

This Week in Travel Baseball

Good afternoon, Cougar travel baseball fam! Hoping everyone has a wonderful 4th of July!

Here are the TWICTB notes for the week of June 26th.

8U

Lake Bluff @ U8 Cougars

The Cougars came out confident and ready to hit against Lake Bluff on Thursday. The first 3 batters of the game reached base for Vernon Hills and Nickolas Lippert finished things off with a 2-run single in the bottom of the 1st.

Vernon Hills racked up 9 runs on 8 hits against Lake Bluff including a big 3rd inning. The Cougars did a great job working the counts against Lake Bluff pitchers on Thursday. Aaryav Mehta and Bradley Stern each had RBI base hits in the inning after, working great hitter counts. Cal Bitto couldn't have done it better when he slapped a sacrifice grounder to the right side of the infield to plate the 3rd run of the inning. Jordan Siegel capped off an impressive 4th inning with an 8 pitch at bat resulting in an RBI walk.

Bradley Stern started on the mound for the Cougars, followed by Aaryav Mehta in relief: each pitcher having one of, if not their most efficient outings of the season. Bradley shut Lake Bluff down in the first 2 innings allowing 0 walks, 0 hits

and 0 runs while striking out 5 of the 6 batters he faced. Aaryav was ready to go Thursday night as he entered the game in the 3rd inning. A few sharply hit balls by Lake Bluff didn't faze Aaryav in the least.. after a base hit he would refocus and concentrate on the next assignment. Aaryav fanned 3 batters across the Cougars first 3 inning-outing of the season! Lake Bluff did load the bases in the 6th inning to make things interesting. That is when Coach Watts called for the savvy right hander out of the bullpen, Parker Fernandez. Parker had the crowd roaring as he battled with each batter he faced. HUGE defensive plays by Cal Bitto and Jordan Siegel tallied the first two outs of the inning. With runners in scoring position Parker struck out the last batter to close the door on Lake Bluff's comeback attempt.

Thursday night, the Cougars really put it all together. Fantastic and efficient pitching from everyone that took the mound. The Cougars could do no wrong at the plate.. from great situational hitting, to working each pitcher to favorable counts and capping things off with a Parker Fernandez home run in the 4th. The Cougars even added 2 insurance runs in the bottom of the 5th, all started by a Landon Olbur drive to right field. The Cougars made clutch plays in the field all night to help their guys on the mound. Bradley Stern had a great play up the middle to end a rally in the 5th and Jordan Siegel stayed with a ball that careened off of the pitcher's leg to get the put out at 3rd in a huge moment late in the game.

8U Cougars had a night and we couldn't be more proud of them.

Glenview Scrappers @ 8U Cougars

The Cougars tried getting a game in on Saturday but the weather gods weren't cooperating. Bradley Stern started the game as the Cougars got through ½ an inning, before the game was officially called.

The Scrappers will be back in town next Thursday to finish up this battle.

This upcoming week is full for our 8U Cougars! Get your popcorn ready as the boys look to build on their momentum!

Monday @ Libertyville Black

Tuesday – 4th of July

Wednesday - @ Deerfield Warriors

Thursday – vs. Scrappers

Friday – Sunday – Batavia Rising Starts Tournament!

9U

Tuesday, June 27 the Cougars lost to Libertyville 22-6. The team started off strong with Jaxson S. on the mound who held the Wildcats to 4 runs and 2 strikeouts. On offense Eli G lead, the team with 3 RBIs and a double for Keegan A. and Max B but our defense could not hold Libertyville.

Friday, June 30 the Cougars tied Lincolnshire Lightning 7-7, game being called due to darkness. It was an extremely hard-fought game on both sides. Kaiden P. led the offense with the first home run of the season! Keegan A. led the team with 3 RBI's. On the mound our pitching did great. Eli G. and Ian H. both struck out 6 each while Anthony D. came in to hold the Lightning scoreless by striking out 4.

10U

This past week the 10 U Cougars played league games against the Lincolnshire Lighting and Lake Bluff Red. The Cougars, needing a win faced a hot hitting Lighting team who managed to bang out 25 hits to control the game from the start. The Cougar hitters managed nine walks to go with hits from David Morvig (2) Avery Hall and Jake Mann (1), aggressive base running saw Ben Dahl, Ian Osterman-Pastilla, Avery H and David M collect nine stolen bases in the game. In game two of the week the Cougars struggled against strong pitching from Lake Bluff. Calvin Magsino, Ian Osterman-Pastilla, and D. Morvig led the way with one hit apiece with David adding two RBI. The Cougar pitchers D. Bomkamp, M. Gitzinger, Avery Hall, and Aadi Khatod all threw well at times but couldn't stop Lake Bluffs offense. Ben Dahl continued his strong play at catcher in the Cougar loss.

11U Blue

Wednesday, June 28 vs Mundelein

Loss 26-9

The Cougars had a light week and the rust showed. The boys came out flat in a home game against league opponent Mundelein. In their last meeting, the Cougars were the victors in a lopsided 22-6 contest.

Mundelein showed up to play at our house, putting up 13 runs in the first inning. Lots of errors and the boys just couldn't get fired up.

Offense was pretty evenly distributed with 8 of 10 players each contributing a hit, but it just wasn't our night. This game is best left forgotten.

We play next week against Buffalo Grove Bears, then into the Jim Christ Glenview Tournament!

11U Gray

Friday saw the 11u Cougar Gray head to Northbrook for the 4th of July tournament. First up was Top Tier Navy on a wet Friday afternoon. After a rough defensive start the Cougars came back with what may have been their strongest offensive game in some time with 13 hits that led to 10 runs. Evan and Hinter led the way with three hits a piece, Dom had 2, while Hayden and Hunter had 4 steals a piece. Gray started off with the 10-8 victory behind Aarav and Evan on the mound over six innings.

On Saturday we started out against Red Academy, but were a bit sluggish out of the gate. The Reds took advantage and with strong hitting, jumped on the Cougars scoring 8 in the first three innings. The Cougars did their best to battle back, but ultimately lost 12-6. Hunter, Parker, Peter, Evan, Sid, Aarav and Ryan all collected hits.

In the third game the Cougars faced off against Ridge Beverly Gold. Again, a rough first two innings put us in a hole early, down 9-0. As they have done all season long, Gray continued to chip away, but it just wasn't enough, and Thor Guard ended our game as the rains came. Dom filled in at the lead off spot with two hits and two RBIs, Evan and Brendan (who made his much anticipated full time debut off the IL) each collected a hit. Ryan, Parker, Dom, and Brendan had at least one stolen base in the 12-6 loss.

This week we start our final five league games, very much in the hunt for good play off positioning.

12U Blue

Only one game this week against the 3rd place Lake Co Stars Bond. The Stars jumped out to an early first inning lead but we put runs on the board every inning, before finally prevailing 14-11. Kyler Kolbe led us at the plate going 3-3 with a run and 2 RBIs, Jai Beniwal went 2-3 with 3 RBIs and Charlie Caton 2-3 with a run and 2 RBIs.

12U Gray

No Update This Week

13U

The week started with a bang! The 13U Cougars held on for a hard fought 15-14 win over Mundelein. The offense came alive, featuring a towering home run from Brady, 3 hits from Seth, and 2 hits from Peyton and Graham. Heading into the bottom of the last inning, the visiting Cougars were up by 4. After giving up 3 runs, the tying run was on 3rd with the winning run on 2nd, Peyton made a great catch in right to seal the victory!

The weekend featured our first away tournament of the season. The families and players had a great time in Grand Rapids, MI. The weather was definitely a factor all weekend, though.

The first game of the tournament was an 11-2 loss to the Fort Wayne Diamondbacks. Peyton and Austin both pitched well, but the offense was quiet. Aside from one inning, the fielding was solid. Elliot made all the plays at 2nd base, Julian was solid at 1st, and Cooper made 4 catches in the outfield. Graham did have 2 hits and was awarded the MVP from the other team.

During the second game of the tournament, the Cougars faced a team from Michigan, Clubhouse. Cooper started the game with a single and made his way carefully around the bases to score the first run. During the bottom of the 3rd, the Cougars were 2-1. Clubhouse had loaded the bases with no one out. The next batter hit a fly ball to center field. Austin made the catch for the first out, threw a relay to Brady on the mound who turned and gunned out the runner tagging from 3rd for the second out. Seth popped up from behind the plate, threw the ball down to 3rd and Dylan tagged out the runner for the 3rd out. It was an amazing triple play to end the inning! With all of the momentum in our favor, the team hyped up and ready to bat. Unfortunately, the sky opened up into a torrential downpour and ended the games for the day.

In bracket play, the Cougars were matched against a team from Frankfort, IL. Dylan was dealing on the mound. His curve was working, as he buckled more than one batter with the pitch. The teams were very evenly matched throughout. Trailing 6-1 heading into the bottom of the 5th, the Cougars put up 6 runs to take a 7-6 lead into the final inning. Unfortunately, Clubhouse came back with 3 runs of their own in the top of the 6th. Despite 3 hard hit balls by the Cougars in the bottom of the 6th, the boys went 1-2-3 and the game ended in a 9-7 defeat. Julian was awarded the MVP from the other team for a long double and some great work over at 1st base.

Next week features a mid-week game followed by a tournament in Glenview over the weekend. Go Cougars!

14U

We had 2 league games this week. Wednesday we had a rematch against GBN Feeder, the first place team in our league. It turned out to be a phenomenal baseball game. Both teams played well but we were a bit better, coming away with a 6-3 victory. Nic Packee pitched an absolute gem. He threw a complete game for us, with a very efficient 72 pitches over 7 innings. He was down right dealing but so was his defense as they recorded 21 put outs in 22 chances. Ryan Glassman was Nic's personal catcher for the evening and the 2 of them stayed in sync all night as Nic didn't shake Ryan off once. Lucas Harrington and Riley Cline caught what seemed like 87 fly balls in CF and LF as Nic had most of the hitters off balance and on their front foot with his breaking pitches. Jake Jost made some dazzling scoops at first base and led off the 2nd inning with a bomb over the left field wall. Zach Nitz made a handful of web gem plays at third base. Wesley Deheck had a couple nice plays at second base as well. The offense did all the little things right. Drew Kaiser, with 2 strikes and a runner on 3rd with less than 2 outs, did his job and gave us a ground ball to score a run. Nathan Dugan also did his job in a similar situation with a sac fly. Grant Torres had a spectacular base running read on a shallow liner and was able to get to 2nd on what would've been a sure force out after reaching first on a hard hit ball. Watching players execute situational baseball is just beautiful. The base running was stellar as guys routinely took the extra base on throws home. It was a terrific game to watch as we played 7 innings in 85 minutes.

On Friday we visited another league opponent and a sloppy start put us into a 7-1 hole. A strong relief outing (4 scoreless innings) by Nathan Dugan kept us in the game as the offense chipped away but we came up just short as we fell 7-6. Lucas Cosentino had a long homer over the centerfield wall. Riley Cline

had 3 hits. Nic Packee had a big 2 out, 2 RBI base hit in the 6th to close the deficit to 7-6 but that's as close as we got. It was our second game in a row with one catcher going the distance as Zach Nitz took care of things behind the plate for us all night long.

We've got a light week this week and then we head to Glenview for the Jim Christ Tournament over the weekend.