





Schedule & Info

May/June

				28 BRD 7:05	29 BRD 7:05	30 ALX 7:05
31 ALX 3:05	1 DUL 7:05	2 DUL 7:05	3 ALX 7:05	4 ALX 6:05	5 MAD 7:05	6 MAD 6:05
7 OFF	8 WAT 7:05	9 WAT 7:05	10 MAN 7:05	11 MAN 7:05	12 BRD 7:05	13 BRD 7:05
14 ROC 6:05	15 ROC 7:05	16 LAC 7:05	17 LAC 7:05	18 WAT 7:05	19 WAT 7:05	20 BC 6:05
21 BC 12:05	22 OFF	23 MAN 7:05	24 MAN 7:05	25 TB 7:05	26 TB 7:05	27 DUL 7:05
28 DUL 6:05	29 TB 6:05	30 TB 6:05	All games are Central Daylight Time			



Mailing Address:

PO Box 5059
St. Cloud, MN 56302

Business phone:

(320) 240-9798

Business fax:

(320) 255-5228

Team Email:

info@riverbats.com

Official website:

www.riverbats.com

Broadcast information:

KXSS 1390 AM The Fan
Webcast on www.riverbats.com

Front office personnel:

Joel Sutherland	President
Ryan Voz	Vice President
Marc Jerzak	Vice President
Wes Sharp	Assistant GM

Field staff:

Tony Arnerich	Field Manager
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Game day staff:

Don Lyons	Public Address
Brian Deyak	Grounds Manager
Abbott Northwestern	Sports Medicine
Bob Kremer	Official Scorer
Sherry Nemeck	Host Family Coordinator

Media:

Kevin Allenspach	St. Cloud Times
Jay Caldwell	Regent Broadcasting

July

			1 TB 12:05	2 TB 6:05	3 DUL 7:05	4 DUL 6:05
5 OFF	6 WIS 1:05	7 WIS 7:05	8 MAN 7:05	9 MAN 7:05	10 LAC 7:05	11 LAC 6:05
12 OFF	13 WIS 6:35	14 ALX 7:05	15 ALX 6:05	16 ROC 7:05	17 ROC 7:05	18 TB 7:05
19 TB 6:05	20 OFF	21 *ALL STAR	22 OFF	23 BRD 7:05	24 BRD 7:05	25 ROC 7:05
26 ROC 6:05	27 MAN 7:05	28 MAN 7:05	29 DUL 7:05	30 DUL 7:05	31 BC	

August

						1 BC 7:05
2 OFF	3 MAD 7:05	4 MAD 7:05	5 BRD 7:05	6 BRD 7:05	7 ROC 7:05	8 ROC 7:05
9 ALX 3:05	10 ALX 7:05	11	12	13	14	15
16	Division Playoff Aug. 11-13 Championship Series Aug. 14-16					

Home games shaded

*All-Star game in Thunder Bay, Canada



NORTHWOODS LEAGUE
2009 MEDIA GUIDE AND RECORD BOOK

Front Office



Joel Sutherland
President

Joel founded the River Bats in 1997. His education, which includes an undergraduate degree at St. Cloud State University, a graduate degree at Ohio University, and an internship with the Los Angeles Dodgers minor league office in Vero Beach, FL has given him an appreciation for sports. Joel's experiences which include a career with the Minnesota Twins, the Minnesota North Stars, and opening his own sports marketing agency have been instrumental in the success of the River Bats organization. Originally from Silver Bay, MN, Joel and his wife Pam have been married for 26 years. They have three children, Kellie, Nick and Robby.

Ryan enters his 11th season in the Northwoods League and third as the Vice President for the River Bats. Ryan was the General Manager for the Alexandria Beetles from 2001 to 2006 where he earned the Northwoods League Executive of the Year honors after the 2002 season. Before Alexandria, Ryan was the Assistant General Manager for the River Bats in 1998 and 1999 and the Director of Marketing for the United Way of Central Minnesota in 2000. Ryan, originally from Cold Spring, MN, graduated from St. Cloud State with a degree in Mass Communications and lives in Avon with his wife Melissa and their two children Noah and Eva.



Ryan Voz
Vice President



Marc Jerzak
Vice President

Marc enters his ninth year in the Northwoods League and his third year as the Vice President for the River Bats. After earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Management at St. John's University, Marc began his Northwoods League career with an internship in the inaugural season for the Alexandria Beetles. The internship quickly led to the Assistant General Manager position with the River Bats that he held for three years, before being promoted to General Manager during the 2005 and 2006 seasons. In 2007, Marc was voted the Northwoods League Executive of the Year. Originally from Milaca, MN, Marc and his wife Janet currently reside in St. Augusta.

Wes graduates from St. Cloud State University this spring with a B.S. in Recreation and Sports Management and a Minor in Public Relations. He worked with the Bats in 2008 as the Game Day Operations Intern and was hired as the Assistant General Manager in December. He's from Maple Grove, MN and graduated from Osseo Sr. High in 2005.



Wes Sharp
Assistant General Manager



Tony Arnerich
Field Manager

Tony enters his fourth season as the River Bats Field Manager. Last season, he directed the team to their best overall record in five seasons. Arnerich, who already owns the record for wins as a Bats field manager (109) led the River Bats to their third Northwoods League Championship in 2007. Arnerich is currently an assistant coach at the University of California-Berkeley. He played his college baseball at Santa Rosa JC and Texas Tech University before signing a professional contract with the Kansas City Royals (01) where he played four years with the Royals and Florida Marlins organizations. He was also a former catcher for the River Bats and is a member of the Northwoods League All-Decade Team. In 2001, he hit .355

(1st NWL) along with a .450 on base percentage (1st NWL) and was named the 2001 Northwoods League Most Valuable Player.

alexandria
beetles
brainard
hunkers
duluth
hushes
mankato
moondogs
rochester
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border calls





All-Stars

Mid-Season All-Stars



Left to right: Brian Hernandez (College of the Canyons), John Atteo (North Florida), Ryan Sheldon (Nebraska-Kearney), Derek McCallum (Minnesota), and Xavier Esquivel (Loyola Marymount).

Postseason All-Stars



Xavier Esquivel

Loyola Marymount

Pitcher

2-0, 0.33 ERA
27.2 IP, 32 K, 11 BB
12 Saves - 4th NWL
22 Games Finished -
5th NWL



Derek McCallum

Minnesota

Second Baseman

.328, 6 HR, 42 RBI
81 Hits - 1st NWL
.328 Average - 3rd NWL
112 Total Bases - T-3rd NWL
46 Runs - 4th NWL



Ryan Sheldon

Nebraska-Kearney

Pitcher

8-2, 1.77 ERA
71 IP, 47 K, 23 BB
8 Wins - T-1st NWL
1.77 ERA - 5th NWL



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2008 Season Review

by Kevin Allenspach, St. Cloud Times



The objective in the Northwoods League is well-defined. Win the first half or second half of the season, get in the playoffs and take your shot at the championship.

"We won the middle half," third-year manager Tony Arnerich lamented as the River Bats' season came to an end.

He's right. From June 24 through the end of July, the Bats went 23-12 - a record good enough to have won three of the four half-season titles and a trip to the postseason.

But for bad timing, they could've defended their 2007 title.

Instead, they'll wonder what could have been and look to next summer with a roster that features 21 of 26 players with eligibility to return.

The reality is many will not, but it appears at least their manager will be on hand to lead the ones who do. Arnerich is headed back to the University of California-Berkeley to

be an assistant coach for the second consecutive season, and he said he's planning on an unprecedented fourth year as Bats manager as long as his schedule will allow it.

"I think we had a great club - it was the best in my three years," Arnerich said.

"It was interesting with all the hot and cold streaks we went on," said first baseman Kevin Johnson, who finished second on the team in batting (.313) and led in slugging percentage (.463).

"I don't know if there's one thing you can point to and say that's why we didn't make the playoffs," Johnson added. "We built some chemistry here. A lot of intricate pieces of the puzzle came together and sometimes that got interrupted. But of all the teams I've been on, this one had the best talent for guys 1 through 25 or whatever and we all got along great. That's why I'm sure a lot of us could see ourselves coming back."

Here are some of the highlights of the 2008 season:

The Bats finished 37-30 overall (fifth-best in the 14-team league), their best mark since going 38-25 in 2003. They won 15 of 16 games from June 24-July 10. Second baseman Derek McCallum finished third in the league batting race (.328). Right-hander Ryan Sheldon tied for the league lead in wins (8) and finished fifth in earned-run average (1.77). The Bats tied for the league lead in shutouts (8). Johnson



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2008 Season Review (cont.)



Kurtis Frymier (Michigan State) was a workhorse for the Bats in his second season with the team.

and Brian Hernandez were the top-fielding first and third basemen in the league, with fielding percentages of .991 and .949 respectively.

"Who around our infield would you trade?" Arnerich asked. "You've got Johnson at first, McCallum at second, Hernandez at third and Niko Gallego was one of the best shortstops in the league. Each one of those guys competed hard every day. As a manager, that's all you can ask. We may have been streaky, but those guys were consistent and set the tone for everyone else on the team."

From the final roster, eight pitchers could return - highlighted by left-hander John Atteo (7 wins), Xavier Esquivel (12 saves) and Kurtis Frymier, who pitched 84 1/3 innings.

All of the position players have eligibility remaining, though only outfielder Brian Humphries is committed.

"If the opportunity presents itself, I'd come back," Frymier said. "It's a great organization and a great atmosphere. They treat you like a big-leaguer."



Fans pack the General Admission section at Faber Field in St. Cloud.

alexandria
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Head to Head Records



Year	Record	ALX	AUS	BRD	GFK	KEN	MAD	MAN	MNK	MIN	ROC	WAT	WIS	TB	LAC	DUL	EAU	BC	GB
1997	34-30					4-8		9-4			4-8	3-9	15-1						
1998	39-25		4-4	8-2	6-4	6-2					5-3	1-7	9-3						
1999	43-19		5-1	7-3	8-2				5-3		4-4	5-3	9-3						
2000	45-18			9-3	9-1				5-3	8-2	6-2	4-3	4-4						
2001	39-25	6-4		6-4			5-3		7-5		4-4	6-2	5-3						
2002	34-30	6-4		4-6			6-2		7-5		4-4	3-5	4-4						
2003	38-25	4-4					3-5		6-2		3-1	6-2	4-4		3-5	3-0			
2004	33-31	6-2					2-6		5-3		1-3	4-4	3-5	6-2	2-2	4-4			
2005	32-36	5-3		4-4			1-3		4-8		3-1	3-1	2-2	2-6	4-0	3-5	1-3		
2006	33-34	5-3		3-5			2-2		6-6		3-1	3-1	3-1	4-3	1-3	1-7	3-1		
2007	35-31	3-5		4-3			1-3		4-4		4-3	3-1	X	5-3	X	4-4	4-0	2-2	1-3
2008	37-30	5-2		5-3			X		4-4		4-4	X	2-2	3-5	1-3	5-3	4-0	3-1	1-3
Totals	409-304	40-27	9-5	50-33	23-7	10-10	20-24	9-4	53-43	8-2	44-39	41-38	60-32	23-24	11-8	23-25	12-4	5-3	2-6

ALX-Alexandria Beetles, AUS-Austin Southern Minny Stars, BC-Battle Creek Bombers, BRD-Brainerd Mighty Gulls (Blue Thunder 2005), DUL-Duluth Huskies, EAU-Eau Claire Express, GFK-Grand Forks Channel Cats, GB-Green Bay Bullfrogs, KEN-Kenosha Kroakers, LAC-La Crosse Loggers, MAD-Madison Mallards, MAN-Manitowoc Skunks, MNK-Mankato Mashers (MoonDogs 2002), MIN-Minot Greenheads, ROC-Rochester Honkers, TB-Thunder Bay Border Cats, WAT-Waterloo Bucks, WIS-Wisconsin Woodchucks.

alexandria
beetles

brainerd
hulkers

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Miscellaneous Records

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lunkers

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	Home Record			Road Record			Extra Inning Record			One Run Record			Shutout Record		
	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT	W	L	PCT
1997	18	14	.563	16	16	.500	3	4	.429	11	7	.611	2	2	.500
1998	20	12	.625	19	13	.594	1	3	.250	10	7	.588	4	0	1.000
1999	25	7	.781	18	12	.600	4	0	1.000	9	8	.529	7	3	.700
2000	25	7	.781	20	11	.645	5	2	.714	8	6	.571	3	2	.600
2001	24	8	.750	15	17	.469	5	5	.500	10	8	.556	11	4	.733
2002	16	16	.500	18	14	.563	5	3	.625	13	11	.542	6	2	.750
2003	23	8	.742	15	17	.469	4	3	.571	13	6	.684	11	4	.733
2004	20	12	.625	13	19	.406	4	5	.444	6	11	.353	4	8	.333
2005	20	14	.588	12	22	.353	2	4	.333	8	12	.400	2	3	.400
2006	20	14	.588	13	20	.394	5	6	.455	9	7	.563	3	4	.429
2007	21	13	.618	14	18	.438	6	3	.667	13	9	.591	7	5	.583
2008	20	13	.606	17	17	.500	2	2	.500	6	7	.462	8	4	.667
Totals	252	138	.646	190	196	.492	46	40	.535	116	99	.540	68	41	.624



2008 Final River Bats Statistics

W-L Record: 37-30



PLAYER	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	SLG	OBP	E
Betteridge, Dan,SS	.249	53	173	29	43	7	0	0	12	20	36	12	5	.289	.332	15
*Braaten, Ben,C	.155	25	58	3	9	2	0	0	4	7	22	1	0	.190	.246	1
Canha, Mark,OF	.216	49	162	27	35	8	2	0	16	25	23	8	0	.290	.348	2
#Cochrane, Steve,DH	.263	40	114	11	30	7	0	1	16	19	20	0	2	.351	.368	4
Fanelli, Matt,OF	.236	62	212	24	50	5	4	0	25	19	56	5	3	.297	.317	4
Gallego, Niko,SS	.211	40	123	15	26	1	0	0	5	14	26	5	0	.220	.317	11
*Hale, Preston,OF	.260	60	200	27	52	11	2	2	27	23	40	2	4	.365	.352	2
Hernandez, Brian,3B	.262	61	229	28	60	14	0	2	24	15	19	0	0	.349	.329	11
Hulett, Jeff,OF	.286	5	14	4	4	0	0	0	3	2	5	0	0	.286	.375	0
*Humphries, Brian,OF	.257	30	113	9	29	1	0	0	15	11	17	4	0	.265	.331	2
*Johnson, Kevin,1B	.313	54	201	31	63	13	1	5	34	15	32	0	2	.463	.373	4
*McCallum, Derek,2B	.328	66	247	46	81	9	2	6	42	36	37	6	4	.453	.418	12
Radbil, Sam,3B	.125	4	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	1	0	.125	.417	1
*Ramirez, Christian,OF	.303	19	76	13	23	5	2	0	10	4	8	8	3	.421	.379	1
Reed, Jon,SS	.000	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000	0
*Richard, Zac,1B	.367	14	49	9	18	4	0	1	12	2	4	0	0	.510	.370	2
*Thompson, T.J.,OF	.151	21	53	6	8	0	1	1	8	12	9	2	0	.245	.318	1
Weisenburger, Adam,C	.252	50	143	25	36	6	0	0	18	12	29	0	1	.294	.390	7
All Others	.100		10	4	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	.100	.250	19
Total-All Batters	.260		2192		569		14		271		392		24		.351	
				313		93		18		240		54		.339		99

PITCHER	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WP	AVG
*Atteo, John	7-2	2.57	11	10	0	0	0	63.0	55	24	18	4	5	13	31	2	.237
Beard, Ryan	0-1	0.79	8	0	0	0	1	11.1	11	4	1	0	3	7	8	0	.262
Cook, Cole	3-3	6.40	8	8	0	0	0	32.1	32	26	23	0	2	27	19	5	.269
Deminsky, Dave	1-1	1.59	2	2	0	0	0	11.1	11	2	2	1	1	2	8	0	.250
Esquivel, Xavier	2-0	0.33	24	0	0	0	12	27.2	16	3	1	0	1	11	32	4	.165
Frymier, Kurtis	6-2	2.56	31	4	2	1	2	84.1	72	31	24	2	7	16	61	4	.240
Hill, Michael	0-0	4.91	3	0	0	0	0	3.2	4	2	2	0	0	4	3	0	.267
Holmes, Bobby	0-3	10.08	12	4	0	0	0	25.0	36	31	28	0	8	21	23	5	.336
Lambert, Connor	3-4	4.04	11	11	1	0	0	62.1	64	34	28	4	7	23	39	3	.268
*Newsome, Tyler	0-2	4.58	10	0	0	0	0	17.2	17	16	9	0	0	14	13	1	.230
Roberts, Lee	1-0	1.72	8	1	0	0	0	15.2	14	7	3	0	0	4	9	0	.222
Sheldon, Ryan	8-2	1.77	12	9	1	0	0	71.0	58	16	14	4	5	23	47	1	.228
*Suiter, Andy	2-3	6.27	11	5	0	0	0	33.0	26	27	23	2	7	33	28	9	.230
Sutherland, Nick	0-1	8.22	5	0	0	0	0	7.2	10	10	7	1	0	8	6	0	.303
Sykes, Tyler	0-0	5.79	15	0	0	0	0	18.2	21	15	12	0	5	15	19	3	.280
*Thibodeaux, Jordan	2-3	2.29	10	9	0	0	0	55.0	46	28	14	2	5	27	30	2	.228
*Tucker, Rashad	2-3	5.54	12	4	0	0	0	37.1	41	26	23	3	2	22	33	6	.277
All Others	0-0	0.00	5	0	0	0	1	5.2	3	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	.167
Total-All Pitchers	37-30	3.58		67		8		582.2		302		23		272		45	
					4		16		537		232		58		413		.247

* Bats Left for Batters, Throws Left for Pitchers # Switch-Hitter

DID YOU KNOW?

The River Bats have advanced to the postseason in nine of their twelve years of existence. The three seasons that St. Cloud did not make the playoffs were their inaugural season of 1997, 2006, and 2008. They've taken home the NWL Championship in 1998, 2000, and 2007.





Team Records

Single-Season Batting Records

Category	Name	School	Year
Average	.369 Josh Holthaus	Minnesota	2000
RBIs	51 Josh Holthaus	Minnesota	2000
Runs Scored	60 Chris Basak	Illinois	1999
	60 Dale Johnson	Jacksonville	2000
Stolen Bases	35 Chris Basak	Illinois	1999
Hits	88 Chris Basak	Illinois	1999
Doubles	23 Scott Hendrix	Kennesaw State	2005
Triples	7 Tony Arnerich	Santa Rosa JC	1999
Home Runs	12 Nick Kaye	SW Missouri State	1997
Walks	46 Josh Holthaus	Minnesota	2000
At Bats	247 Dale Johnson	Jacksonville	2000
	247 Derek McCallum	Minnesota	2008
Strikeouts	77 Chad King	Kansas	1997
Games Played	66 Charlie Cutler	California-Berkeley	2006
	66 Derek McCallum	Minnesota	2008

Single-Season Pitching Records

Category	Name	School	Year
ERA	1.29 Mike Kunes	UCLA	2000
Wins	10 Pete Smart	Kansas	1999
	10 Chris DeMaria	Long Beach State	2001
Games	31 Kurtis Frymier	Michigan State	2008
Strikeouts	103 Thomas Diamond	New Orleans	2003
Walks	64 Bryan Buschhorn	SW Missouri State	1997
Saves	17 JP Martinez	New Orleans	2003
Games Started	13 Mike Darrah	St. Xavier University	1998
Losses	6 Bryan Buschhorn	SW Missouri State	1997
Innings	92 Chris DeMaria	Long Beach State	2001
Hits	98 Brian Curtin	Iowa State	1998
Runs Allowed	66 Brian Curtin	Iowa State	1998
Earned Runs	51 Brian Curtin	Iowa State	1998

Top Five River Bats Attendances

August 12, 1997	Waterloo	2,807
August 3, 1999	Rochester	2,690
August 1, 1999	Rochester	2,610
June 27, 2000	Brainerd	2,577
July 23, 1999	Brainerd	2,521



Team Records



Career Batting Records

Category	Name	School	Years	
Batting Average	.344	Chris Basak	Illinois	98,99
RBI's	95	Tony Arnerich	Texas Tech	99,00,01
Runs Scored	121	Tony Arnerich	Texas Tech	99,00,01
Stolen Bases	48	Wes Long	Alabama-Huntsville	01,02,03
Hits	198	Wes Long	Alabama-Huntsville	01,02,03
Doubles	34	Wes Long	Alabama-Huntsville	01,02,03
Triples	12	Tony Arnerich	Texas Tech	99,00,01
Home Runs	12	Nick Kays	SW Missouri	1997
	12	Scott Hendrix	Kennesaw State	04,05
Walks	74	Wes Long	Alabama-Huntsville	01,02,03
At Bats	706	Wes Long	Alabama-Huntsville	01,02,03
Strikeouts	100	Dustin Atkinson	Kennesaw State	02,03
Games Played	186	Wes Long	Alabama-Huntsville	01,02,03

Career Pitching Records

Category	Name	School	Years	
ERA	2.22	Chris DeMaria	Long Beach State	00,01
Wins	15	Chris DeMaria	Long Beach State	00,01
Games	80	Britt Carmicheal	Lubbock	97,98,99
Strikeouts	147	Chris DeMaria	Long Beach State	00,01
Walks	79	Mitch Walk	Illinois	97,99,00
Saves	24	Britt Carmicheal	Lubbock	97,98,99
Games Started	23	Mike Kunes	UCLA	00,01,02
Losses	10	Brendan McGinn	UConn	03,04,05
Innings	162	Chris DeMaria	Long Beach State	00,01
Hits	150	Matt Petrussek	Lewis University	01,02,03
Runs Allowed	66	Brian Curtin	Iowa State	1998
Earned Runs	52	Trent Bohnsack	MSU-Mankato	97,98

The Chicken Race is one of the many unique promotions fans experience at a River Bats game.



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hinkers

dubut
haskies

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monarchs

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The Home of the River Bats

Joe Faber Field

Stadium Facts:

Stadium Name: Joe Faber Field

Year Built: 1998; renovated in 2007

1st NWL Game Played at Stadium: 2007

Seating Capacity: 3,000

Ballpark Dimensions: 315L, 401LC, 380C, 375RC, 325R

Ticket Prices: Box Seat \$12; Reserved \$10; General Admission \$6, All-You-Can-Eat Sports Deck, \$24, Season Box \$299, Season Reserved \$239.

Parking: Free. The parking lot appears huge until a large crowd descends; if you think a lot of people will be at the ballpark come early and avoid a hassle.

Directions: 5001 8th Street N., St. Cloud 56302. Highway 15 runs north/south through western St. Cloud. No matter where you're coming from, you'll want to make your way to Highway 15 (there's even a Highway 15 exit off of I-94). When you reach 8th Street, head west; the Municipal Athletic Complex (which features the former home of the Bats, Dick Putz Field, as well as a hockey).



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manitowishongomi
monarchs

rochester
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The Home of the River Bats



You're walking up to the ticket box and you hit a small line. To your left a picnic of 60 people laughing and smiling, kids running around the tables playing tag. You get to the ticket taker who tears your ticket and hands you 3 poker chips. Tonight is Viva Las Vegas Night at Joe Faber Field for a chance to win a trip for two to Vegas. This is just another exciting night at one of the most popular fields in the Northwoods League.

Faber plays host to 34 of these wacky nights a year, but hasn't always been home to the River Bats. Adjacent to Faber is Dick Putz Field where the Bats called home for 10 years before moving to a renovated Joe Faber Field. After the million dollar facelift in 1997 Joe Faber Field created a great atmosphere for baseball fans of all ages. Immediately as you walk in you notice a new large lobby with a full concession area and a great merchandise shop. Along the walls you notice paintings representing baseball's past in the city of St. Cloud. You may even witness River Bats mascot Earl Batty, Jr. walking the halls meeting and greeting children and their families. As you walk out to the park you notice the large grandstand with aluminum seatbacks in every row. The first two rows are what the Bats call their "box" seats which are below the walking concourse and give an exceptional view of the entire park. Above the walkway are up to 14 rows of more seats with aluminum backs that lead all the way up to the press box. Along with the press box is an attached six-person luxury box, elevator, and handicapped seating.

If you look towards right field you notice a party above the River Bats dugout. The Home Improvement Lodge as it is dubbed hosts parties of up to 70 people and includes all you can eat catered food and tables with umbrellas to enjoy the game without the sun. As you look further down the line you spot the General Admission section, an 800-fan section of metal bleachers. Immediately behind the G.A. section is another concession stand and merchandise table where fans can purchase anything from jerseys to mini bats.

If you look down the left field line it seems as though there is even more action. Above the visitor's dugout lies the 3rd Base Suite. This section holds anywhere from 30-40 people, includes catered food, chairs and tables with umbrellas, all you can drink beverages, and most importantly a great view of the game. Further down the line you see a 5,000 square foot, three tiered party deck. Arguably the biggest draw to Bats games is this area it is appropriately named the Sports Deck. All three levels are filled with stools

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to sit while you enjoy the game, but most choose to mingle and enjoy the amenities. Along with a great view the Sports Deck participants are laced with a wristband that gives them the right to enjoy all the free food, water, pop, and \$1 beers they can consume. The Deck even has a grassy area behind it where you can often find kids playing catch and trying to rob fly balls against the fence that separates Joe Faber Field and the Municipal Golf Course.

The golf course, that lines part of the ballpark is just another piece of Joe Faber's beauty. It creates a great backdrop far beyond the outfield wall. If it's not the golf course, it's pine trees, which is only fitting for a team in the Northwoods League.

All in all Joe Faber Field is without a doubt one of the top ballparks in the league. It's an incredibly aesthetic field with a great atmosphere to go with it. The River Bats are fortunate to play at such a beautiful park. If it isn't the best in the Northwoods League it is without a doubt in the top tier.



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McCallum is River Bats MVB

By Brian MacPherson, St. Cloud Times



Not a soul moved when Derek McCallum stepped into the dugout and began to remove his batting gloves.

Monday's Joe Faber Field crowd was still buzzing about the three-run home run McCallum had yanked over the right-field fence, but no one in the St. Cloud River Bats dugout appeared to have noticed.

A few seconds of silence passed before a swarm of white jerseys mobbed the second baseman. That home run was just another opportunity for the River Bats to give a hard time to the player whose bat carried them through much of the first half.

Ask McCallum, though, and he'll tell you he probably would have preferred the silent treatment.

"We call him 'Mr. Baseball' or 'Mr. Franchise' or something like that, and he'll get all upset about it," third baseman Brian Hernandez said.

"He just sits there and pisses and moans a little bit. But he's real cool about it; he doesn't really take it to heart."

Said outfielder T.J. Thompson, "We give him a hard time just because we think he deserves it because he's hitting so well. 'Oh, Mr. .500, he can do whatever he wants.' ... 'Oh, (manager) Tony (Arnerich), can we do this? Derek wants to do it.' It's all in good fun."

It's a lot easier to take that kind of abuse when you're hitting the way McCallum has through the first half of the Northwoods League season.

Entering play Thursday, his .352 batting average ranked him fourth in the Northwoods League, and he leads the River Bats in walks (18), runs (23), extra-base hits (10) and runs batted in (28).

Things have slipped a little bit since June 15, when he was hitting .443. But that hasn't stopped the team from getting on his case with "Mr. Franchise" talk.



Derek McCallum (Minnesota) hit .328 in his second year with the Bats.

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McCallum is River Bats MVB (cont.)

"It's just a joke," McCallum said, rolling his eyes. "It's funny, but at the same time, it's just one of those things. It's definitely a joke, is what it is, because that's definitely not true. They're just goofing around."

The 6-foot, 190-pound middle infielder won't even name a pro player after whom he models his game; that would mean insinuating his ability was in any way close to that of that particular player.

"I've got favorite players and that whole deal," he said. "But I don't know if you can try to emulate someone because they're so good and it's such a different level that I can't even comprehend what it's like."

Hitting and winning

McCallum hasn't had too much experience recently with things going so well that he's had to take grief for it.

A year ago at this time, the River Bats were en route to a Northwoods League title, but McCallum was having all kinds of trouble finding his swing. He finished the season with a .215 batting average and eight doubles but no home runs.



This spring, the situation reversed itself. McCallum hit a respectable .291 with three home runs at Minnesota, but the Golden Gophers finished the season 20-35 - their first losing season in almost half a century.

Things finally have fallen into place this summer.

The River Bats stormed back from a tough start to win seven straight and come within a whisker of catching Mankato for a first-half division title. McCallum, meanwhile, hit .333

a pair of doubles, a pair of home runs and six RBI in that span.

It's far from a coincidence. That's the same type of production the Twins saw from McCallum when they drafted him in the 50th round out of Hill-Murray two years ago.

He didn't come close to signing; his intention always had been to play for the Gophers. But the entire process gave him a chance to see what he

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McCallum is River Bats MVB (cont.)



might experience a year from now, when he'll once again be eligible for the draft.

"It was very foreign to me; I didn't know what was going on, the rules and regulations," he said. "It was really exciting, but at the same time, my head was almost spinning a little bit."

A pro future

The idea of being drafted again a year from now certainly isn't far from McCallum's mind.

That's why he doesn't mind shifting back to second base after a full season of playing shortstop for the Gophers. He'd played shortstop his entire life, but he played second base his freshman season at Minnesota and again last season with the Bats.

The more infield positions he can master, he figures, the better his chances are that a big-league team will take a second look.

"If you're just a third baseman, just a second baseman, just a first baseman, they're like, 'Well, we'll give you a shot there, and if it doesn't work, whatever,'" he said. "But if I can develop that versatility and get used to all those different positions, it'll help me."

Plus, the more positions he can master, the better his chances are that he'll get to play every day. And as long as he's in the lineup, he can keep doing what he does best at the plate.

It was the at-bat before his three-run home run on Monday, in fact, that really epitomized what he brings to the River Bats every day.

He could have stopped at first base when his shallow fly ball eluded Duluth's right fielder; instead, he saw the ball skip a few feet away and scampered into second for a double.

When Kevin Johnson struck out on a pitch in the dirt, McCallum danced off second base until Duluth's catcher threw to first for the putout. McCallum then sprinted for third - and made it.

All Hernandez had to do was lift the ball into the outfield to bring home McCallum with the inning's first run.

"He comes to play every single day," Arnerich said. "He plays the game the right way. He plays it hard. He doesn't spit on the field. He doesn't swear. He's one of those kids who comes to play with a passion, and it shows. He's very talented, so you put those things together, and he's putting up some good numbers.

"It couldn't happen to a better kid."

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City Officials

Dave Kleis, *Mayor*

City of St. Cloud



"The St. Cloud River Bats have been a great asset to Central Minnesota and the City of St. Cloud for the last eleven years. The River Bats have provided exceptional outdoor family entertainment at affordable prices that the whole community can enjoy! The team's success on the field and off the field has made Joe Faber Field a favorite summertime destination for me and many others throughout Central Minnesota. I'm very excited to help celebrate the River Bats 13th year this summer; I'll see you at the ballpark!"

Lyle Mathiasen, *Park and Recreation Director*

City of St. Cloud



"The St. Cloud River Bats have been an integral part of St. Cloud and the surrounding communities since their inception twelve years ago. The River Bats have provided Central Minnesota with a summer entertainment venue that has been a huge "hit". The popularity of the River Bats is outstanding. Combining the winning tradition the River Bats have, with exciting promotions, and a wonderful facility, it makes for a very enthusiastic ballpark atmosphere. My best wishes for a great 2009 baseball season and I'll see you at the ballpark! "

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