



Shore Regional Little League Bi-Weekly Baseball Update 4/30/2021

The excitement of youth baseball has come back to the playing fields of our little corner of Monmouth County. After a year off to let us all become experts in public health policy and remote work/school/life, the return to little league competition is a welcome and much needed dose of community building that is evident in the record number of kids involved in the program this season. Driving around our towns most afternoons you see parking lots full and diamonds buzzing with activity as coaches work to develop their talent and players...get to be kids; learning lessons and having fun with their friends.

The intent of this newsletter is to keep the SRLI family informed of what's been happening between the lines and give a little insight into divisions or teams that you may not be tracking. While every at bat in every game is important, each of these issues will try to highlight several standouts or newsworthy accomplishments. OK, enough of the flowery language, what about the hardball?

Anyone who takes a quick glance at the AA standings (posted below and at www.Shorelittleleague.com) will notice one number jumping off the page. The Padres, led by head coach Matt Tucci, have recorded an astonishing 62 runs in their first 4 games! Matt is quick to credit the depth of his lineup, "for the second straight game, every Padre has collected a hit." They've also been making sure to save plenty of daylight for their turn at bat, as Matt added, "too many defensive gems to mention." Great start Padres, keep having fun out there! I'm sure the undefeated AA Pirates are looking forward to a battle when they face off on May 10th.



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Moving up to the AAA (9-10 year old) division, veteran coach Dave Dondero has gotten his Yankees squad off to a strong start, just a game and a half back of the first place Tigers. That half game is due to a nail-biting 3-3 tie against the cross town rival Mets last week. Those two will face off again on June 1st. Maybe they should put it all on the line and go double or nothing? We'll see how much of a gambler coach Dondero really is. Any early birds who have gotten to the field before Dave know that he likes to channel John Fogerty to keep things loose for warm ups - "Put me in coach, I'm ready to play, today...look at me...I can be...centerfield!". These guys know what the game is all about.



We can't move on from AAA without taking a closer look at the Tigers. They've dominated their first 4 games with an average win margin of 8 runs! Head Coach Rick Miele is a little superstitious and doesn't want to jinx their early success, so he's going the route of humility. When asked for a comment here's what Rick had to say:

"The Tigers have started strong thanks to our lead pitcher, Tristan Adams. Gavin Cavanaugh and AJ Cesario have also stepped up as top pitchers. Bentley Farmer and Thomas Miele have made some clutch hits to help win games."

Solid pitching and timely hitting - an ageless recipe for racking up wins. Rick echoed the common theme of hard work and having fun as the driving forces powering his ball club. He also made a point of noting, "We are so grateful to SRLL for their hard work in making this season happen for the kids." Rick, I'm confident I can speak for the whole Board of Directors when I say that we are grateful for the awesome kids and supportive parents that are the true lifeblood of the program.



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There is plenty more action going on around the league. At the Majors (11-12 year old) level, a game between any 2 of our 3 teams promises to be a competitive test. They've all got strong pitching and dangerous bats up and down their lineups. It's most likely to come down to fielding to determine who will get to raise the trophy at the end of the season. We'll take a closer look at these teams in future newsletters.

That's all for now. Thank you for reading, and good luck to all our young ballplayers.

-Scott Marcantonio

Shore Little League Baseball Standings as of 4/30/21												
AA (7-8 year old) Standings												
Team	GP	W	L	T	PCT	STRK	GB	RS	RA	RPG	APG	DIFF
Pirates	3	3	0	0	1.000	W3	0	33	13	11.0	4.3	20
Padres	4	3	1	0	0.750	W2	0.5	62	21	15.5	5.3	41
Yankees	4	3	1	0	0.750	W3	0.5	40	20	10.0	5.0	20
Rays	4	3	1	0	0.750	W1	0.5	39	19	9.8	4.8	20
Mets	3	1	2	0	0.333	L1	2	12	23	4.0	7.7	-11
Brewers	4	1	3	0	0.250	L3	2.5	16	39	4.0	9.8	-23
Cubs	4	1	3	0	0.250	W1	2.5	11	25	2.8	6.3	-14
AAA (9-10 year old) Standings												
Team	GP	W	L	T	PCT	STRK	GB	RS	RA	RPG	APG	DIFF
Tigers	4	4	0	0	1.000	W4	0	41	9	10.3	2.3	32
A's	4	3	1	0	0.750	W3	1	39	10	9.8	2.5	29
Yankees	4	2	1	1	0.625	L1	1.5	30	14	7.5	3.5	16
Cubs	4	2	2	0	0.500	W2	2	23	17	5.8	4.3	6
Mets	4	1	2	1	0.375	L2	2.5	21	21	5.3	5.3	0
Majors (11-12 year old) Standings												
Team	GP	W	L	T	PCT	STRK	GB	RS	RA	RPG	APG	DIFF
Blue Devils	4	3	1	0	0.750	W3	0	33	18	8.3	4.5	15
Yankees	3	2	1	0	0.667	L1	0.5	22	6	7.3	2.0	16
Tidal Waves	3	2	1	0	0.667	W1	0.5	19	10	6.3	3.3	9