Fan Cam!

The Hot Corner!

Back to wonderful weather, “Moving Week” gave most teams a chance to challenge for a preferred playoff slot, but few teams ended up taking advantage of the opportunities! The warmer weather brings out the fans though as well as some solid baseball action.

19+ Division: The Nationals and the Squirrels continue to make clear statements about their respective run for the championship, continuing their undefeated ways in Week 6. The Hurricanes, Orioles and Mavericks spin out and the Senators finally chalk up a division win, as the playoff picture becomes fairly clear for the boys of October.

30+ Division: The Padres show they are actually human and lose one to the Expos, while the Redlegs, Cardinals and Explorers put up big numbers to try to stake claims for the top seeds in the upcoming playoffs.
Legends of the Week!

19+ Division:

The Nationals’ Doug Easterly completes a stunning performance on the mound along with going 2-for-4, with 1 run scored, a sacrifice and chalking up 3 RBI’s.

The Squirrels’ Justin Britt and Blair Delean throw a combined shut-out in a fantastic pair of pitching performances.

30+ Division:

The Explorers pitchers Patrick McCane (starter) and Lewis Hardy (relief) each throw 4 innings and only give up 2 hits each.

In a play worthy of the ESPN top 10, Eagles catcher Leo Fitzharris tracked down a foul ball and laid out to make a spectacular catch for the out.

Make someone’s week on your team! Nominate them for “Legend of the Week” and send a picture! Everyone has that one ‘break out’ game where they were the magic for your team, win or lose. Recognize them with a shout out in the Commish Corner! Please remember to send along a photo of your nominated player if you can!
The Flying Squirrels (19+)

Week 6 vs. Hurricanes

An unseasonably hot Sunday morning brought together the Flying Squirrels and the Hurricanes. The much anticipated matchup was living up to the hype of a close battle through the first 5 innings. The Squirrels had a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the 5th when a critical error on a fly ball to right field with the bases loaded and 2 outs allowed all 3 runners to score and the Squirrels were out to a commanding 6-0 lead. Legend of the week nominee Justin Britt pitched 5 solid innings, giving up 4 hits and striking out 5 Hurricanes en route to his third "W" of the season. Reliever Blair Delean also had solid day on the mound, going 4 innings and striking out 9 batters, while giving up 2 hits. The Flying Squirrels' pitching and defense shines again as they move to 5-0 with this victory over the Hurricanes.

The Hurricanes (19+)

Week 6 vs. Flying Squirrels

Indeed a game that started out living up to its billing as a close one. The Canes were able to get runners on base in the early innings against Squirrels' starter Britt, but three baserunning miscues left the Canes with nothing to show for it. Seemingly unable to hit the lefty, the Hurricanes bats were then quieted by the hard throwing righty Delean, while the normally solid Canes defense blinked first, giving up a handful of unearned runs on a few untimely errors.

Honorable Mention to Alan Oberheim (younger brother of Adam "Crash" Oberheim) who, in a losing cause, managed to break up Blair Delean's no-hitter and be the only Canes player with multiple hits in the game.

It's always tough to suck up a loss like this one, but fair credit should be given to the Squirrels, who played a really solid game and brought quality pitching to the mound, forcing the Canes to bring our "A" game (which we did not). Here's hoping for a rematch in the playoffs!
**The Nationals (19+)**

**Week 6 vs. Eagles**

It was another great day for baseball at Pfitzner Stadium with two great teams. The Nationals took on the Eagles in a 19+ vs. 30+ inter-division game, however it was more like a 30+ vs. 30+, because the all of the Nationals under-30 players took the day off. The Nationals still pulled off the victory 13-2.

Pitching stars this week were: Doug Easterly pitching 5 shutout innings and allowing only 4 base runners on 2 hits and 5 strikeouts; Tom Blazek pitching 3 innings, allowing 2 runs with 2 hits, 2 BB’s, 1 strikeout, and 2 fielding errors; Rich Goad finished the game with 1 inning and no base runners.

Hitting stars this week were: Rich Goad going 4 for 5, 3 runs, 2B, BB, and 4 RBI’s; Al Torres going 3 for 5, 4 runs, 2B, BB, and 3 SB’s; Kevin Mallon going 2 for 3, 2 runs, 2B, and 2 RBI’s in only 4 innings before leaving the game with a back injury; and Chris Herald going 3 for 6, 2 runs, 2B, and 2 RBI’s.

National’s nomination for Legends Player of the Week would have to go to Doug Easterly for his stunning performance on the mound and going 2 for 4, 1 run, SF, and 3 RBI’s.

The National’s would like to thank the Eagles for a great game and for providing a right fielder for half of the game do to an injury.

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**The Senators (19+)**

**Week 6 vs. Mavericks**

Coach Wayne Stevens again could not be reached for comment. Reports indicate he was enjoying the moment of his team’s first division victory in the team Winnebago, shouting “Don’t come a’knockin’ if this bus is a’rockin’! … woo hoo!”
**The Eagles (30+)**

**Week 6 vs. Nationals**

The Eagles win streak screeched to a halt this week with a 13-2 loss to the highly touted and defending champion (19+ division) Nationals. Even if they didn't have their young bucks today, they played more like the Potomac Nationals would at the Pfitz! The Eagles came out a little awe struck in their first visit to the stadium and allowed 7 runs in the first 2 innings.

Defensively, the Eagles really settled down during the middle innings as Pitcher Dom DiFatta handled the Nats with a 3up, 3down inning and scattering only 2 more hits after the opening frames. In a play worthy of the ESPN top 10, catcher Leo Fitzharris tracked down a foul ball and laid out to make a spectacular catch for the out. The Eagles also had some stellar defensive plays at shortstop from Chris Sia and some ranging long ball outs from outfielders Robert Danels and Dom Tripodi or the Nationals could have easily made this game more of a romp. The Eagles avoided the shut out with some key hits from Danels, David Hays and Ruben Campos along with an RBI single from Andrew Clevenger (batting .500 for the season)!

"Playing a premier team like the Nationals helps us to realize we still have a lot of work to do" says manager Jen Hammond after the game. “We had three really good performances the past few weeks and a humbling game like today’s loss will redirect us to what we need to focus on come playoff time. Although it wasn't our most stellar performance of the year, what a great day for baseball at the ultimate location in our league!” We ended up the day with a team picture on the field, and a few of us asking "do we have to leave now"!

**The Padres (30+)**

**Week 6 vs. Expos**

The Padres' win streak came to an end on Sunday as they took the loss to the Expos. The Expos got off to an early start with some timely hitting. I'm not sure if it was the heat, the 8am start, or the government furloughs, but the Padres' bats were quiet for most of the game. They were able to tie it in the 6th with some clutch hits by Blake and John, but the Expos retook the lead in the bottom of the inning and the Padres couldn't close the gap again. Congrats to the Expos on a well-played game, but we will not forget. We never forget.
The Explorers (30+)

Week 6 vs. Isotopes

On a foggy Sunday morning the Explorers looked to rebound from an embarrassing loss to the Padres last week as they they forged battle with the expansion Isotopes. A new team game plan was implemented by Coach Barlow over the course of the week and it was time to see if the plan would work or it would be back to the drawing board. After a quick peep talk from Coach Barlow the Explorers took the field and needless to say were firing on all cylinders!!! Starting and relief pitchers Patrick McCane and Lewis Hardy both throwing 4 innings apiece only gave up 2 hits each, while the field was only responsible for just 1 error (far better than the 5 errors last week). Aside from the error in the field and 2 base running mistakes the Explorers play a flawless game in the eyes of the Skip!!! :-)

Multi hit performers were:
Matt Edwards - 3 for 4, 1R, 3 singles, 2 RBI's
Fred Lewis - 2 for 2, 3R, 2 singles, 2 BB
Patrick McCane - 2 for 4, 1R, 2 singles, SB, 2 RBI's
Akil Barlow - 2 for 4, 2R, solo homerun, single, SB, RBI
Jose Tayao - 2 for 2, 1R, 2 singles, 2 SB

Legend of the Week nomination goes to the ENTIRE Explorer team for manning up and taking care of business!!!! Great Job fellas!

The Rebels (30+)

Week 6 vs. Cardinals

The elusive W still eludes the elusive Rebels ... Cardinals edge the Rebs 11-8.
Commissioner’s note: Playoffs start the week of October 27th!

The Commish (visual approximation) waking up just before his press conference after a late night of figuring out brackets and field assignments, encouraging everyone to get their family and significant others to come out to watch the playoff games.
Umpires Corner!
by Greg Budnik, Legends Umpire

Can an incomplete pitch ever be anything other than a balk?

Situation: Bases loaded. Tie game. 2 outs. The pitcher decides to pitch from the wind-up. As the pitcher is winding up, the batter steps out of the box as he gestures to the umpire with his hand in the air and says, audibly, “Time, please”. The pitcher immediately interrupts his motion and does not throw the pitch. The umpire, however, did NOT grant the batter’s request for a time-out and it is unclear why the batter wanted “time” called.

WHAT’S THE CALL? *(This exact situation occurred in a Legends game recently, btw)*

Contrary to popular belief, this is not a situation where a balk is called. Rule 6.02 of MLB Rules states:

6.02 - The batter shall take his position in the batter’s box promptly when it is his time at bat. (b) The batter shall not leave his position in the batter’s box after the pitcher comes to Set Position, or starts his windup.

PENALTY: If the pitcher pitches, the umpire shall call Ball or Strike, as the case may be.

Rule 6.02(b) Comment: The batter leaves the batter’s box at the risk of having a strike delivered and called, unless he requests the umpire to call Time.” The batter is not at liberty to step in and out of the batter’s box at will. ... If after the pitcher starts his windup or comes to a set position” with a runner on, he does not go through with his pitch because the batter has stepped out of the box, it shall not be called a balk. Both the pitcher and batter have violated a rule and the umpire shall call time and both the batter and pitcher start over from scratch.”

Other relevant information is also contained in the MLB comments on this rule as follows:

Once a batter has taken his position in the batter’s box, he shall not be permitted to step out of the batter’s box in order to use the resin or the pine tar rag, unless there is a delay in the game action or, in the judgment of the umpires, weather conditions warrant an exception. Umpires will not call Time at the request of the batter or any member of his team once the pitcher has started his windup or has come to a set position even though the batter claims dust in his eyes, steamed glasses, didn’t get the sign or for any other cause. Umpires may grant a hitter’s request for Time once he is in the batter’s box, but the umpire should eliminate hitters walking out of the batter’s
box without reason. If umpires are not lenient, batters will understand that they are in the batter’s box and they must remain there until the ball is pitched. If pitcher delays once the batter is in his box and the umpire feels that the delay is not justified, he may allow the batter to step out of the box momentarily.

So as you can see, you need to be ready to bat once you’re in the batter’s box and especially once the pitcher begins their motion to pitch. Don’t assume the umpire is going to have sympathy for your lack of preparedness once that pitcher is in motion!

If you have a call from a game you’d like to contribute for analysis by Legends’ umpires, please email them to ron@playlegends.com