

# 2012 SEASON RECAP

"Hunter is the best five-tool player I have ever coached and the greatest position player ever to play in this league." **Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo**



The 2012 Big Train summer was highlighted by the most outstanding season by a player in Big Train history and an extraordinary stretch of 16 wins in the span of 19 games.

With a roster full of returnees from the 2011 National Championship team, Big Train fans had high expectations for the 2012 team. On Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Allan Simpson of Perfect Game USA was on hand to present Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo with the 2011 National Championship trophy just before the opening night home game with the Rockville Express. But the first home game was a 15-0 trouncing by the Express. The Big Train continued to struggle and ended the first two weeks with a record of 3-9.

Once all the players arrived, everything came together and the team won 16 of its next 19 games. The turnaround began June 20<sup>th</sup> with a 16-11 extra-inning win on the road in Vienna. Down 5-1 after one inning, the Big Train battled back with a three-run home run by Tucker Tobin (George Mason) and an excellent long relief performance by Cameron Cuneo (UC Santa Barbara). The last week in June saw six more wins with only one loss. A Saturday night 12-1

win over rival Youse's Orioles on June 23<sup>rd</sup> (with Hall of Famer Cal Ripken in the house) was paced by starting pitcher Ryan Doran (San Diego State) and a grand slam home run by Hunter Renfro. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Big Train were on the road in Alexandria and down a run with two strikes and two outs in the ninth inning, but Michael Bass (UNC-Wilmington) stroked a two-RBI single to center for a 4-3 win. A 13-12 win over the Rockville Express on June 29<sup>th</sup> (just minutes before the derecho tore through Povich Field) enabled the Big Train to end June with a record of 10-10.

July began with a solid pitching performance by Ben Griset (St. Mary's (CA)) and a bases-clearing three-RBI triple by Avondre Bollar (San Diego State) on the road against the DC Grays at Gallaudet University. A July 2<sup>nd</sup> doubleheader sweep of the Braves and a win on July 6<sup>th</sup> against the Nationals brought Bethesda's record to 14-10, just one game behind the second-place Rockville Express. Down 7-2 to the Express on July 7<sup>th</sup>, the Big Train rallied but came up short with a critical 8-7 loss. Two more wins were followed by another heartbreaking one-run 7-6 loss to the Redbirds on the road in Towson. A strong pitching performance by Jordan Gross (Tulane) and Hunter Renfro's 13<sup>th</sup> home run of the season on July 12<sup>th</sup> sparked another three-game win streak.

The 16-win hot streak allowed Bethesda to pull within two games of the league-leading Redbirds at 19-12. With multiple blowout wins, all three losses during the streak were by a single run and all three were to the two teams ahead of Bethesda in the standings — the Baltimore Redbirds and the Rockville Express. To repeat as the regular season champions would



have required a near sweep of the final ten games. It was not to be as the Big Train finished 6-4. The 3-9 start was just too much to overcome. An 11<sup>th</sup> inning home run by Adam Barry (High Point) gave the Big Train a 4-3 win over the Redbirds on the road on July 25<sup>th</sup> and helped tip the regular season championship to the Rockville Express as the Big Train finished in third place at 25-16.

## LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Three perfect innings in relief by Ethan Miller (San Diego State) and a Cole Norton (St. Mary's (CA)) RBI double off the centerfield fence in the eighth inning allowed the Big Train to come from behind to edge the Alexandria Aces 3-2 in game one of the league playoffs. The Baltimore Redbirds demolished the Big Train 15-2 in the second round in Towson. But the next night, Bo Logan (Florida Atlantic) pitched a gem and the Big Train eliminated

## 2012 Final Regular Season CRCBL Standings

|                                   | W-L   | %    | GB   |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| Rockville Express                 | 30-11 | .732 | —    |
| Baltimore Redbirds                | 28-13 | .683 | 2    |
| Bethesda Big Train                | 25-16 | .610 | 5    |
| Vienna Riverdogs                  | 23-18 | .561 | 7    |
| Youse's Orioles                   | 20-20 | .500 | 9.5  |
| Alexandria Aces                   | 20-21 | .488 | 10   |
| DC Grays                          | 18-21 | .462 | 11   |
| Herndon Braves                    | 15-24 | .385 | 14   |
| Southern Maryland Nationals       | 15-26 | .366 | 15   |
| Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts | 9-33  | .214 | 21.5 |

## 2012 Montgomery Cup Presented by the Gazette

|                                   | W-L | %    |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------|
| Rockville Express                 | 8-2 | .800 |
| Bethesda Big Train                | 5-4 | .555 |
| Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts | 1-8 | .111 |



## Rewriting the Record Books



Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State) obliterated the Big Train and Ripken League record books in 2012, setting new records in five categories:

**RUNS: 47**  
**HOME RUNS: 16**  
**RBIS: 53**  
**TOTAL BASES: 116**  
**SLUGGING PERCENTAGE: .866**

Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco) set a new Big Train record for doubles (17), one short of the league record.

the regular season champion Rockville Express with a 3-0 win at Montgomery College - Rockville. Bethesda advanced to the championship game with a 10-5 win over the Vienna Riverdogs at Povich Field on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Homers by Barry, Renfroe, and Colin Kish (Florida Southern) sparked the offense, and Jordan Gross was the winning pitcher.

After beating the Riverdogs, the Big Train players headed up I-95 to play the Baltimore Redbirds that night in the championship game. It was the fourth year in a row the Redbirds and Big Train faced off for the championship. Hunter Renfroe blasted his 19<sup>th</sup> home run of the summer to give Bethesda a 2-0 lead in the first. The Redbirds tied the score at two in the second inning and went ahead 4-2 in the third with a two-run home run by Mark Zagunis (Virginia Tech). A Michael Bass home run in the fifth brought the Big Train within one at 4-3, but the team couldn't muster the tying run over the final innings as a new Ripken League champion was crowned.

## MANAGER'S AWARDS

For the 2012 season, Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo gave four awards. Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State) was named the Big Train MVP in addition to being named a First Team Summer Collegiate All-American by Perfect Game USA and MVP of the Ripken League. "Hunter is the best five-tool player I have ever coached and the greatest position player ever to play in this league," said Colangelo. "To hit 19 long balls [16 during regular season and 3 in playoffs] in a summer season is simply unheard of. With his big-time power, Hunter is a future first-round pick. I'm looking forward to watching him in the major leagues soon." On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Big Train honored Hunter by retiring his #11 along with the #40 of pitcher Hugh Adams (Florida Atlantic) who posted a 1.72 ERA in seven seasons with the Big Train.

Colangelo named Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco) the team's Most Outstanding Hitter. "Brendan was the first one to the ballpark to work on his swing every day," said manager Sal Colangelo. "He has a great swing with real power." With 64 hits, Hendricks came up just three hits shy of the Big Train season record of 67 set by Adam Barry in 2011. His 17 doubles set a new Big Train record and his .400 regular season batting average was the best on the team.

Bo Logan (Florida Atlantic), with a record of 5-1 and a playoff victory over the Rockville Express, was named Most Outstanding Pitcher. "Bo's a crafty lefty who picks batters apart and keeps them off-balance while pounding the zone," said manager Colangelo. "He was a dependable starter all summer."

Brennan Middleton (Tulane) received the Big Train Hustle Award. "Brennan was a workhorse for us," said Colangelo. "On the field he gave 110%, and off the field he gave 110%. Before and after every game he dragged, lined, and did everything." Middleton hit .326 and stole 19 bases.

Colangelo said that despite the Big Train's failure to win a fourth consecutive league championship, the summer was still great. "We had a slow start, but the team really came together and played some fabulous

baseball. We came up a little short, but that's baseball. No one wins them all. I'm really proud of these guys and looking forward to another good run next summer."



## 2012 Big Train Awards & Honors

**Big Train  
Most Valuable Player**  
 Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

**Big Train  
Most Outstanding Pitcher**  
 Bo Logan (Florida Atlantic)

**Big Train  
Most Outstanding Hitter**  
 Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco)

**Big Train  
Hustle Award**  
 Brennan Middleton (Tulane)

## Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Honors

**2012 League MVP**  
 Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

**First Team All-League**  
 SP Ryan Doran (San Diego State)  
 3B Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco)  
 OF Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

**Second Team All-League**  
 SP Bo Logan (Florida Atlantic)

**2012 League All-Stars**  
 Cameron Cuneo (UC Santa Barbara)  
 Ben Griset (St. Mary's (CA))  
 Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco)  
 Colin Kish (Florida Southern)  
 Bo Logan (Florida Atlantic)  
 Cole Norton (St. Mary's (CA))  
 Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

**2012 League  
Pitcher of the Week**  
 Ryan Doran (San Diego State)  
 (June 18-24)

**2012 League  
Players of the Week**  
 Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)  
 (June 25-July 1)  
 Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco)  
 (July 9-15)

**Perfect Game Summer Collegiate  
First Team All-American**  
 Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)

**Perfect Game  
Ripken League Top Prospects**  
 #1 Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)  
 #3 Brendan Hendriks (San Francisco)  
 #7 Ben Griset (St. Mary's (CA))  
 #12 Mike Miedzianowski (High Point)  
 #17 Ethan Miller (San Diego State)  
 #20 Adam Barry (High Point)  
 #26 Brennan Middleton (Tulane)

**Baseball America  
Ripken League Top Prospects**  
 #3 Hunter Renfroe (Mississippi State)