

This Week in Travel Baseball

Good morning, Cougar travel baseball fam!

A quick reminder regarding 2024 travel tryouts. There is an alternate tryout date for all ages on July 22nd, 5:30-7:30. If you have not registered, please do so here:

<https://vhcbs.sportngin.com/register/form/057080734>

Here are the TWICTB notes for the week of July 10.

8U

U8 Cougars @ Deerfield Warriors 8U Nationals

Result: 3-18

Quiet week for your 8U Cougars with just one game on the docket. This was a makeup game, as our last outing in Deerfield resulted in a lightning/storm cancellation just a few minutes into the warm-up.

Cal Bitto started pitching for the Cougars, and pitched lights out, before moving to 1st base for the remainder of the game. The Cougars made many great defensive plays and Aaryav Mehta, Bradley Stern, and Elijah Sellers had hot bats! Unfortunately, it did not all come together for the "W". The Cougars were defeated by Deerfield by a score of 18-3.

This week, the 8U Cougars take on the Scouts 8U Blue team at home on Monday. That game will round out the Cougars' regular season, and then on to the playoffs.

9U

This past week the 9u Cougars had their final two league games before the playoffs.

On Tuesday, 9u hosted first place Lake Bluff. It was a hard-fought game, but Lake Bluff defeated the Cougars 8-2 on at VHAC thanks in part to seven runs in the fourth inning.

Eli G led things off on the bump for 9u. The starting pitcher surrendered seven hits and six runs (five earned) over three innings, striking out five and walking three. Anthony D came in relief, surrendering two runs over three innings, striking out five and walking three.

Eli, Ian H, and Jaxson S each collected one hit for 9u. Ian led 9u with one run batted in. The leadoff hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. The Cougars had a strong eye at the plate, amassing six walks for the game. Anthony D and Blake W led the team with two free passes each. Eli, Max B, and Jaxson each stole multiple bases for 9u.

On Thursday, 9u hosted Park Ridge in the regular season finale. Eli G collected four hits in four at bats as 9u defeated Park Ridge 11-5 at the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex. Eli singled in the fifth inning, singled in

the first inning, singled in the third inning, and singled in the fourth inning.

9u jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Kaiden P singled, scoring one run, and Anthony D tripled, scoring two runs. 9u added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Ian H tripled, Blake W singled, Keegan A singled, and Charlie L walked, each scoring one run.

Ian started on the bump for the Cougars. He allowed two hits and one run over three innings, striking out nine and walking two. Blake appeared in relief for 9u and surrendered three runs while striking out three in 3 innings of relief.

The 9u Cougars piled up 14 hits in the game. Anthony, Eli, Ian, and Kaiden each drove in two runs for 9u. Keegan collected two hits for 9u in three at bats. Eli, Ian, and Kaiden each stole multiple bases for 9u, and the team stole 14 bases in the game.

The Cougars finished the year as the #6 seed and will play at #3 Lincolnshire on Wednesday night.

10U

The 10U Cougars entered the final week of league play with a full slate of games. The team due to weather rescheduling faced five games in seven days with a roster short on players and an exhausted pitching staff. Throughout the season the core players of this 10U Cougar team have brought an attitude of never quit, never complain, and fight to win in every game. Their love for baseball has given them a resilience that will serve them well in the days, months and years ahead.

The Cougars started the week with a double header against the Mundelein Mustangs. The Cougars struggled in both ends of the double header giving the Mustangs two wins. Cougar hitting by Dereck Avila and Ben Dahl led the way in game one. In game two the Cougar offense connected with hits by Matthew Gitzinger, Jake Mann, Declan Bomkamp, and David Morvig who collected three hits in four at bats with a triple, double, and single in the loss.

Libertyville came to Vernon Hills for the Cougars third game of the week. Libertyville's offense was exceptional as they defeated the Cougars, controlling the game from start to finish. Cougar hitting was led by hits from Dereck Avila, Ben Dahl, Matthew Gitzinger and Jake Mann.

In game four of the week the Cougars hosted Glenbrook North. The Cougars kept the game close for the first four innings only to see GBN score eight in the fifth inning to secure the win. The Cougar offense was led by Aadi Khatod with a triple, and one hit each by Ben Dahl, David Morvig, and Declan Bomkamp.

The Cougars conclude their marathon week of baseball with a game against Lake Bluff Red. The Cougars went into the game with eight players and an exhausted pitching staff and suffered a loss to the Red. The Cougar offense battled Lake Bluff pitching the entire game with seven hits. Declan Bomkamp led the way with two hits and Ben Dahl, Matthew Gitzinger, David Morvig, Ian Osterman, and Anthony Bonarirgo each added one in the loss. Special mention to the Cougar pitching staff, Declan Bomkamp, Matthew Gitzinger, Aadi Khatod, Jake Mann and Ben Dahl for their efforts in a challenging week.

11U Blue

VH Cougars had a busy last week to the season with the additional Rain dates being made up.

Monday July 10 Away vs Lake Bluff Loss 3-10

The game got away from our boys early and they just couldn't muster up enough offense to get the job done.

Pitching was handled by Evan Torres, Max Bloomer and Charlie Olson. Lake Bluff put up 4 runs in the 1st and 2 runs in the 2nd and that was all they needed.

VH put up their 3 runs in the top of the 3rd on back to back walks by Billy Hicks and Torres. Will Davenport grounded into a Fielders Choice, scoring Torres. A single by Bloomer allowed Hicks to score. He then proceed to steal a base and score on an error. Additional offense was added by Ian Draper and Olson, who each added singles.

Thursday July 13 Home vs Highland Park Giants Win 10-9

The boys took a tie game into the bottom of the 4th and blew it wide open. The Cougars put up 8 runs to take a 9-1 lead, then held on tight to finish the game up by 1 run- 10-9.

Max Bloomer pitched 4 complete innings giving up 6 runs on 7 hits and recording a strikeout. Charlie Olson finished the final 3 innings, giving up 3 runs on 3 hits and recording 2 strikeouts.

The Cougars put up 1 run in the 1st on singles by Ian Draper and Will Thunga. Thillin Kaveti was hit by pitch, loading the bases. Garrett Wade added his own single driving in the Cougars first run.

Things got out of hand in the 4th , when HP walked 6 batters, allowed a base runner on a error by the SS, then gave up a 2 run double to Charlie Olson. Will Davenport added a big triple down the right field line, but the boys were unable to bring him home.

Friday July 14 Home vs Prospect Heights Phantoms Loss 7-8

Going up against the toughest team in the league, who was sporting an Undefeated record, was daunting. The Cougars came out and gave them their best game of the season to date.

In a complete 7 inning game, the Cougars went into the bottom of the 7th , trailing 1 run. Ian Draper hit a hard single to start the inning and they just couldn't get him across the plate. I disappointing loss for the boys but a lot to be proud of.

In only his 2nd appearance on the hill this season, Draper pitched his butt off. Going 5 complete innings, he allowed 6 runs (3 earned) on 6 hits, recording 2 strike outs. Will Davenport and Billy Hicks each pitched in relief, allowing 1 run each.

Max Bloomer, Draper and Hicks each contributed 2 singles each while Evan Torres and Jayce Jost worked the plate well, each drawing multiple walks.

Saturday July 15 th Away vs GBN Feeder White Loss 5-13

It was a depleted team that took the field for the regular season finale against GBN Feeder. Evan Torres got the start in the 4th game of the week. He pitched 4 strong innings, allowing 5 runs on 7 hits and recording 2 strikeouts. Will Davenport pitched the final 2 innings, allowing 8 runs on 7 hits, also recording 2 strikeouts.

The boys took a 2 run game into the bottom of the 5th , but ultimately didn't have enough to get the win.

Singles were recorded by Billy Hicks, Davenport, Max Bloomer, Charlie Olson, Will Thunga and Thillin Kaveti. The Cougars ran wild on the basepaths with a total of 12 stolen bases. Jayce Jost scored the final run of the regular season after drawing a walk and scoring on an error by the 1B.

The Cougars play their first elimination playoff game on Wednesday against Lake Bluff in a sure to be exciting Away game at 5:30pm.

11U Gray

Quite a week for 11u Gray as they closed out the regular season. Firmly planted in 5th place in the division most of the season, we were prepping for round 1 on the road. The boys in Cougar Blue had other ideas!

Tuesday night we faced off against New Trier White. After a tough 6-9 loss to them Sunday evening, we were ready for fight. Ryan took the mound for the start, and after giving up a lead off single and then a walk, he struck out nine over his three innings, giving up two hits, four, walks, and no runs. It set the pace, as Hunter, Peter and Parker scored early, and we took a lead that would never be given up. Brendan, and Hunter collected multiple hits, and the Cougars ran wild on the basepaths on the 10-0 win. Evan and Dom each drove in a run as well.

Thursday night, in what might be one of the craziest games of the year, saw 11u Blue go toe to toe with Wilmette Gray. In a game that went the full seven innings that included the lights shutting off on us, we won in exciting fashion! Down 8-13 in the bottom of the seventh, the Cougars rallied, almost entirely with two outs and won 14-13 on a Parker dribbler down the third base side that drove in the Aarav for the winning run. Excellent performances at the plate from Parker, Peter and Sid, as each collected 3 hits a piece! Hayden collected the win finishing the game after Aarav's strong start.

Finally, Saturday we gave off against Glenview Blue in the final game of the season, and a team we struggled against in the first meeting. Parker took the bump I'm the start, and kept them off balance, limiting Glenview to 4 runs in three innings. Dominic came for two innings limiting them to only one run, and an equally impressive two innings from Evan with five strike outs, shut them down. Parker led the team with two hits, while Brendan laid down an amazing bunt for RBI, Peter, Sid and Aarav also drove in runs. It was a total team effort in the 6-5 win, and a win that moved us into 4th place and a home playoff game this Wednesday evening!

12U Blue

No Update This Week

12U Gray

Our boys finished up the regular season with a double-header against the Lake Forest Scouts on Saturday. We struggled to get any momentum going in the first game, and looked tired/slow on the basepaths and in the field. The end result was a perfect game for Lake Forest. Only 2 of the 10 runs were earned.

In game two, it was a bit of a back-and forth battle by the offenses. We jumped out to a quick 6-0 lead in the top of the first, and found ourselves up 7-3 heading into the top of the 4th, before giving up 8 and then coming back and putting up another 3 to make it 11-10 heading into the 5th. Moving into the 6th inning, our last inning, we were down 13-11 until Braden Hayes collected an inside-the-park homer with a runner on to tie it up 13-13, which would be the final.

Saturday July 15th vs Lake Forest Scouts (Lost 10-0)

On the Mound:

Evan Park got the start (3.0 IP, 0 ER, 5 H, 5 SO)

Liam Hilts made a middle relief appearance (1 IP, 2 ER, 1 H)

Saturday July 15th vs Lake Forest Scouts (Tie 13-13)

At the Plate:

Braden Hayes 1-3 (HR) 1 Run, 3 RBI

Chase Bautista 2-3, 3 Runs.

Zach Herod 2-4, 1 Run, 2 RBI.

Evan Park 3-4

On the Mound:

Chase Bautista got the start (3.0 IP, 2 ER, 4 H, 4 SO)

Zach Herod made a middle relief appearance (0.2 IP, 0 ER, 3 H, 2 SO)

James Jost closed things out (2.1 IP, 1 ER, 4 H, 2 SO)

With the double-header, 12U Gray finished the regular season atop the 12 National North Division with a record of 14-3-1. Playoffs begin Wednesday, and we will be the #1 seed with home field advantage throughout.

13U

After dealing with inclement weather early in the week, the 13U Cougars finished the regular season with a game on Saturday and another on Sunday.

Saturday's game saw the team pull out a close win against Buffalo Grove, 6-5. The game featured multiple lead changes, and even a runner being called out for missing home plate on a home run. Graham pitched into the 7th inning, and Julian and Cooper led the way with 3 hits and 2 hits, respectively.

A wild game on Sunday ended the regular season in an 8-8 tie against Lake Villa. Brady had 2 hits, including a triple, and Graham had 3 hits to lead the offensive attack. The game saw the Cougars down 4-0 early, only to take the lead 6-4 after 5 innings. Lake Villa came back to take the lead, and the Cougars were down by 1 heading into the bottom of the 7th. After an error and 2 walks, the bases were loaded

with 2 outs. A few pitches into the at bat, Seth scored on a wild pitch to tie the game and that is where it ended. The game saw Cooper and Dylan battling on the mound to keep the game in striking distance.

The end-of-season tournament starts on Tuesday. We're hoping to play a lot of games this week. Go Cougars!

14U

It's been a good week for 14U as we've had our final 4 league games scheduled this week. One of them was rescheduled to Monday shortly after this update will go live. We won the other 3 games, 7-2, 10-7, and 14-1 to put us in position to be the #3 seed going into the playoffs if we can win our final game on Monday. We are excited to get a bye and then host a playoff game on Wednesday at VHAC. If you're not playing on Wednesday night, come watch playoff action on fields 2, 3, and 4 at VHAC in what should be a great atmosphere. VHAC is going to be crazy on Wednesday! Come support your Cougars if you're not at a game on the road.