



Beacon

A publication of the Ban Johnson Amateur Baseball League

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- Issue 1



Big Swing - Building Champions' **David Weideman** makes contact in front of Milgram Mustang catcher **Joe Goodwin** and umpire **Scott Blair** June 3 at Mid-America. **Steve Goodwin**, Joe's father, and **Don Goodwin**, Joe's grandfather, played for Milgram.

13 times the excitement

The 2011 Ban Johnson League season is underway and, no, the rainy season has not hit yet.

There are 10 teams back from the 2010 season plus we have added three new teams: Mac-N-Seitz Indians, Midwest Orioles and Natural Baseball Academy

What does 2011 portend for the 13 Ban Johnson League teams?

We know that Building Champions had a perfect run through the 2010 tournament and captured the league title by beating the BJ Raiders 3-0 in the championship series.

What will 2011 bring?

Stay tuned.

Here is a look at the season based on information supplied by the teams.

Teams are listed in alphabetical order:

BJ Raiders

The Raiders finished second last year in the post-season tournament.

"We are looking forward to the upcoming season, and like every year, we have set high expectations for

our team," manager **Mike Herr** said. "We have a good mix this year of returners and new additions. We look for the older guys to lead the way for the rest of the team."

Returning for the Raiders are pitcher **Milan Pleacher**, **Tyler Sullivan** and **Nick Martinez**; pitcher-infielder **Nate Horton**; catchers **Angelo Christiano** and **Alex Backhaus**; second baseman **Taylor Sibala**; shortstop **David Smith**; and outfielders **Alec Sartain** and **Matt Watkins**.

The Raiders have 11 new players on the roster.

Building Champions

The team captured the post-season tournament title and return in 2011 as the defending league champions.

"We are really looking forward to the upcoming season with mostly a new team as compared to last year," manager **Brad Willis** said.

The club only returns first baseman/pitcher **Adam**

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Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.

A quick glance at the 2011 Ban Johnson League season

Here are some key facts about the 2011 season:

* There are 13 teams in the league with no divisions.

* There are 10 teams returning from the 2010 season with three teams added: Mac-N-Seitz Indians; Midwest Orioles and Natural Baseball Academy.

* Each team will play 10 teams twice and two teams three times for a total of the 26 games..

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

* All 13 teams will be in the tournament and will be seeded by their record in the regular season. A preliminary round will bring the field down to eight teams. 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. Tampa Bay game on July 24.

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



Beacon

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Ban Johnson League Standings

(thru June 7)

	W	L	GB
Mac-N-Seitz	6	1	----
BJ Raiders	5	1	.5
Milgram Mustangs	5	2	1.0
MSBL Royals	4	2	1.5
Natural Baseball	4	3	2.0
KC Blues	3	2	2.0
UMB Bank	3	4	3.0
Building Champions	3	4	3.0
NKC Apts.	3	4	3.0
Regal Plastics	3	4	3.0
KC Bandits	2	5	4.0
Seaboard	2	5	4.0
Midwest Orioles	1	7	5.5

BJ All-Star Game
Sunday, July 24
at Kauffman Stadium
Following the Royals-Tampa
Bay 1:10 p.m. game
More details in
future Beacons

2011 Ban Johnson League season

Continued from page 1

Giaccone, infielder-pitcher **Matt Garcia**, designated hitter/first baseman **Brett Miller** and catcher-infielder **Sean McHugh**.

"We look forward to a new season and the challenges of once again being a younger team," Willis said. "But I think we will compete, as we always have, at a high level."

KC Bandits

The Bandits return the league's pitcher of the year in **Christian Witt**.

"The Bandits return starters **Harrison Cobb**, **Kanon Peterson**, **Peter Ingles**, **Josh Ragsdale** and **Cole Fergus** in the field," manager **John Peterson** said. "We return Witt, **Zach Gove**, **Jacob Sullinger** and **Donnie Beal** on the mound."

The new field players for the Bandits are **Nathan Quigley**, **Cody Parks**, **Cody Bell**, **Tyler Ogden**, **Beau Phillips**, **Nick Feighner** and **Tyler Englehart**. New pitchers include **Richard Mais**, **Josh Manker** and **A.J. Giddon**.

"We have a good mix of returning and new players and are looking forward to the 2011 season," Peterson said.

KC Blues

The Blues are managed by **Will Rogers**.

Mac-N-Seitz Indians

The Indians are one of the three new teams in the league. They are managed by **Rob Jackson**.

"The majority of my players are either going to major D1 or D2 schools next fall," Jackson said. "We will most likely be the youngest team in the league, but I believe that we have the talent to hang with the older teams we go up against."

Jackson mentioned catcher **Nathan Arnold**; middle infielders **Austin Fisher**, **Dylan Becker** and **Patrick Burns** and at the corners **Landon Lucansky**, **Trent Miller** and **Mark Boushka**.

He has two players in Miller and **Luke Slagle** who have completed one year of college baseball.

"Pitching may be the question mark for the season," Jackson said. "The pitching staff is young and will need to learn how to handle the more experienced hitters very quickly for the team to have success."

The team has one pitcher in **Ryan Taylor** who has college pitching experience.

Milgram Mustangs

Manager **Don Motley** has either been a coach

or the manager of the Mustangs for the past 44 years.

"The Milgram season will be determined by the returning four starting pitchers **Jake Jones**, **David Collins** and **Pat Brady** and **Sean Brady**," Motley said.

The other players the veteran manager mentioned include **Clarke O'Dowd**, **Jordan Miller**, **Jason Houston**, **Miles Shelton**, **Ryan Bontranger**, **Chase Kuehl**, **Tom Herrera** and **Bralin Jackson**

"The Milgram Mustangs have a long valued and respected tradition in the Ban Johnson League since around 1932," Motley said. "The teams four coaches have coached in the league for over 110 years combined."

Midwest Orioles

The Orioles are a new team in the league and are managed by **Tom Urquhart**.

MSBL Royals

"I look for the 2011 season to be successful with the addition of three new teams," manager **Michael Evans** said. "It will be good to face some new competition, and by the looks of the other

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Ban Johnson Awards Dinner Dec. 29 at Westport Flea Market



Neil Harwell present the Frank White Gold Glove award to Curtiss Bunch, Milgram Mustangs.



Ron Zuber presents the Arnie Briggs Pitcher of the Year award to Christian Witt, KC Bandits. Witt also received the Rob Zuber Most Strikeouts award.



Don Saint presents the Don Saint Best ERA award to Chad Gordon, UMB.



Neil Harwell presents the Most Stolen Bases award to Taylor Sibala, BJ Raiders.



Taylor Sibala, BJ Raiders, receives the MVP trophy from former BJ MVP's: (left to right) Moe Lago, Don Saint, Ron Zuber, Michael Younghanz and Tim Dougherty.



BJ Award Winners for 2010

Here is a look at the awards that were presented at the All-League Dinner Dec. 29, 2010 at the Westport Flea Market:

BJ Champion - Building Champions

BJ Runner-Up - BJ Raiders

Most Stolen Bases - **Taylor Sibala**, BJ Raiders

Marvin Tucker RBI Award - **Freddie Adamson**, BJ Raiders

Alex George Batting Champion - **Jason Solma**, KC Bandits.

Ron Zuber Most Strikeouts Award - **Christian Witt**, KC Bandits.

Joe Presko Best Record Award - **Ryan Hafner**, Building Champions.

Don Saint Lowest ERA Award - **Chad Gordon**, UMB Bank.

Most Wins - **Christian Witt**, KC Bandits

Arnie Briggs Pitcher of the Year Award **Christian Witt**, KC Bandits.

Bill Fenton All-Star Game MVP - **Cody**

Cobb, Vipers.

Pat Nolan Championship Series MVP - **Devon O'Rourke**, Building Champions.

Lester Milgram MVP - **Taylor Sibala**, BJ Raiders.

Bruce Rice Hustle Award **Matt Garica**, Building Champions.

Frank White Gold Glove Award - **Curtiss Bunch**, Milgram Mustangs.

Sidney Brown Umpire of the Year - **Ron Aulet**.

Service Awards.

Mike Peterson - 35 years.

Richard Dawson - 30 years .

Eric Horner - 5 years,

Scott Blair, 10 years.

Sean Bolte, 5 years

Nick Jisa, 5 years.

Sponsor Appreciation

BJ Raiders, 15 years, NKC Apts, 15 years; Seaboard, five years.

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Highlights

May 24

Natural Baseball 2, UMB Bank 0

Kyle Seagraves went two for three with a double and **Kyle Rich** had two stolen bases and got the save in relief.

UMB's **Daniel Peterson** had 11 strikeouts and allowed just one earned run in going the distance.

May 31

Natural Baseball 7, MSBL Royals 6

Kyle Seagraves went two-for-four with three RBIs.

The Royals' **Dan Rezin** had a two-run homer in the bottom of the first.

Natural Baseball 5, MSBL Royals 3

Taylor Froelich had a two-run double capping a five-run bottom of the third.

The Royals' **Dylan Cole** and **Jarid Renzelman** had two hits and an RBI each.

NKC Apts. 5, Seaboard 2

Keith Langley had two singles, two stolen bases and two runs scored and **Nathan Koontz** had a triple.

Seaboards' **Michael Moore** had two hits including a double.

NKC Apts. 3, Seaboard 2

Keith Langley had an RBI triple.

John Calhoun of Seaboard had a double.

UMB Bank 8, Midwest Orioles 1

Phillip Garrison went two-for-three with three RBIs.

UMB Bank 14, Midwest Orioles 2

UMB scored 12 runs in the top of the fourth.

Cody Cobb was two-for-four with an RBI.

Regal Plastics 8, KC Bandits 1

Sam Laney was two-for-five and **Jacob Castagno** was two-for-four.

KC Bandits 5, Regal Plastics 2

The Bandits scored three runs in the first inning. **Nick Feighner** was two-for-two with an RBI.

June 1

BJ Raiders 7, KC Blues 4

Taylor Sibala had one hit and four stolen bases while **Alec Sartain** was one-for-two with an RBI.

June 2

Mac-N-Seitz 13 NK C Apts. 5

Austin Fisher went three-for-four with two RBIs.

June 3

Mac-N-Seitz 4, KC Bandits 2

Keith Winterowd had a two run double.

Mac-N-Seitz 5, KC Bandits 1

Ethan Appleby and **Matt Stratton** combined on a one-hitter.

Landon Lucansky had a two-run home run.

NKC Apts. 6, BJ Raiders 5

Nathan Koontz was two-for-four with three RBIs.

BJ Raiders 6, NK C Apts. 3

The Raiders scored five runs in the top of the sixth. **Taylor Sibala** and **David Longmore** were one-for-four.

KC Blues 3, Midwest Orioles 1 (8)

Lucas Murphy drove in the winning runs.

KC Blues 2, Midwest Orioles 1

Joseph Kennedy was one-for-three with two RBIs and **Ben Cox** and **Ben Reynoldson** were two-for-three.

Lee Stoppleman hurled a three-hitter with 14 strikeouts and just one walk.

June 4

Mac-N-Seitz 9, Milgram Mustangs 1

Trenton Miller was two-for-four with two RBIs and **Luke Slagle** was two-for-four.

Milgram Mustangs 12 Mac-N-Sietz 8 (8)

Miles Shelton was three-for-six with an RBI and **Chase Kuehl** was two-for-four with three RBIs.

Mac-N-Seitz's **Trenton Miller** was three-for-three with a homer and three RBIs.

KC Bandits 11, Midwest Orioles 2

Peter Ingles was three-for-five with three RBIs; **Cody Bell**, two-for-five with two RBIs and **Harrison Cobb**, four-for-four with an RBI.

Midwest Orioles 6, KC Bandits 5

Jeremy Wagner was three-for-four with a homer and two RBIs and **Mason Mershon**, two-for-three with an RBI.

UMB Bank 11, Natural Baseball 2

UMB scored nine runs in the fourth inning.

Natural Baseball 1, UMB Bank 0

David Lammers' RBI double in the second was the only run.

June 5

Regal Plastics 3, UMB Bank 1

Michael Wasche was two-for-three and **J.D. Weyer**, one-for-three with two RBIs.

Regal Plastics 4, UMB Bank 3 (8)

Marcus Peavler was two-for-four driving in the winning run in bottom of the eighth.

MSBL Royals 13, NK C Apts. 12 (9)

The winning run scored on a passed ball. **Dylan Cole** was two-for-four with five RBIs. **David Richards** and **Travis Quick** were three-for-four. NK C's **Nathan Koontz** had four RBIs.

MSBL Royals 9, NK C Apts. 4

Dylan Cole was two-for-three with three RBIs and **David Richards** was two-for-four.

Alumni Corner presented by Moe Lago

Nelson remembers his years in the BJ

It has been over a decade since **Bruce Nelson** played in the Ban Johnson League, but it seems like only yesterday to the former BJ Raider.

The Oak Park High School and Rockhurst University graduate has many fond memories of his days in the league.

He played for the BJ Raiders from 1998 through the 2000 season.

He was a catcher for legendary BJ Raider and Boyle's manager **Pat Nolan**.

"He was great to play for even at 90-plus years of age," Nelson said. "He loved his players."

"I remember the All-Star Games at Kauffman Stadium and being able to play with my brother Brad," he said. "I got to play with

some great players from Rockhurst and other schools in the area.

"I remember the championships. I think we won two. I can't remember exactly."

He was the Hustle Award winner in 2000 and was named to the Ban Johnson All-75-Year Team.

"Being named one of the top 50 players in league history was a definite highlight," he said.

Nelson noted that he really enjoyed throwing out base stealers.

The former BJ Raider now lives in Kansas City with his wife Brooke and his two children.

Daughter Camryn is 4 and son Brady is 18 months.

He is in the business of selling real estate and he sometimes gives private catching lessons.

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2011 Ban Johnson League season

Continued from page 3

teams rosters there will be some quality players in the league.”

How does it look for the Royals?

“I believe we have a solid team this year both on the mound and at the plate, but it all comes down to performance by both our players and our coaching staff,” he said.

The top players mentioned by Evans include outfielder **David Richards**, pitcher **Zak Anstine**, first baseman **Michael Rezin**, pitcher **Alex Dunn**, catcher **Travis Quick** and third baseman **Hunter Johnson**.

Natural Baseball Academy

Another new team for the 2011 season. The manager is **Nolan Dietrich**.

“Being a new team to join the Ban Johnson League, we are very excited to be part of it,” he said. “We have an athletic group of kids and look forward to helping this team get better this summer.”

The top players for the team are middle infielders **Joseph Wieczkowski** and **Coey Gragg**; outfielders **Kyle Seagraves**, **Ryan Costanza** and **David Chew**; pitcher **Max Ising**; first baseman **Jake Vore**; catcher **Ian Robinson** and outfielder-pitcher **Kyle Rich**.

NKC Apartments

“We have largely turned over our roster with the addition of very good athletes,” manager **Tom Dailey** said. “We have a group of players who are dedicated team guys and will leave it all on the field. We will be extremely competitive and our season will hinge on how well we execute the basic fundamentals, pitching, defense and situational hitting.”

The six returning players are second baseman **Tyler Brewer**, pitcher **Colin Letcher**, pitcher-infielder **Jacob Kolenda**, infielder **David Wade** and pitcher **Brett Slobodzian**.

Regal Plastics

“We are returning eight players between the pitching staff and position players,” manager **Mike Neal** said. “We also have new players that will be competing for starting spots at every position. If the new players are as dedicated and hard working as the returning players, then we should see improvement over the course of the season.

“We are excited about the addition of the three new organizations. They should make the league more competitive.”

Seaboard

The manager is **Brian McCulloch**.

UMB Bank

Adam Clay is the manager for UMB.

The team picked up **Cody Cobb**, who was the MVP of the All-Star Game, from the Vipers after the team shut down operations this year.

Returning players include hitter and closer **Joseph Kassanavoid**, outfielder/designated hitter **Bubba Dotson** and third baseman **Kyle Clifton**.

New players include pitchers **Derek Gordon** and **Daniel Peterson**.

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In Memorium-

Rick Schmidt passed away March 5, 2011. He was an umpire in the Ban Johnson League, as well as in several other leagues including the MIAA, Jayhawk, Heart of America, KCAC, USSSA supervisor. He was active in the KC MSBL. He was a graduate of Shawnee Mission South High School and Kansas State University.

2011  Backers

BJ Backer membership is open to alums and anyone interested in supporting the league. For information, call 913.383.7765.

- | | | | |
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| Don Goodwin | Milgram 1954-59 | ◆ Paul Provas | Milgram player/coach 1967-75 |
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Starling picked fifth in the draft

Building Champions outfielder-pitcher **Bubba Starling** was the fifth player taken in the 2011 First-Year Player Draft.

He was picked by the Kansas City Royals.

This is the highest that a BJ player or Kansas City area player has been picked in the draft.

Starling played in a few games for league champion Building Champions in 2010 before being selected for the US Under 18 National team.

He was honored by *Baseball America* as the top high school player in the nation.

The Gardner-Edgerton graduate was a three-sport athlete for the Trailblazers.

Blue Valley Southwest coach Rick Sabath said, "Bubba Starling is a very special athlete that comes along once in a generation. He has five spe-

cial tools and is the best player at this age that I have been fortunate to watch play. I have seen Albert Pujols and Alex Gordon play at the same age and he compares very well to both."

Long-time high school baseball coach at Shawnee Mission South and Blue Valley West and BJ alum **Bill McDonald** said, "No question is one of the best athletes I have seen in 43 years of coaching. His speed and bat speed are exceptional. Not knowing him but seeing all the articles about him I was impressed with how he blended in well with his teammates. You did not know he was there until he made a play or swung the bat. Would we not want all of the players we coach to be like that?"