



South Bend's Best delivers – on, off field

BY GLENN MILLER

Roy Hobbs Baseball

When Jayson Best arrives in Fort Myers every fall with the South Bend Cardinals, it's a bit of a return to his baseball past.

In 1992, he pitched for the Fort Myers Miracle of the Florida State League. Back then Hammond Stadium and the neighborhood were different.

There wasn't a concourse at the stadium running beyond the outfield wall and all those offices beyond the left-field wall did not exist. Back then, cows grazed in a field beyond left field.

And Best is now a 57-year-old mailman and not a pro pitcher in his 20s. He's had a hip replaced and rotator cuff surgery and Tommy John (elbow) surgery.

But he's still playing.

After an outstanding career at Milligan College (now University) in Tennessee he hoped to get drafted. That didn't happen.

A groundskeeper who worked for the Elizabethan Twins of the Appalachian League recommended him to the organization. Best tried out for the rookie-level team and was offered a contract.

Of sorts.

His signing bonus: \$0.00.

But he was a pro and on his way to seven-year career in the minors. One of his stops was with the 1992 Miracle, who weren't very good. They were 46-85 and Best was 0-6. But throw out that 0-6 record and Best was 18-13 in his career.

Although he didn't make the majors, Best was good enough to play seven years of pro ball. He faced future big-leaguers and even Hall of Famers. He was a spring training teammate of future Hall of Famers Kirby Puckett and Dave Winfield.



see BEST on page 2

Jayson Best of the South Bend Cardinals

photo by Greg Wagner

BEST

continued from page 1

He recalls walking future Hall of Famer Mike Piazza in a California League game in 1991 on a 3-2 pitch.

"I thought it was there," Best said Sunday morning at Jet-Blue. "But he was having a great year and got the benefit of the doubt."

He also "beaned" legendary athlete Bo Jackson in a spring-training game. He didn't hit Jackson in the head. It was in the leg.

"He didn't look too happy about it," Best said.

But Jackson did not charge the mound.

The South Bend Cardinals are happy with their mailman.

"He's a great pitcher," Manager Tad Dickerson said. "He doesn't have the gas like he used to, but he still pitches."

"He's a consummate professional," teammate Kevin Renn said.

Oh, there are differences between playing pro ball in one's 20s and amateur ball at age 57.

As Dickerson jokingly put it, "We're a drinking team with a baseball problem."

They are regulars at the Fort Myers Brewing Company, which is near JetBlue.

It's unlikely anybody on the South Bend Cardinals gets carded.

*photo by Greg Wagner**Jayon Best keeping his eye in the ball*
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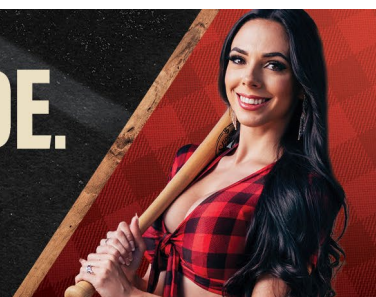
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MASTERS SUNDAY RESULTS

Masters RHWS Results Sunday games

Baltimore Thunder 18, Bellacino's Red Sox 6
Baltimore Thunder 9, Nova Scotia Privateers 5
Chicago Woodpeckers 11, Limeport Milkmen 10
Cincinnati Colt .45s 23, Bellacino's Red Sox 5
Dundalk Nationals 14, Tidewater Drillers 11
Dundalk Nationals 15, TTown Jackos 2
DuPage Indians 16, Minnesota Catfish 1
Flint Tigers 6, Vukgripz A's 5
Lansing A's 10, Chicago Knights 0
Midwest Lookouts 16, Atlanta Bombers 6
Minnesota Bandits 12, South Bend Cardinals 6
Minnesota Diamonds 8, Lake Erie Blue Jays 7
NEO Angels 20, Virginia Vikings 12
New Jersey Rangers 15, Florida Lumberjacks 4
New Jersey Rangers 15, River City Rippers 3
Nova Scotia Privateers 10, Cincinnati Colt .45s 3
South Bend Cardinals 12, Flint Tigers 2
South Shore Giants 10, Minnesota WebGems 8
St. Louis Honey Badgers 16, Mid-Penn Phillies 6
Staten Island Bombers 3, Cangrejeros RD 0
Team Michigan 5, Orlando Brewers 3



photo by Greg Wagner
South Bend Cardinals 2nd baseman Kevin Renn put the tag on Minnesota
Bandits baserunner Neal Cunningham

Tidewater Drillers 14, Florida Lumberjacks 1
Twin Peaks Lumberjacks 17, Chicago Colts 6
Vukgripz A's 27, Minnesota Bandits 17
Yamasa Beisbol 12, East Coast Cardinals 2



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MASTERS SUNDAY STANDINGS

Masters Division

Standings Thru Sunday's Games

Team	W	L	Pct.	RA
New Jersey Rangers	2	0	1.000	7
Baltimore Thunder	2	0	1.000	11
Dundalk Nationals	2	0	1.000	13
Lansing A's	1	0	1.000	0
Staten Island Bombers	1	0	1.000	0
DuPage Indians	1	0	1.000	1
Yamasa Beisbol Club	1	0	1.000	2
Team Michigan	1	0	1.000	3
Midwest Lookouts	1	0	1.000	6
St. Louis Honey Badgers	1	0	1.000	6
Twin Peaks Lumberjacks	1	0	1.000	6
Minnesota Diamonds	1	0	1.000	7
South Shore Giants	1	0	1.000	8
Chicago Woodpeckers	1	0	1.000	10
NEO Angels	1	0	1.000	12
Nova Scotia Privateers	1	1	.500	12
South Bend Cardinals	1	1	.500	14

Cincinnati Colt .45s	1	1	.500	15
Tidewater Drillers	1	1	.500	15
Flint Tigers	1	1	.500	17
Vukgripz A's	1	1	.500	23
Minnesota Bandits	1	1	.500	33
Cangrejeros RD	0	1	.000	3
Orlando Brewers	0	1	.000	5
Lake Erie Blue Jays	0	1	.000	8
Chicago Knights	0	1	.000	10
Minnesota Web Gems	0	1	.000	10
Limeport Milkmen	0	1	.000	11
East Coast Cardinals	0	1	.000	12
River City Rippers	0	1	.000	15
TTown Jackos 45	0	1	.000	15
Atlanta Bombers	0	1	.000	16
Mid Penn Phillies	0	1	.000	16
Minnesota Catfish	0	1	.000	16
Chicago Colts	0	1	.000	17
Virginia Vikings	0	1	.000	20
Florida Lumberjacks	0	2	.000	29
Bellacino's Red Sox	0	2	.000	41



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MASTERS MONDAY SCHEDULE

Monday

10 AM

South Shore Giants @ Mid-Penn Phillies, JB-S
Staten Island Bombers @ Team Michigan, JB4
Orlando Brewers @ Minnesota WebGems, JB5
DuPage Indians @ Midwest Lookouts, LH-S
Minnesota Bandits @ Nova Scotia Privateers, LH3
Lansing A's @ Chicago Woodpeckers, PDC2
Limeport Milkmen @ Lake Erie Blue Jays, PDC3
Minnesota Diamonds @ Yamasa Beisbol, PDC4
East Coast Cardinals @ Chicago Knights, PDC5
Bellacino's Red Sox @ Flint Tigers, TP-S
River City Rippers @ Florida Lumberjacks, TP2

1:45 PM

NEO Angels @ Minnesota Catfish, JB-S
Team Michigan @ South Shore Giants, JB3
Minnesota WebGems @ St. Louis Honey Badgers, JB4
Mid-Penn Phillies @ Staten Island Bombers, JB5
Cangrejeros RD @ Orlando Brewers, JB6
Atlanta Bombers @ Twin Peaks Lumberjacks, LH-S
Baltimore Thunder @ South Bend Cardinals, LH3
Lake Erie Blue Jays @ East Coast Cardinals, PDC2
Chicago Woodpeckers @ Minnesota Diamonds, PDC3
Chicago Knights @ Limeport Milkmen, PDC4
Yamasa Beisbol @ Lansing A's, PDC5
Chicago Colts @ Virginia Vikings, TP-S
Dundalk Nationals @ New Jersey Rangers, TP2

5:30 PM

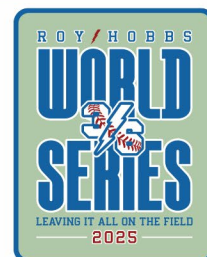
St. Louis Honey Badgers @ Cangrejeros RD, JB-S
Vukgripz A's @ Cincinnati Colt .45s, LH-S
Tidewater Drillers @ TTown Jackos, TP-S



photo by Greg Wagner
Tidewater Drillers pitcher Jorge Lozada on the mound vs. the Florida Lumberjacks



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NOTEBOOK

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 Tom at the Tournament Headquarters with corrections to scores: tg@royhobbs.com.

That's the best way to make sure that playoff seedings and pairings are as accurate as we can make them.



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 in Houston, 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.



No alcohol at sites

Roy Hobbs Baseball prohibits alcohol at all playing sites ... dugouts, inside fences and in the parking lots. Violators are subject to dismissal from the World Series, period.



Parking

Please abide by parking guidelines, avoid no parking signs, fire lanes and



photo by Greg Wagner
Minnesota Bandits right fielder Jeff Fahey made a gallant effort but was unable to snag a South Bend Cardinals fly ball

curbs, and handicap spaces without a permit. Lee County Rangers are patrolling sites and will issue tickets to violators. They are not cheap.



Water, Water Water

The heat in SW Florida can be debilitating, and overheating issues will sneak up on players. Get water every inning in the dugout!



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

see NOTEBOOK on page 7



NOTEBOOK



South Bend manager and left handed batter Tad Dickerson signals directing one of his runners to advance on a wild pitch

photo by
Greg Wagner

continued from page 6

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.

❖ ❖ ❖

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 put 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.

❖ ❖ ❖



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NOTEBOOK



Midwest Lookouts leadoff hitter Todd Dickey slides in safely under the tag by the Atlanta Bombers Steve Kolwicz

photo by Greg Wagner

Players of the Game

Sunday's games

Twin Peaks Lumberjacks 17, Chicago Colts 6: **Colts** - Tom Healy 3x5, 2B, 2 RBI
 Baltimore Thunder 18, Bellacino Red Sox 6: **Thunder** - Giovanni Alfonso 4x4, 2 2B
 Baltimore Thunder 9, Nova Scotia Privateers 5: **Thunder** - Lincoln Moquete 9.0 IP, 3 ER, 6 K, CG; **Privateers** - Joe Marra 2x4, HR, 2 RBI
 Cincinnati Colt .45s 23, Bellacino Red Sox 5: **Colts** - Joe Terpstra 3 H, 2 3B, 1 HR
 Flint Tigers 6, VukGripz A's 5: **Tigers** - Nick Saidoo 2x4, 2 RBI, GW single
 Lansing A's 10, Chicago Knights 0: **A's** - Mike Shadoan 3x4, HR, 4 RBI, 2 R

Minnesota Diamonds 8, Lake Erie Blue Jays 7: **Blue Jays** - Luis Feliz 3x4, 2 RBI, R
 NJ Rangers 15, Florida Lumberjacks 4: **Rangers** - Jeff Davis 7 IP, 1 ER, 9 K; Rob Buonanno 4x5, 2 HR, 5 RBI
 Nova Scotia Privateers 10, Cincinnati Colts 3: **Privateers** - Jason Haynes 3x5, HR, 3 RBI, 2 R
 South Bend Cardinals 10, Minnesota Web Gems 8: **Cardinals** - JP Songin 3x5, 3 RBI, including go-ahead hit
 Staten Island Bombers 3, Cangrejeros RD 0: **Bombers** - Christian Tomschich 9 IP, CG, SHO, 10 K, 1 BB; **Cangrejeros** - Willy Pineda 2x3, 2B, 1 SB
 Team Michigan 5, Orlando Brewers 3: **Michigan** - Mike Newsted 2x4, HR, 2 RBI; **Brewers** - EJ McVetty 2x4, 2 RBI, 1 2B
Note: Managers submit Player of the Game on the score App after each game.