THE COMMISH CORNER

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BECOME A "LEGEND"!

Finals Day Fan Cam

The Commish Corner

Finals Edition

BASEBALL

Legends
Generals Return to Glory; Win 4th Championship
by Jeff Hayes

On a perfect autumn day for baseball, the mighty Legends Generals dominated their longtime rivals, the Gashouse Gang, 11-5 to win the 40+/30+B Division Championship. It was the Generals’ fourth championship and first since 2008. The victory maintained the Generals perfect record in Legends Championship games.

The Generals led off the first inning with an explosive four run burst. Five of the Generals first six batters reached base safely and all scored, including left fielder Billy Robinson, starting pitcher Jerome Allen, relief pitcher Sean Marietta, catcher Jeff Eanes, closer James Allen, and third baseman Andrew Centineo. James Allen doubled to drive in Marietta, the first of his two doubles on the day.

The Generals scored again in the third inning on an RBI single by Jerome Allen which drove in utility man Chris Mackay. In the fourth, the Generals would score what became the winning run on a Gashouse Gang balk and added another run on a passed ball minutes later. Two runs were added in the sixth on back-to-back doubles by James Allen and Andrew Centineo and two more in the eighth on a triple by Marietta and a single by Eanes.

Generals pitching kept the Gashouse Gang off balance all afternoon. Starter Jerome Allen gave up only three runs by consistently throwing first pitch strikes (on 14 on 17 batters faced) and inducing weak contact by Gashouse hitters (on 10 of 13 balls put in contact). Closer James Allen dominated the final two innings, giving up no runs and stranding three. But, the pitching performance of the game was provided by Sean Marietta. Marietta limited the Gashouse Gang to two hits over four innings, walked none, and struck out four. He faced only four batters in his first three innings pitching and limited the Gashouse Gang to a collective .133 batting average.

In the field, the Generals continued their recent consistent play, committing only two errors compared to the Gashouse Gangs four. Several stellar defensive plays were provided by Jerome Allen while Ben Amsterdam contributed as well.
James Allen
Legends 40+/30+B Most Valuable Player

Following the game, James Allen was named the Legends 40+/30+B League Most Valuable Player for the Fall 2015 season. Throughout the season, James was a true five tool player. On the mound, he was the Generals’ most reliable pitcher, turning in a team low 4.7 earned run average. In the field, he was one of only two Generals who did not commit an error. At the plate, he led the team in extra base hits, hitting .409 for the season with a team high .682 slugging percentage. He also drove in 10 runs and stole four bases. He was one of only two Generals who did not strike out on the season.

Other key Generals:

- Andrew Centineo - led the team in batting average, OPS, batting average with runners in scoring position, and outfield assists;
- Sean Marietta - led the team in innings pitched, second in extra base hits, and tied for most runs scored, did not strike out;
- Jeff Eanes – led the team in RBIs, second in batting average, third in OBP, and innings caught;
- Jeff Hayes – led the team in stolen bases, second in RBIs, third in fielding.
- Billy Robinson – tied for lead in fielding with no errors, tied for most runs scored.
- Jerome Allen – led the team in walks, tied for most runs scored, second in OBP, second in stolen bases.

Top Contributors

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James Allen
Legends 40+/30+B Match-Up Player

Most Valuable Player
After a rough start to the season that saw the Outlaws fall to an 0-2 record, they found their stride and rattled off 7 straight wins to snatch the #1 seed from the Hurricanes heading into the playoffs. With a grueling strength of schedule that included going 5-2 against the 19+ 2nd and 3rd seed teams, as well as a marquee 19-6 win over the undefeated (at the time) 30+ champion Nationals, the Outlaws were clicking on all cylinders for the playoff run.

In the 19+ semi-finals, the Outlaws matched up with the upset minded Knights expansion team. After a 1st inning scare that saw the Knights jump out to a 3-0 lead, the Outlaws settled in and pounded out a 16-5 victory to secure their 3rd straight championship appearance since joining the league 3 seasons ago.

We couldn’t have asked for better weather or a better opponent for the Fall Championship! What a beautiful day for baseball! In the highly anticipated matchup of the two 19+ juggernauts, the Outlaws cruised to an 8-4 victory over the Hurricanes. In what turned out to be a down day for their high-powered offense, the Outlaws had to rely on aggressive base running and timely hitting to build an 8-0 lead after 6 innings. Clutch hits came from Justin Woods (2 RBI Double), Josh Bender (RBI Double), and Fall Season MVP Charley Mays (3-3 with 2 RBI and 3 SB). A masterful performance turned in by the Outlaw pitching staff was anchored by 4 shutout innings from starter Josh Bender. In relief, Justin Woods and David Kellmel combined for 4 no-hit, 3 up 3 down innings to keep the Canes’ bats in hibernation for the winter. After some consistently inconsistent and highly questionable calls against both sides throughout the game; the 9th inning was the Hurricanes turn to benefit from an egregious call by the... well, we wont go there... but the Canes rallied to add 4 runs, avoid the shutout and give their loyal fans a reason to cheer. The Outlaws are looking forward to the 3-peat in the Spring, while the rest of league is left pondering on how to stop them!

Since this season was a complete team effort from top to bottom, it made it extremely hard to pick just one person to represent us as the Legends Fall MVP. With several deserving candidates to consider, our choice was #36, Charley “Big Shooter” Mays. On top of his monster 3-3 performance in the big game, Charley batted .474 with 18 hits (8 for extra bases), 15 RBI and 14 SB in 10 games while playing Gold Glove caliber outfield. Congrats Charley!
Bryant Gumbel

The other sports are just sports. Baseball is a love.
Nationals Win Championship Over Long-Time Rival Padres

by Rich Goad

What a wonderful day for the 30+ Baseball Championship! The weather was a little cool, but perfect for October --- oops, November, Baseball. This year’s matchup was a rematch from the Fall, 2009 Championship between the Nationals and Padres. In that championship game, the Padres displayed a hitting attack not seen by many and easily won with a score of 27-8. Fast forward six years to the Fall, 2015 Championship: would the turnout be the same for the Padres, or would the Nationals finally get a victory over the tough Padre team?

The first inning brought back flashbacks of the '09 game, when the Nationals booted a couple of ground balls, allowing the Padres to strike first with the first run of the game. However, after coming off the field, the Nationals rallied in the bottom of the first with a leadoff walk by Al Torres (who quickly stole second). The Padres returned the favor and booted a couple of balls themselves which led to the Nat’s scoring two runs.

The Padres quickly tied up the game in the top of the second with three singles. The Nationals scored two more runs in the bottom on the second on three hits by Danny Lee, Roger Laing, and Al Torres.

After two innings, the Nationals switched out their starting pitcher, Grant Sharp, who pitched two great innings, allowing two runs on just three hits and no walks.

The Padres once again scored a run in the top of the third on a lead-off error, followed by a stolen base, and a solid hit by the cleanup hitter. The Nationals once again answered back loading the bases with base hits from Kevin Mallon, Mike DeMarr, and a walk by Brandon Ward. This was followed by a base-clearing double by Grant Sharp, who put the Nats up 6-3.

Sadaharu Oh
Pitcher & 1st Baseman for Yomiuri Giants, 1959-1980
No one can stop a home run. No one can understand what it really is, unless you have felt it in your own hands and body.... As the ball makes its high, long arc beyond the playing field, the diamond and the stands suddenly belong to one man. In that brief, brief time, you are free of all demands and complications.
After giving up one run to the Padres in the third inning, Mike DeMarr pitched two scoreless innings in the 4th and 5th, allowing only three base runners on two walks and another error. The Nationals continued to swing the bats adding two runs in the 4th and four in the 5th. The 4th inning included a solo homerun in the trees by Chris Herald, a double by Kevon Mallon, a walk by Brandon Ward, and an RBI single by Mike DeMarr. By the bottom on the 5th, the Nationals were timing Murph’s pitches and quickly loaded the bases with an error and two hits by Roger Laing and Blake Pittman, followed by a sacrifice fly by Al Torres. With two on, Rich Goad hit a single just over the head of the shortstop, loading the bases again. Chris Herald then ripped a shot down the right field line clearing the bases with a double and ending the inning with four runs.

The Nationals pulled in front 12-3 after five innings. A nine-run lead normally sounds pretty good, but not against the tough Padres team. Flashbacks of watching the Padres circle the bases in ‘09 was on the minds of some, especially when the Padres bounced back and scored three runs in the top of the 6th on a couple of singles, an error, and two hard hit doubles against a tiring Mike DeMarr. Mike finished the inning and his day on the mound, going four innings, allowing four runs, on five hits, one walk, and one strikeout. The Nationals only mustered up a single by Danny Lee and walk by Mike DeMarr in the bottom of the 6th, going quietly with no runs.

The Nationals brought in their closer, Rich Goad, for the game in the 7th who quickly gave up a leadoff hit, followed by another Nationals error, allowing the Padres to score one run. The Nationals came to bat in the bottom of the 7th with a 12-7 lead for the first unlimited run inning. The Nationals bats continued to get hotter as the game wore on, scoring 11 runs in the bottom half of the 7th.

The Padres had a couple of base runners in the 8th, however they were not able to score. The Nationals also went quietly in the 8th, not scoring.

The Padres, with a never give up mentality, added a quick run in the top of the 9th on a couple of hard hit balls. However, the game ended on a strikeout, giving the Nationals their 6th Legends Championship (23-8). Hats off to a great Padres team who have also won six Legends Championships. Hopefully, we will get a chance next season to face each other in the Championship to see who will get their 7th. Great season to all! Already looking forward to the competition next season!

Chris Herald earned the Legends MVP and Game MVP with two amazing catches in center field, and hitting, going three for five, two runs, two doubles, a homerun, one walk, and eight RBIs on the day. Chris also led the team with the highest batting average (.643) for the season. Not bad for just coming back from shoulder surgery and unable to throw the ball until half-way through the season.

Overall, the Nationals played team (family) baseball throughout the season, with everyone stepping up to keep winning games. Just about every game, there was a new “National of The Week.” It never failed, when one person would be down, another would step up and take over. This was another amazing Nats season! Looking forward to many more great seasons of Legends (Nationals) Baseball.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL LEGENDS TEAMS ON A GREAT FALL SEASON!