

# NEW LEVEL NEWS

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## LOOKS WHAT INSIDE NEW LEVEL NEWS

### DATES OF INTEREST

JULY 20-28  
 ELKHART COUNTY 4H FAIR  
 AUGUST 10-11  
 MIDDLEBURY SUMMER FESTIVAL  
 SEPTEMBER 14-15  
 MIDDLEBURY FALL FESTIVAL

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#### FESTIVALS COVERAGE

- MIDDLEBURY SUMMER FESTIVAL
- MIDDLEBURY FALL FESTIVAL
- NAPPANEE APPLE FESTIVAL
- BRISTOL HOMECOMING
- ELKHART COUNTY 4H FAIR
- BREMENS FIREMEN PARADE

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ESSENHAUS CLASSIC CAR CRUISE IN
- HARNESS RACING COVERAGE
- BREAST CANCER AWARENESS EVENTS
- STOCK CAR RACES

#### LINKS OF INTEREST

[www.southbendcubs.com](http://www.southbendcubs.com)

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[www.railcatsbaseball.com](http://www.railcatsbaseball.com)

[www.raceplaymichiana.com](http://www.raceplaymichiana.com)

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[www.tayloru.edu](http://www.tayloru.edu)

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#### NEW LEVEL NEWS OFFERS

- HIGH SCHOOL SCORES
- HIGH SCHOOL STORIES
- COLLEGE SIGNINGS
- COLLEGE NEWS
- MIDWEST LEAGUE BASEBALL
- NEW LEVEL BROADCASTING SCHEDULE

#### HIGH SCHOOL COVERAGE

##### **Taylor Softball Announces Prospect Camp for August 25**

**UPLAND, Ind.** – The Taylor University softball program will host a Prospect Camp at Gudakunst Field on Saturday, August 25, from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. The camp is open to high school students ages 14 through 18.

Cost for the one-day camp is \$65 per individual participant and that cost includes lunch and a shirt for each camper. The camp will focus on skill development for the areas of hitting and fielding, while also offering testing drills for each position and a full scrimmage.

For more information on the camp, please contact head coach Erin Kotlarz via email at [erin\\_kotlarz@taylor.edu](mailto:erin_kotlarz@taylor.edu). Online registration and payment is available for this camp at <http://athletics.taylor.edu/camps>.

The Northern Lakes Conference announces that beginning in the fall of 2020, Mishawaka High School will be joining the NLC. When selecting an eighth member, the NLC considered the following...

- Existing values and vision of the NLC
- Facilities and enrollment
- Display of academic and athletic excellence
- Sports offered at the potential member school
- Geographic location

We look forward to building a long standing relationship with Mishawaka High School that contributes towards our goal of continuing the outstanding academic and athletic reputation of the Northern Lakes Conference.

### Season-high 15 left on base too much to overcome in 7-4 loss to Texas

*Gary concludes their three-game homestand vs. Texas on Wednesday night at 7:10.*

**Gary, Ind.** — A three-run lead after four innings and a season-high-tying eight walks drawn by the Gary offense wasn't enough on Youth and Senior Day, presented by AARP, on Tuesday afternoon at U.S. Steel Yard as the RailCats fell to the Texas AirHogs, 7-4, for the second straight day with 3,798 in attendance. The 'Cats had a baserunner reach in every inning except one, however, stranded a season-high 15 baserunners. Gary has now lost six of their last seven games, five of their last six series and drop below .500 for the first time since May 27th after Tuesday's defeat. After leaving the bases loaded in the bottom of the first and second, Gary (24-25) took a 2-0 lead with a pair of runs in the bottom of the third. Will Savage got the 'Cats on the board with a sacrifice fly to center before Andy De Jesus doubled the Gary lead with a two-out RBI single to center. Andy Paz increased the RailCats lead to three with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the fourth. Colin Willis doubled to right-center to begin the frame before Tillman Pugh moved Willis up to third with a deep lineup to center. Paz then followed with a sacrifice fly to right-center, scoring Willis from third. Texas (14-34) ended Jeff McKenzie's perfect game bid and shutout with a run in the top of the fifth, cutting the Gary lead to 3-1. Dillon Thomas recorded the AirHogs first hit with a leadoff double off the base of the right field wall. Chen Junpeng then advanced Thomas to third with a single to shallow center before Du Xiaolei bounced into a 6-3 double play, bringing home Thomas from third. The AirHogs took their first lead of the afternoon with four runs on six hits in the top of the sixth. Luo Jinjun began the inning with a leadoff single to right before Yawn Jun brought Jinjun around to score all the way from first with an RBI double to right. Song Yunqi followed with an infield single before Stewart Ijames tied the game with an RBI fielder's choice. Two batters later, Thomas gave Texas their first lead with an RBI groundout to De Jesus at shortstop before Xiaolei made it 5-3 with a two-out RBI infield single. The RailCats countered with a run in the bottom of the sixth, reducing the AirHogs lead to one on D.K. Carey's two-out RBI single. Carey reached base in all five of his plate appearances and finished the day 2-for-2 with three runs, three walks and an RBI in his first start of the series. Thomas delivered the final runs of the game with a two-run home run on to the right field concourse in the eighth. The homer was Thomas's team-high eighth of the year and his league-high 34th extra-base hit. Former Colorado Rockies pitcher Tyler Matzek (2-5) recorded the win after allowing three runs on eight hits, four walks and four strikeouts in five innings while Carlos Contreras (5) secured his second save in as many games after retiring three of the four batters he faced in the bottom of the ninth. Jeff McKenzie (2-6) was charged with his sixth straight loss after allowing five runs on eight hits, no walks and a strikeout in seven innings. Gary concludes their three-game homestand vs. Texas on Wednesday night at 7:10 p.m. The RailCats have yet to announce their starter for the series finale while the AirHogs send RHP Gan Quan (0-5, 4.05) to the mound.

Wednesday's game is and is another "Office Wednesday", Pretzel Night, NorthShore Health Centers Wednesday and Wine Wednesday. Fans can sign up for the "Office Wednesdays" Jersey Auction during the game and can also purchase \$2.50 Bavarian Pretzels and \$4 Barefoot Wine and Barefoot Refresh Spritzers.

### Gaff plays his 200th professional game overseas

CANBERRA, Australia — Grace men's basketball legend Eric Gaff hit a personal milestone in his professional career.

Gaff recently played his 200th professional game overseas. The 6-foot-10 center initially played overseas in Norway, but he has found his second home in Australia for the past seven years.

He has been an accomplished player for the North West Tasmania (2011-13), Geelong Supercats (2014-17) and the Canberra Gunners (2018-present).

He was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year in both 2013 and 2014. Additionally he has won four team MVP honors in Australia.

Gaff was a First Team NAIA All-American for the Lancers. He donned the red and white from 2005-09, graduating No. 10 in career points (1,912) and No. 2 in career rebounds (1,204).

During his junior and senior seasons, he helped the Lancers to a pair of Elite Eight runs in the NAIA National Championships

## **Two big innings lead Snappers to 10-3 win over Cubs**

*Miguel Amaya hits 12th home run of the season in loss*

South Bend, IN: Ryan Lawlor escaped a first inning jam with no damage to begin his first ever start at Four Winds Field. After a leadoff double to start the game by Beloit Snappers shortstop Nick Allen, Lawlor recovered to hang a zero. But the shutout bid would only last two innings, as the Snappers did not miss their opportunity the next time.

In a 10-3 win over South Bend to open up their three game series, Beloit used excellent starting pitching from right hander Wyatt Marks, who struck out six batters in six innings. The Snappers kept the Cubs rallies down to a minimum as they scored eight runs in a matter of four innings.

Beloit opened the scoring off of Lawlor with a four run top of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. On five hits and a walk, the Snappers picked up all they needed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to put away South Bend. The real damage was done on a three run double by Jesus Lopez. The score was 4-0 heading to the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

South Bend tried to retaliate but came up short as Zach Davis ripped a RBI single into center field scoring Austin Filiere to cut the lead to 4-1.

The teams would exchange runs again in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning as four more runs for the Snappers in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> made the game 8-1. The Cubs plated two runs in the bottom half of the frame. Austin Upshaw drove in his second RBI since returning to South Bend this season on a RBI sac fly.

Later in the inning, Amaya crushed his 12<sup>th</sup> home run of the year over the left field wall to make it 8-3. Amaya now has pushed his RBI total to 43.

Taking the loss was Lawlor, who finished with five innings and four runs allowed. He struck out two batters in the game. The Cubs used four pitchers on Wednesday night in Lawlor, Mitch Stophel, Garrett Kelly, and Manuel Rodriguez. Kelly was the only South Bend pitcher who did not give up a run.

The Cubs will look to even up the series tomorrow night when they host the Snappers for game two of the three game set. Chicago Cubs 2018 first round pick Nico Hoerner was assigned to South Bend earlier today. He will be available for tomorrow night's game with first pitch at 7:05 p.m.

### Team Effort Leads Oilmen to Important Win at Bloomington

Bloomington, Ill. – July 11, 2018 – Several individuals shared the spotlight on Wednesday night at O’Neal Park, as the Northwest Indiana Oilmen pieced together a critical team win over Bloomington. The Oilmen edged the Bobcats 7-5 in 10 innings, sending the hosts to their third straight extra-inning loss and in the process recorded their first victory in Bloomington this season. The win expanded the Oilmen lead to 2 ½ games over Bloomington for third in the MCL standings. In the game’s early stages, it appeared Northwest Indiana’s season-long struggles in Bloomington would continue as a short-lived 1-0 Oilmen lead was quickly erased when the Bobcats plated four against starting pitcher **Sawyer Allen** (Hillsdale / Fair Oaks, Ind.). The four-run rally featured a go-ahead two-run homer by Garrett Shea, his fourth of the season, all against the Oilmen. After that Allen locked down, as he played a key role in keeping the Oilmen in the game by allowing just the four runs (three earned) on four hits while walking four over six innings. “He bared down for us after a few mistakes early in the game,” Oilmen acting manager Matt Vitulli said. “He settled in and pitched a very good game for us today. He didn’t let the score phase him, he just pitched.” That bought the Oilmen time to slug their way back into the game. **Jake Plastiak** (Wichita State / Tinley Park, Ill.) ripped a home run for the second straight day, a two-run blow in the fifth to make it a 4-3 game. The home run was the 18<sup>th</sup> for the Oilmen this summer – allowing the 2018 Oilmen to establish the franchise record for home runs in a single season. **Nick Figus** (Illinois Wesleyan / Frankfort, Ill.) had his second RBI single of the game in the sixth inning to tie the game at four, then **Nate Montgomery** (Tusculum / Geneva, Ill.) boosted his league lead in home runs to six courtesy of a go-ahead blast in the seventh inning that put NWI on top 5-4. It’s great that a few swings can get us back in the game with our power,” Vitulli said. “We don’t stress ourselves out when we’re down by three or four runs. It’s huge to know we have that ability late in games.” With the Oilmen (19-16) back in front for the first time since the second inning, the first two Bobcats (15-17) reached against Allen to start the seventh. **Connor Spear** (UW Whitewater / Highland, Ind.) was handed a precarious spot as he was summoned from the bullpen with two on and nobody out. Pitching out of the ‘pen for the second straight day, Spear wiggled out of the jam with three straight outs, then went on to heave a scoreless eighth. “Connor was huge today,” Vitulli said. “If he doesn’t get out of that inning, we’re not here talking about a win. He bridged us to Pedro, and that’s exactly what we asked for from him.” Bloomington leveled the score at five with a run in the bottom of the ninth, but **Pedro Rodriguez** (Tusculum / Kissimmee, Fla.) kept the damage to one run and got the game to extras. A beauty of a bunt by **Cory Krolkowski** (Minnesota Duluth / Bartlett, Ill.) led to a throwing error by the Bobcats that scored the go-ahead run in the 10<sup>th</sup>. The Oilmen got one more, then Rodriguez tossed up a goose egg in the bottom of the inning to get the win and improve to 3-1. **Zaid Walker** (Michigan State / Flossmoor, Ill.) continued to crush Bobcat pitching, as he went 4-for-5. Montgomery busted out of a brief slump and finished with three hits. The Oilmen will play a single game on Thursday at 5 p.m. at Hap Bruno Field against the Southland Vikings. The contest will be carried on the Oilmen Broadcasting Network via Facebook Live with Brandon Vickrey and Dan Harty on the call.

### Anthony Named TU’s Male Athlete of the Year

**UPLAND, Ind.** – Caleb Anthony added another major accomplishment to his resume on Wednesday, being named Taylor’s Male Athlete of the Year, as voted on by members of the TU athletics department. The award is designed to recognize TU’s top male student-athlete among freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors based on athletic accomplishments throughout the current year. “Caleb is a tremendous student-athlete who represents the best of what Taylor athletics is all about,” reflected TU men’s track and field assistant coach Lance Vanderberg. “He thrived in the hurdle events this year with multiple All-American performances. It was thrilling to watch him win the NAIA National Championship in the 400-meter hurdles under the guidance of Coach Bowers.” In addition to the national title in the 400-meter hurdles at the outdoor championships, Anthony finished third at the meet in the 110-meter hurdles and took fourth at the indoor championships in the 60-meter hurdles to earn NAIA All-American honors in all three events. Prior to racing to the All-American awards in the 60, 110 and 400-meter hurdles, Anthony won those races at the Crossroads League Championships to help the Trojans to a second-place team showing at the CL Indoor Championships and a fourth-place finish at the CL Outdoor Championships. Anthony and the Trojans finished 21st and 20th in the team standings at the NAIA National Championships.

Anthony was a three-time Crossroads League Track Athlete of the Week, helped set the program’s new 4x100-meter relay record and posted top-three times on TU’s all-time charts in the 110 and 400-meter hurdles.