

This Week in Travel Baseball

Good afternoon, Cougar travel baseball fam! I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend. We are getting into the heart of the summer where the schedule is picking up for many teams and the action is in full swing. We are all keeping an eye on our 12U Gray team from afar while they have the experience of a lifetime in Cooperstown. They will be back in a few days and next week's update will tell us all about it.

Please remember to follow us on Facebook (@VHCBScougars) Instagram (@VHCBS) and Twitter (@VHCBScougars). As always, TWICTB write ups can be found on our website in the travel baseball section, so don't worry if you miss an email. Here are the TWICTB notes for the week of June 12th.

8U

No games this week for 8U as they are in the meat of the rec season. They will be back at it next week.

9U

This past week was busy as the 9u Cougars participated in the Lincolnshire Summer Slam tournament and played in three games.

On Wednesday, 9u opened play against Lincolnshire Lightning Red 9U. Eli G was on the pitcher's mound for 9u. The bulldog allowed three hits and two runs over two innings, striking out five and walking one. Anthony D and Ian H entered the game from the bullpen, throwing two innings and one inning respectively. Eli, Jaxson S, Anthony, and Ian each managed one hit to lead 9u. 9u was sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Donald N had the most chances in the field with five. Ian led 9u with three stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 11 stolen bases. It was a hard-fought game but 9u fell short 5-3.

On Friday, 9u continued pool play against the Central Park Storm (Evanston). 9u fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 14-5 loss to Central Park. Vernon Hills struggled to contain the high-powered offense of Central Park, giving up 14 runs. 9u put up four runs in the third inning. 9u batters contributing to the big inning included Ian H and Chase B, all knocking in runs in the inning. Chase was on the mound for 9u. The fireballer went two innings, allowing four runs on two hits and striking out three. Jaxson S threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen. Max B

and Ian each managed one hit to lead 9u.

On Saturday, 9u played against New Trier in bracket play. 9u lost the lead late in a 19-11 defeat to New Trier. New Trier trailed 11-10 in the bottom of the fifth inning when #14 singled on a 1-1 count, scoring two runs. Donald N drove in five runners in the loss. Donald drove in runs on a single in the first, a double in the third, and a single in the fifth. 9u fired up the offense in the first inning scoring 8 runs to open the game. Eli G got the start for 9u. The flame thrower struck out five. Ian H and Anthony D entered the game as relief, throwing two innings and one-third of an inning respectively. 9u racked up nine hits. Donald and Ian all had multiple hits for 9u. Donald went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead 9u.

Next week will be active for 9u as they play at 7:30pm on Tuesday hosting the Lake County Stars at VHAC Field 2. On Wednesday, 9u travels to Lake Bluff for a 5:30pm game. They finish the week hosting All in Athletics Saturday at 5:00pm.

10U

The 10U Cougars saw their busy schedule slow down this week. The team was looking forward to playing two league games, but a cancellation of the Buffalo Grove game due to rain left the Cougars with one game. The team traveled to Northbrook to take on GBN Feeder Green, Declan Bomkamp got the start for the Cougars and held GBN in check for the first inning.

The second inning saw Northbrook putting several hits together to take a commanding lead in the game, the Cougars couldn't come back as they struggled against the starting pitching and strong defense of GBN. The Cougars could only generate one hit by Dereck Avila, and one RBI by Avery Hall. The team looks to get back to the practice field next week to get ready for an important league game against crosstown rival Libertyville. Go Cougars!

11U Blue

It was a beautiful week for baseball. Good weather and warm temps for our Lincolnshire Summerslam Tournament. The possibility of playing on Fathers Day Sunday was just a thought.

Game 1 vs New Trier Bulldogs White on Wednesday June 14th

VH: 15 NT: 11

A hard fought battle until the end. Offense was the key to this game. VH got out to a hot start putting up 4 runs in the top of the first. Thillin Kaveti got us started with a walk, then stole 2nd and advanced on the error by the SS. Will Davenport brought him in with the first of his 4 hits on the day. Max Bloomer singles to drive in Davenport. Bloomer steals 2nd and 3rd base, then

Ian Draper had a Sac fly to bring him in. Billy Hicks also singles, steals 2nd and 3rd and is driven in on a single by Will Thunga.

The Cougars only allowed 2 runs in the bottom of the first and cranked the offense back up with singles by Garrett Wade and Jayce Jost, who got the RBI when Wade scored. Kaveti gets on base on an error, followed by Davenport's second hit of the day, which drove in 2 runs.

Jost finished the game with a laser throw from RF to gun down the runner advancing to 2nd for the last out. Victory was ours.

A great offensive day with 16 total hits, 7 walks and 15 stolen bases. Lots of pitchers got work in the game, with the workload being shared by 5 pitchers. Evan Torres and Charlie Olson handling 2 innings each, and only allowing 2 runs each.

With the first win in hand, the team opted to go Old School superstitious and keep the Road Jerseys we were wearing as the uniform for Game 2 on Friday.

MVP: Will Davenport

Game 2 vs Lake Bluff Red on Friday June 16th.

VH: 17 LB: 11

Another battle against our league opponent. Today's offense was a little less, but LB's pitching staff gave up 14 total walks in the game which added to the run total.

Billy Hicks had 2 of our 8 hits, with Ian Draper, Jayce Jost and Thillin Kavetti each taking multiple walks.

Going into the 6th inning VH was trailing 10-8, until the top of the 6th, when we exploded for 9 runs to put the game out of reach. With 5 hits and 6 walks, we were not to be stopped!

Anyone feeling Superstitious?? Yep- we are wearing the Dark Blue Road Jerseys again tomorrow!

MVP: Max Bloomer

Game 3 vs Libertyville Wildcats Black on Saturday June 17th.

VH: 10 LV: 10

This is the game that almost got away! A nice evenly matched game for the 1st 5 innings, fatigue was starting to set in. A total of 10 runs scored in the first 5 innings for both teams combined, was leveled out with 10 total runs scored in the 6th inning.

VH had 11 total hits on the day with Max Bloomer leading the way with 3. Ian Draper, Garrett Wade and Thillin Kaveti each had 2, with Will Thunga and Will Davenport each adding to the pile.

Bloomer handled the majority of the pitching with 3 innings and 4 runs. Evan Torres and Charlie Olson pitched one inning each each giving up 3 runs.

The tie score ultimately gave us the #1 seed for the Championship Game on Sunday at noon. Fathers Rejoice- Championship Sunday on Fathers Day?? You can't beat that! Guess What- Dark Blue Road Jerseys for tomorrow!

MVP: Charlie Olson

Championship Game: Sunday June 18th vs New Trier Bulldogs Grey

VH: 7 NT: 21

After a long week of baseball, we were ready to go for the hardware!

VH got out to a great start putting up 4 runs in the bottom of the first on double's by Will Davenport and Ian Draper. Max Bloomer, Will Thunga and Garrett Wade also singled in the inning.

The Cougars got a little loose in the top of the 3rd inning allowing 6 runs, and now they were chasing.

Ultimately the boys ran out of gas and were unable to put together a big rally. Our pitching was depleted and we were unable to get the outs in a timely fashion. We allowed 14 runs in the 6th, having to resort to a position player to get the last 2 outs. A small spark of 3 runs in the bottom of the 6th wasn't enough to get us back on top and we were awarded 2nd place in the tournament.

MVP: Garrett Wade

All in all, a fantastic week for our boys. They got a taste of what it is like to go deep in a tournament and saw just what it takes to go all the way.

The week ahead of us has League Games against Mundelein and Lake County Stars, before we head to Milwaukee next weekend for the 5 Diamonds Tournament!

11 Gray

This week 11u Gray started the week versus Buffalo on Friday evening. Gray got started with a RBI single in the first, scoring Hunter.

BG came back and took the lead for good on an error filled second inning, and never looked back. Peter pitched well, striking out four over two innings. Hayden and Aarav each stole two bases, and Ryan hit a impressive double.

On Saturday, Gray battled Wilmette in an exciting game that went back and forth all afternoon. Evan took to the mound, striking out five and walking one. VH Gray had 10 hits, and 13 stolen bases with Hunter leading the way with 4.

The Cougars were down 12 to 10 with two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning when they rallied and scored two, ending in a tie.

12 Blue

3 games this week, kicking off with a tough matchup against a 7-1 Mundelein team. The Mustangs jumped out to a big lead after the first inning, but our boys came ready to hit and eventually out slugged Mundelein 19-17. Jai Beniwal went 3-4 with 3 runs, 6 RBIs and 3 HR while Paul Heintz was 4-5 with 3 runs and 5 RBIs.

Game 2 was against a Lake Bluff team that we have not been able to figure out, and this game was no different ending in an 8-14 loss. Beniwal was 3-4 with 3 runs and Luke Churak went 2-4 with 2 runs and 3 RBIs. Heintz and Blake Fidler each pitched 2+ innings holding Lake Bluff to 2ER and 1ER respectively.

The final game of the week was a tough loss at the hands of Libertyville 7-14. Churak was 2-4 with 2 RBIs while David Tesnow and Patrick Hubbard each pitched 2+ innings holding Libertyville to 1ER and 2ER respectively.

12 Gray

12 Gray is still in Cooperstown and will give us an amazing update when they return. Good luck boys!

13U

The 13U Cougars went 1-2 on the week. After a solid win against Glenbrook North on Wednesday, the team lost both games of a double header against New Trier.

On Wednesday, the game went back and forth through 6 innings. In the 7th, the offense came alive and put up 5 runs en route to a 10-4 win. During the game, Brady and Cooper led the way with 2 hits each. Along with Dylan, Brady and Cooper also combined to give up 2 earned runs during the game. Graham was a rock behind the plate, throwing out 3 different base runners trying to steal.

Although the team lost both on Saturday, there were plenty of highlights. During the first game, the team played a nearly perfect 5 innings in the field. There were some great plays made, including a diving catch by Austin to keep it tied early in the game. Dylan was dealing on the mound, striking out 3 over 5 innings of work. Unfortunately, the offense couldn't get much going and the team fell 8-3.

During the second game, Logan had 2 hits and Brady had a double, but the team couldn't get much more going at the plate as they fell 16-6.

League play is winding down, and we only have one game next week. Go Cougars!

14U

It was a light week for us as we only had one game. Our other scheduled game was rained out. Our lone game ended in a 6-6 tie due to the time limit. Riley Cline and Lucas Cosentino took care of the pitching duties and both pitched well. Wesley Deheck and Nathan Dugan each had multiple hits while Grant Torres, Drew Kaiser, Lucas Cosentino, Riley Cline, and Ryan Glassman each had one hit. The slow game week allowed us to have a couple much needed practices to fine tune some things.

We have 2 league games this week and then we head to a tournament in Waukesha over the weekend. We can't wait to get back at it.

Thanks for taking the time to catch up on our travel teams. There is good stuff happening all around.....how about that!

Have a great week!

VHCBS