

The Northern States League

Newsletter #555 April 28th, 2026

AWAY WE GO IN TO ANOTHER SEASON! WE'RE ALL LOOKING UP AT CROSSTOWN WITH THEIR MAGNIFICENT 18-4 START. DEFENDING CHAMPION CREEKSIDE IS 16-6 AND GLENVILLE 15-7. TWO NSL MANAGERS SET TO RETIRE IN "REAL LIFE". SALE OF 20-24 CARDS BEEFING UP THE TREASURY. WEB PAGE RESURFACES IN GOOGLE SHEETS (I THINK)

Dear Members,

Did you miss me? Seems like it's been forever since I wrote a newsletter. Read on and enjoy what looks like a lengthy first newsletter.

Series #1 results:

Alb 4 at IN 0, IN 3 at Alb 1
Dun 2 at GP 2, GP 3 at Dun 1
NE 1 at Cro 3, Cro 3 at NE 1
Coa 3 at GB 1, GB 2 at Coa 2
BH 2 at Fra 2, Fra 3 at NH 1
Cre 4 at EY 0, EY 3 at Cre 1

Mar 2 at Lon 2, Lon 4 at Mar 0
Sou 1 at Roa 3, Roa 2 at Sou 2
Tac 2 at VT 2, VT 3 at Tac 1
SL 1 at Cle 3, Cle 4 at SL 0
Key 1 at SC 3, SC 2 at Key 2
Gle 4 at Yk 0, Yk 2 at Gle 2

Series #2 results:

Lon 3 at IN 1, IN 4 at Lon 0
Mar 2 at GP 2, GP 2 at Mar 2
Tac 1 at Sou 3, Sou 2 at Tac 2
Coa 2 at Cle 2, Cle 1 at Coa 3
SL 3 at Fra 1, Fra 2 at SL 2
EY 1 at Gle 3, Gle 3 at EY 1

Dun 1 at Alb 3, Alb 2 at Dun 2
Cro 3 at Roa 1, Roa 1 at Cro 3
VT 2 at NE 2, NE 3 at VT 1
NH 2 at GB 2, GB 0 at NH 4
Yk 1 at SC 3, SC 3 at Yk 2
Cre 2 at Key 2, Key 0 at Cre 4

Series #3 results:

GP 3 at Alb 0, Alb 2 at GP 1
IN 2 at Mar 1, Mar 1 at IN 2
Cro 3 at Tac 0, Tac 0 at Cro 3
NH 2 at Cle 1, Cle 2 at NH 1
Fra 0 at GB 3, GB 2 at Fra 1
EY 3 at Yk 0, Yk 0 at EY 3

Dun 1 at Lon 2, Lon 1 at Dun 2
NE 3 at Roa 0, Roa 0 at NE 3
VT 2 at Sou 1, Sou 0 at VT 3
SL 1 at Coa 3, Coa 1 at SL 2
Cre 3 at SC 0, SC 1 at Cre 2
Key 1 at Gle 2, Gle 1 at Key 2

Let's start with a trivia question. Has a wild card team ever won the Championship Series before this year? Answer at the end of the newsletter. I was asked this question at the meetings and didn't know the answer. Shame on me.

The Murphy Division is home to the league overall leaders- that would be the Crosstown Clydesdales which went a gaudy 18-4 this opening month to vault to a 5-game lead over both New England and Vermont. The 'dales pasted their opponents this month, including a 6-2 over New England which is currently in 2nd place. The two northern tier franchises are tied for 2nd- Vermont taking 5 over Southport, but New England took 5 of 8 in their head-to-head play. Southport has found an offense- scoring 114 runs (4th in best in the division) and are

waiting for the pitching to take hold. An opening 5-3 loss to Roadside hurt but playing your brother again in the league overrides that. The Pirates are down by 9 at this point. Roadside got back into the fray with their solid 5-3 over Southport but took a loss of the 6-0 variety to New England in series #3. Tacoma checks in at 6-16- winning 3 times against both Southport and Vermont before a Crosstown 6-0 whitewash. They're 12 out, but just one behind Roadside.

The defending champions played the part with a solid 16-6 start in what should be a tight division all year long. They started quietly but then bashed Keystone in face-to-face play 6-2 and were on their way. A 9-2 road record helps as well. But even this early, there doesn't seem to be any reason to doubt that Creekside will be up there again. Glenville is just a single game behind thanks to 6-2 wins over both York and East York. A split with Keystone in series #3 topped it off for a very competitive month for ½ of our retirees. Sugar Creek and East York are tied for 3rd place in the group- fittingly with 11-11 records. The Vegas boys grabbed 5 from both Keystone and York before an ugly 1-5 with Creekside while East York got all 6 against York to right the ship a bit in series #3. Keystone had a rugged start- 8-14 which included a 2-6 against Creekside- the C's down by 8 thus far. Eric and York round it out with a 5-17 start including that ugly 6-0 loss to East York. York down by 11.

Let's check in on the Yount- where 4 teams are within 1 game of the top and the worst team in the division is just 5 games back. As you would think from the standings, we had plenty of close series played in the month. Those of you who had Grant Park as the number one team in the group should be proud. AJ posted a 13-9 mark even with a split against arch-rival Marietta. But the squad looks to have enough to compete all year long as long as the manager doesn't mess things up. The three teams that are in 2nd place (12-10) feature Indiana with all that power, yet 1 HR behind Crosstown for the Conference lead, Albany which rode a solid 5-3 over Indiana in brother to brother play, and Longstown- Teddy Beckster solid as always for the Prospectors. Longstown did grab 6 from Marietta but took it on the chin at home with Indiana. Duneland is in 5th- but that won't stay the same- after their 9-13 start with 3 wins in each of the 3 series, and Marietta rounds things out, 5 games out and an 8-14 mark. At this point, you have to believe that any team in the division could win it.

Cleveland & Coastal are knotted up at 13-9 in the Winfield after our first month. Frankfort and Sparrow Lake are tied for the bottom with reverse from the first records (9-13). So, I'm getting to the fact that the division is really tight to start- just 4 games from top to bottom. Coastal did beat Cleveland 5-3 in series #2, but a fantastic 7-1 over Sparrow Lake by the Hit Men in series #1 saved their month. New Hudson is just a game back after sweeping Gulf Breeze at home and splitting the six with Cleveland. The 'varks are 4th with a 10-12 record which included a solid 5-1 over Frankfort. Sparrow Lake spun their wheels a bit in the loss to his dad but rebounded to take 5 of 8 from Frankfort and posting a decent Coastal split. Frankfort is tied with the Lake, and their series #1 was the highlight- a 5-3 win over New Hudson.

As I'm sure you know already- the standings and stats for both conferences are on the new web page. Just check out the headings at the top or the big blue boxes in the middle of the page.

Major League Baseball lost some great players this month. Garrett Anderson was one of these players. In the NSL he played from 1996-2010 after being drafted by Vermont and

traded after 1 year. His career batting average of .281 is solid, and he played in 2075 games for us, driving in 1119 runs- mostly on the strength of 272 HR. He also amassed 2326 hits. Phil Garner was an original 1979 draft pick (By Ohio) and played through the 1988 season in the NSL. In our league he batted .244 and in 1101 games had 62 HR and 347 rbi. Davey Lopes was also a 1979 draft pick of the Trimble Jayhawks- batting .255 in 646 games with 274 rbi and 185 stolen bases.

Nathaniel has a new e-mail address: wildcatapba21@aim.com. That e-mail is in the web page under the directory.

Al Rapp and the Cleveland Hit Men are about to break the 4000 career wins mark. That would be the 1st team to crack that level of wins. He has 3995 wins at this moment and I was hoping not to play my series with him until- like December. We'll look for a report from Al when the magical win is recorded.

You know what is a pain in the butt? Trying to figure out what station your favorite team is on. For that matter- what network? Maybe we should go back to one game only on Saturday afternoons.

You think you've had a rough start to your season? I played Coastal in series #1 and had 2 caught stealings on rare plays in the first inning of the first game. What an omen.

There are at least 3 different NSL disks being used. One seems to have some issues with team rosters. It really doesn't matter which one you use, or for that matter which one has the roster errors. Just be sure to look at your rosters before you play a set of games and be sure you don't have an extra guy or two on your group. This is probably all from a trade that was made yet didn't make it to a disk. Just be smart and check your boys before playing.

Remember that we are still using 5.75 if you are a computer game player. As far as I can tell, 6.1 has no significant upside at this time, so 5.75 is the game we're on.

The new website built by Dan is fantastic. But we need to remember the old web page on AngelFire and the trials that Bob went through for so many years for us. I know things got really frustrating as day to day he got the same error messages over and over. But AngelFire served us well for quite a few years, and I look forward to the new site. But it would be nice if you dropped Bob a line to say, "thanks for a great run".

Moving forward now, I wish I could tell you I know everything about the new web site. I surely don't but do know thanks to Dan and Mark that I can actually type in something on the standings page and it immediately goes to the web page- or something like that. Sort of creepy, but I've been able to do the standings all month that way and with their help. I believe what I put in is on Google Sheets- whatever the heck that is. Anyway- what I'm getting at is if you see any issues with anything, just let us know. There are so many pages on our web page now which has a counter as well as a team site for each of the 24 NSL teams. It's quite an effort and looks as if we'll be set for the future for some time. Thanks to Dan and Mark for getting us going. By the way- I believe there is a place on each team page for your photo- send that to Dan or Mark if you want one posted. But just remember- those of you who know me know that I'm pretty clueless when it comes to computers.

I also have to note and forgot earlier that the web site has a counter now- I haven't looked at it today, and saw 8093, obviously getting more hits than just 24 a day. I have to believe that there are some outside folks checking in on us. I give the address to possible managers and other interested parties, but not enough to make a dent in the counter totals.

Did you know that in last year's playoffs, Creekside's Xavier Edwards had a whopping 10 errors in just 14 games. Fittingly he has none this year in 22 games.

Now speaking of errors- let's revisit the e factor (for basic gamers). This year, that e factor is -2, which means that any play resulting in an error with 0 or 2 outs is converted to a hit. So, basically, there will never be an error with 0 or 2 outs this year. This is really just a scoring issue, but earned and unearned runs could be affected as well as a pitcher being downgraded or not. The e- factor changes year to year but is almost always -1 in the moder era. Obviously, the company chose to change that this year. Let me know if you have any questions at all about the e- factor.

For your team, chronologically you play the away series first, then the home series. You can certainly play an opponent any time, but in setting your pitching rotation, it should fall as: series 1 away, 1 home, 2 away, 2 home, etc. With shorter 3 game series coming up starting in June, this can certainly be a factor in how you set your rotation. In addition, it is very possible that you would have the same pitcher going in back-to-back games, depending on the order (not chronological order) the series is played.

Several different NSL managers donated their 2024 cards to the league for sale, and we netted roughly \$272 from their sale. I have thanked each manager specifically already, but Mick, JB, Scoop, Eric, and Al (2 sets) should be saluted for the donation to the league.

Remember soon (June) that you'll be playing teams in the opposite conference and you'll be playing two different games unless you convince your opponent to play "your" game. Several of us will play the computer game online who don't usually, and even a few may get together for face-to-face play. Regardless, it is hoped that since we all don't necessarily know the "other" game, that your opponent will help you out if needed, including decisions made if your opponent is not present. It's the right thing to do.

My regular monthly schedule goes something like this- I update standings daily until the series for the month are all finished (should be the 20th of the month). If there is (say) just 1 series reported on for a couple of days, I may skip a day or two, but otherwise it's a nightly occurrence. From the 20th to the 25th I process team stats, then starting the 26th I do the conference stats. Sometimes that's quick, other time we need to chase down stat sheets. Regardless- this generally leads to me being able to get the stats to the web page by the 28th or 29th, and the newsletter soon after- likely around the last days of the month or the first of the next month. If you turn in a series early, it won't likely be posted in the standings until the beginning of the month that it is due.

Cross and Coach are both retiring from teaching this year. I know Crossie is around May 31st with a couple of possible workdays mixed in, and I would assume Coach ends his tenure around the 31st- maybe a few days into June as well. Good luck to both- I know Coach is going to move to Opelika Alabama (to see some real football at Auburn) which Cross should

be involved with his local golf course. We'll see how it works out for these guys and congratulations!

Did you know that there were 3 different Luis Gonzalez's that played in our league? I didn't think so. Anyway, Luis A, Luis E., and Luis F. have all played in the NSL. Yup- I'm sure you wanted to know.

Trivia answer- Yes, a wild card team has won it all- most recently in 2020 when Mark took out Dan in a 7-game series. Yet this year was the one and only time that a 3rd place team (Creekside) has won the whole thing.

Have a good month everyone-

Best Wishes,

Rich