



Beacon

A publication of the Ban Johnson Amateur Baseball League

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- Volume 33
- Issue 3

Close race for spots continues

The weather has cooperated with a season without a plethora of rainouts, so far.

The result is a close race for the choice spots in the post-season tournament with nearly two-thirds of the season completed for most teams in the league.

The 13-team league has shown excellent balance and competitiveness in this the first year that the Ban Johnson League has ever had 13 teams.

The race for the top spot can not be any closer with the BJ Raiders and Milgram Mustangs virtually tied for first place.

The Raiders are ahead by percentage points with a 15-5 record in games through the Fourth of July. The Mustangs are 16-6 and tied in the games behind column with the Raiders.

Two of the three new teams are in third and fourth place in the current standings.

The Mac-N-Seitz Indians are in third with a

record of 11-7, three games behind the two leaders.

The Natural Baseball Academy is fourth with a record of 11-8. The team is 3.5 games behind the Raiders and Mustangs.

NKC Apartments has a record of 12-9, percentage points behind Natural Baseball Academy and 3.5 behind the leaders.

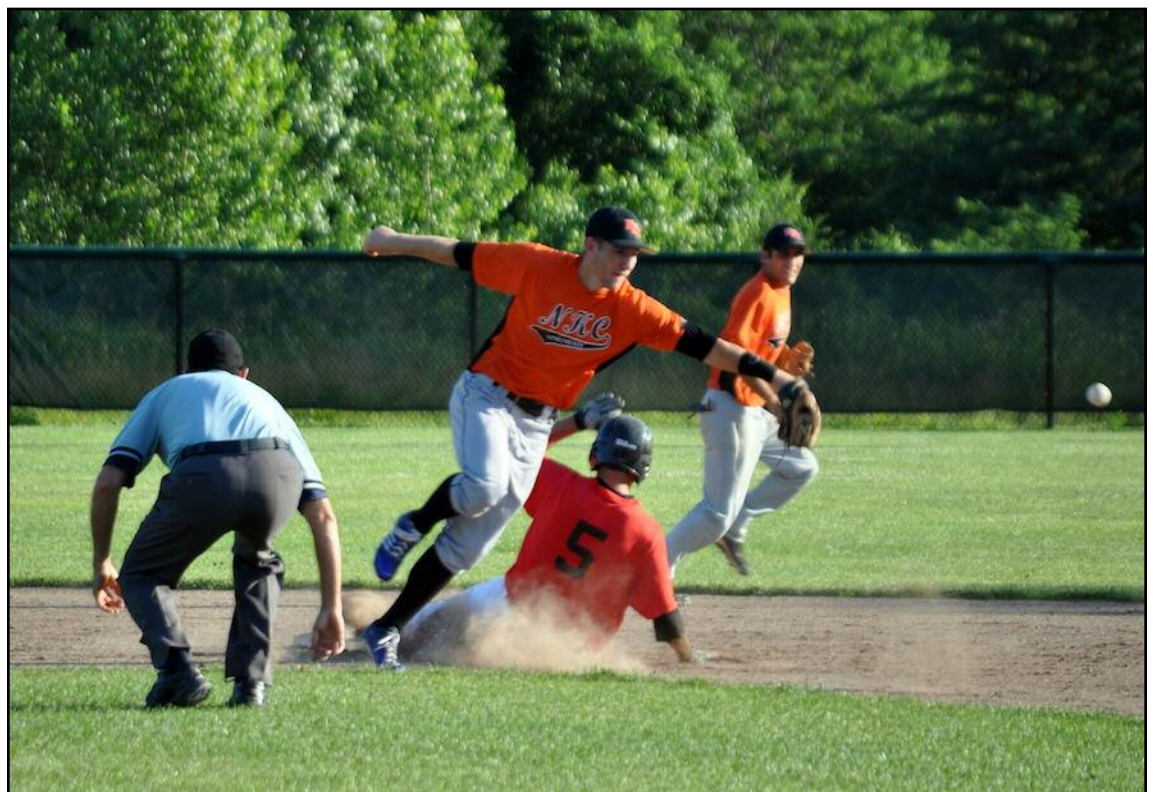
The MSBL Royals are in sixth with a record of 10-9.

There are two teams that are just barely under the .500 mark. The KC Blues have a record of 10-11 and defending champion Building Champions is at 8-9.

The Post-Season Tournament is slated to start sometime around July 15, This is dependent on rain and the makeup of rained out contests.

The annual All-Star Game is set for July 24 at Kauffman Stadium. The game will follow the Royals-Rays afternoon game.

In Safely - Lead off batter **David Chew** of Natural Baseball Academy makes it to second as **Derek Haug** of NKC Apts. reaches for the ball and **Derrick Jones** backs up the base in the first of two games June 28 at Missouri 3&2 Stadium. The man in blue is umpire **Scott Blair**.



Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.

(Statistics are through July 4)

Batting Average

(based on a minimum of 40 at bats)

1. Taylor Sibala, BJ Raiders	.462
2. Ian Robinson, Natural Baseball	.447
3. John Calhoun, Seaboard	.418
4. Miles Shelton, Milgram	.415
5. Nathan Koontz, NKC Apts.	.406
6. Kyle Pener, Seaboard	.391
7. Bubba Dotson, UMB Bank	.389
8. Hunter Johnson, MSBL Royals	.386
8. Matt Ricketts, Regal Plastics	.386
10. Andrew Kreilling, Building Champions	.381

Doubles

1. David Longmore, BJ Raiders	13
2. John Calhoun, Seaboard	8
2. Hunter Johnson, MSBL Royals	8
2. Joshua Dennett, Seaboard	8
5. Nathan Koontz, NKC Apts.	7
5. Bubba Dotson, UMB Bank	7

Triples

1. Nathan Koontz, NKC Apts	4
1. Dylan Becker, Mac-N-Seitz	4
3. Alec Sartain, BJ Raiders	3
4. (10 tied with two each)	

Home Runs

1. David Wade, NKC Apts.	4
2. (5 tied with two each)	

Runs Batted In

1. David Wade, NKC Apts.	23
2. Nathan Koontz, NKC Apts.	17
3. Kyle Pener, Seaboard	15
4. (Four tied with 14 each)	

Pitching

Earned Run Average

(based on a minimum of 18 innings)

1. Daniel Peterson, UMB Bank	0.62
2. Tanner Kilmer, Natural Baseball	0.74
3. James Rhodes, Mac-N-Seitz	0.78
4. Ryan Revoir, Midwest Orioles	0.80
5. Jarrod Miller, Natural Baseball	0.94
5. Eric Silkwood, KC Blues	0.94
7. David Reese, NKC Apts.	1.50
8. Richard Wright, Milgram	1.52
9. Nathan Reuter, Midwest Orioles	1.82
10. Grant Woods, Regal Plastics	1.88

Strikeouts

1. Eric Silkwood, KC Blues	41
2. Daniel Peterson, UMB Bank	40
3. Ryan Revoir, Midwest Orioles	39
4. Lee Stoppelman, KC Blues	33
5. Zac Anstine, MSBL Royals	32
6. David Collins, Milgram	27
6. Jake Jones, Milgram	27
6. Jamison Miller, BJ Raiders	27
6. Matt Reilly, Natural Baseball	27
10. (Three tied with 25 each)	

Ban Johnson League Standings

(thru July 4)

	W	L	GB
BJ Raiders	15	5	----
Milgram Mustangs	16	6	----
Mac-N-Seitz	11	7	3.0
Natural Baseball	11	8	3.5
NKC Apts.	12	9	3.5
MSBL Royals	10	9	4.5
KC Blues	10	11	5.5
Building Champions	8	9	5.5
Seaboard	10	12	5.5
UMB Bank	9	11	6.0
Regal Plastics	7	15	9.0
KC Bandits	6	14	9.0
Midwest Orioles	5	14	9.5



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New managers have learned a lot

The Ban Johnson League expanded to 13 teams this year, which means that there are several managers in the league for the first time.

The Beacon was able to talk to two of the new managers to get their impressions of their first year in the league.

Nolan Dietrich is the assistant baseball coach at Ottawa University and the first-year manager of first-year team Natural Baseball Academy.

“Our first year has gone well,” he said. “Many of our kids this summer either red-shirted or didn’t get much playing time this spring. They have used this summer opportunity to get valuable game experience for the upcoming college year.”

What is his impression of the Ban Johnson League?

“The Ban Johnson League is very compet-

itive and there are plenty of very good pitchers,” he said. “As a team, we have to be ready to compete each game day or the other teams in the league will beat you.”

Mac-N-Seitz Indians manager **Rob Jackson** has been coaching youth teams for the organization.

“I have enjoyed my first year in the Ban Johnson,” he said. “I have faced some challenges that I did not expect. In the past I have had teams that it was a top priority to be at every game and every practice. In the Ban Johnson League because of the schedule the players can have jobs, be out of town for several days in a row and the commitment to the team is not as high. This makes it hard for the team to find any rhythm, so every day is unpredictable of which team shows up. Better yet, which players are

See new, page 9

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Highlights

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

June 19

Natural Baseball 8, KC Bandits 5 (9)

Natural Baseball scored three runs in the top of the ninth. **David Chew** was two-for-five with a double and RBI; **Ronald Barnes**, one-for-four with two RBIs and **Adler Roberts**, three-for-four with two doubles.

Natural Baseball 4, KC Bandits 2

Ian Robinson was two-for-four with two RBIs.

NKC Apts. 6, Regal Plastics 5

JP Lamuyon was two-for-two with two RBIs and **Tyler Brewer** and **James Hood** were each two-for-four.

NKC Apts. 7, Regal Plastics 5

Zachary Roberts was two-for-two with two RBIs and **Tyler Brewer**, two-for-three with an RBI.

June 21

Midwest Orioles 2, Regal Plastics 1

Ryan Revoir gave up just three hits, while fanning eight and walking one. **Lee Ridenhour** was two-for-three with an RBI.

Midwest Orioles 4, Regal Plastics 1

Nathan Reuter struck out 12, walked one and scattered four hits. **Lee Ridenhour** was three-for-four with three RBIs and **Jeremy Wagner** drove in two runs.

Milgram Mustangs 2, KC Blues 0

Richard Wright hurled the five-hit shutout and **Clarke O'Dowd** went two-for-three with a triple.

Milgram Mustangs 10, KC Blues 0 (5)

Miles Shelton was three-for-four with two stolen bases and **Thomas Herrera**, three-for-four with a double and two RBIs.

NKC Apts. 4, KC Bandits 1

David Wade was two-for-four with a double, homer and an RBI and **Nathan Koontz**, three-for-four with a double and two RBIs.

NKC Apts. 10, KC Bandits 0 (5)

David Wade was three-for-three with two homers and six RBIs.

June 22

BJ Raiders 7, Regal Plastics 3

Taylor Sibala was three-for-four while **Bradley Foss** and **Alex Sartain** were two-for-four.

BJ Raiders 5, Regal Plastics 1

Nathaniel Horton had a no-hitter, fanning five and walking three. **Bradley Foss** was two-for-four

with two RBIs; **David Smith**, one-for-two with two RBIs and **Anthony Zicarelli**, two-for-three.

June 23

MSBL Royals 5, KC Blues 4

Hunter Johnson was two-for-three with a pair of RBI doubles.

KC Blues 5, MSBL Royals 1

Joshua Barnes was one-for-two with three RBIs.

June 24

Natural Baseball 3, Midwest Orioles 2

Ian Robinson was two-for-four with three RBIs.

The Orioles' **Lee Ridenhour** was two-for-three with a homer and double.

Natural Baseball 6, Midwest Orioles 3

Zach Kroymann was two-for-three with an RBI and **Jake Vore**, two-for-three with a double.

UMB Bank 7, Building Champions 2.

Cody Cobb had two triples and **Bubba Dotson**, a double and two RBIs.

UMB Bank 8, Building Champions 1

UMB scored five runs in the top of the third. **Kyle Clifton** had a two-run double and **Cody Cobb** had two hits. **Daniel Peterson** had a complete game, giving up an unearned run on five hits.

June 26

Milgram Mustangs 7, Midwest Orioles 2

Miles Shelton had two hits and an RBI. **Richard Wright** tossed a complete game, giving up two runs on six hits.

The Orioles' **Lee Ridenhour** had two RBIs.

Milgram Mustangs 4, Midwest Orioles 3

The Mustangs won the game on a walk-off single by **Jordan Miller** in the bottom of the seventh.

Evan Smith had a two-run single and **Dorian Shelton** had an RBI single.

The Orioles' **Lee Ridenhour** had a two-out RBI double that tied the game in the top of the seventh.

Seaboard 5, MSBL Royals 3

Kyle Pender and **Ben Millard** drove in two runs each and **John Oropeza** was three-for-three with an RBI.

MSBL Royals 18, Seaboard 3

The Royals scored 15 runs in the top of the third. **Jace Waters** was three-for-four with six RBIs, **Kevin Joyce**, three-for-five with an RBI and **Hunter Johnson**, three-for-four with an RBI.

See highlights, page 8

Off the bench sponsored by the Salty Iguana

BJ Raider pitchers hurl two no-hitters in a four days

It is unusual for a team to have a no-hitter during the Ban Johnson League season.

But the BJ Raiders didn't have just one no-hitter, they had two in the same week and almost had a third no-hitter.

The Raiders' **Nate Horton** tossed the first no-hitter on June 22 as the Raiders beat Regal Plastics 5-1 in the second game of a doubleheader.

The second no-hitter came on June 26 as the Raiders beat the KC Bandits 2-0. The no-hitter went to **Ryan Lawless**.

And in the second game of the doubleheader two Raider pitchers combined on a one-hitter in the 5-0 victory.

Horton struck out five and walked three in his no-hitter.

"I probably knew I had a no-hitter around the fourth inning, but it didn't really seem relevant at the time because it was early in the game," the Northwest Missouri State junior said. "Then Regal started trying to jinx me in the fifth so I knew I was getting in their head."

It was the first career no-hitter for Horton.

"My teammates contributed a huge amount," he said. "They made a ton of great plays behind me in clutch situations. It was also nice to have a nice lead so it took a lot of pressure off me."

"His performance was exciting to watch," manager **Mike Herr** said. "Every time he gets on the mound we know he is going to give us a great outing, but last night he was dealing and we could tell early on in the game that he had the potential to do something special."

Lawless was outstanding in no-hitting the Bandits on June 26.

The Hutchinson Community College right-handed pitcher fanned eight and just walked one batter.

Lawless is in his first year with the Raiders.

"Ryan did an outstanding job of keeping

See BJ Raider, page 6



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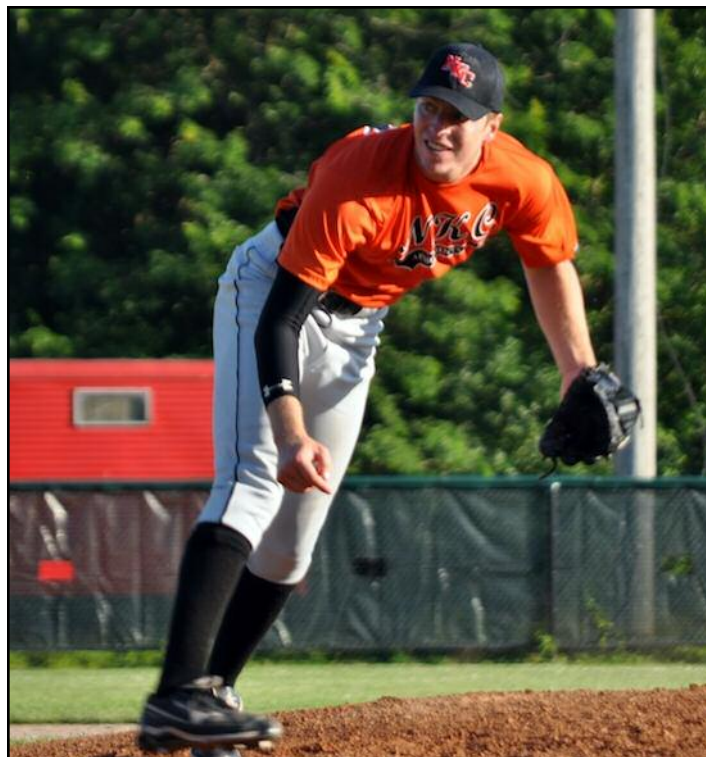
BJ Raiders pitchers hurl continued

the hitters off balance, mixed up his pitches and commanded the strike zone well," Herr said. "It was a hot and muggy day and Ryan was able to overcome the elements and finish out the game strong. It was a "bulldog" approach and we were all very happy for him.

"This was the second no-hitter this week for our pitching staff. This is extremely helpful for us when we have multiple games scheduled in a short period."

Joe Malin and **Milan Pleacher** combined for a one-hitter in the Raiders' 5-0 victory in the second game of Sunday's doubleheader at William Jewell College.

It is not often that a pitching staff goes three games in one week allowing just one hit.



Winning Form - **Kevin Sweeney** of NKC Apartments fanned seven batters in 5.2 innings pitched in a 4-3 decision over Natural Baseball Academy June 28 at Missouri 3&2 Stadium.

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More details in
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Alumni Corner presented by Moe Lago

Gerшон has seen a lot of BJ history

David Gerшон has had extensive experience in the Ban Johnson League ranging from playing to coaching and running the front office.

He began playing as a pitcher for Guy's in 1965 at the age of 17.

"I remember it was early in the season and back then the league started early and many of the college players were not back in Kansas City," he said. "I got my first start against Katz, who had won the league the year before. It was an evening game at Klamm Park (in Kansas City, Kan.). I pitched a complete game and we won 12-0. I struck out 18, which stood as a league record for awhile. I figured I was well entrenched in the starting lineup. Wrong. **Roy Brown**, the manager, said, 'you are a rookie, and a rookie sits the bench and waits his turn.'"

Gerшон didn't start a game for the rest of the season.

"It was an honor to sit on the bench of a BJ team, let alone play," he said. "I was in the presence of some great ball players like teammate **Chuck Dobson** and I played against **Steve Mingori**, **Paul Lindblad** and **Steve Renko**."

Gerшон went to Missouri and then transferred to William Jewell, winning an NAIA National title in 1968.

"I signed with Oakland, and went to spring training in 1970, but never made it out of camp," he said.

He came back and was a pitching coach for **Don Motley** and Milgrams in 1970 and 1971

He resurrected his baseball career in 1987 pitching in the Men's Senior Baseball League, retiring in 2005.

In 2002, he became pitching coach and GM for NKC Apartments.

"Today, nine years later, I am happy to say I am still with NKC," he said. "Most recently, I have become more involved in the BJ working with Executive Director **Bob McFarlane**."

Gerшон is proud of his time in the BJ.

"A highlight for me while associated with the league has been working with many young men, who I have watched mature into not only great athletes, but matured as individuals," he said. "Two young men that I will remember always are **Bill Disselhoff**, now coaching at Park Hill South, and recently retired **Shay Colburn**, is seeking to coach at the high school level as well."

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Ban Johnson League highlights continued

June 26 (cont.)

BJ Raiders 2, KC Bandits 0

Ryan Lawless tossed a no-hitter. He fanned eight and walked one.

Matthew Watkins was two-for-two; **Kaleb Shaw**, one-for-two with an RBI and **Taylor Sibala**, one for three with an RBI.

BJ Raiders 5, KC Bandits 0

Joe Malin and **Milan Pleacher** combined on the one-hit shutout.

Taylor Sibala was one-for-three with an RBI; **David Smith**, two-for-four and **Alex Sartain**, one-for-four.

NKC Apts. 4, KC Blues 1

David Wade was one-for-three with an RBI and **Tyler Brewer**, one-for-three.

KC Blues 8, NKC Apts. 2

Joshua Barnes was two-for-four with an RBI; **Ben Reynoldson**, two-for-three with an RBI and **Joseph Kenny**, one-for-two.

June 28

NKC Apts. 4, Natural Baseball 3 (10)

Nathan Koontz was two-for-four with a triple and RBI double.

Natural Baseball's **Jason Vore** had a two-run homer.

Natural Baseball 8, NKC Apts. 1 (10)

Natural Baseball scored seven runs in the top of the 10th.

Zach Kroyman had an RBI single.

NKC's **J.P. Lamunyon** had a solo home run.

Seaboard 7, Midwest Orioles 1

John Calhoun had two hits and **Alex Lahansky** had an RBI single, while **Kyle Pener** was three-for-four with an RBI.

Seaboard 5, Midwest Orioles 0

Alex Lahansky was two-for-two with two RBIs and **Ben Millard** had an RBI single.

Matthew Bergin had a complete game four-hit shutout. He didn't walk a batter and fanned five.

BJ Raiders 2, Milgram Mustangs 1 (8)

Bradley Foss was two-for-four with two RBIs while **David Longmore** and **Alex Backhaus** were each one for two.

Milgram Mustangs 5, BJ Raiders 3

Miles Shelton was two-for-four with an RBI and **Jordan Miller**, was one-for-four with two RBIs.

June 29

MSBL Royals 3, Building Champions 1

David Richards was one-for-two with an RBI and **Travis Quick**, one-for-two.

Building Champions 3, MSBL Royals 1

John Austin was one-for-two with two RBIs and **Matt Miller** and **Andrew Kreilling** were each two-for-three.

UMB Bank 2, BJ Raiders 0

Chris Booth was two-for-three with an RBI triple. **Daniel Peterson** pitched a one-hit shutout while fanning eight.

BJ Raiders 5, UMB Bank 1

Joe Kassanavold had a solo homer and **Evan Bennett** was two-for-two with two RBIs.

June 30

Regal Plastics 2, Mac-N-Seitz 1

Derek McGowan went the distance giving up four hits, walking three and striking out nine. **Michael Rzeszut** was two-for-three with an RBI.

Mac-N-Seitz 1, Regal Plastics 0

Kyle Kelly and **Brenden Hensley** combined on a two-hitter. **Luke Slagel** was one-for-two.

Milgram Mustangs 8, UMB Bank 3

Chase Kuehl and **Clarke O'Dowd** were each two-for-four with two RBIs, while **Jordan Miller** was one-for-two with two RBIs.

UMB's **Joseph Kassanavold** and **Bubba Dotson** hit home runs.

UMB Bank 6, Milgram Mustangs 4

Bubba Dotson was two-for-three with an RBI and **Kyle Clifton**, two-for-four with two RBIs.

KC Blues 10, BJ Raiders 0 (5)

Dustin Hardy had a three-run double; **Joshua Barnes** was two-for-two and **Ben Cox** had a single and two RBIs.

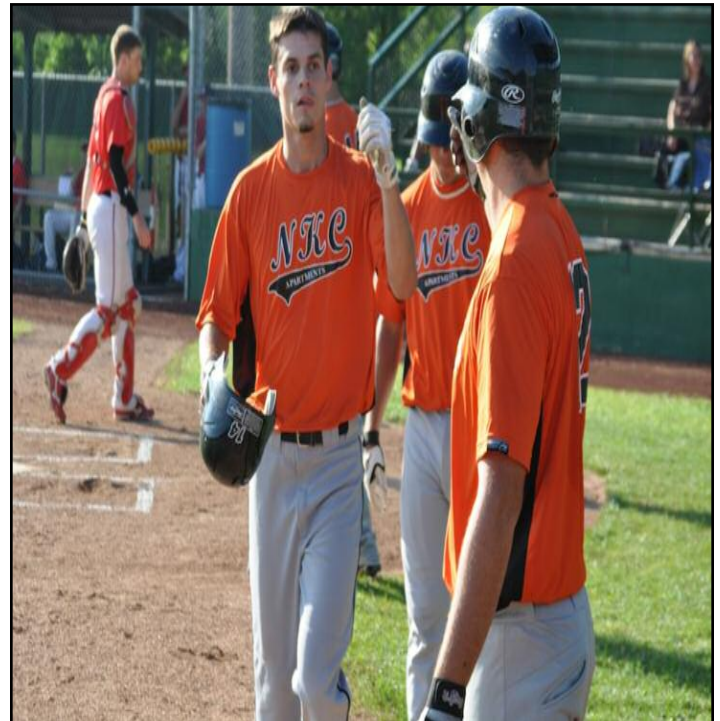
July 1

Milgram Mustangs 8, Seaboard 7

Milgram scored seven in the top of the seventh.

Tom Herrera had two singles and three RBIs and **David Collins** was three-for-three.

Seaboard's **John Calhoun** had two hits and four RBIs.



High Five - **Brad Law** of NKC Apartments (right) congratulates teammate **Keith Langtry** after scoring in the first of two games against Natural Baseball Academy June 28 at Missouri 3&2 Stadium.

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New managers have learned a lot continued

are going to be at each game.”

Jackson said that his schedule was heavy with games early and then not as many.

“I just wonder what would happen if the league were to play four or five nights in a row with nine inning games, how much better the games would be and if the players were able to do it,” he said.

He said he got to experience something special when his Indians played Regal Plastics on June 30.

“**Mike Rzeszut, Brendan Hensley and Ben Loughman** are all former players of mine that I coached for four years before they moved on to college,” he said. “Being

able to see them on the field again bigger, stronger and using what they learned while under my instruction was a great feeling. I even had to catch myself one inning when I almost yelled out to Mikey some encouragement while he was hitting against us.

“Overall, I can say that has been the best part of managing in the BJ, reuniting with all the players that I have coached, done lessons with, and competed against while they were in high school. Most all of them have met me after the game to catch up and it has been nice to know that I have been part of their baseball career.