

INSIDE EXTRA!

TEAM REPORTS

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Albany, California

Also Featuring:

HOW GREAT WERE THEY?

The Swingin' A's By Bob Rose

JUNIORS DIVISION Commissioner Jack Miller

BEAVERS

Albany Peace Officers

Manager Michele Bachmeier

Coaches Carl Bass & Mark Camps

In early March, the Beavers were eager to begin another season of baseball. In pre-season practice, they looked a little rusty and since team members were talking "0 and 22". But behind the diligent coaching of Manager Michele Bachmeier, the Beavers were whipped into shape ready to start the season. The team has been working on the usual fielding and pitching, but has also been focusing on consistent batting and smart base-running.

The Beavers pitching is one of their major strengths, holding opposing batters to just an average of four runs per game in the early going. **Andrew Wirth** has put in many fine innings, delivering pay-off pitches to get the key outs. **Macabe Camps** has also been in command on the mound. **Peter Schneider's** exceptional hurling skills have shut down many of the hitters he's faced. Not to be outdone, the Beavers relievers have done a fine job as well. **Cole Martiniak's** delivery has frustrated many, while **Carl Jacobs** has held opposing batters to just a few hits.

Fine pitching is great, but not without fine fielders, and the Beavers have plenty of talent in that department. **Alexander Malanche** has made some amazing catches in center field.

Over in left, **Rylan McCommons** has been able to nab some long balls to prevent runners from advancing. **Aidan**

Gadberry, in right field, has been able to snare some strong line drives and hit the cut-off man to prevent extra bases. In the infield, **Jake Bass** has made some excellent picks at first base. **Hartford Johnson** has shown his talents in getting to the ball and making the play. At second base, **Guy Forte** has been stopped hard hits from getting through and going for extra bases. Behind the plate, **Harry Pollack** has been a virtual backstop making some fine defensive plays at home.

While solid defense may prevent run, a team needs good offense in order to produce runs and the Beavers are not lacking in run production. At one point they averaged seven runs per game and have out scored their opponents 49-28. Manager Michele Bachmeier continues to have the Beavers work on improving their consistency at the plate.

It seems that all their hard work is paying off. The Beavers are off to a great season with a winning record and looking to improve as the season continues.

---Todd Gadberry

MISSION REDS

Cerami Builders

Manager Marc Jacobs

Coaches Stephen DeGange & Chris McLean

Wow! Halfway through our 2009 season already! The excitement of baseball has always been the best time of the year for me. Our Mission Reds came together by chance in our 2009 baseball draft. Lots of great possibilities this season at first glance. Being a newcomer to the league, I have really been observing the leadership and dedication of our great coaches Marc Jacobs, Stephen DeGange, and Chris McLeane. I know baseball men when I see them, and I truly feel our boys are in great hands.

We started off a little slow at the plate this year, but great pitching from **Gabe Scaglione**, (Rookie of the Year candidate) **Reed Thomas-McLean**, (another newcomer) **Anthony Luna**, and of course our ace, **Parker Dennison**, enabled us to keep games close.

Along with strong defensive play by **Eian Peters**, **David Jacobs**, **Clayton Langbein**. **Brad Kline**, **Max Brawer**, **Mark Tingwald**, we continue to get stronger every outing. With the appearance of **Ian Finnegan** from an injury, it's all coming together.

And, our bats came alive once, led by **Parker Dennison**, **Clayton Langbein**, and **Gabriel Scaglione**. They're starting big rallies with big hits at the right time. Timely hits by **Ryo Huntamer**, **Reed Thomas-McLean**, **Anthony Luna**, **David Jacobs** and **Eian Peters** have sparked a great first half for our Mission Reds. I am a firm believer that defense wins games. and in my estimation, the Beavers are the defensive team to beat. I see big things for our boys in the second half and through the playoffs, so parents, keep up the great support and don't forget to give your team mom, I mean dad, a big hug of thanks for all the hard work he's done.

---Mark Torres

OAKS

Goodman Landscape Design

Manager Matt Bremer

Coaches Brian Bernard, Brian Burley

The Albany Oaks got off to a less-than-stellar start this season, despite able stewarding by Matt Bremer, one of the league's most 'winningest' managers, and loyal support from his trusty all-Brian B coaching staff (Brians Bernard and Burley, that would be, to those of you keeping score at home).

Still, let's not mince words here, people (I much prefer to julienne 'em, myself); the combination of the new (to several of the lads) big field, some quieter-than-usual bats along with a curse placed on the team by an evil troll princess in a time-space wormhole (just go with it folks, it's late and there's a deadline loomin'), all added up to the Oaks dropping their first three games in rapid succession, and developing a nasty habit of going up by several runs and then frittering that lead away later on, only to lose a) the aforementioned lead and b) the game.

This is exactly what happened against the Beavers in the season opener and later on in the first game against the El Cerrito Mets in what should have been a "laugher" which ended up, as darkness was falling, being more of a "cryer."

All that said, the Oaks, in this reporters' opinion, turned a corner (or at least made a flawless lane change) on a recent Thursday night in a game against the Seals when, once again, a several run lead, created in large part thanks to triples from both **Brian Burley** and **Calvin Bernard**. evaporated and our lads found themselves suddenly trailing by a run in the top of the 6th (and final) inning, by a score of 6-7. Then, thanks to key singles by **Michael Rabin** (to threaten), **Gideon Lebowitz** (to tie) and **Jack Robinson** (to retake the lead), some nice pitching and excellent hitting by **Robin Rosenberg**, and a nail-biting, bases loaded, darkness looming, two out super clutch catch by **Cole Zemel** deep in center to prevent the tying run and end the game, the Oaks were able to avenge an earlier loss to the Seals and rev up some much-needed momentum for two more (revenge-ish) matches against the EC Mets this weekend.

And in those two games, our trusty Oaks ate the Mets for a late afternoon brunch on Saturday thanks to top notch play by almost the entire team, including four solid innings of pitching, a crushed liner to right and a stolen base or two all by **Bob Ely**. The Oaksters then lost a marathon squeaker on

Sunday by the football score of 15-13 despite the herculean efforts of **Krishan Chadha**, with a bat so hot was practically molten, a clutch rally-starting double by **Tyler Petersen**, some nice catches and a couple RBIs by Gideon Lebowitz, and monster hitting by Calvin Bernard and **Jack Burley**.

Have other members of the team contributed so far this season? Absolutely! Take some much clutch hits by Krishan, **Jethro Nieters**, Bob Ely and Tyler Petersen, add some solid pitching and hitting by Jack R and Jack B, Jethro, Calvin and **Noah Bremer** and you've got the beginnings of a much better rest-of-the-season.

---Josh Lebowitz

SEALS

Domino's Pizza

Manager Rob Mullaney

Coaches Joe Franco & Weiming Wu

The Seals got off to a blistering start with hot bats and solid pitching this season. Some great play and improvements from players all around. Obviously when Seals find their rhythm, they can bite as loud as their bark.

Robert Wu missed several games with an illness and a sore arm has keeping **Shan Dhaliwal** off the mound for much of season, but there have been great improvements from **Chris Mullaney**, **Jack Swett** and **Brian Juarez** at plate hint at strong second half of season for Seals. **Mike Stromberg** looks like a whole new player at the plate and on the field. **Tony Wang** has the reflexes of a cat on second and Robert and **Joe Franco** are ball magnets. Even without socks, **Elijah Cooper** can do the Ichiro and **Noah Bremer**, **Kai Rasmussen**, and **James Stoner** have shown great stuff on the mound. The second half of the season should be fun to watch as the Seals get their groove on.

Against the El Cerrito Mets, the Seals came back from a 3-0 first by EC, then pulled ahead in the second. EC came back; then in the fifth James' pitching kept the boys in the hunt and Chris fought off a few pitches before hitting a 2 RBI shot to win the game for Seals.

The Oaks game was a rough one on a beautiful sunny windless day. Game punctuated with walks, dropped balls and errors. Spring break blues? Highlights were two base hits by Kai and Chris. Also hits from Shan, Noah a fence rattling double from Elijah. Against the Beavers, Phoenix-like heat wave had all pining for cooler weather of late March (almost). Unfortunately pitchers suffered and all seemed to lack spring. The Beavers took advantage with a 5 run first inning. Errors and walks had Seals tagging on two runs of their own. Hits by Noah and rbi single from Jack in second brightened things. Hits from Robert and Shan in the fifth.

---David Cooper

MAJORS DIVISION

Commissioner Rex Higginbotham

ATHLETICS

Steve's Auto Care

Manager Steve Sutchter

Coaches Andy Hanauer, Chris McLean

With a strong roster of veteran players, the A's have progressed steadily through their first five games, emerging undefeated! And this is in spite of a mysterious broken limb epidemic. **Zachary Obstfeld** began the season healing from a broken arm. Just as his cast came off, **Jesse Barber** broke

his wrist. As Jesse's cast disappeared, one appeared on the arm of **Reilly Seban**. But this team has been able to rally in spite of the injuries. Hitting has been consistently good, with **Arlo Rudy** reaching base at every bat in the first four games and **Collin Calloway** hitting a home run against the Braves in game three. Fielding has been equally strong, with very few errors and the team only giving up an average of five runs per game. **Liam Knowles** has provided strong coverage behind the plate, **Sam Kreisberg** has been a consistent presence at first, and Jesse Barber has been a force at short stop. Excellent pitching has been delivered by **Henry Bazakas, Marrion Love**, Arlo Rudy and Collin Calloway among others.

The A's started the season with a bang, defeating the Cubs 15 to 5. In the third inning alone, the team scored 11 runs. Arlo started the momentum with a giant double followed by a rapid succession of singles from Collin, Sam, Marrion, Liam, Christian Fargeix, and Henry Bazakas. Henry Bazakas contributed serious pitching muscle with a dominating 8-pitch inning.

In their second game of the year, the Athletics beat the Nationals 10-4, with seven of the ten runs being scored in another monster inning--the second. In a 6-5 defeat over the Braves, Collin contributed excellent pitching and Reilly pitched in with a double in a four-run second inning. In the 9-5 victory over the Cardinals, Zach laid down a picture-perfect bunt for a single. **Henry Rosenfeld** was a perfect two-for-two with a walk, Marrion hit a decisive double driving in two runs, and Big Sam, with arguably the largest strike zone in the majors, walked all three at bats! The final game before press time ended in a 6-6 tie against the Giants. A highlight of this game was a perfectly executed double play, with Jesse at short scooping up a hard-hit ball and firing it to Arlo at second, who tagged the base and threw a quick shot to Sam at first. And **Jesse Nankin Royer** tied the game almost single-handedly in the 6th inning with great base running to score the sixth run.

---Jennifer Cobb

BRAVES

Albany Rotary

Manager Wayne Johnson

Coaches Duane Greco, Frank Weiss

The stands at the Village fields may still be chilly, but the Braves are really starting to heat things up. After some close losses, they earned their first win against the Cubs on April 15th, and showed that they are, as manager **Wayne Johnson** says, "VERY competitive with the other teams in our league." Wayne and coaches **Duane Greco** and **Frank Weiss** have been oiling the machine and getting it moving!

One of the Braves big strengths is a great stable of pitchers to draw from. **Cole Florez** has been doing some fine starting, throwing the heat and getting the outs. **Miles McClure** has been our savior on the mound, coming up with the Ks when we need them the most (striking out three in a row with the bases loaded and no outs in the third against the Cubs). **Sevrin Weiss** has also shown that he can baffle the bats, with a nice 10-pitch 1-2-3 inning against the Cubs. And **Jacob Beckman's** changeup is just what the doctor ordered for middle-inning relief.

Fielding and hitting have also been impressive. Home run king **Jack Johnson** was batting big and throwing some nasty stuff until his shoulder decided to relocate, and we eagerly await his return to the mound and the plate. Lead-off hitter **Avery Tonkyn** has been a wall at shortstop; his swift-handed robbery of a Cubs line drive in a recent game was a sight to behold. **Kaylan Sykes** has also been impressing the fans with

his acrobatic fielding. **Chris Carpenter** has been doing what it takes to get on base, driving up the pitch counts and giving lessons in smart base-running. **Oscar Brown** has been putting his goaltending skills to good use behind the plate, and has been sending those line drives into the outfield with consistency. **Ben Velasquez** continues to show great patience at the plate, and he's making nice contact with the ball, getting on base at nearly every at-bat. **Nathan Greco** has been driving in the RBIs and making some big outs at first. And we've missed **Trevor Wescott** to travel and the flu, but we're looking forward to seeing his fast bat back at the plate soon. It's looking like we're in for a good ride!

---Leif Brown

CARDINALS

H.K.I.T. Architecture

Manager Rich Caldwell

Coaches Marcelo Mino, Jami James

The Cardinals came out swinging in 2009. Their 1-3-1 record at press time could prove to be a misleading indicator of the talent that has been assembled by manager Rich Caldwell and coaches Marcelo Mino and Jamie James.

Behind some quality pitching provided primarily by **Daniel Dempster** and **Tyler Caldwell**, the Redbirds have shown steady improvement in their defensive play. Both Dempster and Caldwell have at times looked un-hittable. And with **Alec Adams** playing so well in the field, the Cardinal pitchers have been able to challenge opposing hitters, confident that the plays will be made behind them. Alec snagged two well-hit fly balls during a frigid Tuesday night game versus the Nationals.

Cameron James has provided steady leadership at first base scooping up ground balls and throws from his fellow infielders while providing some offensive thump in the lineup. **Elijah Casanares** has had some great moments in center field. One such moment involved robbing the Braves Jack Johnson of an extra base hit by grabbing a very deep fly ball in the tie game that was called due to darkness against the Braves.

Camden Sikes showed he's for real at the plate with a couple of nice knocks to the outfield during the win against the Giants. **Logan Shurtz**, with his aggressive base-running and reliable contact, looks to provide a spark as the season progresses. Speaking of contact hitting, **Aren Yeghissian** and **Julian Scribner** provide contact at the plate with great regularity and have both shown substantial ability in the field.

Ihson Nassiri demonstrated his potential by leading off against the Giants with a double down the third baseline. Much of his defense is played at second base where he shares duty with Shurtz. **Andrew Whittemor** has been impressive at the plate and behind it, driving in a run with a triple in the left-center gap against the A's and gunning out runners who dare to test his laser-like throws to second.

Mathew Mino has clearly emerged as a leader with obvious natural ability at shortstop and a bat that has truly come alive. Although Mino's a regular at short, he demonstrated great utility with an outstanding pitching performance during a match up with the Nationals and showcased his power with an opposite field homer the same night.

The Cardinals are learning from every experience. "We are really trying to emphasize maximum effort, aggressive play and positive energy from everyone for all six innings." Manager Caldwell says. "Good things will always happen under those circumstances."

---Scott Shurtz

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



CUBS

Arrow Glass

Manager David Smay

Coaches Bill Treseler & Glen Woodfin

The Cubs are a young team and have had a young team's struggles early in the season. They bounced back after a tough season-opening loss against the A's with their first win, beating the Cardinals on a home run from **Emmett Smay**, and a game-winning RBI by **Nick Sternad**. They followed that with close, well-played losses going down 4-3 against the Giants in extra innings, and coming up just short in a pitcher's duel against the Nationals. We lost 2-1 despite fantastic pitching by **Dylan Stevens** and **Grady Camps**, and very effective turns on the mound by **Billy Tressler** and Nick Sternad. Since then the Cubs have taken their lumps, getting outslugged by the Braves 15-8, and being swept easily by the Nationals in a doubleheader.

There are encouraging signs, however, as the Cubs head into the heart of the season. The youngsters are finding their stroke in the Majors, with **Dixon Layton's** first career home run against the Nationals being a huge boost for the team. Dixon's been a mainstay for the team at first base. **Dan Hibbard-Lubow** also went deep against the Nationals, and has been a stabilizing veteran presence in the infield where he plays shortstop and catcher, and fills out the pitching rotation.

Two 11 year olds who've had no troubles adjusting to Majors pitching have been Grady Camps who leads the team in slugging percentage, doubles and triples, and **Caleb Carpenter** who's held down the clean-up spot with a .400 average, and showing toughness and savvy at the plate. **David Woodfin** has also been hitting, playing a stellar, graceful centerfield and pitching well in all of his outings. **Jack Ely** got off the schneid with a huge two RBI single

against the Braves, and has worked diligently to become an effective second baseman. **Billy Tressler's** been refining his

sweet, left-handed stroke, has pitched well with every opportunity and made several key outfield catches.

Jan Minarik is new to the Albany League, and has contributed tremendous defensive plays in the outfield and at second base. An excellent athlete, Jan's been working hard to bring his bat up to game speed, and has demonstrated an excellent stroke in practice. We expect him to collect a lot of doubles in the second half. **Nicky Sternad** is one of the team leaders in RBI, and has played fine defense at the corners all season. Look for him to pitch more through the remainder of the season. **Eli Berson** distinguished himself during our doubleheader with outstanding defensive play at third base. Eli's also been effective out of the bullpen, pitching an inning of scoreless relief.

Dylan Stevens' defensive play has been the glue holding our infield together and he's pitched exceptionally well all year. Always a good contact hitter, Dylan has started to drive the ball this season. **Emmett Smay** leads the team in home runs and innings caught and brings a steady, veteran authority behind the plate, and leadership in the dugout. Slotted in the three hole, he's been hitting the ball hard all season.

Despite the record, the Cubs have turned out enthusiastically for games and practices, maintained their good cheer and worked very hard to improve their game. We have every hope that their hard work will show up in the win column in the second half.

---**David Smay**

GIANTS

East Bay Paint Center

Manager Paul Kleven

Coaches Carl Bass, Jeff Shipley

Coaches Jeff Shipley, Paul Kleven and Carl Bass are in charge of a talented group of players making up the 2009 Giants roster. Several of the players including **Ben Kleven** and **Alex Oyle** are returning to the team for the second year. Their combined skill in the infield and on the mound has been a foundation for the team defense this season.

Most of the players are Giants for the first time and are adapting quickly to the needs of a challenging schedule. **Max Katz-Balmes** is a utility infielder and catcher who usually starts the Giants offense as a lead off batter. The team is deep with talent at catcher including **Sam Lombardi**, **Rowan O'Connell-Gates**, and **Leo Pollack**. Both Gates and Pollack have been effective on the mound as well, while Lombardi has contributed with some clutch hitting and defensive plays in the outfield. Center fielder **Kye Moffat** anchors the outfield defense with great mobility and is always a threat on the base path. **Ray Karam** and **Michael Castillo** have made key defensive plays at second and in the outfield and have helped the teamed with runs in close games. **Theo Lewis** and **Maxim Guzman** have developed into valuable defensive players in the infield and are starting to hit their stride at the plate as well. **Will Bass** has emerged as an all around talent with some clutch hits in close games against the A's and Braves and a solid performance in the infield at first.

Now that all the Giants are healthy and back from spring break, we expect some great games for the rest of the season.

---**Martin Gates**

NATIONALS

Albany Lions

Manager David Dhaliwal

Coaches Jim Rowland & Gary Williams

The Nationals steamed into spring break an improving team and boasting a 3-1 record. Manager David Dhaliwal and coaches Rommel Williams and Jim Rowland have been fine-tuning the team with vigorous practices and experimenting with new lineup combinations.

Jeremiah Holmes has emerged just in time as a fine pitching prospect to go along with **Alex Rowland** and **Nick Kubler** and **Jordan Williams**, slamming the door as the closer.

Gerold Sanchez discovered his new found power when he crashed a monstrous 3-run shot far over the left field wall in a game against the Braves. That home run ball carried all the way into the sand filled tot yard. What a shot! In that same game, **Teddy Swain** made a terrific running circus catch up against the fence in deepest left center to rob Avery Tonkin of extra bases and kill a Braves rally. The experienced **Nick Kubler**, a savvy ballplayer, also made a nice catch in deep center and threw strikes from the mound giving the Nationals time to rally. **Donny Peterson** singled and then scored on a sweet double steal, a play the Nats have used regularly this season to great effect.



PHOTO BY CHRIS JACKSON

Jordan Williams tripled against the Braves and has contributed a graceful shortstop this season to go with his pitching duties. That game was an offensive showcase for the Nats who came from behind to score 15 runs due to timely hitting in pressure situations by **Austin Warren** who both singled and doubled with the bases jammed. **Liam Pauley** showed why he handles a lot of catching for the Nats, as he's a reliable backstop with a fine arm who can make the long throw to second from his knees look easy; Liam has also pitched effectively for the Nats.

Manager David Dhaliwal concludes a survey of his roster by saying of **Orion Lewallen** and **James Bartlett**, "Both guys are playing a great first base, Bartlett as catcher is nails behind the plate Both are free swingers at the plate, making consistent contact and working the pitch count. Both are really committed players and work hard to improve."

Looking toward the rest of the season, the Nationals will plan on turning up the heat on the other teams in the Majors Division.

---Chris Swain

AAA DIVISION

Commissioner Marcelo Mino

DIAMONDBACKS

Anthony Freeman Insurance

Manager Monte Stott

Coaches Nathan Friedkin & Barton Blum

Manager **Monte Stott** says his coaches, **Nathan Friedkin** and **Barton Blum**, along with a multitude of parent-coaches, are turning these young Diamondbacks into a team that's coiled and ready to release its run scoring venom at any time. Stressing safety, fun and learning in practice is going to lead to many team victories before this season is over!

In early season games, **Cedric Epple** has been great in the leadoff slot, getting on base four straight times while slapping three hits and leading the team with four stolen bases. **Alex White** shows he's a force to be reckoned with, beating out throws to first base and twice going deep to the outfield, while settling down the pitching staff with his confident poise behind the plate. **Josh Friedkin** has been peppering the outfield with line drive hits and keying the defense with his quick hands and accurate arm in the infield and while catching.

Joe Hudson has excelled in all games, pounding two home runs, scoring six times, stifling the opponent's bats with his blazing fast ball, and gobbling up everything hit his way on defense. **Parker Johnson**, with the big leap from Single-A ball this year, is taking pitchers deep into the count while getting on base twice and showing his fleet feet chasing down balls hit his way. **Brandon Ross's** bat has been singing the hits of late, with three in his last four plate appearances, beating out one roller and stealing a base. He's also shown real defensive smarts, fielding and throwing like a veteran.

Ngenzi Rudasingwa has also been swinging a mighty bat with a pair of doubles and four runs to his credit, and showing a limber arm by whiffing batters in all of his pitching appearances. **Carl Stott** is anchoring the left side of the infield with his experienced glove, and his clutch hitting is sending many pitches deep into the green stuff, including a two-run double to cap a big first inning. **Seth Mapp** showed his stuff in one of the D-Back outings by working the pitcher for a free pass to first, scampering to second with a steal, then rounding third to score his first run of the season.

In another big game, **Nate Sanders** lined a first pitch, two run single to cap a four run mid-game rally, then got the fans on their feet cheering for his acrobatic, diving grab of a liner to end the top of the next inning. In the same nail-biter, **Jackson Blum** got his first AAA base hit and under bases-loaded pressure retired the final two hitters of the contest. The third out and victory were assured when first baseman **Nathan Frankel** stretched in the dirt to dig out a long throw from shortstop, receiving a game ball from Coach Stott in recognition of his game-saving play.

Our fourth game featured an onslaught of run scoring highlighted by three 5-run innings. **Alex White**, **Carl Stott**, and **Nathan Frankel** each drove in runners with pairs of clutch base hits, and **Brandon Ross**, going on a 6-for-8 tear, powered a single and two majestic fly ball doubles for 6 RBI's! The twilight game was also the season pitching debut for **Josh Friedkin** and he didn't disappoint, retiring the side in the first inning with only eight pitches and accounting for all three outs with two catches and an assist to double up a runner.

If the team's early games are a measure of development

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

since early spring practices, these Diamondbacks are going to turn the noise of their rattles into season-long roars from the crowded stands at the Krone and Victory Fields!

--- Tom White



METS

Critical Engineering,
Manager John Brusseau
Coaches Lee Townsend, David Gabriel

Those Amazin' AAA are showing their true blazing colors in both victory and in defeat. Aply coached by John Breussard and his dedicated staff, the Mets have shown talent, passion, and competitiveness in each of their first four games. **Wally Brostrom** has played heads up at first base and has had a number of clutch RBI. He likes the team and its fine players. **Ben Church** had the key game-winning hit in the first game of the season; on defense he loves to catch fly balls in the outfield. **Arrian Farahani** is an all-around player with a solid arm. He enjoys running and playing shortstop. Oh, **Henry Brusseau** is a top-notch catcher, snagging errant balls and throwing out opponents trying to steal. A team leader in steals and RBI, in one game Henry smashed two ferocious doubles. **Daniel Colwell** is a steady left-handed pitcher with good control. Along with many of his teammates Daniel got a single and scored in a big five-run inning against one opponent.

At this early point in the season, the Mets are jelling as a team and are showing signs of strengthening as the season moves on. **Noah Gabriel** still dreams of his grand slam last year while he is turning into a heck of a pitcher with "ice water in his veins." Noah is the original NRG kid and doesn't rattle easily. **Casey Hopkins** shows outstanding skills as a base runner with a good sense of strategy. Opposing pitchers don't know that he likes a high fastball. Faster than a cheetah is teammate **Eli Town-send**, an outstanding utility player. According to Eli, the kids on the team are nice (and he likes the major league Mets as well). He has shown heads-up play at shortstop.

It falls on **Cory Sterner** to keep the team buzz going. Multi-talented Cory is solid with his glove skills, has a strong throwing arm and has played up for his age ever since he walked. If you ask who loves humor and sarcasm, it is **Liam Rohlsson**. Liam has done a great job on the mound and has had more than his share of RBIs. **Kenyon Mason** is really having fun with the team and Manager John credits him with being very good on the right side of the infield. **Jacob Kelly**

is one of the top hitters on the team and has great versatility, playing catcher, pitcher, and infielder.

As the season progresses, expect to see the Mets in the evening headlines as they hone their talents and strike fear in the hearts of their opponents.

---Stephen Hopkins

RAYS

Berkeley Dog & Cat Hospital
Manager PJ Caceres
Coaches Russell Bloom, Shiva Gaskins

The Rays great 2009 start is attributed to the positive coaching of their manager **Patrick "P.J." Caceres** and coaches **David "Shiva" Gaskins** and **Russell Bloom**. With their encouragement and patient manner, "our [parent] coaches have created a cohesive squad where the boys enjoy practice and improve their skills", says parent Nicole Forte. Hard work during practice and relaxed moments, such as playing dodge-ball after practice, translates into players who support to each other.

The pitching staff's additional practice with coach Shiva has created depth and success for the Rays. **Gianni Bloom** leads the staff in innings pitched and with a solid defense working behind him has been stingy on opposing bats. Parent Patrick Roche offers, "**Thomas Roche** is having fun pitching." Thomas' confidence allowed him to rack up eight strikeouts in four innings pitched. **Justice Paraiso-Caceres**, **Anthony Gaskins**, **Peter Forte** and **Abe Hill** have added to the staff's 29 strikeouts in four games.

The team's pitchers owe a pat on the back to gold glove plays working in the field. Thwarting the Royals' offense, **Abe Hill** and **Anthony Gaskins** made diving catches in the field. While **Peter Forte** completed an inning ending double play with his catch in center field and throw to the plate ahead of the runner. **Ethan Ostrow's** quick glove at third base and bullet throw to first helped squash a sure double by a Reds batter. **Angelo Paraiso-Arroyo** and **Mamu Dombia** add solid defense to the middle infield positions helping to start plays at second base and shortstop.

Ray's bats pushed across 39 runs in four games and their aggressive base running tallied 52 stolen bases. **Michael Noland** is currently working on a four-game RBI streak. With six hits and two walks, **Peter Chaichana's** crafty hitting and good-eye manage to get him on base each game. **Josh Ooghe's** smashed a double that started a fourth inning rally against the Royals. Speaking of smashes, Gaskins and Bloom each have homered in this early season.

--- John Forte

REDS

Mary & Joe's
Manager Michael McDonald
Coaches Peter deLaveaga, Michael Shemchuk

Opening the season with a bang, **Clayton McDonald** hit a home run in his first at bat. a bright moment in an 8-6 loss to the Mets.

Excellent hitting was also on display in the Reds win over the White Sox, including outfield drives by **Chet Shemchuk**, **Simone Zeiger** and **Jerome Wei**, and RBI by Chet, Clayton, **Nicholas Lin**, **James Colwell**, **Lev Corne**, and **Joshua Temple**.

Tenacity and team spirit are a hallmark of the squad. The Reds found themselves down 4-0 early on against the Twins. A combination of aggressive base running and several walks