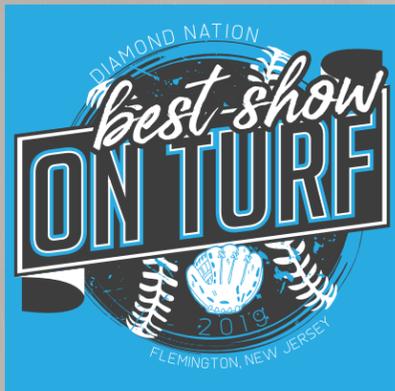


BEST SHOW ON TURF BOASTS SIX AGE BRACKETS AND 78 TEAMS



As Diamond Nation's bustling summer tournament program dives full bore into the middle of July, the Best Show on Turf takes its turn this weekend at New Jersey's finest all-turf facility.

The tournament features 78 teams competing in six age groups from 10U-through-16U.

The **16U Best Show on Turf** gets underway with a trio of openers at 10 a.m. on Friday. Fans may want to take a peak at a good one on Field 3 where Wladyka Continental will square off with Diamond Studs Baseball.

The 16U playoffs begin with the semifinals at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, followed by the championship game swings into action at 7 p.m. on Field 4. The 14-team tournament boasts such entrees as Baseball U. Pa., the Complete Game Colonials, Dirt Dawgs 16U Prospect Team, Team Crush Baseball 2021 and the Dream Academy Highlanders.

The deep 24-team **14U Best Show on Turf** features some of the top Diamond Nation frequent flyers with a nice mix of somewhat new visitors to the complex. The tournament opens at 4:30 p.m. on Friday with a pair of attractive encounters pitting Prospects Baseball Academy against AD Titans 14U and ASBA Downingtown opposite the Diamond Jacks Super 14U.

The 14U playoff is a three-round affair beginning with a pair of first round games at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. The tournament continues with the semifinals at 6:30 p.m. before the championship game settles things at 8:30 p.m. on Field 1.

Bolstering the 14U field are Full Count Futures, North Jersey Cardinals, Connecticut Rangers, the Morris County Cubs and Mercer Baseball.

A pair of quality matchups will open the 16-team **13U Best Show on Turf** at 2:15 p.m. on Friday. Wladyka American takes on Surge and Westchester Academy opposes the Diamond Jacks Gold 13U. The 13U playoff pits the top four teams in the tournament as individual semifinals games will be played at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. The winners will meet for the 13U championship at 8:30 p.m. on Field 3.

The Hudson Valley Wolverines, Hamilton A's Green and Jersey Boyz Baseball are a few more teams that help fortify this talented age bracket.

The **12U Best Show on Turf** kicks off its 12-team tournament at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday when the Locked In Expos face Stars Baseball Academy Black and the Bridgewater Panthers challenge 9ers Baseball Club.

The 12U playoff is a three-team affair, beginning when the Nos. 2 and 3 seeds meet at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday for the right to advance to the final. The winner will play the No. 1 seed at 8:30 p.m. on Field 6.

Some of the 12U teams we are anxious to see in action are Ridge 12U, NY Prospects Capo, the Brooklyn Bandits and the Limerick Panthers.

A pair of 10 a.m. games will open up the **11U Best Show on Turf** at 10 a.m. on Friday. North Colonie Bison Blue plays the Diamond Jacks Super 11U and Rising Stars Baseball will see if it can handle North Atlantic Select 11U Prime.

The 8-team 11U tournament's championship game is set for 4:30 p.m. on Sunday on Field 6.

Richmond County Baseball Club Nationals, Team Steel Black, the Diamond Jacks Gold 11U and Renegades Athletic Club help shape a formidable 11U bracket.

The Manalapan Braves, PS2 Academy Crusaders and the Diamond Jacks 10U squad are the featured teams in the 10U Best Show on Turf tournament. The 10U playoffs gets underway with separate semifinal contests at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. The 10U championship game will be played at 8:30 p.m. on Field 2.



FORMER NJ SUPER 17 PLAYER KAMINSKY ELEVATED TO INDIANS' TRIPLE-A SQUAD

By Bob Behre

Rob Kaminsky has slowly but assuredly climbed the Minor League Baseball ladder since the day he was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in June of 2013. And now he is on the final rung of that ladder and just one step from the major leagues.

The former NJ Super 17 and St. Joseph of Montvale player was called up twice this season to the Cleveland Indians' Triple-A affiliate, Columbus, most recently on June 26. A 5-11, 200-pound lefthander, Kaminsky is in his seventh professional season after he was drafted in the first round, 28th overall in 2013.

Kaminsky, converted last season to the bullpen, has put up solid numbers as both a starter and reliever in the Cardinals and Indians organizations while battling some injuries along the way. He missed much of the 2017 season with arm issues. That the Indians still regard Kaminsky as a future major leaguer is without doubt as he was invited to spring training this past spring by the big club.

He's 1-0 with a 3.68 ERA in seven Triple-A innings for the Clippers, striking out 12 and walking five. Kaminsky was called up from the Akron RubberDucks on June 2 and returned to the Double-A affiliate on June 5. He was called back up on June 26 and has remained with Columbus since. The lefty is 3-1 with a 2.56 ERA in 26 total games this season between the two Cleveland minor league affiliates. Kaminsky has struck out 42 and walked 13 in 38.2 innings.

Kaminsky received an unpleasant taste of life as a professional baseball player in 2015 when St. Louis shipped him to Cleveland for first baseman Brandon Moss in a July 30 trade deadline move. The 2015 Cardinals would go on to win 100 games but fell in the Division Series to the Chicago Cubs. Kaminsky's success to that point in his minor league career perhaps bit him. He was 6-5 with a 2.09 ERA for the Advanced-A Palm Beach Cardinals before the trade.

Moving to the bullpen last season was an adjustment for Kaminsky but he did put forth respectable numbers, recording a 1-1 mark with a 3.08 ERA in 26 innings-pitched. But his 22 strikeouts compared to 18 walks was in need of improvement. Well, Kaminsky has done so as evidenced by his 42 strikeouts and 13 walks in 38.2 innings in 2019.



Former NJ Super 17 player Rob Kaminsky pitches for the Cleveland Indians Triple-A affiliate Columbus Clippers.

Kaminsky has always been a high-strikeout, low-walk pitcher, so the high walk total in 2018 truly reflected a needed adjustment to a new role more than any potentially lingering issue for the 2013 New Jersey State Player of the Year. That improvement began early in the 2018 postseason when the Indians sent him to the Arizona Fall League for some fine-tuning. Kaminsky pitched 11 innings in 10 fall league games, registering a 3-0 record and a 1.64 ERA. More importantly, the Indians saw what they hoped to see in their new reliever, 13 strikeouts and just three walks.

After all the trials and tribulations during seven professional seasons, Kaminsky is still just 24 years-old and primed to join the ever-growing New Jersey contingent in 'The Show.'

LEGENDS BASEBALL WALKS IT OFF IN 10U YOUTH WORLD SERIES FINAL



By Bob Behre

The life of a 10 year-old usually isn't very complicated, but when you are standing in the batter's box with the bases loaded and the winning run on third base the world can speed up.

But Domenic Abate was able to slow things down and keep it simple at a time his team needed him most. Abate latched onto a chest high fastball and looped it into left field, sending Peyton Andrie tearing home with the winning run for a wild 9-8 victory over the Diamond Jacks 10U.

Abate's clutch single delivered for Legends Baseball the 10U Youth World Series championship on Monday afternoon at Diamond Nation. Legends Baseball (5-0) struck for three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to erase an 8-6 deficit as the Diamond Jacks failed to record an out.

The first four batters in the sixth singled for Legends Baseball before Dylan Lenhart was intentionally walked ahead of Abate, who promptly delivered his second clutch hit of the game. "It was an 0-1 pitch and I was looking for anything in the strike zone," said Abate. "The pitch was down the middle and at the letters."

John Eddis ignited the winning rally with a leadoff single to left field and took second as the ball was misplayed. Antonio Causerano then reached on an infield single, sending Eddis to third base. Andrie hit a ball that Diamond Jack pitcher Jake Masterson lunged for but it tipped off his glove for another infield hit. Eddis scored on the hit to shave the deficit to 8-7. Braedon DeAngelis then tied the game with a single down the left field line. Andrie raced to third and DeAngelis took second on the throw in.

The Diamond Jacks walked Lenhart to set up the force everywhere but Abate had other ideas.

"I just wanted to win it for my team," said Abate (2-for-3, 3 RBI). "I saw the shortstop go after it, but when he couldn't reach the ball it was the best moment in my life, probably." At worst it was a day-maker for Abate and his teammates, who stormed the field in celebration.

The Diamond Jacks struck for four runs in the top of the first inning and three runs in the third to take a 7-2 lead, but Legends Baseball kept pecking away to keep itself in the game. The Gloucester County-based program would score in every inning except the first.

"The boys have been hitting well," said Legends Baseball coach Anthony Causerano. "A lot of our focus is on two-strike hitting. It's something we practice non-stop." Legends Baseball had four two-strike hits in its final bat alone before Abate delivered the decisive hit on an 0-1 pitch.

The Diamond Jacks (4-2), which also lost an 8-6 game to Legends Baseball in the first game of pool play on Saturday, had tacked on what looked like a big insurance run in the top of the sixth. Tommy Denvir and Brody Gulbin drew a pair of one-out walks around a single by Reid Bazyldo to load the bases and Michael Basile brought the run home on a sac fly to center field.

The Diamond Jacks built its early lead off a big first inning in which it rapped out six hits. Jackson Lewis had an RBI double, and Anthony Caruso, Bazyldo and Basile followed with RBI singles. But Legends Baseball shaved that lead in half in the second when Abate followed Lenhart's one-out double with a two-run single to center.

"Domenic has kept at it and given everything he has," said Causerano. "It's been challenging because we play a high level of ball and the competition is very tough. He is a selfless player, which is what we preach."

Masterson (3-for-4, RBI, run) and Lewis (2-for-4, 2 RBI, run) contributed RBI singles in the three-run third that staked the Diamond Jacks to a 7-2 lead. But Legends Baseball never backed down. Eddis had a sac fly and Dominic Liberati scored on the back end of a double steal attempt to draw their team within 7-4.

Legends Baseball inched closer with a run in the fourth on a wild pitch. It then closed to within 7-6 in the fifth when Bobby Butkus' sac fly scored Luke Fraley from third.

The Diamond Jacks, which outhit Legends Baseball, 12-10, outscored its tournament opponents 57-41. Legends Baseball held a 52-34 runs advantage on its opponents.



Peyton Andrie cross the plate with the winning on a single by Domenic Abate as Legends Baseball wins the 10U Youth World Series.

YOUTH WORLD SERIES RECAPS



11U

Diamond Jacks Super 11U 6, South Plainfield Tigers 1

The Diamond Jacks Super 11U squad defeated the South Plainfield Tigers, 6-1, in the 11U Youth World Series championship game. Drew Hartong of the Diamond Jacks was named the 11U tournament's Most Valuable Player. The Super 11U (4-1) outscored its tournament opponents 51-16. The South Plainfield Tigers (4-2) held a 36-34 runs advantage on their opponents.



13U

Philly Bandits 2, South Jersey Young Guns 1

The Philly Bandits defeated the South Jersey Young Guns, 2-1, in the 13U Youth World Series championship game. The Bandits (6-0) outscored their tournament opponents 60-8 while the Young Guns (5-2) held a 55-14 runs advantage on their opponents.