

## Brockport Riverbats – Season in review - 2007

The Brockport Riverbats and the New York Collegiate Baseball League (NYCBL) is a player development league for professional baseball. A component of the team's and league's success is identifying talent from across the country and getting that talent in front of MLB scouts. Four Riverbats were taken in the 2007 MLB draft including two from the 2002 Collegiate Showcase team and two from the NYCBL teams.

Team	Player	College/Position	MLB team	Round drafted	Minor league assignment
2006 - NYCBL	Keith Meyer	Duquense – RHP	Seattle Mariners	15	Everett Aquasox
2007 - NYCBL	Jake Kaase	Texas Lutheran – SS	Texas Rangers	23	AZL Rangers
2002 - Showcase	Andy Parrino	Lemoyne – SS (Brockport, NY)	San Diego Padres	26	Eugene Emeralds
2002 – Showcase	Paul Nardozzi	Pittsburgh – RHP (Victor, NY)	Detroit Tigers	31	Oneonta Tigers

Another component of success is winning on the field. After losing seasons during its first two years in the NYCBL the 'Bats have had two successive winning seasons. The 2007 'Bats came within a game of two successive playoff seasons.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season the team played to a 10-12 record. The team went through a pattern of winning one night and losing the next and then winning two in a row and then losing two in a row. The 'Bats had one three game winning streak during the month of June. Team defense yielded too many errors (42) through the halfway point of the season.

First half of the season highlights include a NYCBL record-breaking seven RBI game by Eric Ferguson (Ithaca) against Webster. 'Bat pitching also was stellar as the team ERA was 3.44 at the halfway point. Chris Benham (NW Missouri State) led the team in batting at the All-Star break while Matt Tone (SUNY Cortland – Irondequoit) and PJ Saporito led the pitching staff.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season the team rolled to a 13-7 record including wins in its last seven games. Three straight losses in mid-July to Hornell, Webster and Bolivar left the team with a 14-17 record and waning hopes for the playoffs. Then came the win streak everyone was waiting for. After a win and a loss and another win and a loss the team reeled off seven straight wins to finish at 23-19 and tied with Hornell for the final playoff spot in the western division.

During the streak the team held opponents to two runs per game while scoring nearly six runs per game. The team recorded two shut-outs during the streak the first by Adam Brown (Ithaca – Greece Athena) and the second by PJ Saporito (NJIT). Saporito's shut

out was in-fact a perfect game. Saporito's gem is now the only perfect game thrown in NYCBL history (founded in 1978).

As Hornell and Brockport had like 23-19 records and the fact that the six regular season games between the two teams were split at three games apiece a one game playoff was required to decide who would take the fourth and final playoff spot. The 'Bats lost the game 4-2.

The team reduced the number of errors committed from 42 in the first half of the season to 21 during the second half. The 63 errors committed for the season was the lowest recorded by the team in its history. Other team records include a .261 batting average exceeding the .255 batting average of the 2006 team. Team ERA of 3.34 was slightly higher than the 2006 best ERA of 3.16.

What is next for 2008? The 2007 team had one returnee in Rob Maxwell. 2008 may be the same. Players have many options for summer ball. Potential returnees include: Jeff Abrams, Chris Benham, Adam Brown, Aaron Dudley, Andy Gardner, Matt Melody, Steve Muoio, Will Rodriguez, PJ Saporito, Dom Sapp, Ryan Satterlee, and Matt Tone. Playera who will be seniors this fall and therefore ineligible to return include: Joe Davis, Eric Ferguson, Chad King, Tim Mascari, Rob Maxwell, Randy Moley, Sean O'Bannion, Rob Sumner and Austin Yager,

One thing we can be sure of in 2008 is great talent and exciting play by the Brockport Riverbats!