

ST. LOUIS METRO COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

THE METRO MINUTE

by Bob Totterer

Holy Toledo - it's a Three-Peat!

CHAMPIONSHIP - GAME FOUR

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E	LOB
St. Charles	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	WP: D. Schlereth LP: C.J. Rose SV: Thad Hawkins	5	9	2	8
Alton	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	X		6	10	1	4

ST. CHARLES MULES

Player	AB	H	R	RBI	BB*
Preston Aldridge	4	1	0	0	1
Jerry Mancuso	4	0	0	0	0
Nick Becker	4	2	1	0	1
Lendon Ehlmann	4	1	2	0	1
Lucas Calderon	3	0	0	0	0
Greg Dambach	4	3	1	2	0
David Sprick	3	0	1	0	1
Bo Akers	3	1	0	1	0
Justin Wilson	3	1	0	0	1

ALTON INDIANS

Player	AB	H	R	RBI	BB*
Zac Zellers	4	1	1	1	0
Zach Steed	4	0	0	0	0
Zach Hawkins	4	0	0	1	0
Ian Sikes	4	3	2	0	0
Thad Hawkins	3	2	0	0	1
Nick Johnson	4	0	0	0	0
Ryan Richardson	4	2	1	0	0
Mitch Brasher	4	1	1	0	0
Keith Wolf	3	1	1	1	0

Halfway through game four on Thursday evening it appeared that the series was headed for game five. The Mules scored two in the second and one each in the third, fourth and fifth. They were doing the little things to move runners over and drive them in. Sacrifice bunts by Lucas Calderon in the second and Bo Akers in the fourth set up RBI opportunities for Greg Dambach and Preston Aldridge. As C.J. Rose strode back to the hill to pitch the bottom of the fifth, he held a comfortable 5-1 lead. But recent history has taught us that a four-run lead is not insurmountable.

Ryan Richardson and Mitch Brasher singled to start the inning. Keith Wolf and Zac Zellers followed that with RBI singles, setting runners at first and third with no one out. On a steal attempt by Zellers, catcher Bo Akers's throw sailed over an untended second base bag into centerfield, scoring Wolf and sending Zac to third. Zach Hawkins grounded out to short, plating the fourth run of the inning. Ian Sikes followed that with a two-out infield single, taking second on Lendon Ehlmann's wild throw to first. He moved up to third on a wild pitch and scored the go-ahead run on an error by first baseman Jerry Mancuso. Five Alton hits, aided by two St. Charles errors and a wild pitch, resulted in five runs, only two of which were earned.

That ended the scoring for the remainder of the evening. When the smoke cleared after that fateful fifth, the Alton Indians were clinging to a 6-5 lead. Eric Tiefenthaler relieved the beleaguered C.J. Rose, blanking Alton the rest of the way; but strong pitching by Drew Schlereth and Thad Hawkins denied a St. Charles comeback this time.

It was a wonderful series and folks that watched all four games were treated to a little bit of everything - from Tuesday's 2-1 pitching duel at Ballwin between Brad Buehler and Alex Mann to the dramatic, come-from-behind 9-8 St. Charles victory Wednesday at Gordon Moore park. Against the odds, fourth seeded Alton prevailed to accomplish something very rare in the world of sports - three consecutive championship seasons. As mentioned in an earlier article, they have accomplished it under the leadership of three different managers - Chad Opel in 2008, Joe Berchelman in 2009 and now Scott Turmail. Incredibly, he managed it with only three returning players, essentially building the championship team himself. That, too, is quite an accomplishment.

So it's off to Toledo, Ohio and the NABF World Series for coach Turmail and his Alton Indians. Of course, we wish them the very best and we are certain that they will represent the St. Louis Metro Collegiate League in the finest tradition. Rick Fiala's Fenton team won that World Series in 2003 with players like David Freese, now of St. Louis Cardinals fame. Who knows? Perhaps in a few years we'll be reminiscing about Joey Grzywacz, Zac Zellers, Thad Hawkins and others on the 2010 Alton Indians who defied the odds and brought the Metro League their second NABF World Series. *Go you Indians, go!*