

COMETS 2010 NEWS ARCHIVE

COMETS ANNOUNCE 2010 ALL-STARS & AWARD WINNERS

The Philadelphia Comets will be represented by seven players at the annual GPMABL All-Star game on Thursday at Frawley Stadium. Matt Breen, DeWitt Brown, Joe Cice, Jon Kemp, Brett Mandel, Tom O'Konski and Gavin White will all wear the maroon and gold when they join forces with the stars from the GPMABL Champion Red Sox and the Colt .45s. Phil Motley also earned All-Star honors, but the first-year med student at Temple is unable to attend.

The Comets also announced their 2010 award winners. Jon Kemp's impressive performance on the mound and at the plate earned the first-year Comet Most Valuable Player honors. Kemp's .354 batting averaged ranked 3rd on the team and his 17 hits were second. On the mound, Kemp finished with a 3-3 record in the regular season, and a 2.77 earned run average. Kemp missed several weeks during the season after taking a line-drive off the leg in an April game against the A's. The right-hander regained his early season form down the stretch, allowing just 8 earned runs in his last four starts.

Several newcomers made a big impact on a Comets squad that had eight rookies see significant playing time. None was more important than Matt Breen, however, who led the Comets in innings pitched and tied for the team lead with 3 victories. Matt also led the club in ERA (2.51) and just missed a no-hitter against the Outlaws (broken up with two outs in the seventh). Breen's offensive contributions were also important, as he led the team in base on balls (12), finished second in stolen bases (9) and scored 12 runs.

The Rafi Cave Sportsmanship Award is given annually to the Comet who displays the qualities of a sportsman: enjoying competition and playing the game the Comets way, respect for teammates and opposition, and one who embraces the team concept. Cave, a member of the 2003 Comets GPMABL Championship team and current Comets outfielder, has been the model teammate for a number of years, and his positive influence has helped encourage others to follow his lead. The 2010 recipient, Phil Motley, contributed to the club in whatever way was asked of him. Motley's regular attendance at off-season workouts, mid-week practice and his desire to help teammates improve did not go unnoticed, as his teammates recognized him with the Cave Sportsmanship Award.

Comets All-Stars and award winners are selected through anonymous team voting at the end of the regular season.

SHOOTING BLANKS

2010 ends with a loss to the Colt .45s

Ian Downes threw a complete-game shutout to top the Comets 2-0 in the first round of the GPMABL Playoffs. Downes extended his scoreless inning streak to 21 against the Comets this year, as the offense was unable to push across a run.

Comets starter *Jon Kemp* attempted to match Downes pitch-for-pitch, but a few clutch hits by the Colt .45s were the difference in the game. Trailing 2-0 in the top of the seventh, *Andrew Marcus* kept the game alive with a single to right. *Jon Gerwitz* followed with another base hit, and the runners advanced as the ball was misplayed. The Colt .45s got the final out, however, to end the rally and the Comets season.

The Comets ended the 2010 season with a 10-15 record, including a 10-2 record in Franklin Division play.

PLAYOFF FEVER

COMETS WIN FOUR STRAIGHT HEADING INTO PLAYOFFS

August 1 - The playoff seeds were already determined heading into Sunday's games. The Comets already knew that they'd return to Richie Ashburn Field on August 8 to play the Colt .45s in the first round of the GPMABL playoffs, but that didn't stop the maroon & gold from pounding out 21 runs and sweeping a pair of games from the Montco Phillies.

The Comets (10-14) extended their winning streak to four games, after taking their first game 14-3 and the second game 7-6. The offense has produced 47 runs during the streak, 46 hits and has stolen 21 bases in the four games.

Matt Breen earned the victory in game one, allowing three runs in six innings of work. *Jon Gerwitz* pitched a scoreless seventh inning to seal the win for the Comets. Offensively, *DeWitt Brown* and *Joe Cice* each knocked in three runs. Cice turned a sharp double-play with Brett Mandel in the first inning to set the tone for the Comets defense.

Dana Erb shut down the Phillies in game two, yielding just one run in four innings of work. *Phil Motley* picked up his first career save in relief. Motley allowed one hit in three innings of work, as the Phillies scored 5 unearned runs in the last 3 innings to pull within one run. Motley squashed the rally, getting a groundout to *Jon Kemp* to put away the Phillies and get the tenth win of the year for the Comets.

Congratulations to Comets outfielder *Patrique Mickens* for capturing the 2010 GPMABL Stolen Base crown. Mickens' 25 steals not only tops the league in 2010, but also sets the single-season mark for steals.

The Comets return to Richie Ashburn Field in FDR Park on Sunday to face the Colt .45s. The .45s (14-10) took all four games from the Comets during the regular season. The winner of the elimination game will play the top-seeded Red Sox in a best-of-three semifinal series, beginning at 1P on Sunday.

WHITE WASHED

COMETS SWEEP BEHIND 7 RBI EFFORT FROM GAVIN WHITE

July 25 - The rains came late in the second game of Sunday's doubleheader between the Comets and the Aston Outlaws, but Gavin White provided the thunder all day as the Comets took a pair of games from the expansion Outlaws. The Comets (8-14) won the first game 11-3 and the second game 15-5.

White knocked in 7 runs and collected four hits, three of which were for extra bases. The big blow came in the first inning of game two, as White hit his first career home run, deep over the 30 foot fence in leftfield at DeVincent Field.

Jon Kemp picked up the victory in game one, allowing one earned run in four innings of work. Matt Breen recorded his first career save, with three scoreless innings in relief.

Breen also recorded the save in game two, after Dana Erb pitched four innings, and allowed one run. Erb (1-0) knotted his twelfth career victory, the most in Comets history.

The Comets offense pounded out 11 hits in the first game, led by: Matt Breen, Adam Goldstein and Gavin White, who each had two hits. Phil Motley had three hits in the second game, and Goldstein added another three. Jon Gerwitz also hit his first career homer, an inside-the-park liner to right that found acres of DeVincent Field Sprinturf.

The Comets are locked in as the GPMABL fifth seed, but will close the season out on Sunday at beautiful Richie Ashburn Field in FDR Park against the Phillies.

COMETS DROP PAIR TO GPMABL LEADERS

July 11 - The Comets lost a pair of tough games to the Red Sox on Sunday at Latshaw-McCarthy Field in Norristown. The Red Sox (17-2) escaped with a 3-2 win in game one and a 4-3 victory in the second game.

Comets starter Jon Kemp allowed two runs in six innings of work against a Red Sox offense that average 12 runs per game in their last 3 contests. Kemp also cracked a two-out triple to put the go-ahead run 90 feet away in the top of the seventh. Brett Mandel grounded a ball up the middle, which was deflected by Red Sox pitcher Eric Guise and scooped up by Sox second baseman Steve McDermet. McDermet's throw narrowly beat a hustling Mandel, as the Sox squashed the Comets scoring opportunity.

Kemp was followed on the mound by Matt Breen, who worked a scoreless seventh to push the game to extra frames. With runners on first and second and one out in the bottom of the eight, Breen seemingly rolled a double-play ball to get out of the jam. The Comets were unable to complete the back-end of the double-play, however, and the winning run crossed the plate for the Sox.

The Comets rallied from a 4-1 deficit in game two to make it a one run game. The maroon and gold loaded the bases in the bottom of the sixth with nobody out, but the Sox converted an improbable triple play to get out of the inning. Starter Phil Motley was the hard-luck loser, allowing four unearned runs in the complete game loss.

The Comets (6-12) trail the Montco Phillies (8-11) by 1.5 games in the Franklin Division pennant race. The club will travel to beautiful Villanova Ballpark at Plymouth to play the Colt .45s on Sunday at 10A.

GPMABL PLAYS AT DOUBLEDAY FIELD

Members of the GPMABL spent the Fourth of July weekend in Cooperstown, NY playing ball at historic Doubleday Field. The GPMABL took on the Capital District MSBL (Albany, NY) on Saturday, July 3. In front of a steady crowd of visitors to the Hall of Fame, the CDMSBL won 12-2.

Comets Brett Mandel, Dana Erb, Adam Goldstein, Patrique Mickens, and Matt Gionta. Erb started the game for Philadelphia, hurling six innings. Erb wasn't helped by a shaky Philadelphia defense, which had several players playing out of position. Goldstein played centerfield, shortstop and threw two innings on the mound.

Brett Mandel paced the Philadelphia offense at the plate with two hit, including a double. Mandel also turned a double-play on a line drive, much to the delight of the Cooperstown crowd. Patrique Mickens also thrilled the crowd with a diving catch while patrolling center field.

Catcher Matt Gionta scored one of the two Philadelphia runs, after walking and stealing second.

Gionta's trip to the Hall of Fame was a rough one, however, after being run over in a close play at the plate and knocked over by the CDMSBL's first baseman on an errant throw.

Three members of the Athletics joined the Comets on the GPMABL squad: Brian Simon, Sol Raie and Bill Mason.

COMETS SWEEP PHILLIES; TIGHTEN PENNANT RACE

June 27 - The Comets put themselves right back in the thick of the Franklin Division pennant race, after sweeping the Phillies at DeVincent Field on Sunday, June 27. The Comets (6-10) now trail the Phillies (7-10) by just a half game entering the Fourth of July break.

Rookie hurlers Jon Kemp and Matt Breen each picked up complete-game victories. Kemp held the Phillies to just one run in a 2-1 opening game victory, while Breen allowed four runs (all unearned) in eight gutsy innings to finish the sweep.

Trailing 1-0 late in the opening game, DeWitt Brown stroked a two-out triple to plate Phil Motley. Andrew Marcus followed with another triple, a shot to right field that scored Brown to put the Comets ahead for good, 2-1.

Game two started with a bang, as leadoff hitter Matt Breen walked and came around to score to put the Comets ahead 1-0. The offense was held scoreless until exploding for 7 runs in the last two innings.

A defensive lapse and string of errors helped the Phillies mount a 4-1 lead going into the last frame. The game looked all but lost, as the Phillies had one out in the seventh and struck out DeWitt Brown for what appeared to be out number two. The ball hit the dirt however, and the Phillies could not get a hustling Brown. Rafi Cave came in to run for Brown, narrowly beating out a fielders choice at second on the next pitch. With still only one out, Patrique Mickens worked a walk to load the bases for pinch-hitter Andrew Marcus.

Marcus drove a fly-ball to right field, easily scoring Cave. Down to their last out and trailing by a pair, Comets hurler Matt Breen drove in Mandel and Mickens to dramatically tie the game and force extra frames.

Perhaps the oppressive heat bursting off the SprinTurf surface at DeVincent Field helped the Comets bats stayed hot during extra innings. It may have been, however, just a matter of a team playing with confidence and refusing to back down from a challenge.

Joe Cice led off the Comets seventh with a single, followed by Adam Goldstein being hit by a pitch and a Gavin White infield single. Phil Motley, fresh off a 2 week stint on the Disabled List with a strained oblique, lined a two-run single up the middle to put the Comets ahead for good. DeWitt Brown and Brett Mandel (RBI) followed with singles, and Andrew Marcus hit into a fielders' choice to score Motley. Breen pitched a perfect eighth to secure the win.

Several Comets including: Matt Gionta, Patrique Mickens, Brett Mandel, Adam Goldstein and Dana Erb will compete for the GPMABL team against the Capital District (NY) MSBL on July 3 at Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, NY. The Comets will then move their attention to a battle with the overall standings leading Red Sox, with a July 11 game at Latshaw-McCarthy Field in Norristown.

COMETS TOPPED BY COLT .45s

June 20 - The Comets fell to 4-10 on the season after losing two to the Colt .45s (8-6) at La Salle on Sunday. The Colt .45s took game one 6-0 and followed with a game two victory 7-6.

Jon Kemp was effective for the Comets in game one, allowing two earned runs in six innings of work. The Comets offense couldn't solve Colts ace Ian Downes, who pitched a complete-game shutout for the win.

The Comets offense responded in game two, plating five runs in the top of the first inning. Six different players each had one RBI, including a clutch, game-tying base hit by rightfielder Rafi Cave.

Trailing 6-5 in their last at-bat, the Comets managed to tie the game. Matt Gionta chopped a ball to the right side, and advanced to second after a two-base error. Andrew Marcus came in as the courtesy runner, and seemingly scored the tying run after Jared Shelly laid down a perfect bunt. Shelly was ruled inside the baseline, however and called out for interference. That set the stage for Rafi, who stroked a single to center field, scoring Marcus to tie the game.

The Colt .45s answered back in the bottom of the seventh, loading the bases and winning on a drive to rightfield.

The Comets will host the Franklin division leading Phillies (7-8) at La Salle on Sunday, June 27. First pitch is scheduled for 10AM.

COMETS LOSING STREAK HITS 4 AFTER LOSSES TO A'S

June 13 - The Philadelphia Comets (4-8) were swept by the Athletics (11-3) on Sunday, bringing their current losing streak to four games.

The Comets fell behind early in the first game en route to a 9-2 loss. Lefty Dana Erb threw well out of the bullpen to keep the A's at bay, but the Comets were unable to muster any offense. Spencer Graves hit a perfectly placed line-drive and motored around the bases for an inside-the-park homerun, the first of his GPMABL career.

Game two, which was delayed due to lightning storms in the area, saw the Comets rally fall short with a 10-7 decision. Four Comets had two hits a piece (Marcus, Brown, Cice and Kemp), but a five-run inning plagued by poor defense cost the Comets the game. Jon Kemp knocked in three runs and DeWitt Brown added another RBI for the Comets.

The Comets will continue their current homestand, hosting the Colt .45s (6-6) on Sunday at La Salle University. The day, originally scheduled as one nine-inning affair, will now feature two seven-inning games to make-up for the May rainout between the two clubs.

COMETS-COLT .45s RAINED OUT

May 23 - The games between the Comets and the Colt .45s scheduled for May 23 were cancelled due to poor field conditions. The clubs will play a doubleheader on Sunday, June 20 to make-up one of the games.

BREEN MONSTER COMETS SWEEP OUTLAWS 7-0, 12-6

May 16 - Matt Breen's monster day helped the Comets complete the sweep of the Aston Outlaws. Breen had a no-hitter broken up via an infield single with 2 outs in the seventh inning, and struck out nine in the game one complete game shutout victory, 7-0. Andrew Marcus had two hits and four RBI, and rookie Joe Cice added a pair of hits and RBI.

Breen's two hits and three RBI helped lead the Comets to a 12-6 win in the second game of the doubleheader. Starter Phil Motley struck out seven in four innings of work to pick up his second win of the year. Tom O'Konski supplied the power, smashing a double and triple on his way to knocking in three runs. DeWitt Brown and Gavin White each added a pair of hits.

The Comets (4-4) reclaimed first place in the Franklin Division with the wins, leading the Phillies (3-3) by a game. The club will travel to Villanova's Plymouth Field on Sunday to face traditional GPMABL rivals, the Colt .45s. First pitch is scheduled for 10:00 AM.

RED SOX BEST COMETS IN HOME OPENER

May 2 - The Comets opened their 2010 home schedule with a pair of losses at the hands of the Red Sox, 9-2 & 5-3. Despite the losses, the Comets (2-4) remain in a tie with the Phillies for first-place in the Franklin Division.

The club will travel to Neumann University to take on Franklin Division opponent, the Aston Outlaws. The Outlaws are managed by former Comet A.J. Wood.

ALL GPMABL GAMES RAINED OUT - APRIL 25

The GPMABL cancelled all games due to rain on Sunday, April 25. The Comets next game will be the home-opener against the Red Sox on May 2 at La Salle's DeVincent Field.

LATE INNING MISTAKES DOOM COMETS

April 18 - The Comets dropped a pair to the Athletics at Hartford Crossing Park on Sunday, after faltering late in both games. The Comets could not hold a three run lead for starter Jon Kemp in Game 1, losing 9-8 on a walk-off single. After trailing 2-0 for the majority of the second game, the Comets rallied to tie the game, and force extra innings. The A's plated 6 runs in the eighth inning to complete the sweep, 8-2.

Gavin White and Spencer Graves each had three hits for the Comets in the opener. Kemp allowed just one earned run in 5.2 innings of work, and lefty Dana Erb got the Comets out of a jam in the sixth, retiring the only batter he faced.

White added another two hits in the second game and added the only RBI for the Comets. The Comets infield combination of Cice-Reiter-White turned three doubleplays.

The Comets (2-2) will travel to Latshaw-McCarthy Field on Sunday to battle the Phillies (2-2) for an early lead in the Franklin Division.

COMETS OPEN 2010 WITH TWO VICTORIES

April 11 - The Philadelphia Comets opened the 10th GPMABL season with two wins over the expansion Aston Outlaws at Neumann University. The Comets topped the Outlaws 16-7 in the first game, and completed the sweep with a 12-4 victory in game 2. Fox 29's Kerry Barrett was on-hand to throw out the first pitch.

Starter Phil Motley picked up the win in game 1 after four innings of work, striking out eight and allowing three hits. Lefty Dana Erb, Matt Breen and Brian Reiter all threw an inning a piece to help the Comets close out the win. Jon Kemp stroked a key double, knocked in two runs and scored four runs to pace the Comets offense. Motley helped his own cause by going 2-for-3 with 2 RBI. Rafi Cave, Spencer Graves and Gavin White all drove in two runs each.

Jon Kemp's Comets debut on the mound was just as impressive as his day at the plate. Kemp struck out nine in five innings of work, while letting up just three hits. Catcher Tom O'Konski blasted a pair of doubles and Spencer Graves knocked in three runs on a bases-loaded triple. DeWitt Brown's key first inning double plated three Comets and Adam Goldstein had a pair of doubles and three RBI.

The Comets travel to Hartford Crossing to take on the Athletics in an early match-up of division leaders. The A's swept the Colt .45s and currently are tied atop the Penn Division with the Red Sox (2-0).