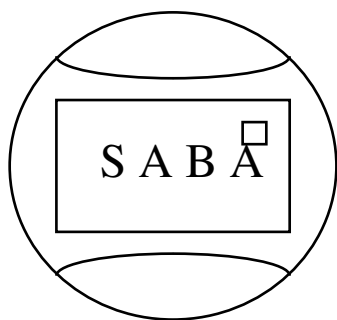
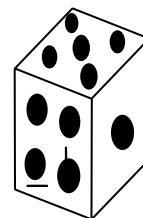




PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Southern APBA Baseball Association



September 24, 2023

Fiftieth Season

Number 9

Bob Grant (President/Statistician)

Open (Vice-President)

David Wassermann (E. C.)

CHARLESTON REPEATS AS SABA CHAMPIONS

The road to the championship: The Riverside Redbirds surged to the Carolina Division crown in the last month of the season to claim the #3 seed. Riverside defeated Red Hook in six games and then bested Oregon in seven games to make it to the championship. The Charleston Riverdogs earned the #1 seed by virtue of a 108 win season. Charleston topped Platte Valley in six games in the first round, and then was stretched to seven games against Walled Lake before making it to the championship series, hoping to make it two straight crowns.

All games of the series were played online using a dice rolling website, effectively playing 'face to face' without the travel.

Game 1: As both Riverside and Charleston had to use their aces in the seventh game of the semifinals, neither was available to start the first game of the series. Riverside sent Curt Schilling (20-7, 2.95 ERA) against Charleston's Jarrod Washburn (20-6, 3.45). The game was scoreless until the top of the 5th when Alex Gonzalez doubled and David Bell singled him home as the Redbirds took a 1-0 lead. Charleston answered in the bottom of the 6th with a solo homer by Adam Dunn. Relievers Ben Weber for Riverside and Brendan Donnelly for the Riverdogs took over in the late innings. In the bottom of the 8th, Riverside shortstop Gonzales booted a ground ball to put Todd Walker on first with no outs. One out later, Johnny Damon singled Walker to third and stole second. With Dunn at the plate, Riverside played the infield back, and Dunn managed to make contact, grounding out to second as the lead run scored. Robb Nen came on in the 9th and retired the side to earn the save as Charleston won 2-1. (Continued inside.)

2002 SABA ALL-STARS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Jim Thome (Zukey Lake)	1B
Jeff Kent (Summit)	2B
*Albert Pujols (Evanston)	3B
Nomar Garciaparra (Galveston)	SS
Paul LoDuca (Evanston)	C
*Larry Walker (Dixie)	OF
Steve Finley (Green Bay)	OF
Juan Encarnacion (Galveston)	OF
*Richie Sexson (Dixie)	DH
*Randy Johnson (Summit)	SP
*Mike Remlinger (Platte Valley)	RP

CAPITOL CONFERENCE

*Todd Helton (Charleston)
*Mark Bellhorn (Red Hook)
Eric Chavez (Oregon)
*Alex Rodriguez (Charleston)
*Mike Piazza (Cleveland)
*Barry Bonds (Charleston)
*Vladimir Guerrero (Houghton)
Manny Ramirez (Riverside)
Sammy Sosa (Oregon)
Derek Lowe (Riverside)
Robb Nen (Charleston)

* Consensus

SPECIAL AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Barry Bonds (Charleston) 39 points, Alex Rodriguez (CR) 18 points.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Barry Bonds (Charleston) 31 points, Alex Rodriguez (CR) 24 points.

CY YOUNG AWARD: Randy Johnson (Summit) 37 points, Derek Lowe (Riverside) 18 points.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Rodrigo Lopez (Red Hook), 35 points, Austin Kearns (Oregon) 28 points.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Al Monson (Charleston)

TRADES

Dixie trades Rafael Soriano to Mudville for DC2MV04 and Mike Crudale.

Dixie trades Mike Crudale to Red Hook for DC6RH04.

Bayou trades DC3BA04 to Houghton for Brett Myers.

Dixie trades DC1DX04, DC2DX04, DC3DX04, and Tim Wakefield to Chapel Hill for Estaben Loaiza and DC3CH04, DC4CH04, and DC5CH04.

Red Hook trades Juan Uribe to Dixie for DC2MV04.

FILLING OUT THE FORMS

With a couple of new managers in the league, I decided to go over a few of the rules for filling out league forms:

1. NEVER combine statistics from a second month on your Monthly Stat Form. The league statistics are set up by month. This means that if an error is found, I only have to go through one month's statistics to look for it rather than the whole season.
2. Do not delete any players from the Monthly Stat Form (even if they never play). The league stats are set to match the form. If you remove a player, stats will be given to the wrong player.
3. Do not change the order of the data in the columns of the Monthly Stat Form. Again, the league stats match the form and if the columns are changed, the stats will be in error.
4. Although not required, it is very helpful to me if you list the players' names on your Series Reports in alphabetical order. It is much easier to create the Monthly Stat Form if a player is listed in the same place on the forms. This is particularly helpful to those of us filling out multiple Monthly Stat Forms. (I will be filling out four this season.)

The Capitols cut the lead to 4-2 when Bobby Abreu led off the 9th with a homerun. That's where the rally ended, though, as the Americans sailed to another victory.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE		AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	CAPITOL CONFERENCE		AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO
Walker	rf	4	0	0	0	0	3	Guerrero	cf	2	0	0	0	1	0
Garcia	ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	Abreu	ph	1	1	1	1	0	0
Jeter	ss	1	0	0	0	0	1	A. Rodriguez	ss	4	0	0	0	0	2
Pujols	3b	3	1	1	1	0	1	Bonds	rf-lf	3	0	0	0	1	0
Alfonzo	3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	M. Ramirez	lf	2	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	Green	rf	1	0	0	0	0	1
Berkman	ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	L. Gonzalez	ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vidro	2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	Helton	1b	2	0	1	0	0	0
Thome	1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	Mi. Sweeney	1b	1	0	0	0	0	1
Finley	cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	Sosa	dh	3	1	1	1	0	1
T. Hunter	cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	Piazza	c	2	0	0	0	0	1
Sexson	dh	1	0	0	0	1	1	Tejada	ph	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kielty	dh	1	1	1	1	0	0	Wilson	c	0	0	0	0	0	0
LoDuca	c	2	0	0	0	0	1	Chavez	3b	2	0	0	0	0	0
Pierzynski	c	1	0	0	0	0	0	Ch. Jones	ph	1	0	0	0	0	1
Encarnacion	lf	1	1	1	1	0	0	Blum	3b	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bagwell	ph	1	1	1	1	0	0	Bellhorn	2b	1	0	0	0	1	0
J. Jones		1	0	0	0	0	0	Soriano	2b	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL		31	4	5	4	1	12	TOTAL		28	2	3	2	3	9

PITCHERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Johnson	2	1	1	1	1	1
P. Martinez	1	0	0	0	1	1
Hudson (W)	2	1	0	0	1	1
Millwood	1	0	0	0	0	0
Embree	1	0	0	0	0	3
Groom	1	0	0	0	0	2
Remlinger (SV)	1	1	1	1	0	1
Lowe	2	0	0	0	0	3
Schilling	1	1	1	1	0	3
Washburn (L)	1	1	1	1	0	0
O. Perez	1	1	1	1	1	0
Urbina	2	0	0	0	0	3
Dotel	1	1	1	1	0	1
Nen	1	1	0	0	0	2

AMERICANS	--	001	101	010	--	4	5	0
CAPITOLS	--	010	000	001	--	2	3	0

E- None. DP – CC 1, AC 1. LOB – CC 2, AC 1.
2B – Vidro. HR – Sosa (off Johnson), Abreu (off Remlinger), Encarnacion (off Schilling), Pujols (off Washburn), Bagwell (off Perez), Kielty (off Dotel).

MVP – Albert Pujols (Evanston)

(Continued from Page 1)

Game 2: Woody Williams (10-7, 3.11) took the hill for Riverside, matched up against Mark Buehrle (15-8, 3.78). Charleston scored an unearned run in the first following another error by Gonzalez. But Gonzalez made up for his miscue by launching a three run homer in the top of the second. The Riverdogs got RBI singles from Barry Bonds and Todd Helton in the bottom of the third to tie the game. The Redbirds ended Buehrle's day in the 5th as Edgar Martinez put Riverside up 5-3 with a two-run blast. An RBI double by Charleston's Aubrey Huff in the 7th narrowed the margin to 5-4. Riverside again turned to Weber in the 8th inning and he retired the side in order. But in the bottom of the 9th, Dunn led off with a double and Alex Rodriguez followed with a two-run moonshot as Charleston won 6-5, giving Riverside (and Weber) their second straight loss.

Game 3: As the series shifted to Riverside, both teams had their aces on the hill - Odalis Perez (21-6, 3.24) for Charleston and Derek Lowe (20-6, 2.59) for the Redbirds. Rodriguez opened the scoring with a solo home run in the top of the first inning, and back-to-back doubles by Bonds and Helton made it 2-0 in the 4th. Riverside got within one run on an RBI single by Manny Ramirez in the 6th. Charleston added insurance runs in the top of the 9th on a two-run homer by Helton to make it 4-1. It turned out those runs were critical because in the bottom of the 9th, Reggie Sanders hit a two-run blast off Nen to make it 4-3. Nen got the final outs for a shaky save as Charleston won 4-3 to take a commanding three games to none lead in the series.

Game 4: It was Washburn for Charleston and Schilling for Riverside, as the Redbirds hoped to stave off a sweep. As he did in the previous game, A-Rod started the scoring with a homer in the first, this one a two-run shot. Riverside cut the lead in half in the bottom of the frame on a sacrifice fly by Martinez. In the bottom of the third, the Redbirds erupted for three runs, the big blow being a two-run homer by Luis Gonzalez. Riverside added two more in the 4th, on a bases loaded walk to Ryan Klesko and a run scoring double play to make it 6-2. Sanders made it 7-2 with a solo shot in the 7th. Meanwhile, after the blip in the first inning, Schilling was unhittable, retiring 19 straight Charleston batters. Schilling tired and was replaced by Weber in the 8th, and once more Webber was ineffective, giving up a three-run homer to Dunn. But Charleston could get no closer as Damaso Marte retired the side in order in the 9th to preserve a 7-5 Riverside victory.

Game 5: A rematch of the starters from Game 2 saw Buehrle taking the mound for Charleston and Williams on the hill for Riverside. Riverside scored an unearned run in the first, and the score remained 1-0 until the bottom of the 5th, when Buehrle fell apart, allowing the first five batters to reach base. When the dust settled, Riverside had plated five runs, with Klesko contributing a two RBI single and Luis Gonzalez belting a two-run double. Williams threw a complete game and the Redbirds cruised to an 8-2 victory. The series (and now it was a series) moved back to Charleston with the Riverdogs up three games to two.

Game 6: Perez was back on the hill for Charleston and Lowe got the nod for Riverside. Charleston struck quickly in the bottom of the first. Rodriguez singled and then Bonds and Helton went back-to-back to put the Riverdogs up 3-0. Helton added a solo shot in the 4th to make it 4-0. Meanwhile, Perez stifled Riverside on just two singles through the first six innings. In the top of the 7th, Manny Ramirez led off with a solo homer to cut the lead to 4-1. After a one out walk, Charleston went to the bullpen but Alex Gonzalez greeted Jay Witasick with an RBI triple and Gonzalez scored on an error and suddenly it was 4-3. Witasick got an inning ending double play to get out of the 7th inning, and also got an inning ending double play after a one out walk in the 8th. Robb Nen took over for Charleston in the 9th. With one out Nen hit Sanders, who advanced to second on a groundout. With the tying run at 2nd, Bell flied out to left, and Charleston claimed a 4-3 victory and the SABA championship by a four games to two margin.

CHAMPIONS ELIMINATE 8TH SEED PLATTE VALLEY

The defending SABA champion Charleston Riverdogs defeated the 8th seeded Platte Valley Barons in the first round of the 2002 playoffs, but it was a little more difficult than they expected.

The first two games in Charleston were both Riverdogs' wins. Aces Odalis Perez and Kevin Millwood battled to a 3-3 tie entering the bottom of the 7th inning. With one out, Johnny Damon tripled home Todd Walker with what proved to be the winning run. Charleston added two insurance runs in the 8th for a 6-3 victory.

Game 2 was a pitching duel between Wade Miller of the Barons and Jarrod Washburn of Charleston. Neither team scored until the 7th inning when the Riverdogs finally pushed across a run. Platte Valley countered with two in the 8th, but closer Mike Remlinger couldn't close the deal, giving up the tying run in the 8th and sending the game into extra innings. Damon was again the hero, knocking in the winning run in the 10th.

Platte Valley prospects were glum returning home down 2-0 and facing a team that they had lost 7 of 8 games to in the regular season. But, since the two road losses were close, the team decided to make some excitement.

Game 3 was a pitchers' duel between Mark Buehrle and Kerry Wood. The score was tied at 0-0 after five innings. Wood was throwing a perfect game, while Buehrle had to deal with lots of baserunners, but was able to keep them from scoring. After retiring 17 straight batters, Wood gave up his first hit and run in the 6th on a homerun by catcher Mike Redmond, who had hit only one homerun during the regular season. The Barons immediately tied the game when Buehrle walked Erubiel Durazo, who went to third on a Ty Wigginton single, and scored on Brad Wilkerson's sacrifice fly. Platte Valley took the lead in the 7th when reliever Brendan Donnelly walked Mark Loretta, who scored on a double by Mark DeRosa. The 2-1 lead held into the 9th with Barons closer Mike Remlinger on the mound. After striking out Johnny Damon, Remlinger needed only two outs for the win, but Adam Dunn tied the game with a long homerun. After Grant Roberts retired the Riverdogs in order in the 10th, Jorge Julio walked Durazo and Ronnie Belliard came in to pinch run. Ty Wigginton followed with a double, but the runner held at third. Again the sacrifice fly worked for the Barons, as Belliard scored on Jeff Conine's drive to left, giving Platte Valley a hard fought 3-2 victory.

Game 4 pitted the two aces, Odalis Perez and Kevin Millwood, against each other again. Platte Valley took an early 2-0 lead when leadoff doubles by Randy Winn in the 1st and Geoff Jenkins in the 3rd resulted in scores on a Durazo single and another Winn double. The lead was short lived as Barry Bonds homered in the 4th and Alex Rodriguez singled home Damon, who had doubled. A two-run homer by Conine in the 6th gave the Barons a 4-2 lead and they added an insurance run on Durazo's 8th inning homer. Once again Remlinger came in for the save, but the first batter he faced, Aaron Boone, doubled and Todd Walker followed with a homerun, cutting the lead to 5-4. Remlinger settled down, striking out Redmond and Damon and getting Dunn to ground out to shortstop.

The Charleston players probably never expected to play Game 5, but now they needed a win to regain the momentum for their return home. The Riverdogs grabbed an early 1-0 lead in the first inning when Dunn doubled and Bonds followed with an RBI single. The lead only lasted for one pitch, as Winn touched up Jarrod Washburn with a homer to tie the score in the bottom of the inning. The Charleston sluggers hit no homeruns in the game, but had five doubles. Fourth inning doubles by Todd Helton and Walker gave Charleston a 2-1 lead. Walker then doubled again and scored on Damon's 7th inning ground out. Washburn gave up no more runs and neither did his bullpen as the Riverdogs won 3-1 and regained the lead in the series at 3-2.

Returning to Charleston with a three games to two lead, the Riverdogs were wondering where their offense had gone. The high powered run scoring machine had managed only 18 runs in the first five games.

Game 6 was a repeat of the game 3 starters, Kerry Wood for Platte Valley and Mark Buehrle for Charleston. In game 3, Wood took a no hitter into the 6th inning, but it was a different story in Charleston. In the bottom of the second, Barry Bonds drew a walk and singles by Aubrey Huff and Aaron Boone plated the first run. Both Huff and Boone moved up on an infield out and both scored on a Mike Redmond single, giving the Riverdogs a 3-0 lead. One inning later, Alex Rodriguez doubled and Bonds went deep and Charleston was up 5-0. That ended Wood's day and Paul Shuey came on for the Barons. Shuey retired all eight hitters he faced. Meanwhile, Platte Valley had managed only a single off Buehrle through the first four innings. In the 5th, Shawn Wooten and Brad Wilkerson singled. Geoff Jenkins walked to load the bases and the Barons had their first scoring opportunity. Buehrle struck out Ramon Hernandez for the second out, but Randy Winn singled home two runs to make it a 5-2 score. Buehrle struck out Mark Loretta to get out of the jam, and he struck out the side in the 6th. With a three run lead going into the 7th, the Riverdogs went to the bullpen with Jay Witasick. Jeff Conine greeted him with a double and Brad Wilkerson walked. On out later, Ty Wigginton stepped up to pinch hit for Hernandez and launched a three run shot, and suddenly the game was tied at 5. Jorge Julio came on to get out of the inning. Meanwhile, Grant Roberts had taken over the pitching duties for the Barons. He stranded two runners in the 7th, getting Rodriguez to ground out for the third out. In the bottom of the 8th, Bonds grounded out, but Todd Helton followed with his first homer of the series, to put Charleston up 6-5. Robb Nen pitched a perfect 9th for Charleston and the Riverdogs finally closed out the feisty Barons, four games to two. Barry Bonds, with three homers, and Jorge Julio with two wins in relief, shared the series MVP honors.

DUCKS UPSET SUMMIT

Oregon's late season collapse landed them in the playoffs against Summit, the second seed with the best pitching in the league during the regular season. The Antelope entered the playoffs in some controversy as well, causing Fred Cusic to take the helm for the playoffs, which were played on-line in two sessions.

GAME 1 - Barry Zito B vs Randy Johnson A Oregon

The Ducks wasted no time, with Austin Kearns opening the game with a single. With one out, Matt Franco doubled him to third, then Sammy Sosa singled through the drawn-in infield, scoring both runs. Eric Chavez doubled Sosa to third and Sosa scored when Garret Anderson hit a sacrifice fly. The Antelopes got one run back in the second when Brad Fuller reached on an error by Carlos Guillen and came around to score on Mike Lowell's single. Franco homered for the Ducks in the third, then with two outs, Chavez walked and Anderson got to second base on an error by Fullmer. Benito Santiago followed with a double, driving both of them home to make it 6-1. The Ducks picked up another run in the fourth when they loaded the bases on a pair of walks wrapped around a double by Austin Kearns. Franco hit a sacrifice fly to chase Johnson and bring in Scot Shields.

Summit started a rally in the fourth when Raul Ibanez opened with a triple and scored on Fullmer's single. Then, with two outs in the sixth, Ivan Rodriguez singled and Fullmer walked. Back-to-back homers by Frank Thomas and Lowell chased Zito and made the score 7-6, still in favor of the Ducks. Jose Vizcaino greeted Mark Guthrie with a single, but that was the last base runner for Summit. Sosa added a solo homer in the seventh.

Oregon 8, Summit 6.

GAME 2 - Roy Oswalt B vs Greg Maddox A

Ivan Rodriguez opened the scoring by doubling in a pair of unearned runs in the first. Jacque Jones' double in the second capped another two-run inning, and the Antelope got solo homers from Fullmer in the third and Todd Hollandsworth in the fourth. Garret Anderson got a two run double in the seventh to complete the scoring. Summit 6, Oregon 2.

GAME 3 - Pedro Martinez A vs Andy Benes B

The series headed to Oregon for the next three games. The Ducks struck first when Chavez tripled with one out in the second and scored on a sacrifice fly. Summit answered in the third when Hollandsworth walked and advanced to second on a ground out and scored on Orlando Palmeiro's single. Jones then doubled Palmeiro home. Sosa homered to lead off the fourth to tie it up. Things quieted down after that until the ninth. Juan Acevedo had replaced Benes in the eighth, but Pedro was still going. With one out, Tim Salmon walked. Santiago then singled him to third and stole second. Carlos Guillen was Intentionally walked to load the bases, setting up Fernando Vina's walk-off single. Oregon 3, Summit 2

GAME 4 - Al Leiter B vs Barry Zito A

In a surprise move, Al Leiter took the hill, pushing the big three back a game. He walked Kearns to open the game and gave up a single to Franco with one out, but no further damage. He walked Salmon three times and gave up another single to Franco after Kearns had reached on an error. He walked pinch-hitter Willie Bloomquist in the seventh, but that was it through the first eight. Meanwhile, Zito struck out twelve and allowed only one base runner (rather, Carlos Guillen allowed it by making an error). But Mike Lowell ended all that by homering to lead off the ninth. Leiter closed out the bottom of the inning, with his complete game two-hitter beating Zito's one-hitter. Summit 1, Oregon 0

GAME 5 - Randy Johnson A vs Roy Oswalt B

Lowell picked up where he left off by doubling in the second. Jose Vizcaino singled him home. Mike Matheny opened the third with a single and scored on Jacque Jones' homer. Brad Fullmer added a solo homer in the sixth. Meanwhile, Franco, who had both hits in game four, doubled with two outs in the fourth, but died there. Vina got in the act by doubling to open the sixth and then singled with a runner on in the eighth, but Johnson closed out a three-hit, one walk shutout, matching Zito's 12 strikeouts.

Summit 4, Oregon 0

GAME 6 - Andy Benes B vs Greg Maddux A

The Antelopes wasted no time as Jones walked and Jeff Kent homered in the first. The Ducks answered in the second when Chavez singled and scored on Santiago's triple. After Santiago was thrown out at home on Mark Kotsay's ground ball, Kotsay scored on Ramon Martinez' two out double to tie the game. In the third, Jones doubled and Kent hits his second two-run homer in as many at bats. In the top of the fifth, Kearns walked and Bloomquist, making his first start of the entire season, beat out an infield hit. Franco then singled in Kearns, Sosa walked, Chavez hit a sacrifice fly. With two outs, Kotsay homered to chase Maddox and give the Ducks a 7-2 lead. Kent started an Antelope rally by hitting a solo two-out homer in the seventh off Mark Guthrie. Octavio Dotel entered the game in the eighth and loaded the bases with one out on two walks and a single, but struck out Vizcaino and got Hollandworth to fly out. Kent popped to the catcher in the ninth, just missing a fourth homer. Raul Ibanez hit a solo shot to cut the lead to one run, but that completed the scoring.

Oregon 7, Summit 6

GAME 7 - Barry Zito A vs Pedro Martinez A

Summit took the early lead with a first inning run, coming on a single, a walk, a groundout and a sac fly. The Ducks answered with back-to-back doubles in the second. In the fifth, Vina singled, Ramon Martinez doubled him home and Kearns singled Martinez home. Summit got another run in the seventh on a Fullmer double followed by two groundouts. In the eighth, with one out, Kearns walked, Franco reached on an error and Sosa walked to load the bases. Chavez singled in a pair. Dotel came on in relief for the last two innings, giving up only a double to Vizcaino in the 8th.

Oregon 5, Summit 2

Oregon hit .194 for the series, was shutout twice and was out homered 11-4. They did receive twice as many walks as they allowed. Summit hit .212 No player on either team had more than 5 RBI. Garret Anderson had 5 RBI to go with his 2 for 12. Jeff Kent's five RBI all came in the 7-6 loss in game six.

Barry Zito was named MVP and MVPitcher. He had two wins, and his loss was a one-hit, 1-0 loss.

RIVERSIDE DOWNS RED HOOK

Game 1 Mulder (B YZ) vs Lowe (A Y ZZ).

Red Hook jumped all over Lowe in the first inning, getting three runs on a triple by Mark Bellhorn, a double by Brian Giles, and an RBI single by Carlos Beltran. Riverside countered with a run in the bottom of the first on three consecutive singles by Ray Durham, Edgar Martinez, and Ryan Klesko.

Riverside got another run in the 4th when Reggie Sanders doubled and was driven home on an Alex Gonzalez triple. The score remained 3-2 through 8. In the bottom of the 9th it was the last chance for Riverside. Alex Gonzalez led off with a solo home run to tie the game. The speedy Durham walked and Martinez doubled him home for a 4-3 walk off win for Riverside.

Game 2 Lopez (B Y) vs Schilling (B XY ZZ)

Riverside scored first. Durham singled and stole second and then third. Klesko doubled him home for a one run lead. Red Hook tied it in the 4th on a solo home run by Jim Edmonds. Edmonds hit another solo home run in the 6th to give the lead back to Red Hook. Giles followed with another homer to extend the lead to 4-2. Riverside was able to get runners on base, but could not push across another run. This despite two more stolen bases by Durham, giving him a total of four in a losing effort.

Red Hook took game 2, 4 - 2. On to Red Hook.

Game 3 Williams (AYZ) vs Weaver (BYZ)

Riverside scored first in the top of the first when they loaded the bases on one-out singles by Martinez and Klesko and a walk to Manny Ramirez. Martinez scored on a sacrifice fly by Luis Gonzalez. In the bottom of the first Red Hook responded with four runs. Bellhorn led off with a walk, Edmonds was hit by a pitch, and Giles singled home one run. Beltran then blasted a three-run homer. In the top of the second Riverside scored to reduce the Red Hook lead to 4-3. Sanders led off with a walk, Alex Gonzalez singled and David Bell grounded, putting runners on second and third. Sanders scored on a passed ball and Alex Gonzalez scored on a SF by Brad Ausmus. Red Hook Scored in the third on Beltran's sacrifice fly to make the score 5-3. In the top of

the sixth Riverside tied the score when Klesko singled, Luis Gonzalez tripled, and Sanders hit a sacrifice fly. In the bottom of the 7th Red Hook loaded the bases with one out but didn't score. Ramirez ended the game with a solo homer in the top of the ninth for a Redbirds 6-5 win.

Game 4 Lowe (BYZZ) vs Mulder (BYZ)

Red Hook started the scoring in the second inning on a lead-off homer by Jason Giambi. Klesko tied the score on a homer in the top of the fourth, but a homer by Beltran in the bottom of the fourth put Red Hook ahead again 2-1. In the top of the sixth, a Martinez two-run homer gave Riverside a 3-2 lead. In the bottom of the fourth Beltran singled, stole second and scored on a triple by Quinton McCracken.

McCracken then scored on a two-out single by Damian Miller. Riverside loaded the bases with two outs in the top of the eighth but couldn't score as Red Hook won 4-3.

Game 5 Schilling (BXYZZ) vs Lopez (BY)

This game was all Riverside. They scored four runs in the third. In the inning, Ausmus led off with a single, Durham singled him to third and then stole second. With one out, Klesko singled home two runs.

Ramirez and Luis Gonzalez walked to load the bases and Sanders doubled home two more. In the fourth Riverside scored five more for a 9-0 lead. Two Turtle errors started the parade with a Luis Gonzalez triple and a two-run homer by Sanders providing the big blows. The Redbirds kept rolling, adding two more runs in the 5th on a Klesko triple, making the score 11-0. Red Hook finally got on the board in the bottom of the inning on back-to-back homers by Edgar Renteria and Bellhorn. They added two more in the 7th on an RBI double by Bellhorn and an RBI triple by Giles, but it was too little, too late as Riverside claimed an 11-4 victory.

Game 6 Weaver (B-YZ) vs Williams (A YZ).

Riverside opened the scoring on Luis Gonzalez' two-run home run, putting Riverside up 2-0. For the most part Woody Williams shut down Red Hook, allowing only two hits with one a double by Beltran. The double came in the 4th with McCracken and Miller having a chance to drive in Beltran, but Williams struck out both to end the threat. The only other time Red Hook threatened was in the 6th when Klesko committed a two-base error, putting runners on second and third. But Beltran grounded out to Bell, holding the runners at second and third. Williams then struck out McCracken to end the threat. Williams retired nine straight Turtles to end the game. Holding on to a slim 2-0 lead entering the 8th, Riverside exploded for five runs, taking a 7-0 lead. Homeruns by Ramirez and Alex Gonzalez sparked the rally. Riverside won the series 4 games to 2.

WALLED LAKE DEFEATED DIXIE 4 – 1

RIVERSIDE DEFEATED OREGON 4 – 3

WALLEYES EXTEND CHARLESTON TO SEVEN GAMES

Game 1: Charleston's 21 game winner Odallis Perez (21-6, 3.24 ERA) matched up against Walled Lake's Tomo Ohka (16-8, 3.38). Walled Lake opened the scoring in the top of the 3rd on a two-run homer from Jeff Bagwell.

Meanwhile, Ohka stymied the Riverdogs, throwing six scoreless innings before yielding an RBI single to Mike Redmond in the bottom of the 7th. Walleye closer Buddy Groom came on in the 8th and retired all six hitters he faced as Walled Lake took game 1 by a 2-1 margin. Charleston managed only three hits in the contest.

Game 2: Jarrod Washburn (20-6, 3.45) took the mound for Charleston against journeyman starter Paul Byrd (9-19, 4.68) who had won two games in the series against Dixie. Todd Helton hit a solo homer for Charleston in the second inning, and an RBI single by Adam Dunn made it 2-0 in the third. Walled Lake tied the game in the top of the fourth with a Mike Kinkade solo homer and an RBI single by Richard Hidalgo. The Riverdogs answered in the bottom of the inning with an RBI from Aubrey Huff, followed by a daring steal of home by Helton and an RBI double by Todd Walker. Charleston cruised to a 7-3 victory to tie the series at one game apiece, with the series moving to Walled Lake for the next three games.

Game 3: Charleston's Mark Buehrle (15-8, 3.78) went up against Oliver Perez (6-5, 5.62) for the Walleyes. Johnny Damon led off the game with a home run to give Charleston a 1-0 lead. A three-run shot by Alex Rodriguez made it 4-0 in the third, but the Walleyes answered with a three spot of their own, the big blow being a two run homer by Josh Phelps. The teams traded single runs to make it 5-4 before defensive replacement Craig Counsell surprised everyone with a solo homer in the 8th. Riverdogs closer Robb Nen earned the save as Charleston took the lead in the series with a 6-4 victory.

Game 4: It was a rematch of the game 1 starters, but this time Odallis Perez was unhittable and Ohka didn't have the magic he displayed in the first game. Alex Rodriguez had three hits including a two-run homer and drove in three runs, Huff added a two-run shot and Aaron Boone also went deep as Charleston opened up an 8-0 lead. Perez threw eight scoreless innings until Jorge Posada ended the shutout with a two-run blast in the bottom of the 9th. Perez got the complete game as Charleston took a 3-1 series lead with an 8-2 win.

Game 5: Charleston sent Washburn to the hill, looking to wrap up the series, but the Walleyes had other ideas. After Walled Lake starter Paul Byrd escaped a bases loaded jam in the top of the first, the Walleyes loaded the bases on three consecutive singles. Bret Boone then singled in a run, Posada drew an RBI walk, and Tony Graffanino doubled home two more runs as Walled Lake took a 4-0 lead before the first out was recorded. Hidalgo added a sac fly and J.D. Drew delivered an RBI single to finish Washburn's day with a six run first inning. Byrd went six innings to earn the win as the Walleyes romped to a 10-3 victory.

Game 6: With the series shifting back to Charleston, the Riverdogs looked to Mark Buehrle to close out the series, going against Oliver Perez. J. D. Drew opened the scoring in the top of the third with a solo homer. An RBI double by Derek Jeter made it 2-0 in the 6th. The Riverdogs could do nothing with Perez, who threw six scoreless innings, giving up just three singles. The Walleyes went to the bullpen when Perez walked the leadoff hitter in the 7th, who came around to score on a sac fly to make it 2-1. Another double by Jeter added an insurance run in the top of the 9th, and Groom came on to get the final three outs for a 3-1 Walled Lake victory, knotting the series at three games apiece, and forcing a decisive...

Game 7: Once again, Odallis Perez was matched up against Tomo Ohka. In the top of the first, Jeter singled and went to third on Bagwell's single. Phelps popped one down the right field line and Todd Helton made an over the shoulder catch and then fired home to get Jeter who tried to score on the pop fly. Bret Boone salvaged the inning with an RBI single as the Walleyes took a 1-0 lead. The Riverdogs broke loose in the bottom of the third as Aaron Boone doubled, Redmond singled him home, Damon broke loose in the bottom of the third as Aaron Boone doubled, Redmond singled him home, Damon tripled and Dunn singled to make it 3-1. After a couple walks, Helton hit a sac fly to make it 4-1. Charleston ended Ohka's day in the 4th on a single by Boone, who stole second and scored on Walker's single. But the Walleyes weren't finished as Bret Boone reached on an error, Posada doubled him home, moved to third on a flyout and scored on Daryle Ward's sacrifice fly. Perez pitched a scoreless 8th inning and Nen came on to retire the side in order, as the Riverdogs took the series with a 5-3 victory.

The Riverdogs breathed a deep sigh of relief, and are moving on to the SABA World Series, where they will attempt to make it back-to-back SABA championships.