

*****BULLETIN EXTRA*****

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ST. B. DOUBLE DIPS ON OPENING DAY!

Despite early jitters, team pulls out 12-7 win in game one. "Pole" returns and delivers game winning double in the 7th inning of game 2.

By: Herb Salley

The 2009 season is under way and all indications are that St. B. will once again make a serious run for their 4th CCSL title in 7 years. The team has added some new and exciting players and the team welcomes back some key players from championship years past to include the teams all time leading home run hitter and one of the main driving forces behind the 3 championship seasons ('03, '04 and '06), Napoleon "Pole" Knight who returns to the team after a 2 year absence. With the presence of brand spanking new uniforms and new attitudes, the team seemed very relaxed despite early game one jitters as they swept a double header from Morning Star Baptist Church (city) taking the 1st game 12-7 then squeaking out an 8-7 victory in game two.

In game one, it was a case of the old first game butterflies as the team committed 6 errors including 3 in the 2nd inning that lead to 5 unearned runs scored by Morning Star to take a 5-4 lead after 2 innings of play. The St. B. bats began to wake up as newcomer Darren Ennels immediately made his presence known swatting 3 hits and driving in 4 runs to lead an 18 hit attack by St. B. Steady team veteran Mike Owens also collected 3 hits and scored 3 times while veterans David Randall and Torey Richardson stroked 2 hits apiece along with power man Ron Alston and Ivan Keene.

In his first at bat since 2006, Napoleon "Pole" Knight sent a long drive to left field driving in a run with a sacrifice fly in the 1st inning. Female newcomer Debbie Green drove in 2 runs in her St. B. debut as the team won it's first game of the young season by the score of 12-7.

In game two for St. B., it was the top of the lineup that did the damage and eventually lead the team to victory as the combination of David Randall, Rich Milburn and Ron Alston combined to go 10 for 10 and scored all 8 runs while top RBI man Napoleon "Pole" Knight knocked in 4 runs including the game-winner in the bottom of the 7th inning to give the team it's 2nd straight win, edging out Morning Star by the final of 8-7. Newcomer Darren Ennels drove in 2 runs for St. B. and St. B. coach Peter Hammerer started the season strong at the plate banging out 3 hits for his team.

Long time veteran pitching ace Roxanne Hillman returned to the mound in great spirits after an off season of personal issues and pitched an outstanding game, returning to her old championship form, allowing just two walks and striking out 2 batters. Female newcomer Tiffany Dingle shined in right field as she turned in a dazzling running catch in the 6th inning as part of a 1-2-3 defensive inning for St. B. The team runs it's record to 2 wins and 0 losses on the season and takes 1st place in the John Division of the CCSL.

It has been said many times over the years, when it comes down to it, the only team that can beat St. B. is St. B. and this year should be no different. With the new additions, top returnees and positive mental attitudes by the players on this year's team throughout the season, this team is destined to achieve great things and ultimately bring back the championship gold back to where it belongs... right here at St. Bernardine's Roman Catholic Church. This will be an exciting season for St. B.