



Beacon

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All-Star Game issue

B All Stars shine at Kauffman Stadium

The B All-Stars had the pitching and the timely hitting to beat the J All-Stars in the 44th Ban Johnson League All-Star Game Aug. 5 at Kauffman Stadium.

The game followed the Texas Rangers-Kansas City Royals game. This is the 44th time that the Royals have hosted the game.

The B All Stars were comprised of players from the league champion Kansas City Sports Club Blues, KC Blues, KC Barnstormers, UMB Bank, BJ Raiders, Natural Baseball Academy and the Bandits.

The J All Stars came from NKC Apartments, Milgram Mustangs, MSBL Royals, Seaboard, Midwest Orioles, Regal Plastics and Building Champions.

The B All Stars pitching staff just allowed two hits in the game.

Pitching in the game were **Drew Noble** (KC Sports Club Blues), **Nathanial Horton** (BJ Raiders), **Nick Kolarik** (KC Sports Club Blues), **Jacob Dahlgren** (BJ Raiders), Steven Johnson (UMB Bank), **Ryan Taylor** (Natural Baseball), **Ryan Kendall** (KC Blues), **Derek Gordon** (UMB Bank), **Ryne Dowling** (Building Champions), **Matt Eckelman** (KC Sports Club Blues) and **Justin Williams** (KC Sports Club Blues).



2012

The B All Stars scored two runs in the third inning, one in the fourth and put the icing on the cake with two tallies in the eighth inning.

“We had a great group of guys, B All Star manager **Adam Clay** of UMB Bank said. “I told them to go out and have fun. Get on base and score some runs.”

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MVP - Ian Robinson, Natural Baseball Academy catcher (left), received the Ban Johnson All-Star Game MVP from Ben Aken, Royals director of community relations, Aug. 5 at Kauffman Stadium. Robinson went two-for-two with a run scored, a double and an RBI.

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Natural Baseball Academy catcher **Ian Robinson** was in the middle of the scoring in the third and fourth innings.

He led off the third with a single and scored. He doubled in the run in the fourth.

He was picked by league officials as the MVP of the game.

“That was exciting for sure,” Robinson said. “It was great to be named the MVP of the game.”

The big item for all the players was a chance to play on a big league field.

“I grew up in Kansas City,” NKC Apartment outfielder **Caleb Baker** said. “It has been my dream to play on the field. This is something

that I will never forget.”:

Alex Drew, UMB Bank second baseman said, “This was a special opportunity to play here. I’m blessed to have the chance to do it. I got a base hit and I started at second base. What could have been better?”

BJ Raider first baseman/designated hitter **Charlie Krueger** grew up in Omaha, Nebraska.

“This is something you dream about as a kid - playing in a big league stadium.”

KC Sports Club Blues pitcher **Matt Eckelman** just graduated from St. James Academy in May.

“It was a great honor as a high school player to play in this college baseball league all-star game.”



STOLEN BASE - **Anthony Saladino**, BJ Raiders outfielder and B All-Star, steals third base as **Amaya Poncho**, Regal infielder and J All-Star, readies for the ball in Ban Johnson League All-Star Game Aug. 5 at Kauffman Stadium. The umpire is **Ray Grenke**.

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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

The Ban Johnson League Awards banquet will be held in December.

The date, time and location are not known at this time.

Everyone will receive information about the affair that always brings happy moments as the best of the best in the league are honored.

It is a time of joy and also some sadness for those who have completed their eligibility in the league.