



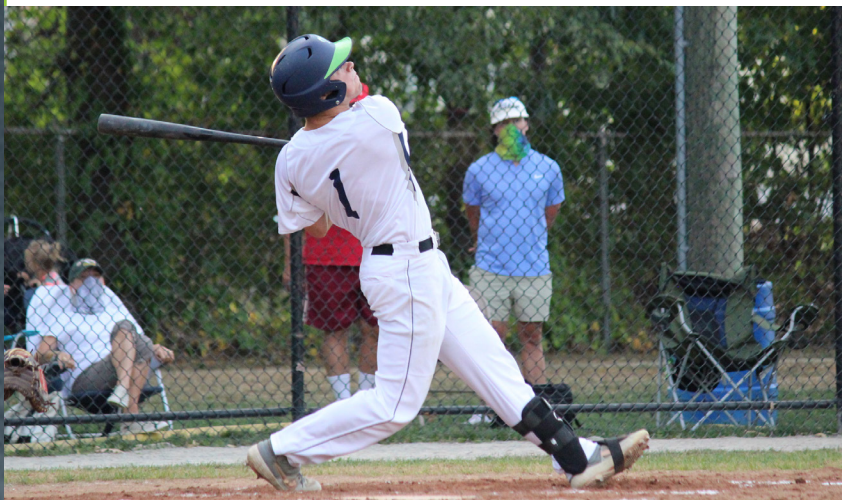
WORCESTER BRAVEHEARTS 2020 SEASON IN REVIEW



ON THE FIELD

HOME-GROWN TALENT

The Worcester Bravehearts and Futures League put an emphasis on recruiting local baseball players who either graduated from a Central MA high school or currently attend a New England college. This season's roster saw more Massachusetts natives (23) than ever before. Returning for his second season, Ben Rice (Dartmouth) was a driving force for the 'Hearts. A native of Cohasset, MA, Rice quickly became a fan favorite as he single-handedly led the team to 3 home run derby victories, led the league in home runs, and was named FCBL MVP. Brimfield, MA native Matt Shaw (below) exploded onto the scene before heading into his freshman year at the University of Maryland. Shaw was a key contributor to the Bravehearts' run to the finals, playing in 14 total games while crushing 9 home runs.



BACK IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Bravehearts finished the season atop the league standings with a 23-15 record, and for the seventh consecutive year the Bravehearts reached the championship series. Due to the shortened season, the top two teams in the standings advanced to a best-of-three championship series. The Bravehearts took on the Nashua Silver Knights in an exciting series that went down to the wire, but unfortunately ended in defeat two games to one.



AWARDS

Catcher Ben Rice (Dartmouth) was named League MVP, and Angelo Baez (St. Thomas Aquinas, above) was once again named a finalist for 2020 Pitcher of the Year award. Mariano Ricciardi (Dayton), whose season was cut short due to injury, received the Commissioner's Award based on his commitment to his team and the Worcester community over the last four years. Bravehearts infielder Danny Torres (St. Leo University) was 1 of 6 players around the league to earn the prestigious Adam Keenan Sportsmanship and Scholarship Award.



NESN Broadcasts

Saturday, August 8th, the Bravehearts took on the Brockton Rox live on New England Sports Network (NESN) for the first time in franchise history. The game was part of the Futures League Series on NESN, which featured all six franchises in three broadcasts that saw an average of 10,000 viewers at any time.

IN THE COMMUNITY



BE THE MATCH

This season, the Bravehearts worked with Be The Match New England to help find a bone marrow match for 5-year-old Bryce Linton of Auburn, MA, who has an autoimmune disorder. The Brothers for Bryce initiative encourages people to join the National Bone Marrow Registry. In addition to players from across the league participating in Be The Match, Doyle Field park-goers were able to get swabbed at a Bravehearts game where Bryce threw out the ceremonial first pitch. This helped to add over 1,000 new people to the National Bone Marrow Registry.



YOU'RE WITH US!

The Bravehearts partnered with You're With Us!, a non-profit service provider that creates inclusion opportunities for young adults with disabilities. Over the course of the 2020 season, Worcester Bravehearts players Angelo Baez (St. Thomas Aquinas), Andrew Selima (Holy Cross), Chris Radovic (Clark University), and Danny Torres (Saint Leo University) served as buddies and mentors to five young adults. On August 14th, individuals from You're With Us! threw out the ceremonial first pitches.



WORCESTER SPORTS MANAGEMENT SUMMIT

On January 17th, the second annual Worcester Sports Management Summit took place on the campus of Worcester State University. Approximately 200 attendees, 25 vendors, and 20 guest speakers appeared at the event. The event consisted of a career fair and panel discussions with professionals in different areas of the sport industry. The key note address was delivered by President of the TD Garden, Amy Latimer.



THANK YOU LEOMINSTER

Due to the coronavirus pandemic which shut down Hanover Insurance Park at Fitton Field, the Bravehearts were in search of a temporary field to call home. The Bravehearts want to thank the city of Leominster and Mayor Dean Mazzarella for opening their doors and allowing the 'Hearts to call Doyle Field home for the 2020 season. Doyle Field - a public park which is surrounded by a running track, soccer field, walking trail and playground - hosted 18 home games and even a week of youth camp.

All About Jake...

Ticket to Read: This program supported by Chick-fil-A encourages students to read books in an effort to earn free tickets to Worcester Bravehearts and Worcester Railers games. Over 9,000 students from 34 different schools participated in this program, reading a cumulative total of 18,289 books.



Ticket to Read

Pen Pal Club: Senior citizens and other members from The Willows of Worcester, Heywood Wakefield Commons in Gardner, Coes Pond Village in Worcester, Living Well Adult Day Center in West Boylston, and Slater Estates in Webster connect with middle school students by writing good old-fashioned letters in Jake's Pen Pal Club journals. The program operated for three months and connected 60 pairs of pen pals before the program was paused during the coronavirus pandemic. The club will operate again during the fall & winter of 2020 - 2021.

Junior Bravehearts: Jake and Northeast Promotions & Apparel of Leominster provided free uniforms to 30 youth baseball & softball teams around central MA who agreed to change their name to the "Bravehearts".

Good Jake Fund: In 2018, the Bravehearts started a memorial fund that benefitted the families of fallen Worcester Firefighters. In two years, the fund has raised over \$27,000 for the families of Lt. Christopher Roy and Lt. Jason Menard in online and matching donations. The term "Jake", which is also shared by our mascot, is slang for a firefighter and is used to give great praise and the highest signs of respect.

Jake-or-Treating: During the Halloween season, families can sign up on our website to win a memorable trick-or-treating experience with Jake the Lion. A few lucky winners are randomly selected each year to be accompanied by Jake as they trick-or-treat throughout the neighborhoods. Halloween of 2020 looked a little different, but Jake still found his way out and about while hitting several neighborhoods. In towns where trick-or-treating was canceled, Jake surprised kids at their houses with bags of candy!



Jake-or-Treating



Boys & Girls Club



Pen Pal Club



Heart Fair



Turkey Delivery

TESTIMONIALS

RICKY GAGNON, JR.

So Happy we found the Bravehearts, It's been fun and we're looking forward to continuing into 2021 back at our home field in Worcester. Thank you Leominster for the hospitality and thank you Bravehearts for keeping baseball alive to your fans.

LEAH FLYNN

Thank YOU for putting together a wonderful season in such a trying time!! We had a great time at the games! It wasn't "home" but you all made it feel just the same!! Go Hearts!! Let's bring home another championship!

365Z Foundation
@365ZFoundation

Partner Spotlight ❤️ Grateful yet again for our partnership with the Worcester Bravehearts for the fourth straight year. 365z supports their baseball camp program by paying for scholarships for a few lucky families in the Worcester County area 🏆
@365zfoundation @WooBaseball



MATT MACADAMS, HOST FAMILY

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for all of your extraordinary efforts to allow us to watch Bravehearts Baseball this season. Coming to games and hosting a player gave our family a taste of normalcy during this difficult time. Your efforts, and that of the entire staff, are greatly appreciated.

THE LOSS FAMILY

Thanks for yet another great game and season. I'm sorry it did not finish as we wanted, but the fact that the Bravehearts are in the finals year in and year out AND are a family's best friend is a testimony to a passion for the players, fans, and people of Central MA. We look forward to being at opening night this coming season and wish you all the best in the challenging offseason.

Katie McEvoy checked in to Worcester Bravehearts Baseball At Fitton Field.
April 11 at 11:58 AM · Worcester, MA · 📍

Big thanks to these two: John Creedon Jr and "Peterman" Dave Peterson for answering the call and donating a box of WORCESTER BRAVEHEARTS sweatshirts for the patients at the DCU field hospital - you guys ROCK!!!!



Like Comment Share



ben_rice22 Thank you @woobaseball for another incredible summer and @futuresleagueofnewengland for getting everyone back at the ballpark! #rollhearts

Worcester Chamber
@chamberworc

Thanks to @WooBaseball for providing us with good 'ole summertime fun by bringing baseball back! We loved cheering you on and send our hearty congrats on making it to the playoffs. It was an exciting season brought to us by the boys of summer.

FUTURES LEAGUE



@WOOBALL



@WOOBASEBALL
@WOOBALLGAMECALL



@WOOBASEBALL



@WORCESTER-BRAVEHEARTS

FUTURES COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE

PO BOX 458
WEYMOUTH, MA 02190

• (339) 440-3417 •

COMMISSIONER
@THEFUTURESLEAGUE.COM

•  @FUTURESLEAGUE