





# Schedule & Info



## May/June

				28 GB 6:35	29 GB 7:05	30 DUL 7:05
31 DUL 3:05	1 BC 7:05	2 BC 7:05	3 MAD 7:05	4 MAD 7:05	5 MAN 7:05	6 MAN 7:05
7 OFF	8 STC 7:05	9 STC 7:05	10 ALX 6:05	11 ALX 6:05	12 MAN 7:05	13 MAN 7:05
14 WIS 3:05	15 WIS 7:05	16 MAD 7:05	17 MAD 7:05	18 STC 7:05	19 STC 7:05	20 GB 7:05
21 GB 3:05	22 EC 7:05	23 EC 7:05	24 OFF	25 LAC 7:05	26 LAC 7:05	27 WIS 6:35
28 WIS 5:05	29 LAC 7:05	30 LAC 7:05	All games are Central Daylight Time			

## July

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

## August

						1 MAD 7:05
2 GB 5:05	3 GB 7:05	4 OFF	5 WIS 1:05	6 WIS 7:05	7 LAC 7:05	8 LAC 6:05
9 EC 6:05	10 EC 6:35	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

### Mailing Address:

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### Business phone:

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### Business fax:

(319) 232-0700

### Team Email:

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### Official website:

www.waterloobucks.com

### Radio:

1250 KDNZ-AM

### Front office personnel:

John Marso Owner  
Steve Marso Owner  
Dan Corbin General Manager  
Charlie Boeckenheuer Assistant GM

### Field staff:

Pete Lauritson Field Manager  
Travis Kiewiet Coach  
Mike Schultz Coach

### Game day staff:

Elwin Huffman Public Address  
Mark Adkins Official Scorer  
Buck Mascot

### Media:

Matt Coss Waterloo Cedar  
Falls Courier  
Jim Coloff Program Dir.-KCNZ  
Rick Coleman Sports Dir. - KWWL

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*John & Steve Marso  
Owners*

John and Steve, twin brothers from St. Paul, MN, purchased the Waterloo Bucks in March of 2004, fulfilling a life-long dream of owning a baseball team. Working for various sports organizations since the age of 18, this gave the twins something they had always dreamed of doing. Along with the Bucks, John and Steve also landed in the restaurant business. They own and operate all of the Hooters restaurant franchises for the state of Minnesota. With various locations owned, they hope to expand throughout the state and surrounding areas, as well as looking at other restaurant concepts related to the business.

## 2008 Executive of the Year

Dan Corbin returns for his eighth season overall and fourth as general manager with the Waterloo Bucks. Dan was promoted to GM in September of 2005 and has been a catalyst in improving the organization since. A native of the Cedar Valley, Dan attended the University of Northern Iowa where he graduated with a degree in Communications/Electronics Media in 1998. In May of 2001, Corbin graduated with a Masters Degree in Sport Management from the University of Texas. After completion of his graduate program, Corbin worked at Western Kentucky University as the Assistant Facilities Coordinator of the Athletics Department until joining the Bucks in January of 2002. Dan was named the 2008 Northwoods League Executive of the Year.



*Dan Corbin  
General Manager*



*Charlie  
Boeckenheuer  
Assistant  
General Manager*

Charlie Boeckenheuer is entering his fourth season as Assistant General Manager/Director of Media Relations. A Calmar, Iowa native, Charlie attended the University of Northern Iowa where he graduated with a degree in Marketing. Prior to working with the Bucks, Boeckenheuer was an intern with the Battle Creek Yankees and the Iowa Cubs during their 2004 seasons.

A native of Mason City, Iowa, Lauritson was an assistant with the Bucks in 2007, began his field manager duties for Waterloo in 2008, and is entering his sixth season as the hitting and outfield coach for the North Iowa Area

Community College baseball program. Under Lauritson's tutelage in '08, the Bucks showed a four game improvement in the win column, placed two players on Baseball America's Top 10 Major League Prospects of the NWL list, had four players participate in the NWL All-Star game, and one player named to the post season All-Star team.



*Pete Lauritson  
Field Manager*





# All-Stars

## Mid-Season All-Stars



Left to right - Joey Register (Texas A&M), Josh Rickards (Marist), Ryan Goins (Dallas Baptist), and Bob Lackovic (Creighton).

## Postseason All-Star



### **Joey Register**

*Texas A&M*

*Outfielder*

.259, 10 HR, 32 RBI

10 Home Runs - T-1st NWL

.500 Slugging % - T-4th NWL

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# Bucks go out with a bang

By Jim Nelson, Courier Sports Writer  
8/11/2008



Injuries, a major flood and a month on the road could have defeated the 2008 Waterloo Bucks.

But instead of packing their bags early, the Bucks stayed the course and completed their summer journey.

It wasn't the destination Waterloo had hoped for, but it was far better than most imagined a month ago.

Josh Rickards combined with two relievers to fire a three-hitter as the Bucks closed out their Northwoods League season with a 3-0 victory over the playoff-bound Mankato Moondogs in front of a Riverfront Stadium jammed end-to-end with 4,236 fans.

The victory clinched Waterloo's first winning half since 2004 as the Bucks battled for the second-half South Division title down the stretch before being eliminated Saturday.

"The team chemistry was probably the best I've ever played with," said Rickards, a senior to be at Marist College. "This was a great group of guys who enjoyed the game. I can't tell you the last time I really enjoyed the game like this."

Rickards (5-4) was nicked for two hits in the first inning, including a leadoff single to Bobby Munoz. But he promptly picked Munoz off first and allowed just two more Moondog baserunners, both of whom were erased by Bucks double plays.

"That is the way our pitching staff has been --- dominant down the stretch. They've carried us," said Bucks' manager Pete Lauritson. "It's why we have a winning record."

"Josh was dominating, and then we turned it over to (James) Jones and (Bob) Lackovic and that has been the winning formula."



Photo by Sport Pix

**Josh Rickards (Marist) during the 2008  
NWL All-Star Game.**

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## Bucks go out with a bang (cont.)

Waterloo got the only run it needed in the fourth as James Jones, voted the 2008 fans' Player of the Year, reached on an error and advanced to third with a steal and a wild pitch. With two outs, Taylor Lang laced a two-strike pitch through the box to plate Jones.



**James Jones (Long Island) was the third best prospect in the NWL according to Baseball America.**

The Bucks got two more in the eighth as Michael Giller led off with a triple and scored on an error. Jones walked and later scored on a wild pitch.

Lackovic worked around a leadoff walk in the ninth to earn his 13th save.

"You couldn't ask for a better way to go out," Rickards said. "I know we were out of it, but we were just ready to play ... and excited about it."

Lauritson admired how his team stuck with it and played its best baseball at the end after a trying first half of the season.

"As a manager of this team, I'm really proud of the way we played the last two weeks," Lauritson said. "We weren't given a lot of credit. A lot of people didn't think we were very good.

"But to go 18-16 in the Northwoods League, I don't care what ... in this league that's tough to do."

Lauritson plans on returning next year, reversing a trend of managers who have coached one season at Waterloo and left.

"I'll be back," Lauritson said. "I love this league. I love everything about this league, the developmental part, the team competitiveness and next year we are going to get a group of guys and like every year it will be our goal to get to the playoffs."

Looking forward to 2009, the Bucks will have a solid base of players returning from the 2008 season, including Mike Giller (Illinois), Ryan Goins (Dallas Baptist), Steven Irvine (Mcneese State), James Jones (Long Island), Bob Lackovic (Creighton), Derek Ott (Northern Iowa), and Chris Pack (Villanova). Field Manager Pete Lauritson (North Iowa Area Community College) will continue to run the team and the front office will be in their fourth year working together.

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# Head to Head Records



Year	Record	ALX	AUS	BRD	DUB	GFK	KEN	MAD	MAN	MNK	MIN	ROC	STC	WIS	DUL	TB	LAC	EAU	BC	GB
1995	31-27				7-3		4-8		8-4			6-6		6-6						
1996	40-20				9-2		6-6		4-6			12-1		9-5						
1997	41-23						7-5		9-3			7-9	9-3	9-3						
1998	46-17		9-1	7-1		6-2	6-6			6-3		7-2	7-1	4-4						
1999	44-19		11-1	3-5		7-1				8-4	5-2	6-4	3-4	5-5						
2000	38-25			5-3		6-2				6-2		8-4	2-6	5-5						
2001	37-27			4-4				7-3		5-3		7-5	5-3	5-5						
2002	34-30			2-6				6-4		4-4		0-8	2-6	1-7						
2003	20-44			3-5				2-6		5-3		5-3	4-4	4-4						
2004	32-32			6-2				2-6		5-3		2-10	1-3	2-6	1-3	2-2	1-3	4-4	3-5	
2005	22-46			1-3				4-4		1-3		3-9	1-3	4-4	2-2	2-2	5-3	2-6		
2006	28-40			1-3				2-6		4-0		1-2	1-3	2-6	X	X	6-2	4-4	4-4	4-4
2007	29-38			0-4				3-5		2-2		2-2	1-3	2-6	X	X	6-2	4-4	4-4	4-4
<b>2008</b>	<b>32-34</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>1-1</b>				<b>4-4</b>		<b>3-1</b>		<b>2-2</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>1-7</b>	<b>2-2</b>	<b>4-0</b>	<b>4-4</b>	<b>4-4</b>	<b>5-3</b>	<b>2-6</b>
Totals	474-422	21-23	20-2	27-27	16-5	19-5	23-25	31-38	21-13	44-25	5-2	73-68	38-41	64-68	8-12	10-10	27-21	13-19	9-7	6-10

ALX-Alexandria Beetles, AUS-Austin Southern Mimmy Stars, BC-Battle Creek Bombers, BRD-Brainerd Mighty Gulls (Blue Thunder 2005), DUB-Dubuque Mud Puppies, 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, STC-St. Cloud River Bats, TB-Thunder Bay Border Cats, WIS-Wisconsin Woodchucks.

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# Miscellaneous Records

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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
1995	18	11	.621	13	16	.448	4	2	.667	8	7	.533	1	1	.500
1996	24	7	.774	16	13	.552	2	4	.333	10	10	.500	1	1	.500
1997	25	7	.781	16	16	.500	3	2	.600	10	6	.625	1	1	.500
1998	24	8	.750	22	9	.710	4	2	.667	11	5	.688	5	1	.833
1999	24	8	.750	20	11	.645	3	2	.600	12	5	.706	4	0	1.000
2000	22	10	.688	16	15	.516	1	1	.500	13	5	.722	5	4	.556
2001	16	16	.500	21	11	.656	4	1	.800	16	6	.727	6	8	.429
2002	19	13	.594	15	17	.469	1	3	.250	9	7	.563	5	4	.556
2003	12	20	.375	8	24	.250	2	3	.400	8	15	.348	1	9	.100
2004	21	11	.656	11	21	.344	4	1	.800	12	14	.462	5	3	.625
2005	13	21	.382	9	25	.265	4	1	.800	6	13	.316	1	6	.143
2006	14	20	.412	14	20	.412	4	3	.571	9	12	.429	7	10	.412
2007	15	19	.441	14	19	.424	2	5	.286	11	11	.500	5	5	.500
<b>2008</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>.406</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>.559</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>.750</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>.652</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.667</b>
Totals	260	190	.578	214	232	.480	44	32	.579	150	124	.547	53	56	.486



# 2008 Final Bucks Statistics

## W-L Record: 32-34



PLAYER	AVG	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	SLG	OBP	E	
*Abreu, Bobby,OF	.000	7	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	.000	.211	1	
Anderson, Kenny,1B	.500	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	.500	.500	1	
Barnhill, Chad,SS	.111	15	36	5	4	0	0	0	3	11	8	0	0	.111	.347	4	
Campbell, Will,OF	.217	38	106	6	23	3	0	0	8	16	27	5	3	.245	.333	0	
*Gaylord, Brian,DH	.182	32	77	3	14	1	0	0	9	5	23	3	1	.195	.250	3	
*Giller, Michael,OF	.270	66	244	29	66	6	2	1	24	19	23	22	4	.324	.332	6	
*Goins, Ryan,SS	.318	38	148	22	47	12	0	2	13	21	31	2	2	.439	.398	10	
Harst, Chance,C	.160	9	25	2	4	1	0	0	2	12	15	2	1	.200	.462	4	
Irvine, Steven,3B	.228	54	206	29	47	9	1	2	15	23	30	9	4	.311	.315	12	
*Jones, James,1B	.296	42	115	11	34	8	1	1	15	15	28	9	2	.409	.377	1	
Jones, Zach,C	.190	38	116	17	22	2	0	0	8	37	32	7	4	.207	.392	7	
Lang, Taylor,OF	.181	27	72	10	13	3	0	0	6	11	25	4	1	.222	.306	1	
McCann, Tim,1B	.258	10	31	4	8	1	0	1	6	4	9	0	0	.387	.378	5	
Morreale, Nick,3B	.175	10	40	5	7	1	0	0	2	6	13	1	1	.200	.298	3	
Register, Joey,OF	.259	52	170	24	44	9	1	10	32	39	49	0	0	.500	.409	2	
Resnick, Bryan,2B	.201	63	209	30	42	5	0	1	23	28	44	13	3	.239	.344	11	
*Rogers, Mike,OF	.257	56	187	32	48	6	2	1	19	35	48	14	2	.326	.381	8	
Sackett, Carter,C	.147	38	109	9	16	5	0	0	12	12	56	0	0	.193	.268	4	
*Sofranac, Alex,OF	.223	51	166	20	37	8	0	2	15	22	48	4	1	.307	.320	0	
#Wiggins, Spencer,OF	.278	5	18	6	5	0	1	0	2	3	2	2	0	.389	.381	0	
All Others	.111	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	0	0	.111	.385	15	
Total-All Batters	.230		2103		484		8		216		517		29		.348		98
					265		80		21		327		97		.306		

PITCHER	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HB	BB	SO	WP	AVG
Bartling, Ryan	0-0	3.86	2	0	0	0	0	2.1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	.143
Brecko, Ryan	1-0	2.84	5	0	0	0	0	6.1	6	3	2	1	0	3	3	0	.261
*Hauer, Jeremy	3-5	3.91	12	12	0	0	0	69.0	76	41	30	5	1	21	44	2	.288
Johnson, Collin	0-0	6.00	6	0	0	0	0	9.0	15	6	6	0	3	3	6	1	.441
*Jones, James	5-2	2.45	23	1	0	0	2	40.1	32	13	11	0	0	20	58	4	.218
Kusmaul, Ryan	0-1	4.82	6	2	0	0	1	18.2	17	10	10	1	1	9	14	3	.250
Lackovic, Bob	4-2	2.45	28	0	0	0	13	36.2	27	13	10	2	2	11	36	4	.196
Lloyd, Mike	0-0	10.80	3	0	0	0	0	3.1	5	4	4	1	2	4	1	2	.385
*Macek, Chris	2-1	5.45	18	1	0	0	1	33.0	39	22	20	3	4	16	17	6	.305
Morgal, Matt	0-2	5.82	3	3	0	0	0	17.0	29	20	11	0	1	5	6	2	.382
Nix, Garrett	3-2	2.91	14	8	0	0	0	55.2	38	20	18	1	8	39	43	6	.195
Nobles, Cam	4-3	2.39	10	10	1	1	0	60.1	38	18	16	1	8	32	56	3	.186
Ott, Derek	2-5	3.51	15	6	1	0	0	51.1	52	30	20	2	4	20	24	5	.274
Pack, Chris	3-3	5.44	17	4	0	0	0	43.0	58	40	26	5	2	30	26	5	.331
*Rickards, Josh	5-4	3.31	13	12	0	0	0	73.1	66	35	27	0	2	29	62	6	.257
Shaw, Scott	0-1	2.77	2	2	0	0	0	13.0	7	4	4	1	1	3	18	0	.156
Smalley, Ken	0-0	13.50	1	1	0	0	0	2.0	2	5	3	1	0	4	1	0	.250
Strelein, Brian	0-1	9.00	2	2	0	0	0	7.0	9	9	7	0	1	3	1	1	.281
Worner, Keith	0-2	3.68	11	1	0	0	0	22.0	18	11	9	0	1	21	12	3	.234
All Others	0-0	5.40	6	1	0	0	0	13.1	14	8	8	0	3	11	7	2	.275
Total-All Pitchers	32-34	3.79		66		6		576.2		314		25		285		55	
					2		17		549		243		45		435		.258

\* Bats Left for Batters, Throws Left for Pitchers

# Switch-Hitter

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# Team Records

## Single-Season Batting Records

Category	Name	School	Year
Average	.437 Luis Rivera	Florida Southern	1995
RBI	60 Luis Rivera	Florida Southern	1995
Runs Scored	61 Chris Curry	SW Missouri State	1997
Stolen Bases	43 Adam Boeve	Northern Iowa	2002
Hits	107 Luis Rivera	Florida Southern	1995
Doubles	21 Luis Rivera	Florida Southern	1995
	21 Dan Dement	UAB	1999
	21 Lance Burkhart	SW Missouri State	1996
Triples	8 Dan Dement	UAB	1998
Home Runs	13 Zach Daeges	Creighton	2005
Walks	57 Ryan Hastings	Illinois	2004
At Bats	271 Robert Matlock	Freed-Hardeman	2006
Strikeouts	73 Scott Kaskie	Iowa Western	2005
Games Played	68 Robert Matlock	Freed-Hardeman	2006

## Single-Season Pitching Records

Category	Name	School	Year
ERA	1.16 Chad Mulholland	John A Logan JC	2001
Wins	11 David Parra	Northern Iowa	1997
Games	31 Joe Balbas	Albertson CC	2006
Strikeouts	134 Jim Magrane	Iowa	1999
Walks	52 Dan DeYoung	Mississippi	1996
Saves	15 Chad Epperson	Iowa Western CC	2004
Games Started	13 David Parra	Northern Iowa	1997
	13 Seth Massey	Austin Peay	1997
	13 Josh Novotney	Western Kentucky	1998
	13 Joey Baker	San Jose State	1999
	13 Jim Magrane	Iowa	1999
	13 Scott Shaw	Illinois	2007
Losses	8 Tim Flattery	Northern Iowa	2007
Innings	110 David Parra	Northern Iowa	1997
Hits	108 Josh Novotney	Western Kentucky	1998
Runs Allowed	68 Alex Fernandez	Florida International	1995
Earned Runs	52 Alex Fernandez	Florida International	1995

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Luis Rivera's .437 batting average in 1995 is by far and away the best single season average in league history.*



# Team Records



## Career Batting Records

Category	Name	School	Years
Batting Average	.361 Dan Dement	UAB	98,99
RBI	152 Shayne Carnes	UAB	95,96,97
Runs Scored	129 Shayne Carnes	UAB	95,96,97
Stolen Bases	60 Mike Byas	SW Missouri State	95,96
Hits	237 Shayne Carnes	UAB	95,96,97
Doubles	50 Shayne Carnes	UAB	95,96,97
Triples	12 Dan Dement	UAB	98,99
Home Runs	21 Shayne Carnes	UAB	95,96,97
Walks	79 Ryan Hastings	Illinois	04,06
At Bats	703 Shayne Carnes	UAB	95,96,97
Strikeouts	139 Chad Frk	Illinois	01,02,03
Games Played	173 Shayne Carnes	UAB	95,96,97

## Career Pitching Records

Category	Name	School	Years
ERA	2.64 Jim Magrane	Iowa	97,98,99
Wins	20 Jim Magrane	Iowa	97,98,99
Games	73 David Parra	Northern Iowa	95,96,97
Strikeouts	245 Jim Magrane	Iowa	97,98,99
Walks	122 David Parra	Northern Iowa	95,96,97
Saves	24 Steve Hecker	Illinois State	99,00
Games Started	29 Andy Dickinson	Illinois	99,00,01
Losses	10 Andy Dickinson	Illinois	99,00,01
Innings	232 Jim Magrane	Iowa	97,98,99
Hits	211 Andy Dickinson	Illinois	99,00,01
	211 Jim Magrane	Iowa	97,98,99
Runs Allowed	102 David Parra	Northern Iowa	95,96,97
Earned Runs	81 David Parra	Northern Iowa	95,96,97

## Top Five Bucks Attendances

July 13, 2007	La Crosse	5,122
August 6, 1999	Wisconsin	4,687
June 13, 1998	Wausau	4,642
July 11, 2008	Green Bay	4,541
July 24, 2004	Mankato	4,498



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# The Home of the Bucks

## Riverfront Stadium

### Stadium Facts:

**Stadium Name:** Riverfront Stadium

**Year Built:** 1946

**1st NWL Game Played at Stadium:** June 10, 1995

**Seating Capacity:** 5,000

**Ballpark Dimensions:** 335 L, 350 LC, 375 C, 347 RC, 335 R

**Ticket Prices:** Box Seats \$7, General Admission \$5, Ages 5 and under are free, Season Box \$150, Season Adult GA \$100, Season Youth/Senior GA \$75, 1/2 Season plans available.

**Parking:** Free

**Directions:** The stadium is northeast of downtown Waterloo, on the Cedar River. If you're coming in from 218, take the downtown Mullan Avenue/1st Street exit and take 1st Street north (which is also marked as Hwy. 63 North) to Franklin Street (Hwy. 57), where you'll hang a right and proceed to Conger Street, where you'll hang a left and proceed toward the river, where you'll see the ballpark on your left.





## Flood-weary Waterloo Bucks return to home stadium

By: Luke Meredith, AP Sports Writer

His name is "Slumbuster," and he's a turtle.

Discovered in a dugout at Riverfront Stadium after flooding submerged the park like never before, Slumbuster was rescued by Waterloo Bucks' staffers and put in a tank in the press box.

Slumbuster's new digs aren't nearly as palatial as the nearby river he used to call home, but he's getting by.

So are the Bucks.

Waterloo, a summer league team made up of college players, returned to its home park Friday night after six weeks of forced exile. The Bucks hadn't played at Riverfront Stadium since the Cedar River spilled over its banks in early June and flooded out the park, turning the first half of the season into one long road trip and leaving management scrambling to save the 62-year-old park.

The flood cost the team nearly \$300,000 in lost revenue, team owner John Marso said. That's about half what it takes in during a typical season, which runs from late May until the middle of August.

"It was sad to watch," Marso said.

Riverfront Stadium has flooded before, but never like this. Water covered the entire diamond, reaching as high as 6 feet at the outfield wall and seeping well into the grandstand behind home plate. Save for the press box up high, little was spared.

The damage came just three days after the Bucks finished a new, open-air concourse that was inundated with floodwater. A 4,500 square-foot wooden party deck built prior to the season was lifted off its bearings and moved 30 yards by the river's current.

Water also ruined the clubhouses, team offices and a new merchandise store.

"We were all ready-set go for this season with all these new additions, and we had so many neat things planned," said assistant general manager Charlie Boeckenheuer, whose office was destroyed. "And then it just sunk."

With nowhere to call home, the Bucks hit the road. Waterloo flip-flopped dates with their opponents, mostly playing their home games at the park of the "visitor." The Bucks were flooded out of 16 home dates, and had to play six more at a local high school.

The road trip wasn't as tough on the players as one might imagine, though. Most of them aren't from Iowa, and since they stay with host families and head back to school in August, the Northwoods League is essentially one long road trip to begin with.



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## The Home of the Bucks



But it did disrupt the team's rhythm. Baseball players are creatures of habit, and the Bucks nomadic voyage through the upper Midwest kept them from establishing a daily routine. The players would often have to kill time at local malls because their hotel checkout times were hours before game time. They were also deprived of the extra practice sessions teams get in on their home field, which is essential in a league built to

develop players.

But manager Pete Lauritson said the team knew the inconveniences they faced paled in comparison to what others were going through.

Many homes in the Waterloo area were flooded, and downstream in Cedar Rapids and other cities, thousands of people were forced from their homes.

"If you drove around Waterloo, there was some pretty tragic stuff to see. People lost everything they owned," Lauritson said. "We had to go on the road, but really we were traveling, staying in hotels and playing baseball. So we had everything in perspective."

Once the floodwaters receded, volunteers pitched in to clean the park up. The club asked for help through an article in the local paper, and nearly 50 fans showed up. Fighting through an unbearable stench and nearly an inch of muck that covered everything the waters touched, staffers and volunteers cleared away the trash in just one day.

"Just goodhearted Bucks fans that wanted to see baseball out here, so they do what they could do to get it back in working order. It was a huge help," Boeckenheuer said.

Before the Bucks could return home, they had to install a new electrical system costing about \$100,000. There's still more to be done, too. The team has to install new offices and clubhouses - tiny, cramped spaces beneath the grandstands now serve as locker rooms - and some of the concession stands are still closed.

Still, Friday night's homecoming was a major step forward for the club. In front of 4,500 fans and one very lucky turtle, the road-weary Bucks reopened Riverfront Stadium with an 11-7 loss to Green Bay that dropped them to 17-23 overall.

The result wasn't what the Bucks wanted, but the night featured an ironic twist not lost on the team. The forecast called for rain, and for once, the Bucks beat the elements.

"The biggest thing was having the team back playing on our field," Boeckenheuer said. You could "kind of see a little light at the end of the tunnel, to be back here playing baseball again."

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# Returning in 2009



## Michael Giller

Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, Michael Giller (Illinois) played both infield and outfield for Waterloo in 2008. Appearing in a team high 66 games for the Bucks, Giller batted .270 with 24 RBI and six doubles.

## James Jones

A native of Brooklyn, New York, James Jones (Long Island) was named the Waterloo Bucks Roth Jewelers Player of the Year and was honored as one of Baseball America's Top 10 MLB prospects of the Northwoods League. Jones was both a pitcher and a position player for the Bucks. On the mound, Jones was 5-2 with a 2.45 ERA and 58 strikeouts. At the plate, Jones batted .296 with eight doubles and 15 RBI.

## Ryan Goins

As a member of the Bucks in 2008, Ryan Goins (Dallas Baptist) led Waterloo with a .318 batting average and a team high 12 doubles. Goins participated in the NWL All-Star Game as was named to Baseball America's Top 10 MLB prospects of the Northwoods League list.

## Bob Lackovic

During his first year as a Buck, Creighton prospect Bob Lackovic appeared in 28 games finishing the season with a 4-2 record, a 2.45 ERA, and a team high 13 saves. Lackovic was selected to participate in the NWL All-Star game in Madison.

## Chris Pack

Chris Pack (Villanova) was to play in Waterloo in 2007, but suffered an injury in the early part of his collegiate season forcing him to shut down. Re-joining the team in 2008, Pack went 3-3 with a 5.44 ERA and 26 strikeouts.

## Derek Ott

A native of Waterloo and a member of the Northern Iowa baseball team, Derek Ott went 2-5 with a 3.51 ERA with 24 strikeouts this past season for the Bucks. Ott also threw one complete game and finished the season with 51.1 innings pitched

## Steven Irvine

A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Steven Irvine, a recent transfer to McNeese State, finished the 2008 season with Bucks batting .228 with 15 RBI and nine doubles in 54 games played. Irvine saw the majority of his time at third base for Waterloo.

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## City Officials

### Tim Hurley, *Mayor*

City of Waterloo



*"As Mayor of Waterloo, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Waterloo and to baseball with the Waterloo Bucks. Waterloo is known for its rich sports tradition, with decades of community support for professional, semi-professional, amateur, high school, and youth sports programming. Our city is extremely proud of the Bucks organization. Historic Riverfront Stadium, as well as the City of Waterloo went through a trying time this past summer with the effect of the Floods of 2008. We ask that you pardon our progress during our process of rebuilding. We will continue to renovate to fulfill our long-term master plan that will convert Riverfront Stadium into a true gem of a ballpark that will shine for many years to come. We hope you enjoy the 15th season of Waterloo Bucks baseball and most importantly your time in our great city."*

### Paul Huting, *Leisure Service Director*

City of Waterloo



*"Waterloo Leisure Services continues to enjoy a great relationship with the Waterloo Bucks and the Northwoods League and remains committed to the plan of renovations on historic Riverfront Stadium even after the effects of the Floods of 2008. Fans will continue to notice many more improvements as we continue the renovation process of this wonderful ballpark. Good luck to the Bucks in 2009 and thanks for providing this community with this great hometown baseball experience."*

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