

Tuesday, April 05, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

It is so wonderful to be back. I want to thank Alex and Ray for asking me back and I shall try to be worthy of the assignment.

I suppose it cliché to make pre-season predictions especially since I haven't be out much. I have been spending a lot of time bailing out basement after that rain storm we had last weekend. As I really haven't had the chance to see many teams, I have decided to use my knowledge of last year's season and entertain you with the "Las Vegas" odds on teams to win their division. Before I do, I want to say; Remember Pete Rose AND NEVER BET ON BASEBALL!

The season kicks off this week and I expect to see a few tight races. Here a few to watch;

Seniors: By the web site it looks like the teams are the same as last year. I see that the Magnolia Team has a name this year. The "Vandals". I wonder if that's Latin for last place? We'll see. The question is; will Gloucester City 1 repeat? I don't think so, but never say never ... Runnemede will be tough as always, Clementon can never be counted out. Remember that late run for the playoffs last year? Here's are the odds:

Glendora	3 to 2
Runnemede	8 to 5
Gloucester 1	2 to 1
Clementon	4 to 1
Gloucester 2	4 to 1
Magnolia	8 to 1

Juniors - East. There have been a few interesting re-alignments in the divisions. I see that Berlin Township added another to the East

and Runnemedede has moved over from the West. That's going to make for an interesting three way race. The Twp teams are always fun to watch and Clementon may surprise everyone. In the end, I think the Boro Babes are going to take the crown.

Berlin Boro Babes	3 to 2
Runnemedede	3 to 2
Waterford	2 to 1
Berlin Twp 2	5 to 1
Berlin Twp 1	5 to 1
Clementon	8 to 1

Juniors - West. Glendora is with out a doubt the odds on favorite, but I have always liked St. Jude's and I think this realignment has definitely given them a shot at a title. Somerdale is a new entry and an unknown. This is Lindenwold's first entry in to the Juniors and they are also an unknown, but I'd bet they're young. Sewell is the wild card in the deck. They were young last year at 3-10-1, but should be a good second year team. Let's go with -

Glendora	5 to 4
St. Judes	2 to 1
Sewell	2 to 1
Lindenwold	3 to 1
Somerdale	8 to 1

Majors - East. Everything is completely different in this league. I see there are no longer a North and South and they've added a third division. Well, let see... My guess is that the Champion will have a "Berlin" in its name... Twp usually puts out a respectable product as does Waterford. Here are my picks:

Berlin Boro 2	9 to 5
Berlin Boro 1	9 to 5
Waterford	2 to 1
Berlin Twp 2	5 to 1
Berlin Twp 1	5 to 1

Majors – Central. Again, I bet the Champ is named “Gloucester”. I assume Lindenwold is stacked with former minors’ girls. Somerdale is a new club and a complete unknown. If Twp 2 has stayed together, they are my favorite. If not, then I believe Lindwold will surprise the field.

Gloucester Twp 2	9 to 5
Lindenwold	9 to 5
Gloucester Twp 1	2 to 1
Somerdale	3 to 1
Gloucester Twp 3	5 to 1

Majors – West. Runnemedede 2 played Runnemedede 1 last night and Runnemedede 2 got the better of the contest. Unfortunately, I really do not see much beyond this inter-town rivalry. I have to admit Oaklyn has a great softball program and never ceases to amaze me. I fear that Magnolia and Sewell are going to feel the brunt of this division. I do believe that the only sure thing as I see it, is that the Major League Champion will come out of the West. How’s that for bold?

Runnemedede 2	9 to 5
Runnemedede 1	2 to 1
Oaklyn	4 to 1
Sewell	8 to 1
Magnolia	10 to 1

Minors – East. A lot of new faces in the East this year. It is a very difficult call because a lot of the girls are coming up from the rookie league and this will be their first look at competitive ball. Minors are tough, so I am going to wimp out and make my odds tight with Berlin Twp atop the field.

Berlin Twp	9 to 5
Berlin Boro 2	2 to 1
Berlin Boro 1	2 to 1

Waterford 1	2 to 1
Waterford 2	3 to 1
Clementon	3 to 1

Minors – West. Both Runnemedede teams were added to the West this year and I see it as a good thing. It will keep Oaklyn from running away with it. They are still a strong club and the favorite to take the West pennant, but Runnemedede never makes anything easy and there just happen to be two Runnemedede teams. Gloucester Twp is always a threat to pull away. Sewell and Magnolia are, well, Sewell and Magnolia. Both teams are very young. By the look of the current results, they managed a close game against one another last night with Magnolia winning 6 to 5.

Oaklyn	9 to 5
Runnemedede 1	2 to 1
Runnemedede 2	2 to 1
Gloucester Twp	4 to 1
Sewell	8 to 1
Magnolia	8 to 1

Well, that's all for now. See you next week sports fans!

-- Jane Doe

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

We are almost at the end of the second week of play and I am having fun watch the teams. There are a lot of good games being played so far. I have decided that I'll leave my early season predictions in the column so you can see how right (or wrong) I was.

Seniors: The senior schedule is now published and I am looking forward to the season. I normally wouldn't comment until it started but I was surfing around the website and found an interesting entry in the "COAHCES CORNER." Evidentially, I have offended a Magnolia Seniors coach with the comments in my last column. And I guess Magnolia's 3-8 record last year didn't fit her definition of offensive?! Anyway, as I know the manager of the Magnolia squad, I can only suspect it's one of his coaches. Probably that little piece of "Dugout Candy" he keeps in the dugout, I don't know, but I am sorry if I offended you. I calls them as I sees them. AND ... my pony tail is right here if you'd like to try, babe.

Juniors - East. The Boro Babes are leading the pack and posting impressive victories thus far. I expect a good game Friday as Runnemedede is playing the Babes at home. I'll definitely be there to see that one. The Twp's and Waterford are right there and all three are playing good ball. Clementon is off to a slow start, but you can't count them out...it's early.

Berlin Boro Babes	3 to 2
Runnemedede	3 to 2
Waterford	2 to 1
Berlin Twp 2	5 to 1
Berlin Twp 1	5 to 1
Clementon	8 to 1

Juniors – West. Sewell is off to hot start, beating every team they have faced and posting huge margins as they're doing it. For some reason unknown to me, Glendora has only managed to play one game in two weeks. So, it's tough to know if Sewell's dominance will hold. Right now, watch Somerdale, I have a feeling.

Glendora	5 to 4
St. Judes	2 to 1
Sewell	2 to 1
Lindenwold	3 to 1
Somerdale	8 to 1

Majors – East. I looked at the web and only two games have been played? Nothing to comment on here other than a Boro team is sitting on top for now.

Berlin Boro 2	9 to 5
Berlin Boro 1	9 to 5
Waterford	2 to 1
Berlin Twp 2	5 to 1
Berlin Twp 1	5 to 1

Majors – Central. A few good games here, but it seems like everyone is tying each other. Twp 2 is a top for now, but it's anybody's division.

Gloucester Twp 2	9 to 5
Lindenwold	9 to 5
Gloucester Twp 1	2 to 1
Somerdale	3 to 1
Gloucester Twp 3	5 to 1

Majors – West. Well, the Runnemedede teams seem to be breaking out of the pack. Oaklyn suffered a hard loss this week to Runnemedede 2 and with that the chances of three horse race seem pretty dim. I am not counting out Oaklyn, but it's going to be a tough row to hoe.

Runnemedede 2	9 to 5
Runnemedede 1	2 to 1
Oaklyn	4 to 1
Sewell	8 to 1
Magnolia	10 to 1

Minors – East. Berlin, as predicted is out to an early lead, but have only played one game? What is going on with the schedule? Boro 1 and Boro 2 both had a pretty good couple of weeks and are right there in the thick of it. Waterford 1 is the surprise pick. Hanging with the division leaders and, looking at the schedule, will find out if they are the front runners of the division.

Berlin Twp	9 to 5
Berlin Boro 2	2 to 1
Berlin Boro 1	2 to 1
Waterford 1	2 to 1
Waterford 2	3 to 1
Clementon	3 to 1

Minors – West. Gloucester Township and Runnemedede 1 both have had a strong start, but it's still far to early to tell in this division.

Oaklyn	9 to 5
Runnemedede 1	2 to 1
Runnemedede 2	2 to 1
Gloucester Twp	4 to 1
Sewell	8 to 1
Magnolia	8 to 1

Well, that's all for now. See you next week sports fans!

Jane Doe

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Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

The opening season tournament was another smashing success. The League put on a fine show and I saw some great softball. The girls played their hearts out ... too bad there can only be one champion. By the way, I didn't see my buddy Ray at the tournament? I hope my comments didn't offend ... J I guess if this makes it on the web, I am ok...

Seniors: Just a few shopping days left until the start of the season. I have heard absolutely nothing about the teams so I am sticking with my picks:

Glendora	3 to 2
Runnemede	8 to 5
Gloucester 1	2 to 1
Clementon	4 to 1
Gloucester 2	4 to 1
Magnolia	8 to 1

Juniors - East. With a third of the season in the rear view mirror, the Babes have run the table so far and outscoring their opponents a little less than two and a half to one. Impressive! Runnemede and Twp 2 are playing about even with Waterford at the five hundred mark. Whew! I see Twp 2 laid a can of whoop-@\$ on the bottoms of Twp 1! Beat them by a couple touchdowns and couple of field goals! Are they allowed to do that? Whew! I gotta be there for that re-match! Anyway, remember there is a full two-thirds of a season to play and anything can happen.

Juniors - West. Well, my feeling about Somerdale is still there, but a two dog race is shaping up. Sewell and Glendora are playing about even and I can't imagine either of these teams slowing down for

a minute. I do see that an injury stopped the game between Sewell and Glendora last night. I am interested to learn more about that. I gotta say that I am shocked that Lindenwold hasn't managed a win yet. Hopefully they can make a few adjustments and get back into this thing.

Majors - East. Ok, so I thought both Boro teams were going to rule this division. What can you say? 5 and 0, three games up ... Looks like Boro 1 is running away with it. But just hold the phone a minute. There are quite a few scores missing. I'll keep an eye on it for you, but I wouldn't expect it to change much. I've seen this team in action!

Majors - Central. Really too early to tell anything. Gloucester Twp 1 and Twp 2 seem to be in an even heat. Fours weeks into the season and Twp 3 has managed only one game? I don't understand that!

Majors - West. Again, Oaklyn shuts me up and makes me look like the amateur I am. Not only do they have a share of the Division lead, but they managed to get by Runnemedede 1 for a second time. I wouldn't have thought that a week and a half ago. Runnemedede 2 is still my favorite. It's an explosive team that will score runs and shut an opponent's offense right down. What can you do with a team that has outscored their opponents three to one? Nothing.

Minors - East. Twp is still playing great softball and still has yet to taste defeat. With a scoring ratio of almost 5 to 1, I can't see them losing. The real dog fight is the four teams fighting for the remaining two playoff spots. Are we taking playoffs already? Stay tuned, that will a fun contest to watch.

Minors - West. With half the season remaining, Gloucester Township is running the roost in the West. The Runnemedede teams are holding their own with Sewell right there in the thick of it.

Well, that's all for now. See you next week sports fans!

Jane Doe

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Wednesday, May 7, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

With the season is in the clubhouse turn and heading for the home stretch, there are still a few great races being run and a lot of softball to play.

Seniors: The season opens up this Sunday with the Glendora Pink Lady's visiting the rival Magnolia Vandals in Magnolia. I am told that these two teams have played a few pre-season contests that were close, but I didn't get a score. Even though it is Mother's Day, I am going to try to make to that one and get my first look at these two teams. Like Coach Ray always says - "Nothing says "I love you Mom" like a double down the left field line with the bases loaded."

Juniors - East: The Babes still hold a slight advantage over the Runnemedede girls but when you add Twp 2 into the mix, the three horse race is on. The big game is tonight at Luke Ave. If Twp 2 can manage a victory, they could send a big message. After tonight, the Babes, Runnemedede and Twp 2 all have to play each other one more time so, fasten your seat belts, it's gonna be a bumpy ride.

Juniors - West. Sewell is still the front runner in this division. The Heat remains a question mark as suspended play and postponements have left the race a bit muddied. I suspect that by the middle of next week, the race will have a little more shape to it and I suspect to find Sewell and the Heat right in the middle of it.

Majors - East. Looks like a few more scores were reported but the song remains the same; Boro 1 still undefeated. I've watched this club play. These girls don't pound other teams; they just simply get the job done.

Majors - Central. Looks like everyone is waiting to play GT3! It's been almost six weeks since the start of the season and they have only managed to play two games? Still, it looks like GT1 and GT2 have what it takes make the playoffs, so I think I am safe with that prediction. The wild card here is GT3 ... who knows?

Majors - West. To the West ...! My favorite division. Runnemed 2 is two games up with three to play. They are playing better ball now then they have all season. Looks like a lock to me. I suspect they will run the table and finish with an impressive 11-1 record. The battle for second is where the fun is. By the time Runn1 and Oaklyn meet during the last week of the season, second place will still be up for grabs and that game will be a preview of the first playoff round.

Minors - East. Three games up with four to play. Looks to me like Twp is running away with it and I suspect they are focusing on capturing that elusive "undefeated" season. The dog fight for second place has Boro2 with the slight advantage. Watch Waterford2. They are my pick for a playoff spot. Stay tuned.

Minors - West. At 7 - 1, Gloucester Twp has a solid grip on the division lead. Runnemed teams are right there in the thick of it with Sewell my favorite for the second position. The battle for the third spot should be won by the Runn2 team, but down the stretch, it's about who wants it more...

Well, that's all for now. See you next week sports fans!

Jane Doe

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Wednesday, May 7, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

The playoff race is heating up and there a few good tight races left.

Seniors: The Glendora girls are out of the gate as fast as ever. Two games down and they seem to be posting some convincing scores. The GC pair are right where they need to be to start the season and I expect a good inter-town rivalry to heat up later. Both Runnemedede and Magnolia fell victim to Glendora, but I expect they'll regain their footing and get back into it. I did manage to check out the Magnolia GC1 game last week and Magnolia is going to have to overcome what looks to be substantial pitching issues if they expect to make a go of it.

Juniors - East: This is the first time I've ever seen it, but the second place team has clinched a playoff spot before the first place team. Runnemedede has come on strong the past week or so and won a major victory over Boro. I have no doubt the Babes will be in playoffs, but who will win the division? I think that Runnemedede tie is going to play ... big. As for the third spot, I still like Twp2.

Juniors - West: Sewell is well ahead of the pack and I am sure Glendora is going be scrambling to make up six games in 14 days. If the do and don't take a series of forfeits, I think we'll see them in the playoffs. I think six wins gets you into the playoffs and Somerdale should be able to pull that off.

Majors - East. Boro 1 locked up a playoff spot. No surprise there. The second and third positions are just a mystery. We'll have to wait and see ...

Majors - Central. Lot of fun here. It was a GT sweep in to the playoffs. All three teams have cleared the hurdle. Now...who will win the bye? In my mind only two remain in the race. GT3 and GT2. What's fun about this is they play each other the last day of the season. If it goes as I think it will, on the 19th, they'll face-off - GT2 will be 9-1-1. GT3 will be 9-2-0. Oh, I will be there for that one!

Majors - West. Little bit of yawn these days...until the playoffs start. I suspect Runn1 will be playing Oaklyn. But one never knows ... big game Monday when Runnemedede 1 plays Sewell in Runnemedede. If Sewell can find a way to win that, they might be able to stage the surprise comeback of the year. Still look for Oaklyn V Runn1 in the first round. Oaklyn has beaten Runn1 twice in the regular season, but only by a single run each time. Next week they place for the third time. For either team, it's a perfect opportunity to send a message.

Minors - East. Twp earned the first of the playoff spots and I expect the East crown. As for the remaining two slots; there is still a lot of softball to be played and it's still anybody's race. I like Waterford 2 for the third slot coming in just behind Boro2.

Minors - West. Oh mama...what a difference a week makes. Three losses and a tie later and now we have an all out race for the division lead. GT has a week to get themselves back on track. They finish out the season in Magnolia which shouldn't be a problem and with that give them the division title but; 1) the last time they saw a "W" was April 26th and 2) Magnolia loves to play the role of the spoiler. Now, if Oaklyn gets by Runn2 next week we'll have us a good three way race for the remaining two spots. I think Oaklyn can run the table. If they do so, they will win the second seed with a 7-4 record. This will leave the third spot open for discussion on the 24th when Sewell plays Runn2. I am marking my calendar that day as well!

Well, that's all for now. See you next week sports fans!

Jane Doe

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Friday, May 20, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

There's a little more than a week to go in the 2005 spring season and the playoff picture for many is still up in the air. Let's see if we can sort it out ...

Seniors: This season is off to a good start and everyone is where I think should be; Glendora leading the way, with Runnemedede and GC1 right on their tail. I don't expect this to change much, but I'd hate to call it a three dog race so early in the season.

Juniors - East: Runnemedede and the Babes have both clinched a playoff spot leaving Twp2 and Waterford to battle it out for the third. Going into the final week Twp2 has the slight advantage. I say this, not knowing the result of Twp2's Monday game against Boro or a game played last week involving Twp1. All of this speculation could be mute, if Twp1 has more "W's" than the standing report.

Juniors - West: The only true race is here. Somerdale is sitting precariously atop the division at the moment. I say that knowing that the Heat has a big lead in a game against Lindenwold that was suspended due to light. In my mind, they lead the division. Tonight, if it goes off, the Extreme will play Lindenwold which would have the lead all knotted up going into the final week.

Unfortunately, they don't face each other, but their fate is in their own hands with St. Judes playing the spoiler. Sewell and St Judes? Whew so tough, there are so many ways this can play out ... so, fasten your seat belts ...it's going to be a bumpy third period!

Majors - East. Boro 1 is the division champ, fine. Who's in second? Boro 2 looks like a safe bet. Third? I dunno....

Majors - Central. This race is all over. GT3, when they finally played, ... played! GT2 was a steady second and GT 1 a solid third. For those that want to rub it in; my picks for this division were:

Gloucester Twp 2	9 to 5
Lindenwold	9 to 5
Gloucester Twp 1	2 to 1
Somerdale	3 to 1
Gloucester Twp 3	5 to 1

So, I'd have been out major cash on this one. But since you asked, I think Twp 2 will win out over Twpl, but will not best Twp 3 in the Series.

Majors - West. Tuesday at Oaklyn ... be there ...! Barring a major blow up by either team, this will be the battle for home field. If Runnemedede can win it, it will come down to runs scored and we'll be waiting until the very last game to find out. As for the playoffs ... Runnemedede 2 has got to be the heavy favorite.

Minors - East. Twp has the crown as expected and we have yet another race for home field and the second place. Well sort of. Looking at the remaining schedule, it will only be a race if Boro 2 wants it to be a race. They need one win to sew it up and Clementon should be that win. Waterford 2 and Boro 2 have one remaining game against Twp. Good time to send a message.

Minors - West. My favorite race. I haven't seen such a late season swoon since the '64 Phillies. Gloucester Twp has absolutely come un-hinged in the second half of the season. After finishing the first half 6-0, they have managed a feeble 1-3-1 record since May. And let me tell you, that one "T" is huge. If they can manage a win against hapless Magnolia, they will be the champs of the division. I think that is money in the bank. The game to watch is Tuesday in Sewell. The winner of that game has second place and home field

advantage. One caveat; Runnemedede must win it. A tie does them no ogood.

Well, that's all for now. Alex asked me to do a playoff analysis, so look for that after Memorial Day. See you next week sports fans!

Jane Doe

[Click here for the last installment](#)

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

June at last! The scent of summer is in the air and mingling well with aroma of playoff softball. Let's take a peek at some of the contests.

Juniors – East; Runnemedede and Boro Babes will start their three game series tonight in Boro. They played each other twice and the season series was a 1-1 standoff. Runnemedede has the better pitching, but the bats belong to the Babes. Just as “Paper” beats “Rock”, pitching beats hitting. I do expect this one to go three with Runnemedede making the trip to the World Series. Incidentally, I believe that the junior champion will come out of this series.

Juniors – West: The Extreme and the Heat face off for the right to represent the West at the big show. The season series went 2-1 in favor of the Extreme, but will that mean anything to the Heat. I don't think so. The odds favor the Extreme, but the Heat has been here before and knows how to win the big games. I am going with Glendora in three.

Majors – East. Boro 2 faces off in a one game elimination, as does all of the Division Majors, against its cross-town rival Boro 1. Boro 2 is the underdog here having not managed a win in three tries against Boro 1. All the games were close (two were decided by one run), but Boro 1 will not be denied their perfect season.

Majors – Central. Twp 3 verses Twp 2...should be a real barn burner. Twp 3 won the season series 2-1, but each of these games was decided by just one run. I am giving the nod to Twp3. In the end, I think they'll just simply find a way to win.

Majors – West. I have said before that the Majors champion will come out of this Division and I am sticking by it. The pitching is just too good. Whether they can produce in a three game set is something that will need to be proven. But we'll know that soon enough. Runnemed 1 has earned the right to play Runnemed 2 by crushing Oaklyn last night. 2 has the season series over 1 beating their rivals 2-1. However that loss was way back in the beginning of April. These two always play each other tough, but (and I hate to say it) it all comes down to pitching and, if 2 has their ace on the mound, will move on to the League Championship series.

Minors – East. Berlin Twp will start its three game Division series against Boro 2 night and I expect a sweep. Twp is playing excellent ball, posted an average margin of victory of almost 8 runs, three shutouts on the season, and is playing for a perfect season. Twp in two. Book it.

Minors – West. This could be my only upset. Runnemed 2 will win this series in three! Both teams are 3-2-1 in the second half. Gtwp got out of the gate fast, but has had some trouble of late. Gtwp has the season series two games to none and both have been won by comfortable margins. So why Runnemed? Just call it my woman's intuition....

Well, that's all for now. See you in a couple of days sports fans!

Jane Doe

[Click here for the last installment](#)

Monday, June 6, 2005

Dear Sports Fans,

The games last week were terrific and the World Series match ups look like they are going to provide a wonderful finish iot the 2005 season.

Juniors – The Glendora Heat will face off against the Babes of Berlin Boro. Both teams are playing excellent ball. Glendora beat Somerdale in three as I knew they would. The Babes fed me 4 and 20 blackbirds baked in some humble pie over the weekend by dispatching Runnemedede in three. I didn't think they had it in them, but they did. Last year they got this far at this only to go home with empty pockets. With the win over Runnemedede, I can only conclude that the Babes are bent on redemption and that's why they'll win the series in three.

Majors – Boro 1 managed to get by Boro 2 in fine fashion and will await the victor tonight. Runnemedede will host Gloucester Township 3 tonight in Runnemedede. Who is going to take this game and win the invitation to the Series? I see Runnemedede coming out of this the winner, but I really do not think it's going to be easy. Gloucester Twp has a way a hanging with teams that are a little better than they are. If they can stay close, they may just be able to pull off an upset. The key to a Runnemedede victory will be pitching. If their ace has a good game and keeps the walks down to a minimum, they will be unstoppable.

Here's a little supplement to the column; Tuesday, June 7, 2005

I attended the game last between Runnemedede and Gloucester Township. I really didn't think they'd get it in. The game was terrific and one the best I've seen all year. The Gloucester Township defense was aggressive and almost dared the Runnemedede bats to

challenge them. Twp held the lead for 4 innings, but in true come from behind style managed to rally with 4 un-answered runs over the remaining two. When Runnemedede went to their Big right hander, the Twp offense hadn't a chance. She took the ticket to the dance right out of hands of Twp. With that, I think there is no stopping Runnemedede. They are in Boro tomorrow and I am going to be there for game one. The winner of game one will win the series.

Minors - Berlin Township defeated Boro to continue its quest for a perfect season. I called Runnemedede over Gloucester Township, but I think the nickel has run out of the Runnemedede Magic Machine. I believe Boro will round out its perfect season and put Runnemedede away in two.

Well, that's all for now. See you in a couple of days sports fans!

Jane Doe

[Click here for the last installment](#)