**SAN ANTONIO DEFEATS LIVONIA, 4 GAMES TO 0,**

**TO WIN 2018 NABC WORLD SERIES!**

 This newsletter contains series and game summaries for the 2018 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 Larry Bond and the #2 seeded San Antonio Spartans, who manager Tom Kusch and the #1 seeded Livonia Lynx, in a stunning 4 game series swep that featured 3 one- or two-run victories by the champion Spartans. This was the seventh matchup of #1 and #2 seeds in the World Series since seeding began in 2000, but only the second time that the #2 seed prevailed. Previously, the Saginaw Aces defeated the Columbus Cobras in 6 games in 2002. It was also the first 1 vs. 2 seed Series since 2012. and the 3rd time the #6 seed has made it to the World Series (winning on each occasion). 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 San Antonio manager Larry Bond, this was the 24th playoff appearance and 11th division title in his 39 years in the NABC, and his 13th World Series appearance. Larry has now won an NABC record 8 championships, with his most recent previous championship in 2006. The San Antonio franchise missed the playoffs in all 3 seasons before Larry took it over.

For Livonia manager Tom Kusch, in his 35th NABC season, this was his twenty-third playoff appearance, 11th division title and 12th time in the finals, resulting in five NABC championships. The Livonia franchise now has 12 playoff runs in 19 seasons overall, plus 4 World Series titles in 9 appearances, with the most recent previous championship in 2017.

 Over the course of the post-season, San Antonio’s offense was led by Michael Conforto (14-42, 8hr, 5-2b, 12r, 14rbi in just 11 games). Tommy Phan (.426, 20-47, 5-sb, 10r, 9rbi), Jed Lowrie (12-42, 6-2b, 6r, 6rbi) and Alex Bregman (5hr, 11rbi) helped the Spartans score 65 runs in 11 post-season games. The Lynx offense was led by Jose Ramirez (12-40, 4hr, 8r, 7rbi) and Lonnie Chisenhall (9-29, 2hr, 7rbi). San Antonio pitchers posted a 3.60 ERA, led by starter Gio Gonzalez (2-1, 4.05), while 3 different Spartan relievers registered saves. The Lynx posted a 4.08 team ERA, as Taijuan Walker (2-0, 1.96 in 3 starts) excelled.

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

**PLAYOFF RESULTS:**

First Round: Rivertown Otters over Can-Am Drifters, 4 games to 2.

 Buffalo Bison over Danbury Dirt Dobbers, 4 games to 0.

Second Round: San Antonio Spartans over Rivertown Otters, 4 games to 3.

Livonia Lynx over Buffalo Bison, 4 games to 2.

**World Series: San Antonio Spartans over Livonia Lynx, 4 games to 0.**

**WORLD SERIES – San Antonio 4, Livonia 0 (Played via phone, by Larry Bond and Tom Kusch, highlights from Larry Bond)**

The #2 seeded Spartans swept all 4 games but only game 2 was not closely contested. The #1 seeded Lynx led in the 8th inning of both games 3 and 4, but their normally solid bullpen could not close the deal. San Antonio outscored Livonia 27 to 15 overall, and out-homered the Drifters 10 to 6, over the 4 games. Michael Conforto (6-17, 3hr, 4r, 4rbi), Alex Bregman (2hr, 6rbi), Tommy Phan (6-15, 5r), Charlie Blackmon (6-18, 6r, 3rbi) and Austin Jackson (7-15, 3r) led the Spartan offense. Jose Ramirez (5-17, 4hr, 5r, 6rbi) led the way for the Lynx.

**Game 1: San Antonio (Gio Gonzalez) at Livonia (Corey Kluber)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 5 Livonia 3**

Spartans scored 2 in the 1st off Kluber on a Tommy Pham walk followed by a Charlie Blackmon HR. Xander Bogaerts went deep in the 3rd to extend the lead to 3-0. However, Lorenzo Cain & Jose Ramirez both homered off Gonzalez in the bottom of the 3rd to narrow it to 3-2. In the 4th, Alex Bregman walked and came around on J.T. Realmuto's 2-run HR off Kluber to make it 5-2. Ramirez got one back in the 5th with his second homer of the game, but that was the end of the scoring as the Spartans went on to win, 5-3. Gonzalez went 7 for the win, while Daniel Coulombe notched a save. The Spartans only mustered 5 hits off Kluber, but 3 of them were homers, and Kluber's 6 walks were also part of his undoing.

**Game 2: San Antonio (Jason Vargas) at Livonia (Rich Hill)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 11 Livonia 4**

Spartans again struck for 2 runs in the 1st. Hill led off the game by plunking Pham with a pitch, Blackmon followed with a single, and Mark Reynolds shocked everyone by lacing a 2-run triple. The Lynx immediately tied it up when Ramirez followed a leadoff walk to Cain with his 3rd homer of the Series, a 2-run shot off Vargas. The Spartans then erupted for 4 in the 3rd to take a 6-2 lead. Michael Conforto led off with a homer, then Austin Jackson tripled and scored on a groundout. With 2 out, Jed Lowrie doubled and Realmuto unloaded his 2nd 2-run homer of the Series. Facing Lynx reliever Mike Montgomery in the 6th, Bregman extended the Spartan lead to 8-2 with a 2-run shot that followed a walk to Jackson. After Spartan starter Vargas departed after allowing only 1 hit in 5 innings, the Lynx cut their deficit to 8-4 on another homer by Ramirez (4th of the Series!) after reliever Zach McAllister had walked Jose Altuve. The Spartans added a run in the 8th on a Jackson RBI single through a drawn-in infield, then completed the scoring in the 9th on consecutive doubles by Pham, Blackmon & Conforto. The San Antonio offensive barrage included 3 HRs, 3 triples, 3 doubles and 7 walks.

**Game 3: Livonia (Jimmy Nelson) at San Antonio (Justin Verlander)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 5 Livonia 3**

Lynx looked for better luck in the Spartans' home park....

Starters Nelson & Verlander pitched well in the early going, but Contorto's solo HR put the Spartans on the board in the 4th. The Lynx took their first lead of the Series in the 6th, as Joe Mauer drew a 2-out walk and Michael Brantley took Verlander deep for a 2-run shot to make it 2-1. The Spartans tied it up in the bottom of the 6th on Conforto's 8th homer of the post-season. The Lynx grabbed a 3-2 lead back in the 7th when Ezequiel Carrera & Cain hit consecutive doubles off Verlander and reliever Luis Garcia. Then in the bottom of the 8th, Blackmon & Jackson scratched out singles off of reliever Chris Rusin, and ace closer Craig Kimbrel was brought on to quell the rally with 2 out. But Bregman torched him for a 3-run blast that put the Spartans on top 5-3. Cody Gearrin retired the Lynx in the 9th for a save, with the game ending on a DP ground ball off the bat of Wellington Castillo.

**Game 4: Livonia (Taijuan Walker) at San Antonio (Jacob deGrom)**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 6 Livonia 5**

Last gasp for the Lynx as they tried to find some magic. But the Spartans struck first for 2 runs in the 3rd inning, as Bogaerts singled and came around on Pham's double off Walker, with Pham taking 3rd on the throw to the plate. Pham then trotted home on Austin Barnes's groundout. Spartans made it 3-0 in the 4th as Conforto doubled and eventually scored on an Altuve error. The Lynx got a run back in the 5th, as Aaron Hicks (in his first game back from injury) singled, stole 2nd, went to 3rd on a deGrom wild pitch, and scored on a Texas League RBI by Lonnie Chisenhall. With starters deGrom & Walker pitching well, the game stayed 3-1 until the 8th, when the Lynx took the lead with a 4-run rally off a series of Spartan bullpenners. Ramirez doubled and came around to score with 2 out on a Gearrin wild pitch to make it 3-2. Pinch hitter Kurt Suzuki then doubled, Hicks walked, and after Tommy Hunter replaced Gearrin, Elvis Andrus promptly lined a 2-run double off Hunter to give the Lynx a 4-3 lead, and Castillo boosted it to 5-3 with an RBI single that scored Andrus. The Spartans got one back in the bottom of the 8th off reliever Shane Greene, when Blackmon walked, advanced to 3rd on Jackson's double, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Reynolds. It went to the bottom of the 9th, as closer Kimbrel was handed the ball with a 5-4 lead and an opportunity to redeem himself after his game 3 failure. But Kimbrel walked leadoff batter Lowrie, and 1 out later, Pham unloaded a walkoff 2-run HR to win the game and the Series for the Spartans.

The Spartans obviously got most of the luck in these games, often getting clutch hits when needed. In addition to the two meltdowns by Kimbrel, Altuve was inexplicably ineffective, going only 1-16 with his only hit being a measly single. The Lynx were outhomered 10-6. Although Ramirez hit 4 of them for Livonia, in the final two games he went only 1-9. It was a disappointing end to what had been a great season for the Lynx.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**Second Round – San Antonio 4, Rivertown 3 (Played via phone, by Larry Bond and Rick Christianson, highlights from Larry Bond and Rick Christianson)**

In a tremendous 7-game series between two closely matched East Division rivals, the #2 seeded San Antonio Spartans, managed by Larry Bond, outlasted the Rick Christainson’s #4 seeded Rivertown Otters. The first 6 games of the series were won by the visiting team, until the Spartans finally achieved a home team win in game 7, after an epic 2- inning 1-0 victory by the Otters in game 6. The Spartans outscored the Otters 38 to 30 over the 7 games and led in home runs, 14 to 10. Michael Conforto (8-25, 5hr, 3-2b, 8r, 10rbi) was a mighty force for the Spartans, while Tommy Pham (14-32, 5r, 6rbi), Jed Lowrie (9-29, 4r, 6rbi) and Alex Bregman (3hr, 5r, 5rbi) provided additional offense. Josh Reddick (8-30, 7hr, 3rbi), J.D. Martinez (8-32, 2hr, 6rbi) and Jay Bruce (2hr, 5rbi) were the most productive sticks for the Otters. No new carryover injuries for San Antonio in the World Series.

For Rivertown manager Rick Christianson, this was the 6th playoff appearance in his 7 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 24 playoff appearances in its 42 years in the NABC, with 7 titles in just 9 World Series played.

**Game 1: Rivertown (Stephen Strasburg) at San Antonio (Gio Gonzalez):**

 **Final Score Rivertown 4 San Antonio 2**

Back to back bombs by Joey Votto & J.D. Martinez in the 4th staked Rivertown to a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Strasburg went 8 strong, while Kenley Jansen mopped up for the save. Alex Bregman went deep for San Antonio.

Game 2:  RIV 6, SAN 2. Otters pecked away at Verlander and pulled away to a relatively easy win, as Hendricks went the distance. Votto left the game with a 1st inning injury, but JD was a one-man wrecking crew, with a homer, double, and 4 RBI. Spartans only 2 runs came on solo blasts by Bregman & Conforto, while Cano also homered for Rivertown.

**Game 2: Rivertown (Kyle Hendricks) at San Antonio (Justin Verlander):**

 **Final Score Rivertown 6 San Antonio 2**

Otters pecked away at Verlander and pulled away to a relatively easy win, as Hendricks went the distance. Votto left the game with a 1st inning injury, but J.D. Martinez was a one-man wrecking crew, with a homer, double, and 4 RBI. Spartans only 2 runs came on solo blasts by Bregman & Michael Conforto, while Robinson Cano also homered for Rivertown.

**Game 3: San Antonio (Jacob deGrom) at Rivertown (Chris Sale):**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 13 Rivertown 10**

The series comes to Rivertown after the Otters took two at San Antonio

*Top of the 1st*    San Antonio jumps all over Sale as Bregman's three run homer caps off a 5 run inning.  Sale is reduced in grade.  San Antonio 5, Riv 0

*Bottom of 2nd*    Cano's RBI single gets Rivertown on the board.

*Bottom of 3rd*    The Otters erupt!  Adam Lind's grand slam and Jay Bruce's two run homer highlight a 7 run inning!  Rivertown now leads 8-5

*Bottom of the 4th*    Bruce hits another homer.  And its looking good for the locals...now up 9-5

*Top of the 5th*  Conforto's two run homer brings the Spartans back into the game.  Otters 9,, Spartans 7

*Top of the 6th*    Xander Boegart's two out double scores Bregman.  Riv 9, San Antonio 8

*Top of the 7th*Wow.  Two out three-run homer by Mark Reynolds!  San Antonio takes an 11-9 lead

*Bottom of the*7th      Cano scores on an Austin Barnes error.  San Antonio 11, Rivertown 10

*Top of 8th*        Hoby Milner loads the bases, Brandon Morrow comes in to face Barnes, who singles in a pair.  Spartans lead 13-10

          Cody Gearrin and Tommy Hunter keep the Otter bats quiet the rest of the way.  Conforto goes 3 for 4 with a walk, two doubles, a homer, 3 runs scored and 2 RBI, as the Spartans win ***(in a VERY wild one!).***

**Game 4: San Antonio (Ryan Merritt) at Rivertown (Zach Greinke):**

 **Final Score: San Antonio 9 Rivertown 5**

*Top of the 2nd*    Homers by Conforto and Jed Lowrie put San Antonio up 3-0

*Bottom of 2nd*    Doubles by Yulieski Gurriel and Bruce put Rivertown on the board.  Spartans 3-1

*Top of 3rd*RBI single by Austin Jackson plates another.  San Antonio 4, Rivertown 1

*Top of the 5th*    Another homer by Conforto...this time with one on base.  San Antonio leads 6-1

*Bottom of 5th*RBI single by J.D. Martinez.  Spartans 6, Otters 2

*Top of 7th*Barnes double score Tommy Pham extending the lead to 7-2

*Bottom of 7th*    Otters load the bases with no outs, but only get one as J.D. Martinez grounds into a double play.  Spartans 7, Otters 3

*Top of 8th*    A pinch hit triple by Jeremy Hazelbaker keys a two run inning.   Spartans now lead by 6

   no more drama as Hunter then Zach McAllister finish the job.

        Conforto stars again...2 for 4, two homers, 3 RBI.  Lowrie 3 for 4, 2B, HR, 2 R, 2 RBI

**Game 5: San Antonio (Gonzalez) at Rivertown (Strasberg):**

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

*Bottom of 3rd*    Josh Reddick's two run homer puts the home team on top.

*Top of the 5th*    Strasburg is sailing along...but Lowrie puts one in the seats!  Rivertown 2, San Antonio 1

*Top of the 7th*Spartans get key hits by Jackson and Bregman, and then a VERY key bases clearing double by Lowrie and then a two run double by Pham...Suddenly San Antonio is in front 6-2!

*Top of the 8th*Reynolds crushes a solo shot.  Spartans 7, Otters 2

*Bottom of the 8th*Bruce singles in a run and Rivertown has two on with one out, but Gearrin comes on and quickly gets a pair of outs.  San Antonio now leads 7-3

*Bottom of 9th*    Gearrin sets Riv down 1-2-3.

          Jed Lowrie goes 4 for 4 in this game with a double, homer, and 4 RBI's!  Lowrie has now gone 7 for 8 with 6 RBI's in the last two games!

The Spartans come to Rivertown and completely dominate, taking all three games and sending the series back to San Antonio with a 3 games to 2 lead.   They just need one more win to move on.  The only thing that Rivertown has going is that...well, they are now on the road, and...**so far in this series, no home team has won a game!**

**Game 6: Rivertown (Hendricks) at San Antonio (Verlander):**

 **Final Score Rivertown 1 San Antonio 0 (20!!! Innings)**

Innings 1 through 19 - zzzzz. Not only no scoring, but rarely even any good scoring opportunities! Starters Hendricks & Verlander were brilliant, but departed after 9 innings. The bullpens followed with the equivalent of another full game of lights-out relief.

20th inning - Asdrubal Cabrera parks a solo HR off Jason Vargas, last pitcher standing for the Spartans. It was inevitable that someone had to score.... Spartans go quietly against Brandon Kintzler in the bottom of the 20th.

Each team has 9 hits. Jay Bruce of Otters and Jed Lowrie of Spartans each go 0 for 8!

**Game 7: Rivertown (Sale) at San Antonio (deGrom):**

 **Final Score San Antonio 5 Rivertown 1**

1st inning: Reddick & Votto lead off the game with back-to-back doubles. (Unfortunately the resulting run would be the only one that deGrom would allow.)

 Bottom of 1st - leadoff batter Pham goes deep off of Sale to tie it up.

4th inning: Lowrie leads off for the Spartans with a double and J.T. Realmuto walks. Bogaerts is unsuccessful trying to bunt the runners up, and after a Pham strikeout, Charlie Blackmon reaches base on a 2-out catcher's interference call against Yadier Molina. Conforto then unloads his 5th homer of the series, a grand slam off Sale.

Neither team seriously threatens again, and deGrom goes the distance.

So the Spartans somehow survive the heavyweight battle in 7 games. After 6 road wins, the home team finally won one.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**Second Round – Livonia 4, Buffalo 2 (Played via phone by Tom Kusch and John Duke, highlights by John Duke)**

The #1 seeded Livonia Lynx, managed by Tom Kusch, defeated manager John Diuke’s #6 seed Buffalo Bison, in a well-played series by both squads. The clubs split the first 4 games, before the Lynx took the last 2, including an extra inning decision in game 5. Livonia outscored the Bison, 25-15 in the series with a 6-4 edge in home runs. Lonnie Chisenhall, replacing the injured Aaron Hicks (6-16, 2hr, 6r, 6rbi), Joe Mauer (7-22, 3rbi), Jose Ramirez (7-23,3r) and Manny Machado (4-13, 4rbi) led the way on offense for the Lynx, while Taijuan Walker won 2 starts, pitching 17 innings with a 1.06 ERA. Nolan Arenado (6-22, 2hr, 4rbi), D.J. LeMahieu (8-25, 3-2b, 2r) topped the Bison hitters. This was the twenty-seventh playoff appearance in 40 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 Livonia (Corey Kluber):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 6 Livonia 2**

The Bison take the opener with a 4-run rally in the 11th inning against Lynx reliever Shane Greene and 2 successors. The Lynx scored first in the 5th, thanks to singles by Michael Brantley and Wellington Castillo, followed by an Aaron Altherr E-9. In the 6th, Elvis Andrus doubled and later scored on an SF from Manny Machado, to make it 2-0 Lynx. The Bison tied it in the 7th, as Nolan Arando slammed a 2-run homer after a walk to Marwin Gonzalez. The score remained tied at 2 until the Buffalo 11th. D.J. LeMahieu doubled, Arenado singled in the lead run, Altherr walked, Eric Thames singled home 2 runs and Brandon Crawford singled home another.

**Game 2: Buffalo (Carlos Carrasco) at Livonia (Taijuan Walker):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 6 Buffalo 1**

Walker tossed a complete game 5-hitter, with 9 K’s, while Machado went 3-for-3, with 3 RBI and the Lynx coasted to victory to even the series. In the 2nd, Lonnie Chisenhall doubled and came around to score on a Marwin Gonzalez E-7 for a 1-0 Lyns lead. The Lynx added 2 more in the 3rd, as Machado homered, Lorenzo Cain doubled and Joe Mauer singled him home. In the 4th, Michael Brantley and Elvis Andrus singled, before Wellington Castillo and Machado delivered RBI singles to put the Lynx up 5-0. Carlos Gonzalez cracked a solo home run for the Bison in the 5th to break up Walker’s shutout, but the Lynx got the run back in their 8th inning on a single by Andrus and an RBI single by Machado.

**Game 3: Livonia (Rich Hill) at Buffalo (Parker Bridwell):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 9 Buffalo 1**

The series moves to Buffalo, but it’s another laugher for Livonia, as they tattoo Bison starter Bridwell for 7 runs in the first 2 stanzas. Jose Altuve goes 4-for-5 with 3 runs and Chisenhall drives home 3 with 2 hits in 3 trips for the Lynx. After first inning singles by Cain and Altuve, Jose Ramirez drives in the first tally with an infield out, before Chisenhall bombs a 3-run homer. In the 2nd, Castillo slams a solo shot and Mauer greets reliever Alex Claudio with a 2-run double to put the Lynx up, 7-0. In the Bison 2nd, Hernan Perez singles and scores on Crawford’s RBI triple for their only run. Michael Brantley completes the Livonia scoring with a 2-run single in the 7th.

**Game 4: Livonia (Jimmy Nelson) at Buffalo (Paul Blackburn):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 3 Livonia 0**

Blackburn survives 2 separate rain delays to pitch 8.1 innings of 5-hit shutout baseball, before Brad Hand comes on to get the final 2 out, as the Bison even the series at 2 games each. David Peralta leads off the game for Buffalo with a double and scores on a LeMahieu single. In the 3rd, the Herd gets an unearned marker as M. Gonzalez singles home a run following an E-4 by Altuve. The Bison get their third run in the 4th as Arenado and Crawford both hit doubles.

**Game 5: Livonia (Kluber) at Buffalo (Kershaw):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 4 Buffalo 3 (10 innings)**

The Lynx can’t hold on to a 3-0 lead, but get an exciting victory for a 3-2 series lead on a 10th inning solo home run by defensive replacement Mitch Moreland. The Lynx take a 1-0 lead in the 5th, as Chisenhall walks and Altuve smacks an RBI double. Livonia adds 2 more in the 4th, as Castillo singles and Chisenhall slams a 2-run homer for a 3-0 Lynx advantage. Finally, in the Bison 8th, Peralta and LeMahieu single, setting up Marwin Gonzalez for a 3-run circuit clout that ties the game at 3. But, Moreland homers off reliever Pat Neshel in the 10th and closer Craig Kimbrel throws a 1-2-3 inning for the save.

**Game 6: Buffalo (Carrasco) at Livonia (Walker):**

 **Final Score: Livonia 4 Buffalo 1**

The series returns to Livonia with the Lynx leading, 3 games to 2. Arenado slams a solo home run in the 2nd to give the Bison an early 1-0 lead. Carrasco is masterful on the hill, as he allows no hits and just 2 base runners through the first 6 innings. But in the Lynx 7th, Ramirez and Mauer single, then Brantley is HBP to load the bases. Chisenhall delivers a SF against reliever Hand, before Andrus unloads a 3-run home run to complete the Lynx 4-run rally and clinch the series.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**First Round – Rivertown 4, Can-Am 2 (Played via phone by Rick Christianson and Mike Dorn, highlights from Rick Christianson and Mike Dorn)**

The Rivertown Otters, the #4 seed, defeated the #5 seeded Can-Am Drifters in an interesting series that saw the visiting team capture each of the first 5 games.The Oters outscored the Drifters 26 to 16, overall. J. D. Martinez (9-22, 5hr, 9rbi) and Joey Votto (8-21, 5hr, 8rbi) paced the Otters offense to 14 home runs, while Josh Redick (6-13, 4-2b, 4r) and Adam Lind (5-16, 2hr, 4rbi) offered solid support. Willson Contreras (7-21, 3-2b, 3rbi) and Eric Hosmer (4-24, 2hr, 4r, 4rbi) were the most effective Drifters hitters, as Can-Am was shutout in both games 5 and 6, on a total of 3 hits. No additional carryover injuries for Rivertown.

For manager Mike Dorn of Can-Am, this was the 14th playoff appearance in his 33 years leading the Drifters. Mike has 5 World Series appearances and 3 championships, with the most recent in 1995. The Can-Am franchise now has 19 playoff appearances in 39 seasons, with 8 World Series played and 4 titles.

**Game 1: Can-Am (Max Scherzer) at Rivertown (Stephen Strasburg):**

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

*Bottom of 2nd*    Lind homers and Riv takes a 1-0 lead

*Top of 3rd*    But it doesn't last as Arcia (!) homers to tie the game

*Bottom of 3rd*    Wind is blowing out...Votto smacks one over the wall.  Otters lead 2-1.

  the wind dies down and the starters take control of the game...Scherzer and Strasburg both put goose egs up on the board.

*Top of the 9th*Cano's error allows Hosmer to reach.  Jansen comes in.  Contreras sends smacks one out!  Drifters lead 3-2.  Then Sano homers off Kintzler, and they suddenly have a 2 run lead.

*Bottom of 9th*    Scherzer finishes a complete game win.

        The Otters thought they had this one, but the Drifters stole it away with a three run ninth inning.

**Game 2: Can-Am (Ervin Santana) at Rivertown (Chris Sale):**

 **Final Score: Can-Am 6 Rivertown 2**

 *Top of the 1st*Hosmer 2 run homer, Castellano solo shot.  Can Am has the momentum and a 3-1 lead.  Sale's disappointing season continues...

*Bottom of 2nd*RBI single by Molina puts the home nine on the board.  Can Am 3, Rivertown 1

*Top of the 4th*    Harper's single plates a run.  Drifters lead is 4-1

*Bottom of the 8th*    JD Martinez wakes up and hits a two run homer.  Drifters 4, Otters 3

*Top of the 9th*Hosmer hits his second two run homer of the day to put this one away.  6-3

*Bottom of the 9th*Bradley comes in for the save.

The Otters annual post season slump has once again cast a pall over the city of Rivertown.

***Can Am comes home leading the series 2 games to 0***

**Game 3: Rivertown (Kyle Hendricks) at Can-Am (Drew Pomeranz):**

 **Final Score: Rivertown 6 Can-Am 4**

T1- Martinez 2-run HR RIV 2-0
B2- Gordon singles in Contreras RIV 2-1
T3- Martinez 2-run HR RIV 4-1
B3- Contreras 2B scores Hosmer RIV 4-2
B4- Martinez error allows Harper to score RIV 4-3
T5- Votto solo HR, Martinez 3rd HR of game RIV 6-3
B5- Castellanos solo HR RIV 6-4

W- Hendricks Sv- Jansen L- Pomeranz

**Game 4: Rivertown (Zach Greinke) at Can-Am (Chase Anderson):**

 **Final Score: Rivertown 5 Can-Am 2**

T1- Lind singles in Martinez RIV 1-0
T2- Reddick 2B scores Cabrera RIV 2-0
T4- Reddick FC plates Molina, Lind singles in Cabrera RIV 4-0
T5- Votto Sacfly scores Reddick RIV 5-0
B6- Sano singles in Hosmer, Turner Sacfly scores Contreras RIV 5-2

W- Greinke Sv- Jansen L- C.Anderson

**Game 5: Rivertown (Strasburg) at Can-Am (Scherzer):**

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

T1- Votto solo HR, Martinez solo HR, Lind back-to-back with solo HR RIV 3-0
T2- Votto 2nd HR of game RIV 4-0
T8- Bruce solo HR RIV 5-0
B8- Heyward breaks up no-hitter with single
T9- Martinez 2B plates Reddick RIV 6-0

W- Strasburg (1-hit Sh.O. 10Ks) L- Scherzer (CG, 12Ks)

**Game 6: Can-Am (Santana) at Rivertown (Sale):**

 **Final Score: Rivertown 4 Can-Am 0**

We return to Rivertown.  Thus far NO home teams have won a game in this series.   Rivertown is ahead 3 games to 2

*Bottom of 3rd*    With two outs, Votto hits a 2 run homer (his 5th of the series). Rivertown takes a 2-0 lead

*Bottom of 7th*    Asdrubal Cabrera puts one in the seats.  Rivertown 3, Can Am 0

*Bottom of 8th*    Single by Bruce plates an insurance run.

     Chris Sale is perhaps more dominant that Strasburg was last night, throwing a complete game 2 hitter, striking out 13 Drifters!

      The Drifters' bats were no where to be found in games 5 and 6, suffering back to back shutout losses.

After falling behind two games to none at home, the Otters come back for four in a row**.**..***Rivertown wins the series in six games.***

The Drifters were led by Wilson Contreras who hit .333 with 2 doubles a homer, 2 runs and 3 RBI. The Otters has a few notable performances.   Strasburg and Sale both threw shutouts in their second starts of the series. Reddick was injured for the first three games, but he came back on fire, goind 6 for 13 (.462) with 4 doubles, 4 runs and a ribbie. JD Martinez was incredible, hitting .409 with 3 doubles, 5 homers, 6 runs and 9 RBI. Joey Votto's stat line was a notch below JD Martinez, but because Joey was the key bat in games 5 and 6, he wins the series MVP. Votto hit .381, with a double, 5 homers, 6 runs and 8 RBI.

**PLAYOFF SUMMARIES**

**First Round – Buffalo 4, Danbury 0 (Played via phone by Steve Davis and John Duke, write-up by John Duke)**

The #6 seeded Bufalo Bison ousted the #3 seeded Danbury Dirt Dobbers in a very unexpected 4 game series sweep, as Buffalo outscored Danbury, 21-8, overall. Marwin Gonzalez (7-16, 6r), Aaron Altherr (3hr, 5rbi), Nolan Arenado (6-17, 4rbi) and Erik Thames (3-11, 6rbi) led the way. Bison pitchers posted a 1.13 ERA for the series. For the Dobbers Khris Davis (4-13, 3r, 2rbi) and Anthony Rendon (4-17, 4-2b) were the most effective hitters. No new carryover injuries for Buffalo.

For Danbury manager Steve Davis, this was the 5th playoff appearance and 4th division title in his 8 NABC seasons at the helm of the Dirt Dobbers. Danbury has 2 NABC titles in 3 World Series appearances under manager Davis, with the most recent title in 2016. The Danbury franchise has reached the playoffs in 23 of 38 NABC seasons, with 14 divison titles, 12 World Series played and 5 championships.

**Game 1: Buffalo (Clayton Kershaw) at Danbury (Robbie Ray):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 6 Danbury 4**

Aaron Altherr led the Bison to victory with 2 home runs good for 4 RBI, in support of Kershaw, who allowd just 1 earned run and 6 hits over 8 innings. Arenado led off the game with a solo shot, then Nolan Arenado added an RBI double in the 1st and an RBI triple in the 3rd for a 3-0 lead for the Herd. The Dobbers scored an unearned run in the 6th following a David Peralta E-8, but Altherr delivered a 3-run homer in the Bison 7th to make the score 6-1, Bison. Dambury tallied 2 more unearned runs in the 7th, when Buster Posey slammed a 2-run single, following an E-6 by Brandon Crawford. Khris Davis smashed a 8th inning solo homer to close the scoring for Danbury.

**Game 2: Buffalo (Carlos Carrasco) at Danbury (Dallas Kuechel):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 6 Danbury 1**

Domiongo Santana popped a 3rd inning solo homer to give the Dobbers an early lead, but the Herd struck back with 4 runs in the 4th, as Marwin Gonzalez doubled, then scored on Arenado’s RBI single, Peralta reached on an HBP and Erik Thames smoked a 3-run home run. The Bison added 2 more tallies in the 8th as Thames stroked an RBI double and another run scored on an E-7 by Tery Mancini. Thames had 4 RBI for the day and Carrasco allowed just 1 run and 4 hits in 7 innings, before being ejected for an HBP.

**Game 3: Danbury (Charlie Morton) at Buffalo (Paul Blackburn):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 7 Danbury 2**

Paul Blackburn allowed just 1 hit and 2 runs in 7.1 innings of stellar pitching, while Marwin Gonzalez had 3 hits, with a run and RBI in this easy win. The Bison scored twice in the 4th, as Altherr reached on an HBP, M. Gonzlez singled, then Arenado and Thames both rapped RBI singles. The Herd tok a 3-0 lead in the 5th, as Jonathan Lucroy singled, Altherr was again HBP and M. Gonzalez poked an RBI single. Buffalo broke the game open with a 4-run 6th, as Carlos Gnzalez slammed a solo homer, Crawford doubled and later scored on an E-7 by Mancini, before Peralta smacked a 2-run circuit clout for a 7-0 lead. The Dobbers scored twice in the 8th. Davis walked and then D. Santana was HBP and injured for 3 days (he will miss games 4 and 5). Blackburn was ejected for the retaliatory HBP and Anthony Rendon smashed a 2-run double to break up the shutout.

**Game 4: Danbury (David Price) at Buffalo (Parker Bridwell):**

 **Final Score: Buffalo 7 Danbury 2 (11 innings)**

The Bison completed the sweep in a classic pitcher’s duel. Erik Thames hit an SF to drive home M. Gonzalez for the first Bison run in the 6th off Price. Blackburn pitched 6 innings of 3=hit shutout ball before turning the game over to the Buffalo bullpen. But the Dobbers tied the game against Pat Neshek in the 9th, as Jose Abreu doubled and K. Davis smacked a 2-out RBI double to score PR Ian Kinsler with the tieing run. Finally, Aaron Altherr led off the 11th frame with a solo home run off Chad Greene to end the series.

**2019 NABC DRAFT MEETING**

 **Please don't forget to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 9th, 2019, for the annual NABC rookie draft and league meeting.**

**TRADE REPORT (as of 11-2-2018)**

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