N.O. beats N.J. in undefeated game

CARL HENNELL
WSJ EDITOR

SHELBY, N.C.—Talk about leaving fans in suspense.

Mitch Alexander's run plated off a wild pitch in the 2nd inning Sunday night proved to be the game-winner Monday afternoon. New Orleans pitchers C.J. Avrard and Emerson Gibbs, along with New Jersey pitcher Michael Shawaryn, combined to pitch 3 shutout innings Monday afternoon to wrap up Sunday night's rain-suspended game. New Orleans's 6-5 lead held up overnight for the ALWS undefeated-game victory over Brooklawn, N.J.

"The analogy that I gave them before the first pitch today was that this is a sprint," New Orleans coach Joey Latino said. "We always preach that a 9-inning game as being marathons, don't press early because you are going to get your opportunities throughout the game. But that wasn't the case here. You had to be on your toes, both offensively and defensively. We handled it pretty well, especially my pitchers. I brought him (Avrard) in with 1 out yesterday and he got us out of a bases loaded jam and then comes out here today and gets himself hot and ready to go and gets us 6 outs. That was tremendous."

The game was suspended because of rain with 1 out in the bottom of the 4th inning just before midnight Sunday. New Jersey had just scored 3 runs in the top of the 4th inning, which was highlighted by RBI singles by Steve Wilgus and John Brue, to close their deficit to 1 run. And then the rain hit hard. Play was resumed Monday at 1 p.m. All third-round ALWS games were shortened to 7 innings because of Saturday's rain delays and eventual postponement.

"Usually you have to get your legs under you and you have to see pitches and by the time you do that, it's normally in the 3rd or 4th inning," Latino said. "You didn't have that luxury today. It worked against both teams but fortunately, we took the lead into today so we were at the advantage."

Avrard allowed a hit and a walk, while striking out 1, in 2 1/3 innings to earn the victory. Gibbs had a 3-up, 3-down 7th inning to earn the save.

Fortier-Bensen went 1-for-2 with 2 RBIs, including an RBI triple in the 1st inning, to help lead New Orleans, which was out-hit 6-5.

Tied 2-2 going into the bottom of the 2nd inning, Brooklawn committed 2 errors and a wild pitch to allow 4 unearned runs.

BROOKLAWN, N.J., SECOND BASEMAN JOE BROOKS catches a throwdown as New Orleans's Mitch Alexander steals second Monday at the ALWS.

ELDON LINDSAY / AMERICAN LEGION

New Orleans 6, New Jersey 5			
Brooklawn, NJ	**AB**	**R H**	**BI**
Pat Kane lf	4	0 0	1
Steven Wilgus cf	4	1 1	1
Joe Brooks 2b	2	0 2	0
John Brue 1b	4	0 1	1
Brett Tenuto 3b	1	1 0	0
Elliott McCummings dh	4	1 1	0
Giovanni Gussen rf	4	0 1	0
Jon Theckston c	2	1 0	1
Rob Alessandrine ss	2	1 0	0
John Murphy p	0	0 0	0
Michael Shawaryn p	0	0 0	0
Totals......	**27**	**5 6**	**4**
New Orleans, LA	**AB**	**R H**	**BI**
Mitch Alexander rf	4	1 1	1
Brady Williamson cf	3	1 1	0
Anthony Fort-Bensen ss	2	1 1	2
Matthieu Robert dh	2	0 0	1
Luke Voiron c	2	0 1	0
Jonathan Lee 2b	3	0 0	0
Michael Gogreve 1b	3	1 1	0
Matthew Braud 3b	2	1 0	0
Armand Daigle lf	2	1 0	0
Jonathan Hess p	0	0 0	0
C.J. Avrard p	0	0 0	0
Emerson Gibbs p	0	0 0	0
Totals......	**23**	**6 5**	**4**
Brooklawn, NJ....... 020 300 0 - 5 6 2			
New Orleans, LA..... 240 000 X - 6 5 1			

E - Alessandrine; Murphy, J; Lee, J. LOB - NJ 8; LA 5. 3B - Bensen, A; Voiron, L.HBP - Theckston, J; Williamson,B; Bensen, A. SH - Daigle, A. SF - Robert, M. SB - Alexander, M; Bensen, A; Lee, J.

Brooklawn, NJ	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
John Murphy L	3.1	4	6	2	1	3
Michael Shawaryn	2.2	1	0	0	1	2
New Orleans, LA	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
Jonathan Hess	3.2	5	5	5	5	3
C.J. Avrard W	2.1	1	0	0	1	1
Emerson Gibbs S	1.0	0	0	0	0	0

Legion announces $25,000 in scholarships

The American Legion's long-standing relationship with Diamond Sports has moved beyond being the official baseball of the American Legion World Series.

For the next three years, Diamond will be the official scholarship sponsor of The American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team. The agreement between the two organizations involves Diamond providing $25,000 in scholarship funds for the 9-player All-Academic Team. Players do not need to play college baseball to be eligible for this scholarship, but they must have graduated and been accepted to attend college.

Each state department's baseball committee selected a state winner, based on nominations by coaches. They received a $500 scholarship and a chance to be a part of the All-Academic Team. The selected state applicants were reviewed by the 2012 World Series Scholarship Committee, which chose a player from each of the 8 regions to be a part of the All-Academic Team. Each received a $2,500 scholarship. Also, an overall top academic player was named the team captain and awarded a $5,000 scholarship.

The 2012 American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team, sponsored by Diamond Sports, winners are:

Team Captain – Gareth Hanson, Enderlin, ND, graduated from Enderlin Area High School with a 3.6 GPA and will attend Mayville State University with a double major in elementary and physical education

Northeast Region – Everett Walsh, Marstons Mills, MA, graduated from Barnstable High School with a 3.59 GPA and has received appointment to the Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Mid-Atlantic Region – Matthew Armistead, Newark, DE, graduated from Caravel Academy with a 4.07 GPA and will attend the University of Delaware majoring in Sports Medicine/Athletic Training

Southeast Region – James Lovett, Wellington, FL, graduated from Wellington Community High School with a 3.04 GPA and will attend North Carolina Wesleyan College majoring in criminal justice

Mid-South Region – Kyle Stallbaumer, Sabetha, KS, graduated from Sabetha High School with a 4.0 GPA and will attend Kansas State University majoring in nutritional science

Great Lakes Region – Caleb VonStein, Shelby, OH, graduated from Shelby Senior High School with a 4.7 GPA and will attend Ohio Northern University majoring in pharmaceuticals

Central Plains Region – Nathan Pflueger, Staplehurst, NE, graduated from Seward High School with a 3.85 GPA will attend Chadron State College majoring in natural resources/wildlife management

Northwest Region – Joshua Crapps, Anchorage, AK, graduated from South Anchorage High School with a 4.26 GPA and will attend University of Dallas majoring in chemistry with a pre-med track

Western Region – Josh Holcomb, Fair Oaks Ranch, TX, graduated from Samuel V Champion High School with a 96% out of 100 and will attend Texas Tech majoring petroleum engineering with a business minor

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New Orleans, Brooklawn, Bellevue final three alive at 2012 ALWS

Shelby, N.C., sets another attendance record with 90,506 plus Tuesday

SHELBY, N.C.--There's only 3 teams left.

With their backs to the wall Brooklawn, N.J., and Bellevue, Wash., won on Monday at the 2012 American Legion Baseball World Series to advance to the final day of play. They will play each other at 5 p.m. on Tuesday for a berth into the national championship game against New Orleans, which won the undefeated semifinal game on Monday to automatically advance to the chipper.
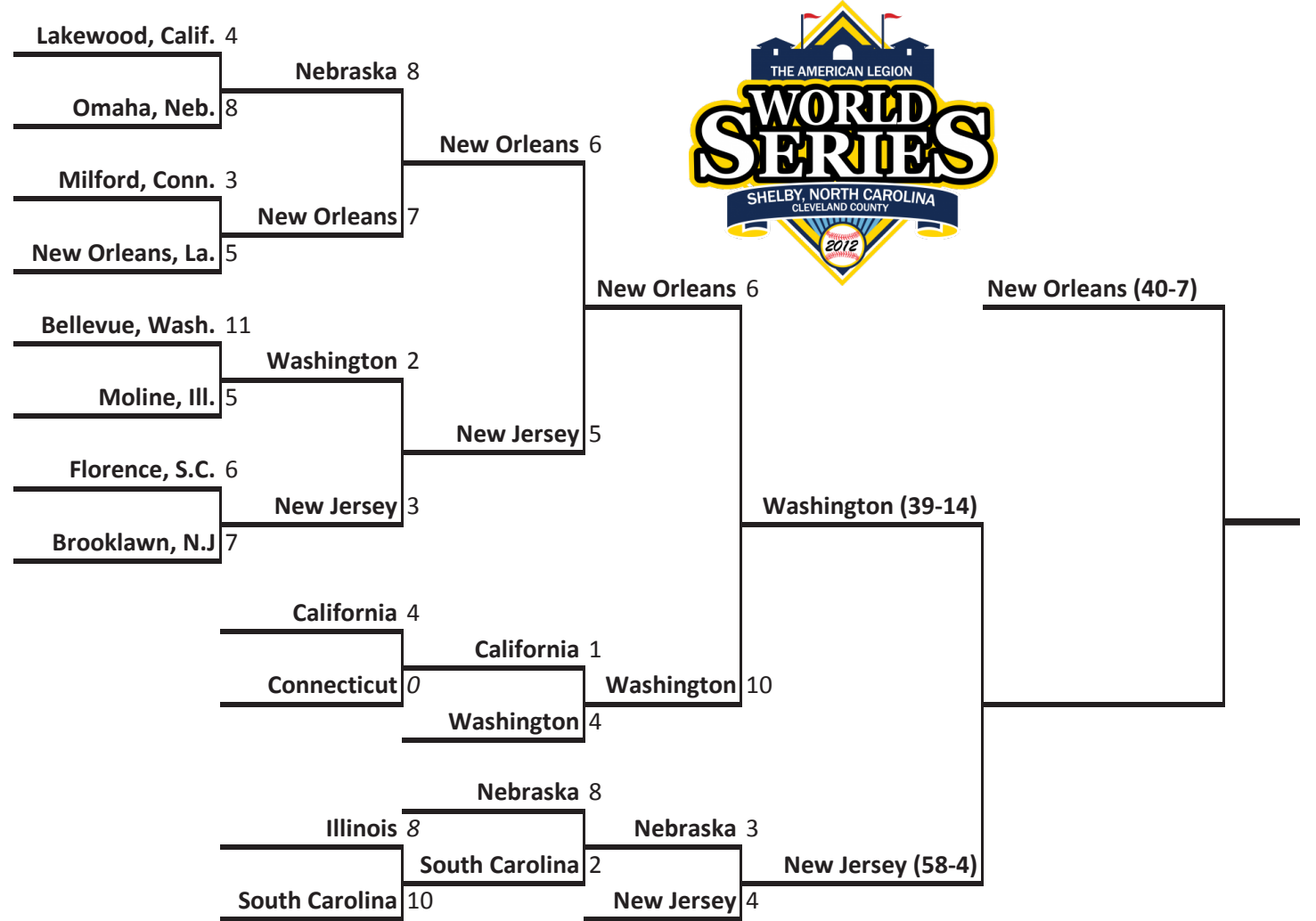
New Jersey beat Omaha, Neb., 4-3, in loser-out action. Then Bellevue outlasted New Orleans, 10-6. Earlier Monday, New Orleans beat New Jersey, 6-5, in the undefeated game that was resumed from Sunday night's rainout.

Chalk up another banner year for the community of Shelby, N.C.

With a day left in the 2012 American Legion Baseball World Series, the paid attendance has already shattered last year's record of 86,162. The announced attendance for the series so far is 90,506 in Keeter Stadium.

Brooklawn (52-10) will play Bellevue (39-14) Tuesday at 5 p.m. for the chance to play in the championship. New Orleans (40-7) awaits the winner in the national championship. Admission Tuesday to the final 2 ALWS games is free, thanks to Lowe's.

Bracket

- Lakewood, Calif. 4
- Omaha, Neb. 8 → Nebraska 8
- Milford, Conn. 3
- New Orleans, La. 5 → New Orleans 7
- Nebraska 8 / New Orleans 7 → New Orleans 6
- Bellevue, Wash. 11
- Moline, Ill. 5 → Washington 2
- Florence, S.C. 6
- Brooklawn, N.J 7 → New Jersey 3
- Washington 2 / New Jersey 3 → New Jersey 5
- New Orleans 6 / New Jersey 5 → New Orleans 6
- California 4
- Connecticut 0 → California 1
- Washington 4 → Washington 10
- California 1 / Washington 10 → Washington 10
- New Orleans (40-7)
- Washington (39-14)
- Illinois 8
- South Carolina 10 → South Carolina 2
- Nebraska 8
- New Jersey 4 → Nebraska 3
- South Carolina 2 / New Jersey ... → New Jersey (58-4)

New Jersey holds off, eliminates Omaha

Santone spreads 7 hits, 3 walks over 6 2/3 innings for W

CARL HENNELL
WSJ EDITOR

SHELBY, N.C.--Brooklawn, N.J., pitcher Joe Santone allowed 7 hits and 3 walks over 6 2/3 innings, and 3 different players had RBI hits, Monday to help lead New Jersey in eliminating Omaha, Neb., 4-3 at the ALWS.

Tied 2-2 in the top of the 6th inning, Rob Alessandrine advanced to third base on a failed pickoff attempt and then scored on Steve Wilgus's sacrifice fly to center field.

New Jersey took a 4-2 lead in the 7th inning when John Brue walked, stole second and then scored on 2 straight errors.

Omaha has the worst fielding percentage coming into the game, committed 4 errors and allowed 2 unearned runs.

Santone struggled through the 7th inning and allowed a run, but improved to 7-1 on the season.

"It was getting a little hairy there, but I just had to dig deep and pull through for my team," the lefty said. "The plan was to pitch to contact but they were taking pitches and getting my pitch count up there. They made me work hard right from the start. So I had to bear down and make every pitch count.

"The curveball was working better than normal. Usually I go with the changeup more. I was staying closed longer and really getting out in front. My curveball was getting better towards the end of the game and

NEW JERSEY PITCHER JOE SANTONE delivers a pitch against Omaha, Neb., at the ALWS.

ELDON LINDSAY / AMERICAN LEGION

my changeup was better at the beginning of the game. I was getting a little wild but I wanted to stay in the game."

Joe Shapley relieved Santone in the 7th, got out of the jam and allowed 1 base runner the rest of the way while striking out 2.

New Jersey's Nos. 3-4-5 hitters Joe Brooks, Brett Tenuto and Brue each had 2 hits to help lead Brooklawn in out-hitting Omaha, 10-8. Kane, Wilgus and Giovanni Gussen had the RBIs as all of the New Jersey batters contributed on offense.

Omaha's Evan Ryan went 2-for-3 with 3 RBIs. He finished the series as the best hitter, hitting .571 since the Nebraska state tournament, with 4 doubles, 2 home runs, a triple and 16 RBIs. Cale Dineen and Zach Garrett also had 2 hits apiece.

Omaha starting pitcher McLaine Jonas allowed 8 hits and 3 walks over 6 innings and gave up only 2 earned runs but absorbed the loss.

Omaha's season ended with a 51-10 record.

The victory propelled New Jersey into a semifinal matchup with Washington Tuesday night.

ELDON LINDSAY / AMERICAN LEGION
NEW JERSEY'S PAT KANE steals second base under the catch of Omaha shortstop Jon Hechtner Monday at the ALWS.

New Jersey 4, Nebraska 3

Brooklawn, NJ	AB	R	H	BI
Pat Kane lf	4	0	1	1
Steven Wilgus cf	4	0	0	1
Joe Brooks 2b	5	0	2	0
John Brue 1b	3	2	2	0
Brett Tenuto 3b	5	1	2	0
Elliott McCummings c	5	0	1	0
Giovanni Gussen dh	3	0	0	1
Casey Brown rf	4	0	1	0
Rob Alessandrine ss	3	1	1	0
Joe Santone p	0	0	0	0
Joe Shapley p	0	0	0	0
Totals......	**36**	**4**	**10**	**3**
Omaha, NE	**AB**	**R**	**H**	**BI**
Jon Hechtner ss	4	1	1	0
Cale Dineen 2b	3	0	2	0
Evan Ryan rf	3	0	2	3
Taylor Elman 3b	4	0	0	0
Kevin Connolly cf	4	0	0	0
T.J. Wood lf	4	0	0	0
Zach Garrett 1b	4	0	2	0
Scott Huber dh	3	1	1	0
Adam Wilson ph	1	0	0	0
Billy Lipari c	3	1	0	0
McLaine Jonas p	0	0	0	0
Nick Ramsey p	0	0	0	0
Totals......	**33**	**3**	**8**	**3**

Brooklawn, NJ....... 000 201 100 - 4 10 0
Omaha, NE............ 001 010 100 - 3 8 4
E - Elman, T 2(7); Lipari, B(2); Jonas, M(2). DP - NJ 1. LOB - NJ 12; NE 7. 2B - Brue, J(2). HBP - Kane, P; Gussen, G. SF - Wilgus, S(2); Gussen, G(1); Ryan, E(3).SB - Kane, P(10); Brue, J(7); Tenuto, B(5); Ryan, E(1).

Brooklawn, NJ	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Joe Santone W	6.2	7	3	3	3	2
Joe Shapley S	2.1	1	0	0	0	2
Omaha, NE	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
McLaine Jonas L	6.0	8	4	2	3	3
Nick Ramsey	3.0	2	0	0	0	2

Washington staves off elimination

Hands New Orleans 1st loss of series

CARL HENNELL
WSJ EDITOR

SHELBY, N.C.--The lucky licorice lived on.

Having exhausted its supply of lucky licorice that it brought from Washington, the Bellevue team got a kick in the pants when they found out their licorice came from nearby Lincolnton, N.C. A parent called the Lucky Country company to order some more and the company said no need to pay and it hand delivered a couple of cases to the team for free.

The result: Nos. 8 and 9 hitters Andrew Kemmerer and Jake Bakamus each had 3 RBIs and the Washington state champs broke a 4-4 tie with a run in the top of the 5th inning, added some much-needed insurance runs in the 7th and 8th innings, and went on to beat previously-unbeaten New Orleans, 10-6, Tuesday morning.

The game finished after 12:30 a.m.

Kemmerer had a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 5th inning to put Belleuve on top for good. In the 7th, Bakamus hit the first pitch he saw for a 1-out, 2-run, opposite-field single into left field for a couple of insurance runs.

"He had been throwing me first-pitch fastballs the whole game, so I was looking for that pitch down the middle," Bakamus said. "I was actually looking middle-in, but he threw it away and I poked it over the third-baseman's head to get 2 in there."

Washington scored 3 more runs in the 8th—off a walk, wild pitch and groundout—to take a 10-4 lead and then had to survive

a quasi-comeback attempt in the bottom of the 9th when New Orleans scored 2 and then left the bases loaded when shortstop Matt Sinatro made a diving catch to end the game.

Washington third baseman Aaron Sandefur added some fireworks in the 4th inning with a leadoff home run that traveled around 390 feet over the left-center field wall. It was his third homer of the season.

"The pitcher got behind so I was looking for a good pitch to hit. It went to 3-1 so I was definitely looking fastball and had seen it the at bat before so I knew what he had," Sandefur said. "It was inner half, right where I love it. It felt pretty good. I don't know if I've hit a ball that solid all year. It was pretty fun having it here."

Sinatro, Kemmerer and Mitchell Morimoto each had 2 hits to help lead Washington on offense. Morimoto scored 4 runs; Sandefur scored 3.

New Orleans actually out-hit Washington, 13-10. Anthony Fortier-Bensen had 3 hits. Four players had 2 hits apiece: Mattheui Robert, Luke "The Sena-

tor" Voiron, Michael Gogreve and Matthew Braud. Robert had 2 RBIs.

Washington pitcher Jacob Rosen relieved starter Ethan Kalin in the 5th inning and pitched 4 2/3 innings to earn the victory. He improved to 8-1 on the season. He allowed 7 hits, 4 of which came in the 9th inning, and no walks while striking out 4. Matt Lunde came in for the final out of the game and earned his third save of the season.

Bellevue improved to 39-14 on the season and earned the right to play New Jersey Tuesday night. New Orleans (40-7) awaits the winner in the chipper.

WASHINGTON'S MATT SINATRO steals second base as New Orleans second baseman Jonathan Lee reaches for the overthrow Monday at the ALWS. Shortstop Anthony Fortier-Bensen caught the ball.

ELDON LINDSAY / AMERICAN LEGION

ELDON LINDSAY / AMERICAN LEGION
THE BELLEVUE, WASH., BASEBALL TEAM huddles up before the start of its game against New Orleans Monday night at the ALWS. The Washington state champs outlasted previously-unbeaten New Orleans, 10-6, in a game that finished well past midnight.

Washington 10, New Orleans 6

New Orleans, LA	AB	R	H	BI
Mitch Alexander rf	5	0	0	0
Spencer Miller rf	0	0	0	0
Brady Williamson cf	4	1	1	0
Anthony Fort-Bensen ss	5	2	3	0
Matthieu Robert c	5	2	2	2
Luke Voiron dh	4	1	2	1
Jonathan Lee 2b	3	0	0	0
Michael Cusimano 2b	1	0	0	0
Michael Gogreve 1b	5	0	2	1
Matthew Braud 3b	4	0	2	1
Armand Daigle lf	4	0	1	0
Brett Leonhard p	0	0	0	0
Andrew Mitchell p	0	0	0	0
William North p	0	0	0	0
Totals......	**40**	**6**	**13**	**5**
Bellevue, WA	**AB**	**R**	**H**	**BI**
Matt Sinatro ss	5	1	2	1
Nate Anderson cf	3	0	0	0
Ethan Kalin p/1b	4	0	0	0
Jimmy Sinatro c	2	1	1	1
Clayton Huber 1b	3	0	0	0
Jacob Rosen p	2	1	1	0
Matt Lunde p	0	0	0	0
Mitchell Morimoto lf	4	4	2	0
Aaron Sandefur 3b	3	3	1	1
Andrew Kemmerer rf	2	0	2	3
Derek Chapman pr/rf	0	0	0	0
Jake Bakamus 2b	4	0	1	3
Kyle Goemmer 2b	0	0	0	0
Totals......	**32**	**10**	**10**	**9**

New Orleans, LA..... 012 010 002 - 6 13 2
Bellevue, WA......... 020 210 23X - 10 10 3
E - Robert, M(1); Braud, M(3); Sinatro, M.(3); Sinatro, J.(3); Sandefur, A.(6). DP - LA 1. LOB - LA 11; WA 12. 2B - Robert, M(4); Sinatro, J.(7). HR - Sandefur, A.(1).SH - Kemmerer, A.(1). SF - Kemmerer, A.(1). SB - Sinatro, M.(3); Sinatro, J.(1);Morimoto, M. 2(2); Kemmerer, A.(1).

New Orleans, LA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Brett Leonhard	3.2	5	4	2	5	1
Andrew Mitchell	L 3.1	4	3	2	4	5
William North	1.0	1	3	3	3	1
Bellevue, WA	**IP**	**H**	**R**	**ER**	**BB**	**SO**
Ethan Kalin	4.0	6	3	3	4	1
Jacob Rosen W	4.2	7	3	2	0	4
Matt Lunde S	0.1	0	0	0	0	0