

2014

A Runaway Season For Big Train

MANAGER: Sal Colangelo
CRCBL REGULAR SEASON: First Place (31-9)
CRCBL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES: Second Place (3-2)
MONTGOMERY CUP: Champions (9-3)



2014 was a year in which the Big Train team was so excellent that it won the regular season championship by six games ahead of the second place team, finishing with a 31-9 record. "The 2014 season was special," reflected manager Sal Colangelo. "The season started with a bang at 18-1." The team was an offensive powerhouse with 280 runs scored in 40 games. That number remains the third highest in Ripken League history. The team also drove in 233 runs, which at the time, ranked it fourth in League history in that category.

In the Championship Series, Big Train beat the Alexandria Aces, Rockville Express, and Baltimore Redbirds once, but the Redbirds topped the Big Train twice to win the overall championship.

The team was led by second baseman Brandon Lowe, its MVP, who batted .329 and topped the League in RBI with 29. Shortstop Stephen Alemais led the League in hits with 48 and stolen bases with 26 while batting .320. Outfielder Logan Farrar hit .304 with 45 hits. On the mound, Kit Scheetz was the ace, with a 5-1 record and a 1.89 ERA. From the bullpen, Josh Thorne made 12 appearances, chalking up a 4-0 record with a 1.98 ERA.

Bethesda Big Train 2014 Honors

MVP: Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)
MOST OUTSTANDING PITCHER: Kit Scheetz (LHP, Virginia Tech)
MOST OUTSTANDING HITTER: Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)
MOST OUTSTANDING DEFENSIVE PLAYER: Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)
BIG TRAIN HUSTLE AWARD: Cody Brown (OF, Mississippi State)

Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Honors

LEAGUE MVP: Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League All-League Team

FIRST TEAM: Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland) Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)
 Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)
SECOND TEAM: Cody Brown (OF, Mississippi State)
 Kit Scheetz (LHP, Virginia Tech)

2014 Final Regular Season Standings

| | W | L | PCT | GB |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|-------|----|
| Bethesda Big Train | 31 | 9 | 0.775 | 0 |
| Baltimore Redbirds | 25 | 15 | 0.625 | 6 |
| Rockville Express | 24 | 16 | 0.600 | 7 |
| Gaithersburg Giants | 23 | 17 | 0.575 | 8 |
| Alexandria Aces | 23 | 17 | 0.575 | 8 |
| Vienna River Dogs | 18 | 22 | 0.450 | 13 |
| Youse's Orioles | 18 | 22 | 0.450 | 13 |
| FCA Herndon Braves | 17 | 23 | 0.425 | 14 |
| D. C. Grays | 15 | 25 | 0.375 | 16 |
| Silver Spring - Takoma Thunderbolts | 13 | 27 | 0.325 | 18 |
| Baltimore Dodgers | 13 | 27 | 0.325 | 18 |

2015

Big Train Wins Regular Season in First Year of Divisional Competition

MANAGER: Sal Colangelo
CRCBL REGULAR SEASON: First Place, South Division; Co-Winner, League (29-11)
CRCBL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES: Second Place (2-2)
MONTGOMERY CUP: Champions (8-4)



For the first time in 2015, League competition was divided into five teams competing for the divisional championship of each half of the league. Big Train took the Southern title. The Big Train went into the championship series as the #1 seed. The Baltimore Redbirds won the series by beating Bethesda twice in a row, including squeaking out a 15-inning heartbreaker played out over two days.

Big Train's star of this year was Chris Lewis. He had a .306 batting average, 7 home runs, and 37 runs driven in. His RBI total was 14 higher than his next rival within the league. He was named the League's Most Outstanding Player and Big Train's Most Outstanding Hitter. The team had other notable hitters, including Outfielder Logan Farrar (.290), Shortstop Zach Kirtley (.285), and Outfielder Matt Toscano (.281).

The mound staff was superb and established an ERA of 2.29, which stands as third best in League history. Its Batting Average Against of .197 ties for the League record as the lowest. The ace was Drew Strotman, who had a 4-2 record and 2.62 ERA in 8 starts. Tim Yandel was given the MVP award for his combination of pitching (4-1, 1.32 ERA) and utility work at four different positions while driving in 22 runs in 24 games.

Bethesda Big Train 2015 Honors

MVP: Tim Yandel (RHP, Tulane)
MOST OUTSTANDING HITTER: Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)
MOST OUTSTANDING RELIEF PITCHER: Miller Trevvett (RHP, Radford)
BIG TRAIN HUSTLE AWARD: Brandon Hunley (2B, Sacramento State)

Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Honors

LEAGUE MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER: Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League All-League Team

FIRST TEAM: Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State) Tim Yandel (RHP, Tulane)
 Walker Sheller (RHP, Stetson)
SECOND TEAM: Harrison Crawford (3B, Creighton)
 Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth) Zach Kirtley (SS, St. Mary's, California)

2015 Final Regular Season Standings

| NORTH DIVISION | W | L | PCT | GB |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|-------|----|
| Baltimore Redbirds | 29 | 11 | 0.725 | 0 |
| Silver Spring - Takoma Thunderbolts | 20 | 20 | 0.500 | 9 |
| Rockville Express | 18 | 22 | 0.450 | 11 |
| Baltimore Dodgers | 13 | 27 | 0.325 | 16 |
| Gaithersburg Giants | 13 | 27 | 0.325 | 16 |
| SOUTH DIVISION | W | L | PCT | GB |
| Bethesda Big Train | 29 | 11 | 0.725 | 0 |
| Vienna River Dogs | 21 | 19 | 0.525 | 8 |
| Alexandria Aces | 19 | 21 | 0.475 | 10 |
| D. C. Grays | 19 | 21 | 0.475 | 10 |
| Herndon Braves | 19 | 21 | 0.475 | 10 |