



Beacon

A publication of the Ban Johnson Amateur Baseball League

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Close race in early going

The race for first place in the Ban Johnson League standings is close in the first third of the season.

Both defending champion MSBL Royals and Building Champions are up near the top of the league.

"I believe the Royals have had early success due to a strong pitching staff and defense," manager **Michael Evans** said. "We are scoring enough runs to win ball games, but our pitching staff and defense have really carried us so far."

Evans said that **Jesse Castro** has played well from the lead off spot.

"He has a solid batting average, but more importantly, he is finding ways other than hitting the ball."

Evans said that **Jarid Renzelman** is the mainstay in the middle of the lineup. "He has had consistently good at bats and drives in big runs."

He said that the pitching staff has been solid led by **Alex Dunn**, **Logan Forbis** and **Jared Berman**.

"I believe to stay at the top of the standings we have to be consistent with our approach," Evans said. "It is always hard during summer ball because you do not practice everyday, guys work day jobs and you're still learning to become a team.

However, once we get to the park we have to commit to working hard, playing smart baseball and staying consistent with each aspect of the game."

What has been the secret of success for Building Champions?

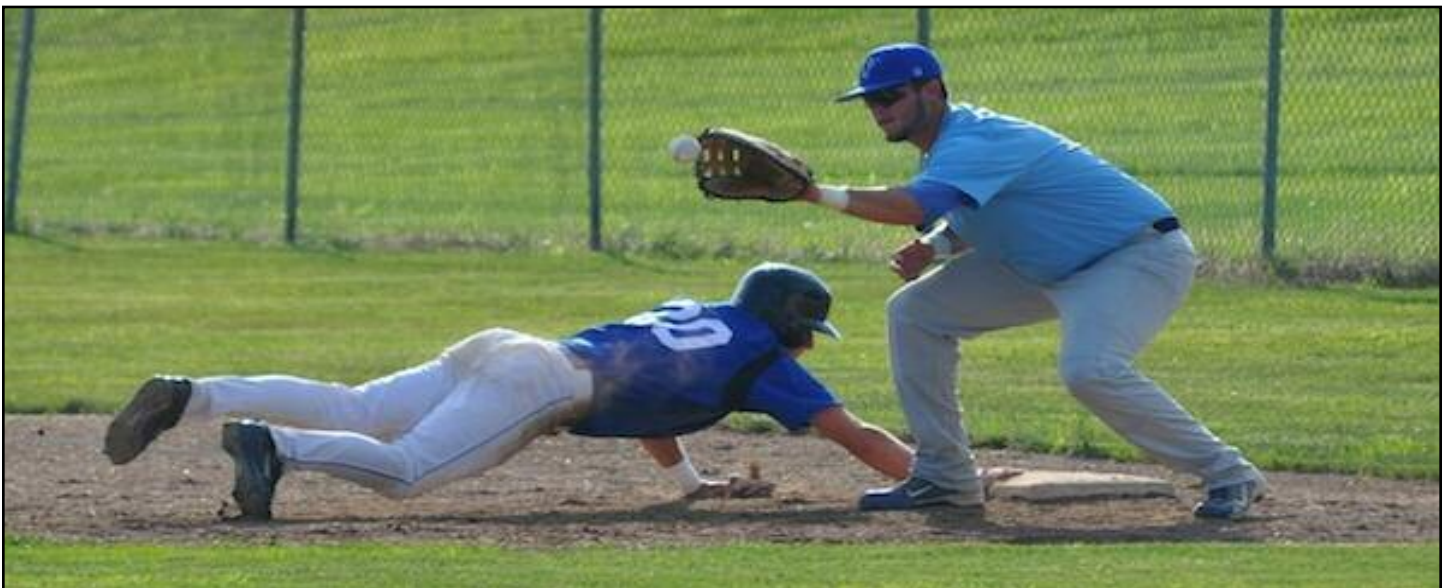
"We have gotten good pitching from our pitching staff," manager **Brad Willis** said. "Those kids have done a really good job of working ahead and having quick innings. We have also had some good, timely hitting when we really needed it. Overall, we are playing pretty well."

Willis pointed to his pitching staff of **Ryan Hafner**, **Adam Giacalone**, **Kyle Gehrs** and **Kyle Seithel** and the hitting of **Sean McHugh**, **Matt Garcia**, **Giacalone**, **Bubba Starling** and **Ryan Johnson**.

And what the key will be to continuing the success?

"Our defense has to improve," Willis said. "Our losses have come through errors and not taking care of the baseball. And we just need to get better with at bats and continue scoring runs throughout the entire game.

"These kids have been drilled and trained within Building Champions for years. So they know what is expected and how to make the adjustments to get the job done."



Pickoff - **Hunter Johnson** of MSBL Royals dives back to first safely before the Vipers' **Luke Ganzer** makes the tag June 18 at Longview Community College. The Vipers beat the defending champions, 5-0.

Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.

(Statistics are through June 15)

Batting Average

(based on a minimum of 24 at bats)

1. Taylor Sibala, BJ Raiders	.514
2. Samuel Campbell, KC Vipers	.500
3. Jason Solma, KC Bandits	.480
4. Joshua Dennett, KC Bandits	.462
5. Freddie Adamson, BJ Raiders	.421
6. Kyle Pener, Seaboard	.400
7. David Smith, BJ Raiders	.395
8. Damian Velasquez, Seaboard	.378
9. Marcus Peavler, Regal Plastics	.367
10. Jesse Castro, MSBL Royals	.355

Doubles

1. Freddie Adamson, BJ Raiders	7
2. Taylor Sibala, BJ Raiders	5
3. (Four tied with four each)	

Triples

1. Freddie Adamson, BJ Raiders	2
1. John Calhoun, Seaboard	2
3. (17 tied with one each)	

Home Runs

1. John Calhoun, Seaboard	1
1. Joshua Dennett, KC Vipers	1
1. Matthew Garza, KC Bandits	1
1. Nathan Goodwin, Building Champions	1
1. Jason McBride, KC Vipers	1
1. Brandon Pearl, Milgram	1

Runs Batted In

1. Freddie Adamson, BJ Raiders	13
2. John Calhoun, Seaboard	9
2. Taylor Sibala, BJ Raiders	9
4. Steven Bauer, Regal Plastics	8
4. Samuel Campbell, KC Vipers	8
4. Ryan Hall, Seaboard	8

Pitching

Earned Run Average

(based on a minimum of 14 innings)

1. Ryan Hafner, Building Champions	0.47
2. Matthew Bergin, KC Vipers	0.70
3. Adam Giacalone, Building Champions	1.00
4. Colin Warren, BJ Raiders	1.31
5. Brenden Hensley, Regal Plastics	1.98
6. Christian Witt, KC Bandits	2.06
7. Vince Spilker, Seaboard	2.13
8. Mark Spreckels, KC Bandits	2.79
9. Brett Pener, Seaboard	2.88
10. Eric Silkwood, KC Blues	3.50

Strikeouts

1. Vince Spilker, Seaboard	25
1. Mark Spreckels, KC Bandits	25
1. Christian Witt, KC Bandits	25
4. Christopher Conner, Regal Plastics	23
5. Ethan Weber, Seaboard	20
6. Neil Smith, Regal Plastics	18
6. Colin Warren, BJ Raiders	18
6. Matt Bergin, KC Vipers	18
9. Adam Giacalone, Building Champions	16
9. Ryan Hafner, Building Champions	16



Beacon

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Ban Johnson League Standings

(thru June 22)

	W	L	GB
UMB Bank	8	3	----
MSBL Royals	8	3	----
KC Bandits	10	5	----
Building Champions	8	4	.5
BJ Raiders	7	5	1.5
Milgram Mustangs	6	5	2.0
KC Vipers	7	7	2.5
Seaboard	7	8	3.0
NKC Apts.	3	7	4.0
Regal Plastics	5	11	5.5
KC Blues	1	12	7.5

Building Champions is building champions

Building Champions is not just a team in the Ban Johnson League.

The Building Champions Baseball Academy facility located in south Overland Park is a teaching place for youngsters in the greater Kansas City area.

The facility is owned by **Jeremy Jones**.

There are a number of full and part-time instructors associated with the Academy.

The lessons are for all ages.

"The Academy really focuses on preparation for college baseball," Building Champions manager **Brad Willis** said.

There are two 15-year-old teams, a 16-year-old and 17-year-old team plus the Building Champion team in the Ban Johnson League that has some college players.

"We showcase these kids (the younger teams) all over the country and get them in front of college coaches and scouts to help them get better and gain a college scholarship," Willis said. "Then my team is designed to give these kids a taste of the college game before they get to college."

The Academy is not just for the summer months. There is a fall program and the sum-



mer program starts the Memorial Day weekend.

Young people practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and then they are off to showcase tournaments Thursday through Sunday.

There were three players that were drafted high in the MLB First-Year Player Draft in early June - Ryne Stanek, Blue Valley High School right-handed pitcher in the third round by the Seattle Mariners, Blue Valley Northwest right-handed pitcher Jason Adam in the fifth-round by the Kansas City Royals and **Ryan Hafner** of Lee's Summit West in the 17th round by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Hafner is playing for Building Champions. Stanek and Adam have been told by their agents and clubs to practice but not to play in any games until they either sign or decide to go on to college. Stanek has signed at Arkansas and Adam at Missouri. Hafner has signed at Missouri State.

"BC is becoming known nationally by college coaches and pro scouts as a top organization," Willis said. "Jeremy Jones has done a tremendous job with what he has built."

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Highlights

Here is a look at the game highlights since the last issue of the BJ Beacon:

June 9

MSBL Royals 6, BJ Raiders 1

Royals scored four runs in the fifth inning.

Jarid Renzelman was one-for-two, **Stephen Maurin**, one-for-three with an RBI and **Devin Hupp**, one-for-four with an RBI.

MSBL Royals 5, BJ Raiders 0

Stephen Maurin tossed a two-hitter, fanning four and not walking a batter.

Jarid Renzelman and **Jace Waters** were each one-for-three with an RBI and **Hunter Johnson** was one-for-four with an RBI.

June 11

Seaboard 8, KC Vipers 3

John Calhoun went two-for-four with a triple in the top of the fourth and a two-run homer in the seventh.

Seaboard 12, KC Vipers 1 (5)

Ben Millard had a pair of RBI singles and **Kyle Pener** had a two-run double in the bottom of the second.

Milgram Mustangs 6, BJ Raiders 4

Brandon Pearl went two-for-three with a double and a solo homer in the top of the fourth.

Milgram Mustangs 3, BJ Raiders 2

Tyronne Wallace's sacrifice fly to right drove in the winning run in the Mustangs' two-run bottom of the seventh comeback.

June 13

Regal Plastics 7, NKC Apts. 1

Brett Gearheart went three-for-five with a double and three RBIs and **Tyler Phillips** and **Brenden Hensley** combined to hurl a three-hitter.

NKC Apts. 1, Regal Plastics 0

Jarrodd Bennett singled in **Andrew Kuhn** with the only run of the game. **Brandon Fall** pitched a one-hitter.

KC Bandits 4, MSBL Roaysl 2 (8)

Lance Johnson drove in **Jonathan Pomatto** with the go-ahead run with a single in the top of the eighth.

June 15

KC Bandits 4, UMB Bank 0

Christian Witt tossed a one-hitter, fanning 10.

KC Bandits 2, UMB Bank 1

Mark Spreckels worked the first six innings, allowing just four hits and striking out six.

Regal Plastics 11, Seaboard 7 (9)

Regal scored five runs in the top of the ninth

with two outs. **Tony Layne** and **Benjamin Loughman** had back-to-back doubles to lead the charge.

Seaboard 18, Regal Plastics 1 (6)

Seaboard scored 10 runs in the top of the sixth. **Chad Shannon** went four-for-five with a double and four RBIs. **Ethan Weber** allowed a run on two hits, while fanning eight.

June 18

Building Champions 6, Regal Plastics 2

Adam Giacalone struck out 11 and **Mitch Meyer** went two-for-four with a double and two RBIs.

Building Champions 10, Regal Plastics (5)

The winners took advantage of eight walks, three errors and two hit batters to earn the spread win.

Seaboard 4, KC Blues 3

Seaboard rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the bottom of the seventh. **Ryan Hall** drove in the winning run with an infield single.

Seaboard 3, KC Blues 2 (8)

Chad Shannon scored on a wild pitch in the top of the eighth inning.

June 20

KC Blues 3, Regal Plastics 2

The Blues scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh. **Joshua Barnes** drove in the winning run. He was two-for-four in the game. **Joey Scott** was one-for-one with two RBIs.

Regal Plastics 3, KC Blues 2

Regal scored all its runs in the fourth inning. **Andrew Velarde** was two-for-four and **Bretton Ater** was two-for-three with two RBIs.

BJ Raiders 8, Seaboard 5

Matthew Watkins went three-for-four with three RBIs. The Raiders scored four unearned runs in the sixth inning.

BJ Raiders 4, Seaboard 1

Taylor Sibala went four-for-four with two doubles and an RBI, while **Matthew Watkins** was two-for-four with a triple and three RBIs. **Ben Rister** had a no-hitter through six innings.

UMB Bank 3, KC Vipers 2

Bubba Dotson was three-for-four with an RBI and Nick Doughtey was three-for-four. **Luke Ganzer** of the Vipers was two-for-three with an RBI.

UMB Bank 2, Vipers 1

Dominic LaRocca had a two-out RBI triple in the top of the seventh for the game-winning hit.

Renko, Sadecki into Kansas Hall of Fame

Two former Major League Baseball and Ban Johnson League alums were recently elected to the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

They are right-handed pitcher **Steve Renko** and left-handed pitcher **Ray Sadecki**.

They both played in the Ban Johnson League and both were selected to the BJ All-75-Year team back in 2002.

Both came out of Kansas City, Kansas.

Renko played three sports at Wyandotte High School and went on to letter in three sports at the University of Kansas. Renko was one of the last three-sport letter winners at KU.

He pitched for Feld Chevrolet in the Ban Johnson League.

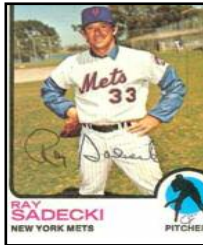
Renko was drafted by the New York Mets in 1965 and made it to the majors in 1969.

He pitched for a number of teams, including the Montreal Expos, Toronto Blue Jays, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Oakland A's, Boston Red Sox, California Angels and he finished his career with the Kansas City Royals in 1983.

Renko won 134 games and lost 146 in his career. He had a career ERA of 3.99.

He hit six homer runs during his MLB career.

Sadecki graduated from Ward and he played



in the Ban Johnson League with Milgram.

He started his MLB career in 1969 at the age of 19.

He pitched in the big leagues for 18 years with the first seven with the St. Louis Cardinals.

The 5-11 left-handed pitcher spent four seasons with the San Francisco Giants, five with the New York Mets, one more with the Cardinals, one with the Atlanta Braves, two with the Kansas City Royals, one with the Milwaukee Brewers and finished his

career with the Mets.

He had a lifetime record of 135-131. He had a lifetime ERA of 3.78. He fanned 1,614 batters during his 18 years in the big leagues.

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Former White Sox infielder Kenworthy had BJ ties

Richard "Dick" Kenworthy passed from this veil of tears on April 22.

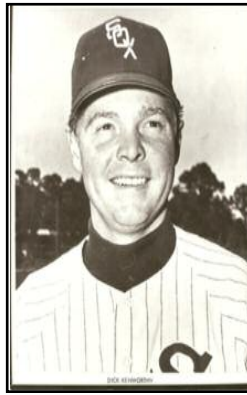
Dick was a graduate of Paseo High School in Kansas City, Mo. in 1959.

He played for Katz in the Ban Johnson League and was a member of the Ban Johnson All-75-Year team that was picked in 2002.

Kenworthy attended the University of Missouri, but decided to play professional baseball in 1960 with Chicago White Sox organization.

He made his Major League Baseball debut on Sept. 8, 1962 as a second baseman. He played just three games in 1962. He had another cup of coffee playing two games at third base for the White Sox in 1964, three in 1965 and nine in 1966.

He played two complete seasons for the



White Sox with his last MLB game on Sept. 29, 1968.

In 1967, he had four home runs and 11 RBIs and in 1968, he had two doubles and two RBIs.

He did win the MVP Trophy in 1966 playing for the Indianapolis Indians in Minor League Baseball.

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

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Alumni Corner presented by Moe Lago

Welsh enjoyed his time umpiring in BJ

Terry Welsh had a good time umpiring in the Ban Johnson League.

The Kansas City resident umpired in the league from 1976 through 1981.

He gave up his umpiring career because of three young sons and a daughter.

“I loved my time in the Ban Johnson League because that was always considered the top level of amateur baseball in the Kansas City area,” Welsh said. “However, I noticed just in the brief time that I had worked in the BJ, the emphasis on where a player played his ‘school ball’ rather than his ‘summer ball’ began to take prominence. That’s why players like **David Cone**, to this day, say that the Ban Johnson League provided him the opportunity to be seen by baseball scouts.”

Does the former umpire have any stories to tell about his days in the BJ?

“Any stories I might be able to remember They get more embellished as the years go by. I can not believe that it has been almost 30 years since I last umpired in the BJ. Maybe some day I can make a comeback.”

Welsh remembers a lot of great players and coaches.

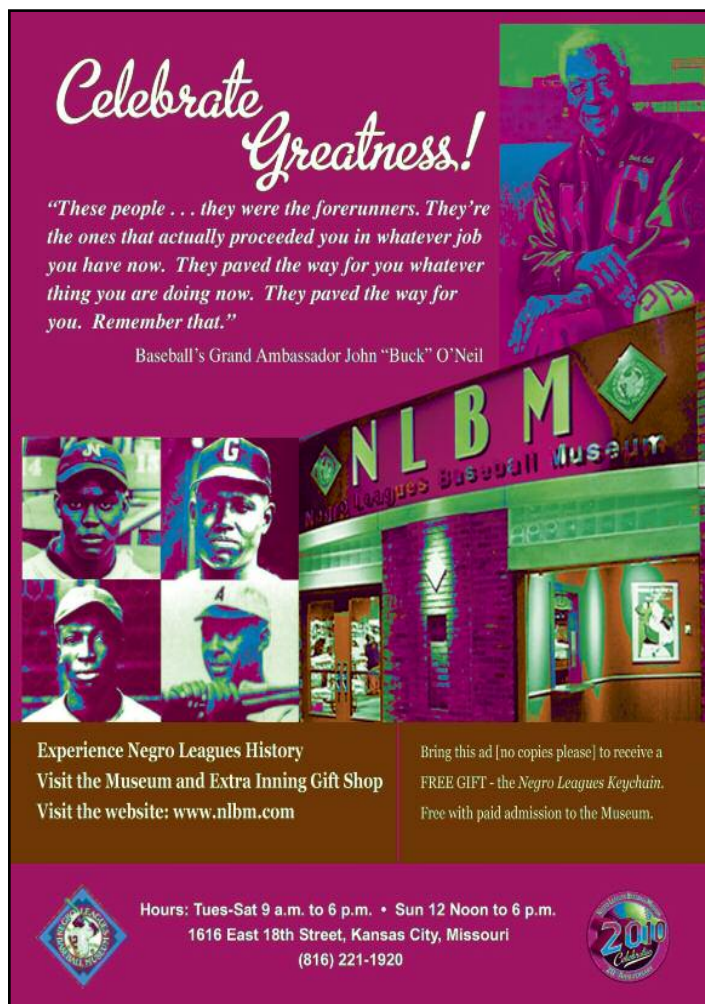
He pointed to players like David Cone, **Tim Presko** from Boyles Corned Beef, **Mark Smith** and **John Sweeney** from Butternut Bread, **Todd McGuire** from Guy’s Foods, the **Talley** brothers from KC Life and **Neil**

Harwell from Milgrams.

“They made the games more enjoyable,” he said. “The coaches like **Don Motley**, **Pat Nolan**, **John Stipetich**, **Ernie Lovich** and **Carl Blando** were all every competitive, but they all taught their players to respect their opponents.”

What is the former umpire doing these days?

“My wife and I are enjoying the fact that we were able to raise four children to adulthood,” he said. “We celebrated the birth of our first grandchild in April. At the end of the July, I will celebrate 35 years of service for the Federal Government. I continue to support the Ban Johnson League, but wish I could attend more games.”



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Darrell Corwin	Moody's/Feld 1957-60	◆ Don B. Motley	Milgram coach/manager 1968-present
Stuart Goldman	Sports Information Director 1992-94 "Diamond Connections" author	◆ Gary Patton	Boyle's 1973-76
◆ Don Goodwin	Milgram 1954-59	◆ Tim Presko	Boyle's Famous Corned Beef 1974-79
◆ Tom Higgins	Guy's 1968-72	◆ Don Saint	Milgram 1957-60
◆ Steve Jacobus	Milgram 1960-62	◆ Carl Shortino	Lapetina's 1955-57
◆ Jerry Lafferty	Scout, Philadelphia Phillies	◆ DeMorris Smith	Milgram 1956-58
◆ Moe Lago	Lapetina's/Western Auto 1955-59, coach 1965-69	◆ Jack Talley	KC Life 1975-79
◆ Richard Ludwig	Boyle's 1977-79	Lowell Toombs	Milgram 1956-57
◆ Ken Monaco	Meyer Metalcraft/Moody's/ Lapetina's 1952-56	◆ Terry Welsh	Umpire 1970s

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Defenders - Outfielder **Dylan Cole** and the MSBL Royals are in the thick of things in the league standings. The defending champions won its first seven games of the regular season.