

# This Week in Travel Baseball

Good morning, Cougar travel baseball fam!

Congrats to 12U Gray...the 2024 LSFBL National Champions!!



Here are the TWICTB notes for the week of July 17.

## 8U

### **8U @ Deerfield National Warriors**

The Cougars traveled to Deerfield for their first round playoff game.

Aaryav Mehta started the game off with a line drive single up the middle on the first pitch of the game to get the Cougars fired up. Although the Cougars scored in 3 of the 4 innings played Tuesday night, it wasn't enough to hold off Deerfield. The Cougars only had 3 hits on the day, 2 of which came off of Mehta's bat. Jordan Siegel joined in on the fun with a fly-ball base hit to right field in the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning.

The Cougars struggled to get outs in the bottom of the first inning. Bradley Stern started on the mound and struggled to get outs. Only allowing 2 walks in the game, Deerfield simply put the bat on the ball.

Andrew Albin and Cal Bitto came in relief of Stern. All Cougars pitched great and allowed very few walks. Deerfield was simply ready to hit on Tuesday.

It was a tough last game for the Cougars 8U season, playing from behind most of the game.

That said, we believe everyone, coaches and players, got better and grew closer as a unit as the season progressed. It was bittersweet to see the season come to an end as the squad will be split between 9U and some returning to 8U next season. As we look to the future, we believe Cougar baseball has a very bright future: so much passion and love for the sport on this team.

Thank you to all the parents for dedicating time, fuel and energy to making this a great season. Keep a baseball in the boys' hands, even in the offseason. See everyone soon enough!

### 9U

This past week the 9u Cougars were the #6 seed and played at #3 Lincolnshire. Even though Vernon Hills collected nine hits to Lincolnshire, they still fell 11-7 on Wednesday at 1025 Riverwoods Road.

9u opened the scoring in the top of the second when Jaxson S singled, scoring one run. Lincolnshire Lightning Red 9U flipped the game on its head in the bottom of the second, scoring seven runs on two hits to take a 7-3 lead.

9u tied the game in the top of the fourth thanks to a single by Eli G, a single by Jaxson, and a walk by Charlie L. Lincolnshire Lightning Red 9U took the lead in the bottom of the fourth. Lincolnshire grounded out, scoring one run, to give Lincolnshire the edge, 8-7.

Eli led things off on the bump for 9u Vernon Hills Cougars 9U. The starting pitcher gave up three hits and seven runs (three earned) over two innings, striking out one and walking one. Anthony came in to pitch relieving Eli. Anthony gave up one run, striking out four in two innings of relief. Chase pitched the 5th inning striking out one while giving up two hits.

Jaxson led 9u with three runs batted in. He went 2-for-3 on the day. Charlie led 9u with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, amassing six walks for the game. Anthony D, Chase B, Eli, and Max B each stole multiple bases for 9u, and the Cougars stole 11 bases in the game.

The team made tremendous progress over the season. The growth was fantastic! The coaches want to send a big thank you to all the parents for your time and energy getting the boys to practices/games and cheering loudly from the stands. Go Cougars!

### 10U

The 10U Cougars entered the playoffs with a game against the Lake County Stars. Vernon Hills got off to a slow start giving up 6 runs early in the game, but the Cougars came back with a five-run 3rd and a six-run 4th inning. Ben Dahl and Declan Bomkamp led Cougar hitting with three hits each, Declan adding two doubles and five runs batted in. Matthew Gitzinger had two hits and Dereck Avila, David Morvig, and Calvin Magsino each added one to round out the Cougar hitting. The team battled to keep it close, but the Stars pulled away in the fifth inning to secure the win ending the 10U season. Great effort and attitude all season long for the 10U Cougars, way to go boys, good job, it has been a pleasure to be your coach.

### 11U Blue

Wednesday, July 19th vs Lake Bluff

Loss 8-11

In the first playoff game, the #7 seeded Cougars found themselves on the Road, to face off against the #2 seeded Lake Bluff.

The boys found themselves a little flat and disorganized at the start, allowing 4 runs in the bottom of the first on a Walk, a Single and 2 errors.

The boys woke up and played scrappy, keeping the game close.

Putting up a total of 8 runs on 8 hits and 7 walks was a big plus. Charlie Olson helped with a Double and a single. Will Davenport had 2 singles on the night, Max Bloomer went 3-4, with Thillin Kaveti and Evan Torres all contributing singles.

The bats went cold in the 6th and 7th , and we came up short.

Olson started on the mound, throwing 2 complete innings. 5 runs scored (1 earned) on 3 hits, 3 walks and 3 strikeouts.

Torres came on in relief, throwing 1.2 innings. He allowed 6 runs on 4 hits and 3 walks, while recording a Strike Out. Bloomer came on the close, throwing the last 2.1 innings, allowing ) runs on 1 hit and 1 walk, while striking out 3.

All in all the boys had a good season and learned a lot. With a new Head Coach and several new players in the mix, this was a season of learning. Very much looking forward to next season!

### 11U Gray

Wednesday night saw 11u Gray head to the playoffs versus New Trier White as the fourth seed. After ending a week of a three game win streak, and two amazing come back wins in that stretch, the baseball powers just weren't on our side during our rematch in this first round game.

Ryan started the game and New Trier showed they were going to be aggressive more this game, and tallied three hits and four runs. They were hitting them where we weren't and continued to do so. Dom, Evan, Parker, Sid, and Hayden all took the mound and again threw strikes that just found holes in the defense. One of those games, as no matter who went in to pitch, they threw strikes that led to hits, and more runs.

11u Gray found themselves behind most of the game, but like they did all season long, they fought and fought. They continued to claw their way back, with great offensive performances from Hunter (2 hits/1 RBI), Aarav (1 Hit/2 RBIs), Hayden (1 Hit/2 RBIs), and Brendan who dropped a great bunt to sacrifice a run in. As we did all season long, we used our speed and stole eight base as a team (Peter and Ryan each had 2). Trailing 13-2 at one point, the boys in Blue kept chipping away, and closed the gap 16-9 in a game of great effort. Something we saw from this group of players all season long.

Not the way we hoped to end the season, but we saw so much growth and development from January to July, it was truly a team to be proud of.

Thanks for a great season from the Coaches of 11u Gray (Alan, Matt, Adam, and Todd). Can't wait to see what 2024 will show us!

### 12U Blue

We returned to league play this week with a lifetime of memories after being at Cooperstown Allstar Village. The boys brought home two victories, traded pins with boys from all over the country as well as Canada and Australia and most importantly had fun from sunup to sundown!

We kicked off the week with our last league game against Libertyville. We came back from a late 12-5 deficit and got revenge for an earlier season loss by winning 18-15. Kyler Kolbe led the hitters going 4-5 with 2 R and 3 RBI's. Paul Heintz, David Tesnow and Luke Churak all had 3 hits and Jai Beniwal collected 3 RBI's. Jake Blair had a great start on the mound going 2 innings allowing only 1 hit and 0 runs with 2 K's.

In our first game in the playoffs, we faced LC Stars Bond for the 5th time this season. Unfortunately, they beat us for the 2nd time this year 5-15, in a game that the boys just ran out of steam after a long week before. Paul Heintz was 2-2 with an RBI and run, Patrick Hubbard was 1-1 with an RBI and a run and Jake Blair was 2-1 with an RBI and a run.

This closes out another great season for the Blue team and I can't thank everyone enough. Big shout out to my coaching staff Nick Allen, Kyle Heintz and Jeff Kolbe. Our Gamechanger extraordinaire Dave Tesnow, Marc Pechter on the scoreboard, and Mike Churak for helping in the bullpen and all the dads who pitch in to help with ground crew duties. Also, a huge thanks to our Chief Fun Officer Rachel Blair and Davi Allen, our Cooperstown Fundraising Committee Anne Tesnow, Erin Kolbe, budget keeper Davi Allen and all of the moms who worked tirelessly to help raise money and assure the team had everything it needed for the week and all throughout the season. And finally, to Stacey for always being so understanding, supportive and dealing with the life of being a board member and coaches' wife.

### 12U Gray

This week was full of post-season action for 12U Gray. With playoff wins on Wednesday and Thursday, we advanced to the North championship game on Saturday and further advanced to the league championship game on Sunday. Behind an outpouring of support and good vibes, our boys were able to close out the week being crowned league champions!!!

This season, being a Cooperstown year, was a special one and to cap things off like this was so sweet! The coaches cannot say enough about this great group of kids who never gave up or lost confidence and always played with a high level of pride and held themselves to high standards throughout the entire season, even when some baseball fatigue might have been settling in.

The post-season arrived and 12U Gray muscled their way through, outscoring opponents 52-17, which included a 1-hitter against Buffalo Grove. With a great crowd on hand for the championship game, we set the tone early when Braden Hayes took the starting pitcher for Warren Park deep on the first pitch of the game, followed by a solo shot from Chase Bautista two batters later. We plated 5 in the first inning, and never looked back.

At the end of the day, this is 100% about the players and their growth/development within the game of baseball. Coach Bautista, Coach Herod, Coach Engle and Coach Park are so excited and proud of this group. We are fortunate to have such an amazing support staff in the families of players. We also want to thank the VHCBS program for their support as we made our playoff run and assistance given with getting ready for Cooperstown. Thanks to our sponsors who helped make Cooperstown possible. And thank you to anyone and everyone who believed in this group.



We are just beyond excited, and wish we had more baseball to play right now! 😊

**Wednesday July 19th vs Libertyville Wildcats (Won 15-5) – Playoff Game**

At the Plate:

Braden Hayes 3-4, 2 Runs, 1 RBI  
Brady Engle 2-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI  
Chase Bautista 2-3, 2 Runs  
Zach Herod 3-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI  
Evan Park 2-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI  
James Jost, 2-3 (3B) 3 RBI

On the Mound:

Brady Engle got the start (3.0 IP, 5 ER, 9 H, 5 SO)  
Dylan Tomlinson closed things out (3.0 IP, 0 ER, 1 H, 4 SO)

**Thursday July 20th vs Lake County Stars (Won 15-5) – Playoff Game**

At the Plate:

Braden Hayes 2-3 (2B), 1 Run  
Chase Bautista 3-3 (2B, 3B), 3 Runs, 1 RBI  
Zach Herod 3-3 (2B), 3 Runs, 3 RBI  
Liam Hilts 2-3 (3B), 2 Runs, 2 RBI

On the Mound:

Evan Park got the start (3.0 IP, 3 ER, 6 H, 4 SO)  
Chase Bautista closed things out (1.0 IP, 0 ER, 0 H, 2 SO)

**Saturday July 22nd vs Buffalo Grove Coyotes (Won 11-1) – National North Championship Game**

At the Plate:

Braden Hayes 3-3 (HR), 3 Runs, 3 RBI  
Leo Cicchello 2-2 (3B), 2 Runs, 1 RBI  
Elijah Wickman 2-2, 2 Runs, 1 RBI.

On the Mound:

Chase Bautista got the start (4.0 IP, 1 ER, 1 H, 9 SO)

**Sunday July 23rd vs Warren Park All-Stars (Won 11-6) – League Championship Game**

At the Plate:

Braden Hayes 2-3 (HR), 2 Runs, 1 RBI  
Chase Bautista 1-3 (HR), 2 Runs, 1 RBI  
Zach Herod 2-3 (2B), 1 Run, 2 RBI  
Leo Cicchello 2-3 (2B), 1 RBI  
Dylan Tomlinson 2-3, 1 Run, 1 RBI

On the Mound:

Evan Park got the start (3.0 IP, 2 ER, 6 H, 5 SO)

Liam Hilts closed things out (4.0 IP, 3 ER, 3 H, 5 SO)

### 13U

What a tough end of the season for 13u.

On Tuesday the first round of the playoffs the offense was on fire as the VH cougars won 18-4 against Lincolnshire.

Cooper Dyb, Julian Rios, Dylan Marquardt All had 2 hits, while Seth Taukolo, Graham Getlin and Brady Snyder all had 3 hits.

Brady Snyder was single short of the Cycle hitting a HR, Triple and double.

Peyton Stavrou was lights out on the mound with 3 innings of one hit baseball.

On Wednesday night the VH Cougars lost to the 2 seed in extra innings 10-9.

The bats were still hot as Julian hit a double and a triple while Peyton and Graham each added a double.

Pitching Graham pitched 4 1/3 inning with no walks and 4 strike outs and Dylan pitched 2 2/3rds inning on no earned runs. Tough way to lose but proud of the boys for battling and cant wait to see them all next season.

### 14U

Our season ended much earlier than expected as we got upset by the #6 seed on Wednesday (we were #3). That team went on to beat #2 and #1 to win the North Division and advance to the overall championship game so clearly they got hot at the right time.

We would like to thank our Coach Tyler Lawson (VHHS JV Coach) for a fabulous season. We would also like to thank these boys for many years of hard work and wish them the very best in high school.

Riley Cline  
Lucas Cosentino  
Wesley Deheck  
Michael Derby  
Nathan Dugan  
Ryan Glassman  
Lucas Harrington  
Jake Jost  
Drew Kaiser  
Zach Nitz  
Nic Packee  
Grant Torres