



The Leroy Star

Volume 3

July 8, 2018

Photo of the Week:

It was a great week that saw all the Commissioner and Vice Commissioners from the Northwest Indiana leagues. Be sure to thank all these guys for what they do for the sport.

Indiana Wiffle is on the rise and we are glad you're apart of it!!



Squint Strikeouts?

The (11-5) Squint Sluggers continue to shine from the mound. Another shut out this week and have a league leading 5.56 E.R.A. and a league best 1.30 WHIP.

Will they finish with 2 Players make the All Pitching Team?



Team Owner 101

By: Tim Wiltjer

Do you want to control who you play with on a week to week basis? Then listen in as I discuss everything you need to know on how to become an owner and what the requirements are to lead a team to a Leroy Championship.

Every league has them, someone who runs the team. Some leagues use MLB names, and others have Franchises that get past along from manager to manager. Leroy is a bit different. Each Franchise can't be given to another player, it stays with that person until he decides to give it up. Each owner can decide to change the name each year or colors, but the history of every team that person ran will forever be meshed together as one franchise. Jordan Mosel created the Franchise the Backdoor Sliders in 2014 and has kept the name each year with logo changes and some minor color changes. While Grant Reynhout's Franchise had 4 different names (Muffin Men, Soup A Stars, Muffin Men, Big Unit Bashers) in its 4-year history. The option is yours but remember the franchise you run depends on you. (Continued)

2018 INDIANA WIFFLE CLASSIC

REGISTER IS NOW OPEN!












THE INDIANA WIFFLE CLASSIC WILL BE A 2 DAY EVENT WITH A FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL ON JULY 20.

THE TOURNAMENT GAMES WILL BEGIN SATURDAY AT 9:00 AM, EACH TEAM GETS 3 POOL PLAY GAMES AND GUARANTEED ONE TOURNAMENT GAME.

TOURNAMENT PRICE WILL BE \$15/PLAYER WITH THE WINNING TEAM RECEIVING \$120. WE ARE SETTING A CAP OF ONLY 12 TEAMS.

TEAMS WILL CONSIST OF 2 LEROY PLAYERS THAT WILL SIGN UP INDIVIDUALLY AND 2 NON LEROY PLAYERS WHO SIGN UP AS A PAIR.



CURRENT LEAGUE STANDINGS									
#		TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB	RS	RA	DIF
1		LAKE COUNTY LINERS	13	4	0.765	-	147	84	63
2		SULTANS OF SOY	12	5	0.706	1	132	116	16
3		SQUINTS SLUGGERS	11	5	0.688	1.5	105	71	34
4		DIAMOND DUSTERS	10	7	0.588	3	118	123	-5
5		BUSHLEAGUE BADGERS	9	7	0.563	3.5	114	76	38
6		CORN BOMBERS	7	9	0.438	5.5	94	90	4
7		LEROY CLAMS	7	9	0.438	5.5	107	116	-9
8		LEROY TRUCKERS	6	10	0.375	6.5	75	102	-27
9		FLYIN' HAWAIIANS	6	11	0.353	7	71	96	-25
10		BACKDOOR SLIDERS	5	11	0.313	7	86	117	-31
11		NOBLE NARWHALS	4	12	0.250	8	101	159	-58

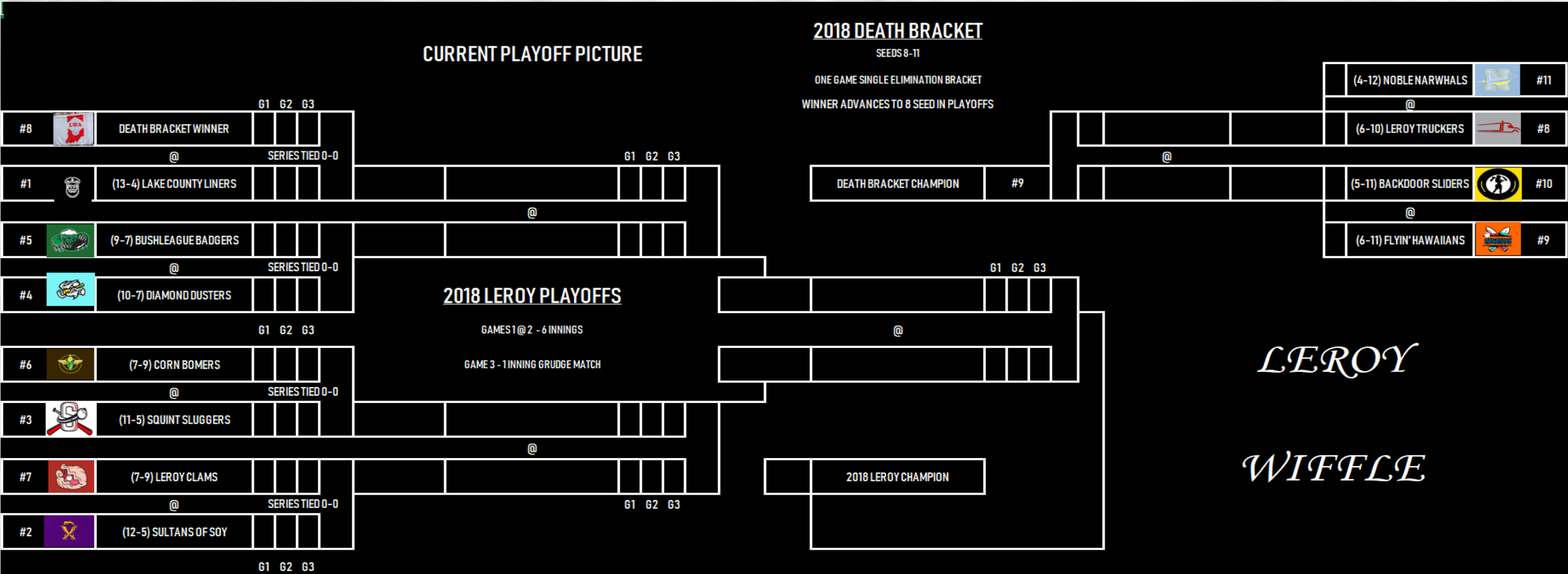
Corn Bombers

(7-9) CORN BOMBERS – The five-game winning streak came to an end this week after both Jake Van Vuren and Kyle Zuidema bailed at the last minute. The Bombers signed Tyler Walk and Jake Krishke for the day. Immediately after they were dropped in dramatic fashion.

Just a week ago the Bombers had the league in panic mode yet again. They won 5 straight with their main roster players and Brett had his eyes on a 3 or 4 seed. Then all hell broke loose, Jake Van Vuren messaged Brett saying he is only going to make one game. Nothing terrible, he would just a player on the bye and take a \$1 cap hit for changing his lineup. Then Kyle Zuidema came down with the “flu” in the middle of the summer and Brett started to scramble. He signed Tyler Walk and right after the signing Jake Van Vuren said he was unable to make either game forcing the Bombers to sign “the other Jake”, Jake Krishke just moments before game time.

The first game was against a over achieving Duster’s team who had beat them once already this year. Brett and Colin went 10 for 14 had 8 Homers and 9 RBI’s, with that kind of production it usually always translates into a Bombers win. Jake and Tyler went 1 for 12 with 7 k’s, and allowed 10 runs in their 2 innings pitched. The Bombers lost 12-9, but the Narwhals were next, no chance they lose to this squad. Not only did they lose they got mauled, a 12-3 loss on the day included a 7-run inning allowed by Krishke. Colin was out of his rhythm this game and gave up 5 runs with Walk having a 1-2-3 inning. The Bombers dropped 2 games and our only 1 game out of ending up in the death bracket.

Brett didn’t even get home before messaging the Commissioner. He followed it up with an explicit rant in the owner’s chat they I can’t help but share. “First off I’m going to drop Jake K and Tyler W off my Roster and they will never be a Bomber again. Jake K is the 2nd worst player to ever play in Leroy and if we calculated in errors he’d be the worst” Caleb they chimed in, “Are we all agreeing that Olthoff is the worst player correct?” Greg quickly chimed in saying Colin Peters was the worst. After mentioning Dragon Tales and Landfills Brett finished the rant saying “These kids look like have never picked up a spherical object in their entire damn life.” I can’t wait till we expand team’s next year and we get Tyler and Jake on roster’s to get some revenge on the utter disrespect Brett showed this week.



Flyin' Hawaiians

(6-11) FLYIN HAWAIIANS – A split against 2 current Death Bracket Teams doesn't give much hope to a team "coasting" to the finish. Austin Warner blows a crucial game against the Truckers that almost guarantees they finish in the bottom 4. Just 3 games left against Clams, Liners and Sluggers.

This team has a lot of leaders which could be its downfall. Ironically, next year I could see Sam, Cameron, and Jim all become Team Owners with Austin stepping down. Jim Tucker can be a #1 and shows signs of it, but some weeks looks vulnerable. Sam Staal is a top tier pitcher in the league, but also currently leads the league in at bat strikeouts, something he has led in the past 3 seasons. Cameron Varlan is a guy who will soon become a house hold name in the league, but currently is getting accustomed to what works and doesn't. Austin is one of the funniest guys in the league, but with his recent move to Chicago has altered his priorities in recent months.

They finish the season against the Sluggers, Clams, and Liners. If I went to Vegas to vote I would say they go 0-3 giving them a 6-14 record. In a league with so much adversity you have to find different ways to win games. Giving up a moon shot to me in a 1-1 game, bottom 4, won't do that.





Player of Week

55.16 CALEB JONKMAN – Third Newsletter, third straight Player of the Week. He went 9 for 12 with 4 Homers and 12 RBI's to lead the Liners to another 2 wins. He had 3 shut-out innings with 8 k's and no hits allowed getting a win and a save on the day.

Week 1: 43.89 – Matt Dykstra

Week 2: 42.64 – Caleb Jonkman

Week 3: 47.48 – Erik Detmar

Week 4: 43.57 – Jack Hillegonds

Week 5: 49.65 – Erik Detmar

Week 6: 43.42 – John Eenigenburg

Week 7: 57.89 – Caleb Jonkman

Week 8: 54.23 – Caleb Jonkman

Week 9: 55.16 – Caleb Jonkman



Batter of Week

60.46 BRETT DETMAR – Brett earns his 1st Batter of the Week award with his GBL Manager watching. He hit 5 Homers with 7 RBI's in a 7 for 12 night that included 2 tough losses for the Bombers.

Week 1: 50.74 – Jim Tucker

Week 2: 58.87 – Erik Detmar

Week 3: 59.22 – Jackson Buzea

Week 4: 72.73 – Jon Gibson

Week 5: 65.02 – Wes Ellis

Week 6: 62.51 – Quinn Cloghessy

Week 7: 66.61 – Robby Zandstra

Week 8: 89.28 – Robby Zandstra

Week 9: 60.46 – Brett Detmar



Pitcher of Week

66.12 ERIK DETMAR – Finally getting his 1st pitcher of the week award this year as he throws 3 no hit innings with 6 k's. He finished the night with a win and a save as the Sluggers go 2-0 on the night and have 2 straight pitcher of the week awards.

Week 1: 52.06 – Caleb Jonkman

Week 2: 50.11 – Jackson Buzea

Week 3: 60.62 – Caleb Jonkman

Week 4: 56.04 – Brett Detmar

Week 5: 46.87 – Caleb Jonkman

Week 6: 46.47 – Sam Staal

Week 7: 48.10 – Colin Lautenbach

Week 8: 46.30 – Garret Lytle

Week 9: 66.12 – Erik Detmar

CAREER AT BATS:

- 550 – Grant Reinhout (4th)
- 550 – Jared Jonkman (5th)
- 550 – Sam Staal (6th)
- 350 – Kevin Vroegh (19th)
- 350 – Marty Rasala (19th)
- 200 – Garret Lytle (28th)
- 150 – Quinn Cloghessy (35th)
- 100 – Jason Hillegonds (42nd)
- 100 – Jackson Buzea (43rd)
- 100 – Cameron Varlan (45th)
- 50 – Austin Williams (58th)

CAREER RUNS SCORED:

- 150 – Brett Detmar (3rd)
- 125 – Erik Detmar (8th)
- 100 – Marty Rasala (13th)
- 50 – Alex Friedman (28th)
- 25 – James Haworth (42nd)
- 25 – Robert Warren (46th)

CAREER HOME RUNS:

- 50 – Marty Rasala (11th)

CAREER HITS:

- 400 – Caleb Jonkman (1st)
- 50 – Jackson Buzea (37th)
- 50 – James Haworth (38th)

CAREER RBI's

- 25 – Alec Gerlach (38th)
- 25 – Jim Tucker (40th)

CAREER GAMES PLAYED:

- 75 – Matt Dykstra (9th)
- 50 – Kevin Vroegh (20th)

CAREER INNINGS PITCHED:

None

CAREER STRIKEOUTS:

- 50 – Austin Warner (25th)
- 50 – Brad Kamstra (26th)
- 25 – Ryan Voges (43rd)
- 25 – Alec Gerlach (44th)



Diamond Dusters



(10-7) DIAMOND DUSTERS – The Dusters find a way to win another 2 games becoming the 4th team to reach double digit wins this year. Some say their a disgrace to the league, and even more say they are the most over rated team in the history of the league.

The hard part in breaking down this Duster team is that we really don't know what their identity is. They completely over hauled their roster at the midway point and with Neil unable to make the rest of the season and potential miss playoffs we won't get a feel for who they are until the playoff roster is set and we see them in action. The good thing is they will finish at worst .500 at the conclusion of the regular season which will keep them out the death bracket. The question remains who they will face in the first week and will they be able to make it competitive.

The Dusters are 10-3 against teams not named Liners and Sluggers. They get exposed against top tier talent and it shows in games where they get beat 23-4 against the Liners. Marty and Co. have given up more runs then they have scored this season indicating they have snuck out wins.

This season has really challenged Marty to a point he claims he might give up owning a team net year and just focus on playing. He has been hit with bad luck all year, and through the criticism he faced has been successful. Austin Williams looks to be a huge pickup who if played the whole season would be in the rookie of year talks. He recently made a trade for Robert Warren who is sneaking up on winning Most Improved player of the year and is working on his craft week in and out. Keep on Dustin' Boys





John Eenigenburg



(12-5) SULTANS OF SOY

AT

(4-12) NOBLE NARWHALS

SULTANS LEAD ALL TIME (1-0)



Last week every player from the Sultans didn't show up leading to heavy salary cap penalties that will hinder them from keeping their current roster going into the playoffs. Robby will put off making any moves this week as he will have Matt Miller play in place of Micah as the 3 Headed Sultan of Robby, John, and Kyle stay intact. The Narwhals are also still looking for a 4th after signing Luke Prince will little dedication from him moving forward. This should be an entertaining game with big time players in Jackson and Robby squaring off. Both players are competing for MVP this year and have had great years. Marty and Robert will be on the mic in a fun matchup.



Jackson Buzea



Jordan Mosel and Quinn Cloghessy



(5-11) BACKDOOR SLIDERS

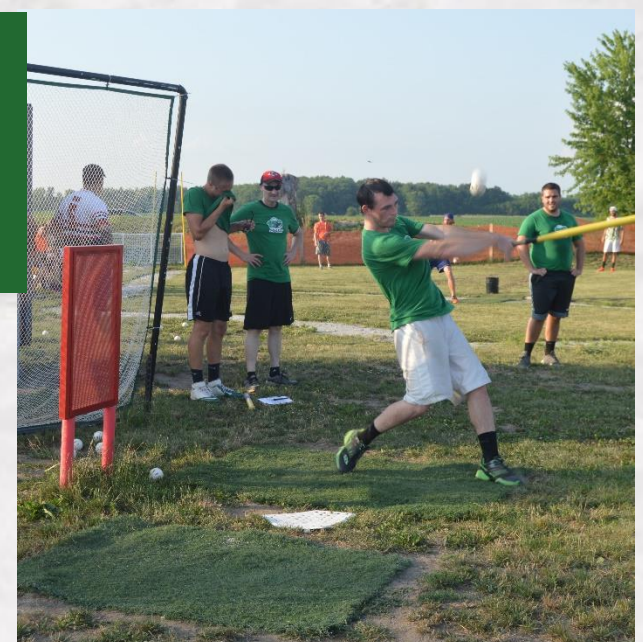
AT

(9-7) BUSHLEAGUE BADGERS

BADGERS LEAD ALL TIME (11-5)



Some say the Cubs and White Sox, other's claim the Lakers and Celtics. In Leroy it's the Badgers and Sliders. These 2 teams have eliminated each other from the playoffs for the past 3 seasons and have played 16 games against each other throughout the past 4 years. Jordan and Jared have squared off year after year and the first matchup this year was probably one of the best matchups yet. The Badgers dominated their way to a 15-0 lead in what looked like a blowout. The sliders kept fighting and scored 16 runs in the final couple innings to seal a win and add another chapter to the Slider/Badger Rivalry. With Jared's brother, Caleb, on the mic this will be a must see on Harambe field.



Shane Anderson



TRANSACTIONS FROM JULY 2 – JULY 8

- July 2: Sultans of Soy drop Jeremiah Wiltjer and sign Kyle Reynhout to Kermit Roster.
- July 2: Lake County Liners trade Grant Reynhout to the Bushleague Badgers in exchange for Bo Hofstra.
- July 2: Bushleague Badgers drop Bryan Vanderlee and sign Joe Jonkman to Kermit Roster.
- July 2: Leroy Truckers sign Sean Qualizza to Kermit Roster.
- July 3: Corn Bombers drop Kyle Van Kalker and sign Tyler Walk.
- July 3: Sultans of Soy drop Geoffrey Kozlowski and sign Matt Miller to Kermit Roster.
- July 3: Corn Bombers drop Andrew Felde and sign Jake Krischke to their Kermit Roster.
- July 3: Leroy Truckers drop Kyle Jansma, sign Geoffrey Kozlowski to Kermit Roster.
- July 5: Lake County Liners trade Bo Hofstra to the Bushleague Badgers for Grant Reynhout.
- July 5: Bushleague Badgers drop Joe Jonkman and sign Vince Carullo to their Kermit Roster.
- July 5: Leroy Clams drop Austin Gibson and sign Andrew Felde to their Kermit Roster.
- July 6: Corn Bombers release Tyler Walk and Jake Krischke and sign Kyle Van Kalker and Austin Gibson to Kermit Roster.
- July 6: Leroy Clams drop Alex Friedman, sign Josh Smits to Main Roster.

Squint Sluggers



Jason Hillegonds

(11-5) SQUINT SLUGGERS – Erik might have the steal of the draft after picking up Garret Lytle with the 10th pick. Garret is currently 6th in the running for Mr. Leroy and MVP and also is currently a top 5 pitcher in the league, something no one saw coming. Jason Hillegonds looks to be settling in nice giving them 2 Lefty bats in the lineup. They trail the Liners by 1.5 games in the standings leading up to a regular season finale against the Liners that could be a fight for the #1 seed. They put 16 runs on the Liners in the first matchup, could be an exciting finish to the year. Also big thanks to Hoosier Haulers for hooking them up with some nice jersey’s!

(13-4) LAKE COUNTY LINERS – The big story for the Liners was the debut of Griffleball Comissioner and NWLA Tournament Hall of Fame member, Jeremy Ratacyjzyk. He held his own and hit his 1st homer of his LWA career of Alex Freidman, ORWBL’s Commissioner. Alec Gerlach quietly has become one of the best two way players in Leroy and with the lineup this team has hopes to make a deep run in the playoffs giving him an opportunity to let his game do the talking. Top that off with James Haworth making the play of the week and that’s the reason they sit in 1st.

Lake County Liners



Jeremy Ratacyjzyk and Alec Gerlach

Team Owner 101

"If you don't build your dream, someone will hire you to build theirs."

"Never underestimate the importance of research."

"The quickest way to acquire self-confidence is to do exactly what you are afraid to do."

"Success doesn't just come and find you, you have to go out and get it."

"Don't miss out on something great, just because it might be difficult."



**Friedman
& Associates P.C.**

So, first things first, how do I decide who gets asked to be an owner. It's simple, attendance. When you play a game Leroy you get added to the mighty Leroy Player's Association Group on Facebook (If you don't have it, I recommend getting it just for this). If you haven't played a game, but are a fan of the league, we might still let you in. Just ask to join! Here I post anything and everything related to the league including the award races. One of the awards we give out is the Ironman Award. This award goes to the player with the most at bats and innings pitched in the season, obviously the more you come the higher you get. It also takes in how good your team is, the better teams will get more at bats per game than their counterparts as well as make a deeper playoff run getting more of each (Yes awards take into consideration the playoffs). Anyway, this is the answer.... Ironman. I scroll through the list of players which currently sits at 77 for the year and go from 1 to whenever the owner spots are filled. Does this mean some owner's won't be asked that are currently owners? Perhaps. It forces owners to play out the whole season to stay high on the list in hopes of becoming an owner again, while also gives new comers the shot to be an owner right away if they come every single week and become a dedicated player of the league. I don't care how good you are, I care how dedicated you are.

The number is looking like its going to be 14 teams next year, and many people are interested in the requirements to be an owner. First, active on Facebook. It's such an easy tool for me to use to get everyone on the same page. I message owner's every week going through the waiver wire and owner's can make moves to their team. I also use the chat to vote on rule changes and give info about upcoming games each week. I also discuss salary penalties (scoresheet mistakes, not having full team, changing lineup) in the chat.

Second you must attend the owner's meeting or have someone there to represent you. We have an owner's meeting in the fall to discuss big rule changes, preparation for the season, select draft order, announce team's, give out schedules, and so forth. We also plan the date for our Bowling Classic where we hold the draft. Owner's are not required to be at the draft but will get hit with a \$1 penalty and must have someone there to represent you. Other than that, it isn't much to it, besides being responsible for making sure your score sheets are right on game day and your lineups are correct. We will start 2019 with 6 man rosters out of the gate giving owners the opportunity to field a 4-man mandatory lineup on opening day. If you are potentially interested and have questions on what is entailed be sure to message me and ask because we desperately need someone to replace Robby !!! J/K Bud ☺

Nationals Week.

Many know that the Leroy Legends bowed out of the NWLA Tournament for 2018, but in a way our presence will still be in Morenci this upcoming weekend. Griffleball has taken the Legends name and will continue the rise of the most polarizing name in NWLA. The roster includes 8 players with 7 of them being on a Leroy Roster. From Left to Right: Ryan Voges (Truckers), Jeremy Rataczyk (Liners), Kyle Lidster, Caleb Jonkman (Liners), Brett Detmar (Bombers), Manager Tyler Walk (Ex-Bomber), Chris Bartley (Narwhals). Bottom Row: Jackson Buzea (Narwhals) and Jim Tucker (Hawaiians). They will have four pool play games on Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon will start double elimination tournament. Be sure to follow the NWLA Tournament on Twitter to watch the Legends win it all!

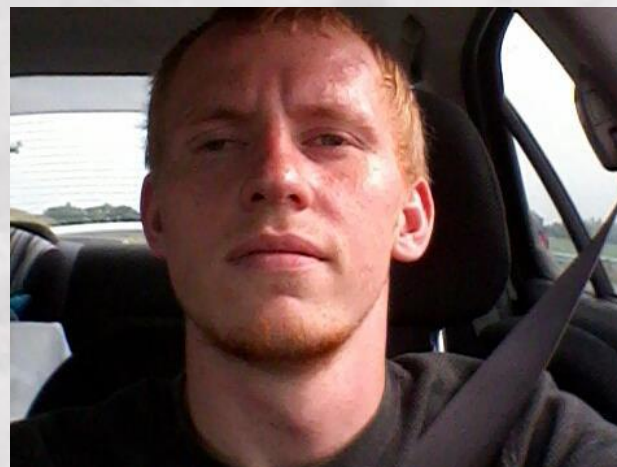


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@leroywiffle



Player Spotlight, Who is it?



This player joined the league in 2017, he has played for 3 teams this season and is in the running for most improved player of the year.

He wears #19 and will have his 100th Career At Bat this upcoming Wednesday. He has a 0.364 batting average with 25 runs scored in 16 games played. He's been a hit or miss pitcher with a career 12.00 ERA but has 7 shut out innings in 17 career innings pitched. He has 23 career strikeouts and hopes to "kick the dust" off his shoes come playoff time.

Like and Share this newsletter on Facebook and comment who you think this is for a chance to win the Leroy Special (Water, Pop, and Gatorade)!



Tim: You and your brother, Mitchell, came into the league at the same time and experienced good success early. Lately you have slowly evolved into a star #2 for the Liners, while Mitchell has treaded water so to speak. What do you contribute most to your rookie success compared to your brother's?

Alex Gerlach (Lake County Liners): Most of my success I would say comes from my teammates. For example Caleb saw me early on as a player who had potential so he showed me how to properly throw the ball. Given I was a pitcher when I played baseball really helped me along the way since pitching is such a big component. Like I said, I have a great set of teammates that been giving me advice on how to play the game since I've been picked up.

Tim: In 2015 & 2017 you had 58 Homers in 29 Games, in 2016 & 2018 you have 18 Homers in 21 Games. Why the struggle in even years?

Jack Hillegonds (Leroy Truckers): I think every year people just get better at pitching. When pitchers first start out they aren't used to throwing a wiffleball because it's totally different than any other. Each year players add more pitches to their arsenal making it a lot tougher on the hitters. Why the even years? I honestly didn't know that, that's pretty funny though.

Tim: Last year you played 10 games, you currently have played 11 so far this year. Both your pitching and batting numbers have improved; Slugging went from 1.080 to 1.300 with 8 more homers, your ERA dropped from 6.40 to 2.12. You're in the top 6 in Batter, Pitcher, Rookie, and Most Improved. Which of those four awards would you most like to win?

Wes Ellis (Bushleague Badgers): I definitely would want to win the Most Improved, but at the end of the day I'm just playing my game. Shouldn't be a surprise to anyone who knows me, I just had to make a few adjustments and get more comfortable with this playing style.



Tim: Not only were you the 100th player in the history of the league, but the first player born in the 2000's. In 5 games you have a 0.167 batting average and a 7.00 ERA, but we're just signed by the Clams. Being the youngest player in the league do you feel pressure or motivated competing with guys up to 10 years older than you?

Josh Smits (Leroy Clams): First those stats are terrible so maybe don't post those. I definitely felt a little bit nervous. I knew going into it that many of the people were older with experience, but I didn't realize how different the game was fundamentally from Baseball. After giving up 6 runs in an inning I was feeling a lot more nervous than motivated. In recent weeks I have steadily improved and have gained confidence and motivation to be a steady competitor in the league.

Tim: The top 12 Ranked Players in the league become All Stars, currently you sit 13th. Your Batting Average is 0.375 and your opponents Batting Average is 0.376. Which do you want to see improved the most to get an all star spot.

John Eenigenburg (Sultans of Soy): Seeing by batting average go up would be helpful, but I've really surprised myself with how much my pitching has improved as the season has progressed. If I keep striking guys out and limiting runs, I see that helping me the most.

INAGURAL INDIANA WIFFLE CLASSIC – This event will be held on Friday night (social event) and run through Saturday July 21. For more information contact Caleb Jonkman or Greg Gierling.

Sign up and register now!

GOLF OUTING AND ALLSTAR EVENT – Save the date! August 11, 2018. We will be combining the golf outing and all star event into one fun packed day that you will not want to miss. Be sure to stay tuned for more details.

Leroy Truckers

(6-10) LEROY TRUCKERS – A much needed win came when Tim Wiltjer hit a moon shot to spark a 3 run rally in the bottom of the 4th to help defeat the Hawaiians this past week. They take on the #3 Sluggers and #4 Badgers in crucial games that could make or break them this week. Kyle Gagliardi continued to make strides and show his dedication. When asked if he was going to make the games, he chimed in he would be attending the sox games. After a few moments he responded and said F it this is wiffle ball lets do this.

The problem facing the Truckers has been lob ball pitching, they have struggled mightily hitting lob balls and it shows with the poor batting stats. If they plan on doing anything in the playoffs they have to capitalize on bad pitching. Jack returns to the lineup after yet another week off, he looks poised to get revenge on the Sluggers after getting robbed from a win earlier in the year.



Leroy Clams

(7-9) LEROY CLAMS – The Clams played one game and it was against the Lake County Liners. A big loss left Matt understanding his team was still not ready. He released Freidman and signed 18 year old Josh Smits in hopes the lefty thrower can make an impact in the home stretch of the season. Lucas and Kevin have found their groove as of late and continue to make strides that Matt has lost. Rumor has it Matt may even sit himself in some playoff games to bring on another stud come playoff time. An interesting strategy that could buck a trend for future seasons in utilizing the whole roster.

#Thatsclam



Lucas Meidema