



Beacon

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CLOSE PLAY - **John Eckert**, Milgram Mustangs third baseman, makes a play on Regal Plastics' shortstop **Erik Benson** who slides in safely. Milgram, the defending league champion, split its season opening doubleheader June 2 at Mid-America Sports Complex.

Lucky 13 for 2015 season

The 2015 Ban Johnson League schedule is underway with 13 teams competing for the coveted 2015 BJ championship.

There are 11 teams back from the 2014 season and we have added two new teams in Kansas City Sports Club Blaze and Prodigy Baseball Academy.

In 2014, Seaboard won the regular season title.

The Milgram Mustangs won the league title defeating Seaboard in the league championship tournament.

What will the 2015 season bring?

Stay tuned.

Here is a look at the season based on information supplied by the teams.

The teams are listed in alphabetical order:

BJ Raiders

The Raiders have a new manager in **Jake Bradshaw**

The Raiders return just three players from their 2014 team in pitcher **Jacob Huffman**, catcher **Nico Codemo** and infielder **Dylan West**.

“We have a great group of guys that have been added to

the team,” Bradshaw said. “The outfield is fast and can cover a lot of ground.

“Our infield is extremely solid at all four positions. Catching we have some solid guys that work extremely well with our pitchers. And last but not least is our pitching staff. We have a group of guys that are willing to do what is best for the team and all take on different roles for different games.”

Building Champions

The organization had two teams in the league last year, but will have just one in 2015.

The manager is **Ryan Kisner**.

The returning position players are **Sam Goodwin** and **Chris Hendrix**.

The returning pitchers are **Connor Leach**, **Drake Herrman**, **Jake Slocum** and **Drew Durham**.

The impact newcomers are **Blake Shinkle**, **Austyn Gooch**, **Colton Larkins**, **Collin Rice** and **Nick Gavin**.

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Notable Numbers presented by Independence Ridge Apts.

A quick glance at the 2015 Ban Johnson League season

Here are the key facts for the 2015 season:

* This is the 89th season for the league that got its start in 1927.

* The league has 13 teams, 11 returning and two new teams in Kansas City Sports Clubs Blaze and Prodigy Baseball Academy.

* There are no divisions. Each team plays eight teams twice and four teams three times for a total of 28 games per team in the regular season.

* All games are scheduled for seven inning doubleheaders except the third game against a team, which will be a nine-inning game.

* A tournament at the end of the season will decide the league champion. All 13 teams will be involved in the tourney with seeding determined by

regular season standings.

* Games this year will be played at the Mid-America Sports Complex, Missouri 3&2, Macken Park, Liberty High School, Liberty North High School, and Johnson County Community College.

* The 47th annual All-Star Game hosted by the Royals will be played at Kauffman Stadium. The date and time is yet to be determined.

* GameChanger will be used for scorekeeping, stats, livestreaming and game recap stories.

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Ban Johnson League Standings

(thru June 10)

	W	L	GB
BJ Raiders	4	0	---
KC Sports Club Blaze	3	0	0.5
NKC Apts. Giants	3	0	0.5
MSBL Royals	2	0	1.0
Milgram Mustangs	6	3	0.5
MidAmeriCare Nationals	3	2	1.5
Building Champions	2	2	2.0
Seaboard	2	2	2.0
Natural Baseball	3	4	2.5
Regal Plastics	2	4	3.0
UMB Bank	0	2	3.0
Prodigy Baseball	1	6	4.5
Midwest Orioles	0	6	5.0

Awesome performances presented by North KC Apt. Giants
Awesome performances

This space is where we are going to reward outstanding performances in the games throughout the season.

And guess what?

Our first outstanding performance has to go to the rain. Why? Because we have had so much rain in the first two weeks of the 2015 season.

A total of 17 have fallen victim to the Kansas City monsoon season.

June 1

* The first game of the season went 12 innings with Building Champions' **Nick Gavin** driving in two runs in the top of the 12th with a double to rightfield that netted two runs.

Building Champions went to defeat the Midwest Orioles, 5-4.

June 2

* The NKC Apts. Giants scored seven runs in the top of the fifth inning in beating Prodigy Baseball 13-3. **David Stober** had five RBIs including a grand slam home run.

* **Tyler Cox** had a home run and three RBIs in the BJ Raiders' 8-4 victory over Seaboard.

June 5

* The Milgram Mustangs beat the Midwest Orioles 10-0 in five innings. **Shamus Kearney** went the distance on the mound. He allowed just one hit in fanning nine and not walking a batter.

* The BJ Raiders blanked Natural Baseball Academy 5-0. **Andrew Miller** pitched a one-hitter. He fanned five and walked four.

June 7

* Building Champions scored seven runs in the bottom of the eighth in beating Milgram Mustangs 10-2. **Collin Rice** was three-for-four with a double and four RBIs.

* **James Richards** was four-for-six with two RBIs in the Blaze's 16-3 win over the Orioles.

* **Jared Gage** was three-for-four with a homer and four RBIs in the AmeriCare Nationals 16-5 win over Prodigy Baseball.

* **Mitchell Rogers** was three-for-five with a triple, homer and six RBIs in Seaboard's 15-5 win over Regal Plastics.

* **Jack Pauley** was one-for-two with a homer and four RBIs in Natural Baseball's 9-3 win over the NKC Apts. Giants.

June 8

* The Milgram Mustangs' **Dylan Christie** was three-for-four with two homers and five RBIs in 8-7 win over Building Champions.

* The Mustangs' **Cameron Dean** was two-for-three with a double, homer and four RBIs in an 11-3 win in the second game.



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Ban Johnson Awards Dinner Dec. 27 at Deer Creek Golf Club



Luke Luccetti, Regal Plastic outfielder, received the Alex George Batting Champion award from **Alex George**, son of BJ Hall of Fame manager **Alex George**.



Patrick Burns, NKC Apartments second baseman, received the Frank White Award for Fielding Excellence from KC Royals eight-time Gold Glove winner and BJ alum **Frank White**.



Kent Shelley, (right) head baseball coach, Johnson County Community College, was inducted into the Ban Johnson Hall of Fame by BJ Hall of Famer **Roger Twibell**.



Sam Morman, (middle) Milgram Mustangs outfielder, received the Bruce Rice Hustle Award from 1986 Hustle Award winner **Kerry Shaw** (left) and 2013 Hustle Award winner **Andrew Blackwell**.



Matt McHugh, who pitched, played first base and outfield for Seaboard, received the **Lester Milgram MVP award** from 1958 MVP **Moe Lago** (left) and 1966 MVP **Ron Zuber**.



Tyler Meeks (right) of Natural Baseball Academy, received the 2014 Rick Sutcliffe Pitcher of the Year award from event MC **Neil Harwell**.

Presented by Steve Stillwell's Blue Valley Bushidokan

BJ Award Winners for 2014

Here is a look at the awards that were presented at the Awards Dinner Dec. 27, 2014 at the Deer Creek Golf Club:

BJ Champion - Milgram Mustangs
Regular Season First Place - Seaboard.
Most Stolen Bases - **Mitchell Glessner**, UMB Bank.

Moe Lago Most Home Runs Award-
Dylan Christie, Milgram Mustangs.

Marvin Tucker RBI Award - **Sam Morman**, Milgram Mustangs.

Alex George Batting Champion - **Luke Luccetti**, Regal Plastics

Ron Zuber Most Strikeouts Award -
David Reese, NKC Apartments.

Joe Presko Most Wins Award - **Ryan Lasneske**, Milgram Mustangs and **Tyler Meeks**, Natural Baseball Academy.

Don Saint Lowest ERA Award - **David Reese**, NKC Apartments.

Arnie Briggs -Pitcher of the Year Award - **Tyler Meeks**, Natural Baseball Academy.

Bill Fenton All-Star Game MVP -
Aaron Stubblefield, Milgram Mustangs.

Pat Nolan Championship Series MVP -
Sam Morman, Milgram Mustangs.

Lester Milgram MVP (Presented by the Twibell family) - **Matt McHugh**, Seaboard.

Bruce Rice Hustle Award (Presented

by the **John Stipetich** family) - **Sam Morman**, Milgram Mustangs.

Frank White Award for Fielding Excellence -- **Patrick Burns**, NKC Apartments.

Sidney Brown Umpire of the Year -
James Wooten.

Service Awards.

25 Years - **Kevin Shaw**, manager/coach
Milgram Mustangs

20 Years - **Pete Cannizzaro**, umpire

16 Years - **Blake Moore**, manager/GM,
BJ Raiders.

15 Years **Tim Cordill**, umpire.

10 Years - **Ron Rodriguez**, umpire.

5 Years - **Adam Clay**, manager, UMB;
Aaron Courter, coach, BJ Raiders; **Tom Dailey**, manager, NKC Apts.; **John DeRoo**, scorekeeper; **Danny Holmes**, umpire; **Mike Leach**, umpire; **Jim Lilleston**, umpire; **Carlos Martinez**, umpire; **Brent Voth**, umpire.

KC MSBL Royals - 10 year team sponsorship.

Appreciation

Special thanks to Awards Dinner Gold Sponsor **Jack Talley** and Enterprise Rent-A-Car; Silver Sponsor: Dunn Family Foundation; and Bronze Sponsor: Goodwin Pro Turf.



WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS - 2014 BJ Champion Milgram Mustangs Manager **Kevin Shaw** and team members celebrated their winning season.

Lucky 13 for 2015 season

Continued from page 1

KC Sports Club Blaze

This new team is managed by former Major League Baseball pitcher **Jaime Bluma**.

MidAmeriCare Nationals

Nationals manager **John Gage** return first baseman/catcher **Jared Gage**, outfielder **Anthony Biondo**, pitcher **Sean Goosetree**, pitcher/outfielder **AJ Boyer**, pitcher **John Rector**, infielder **Rohman Viar**, infielder **Mason Nowell** and pitcher **Mark Montisano**.

The newcomers are catcher **AC Long**, infielder **Phillip Hammons**, outfielder **Shaq Theus**, outfielder **Jordan Eckley**, pitcher **Luke Eckley**, infielder **Jordan Barba**, pitcher **Alex Smith**, pitcher **Caleb Curry**, infielder **Chris Flansburg** and pitcher **Cory Pleacher**.

Midwest Orioles

The manager is **Vince Smith**.

Milgram Mustangs

The Mustangs are the reigning league champions.

Veteran manager **Kevin Shaw** returns outfielder **Andrew Curry**, catcher **Colton Hilbrenner**, outfielder **Wes Jones** and pitchers **Dakota Graham** and **Derek Mann**.

Shaw is looking for contributions from returnees outfielder **Cameron Dean**, infielder/outfielder **AJ Salinas** and shortstop **Zac Shaw**.

The newcomers include pitchers **Shamus Kearney** and **Easton Barnes** and third baseman **John Eckert**.

MSBL Royals

Veteran manager **Tony Hurla** doesn't return a lot of players from his 2014 team.

Back in the fold is first baseman/outfielder **Ryan Fisher**.

He is expecting help from pitcher/outfielder newcomer **RJ Burrola**.

"We are just a gritty bunch," Hurla said.

Natural Baseball Academy

The club returns a number of players from last year including **Trevor Burkdoll**, **Miatt Elliott**, **Brandon**

Martinkus, **Christian Patterson**, **Carson Garrett**, **Jared Henderson**, **Luke Knight**, **Nathan Miller**, **Alex Cargin** and **Zach Pirrello**.

"We have a lot of new faces on our team this year," manager **Brian Knipplemeyer** said. "Those who compete early on will make an impact."

North KC Apts. Giants

"The NKC Giants will have a young roster with many new faces to the league," manager **Dan Stacks** said. "We have a number of high school seniors and college freshmen that will make up the majority of our team."

He mentioned four returning players in pitcher **Brock Lorenzen**, pitcher **Alex Merithew**, pitcher/first baseman **Alex Pener** and third baseman **Tim Mahoney**.

Prodigy Baseball

This is a new team with **Jesse McSpadden** as the manager.

He is counting on two high school players in third baseman/pitcher **Jordan Robben** and pitcher **Zachary Heggart** along with college infielder **Andrew Vogelbaugh**.

Regal Plastics

The manager is **Hunter Brown**.

Seaboard

Veteran manager **Will Meier** only returns only three players from the club's 2014 regular season championship.

Back in the fold are catcher/outfielder **Andrew Warner**, catcher/first baseman **David White** and catcher/first baseman **Michael Hayworth**.

UMB Bank

The team has a new manager in **Cary Lundy**, who is back at the helm after taking a few years off from managerial tasks.

The team returns outfielder **Eric Ross** and pitcher **Jacob Van Vacter**.

The newcomers mentioned by Lundy are pitchers **McConnell Preston** and **Tyler Townsend**, catcher **Zach Harris** and outfielder **Willie Brown**.

"We will have to earn respect in the league," Lundy said.

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**Parent of Shawn Stillwell, BJ All Star, 2005 BJ MVP and
Frank White Award for Fielding Excellence winner**

In Memoriam

Paul Provas

He passed on Oct. 23, 2014.

He was a professional scout for the Chicago White Sox since 1992 and the Chicago Cubs, 1983-1992. He was a member of the Texas and Midwest Scouts Halls of Fame. He was a graduate of Shawnee Mission North and JCCC. He played and coached for the Milgram team, 1967-1975.

Ray Sadecki

He passed on Nov. 17, 2014.

He was a graduate of Bishop Ward High School in Kansas City, Kan.

He was a Major League Baseball pitcher from 1960-1977. The left-hander pitched for the St. Louis Cardinals, San Francisco Giants, Atlanta Braves, Kansas City Royals and Milwaukee Brewers. He won 135 big league games.

He pitched for the Milgram team, was the 1957 BJ MVP and is a member of the Ban Johnson Hall of Fame.

Frances Motley

She passed on Dec. 12, 2014.

She was the wife of former Milgram Mustangs manager and current general manager Don Motley for 67 years.

She played a vital role in Coach Motley's baseball teams in BJ and American Legion.

She was the mother of former Milgram players Don Motley, Jr., and Leonard Motley who preceded her in death.

She was the grandmother of Brittan Motley, Milgram Mustangs scout.

She spent 31 years as an accountant for the City of Kansas City, Missouri.



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Alumni Corner presented by Moe Lago

Shelley inducted into BJ Hall of Fame

Long-time Johnson County Community College baseball coach and former Ban Johnson League player **Kent Shelley** was inducted into the Ban Johnson League Hall of Fame on Dec. 27, 2014 at the BJ Awards Dinner.

In attendance were JCCC President Dr. Joe Sopich and Athletic Director Carl Heinrich.

Shelley has been the Cavaliers' coach since 1987.

In his 28 years at the helm of the Cavaliers baseball program, his team's have posted a record of 879-530-1.

His 2014 team went 50-14, making it to the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) World Series.

Shelley was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches (ABCA) Hall of Fame in 2013, the highest honor for a college baseball coach.

He was president of the ABCA in 2007 and is now a lifetime board member

Shelley grew up in Lawrence.

He played baseball for the Lawrence Lions, Pratt Community College and the University of Kansas.

Shelley played for Kansas City Life in the Ban

Johnson in the 1980 and 1981 seasons.

He was an All-Star catcher for KC Life in 1981 and finished in the top 10 in batting with an average of .344.

He played in the 1981 All-Star Game at Kauffman Stadium.

"As a former player/all-star in the Ban Johnson League, I was deeply humbled and honored to learn that I was going to be inducted into the Ban Johnson Hall of Fame and join such an elite group of individuals who have made significant contributions to our game and have impacted so many young lives throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area," he said. "The Ban Johnson League has always been recognized as a first-class league, which provides opportunities for college age players to continue their individual skills, while gaining exposure to college coaches as well as professional scouts.

"The leadership is outstanding and the coaches who work with these players during the summer are passionate and dedicated to making each player a better player, but more importantly, a better person."



Several members of the Ban Johnson Hall of Fame enjoyed the 2014 Ban Johnson Awards Dinner. (left to right): **Chuck Dobson, Roger Twibell, Carl Blando, Moe Lago, Frank White, Kent Shelley** and **Don Motley**.

Early season Ban Johnson League action



NEW TEAM- Prodigy Baseball, coached by former Ban Johnson players **Jesse McSpadden** and **Michael Younghanz**, played its first league games against the NKC Apartments Giants June 2 at Mid-America Sports Complex.

MEETING OF THE MINDS

- **Kevin Shaw**, Milgram manager (left), confers with pitcher **Derek Mann** and catcher **Colton Hilbrenner** in the first game of a twin-bill against Regal Plastic June 2 at Mid-America Sports Complex. Milgram is trying to repeat as league champion.



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| ◆ Moe Lago | Lapetina's/Western Auto | | coach 1970s; BJ executive director/ |
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