aces	1	1	0.500	12
Akron Cardinals	1	1	0.500	32
Minnesota Blenders	0	1	0.000	6
TTown Jack-Os	0	1	0.000	7
Baltimore Chop	0	1	0.000	8
Jet Box	0	1	0.000	8



photo by Greg Wagner
 South Bend Cardinals baserunner dives head first into 3rd vs. Tennessee White Lightnin' 3rd baseman Billy Perry

South Florida Eagles	0	1	0.000	9
New Jersey Mets	0	1	0.000	10
Austin Saltdogs	0	2	0.000	14
Glass City Black Sox	0	1	0.000	16
Chicago Knights	0	1	0.000	21
Tennessee White Lightnin'	0	2	0.000	24
Chi-Sox	0	2	0.000	35



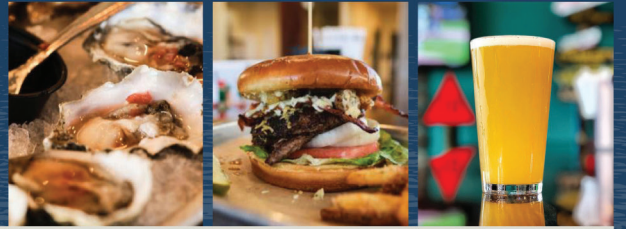
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VETERANS MONDAY SCHEDULE

Monday

10:00 AM

- Stars of Herrera @ The Oilers @ LC-S
- New Jersey Mets @ Chicago Knights @ LC3
- Jet Box @ Minnesota Web Gems @ LC4
- Knoxville Nightmare @ Tennessee White Lightnin' @ LC6
- Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs @ Austin Saltdogs @ PDC3
- JR Bats @ T-Town Jack Os @ PDC4
- Cincinnati Colt .45s @ Glass City Black Sox @ PDC5
- Baltimore Chop @ Chicago Giants @ TP-S
- South Florida Eagles @ Minnesota Blenders @ TP2
- Tidewater Drillers @ Vukgripz Akron A's @ TP4

1:45 PM

- Chicago Knights @ Jet Box @ LC-S
- South Bend Cardinals @ Akron Cardinals @ LC2
- Minnesota Web Gems @ Stars of Herrera @ LC3
- The Oilers @ New Jersey Mets @ LC4
- Chi-Sox @ Glass City Black Sox @ LC6
- Germain Ohio Aces @ Lakeville Lobos @ PDC3
- Cincinnati Colt .45s @ Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs @ PDC4
- Minnesota Blenders @ Tidewater Drillers @ TP-S
- Vukgripz Akron A's @ Baltimore Chop @ TP2
- Chicago Giants @ South Florida Eagles @ TP4

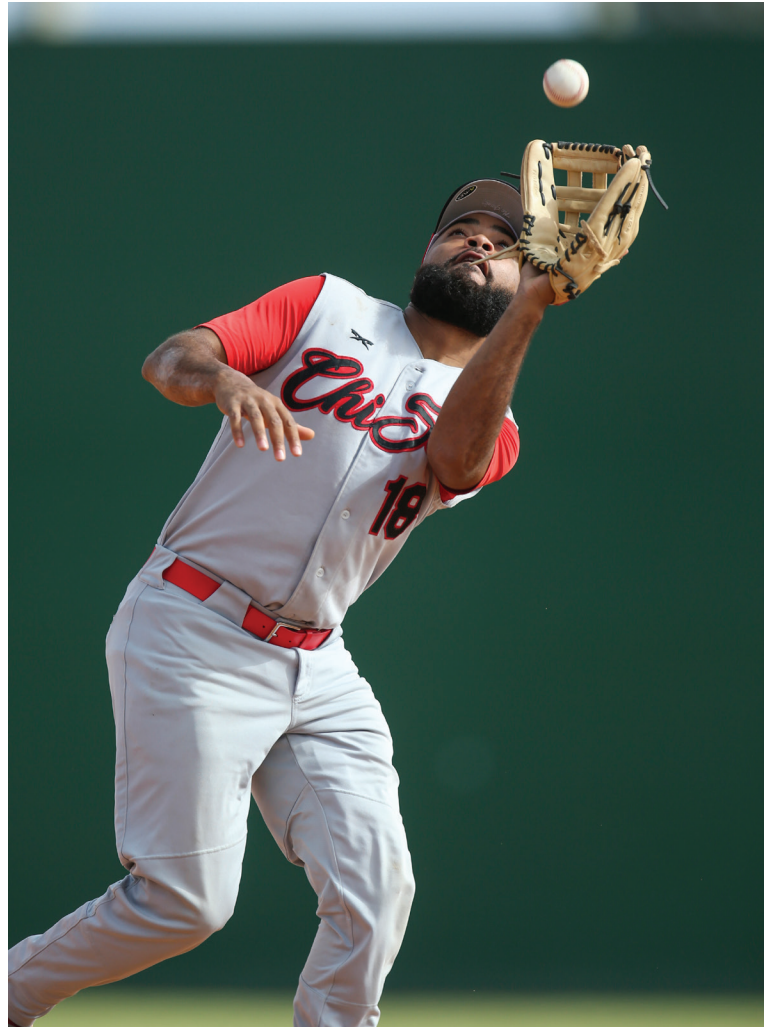


photo by Greg Wagner
 Chi Sox 2nd Baseman camps under an infield pop fly vs. the South Bend Cardinals



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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, 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.



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, which includes places for your Player of the Game and your umpire evaluations.



Results corrections

Please check the posted results and standings each day. Managers should contact Rob at the Tournament Headquarters (234.200.8449) 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.



Run-rule games

Run rule is 10 runs at 7 complete innings or if home team is ahead in a scheduled 9-inning game. Scheduled 7-inning games are 15 at 5 innings.

Now, in a 9-inning game, if the score difference is 15 at 5 innings, umpires have been instructed to call both managers together and to offer the team on the short end of the score if they want 6 outs to bat.

As far as RH is concerned the team ahead has won, but any runs scored will count in RA, so that is an incentive to not just pitch anyone out there to pitch.

Both teams must agree.

If you believe a game has been ended prematurely, don't leave and ask for a field manager; he will get in touch with headquarters for adjudication.



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.



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.



see NOTEBOOK on page 7

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NOTEBOOK

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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, \$2 a game

Admission continues at the Roy Hobbs World Series.

Admission is \$2 per game or \$8 for a tournament pass. The player ID card grants players access to all games in which they are not playing. Spectators will pay \$2 for entrance into each complex and are good for one day at all complexes.

The \$8 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: \$7 each or 6 for \$30.



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



photo by Greg Wagner

Tennessee White Lightnin' 3rd baseman Billy Perry vs. the South Bend Cardinals

see NOTEBOOK on page 8





NOTEBOOK

continued from page 7

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.



Sunday Players of the Game

Chicago Giants 6, Minnesota Blenders 5: **Giants** - Bobby Myers 1x2, 2B, 2 R; Joe Ward with game-winning RBI; **Blenders** - Ronnie Olson 2x4, 1B, 2B, 2 R, 2 RBI

Cincinnati Colt .45s 7, Austin Saltdogs 2: **Colts** - AJ Wilson 6 IP, 7 H, 1 ER, 0 BB, 4 K

JR Bats 11, Germain Ohio Aces 9: **JR Bats** - Ryan Duva 4x5, 4 RBI

Knoxville Nightmare 18, Akron Cardinals 8: **Nightmare** - Adam Hollowell 4x5, 2 HR, 6 RBI

Knoxville Nightmare 3, Lakeville Lobos 2: **Nightmare** - Wes Cobb 2x3, 1 RBI, 1 R

Minnesota Web Gems 21, Chicago Knights 2: **Web Gems** - Drew VanLoy 5x5, 3 HR, 8 RBI

Tidewater Drillers 8, Baltimore Chop 3: **Drillers** - Jessie Ellison 4x5, 2 RBI, 1 R; **Chop** - Eugene Bradley 4 scoreless innings, 3 Ks, 1 BB

Note: Managers submit Player of the Game on the score App after each game.




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