



THE UPS

KNUCKLE  
AND DOWNS

AND INS

BALL  
AND OUTS



## of NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL

Volume **II** \_\_\_\_\_ 1994 \_\_\_\_\_ Number **6**

It is with great regret that we must announce another departure from National League. Lakenheath Yankees have withdrawn from the league, no doubt affected by the movement of service personnel away from the less militarily tense parts of northern Europe to various trouble spots in the world, such as Rwanda, Bosnia and Haiti.

On a personal note, I met the Yankees just once, in a game last season at the Tonbridge Bobcats. They retired for a post game meal at the local MacDonalds, and I was warmly included in their discussions of the afternoons play.

We are now left with just five teams, but each of those five teams should remember that they are playing the highest standard of baseball in the country. Possibly, those players who play in National League suffer from not having the opportunity to observe other baseball teams in action. Perhaps then it would make each participant appreciate exactly what it means to play in the National League.

Observation of half a dozen BBF Southern Division One games this season have produced plentiful examples of ragged infields, catchers that cannot throw pegs, and teams totally relying on one pitcher with only limited effectiveness, and that's just the winning teams !

Whatever the future holds for our current members, they must not be found guilty of devaluing their own achievements. National League plays the best standard of baseball Britain can provide, and whoever our champions for 1994 will prove to be, they will have won this championship against the best possible calibre of competition.

### REPORTS & SCORES

24/7/94

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R
Essex Eagles	1	1	9	8	3	3	2	11
Tonbridge Bobcats	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	2

Winning Pitcher - Vince Warner

Essex surged into a rapid 18-0 lead, including a grand slam homer for Carl Blackburn. The Bobcats, as gritty and determined as ever, refused to give in, and only a remarkably cool headed performance from Clive Smith at third base held the Bobcats scoreless in the third inning. Smith received three very well struck grounders, and came up up with all three to throw out the runner each time.

Vince Warner then added a two run homer in the fourth, but was to yield his only hit of the day in the bottom of that inning, and boy what a hit. A two run homer from Carter (Wick or John ?, Bobcats, please let me know ! Ed.) put the Bobcats on the scoreboard, and Warner was still muttering darkly about that hit a week later against the London Warriors.

Batting honours for the Eagles went to Vince Warner and Ian Colvin, both going 4 for 5. 1 home run and 4 RBI's, and Carl Blackburn, 2 home runs and 7 RBI's.

As reported in Issue 5, Enfield are currently undergoing a lean time with injuries, and requested the Waltham Forest Angels to reschedule for 11th September. Further to the editorial, London Warriors won 9-0 in a forfeit over the Lakenheath Yankees.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	
London Warriors	1	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	7
Essex Eagles	1	2	0	5	3	0	2	0	4	X	16

Losing Pitcher - Alan Smith  
 Winning Pitcher - Vince Warner

Six straight wins for the Eagles and Vince Warner, and Essex certainly look to be in hot hitting form. Eagles got the scoring under way with RBI doubles for Matt Jennings and Dave Read, but Warriors came back with an RBI double for Graham Haslam (his first National League at bat), and an RBI for Tom Juhase.

Warriors briefly took the lead in the top of the third. With Heidecker and Coldiron on the corners, Coldiron stole second base. With the fielders occupied, Heidecker stole home, and whilst Essex attempted to deal with Heidecker, Coldiron took 3rd. He was then batted in by Haslam for 4-2 Warriors

Essex though made clear their intent, shutting down the Warrior scoring with a Read (ss), Colvin (2b), Holdsworth (1b), double play, to put out Haslam and Carlos Rodriguez. Matt Jennings thumped a solo homer in the home half of the third to make the score 4-3 Warriors, and a Vince Warner double followed by an Ian Colvin RBI single tied the game at 4-4. A single for Jeff Holdsworth and a 2 RBI double for Glenn Spooner put Eagles 6-4 ahead, and a Scott Wright RBI made it 5 runs scored in the third for Essex.

London stayed in touch with an Oliver Heidecker RBI double in the fourth, but Eagles extended their 7-5 lead with two run scoring bunts from Vince Warner and Ian Colvin and an RBI single from Jeff Holdsworth. This was enough to end Alan Smith's spell as starter for the Warriors, Alan Bloomfield pitching the remaining 4.667.

Vince Warner then went through a problematic spell in the fifth, walking four out of six batters, hitting one of the other two, yielding two runs on bases loaded walks. To underline this, Warriors managed their second shut out innings of the game, relief pitcher Alan Bloomfield securing the blank with a well worked pick-off throw to second to put out Dave Read.

This appeared to spur Vince Warner on to greater effort, and he successfully shut the Warriors out for the remaining four innings. Consecutive hits brought RBI's for Scott Wright (double) and Clive Smith (single) to regain the Eagles five run lead and with RBI singles for Carl Blackburn, Clive Smith and Ian Colvin (2 RBI's), in the eighth, Eagles came with in a whisker of a 10 run victory. This now makes the visit of the Eagles to the Waltham Forest Angels on August 7th a very interesting contest indeed !

Waltham Forest continue to lead the league following their 21-2 victory over the Tonbridge Bobcats. Again Bobcats were short staffed either due to injuries or family holidays, and took to the field with only four regular first team members playing, and one of their starting nine had not played for the past four years. Despite yielding 19 runs in the first four innings, Bobcats did not disintegrate, and a strong spell of relief pitching from Anthony Clarke resulted in 14 strikes from 17 pitches, yielding just 3 balls and 2 runs over innings 5 and 6.

Enfield Spartans gained a 9-0 forfeit win over the now defunct Lakenheath Yankees, and as the Yankees were due to play the remaining five league members once each, their remaining games can be scratched, with no forfeits awarded. This will make the regular season a sixteen game season.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDINGS - WEEK 15

31/7/94

	W	L	Pct	GB
Waltham Forest Angels	9	2	.818	--
Enfield Spartans	8	3	.727	1
Essex Eagles	8	4	.667	1½
London Warriors	8	4	.667	1½
Tonbridge Bobcats	4	8	.333	5½

NATIONAL LEAGUE SCHEDULES

7/8/94

Enfield Spartans at Tonbridge Bobcats  
Essex Eagles at Waltham Forest Angels

14/8/94

London Warriors at Enfield Spartans  
Tonbridge Bobcats at Essex Eagles

Contributors

Many thanks to Matt Jennings, Rosemary Malihoudis, Mike Agha and Brad Thompson.

Copy Deadline

Please submit all items for Issue 7 by Wednesday August 17th. Please note that I can now be reached during office hours on 081 686 4355 ext 2285. However this number is likely to be for August only !

*Knuckleball edited by Phil Ross, Flat 2 'Thanescroft', Selborne Road, Croydon. CR0 5JQ. Tel 081 686 7727 (answerphone).*