

R. D. Wood Dominates Co. Ball 1923 to 1938

WON CROWN ELEVEN TIMES DURING 15 YRS., SUCCEEDING SELVES FOUR TIMES

Only Club To Win 3 Straight Years

By Russ Hoffman
Since the inception of the Burlington County League back in 1898, no one club dominated the championship series such as the R. D. Wood club of Florence. Eleven times during the years from 1923 to 1938, the "pipemakers" finished on top. On four occasions they succeeded themselves as champions, and once, for the only time in the league's history, during the seasons of 1926-27-28, they copped the coveted laurels.

From 1904, when they won their first championship, to 1938 when they won their last flag, the Florence club finished on top for the county laurels on 15 occasions. No other county town is within reach of this mark, Riverside being the closest, having won on ten occasions, and these were from 1900, when they first became a member of the circuit, to 1947, being the defending champions.

In 1921, Riverside became the first club to win both seasons halves, while the feat was duplicated the very next year by Beverly, when that town won their last title. R. D. Wood duplicated Riverside's and Beverly's feat in 1933, and came right back in '34 to do it again, for the first time any club had accomplished this honor.

Winning both halves for two successive years is quite a feat for any club, but when you consider the fact that that same club lost but single games each year, the feat is all the more staggering. During the second half of the '33 race, they failed to lose a single game, and in the first half of the '34 season, they duplicated this, without a loss, making a complete season's schedule over a two-year period without defeat. We doubt if this will ever be accomplished again.

Their last championship year, 1938, the pennant was won on one of the most dramatic occasions, "Jumbo" Elliott's grand slam home run pulled the game out of the fire against their arch rival, Medford, in the latest series ever played. It was this same Medford club back in '29 that broke their three-year championship reign, and Medford did it by winning both halves. Today, the Shaughnessy system is used to determine the champions.

Baker's Iron Man Feat

On June 9, 1900, the first time that Riverside and White Hill met in a county league game, they were forced to play a doubleheader as the first scheduled game had been rained out, late in May.

Riverside won the first game, 18 to 1, mainly on the three-hit pitching of Harry Baker. The twirler also managed to knock two home runs that game. When the hurler scheduled to take the mound in the nightcap failed to show up, Baker was forced to ascend the peak in that game also.

White Hill by that time was rarin' to go as they belted Baker all over the lot, and whipped him, 11 to 8. Thirty-eight runs had crossed the plate in the two games, with Baker hitting a homer in the second game also.

In a double header played on June 8, 1942, at Riverton, between the Florence R. D. Wood team and Riverton, Riverton swamped R. D. Wood in the first game by a 16 to 1 score, while R. D. Wood reciprocated in the nightcap by trouncing Riverton, 18 to 1.

Riverside Captures 1921 Championship

When Riverside defeated Burlington at Burlington on Labor Day afternoon, September 6, by a 4 to 2 count, the win gave them the 1921 championship without the necessity of a series as for the first time in the history of the league, one club won both first and second half races.

It was George Van Brunt's pitching, and a triple by "Paddy" Reynolds with two mates on board in the sixth, that enabled Riverside to sew up the second half and the championship.

Ironically, it was the Burlington club that Riverside nosed out for the first half honors by a 2 to 1 win on July 4, and again on Labor Day when Burlington was nosed out to finish runner-up both halves.

Riverside pounded across the first run in the second frame when Cy Young doubled to right, stole third, and scored when Sholl miscued on Himes' grounder.

In the third, Riverside added another on singles by Sliver Hughes, Jake Gotta and a safe blow by Jake Schele, who was the club's leading hitter that year. Schele's double was wasted in the seventh when Holzmann tried to score from first and was retired by a perfect throw by left fielder Ray.

Van Brunt pitched a superb ball and allowed Burlington but a single blow until Moore doubled in the eighth which was followed by another blow by Ryan to push Moore across and Jim Cantwell doubled Ryan home, to finish Burlington's threat.

In the sixth, the game was put on ice when Riverside tallied twice. Young started the inning off with a single to center, Himes followed with a safe blow to right and Theurer fied out to Sholl at first. Here the veteran Paddy Reynolds stepped to the rubber and on the first ball pitched by Everham uncorked a triple along the right field foul line to score Young and Himes with the winning runs.

Riverside wound up the first half with a log of 11 wins and four losses, while during the second half they won 13 and dropped two, for the first time in the league's history that a team captured both first and second halves.

| Riverside | | | | | Beverly | | | | | Burlington | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|---|----|----|---------|----------------|----|---|----|------------|---|-------------|----|---|---|----|----|
| ABR | H | O | A | E | ABR | H | O | A | E | ABR | H | O | A | E | | | |
| Gotta, lf | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Gotch, lf | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Fox, ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Holzmann, ss | 5 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | Heislser, 3b | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | Reed, 2b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Schele, 2b | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | Schoskey, ss | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | Sholl, 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Young, rf | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Holmes, rf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Rhoda, 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Himes, 1b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 0 | Graziano, 1b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | Everham, p | 4 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Theurer, cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Turano, 2b | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Ray, lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Reynolds, c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | Lippincott, cf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Moore, cf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Hughes, 3b | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | Cantwell, c | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 4 | Ryan, rf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Van Brunt, p | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | Vant Brunt, p | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | Cantwell, c | 3 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| Totals | 37 | 4 | 10 | 27 | 12 | Totals | 34 | 5 | 12 | 27 | 8 | Totals | 31 | 2 | 4 | 27 | 11 |

Riverside 011 002 000-4
Burlington 000 000 020-2

Runs batted in: Schele, Reynolds, 2; Ryan and Cantwell.
Two-base hits: Schele, Young and Cantwell.

Three-base hits: Reynolds.
Struck out, by: Van Brunt, 5; Everham, 4.

Bases on balls: Van Brunt, 3; Everham, 3.
(Riverside Pr., 9/9/21, pp 12, col. 2)

By Winning Both Halves, Beverly Takes 1922 Flag

By copping both halves of the season's race in 1922, Beverly won their fourth and last championship of the Burlington County league, when, on September 9th, they defeated the Delanco club by a 5 to 3 score at Beverly.

They had previously captured the first half race and needed but a single victory before the game began to assure them of the second semester honors. The reliable George Van Brunt was given the assignment of the pennant clincher, and he came through with flying colors by scattering eight hits and setting down 13 of the enemy via the strikeout route. He walked but a single batter.

After giving up his only pass to Stickel to start the game, Van Brunt was in no further trouble after he picked Stickel off first before the next batter was retired.

Stan Gotch started Beverly off in the first frame when he belted a home run when he hit deep into right field.

In the second, Delanco got to Brunt for two runs when Deighan was hit by a pitched ball. Alsip fanned but Ed Banks hit to center and both runners advanced on a double steal. Hartman fanned, but Rossell hit safely into center to score both runners. Rossell was out attempting to steal.

Win Game In Fifth

The champs put the game on ice in the fifth when they tallied a trio of runs when Schoskey singled past third, Chick Holmes planted a single in center and Graziano on an attempted squeeze beat it safely to first with all hands being safe and the bases loaded. Turano forced Schoskey at the plate and Lippincott fanned. When Cantwell hit to Hartman he could not handle it in time to retire the runner at first, but his throw to second landed in left field and both Holmes and Graziano scored on the miscue. Epstine then balked and Turano was waived home.

Delanco scored their last run in the seventh on hits by Banks and Rossell with a sacrifice by Hartman sandwiched in.

| Beverly | | | | | Delanco | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|---|----|----|---------|-------------|----|---|---|----|----|
| ABR | H | O | A | E | ABR | H | O | A | E | | |
| Gotch, lf | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Stickel, cf | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Heislser, 3b | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | Horn, 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 |
| Schoskey, ss | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | Shippis, lf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Holmes, rf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Deighan, 1b | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Graziano, 1b | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | Alsip, rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Turano, 2b | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Banks, c | 4 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Lippincott, cf | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Hartman, ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Cantwell, c | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 4 | Rossell, 3b | 3 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Vant Brunt, p | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | Epstine, p | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Totals | 34 | 5 | 12 | 27 | 8 | Totals | 28 | 3 | 8 | 24 | 12 |

Delanco 020 000 100-3
Beverly 100 130 00x-5

Runs batted in: Gotch, 2; Cantwell; Rossell, 3.
Home run: Gotch.

Struck out, by: Van Brunt, 13; Epstine, 3.
Bases on balls: Van Brunt, 1; Epstine, 4.
(Bev. Banner, 9/14/22, pp 2, col. 3)

R. D. WOOD REPEATS IN 1924 BY DEFEATING MT. HOLLY, 4-2

Everham Pitches And Bats R. D. Wood To 1923 Championship

By defeating the Roebbling club 4-0 on Saturday afternoon, October 6, 1923, the R. D. Wood team of Florence once again became champions of the Burlington County league. It marked the second straight victory for the "pipe makers," having defeated Roebbling, 6-1, in the first game at Roebbling.

This started a new era for the R. D. Wood club when they captured this flag, for they went on to cop the title ten times during the next fifteen years. Medford took the title three of the five remaining years while Delanco and Roebbling were the only other winners until 1939.

More than 3,000 fans saw Bill Everham pitch his second straight win of the series. In this game he not only pitched the win but batted in three of the four runs.

Fastest Series Game

Florence started off in the very first inning when Ruby Gilbert singled and Fox and Peacock reached base on errors by Hulme. Neither Foulks nor Rhoda could deliver but Everham was equal to the occasion when he singled Gilbert and Fox home.

In the third inning, Peacock strolled to first on a pass and Jess Foulks singled to left to put Charlie on third. John Rhoda's bingle to center admitted Peacock, while Everham very calmly belted a double to center to chase Foulks across, to wind up the scoring for the day.

This game was the fastest game played in the championship series that to date has ever been played. It took just one hour and sixteen minutes to complete the game.

Top Notch Season.

Roebbling at no time were in scoring position during the entire game, and the only batter to give Everham any trouble was Algie, the Roebbling backstop, who later became a team mate of lanky Bill's.

This was the silver anniversary season of the county circuit, and from the standpoint of attendance, was one of the most outstanding the organization had ever enjoyed. Crowds of two and three thousand to a game was very commonplace.

| R. D. Wood | | | | | Roebbling | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|-----------|------------------|---|---|---|----|---|
| ABR | H | O | A | E | ABR | H | O | A | E | | |
| Gilbert, rf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Walsh, rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Fox, 2b | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | Hulme, ss | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Peacock, lf | 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | McConnell, 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| Foulks, 1b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Kay, cf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rhoda, 3b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | Kay, lf | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Everham, p | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | Heimbacher, 1b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| McGrath, cf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Frankenfield, 3b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Frappolli, ss | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | Algie, c | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| Doyle, c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 2 | Swartz, p | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 34 | 4 | 6 | 27 | 12 | Black, p | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Roebling 000 000 000-0
Florence 202 000 00x-4

Runs batted in: Rhoda, Everham, 3.
Two-base hit: Everham.

Sacrifice hit: Earl.
Struck out, by: Everham, 7; Swartz, 2; Black, 4.
Bases on balls: Everham, 1; Swartz, 1; Black, 1.
Umpires: Aron, Zane and Clifford.
(Bor. Register, 10/11/23, pp. 8, cl. 5)

Win Second Half Tie And Pennant

Racing through all opposition in the first half of the 1924 season, Mount Holly was subdued by R. D. Wood, second half titlist, for the championship in the play-off series, two games to one.

The Florence club however, had to defeat Bordentown who had tied them for second half honors before they met the county seaters in the final series.

Bordentown fell before the champions when Bill Everham hurled a two-hit shut-out win by a 2-0 score.

Florence jumped into the series lead when they defeated the fast Holly club 6-4 in the first game, but Mount Holly bounced back and took the second tilt 5-1, when "Cy" Young hurled a five-hit win.

R. D. Wood Takes Final

The 'pipe makers' jumped into the lead in the very first inning of the final game when they chased Roy Woodington to the showers in the opening frame.

Nick Frappolli reached first when Darby Foulks gummed up his slow roller to start things off. Foulks recovered to toss out Algie with Frappolli taking second. Kite singled through short and Gilbert chased Frappolli across on his blow to right. When Everham singled to left to admit Kite, Woodington was removed from the scene and replaced by Manager "Cy" Young, who held the foundrymen hitless until the sixth frame.

Mount Holly tallied a lone marker in the fourth when Lloyd was safe as Hafey dropped his fly. Al Nelson then singled to right and when Ben Edge planted one in the same spot, Lloyd raced across.

The county seaters squared matters in their half of the sixth when Skip Griffith walked but was forced out at second by Spotty McCue. Young fouled out to Kite but Bert Florsheim walked. McCue tallied when Lloyd singled through the box.

The champions were not to be denied for they put the game on ice in the sixth on Everham's double to left and Hafey's single to center. They added their final run in the seventh on Woolston's double to center and Algie's safe blow to left-center.

| R. D. Wood | | | | | Mount Holly | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|-------------|---------------|----|---|---|----|----|
| ABR | H | O | A | E | ABR | H | O | A | E | | |
| Frappolli, 2b | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Young, rf, p | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Algie, c | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 | Florsheim, 1b | 4 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| Kite, 1b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | Lloyd, 2b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Gilbert, rf | 4 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | Tydemann, cf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Everham, p | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Woodington, p | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Hafey, ss | 4 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 1 | S. Nelson, rf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Peacock, lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Edge, ss | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| J. Foulks, lf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | D. Foulks, 3b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Rhoda, 3b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Griffiths, 3b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| Woolston, cf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | McCue, c | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Totals | 39 | 4 | 8 | 27 | 11 | Totals | 34 | 2 | 7 | 24 | 14 |

Mount Holly 000 101 000-2
Florence 200 001 10x-4

Runs batted in: Algie, Kite, Gilbert, Lloyd and Edge.
Two-base hit: Everham.

Struck out, by: Everham, 6; Young, 4.
Bases on balls: Everham, 2; Young, 2.
Umpires: Campbell, Greenwald
(Medford Rec'd, 9/28/24, pp 4, cl. 2)



Geo. Van Brunt



Bill Everham



Stan Gotch



Ruby Gilbert