



ROY HOBBS WORLD SERIES INSIDE PITCH

WEEK 1 | VETERANS / MASTERS | OCT. 20

Columbus Panthers savor link to glory days



photo by Jeff Cogbill

BY GLENN MILLER
Roy Hobbs Baseball

Once a Panther, always a Panther.

That could be the motto of the 2026 Columbus Panthers.

As young men they played baseball for the Ohio Dominican University Panthers. Now as men in their early 40s, as husbands and fathers, they are once again Monarchs.

They've reunited to play together as they once did for an NAIA program. They were good enough to reach the NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho.

Now, they're in the Roy Hobbs World Series.

Matt Koblens is one of the Double Panthers.

He sat in the JetBlue Park stands Sunday afternoon rattling off names of teammates from then and now.

Nick Assmann.

Dane Youtz.

Vince Doster.

Taz Rowe.

Ryan Vaughn.

John Kountis.

K.C. Warden,

The Fort Myers trip to play baseball together is special.

"This our Christmas for us this week," Koblens said.

They celebrate baseball together.

"Kind of like a brotherhood," Assmann said.

Koblens was a key in getting the gang together. It wasn't tough.

"I just started calling my friends," Koblens said.

It's meaningful.

"Just getting to compete with these guys again," Koblens

see PANTHERS on page 2



PANTHERS

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said. "We did that for so long at a real high level."

Assmann is in his third World Series. The realtor previously played for the Glass City Black Sox.

One of his fond memories as a Dominican University catcher was catching future big-leaguer Johnathan Sanchez.

He wasn't the typical NAIA pitcher. Assmann was a freshman when Sanchez was a senior. The Sanchez fastball had extra oomph.

"My thumb is still not good," Assmann said.

Sanchez is the only Ohio Dominican player to reach the majors, according to baseball-reference.com.

K.C. Warden also played football in college and was such an outstanding student he went on to Ohio State dental school and is now a doctor of dental surgery with a practice called Westerville Smiles. He is the father of three and treasures playing baseball with old friends.

"We still have the same connections," said Warden, who majored in biology.

They may not run as fast or throw as hard but it's still baseball.

"It gives us a chance to kind of dive into the game and get competitive again," Warden said.

What do his patients say about their dentist going off to play baseball?

"Some think I'm crazy," Warden said. "Tell me I'm going to



*photo by
Jeff Cogbill*

get hurt. Others will actually tell me how cool they think it is."

What could be cooler than re-uniting with college teammates when one is in his 40s?

Merry Christmas in October.

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WORLD SERIES



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VETERANS/MASTERS MONDAY RESULTS

Veterans Division Results

Monday

Akron Cardinals 16, Tennessee White Lightning 13
ATX Saltdogs 16, Virginia Bullies 3
ATX Saltdogs 16, Vukgripz Akron A's 12
Chicago Knights 10, Cincinnati Colt .45s 4
Columbus Panthers 11, Tampa Cobra Kai 7
Columbus Panthers 11, TTown Jack-Os 1
JR Bats 14, TTown Jack-Os 13
Minnesota Brewers 17, South Bend Cardinals 16
Minnesota WebGems 17, Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs 11
Minnesota WebGems 6, Tidewater Drillers 5 (10)
New Jersey Mets 13, Vukgripz Akron A's 0
New Jersey Mets 16, Baltimore Chop 0
Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs 6, Chicago Giants 3
South Bend Cardinals 14, Chicago Giants 3
The Oilers 18, Virginia Bullies 3
The Oilers 6, Baltimore Chop 1
Tidewater Drillers 18, Minnesota Brewers 6

Masters Division Results

Monday

Cangrejeros Stars 14, South Bend Cardinals 3
Chicago Woodpeckers 10, Tidewater Drillers 0
DuPage Indians 13, Cincinnati Colt .45s 9
Glass City Black Sox 15, Nova Scotia Privateers 14
Honey Badgers 8, Pensacola Vikings 3
Jacksonville Hops 6, Flint Tigers 3
Lake Erie Blue Jays 10, Dundalk Nationals 3
Lake Erie Blue Jays 16, Fort Myers Seadogs 6
Midwest Lookouts 12, Baltimore Thunder 5



photo by Jeff Cogbill

Minnesota Diamonds 11, Chicago Woodpeckers 10
Minnesota Diamonds 3, Team Michigan 0
NEO Angels 10, Omaha Indians 3
New Jersey Rangers 20, Chicago Colts 11
River City Rippers 15, Lehigh Valley Railriders 13
River City Rippers 16, Minnesota Catfish 6
South Shore Giants 20, Victoria HarbourCats 7
Staten Island Bombers 21, Minnesota Bandits 8
Team Michigan 9, Tidewater Drillers 6
UTEK USA 14, Chicago Knights 10
Vukgripz Akron A's 14, Lansing A's 11
Yamasa Beisbol Club 13, Fort Myers Seadogs 6
Yamasa Beisbol Club 6, Dundalk Nationals 3



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VETERANS/MASTERS MONDAY STANDINGS

Veterans Division

Standings Thru Monday's Games

Team	W	L	Pct.	RA
New Jersey Mets	3	0	1.000	4
Columbus Panthers	3	0	1.000	9
Minnesota WebGems	3	0	1.000	21
Chicago Knights	2	0	1.000	4
JR Bats	2	0	1.000	25
The Oilers	2	1	.667	11
Tidewater Drillers	2	1	.667	24
ATX Saltdogs	2	1	.667	25
Minnesota Brewers	2	1	.667	36
Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs	1	2	.333	24
Baltimore Chop	1	2	.333	25
Cincinnati Colt .45s	1	2	.333	25
TTown Jack-Os	1	2	.333	26
Vukgripz Akron A's	1	2	.333	35
South Bend Cardinals	1	2	.333	36
Akron Cardinals	1	2	.333	43
Tampa Cobra Kai	0	2	.000	24
Tennessee White Lightnin'	0	2	.000	31
Virginia Bullies	0	3	.000	42
Chicago Giants	0	3	.000	42

South Shore Giants	3	0	1.000	25
Team Michigan	2	1	.667	10
Chicago Woodpeckers	2	1	.667	14
Lansing A's	2	1	.667	17
Lehigh Valley Railriders	2	1	.667	21
Yamasa Beisbol Club	2	1	.667	24
New Jersey Rangers	2	1	.667	27
Nova Scotia Privateers	2	1	.667	29
River City Rippers	2	1	.667	42
Omaha Indians	1	1	.500	11
Honey Badgers	1	1	.500	11
Pensacola Vikings	1	1	.500	12
Baltimore Thunder	1	1	.500	16
Midwest Lookouts	1	1	.500	16
UTEK USA	1	1	.500	17
Chicago Knights	1	1	.500	20
DuPage Indians	1	1	.500	22
Victoria HarbourCats	1	1	.500	25
Glass City Black Sox	1	1	.500	45
Cangrejeros Stars	1	2	.333	15
NEO Angels	1	2	.333	25
Jacksonville Hops	1	2	.333	25
South Bend Cardinals	1	2	.333	36
Flint Tigers	1	2	.333	37
Minnesota Catfish	0	2	.000	34
Chicago Colts	0	2	.000	40
Cincinnati Colt .45s	0	2	.000	45
Dundalk Nationals	0	3	.000	25
Tidewater Drillers	0	3	.000	31
Minnesota Bandits	0	3	.000	39
Fort Myers Seadogs	0	3	.000	41

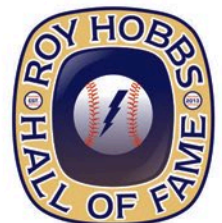
Masters Division

Standings Thru Monday's Games

Team	W	L	Pct.	RA
Lake Erie Blue Jays	3	0	1.000	12
Vukgripz A's	3	0	1.000	12
Staten Island Bombers	3	0	1.000	15
Minnesota Diamonds	3	0	1.000	19



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VETERANS/MASTERS TUESDAY SCHEDULE

Veterans Division Schedule

Tuesday

10 AM

New Jersey Mets @ Virginia Bullies, LC-S
Akron Cardinals @ Tampa Cobra Kai, PDC2
Tennessee White Lightnin' @ Cincinnati Colt .45s, PDC4

Chicago Giants @ Minnesota Brewers, TP-S
Columbus Panthers @ JR Bats, TP4

1:45 PM

ATX Saltdogs @ The Oilers, JB5
South Bend Cardinals @ Minnesota WebGems, PDC1
Tampa Cobra Kai @ Tennessee White Lightnin', PDC5
Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs @ Tidewater Drillers, TP-S
JR Bats @ Chicago Knights, TP2

5:30 PM

Chicago Knights @ TTown Jack-Os, TP-S
Vukgripz Akron A's @ Baltimore Chop, TP4

Masters Division Schedule

Tuesday

10 AM

Lansing A's @ Staten Island Bombers, JB-S
DuPage Indians @ Victoria HarbourCats, JB3

New Jersey Rangers @ Glass City Black Sox, JB4
Minnesota Catfish @ Chicago Colts, JB5
Omaha Indians @ Cincinnati Colt .45s, JB6
Baltimore Thunder @ Chicago Knights, LH3
Pensacola Vikings @ UTEK USA, LH6
Minnesota Bandits @ Cangrejeros Stars, PDC5
Tidewater Drillers @ Fort Myers Seadogs, TP2

1:45 PM

Omaha Indians @ South Shore Giants, JB-S
Victoria HarbourCats @ Cincinnati Colt .45s, JB2
Glass City Black Sox @ Minnesota Catfish, JB3
River City Rippers @ Chicago Colts, JB4
NEO Angels @ DuPage Indians, JB6
Jacksonville Hops @ Vukgripz Akron A's, LH-S
UTEK USA @ Midwest Lookouts, LH3
Chicago Knights @ Pensacola Vikings, LH4
Baltimore Thunder @ Honey Badgers, LH6
South Bend Cardinals @ Minnesota Diamonds, PDC2

Dundalk Nationals @ Flint Tigers, PDC3
Team Michigan @ Chicago Woodpeckers, PDC4
Yamasa Beisbol Club @ Lake Erie Blue Jays, TP4

5:30 PM

Nova Scotia Privateers @ Lehigh Valley Railriders, JB-S
Midwest Lookouts @ Honey Badgers, LH-S



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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.



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.



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!



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.



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.

NOTE, in the 70s & 75s divisions, 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.

see NOTEBOOK on page 7

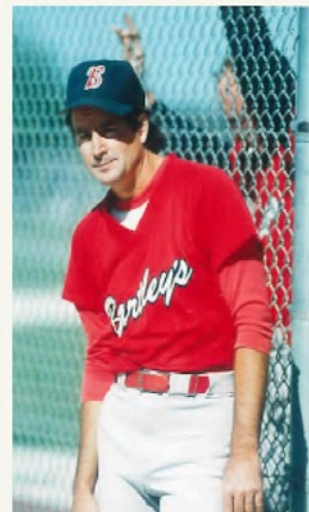
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NOTEBOOK



photo by Jeff Cogbill

continued from page 6

Both teams must agree if the game is not continued.

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.



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.



NOTEBOOK

Monday Players of the Game Veterans Division

Akron Cardinals 16, Tennessee White Lightnin' 13 –

Cardinals: Greg Miller 4-x, 2B, 4 RBI; Ben Davis 3x4, 3 2B, 3 RBI.

ATX Saltdogs 16, Virginia Bullies 6 – Saltdogs: Jeff Martin 7 IP for W.

ATX Saltdogs 16, Vukgripz akron A's 12 – Saltdogs: Nestor Serrano 3-3, 3 rbis & winning RBI.

JR Bats 14, TTown Jacko's 13 – James Trimm 3x4 2 RBI.

Minnesota Brewers 17, South Bend Cardinals 16 – Brewers: Nel Ortega & Andy Schafer HR's. Ben Schroeder save; Cardinals: Zak Farmer 3x5, HR, 2 R, 4 RBI.

Minnesota WebGems 17, Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs 11 – WebGems: Scott Marquardt 4 hits, 3 RBI, 2R.

New Jersey Mets 13, Vukgripz Akron A's 0 – Mets: Sandy Nin 4 SO innings for win. A's: Misael Henriquez 2 singles.

New Jersey Mets 16, Baltimore Chop 0 – Mets: Angel Castro WP 5 innings 1H.

Philadelphia Dirt Dawgs 6, Chicago Giants 3 – Dawgs: Chip Chapman 3-5, R, SB.

South Bend Cardinals 14, Chicago Giants 3 – Cardinals: Tim Murphy 7IP, 3ER, 7K, 0BB.



photo by
Jeff Cogbill

Masters Division

Minnesota Diamonds 3, Team Michigan 0 – Diamonds: Tony Wischnack CG Shutout.

South Shore Giants 20, Victoria HarbourCats 7 – Cats: Tony Lewis 3x3, 3B, 3RBIs, Dave Wylie 2x2.

Staten Island Bombers 21, Minnesota Bandits 8 – Bombers: Kieth Tiniakos 4-5, 5 RBI 2 HR's.

UTEK USA 14, Chicago Knights 10 – UTEK: Jeff Cochran 4H, Jesse Pantano 3H, 2 RBI.

Note: Managers submit Player of the Game on the score App after each game. Please give details of their performance



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