



# 2013 SEASON RECAP

*After establishing itself as the dominant team throughout the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League's grueling 44 game regular season, the 2013 Bethesda Big Train fell just short of winning the League Championship Series.*



Ranked seventh in the nation in late July, the 2013 Big Train cruised to the regular season championship of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League only to fall to the Baltimore Redbirds in the championship game for the second year in a row and slip to 25<sup>th</sup> in Perfect Game's final college summer season rankings.

The slow start (3-9) that doomed the 2012 Big Train was not a concern in 2013. Despite a 2-0 opening night loss on June 6 to the defending champion Baltimore Redbirds on the road and four rainouts in the first week, Bethesda jumped to the league leader position with four straight wins and never looked back. A 5-1 victory over Youse's Orioles with Hall of Famer Cal Ripken, Jr. at Povich Field on June 11 and a come-from-behind extra inning 7-6 win over the Redbirds on June 14 were the highlights of the opening week. Cody Mizelle (Florida Atlantic) pitched six scoreless innings to earn the win against the Orioles. Three plus innings of scoreless relief from Bubba Derby (San Diego State) and a walk-off single by Josh Spano (High Point) in the tenth pulled out the win over the Redbirds.

A loss was followed by five straight wins. Ryne Willard's (Tallahassee Community College) grand slam home run sparked an 8 run eighth inning on June 19 against Silver Spring. The next night the Big Train hung a 7 on the scoreboard in the fifth inning to trounce Rockville. But the big story of the hot start was pitching as Big Train pitchers Michael Boyle (Radford) and Bubba Derby dominated Ripken League hitters and were named pitcher of the week for June 17-23 (Boyle) and June 24-30 (Derby). Derby's four innings of shutout relief to get a 3-2 come-from-behind win over second place Rockville on the road at Knights Stadium on June 29 capped an outstanding month.

The team weathered the storms of June to post a 14-4 record with more rainouts (six) than losses (four). Bethesda's astonishing .778

winning percentage earned the team first place at the end of the season's first month. Two other Montgomery County teams — the league's newest member Gaithersburg (13-8) and Rockville (12-8) — followed close behind.

The Big Train stayed hot in July, winning three straight to go 17-4 and extend their league lead to three-and-one-half games over the Baltimore Redbirds at the half-way point of the season. David Del Grande (Sacramento State) got two hits and scored the winning run in the bottom of the eighth to seal an important come-from-behind 3-2 win over the Rockville Express before a standing-room-only crowd at Povich Field on July 5. On July 6, Tim Yandel (Tulane) was the hero with a tenth inning RBI double that gave the Big Train a 9-8 win over the Orioles in Glen Burnie. After a win over the Giants at Criswell Automotive Field at Kelley Park in Gaithersburg, the season's first hiccup came as the Big Train (19-7) lost three of five to cling to a two game lead over the Giants (19-11).

Seven straight wins in mid-July propelled the Big Train (26-7) to a ranking of seventh in the nation by Perfect Game and a commanding six game lead in the Ripken League standings. Another standing-room-only crowd at Povich Field was treated to a slugfest on July 13 as the Big Train bested Silver Spring 17-8 as Ryne Willard, Johnny Cole (Coastal Carolina), and Ricky Santiago (Florida Atlantic) drove in 5, 4, and 3 runs respectively. Back-to-back double-header sweeps on July 14 and 15 were the key to the seven game win streak. On July 14, the Big Train hosted the Presstman Cardinals at Povich Field. Michael Boyle pitched a complete game 1-0 shutout in the first game. Tucker Tobin's (George Mason) RBI single in the first was all Boyle needed. On July 15, the Big Train swept a double-header against the Southern Maryland Nationals at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf with Danny Mooney (Davidson) pitching a complete game 2-0 shutout in the first game.

On Friday July 19, the defending champion Baltimore Redbirds, in fifth place at 20-14, came to Povich Field for a game that seems in hindsight to have marked a turning point in what had looked like a chance for a run at a national ranking at or near the top of all of summer college baseball. Bethesda ace Michael Boyle, who gained his second pitcher of the week accolade

earlier in July, gave up just two runs in four innings but didn't get the bat support he needed as the Redbirds won 5-0 for Boyle's only loss of the season. The next day on the road at Gallaudet University's Hoy Field, the home team D.C. Grays stunned the Big Train 1-0 despite an eight inning gem by Bethesda's other pitching phenom Bubba Derby who allowed just one unearned run on a passed ball in the first inning. These two losses marked the start of a 4-7 finish to the regular season that saw the Big Train (30-14) hang on to capture the Ripken League regular season crown by three games over the Alexandria Aces (27-17).

## LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

For the fifth year in a row, the Baltimore Redbirds and the Bethesda Big Train matched up in the League Championship Series finale. The first three times, the Big Train took the crown, but in 2013 as in 2012 the Redbirds derailed our Big Train. As regular season champions, Bethesda got a bye in the first round. In the second round, the sixth seeded Redbirds edged

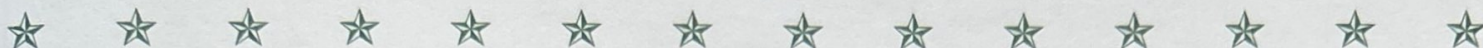
### 2013 Final Regular Season CRCBL Standings

	W-L	%	GB
Bethesda Big Train	30-14	.682	-
Alexandria Aces	27-17	.614	3
Gaithersburg Giants	26-18	.591	4
Rockville Express	25-19	.568	5
Youse's Orioles	25-19	.568	5
Baltimore Redbirds	25-19	.568	5
Vienna Riverdogs	23-21	.523	7
Southern Maryland Nationals	23-21	.523	7
D.C. Grays	23-21	.523	7
Presstman Cardinals	14-30	.318	16
Silver Spring-Takoma T-bolts	13-31	.295	20
FCA Herndon Braves	10-34	.227	20

### 2013 Montgomery Cup Presented by the Gazette

	W-L	%
Bethesda Big Train	10-2	.833
Gaithersburg Giants	7-5	.583
Rockville Express	4-8	.333
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	3-9	.250





## Big Train Record Book



With six regular season wins, **Bubba Derby** (*San Diego State*) pitched his way into the Big Train record book. Five other Big Train pitchers have notched six regular season wins: Byron Binda and Gus Hlebovy in 2002, Keith Moreland in 2004, Scott Schneider in 2008, and Cameron Love in 2009.

**Ryne Willard** (*Tallahassee Community College*) tied the Big Train record for games played with 42.

the Big Train 3-2 at Povich Field and pushed the Big Train into the losers bracket. The Big Train scored first in the bottom of the fifth but fell behind 3-1 in the seventh. A booming home run by Ryne Willard in the bottom of the ninth closed the gap to one, but the Redbirds prevailed.

Bubba Derby was dominant as Bethesda beat Rockville 8-0 in the Thursday August 1 elimination game at Povich Field. Derby allowed just two Express hits and struck out nine over seven scoreless innings. Willard homered again, going 4-for-4 with two doubles and two RBIs. On Friday night, playing the Alexandria Aces for the right to matchup with the Redbirds in the championship game, the Big Train took an early 2-0 lead in the third inning on the strength of Ryne Willard's third home run in three days. The Aces stormed from behind with four runs in the seventh to tie the game at 4-4. An RBI single by Ty France (*San Diego State*) in the bottom of the eighth put the Big Train ahead to stay. Relief pitcher Will Resnik (*High Point*) shutout the Aces in the eighth and ninth innings to earn the win.

The Saturday night championship game at Povich Field was rained out after only one-half an inning and resumed on Sunday afternoon. The Big Train jumped in front in the fifth inning as Parker Guinn (*Washington*) stole second and third and scored on an RBI single by Johnny Cole. The Redbirds tied the game in the seventh and went ahead to stay 4-1 in the eighth. Big Train starting pitcher Justin Hepner (*San Diego State*) took the loss despite allowing just two earned runs on three hits. Redbirds pitcher Jack Fischer (*Wake Forest*), who allowed just one Big Train run on three hits, was named League Championship Series MVP. The Big Train's Ryne Willard hit a torrid .429 during the playoffs with three home runs, two doubles, and five RBIs.

## SAL COLANGELO'S MANAGER'S AWARDS

"The 2013 season was special," said manager Sal Colangelo. "We didn't have that one superstar on the roster, but our roster was hands down the deepest in the league. All of the guys were dedicated to the game and committed to winning. These players exemplified what Big Train is all about and are all well deserving of these honors."

Pitchers typically do not win MVP awards, but **Bubba Derby** (*San Diego State*) was the most dominant pitcher in the Cal Ripken League in 2013 and the clear choice for the team's **Most Valuable Player** award. Selected to the First Team Summer Collegiate All-America team by Perfect Game USA, Derby led the league in wins (6), ERA (0.76) and strikeouts (56). Derby was the Big Train workhorse during the regular season, logging 47.1 innings, and continued to be the team ace in the playoffs where he gave up only two hits while striking out nine batters in seven innings against the Rockville Express during the League Championship Series.

Manager Colangelo named **Ty France** (*San Diego State*) **Most Outstanding Hitter**. France not only proved his consistency by hitting a team leading .331 in the regular season, he showed his ability to hit in the clutch by raising his average to .353 during the playoffs. He led the team in sacrifice hits and finished the season second on the team in hits, RBIs, and slugging percentage despite missing five games.

**Michael Boyle** (*Radford*) picked up five wins in six starts and was named **Most Outstanding Pitcher**. Boyle posted an outstanding ERA of 0.77, recording two complete games and two shutouts. Opponents hit a paltry .153 against Boyle this season and he gave up only three earned runs all year.

**Ryne Willard** (*Tallahassee Community College*) won the **Most Outstanding Defensive Player**, making several spectacular defensive plays at shortstop and being a consistent defensive presence. Willard led the team with 111 assists and boasted a strong .940-fielding percentage.

Whether it was running out a ground ball for an infield hit or tracking a fly ball in the outfield for a SportsCenter-worthy diving catch, **David Del Grande** (*Sacramento State*) was Manager Colangelo's choice for the 2013 **Hustle Award**. In 40 games for the Big Train, Del Grande led the team in runs scored with 34 and racked up 40 hits, including 9 doubles, and 8 stolen bases while playing an outstanding defensive center field.

## 2013 Big Train Awards & Honors

### Big Train Most Valuable Player

Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

### Big Train Most Outstanding Pitcher

Michael Boyle (*Radford*)

### Big Train Most Outstanding Hitter

Ty France (*San Diego State*)

### Big Train Most Outstanding Fielder

Ryne Willard (*Tallahassee CC*)

### Big Train Hustle Award

David Del Grande (*Sacramento State*)

## Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Honors

### 2013 Most Valuable Pitcher

Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

### First Team All-League

Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

### Second Team All-League

Michael Boyle (*Radford*)

David Del Grande (*Sacramento State*)

Ty France (*San Diego State*)

Ryne Willard (*Tallahassee CC*)

### 2013 League All-Stars

Michael Boyle (*Radford*)

David Del Grande (*Sacramento State*)

Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

Zach Morris (*Maryland*)

Josh Spano (*High Point*)

Tim Yandel (*Tulane*)

### 2013 League Pitcher of the Week

Michael Boyle (*Radford*) (June 17-23)

Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

(June 24-30)

Michael Boyle (*Radford*) (July 8-14)

### Perfect Game Summer Collegiate First Team All-American

Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

### Perfect Game Ripken League Top Prospects

#1 Michael Boyle (*Radford*)

#2 Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

#8 Zach Morris (*Maryland*)

#20 Tim Yandel (*Tulane*)

#21 Josh Spano (*High Point*)

#25 Ty France (*San Diego State*)

### Baseball America Ripken League Top Prospects

#3 Bubba Derby (*San Diego State*)

#7 Michael Boyle (*Radford*)