



Beacon

A publication of the Ban Johnson Amateur Baseball League

- July 6, 2012
- Volume 34
- Issue 3

Regular season is coming to an end

The regular season is winding down with the tournaments to decide the 2012 champion looming on the horizon.

Based on the regular season standings, the top six teams will receive a bye on the first round of the tournament.

The last eight teams will play in a double-elimination tournament. The winner of the winner's bracket will advance to the championship double-elimination tournament as the seventh seed. The winner of the loser's bracket will be the eighth seed.

The fight for the first six spots is underway.

Going into the first week of July, the newest team in the league, the KC Sports Club Blues are leading the league with an 19-1 record. The Blues have a nine-game winning streak going into the month of July.

Defending champion Seaboard is 18-2 with an

eight-game winning streak.

The fight for the four remaining guaranteed spots in the championship tournament is close.

The next four teams are within two games of each other.

The KC Blues have made the biggest move, winning six of their last seven games to improve to 13-7. They are in third place six games behind the leaders.

Tied at six games behind is NKC Apartments at 14-8.

The BJ Raiders are in fifth at 12-8 and seven games behind, while the MSBL Royals are 12-10 and eight games behind.

"When the boys show up and put all three phases together then we put ourselves in a good position to win," KC Blues manager **Cody Newman** said. "We have a good mixture of

See Regular, page 9



HE'S SAFE - **Charlie Krueger**, BJ Raider first baseman, scores without a throw to Milgram Mustang catcher **Joey Goodwin** June 26 at 3&2 Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. The Raiders won the game, 8-1. The plate umpire is **Jim Lilleston**.

Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.

(Statistics are through June 28)

Batting Average

(based on a minimum of 45 at bats)

1. Jeremy Monty, KC Barnstormers	.460
2. Michael Wasche, Regal Plastics	.452
3. Poncho Amaya, Regal Plastics	.429
4. Ian Robinson, Natural Baseball	.420
5. Alex Drew, UMB Bank	.418
6. Dean Long, KC Barnstormers	.417
7. Kyle Clifton, UMB Bank	.397
8. Alec Witt, Bandits	.388
9. Ben Cox, KC Blues	.381
9. Brad Law, NKC Apartments	.381

Home Runs

1. Kyle Clifton, UMB Bank	3
2. James Hood, NKC Apartments	2
2. Brad Law, NKC Apartments	2
2. Chase Rader, KC Sports Club Blues	2
5. (14 tied with one each)	

Runs Batted In

1. Kyle Clifton, UMB Bank	17
2. Alex Michaud, Natural Baseball	13
2. Dean Long, KC Barnstormers	13
4. Brad Law, NKC Apartments	12
4. Chase Rader, KC Sports Club Blues	12
6. Josh Dennett, Seaboard	11
6. Jeudys Garcia Fortuna, KC Blues	11
8. (Five tied with 10 each)	

Stolen Bases

1. Kirk Pruitt, UMB Bank	11
--------------------------	----

2. Jeremy Monty, KC Barnstormers	10
3. Spenser Augustine, Midwest Orioles	9
3. Caleb Baker, NKC Apartments	9
3. Jordan Stull, NKC Apartments	9
6. (five tied with eight each)	

Pitching

Earned Run Average

(based on a minimum of 16 innings)

1. George Brandecker, Seaboard	0.42
2. Dustin Hurlbutt, Seaboard	0.51
3. Patrick Brady, Milgram Mustangs	0.74
4. Matt Eckelman, KC Sports Club Blues	0.74
4. Steven Johnson, KC Blues	0.74
7. Jake Jones, Milgram Mustangs	1.08
8. Justin Williams, KC Sports Club Blues	1.09
9. Cade Brummer, MSBL Royals	1.27
10. Jacob Loucks, MSBL Royals	1.35

Strikeouts

1. George Brandecker, Seaboard	49
2. Dustin Hurlbutt, Seaboard	35
3. Patrick Brady, Milgram Mustangs	34
3. Jake Jones, Milgram Mustangs	34
5. Steven Johnson, KC Blues	32
6. Ryan Kendall, KC Blues	31
7. Nathan Reuter, Midwest Orioles	30
8. Nathaniel Horton, BJ Raiders	29
8. Jacob Kolenda, MSBL Royals	29
8. Dan McMurtrey, Seaboard	29

Beacon

Publishers: Nancy Milgram, Nat Milgram
Advertising Manager: Sally Milgram
Executive Director: Bob McFarlane
Head Scorer: Richard Dawson
Ban Johnson League office: (913) 383-7765
 P.O. Box 7869; Shawnee Mission, KS 66207
E-Mail: banjohnson@aol.com
Web site: www.banjohnson.com
Rainout line: (913) 383-4044

Ban Johnson League Standings

(thru June 30)

	W	L	GB
KC Sports Club	19	1	----
Seaboard	18	2	1.0
KC Blues	13	7	6.0
NKC Apts.	14	8	6.0
BJ Raiders	12	8	7.0
MSBL Royals	12	10	8.0
Milgram Mustangs	9	10	9.5
Natural Baseball	9	11	10.0
UMB Bank	8	11	10.5
Regal Plastics	8	12	11.0
KC Barnstormers	7	13	12.0
Building Champions	6	12	12.0
Midwest Orioles	5	17	15.0
Bandits	1	19	18.0

Notes from around the league

Players signings

There were three present or former players that signed contracts with Major League Baseball Teams recently.

Fourth round pick in the June First Year Player Draft **Justin Chigbogu** of the Milgram Mustangs signed with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Another Milgram Mustangs, fifth-round pick **Bralin Jackson**, signed with the Tampa Bay Rays.

Former Building Champion first baseman **Adam Giacalone** was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 16th round and he signed with the team.

The Shawnee Mission Northwest graduate played in the spring season for Neosho County Community College.

Derek Jeter.

Kyle Evans, Bandits coach - Josh Hamilton.

Tony Hurla, MSBL Royals manager - Eric Hosmer.

Shawn Moore, KC Sports Club Blues coach - Josh Hamilton.

David Gershon, NKC Apartments GM - Eric Hosmer and Mike Moustakas.

Will Meier, Seaboard manager - Dustin Pedoria.

Peter DelCastillo, KC Barnstormers manager - Derek Jeter.

Vince Sola, Bandits coach - Derek Jeter.

Alan Peel, scorekeeper - Josh Hamilton.

Chris Faddis, KC Sports Club Blues manager - Josh Hamilton.

Will Gorden, Building Champions manager - Derek Jeter.

Who do they pick?

The BJ Beacon staff went on a secret mission recently to find out the favorite present Major League players for scorekeepers and team personnel. This is especially timely with the All-Star Game set for July 10 right here in Kansas City at Kauffman Stadium.

John DeRoo, scorekeeper - Eric Hosmer.

Tyler Lynnes, MSBL Royals coach -



Large
1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments
Up to 1200 Square Feet

711 N.E. 85th Street
Kansas City, Mo
(near Metro North Shopping Center)
816.436.4022

• Immediate Application Approval •
• Only \$100 deposit •

www.apartments.com/robinhillapartments



Enjoy the best Mexican food in town!
quesadillas, fajitas,
burritos, tacos,
burgers, sandwiches,
salads, soups,
desserts
Kids Menu

8228 Mission Road
Prairie Village, Kansas
913.381.3888

17717 E. 40 Hwy
Independence, Missouri
816.350.8003

4931 W. 6th St., Lawrence, Kansas
785.312.8100

K-10 & Ridgeview Road
Olathe, Kansas
913.310.9003

8420 W. 135th St.
Overland Park, Kansas
913.402.0200

Also great for parties and catering!

For menus and hours, visit
www.saltyiguana.com

Highlights presented by NKC Apts.

June 19

Seaboard 1, BJ Raiders 0

George Brandecker scattered six hits, walking one and fanning eight.

Seaboard scored the only run in the game in the top of the first inning.

Josh Dennett and **Michael Yeager** were two-for-three each.

Seaboard 1, BJ Raiders 0 (8)

The winning run came in the bottom of the eighth on a one-out RBI single to right by **Tanner Vestal**. Vestal had two hits in the game.

Dustin Hurlbutt got the victory in relief. He worked the last 2 1/3-innings allowing one hit and fanning four.

Regal Plastics 3, Bandits 2

Adam Burns was three-for-four and **Kegan Knight** was two-for-four with two RBIs.

Regal Plastics 3, Bandits 2

Regal scored two runs in the first and one in the second to lead 3-0. The Bandits tallied two runs in the top of the seventh.

Adam Burns had two hits for Regal while **Austin Evans** had two hits for the Bandits.

Milgram Mustangs 4, MSBL Royals 0

Patrick Brady tossed the shutout. He allowed three hits, walked two and struckout eight.

David Collins and **Clarke O'Dowd** were two-for-three with an RBI each.

Milgram Mustangs 7, MSBL Royals 4

Jordan Miller and **Evan Smith** were each one-for-three with two RBIs.

Building Champions 2, KC Sports Club Blues 1

Building Champions scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth in handing the Sports Club Blues their first loss of the season.

The winners had just three hits. **Billy Kirkpatrick** was one-for-three with an RBI.

KC Sports Club Blues 7, Building Champions 4

Jacob Spring, **Tyler Moore** and **Chase Rader** were each three-for-four. Spring and Rader had two RBIs each.

June 20

NKC Apartments 8, KC Blues 6

Nicholas Lichtenberger and **Zach Roberts** had two hits each.

KC Blues 2, NKC Apartments 1

Ben Cox and **Jeudys Garcia-Fortuna** were each one-for-two with an RBI.

Nicholas Lichtenberger had three hits for NKC.

KC Sports Club Blues 4, MSBL Royals 0

Justin Williams went the distance allowing just one hit. He struckout nine and didn't walk a batter.

Mack Preston was three-for-three and **Jacob Spring**, two-for-two.

KC Sports Club Blues 1, MSBL Royals 0

Matt Eckelman shutout the Royals surrendering just three hits. He walked one and fanned five.

The Sports Club Blues got the only run of the game in the top of the seventh.

Chase Rader was two-for-four.

June 22

KC Sports Club Blues 6, Regal Plastics 1

Austin Ingram went two-for-two with two RBIs; **Chase Rader**, two-for-three and **Jake Wodke**, two-for-five.

KC Sports Club Blues 7, Regal Plastics 0

Jacob Spring was three-for-three, **Austin Ingram**, two-for-four

with three RBIs and **Adam Valencia**, two-for-three with an RBI.

UMB Bank 5, NKC Apartments 4

UMB scored three in the bottom of the seventh for the victory.

Kyle Clifton was two-for-four with a homer and four RBIs.

NKC Apartments 6, UMB Bank 1

Nicholas Lichtenberger was two-for-three.

UMB's **Kyle Clifton** had a solo homer.

Midwest Orioles 3, Natural Baseball Academy 2

Christopher Jackson went two-for-four.

Natural Baseball Academy 5, Midwest Orioles 1

Ryan Taylor and **Ryan Costanza** combined on a two-hitter.

Alex Michaud and **David Lammers** were two-for-three each.

KC Blues 6, KC Barnstormers 2

Ben Cox, **Tyler Cantrell**, **Ryan Johnson** and **Landon Teal** had two hits each.

KC Blues 6, KC Barnstormers 3

Jeudys Garcia-Fortuna went three-for-four with two RBIs and **Tyler Cantrell**, two-for-three with two RBIs.

June 24

KC Blues 1, Building Champions 0

Ryan Kendall hurled a two-hitter. He fanned 10 and walked two.

Chase Grashewitz was one-for-two with the only RBI in the game.

Building Champions' **Hayden Edwards** only allowed two hits, but walked four and struckout five.

KC Blues 3, Building Champions 1

Ryan Johnson was two-for-three and **Kyzer Hoover** went one-for-three with two RBIs.

Milgram Mustangs 7, Regal Plastics 1

Patrick Brady went the distance for the Mustangs, allowing three hits while striking out 10 and walking one.

JD Weyer was three-for-four with a homer and three RBIs.

Regal Plastics 2, Milgram Mustangs 1

Kyle Hartman and **Michael Wasche** were each two-for-three.

KC Sports Club Blues 11, Natural Baseball Academy 1 (5)

Justin Williams fanned seven and didn't walk anyone in scattering six hits.

Aric Valencia was three-for-four with an RBI and **Adam Valencia**, **Jake Wodke**, **Josh Griffith** and **Alex Wilson** had two hits each.

KC Sports Club Blues 5, Natural Baseball Academy 2

Tyler Moore and **Holden Klamm** had two hits each.

Seaboard 11, Bandits 0

Matt Blackham hurled a one-hitter.

He fanned 12 and walked two.

Michael Yeager went three-for-four with three RBIs. **Alex Lahasky**, **John Oropeza** and **Ross Johnson** had two hits each.

Seaboard 4, Bandits 0

Darius Hampton and **Ross Johnson** had two hits each.

UMB Bank 4, MSBL Royals 1

UMB scored three runs in the top of the fifth in breaking a 1-1 tie.

Alex Drew was two-for-four with a triple and three RBIs.

UMB Bank 10, MSBL Royals 5

Kyle Clifton was one-for-two with four RBIs and **Kirk Pruitt**, **Alex Drew** and **Tyler Shannon** had two each. Shannon had three

See highlights, page 5

More highlights sponsored by Stillwell's BV Bushidokan

Continued from page 4

June 27

Midwest Orioles 3, KC Barnstormers 2

Jerico Burasco was one-for-three with two RBIs.

KC Barnstormers 10, Midwest Orioles 0 (5)

Dean Long was two-for-two with two RBI; **Tanner Baker**, two-for-three with two RBIs and **James Boddicker**, two-for-three.

Tanner Smith scattered two hits, walking four and fanning five.

Seaboard 5, Building Champions 0 (10)

Seaboard scored five runs in the top of the 10th.

George Brandecker fanned the first 12 hitters he faced and struckout 21 in eight innings. He didn't walk a batter in allowing three hits.

Kyle Pener was two-for-four.

Building Champions' **Billy Kirkpatrick** only allowed a hit in his seven innings of work. He fanned four and didn't walk a batter.

Seaboard 7, Building Champions 1

Josh Dennett was one-for-four with a double and three RBIs.

UMB Bank 6, Regal Plastics 3

Kyle Clifton was two-for-four with an RBI; **Chris Booth**, one-for-one with a double and three RBIs and **Parker Jones**, two-for-four with an RBI.

Regal Plastics 7, UMB Bank 2

Jaren Moorman went three-for-five with two RBIs and **Michael Wasche** was two-for-two with two RBIs.

Eli Egger went the distance allowing six hits, fanning 10 and not walking a batter.

UMB's **Kyle Clifton** was two-for-three with a homer and two RBIs.

BJ Raiders 8, Milgram Mustangs 1

Bradley Foss was two-for-four with a double and two RBIs.

Jeff Boyd went the distance scattering nine hits, He walked three and fanned three.

BJ Raiders 10, Milgram Mustangs 6

Bradley Foss was two-for-four with a double and three RBI; **David Smith** and **Andrew Watts** were each two-for-three.

The Mustangs' **Joey Goodwin** was two-for-three with a triple and two RBIs.

June 27

NKC Apartment 7, Midwest Orioles 2

Jordan Stull was two-for-three with two RBIs.

NKC Apartments 11, Midwest Orioles 5

Nicholas Lichtenberger was two-for-three with two RBIs and **Payton Scarbrough** was three-for-four with three RBIs.

KC Barnstormers 11, Natural Baseball Academy 6

Jeremy Monty was four-for-four with an RBI to pace the Barnstormers' 16-hit attack. **James Boddicker** was three-for-four and **Tanner Baker** and **Caleb Waddell** had two hits each.

Natural Baseball's **Matt Reilly** was two-for-four.

Natural Baseball Academy 7, KC Barnstormers 4

Ian Robinson was two-for-three with a triple and three RBIs. **Zach Kroymann** was two-for-four with an RBI.

June 28

KC Sports Club Blues 2, Bandits 1

The KC Sports Club Blues scored the winning run on a two-out bases-loaded walk to **Adam Valencia**.

Josh Griffith and **Alex Wilson** were each one-for-two.

Drew Noble was the winning pitcher going three innings in

relief, fanning five, walking one and allowing one hit. **Nick Kolarik** picked up the save, fanning two of three batters he faced in the bottom of the seventh.

KC Sports Club Blues 11, Bandits 3

CJ Faddis was three-for-three with an RBI and **Josh Griffith** was two-for-two. **Adam Valencia** was two-for-three with a double and three RBIs.

June 29

NKC Apartments 3, Milgram Mustangs 2

Patrick Burns and **Caleb Baker** were each two-for-four.

Milgram Mustangs 6, NK Apartments 1

Jake Jones went the distance for the Mustangs. He allowed five hits, walked one and fanned three.

Clarke O'Dowd was three-for-three with a double and three RBIs while **Andrew Blackwell** was two-for-three with an RBI.

Midwest Orioles 3, MSBL Royals 2

The Orioles scored all their runs in the first two innings and then held off the Royals.

Seth Lieser went three-for-three while **Spenser Augustine** and **Nicholas Delcher** were two-for-three.

MSBL Royals 2, Midwest Orioles 0

Cade Brummer hurled the five-hit shutout. He fanned nine and didn't walk a batter.

Brandon Huske went two-for-three.

KC Blues 2, BJ Raiders 1

Tyler Cantrell, **Steven Johnson** and **Brett Bearden** were each one-for-three with an RBI.

BJ Raiders 4, KC Blues 2

Bryan Rezin and **Anthony Saladino** were each two-for-three with an RBI.



ON THE MOVE - **Clarke O'Dowd**, Milgram Mustang first baseman (#45), and brother of Milgram coach **Nolen O'Dowd**, makes the play on a BJ Raider grounder June 26 at 3&2 Stadium in Kansas City. Backing up the throw is second baseman **Andrew Blackwell**.

Alumni notes sponsored by the Salty Iguana

Several Ban Johnson League alums have been in the news lately.

* **Dave Van Horn**, who played for Boyle's Corned Beef, has taken two different college teams to the NCAA Division I World Series. He took the Nebraska Cornhuskers twice and he has now taken the Arkansas Razorbacks three times to the big event in Omaha. His 2012 team came within one game of making it to the championship games.

Incidentally, he was the college coach for KC Royals' outfielder Alex Gordon at Nebraska.

* **Bob Motley** is a former umpire-in-chief for the Ban Johnson League. He recently received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service to his country with the Montford Point Marines. He was honored on June 27.

* **Bill McDonald** played for Katz in the

Ban Johnson League. He has had a long and distinguished career as a high school baseball coach in Johnson County.

He started the program at Shawnee Mission South in 1974.

In 2001, he moved to Blue Valley West when the school opened.

The first game of the 2012 season saw his Jaguars beat BV Southwest 1-0 for the 600th victory for the veteran coach.

* **Rick Sutcliffe**, who pitched for Buttenut in the Ban Johnson League, will be a member of the 2012 Taco Bell All-Star Legends and Celebrity Softball Game July 8 at Kauffman Stadium.

Sutcliffe played in three MLB All-Star Games.

He played for the American League in 1983 while pitching for Cleveland and for the National League in 1987 and 1989 while pitching for the Chicago Cubs.

NKC APARTMENTS

1619 Orleans Circle · North Kansas City, MO
816.221.0455
www.apartments.com/northkansascityapartments

- Immediate Application Approval ·
- Only \$100 deposit ·

The French Quarter

1, 2, 3 Bedrooms
Carports · Pool

Oliver Townhouses

Private entries
2 Levels · Carports
2 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths
Great location

Sunny Hill Apartments & Townhomes

Spacious studios, 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
Townhomes up to 2,377 sq'
Pool

Independence Ridge Apartments

LUXURY

- Huge 1 & 2 Bedroom Apts.
Up to 1144 square feet
- Wood burning Fireplaces
- Huge Walk-in Closets
- Private Balconies & Patios
- Laundry Facilities
- Clubhouse & Pool
- Walk to Independence Center

- Immediate Application Approval ·
- Only \$100 deposit ·

19012 East 37th Terrace
Independence, MO
816.795.1800
www.apartments.com/independenceridge

Alumni Corner presented by Moe Lago

A look back a decade in the past

This is the 85th Anniversary season for the Ban Johnson League.

Going back a decade to June 2002, the league picked its All-75-year team.

The Ban Johnson League had a gala celebration where the All-75-Year Team was announced.

The league picked the best players by positions for the league that dates its first season in 1927.

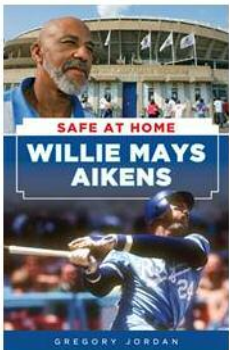
Here is the second of a series of looking back at the All-75-Year Team.

Let's take a look first at the first basemen. They are **Skip James, Moe Lago, J.R. Ross** and **Kevin Young**. Both Skip

James and Kevin Young played in Major League Baseball.

The infielders are **Frank Anson, Adam Bailey, Ron Debus, Bill Fenton, Mark Johnson, Dick Kenworthy, Keith Lieppman, Mike Mesh, Tim Presko, Jack Talley, Bob Tuttle, Kerry Shaw, Reginald Walker**

Dick Kenworthy played in the big leagues and Keith Lieppman has had a long and distinguished career as Director of Player Development for the Oakland Athletics.



Safe at Home is a personal account of former KC Royals player Willie Mays Aikens. It explores baseball and the culture of the 1980s, the US justice system, family dynamics and personal struggles.

Ban Johnson League special offer!

Receive an autographed copy of Willie's book and baseball card (\$25.99 plus shipping & handling) 816.536.7259 or aikenswillie24@yahoo.com

**STEVE STILLWELL'S
BLUE VALLEY BUSHIDOKAN**
KARATE · JUDO · JUJITSU · KICKBOXING
CLASSES FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN
Since 1989



13005 State Line Road
Kansas City, MO 64145
(816) 943-0866
www.bluevalleykarate.com

Parent of BJ 2005 MVP Shawn Stillwell



Let's review your life insurance needs!

George "Moe" Lago
Life Insurance Broker
816.241.5888

*BJ alum: Lapetina's, 1955-59
Western Auto, 1965-69*

VARSITY SPORTS
Since 1976

**Team uniforms · Equipment
Letter Jackets · Screen Printing
Custom Embroidery
Trophies**



7817 Parallel Pkwy, KCK
913-334-4115
VarsitySportskck.com
Mon-Fri 10-6m, Sat 9-3

**Owner, Jim Woods
BJ Player/Coach, KC Life
1973-83**

2012 Backers

- ◆ Bill Boyd Western Auto 1968-70
- ◆ Mike Bray Western Auto 1968-70
- ◆ Jim Cash Katz 1949-52
- ◆ Darrell Corwin Moody's/Feld 1957-60
- ◆ Nick Digirlamo Country Club Dairy 1966-67
- ◆ Bill Fenton Country Club Dairy 1963-67
- ◆ Stuart Goldman Sports Information Director 1992-94
"Diamond Connections" Author
- ◆ Tom Higgins Guy's 1968-72
- ◆ Tom Krattli Butternut 1973-75
- ◆ Jerry Lafferty Scout, KC Royals
- ◆ Moe Lago Lapetina's/Western Auto
1955-59, coach 1965-69
- ◆ Keith Lieppman Katz 1966-70
- ◆ Richard Ludwig Boyle's 1977-79
- ◆ Ken Monaco Meyer Metalcraft/Moody's/
Lapetina's 1952-56

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

- ◆ Don Motley Milgram manager/coach 1968-2011;
general manager 2012
- ◆ Gary Patton Boyle's 1973-76
- ◆ John Peterson KC Bandits sponsor, 2008-11
- ◆ Mike Peterson Country Club/Milgram 1966-70,
Coach 1975-2011;
assistant general manager 2012
- ◆ Tim Presko Boyle's Famous Corned Beef
1974-79
- ◆ Paul Provas Milgram player/coach 1967-75
- ◆ Martin Rankin Milgram 1977-79
- ◆ Don Saint Milgram 1957-60
- ◆ Carl Shortino Lapetina's 1955-57
- ◆ John Stipetich Player/Coach/Manager/E.D./
Board of Directors 1960s-present
- ◆ Jack Talley KC Life 1975-79
- ◆ Roger Twibell Gateway/Country Club Dairy 1966-72
- ◆ Terry Welsh Umpire 1970s

◆ = Diamond Club

2012 Ban Johnson League Team Sponsors



Regular season is coming to an end

Continued from page 1

experienced and inexperienced college players."

"We are playing very competitive," NKC Apartments General Manager **David Gershon** said. "Senior leadership from **Brad Law**, **Nick Lichtenberg**, **James Fitzgerald** and **James Hood** has helped immensely with quite a few young and new players."

BJ Raiders manager **Mike Herr** said, "The

pitching staff has been our strength so far. They have done a great job of keeping us in every game."

He said that returner **Nate Horton** has been throwing the ball exceptionally well and that **Jacob Dahlgren** has been a horse on the mound as well.

"The team is slowly starting to gel and we are expecting great things for the second half of the season," Herr said.