

## All-Star Game

The Northwoods League and its Board of Directors announced that Thunder Bay, Ontario and the Thunder Bay Border Cats affiliate were unanimously chosen to play host to the 2009 Northwoods League All-Star Game.

"Thunder Bay has experienced extraordinary success on the field during their tenure in the League, they have a great venue in a great city and we look forward to them hosting our 2009 All-Star game," NWL President Dick Radatz, Jr. said.

Thunder Bay, a member of the League since 2003, will be hosting their first All-Star Game. It comes one summer after the Border Cats earned their second NWL Championship in four seasons. Thunder Bay is the only Canadian member of the Northwoods League. The city is located along the North Shore of Lake Superior, less than an hour drive north of the Minnesota/Canada border.



Port Arthur Stadium, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada



# 2008 All-Star Game Recap

**South Division ends three-game All-Star losing streak with 8-4 triumph**  
**By Michael Schroeder, Madison Mallards**

**Monday, July 14, 2008**

**Warner Park, Madison, Wisconsin**

The Northwoods League South Division All-Stars broke a three-year All-Star Game losing streak with an 8-4 victory over the North Division All-Stars in Madison, WI. Cory Vaughn (La Crosse, San Diego State) was named All-Star Game MVP with his 2-for-3 performance and one RBI and one run scored. A new All-Star Game record crowd of 5,357 fans came out to the "Duck Pond" for the midseason showcase. Every player on each All-Star team made an appearance in the game.



**(#2) Cory Vaughn (San Diego State) doubled and scored a run the first inning to set the tone in the South Division's All-Star Game victory.**

Photo by Sport Pix

Vaughn, Josh Prince (Green Bay, Tulane) and Rob Lyerly (Madison, Charlotte) all had two hits for the victorious South Division squad. One of Prince's hits was a two-run home run that he blasted over the left field fence on a 3-0 pitch off Phil Haig (Rochester, Illinois). The North Division was paced by Brian Hernandez' (St. Cloud, College of the Canyons) 2-for-2 night and two RBI from Josh Upchurch (Alexandria, Florida Gulf Coast). Chris Sale (La Crosse, Florida Gulf Coast) earned the win for the South Division, while Alex Kalogrides (Brainerd, San Francisco) took the loss.

South Division's Matt Jansen (Madison, Purdue) took the mound to start things off in front of his home crowd. Jansen did not disappoint the Mallards faithful, striking out the side in the top of the first while throwing 20 pitches.

After Jansen's masterful work through the North Division lineup the South Division took their first at bats and put two on the scoreboard, thanks to an RBI double by Vaughn and a run-scoring single by Lyerly that brought around Vaughn.

The familiar All-Star Game defensive changes began in the second inning. Kyle Gumieny (Wisconsin, Lamar CC) moved to the mound in place of Jansen and promptly gave up a leadoff home run to Eric Stephens (Rochester, Cal State

## 2008 All-Star Game Recap (cont.)

Fullerton) to cut the South Division's lead in half. Gumieny was able to get an out before giving up three straight base hits and a walk to give the North a 3-2 advantage after one-and-a-half.

The North Division also made a pitching change in the second inning, bringing in Nate Woods (Thunder Bay, Belmont). After Jeff Cowan (Wisconsin, High Point)



Photo by Sport Pix

### **NWL President Dick Radatz, Jr. presents the All-Star Game "Star of Stars" Award to La Crosse's Cory Vaughn.**

Lyerly. He then hit Joey Register (Waterloo, Texas A&M) with a 1-0 pitch to put runners on first and second with nobody out. Cowan drew a walk, loading the bases still with nobody out. Frazier then tied the game with a single, scoring Lyerly. The catcher Gale stepped to the plate and grounded into a fielder's choice force-out at third, scoring Register to get the lead back.

The fifth and sixth went by with little fanfare with another two-run frame for the South Division coming in the bottom of the sixth, making the score 6-3 in favor of the boys in green. The scoring in pairs continued for the South in the bottom of the seventh, as Nick O'Shea (Green Bay, Minnesota) doubled and later scored on a Register single. The junior came around on a P.J. Polk (La Crosse, Tennessee) two-bagger.

The North Division added their final tally of the night in the top of the eighth, when Derek McCallum (St. Cloud, Minnesota) hit a sacrifice fly to left that scored Mike O'Neill (Thunder Bay, Southern California) from third.

That was all the scoring for the night, and the South Division emerged on top 8-4.



# North All-Stars vs South All-Stars

## July 14, 2008 at Madison, WI (Warner Park)

### North All-Stars 4

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Michael Rockett cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Cory Harrilchak cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derek McCallum 2b	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	0
Carlos Ramirez c	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0
Keith Castillo ph/c	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Eric Stephens dh	4	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1
Derek Wiley 1b	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1
Tim Jobe ph/1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0
Devin Goodwin 3b	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Brian Hernandez 3b	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0
Tony Balisteri ss	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	0
Josh Upchurch rf	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	0
Tim Dellwo rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Chris House lf	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mike O'Neill lf	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Brendan Lafferty p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nate Woods p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matt Hill p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alex Kalogrides p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zach Robertson p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
John Atteo p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jimmy Reyes p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peter Burg p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phil Haig p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ryan Sheldon p	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Jimmy Stanley p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Xavier Esquivel p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>

### South All-Stars 8

Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	PO	A	LOB
Ryan Goins ss	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	1
Josh Prince ss	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	2
AJ Shindler 2b	4	0	0	0	1	1	4	4	0
Cory Vaughn cf	3	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
Derek Melton 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	5	0	1
Nick O'Shea 1b	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
Rob Lyerly rf	2	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0
Kole Calhoun ph/rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Joey Register dh	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
Jeff Cowan 3b	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Brooks Pinckard 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Troy Frazier lf	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
PJ Polk lf	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Rocky Gale c	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	2	0
Eric Nielsen c	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Matt Jansen p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kyle Gumieny p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Odegaard p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chris Sale p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gabriel Shaw p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bobby Pritchett p/cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1
Aaron Dott p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Josh Rickards p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bob Lackovic p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matt Lange p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RJ Hively p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aaron Varnum p	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>

Score by Innings R H E

North All-Stars..... 030 000 010 - 4 7 1  
 South All-Stars..... 200 202 20X - 8 12 0

E - Balisteri (1). DP - North 3; South 4. LOB - North 4; South 7. 2B - Balisteri (1); Upchurch (1); Vaughn 2(2); O'Shea (1); Polk (1). HR - Stephens (1); Prince (1). HBP - Castillo; Jobe; Register. SF - McCallum (1). SB - Castillo (1); O'Neill (1). CS - Upchurch (1).

North All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF	NP	South All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	AB	BF	NP
Brendan Lafferty	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	6	6	20	Matt Jansen	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	20
Nate Woods	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	8	Kyle Gumieny	1.0	4	3	3	1	0	6	7	24
Matt Hill	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	4	4	11	Chris Odegaard	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	23
Alex Kalogrides	1.0	2	2	2	1	0	4	6	20	Chris Sale	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10
Zach Robertson	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	Gabriel Shaw	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	8
John Atteo	0.2	1	0	0	1	2	2	4	18	Bobby Pritchett	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Jimmy Reyes	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	Aaron Dott	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	8
Peter Burg	0.1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	10	Josh Rickards	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	3	3	14
Phil Haig	0.1	1	1	1	0	2	3	10	Bob Lackovic	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	
Ryan Sheldon	0.2	2	2	2	0	0	4	4	14	Matt Lange	0.2	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	12
Jimmy Stanley	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	11	RJ Hively	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	3	5	17
Xavier Esquivel	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	6	Aaron Varnum	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	5

Win - Sale (1-0). Loss - Kalogrides (0-1). Save - None.

WP - Stanley; Odegaard 2. HBP - by Kalogrides (Register); by Hively (Castillo); by Hively (Jobe).

Start: 7:05 Time: 3:01 Attendance: 5357

Umpires - HP:Gavin Hansen, Andrew Adams. Bases/Lines: Dean Hartsook, Rick Perez, Dustin Klinghagen, Jimmy Lott, Chris Gonzalez, Guss Curtis, Chris Flierl, Jacob Kimbro, Joe Branch, Mike Lacy.



# 2008 All-Stars



Photo by Sport Pix

**2008 North Division All-Stars**



Photo by Sport Pix

**2008 South Division All-Stars**



# Scouts flock to see NWL talent

By Jeff Karzen, Battle Creek Enquirer 7/15/2008

Rick Schroeder remembers watching Barry Bonds as a skinny high school player. Randy Johnson, too.

In 27 years of being a major league scout with four organizations, one of Schroeder's favorite stories is telling a left-handed hitting high school catcher to give up football.

The kid wanted to play both sports but Schroeder thought his ticket was baseball.

How did Tom Brady turn out anyway?

On Monday at Warner Park in Madison, Schroeder was one of 37 major league baseball scouts in attendance for the Northwoods League's scouting combine - held before the evening's All-Star Game.

All 30 major league teams were represented, as about 40 players went through a series of drills, including the 60-yard dash, throwing from the outfield, batting practice and a short bullpen session for pitchers.

The scene of middle-aged men in Bermuda shirts of various colors, all armed with stopwatches and notepads, was all the confirmation the Northwoods League needed of how its product is viewed by baseball's evaluators.

"This league is the best there is for addressing life as a professional player," said Schroeder, who works for the Kansas City Royals.

"To me it is the best. I (watch) this whole league for the whole month. The Royals enjoy it and they want to get involved with this league."

Schroeder, who lives in San Jose, Calif., drives across the country to spend the month in his native Wisconsin. While most scouts at Warner Park cover the Midwest, Schroeder leaves his normal area to scour the Northwoods League.

"From my area (San Jose) alone, there were five or seven guys who played in this league last year and then became real good draft picks in this year's draft," Schroeder said.

"And if they hadn't played in this league, I don't think they'd have achieved and done nearly as well as they did."

Second baseman A.J. Shindler was one of two Bombers competing under the scary microscope of 37 scouts. Shindler, the South Division's starting second baseman in the All-Star Game, was fairly pleased with his performance.

"At first, it's kind of overwhelming," said the Michigan State junior.

"You have to think (the scouts) are not there and just trust your skills."

The Northwoods League is sensitive about being compared to the Cape Cod League, which has more than 100 years of tradition on its side. But Monday's festivities showed just how far the NWL has come in 15 years under the guidance of league president Dick Radatz Jr.

"There's a reason we're here: there's talent here," said Terry Ryan, the highly respected former Minnesota Twins general manager who now is a front office assistant.

"It gives you a pretty good idea (about a player) because there's stamina issues here and you find out whether or not a guy is durable enough to hold up. The amount of sleep they get, their diet, being away from home ... all the things that we worry about. I would say this prepares you for professional baseball about as good as any league in the country."

New York Yankees scout Steve Lemke was among the throng wearing sunglasses and jotting down numbers and ratings that only baseball people would understand. Lemke drove from Illinois to scout the Northwoods League's finest - his third time attending the combine.

The ninth-year Yankees scout would like to find another Joba Chamberlain. Lemke gets the credit for signing the intimidating pitcher out of Nebraska a few years ago.

"We thought he was good but he probably exceeded expectations," Lemke says with a smile about Chamberlain.

Perhaps somewhere out there at Warner Park, under the watchful eyes of many scouts, there's another Joba in the making.



# Mankato's Michael Rockett blasts 10 long balls to win the 2008 NWL Home Run Derby

By Jerrad Radocay, Madison Mallards

7/13/2008

Mankato outfielder Michael Rockett hit 10 home runs, including five in the final round, to win the 2008 Northwoods League Home Run Derby Sunday night at the "Duck Pond." Rockett, a 6'1" 165 lb junior from the University of Texas-San Antonio, blasted numerous long balls over the entire left-field Budweiser Rooftop, a distance well over 380' from home plate. He hit five long balls in the first round to advance to meet Waterloo outfielder Joey Register (Texas A&M), Green Bay infielder Nick O'Shea (Minnesota), and Wisconsin outfielder Troy Frazier (Kentucky) in the final round. The South Division trio all advanced to the finals after hitting three home runs each. In that decisive round both Frazier and Register hit three home runs, while O'Shea hit two.

Coming into the event, it was widely thought that a left-handed hitter would excel given that the "Duck Pond's" right-field wall was shortened to 295 2/3' to make way for a Duck Blind addition (left field sits 320' from home plate). However, a steady 25 mile-an-hour breeze from right-field kept lefties at bay all day, including Mallards infielder Luke Stewart (UAB) who hit numerous shots to that part of the field but was denied because of the wind.



Photos courtesy of Sport Pix



# A Day At The 2008 NWL All-Star Game



1



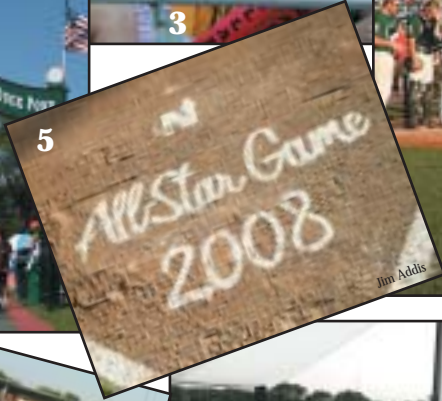
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3



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5

Jim Addis



6



7



8

1. A young fan collects autographs during the fan fest 2. The US Military All-Stars played in an exhibition game the night before the NWL All-Star game 3. Fans enjoy the All-Star experience 4. The entrance of Warner Park saw an All-Star Game record crowd of 5,357 walk through its gate 5. Artwork from behind home plate 6. The Anthem moments before first pitch 7. The view from the Duck Blind 8. A packed grandstand looks on

Photos by Sport Pix



# If You Build The World's Largest Brat, Mallards Fans Will Come Hungry

By Jim Polzin, *The Capital Times*  
7/10/2008

When Derek Stoddard approached his father with a meaty idea early last summer, Jerry Stoddard easily could have patted his son on the back, encouraged the teenager to keep dreaming big and dismissed the suggestion as gently as possible.

None of that happened, however, because Jerry was intrigued by the notion of constructing the world's largest bratwurst.

So Derek, who was 14 at the time, went on a fact-finding mission on the Internet, where he discovered the previous world record was 48 feet.

His dad's reaction to the news?

"I never had any doubt we could do it," Stoddard said of producing a longer brat. "It certainly didn't seem unfathomable at all."

A year later, Stoddard's Meat Market of Cottage Grove is joining forces with the Madison Mallards in an attempt to make history at Warner Park. One of the more unique aspects to Sunday's Northwoods League All-Star Game Fan Fest, hosted by the Mallards, is the opportunity for fans to wander on the field and eat - or just look at, if they so choose - what is being dubbed as the "World's Largest Bratwurst," which will measure more than 60 feet in length.

When Jerry Stoddard approached Vern Stenman, the Mallards' general manager and marketing whiz, last summer, Stenman naturally fell in love with the idea.

After Stoddard assured Stenman he could produce a brat somewhere between 50 and 60 feet, Stenman asked for a little more: At 60 feet, 6 inches, the brat could



Photo by Sport Pix





# Northwoods League All-Star Game History

Written by Gregg Hoffmann

Initially printed in 2006, edited for current publication

The All-Star Game has added to the stature and entertainment value of the Northwoods League throughout its history.

Nobody is more aware, and appreciative, of that fact than League commissioner Dick Radatz, Jr.

"I remember our first one in 1995 in Wausau," Radatz said. We had moved to six teams, which was a big step, and had Bernie Allen (former Minnesota Twin and Washington Senator) come down for it. It was sort of a validation of the league at the time."

Of course, another ASG that stands out in Radatz's mind is 2001, when the NWL stars beat Team USA, 1-0, in 10 innings. Team USA was coached by Pat McMahon of the University of Florida and featured several college stars, including current Brewer Rickie Weeks.

"I remember looking on the field during pre-game workouts and thinking I'm watching a bunch of millionaires in the making," Radatz said. "But, as the game went on, I started to realize that they were all college kids playing with wooden bats."

The NWL Stars pitched 10 different pitchers for the 10 innings and all shut out Team USA. They finally pushed a run across in the 10th to win it. It was the first time Team USA had been shut out by a team from the lower 48 states and the team's only loss to a team from the lower 48.

"That was very memorable and brought our League recognition," Radatz said. "I think people realized we had a very competitive League."

In 1999, the ASG moved to St. Cloud, where it stayed for a few years. In 2004, Phillip Hawke, who would go on to become the League MVP that season, was picked the ASG outstanding player, after leading the South Division team to a 12-0 win with a home run and four RBIs.

The host community for the ASG has always done a great job, according to Radatz. In 2005, Alexandria drew 1,857, the largest crowd in its history at the time. The North won that game, 5-2.

"That was a great turnout for a small town in Minnesota," Radatz said. "Every community has gone all out for the game, and I'm sure La Crosse will do the same thing this year." (*Editors note: La Crosse drew 3,413 fans to the 2006 ASG, then the 2nd largest crowd in NWL All-Star Game history.*)

Some NWL players who have been All-Stars have gone on to bigger things. Curtis Granderson, who now leads off for the Detroit Tigers, was an All-Star back in 2001.

Three former NWL All-Stars who were top draft picks include Thomas Diamond, who played for St. Cloud, and was taken as the 10th pick in the 2004 draft by the Rangers, and Lance Broadway, who played for the Wisconsin Woodchucks and



## Northwoods League All-Star Game History (cont.)

was taken 15th overall by the White Sox in 2005. Max Scherzer, a former La Crosse Logger pitcher and NWL All-Star, was picked 11th by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 2006 amateur draft.

Interestingly enough, a couple big name former NWL alums didn't make the League All-Star team. Dodgers outfielder Juan Pierre and MLB pitcher Jeff Weaver weren't All-Stars. Neither was former Brewer Wes Obermueller.

"Pierre was young when he played in the League, and Weaver only went 2-5," Radatz said. "We converted Obermueller from an outfielder to a pitcher in this League, so he was just making the transition."

The speakers at the luncheon before the ASG also have included some All-Stars. Former major leaguer and TV analyst Jay Johnstone was among them. Former big league manager Jimmy Williams and Twins' President Dave St. Peter were on the agenda at the 2005 affair in Alexandria. Three years ago, former major league catcher and manager Bob Brenly, now a Cubs' TV analyst, was the featured speaker in La Crosse. Then Twins General Manager Terry Ryan spoke at the event in Mankato in '07. Former Brewer Greg Vaughn was the keynote speaker in 2008.

A home run contest and other festivities have been added to the NWL All-Star Game week in recent years.

"I love to see that it's gotten bigger and better," Radatz said. "I think it is a fun event for everybody, and showcases our League and the talent in it."



Photo by Sport Pix

**Former Milwaukee Brewer and 2008 La Crosse Logger Assistant Coach Greg Vaughn was the keynote speaker during the 2008 All-Star Game luncheon.**

# NWL All-Star Game Results

Date	Location	Score	Attendance	"Star of Stars"	Team	School
Jul 22 1995	Wausau	East, 14-2	979	Larry Rupcich	Wausau	Fresno State
Jul 20 1996	Waterloo	West, 3-1	2,217	Torre Tyson	Rochester	Missouri
Jul 19 1997	Rochester	North, 6-2	722	Pete Nelson	Manitowoc	College of Marin
Jul 25 1998	Brainerd	South, 5-4	444	Valentino Pascucci	Rochester	Oklahoma
Jul 12 1999	St. Cloud	North, 3-2 (13)	2,395	Blake Bone	St. Cloud	Alabama-Huntsville
Jul 10 2000	St. Cloud	North, 1-0	1,943	Jason Kennedy	St. Cloud	Minnesota
Jul 10 2001	St. Cloud	*NWL, 1-0 (10)	1,817	David Slevin	Mankato	Clemson
Jul 16 2002	Madison	South, 2-1	2,712	Kyle Anson	Madison	El Paso JC
Jul 16 2003	Madison	North, 8-7	4,310	Tom Wolf	Alexandria	Long Beach St.
Jul 14 2004	Wausau	South, 12-0	2,785	Phillip Hawke	Waterloo	Louisiana-Lafayette
Jul 13 2005	Alexandria	North, 5-2	1,857	Gary Arndt	Duluth	Missouri
Jul 12 2006	La Crosse	North, 3-2	3,413	Brock Bond	Duluth	Missouri
Jul 11 2007	Mankato	North, 3-2	2,319	Nate Hanson	Mankato	Minnesota
Jul 14 2008	Madison	South, 8-4	5,357	Cory Vaughn	La Crosse	San Diego State

\* Northwoods League All-Stars defeated Team USA

