

2002

The Year of the Pitcher

MANAGER: Derek Hacopian

GRIFFITH LEAGUE OVERALL: 27-14

GRIFFITH LEAGUE FIRST ROUND: Second Place (14-7)

GRIFFITH LEAGUE SECOND ROUND: Second Place (13-7)

MONTGOMERY CUP: Tied for First Place (7-5)

2002 was the Year of the Pitcher, and Byron Binda and Gus Hlebovy were Bethesda's Best



Big Train fans got their money's worth in 2002 with a season full of exciting games and late-inning heroics. Fifteen of the Big Train's 27 Griffith League wins were by a single run, including 11 of the 17 wins at home at Shirley Povich Field. Seven of the season's home victories were won in the home half of the final inning. But our Boys of Summer couldn't seem to carry the Povich Field magic with them on the road.

The team that compiled a masterful 17-4 home record was a mediocre 10-10 on the road. Despite splitting the six head-to-head contests, the Big Train finished second to the Arlington Senators in both the Griffith League's first and second rounds. For the Big Train, it was the year of the pitchers. Byron Binda (RHP, Coastal Carolina) and Gus Hlebovy (RHP, Kent State) each won six games and were named team co-MVPs. Binda, with a league best ERA of 1.16 and a perfect 6-0 record, was named the Griffith League's Most Outstanding Pitcher.

Bethesda Big Train 2002 Honors

CO-MVPS: Byron Binda (RHP, Coastal Carolina) & Gus Hlebovy (RHP, Kent St.)

MOST OUTSTANDING HITTERS: David B. Hughes (2B/SS, Morehead State) & Derek Hutton (2B, Florida Atlantic)

Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Baseball League Honors

MOST OUTSTANDING PITCHER: Byron Binda (RHP, Coastal Carolina)

2002 Final Regular Season Standings

First Round	W	L	PCT	GB		
Arlington Senators	16	5	.762	-		
Bethesda Big Train	14	7	.667	2		
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	11	8	.579	4		
Vienna Mustangs	10	9	.526	5		
Reston Hawks	9	9	.500	5.5		
Fauquier Gators	8	12	.400	7.5		
Baltimore Pride	6	14	.300	9.5		
Germantown Black Rox	5	15	.250	10.5		
Second Round	W	L	PCT	GB	Overall	PCT
Arlington	16	5	.762	-	32-10	.762
Bethesda	13	7	.650	2.5	27-14	.659
Vienna	10	10	.500	5.5	20-19	.513
Baltimore	10	10	.500	5.5	16-24	.400
Germantown	10	10	.500	5.5	15-25	.375
Silver Spring-Takoma	9	12	.429	7	20-20	.500
Fauquier	8	13	.381	8	16-25	.390
Reston	6	15	.286	10	15-24	.385

2003

Costanzo Sets Records for Hitting & Pitching

MANAGER: Derek Hacopian

GRIFFITH LEAGUE OVERALL: Fifth Place (22-18)

MONTGOMERY CUP: Third Place (3-7)

2003 MVP Mike Costanzo Sets Records for Hitting & Pitching



Maybe the baseball gods were getting even after the 2002 Big Train won 15 one-run victories. In 2003, Bethesda finished 22-18 with nine one-run losses, including three of their first four games and four of their five losses to the eventual champion Arlington Senators. An extraordinary number of early season rainouts caused the league to drop the traditional format and play a single season with the top four teams qualifying for a playoff. This was particularly tough on a Big Train team that was 4-10 on June 25. Marcus Taylor (OF, Middle Tennessee State) tied a Griffith League record held by Mark Teixeira when he hit three home runs, including an eleventh-inning game winner, in a single game on June 26 in Herndon. The Herndon win was the first of eight in a row as Bethesda made a gallant bid to overcome a horrid start. The Big Train won five of their final six games to fall just one game short of the playoffs. MVP Mike Costanzo (3B/RHP, Coastal Carolina) set all-time Big Train season records with a .340 batting average and an earned run average of 0.58. According to Manager Derek Hacopian: "Mike is a real gamer. Every time we needed it, we could count on him for a clutch hit or a key pitching performance. He has the potential to become a Major League third baseman."

Bethesda Big Train 2003 Honors

MVP: Mike Costanzo (3B/RHP, Coastal Carolina)

MOST OUTSTANDING PITCHER: Shay Horseman (LHP, Middle Tennessee State)

Clark C. Griffith Collegiate Baseball League All-League Team

Mike Costanzo (3B/RHP, Coastal Carolina) **Tyler Jones** (OF, Mississippi St.)

Brian LaNinfa (1B, Mississippi State)

2003 Final Regular Season Standings

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arlington Senators	30	10	.750	-
Fauquier Gators	25	15	.625	5
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	24	16	.600	6
Vienna Mustangs	23	17	.575	7
Bethesda Big Train	22	18	.550	8
Herndon Braves	20	20	.500	10
Germantown Black Rox	17	23	.425	13
Reston Hawks	10	30	.250	20
Baltimore Pride	9	31	.225	21