

DAILY



NEWS

WORLD SERIES INFORMATION DESK: 602-438-7528

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3rd, 2001

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES CONCLUDE THE 2001 WS



40+ National San Jose All Stars first baseman, **Ron Dunn** # 9 tries to keep Long Island Mets runner, **Joe O'Conner** close to the bag during yesterday's 13 - 7 playoff victory.

60+ National Championship

Sacramento Rivercats

Berry's Athletic Supply

10:15a Papago # 4

60+ American Division Title

St Thomas Trade Winds

Philadelphia Phillies

9:30a Tempe # 2

50+ National Championship

Texas Capitols

Berry's Athletic Supply

2:00p Tempe Diablo Stadium

50+ American Championship

Chicago Fire

South Dakota Rushmores

10:00a Papago # 3

50+ Central Championship

LA Athletics

Arizona 50's

2:00p Papago # 3

40+ National Championship

San Jose

So Cal 40's

10:00a Tempe Diablo Stadium

40+ American Championship

Arizona All Stars

Sacramento Rivercats

9:30a Papago # 1

40+ Continental Championship

Connecticut Bristol

Dallas Diamondbacks

9:45a Papago # 2

40+ Federal Semi Final

Phoenix 40's

West Coast Twins

10:00a Tempe # 3 (7 innings)

40+ Federal Championship

TBA

San Antonio Bandits

2:00p Papago # 1

40+ Central Championship

Rhode Island Hurricanes

East Providence Yankees

1:45p Papago # 2

Mother Nature gives MSBL World Series' players a break Schedulers grateful, too!

By Max Utsler

The sun is setting on the 14th Annual MSBL World Series. That's quite a difference from last year when the sun barely shone at all. Scheduling Wizard Tom Prendergast did not have to reschedule a single game this year.

Last year more than 400 games had to find new times and places. Phoenix and its suburbs lived up to their nickname "Valley of the Sun" during the 2001 Series. The 80-plus degree temperatures offered some relief for sore arms, tight hamstrings, and wobbly knees. So what's a little sunburn among friends?

The events of September 11th cast a shadow on the three-week festivities. Eight teams even had to cancel their plans for attending. But, for the 326 teams who made their way to Arizona, the experience will help keep them going for another 348 days. So, we'll look forward to seeing you next October. Happy Trails!

**AWARDS BANQUET TONIGHT — SAT NOV 3rd 6:30p
RUSTLER'S ROOSTE (The POINTE at SO MOUNTAIN)**

MSBL WORLD SERIES DAILY NEWS

The MSBL WS office is located inside Tempe Diablo Stadium (next to the Buttes) on the second floor.

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www.msblnational.com

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THE WS DAILY NEWS PLATFORM

This publication is provided by the Men's Senior Baseball League for it's members and is intended to provide information about the World Series tournament and it's players. The opinions stated and expressed in this publication represent the editor's personal views and may not reflect the views or the official policy of the MSBL.

50+ National Playoff Schedule

Oregon 50's	8
Berry's Athletic Supply	17
Kansas City 50's	8
Texas Capitals	15
Texas Capitols	20
Washington DC Titans	7
Berry's Athletic Supply	6
Sacramento Majic	3

50+ American Playoff Schedule

Chicago Fire	14
New England Yankees	6
Sacramento Solons	0
Continental Classics	6
Atlanta Southern Classics	3
Lehigh Valley Moondogs	16
Long Island Yankees	6
South Dakota Rushmores	11
Semi Final Round	
Chicago Fire	8
LeHigh Valley Moondogs	6
Continental Classics	10
South Dakota Rushmores	15

Diary of an Aging Baseball Player

By Max Utsler

I was going to do some fancy mathematical computations to prove a point. But, when I turned to page 6 of the Friday, Baseball Times, I saw I wouldn't have to.

14-13, 14-9, 21-8, 18-10, 18-16, 18-17, 20-15, 20-8, 16-13, 21-8, 14-12, 21-13, 18-16, 21-8, 15-14, 22-13, 21-12, 20-13, 19-13.

Those were the scores in a sampling of Thursday games in the three different 50-plus divisions of the MSBL World Series. By the way, the Alberta Car Stars defeated the Chicago North Cubs 7-2 and the Flint Rockies downed the Arizona 50's 5-4. Those were the *only* scores that really looked like baseball scores. The rest looked like football with a spotty kicking game. Only 8 of 35 games were decided by four runs or less.

As I commence this essay on "Why the 50-Year Olds Should Play with Wood," in the interests of self-disclosure, I must provide three disclaimers.

Disclaimer #1--I have played for 14 years in the Kansas City MSBL, a wood bat league.

Disclaimer #2--I do freelance marketing communications work for the Mighty KC Bat Company.

Disclaimer #3--I pitched on Thursday and got torched for about two dozen hits and a dozen and a half runs. At least 3/4 of those runs and hits can be attributed to aluminum.

Before you start discounting my pro-wood advocacy, let me also mention that I'm a career .300 and something hitter who comes to Phoenix every year and hits .400 and something. On Wednesday I hit five doubles, (2 1/2 times what I hit in some 50 league games this past season). It's not the hitting background, the 80-degree weather or the 50-year old pitching that makes a difference.

It's the bats, stupid.

A few days ago, I wrote a column about the perfect geometry of Mr. Doubleday's invention, and how 90 feet defined the excellent scaling of baseball with age. Then I went out and played a doubleheader where the scores were 19-8 and 19-12. Old Mr. Doubleday would have done a 360 in his grave if he could have seen those two beauties.

Here's how you score 19 runs in a 50-plus game. Play in a ballpark where it's 350 down the lines and 400 to center. Option 1--play your three outfielders in MSBL short position and have your opponents gap you to death. Option 2--play at Major League depth and let your opponents bloop you into submission.

Perhaps it's been so long since you've played with wood bats you've forgotten what it's like. Balls off the sweet spot (a smaller sweet spot, no less) travel 275-325 feet. As a result, outfielders play 15 to 25 feet closer than in Phoenix. You can still hit a gapper, but it won't roll as far. Doubles and triples are rare.

Ground balls don't fly off the bat as quickly. As a 3rd baseman, I can offer first-hand observations here. I can see the ball go through my legs when it comes off wood. Three years ago Ron LeFlore blazed one past me at Phoenix Municipal. I think I saw it in Scottsdale two days later.

Another difference, pitchers pitch inside. Batters jump on the inside pitch, break a bat, and pop out to the second baseman. The same pitch with the same batter wielding the aluminum stick lands in short right field for a single.

In spite of my vested self-interest in wood, I had held out for aluminum. And, in the years I played in the 30 and 40 divisions, it worked out okay. Not great, just okay. But, the experiences of the past week have left this *Aging Baseball Player*, crying "no mas."

(*Diary of An Aging Ball Player* — continued on page 3)

Special thanks to
Scorebook.com



Diary of An Aging Ball Player*(continued from page 2)*

Here's what the wood bat games of my regular season offered:

- ☐ Pitching strategy
- ☐ Bunts, hit and run, squeeze plays
- ☐ An occasional extra base hit
- ☐ Exciting finishes

Here's what the aluminum bat games this week offered:

- ☐ Pulled muscles from strenuous base running
- ☐ Pulled muscles from outfielders chasing balls in the gap
- ☐ Tired arms from pitchers throwing 25-pitch innings
- ☐ Infielders throwing 40-pitch innings because all the pitchers were tired
- ☐ Blowouts

By the way, I did conduct some scientific research on the topic this week. I mentioned something about wood bats to two players' wives. A player from Washington and a player from Texas overheard me and both said, "We should do that." Commish, what more evidence do you need?

I will unselfishly give up my extra base hits and inflated batting average for a week of something that's bound to look more like what old Abner had in mind. My manager might even give me another pitching start.

40+ National Playoff Schedule

Fog City 40's	5
KC Monarchs	22
Oakland Expos	9
San Jose	16
San Jose	13
Long Island Mets	7
KC Monarchs	6
So California 40's	7

40+ American Playoff Schedule

Bay Area Orioles	1
Sacramento Rivercats	10
Diamondback All Stars	3
Arizona All Stars	8

40+ Continental Playoff Schedule

Tri Valley Tigers	5
LA Colt 45's	4
St. Louis Game Face	4
Boston Wolf Pack	17
Connecticut Bristol	3
Boston Wolf Pack	6
Tri Valley Tigers	5
Dallas Diamondbacks	11

40+ Federal Playoff Schedule

Inland Pacific Apache	11
Santa Ynez Sox	3
Boston Braves	8
Columbus Dodgers	7
Quad City Blasters	3
South Dakota 40's	4
Grand Rapid Zzanos	13
Dallas Yankees	7
Second Round	
Boston Braves	8
Phoenix 40's	12
Grand Rapid Zzanos	4
Inland NW Vipers	13
Inland Pacific Apache	1
San Antonio Bandits	5
Central Arkansas Indians	3
West Coast Twins	18
Semi Final Round	
Inland Pacific Apache	2
San Antonio Bandits	5
Phoenix 40's	2
South Dakota 40's	0

50+ Central Playoff Schedule

Arizona 50's	12
Alberta Car Stars	6
Brockton A's	8
Tri Valley Diamondbacks	4
San Diego No. Angels	1
Canadians	4
Chicago No. Cubs	6
Flint Rockies	8
Second Round	
Brockton A's	7
LA Athletics	10
Flint Rockies	8
Baltimore Baseball Club	6
Arizona 50's	19
Virginia Senators	9
Canadians	5
Fresno Grizzlies	7
Semi Final Round	
Fresno Grizzlies	3
LA Athletics	9
Flint Rockies	7
Arizona 50's	14

40+ Central Playoff Schedule

Denver Red Sox	19
Lehigh Valley Giants	3
Pennsylvania Hawks	1
Elk Grove Tribe	4
Oregon Outlaws	12
Jersey Cardinals	29
San Antonio Texans	12
Rhode Island Hurricanes	22
Auburn Braves	6
Chicago N. Cubbies	3
Boise Hawks	9
So California Zens	11
East Providence Yankees	6
Columbus Yankees	3
Rhode Island Elmwood	10
Louisiana Storm	5
Second Round	
Denver Red Sox	2
Rhode Island Hurricanes	3
Elk Grove Tribe	1
So California Zens	6
New Jersey Cardinals	7
Rhode Island Elmwood	8
East Providence Yankees	16
Auburn Braves	6
Semi Final Round	
Rhode Island Hurricanes	16
Rhode Island Elmwood	12
So California Zens	17
East Providence Yankees	24

60+ National Playoff Schedule

Northern Virginia	8
South Dakota Rushmores	13
Aussie Aces	3
Sacramento Rivercats	18
Second Round	
Sacramento Rivercats	10
Chicago Skyliners	2
South Dakota Rushmores	0
Berry's Athletic Supply	11

60+ American Playoff Schedule

Jersey Cardinals	5
Philadelphia Phillies	20
St Thomas Tradewinds	7
New England Red Sox	3



San Jose manager, **Mike Zamba**, coaching third yesterday was recently inducted into the World Series MSBL Hall of Fame.



San Jose base runner, **Dave Mieir** #43 gets ready to land on the bag a second after Mets first baseman, **Rod Stephan** gets the ball.



50+ National San Diego Berry's pitcher, **Jim Allen** got the start against the Oregon 50's in the first playoff game and won 17 - 8.



Oregon 50's batter, **Jim Orr** knocks in a couple runs with this line drive single to right center yesterday at Tempe Diablo Stadium.



WS staff members, **Doug Johnson** (left) of Hardball Magazine and **Paul Juarez** (right) work the telephones in the office on Friday.



Tempe Diablo Stadium director, **Will Gorman** takes a turn behind the microphone to sing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game".