

LAWRENCE NELLIS

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

Bezanson 19 Hythe 3

HYTHE

It isn't exaggeration to say Bezanson Norton Brothers powered their way into the Wapiti Men's Fastball League A Division finals.

Bezanson launched a 16-hit attack, including six home runs, to pound Hythe Vikings 19-3 here last night.

The overwhelming victory gave Bezanson the best-of-three semi-final series in two straight games. They won the first game 15-6 Monday.

Lawrence **Nellis** was the individual star for Bezanson with three home runs, all of them solo efforts. He hit for round trips in the second, third and fifth.

Other homers came off the bats of Harvey Stewart in the third inning with two men on; of Rod McLaughlin, a bases-empty smash in the

second; and of Len Ames, a solo shot in the third.

Scoring almost at will, Bezanson used the third inning in particular to lay claim to a chance at the A Division championship. They scored seven runs in that inning alone.

Stewart was the winning pitcher, going all the way and allowing Hythe only four hits. He struck out three and walked five.

Rod Berg started for Hythe, was replaced by Jerry Holland in the third, came back in the sixth before yielding to Merlin Jenner in the seventh. Together they struck out four and walked nine and gave up 16 hits.

Bezanson now advances against Dimsdale Roadrunners for the A Division laurels. That series will start Monday night.



WMFL president Jim Boyd (centre) presents league trophy to Norton Bros. coach Harry Nellis while team

captain Lawrence Nellis holds championship hardware.

Bezanson wins playoff title

By DON MOON
of our staff

BEZANSON

Another season of fastball for Wapiti Men's Fastball League teams ended last night here and for the Bezanson Norton Bros. it was another successful year.

The Norton Bros. did what was expected of them by winning the WMFL championship final in straight games.

They downed the visiting Norwood Esso Saints 5-2 here last night in the second game of the best-of-three A-B final. Originally the series was to have been a best-of-five affair but the two teams agreed upon the best-of-three set-up before the playoff began but kept it a secret until yesterday.

A three-run homer in the bottom of the fifth inning

proved to be the winning stroke for the Norton Bros. as they romped to their second championship in two years.

Les Nellis, with his first hit in six trips to the plate in the series, was the hero of the night. He slammed a one-strike pitch over the left field fence with two runners on to pull the Norton Bros. out of a 2-2 deadlock and knock in the winning runs.

Going into the inning the Norton Bros. were trailing 2-1. Ed Nellis opened the Bezanson half of the inning by striking out. Lawrence Nellis was the first Norton Bros. player to get on in the inning when he beat Saint second baseman Alfie Stephenson to the bag on what should have been a routine put-out.

Norton Bros. third baseman Dennis Maxwell followed up with a single

and moved to second after an attempt was made from the outfield to pick Nellis off as he made his way safely to third.

Rod McLaughlin drove in the tying run with a follow-up single setting the stage for Nellis' all important homer that tucked away a victory for the "A" division Norton Bros.

As was the case in the Bezanson 1-0 win in Grande Prairie Tuesday night, Norton Bros. chucker Floyd Rosebush became stronger with a lead to protect.

After the fifth inning outburst by Bezanson, the strong-armed chucker struck out five and had one player ground out in the next two innings.

In all Rosebush fanned eight, walked none and allowed six hits. Losing pitcher Jim Coultres struck

out eight, walked one and was tagged for seven hits.

Both pitchers were very impressive in both games. Rosebush never walked a batter in 14 innings of ball and it was the general agreement of most if it had not been for one bad Coultres' pitch — the homer to Nellis — the series could have gone either way.

As it turned out it was the only bad pitch he threw in two games, but a very costly one.

Norwood had opened up with a run in the top of the first inning. With two down Al Reid tripled and was knocked in via a Coultres' single.

Bezanson tied it up in the bottom of the inning. Lawrence Nellis walked, moved to second on a sacrifice and was knocked in by a McLaughlin single.

The Saints took the lead once again in the third frame. Sam Tissington doubled with one out and came home when Norton Bros. third baseman Maxwell fell down fielding a hard-hit Reid drive.

Lawrence Nellis was two for two and Rod McLaughlin two for three for the winners. Coultres went two for three for the Saints.

New faces abound in annual WMFL all-star clash

By DON MOON
of our staff

The site of the game hasn't changed but many of the faces in the two line-ups for tomorrow's fifth annual Wapiti Men's Fastball League All-Star game have.

Again this year, the game — which starts at 7 p.m. — will be held at the home of the CFS Mountainmen, the radar base outside Beaverlodge.

While the site remains the same the players in the two line-ups, the league's "A" and "B" divisions, have changed drastically.

Only 10 of the players that appeared in the 1973 All-Star game will be back again. And seven of those are the "A" division team.

RUBBER MATCH

This year will be a rubber match to determine who's the best in the WMFL. Last year the "B" division won it; in 1972 and 1971 the "A" were winners; and the first year, 1970, the "B" came up with a 3-0 upset.

But, this year it looks like the "A" will be fielding one of its best teams ever.

Returning for the second year in a row will be Dimsdale Bulldogs' Stan Dombrova as the "A" 's first-string third baseman. Again this year Dombrova will be backed up by Dennis Maxwell of Bezanson Norton Bros.

Returning to the "A" outfield again are Denis Prefontaine of the Bulldogs, Ray Lacroix of the Norton Bros. and the Lymburn Aces' Finn Sharkey.

Sharkey and Prefontaine along with Dimsdale's Ray Stokke are all first-string fielders. Lacroix and Len Ames of the Norton Bros. along with Joe Quinn of the York Imperials will be back-up fielders.

ROSEBUSH AGAIN

Norton Bros. pitcher Floyd Rosebush will make another appearance in the All-Star game. This year he's the number one choice after being second last season.

Other selections to the pitching staff include the Bulldogs'

Ray Prefontaine and Ken Gorgichuk of the Norwood Esso Saints.

The remaining "A" returnee is Jack Barton of the Beaverlodge Blues. Last year he was number one utility player. This year Barton will play second fiddle to Sam Tissington of the Saints.

The other "A" all-stars include the Norton Bros. Lawrence Nellis backed up by Ken Bruno as catcher, Wayne Johnson of the Blues at first with Les Nellis of Norton Bros. and Elroy Fredrickson of the Imperials tied for second choice, Monte Kimble of the Bulldogs at second with Barton of the Blues as backup and Rick McLaughlin of Bezanson at shortstop with Curtis Crough of the Saints number two.

Coach of the "A" all-stars will be Harry Nellis of Norton Bros. He will be helped by the Saints' head-man.

A DIVISION

Catchers - Lawrence Nellis, Bez. - 10. Ken Bruno, Dims. - 9. Sam Tissington, Nor. - 4. Sonny Hryniuk, BL - 1.

First base - Wayne Johnson, BL - 13. Elroy Fredrickson, York - 4. Les Nellis, Bez. - 4. Murney Nellis, Dims. - 2. Adrian Zazula, Nor. - 1.

Second base - Monte Kimble, Dims. - 5. Jack Barton, BL 5. Alfie Stephenson, Nor. - 5. Merlin Jenner, Lym. - 3. Don Moon, Park - 2. Lawrence

Robideau, Bez. - 2. Brad Balderston, Lym. - 2.

Shortstop - Rick McLaughlin, Bez. - 11. Curtis Crough, Nor. - 5. Gary Clement, BL - 3. Reg Sallows, Park - 3.

Third base - Stan Dombrova, Dims. - 13. Dennis Maxwell, Bez. 4. Darcy Funk, Lym. 4. Dallas Kyle, BL - 2. Dave Thompson, Nor. - 1.

Fielders - Finn Sharkey, Lym. - 12. Ray Stokke, Dims. - 10. Dennis Prefontaine, Dims. - 10. Ray Lacroix, Bez. - 8. Len Ames, Bez. - 6. Joe Quinn, York - 4. Don Peterson, Park - 3. Merv Dombrova, BL - 3. Murray Gummer, Dims. - 2. Gary Nellis, Dims. - 2. Gerald Campbell, Dims. - 2. Jack Robertson, Lym. - 2. Angus Sutherland, York - 1. Merlin Jenner, Lym. - 1.

Pitchers - Floyd Rosebush, Bez. - 20. Ray Prefontaine, Dims. - 15. Ken Gorgichuk, Nor. - 4. Merv Dombrova, BL - 2. Rob Cunningham, York - 2. Dave Willsey, Park - 1. Merlin Jenner, Lym. - 1. Monte Kimble, Dims. - 1. Bob Veale, York - 1.

Utility players - Sam Tissington, Nor. - 14. Jack Barton, BL - 7. Bob Baun, Nor. - 1. Lou Ryan, Dims. - 1. Doug Cook, BL - 1.

Coach of the year - Harry Nellis, Bez. - 13. Sam Tissington, Nor. - 6. Murney Nellis, Dims. - 2. Orest Pruss, Lym. - 2. Norm Kyle, BL - 1.

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Nellis proves worth in fastball nationals

By DON MOON
of our staff

OSHAWA, Ont. — Former Wapiti Men's Fastball League outfielder Lawrence Nellis — who toiled with the Bezanson Norton Bros. until this year — spent most of the summer proving he was one of the best fastball players in Alberta.

For the past couple of days Nellis has been showing he's one of the best in the country at the Canadian men's senior softball championship which started here on the weekend.

Nellis, who was the top player with the Edmonton Major Fastball League Edmonton Playboys this year and was picked up by the Edmonton Paton Royals for the dominion championship, has been instrumental in both Royal wins to date in the Canadian championship.

Sunday he collected three singles and aided in scoring the winning run in the Royal's

2-1 16-inning win over Prince Edward Island and last night he scored the only run in Edmonton's 1-0 victory over St. Vital, Man. He also had one of the Royal's two hits.

In other action, defending champion Oshawa Tony's defeated Northwest Territories 3-0, Victoria B.C., recorded two wins, defeating Newfoundland 9-4 and Dartmouth, N.S., 2-1, for three wins in three starts.

Kitchener, Ont., also won its third in three starts, beating Charlottetown 3-0; Gatineau, Que., downed Saint John N.B., 8-1; and Saskatchewan defeated Yukon All-Stars 5-1.

Paul Wannamaker of Oshawa tossed the first perfect game of the tournament in his team's win over NWT.

Wannamaker struck out 11 batters and allowed only two balls hit to the outfield as the defending champions got into action for the first time in the

week-long series.

The closest the losers came to putting a man on base came in the top of the seventh when lead-off batter Chuck Nesbitt hit a ground ball. Shortstop Daryl Hudgin bobbled but he recovered in time to retire the batter.

Alex Skakum, pitching for the Northwest Territories, appeared to lose his edge in the sixth inning and his mates committed a pair of errors to allow the host team to score three times.

Alberta 1 Manitoba 0

Edmonton Royals, representing Alberta, capitalized on two miscues by St. Vital, Flocking Gees in the fourth inning to score a 1-0 decision.

Nellis reached second on a two-base error and Tony Roche reached first on a Manitoba miscue. This allowed Nellis to score the only run of the game.

There were five hits in the

contest, three to Manitoba and two to Alberta. Nellis and Myron Fediuck had the Alberta hits, while Barry Braun, Ken Harder and Al Gaboriead had singles for Manitoba.

B.C. 9 Newfoundland 4

Victoria scored a run in the first inning, added two in the third and five more in the fourth making it 8-0 after four.

The B.C. team wrapped it up in the fourth inning as Newfoundland pitcher Ross Crocker walked Randy Benn and gave up a double to Dave Ruthowsky and singles to Carl Walker and Ken Bate. Bob Burrow's second home run of the tournament accounted for the other B.C. run.

Len Bersford hit a two-run triple to highlight a four-run fifth inning as Newfoundland broke a 13-inning shutout string by B.C. pitchers.

B.C. 2 Nova Scotia 1

A high throw in the seventh inning by centre-fielder Don Ross of Dartmouth gave B.C. the win. The throw allowed Randy Benn to score the winning run.

In a game highlighted by a seventh-inning protest, Nova Scotia got a second opportunity to play the inning over again after B.C. had used an ineligible player during a defensive change.

B.C. scored its first run in the second inning when Pete Songhurst singled in Burrows.

Nova Scotia tied the game in the top of the seventh when Ron Clarke singled to score pinch runner Scotty Maxwell, who had earlier stolen second and third base.

Bob Holmes bobbled a blooper in front of Ross and, in an attempt to cut Maxwell off at third, he threw over the screen, allowing Maxwell to score.

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