



## **NEWS**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Bob Ibach (847) 922-6686 or Ron Baron (214) 234-0018**

***League's 3<sup>rd</sup> Mid-Summer Star-Fest Set for Cozy Bringham Field***

# **Continental Baseball League's All-Star Game Comes to Alexandria For First Time on July 7 Home Run Derby Contest Set Before Game**

*Alexandria, LA, June 29, 2009* – The best of the best in the Continental Baseball League, featuring top players from the circuit's six teams, will convene on the evening of July 7 at historic Bringham Field, a setting that is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> season of baseball. The CBL All-Star Game will be a Texas vs. Louisiana format and is sponsored by Burger King, Capital One, Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Moran Capital Management, and Mid-State Orthopaedic Clinic & Sports Medicine.

“This is what it's all about, a chance for our featured players to face off against each other for one game, in front of a great crowd, and to showcase their skills,” said CBL commissioner Ron Baron. “We're very proud of the job that Alexandria has done this season, both on and off the field, and we believe this will be our most attractive All-Star Game in our history.”

In two seasons, 15 CBL players have moved on to affiliated baseball, and contests such as the All-Star Game and the CBL Ferguson Jenkins Championship Series, set for later in August, are contests that draw added attention, noted CBL director of baseball operations Bob Ibach. “I've seen more than 20 major league All-Star Games either as a reporter covering the Baltimore Orioles, or during my 10 years with the Chicago Cubs, and anytime you can gather your best talent in one location for one game, that event makes it even a bigger opportunity for a promising youngster to showcase his skills to not only fans, but to scouts who cover the game.”

The Alexandria Aces lead the CBL in both the standings and average attendance in 2009. Coming into this weekend's scheduled games, the Aces, under the direction of president and CEO Eric Moran, general manager Andrew Aguilar, and field manager Dan Shwam, have a first place record of 18-9 in a very tight race. The Texarkana Gunslingers and Bay Area Toros are just one game back, followed closely by the South Louisiana Pipeliners and Big Bend Cowboys.

The host Aces are enjoying their first season in the CBL, after 13 successful seasons in other independent baseball leagues. It is the first time in the long history of Aces baseball that the pro team is under local ownership, a move that has been well received by its loyal fans. Alexandria's home attendance easily tops the CBL, drawing more than 1,300 per contest.

**--MORE--**

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“We plan to put on a real nice show that evening for the fans,” said Moran, who mentioned the Home Run Derby event and other “surprise” activities which are planned to take place at a park that is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year of baseball.

The All-Star Game will begin approximately at 7:15 p.m. and will be preceded by a banquet honoring the All-Stars at noon. Following that, the players will be heading to Christus St. Frances Cabrini Hospital to visit some ill children. The gates will open at 3:30 to allow fans to watch the two teams take batting practice. At 4:30, there will be a scouting combine for all players in the CBL to showcase their talents to MLB scouts. At 6:00, the Home Run Derby will begin with All-Stars hitting in a two-round format. The All-Star Game itself will pit top players from the Louisiana team; Alexandria, the South Louisiana Pipeliners and Coastal Kingfish against the stars from Texas; Texarkana, Big Bend and Bay Area.

For more information on the **Continental Baseball League**, visit the league’s website at [www.CBLproball.com](http://www.CBLproball.com)

# 2009 Continental Baseball League All-Star Game

## July 7th, in Alexandria, LA

Bringhurst Field, 1 Babe Ruth Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301

**Game Time: 7:15 p.m.**

### Louisiana vs. Texas

### Louisiana Roster: (20)

#### Pitchers: (7)

**Nathan Stewart**—Alexandria (RHP), 24, 6-2, 180

**Andy Schon**—Alexandria (RHP), 24, 6-0, 190

**Rhett Barber**—Alexandria (LHP), 24, 6-0, 225

**Aaron Kalb**—Alexandria (RHP), 25, 6-1, 195

**Joel Palacio**—South Louisiana (RHP), 23, 6-1, 230

**Carlos Castillo**—South Louisiana (RHP), 34, 6-2, 275

**Corey Bass**—South Louisiana (RHP), 24, 6-3, 205

#### Catchers: (2)

**Nick Enciso**—Alexandria (catcher), 26, 5-10, 195, B-R, T-R

**Anselmo Vazquez**—South Louisiana (catcher), 31, 6-0, 235, B-L, T-R

#### Infielders: (5)

**Eric Padilla**—Alexandria (SS), 23, 5-9, 180, B-R, T-R

**Louis Curcio**—South Louisiana (SS), 24, 5-10, 210, B-R, T-R

**Jamaal Jackson**—Coastal (1B), 21, 6-1, 225, B-L, T-L

**Lester Contreras**—South Louisiana (3B), 24, 6-0, 215, B-R, T-R

**Jeff Carper**—Coastal (2B), 20, 5-11, 195, B-R, T-R

#### Outfielders: (6)

**Kyle LaMotta**—South Louisiana (OF), 22, 5-9, 185, B-R, T-R

**Chris Vasquez**—South Louisiana (OF), 23, 6-0, 210, B-R, T-R

**Brad Turney**—Alexandria (OF/LHP/1B), 30, 6-2, 185, B-L, T-L

**Eric Weinberg**—Alexandria (OF), 23, 6-0, 190, B-L, T-R

**Johnny Klopfer**—Alexandria (DH/OF), 32, 6-1, 245, B-R, T-R

**Felix Martinez**—South Louisiana (OF), 25, 6-1, 210, B-R, T-R

**Manager: Dan Shwam**, Alexandria Aces

**Coaches: Nick Renault** (Alexandria Aces) and **Larry Van Allen** (Alexandria Aces)

## **Texas Roster: (24)**

### **Pitchers: (8)**

**Robert “Jake” Leonhardt**—Bay Area (RHP), 23, 6-5, 225

**Kyle Hudson**—Bay Area (RHP), 22, 6-1, 195

**Judson Smith**—Texarkana (RHP), 25, 6-2, 195,

**Jordan Mccavitt**—Texarkana (RHP), 24, 6-1, 220

**Mike Castrignano**—Big Bend (LHP), 22, 6-2, 225

**Curt Dixon**—Big Bend (RHP), 23, 6-0, 220

**Nick Sottung**—Texarkana (RHP), 22, 6-1, 195

**Joe Brown**—Bay Area (LHP), 26, 5-10, 175

### **Catchers: (2)**

**Josh McLeod**—Bay Area (catcher), 22, 6-2, 220, B-R, T-R

**Phil St. Amant**—Texarkana (catcher), 23, 6-3, 225, B-R, T-R

### **Infielders: (8)**

**Daniel Cox**—Bay Area (3B), 24, 6-0, 200, B-R, T-R

**Steven Yurchick**—Bay Area (SS), 22, 6-1, 210, B-R, T-R

**Joel Hartman**—Bay Area (1B), 23, 6-1, 210, B-R, T-R

**Clint Toomey**—Texarkana (2B), 23, 5-9, 185, B-L, T-R

**Justin Armingier**—Texarkana (3B), 22, 6-2, 210, B-R, T-R

**Corey O’Neill**—Texarkana (1B), 23, 6-1, 215, B-L, T-L

**Chris Dabbs**—Big Bend (1B), 24, 6-3, 250, B-R, T-R

**Beau Manning**—Big Bend (2B), 23, 5-7, 165, B-R, T-R

### **Outfielders: (6)**

**Joe Hicks**—Bay Area (CF), 24, 6-2, 210, B-R, T-R

**Eric Brown**—Bay Area (RF), 23, 6-0, 185, B-R, T-R

**Daryl Stanfield**—Texarkana (OF/DH), 26, 6-3, 220, B-R, T-R

**Trey George**—Texarkana (OF)), 25, 6-1, 225, B-R, T-R

**Eric Williams**—Big Bend (OF), 24, 6-2, 225, B-L, T-L

**Andrew Riddick**—Big Bend (OF), 21, 6-0, 205, B-L, T-L

**Manager: Jim Bolt**, Bay Area Toros (713-302-8659)

**Coach: Chris McKnight**, Texarkana Gunslingers

### **CBL contacts:**

**Ron Baron**, Commissioner: (214-641-9450)

**Bob Ibach**, Baseball Operations: (847-922-6686)

### **Host City contacts:**

**Eric Moran**, President:

**Andrew Aguilar**, GM:

**Office:** 318-473-ACES

## **All-Star Notes:** (through games of 6/28)

**Daryl Stanfield** of Texarkana leads the league in hitting at .390, followed by **Eric Williams** of Big Bend with .375....other All-Stars in Top 10 include Texarkana's **Corey O'Neill** (.356), **Clint Toomey** (.355) and **Trey George** (.352), Bay Area's **Joel Hartman** (.344) and Big Bend's **Andrew Riddick** (.338).

Texarkana third baseman **Justin Armingier** leads in RBI with 31 to go along with a .327 batting mark. . **Trey George** is 2<sup>nd</sup> in RBI with 28. . First baseman **Chris Dabbs** of Big Bend leads the CBL with 8 homers. . in the unusual stat department, Bay Area *first baseman* **Joel Hartman** leads the league in stolen bases with 26 followed by teammate **Joe Hicks** with 25...Hicks is 25 for 27 in the SB dept. Bay Area general manager **Mike Pede** says Hartman "he has centerfield speed, a great batting eye, has plus-plus bat speed and goes gap to gap. He can also play leftfield."

**Jake Leonhardt** of Bay Area may be the top pitcher in the league, and one observer thinks he is Double A caliber. Leonhardt is #2 in ERA with a 1.67 mark and #1 with 50 strikeouts against just 4 walks in 43 innings of work. The ERA leader is Bay Area teammate **Kyle Hudson** with a 1.25 mark. Leonhardt is 23 years old, Hudson 22. Leonhardt has topped 94 mph and is regularly between 91-92, with outstanding control and a change-up at 74 mph. **Carlos Castillo**, who pitched four years in the big leagues for the Chicago White Sox and one season with the Boston Red Sox, is the pitching coach/pitcher with the South Louisiana Pipeliners. Castillo says Leonhardt is the best pitcher he's seen this season and that Stanfield may be the best pure athlete in the league.

**Mike Castrignano** of Big Bend is 4-0 and is one of four pitchers tied for the league lead in wins. Two other All-Stars also have 4 victories, **Rhett Barber** of Alexandria, who is 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ks with 44, and **Judson Smith** of Texarkana. **Nick Renault**, who serves as the pitching coach for Alexandria, will be one of **Dan Shwam's** two coaches in the All-Star Game. If the game goes extra innings and Shwam runs out of hurlers he can always turn to Renault, who also leads the CBL with 7 saves. Alexandria reliever **Nathan Stewart** is 2-0 with a 1.96 ERA in 13 relief appearances, with 22 Ks in 18.1 innings and throws 87-89 mph. DH **Johnny Klopfer** of Alexandria made his pro debut this season at age 32, and it's been a joy ride so far: He's batting .300 with 23 runs, 9 doubles, 2 HR and 21 RBI, along with 5 SB.

Texarkana manager **Chris McKnight** is high on **Judson Smith**. "He's a bulldog type pitcher, in excellent shape with a fastball between 90-94 with good movement. Good curveball with a 12-6 rotation and change and a very good ball to strike ratio." He's also very high on outfielder **Trey George**, who played minor league ball with the Colorado Rockies. "Great work ethic and knows how to hit, both for power and to all fields. Just a great leader by example."

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