

Gulls win NECBL title

NEWPORT, RI – The final game of the 2024 season was one for the history books, as the Newport Gulls capped off their 2024 campaign with a bang in extra innings for an 8-7 victory following the continuation of game two on a sunny Saturday evening at Cardines Field.

In the bottom of the second, the Gulls struck first as Tyler Hare (Wofford) crushed a solo home run to right center to put the Gulls up 1-0 early. However, the Mainers responded immediately in the top of the third. The Mainers tied the game on an error and then Jackson Tucker (St. John's) hit an RBI double to put the Mainers up 2-1.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Gulls put up a crooked number to take the lead 6-2. Dixon Williams (Eastern Carolina) crushed a two-run home run to the thrill of his teammates. After that, Matt Ossenfort (NC State) crushed his own three-run home run to add a cushion for the Gulls.

Meanwhile on the mound, Gulls starter Kade Shatwell (Oklahoma City) brought the energy for the team. Shatwell pitched 6.1 strong innings, allowing just three earned runs with eight strikeouts, pumping up his teammates. However, after Shatwell came out, the Mainers marched back. In the top of the seventh, Devan Bade (Binghamton) hit a two-run single to cut the deficit to 6-4, then in the top of the eighth, Caleb Shpur (UConn) came through for the Mainers, tying the game with a two-run home run to even the score. Later in that same inning, the Mainers took the lead 7-6 on a single by CJ Willis (Quinnipiac), turning the tide once again in favor of Sanford.

Down to their final three outs, the Gulls sent Hare to the plate with one out and Hare delivered, crushing his second home run of the night into the right field netting to tie the score at seven apiece and force extra innings.

In the tenth, Drew Delucia (Franklin Pierce) did his job for the Gulls, keeping the Mainers off the board and giving the team a chance to walk it off. In the bottom half of the inning, the Gulls did just that. Williams came through with the game-winning RBI single, walking it off 8-7 to clinch the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup for the Gulls.

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

This Week in Rec

The Wilbraham Baseball Committee

WILBRAHAM - Peanuts, popcorn, programs here! The Falcons baseball program had a fantastic season in 2024, despite the consistent rain. The program formed 23 teams and fielded 266 players, from kindergarten through grade 8. We started the season in April with our Opening Day celebration at Spec Pond, which included a parade of teams from all age groups, the Minnechaug Baseball Team hosting a clinic for the younger players, and a few new 'skills' events for the older kids as they competed in a home run derby, fastest runner, and furthest throw

for a small prize and more importantly 'bragging rights'! Some notable events over the season were the used gear donation "drop and grab", Falcons Baseball Night at the WooSox game, the Peach Festival Dunk Tank, and two of our competitive teams, 14U and 12U, playing in historic Cooperstown, NY.

While winning isn't everything, taking home some hardware is always nice too, and so finishing off the season, we'd like to recognize our league champions:

10U JLS League, A division, the Western Mass Suburban Senior

South Bracket (Wilbraham PV Financial), and the 14U JLS League, A division.

Thank you to all the families, coaches, players, sponsors, and the Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department for making this another successful season. We are looking forward to the 2025 season. Registration for our 8U through 14U competitive teams started this week with tryouts coming in a few weeks and our regularly-scheduled committee meetings for the public published on our Facebook page.

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 6 PM at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden**, for a **Request for Determination of Applicability**, (RDA), submitted by Amber Pelletier and

Andrew Snow for the removal of trees on their property, (46 Mountainview Drive.) Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

On Behalf of the Conservation Commission, Bonnie Geromini, Admin 08/15/2024

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of the Main Street bridge that crosses East Brook by the Audubon Society. Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

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