



ROY HOBBS WORLD SERIES

# INSIDE PITCH



WEEK 2 | MASTERS | OCT. 31

## Montella's 9/11 guilt: 'A huge hole in me'

**BY GLENN MILLER**  
**Roy Hobbs Baseball**

Anthony Montella couldn't publicly talk about 9/11 for nearly a quarter of a century.

Now, the 60-year-old member of the Twin Peaks Lumberjacks is ready.

He carries memories, scars and loss on a scale not many know. On 9/11 he was a New York City firefighter. He was starting vacation that morning and was out on Long Island preparing to go fishing, roughly 100 miles from the Twin Towers.

Then the call came. Turn on the TV. What channel? Any channel.

Montella did not go fishing. He turned around and raced to the city to help. That's what firefighters do.

By time he got there the Twin Towers were down. Many of his friends and colleagues were dead. He's worn that grief and survivor's guilt ever since.

That's until Sept. 11, 2025. The Vero Beach resident spoke about 9/11 at a Patriots Day event at the Indian River County Fairgrounds Expo Center on Florida's east coast.

His wife, Erin, was in the front row. Hundreds of strangers filled the venue. It was time. He was welcomed by the audience.

"I felt complete love from strangers," Montella said.

He also spoke beneath the Hammond Stadium stands on Monday.

The survivor's guilt and the friends lost remain immense burdens. He needed something. He drank. He drank before games. He even drank during games.

Before his speech he had a dream. He felt his departed firefighters during the speech. He could feel the presence of angels telling him to "to let the guilt go."

Montella is a spiritual man who

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*Anthony Montella has rediscovered the fun of playing baseball*

*photo by Greg Wagner*



# MONTELLA

*continued from page 1*

wears a gold cross around his neck. The cross was fashioned from his father's wedding band.

Something happened that day in Indian River County.

"I saw two rainbows in the direction I was heading," Montella said.

The rainbows remained for about 20 minutes.

"I walked in there confident that I wasn't alone," Montella said.

Erin was there for him as he worked through 50 drafts of the speech. She said the speech was a "game-changer" for him.

"He was having trouble sleeping at night and trying to think about all the elements of the story," Erin said.

She was concerned if he could get through the speech without breaking down.

"He was incredibly strong," Erin said.

For 24 years he's employed another coping mechanism.

"I've coped with it by being a good man," Montella said.

On that day, 343 New York City firefighters died. Many were his friends. Many others were colleagues.

"I feel like I have a hole, a huge hole in me," Montella said Monday.

He helped fill that hole with drinking. Montella is a bourbon connoisseur who often had double bourbons, sometimes three or four a night.



*New York City  
firefighter, Anthony  
Montella*

*photo courtesy of  
Anthony Montella*

"Yesterday was the first time, I think, I played baseball in years where I didn't have a drink before," Montella said. "Or two drinks. Or three drinks."

He's moving past survivor's guilt.

"I don't have that guilt washing over me anymore," Montella said. "It's not going away over night, but it is. I'm healing. ... I'm having a blast. ... I didn't give up drinking. I gave up using it as a crutch to get through emotional moments."

There have been countless emotional moments for Anthony Montella since 9/11.



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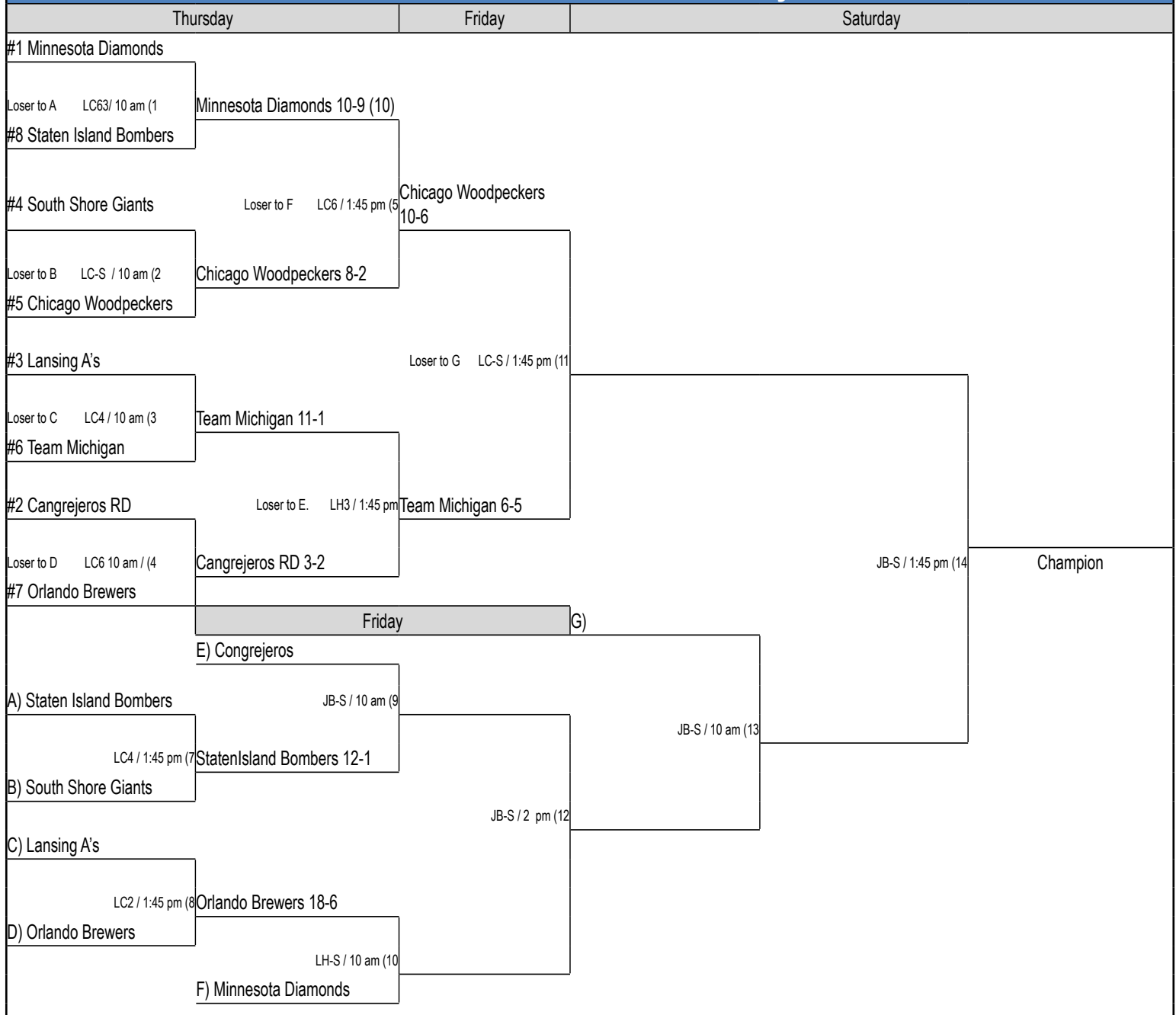
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## MASTERS AAAA BRACKET

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# MASTERS AAA and AA BRACKETS

## RHWS Masters AAA Playoffs

Friday First Round	Fri. Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Championship	
Saturday				
#1 Dundalk Nationals				
JB3 / 10 AM				
#16 Mid-Penn Phillies				
#8 Lake Erie Blue Jays	JB5 / 1:45 pm			
JB4 / 10 AM				
#9 Atlanta Bombers				
#5 Ttown Jackos		LH3 / 10 am		
JB5 / 10 AM				
#12 Yamasa Baseball	JB4 / 1:45 pm			
#4 Twin Peaks Lumberjacks				
JB6 / 10 AM				
#13 Minnesota WebGems				
#3 Tidewater Drillers		LH-S / 1:45 pm		
PDC2 / 10a		Championship	11 innings	
#14 St. Louis Honey Badgers				
PDC5 / 1:45 pm				
#6 Flint Tigers				
PDC3 / 10a				
#11 Vukgripz A's				
#7 East Coast Cardinals		LH4 / 10 am		
PDC4 / 10a				
#10 Virginia Vikings				
#2 South Bend Cardinals	PDC3 / 1:45 pm			
PDC5 / 10a				
#15 Chicago Knights				

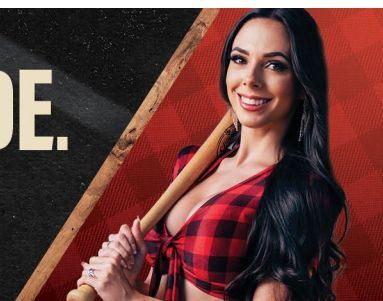
## RHWS Masters AA Playoffs

Friday First Round	Fri. Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Championship	
Saturday				
FLIP COIN FOR HOME TEAM THRU PLAYOFFS				
	Midwest Lookouts			
Minnesota Catfish	TP2 / 1:45 pm			
TP-S / 10 AM				
Bellacino's Red Sox				
Minnesota Bandits		TP4 / 10 am		
TP2 / 10 AM				
NEO Angels				
Chicago Colts	TP-S / 1:45 pm			
TP4 / 10 AM				
New Jersey Rangers				
DuPage Indians			TP-S / 1:45 pm	
LH3 / 10a			Championship	
Nova Scotia Privateers				
	LH4 / 1:45 pm			
Cincinnati Colt .45s				
LH6 / 10a				
Florida Lumberjacks				
Baltimore Thunder		TP2 / 10 am		
LH4 / 10a				
River City Rippers				
	LC6 / 1:45 pm			
	Limeport Milkmen			





# EVERY SWING. EVERY SLIDE. ALL SEASON LONG.



## MASTERS STANDINGS

### Masters Division

#### Playoff Standings

S	AAA Division	W	L	Pct.	RA	RA4
1	Dundalk Nationals	5	0	1.000	30	11
2	South Bend Cardinals	4	1	.800	30	12
3	Tidewater Drillers	4	1	.800	39	14
4	Twin Peaks Lumberjacks	4	1	.800	42	14
5	TTown Jackos 45	3	2	.600	55	23
6	Flint Tigers	3	2	.600	46	24
7	East Coast Cardinals	3	2	.600	57	29
8	Lake Erie Blue Jays	3	2	.600	49	34
9	Atlanta Bombers	3	2	.600	56	38
10	Virginia Vikings	3	2	.600	62	42
11	Vukgripz A's	3	2	.600	90	63
12	Yamasa Beisbol Club	2	3	.400	35	16
13	Minnesota Web Gems	2	3	.400	42	32
14	St. Louis Honey Badgers	2	3	.400	59	36
15	Chicago Knights	2	3	.400	51	37
16	Mid Penn Phillies	2	3	.400	59	43

	AA	W	L	Pct.	RA	RA4
F	Nova Scotia Privateers	2	3	.400	38	21
L	New Jersey Rangers	2	3	.400	48	32
I	River City Rippers	2	3	.400	51	34
P	Midwest Lookouts	2	3	.400	65	34
a	Cincinnati Colt .45s	2	3	.400	68	39
C	DuPage Indians	2	3	.400	59	40
O	NEO Angels	2	3	.400	71	50



Manager and  
2nd baseman  
Ross Vukovich of  
the Vukgripz A's  
looking stylish in  
his short pants and  
high socks vs the  
Midwest Lookouts

photo by  
Greg Wagner

I	Baltimore Thunder	2	3	.400	72	50
N	Minnesota Bandits	2	3	.400	77	60
for	Florida Lumberjacks	1	4	.200	64	44
H	Limeport Milkmen	1	4	.200	72	48
O	Chicago Colts	1	4	.200	67	50
M	Minnesota Catfish	0	5	.000	84	62
E	Bellacino's Red Sox	0	5	.000	89	66



## VISIT THE ROY HOBBS GEAR STAND AT THE PLAYER DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX





## NOTEBOOK

### 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 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!



### 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.



*photo by Greg Wagner*

*Clutch 2-out RBI single by Staten Island Bombers' Frank Russo vs. the Minnesota Diamonds in a first-round AAAA playoff game*

### 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.



*see NOTEBOOK on page 7*



## NOTEBOOK

continued from page 6

### 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.



### 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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

see NOTEBOOK on page 8

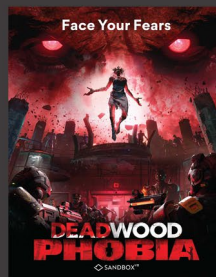


photo by Greg Wagner

Finally getting an answer to baseball's oldest question: Who's on first? Umpire Luis Sierra and S.I. Bombers manager Dan Anerella

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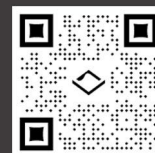


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## NOTEBOOK

Vukgripz A's center  
fielder Dan Herbert  
camps under a  
Midwest Lookouts  
fly ball



photo by  
Greg Wagner

continued from page 7

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.

❖ ❖ ❖

## Players of the Game

### Wednesday's games

Atlanta Bombers 20, Baltimore Thunder 2025 10:

**Bombers** - Steve Kolwicz 5x6, 2 HR, 7 RBI, 1 SB

Cangrejeros RD 9, Minnesota Web Gems 3: **Cangrejeros**

- Carlos Polanco 3x4, 2B, 3 RBI

Chicago Knights 10, Minnesota Bandits 9: **Knights** -

Randy Lott 3x4, 2 RBI, 2 R

Chicago Knights 19, Limeport Milkmen 5: **Knights** - Mike Kestrewza 5 IP

Dundalk Nationals 18, St. Louis Honey Badgers 7:

**Nationals** - Jason Maceda 4x5, 2 HR, 6 RBI, 3 R, 1 BB

Dundalk Nationals 20, Florida Lumberjacks 9: **Nationals**

- Alex Rimoli 4x4, 3B, 2B, 3 RBI, 2 R

East Coast Cardinals 14, Twin Peaks Lumberjacks 8:

**Cardinals** - Erik Reese 4x5, 2 HR, 5 RBI, 2 R

Nova Scotia Privateers 11, Bellacino Red Sox 3: **Bellacino**

- Matt Vrooman 2x4, 2 RBI, 1 2B

Ttown Jackos 6, Nova Scotia Privateers 5: **Privateers** -

Aaron Wright 2x4, HR, 2 RBI

Ttown Jackos 9, NJ Rangers 8: **Jackos** - Bill Jaworski 3x4,

2B, 3 RBI, including go-ahead RBI in 9th

Twin Peaks Lumberjacks 21, NEO Angels 8: **NEO Angels** -

Steve Klein 3x4, 2B, 3 RBI

Yamasa Baseball Team 20, Neo Angels 4: **Yamasa**

- Llubere Montero 3x4, 2B, 2 RBI **Angels** - John

Hardesty 2x4, HR, 2 RBI

**Note:** Managers submit Player of the Game on the score QR code after each game.

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