



# 2015 SEASON RECAP

Again in 2015, the Bethesda Big Train started off red hot and compiled an outstanding regular season record of 29-11. But again the Big Train captured the league's regular season crown only to lose the league championship series to the Baltimore Redbirds.



The Big Train had a red hot start to the 2015 season winning its first six games and finishing with an extraordinary record of 18-4 in June. The team cooled off in July winning 11 while losing 7 to finish with a regular season record of 29-11. Under a new League format with five teams playing in a North Division and four teams joining the Big Train in a South Division, the perennial league leaders—the Big Train and the Redbirds—captured the two divisions with identical 29-11 records.

After starting the season with two wins on the road, the Big Train beat the Alexandria Aces 2-0 in the June 7 home opener at Shirley Povich Field with Tim Yandel (Tulane) pitching five scoreless innings and Tyler Tobin (George Mason) and Walker Sheller (Stetson) each pitched two shutout innings in relief. On Monday June 8, Bethesda came from down 3-0 to win 10-5 in a rain shortened game against the Vienna River Dogs. Two close wins on the road gave the Big Train a 6-0 start. Alex Calvert (South Carolina) tossed six scoreless innings to pick up the win against the Grays on June 10. A loss at home on June 11 to the Redbirds was followed by a 4-3 win over the Rockville Express on June 12 with Luis Collazo (Virginia Tech) getting the save. On

June 13, the Big Train lost the first game of a doubleheader to the Thunderbolts but won the nightcap to start a seven game win streak.

A two-run double by Tim Yandel with two outs in the bottom of the ninth gave Bethesda a walkoff 8-7 win over Herndon on June 14. Yandel did it again the next night as his double gave the Big Train a second walkoff win in a row beating the Giants 4-3 on June 15. Josh Thorne (Stetson) closed out the game with two scoreless innings to earn the win. On June 17, the Big Train obliterated the Baltimore Dodgers 14-3 at Povich Field. Brandon Hunley (Sacramento State) reached base safely in all five plate appearances, and his college teammate Chris Lewis (Sacramento State) hit a booming three run home run. Tony DiLeo (Eastern Michigan) had two RBIs. Harrison Crawford (Creighton) had a two RBI triple in a June 20 win over the D.C. Grays. The team travelled to Towson on June 21 and earned a 9-6 win over the rival Baltimore Redbirds. Down 5-1 after seven innings, the Big Train tied it with a bases clearing double by Yandel and took the lead on an RBI by Hunley. The win gave Bethesda the league's best record at 14-2 and a six and one half game advantage in the league's South Division.

## 2015 Final Regular Season CRCBL Standings

NORTH DIVISION		W-L	%	GB
Baltimore Redbirds	29-11	.725	-	
Silver Spring-Takoma T'bolts	20-20	.500	9	
Rockville Express	18-22	.450	11	
Baltimore Dodgers	13-27	.325	16	
Gaithersburg Giants	13-27	.325	16	
SOUTH DIVISION		W-L	%	GB
Bethesda Big Train	29-11	.725	-	
Vienna River Dogs	21-19	.525	8	
Alexandria Aces	19-21	.475	10	
D.C. Grays	19-21	.475	10	
Herndon Braves	19-21	.475	10	
2015 Montgomery Cup				
		W-L	%	
Bethesda Big Train	8-4	.667		
Rockville Express	9-5	.643		
Gaithersburg Giants	6-8	.462		
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	4-10	.286		



## For the seventh year in a row, the Baltimore Redbirds and the Bethesda Big Train matched up in the League Championship Series finale.

On June 22, the Big Train seven game win streak ended with a 2-1 loss to the Rockville Express at Povich Field. A 6-2 win over the Thunderbolts at Blair Stadium in Silver Spring on June 24 got the team back on track, the first of four straight wins. On June 28, Mike Rescigno (Maryland) picked up the win in a 6-5 victory over the Alexandria Aces. On June 29, David McKay (Florida Atlantic) allowed no hits for five innings to earn the win over the Vienna River Dogs. Amazingly, Bethesda did not lose a road game until the very last day of the month with a 6-5 loss to the Aces at Frank Mann Field in Alexandria on June 30 to end the season's first month with a record of 18-4.

Bethesda began July with a 6-5 win over the D.C. Grays at Povich Field. The only time the Big Train lost consecutive regular season games came during a three game losing streak around the July 4 holiday with a 4-3 loss to the Redbirds on July 2 in Towson in 12 innings, a 4-2 loss to the Express at home on July 5, and a 2-1 loss to the Giants in Gaithersburg on July 6. Bethesda then beat the Dodgers but lost to the River Dogs. On July 11, the Big Train crushed the D.C. Grays 11-3 with Drew Strotman (St. Mary's CA) earning his third win of the year. On July 12, the Big Train beat the Redbirds 6-4 at Povich Field to even the series at two games apiece.

The Big Train split a doubleheader with the Braves on July 13 starting a six game winning streak with a victory in the nightcap. Five Bethesda pitchers carried a no hitter into the ninth inning of a 10-1 win over the Dodgers at Joe Cannon Stadium in Hanover on July 16, and Chris Lewis hit his fourth home run. With a 7-0 victory over the Herndon Braves on July 18, Bethesda improved to 25-9 on the season and clinched the Ripken League's

South Division. Ryne Willard (North Carolina State) doubled twice in a 7-4 win over the Thunderbolts in Silver Spring on July 19. A Tim Yandel two run home run in the top of the tenth inning helped the Big Train defeat the Aces 7-4 in Alexandria on July 21.

A loss to the Grays on the road at the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy on July 22 forced a big game on the road against the Braves on July 23. Bethesda's 6-2 win over the Braves in Herndon clinched the number one seed for the Ripken League playoffs. Chris Lewis hit two home runs and knocked in four. Miller Trevvett (Radford) provided crucial relief support as Tim Yandel won his fourth game. A loss to the Aces July 24 on Fan Appreciation Night was an uncharacteristic sixth home loss on the season at Shirley Povich Field.

### LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

For the seventh year in a row, the Baltimore Redbirds and the Bethesda Big Train matched up in the League Championship Series finale. The first three times (2009-2011), the Big Train took the crown, but for the fourth straight year the Redbirds beat Bethesda. The perennial league leaders captured their divisions with identical 29-11 records. The two teams split four games during the regular season, but the Big Train got the number one seed for the playoffs by virtue of outscoring the Redbirds in those games. There was a new format for the League Championship Series with six teams qualifying for the playoffs. The top two teams—the Big Train and the Redbirds—received byes and the next four teams in the standings played single games for the right to compete in one of the two best of three semifinal series.

On Monday July 27, the Big Train traveled to Herndon and defeated the Braves 9-5 to win game one of the semifinal series at Alan McCulloch Field at Herndon High School. Zach Kirtley (St. Mary's CA) hit a two run home run in the top of the first to put the Big Train up 2-0, but Bethesda errors allowed Herndon to knot the score at 2 in the bottom of the inning. In the second, a home run by Brandon Hunley and back-to-back doubles by Logan Farrar (VCU) and

### Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Honors

#### League Most Outstanding Player

Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

#### First Team All-League

Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

Tim Yandel (RHP, Tulane)

Walker Sheller (RHP, Stetson)

#### Second Team All-League

Harrison Crawford (3B, Creighton)

Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)

Zach Kirtley (SS, St. Mary's CA)

#### Honorable Mention All-League

Alex Calvert (RHP, South Carolina)

Luis Collazo (LHP, Virginia Tech)

Drew Strotman (RHP, St. Mary's CA)

#### League All-Star Team

Cody Brown (OF, Mississippi State)

Harrison Crawford (3B, Creighton)

Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)

Zac Kirtley (SS, St. Mary's CA)

Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

Justin Morris (C, Maryland)

Walker Sheller (RHP, Stetson)

Drew Strotman (RHP, St. Mary's CA)

Tim Yandel (RHP, Tulane)

#### Perfect Game

#### Ripken League 2015 Player of the Year

Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

#### Perfect Game

#### Ripken League 2015 Top Prospects

#5 Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

#6 Tim Yandel (RHP, Tulane)

#10 Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)

#### Perfect Game

#### Ripken League 2015 Best Tools

Best speed: Logan Farrar

(OF, Virginia Commonwealth)

#### Baseball America

#### Ripken League 2015 Top Prospects

#5 Walker Sheller (RHP, Stetson)

#6 Drew Strotman (RHP, St. Mary's CA)

#9 Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

### 2015 Big Train Awards & Honors

#### Big Train Most Valuable Player

Tim Yandel (RHP, Tulane)

#### Big Train Most Outstanding Hitter

Chris Lewis (OF, Sacramento State)

#### Big Train Most Outstanding Relief Pitcher

Miller Trevvett (RHP, Radford)

#### Big Train Hustle Award

Brandon Hunley (2B, Sacramento State)



Tim Yandel  
2015 Big Train MVP





# 2015 SEASON RECAP



Chris Lewis (Sacramento State) slides in for the winning run.

Cody Brown (Mississippi State) put the Big Train back up 4-2. Herndon tied the game in the bottom of the fourth, but a mammoth two run home run by Tim Yandel in the top of the sixth put the Big Train on top to stay. The Bethesda bullpen shut the door allowing no earned runs in 5 and 2/3 innings. The next night in Bethesda, the Big Train completed a sweep with a come-from-behind 8-6 win. The Braves took a 6-3 lead into the seventh inning stretch and quickly got two Big Train outs in the bottom of the seventh. Then the wheels fell off. A walk to Matt Toscano (St. Mary's CA) was followed by singles by Hunley and Justin Morris (Maryland). The All Star reliever for the Braves entered the game and issued five straight walks to give the Big Train an 8-6 lead and ultimately the series.

On Friday July 31, the Big Train travelled to Towson for game one of the championship series against the Redbirds at Carlo Crispino



League MOP Chris Lewis laces a two RBI single in 5th inning to give Big Train 2-1 lead over the Baltimore Redbirds in first game of league championship series.

Stadium at Calvert Hall High School. The home team Redbirds took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third. Justin Morris walked to lead off the fifth inning. After two outs, Cody Brown singled and Zach Kirtley walked to load the bases. Chris Lewis, the league's leader in RBIs, did what he had done all summer. Lewis laced a line drive into left field scoring Morris and Brown and giving Bethesda a 2-1 lead. The Redbirds took advantage of a Big Train error to tie the game at 2-2 in the seventh inning. The two teams traded goose eggs for the next seven innings until the clock reached the curfew hour, and the fans were sent home after four and one half hours of nail biting excitement. The game resumed the next day at Shirley Povich Field in Bethesda. A game that seemed like it would never end ended quickly on Saturday afternoon as the Redbirds pushed across the winning run in the bottom of the fifteenth inning to win game one 3-2. The Redbirds swept the best of three final series with a 5-2 win on Saturday night. The Redbirds scored twice in the top of the second and the Big Train responded with one run. Each team notched a run in the fourth, but the Redbirds plated insurance runs in the eighth and ninth innings to seal the championship.

## Sal Colangelo's Manager's Awards

*"The 2015 season started with a bang. The Big Train pitchers dominated the early part of the season while the hitters were executing the fundamentals to help us win," Manager Sal Colangelo. "It was another great season at Povich Field."*

Manager Colangelo named **Tim Yandel** (Tulane) the 2015 Big Train **Most Valuable Player**. Yandel's third season with the Big Train was his most outstanding. On the mound, Yandel was 4-1 with an 1.51 ERA in 47 and 2/3 innings. The versatile athlete knocked in an astonishing 22 runs (third on the team) in only 83 at bats. According to Manager Colangelo: "Tim is the heart and soul on and off the field for the team."

**Chris Lewis** (Sacramento State) was named the team's **Most Outstanding Hitter** and the **Ripken League's Most Outstanding Player**. Lewis led the league in RBIs with 37, tied for first in home runs with 7, and was second in the league with 48 hits. "Chris worked hard all summer, plays the game the right way, and respects the organization, his teammates, his family, and the community," explained Manager Colangelo.

**Miller Trevvett** (Radford) was named the team's **Most Outstanding Relief Pitcher**. The hard throwing sidearm allowed only one earned run in 18 and 1/3 innings. "Miller was our guy when we needed to stop the bleeding, when we needed an out, two outs, a double play," explained Manager Colangelo. "He always got it done."

**Brandon Hunley** (Sacramento State) was Manager Sal Colangelo's choice for the **Hustle Award**: "Brandon's passion, desire, and work ethic both on and off the field was extraordinary this past summer. He was a tremendous leader and most importantly a tremendous teammate."