



2019 MCL ALL-STAR GAME

SEE THE STARS OF TOMORROW, TODAY!



ALL STAR
★ GAME ★
WHITING, IN • JULY 13
2019
OIL CITY STADIUM
PROGRAM

The Home of Northwest Indiana Baseball

Blake Toman

In the heart of Whiting, Indiana lies Oil City Stadium, the home of Northwest Indiana baseball. It's served as the home field for the Crimson Waves of Calumet College of St. Joseph and the Oilers of Whiting High School since the stadium first opened 2011.

Oil City Stadium at Standards Diamond Park was part of the first phase of Whiting's \$50 million Lake Front Development Project. While the project also included the construction of biking trails and parks, Oil City Stadium served as the centerpiece of the project.

The stadium was designed by American Structurepoint and Context, with both companies having a deep appreciation for rich tradition of baseball in Whiting.

Powers and Sons Construction Company turned the design duo's vision into a reality, creating the Oil City Stadium known and loved by thousands of fans today.

The stadium beautifully combines the history of Whiting, Indiana as a small refinery town tucked away in the uppermost corner of Northwest Indiana with a progressive way of thinking.

In 2012, the newly formed Northwest Indiana Oilmen made it their home and began a legacy of success, securing their first win of the 2012 season at Standards Diamond Park. The Oilmen would win three championships with Oil City Stadium as their home in 2012, 2016, and 2018.



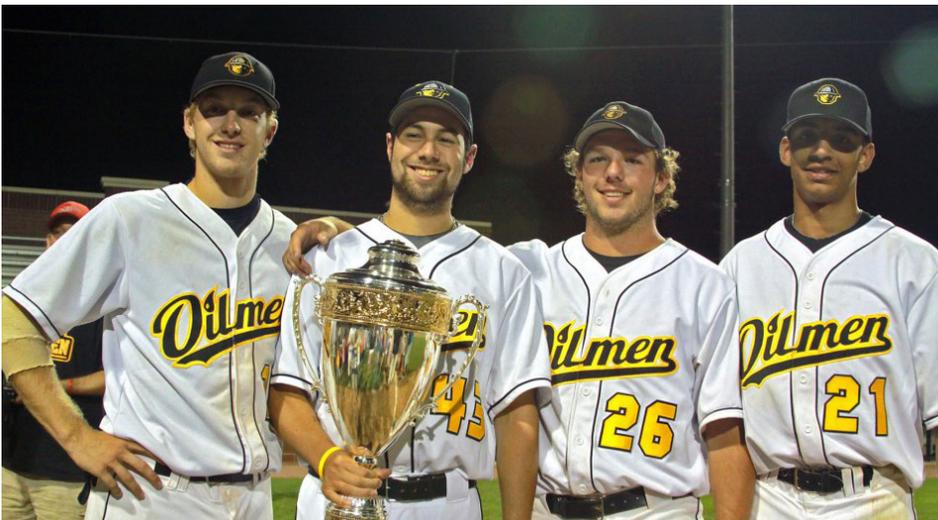
Oil City Stadium with the city of Chicago, Ill. in the background.

After seeing high school and college baseball play-off games and several MCL championships, Oil City Stadium would come to be known by baseball aficionados as the premier amateur baseball stadium in the Midwest.

But the beauty of the stadium doesn't just come from the action on the field or the brick wall that acts as "Green Monster" in left field. The BP Refinery, located just beyond the centerfield fence, serves as reminder of the roots of this small Indiana town.

When the Northwest Indiana Oilmen play at night, the flames of the refinery serve as a visible reminder of the foundation on which Whiting was built.

As the East and West All-Stars prepare to face-off today, each player will be presented with an opportunity. An opportunity to play the greatest game ever created in a stadium built on an unrivaled history and tradition of hard-work and excellence in Whiting, Indiana. 🍷



The Oilmen holding the MCL Championship Trophy

The East's Aces Versus the West's Sluggers

Brady Extin

The best of the Midwest Collegiate League will join forces on Saturday evening in a showdown that will be unlike anything seen in the MCL so far this season.

The West All-Stars, composed of players from the Bloomington Bobcats, DuPage County Hounds, and Joilet Generals, will take on the East All-Stars, with players from the Crestwood Panthers, Northwest Indiana Oilmen, and Southland Vikings, in the annual MCL All-Star game. The 2019 All-Star game, hosted at beautiful Oil City Stadium in Whiting, Indiana, will showcase the league's top talent and managers.

At the half-way point in the MCL season, the race for the MCL Championship is still a close one, with five teams within four games of first place in the standings.

There is an even split in the East and West, with two teams on each side holding a playoff spot. For the East All-Stars, the Southland Vikings hold the top spot in the league, while the Northwest Indiana Oilmen sit in second place. The West All-Stars hold the third and fourth spots in the standings with the DuPage County Hounds and Bloomington Bobcats respectively.

Every team has approximately equal numbers of players in the All-Star game. The Hounds tie with the Oilmen for the lead with nine participants each, followed by the Vikings with eight. The Bobcats and Generals are next with seven play-



Nick Santoro (3B) for the DuPage County Hounds

ers participating. Rounding out the teams are five participants from the Panthers.

The Hounds, along with tying for the the league lead in All-Star game participants, have an array of individual league leaders as well. As things stand, the Hounds have the league leaders in hits, home runs, runs, stolen bases, and batting average.

The most notable of the league leaders so far this season is Nick Santoro (University of Wisconsin-Whitewater / Naperville, Illinois). Santoro sits atop the MCL in three different categories with 43 hits, 33 runs scored, and a .453 batting average.

He's joined by fellow DuPage County Hounds and West All-

Star participants Nick Zeeveld, (University of Illinois at Springfield / Pleasant Prairie Wisconsin) who leads the league with four home runs, and Scott Jones, (Louisiana State University Eunice / Sulphur, Louisiana) who leads the league with 23 stolen bases.

The West All-Stars finish off the sweep of

league leaders in the hitting categories with Bloomington Bobcat Austin Biehl (Parkland College / Mahomet, Illinois) taking the top spot in on-base percentage at .564 so far this season.

It's set up to be a clash of the league's top hitters against the league's top pitchers as the East All-Stars have the league leaders in various pitching categories.

The standout pitcher so far in the MCL this season is East All-Star participant and Southland Viking Justin Rios (North Central College / Lemont, Illinois). Rios enters Saturday's game with a 5-0 record and the league leader in wins. He tops all pitchers in the ERA and innings pitched categories as well with a dominant 1.21 ERA across 29 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings pitched.

Fellow All-Star teammate and Crestwood Panther, Eddie Wilkins (University of Illinois at Springfield / Braidwood, Illinois) tops the league in the final pitching category, strikeouts, with 44 on the season.

It's the East All-Stars versus the West All-Stars. It's the pitching phenoms against the star-studded sluggers. It's a clash of the MCL's best at Oil City Stadium. ⚾



Chris Torres (RHP) for the Northwest Indiana Oilmen

Meet the Coaches for the East



Manager: Kevin Tyrrell

Team: Northwest Indiana Oilmen

Previous MCL Experience: 2013 Rockford Foresters

Previous Coaching Experience:

Head Coach @ College of Dupage

(2012-2018)

Assistant Coach @ University of Chicago

(2019 - Present)

2019 MCL Record: 14-11



Assistant Coach: Isaac Valdez

Team: Crestwood Panthers

Previous MCL Experience: 2018 Crestwood Panthers

Previous Coaching Experience:

Assistant Coach @ Harper College

(2016-2019)

Head Coach @ Olive Harvey Community College

(2019-Present)

2019 MCL Record: 5-20



Assistant Coach: Dave Letourneau

Team: Southland Vikings

Previous MCL Experience: 2018 Southland Vikings

Previous Coaching Experience:

Freshman Head Coach @ St. Rita High School

(2014-2016)

Assistant Head Coach @ St. Rita High School

(2017-Present)

2019 MCL Record: 16-9



Assistant Coach: Kyle Klosak

Team: Northwest Indiana Oilmen

Previous MCL Experience: 2013 Rockford Foresters (Player)

Previous Coaching Experience:

Assistant Coach @ College of DuPage

(2016-Present)

2019 MCL Record: 14-11

Meet the Coaches for the West



Manager: Ben Caple

Team: DuPage County Hounds

Previous MCL Experience: 2012-2015 DuPage County Hounds Assistant Coach
2016-2018 DuPage County Hounds

Previous Coaching Experience:
Assistant Coach @ Benedictine University (2013-2015)
MCL Manager of the Year Winner (2018)

2019 MCL Record: 14-12



Assistant Coach: Matt Vitulli

Team: Joliet Generals

Previous MCL Experience: 2018 Northwest Indiana Oilmen Assistant Coach

Previous Coaching Experience:
Assistant Coach @ Robert Morris University (2017-Present)

2019 MCL Record: 10-9



Assistant Coach: Jake Wegner

Team: Bloomington Bobcats

Previous MCL Experience: 2018 Bloomington Bobcats

Previous Coaching Experience:
Volunteer Assistant Coach @ Central College (2018)

2019 MCL Record: 14-13



Assistant Coach: Rick Panek

Team: DuPage County Hounds

Previous MCL Experience: 2016-2018 DuPage County Hounds Pitching Coach

Previous Coaching Experience:
Varsity Pitching Coach @ Lemont High School (2002-Present)
Assistant Coach @ Lomabrd Lightning 18U Team (2004-2014)

2019 MCL Record: 14-12

Paul DeJong: From MCL All-Star to MLB All-Star

Brandon Vickrey

The dream of every player who takes the field for the 2019

Midwest Collegiate League All-Star Game on Saturday, July 13 is simple – to go from being an

MCL All-Star to an MLB All-Star.

Now more than ever before, it's clear that the aforementioned goal is an attainable one. Former

DuPage County Hounds infielder Paul DeJong was named to the 2019 Major League Baseball

All-Star Game in Cleveland, becoming the first MCL alum to earn a place in the Mid-Summer

Classic on the game's biggest stage.

"I want to thank the Midwest Collegiate League for helping me," DeJong said in a 2015 phone interview with the MCL's Brandon Vickrey. "They were part of my development and allowed me to get better at the game. They obviously made a difference in where I got today, especially Sean Osborne with the Hounds organization. They couldn't have been more gracious. Stadiums like the Oilmen's were very nice and it was a great experience with the fans. The level of play was good and it was good for my development."

In that same interview, DeJong advised current MCL players to treat summer ball seriously, strive for improvement and establish lasting connections with coaches and teammates.

"Never stop working hard, and you never know what could happen," DeJong said. "If you would have asked me in the MCL if I was going to be a fourth-round draft pick in 2015, I would have said, 'You're crazy,' but I kept working."

DeJong, who is in his third season as a standout for the St. Louis Cardinals, appeared in the 2013 MCL All-Star Game as his North All-Stars fell to the South All-Stars 12-4 at Oil City Stadium.

Current DuPage County Hounds manager Ben Caple, who will



Paul DeJong with the St. Louis Cardinals

manage the MCL West All-Stars in this year's midseason showcase on Saturday, July 13 at 7:10 p.m. at Oil City Stadium, was an assistant coach on the Hounds staff when DeJong played for the team.

During his 2013 MCL season, DeJong hit .287 with one home run and 16 RBIs while appearing in 32 games.

"I was developing as a catcher at that point, and Sean Osborne really helped me learn the fundamentals and fix some things in my game," DeJong said. "Overall, Sean was great."

The Illinois State product and Antoich Community High School graduate agreed to a six-year contract extension with the Cardinals in March 2018 worth a guaranteed total of \$26 million. It was the largest ever agreement with a player who had not completed at least one full year of major league service. He was the runner-up in the 2017 NL Rookie of the Year balloting behind Cody Bellinger of the Los Angeles Dodgers. DeJong was the NL Rookie of the Month in July 2017 and the NL Player of the Week in April 2018.

As the MCL celebrates its 10th

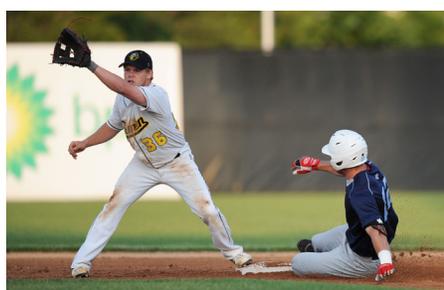
anniversary this season, DeJong is one of numerous players from the league who have gone on to play professionally. The first to reach the big leagues was Tony Cingrani, who played in the MCL (then known as the Great Plains League) in 2010 and made his MLB debut in 2012. Cingrani, currently out for the season with an injury, pitched for the Cincinnati Reds from 2012-2017 and has been with the Dodgers since 2018. He was part of a combined no-hitter on May 4, 2018 and appeared in three games during the 2017 World Series.

The highest MLB Draft Pick out of the MCL was Corey Ray, who has appeared in 25 games at Triple-A in the Brewers organization this season. He was selected fifth overall in the first round of the 2016 MLB Draft and is ranked in the Top 100 prospects by MLB.com. 🍷

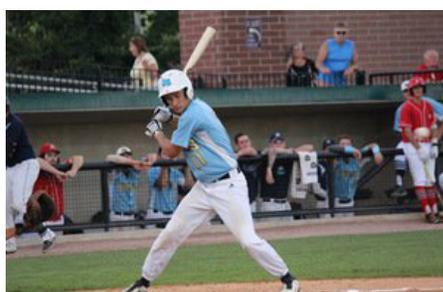
MCL All-Star Game Timeline



2011 MCL All-Star Game



2015 All-Star Game



2016 All Star Game MVP Joe Engel



2018 All Star Game MVP Zach Frey

- 2011** — The year before the Northwest Indiana Oilmen joined the league, their soon-to-be home field got a taste of MCL baseball. The All-Star Game was hosted within the beautiful confines of Oil City Stadium for the first time, a game that saw the South (Southland Vikings and Will County CrackerJacks) edge the North (Chicago Zephyrs and Rockford Foresters) 8-7 in extra innings.
- 2012** — The MCL's Mid-Summer Classic made a one-year transition to Benedictine Stadium as the South (Will County, Northwest Indiana, Southland and Illinois) beat the North (DuPage County, DeKalb County, Rockford and Chicago) 3-2.
- 2013** — Current St. Louis Cardinals star Paul DeJong played in an MCL All-Star Game that saw his North squad fall to the South 12-4. The game featured six players who would go on to play professionally including DeJong, Pat Cashman (White Sox organization), Andrew Lowe (Frontier League), Chis Chigas (Frontier League), Matt Pobereyko (New York Mets organization) and Jeff Boehm (Los Angeles Angels organization).
- 2014** — The South defeated the North 10-3 as slugger Jeff Boehm cracked a two-run homer in the first inning to help the South jump out to a 3-0 lead. Boehm, who was with the Southland Vikings and went on to play in the Los Angeles Angels organization, received the 2014 Midwest Collegiate League All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Award.
- 2015** — The South topped the North 10-3 in another game stacked with players who would go on to play professionally. That group included Micah Coffey (White Sox organization), Shane Carrier (Minnesota Twins organization), Trent Carrier (Pecos League), Reid Birlingmair (Oakland Athletics organization), Enrique Zamora (Frontier League) and Scott Kapers (Texas Rangers organization).
- 2016** — DuPage County's Joe Engel (Columbia) notched three hits to earn MVP honors as the Blue All-Stars beat the White All-Stars 10-2.
- 2017** — The MCL fielded one All-Star team, which took down the Serbian National Team 14-3. The MCL squad pounded out 19 hits and Tyler Sroczynski of the Oilmen led the way with four RBIs.
- 2018** — In a game dominated by pitching, 11 different hurlers enjoyed scoreless, hitless outings as the MCL West All-Stars topped the MCL East All-Stars 6-3 in 11 innings. Bloomington's Zach Frey was the winning pitcher with two perfect innings of relief. He struck out four of the six batters he faced and needed only 19 pitches to hold the East scoreless in the ninth and 10th innings, earning the MCL All-Star Game MVP Award.

AN ALL-STAR LINEUP

