

## **2010 SEASON RECAP**

**TIGERS FALL IN NIGHT LEAGUE SECTIONAL FINAL** -- The Albion Tigers dropped a 6-0 decision to the Stoughton Merchants Thursday night in the Eastern Night League sectional final. The Tigers finish their year with a 19-8 overall record, including a 10-6 mark in the rugged West Division of the Southeast Section.

**TIGERS ADVANCE IN ENL PLAYOFFS** -- The Albion Tigers defeated the Fort Atkinson Generals 7-6 on Thursday night to advance to the Eastern Night League final, where they will host Stoughton next Thursday night at Racetrack Park in Edgerton. Both teams scored two runs in the first inning, when the Tigers scored one on a fielding error and another on Jim Eastman's bases-loaded walk to answer the Generals' fast start. Albion took the lead in the second when Marty Johnson led off with a single and eventually scored on Aaron Manogue's sacrifice fly. Josh Eastman followed by clubbing a two-run homer to left to make it 5-2. After Fort got one back in the third, Albion extended to 7-3 in the fifth on RBIs from Jason Millar and Johnson. Fort added three runs in the seventh to make it close, but Josh Eastman finished the job on the mound to save the win for starting pitcher Matt Buhrow, who allowed only 2 earned runs over 4.2 innings while striking out five.

**TIGERS EXPLODE IN NINTH FOR WIN** -- After eight innings in Jefferson on Sunday, the Albion Tigers were looking at a 3-2 deficit in a ballgame full of defensive gems and stranded baserunners. However, things changed a little bit in the ninth inning when the Tigers exploded for nine runs and ran away with an 11-3 victory over the shell-shocked Blue Devils. The win leaves Albion alone in second place at 10-5 in the West Division of the Southeast Section and in line for their seventh playoff berth in nine seasons. After banging out ten hits but getting only two runs over the first eight innings, the Tigers loaded the bases to start the ninth when Ben Prather walked following infield hits from Josh Eastman and Jesse Appel. Kyle Johnson plated the tying run with a groundball to short, and Ben Everson gave the Tigers a 5-3 lead with a two-run single to right. That opened the floodgates and Albion continued to pour it on, pushing across six more runs with RBI hits from Ethan Vaade (his third hit of the day), Matt Millar, Eastman, and Appel. Albion's Mike Nanstad went the distance on the hill, throwing an efficient nine innings and striking out five on his way to his seventh win of the year.

**NEWCOMERS HELP TIGERS CLINCH** -- Rookies Kyle Johnson, Trevor Kinnett, and Adam Gregory all played key roles as the Albion Tigers beat Sun Prairie 5-3 on Thursday night to clinch first place in their division of the Eastern Night League. Johnson led the way offensively with three hits, including a sixth-inning home run that scored Kinnett with the game-winning run. The Tigers got a 3-0 lead early with RBIs from Casey Schmeling and Aaron Manogue, but Sun Prairie answered with three in the fourth off starting pitcher Matt Buhrow. It stayed that way until the bottom of the sixth, when Kinnett coaxed a ten-pitch walk with one out. That brought Johnson to the plate, who promptly launched his third hit of the night over the left-field fence for the 5-3 margin. Gregory then came on to throw a perfect seventh inning to nail down the save for the Tigers, who finished their ENL regular season at 8-2.

**TIGERS BEAT BLUES 2-1** -- Justin Lambert and Mike Nanstad combined to shut Cambridge down on eight hits, and the Albion offense did just enough for the Tigers to earn a hard-fought 2-1 victory in Utica on Sunday. The Tigers got both of their runs in the fifth, when Aaron Laskowski singled and Ben Everson was hit by a pitch to put two on with only one out. Matt Millar then singled down the line in left to score Laskowski, and Everson was able to score all the way from first when the ball was misplayed. Lambert allowed a run in the sixth, but was able to go seven innings to earn the win. Nanstad threw two scoreless with a couple of strikeouts to nail down the save. Laskowski finished 3x4 on the day and added two stolen bases as well.

**TIGERS SHOW NO REGARD FOR ASSOCIATION** -- The Albion Tigers gained the inside track for second place and a potential playoff spot with a 12-1 victory over the first-place Utica Association in Albion Park on Sunday. The rivals have combined to earn 9 of the past 12 division playoff berths in the Southeast Section, and again sit atop the West Division with the A's at 9-3 and Albion at 8-5. Moundmen Mike Nanstad and Justin Lambert combined for the six-hit win, but the real story was the Albion offense. After being set down in order for the first 3 innings, Albion gained a 2-1 lead in the fourth on Ben Prather's 2-run double to deep right-center. Things would then get out of hand in the fifth as Albion pushed seven runs across. Ben Everson squeezed home Matt Buhrow to make the lead 4-1, and Matt Millar followed with an RBI single. Albion then loaded the bases just in time for Josh Eastman to clear them, hitting a 3-run triple to deep rightfield that made it 9-1. Albion added a run in the seventh when Eastman doubled in another run, and Millar capped the scoring in the eighth with a 2-run double.

**NANSTAD, EVERSON HELP ALL-STARS WIN** -- Albion's Mike Nanstad and Ben Everson both contributed and played key roles on Friday night as the Home Talent League All-Stars from the Eastern and Southeast sections defeated the North/West All-Stars 8-4. The game was played at The Duck Pond in Warner Park and is the second straight victory for the E/SE team. Everson, who entered the game as a reserve outfielder and played four innings, drove in a run and scored one himself in a two-run eighth that stretched the E/SE lead to 8-3. Nanstad, who had entered a half-inning earlier to pitch the eighth, also threw the ninth and struck out three on his way to earning the save.

**TIGERS WIN NIGHT LEAGUE SLUGFEST** -- The Albion Tigers banged out sixteen hits and staged a six-run comeback on Thursday night as they beat the visiting Stoughton Merchants 10-9 to clinch a berth in the Eastern Night League playoffs. Tiger outfielders Aaron Laskowski and Dan Millar each had two hits and two RBIs, while winning pitcher Matt Buhrow ran his ENL record to 5-0. Stoughton ran out to a lead of 6-0 by the middle of the second, but with four runs in the bottom half Albion was right back in it. Sean Gerber's home run in the fourth pushed the Merchants' lead to 9-4, but that would be the end of their scoring as Buhrow wriggled out of another jam and was relieved by Josh Eastman, who ended up throwing three scoreless to pick up his third

save. Albion would then go on to score six runs in the bottom of the fourth, highlighted by Trevor Kinnett's 2-run double to left and Kyle Johnson's groundout to second that drove in the final and winning run.

**TIGERS CLAW BACK INTO PLAYOFF PICTURE** -- With his team's season on the line Sunday against McFarland, Jesse Appel drove home Aaron Laskowski and Jim Eastman with the tying and winning runs in the bottom of the ninth as the Albion Tigers fought and hustled their way to a thrilling 8-7 comeback victory. The Tigers are now 7-5 in Southeast Section play, tied with McFarland and within a half-game of the division's second playoff spot. The Tigers fell behind 4-0 in the fifth inning, but got back in the game in the bottom half when Casey Schmeling, Aaron Manogue, and Laskowski had consecutive RBI hits to make the score 4-3. McFarland scored three in the top of the sixth, but the inning ended as a perfect relay from Appel to Josh Eastman to Matt Millar cut down Muskie third-baseman Joe Nartowicz, who was attempting to stretch his RBI triple into a home run. Albion seized the momentum and, behind three scoreless innings of relief from Mike Nanstad, started to chip away at the lead. Schmeling's RBI in the sixth and Millar's single in the seventh made it 7-5 and set the stage for Albion's ninth. Marty Johnson was hit by a pitch, and Laskowski walked. After a pitching change, Ben Everson was beamed as he squared to bunt, and was replaced by pinch-runner Jim Eastman. With one out, Millar drew a walk to force in a run, and Appel promptly lined the first pitch into right-center to send the Tiger bench and crowd into hysterics.

**TIGERS MAKE CAMBRIDGE BLUE AGAIN** -- Matt Buhrow and Josh Eastman combined to strike out eleven and allowed no earned runs as the Albion Tigers defeated the Cambridge Blues 3-1 on Thursday night at Utica Park. The Tigers got on the board in the first when Aaron Laskowski drew a leadoff walk and eventually scored on Justin Lambert's bases-loaded walk. Albion went up 2-0 in the third when Marty Johnson singled and stole second, and then was driven home by Casey Schmeling, who is now hitting .533 in Night League play. Johnson was the Blues' foil again in the fifth, when he led off with a single and scored when Mike Nanstad doubled down the left-field line. Cambridge brought the tying run to the plate in the bottom of the seventh, but was denied when Eastman induced a Trevor Kinnett-Laskowski-Aaron Manogue double play ball to end the game.

**TIGER OFFENSE LIGHTS UP FOURTH, ORFORDVILLE** -- The Edgerton Lions Club threw a party in Racetrack Park on Sunday, complete with two sets of fireworks. The early show was supplied by the Albion Tigers, who knocked 12 base hits and scored in six different innings on their way to a 11-0 win over the Orfordville Orioles. Aaron Manogue, Aaron Laskowski, and Jesse Appel each had two hits, and Mike Nanstad earned the win by going six innings and striking out six. Laskowski put the Tigers on the board in the first when he singled, moved to second on a bunt by Casey Schmeling, stole third, and scored on a throwing error. The Tigers went up 2-0 in the second when Appel led off with a single and eventually scored on Manogue's RBI squeeze bunt. They started to gang up in the third, when four runs came across with RBIs from Josh Eastman, Appel, and Matt Buhrow. After a single run in the fourth and two more in the fifth, Kyle Johnson stroked a two-run triple down the left-field line that provided the final two runs.

**THE NIGHT TIME IS THE RIGHT TIME** -- The first evening game in Albion in a generation was a resounding success as the Albion Tigers pummeled Whitewater 10-1 on Thursday night. Matt Buhrow earned his third Night League win and Josh Eastman finished up on the mound as the Tigers moved to a 5-1 Eastern Night League record. Albion scored two in the second and never looked back. Marty Johnson was hit by a pitch and Buhrow singled to start the inning. Johnson eventually scored on a wild pitch, and Corey Vickers followed with an RBI single to left to score Buhrow. In the third, two runs scored when Buhrow's bases-loaded grounder to third was misplayed, and Dan Millar followed with a two-run single to push the Albion lead to 6-0. After the Swingers got one back in the top of the fifth, Mike Nanstad singled up the middle in the bottom half to make the lead 7-1. Sixth-inning RBIs from Vickers, Ben Towns, and Matt Towns provided the final margin for Albion.

**TIGERS POUND DEERFIELD 10-0** -- The Albion Tigers pounded out ten hits and played errorless ball as they defeated visiting Deerfield 10-0 on Sunday. Justin Lambert and Mike Nanstad combined on a one-hit shutout, while the Albion bats came alive with a season-high ten runs. Aaron Laskowski was 3x4 and scored three runs, while Ben Everson and Josh Eastman each contributed two hits to the cause. Albion hit the scoreboard early when Laskowski singled and eventually scored on Ethan Vaade's first-inning sacrifice fly. Everson made it 2-0 in the third, ripping a deep double over the rightfielders' head after another Laskowski single. It stayed that way until the seventh, when the floodgates opened for an eight-run Albion inning. Eastman's two-run single was the highlight, following RBIs from Vaade and Jesse Appel.

**TIGERS WIN 11-INNING THRILLER!** -- The Albion Tigers played 11 innings of solid baseball on Thursday night in McFarland and were rewarded with a 2-1 victory. Matt Buhrow and Josh Eastman shared mound duties for the Tigers, with Buhrow throwing five innings and striking out eleven Muskies before giving way to Eastman, who threw six scoreless and fanned ten to earn the win. After falling behind 1-0 early, Albion tied it in the sixth when Casey Schmeling reached on a fielder's choice, stole second, and then was safe at home on close play when Marty Johnson singled to left. Those guys were at it again in the 11th, when Kyle Stearns led off with a walk and was bunted to second by Aaron Laskowski. After a Schmeling single, Johnson came through with his third hit of the night to score Stearns and put the Tigers up 2-1.

**TIGER BATS COME ALIVE** -- The Albion Tigers have been searching for offense all year, but found plenty of it on Thursday night as they outscored Whitewater 8-5 to move to first place at 3-1 in the Eastern Night League. Ten different Tigers hit safely, while rookie catcher Kyle Johnson led the way with 2 hits and 2 RBIs, including an RBI single to right in the second to get Albion on the board. Albion also had a four-run fifth inning, highlighted by Josh Eastman's 2-run double. Matt Buhrow went 4 innings to earn the win, while Mike Nanstad and Josh Eastman combined for three innings of relief while allowing only one run.

**TIGERS SURVIVE RAIN, OUTLAST ORIOLES** -- The Albion Tigers and Orfordville Orioles played through rain and a wet field on Sunday, but the Tigers were able to come out on top with a 6-5 victory. Justin Lambert threw 6 innings and struck out 11, and Mike

Nanstad was able to throw three scoreless innings to get the win in relief. After falling behind 4-0, Albion had a four-run rally in the fifth on the strength of only one hit. Marty Johnson led off with a single, then was followed by walks to Casey Schmeling and Aaron Laskowski. Ben Everson was hit by a pitch to score the first run, then Ethan Vaade drove in a run with a fielder's choice groundball. After Jesse Appel walked to re-load the bases, Josh Eastman and Jason Millar each drew walks to force the tying runs. The Tigers fell behind again in the sixth, but tied it in the seventh when Eastman singled and Millar doubled him home with two outs. Then, in the eighth, Casey Schmeling walked and moved all the way around on wild pitches to score the winning run.

**TIGERS BEAT WHITEWATER 3-1** -- Mike Nanstad and Justin Lambert have been throwing solid baseball all year long, but Sunday they got a little help from their friends as the Albion Tigers played errorless ball in a 3-1 win over Whitewater. Nanstad went six innings for his second win while striking out nine, and Lambert faced the minimum over the last three innings and shut out the Swingers for the save. Albion got on the board in the first inning when Aaron Laskowski walked and Ben Prather was hit by a pitch to set the table for Jason Millar, who singled down the third-base line to give the Tigers a 2-0 lead. Whitewater would pull to 2-1 with a run in the sixth, but when Laskowski started the home eighth with a double and scored on Jesse Appel's single, the Tigers had all the runs they would need.

**BUHROW STOPS SUN PRAIRIE** -- The Albion Tigers got an outstanding pitching performance from Matt Buhrow in defeating Sun Prairie 3-0 Thursday night. In helping the Tigers go 2-0 in the Eastern Night League, Buhrow went the distance, striking out five and walking none while scattering eight singles. Buhrow's teammates gave him all the help he would need in the first inning. Aaron Laskowski led off with an infield single, and after Ben Prather singled with one out, Marty Johnson ripped an RBI double to left. The next batter, Josh Eastman, scored Prather with an RBI groundout. Albion tacked on an insurance run in the sixth, when Justin Lambert drew a two-out walk, moved to second on Jason Millar's single, and then scored when Casey Schmeling singled to center.

**TIGERS BEAT GRAYS 4-2** -- Mike Nanstad and Justin Lambert combined to strike out 15 as the Albion Tigers defeated Lake Mills 4-2 on Sunday afternoon at Campus Field. Nanstad threw 6 innings to pick up his first win of the season, allowing only 2 runs on 3 hits. Lambert threw three scoreless to close out the Grays. After falling behind 1-0 in the first, Albion pulled even in the third on Jesse Appel's sacrifice fly and took the lead in the fourth when Aaron Manogue squeezed home Josh Eastman. Eastman added an RBI groundout in the fifth, scoring pinchrunner Leif Thronson.

**TIGERS FOLLOW PITCHERS, SCHMELING TO WIN** -- The Albion Tigers got an outstanding pitching performance as well as three hits from Casey Schmeling on their way to a 10-1 Eastern Night League win on Thursday night over Cambridge. Josh Eastman finished up the job on the mound, holding the Blues to only one baserunner over two innings for the save. Offensively, the Tigers had three rallies, and Schmeling was a key figure in each. He had a single to start the Tigers' three-run third, which was capped by Aaron Manogue's RBI single. Kenseth and Schmeling each had RBIs in the five-run Albion fourth, and Schmeling capped his night with a third hit and another RBI in the fifth.

**TIGERS OPEN WITH WIN AT STOUGHTON** -- The Albion Tigers started the Southeast Section portion of their 2010 season with a 4-0 win at Stoughton on Sunday. Justin Lambert and Mike Nanstad combined for a two-hit shutout, while the Tigers banded out eight hits and did all the little things right in spoiling the Merchants' home opener.

Corey Vickers and Ben Everson led the Tigers with two hits apiece, and were the central figures in Albion's three-run rally in the fifth. Vickers led off with a double, and Casey Schmeling followed with an infield single. After Aaron Manogue's second sacrifice bunt of the game, Everson singled sharply to right to score two. Everson later scored when Ethan Vaade's single to left was mishandled.

**TIGERS DOUSE FIREMEN 13-1** -- The Albion Tigers opened up their 65th season with a 13-1 exhibition win at Waterloo Tuesday night. Tiger pitchers Justin Lambert, Ben Everson, and Josh Eastman combined to allow only 5 baserunners while striking out ten. Offensively, the Tigers pounded out 14 hits and were led by Corey Vickers, who went 2x3 with 3 RBIs and started the Albion scoring in the second inning with a two-run single to center. Ben Everson reached base 4 times for the Tigers, while Jesse Appel was perfect in his three plate appearances and Ben Towns contributed two hits as well.