



Beacon

A publication of the Ban Johnson Amateur Baseball League

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- Volume 32
- Issue 1



Back - Josh White, Milgram Mustangs outfielder, dives back to first as Adam Giacalone of Building Champions prepares to make the tag. Milgram took both games of a doubleheader June 4 at Mid-America.

2010 BJ season is underway

The 2010 Ban Johnson League season is underway and, no, the rainy season has not hit yet.

The same 11 teams are back for the 2010 season.

What does 2010 portend for the 11 Ban Johnson League teams?

We know that the MSBL Royals had a perfect run through the 2009 tournament and captured the league title by beating UMB Bank 3-0 in the championship series.

The Royals were 7-0 in tourney play and the championship was their second in the last four years. Can they make it three out of five? Only time can tell. Stay tuned.

Here is a look at the season based on information supplied by the teams. The teams are listed based on last year's championship series and then by place in the final standings.

So what does 2010 look like?

MSBL Royals

Mike Evans is in his second season leading the Royals. And winning the title in the first-year does not give him much room for improvement.

"I look forward to another successful season from our team," he said. "We are going to be a younger club this season, but I expect the returnees to build off the experience from last summer. We have guys who know how to play the game and I expect them to work hard and continuously get better throughout the summer."

Evans pointed to several players to watch, including right-handed pitcher **Alex Dunn** from Missouri State, right-handed pitcher **Logan Forbis** from Emporia State, first baseman **Jarid Renzelman** from Mid-America Nazarene, shortstop/right-handed pitcher **Stephen Maurin** from University of St. Mary, catcher **John Oxley** from Emporia State and utility player **Hunter Johnson** from KCKCC.

UMB Bank

Adam Clay is the second-year coach for UMB Bank.

"This season our goal is to win the BJ Championship and to avoid another second place finish like last year," Clay said. "We bring back a nucleus of last year's team and some newcomers that will definitely get us back to the championship."

The players to watch for UMB include outfielder **Cameron Bentley**, who has signed with Arkansas-Little Rock for next season; outfielder-pitcher **Joe Kassanavoid** from Park College; outfielder **Bubba Dotson** from Neosho County; first baseman **Nick Doughty** from Neosho County; catcher-third baseman **Kyle Clifton** from Crowder Community College; pitcher **Tommy Coovert** from St. Louis University; outfielder **Kevin Star** from Iowa Western CC; pitcher **Zack DeValle** from Park University and first baseman **Ryan Rush** from Park University.

See 2010, page 3

Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.

A quick glance at the 2010 Ban Johnson League season

Here are some key facts about the 2009 season:

* There are 11 teams in the league with no divisions.
* Each team will play the other teams three times for a total of 30 games per team in the regular season.

* There will be a tournament to decide the league champion at the end of the season.

* All 11 teams will be in the tournament and will be seeded by their record in the regular season. The first round of games will just be one game. The quarterfinals and semifinals are best two-of-three with the championship decided by a best three-of-five series.

* The All-Star Game hosted by the Kansas City Royals will be played at Kauffman Stadium.

The game will be played following the 1:10 p.m. Royals vs. Oakland July 18 game.

Look in future for more information about the All-Star game in the Beacon.



Beacon

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Ban Johnson League Standings (thru June 8)

	W	L	GB
UMB Bank	5	0	----
MSBL Royals	4	0	.5
BJ Raiders	5	1	.5
Building Champions	3	2	2.0
KC Bandits	4	3	2.0
KC Vipers	4	3	2.0
Milgram Mustangs	3	3	2.5
Seaboard	2	4	3.5
NKC Apts.	1	4	4.0
Regal Plastics	2	6	4.5
KC Blues	0	7	6.0

**BJ All-Star Game
Sunday, July 18
at Kauffman Stadium
Following the Royals-
Oakland 1:10 p.m. game
More details in
future Beacons**

2010 Ban Johnson League season is underway

Continued from page 1

BJ Raiders

Mike Herr is starting his third year as the Raiders manager.

"I'm excited about the season," he said. "We fell short of our ultimate goal last year of a league championship and we are anxious to get another shot at it."

The returning core players include outfielder **Freddie Adamson** from William Jewell; infielder **Taylor Sibala** from Pittsburg State; catcher **Pat McCoy** from Avila; left-handed pitcher **Tyler Sullivant** from Fort Scott CC; and right-handed pitcher **Collin Warren** from William Jewell.

"We picked up a few guys from William Jewell that will help solidify our pitching staff and another two guys from Jewell that will help us in the infield and outfield," he said. "We also have some guys from Maple Woods, Hutchinson and Northwest Missouri and a few guys out of local high schools."

NKC Apartments

John Strobl is in his seventh year as the manager.

"NKC lost quite a few players from last year's team that finished second in the regular season," GM **David Gershon** said. "Relying on several key veterans, we feel we have assembled a very good team for 2010. We have added depth and speed in the outfield."

The leading pitcher returning is **Shay Colburn** from Northeastern Oklahoma College along with veterans **Brandon Verhulst** from KCKCC, **Brett Slobodzin** from Benedictine, **Colin Letcher** from Maple Woods and Dallas Owens from Oklahoma Panhandle. New pitchers include **Dylen Jensen** from Swarthmore College, **Jason Borchardt** from Central Missouri, **Daniel O'Brien** from Missouri Valley, **Taylor Wissel** from NW Missouri and **Jarrod Bennett** and **Derek Surdez** from Benedictine.

Key position players returning include third baseman **Andrew Kuhn** from Texas College, third baseman/DH **David Wade** from Washburn and shortstop **TJ Brewer** from Northeastern Oklahoma.

New to catcher are **Nick Lichtenberger** from Rockhurst and **Patrick Richards** from Benedictine. Lichtenberger may also do some pitching.

Other players that are expect to contribute include second baseman/outfielder **Ryan Lengyel** from Benedictine, first baseman/DH **Sam Carr** from Central Christian College, outfielder/pitcher **Luke Zeller** from Pittsburg State, outfielder/catcher **Nick Bamber** from Fort Scott CC, first baseman **Kyle Williams** from Crowder CC; utility player **Zack Gebhardt** from Central Missouri and outfielder/pitcher **Landon Fall** from Barton County CC.

Seaboard

Ryan Tousley is in his second year as manager for the team.

In 2009, the franchise had its best year and its first winning season.

The top players include outfielder **Chad Shannon**, who has signed at JCCC, **Ben Millard** from Missouri Southern, right-hander pitchers **Jeff Soptic** and **Vince Spilker**. Soptic was picked by the Royals in last year's first-year player draft and Spilker by Tampa Bay.

Milgram Mustangs

Don Motley is back for his 43rd year as either the coach or manager for Milgram.

He has a number of returning players back in the fold

for the Mustangs, including **Brandon Pearl**, **Steafaan Jefferson**, **Ryan Bontrager**, **Clarke O'Dowd**, **Steve Scheelk**, **Scarlett Logan**, **Shelton Miles** and **Josh White**.

Motley is looking for help from newcomers including **David Collins**, **Curtiss Bunch**, **Gilberto Pena** and **DeAndre Foster**.

Building Champions

Brad Willis is in his second season managing the club.

"I am excited for this season," he said. "We have 21 of 25 guys that just finished their high school careers and four that are already in college. It should be a great year of development for these kids to see what the college game is like before they actually get there."

KC Vipers

The Vipers finished seventh in the league last year in the regular season standings with an 15-15 record.

The manager is **Zach Norman**, while **Clint Culbertson** is the general manager.

KC Bandits

Pete Ingles is in his third year as the Bandits manager

"The Bandits return 10 players, five position players and five pitchers from last year's team, we will look to a combination of some the newcomers and veterans to provide leadership on the mound."

The pitchers mentioned by Ingles include right-hander **Ryan Romo** (Central Missouri), right-hander **Zach Gove** (Emporia State), right-hander **Mark Spreckels** (KCKCC), right-hander **Christian Witt** (Truman State) and right-hander **Ollie Kadey** (Missouri Western).

See 2009, page 8



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All-League Dinner Dec. 29 at Westport Flea Market



Kansas City Royals Hall of Famer **Frank White**, right, presents the Gold Glove award to **Stephen Maurin** of the MSBL .Royals.



Carl Blando, left, receives his Hall of Fame Bowl from **Jasper Disimone**.



MSBL Royals general manager **Matt Goldbeck**, left, and sponsor **Tom Prendergast**, center, receive championship trophy from league vice-president **John Stipetich**.



Cody Cobb of the Vipers receives the MVP Trophy from former MVP winners (left to right) **Moe Lago**, **Michael Younghanz** and **Tom Krattli**.



Cameron Bentley of UMB Bank receives he stolen base award from BJ alum and Master of Ceremonies **Neil Harwell**.



BJ Hall of Famer **Ron Zuber** presents the **Joe Presko** Best Record, **Ron Zuber** Most Strikeouts and **Arnie Briggs** Pitcher of the Year awards to **Shay Colburn** of NKC Apts.

BJ Award Winners for 2009

Here is a look at the awards that were presented at the All-League Dinner Dec. 29, 2009 at the Westport Flea Market:

BJ Champion - MSBL Royals

BJ Runner-Up - UMB Bank

Most Stolen Bases - **Cameron Bentley**, UMB Bank.

Marvin Tucker RBI Award - **Andrew Velarde**, Regal Plastics.

Moe Lago Most Home Runs Award - **Eric Bond**, Vipers and **Andrew Velarde**, Regal Plastics.

Alex George Batting Champion - **Cody Cobb**, Vipers.

Ron Zuber Most Strikeouts Award - **Shay Colburn**, NKC Apts.

Joe Presko Best Record Award - **Shay Colburn**, NKC Apts.

Don Saint Lowest ERA Award - **Kyle Jackson**, UMB Bank.

Arnie Briggs Pitcher of the Year

Award Shay Colburn, NKC Apts.

Bill Fenton All-Star Game MVP - **J.P. Bartmess**, NKC Apts.

Pat Nolan Championship Series MVP - **Dustin Smith**, MSBL Royals.

Lester Milgram MVP - **Cody Cobb**, Vipers.

Bruce Rice Hustle Award **J.P. Bartmess**, NKC Apts.

Frank White Gold Glove Award - **Stephen Maurin**, MSBL Royals.

Sidney Brown Umpire of the Year - **Carlos Martinez**.

BJ Hall of Fame - **Carl Blando**.

Don B. Motley - 40 years manager.

Kevin Shaw - 20 years coach.

Blake Moore - 10 years, manager

Nolen O'Dowd, 5 years, coach

Ron Rodriguez - 5 years, umpire.

KC Blues - 5 years, team sponsor

MSBL Royals - 5 years, team sponsor.

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Highlights

May 25

MSBL Royals 1, KC Blues 0

Michael Rezin's single drove in the only run of the game in the top of the first.

Vipers 6, NKC Apts. 3

Luke Ganzer was one-for-two with two RBIs and **Samuel Campbell** was two-for-three.

May 27

UMB Bank 6, Regal Plastics 0

Chad Gordon fanned seven in throwing a complete game shutout. **Cameron Bentley** and **Cullen Baxter** went two-for-three and **Marty Beamer** had a three-run double.

May 28

Building Champions 10, Seaboard 0

Bubba Starling went two-for-three and **Horace Johnson** had a pair of RBI singles.

BJ Raiders 3, Milgram Mustangs 2

Freddie Adamson had a triple in the top of the seventh and scored the winning run on **Eddie High's** single.

June 1

Regal Plastics 4, KC Bandits 3

Marcus Peavler went two-for-four and **Brandon Truitt** was two-for-three with a triple and RBI.

KC Bandits 5, Regal Plastics 4

Regal scored three runs in the top of the seventh to take the lead, but the Bandits responded with four runs.

BJ Raiders 11, KC Blues 0 (5)

Colin Warren allowed just one hit and fanned six. **David Smith**, **Taylor Sibala** and **Freddie Adamson** went a combined nine-of-10 with 10 RBIs, three doubles and five RBIs.

BJ Raiders 7, KC Blues 4

David Smith was three for four with three RBIs and **Freddie Adamson** went two-for-four with three RBIs.

June 3

MSBL Royals 5, Regal Plastics 4

The Royals scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth aided by four walks.

June 4

Milgram Mustangs 6, Building Champions 2

The Mustangs scored all their runs in the top of seventh. **Brandon Pearl** went two-for-four with two RBIs. **Dakota Bright** fanned seven in pitching a complete game.

Building Champions 8, Milgram Mustangs 2

Six Building Champion hitters had a double.

Vipers 8, KC Blues 2

Joshua Dennett went three-for-three with a double and two RBIs.

Vipers 11, KC Blues 7

Jason McBride had a solo homer and **Samuel Campbell** had a bases-loaded triple.

June 5

Seaboard 9, NKC Apts. 2

Alex Lahasky was three-for-four with two RBIs and **Brian McCullough**, two-for-four with an RBI.

NKC Apts. 6, Seaboard 2

TJ Brewer was one-for-two and **Sam Carr**, one-for-two with an RBI.

UMB Bank 8, Regal Plastics 5

Bubba Dotson went two-for-four with an RBI and **Phillip Garrison**, two-for-four with two RBIs.

UMB Bank 5, Regal Plastics 1

UMB scored all its runs in the first. **Dominic LaRocca** was one-for-three with two RBIs and **Joseph Kassaravoid**, one-for-three with an RBI.

Building Champions 1, BJ Raiders 0

Kyle Seithel tossed a five-hitter, fanning nine and walking just one. **Horace Johnson** drove in the only run.

BJ Raiders 5, Building Champions 1

Taylor Sibala and **Freddie Adamson** were each two-for-four with an RBI.

MSBL Royals 7, NKC Apts. 1

Jarid Renzelman was three-for-three with two RBIs and **Devin Hupp**, two-for-four.

MSBL Royals 10, NKC Apts 9 (8)

Kevin Joyce drove in the winning run in the bottom of the eighth. **Andrew Kuhn** of NKC had three RBIs.

June 6

KC Bandits 11, Seaboard 3

Mathew Garcia went three-for-four with three stolen bases and two RBIs.

Seaboard 11, KC Bandits 10 (8)

The winning run scored on a balk.

Milgram Mustangs 2, Vipers 0 (9)

Gilberto Pena had a two-run double to score the only runs of the game.

Milgram Mustangs 7, Vipers 4

Curtiss Bunch and **Steve Scheelk** had RBI doubles in six run second inning.

June 7

UMB Bank 3, KC Blues 1

Joseph Kassaravoid went two-for-three with a double and two RBIs.

Regal Plastics 5, KC Blues 4

Matt Ricketts had a walk-off three-run triple in the seventh.

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Alumni Corner presented by Moe Lago

Blando inducted into BJ Hall of Fame

Probably the most surprised person at the All-League Dinner Dec. 29 at the Westport Flea Market was **Carl Blando**.

The long-time scout and Ban Johnson manager was inducted into the Hall-of-Fame.

"It was beyond belief," he said. "I have a flair of being surprised when good things pop up in my life. I am thankful and very appreciative of being within a very select group of individuals."

Blando is the 36th person inducted into the Hall-of-Fame.

At present the south Kansas City resident is a part-time scout for the Kansas City Royals and an assistant coach at Rockhurst University.

The 76-year-old started as a part-time scout with the Royals in 1975 eventually earning full-time status in 1976.

He spent 23 years with the Royals in various scouting capacities.

Blando finished his scouting career with the Milwaukee Brewers. He retired from scouting in 1999.

He got his start in manging in Senior 3&2 in Kansas

City and the Casey Stengel League.

He managed for several years in the Ban Johnson League with Butternut Bread.

"He possessed outstanding organizational skills, paid close attention to detail and was a real stickler for the fundamentals of baseball," **Jay DeSimone**, who coached Butternut with Blando, said. "He always placed the best interest of his players first."

Blando managed Butternut to Ban Johnson League titles in 1973, 1974 and 1975. His 1974 club won the City Championship.

During his 23 years as a full-time scout he signed a number of players that went on to make it to Major League Baseball.

Two names that come quickly to mind are pitchers **David Cone** and **Danny Jackson**.

Cone is a member of the BJ Hall of Fame and the sponsor of the BJ Raiders.

DeSimone may have said it best, "He is a man of great integrity who has always carried himself with class both on and off the field."

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2010 BJ season is underway

Continued from page 3

“We have a solid group of position players this year that are physically and mentally tough and have the confidence that they can win consistently,” Ingles said.

The position players mentioned, include **David Garcia** (Maple Woods), **Matt Garza** (Maple Woods), **Jonathan Pomatto** (Neosho County), **Jason Solma** (Missouri Western), **Kyle Seagraves** (Mid-America Nazarene), **Lance Johnson** (KCKCC) and **Peter Ingles** (Mid-America Nazarene).

Regal Plastics

Mike Neal is in his second year leading the club.

“We have a better team than last year,” he said. “we made several additions to our pitching staff and have filled a few holes in or defense. We should be a more competitive team from game-to-game than we were last year.”

Back for Regal are middle infielder **Andrew Velarde** (Avila), right-hander **Tyler Phillips**, who undecided where he will attend college next year and catcher **Brandon Truitt** (Baker).

“We have 17 new players to the roster,” Neal said. “We are pretty excited about the potential they bring to the team.”

KC Blues

Will Rogers is in his fifth year managing the Blues.

“We look okay,” he noted.

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Complete Game - **Dakota Bright**, Milgram right-hander, tossed a pitch in game against Building Champions June 4 at Mid-America. Bright gave up five hits, two earned runs and fanned seven.