



2014 SEASON RECAP

Only twice has the Bethesda Big Train completed a regular season with less than ten losses. It is a remarkable feat given the grind of a 40 game summer schedule. The 2011 Big Train team — named the number one team in all of summer college baseball — was the first to do it. The 2014 team was the second.



After establishing itself as the dominant team throughout the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League's grueling regular season by finishing at 31-9, an astonishing six games ahead of the league's next best team, the 2014 Bethesda Big Train fell just short of winning the League Championship Series for the third year in a row. The 2014 team was an offensive powerhouse finishing with 280 runs scored in 40 games, the third highest team run total in the ten year history of the Ripken League trailing only the 2012 and 2009 Big Train teams. Bethesda's solid and deep pitching staff posted a league best 2.51 earned run average with five different pitchers posting four or more wins.

Big Train fans are used to seeing the team get off to hot starts. But the 2014 team wasn't just hot at the start, it was hair-on-fire hot. Our Bethesda boys of summer won their first six games before a 2-1 loss to the Giants in Gaithersburg. And then they won 12 straight. On June 28, the Big Train record stood at 18-1, six-and-one-half games ahead of the Rockville Express and Alexandria Aces. A three game losing streak as June turned to July was the only time the team lost back-to-back games the entire summer. Bethesda finished July with a solid 13-5 record. The team lost at Povich Field only two times during the regular season.

The 2014 season started with two games on the road, a 7-0 opening night victory on June 4 over our neighbor Rockville Express as J.P. France (Tulane) threw six scoreless innings. In game two, the team came from behind twice to defeat the Baltimore Dodgers, the league's newest team, in Catonsville 3-2. Trailing 2-1 in the top of the ninth, the Big Train tied it up to send it into extra innings and got the winning run in the eleventh on an RBI single by Logan Farrar (Virginia Commonwealth). The Big Train treated a standing room only crowd at Povich Field to an 11-5 victory over the Vienna River Dogs in the Friday June 6 home opener despite trailing 4-0 early. Jacob Billingsley (Mississippi State) got the win in relief. The Big Train stayed perfect at 6-0 with three blowout wins outscoring the Thunderbolts, Grays, and Aces by a combined score of 31-5. The bats cooled off in Gaithersburg as the Giants won 3-2 on a walkoff single on June 10.

After three days of rain, the Alexandria Aces came to Povich Field on a beautiful Saturday June 14 night just one-half game behind first place Bethesda. A standing room only Fathers Day Weekend crowd was treated to a solid 5-0 Big Train victory as starting pitcher Kit Scheetz (Virginia Tech) one-hit the Aces through five innings and Stephen Alemais

2014 Final Regular Season CRCBL Standings

	W-L	%	GB
Bethesda Big Train	31-9	.775	-
Baltimore Redbirds	25-15	.625	6
Rockville Express	24-16	.600	7
Alexandria Aces	23-17	.575	8
Gaithersburg Giants	23-17	.575	8
Vienna River Dogs	18-22	.450	13
Youse's Orioles	18-22	.450	13
FCA Herndon Braves	17-23	.425	14
D.C. Grays	15-25	.375	16
Baltimore Dodgers	13-27	.325	18
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	13-27	.325	18

2014 Montgomery Cup Presented by the Gazette

	W-L	%
Bethesda Big Train	9-3	.750
Rockville Express	7-5	.583
Gaithersburg Giants	5-7	.417
Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts	3-9	.250

Big Train Record Book



With 26 stolen bases, Stephen Alemais (Tulane) ran his way into the Big Train record book. The previous single season record was 21 stolen bases by Jonnie Knoble (San Francisco) in 2005.

(Tulane) contributed two hits and three stolen bases. On June 16, the Big Train swept the perennial powerhouse Youse's Orioles 11-0 and 5-1 behind starting pitchers Jake Valdez (St. Mary's College CA) and Tayler Stiles (Maryland). Alemais and Farrar each had five hit nights in the doubleheader.

The Big Train kept winning, and Ryne Willard (North Carolina State) celebrated his 21st birthday in style getting three extra base hits and four RBIs in a 15-1 blowout over the Grays at the Nationals Baseball Academy in Anacostia on June 23. The rival Redbirds came to Povich Field on June 28 sitting in second place. In front of another standing room only crowd, the Big Train jumped on top 8-1 behind an offense sparked by Kevin Tatum (Cornell) and the red hot duo of Alemais and Farrar and hung on to win 8-6. Three straight one run losses to the Express at Povich Field and the Redbirds and the Braves on the road reminded Big Train fans that no teams in baseball are invincible. After the Fourth of July break, Kit Scheetz got the Train back on track with a 7-3 victory over the Giants at Povich Field. A win over the Grays and a loss to the Aces on the road put the team at 20-5. On July 8, Wes

Rea (Mississippi State) hit a game winning two run home run in the top of the ninth to beat the River Dogs 6-4 in Vienna. After a win over the Thunderbolts, Bethesda traveled to Baltimore to face the Redbirds at Calvert Hall High School in Towson. A 5-2 loss allowed the Redbirds to pull within four games in the Ripken League standings with a dozen regular season games left on the Big Train schedule.

The Big Train bounced right back scoring 30 runs in two home game victories over the Braves and Express on July 11 and 12. Henry Sisson (North Carolina) and Tim Yandel (Tulane) got the wins, and Brandon Lowe (Maryland) led the firepower with a grand slam home run and four other RBIs. Lowe scored the winning run in a 2-1 win for the South over the North at Povich Field on July 16 to pick up the Ripken League All Star Game MVP.

Cody Brown (Mississippi State) got the team in the win column with two hits and two runs in a 3-2 win over the Thunderbolts at Blair High School in Silver Spring. The Big Train won its fourth in a row on July 18 beating the Giants 14-4 behind another strong pitching performance by Kit Scheetz and an eight run second inning sparked by a double and a three run home run by Wes Rea. A 7-3 win over the Orioles on July 19 put the Bethesda record at 27-6, five games ahead of the second place Redbirds with just one week left in the regular season. After a loss to the Grays, the Big Train traveled to Herndon to face the Braves. Sean Labsan (Florida Atlantic) got the win, and Chris Lewis (Sacramento State) and Cody Brown hit solo home runs and Wes Rea hit two three run home runs. Cody Brown had three doubles and five RBIs in an 18-5 win over the Dodgers to clinch a playoff spot. The rival Redbirds came to Povich Field on July 23 trailing the 29-7 Big Train by only three-and-one-half games. But a 13-1 blowout win led by

starting pitcher Brock Larson (San Francisco) and powered by Farrar, Cody Brown, and Rea clinched the regular season championship for Bethesda. The River Dogs and Big Train split a July 25 doubleheader, and the Express beat the Big Train 5-2 at Montgomery College in Rockville in the regular season finale.

Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League Honors

2014 Most Valuable Player

Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

League All-Star Game MVP

Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

First Team All-League

Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)

Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)

Second Team All-League

Cody Brown (OF, Mississippi State)

Kit Scheetz (LHP, Virginia Tech)

Honorable Mention All-League

Kevin Tatum (OF, Cornell)

Wes Rea (1B, Mississippi State)

Tayler Stiles (LHP, Maryland)

Jake Valdez (St. Mary's College CA)

Sean Labsan (LHP, Florida Atlantic)

Bo Logan (LHP, Florida Atlantic)

League All-Stars

Justin Morris (C, Maryland)

Tony DiLeo (C, Eastern Michigan)

Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)

Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)

Cody Brown (OF, Mississippi State)

Kevin Tatum (OF, Cornell)

Tayler Stiles (P, Maryland)

Josh Thorne (P, Stetson)

Jacob Billingsley (RHP, Mississippi State)

Sean Labsan (LHP, Florida Atlantic)

Tim Yandel (P, Tulane)

League Pitcher of the Week

J.P. France (Tulane) Week 1

Kit Scheetz (LHP, Virginia Tech) Week 3

Perfect Game Ripken League 2014 Top Prospects

4 Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)

6 Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

10 Justin Morris (C, Maryland)

Perfect Game Ripken League 2014 Best Tools

Best power: Wes Rea (1B, Mississippi State)

Best speed: Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)

Best defender: Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)

Baseball America Ripken League 2014 Top Prospects

#3 Justin Morris (C, Maryland)

#4 Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

2014 Big Train Awards & Honors

Big Train Most Valuable Player

Brandon Lowe (2B, Maryland)

Big Train Most Outstanding Pitcher

Kit Scheetz (LHP, Virginia Tech)

Big Train Most Outstanding Hitter

Stephen Alemais (SS, Tulane)

Big Train Most Outstanding Defensive Player

Logan Farrar (OF, Virginia Commonwealth)

Big Train Hustle Award

Cody Brown (OF, Mississippi State)



Brandon Lowe
2014 Big Train MVP



2014 SEASON RECAP

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Chris Lewis (Sacramento State) slides in for the winning run in Game 2 of the League Championship Series against the Baltimore Redbirds

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

For the sixth 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 third straight year the Redbirds derailed Bethesda. As regular season champions, Bethesda got the number one seed and a bye in the first round. In the second round game at Povich Field, the fourth seeded Alexandria Aces jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first. The Big Train scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to tie the score at 3-3 thanks to a costly Aces error. The Big Train went ahead for good at 5-3 in the bottom of the eighth thanks to more fielding mishaps by the Aces, heady base running by the Big Train, and a Stephen Alemais RBI double. Sean Labsan (Florida Atlantic) started the game and Tayler Stiles (Maryland) got the win in relief.

The number two seed Redbirds came to Povich Field on Wednesday night July 30, jumped on starting pitcher Brock Larson (San Francisco) for four runs in the top of the third inning, and cruised to a 7-3 victory. To gain a rematch with the Redbirds, the Big Train needed to beat the number three seed Rockville Express in Thursday night's elimination game at Povich Field. Two Mississippi State sluggers gave the Big Train an early 3-0 lead. Wes Rea got Bethesda on the board with a two RBI double in the bottom of the first

inning, and Cody Brown tripled and scored in the second. The Express tied the game at 3-3 with two home runs in the fifth inning. The Big Train reclaimed the lead on a fifth inning RBI double by Chris Lewis (Sacramento State). A two RBI double by Stephen Alemais in the sixth inning put the Big Train ahead for good in a 6-4 win. Jake Valdez (St. Mary's College CA) was the winning pitcher with strong support from relievers Josh Thorne (Stetson) and Andy Frakes (San Francisco) who got the save.

And now there were only two teams left, but the regular season champion Big Train needed to beat the defending champion Redbirds twice to win the double elimination championship. On Friday night, the Redbirds played as the home team at Gaithersburg's Criswell Automotive Field. Bo Logan (Florida Atlantic), the Big Train's Most Outstanding Pitcher in 2012, was sensational allowing just three hits and one run in a complete game 2-1 victory. The Redbirds took a 1-0 lead in the fourth inning, but the Big Train tied the score at 1-1 on an RBI single by Andrew Brown (San Diego State) in the seventh. In the top of the ninth, Chris Lewis (Sacramento State) doubled and scored on Brown's second RBI single of the game. Logan pitched a one-two-three ninth, and the Big Train survived to play another day.

The Saturday night August 2 winner-take-all finale at Povich Field was not pretty for the Big Train. The Redbirds won 7-0 to claim their third straight league championship.

Sal Colangelo's Manager's Awards

"The 2014 season was special," reflected manager Sal Colangelo. "The season started with a bang at 18-1. The team battled through injuries for the rest of the year and finished first in the regular season."

Manager Colangelo named **Brandon Lowe** (Maryland) the 2014 Big Train Most Valuable Player. Arriving in Bethesda after helping the Maryland Terps reach an NCAA Super Regional, Lowe missed the first dozen games of the season and still led the league in runs batted in with 29. With a .329 batting average and just two errors at second base, Lowe was named the Ripken League's MVP.

Kit Scheetz (Virginia Tech) was named the team's Most Outstanding Pitcher. Scheetz tied for the league lead with five victories, just one shy of the all-time Big Train record. He recorded 31 strikeouts in his seven starts, compiling a record of 5-1 with an earned run average of 1.89.

Stephen Alemais (Tulane) was named the team's Most Outstanding Hitter. Alemais led the league in hits with 48 and stolen bases with 26. He ranked seventh in the league with a batting average of .320 and was fourth in runs scored with 28.

With unmatched speed and extraordinary range in the outfield, **Logan Farrar** (Virginia Commonwealth) was named Most Outstanding Defensive Player. Farrar made 80 putouts and two assists without an error in centerfield. All this while hitting .304 with 45 hits, scoring 34 runs, knocking in 25 runs, and stealing 14 bases.

Cody Brown (Mississippi State) was Manager Sal Colangelo's choice for the Hustle Award: "Cody plays hard every pitch every inning. He is always doing the little things. He's always taking the extra base. He hustles on and off the field. He never quits."