ROY HOBBS WORLD SERIES
INSIDE PITCH
WEEK 3 | CLASSICS | NOV. 6

Hobbs player hits grand slam with poem

BY GLENN MILLER
Roy Hobbs Baseball,

Bob VanFleteren's baseball poem "Not Done Yet" is short but profound.

The Nashville River Bandits lead-off batter touched on the magic of adult amateur baseball in a poem he dashed off in 10 minutes during a high school chemistry class he was teaching.

Some lines likely reach deep into the soul of every Roy Hobbs player.

"It's not just a game; it's a dance of the soul."

Thursday morning at the PDC, VanFleteren, 66, discussed the poem and baseball and more.

The poem was created, he said, about three years ago when he was teaching at Franklin (Tenn.) Christian Academy.

"My students were complaining about their English teacher who was asking them to write poems," VanFleteren said. "I said write about something you love."

So, Mr. VanFleteren, showed the 10th graders by example,

In 10 minutes, he created a poem that those students may be too young to appreciate. He couldn't take more time fine-tuning the poem.

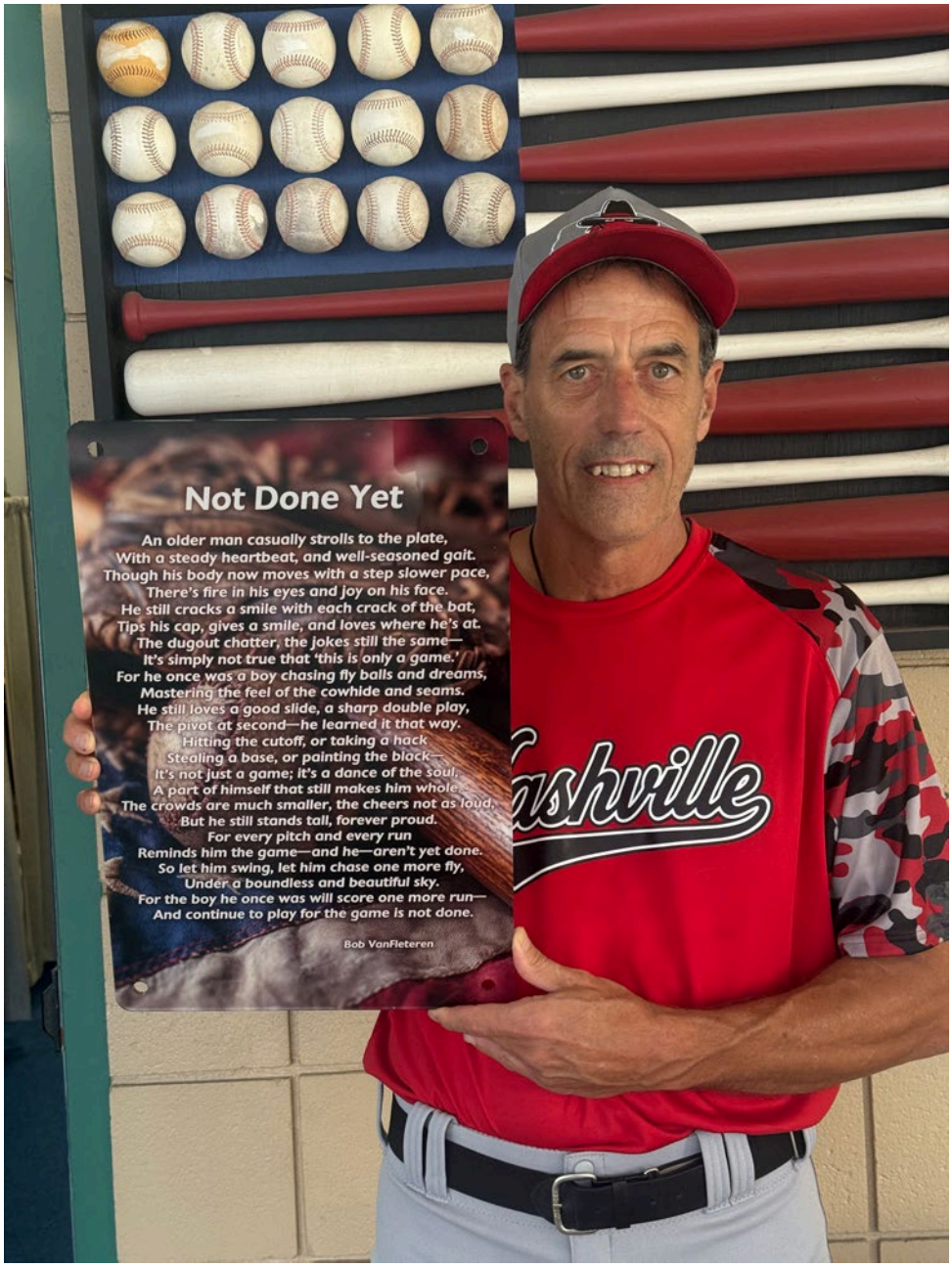


photo by Tom Giffen

Bob VanFleteren of the Nashville River Bandits and his poem Not Done Yet

"We had to get on with the chemistry lesson," VanFleteren said.

His fellow River Bandits have read it.

"It almost brought tears to my eyes," River Bandit John Gervasi said.

Although most Roy Hobbs players played the game at least through high school, VanFleteren quit at 12.

"I didn't play again until I was 53," VanFleteren said.

He's enjoying an athletic re-birth in his 50s and 60s. VanFleteren also competes in senior track and field as a sprinter and long jumper and in throwing events.

"Most track guys can't hit a curve ball and most of the baseball guys I know can't high jump," VanFleteren said.

"Simply not true that this is only a game."

He's reveling in baseball and track,

VanFleteren has a mechanical engineering degree from Michigan State and worked in that field for many years before teaching for several years.

"For once he was a boy chasing fly balls and dreams."

He hasn't been a boy in a long time but he's still chasing fly balls and dreams.

POEM

continued from page 1

A man with a STEM education and background reached into the arts to write poetry for 10th graders.

He recalls students telling him they didn't know how to write a poem.

What did the chemistry teacher say?

"Sure you do," VanFleteren said. "Let's find something you love and write about it."

What did those kids write about?

"Forlorn lover stuff," VanFleteren said.

Not for the chemistry teacher who is also a poet.

"He's a Renaissance man," Bandits manager Brian Kelly said.

"A part of himself that still makes him whole."

"That's when old men start reading it and they get a little choked up," VanFleteren said.

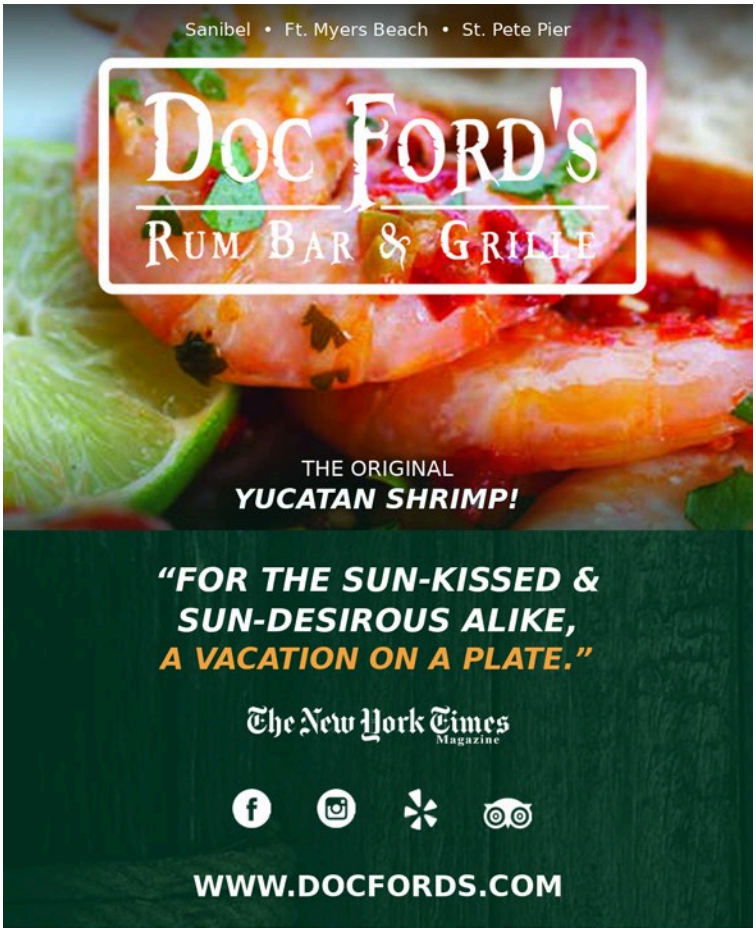
The game is eternal.

"We don't run like we used to," VanFleteren said. "We don't see or hear like we used to but part of us is still 12 years old."



photo by Jeff Cogbill

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CLASSICS THURSDAY RESULTS

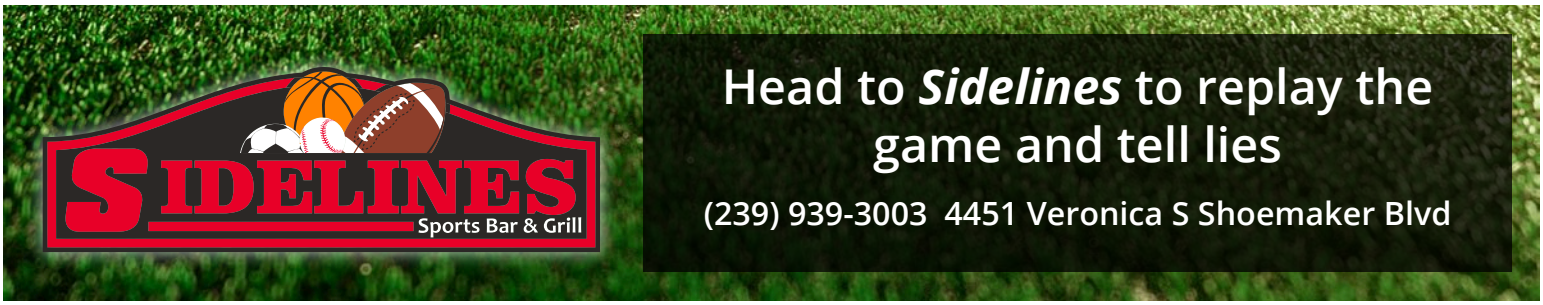
Thursday Results

Baltimore Orioles 11, Akron Brewers 10
Baltimore Orioles 7, Lansing Blue Jays 5
Banana Sharks 17, Baltimore Thunder 8
Carolina Thunder 17, Minnesota Twins 4
Central Texas 7, Bellacino's Coyotes 0 forfeit
Chicago Giants 9, Cincinnati Tigers 8
Chicago Knights 10, Steve's Sports 1
Cutters 12, Chicago Blues 2
Cuyahoga Indians 9, Pensacola Salt Bandits 0
Fort Myers Cubs 11, Bergen Yankees 1
Fort Orange Mohawks 18, St. Louis Dodgers 13
Keystone Hawks 14, Boston Goodfellas 4
Kodak Reds 13, Boston Goodfellas 9
Lansing Blue Jays 10, Dallas Rangers 9
Long Island Reds 5, Minnesota TC Bats 3
Minnesota Bandits 26, New Jersey Twins 15
Nashville River Bandits 17, DuPage Wildcats 5
New Jersey Pilots 3, Huntsville Havoc 2
Nova Scotia Monarchs 19, Pittsburgh South Hills 11
Orlando Blazers 15, Kodak Reds 5
Pittsburgh South Hills 20, Bellacino's Coyotes 9
RIMA Foxes 13, Chicago Pilots 7
St. Louis Patriots 11, Long Island Yankees 10
St. Louis Patriots 16, Minnesota TC Bats 2
Washington Titans 24, NH Hammer Heads 20
Windy City Warriors 18, Milwaukee Lugnuts 8
Wright Field Reds 16, Oakville Golden A's 13



photo by Jeff Cogbill





CLASSICS THURSDAY STANDINGS

Classics Division Playoff Standings

S	AAA Playoffs	W	L	Pct.	RA	RA4
1	Fort Myers Cubs	5	0	1.000	23	14
2	St. Louis Patriots	5	0	1.000	26	16
3	Dallas Rangers	4	1	.800	18	8
4	Chicago Giants	4	1	.800	20	12
5	Long Island Yankees	4	1	.800	24	13
6	Carolina Thunder	4	1	.800	31	18
7	Baltimore Orioles	4	1	.800	30	19
8	Bergen Yankees	4	1	.800	27	21
9	Lansing Blue Jays	4	1	.800	30	21
10	Chicago Knights	3	2	.600	35	20
11	Nashville River Bandits	3	2	.600	33	21
12	Cuyahoga Indians	3	2	.600	35	22
13	Keystone Hawks	3	2	.600	37	23
14	RIMA Foxes	3	2	.600	39	25
15	Akron Brewers	3	2	.600	38	27
16	Minnesota Twins	3	2	.600	44	27

NOTES: Higher seed (i.e., 1-2-3) is home thru playoffs; No adjustments in matchups.

S	AA Playoffs	W	L	Pct.	RA	RA4
1	Wright Field Reds	3	2	.600	59	32
2	Windy City Warriors	3	2	.600	44	33
3	Cincinnati Tigers	3	2	.600	45	33
4	Washington Titans	3	2	.600	59	39
5	Pensacola Salt Bandits	2	3	.400	41	22
6	Oakville Golden A's	2	3	.400	42	26
7	Cutters	2	3	.400	43	28
8	Minnesota Bandits	2	3	.400	45	28
9	Milwaukee Lugnuts	2	3	.400	46	28
10	Fort Orange Mohawks	2	3	.400	42	29
11	Steve's Sports	2	3	.400	45	30
12	N.H. Hammer Heads	2	3	.400	58	34
13	Banana Sharks	2	3	.400	51	36
14	Chicago Pilots	2	3	.400	61	43
15	DuPage Wildcats	2	3	.400	64	46
16	Nova Scotia Monarchs	2	3	.400	62	48

NOTES: Higher seed (i.e., 1-2-3) is home thru playoffs; Match-ups adjusted at descretion of Roy Hobbs to avoid Cutter-Fort Orange rematch & DuPage and WC Warriors who play in Chicago in regular season.

	A Playoffs	W	L	Pct.	RA	RA4
n	Alabama Bandits	1	3	.250	59	42
o	Orlando Blazers	1	4	.200	50	35
	Long Island Reds	1	4	.200	51	35
s	Baltimore Thunder	1	4	.200	58	36
e	St. Louis Dodgers	1	4	.200	58	40
e	Chicago Blues	1	4	.200	59	42
d	New Jersey Twins	1	4	.200	68	42
s	Central Texas	1	4	.200	62	43

NOTES: Flip a coin for home team. Matchups drawn by Roy Hobbs and avoid rematches.

	B Playoffs	W	L	Pct.	RA	RA4
n	New Jersey Pilots	1	4	.200	68	45
o	Pittsburgh South Hills	1	4	.200	65	46
s	Kodak Reds	1	4	.200	69	49
e	Boston GoodFellas	1	4	.200	76	49
e	Huntsville Havoc	0	5	.000	65	46
d	Minnesota TC Bats	0	5	.000	71	53
s	Bellacino's Coyotes	0	5	.000	87	63

NOTES: Flip a coin for home team. Matchups drawn by Roy Hobbs and avoid rematches. Coyotes unable to field a team on Friday-Saturday.





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CLASSICS AAAA BRACKET

2026 RHWS Classics AAAA Playoff

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
#1 Minnesota Bees		
Loser to A LC-S / 10 am (1	Minnesota Bees 12-8	
#5 Atlanta Baseball		
#4 Midwest Angels	Loser to F LC3 / 1:45 pm (5	Midwest Angels 14-0
Loser to B LC4 / 10 am (2	Midwest Angels 14-3	
#6 Pittsburgh		
#3 South Dakota Rushmores	Loser to G JB-S / 1:45 pm (11	
Loser to C LH6 / 10 am (3	Michigan Dodgers 15-14	
#7 Michigan Dodgers		
#2 Americans Baseball	Loser to E LC4 / 1:45 pm (6	Americans Baseball 8-7
Loser to D LC3 10 am / (4	Americans Baseball 18-8	JB-S / 1:45 pm (14 Champion
#8 Maine Black Bears		

Friday

G)

E) Michigan Dodgers

A) Atlanta Baseball JB6 / 10 am (9

JB3 / 10 am (13

LC6 / 1:45 pm (7 Pittsburgh 10-7

B) Pittsburgh

LH-S / 2 pm (12

C) South Dakota Rushmores

LC2 / 1:45 pm (8 South Dakota Rushmores 7-2

D) Maine Black Bears

LH6 / 10 am (10

F) Minnesota Bees

CLASSICS AAA BRACKET

Classics AAA Playoffs

Friday First Round	Fri. Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Championship
		Saturday	

#1 Fort Myers Cubs

PDC2 / 10AM

#16 Minnesota Twins

#8 Bergen Yankees — PDC4 / 1:45 PM

PDC3 / 10AM

#9 Lansing Blue Jays

#5 Long Island Yankees — LH3 / 10 AM

PDC4 / 10AM

#12 Cuyahoga Indians

#4 Chicago Giants — PDC3 / 1:45 PM

PDC5 / 10AM

#13 Keystone Hawks

LH-S / 1:30 pm

Championship

#3 Dallas Rangers

JB-S / 10AM

#14 RIMA Foxes

JB5 / 1:45 PM

#6 Carolina Thunder

JB4 / 10AM

#11 Nashville River Bandits

#7 Baltimore Orioles — LH4 / 10AM

JB5 / 10AM

#10 Chicago Knights

#2 St. Louis Patriots — JB4 / 1:45 PM

JB3 / 10AM

#15 Akron Brewers

CLASSICS AA BRACKET

Classics AA Playoffs

Friday First Round	Fri. Quarterfinals	Semifinals	Championship
		Saturday	

#1 Wright Field Reds

TP2 / 10 AM

#15 DuPage Wildcats

#8 Minnesota Bandits — TP4 / 1:45 PM

TP-S / 10 AM

#9 Milwaukee Lugnuts

#5 Pensacola Salt Bandits — TP2 / 10 AM

TP3 / 10 AM

#12 NH Hammer Heads

#4 Washington Titans — TP2 / 1:45 PM

TP4 / 10 AM

#10 Fort Orange Mohawks

TP-S / 1:30 pm

Championship

#3 Cincinnati Tigers

LH1 / 10 AM

#14 Chicago Pilots

LH4 / 1:45 PM

#6 Oakville Golden A's

LH3 / 10 AM

#11 Steve's Sports

#7 Cutters — TP4 / 10AM

LH-S / 10 AM

#13 Banana Sharks

#2 Windy City Warriors — LH3 / 1:45 PM

LH4 / 10 AM

#16 Nova Scotia Monarchs

CLASSICS A BRACKET

Classics A Playoffs

Quarterfinals / Friday	Semifinals / Friday	Championship

FLIP A COIN FOR HOME TEAM

Long Island Reds

PDC2 / 1:30 PM

St. Louis Dodgers

TP4 / 5:30 PM

Chicago Blues

PDC5 / 1:30 PM

Baltimore Thunder

Saturday

JB-S / 10 AM

Championship

New Jersey Twins

TP2 / 1:45 PM

Central Texas

TP-S / 5:30 PM

Alabama Bandits

TP-S / 1:45 PM

Orlando Blazers

CLASSICS B BRACKET

Classics B Playoffs

Quarterfinals / Friday	Semifinals / Saturday	Championship

FLIP A COIN FOR HOME TEAM

Saturday

Boston Goodfellas

PDC3 / 10 am

Huntsville Havoc

LH2 / 1:45 PM

Minnesota TC Bats

PDC5 / 1:30 pm

Championship

Kodak Reds

LH6 / 1:45 PM

New Jersey Pilots

PDC4 / 10 am

Pittsburgh South Hills

Bellacino's Coyotes Forfeit

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.

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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.

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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.

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photo by Jeff Cogbill

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