

2009 SEASON RECAP



BEST BIG TRAIN TEAM EVER



After the 2008 Bethesda Big Train finished 29-13, many long time Big Train fans believed the tenth season had produced our best team ever. Others argued for the Griffith League era 2000 (29-11) and 2004 (29-13) teams. Now, the debate is over. Eight of the 2008 Big Train players returned to play in 2009 and left no doubt. The 2009 Big Train won the Regular Season of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League (CRCBL) with a record of 31-10 and then added the League Championship Series Cup with three straight victories. The 34-10 Big Train team was ranked the ninth best summer college team by Perfect Game Crosschecker, our first national ranking in our eleven seasons. The team obliterated a decade of Big Train hitting records and set several CRCBL records, including an amazing .305 team regular season batting average. And the fans came out to watch -- a team record of more than 18,000 fans attended Big Train games at Povich Field in 2009.

Right fielder Eli Boike (Michigan State), returning for his third summer in Bethesda, was named the Ripken League's Most Valuable Player. Boike and five of his teammates were named to the 2009 All-League Team. Second baseman Danny Stienstra (San Jose State), shortstop Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State), left fielder Luke Adkins (Mississippi State), starting pitcher Jordan Beistline (Jacksonville



Photo courtesy of Lisa Kammerman, Big Train's Mom

State), and reliever Mike Matta (Mount St. Mary's) joined Boike.

After a one day delay because of rain, the 2009 season got off to a fabulous start on Saturday June 6 with a CRCBL regular season attendance record crowd of 1,160 on hand to watch our new Boys of Summer. The Big Train picked up a 4-0 win over the College Park Bombers behind a seven inning three hit performance by starting pitcher Cameron Love (San Francisco). The Big Train outscored opponents 51-8 to start the season with six straight victories. Luke Adkins (Mississippi State) drove

in four runs in a 6-1 win over the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts in the season's second game. Game three was a 14-3 romp over the Herndon Braves fueled by three home runs. Gabe Feldman of Cabin John (Wake Forest/Whitman HS) was the winning pitcher in game four. A three run home run by Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State) helped fuel a 16-0 win over the Alexandria Aces. Three RBIs by Ryan Mulligan (Saint Mary's CA) helped the Big Train win on the road in Aberdeen. But the Big Train lost the nightcap of the Saturday doubleheader 4-3 to the Maryland Redbirds. A second straight loss the next night was countered by three straight wins over the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts. Local hurlers Gabe Feldman and Hugh Adams picked up the wins in a doubleheader sweep on the road. Connor Bernatz hit two doubles to help the Big Train register a 6-4 come-from-behind win at Povich two nights later. With a loss on the road to the Alexandria Aces, Bethesda finished the season's first two weeks with a record of 9-3 tied with the Maryland Redbirds atop the Ripken League standings.

A 6-5 June 20 win over the Redbirds fueled by a three hit

performance by Luke Adkins and a two RBI double by Mason Morioka (San Francisco) put Bethesda alone at the top of the CRCBL standings. A win over College Park and a home loss to Herndon set the stage for the first contest between the Big Train and the defending champion Orioles with first place on the line. The Big Train prevailed 9-8 in a game that saw five lead changes. Mike Celenza of Gaithersburg (Salisbury/Quince Orchard HS) got one of the game's big hits, a two RBI single in the sixth to give Bethesda a 6-5 lead.

A blowout win over Rockville was followed by another home loss to Herndon and two wins over Rockville. Cameron Love won a 1-0 pitchers' duel on the road against the Alexandria Aces with the support of a solo home run by Jarrod Parks. A big win over Herndon on the road the next night set the stage for a Friday July 3 doubleheader with the defending champion Orioles. The Orioles edged Bethesda 3-2 in the first game to pull within two games of first place. It was standing-room-only for the second game to watch two Montgomery County natives face-off - Kevin Brady (Clemson/Gaithersburg HS) for the Orioles and Hugh Adams (Florida

2009 Final Regular Season CRCBL Standings

	W	L	%	GB
Bethesda Big Train	31	10	.756	
Youse's Maryland Orioles	29	12	.707	2
Maryland Redbirds	24	18	.571	7.5
Herndon Braves	19	22	.463	12
Silver Spring-Takoma T'Bolts	18	24	.429	13.5
Alexandria Aces	17	25	.405	14.5
College Park Bombers	17	25	.405	14.5
Rockville Express	11	30	.268	20

2009 Montgomery Cup Presented by the Gazette

	W	L	%	GB
Bethesda Big Train	11	1	.917	
Silver Spring-Takoma T'Bolts	5	7	.417	6
Rockville Express	2	10	.167	9



Atlantic/St. John's CHS) for the Big Train. Adams pitched a three hit complete game shutout and Cody Freeman (Mississippi State) delivered two RBIs for 2-0 victory that put the Big Train back to three games ahead of the Orioles and 2.5 games ahead of the Redbirds at the July 4 break.

With a 5-1 win over the visiting Rockville Express on July 5, the Big Train notched its 19th season victory. Eight of the 19 wins were against Rockville and Silver Spring, allowing Bethesda to clinch the annual Montgomery Cup at the earliest date in ten years of competition. On July 6, Bethesda crushed Silver Spring 13-5 with four hits by Danny Stienstra (San Jose State) and four RBIs by Luke Adkins. A 1-0 loss to the Orioles at Bachman Park on July 8 and a sloppy 11-10 loss to the Thunderbolts at home the next day allowed the Orioles to pull back within two games of first place. Bethesda then beat the Orioles 4-3 on an 11th inning walk-off RBI single by Luke Adkins. Nolan Rudman (Lee) picked up the important win. The very next night at Povich Field, Adkins did it again. Down 5-3 to the College Park Bombers with two outs in the ninth, the Big Train came back to win 6-5 on a two RBI walk-off double by Adkins. On the road in Aberdeen on July 12, Michael Bottoms (Morehead State) broke the game open with a three run triple for an 8-5 win over the Maryland Redbirds. The next night at Povich, the Big Train beat the Redbirds again as Eli Boike (Michigan State) ripped a two run home run in the bottom of the first and the Redbirds never caught up giving Bethesda a 6.5 lead over the third place Redbirds and a 2.5 game lead over the Orioles at the All-Star Game break.

Nine Big Train players were named to the Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate Baseball All-Star team that defeated the Shenandoah Valley Baseball League All-Star team 2-1 on July 15 at Regency Furniture Stadium in

Waldorf, MD. Trailing 1-0 in the bottom of the fifth, Jarrod Parks tripled and scored to tie the game. With a go-ahead run in the sixth the CRCBL All-Stars took the lead and Cameron Love pitched a scoreless ninth to secure the victory and pick up a save.

The Big Train returned to action after the All-Star break with a 9-0 pasting of the Rockville Express and a 10-2 win over the Alexandria Aces. The Big Train's All-Star outfielders treated the Povich faithful to 11 hits in the win over the Aces – Adkins (3), Bernatz (4), and Boike (4). After an uncharacteristic Sunday afternoon blowout loss to the College Park Bombers, the Big Train returned to Alexandria where they had lost a 2-1 heartbreaker just two nights before. Now only two games ahead of the Orioles with four to play, this was a must win game. As they had all season, the Big Train bats responded to the challenge with an offensive juggernaut. Bernatz led the hit parade with five in a 13-6 win on the road in Alexandria. Reliever Mike Matta (Mount St. Mary's) picked up the victory for the Big Train, allowing no earned runs in three innings and improving his ERA to a microscopic 0.43. The 2009 Big Train tied a team record 29 regular season wins (tying the 2000, 2004, and 2008 Big Train teams) with an 8-1 win over the Herndon Braves in the front of the fourth 1,000+ fans game of the season. The history making 30th victory came on July 24 on the road in Herndon with Big Train ace Jordan Beistline (Jacksonville State) in control all the way in a 9-3 win over the Braves. Jarrod Parks led the offense with a home run and a triple. The 30th win put the Big Train a game and one-half ahead of the Orioles with two to play setting up a Saturday night showdown. Some days you win, some days you lose, and some days it rains. The showdown was washed out, and Bethesda clinched the Ripken League regular season championship with a 9-1 win over the Rockville Express at

Povich Field on Sunday night July 26. Seth Hester (Southern Mississippi) earned the win, allowing one run in six dominant innings on the mound. Danny Stienstra collected four hits, while Luke Adkins reached base in all five plate appearances.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

With Youse's Orioles on the road defending their national AAABA title, the fifth place Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts got the fourth and last seed for the CRCBL Championship Series. The Big Train had defeated its Beltway rival five out of six times during the regular season, but it took a gift – a late inning dropped popup – to allow Bethesda to escape with a 6-5 come-from-behind win over the underdog T'Bolts in the first round of the playoffs. With three runs in the bottom of the 8th inning and Mike Matta to shut the door in the ninth, the Big Train moved on to a semi-final contest with the Herndon Braves. The Big Train scored the game's first five runs and raced to an 8-2 win over the Braves behind an outstanding pitching performance by starter Jordan Beistline.

With a Friday rainout, the championship game was pushed to Saturday afternoon. Before they could face the Big Train, the Maryland Redbirds

needed a Saturday win over Herndon. Big Train starter Seth Hester retired the first 14 batters he faced en route to a two-hit shutout as Bethesda Big Train cruised to 7-0 win. Hester and Mike Celenza were named Most Valuable Players of the League Championship Series. Celenza, the league's Most Valuable Player in 2008 while playing for the College Park Bombers, was four-for-eight with three RBIs and three walks in the three playoff games.

BIG TRAIN AWARDS

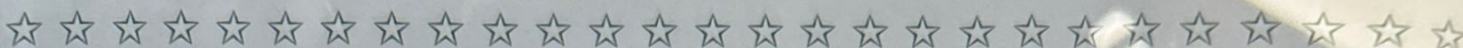
In announcing his awards for the 2009 season, Big Train Manager Sal Colangelo explained: "This was a storybook season from beginning to end. The players rallied around each other working hard on and off the field. Every win, run, pitch, and out was done as a team." According to Colangelo, "These young men were very coachable and respectful. The memories from this season will last forever and have a special place in all of our lives and throughout the community."

Because of the remarkable team effort, three veteran Big Train players – Luke Adkins, Eli Boike, and Danny Stienstra – shared Manager Colangelo's Most Valuable Player award. Right fielder Eli Boike

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Photo caption: The top five batters in the Big Train line-up all hit better than .300 in 2009. From the left (with university and Big Train batting average): Luke Adkins (Mississippi State, .380), Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State, .355), Danny Stienstra (San Jose State, .350), Eli Boike (Michigan State, .371), and Connor Bernatz (San Francisco, .318).



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(Michigan State), returning for his third summer in Bethesda, was named the League's Most Valuable Player. Boike led the league in hits with 56 and finished second in league batting to Adkins with a .371 average. According to Colangelo, "Eli's raw talent all came together this summer as he led our team in just about every offensive category." Left fielder Luke Adkins (Mississippi State), also playing his third summer for the Big Train, "has been among the league's elite in batting average and runs-batted-in every year," according to Colangelo. Adkins led the league in hitting with a .380 batting average. Second baseman Danny Stienstra (San Jose State), the Big Train's Most Outstanding Hitter award winner in 2008, set a new league record with 40 runs-batted-in. Colangelo says Stienstra "ranks among the greatest hitters in the eleven years of Big Train baseball." Adkins and Stienstra were named to the Big Train's All-Decade Team in 2008.

Shortstop Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State) was named Most Outstanding Hitter. Parks set a Big Train slugging record of .593 and a league on-base percentage record at .526. In addition, Parks was hit by 21 pitches this summer, a record not likely to be erased soon from the league record book. According to Colangelo, "Jarrod is a hard-nosed ball

player who hits the ball to all parts of the field and does whatever it takes to get on base." Center fielder Connor Bernatz (San Francisco) set the league runs scored record with 45 and was named the team's Most Outstanding Fielder. "Connor covered a lot of ground for us in center field this summer," explained Manager Colangelo. "He has all the skills to be in the big leagues one day." Bernatz was named the Big Train's top professional prospect by Perfect Game Crosschecker.

Jordan Beistline (Jacksonville State) and Cameron Love (San Francisco) were named the Big Train's Most Outstanding Pitchers. Manager Colangelo calls Beistline "one of the most competitive pitchers I've ever coached." Beistline was 5-2 for the Big Train with an earned run average of 1.95. Colangelo called Love "Mr. Consistent. He throws strikes and competes all game long." Love posted a 6-1 record and an ERA of 2.59 for Bethesda. Mike Matta (RHP, Mount St. Mary's) was named the team's Most Outstanding Relief Pitcher for the 2009 season. Matta was 3-0 with three saves and a miniscule ERA of 0.34 in sixteen relief appearances. According to Manager Colangelo, "Mike was Mr. Cool all season. He possesses great command and control on the mound."

Rewriting the Record Books

The 2009 Big Train established eight new CRCBL team season records

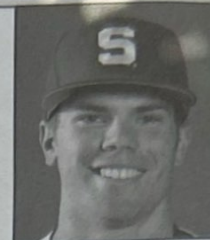
Batting Average (.305)	Slugging % (.405)	On-Base % (.401)	Runs Scored (284)
Hits (411)	RBI (256)	Doubles (73)	Total Bases (547)

Big Train players established five new CRCBL individual season records

Jarrod Parks: On-Base % (.526)	Connor Bernatz: Runs Scored (45)
Danny Stienstra: RBI (40)	Connor Bernatz: Doubles (16)
Jarrod Parks: Hit-by-Pitch (21)	Eli Boike tied the CRCBL record for Hits (56, Mike Celenza in 2008)

Big Train players established nine new All-Time Big Train individual season records

Jarrod Parks: Slugging % (.593 to previous .566)	Jarrod Parks: On-Base % (.526 to previous .487)
Connor Bernatz: Runs Scored (45 to previous 39)	Eli Boike: Hits (56 to previous 50)
Danny Stienstra: RBI (40 to previous 29)	Connor Bernatz and Eli Boike: Total Bases (78 to previous 62)
Connor Bernatz: Doubles (16 to previous 13)	Luke Adkins: Triples (4 to previous 3)
Jarrod Parks: Hit-by-Pitch (21)	Cameron Love tied the Big Train Wins record for Pitchers at 6



2009 CRCBL MVP Eli Boike

2009 Big Train Honors

Big Train Most Valuable Players

Luke Adkins (Mississippi State)
Eli Boike (Michigan State)
Danny Stienstra (San Jose State)

Big Train Most Outstanding Hitter

Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State)

Big Train Most Outstanding Fielder

Connor Bernatz (San Francisco)

Big Train Most Outstanding Pitchers

Jordan Beistline (Jacksonville State)
Cameron Love (San Francisco)

Big Train Most Outstanding Relief Pitcher

Mike Matta (Mount St. Mary's)

CRCBL 2009 Most Valuable Player

Eli Boike (Michigan State)

CRCBL 2009

League Championship Series MVPs

Mike Celenza (Salisbury/Quince Orchard HS)
Seth Hester (Southern Mississippi)

CRCBL 2009 All-League Team

2B Danny Stienstra (San Jose State)
SS Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State)
OF Luke Adkins (Mississippi State)
OF Eli Boike (Michigan State)
SP Jordan Beistline (Jacksonville State)
RP Mike Matta (Mount St. Mary's)

CRCBL 2009 Player of the Week

Week 1: Jarrod Parks (Big Train/Mississippi State)
Week 4: Jarrod Parks (Big Train/Mississippi State)
Week 5: Danny Stienstra (Big Train/San Jose State)
Week 6: Luke Adkins (Big Train/Mississippi State)

CRCBL 2009 All Stars

P Hugh Adams (Florida Atlantic/St. John's CHS)
OF Luke Adkins (Mississippi State)
OF Connor Bernatz (San Francisco)
OF Eli Boike (Michigan State)
P Cameron Love (San Francisco)
P Mike Matta (Mount St. Mary's)
C Ryan Mulligan (St. Mary's CA)
SS Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State)
P Nolan Rudman (Lee)

Perfect Game Crosschecker Top 25 CRCBL Prospects

#7 Connor Bernatz (San Francisco)
#8 Seth Hester (So. Mississippi)
#10 Nolan Rudman (Lee)
#14 Danny Stienstra (San Jose St.)
#17 Cody Freeman (Mississippi St.)
#19 Eli Boike (Michigan St.)
#22 Hugh Adams (Florida Atlantic/St. John's CHS)
#24 Jarrod Parks (Mississippi State)