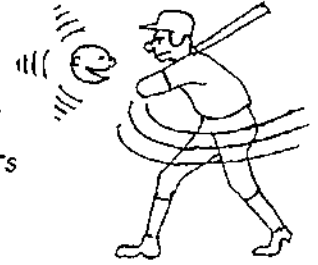


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KNUCKLE
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of NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL

Volume ② _____ 1994 _____ Number ④

Sadly we have to report that National League has been reduced to six teams. There appears to be a general decline in the popularity of 'American' sports within the United Kingdom, and we are not alone in experiencing falling numbers.

The two British American Football authorities merged into one for this season, to present a more unified force for the promotion of their sport this season. This has not prevented at least three clubs, previously thought of as well established, from folding during the current season, and at least three others considering re-locating, either to enable a merger with other struggling clubs, or to move into what they hope will be a more fruitful catchment area.

The British Baseball Federation had to wholly re-organise their Northern Conference, having lost four member teams without so much as a game being played, and there are currently, in the Southern Conference, three member teams on three consecutive weeks of conceding 9-0 forfeits.

This does not make our own loss of both the Bromley Blue Jays and Bury Saints any easier to bear, but it does put that loss into context with the general state of sport nationally.

Finally, as you may be aware, your editor was involved in a minor accident with a length of scaffolding, and was unable to produce this issue at the scheduled time of June 26th. However, normal service has now been resumed, with *Knuckleball* returning to fortnightly publication for the rest of the season. (If any team has a batting helmet I can buy off them, preferably in a businesslike grey pinstripe, I'd be most grateful! - Ed).

REPORTS & SCORES

12th June 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	E	E		
Essex Eagles	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	5	6	1	2	13	10
Bromley Blue Jays	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	7	4

WP Vince Warner
LP Bob Ratcliffe

A tighter game than a seven inning slaughter would suggest, with both Ratcliffe and Warner starting strongly, with the game tied at 1-1 by the close of the fifth.

Eagle opened the score with a squeeze play, Colvin's sac bunt giving Dave Read the free run to home plate. Brett Marty equalised for the Blue Jays, Wilesmith hitting a sac fly to level the game.

Then in the sixth, Eagles got the better of Bob Ratcliffe's pitching repertoire, scoring five runs from five hits, including a Dave Read double. Ratcliffe then reduced the arrears with a solo homer in the sixth, but despite changing pitchers, Blue Jays couldn't restrain the Eagles onslaught, with Wilesmith conceding six runs from five hits in the seventh, including a second Dave Reed double.

No play occurred in the two other scheduled matches as the Lakenheath Yankees were attending their college graduation ceremony. At present the standings reflect a 9-0 forfeit victory for the Warriors, but this result is likely to be removed and a double-header played later in the season. Tonbridge Bobcats collected a 9-0 forfeit win over the Bury Saints, this result standing, as will all other Saints/Blue Jays results to June

19th June 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R			
Tonbridge Bobcats	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	4	LP Alex Malihoudis
London Warriors	1	1	3	6	3	1	1	0	X	14	WP Alan Smith

A bright and breezy start for the Bobcats at Barnes, with each of the first four batters getting on base. Alex Malihoudis lead with a triple to left, and was batted in by Mark Borley. Martin Barker got on base with a fly to right, and Nick Carter scored two runs with a fine double to left. However, his over-optimistic advance to third brought the first out of the day, and the top of the first closed without further incident.

Warriors, having lost there boundary fence, original backstop netting, and foul poles in an arson attack, were left with an open left-field, and their second batter, Alan Bloomfield, ran out his solo homer to reduce London's arrears.

The second inning saw Warriors take the lead, with RBI's from Armitage, Rodriguez and Smith, which was enough to see off Bobcats starter, Malihoudis, who had also played the day before.

Sadly, Bobcats first releiver, Ben Lansbury, never settled into his rhythm, and in a torrid two thirds of an inning, faced nine batters and yielded five runs for 9-3 Warriors. Nick Carter then took over, with bases loaded, and yielded just one more run, via a walk, before collecting the third out.

Lansbury received some consolation with an RBI in the fourth, but Warriors replied with RBI's from Alan Smith and Rich Kemp, and Brad Thompson crossing the plate on a passed ball, making the score 13-4 Warriors.

Nick Carter yielded just the one further run, an Alan Smith RBI, but Bobcats could not reduce the deficit, and the game closed in the seventh under the slaughter rule. Special credit should go to two of the Bobcat outfield, Malcolm Smith and Liam Walters, both playing their first National League games. Walters was denied a trio of good catches only by member of the public straying dangerously close to the field of play, and had to settle for a commendable two out of three.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E										
Enfield Spartans	1	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	9	8	4	WP Julien Fountain				
Essex Eagles	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	3	9	5	LP Vince Warner

A weakened Essex line up gave good account of themselves against a confident Enfield side. Early honours were even, Rob Lanario scoring from a Steve Simmons hit, and Essex levelling with a Matt Jennings run from a Vince Warner single.

The game remained tight for two innings, with both Fountain an Warner pitching well, but after Enfield put two runs on the board in the fourth, Essex needed to reply quickly. Despite Fountain loading up the bases with three walked batters, Essex failed to capitalise, and remained behind for the rest of the game, and only a brief flurry in the ninth gave any respectability to the Eagles scoreline.

Julien Fountain finished the day with 15K's but gave up 6 walks, whilst Vince Warner took 11K's and yielded only four walked batters.

In the only other scheduled game for June 19th, Lakenheath Yankees were awarded a 9-0 win over the defunct Bromley Blue Jays. The weekend of June 26th was to have seen Bury Saints entertain Lakenheath, and Bromley visit Tonbridge, but following the demise of these clubs, Yankees and Bobcats receive a 9-0 win each.

3rd July 1994

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	
Waltham Forest Angels	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	7
London Warriors	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	5

WP Matthew Poggi
LP Alan Smith

A somnolent London Warriors received a substantial wake up call from the Waltham Forest Angels, who loaded up the bases with three of the first four batters. Takao Inamura batted in two of his colleagues with a single, and Oliver Millett did likewise to leave Warriors trailing 4-0 after the first.

Warriors replied by getting their first two batters on base, but when Cody Cain grounded to third, the excellent Medeo Kamiyama made sure of the double play for the Angels. Warriors tried to close the deficit again in the second, but with Brad Thompson on first, Alan Smith hit a grounder to second, and Umechi (2b) and Dyett (1b), combined for a second Angels double play.

Takao Inamura extended Angels lead to 5-0 with an RBI triple in the 3rd inning, and Tony Dyett batted in Bucky O'Hare for 6-0 in the fourth. In the bottom of the fourth, singles for Cody Cain, Kevin Coldiron and Brad Thompson loaded up the bases, but Poggi kept his composure to collect the third out and leave all three runners stranded.

Then in the fifth came the Warriors debacle. Pavel Masek hit an infield grounder, which assisted by three consecutive Warriors errors, became a home run. At this point, the seven inning slaughter looked a very real possibility.

Dean Ward helped put Warriors back on track with a valuable lead-off triple, and was batted in by Rich Kemp, and with Cody Cain now relief pitching, the Angels run rate lessened, Cain striking out five of the next seven Angels batters.

In the bottom of the seventh a Ward single, Atwood reaching first on an error, and a Bloomfield single, loaded up the bases. Heidecker then batted in Ward, Atwood out at third, and Cain batted in Alan Bloomfield with a ground rule double for 7-3 Angels.

In the top of the eighth, O'Hare walked, advanced to second on a Poggi ground out, advanced to third on a Moseley ground out, but was caught stealing home plate. In the home half of that inning, consecutive doubles for Brad Thompson and Alan Smith reduced the arrears to 7-4, and an RBI single for Oliver Heidecker in the ninth brought the score to 7-5 Angels, but the innings closed with two Warriors left on base.

In the weekends other games, Enfield Spartans beat Tonbridge Bobcats 13-3, and the Essex Eagles beat the Lakenheath Yankees, but as yet we do not have details of this game.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS AFTER WEEK 11

3rd July 1994

	W	L	Pct	GE
Enfield Spartans	7	1	.875	--
Waltham Forest Angels	7	1	.875	--
London Warriors	5	3	.625	2
Essex Eagles	4	4	.500	3
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	4	.500	3
Lakenheath Yankees	2	6	.250	5

These standings vary from those issued by Brad Thompson only in so far as the London Warriors have been awarded a 9-0 forfeit over the Lakenheath Yankees for the game that did not take place on June 12th. However, as there are three opportunities for this game to be played, either as part of a double-header on July 24th or August 7th, or as a rain date game on September 11th, it is likely this forfeit will be removed from the standings once the re-arrangement is confirmed.

NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULE WEEKS 12 & 13

10th July 1994

Enfield Spartans at Essex Eagles
Lakenheath Yankees at Waltham Forest Angels
London Warriors at Tonbridge Bobcats

17th July 1994

Enfield Spartans at London Warriors
Tonbridge Bobcats at Lakenheath Yankees
Waltham Forest Angels at Essex Eagles

MAJOR LEAGUE COMPETITION

27th June 1994

For those of you who have entered, we are pleased to inform you that the best tipster will receive a \$10 book or record token as a prize. Should the season be curtailed by a strike, then the positions will be decided by the final published standings for season 1994. Here are the current top five :-

1) Steve Eischen - Yankees 0, Indians 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Astros 2½, Dodgers 0	47½
2) Alan Bloomfield - Yankees 0, Indians 0, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Pirates 5½, Dodgers 0	43½
2) Emma Wallace - Orioles 3½, White Sox 1½, Rangers 0, Expos 1½, Reds 0, Dodgers 0	43½
4) Harry Atwood - Orioles 3½, White Sox 1½, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 5½	39½
5) Oliver Heidecker - Yankees 0, Indians 0, Mariners 3, Braves 0, Cardinals 5½, Giants 5½	36
5) Kevin Murphy - Yankees 0, Brewers 3½, Rangers 0, Braves 0, Reds 0, Giants 5½	36

Copy Deadline Please submit all reports, scores and news for issue 5 by Wednesday July 20th.

Contributors Many thanks to Chris Morgan, Bill Oliver, Brad Thompson, Rosemary Malihoudis and Mike Agha.

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