

Diamond Dirt

2009



FASTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
St. Thomas, Ont.



The Official Newsletter
of the Canadian Championship

Issue #3

Tuesday September 1, 2009

John Thompson, Editor

SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

In an effort to accurately reflect appropriate timing and consideration for fastball fans, the following schedule is confirmed for the Playoff Weekend:

Sat. Sept. 5 – Eliminations (8 teams)

- Game C3 – 11:00 am – 5th place vs 8th place
- Game C4 – 1:00 pm – 6th place vs 7th place
- Game C5 – 3:00 pm – WC3 vs LC1
- Game C6 – 6:00 pm – WC4 vs LC2
- Game C7 – 8:00 pm – WC1 vs WC2

Sun. Sept. 6 – Championship (4 teams)

- Game C8 – 10:00 am – WC5 vs WC6
- Game C9 – 12:30 pm – LC7 vs WC8
- Game C10 – 3:00 pm – WC7 vs WC9

SCORE BOX AUCTIONED

If your local league needs a scoreboard, if your kids need a tree house, if your cottage needs a storage shed, inquire about the **SUPER DUPER DEAL** availability of the 1st base score box. The box, plus roofing from the dugouts will be offered for sale at the end of the week... possibly by auction. Minimum opening bid is half the price of the materials only and winning bidder must disassemble the units – details at the media/finance trailer.



Tammy waves from score-box

Today's Key Games ...



Pivotal Day for Host's Double "Life-line"

- 12:00 pm – Jarvis Gamblers vs **ST. THOMAS CENTENNIALS**
- 8:00 – Vancouver Grey Sox vs **ST. THOMAS CENTENNIALS**

Diamond Dirt 2009

Diamond Dirt newsletter is published daily for the enjoyment of fans at the 2009 Canadian championships. Feedback is welcome - leave your message for **DIAMOND DIRT** at the Media Office, Attn: John Thompson, Editor or e-mail him at sstj99@yahoo.com



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TUES. - THURS. 11:00 AM - 12:00 AM

FRI. - SAT. 11:00 AM - 2:00 AM

SUN. 11:00 AM - 12:00 AM

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RESULTS – Monday Aug. 31
Harrah's Mildmay Picks
(Record to date (8-3))

L 12:00 pm **VANCOUVER GREY SOX 1**
vs. St John's Kelly's Pub 6

Str. John's Kelly's Pub – 6R 7H 1E
Vancouver Grey Sox 1R 4H 2E
WP – **Rob Greene** (1-0) – 28 pitches, 26 strikes; **Brad Ezekiel** 2x3, 2 HR, 5 rbis; **Justin Gill** 2x3; **Geoff Evely** 2x4
LP – **Tyson Barkman** (0-1); **Calem Gardner** 2x3

W 2:00 pm – Jarvis Gamblers 1 vs **KITCHENER RIVERSHARK TWINS 6**
Jarvis 1st Ontario Gamblers -1R 7H 1E
Kitchener Rivershark Twins - 6R 9H 1E
WP – **Dean Holoien** (1-0) – 6K; 2x3 HR and 3 rbis; **Ryan Wolfe** 2x4, HR
LP – **Rob O'Brien** (0-1) – 4K; **Ryan Thompson** 2x3

W 4:00 pm – **CHARLOTTETOWN FAWCETTS 6** vs Glace Bay Mets 0
Charlottetown Fawcetts - 6R 7H 1E
Glace Bay Mets - 0R 3H 0E
WP – **Frank Cox** (1-1) – 16 K; **Mark Arsenault** 3x4, 4 rbis;

LP – **Trevor McCabe** (0-2); **Triple Play** – late in the game, with Fawcetts runners at 1st and 2nd, a ground ball to **3B Derek "Eeker" MacDonald** started a 5-4-3 DP, MacDonald stepping on 3rd, throwing quickly to **2B John J. McCarthy** and over to **1B Ernie Pyke**. For historic reference in the archives – the ground ball was put into play by veteran **Kelly Wenstrom**.

W 6:00 pm – Vancouver Grey Sox 6 vs **JARVIS GAMBLERS 7**
Jarvis made it two comebacks in as many nights, rebounding from 3-0, to tie it 3-3 prior to extra innings; each team scored 1 in the 8th and after the Sox led 6-4 in T9, Gamblers scored 3 in B9.
WP – **Rob O'Brien** (in relief) (1-1) 7K; **Jason Hill** 2x4; **Jeff Ellsworth** 2x5; **Ian Fehrman** 1x3, 3 rbis; LP – **Derek Mayson** (1-1) 4K; **Calem Gardner**, **Scott Newitt** & **Blake Hunter** all 2x4

W 8:00 pm – Brookfield Elks 1 vs **ST. THOMAS CENTENNIALS 9**
WP **Rob Schweyer** (1-0) struck out the first 13 Elks, and 14 of 15 overall; **Mark Coleman** ignited a 7-run 3rd inning as host Centennials remain **only undefeated team**.

STANDINGS

Tuesday morning September 1
TEAM W L

Playoff Double Life

St. Thomas Evergreen Centennials	3	0
Brookfield NS Elks	2	1
Jarvis First Ontario Gamblers	2	1
Kitchener Hallman Rivershark Twins	1	1
Charlottetown PEI Fawcetts	1	1

Playoff Single Life

Vancouver BC Grey Sox	1	2
St. Johns NL Kelly's Pub Canadians	1	2
Glace Bay NS Mets	0	3

HARRAH'S MILD MAY PICKS FOR Tues. Sept. 1
(Winners BOLD UPPER CASE UNDERLINED)
(Record to date (8-3))

10:00 am **KITCHENER RIVERSHARK TWINS** vs Charlottetown Fawcetts
12:00 pm – Jarvis Gamblers vs **ST. THOMAS CENTENNIALS**
2:00 pm - **KITCHENER RIVERSHARK TWINS** vs Glace Bay Mets
4:00 pm – **CHARLOTTETOWN FAWCETTS** vs Brookfield Elks
6:00 PM – **JARVIS GAMBLERS** vs St. John's Kelly's Pub
8:00 – Vancouver Grey Sox vs **ST. THOMAS CENTENNIALS**

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CANADIAN NATIONALS

*T*R*I*V*I*A*

(answers to Monday Trivia)

1. 1999 and 2005
2. Dean Holoiem (2008 Top Performer with Saskatoon and 2009 ISC MVP with Kitchener Hallman Rivershark Twins).
3. British Columbia (Victoria 1975-78)
4. Vandenbrink Farm Equipment and Huron Tractor Supply
5. Saskatoon Aspen Interiors – missing in action this year!

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

1. Three **Jarvis Gamblers** players made the 2008 Canadians All-Star team – who were they?
2. In 2008 at the Canadian Mens' Championship in Saskatoon, 10 teams participated. **Which provinces** from last year are not attending this year?
3. Two provinces represented at the 2009 nationals have never won a Sr. Men's Title since 1965. **Which provinces?**
4. Which of these two provinces has the best opportunity to win a Sr. Men's Title in the future, based on the province's **Jr. Men's team** success this year?
5. This week, which **local restaurant** is promoting **TWO CAN DINE** for \$12.99?

BASEBALL QUOTES

“When I started baseball was played by nine tough competitors in graceful ball parks. By the time I finished, there were ten men on each side, the game was played indoors on plastic, and I had to spend half my time watching out for a man dressed in a chicken suit trying to kiss me”. **MLB Umpire Ron Luciano**

50/50 - Monday August 31

Draw #3 – #01146 - \$300+ - won by the “Blue Crew”

Draw #4 - #01564 - \$337 – unclaimed

YOGISM – “I always thought that record would stand until it was broken.” **from the great Yankees' catcher Yogi Berra**

DD Revisions – Umpire **Terry Burr** is from Puslinch, ON; Softball Canada Supervisor **Bob Abbott** is from Huntsville, ON (and coached in Shedden in an earlier fastball career); Umpire **Dominic Germain** is from Donnacona, QC; hard to believe, but, YES, there is only **ONE Jay Hart** who is officiating at this event.

TOURNAMENT RULES

Up-Date

In yesterday's Diamond Dirt the following Tournament Rule was cited... but it turns out that it is incorrect. Can you spot the error? Here it is again –

International Tie-breaker – if a game is tied after 7 innings, each following half inning, teams will start with a runner at 2B (the last out from prior inning) to assist in generating offence.

Indeed, offence has been generated in two games to date in this tourney – with teams tied at 1-1 after 7 innings in two games the final scores were **5-4** (Brookfield over St. John's) and **7-6** (Jarvis over Vancouver)

Correct answer in upcoming issue of Diamond Dirt

MERCY RULE UPDATE – This tourney has a 7 run mercy after 5 innings (see yesterday's DD). In ISC play, in 2010, the mercy rules shall be 7 runs differential after 5 innings, 12 after 4 or 15 after 3. Is this proactive anticipating blowouts in 2010?

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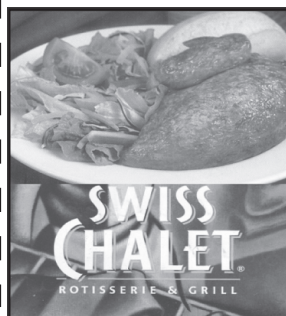
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COMMENTARY FROM A FAN—
What's with 2 & 1/2 hour fastball games?

It's a luxury hosting a tournament that embraces a schedule that starts at either 10 am... and some days only 12 noon. No more than half a dozen games to be played in a facility possessing five diamonds. So why does a "feature game", scheduled for 8 pm to entice local fans to support the host team, start two hours late? On a weekday night, 10 pm is hardly prime time.

Monday night, a solid crowd was in attendance by 7:30 pm at Doug Tarry Sports Complex to cheer on their Evergreen Centennials, billed to meet the Brookfield Elks. A **host committee's dream** – two undefeated teams, one the local heroes, with not a cloud in the sky and only a whisper of wind.

Instead, local fans were treated to an alternate match-up, albeit a cliffhanger as Jarvis rallied to nip Vancouver 5-4 in nine innings. At 7:30 pm, the opening pitch was just thrown for the 6:00 pm game. When the winning run crossed the plate just past 9:40, it was obvious the featured game would be 2 hours late in starting. **Question** – in the early evening, at 7:30 pm, how could the schedule be more than 90 minutes behind? Only three games had been played from 12 noon to 7:30 pm – an average of 2.5 hours each.

How has this great game of "fastball" turned agonizingly into "slow-ball?" If fans are stake-holders in this tournament, and gate receipts are key to the revenue and financial success, then the fans have a right to be catered to. In the 15 minutes required by grounds crews to prepare the infield for the day's


wisely-scheduled match-up involving the Host Centennials, fans should be filling the stands, not fleeing the park. Yogi Berra stated – ***"If people don't want to come out to the ball park, how are you going to stop them?"***

In the past, a well-contested fastball game, with "Pete-Rose like" hustle and attitude evident in abundance everywhere, would be 7 innings played in 1.5 hours. This week any game played in less than 2-hours is a rarity (and a treat when it happens). Wanna keep people from returning to the park? Keep on dragging games excruciatingly.

SUGGESTIONS TOMORROW - how to cut 20 minutes from an average game – everyone can help pitchers, catchers, batters, managers, umpires and officials. Let's put "fast" back into fastball. Eliminate the opinion that if fans want to enjoy a "fast" softball game, they have to attend a slow-pitch tournament.

IT'S A NEW MONTH TODAY as September has pounced upon us, after such a "memorable" summer. Famous dates in the 9th month include Sept. 21 (1st day of autumn), and **Sept. 1st**, birthdays for **Roseanne Allen** of Owen Sound, a hard-working video streaming volunteer with the ISC and a long-time fastball fan, as well as **Don "Rico" Carty**, a memorable fastball character, the one so many "fondly loved to hate" in his role as Umpire in Chief for the St. Thomas & District Fastball Association. **Happy Birthday Roseanne & Rico**. One of these celebrants is **69 today!** Which one? (*Hint – one would never reveal a lady's age in public!*)

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