

WIFFLER'S DIGEST



PERBS

Performance Enhancing BATS

July 2011



Cover Story:

Wiffleball and the World of PEB's

by Ryan Winfield



What is Blitzball? Josh Smith 1	Why I Started a League... And Why You Should Too Regis Pollard 4	A Week in the Life of the KWL Commish Brian Meyers 8
Rapture Postponed Until Wiffleball Seasons Are Completed Josh Smith 10	Wiffle Licenses Yellow Rain Ponchos Josh Smith 11	Old Republic Whiffle Ball League: 2011 Season Report Luke James 13
Who's Hot and Who's Not: 2011 CCWA Season Nate Bullock 14	The 5 Tool Wifflete Blaine Milam 17	Real Life Captain Caveman Josh Williamson 18

What Is Blitzball?

by Josh Smith

According to their website, Blitzball™ is "The fastest ball on the planet!" However, demonstration videos seem to emphasize the product's uncanny curving ability rather than it's velocity. This ball can curve, rise, and drop...all without having holes. It's pretty impressive. Customers seem to be pleased with the product as you'll read many reviews on their Facebook page giving Blitzball™ 5 stars in most cases. The immediate comparison to Wiffle®Ball is natural. The lack of holes isn't the only difference between Blitzball™ and Wiffle®Ball... Blitzball's website is more sleek and informative than Wiffle®Ball's website. There are videos, pitching tutorials, and reviews. Last year the company had a video contest for fans to enter their footage of them testing out the Blitzball™. The feedback was plentiful and as a result you can easily find this ball in action on Youtube. But my interest isn't in the product's website or how rad people think it is...I want to know what is Blitzball? What's it made out of? How does it curve so drastically without the aid of holes?

The product is a recent addition to the plastic ball market and as a result there's not many sources for answers about the Blitzball™. So I thought 'it sure would be



Buy a 4 pack for \$11.99 at College Hill Games' website.

nice to talk to the dude who invented this thing.' I figured it was worth a shot, so I emailed the company to see if I could get some answers. The same day I received an email from the inventor of the ball himself, Aaron Kim - founder and owner of College Hill Games. Having established dialogue I wasted no time asking him questions...

What is the Blitzball made of?

Blitzballs are made of the same plastic (high quality, durable stuff) as Wiffle balls.

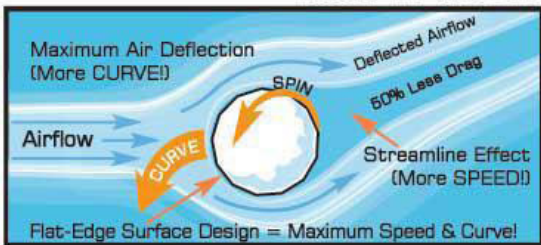
When and how did you invent this product?

I don't remember exactly when I came up with the concept for the ball, but I do know that I immersed myself in every piece of reading material that I could find on aerodynamics and ball flight. I read all sorts of articles on baseballs, how a ball curves, golf ball technology, etc. I had to tinker with hundreds of different designs until I ultimately found the best combination of curve and distance.

How is it that it curves so well despite not having holes, like the Wiffle Ball does?

It's hard to answer without going into a long (and likely boring) discussion on aerodynamics, but the simple answer is that Wiffle and Blitzballs both rely on air pressure imbalances for their curves. Where Wiffle's achieve this air pressure imbalance through its holes (air pressure will be greater on either the "holey" or "non-hole" side, depending on how it is scuffed), Blitzballs can achieve an air pressure imbalance without holes by using flat sides instead. In expert hands, both Wiffle and Blitzballs can curve very well (despite their differences in design) and I think that people's preferences will largely be determined by differences in pitching style as the Blitzball becomes more widely known. One advantage to the Blitzball's design is that its absence of holes allow it to travel faster and farther than Wiffle balls (which might be a bad thing if you have a small backyard).

How It Works



Your site says it's the fastest ball on the planet. Just how fast have you clocked it at?

The funny thing is that I originally wanted to call it the "Curviest ball on the planet" but later realized that the Wiffle ball already used a slogan that was similar to that. I have a lot of respect for the Wiffle ball company (Wiffle was my favorite toy growing up) and I didn't want to use any marketing that was similar to theirs. I couldn't think of any great slogan ideas until my dad suggested that I try "Fastest ball on the planet" instead, and that's how it stuck. For fun, I did borrow some radar equipment to test different balls for speed. Although it was several years back, I believe I clocked myself at around 48 mph with the Blitzball off of a Little League mound (I'm not exactly Roger Clemens) while clocking myself at around 40 mph with a regular Wiffle ball. This was a speed difference of about 20% for me; I'm not sure what it would be for guys with stronger arms.

What other cool toys are you guys working on?

Probably nothing for a while since I just released my Blitzball bat and DVD set. The bat itself is nothing new. I arranged for the guys who make the black "Ken Griffey Jr." bats to make custom bats for me with the Blitzball logo. So if any reader already has a "Ken Griffey" bat and is thinking about purchasing the Blitzball bat and DVD

set, save yourself the money and get a few extra Blitzballs instead!

If you've ever seen or handled a Blitzball™ you'll notice that it looks nothing like any other plastic ball... even the packaging is unique. Kim debuted his Blitzball™ only four years ago and was forced to sell exclusively online because no major retail outlet wanted to take a chance on the unknown baseball toy brand when they could stock their shelves with more established Wiffle® and Junk balls instead. Despite a meager \$2,000 annual marketing budget, Kim went from processing an average of one order per week, to commanding an estimated 3-5% of the Wiffle® Ball market (based on NY Times estimate of Wiffle® sales). While the much larger Wiffle® and Junk ball brands had the luxury of being sold in large chain stores such as Dick's Sporting Goods and Target, Kim had to build his brand quietly online by utilizing sites such as YouTube and Facebook to build a loyal and steady following. Kim runs an annual YouTube Blitzball™ video contest and maintains an active Facebook page to keep the fans engaged on a grass-roots level, and the customers have responded by awarding the Blitzball™ over one million combined views (YouTube) as well as a "4.9 out of 5.0 stars" average user rating (Facebook). Kim's Blitzball™ is also starting to get noticed by the media



For \$19.99 get a bat, 2 balls, and an instructional dvd.

as his videos are beginning to crop up on local news channels, blogs (including The Huffington Post), and was even recently aired on ESPN's SportsNation.

Kim realizes that the Blitzball™ is not for everyone, and that there are many Wiffle® Ball purists out there who will resist change...and he's okay with that. "If you're a staunch Wiffle® guy, that's fine and I completely respect that," says Kim. "Depending on pitching styles, some people will prefer Blitzballs, and others will choose to stick with Wiffle®... but both balls curve great." Considering that the Wiffle® Ball

has been around for over 50 years and that approximately 50,000 people across the country play in regular Wiffle® Ball leagues, tournaments, and backyards, the Blitzball™ does not yet appear to be an immediate threat to Wiffle's market dominance. But Blitzball™ seems to offer something different to those backyard Wiffle® players out there with a unique ball that does many of the same great things in a different way. Regardless of whether you like the Blitzball or not, it's building a steady following and could, in time, be the most worthy competitor that Wiffle® has ever had. Kim realizes that not everyone will be going nuts over his product, particular the real Wiffle®Ball purists out there...and he's okay with that. "If you're a staunch Wiffle guy, that's fine and I completely respect that." So is Blitzball™ a threat to Wiffle®Ball? Hardly. Kim only estimates his share in the plastic ball market at 3-5%. Consider that around 50,000 people across the country play in leagues, tournaments, and backyards and Wiffle® sells at least one million balls a year. Wiffle® is alive and well but Blitzball offers something different to those backyard players out there with a ball that does the same thing in a different way. Regardless of if you like Blitzball™, it's building a steady following and could, in time, be the most worthy competitor Wiffle® has ever had.

Why I Started a League... And Why You Should Too

By Regis Pollard

All my life I have been involved with sports and by far my favorite sport of them all was baseball. Growing up we couldn't get enough baseball. I mean we would have baseball practice, then we would come home and we would play more baseball, tennis ball, or wiffle ball. Every time we would get a pick-up game going, we would act like the pros and dream about one day being one.

But as you get older you start realizing that you're probably not going to the majors and that at some point your sports career is going to end. And that's exactly what I didn't want to happen. I wanted to keep playing.

So its winter and we are in Rochester, New York. And if you know anything about upstate New York you know we get some serious snow. So it's another snowy day over winter break and the guys and I are stuck inside. We start recalling some of the intense wiffle games we used to have and I brought up the idea that we should start a league. A few guys thought it would be cool so I got serious, got a few of them to commit, and ran with it.

After a lot of phone calls, emails, and



texts we finally had a league put together and were ready to play. So once opening day came, we were setting all the things up and people were like, "Wow you're crazy you got a strike board, scoreboard, camera, stats; this is legit." And that's what I wanted to hear. I wanted people to think it was serious and that it was the real deal. I mean it's still about having fun, but it's cool to go home and say, "Hey I hit 3 HRs," or, "Check out my grab on the highlights." It makes you feel like the pros, which is every sports fan's dream.

In our league we have a lot of competitive guys so we are a little more aggressive than other leagues, but that's what is great about wiffle ball; everyone plays it a little bit different. In one league you can

have guys diving and sliding into bags, but in another you have a more laid back group that just goes out to have fun. It is however you like to play it. Whether you want to play the classic game with no running or go all out with base running and pegging; it is up to you.

So if you love the game of baseball or wiffleball, it doesn't have to stop at little league, high school, or college. Maybe you can take those pick-up games and turn them into something a lot bigger... like we and a lot of other leagues have. I am glad I joined in the fun and started our league because it is something I look forward to each and every week. Will you too decide to make the next wiffle ball league? Well, the choice is up to you.

Wiffleball and the World of P.E.B.'s

By Ryan Winfield

There has been a troubling trend rearing its ugly head across the Wiffleball leagues of America lately. The crisis that is waging war against the integrity of this great game results in longer, more frequent home runs, high scoring slugfests, and overinflated egos to go along with a false sense of self-worth. Of course, the outside influence waging war on the game of Wiffleball is referred to as P.E.B.'s, or Performance Enhancing Bats.

Since 1959, the prototype of the standard yellow bat has essentially remained unchanged. 31 inches long, 1 ¼ inch barrel, with those sweet words, "Made in the USA," stamped underneath the official Wiffle Bat logo. Barring a single year back in 1975, when the bat was manufactured in black due to an oil shortage, you could jump in the DeLorean with Doc Brown,



Doc Brown's DeLorean

head back over 50 years, and STILL be able to recognize kids on playgrounds swinging that iconic stick of yellow plastic.

The standard yellow Wiffle Bat is the common man's bat. In my case, it was the first piece of sporting equipment I was able to buy on my own, riding my bike down to the local hardware store with \$2.00 in quarters in my pocket, more than enough to buy a bat, a ball, and still have a quarter left over for the gumball machine on the way out. Even today, with inflation wrecking havoc on the economy, you can still pick up a bat for two bucks and some change, making it easily the best value in sporting goods.

So imagine my surprise when I started playing Wiffleball competitively as an adult, and was introduced to the seedy world of black market bats. I was once approached by a man in a trench coat after a particularly frustrating hitting performance. "Hey man, I can turn your warning track fly balls into monster dingers," he stated as he opened his coat. Half expecting to catch a peek at his dong, I was relieved to see three bats velcroed to the inside of his jacket. "I've got Kevlar I can sell ya for two bills," he continued. I thought two dollars seemed like a pretty good deal, so I handed him a couple singles. "Those bills got the wrong president man; I'm looking for Benjamin's, not Washington's." He must have seen the



David J. Mullany, left, and his father, David A. Mullany at the Wiffle Ball factory in Shelton, CT

shock on my face at the thought of paying two hundred dollars for a Wiffle bat, so he went down the line, showing me models in carbon fiber and fiberglass, cheaper, but still toping a hundred bucks.

I went on to research these bats a little more, and noticed a telling distinction between players that are natural and users that are artificially enhanced. Yellow bat users smile during games; loaded bat users frequently scowl. Yellow bat players can usually be heard having playful banter with the opposing pitcher; enhanced users can only be heard shouting disparaging remarks such as "Get that s*** outta here!" after crushing another fraudulent home run. Yellow stick players can be found encouraging teammates and opponents, offering a sense of humility and community, even after a tough loss. The P.E.B. addicts seem to step on others in a way to elevate

their own status, whether it be for their league, team, or individual accolades.

David Mullany created Wiffleball nearly 60 years ago as a way for children to be able to enjoy themselves outdoors. For some of us that are still kids at heart, we discovered a way to carry this childlike enthusiasm into adulthood. In an era that has seen even rec-league softball reach a state of hyper-competitiveness, we play this game because we just want to feel like kids again. Introducing performance bats into the game is just another example of society separating the "haves" from the "have-nots," much like when you were a kid and your classmates were able to afford better shoes or a nicer bike than your family could. In a world of dividing people by class, can't we leave just this one game, this great game, on an equal playing field?

A Week in the Life of the KWL Commish

By Brian Meyers



KWL Commissioner Brian Meyers interviews Ryan Davis of the Kentucky Waterfalls

If you haven't hung around your league commissioner, you might not have any idea of how much effort and work goes into keeping the league up and running. It's easy to see a lack of website updates, outdated stat pages or un-mowed grass and make comments about the lack of "effort" or lack of "caring", but in most cases those accusations couldn't be further from the truth!

Just to help give a little perspective on the amount of work a commissioner does, let me share my normal in-season weekly

schedule for the Kalamazoo Wiffleball League:

Sunday

2 Hours - mowing, striping, weed whacking and other field maintenance. Stomp through the weeds for forgotten homerun balls.

Monday

3 Hour - Web updates, enter this weeks games, error checking box scores from last week, picking player of the week, update league leaders, update NWLA rankings,

finish going through last weeks photos, upload photos, format any new articles and upload.

Tuesday

2 Hours – Video recording of the games.

Wednesday

1 Hour – Upload a new front page header, format any new articles and upload.

Thursday

2 Hours – Video recording of the games.

Friday

3 Hours – Web updates, design and update new header picture, write article about upcoming game of the week, transfer pictures from memory cards to computer, error check box scores and contact captains that have missing stats, format any new articles and upload, start going through this weeks photos.

At a minimum each week, I spend around 12 hours over 6 days working for the League. During the beginning of the season, this number can inflate to more then 20 hours a week with making the schedule, building logos, field repairs, meetings and tons of new website updates.

On top of my normal load, I also write new player profiles, update old player profiles, update team pages, upload and edit

photos, and write articles. Fortunately, we have a great media team that cover taking photos, taking video and editing the video. Otherwise, those tasks would also find their way onto my plate.

The job of a commissioner is a thank-less one at best. It's not for someone that needs coddled, pat on the back or endless amounts of Atta-boys. The commissioner can not have his own agenda and must be dedicated to the league. All good commissioners share these traits. So if your league has a good commish, show a little slack on the criticism or better yet, volunteer some of your time to help alleviate the work load!

Do you want to advertise
in the **Wiffler's Digest**
Online Magazine?

Contact **Josh Smith** at
wifflersdigest@gmail.com
to find out how to reach
the largest Wiffle lovers
in the nation!

Rapture Postponed Until After Wiffleball Seasons Are Completed

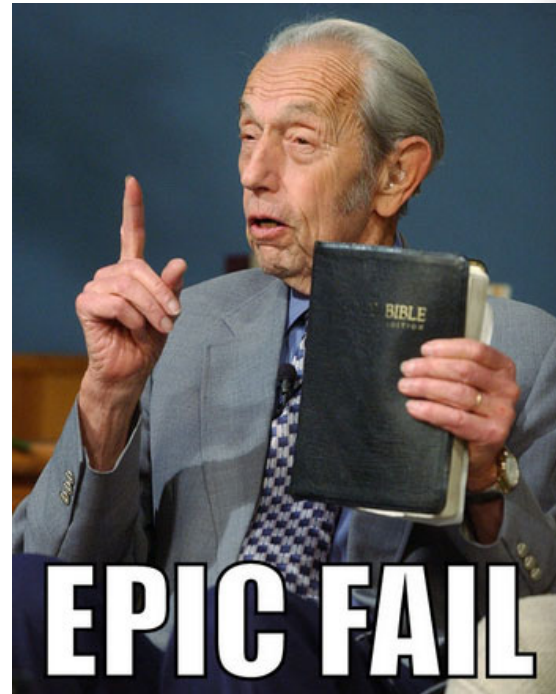
by Josh Smith

California preacher Harold Camping really jumped the gun on his prediction of when the world would end by saying the end would occur May 21. Camping spent the night at the hotel the night the world was supposed to end. The reason he decided to spend his possible last moments with his wife in a hotel is a mystery. But what we do know is that the rapture did not occur. Camping is embarrassed by his inaccurate prophesy but isn't too discouraged to say that he goofed up on the date and that on October 21 the world is going to end for real. Mark your Calendars! According to the Associated Press mathematical error is not the reason for the wrong date being announced last week but they fail to say what exactly went wrong. Leave it to Wiffler's Digest to give you the answer!

The answer is simple. The world ending on May 21 would totally screw up the wiffleball season. Camping conveniently forgot this fact because his shuffleboard league season ended a little over a month ago and he was facing the possibility of having an extremely uneventful summer so the world ending May 21 is no sweat for

this guy. Unfortunately for him...it didn't happen. When Camping isn't preaching or predicting doom and destruction he's a pretty bored guy. Come to find out this dude knows nothing about wiffleball and that God is a huge fan! Perhaps Camping should get with the program and join a wiffleball league in California like Humboldt Professional Wiffle Association.

So why has Camping suddenly changed the date from May 21 to October 21? We may have an answer. According to two old guys in a golf cart who claimed to know



Harold Camping forgot May 21 Rapture would ruin wiffleball season... what an amateur

Camping, there's a big Canasta tournament coming up and guess what day it's on? You guessed it! October 21. One of the two men, who wished to remain anonymous (because he does not exist), says Camping possesses a "great hatred" for the game of Canasta and that "he'd rather die than to play such a wretched game." The Canasta tournament has been held annually for the past 25 years in central California and once upon a time Harold Camping was a

contender to be the Canasta Champion in 1989 but his dreams were crushed as he fell short of claiming the title. Since then Camping has harbored harsh feelings toward the tournament that wronged him. Camping seems to believe that God shares this resentment towards Canasta and that the tournament that destroyed Camping's dreams will finally be destroyed this fall.

...At least this alleged rapture will be after wiffleball season.

Wiffle® Licenses Yellow Rain Ponchos

by Josh Smith

Ever since Wiffle® Inc. registered Yellow as their official color for plastic bats there's been a threat that the company could build a monopoly based on the color. In fact, I've not even seen a yellow broom stick since the recent trademark on the color. Many leagues had trouble getting their seasons going due to widespread rain for most of the month of April. Fields flooded and commissioners struggled to reschedule rained out games. Players began to park their cars closer to the fields to escape torrential downpours and even the burliest of men began carrying umbrellas to the games. Some players eventually took to wearing disposable rain ponchos or rain coats in hopes of staying dryer during



game play. After seeing this, Wiffle® Inc. immediately trademarked yellow rain ponchos. It's without doubt that Wicked Cow Entertainment President, Michael Hermann was the one who originated this heinous idea.



It's no secret that Wiffle® Inc. has dominated the plastic ball and bat market, as they should...they invented it. But when does this become a ridiculous attempt to squeeze undeserved dollars out of kids and hobbyists across the country? This isn't even just about the ponchos but why should no other company not be able to make yellow plastic bats? Creating a monopoly on a children's toy is just sad. What does that say about a company that creates a product we enjoy?

Wiffle® Inc. has sold more than one type of bat in the company's history. They've sold wooden and aluminum bats but the plastic bat has been the best seller after

all these years. But why is the color yellow so special? Who knows? But you can bet that any other company caught using the color for their plastic bats will be receiving harassing phone calls and perhaps a subpoena for violating a trademark. Now producers of rain ponchos will have to beware of producing a yellow product or face the wrath of Michael Hermann. While having a rain poncho to play in the rain is nice, does it matter if it's the official yellow rain poncho manufactured by Wiffle® Inc.? I think not. What's next? Ugly yellow sweaters so we can keep warm while playing in the fall? Give me a break.



Old Republic Whiffle Ball League

2011 Season Report

by Luke James

One of the most intimate leagues in the country, the Old Republic Whiffle Ball League of New Carlisle, Indiana, has begun its 2011 campaign with interesting storylines. I followed this league intensely in 2010, and with their season just underway this spring, I see many things for even casual wiffler's to follow for. One, the ORWBL has contracted from 12 teams to 8 teams. The La Porte Sox (2008 champions) and the Lil' Saints (ORWBL charter member) folded after 3 solid seasons in the league, then Commissioner Koby Keck eliminated the Phat Dong franchise (due to missing too many scheduled games, thus giving up forfeits, which are a wiffleball league's nightmare/buzzkill), and the Fast Plastic team, which played only one season in the league. The bad news does not end there. Having a history of not paying necessary league fees, the Mill Creek Minutemen (or addressed as the Mill Creek Magic on the ORWBL's official webpage) have been contracted, though the league will continue through the 2011 season as if Mill Creek were playing, giving them an automatic 0-42 record. One action Commissioner Keck has taken to refute future forfeits and



Phat Dong-esque teams, he has increased league fees from \$50 to \$150; with a catch. If you play all of your games with no absences, your team gets \$100 back. If you do miss a game, that \$100 will go to the league champion. I commend Keck for taking action against a problem that has plagued his league. I hope other leagues look at this and take mental note of this solution.

Now that that dreary news is out of the way, let's get to the rebranded ORWBL that we'll see and marvel at this summer. The American League consists of 4 teams; the Bourissa Hills Pterodactyls, South Bend Sour Wowers, Hudson Lake Banana Slugs, and the aforementioned absent Mill Creek Minutemen. The National League has the Wills Township Federalists, New Carlisle Newts, Rolling Prairie Emery's Army, and La Porte Bombers. The Federalists were last year's We've Got the Runs, who made

it to the ORWBL World Series. Each team will play 3-game series with every other team, home-and-home, creating 42 regular season games. Now, to the wiffles on the field.

Through four series, the Sour Wowers look like the team to beat in the AL, standing tall with a 9-3 record. They definitely don't stand alone, however, as the Banana Slugs are right behind them at 7-5. The Wowers' Bobby Ellam leads the league in all significant pitching categories, and doesn't look to hold up (although the league is slow-pitch...lawl). The Wowers won the 2010 title with a perfect 9-0 postseason record. The Pterodactyls (who finished with the best record in the league last season, a juggernaut of sorts) have started sluggishly, now at 5-7. The 'Dactyls can get out of anything, however, and with all teams making the postseason, they still have a great chance at taking the 2011 crown. In the National League, the top three teams are separated by only three games. Emery's Army is in first with a 9-3 mark, and the Feds are 8-4. The Keck-backed Newts, who play at historic Migley Field, are 6-6. The La Porte Bombers back up the rear with a 4-8 record. With plenty of wiffleball left to play, whoever wins it all is up in the air. As a columnist, I also like to consider myself somewhat of an analyst. I think the Pterodactyls will face

the Wowers in the ALCS, and I believe the Federalists can beat out the Army of Emery in the NL. But, really, do NOT take those words and believe them to be truth. Anything can happen, especially in such a unique league like the Old Republic. You can follow the league at their site, which is regularly updated (unlike a lot of leagues), orwbl.com. For national rankings of the ORWBL clubs and all other leagues, check out nationalwiffleballrankings.com. There are many ballgames to be played, and you do not want to miss any of it. Believe those words.

Who's Hot and Who's Not

A look at the first half of the 2011 CCWA Season

by Nate Bullock

It's already June and the CCWA All-Star Game is fast approaching. Last year's defending champs the Lexington Brewers are off to a hot start in the Northern League. The Eastside Expos still look like the team to beat in the South. With four teams in each league making the playoffs the last half of the season should be a battle. There have been a couple of slow starts for a few teams and it'll be interesting to see if they can right the ship in time.

The Brew Crew haven't pulled their foot off of the accelerator since last year and started off the 2011 campaign with twelve



straight victories. Last weekend they were without their ace, Kyle Godinho, and they lost their first game of the season to the Mid-Town Mariners. Godinho has won the last two NL Cy Young awards and is one of the front-runners to win it again. The Brewers also added Eric Keele to the rotation to give them the best 1-2 pitching combo this league has ever seen.

The Expos may have lost a couple of key players but they are currently playing some great wiffleball. Dan Sefner continues to blow away opposing batters with his nasty arsenal of pitches. Omar Steinberg has really improved his pitching this season and his hitting continues to keep the Spots running. Newcomer Josh Martin has been a great addition to this squad and should help them continue in their winning ways.

The Cowlitz Phillies are a new team in the NL comprised of a group of CCWA veterans. Josh Burckhardt is having the greatest offensive season in the history of the league and should lead the Phils to the postseason. If the Phillies can get more production out of their various #2 starters they could really give the Brewers a run for their money.

The Blue Jays are another new team in the CCWA, joining the Southern League for the 2011 campaign. This team is led by former Expos Mark Sefner and Mike Benkoski. They have started the season on fire, only dropping a handful of games in the first half of the season. It'll be interesting to see how they fare if they match up against the Expos in the playoffs.

The Jackmove Giants are off to their

slowest start in six years. This is the latest in the season that Giants have been under .500. With the addition of Zac Warren and Kyle Schulz in the offseason the Giants were preseason favorites to reach the playoffs and challenge for the CCWA title. I see this team improving their record in the second half of the season and finishing strong. They will make the postseason for the sixth consecutive year.

The Mid-Town Mariners surprised everybody last year with their incredible season and playoff run. The 2011 season hasn't worked out as well for them so far and they need to make some changes to assure themselves of a playoff spot. Justin Ellis has become one of the best pitchers

in the South and may be able to carry the M's into the postseason. Look for this team to battle it out with the Rose City Royals for the last playoff spot in the South.

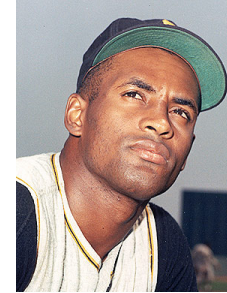
All in all it's been another great season of wiffleball here in the Pacific Northwest. The playoff picture should start to clear up after the All-Star Game next month. If I had to make some predictions now I would guess that the Brewers will be the first team in CCWA history to repeat as champions. Their starting pitching combo is just too talented for other teams to contend with. I see them beating out the Expos for the crown this year and bringing the championship back to Lexington.



The 5 Tool Wifflete

by Blaine Milam

We have all heard of the 5 tool athlete. The term is deeply imbedded in the very American lexicon of baseball lingo. Names immortal are called to mind at the mention of the fabled "5 Tool Player" such as Clemente, Mantle, Griffey Jr. just to name a few. Defined as a player that has great speed, can throw for distance, make spectacular catches, hit for power and hit for average; the 5 tool will find himself in the Hall of Fame if his career lasts very long.



Wiffleball leagues all over the county compare themselves with the American sport of baseball because in our backyards and with our plastic 8 hole balls and banana lumber we can all relate to the greatness of the sport that defines us, but the attributes that make up the 5 tools of great wiffle abilities are a bit different. The well rounded "5 Tool Wifflete" can hit for power, and hit for average, they can run fast and play great defense, and they can pitch. There are few that are able to do all of that and those who can never fail to become legends within their respective leagues.

They are, however, not well known for their skills outside of their own leagues and deserve to be recognized. We all know these guys, players that come to our humble leagues and hit 10 more Home Runs than anyone ever has, post a .600 average, collect Triples where it was thought nearly impossible to do so, make full speed one handed stabs at the ball, demanding ooh's and ah's from the spectators, and then as if that wasn't enough they pitch great too.

In the Wiffle Atlanta there have been many great players, particularly pitchers, but the "5 Tool" is elusive. Grant Yarborough is nearly unhittable from the mound but lacks superior speed, Mark Wolf hits like .500 every year but struggles from the mound, I myself can hit for power, play great D, Run and Pitch but carry a lifetime .250 average. There is however Brian Donegan, he runs fast, 7 doubles and 5 triples through 6 games so far in 2011, he has sticky hands and every year competes for the batting average and home run lead...oh, and he can pitch too. He's the Ace of his staff and almost impossible to hit. Brian Donegan is the quintessential 5 tool player in the WATL.

Here's to the underappreciated greatness of the "5 Tool Wifflete"!

Real Life Captain Caveman

by Josh Williamson



Captain Caveman, a caveman who is thousands of years old (his exact age is never disclosed). He can pull different objects from his body hair. He chooses to bypass the use of shampoo despite receiving numerous free samples of Prell in the mail.

He can also fly, but his flying power always seems to fail him at the worst possible moment. Sometimes he would attribute this mishap to an energy shortage ("Uh oh! Bad time for energy crisis." CRASH!).

He speaks in stereotypical "caveman-talk", replacing subjective pronouns with their objective equivalents and dropping articles such as "the" (for example, "Me know where bad guys are hiding.").. He also has a bad habit of occasionally eating large non-food objects in one gulp (i.e. bicycles,

TV sets, safes, wiffleball backstops), and the Teen Angels occasionally have to stop him from eating wiffleballs to prevent the games from being forfeited.

We have all heard that real wifflers use the original yellow wiffleball bat. Well Captain Caveman uses his over sized caveman bat as his swinging apparatus of choice. When asked if he feels his manhood is being questioned because of his "bat." Captain excitedly answered, " Unga Bunga!!!!"

The photo above was taken after a long doubleheader of wiffleball where Captain Caveman, a big Piston's fan, hit 17 homeruns and accounted for 28 RBIs (which was an astounding 90 percent of his teams total runs). Captain Caveman also pitched the second game of the twinbill. He ended of throwing a shutdown. He had twelve strikeouts, no walks and ended up giving head concussions to four of the opposing batters by pulling an assortment of objects (Waffle irons, pool balls, etc) out of his body hair.

Needless to say, Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels pulled out victories in both games played which ended after the street lights came on.

2011-2012 Wiffle Tournaments

North Carolina Wiffleball Tournament
July 16-17, 2011
Smithfield, NC
Smithfield Community Park

7th Annual Wiffle Fest
July 16, 2011
Homewood, IL
Apollo Park

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
July 16, 2011
Princeton, NJ

London Wiffleball Tournament
July 16, 2011
London, OH
Bogenrife Farm

4th Annual Danny Pion Wiffleball
Tournament
July 17, 2011
Swanton, VT
100% of the proceeds go to Travis Roy
Foundation

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
July 23, 2011
Cleveland, OH

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
July 23, 2011
Medway, MA

Golden Stick Fast Pitch in LA
July 23, 2011
Los Angeles, CA

Summer Slam Vintage Wiffleball
Tournament
July 22-23, 2011
Westfield, MA
Fenway Westfield

World Whiffleball Championship
July 23-24, 2011
Mishawaka, IN

6th Annual Wiffalo 4-on-4 Wiffleball
Tournament
July 24, 2011
Lancaster, NY
Meadow Lea Park

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
July 30, 2011
Baltimore, MD

Kirsten Invitational II - Wiffleball
Tournament
July 30, 2011
Atlanta, GA
Hammond Park

New Carlisle City Championship
(Tournament)
July 30-31, 2011
New Carlisle, IN
New Prairie Little League Complex & Migley
Field

2nd Annual Wiffle Por Casas Tournament
August 2, 2011
Carmel, IN

7th Annual Edwin A. Keach Wiffle Ball
Tournament
August 6, 2011
North Easton, MA
Militia Park

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
August 6, 2011
Stratford, CT

11th Annual Buzzard's Glory Wiffleball
Tournament
August 6, 2011
Coldwater, OH
Snickers Memorial Field

Curves for the Cure
August 6, 2011
Frankenmuth, MI
Johnston Field

Central Valley Wiffle Association Slugfest
August 6, 2011
Visalia, CA
Visalia First Assembly of God Church

Edd Pedro's 8th Annual Wiffleball
Tournament
August 7, 2011
Pawtucket, RI
Slater Park
Proceeds go to the Arthritis Foundation

Vermont Wiffleball Tournament
August 12-14, 2011
Jericho, VT
Proceeds go to the Travis Roy Foundation

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
August 13, 2011
Bennington, VT

3rd Annual Meehan's Wiffleball Tourney
August 13, 2011
Atlanta, GA
Meehan's Sandy Springs

Wifflin' 4 Wishes
August 13, 2011
Hopkins, MN
Hopkins Central Park

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
August 20, 2011
St. Louis, MO

9/11 Tournament
August 26-28, 2011
Westfield, MA
Fenway Westfield

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
August 27, 2011
Hicksville, NY #2

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
August 28, 2011
Philadelphia, PA #2

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
September 10, 2011
Manchester, NH

6th Annual Jarred Williams Foundation
Tournament
September 10-11, 2011
Essex, VT
Little Fenway

The Open presented by Golden Stick
September 17-18, 2011
Boston, MA

Wiffle-Up 3-on-3 World Tour
WORLD FINALS
September 24-25, 2011

Location To Be Announced

3rd Annual Golden Stick National National
Championship
October 15-16, 2011
Las Vegas, NV

Ephrata Invitational Wiffleball Tournament
February 24-25, 2012
Ephrata, PA
Ephrata Middle School



**Need a little
help with
your reach?**

CreativeMace.com
Marketing & Communications

