



Bulgarians bring love for baseball to RHWS



photo by Glenn Miller

Manager Youri Alkalay of Team Bulgaria

BY GLENN MILLER
Roy Hobbs Baseball

The team name is simple and to the point and geographically appropriate - Team Bulgaria.

The 2026 Roy Hobbs World Series includes a first - a team from Bulgaria.

The trip has been a goal for Manager Youri Alkalay.

"A dream of mine probably for three or four years to get here," Alkalay said Sunday before a game at the Lee Health Sports Complex.

This is not just another tournament for the Bulgarians.

"To me this is something like a world master's championship," Alkalay said, sitting in the dugout at Lee Health 2. "I feel myself like this is the family of Roy Hobbs."

His recruiting pitch to countrymen about the Roy Hobbs World Series was eloquent.

"I told them this is something like a lifetime experience playing on the major league fields against the talent from around the world and the United States," Alkalay said.

It's a small team with a roster of only 13 that includes nine Bulgarians and Americans.

"We have some local guys helping us," Alkalay, 63, said.

It's an eclectic group that includes a Cuban now residing in Ukraine and a Bulgarian now residing in the United Kingdom.

Alkalay played volleyball as a young man but got hooked on baseball when he visited Cuba. Was he hooked right away? No. He recalls watching a few minutes of a game between Cuba and the Dominican Republic on a small black and white TV.

"After 10 minutes I said to myself, 'This is very boring,'" Alkalay said.

Something or someone kept him watching.

"But then I fell in love with a lady, Cuban lady," Alkalay said. She didn't agree with his assessment.

"I said that 'Baseball, this boring game' and the lady she was so cold to me the next two hours," Alkalay said.

see BULGARIA on page 2



BULGARIA

continued from page 1

Eventually, obviously, the Bulgarian grew to love baseball. As do his players.

"We are nice guys who are in love with baseball," said Alkalay, who is a businessman. "In our lives, baseball is always, if not always in first place but either first or second."

It takes a serious commitment to travel here. There is the cost and a flight from Sofia to Frankfurt and another to Miami.

Team Bulgaria lost its first game 15-7 to the Banana Sharks.

But they likely had a pleasant evening after.

Has he picked out a favorite local spot to dine?

"Not really," Alkalay said. "My favorite place here is in front of the barbecue in the backyard."

He will grill rib-eye steak and ribs in warm Florida weather. Back in Sofia, the lows are in the 30s and highs in the 50s.

Not here. Win or lose, Team Bulgaria will be fine.

"Enjoying the weather," Alkalay said. "Enjoying the drinks."

His drink of choice?

A mojito, which by the way, is a Cuban drink.



photo by Jeff Cogbill

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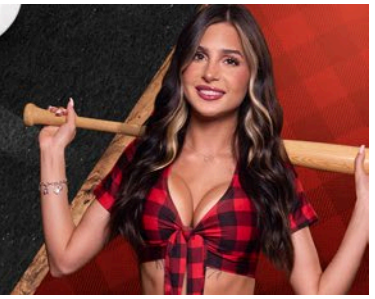


Roy Hobbs

WORLD SERIES



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LEGENDS MONDAY RESULTS

2026 RHWS Legends Division

Monday Results

Akron Brew Crew 10, Okaloosa Slammers 3
Baltimore Krushers 14, Maine Black Bears 7
Canton Tigers 16, Philadelphia Generals 6
Canton Tigers 19, Tidewater Drillers 12
Central Penn Warriors 14, DC Pirates 4
Chesapeake Rays 14, Chicago Pilots 5
Chicago Giants 32, Tennessee Dirtbags 2
Chicago Knights 10, Kodak Reds 9
Chicago North RedHawks 11, Bergen Yankees 1
Chicago North RedHawks 17, Americans Baseball 12
Chicago Woodpeckers 16, St. Louis Patriots 5
Chicago Woodpeckers 36, Lansing Blue Jays 8
DuPage Red Sox 21, Baltimore Krushers 5
DuPage Red Sox 3, Fort Myers Seadogs 0 (10)
Fort Myers Seadogs 7, Florida Sharks 6
Glory Days 11, Banana Sharks 10 (10)
HPK Oilers 16, Hellcats 8
Huntsville Havoc 19, Team Bulgaria 4
Kodak Reds 18, Chicago Jacks 7
Lansing Blue Jays 22, Long Island Patriots 17
Long Island Patriots 20, Wolfdogs 17
Michigan Dodgers 18, Maine Black Bears 3
Michigan Dodgers 9, Florida Sharks 3
Minneapolis Millers 23, Jersey Bananas 1
Minnesota Bandits 6, Americans Baseball 5 (10)
Motor City Firebirds 25, Bergen Yankees 2
Nashville River Bandits 12, Carolina Thunder 2
Orlando Dodgers 17, Minneapolis Millers 16
Pittsburgh 11, Motor City Firebirds 5
Pittsburgh 24, Minnesota Bandits 4
Southeast Cardinals 18, Victoria HarbourCats 8

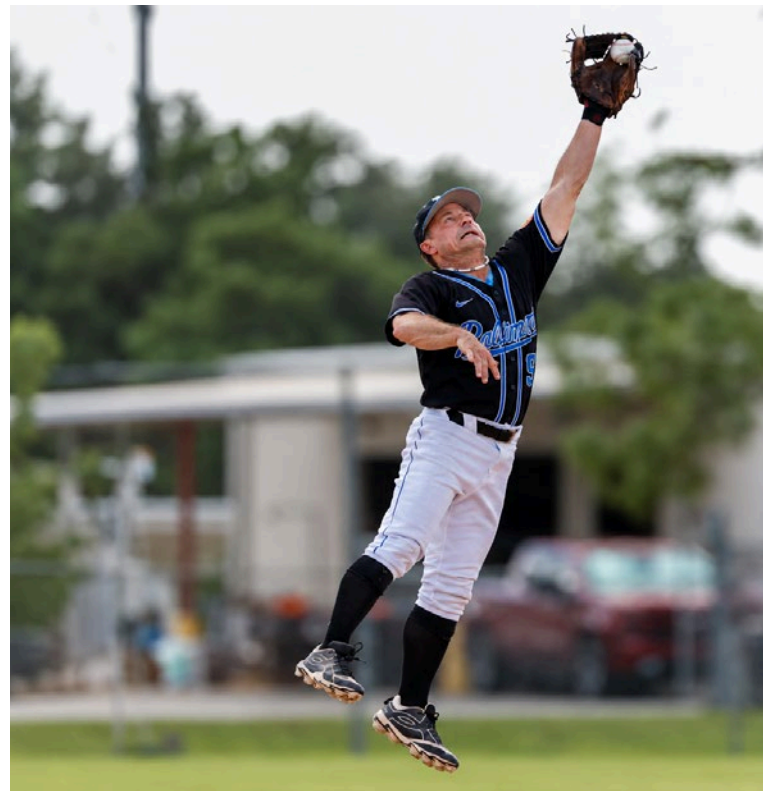


photo by Jeff Cogbill

St. Louis Patriots 12, Oakville Golden A's 0
St. Louis Pirates 11, White Bear Lake Bears 9
Steve's Sports 15, Minnesota Angels 3
Tennessee Dirtbags 30, Baltimore Thunder 10
USVI Hurricanes 19, Chesapeake Platinum 9
Westchester Fury 18, NEO Angels 2
Wolfdogs 15, Oakville Golden A's 6
Wright Field Reds 17, Tampa Bay Hurricanes 7



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LEGENDS MONDAY STANDINGS

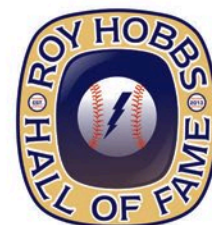
Legends Division

Standings Thru Monday's Games

Team	W	L	Pct.	RA				
Westchester Fury	3	0	1.000	10	Akron Brew Crew	1	1	.500 21
Pittsburgh 53's	3	0	1.000	11	Glory Days	1	1	.500 23
Michigan Dodgers	3	0	1.000	15	Chesapeake Platinum	1	1	.500 26
Chicago Knights	3	0	1.000	16	Baltimore Thunder	1	1	.500 32
HPK Oilers	3	0	1.000	17	Fort Myers Seadogs	1	2	.333 23
Chicago Woodpeckers	3	0	1.000	18	Americans Baseball Club	1	2	.333 24
Canton Tigers	3	0	1.000	21	Florida Sharks	1	2	.333 25
Southeast Cardinals	3	0	1.000	34	Oakville Golden A's	1	2	.333 31
Nashville River Bandits	2	0	1.000	6	Tampa Bay Hurricanes	1	2	.333 33
US Virgin Islands Hurricanes	2	0	1.000	12	Minnesota Bandits	1	2	.333 35
St. Louis Pirates	2	0	1.000	20	Wolfdogs	1	2	.333 36
Chicago Giants	2	1	.667	14	Chesapeake Rays	1	2	.333 36
Motor City Firebirds	2	1	.667	17	Kodak Reds	1	2	.333 39
Steve's Sports	2	1	.667	18	Chicago Pilots	1	2	.333 45
Hellcats	2	1	.667	19	Long Island Patriots	1	2	.333 45
DuPage Red Sox	2	1	.667	20	Lansing Blue Jays	1	2	.333 54
Banana Sharks	2	1	.667	22	Tennessee Dirtbags	1	2	.333 60
Minneapolis Millers	2	1	.667	24	Jersey Bananas	0	2	.000 25
Orlando Dodgers	2	1	.667	25	White Bear Lake Bears	0	2	.000 27
St. Louis Patriots	2	1	.667	26	DC Pirates	0	2	.000 30
Carolina Thunder	2	1	.667	27	Bulgaria	0	2	.000 34
Huntsville Havoc	2	1	.667	29	Chicago Jacks	0	2	.000 36
Chicago North Redhawks	2	1	.667	31	Okaloosa Slammers	0	3	.000 27
Wright Field Reds	2	1	.667	34	Maine Black Bears	0	3	.000 49
Baltimore Krushers	2	1	.667	41	Bergen Yankees	0	3	.000 50
Central Penn Warriors	1	1	.500	12	Minnesota Angels	0	3	.000 51
Tidewater Drillers	1	1	.500	21	Victoria HarbourCats	0	3	.000 54
					Philadelphia Generals	0	3	.000 59
					NEO Angels	0	3	.000 64



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LEGENDS TUESDAY SCHEDULE

Tuesday

10 AM

Michigan Dodgers @ Fort Myers Seadogs, JB-S
USVI Hurricanes @ Central Penn Warriors, JB3
White Bear Lake Bears @ DC Pirates, JB4
St. Louis Pirates @ Chesapeake Platinum, JB5
Oakville Golden A's @ Lansing Blue Jays, JB6
DuPage Red Sox @ Maine Black Bears, LH-S
Wolfdogs @ St. Louis Patriots, LH3
Hellcats @ Steve's Sports, LH4
Baltimore Thunder @ Akron Brew Crew, PDC1
Motor City Firebirds @ Chicago North RedHawks, PDC2
Long Island Patriots @ Chicago Woodpeckers, PDC3
Okaloosa Slammers @ Nashville River Bandits, PDC4
Huntsville Havoc @ Glory Days, TP-S
Chicago Giants @ Carolina Thunder, TP2
Tidewater Drillers @ Orlando Dodgers, TP4

1:45 PM

Baltimore Krushers @ Florida Sharks, JB-S
Jersey Bananas @ Philadelphia Generals, JB3
Central Penn Warriors @ St. Louis Pirates, JB4
DC Pirates @ USVI Hurricanes, JB5
Chesapeake Platinum @ White Bear Lake Bears, JB6
Americans Baseball @ Pittsburgh, LH-S
Southeast Cardinals @ Westchester Fury, LH3
Wright Field Reds @ Victoria HarbourCats, LH4
Minnesota Angels @ Chesapeake Rays, LH6
NEO Angels @ Tampa Bay Hurricanes, PDC2
Nashville River Bandits @ Baltimore Thunder, PDC3
Akron Brew Crew @ Tennessee Dirtbags, PDC4
Chicago Pilots @ HPK Oilers, PDC5



photo by Jeff Cogbill

Minnesota Bandits @ Bergen Yankees, TP-S
Glory Days @ Chicago Jacks, TP2
Minneapolis Millers @ Tidewater Drillers, TP3
Team Bulgaria @ Kodak Reds, TP4

5:30 PM

Canton Tigers @ Jersey Bananas, JB-S
Chicago Knights @ Banana Sharks, LH-S
Chicago Jacks @ Team Bulgaria, TP-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

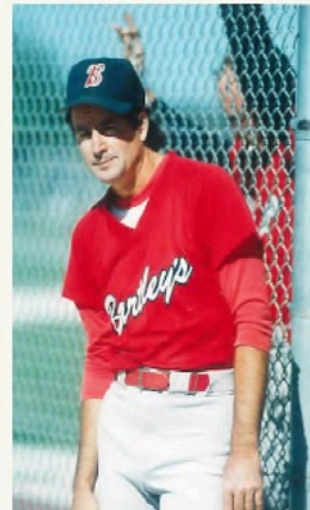
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NOTEBOOK



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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.



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.

Monday Players of the Game

St. Louis Patriots 12, Oakville Golden A's 0 – A's: +Sean Ellis 1x2, 2B

Minnesota Bandits 6, Americans Baseball 5 (10) – Bandits: Brian Marks 10-inning CG victory.

Nashville River Bandits 12, Carolina Thunder 2 – Thunder: Dean Kent 2x2, RBI.

Wolfdogs 15, Oakville Golden A's 5 – A's: Greg MacDonald 2x2, 2B, SF, RBI, R.

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