**LIVONIA DEFEATS CAN-AM, 4 GAMES TO 1,**

**TO WIN 2017 NABC WORLD SERIES!**

 This newsletter contains series and game summaries for the 2017 NABC World Series and other playoff series. The box scores and playoff statistics are all available in the final C-file that I distributed by e-mail. Congratulations to manager Tom Kusch and the #6 seeded Livonia Lynx, who defeated the #2 seeded Can-Am Drifters, managed by Mike Dorn, in a 5 game series that featured 3 extra-inning games and 4 one-run victories by the champion Lynx. Livonia won the first 3 games, then clinched in game 5 after the Drifters had captured game 4. This was the first matchup of #2 and #6 seeds in the World Series since seeding began in 2000 and the 3rd time the #6 seed has made it to the World Series (winning on each occasion). The Lynx defeated all 3 division champions (#3 Boomtown, #1 Rivertown and #2 Can-Am) on their way to the title, duplicating the feat of the 2008 Pontiac Nighthawks and manager Dave Hogg. The WS games were played online via phone as all playoff games were contested either face-to-face or via a phone connection, again this season. Thanks to all playoff managers for completing the games promptly.

 . For Livonia manager Tom Kusch, in his 34th NABC season, this was his twenty-second playoff appearance and 11th time in the finals, resulting in five NABC championships. The Livonia franchise now has 11 playoff runs in 18 seasons overall, plus 4 World Series titles in 8 appearances, with the most recent previous championship in 2015. For Can-Am manager Mike Dorn, this was the 13th playoff appearance in his 32 years in the NABC, and his 5th World Series appearance. Mike and Can-Am have won 3 titles, with the most recent previous championship in 1995. The Can-Am franchise has now made the playoffs 18 times in 39 years in the league, with 4 championships in 8 World Series appearances

 Over the course of the post-season, the Lynx offense was led by Jose Altuve (.361, 7-2b, 4hr, 18r, 8rbi), Jose Ramirez (.309, 9r, 16rbi) and Albert Pujols (.224, 6hr, 10rbi). Livonia pitchers posted a 3.10 ERA, led by starter Johnny Cueto, 4-2, 3.24) and closer Mark Melancon (3.24, 8sv). David Price (2-0, 1.93). For the Drifters, Trea Turner (.333, 5-2b, 84, 4rbi), Bryce Harper (.250, 3-hr, 9r, 7rbi) and Dexter Fowler (.250, 2hr, 5r, 6rbi). No Drifters pitcher won or saved more than 1 game in the post-season, but the staff posted and excellent 2.97 ERA.

 ***Congratulations to both Tom and Mike for making it to the finals, and thanks to all NABC managers for another great year!***

**PLAYOFF RESULTS:**

First Round: Livonia Lynx over Boomtown Rats, 4 games to 3.

 Buffalo Bison over San Antonio Spartans, 4 games to 3.

Second Round: Livonia Lynx over Rivertown Otters, 4 games to 2.

Can-Am Drifters over Buffalo Bison, 4 games to 2.

**World Series: Livonia Lynx over Can-Am Drifters, 4 games to 1.**

**WORLD SERIES – Livonia 4, Can-Am 1 (Played via phone, by Mike Dorn and Tom Kusch, highlights from Tom Kusch)**

The #6 seeded Lynx took 4 one-run victories, dropping only game 4, to win their fourth NABC championship for manager Kusch over manager Dorn’s #2 seeded Drifters, who had won the West Division pennant over the Lynx by 7 games. Danbury outscored Livonia 17 to 15 overall, and out-homered the Drifters 6 to 4, over the 5 games. Livonia sparkplug Jose Altuve (8-23, 3hr, 5r, 5rbi) led the way and Albert Pujols added 2 solo homers. Johnny Cueto registered 2 wins over Drifters ace Max Scherzer. Trea Turner (7-22, 3-2b, 3r), Dexter Fowler (5-18, 4rbi) and Rougned Odor (7-21, 2-2b, 2rbi) paced attack for Can-Am.

**Game 1: Livonia (Johnny Cueto) at Can-Am (Max Scherzer)**

 **Final Score: Livonia 3 Can-Am 2**

The Drifters get runs in the 1st and 3rd, both runs scored by Trea Turner and knocked in by Jason Kipnis.  But uncharacteristically, Livonia displayed some power, with solo homers from Jose Altuve in the 4th, Albert Pujols in the 7th, and Altuve again in the 8th, giving Livonia a 3 - 2 lead.  Cam Bedrosian and Zach Britton slammed the door in the last two innings to preserve the Lynx victory.  Scherzer struck out 12 in the loss.

**Game 2: Livonia (Corey Kluber) at Can-Am (Drew Pomeranz)**

 **Final Score: Livonia 3 Can-Am 2 (10 innings)**

Both starting pitchers put up goose eggs through the 5th.  Livonia scored twice in the 6th on RBI doubles from Altuve and Manny Machado, but Can-Am scored runs in the 6th and 7th on RBI hits from Wil Myers and Dexter Fowler to tie.  Solid pitching by both teams got the game to extra innings, when Altuve hit a homer off Alex Colome to break the tie.  Mark Melancon came in to close out the 3 - 2 win with his 7th postseason save.  Livonia up 2 games to none.

**Game 3: Can-Am (Ervin Santana) at Livonia (Rich Hill)**

 **Final Score: Livonia 6 Can-Am 5 (11 innings)**

Game 3 came back to Livonia. The Drifters struck first on a Rougned Odor homer in the 2nd.  Livonia, however, found Santana’s offerings to their liking, scoring 5 runs in the 3rd and knocking him from the game.  Singles by Adam Eaton, Altuve and Jose Ramirez, a Machado walk, a Tyler Naquin bases loaded walk, and a three run double by Elvis Andrus finished him off.  But Can-Am would not go quietly, because in the 5th, a Bryce Harper walk, Myers double, an Andrus error, and a 2-run double by Fowler made the score 5 - 4.  The Drifters then tied it in the 8th, when Fowler connected for a homer off Derek Law.  Neither team threatened until the bottom of the 11th, when Salvador Perez doubled, and pinch runner Billy Hamilton scored on a walk off RBI single from Altuve off Colome for his 2nd loss of the series.  For Livonia, all three game winning hits have come from Altuve.  Final score was 6 - 5, and Livonia leads the series 3 games to none.

**Game 4: Can-Am (Jake Odorizzi) at Livonia (Jameson Taillon)**

 **Final Score: Can-Am 4 Livonia 2 (10 innings)**

Game 4 was a duel between Odorizzi and Taillon.  Can-Am scored first on an RBI triple by Odor in the 4th.  Odorizzi was masterful throughout, but in the 7th, gave up a 2-run homer to Andrus, giving Livonia a 2 - 1 lead.  Hoping to complete the sweep, the Lynx went to ace closer Melancon in the 9th, but Can-Am had other ideas.  In the 9th, Odor singled, and Harper beat out a potential double play grounder to be safe at first.  It proved to be important, as Willson Contreras doubled him home to tie the game.  Then in the 10th, Fowler walked and Jason Kipnis doubled him home to break the tie.  Kipnis then scored on an Odor double for a 4 - 2 lead.  Odorizzi closed it out for a complete game win, giving up only 2 hits in his ten innings of work. Livonia leads the series 3 games to 1.

**Game 5: Can-Am (Scherzer) at Livonia (Cueto)**

 **Final Score: Livonia 3 Can-Am 2**

Game 5 was a rematch between Scherzer and Cueto.  Miguel Montero started the scoring for Can-Am with a solo homer in the 3rd.  Livonia came back in the bottom of that inning on a Hamilton walk, stolen base, and RBI single from Eaton.  Livonia took the lead in the 5th on an Albert Pujols home run, in what may be his final game as a Lynx.  Livonia added an insurance run in the 7th off Scherzer, after an Andrus triple and suicide squeeze RBI from Hamilton.  In the 8th, Eric Hosmer homered off Mike Montgomery to make it 3 - 2.  In the 9th off Britton, Odor singled, and Bryce Harper for the second time in the series beat the throw to 1st on a potential game-ending double play grounder to keep the Drifter hopes alive.  But this time, Melancon came in and got Contreras to ground out to end the game and the series.

The series was incredibly exciting, as all four Livonia wins were by 1 run, and three of the five games went to extra innings.  For the series, Can-Am outhit Livonia 38 to 31, but Livonia outhomered Can-Am 6 to 4.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**Second Round – Livonia 4, Rivertown 2 (Played via phone, by Tom Kusch and Rick Christianson, highlights from Tom Kusch)**

In a tightly contested series, the #6 seeded Livonia Lynx scored a major upset of the #1 seeded Rivertown Otters in 6 games. All but 1 of the games was decided by 2 runs or fewer, as the Lynx outscored the Otters 27 to 19 over the 7 games, despite losing the home run battle, 8 to 6. Jose Altuve (10-22, 4-2b, 7r), Jose Ramirez (7-23, 4-2b, 9rbi) and Albert Pujols (2hr, 4rbi) paced the Lynx attack. Jay Bruce (5-16, 3-2b, 2hr, 4rbi) and Robinson Cano (3hr, 4rbi) were the most productive sticks for the Otters. No carryover injuries for Livonia in the World Series.

For Rivertown manager Rick Christianson, this was the 5th playoff appearance in his 6 NABC seasons with the Otters. Rick has led the Otters to 2 World Series, including their only title in 2014. The Rivertown franchise now has 23 playoff appearances in its 41 years in the NABC, with 7 titles in just 9 World Series played.

**Game 1: Livonia (Johnny Cueto) at Rivertown (Kyle Hendricks):**

 **Final Score Livonia 5 Rivertown 4**

Livonia scored in the 1st on the shoulders of a Jose Altuve single, stolen base, and RBI single from Jose Ramirez.  Rivertown came through in the bottom of the 1st to tie the game at 1 on a Miguel Cabrera homer.  In the 3rd, a Salvador Perez single, Altuve double, Ramirez single and 2-run homer for Manny Machado gave Livonia a 5 - 1 lead, knocking out Hendricks.  Rivertown scored single runs in the 3rd on an Adrian Beltre single, in the 5th on a Jay Bruce homer, and the 6th on a Robinson Cano homer to close the gap to 5 - 4.  In the 8th with 2 outs, Carlos Beltran singled and was replaced by pinch runner Paulo Orlando.  Asdrubal Cabrera ripped a double down the line, but a great throw by Ramirez resulted in Orlando being tagged out at the plate to end the threat.  Melancon came in to pitch a 1-2-3 9th inning to save the win for Livonia 5 - 4.

**Game 2: Livonia (Rich Hill) at Rivertown (Chris Sale):**

 **Final Score Rivertown 6 Livonia 5 (12 innings)**

There were lots of fireworks early in this one.  In the first 3 innings, Livonia scored 4 runs, highlighted by a 2-run homer by Albert Pujols.  But Rivertown scored 5 in the first 3 innings, including homers by Cano, Bruce, and Asdrubal Cabrera.  The score remained 5 - 4 until the 8th, when Livonia tied it on back-to-back doubles by Altuve and Ramirez.  In the bottom on the ninth, Rivertown got a walk from Miguel Cabrera and a throwing error by Andrus to put runners on 1st and 3rd with no outs.  But Cano struck out, Beltre popped out, and A. Cabrera struck out to blow a great opportunity to win the game in regulation.  It stayed that way until the 12th, when back-to-back doubles by A, Cabrera and Bruce off Mike Montgomery gave Dan Jennings the 6 - 5 win for Rivertown and tied the series at 1.

**Game 3: Rivertown (J.A. Happ) at Livonia (Corey Kluber):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 7 Rivertown 0**

The teams headed back to Livonia, where Kluber was masterful, allowing only 2 hits and shutting out the Otters.  Livonia scored 2 in the 4th, 3 in the 5th, and 1 in the 6th to break the game open, on its way to a 7 - 0 victory.  Andrus and Eaton each had 2 hits, while Machado and Lorenzo Cain each drove home 2 runs. Livonia leads the series 2 games to 1.

**Game 4: Rivertown (Jose Fernandez) at Livonia (Jameson Taillon):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 3 Rivertown 2**

In the 2nd, Cano scored on a Yadier Molina RBI single.  Jay Bruce was beaned in the neck, and injured for two games.  Livonia tied it in the bottom half on an RBI triple from Lonnie Chisenhall.  In the 4th, Livonia took a 3 - 1 lead on Albert Pujols' 2-run homer.  Rivertown responded with a run in the 5th to make the score 3 - 2 on an error by the pitcher, followed by singles from Joey Votto and Miguel Cabrera.  5 relievers held Rivertown to 1 hit the rest of the way, and Livonia held on to win 3 - 2.  Livonia leads the series 3 games to 1.

**Game 5: Rivertown (Hendricks) at Livonia (Cueto):**

 **Final Score: Rivertown 6 Livonia 4**

Game 5 was a rematch between Hendricks and Cueto, with different results.  Cano doubled home Miguel Cabrera to take an early lead, but Altuve homered to make it a 1 - 1 after 1.  Not wanting his career to end, Carlos Beltran took a Cueto offering opposite field for a 3-run homer in the 3rd and a 4 - 1 Otter lead.  Trying to end the series at home, Livonia got a single from Altuve and 2-run homer from Ramirez to close within 1 in the 6th.  Beltre doubled home Votto in the 7th to extend the lead, but the Lynx got a Tyler Naquin homer in the bottom of the 7th to make it 5 - 4.  Kenley Jansen was inserted to pitch late for Rivertown, and he slammed the door to stave off elimination.  Rivertown got an insurance run in the 9th on a passed ball, making the final score 6 - 4.  Livonia leads the series 3 game to 2.

**Game 6: Livonia (Hill) at Rivertown (Sale):**

 **Final Score Livonia 3 Rivertown 1**

Game 6 was back in Rivertown, with Hill and Sale again on the hill.  Lynx scored in the 1st on a Ramirez RBI single.  Rivertown tied it in the 4th on a Robinson Cano home run.  The game was dominated by pitching, as both teams only had 2 hits through 7.  But in the 8th, RBI hits from Ramirez and Naquin off Sale and Jennings gave the Lynx the lead.  Three relievers got an out each in the 9th to close out a 3 - 1 win for Livonia and a 4 - 2 series win.

Regular season batting champion Jose Altuve led Livonia's offense in the series, going 10 for 22 with 7 runs scored, aided by Jose Ramirez and his 9 RBIs.  On the flip side, regular season star Joey Votto never got going for Rivertown, with only 2 hits in his 24 at bats.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**Second Round – Can-Am 4, Buffalo 2 (Played via phone by Mike Dorn and John Duke, highlights by John Duke)**

The #2 seeded Can-Am Drifters defeated the #5 seed Buffalo Bison, in a well-played series by both squads. The Drifters captured the first 3 games, before the Bison twice avoided elimination. However, the Drifters clinched the series with a 6-0 win in game 6. The Drifters outscored the Bison, 30-18 in the series with a 12-7 edge in home runs. Bryce Harper (7-18, 3hr, 6r, 7rbi) and Trea Turner (8-23, 5r, 4rbi) led the way as Nick Castellanos and Jason Kipnis each slammed 2 homers. Carlos Gonzalez (7-24, 3r, 3rbi) and Jonathan Lucroy (7-21) led the Bison attack, while Mike Napoli added 2 home runs. Aaron Sanchez of Can-Am has a 15 game carryover injury that will keep him sidelined for the World Series.

This was the twenty-sixth playoff appearance in 39 NABC seasons for Buffalo manager John Duke, the only manager ever for the Buffalo franchise. Buffalo and Mgr. Duke have 4 World Series wins in 8 appearances, with their most recent championship in 2012.

**Game 1: Buffalo (Clayton Kershaw) at Can-Am (Max Scherzer):**

 **Final Score: Can-Am 3 Buffalo 2**

Nick Castellanos had 3 extra base hits (a double, triple and homer) to help Scherzer beat Kershaw in a tight pitching matchup. D.J. LeMahieu slammed a solo homer in the 1st to give the Herd an early lead, but in the Drifters 1st, Trea Turner doubled and then scored on a triple by Castellanos. Castellanos smacked a solo shot in the 6th for a 2-1 Can-Am lead. In the 7th, the Drifters scratched out a run as Wil Myers RBI singled, went to 3rd on a H&R single by Chris Owings and scored on a ground out by Turner. The Bison got a run back in the 8th when LeMahieu walked, stole second and scored on a single by Carlos Gonzalez.

**Game 2: Buffalo (Steven Wright) at Can-Am (Aaron Sanchez):**

 **Final Score: Can-Am 12 Buffalo 6**

The Drifters scored in each of the first 7 frames to romp to a wild 12-6 win. Bryce Harper hit a 3-run homer and walked in his other 4 trips to the plate. Turner led off the 1st for Can-Am by scoring on a 4-base E-8 by Jayson Werth. Myers slammed a 2-run HR after a Harper walk to make it 3-0 after 2. The Bison got a run in the 3rd when Werth doubled and scored on a triple by Hernan Perez, but the Drifters came right back as Jason Kipnis walked and Castellanos slammed a 2-run shot off RP Tyler Thornburg for a 5-1 lead. In the 4th, the Herd scored twice as Jose Bautista smacked a 2-run triple, but Dexter Fowler hit an RBI double in the Can-Am half to restore a 6-3 margin. In the Drifters 5th, Willson Contreras singled, a pair of walks loaded the bases before Owings hit an SF and Turner singled home another for an 8-3 lead. Harper slammed a 3-run homer in the 6th off RP John Lackey to put the game away at 11-3. Brandon Crawford corked a 2-run shot in the Bison 7th, Fowler doubled and then scored on a Rougned Odor SF in the 7th and Nolan Arenado singled home the final Bison run in the 9th.

**Game 3: Can-Am (Drew Pomeranz) at Buffalo (Bartolo Colon):**

 **Final Score: Can-Am 3 Buffalo 1**

Pomeranz held the Bison to 1 run on 7 hits in a masterful 8 inning stint, while Odor drove in 2 of the 3 Drifters tallies. Can-Am drew first blood as Fowler poled a solo HR in the 3rd. Odor added a solo shot in the 4th for a 2-0 Drifters advantage. In the 6th, Fowler singled and advanced to 3rd on a H&R single by Kipnis

, then scored on Odor’s RBI single. The Bison broke up the Pomeranz shutout in the 8th, as CarGo doubled and scored on an RBI single by Bautista. Alex Colome worked a scoreless 9th for the save.

**Game 4: Can-Am (Ervin Santana) at Buffalo (Cole Hamels):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 5 Can-Am 4**

The Bison avoided elimination with a bottom of the 9th rally to overcome a 4-2 deficit and force a game 5. Buffalo took a 2-0 lead in the first frame as CarGo doubled home Crawford, who had walked, and then scored on an RBI single by Lucroy. The Drifters tied the game at 2 in the 4th as both Turner and Kipnis slammed solo shots. In the Drifters 8th, Harper blasted a solo homer for a 3-2 lead and Kipnis added his 2nd solo clout of the game in the 9th to give Can-Am a 4-2 for Colome to protect in the 9th. But Bautista and Napoli led off the Bison 9th with back-to-back solo bombs to tie the game at 4. Jayson Werth doubled off RP Blake Treinen, advanced to 3rd on a sac bunt by Perez and scored on Crawford’s walk-off RBI single.

**Game 5: Can-Am (Scherzer) at Buffalo (Kershaw):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 4 Can-Am 2**

The Bison built an early 3-0 lead against Scherzer and then held on for a 4-2 win to force game 6 back in Can-Am. CarGo slammed a solo homer in the 2nd and Perez bashed a 2-run shot after Josh Harrison’s double to give Buffalo a 3-0 edge. Miguel Montero slugged a solo homer for the Drifters in the 5th to cut the lead to 3-1, but Napoli restored the 3-run advantage with his own solo dinger in the Bison 7th. In the Can-Am 8th, turner singled and eventually scored on an RBI single by Kipnis, but Oh came on to get the last 4 outs and preserve the Herd’s victory.

**Game 6: Buffalo (Wright) at Can-Am (Sanchez):**

 **Final Score: Can-Am 6 Buffalo 0**

The Drifters took an easy 6-0 win to clinch the series and advance to the NABC World Series. Bison hopes soared in the first inning when Drifters starter Sanchez was removed for injury after facing just 1 hitter, but RP Joe Biagini hurled 4.2 innings of sparkling scoreless relief to dash those hopes. Harper doubled in the 2nd, Montero walked, Owings doubled home both runners and scored on Turner’s triple for an early 3-0 lead. In the Can-Am 3rd, Castellanos and Odor singled before Harper unloaded on a 3-run bomb to put the game (and series) away. Three more Drifters relievers completed the shutout as the Herd was held to just 5 hits.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**First Round – Livonia 4, Boomtown 3 (Played via phone by Tom Kusch and Chris Stinson, highlights from Tom Kusch)**

Livonia, the #6 seed, defeated Central winner Boomtown, the # 3 seed in back-and-forth 7 game series in which the home team prevailed in each of the first 6 games, before the Lynx scored a road victory in the decisive seventh game. Jose Ramirez (11-25, 5r, 6rbi) and Adam Eaton (8-27, 2hr, 5r, 6rbi) paced the Lynx offense, while Giancarlo Stanton (9-25, 3hr, 5r, 7rbi) and David Ortiz (7-29, 3hr, 7rbi) powered the Rats with help from Derek Dietrich (10-18, 4r). The Lynx outscored the Rats 32-28, overall, and enjoyed an 11-9 edge in home runs. No additional carryover injuries for Livonia.

For manager Chris Stinson of Boomtown, this was the 9th playoff appearance in his 37 leading the Rats, but Chris is still seeking his first World Series appearance. The Boomtown franchise now has 11 playoff appearances in 41 seasons, but the franchise has still never made it to the NABC World Series.

.

**Game 1: Livonia (Johnny Cueto) at Boomtown (Jose Quintana):**

 **Final Score: Boomtown 5 Livonia 1**

Old rivals Boomtown and Livonia met in round 1 of the 2017 playoffs, starting with 2 games at Boomtown.  The Rats drew first blood in the 4th when Giancarlo Stanton launched a bomb off Cueto.  The Lynx managed to tie the game in the 6th off Quintana on a Jose Ramirez walk and Manny Machado single.  But Boomtown would not be denied this win, as David Ortiz homered in the bottom half, followed by a Matt Carpenter double, who scored on a Cueto throwing error to make it 3 - 1.  The Rats put it away in the 7th with 2 more runs, highlighted by a Derek Dietrich triple.  Quintana shut out Livonia the rest of the way for a complete game  5 - 1 win.

**Game 2: Livonia (Rich Hill) at Boomtown (Marco Estrada):**

 **Final Score: Boomtown 8 Livonia 3**

Livonia got on the board in the 1st on a Jose Altuve single, stolen base, and an RBI single for Ramirez.  But Boomtown answered quickly, scoring on a Carlos Correa walk, an RBI double from Yunel Escobar and two ground outs.  This game was decided in the top of the 2nd, when Livonia loaded the bases with no outs.  Estrada promptly struck out Salvador Perez and Tyler Naquin, then got a weak grounder from Altuve to end the inning.  The Lynx never recovered from the lost opportunity.  The Rats extended the lead to 4 - 1 in the 2nd, getting four straight hits.  Single runs by the Lynx in the 3rd and 6th and the Rats in their 6th made the score 5 - 3 in the 8th, when Ortiz doubled, Carpenter walked, and Odubel Herrera singled off Zach Britton, before a wild pitch and sac fly resulted in three more runs and an 8 - 3 win.  Estrada scattered 10 hits in the Boomtown win.  Boomtown is now up 2 games to none.

**Game 3: Boomtown (Kenta Maeda) at Livonia (Jameson Taillon):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 5 Boomtown 3**

Game 3 moved to Livonia, where an Ortiz homer in the 1st gave Boomtown the lead, but the Lynx answered in the bottom half on an RBI double from Machado.  Stanton tried to take over the series with solo homers in the 2nd and 6th for a 3 - 1 lead.  But desperate Livonia was not done yet. In the bottom of the 6th, singles by Altuve, Ramirez and Machado closed the gap, before Adam Eaton's 3-run homer gave Livonia the lead 5 - 3.  Three relievers closed out the win for Livonia.  Boomtown still leads the series, 2 games to 1.

**Game 4: Boomtown (Jeff Samardzija) at Livonia (Nick Tropeano):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 4 Boomtown 3**

Boomtown scored in the 1st AGAIN, when Carpenter's single plated Dietrich.  Livonia came back with 3 in the third, when Altuve singled, a Correa error, and another 3-run homer from Adam Eaton.  The next inning, relic Albert Pujols revived his youth with a solo shot, chasing Samardzija, and the Lynx would not score again.  Boomtown scored 2 in the 7th, making the score 4 - 3 on RBI hits from Dietrich and Ortiz.  But Britton and Mark Melancon did not allow a baserunner over the final two innings, as Livonia held on to even the series.

**Game 5: Boomtown (Quintana) at Livonia (Cueto):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 9 Midtown 0**

Game 5 was a Quintana vs Cueto rematch, but this one was over quickly.  Livonia scored 2 in the 2nd, 2 in the 3rd, and 4 in the 5th for an 8 - 0 lead, highlighted by two-run homers from Lorenzo Cain and Manny Machado, and a solo homer from Salvador Perez.  Cueto scattered 3 hits, striking out 10 in a complete game 9 - 0 win.  Livonia goes up 3 games to 2.

**Game 6: Livonia (Hill) at Boomtown (Estrada):**

 **Final Score: Boomtown 5 Livonia 4**

Game 6 returns to Boomtown, with another rematch Hill vs. Estrada.  Ortiz homered in the 1st, Carpenter homered in the 4th, and Correa singled home a run in the 5th to give Boomtown a 3 - 0 lead after 5.  Livonia scratched out a run in the 6th on a Ramirez single, then tied the game in the 7th on a 2-run Lonnie Chisenhall homer.  The Rats came right back in the bottom half when Stanton tripled and scored on a Brandon Phillips single.  Dan Otero came in to pitch for Boomtown in the 8th, and the Lynx found him to their liking, tying the game when Altuve doubled and scored on a Ramirez single.  It stayed tied at 4 until the bottom of the 9th, when Boomtown staved off elimination against Britton.  Herrera doubled to lead off the 9th, and promptly scored on a Stanton single.  Boomtown wins 5 - 4 to tie the series at 3.  The home team has won every game so far in the series.

**Game 7: Livonia (Taillon) at Boomtown (Maeda):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 6 Boomtown 4**

Game 7 again matches Taillon and Maeda.  Boomtown scored in the 1st inning for the fifth time in the series on a Dietrich homer.  Livonia came back in the 3rd with 3 runs, on a solo homer from Naquin and a 2-run shot by Ramirez.  The Lynx extended the lead to 4 - 1 in the 4th on a suicide squeeze by Andrus.  The Rats, spurred on by its wild crowd, came back with 2 on a homer by Correa.  In the 6th, Livonia got a Pujols homer to extend its lead to 5 - 3.  The Rats made it 5 - 4 in the 7th off Britton when Stanton singled home Carpenter.  Livonia got an insurance run in the 9th on an RBI single from Altuve, and Melancon slammed the door with a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save and a series win for Livonia.

Jose Ramirez was the hitting star for Livonia, going 11 for 25 for the series.  Doug Dietrich was a beast for Boomtown, going 10 for 18.  Livonia outhomered Boomtown 11 - 9 for the series, and had 10 stolen bases to 1 for Boomtown.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**First Round – Buffalo 4, San Antonio 3 (Played via phone by Larry Bond and John Duke, write-up by John Duke)**

The #5 seeded Falcons outlasted the #4 seeded Spartans in a wild back-and-forth 7 game series as Buffalo outscored San Antonio, 36-30, overall. Slugger Nolan Arenado (9-28, 6hr, 8r, 11rbi), Jonathan Lucroy (13-26, 2hr, 6rbi) and Carlos Gonzalez (6-29, 2hr, 6rbi) led the way. Clayton Kershaw posted 2 wins for the Herd. For San Antonio, Christian Yelich (7-30, 5r, 5rbi) and Charlie Blackmon (8-30, 2hr, 4rbi) were the most effective hitters. No new carryover injuries for Buffalo.

For San Antonio manager Larry Bond, this was the 23rd playoff appearances in his 38 NABC seasons at the helm of the Spartans. San Antonio has 7 NABC titles in 12 World Series appearances under manager Bond, with the most recent title in 2006.

**Game 1: Buffalo (Clayton Kershaw) at San Antonio (Jon Lester):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 7 San Antonio 2**

The Bison strike early with 6 runs (3 unearned) in the first 2 frames and coast to an easy win behind Kershaw’s complete game 7-hitter. In the first an E-7 by Charlie Blackmon opened the gates and Kennys Vargas slammed a 2-run triple to finish a 4 run rally. Jonathan Lucroy polled a 2-run homer in the 2nd and added an RBI single in the 4th. Doubles by J.T. Realmuto and Ben Zobrist plated the first Spartans tally in the 3rd and Charlie Blackmon smashed a 6th inning solo homer to close the scoring.

**Game 2: Buffalo (Cole Hamels) at San Antonio (Justin Verlander):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 7 San Antonio 4**

The Spartans scored twice in the bottom of the 8th to erase a 3-2 Bison lead, but Buffalo rallied for 4 runs in the 9th to score the unlikely victory. Ben Zobrist doubled to score Christian Yelich in the Spartans 3rd, before the Bison got 2 runs in the 5th, as Travis Jankowski and Hernan Perez singled, then Jankowski scored on Brandon Crawford’s SF and Lucroy singled home Perez. In the 7th, Perez walked, stole 2nd, went to 3rd on a ground out and scored on a SF by D.J. LeMahieu for a 3-1 lead, but the Spartans got 1 back when Blackmon doubled off Hamels, advanced to 3rd on a Lucroy PB and scored on a WP by reliever Tyler Thornburg. In the Spartans 8th, PH Sandy Leon singled, moved to 2nd on RP Shawn Kelley’s WP and scored on a single by Steve Pearce off Bison closer Seung-Hwan Oh, then Carlos Santana doubled home PR Tommy Phan to give the Spartans a 4-3 lead heading to the 9th with closer Tony Barnette on the mound. Jefry Marte doubled to lead off the frame and Perez slammed a 2-run homer to take the lead back for the Bison. Next, Crawford singled and Lucroy delivered another 2-run shot for the final margin.

**Game 3: San Antonio (Jacob deGrom) at Buffalo (Bartolo Colon):**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 4 Buffalo 2**

The Spartans ride the 3-hit pitching of deGrom and 3 relievers to notch their first series win. Realmuto doubles home Xander Bogaerts who had walked with the first San Antonio run in the 2nd. The Spartans go up 3-0 in the 3rd, as Pearce, Chris Carter and Bogaerts smash 3 straight doubles. In the 7th, Realmuto singles against RP John Lackey and eventually scores on an RBI single by Santana to make it 4-0, Spartans. In the Bison 7th, Lucroy singles and Mike Napoli smacks a 2-run homer for the only Buffalo runs off deGrom.

**Game 4: San Antonio (Chris Tillman) at Buffalo (Steven Wright):**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 4 Buffalo 2 (11 innings)**

Lots of missed chances in this game that is tied 1-1 after 9 innings, before the Spartans win it in the 11th frame. The Bison strike first in the 5th as Crawford doubles and later scores on an SF by Carlos Gonzalez, but the Spartans tie the game in the 8th. After RP Thornburg walks Zobrist, Blackmon cracks an RBI triple off RP Alex Claudio for a 1-1 tie. The Spartans take a 2-1 lead in the 10th against Bison RP Oh, when Yelich doubles and scores on Santana’s RBI single, but CarGo takes RP Barnette deep with 1 down in the bottom of the 10th to knot the score at 2-2. Finally, in the San Antonio 11th, against RP Kelley, Stephen Drew singles and Leon strokes a 2-run homer for the game winning runs as Barnette slams the door on the Herd.

**Game 5: San Antonio (Lester) at Buffalo (Kershaw):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 5 San Antonio 4**

In another back-and-forth struggle, the Bison eke out a 1-run victory to go up 3 games to 2. Perez works a leadoff walk and later scores on CarGo’s RBI single in the 1st, but the Spartans roar back with a pair of runs in both the 3rd and 4th frames. In the 3rd, Pearce singles and comes around on Blackmon’s 2-run homer, then Bogaerts and Luis Valbuena hit back-to-back doubles in the 4th and Zobrist adds an RBI double to score Valbuena for an early 4-1 lead. But Buffalo comes right back in their 4th as Jose Bautista walks, Jayson Werth reaches on an HBP and Perez crushes a 3-run homer to tie the game a 4 apiece. It stays that way into the 7th when Nolan Arenado blast a solo homer off Lester for the game-winner.

**Game 6: Buffalo (Hamels) at San Antonio (Verlander):**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 7 Buffalo 3**

The Spartans pull away late in the game to square the series at 3 games each and force a seventh game. It’s scoreless until the bottom of the 5th, when San Antonio scores 3 times. Carter and Bogaerts single before Valbuena walks and Yelich delivers a 3-run triple to take the lead. In the Bison 6th, LeMahieu walks and Arenado bashes a 2-run shot off Verlander to narrow the gap to 3-2. The Spartans plate a pair in the 7th as Yelich singles off RP Brad Hand and Pearce slugs a 2-run homer off RP Thornburg. Two more Spartan tallies in the 8th off RP Lackey via a walk to Bogaerts and a 2-run homer by Stephen Drew balloons the lead to 7-2, making Arenado’s solo shot in the 9th off Verlander, meaningless. Verlander allowed just 4 hits and struck out 13 Bison in the complete game victory.

**Game 7: Buffalo (Colon) at San Antonio (deGrom):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 10 San Antonio 5**

The Bison jumped out to a 9-0 lead after 4 innings and held on to win the rubber game as Arenado blasted 3 more home runs (6 in the last 3 games) good for 6 RBI. In the first frame, Crawford led off with a double, LeMahieu singled home Crawford and Arenado hit a 2-run shot for a 3-0 lead. In the Buffalo 3rd, LeMahieu and Arenado singled off deGrom, then CarGo slammed a 3-run homer off RP Jared Hughes to take a 6-0 lead. Then in the 4th inning, Werth and LeMahieu reached on walks before Arenado touched of another 3-run bomb, this time off RP Barnette, to put the Herd ahead by a 9-0 count. Chris Carter homered off Colon in the 5th to get San Antonio on the board, and they added an unearned marker in the 6th, as Santana walked, moved to 3rd on Pearce’s double and scored on a Lucroy PB. Arenado added his 3rd homer of the game, a solo clout off RP Chris Devenski in the 9th, to put the Herd up 10-2. Leon reached on an E-5 by Arenado, Zobrist smacked an RBI double and Yelich crushed a 2-run homer of RP Hand to end the scoring.

**2018 NABC DRAFT MEETING**

 **Please don't forget to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 10th, 2018, for the annual NABC rookie draft and league meeting.**

**TRADE REPORT (as of 12-15-2017)**

* Can-Am sends Michael Taylor, Jason Kipnis, 2018 #3 and 2019 #2 to Woodland for Chase Anderson, Wade Davis, Darwin Barney and 2019 #5.
* Woodland sends J.D. Martinez, Zack Greinke, Adam Lind and 2018 #5 to Rivertown for Dylan Bundy, Miguel Cabrera, 2018 #1, 2019 #1 and 2019 #2.
* Woodland sends Joe Mauer and 2019 #6 to Livonia for C.J. Cron and 2019 #4.
* Studio City sends Dee Gordon to Can-Am for Wil Myers.
* Indiana sends Josh Reddick, Colby Rasmus and Buffalo’s 2018 #7 to Rivertown for Carlos Beltran, 2018 #2 and 2018 #6.
* Can-Am sends Darwin Barney to Indiana for Terryville’s 2018 #7.
* Wyandotte sends 2018 #5 to Indiana for Tony Wolters and 2018 #6.
* Midtown sends Brandon Drury, 2018 #3 and 2018 #8 to Terryville for Jake Lamb and 2018 #5.
* Terryville sends Mike Leake, Cody Allen and 2018 #6 to West Penn for Ryon Healy and 2019 #3.
* Terryville sends Aaron Hicks, Kurt Suzuki and Jimmy Nelson to Livonia for Cam Bedrosian, Omar Narvaez, 2019 #3 and 2019 #6.