

# This Week in Travel Baseball

Good afternoon, Cougar travel baseball fam!

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Here are the TWICTB notes for the week of May 29th.

## 8U

### **VH vs. Mundelein**

Our 8U Cougars started the week away at Mundelein. This game can be defined as one the Cougars want back..

Andrew Albin started the Cougars hit parade in the top of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Albin and Cal Bitto had the bats going with 2 hits and 2 RBI's each on the day. Nickolas Lippert joined them with his 2<sup>nd</sup> multi-hit game of the season.

The Cougars used 6 pitchers across 3 innings of work, struggling to find the strike zone.

Although the Cougars out hit the Mustangs, they did take the "L" to start the week.

### **VH vs. Deerfield**

Deep counts and 4 hits in the 1<sup>st</sup> inning had the Cougars playing from behind to start the game against Deerfield.

Hudson Eagle and Aaryav Mehta rallied the troops with a pair of RBI singles in the 3<sup>rd</sup> but the Cougars couldn't complete the comeback.

The Cougars battled and played some great defense in the loss to Deerfield.

### **New Trier Blue vs. VH**

The Cougars bats were hot as they welcomed New Trier to VHAC.

Nickolas Lippert, Hudson Eagle, Bradley Stern, and Parker Fernandez all had multiple RBI's against the Bull Dogs.

Hudson E. got the Cougars rolling in the 1<sup>st</sup> with a 2 run single just over the short stop. Bradley S. finished off the scoring with a bases clearing triple.

The Cougars rallied again in the 3<sup>rd</sup> with a triple from Andrew Albin. Cal Bitto followed Albin's triple with a bases clearing single! You read that right.. 3 throwing errors had Bitto rounding the bases and electrifying the Cougars dugout.

Bradley Stern drove in another run in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> but the rally ended shortly after. Unable to complete the comeback, the Cougars fell in a heartbreaker to New Trier – final score: 13-11

The Cougars host Buffalo Grove and visit Lincolnshire this week. Cougars 8U looks to continue outhitting their opponents while limiting the opportunities we are handing out. While we are still looking for our 1<sup>st</sup> win, the boys have great energy, and we know we are close.

## 9U

The 9u Cougars had an active week with three league games.

On Wednesday May 31st, 9u played at Park Ridge. Max led things off on the mound for 9u. The bulldog surrendered four runs on one hit over one and one-third innings, striking out four. Donald N, Blake W, and Eli G each contributed in relief for 9u.

9u had 13 hits in the game. Keegan A, Donald, Max, and Anthony each racked up multiple hits for 9u. Vernon Hills was sure handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Charlie had the most chances in the field with four. Chase B led 9u with three stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 15 stolen bases.

9u trailed 10-6 heading to the top of the sixth inning. They fought back with 5 in the frame to take an 11-10 lead heading to last half inning with clutch two-out hitting. 9u was led in the half inning with hits from Charlie L, Anthony D, and Keegan A.

Alas, 9u needed more insurance runs as Park Ridge walked it off with a 12-11 win in the bottom of the 6th.

On Friday June 2nd, 9u was looking to bounce back after the heartbreaking walk-off loss. Boy, did they bounce back with a 31-11 (yes, 31!) thrashing at Mundelein.

Anthony D got the start for 9u. The fireballer went one and two-thirds innings, striking out two. Jaxson S was in relief for one and two-thirds innings and struck out two. 9u had 31 runs on 28 hits in the 4-inning affair. 9u tallied 9 runs in the first and 13 runs in the second inning to blow the game open. All 9u players had hits and RBIs on the day! Donald, Max, Keegan, Kaiden, Jaxson, Ian, Anthony, Charlie, Eli, and Blake each racked up multiple hits for 9u.

On Saturday June 3rd, 9u was back in action on the road at All in Athletics in Wheeling. Eli led things off on the hill for 9u. Eli went three innings, allowing one run on two hits, striking out three and walking one. Keegan A threw one inning in relief. Errors and miscues in the field led to unearned runs as 9u struggled to contain the high-powered offense of All In Athletics. At the plate, 9u were stymied by excellent All in Athletics pitching. The Cougars fell 10-0.

The 9u league record now stands at 2-2-1 with 9 games remaining. 9u has their first home game of the season this coming Thursday, June 8th as they host Buffalo Grove at VHAC Field 2 at 5:30pm.

## 10U

The 10U Cougars went into a week with two league games playing the top two teams in the division. The first game against the Phantoms of Mt. Prospect started off with the Phantoms scoring 10 runs in the first inning and adding 12 in the second. The Cougars down by 22 came out swinging in the second inning, the team rallied to put together several hits and walks to score 7 runs. In the third inning the Cougars came right back to score 11 runs led by key hits from J.Mann, M.Gitzinger, B.Dahl, D.Morvig, A.Hall, and D.Avilla. The team took the loss, but the effort was impressive as they fought back to score 18 runs.

The second game of the week saw the Cougars traveling to the Buffalo Grove Bearcats. With Declan Bomkamp on the mound the Cougars built up a 7-2 lead going into the bottom of the third inning. In the inning the Bearcats turned on the offense and jumped back into the lead scoring 9 runs. The Cougars came back with 1 run in the fourth inning but Buffalo Grove managed to score 5 runs in the fifth to win the ballgame. Key hits from Gabe Keats and Ian Osterman-Pastilla and two from David Morvig led the offense for the Cougars, Dereck Avila stole three bases in the loss. Next week, the team has two league games and then travels to Freeport IL. for an out-of-town tournament weekend. Cougars are better together.

## 11U Blue

No games this week.

## 11U Gray

No games this week.

## 12U Blue

Only 2 games for 12u Blue this week, and first up was a tough Mundelein team. We took an early lead but were forced to battle from behind most of the game, until the Mustangs had a big inning late to put it away 21-14. Luke Churak paced the offense reaching base 4 times including 2 hits, 1R, and 2 RBI's. Patrick Hubbard and David Tesnow each reached 3 times including 2 hits apiece and Paul Heintz and Jake Blair each added 2 hits. Nolan Allen made his first pitching appearance of the year and needed only 7 pitches to put them down 1-2-3.

Game 2 was a rematch against Glenview, who we tied 17-17 the week before. This game played out similarly to the first game, except it was the defense instead of the bats that kept this one close. The Cougars finally prevailed in the bottom of the 9th, winning 8-7 on a walk off single by Patrick Hubbard. This was a great defensive game with a number of great plays, including 7 put outs at 3B by Paul Heintz. Hubbard and Heintz led the offense with 3 hits apiece and Jake Pechter added 2 hits, including a key 2 RBI double. Blake Fidler started the game and pitched 5 innings allowing only 2 ER and Luke Churak closed the game out pitching 4 innings allowing only 3 and striking out 3.

## 12U Gray

12U Gray had a pretty lite week, with only one game on the calendar and a couple of practices.

### Sunday June 4th @ Highland Park White (Won 19-6)

Back into some division play, with our first game since the Spring B tournament the previous week. The boys had a chance to rest up, and came ready to play in this 1<sup>st</sup> place vs 2<sup>nd</sup> place matchup. We wasted zero time, and the bats got going immediately plating 7 runs in the top of the 1<sup>st</sup>. The “boomsticks” were on display, as the team collected 6 extra base hits. We won every inning, plating 19 runs on 17 hits through 5 innings behind solid pitching and focused defense.

At the Plate: Braden Hayes 2-4 (double & triple) with 2 runs and a broken bat. Brady Engle 3-4 (double) with 2 Runs, 2 RBI and 3 SB. Chase Bautista 1-1, 4 Runs, 3 BB and 2 SB. Zach Herod 2-2 (double), 3 Runs, 2 RBI and 2 BB. Leo Cicchello 2-3 (double) with 2 Runs and 3 RBI. Evan Park 2-4 with 1 Run, 3 RBI. James Jost 2-4 with 1 Run. Dylan Tomlinson 2-2 with 4 RBI and 2 BB. Sam Rubenstein 1-2 (double) with 1 Run, 3 RBI and 2 BB.

On the Mound: Evan Park got the start, and went 3.0 IP, giving up 5 Hits, 3 ER and striking out 4. Liam Hilts came on in relief, going 2.0 IP, giving up 1 Hit, 1 ER and striking out 3.

At the conclusion of last week, we’re in first place in the 12 National North Division. Our record is 9-1 and we’re sitting on an 8-game win streak.

Next week proves to be much busier with 3 games on the schedule, plus a continuation of a suspended game from a few weeks ago.

The 12U Gray Cougars are also counting down the days until our Cooperstown trip June 15-21. Some, if not all, of our families are getting on the road next Tuesday. Beyond excited for this experience!

## 13U

The 13U Cougars ended with a disappointing 1-2 week, but finished strong with a big win on Sunday. Dylan pitched a solid 6 innings without allowing an earned run while striking out 7! The team came through with 13 big hits, including 3 from Logan. The excitement and energy was back, and we’re counting on the team to carry it forward.

Earlier in the week, during a loss to Mundelein, the team made some great plays in the field. Seth continued to be a rock behind the plate, including on the receiving end of a double play at home. Brady and Dylan both made outstanding plays in the field.

The boys have grown and developed a lot of the first part of the season. We’re excited to see the growth continue, which will lead to a lot more Ws in the future. Go Cougars!

## 14U

It was a great week for 14U. Following a disappointing loss in our only game the previous week, the boys bounced back and delivered with 3 commanding victories in league play over Deerfield, Mundelein, and the Lake County Stars. The bats came alive as we scored 44 runs on 45 hits over the 3 games, while only

giving up 16 runs on 16 hits. In 125 plate appearances our batters struck out a total of 9 times and drew 20 walks. The defense was stellar as we committed only 2 total errors across the 3 games and both of those came in 1 game. 8 pitchers combined to have a 5.44 ERA and struck out 20 batters over the 3 games. These 3 wins were a total team effort with everyone stepping up and coming through at the plate, on the mound, and/or in the field.

We have league games on Monday and Wednesday this week and then we head to Grand Rapids, MI for a tournament over the weekend that should be a blast.