

BETHESDA BIG TRAIN



BIG TRAIN REPEATS AS RIPKEN SENIOR LEAGUE SEASON CHAMPS



In 2006, Matt Long (Santa Clara) and the Big Train defended its regular season crown.

*"This is some
of the best
competition
around ...*

*The exposure
you can get here
is amazing."*

Mitch Harris
(Youse's Orioles/
Navy), as told to
The Examiner

The opening night of the second season of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Collegiate Baseball League on June 9, 2006 featured the reigning All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) champion Youse's Orioles against the defending League champion Bethesda Big Train. Despite two significant thunderstorms that drenched Shirley Povich Field and delayed the start by 31 minutes, 529 hearty fans saw the Big Train avenge its Inaugural Season opening loss with a 5-3 victory over the Orioles. Keith Moreland (UNC-Charlotte), the Big Train's 2004 Most Outstanding Pitcher, got the win.

Bethesda pounded out sixteen hits in an 11-2 romp over Silver Spring-Takoma at Blair Stadium on Saturday night and defeated the cross-County rivals 6-1 at Povich Field to sweep the weekend doubleheader and start the season at 3-0. The 0-3 Maryland Redbirds hungry for a win got just that with a 6-3 victory over the Big Train on Monday. Not even a mid-game downpour could cool the Big Train bats as Preston Pehrson (Texas) homered to lead Bethesda

to an 8-4 win over the College Park Bombers before a full house at Povich Field Wednesday June 14. The next night, the Bombers came from behind to beat the Big Train 4-3 at Shipley Field to close the first week out with the Big Train in first place with a record of 4-2.

Four unearned runs allowed the Orioles to beat Bethesda 8-6 at Bachman Park and take over first place Friday June 16. Cory Lane's (UNC-Charlotte) hot bat and incredible speed got the Big Train back on track Saturday night sparking a 3-1 win over Silver Spring-Takoma. After a loss to the Rockville Express, the Big Train moved back into first place with two wins over the Bombers, the first behind a 13 strikeout effort by Evan Frederickson (Virginia Tech). Two gritty 3-1 victories over the Orioles and Express put the Big Train at 9-4, two games ahead of Rockville in the standings after two weeks of play.

A Friday June 23 loss to Silver Spring and a Thursday June 29 win over Rockville put the Big Train at 10-5, two games atop the league standings. In between there was rain... and more rain. Speed and great fielding – two hallmarks of the 2006 Big Train – and a game winning RBI by Matt Long (Santa Clara) gave Bethesda a 4-3 come-from-behind win in eleven innings over Silver Spring-Takoma on Friday June 30.

With a Saturday July 1 loss to Rockville followed by Sunday and Monday losses to the last place Maryland Redbirds, the Big Train tumbled out of first place. A doubleheader sweep of the College Park Bombers pulled Bethesda within one-half a game of the first place Orioles setting up a Friday night showdown at Povich Field with first place at the season's midpoint at stake. A standing-room-only crowd on a perfect night for baseball, and the Big Train bats did not disappoint. A towering home run over the right field fence by Josh Dietz (Bowling Green) in the bottom of the first gave Bethesda a 6-0 lead on the way to a 15-5 win.

2006 Final Regular Season Standings

	W	L	Pct	GB
Bethesda Big Train	28	12	.700	—
Rockville Express	25	15	.625	3
Youse's Maryland Orioles	23	17	.575	5
College Park Bombers	20	20	.500	8
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	14	26	.350	14
Maryland Redbirds	10	30	.250	18

On Sunday July 9, the Big Train split a doubleheader with the Maryland Redbirds, losing their fourth in five games to the league's last place team and ending the weekend a mere one-half game in front of the Orioles. Bethesda beat the Express Monday and the Redbirds Wednesday but fell out of first place as the Orioles won four in a row to set up a Friday-Saturday showdown at Povich Field. On Friday night July 14, the Orioles took an early 3-0 lead, but the Big Train got back in the game with a two run home run by Luke Adkins (Southern Mississippi) and won 5-4 on Steven Leach's (Jacksonville State) second RBI double of the night in the eighth. On Saturday night, for the third time in nine nights, the top two teams faced off with first place on the line. And for the third straight time, the Big Train prevailed. Chris Taylor (UNC-Charlotte) led the offense to a 9-5 win before another standing-room-only crowd.

On Sunday July 16, the Big Train split a doubleheader with the Thunderbolts at Blair Stadium. In Rockville, the Express swept a doubleheader to pull within two-and-one-half games of Bethesda. After the League All-Star Game on Monday, the Express extended its win streak to five with a 5-1 win over Bethesda at Knights Field. The red hot Express pulled into Big Train Station on Thursday night just one win away from tying for first place. The teams traded runs until a walk-off single by Brian Dozier (Southern Mississippi) in the bottom of the tenth sealed an exciting 4-3 Bethesda win. Chris Cullen (Michigan State) got the win with three clutch innings in relief. A win over the Redbirds and a rainout set the stage for another standing-room-only Povich Field showdown. The Orioles pounded the ball up against the outfield fence all night but none left the park, and the Big Train came away with an 8-7 victory. With a doubleheader sweep of the Orioles on Sunday and another of the T-Bolts on Sunday, the Express passed the Orioles and pulled within a game and one half of Bethesda with just one week left in the regular season.

The Bombers pasted the Big Train on Monday night, 12-4. Evan Frederickson (Virginia Tech) struck out 14 Bombers the next night and Josh Dietz (Bowling Green) doubled twice to lead Bethesda to a 6-3 win. A Wednesday July 26 win over the Redbirds eliminated the Orioles and set the scene for a Thursday face-off with the Express at Knights Field in Rockville. Matt Wickswat (Santa Clara) went the distance as the Big Train cruised to a 4-1 win to clinch the regular season championship. The Express won 12 of its final 15 games, losing twice to the Big Train and once to the Bombers. Austin Hinkle (Coastal Carolina) picked up a come-from-behind 4-3 win over the Orioles on Saturday. With a Sunday night 7-6 win over the Thunderbolts, Bethesda won the *Gazette*-sponsored Montgomery Cup and finished with an impressive 28-12 (.700) record.

Matt Long (Santa Clara) was named Co-MVP for the League and was one of five Big Train players named to the All-League Team. The Big Train pitching staff which led

the league in team ERA (2.10) in 2005, slipped to third in 2006 (3.40). Rockville led with a team ERA of 2.70. The Bethesda bats more than made up the difference in 2006, leading the league in runs (218), hits (352), and RBI (197) while finishing second to Youse's Orioles in batting average (.277 to .269). For the second year, the Big Train had the league's best fielding percentage, edging the Orioles (.968 to .966).

The League Championship Series produced an improbable result with the fifth-seeded Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts defeating all four higher seeds to capture the crown. The Big Train trounced the T-Bolts on the first night of competition, but then lost to the Express and the T-Bolts on successive nights. After the CRSL season, Youse's Orioles went on to Johnstown, PA to capture the AAABA National Championship for the fourth year in a row.

2006 Big Train Honors

BIG TRAIN MVP

Matt Long (Santa Clara)

BIG TRAIN MOST OUTSTANDING PITCHER

Chris Cullen (Michigan State)

BIG TRAIN MOST OUTSTANDING HITTER

Luke Adkins (Southern Mississippi)

BIG TRAIN MOST OUTSTANDING FIELDER

Cory Lane (UNC - Charlotte)

BIG TRAIN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Adam Redd (Virginia Tech)

CRSL LEAGUE CO-MVP

Matt Long (Santa Clara)

CRSL 2006 All-League Team

OF	Luke Adkins (Southern Mississippi)
OF	Matt Long (Santa Clara)
DH	Preston Pehrson (Texas)
P	Chris Cullen (Michigan State)
P	Evan Frederickson (Virginia Tech)

CRSL 2006 League Leaders

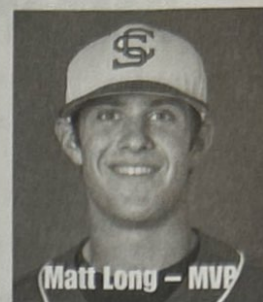
Runs	Cory Lane (UNC-Charlotte), 35
Hits	Cory Lane (UNC-Charlotte), 44
RBI	Preston Pehrson (Texas), 29
SB	Cory Lane (UNC-Charlotte), 19
Walks	Josh Dietz (Bowling Green), 28
Strikeouts	Evan Frederickson (Virginia Tech), 53

Baseball America's Top Ten CRSL Prospects

#3	Evan Frederickson (Virginia Tech)
#8	Preston Pehrson (Texas)

CRSL Hitter of the Week

Preston Pehrson (Texas) (Week Two)
Luke Adkins (Southern Mississippi) (Week Four)



Bethesda Big Train MVPs

1999

Gregg Davies,
1B/OF, Towson

2000

Pat Boran,
3B/SS, Princeton

2001

Casey Gilvin,
OF, Kentucky/
Morehead State

2002

Byron Binda, RHP,
Coastal Carolina
Gus Hlebovy, RHP,
Kent State

2003

Mike Costanzo,
3B/RHP, Coastal
Carolina

2004

Jonnie Knoble,
CF, San Francisco
Greg Lemon,
2B, Salisbury

2005

Greg Lemon,
2B, Salisbury

2006

Matt Long, OF,
Santa Clara State