Zach Blanden (Binghamton) singled in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth leading the Jr Chiefs to a 9-8 win over the Sherrill Silversmiths. The loss eliminated the Silversmiths from a playoff spot.

PLAYOFFS START TODAY
SALT CATS CLAIM LAST PLAYOFF SPOT IN THE EAST
PLAYOFF GAME DAY #1
TODAY’S GAMES

#1 Syracuse Jr. Chiefs (28-12) vs. #4 Syracuse Salt Cats (17-23)

Game 1: 7/27 Syracuse SC at Syracuse JR, 5pm Hopkins Road Field Cotton (2-1, 7.82) vs. Basso (5-0, 2.19)

Game 2: 7/28 Syracuse JR at Syracuse SC, 2pm Hopkins Road Field Williams (3-1, 2.75) vs. Striz (6-0, 3.89)

Game 3: 7/29 Syracuse SC at Syracuse JR, TBA (if necessary)

Season Series: (Syracuse Jr. Chiefs won 5-3)

6/15: Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 17 Syracuse Salt Cats 8
7/6: Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 10 Syracuse Salt Cats 6
7/8: Syracuse Salt Cats 11 Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 10
7/12: Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 19 Syracuse Salt Cats 0
7/14: Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 15 Syracuse Salt Cats 4
7/14: Syracuse Salt Cats 6 Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 5
7/24: Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 11 Syracuse Salt Cats 3
7/24: Syracuse Salt Cats 10 Syracuse Jr. Chiefs 9

Key Players:

Syracuse Jr. Chiefs
SS Alex Sanchez Jr. (Ave Maria University) .444 AVG 67for151)
2B Frank Salerno (St. Thomas Aquinas) .401 AVG (57for142)
DH Zach Lauricella (St. John’s University) .292 AVG (35for120)
1B Ryan Sonberg (Bates College) .303 AVG (40for132)
P Alex Basso (Manhattanville) 37 innings 5-0 33 SO 2.19 ERA
P Ethan Striz (Ave Maria University) 46.1 innings 6-0 23 SO 3.89 ERA

Syracuse Salt Cats
OF Andrew Mederois (Westfield State) .347 AVG (42for121)
C Kevin Bailey (Alvernia) .339 AVG (43for127)
IF Dan Fiorito (Manhattanville) .328 AVG (44for134)
P Sean Williams (Oklahoma Panhandle) 52.1 innings 3-1 66 SO 2.75 ERA
P Bo Watson (St. Bonaventure U) 22.1 innings 0-3 35 SO 3.22 ERA 3SV

Plays of the Day
Zach Blanden (Binghamton) singled in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth leading the Jr Chiefs to a 9-8 win over the Sherrill Silversmiths.

The loss eliminated the Silversmiths from a playoff spot.
Preview:
The Jr. Chiefs come in having clinched home field advantage throughout the postseason after posting a league best (28-12) record. The season was highlighted by a 12 game winning streak from (6/9-6/29). The Jr. Chiefs are led offensively by Alex Sanchez Jr. (Ave Maria) who won the NYCBL batting title on the final day of the regular season finishing the season with a .444 batting average. Sanchez comes into the series currently on an eleven game hitting streak. He went (16-for-37 .434 batting average in games played against the Salt Cats this summer. The Salt Cats had to wait until the last day of the regular season to clinch a postseason berth and our hoping to make some noise heading into what should be a highly competitive series between these two cross town rivals. The Salt Cats have staff ace Sean Williams (Oklahoma Panhandle) lined up to pitch in game two of the series and if they someone can steal game one they will could be set up to advance. Williams is tied for the league lead in strikeouts with sixty-six. Experience will be on the side of Jr. Chiefs manager Casey Scott who is the only active manager/player to have won an NYCBL Championship. He did so as an assistant coach with the 2008 Brockport Riverbats. No one has been able to slow down the potent Jr. Chiefs offense. The club was near the top in just about every offensive category. They finished the year ranked #1 in team batting with a .338 average. They lead the league in runs scored with 410 on the season an average of just over ten runs a game. To show how dominant they have been they scored nearly a hundred runs more than the next best team in the league. The Salt Cats ranked near the bottom in most pitching statistics including a 7.01 team earned run average. If they’re looking to pull the upset they will need to pitch well to give themselves a chance.

#2 Adirondack Trailblazers (22-18) vs. #3 Geneva Red Wings (18-22)

**Game 1:** 7/27 Geneva at Adirondack, 7pm Robert Smith  
Murphy (3-3, 4.04) vs. Muglia (1-0, 4.00)

**Game 2:** 7/28 Adirondack at Geneva, 3pm McDonough Park  
TBA vs. TBA

**Game 3:** 7/29 Geneva at Adirondack, 4pm Robert Smith (if necessary)  
TBA vs. TBA

**Season Series: (Adirondack won 5-3)**
6/15: Adirondack 14 Geneva 5
6/21: Adirondack 8 Geneva 2
6/22: Adirondack 10 Geneva 0
7/3: Geneva 9 Adirondack 8
7/8: Adirondack 6 Geneva 2
7/22: Geneva 6 Adirondack 1
7/25: Geneva 15 Adirondack 14

**Key Players:**

**Adirondack**
- IF Kenny May (Lincoln U) .377 AVG (49for134)
- OF Eric Baker (Rogers St) .375 AVG (51for136)
- OF Colton Campbell (Rogers St) .355 AVG (43for121)
- 1B Cody Campbell (Rogers St) .287 AVG (29for101)
- P Geoff Soja (Niagara U) 20.1 innings 1-0 15 SO 0.00 ERA 8SV
- P Mike Muglia (East Stroudsburg) 36 inning 1-0 23 SO 4.00 ERA

**Geneva**
- IF Chris Ray (Alvernia) .349 AVG (44for126)
- OF Grant Heyman (University of Miami) .357 AVG (20for56)
- IF Jesse Puscheck (Canisius College) .343 AVG (37for108)
- P Chris Murphy (TCU) 32.2 innings3-3 31 SO 4.04 ERA
- P Matt Hockenberry (Temple) 38 innings 4-0 30 SO 2.84 ERA

**Preview:**
It’s been a tale of two seasons for Adirondack and Geneva. The Trailblazers won the first four meetings of the regular season before the Red Wings answered back to take three of the remaining four games. In their final meeting July 25th the Red Wings shocked the visiting Trailblazers for six runs in the bottom of the ninth inning to clinch a spot in the 2012 NYCBL playoffs. Both of these teams have relied on the long ball to spark their offenses this season. The Trailblazers lead the NYCBL with 45 homeruns. The home field advantage at the Robert S Smith sports complex should play to their favor as two of the top home run hitters play for the Trailblazers in Cody Campbell (Rogers State) and Eric Baker (Rogers State). Each had nine homeruns and tied for the league lead in that category. The Red Wings have been sparked by 2012 MLB Draft Selection Grant Heyman (University of Miami) who arrived mid-season. The Toronto Blue Jays selected Heyman in the 11th round of this year’s amateur draft. Heyman has hit .357 since his arrival including a team best six homeruns while driving in eighteen runs. Game one starter Chris Murphy (TCU) emerged late in the season winning his last two decisions. His last start was a masterpiece against these same Trailblazers in Boonville. Murphy allowed no earned runs while scattering seven hits and striking out six.
#1 Hornell Dodgers (25-15) vs. #4 Geneva Twins (18-22)

**Game 1:** 7/27 Geneva at Hornell, 7pm Maple City Park  
Menke (2-1, 7.82) vs. Boyd (5-0, 2.19)  
TBA vs. TBA

**Game 2:** 7/28 Hornell at Geneva, 7pm McDonough Park  
TBA vs. TBA

**Game 3:** 7/29 Geneva at Hornell, 7pm Maple City Park (if necessary)  
TBA vs. TBA

**Season Series: (Hornell won 5-3)**
- 6/7: Hornell 13 Geneva 6
- 6/20: Geneva 3 Hornell 0
- 6/22: Hornell 19 Geneva 9
- 6/28: Hornell 14 Geneva 13
- 7/8: Geneva 6 Hornell 2
- 7/18: Hornell 3 Geneva 2
- 7/24: Hornell 10 Geneva 2

**Key Players:**
**Hornell**
- 1B Matt Calhoun (Harding U) .343 AVG (46 for 134)
- OF Cody Stevenson (Webster U) .371 AVG (46 for 124)
- IF Will Beneson (Franklin & Marshall) .333 AVG (40 for 120)
- P Erik Eck (Wofford) 23.3 innings 4-2 31 SO 4.56 ERA 2 SV
- P Nicholas Boyd (Central Connecticut) 48.1 innings 6-1 34 SO 4.66 ERA
- P Kevin Johnson (Pittsburgh) 23.1 innings 4-1 35 SO 1.54 ERA 7 SV

**Geneva**
- C Dillon Hamlin (Seton Hall) .297 AVG (33 for 111)
- C Michael Allen (Davenport U) .271 AVG (32 for 118)
- P Jon Menke (University of Rochester) 39 innings 4-1 49 SO 1.85 ERA
- P Justin Ratte (Flagler U) 39 innings 5-3 30 SO 2.31 ERA

**Preview:**
Manager Tony Fuller has guided the Dodgers to the Western Division Championship after just missing the playoffs a season ago. The team has held first place for most of the season and will be looking to win the franchises fifth NYCBL title when they take the field Friday evening at Maple City Park. The Dodgers last won the title in 2005. One key player to watch in this series will be Dodgers outfield Cody Stevenson (Webster U) who finished amongst the league leaders in stolen bases. Another key thing to watch will be the transition of reliever Erik Eck (Wofford) into a potential starting role. Eck struggled at times as a reliever but showed some life in first start just a week ago and could be a huge addition into the Dodgers rotation. Pitching has been the key for the Twins all season and not many have been better than ace Jon Menke (University of Rochester) who takes the ball in game one. Menke carries a 1.85 earned run average into the game, which is good for second best in the NYCBL this season. If the Twins get a strong outing on Friday from Menke it could go along ways in helping them knock off the Dodgers. Both of these clubs have been ranked in the top half of the league in pitching this summer and that should play a large role in deciding who advances to the Western Division Championship series.
#2 Niagara Power (24-16) vs. #3 Olean Oilers (22-18)

**Game 1:** 7/27 Olean at Niagara, 7pm Sal Maglie Stadium  
Tolsma (3-1, 7.10) vs. Beckham (4-0, 1.84)

**Game 2:** 7/28 Niagara at Olean, 3pm St. Bonaventure  
Schwartz (3-0, 1.42) vs. Medina (4-1, 4.17)

**Game 3:** 7/29 Olean at Niagara, 7pm Sal Maglie Stadium (if necessary)  
TBA vs. TBA

**Season Series: (Niagara won 5-3)**
- 6/8: Olean 10 Niagara 5
- 6/14: Niagara 7 Olean 6
- 6/18: Niagara 13 Olean 10
- 6/23: Olean 19 Niagara 6
- 7/8: Niagara 14 Olean 2
- 7/20: Niagara 14 Olean 2
- 7/25: Niagara 8 Olean 7

**Key Players:**

**Niagara**
- OF Shakeel Newton (Genesee CC): .370 AVG (34 for 92)
- IF Chane Lynch (Dallas Baptist): .367 AVG (51 for 139)
- OF Adam Taylor (North Greenville U): .317 AVG (46 for 145)
- IF Jamon Hammel (Huntington College): .340 AVG (36 for 106)
- P Steven Beckham (Olivet Nazarene): 44 innings, 4.0, 44 SO, 1.84 ERA
- P Scott Voyles (Greenville College): 19 innings, 0.0, 17 SO, 0.47 ERA

**Olean**
- OF Jon Kemmer (Clarion U): .442 AVG (65 for 147)
- SS Joe Pantano (Erie CC): .352 AVG (43 for 122)
- IF Seth Heck (Tacoma CC): .343 AVG (47 for 137)
- P Ruben Medina (Genesee CC): 48 innings, 4.1, 34 SO, 4.13 ERA
- P Brandon Nemeti (Erie CC): 45.1 innings, 4.1, 34 SO, 4.17 ERA

**Preview:**
There may not be a better first round series than this one and it should be as good as advertised. The Power have definitely turned on the “POWER” as they won 14 of their last 17 games coming into the postseason. Friday night will make the first home postseason game in Niagara Power history as a member of the NYCBL. The Oilers will be making their postseason debut in their inaugural season. This series has a lot of interesting twists that could play a large role in deciding who will advance. Both clubs have shown the ability to win ball games many different ways this summer. It should be no different when they hook up on Friday evening. The Power has shown a great combination of speed and pitching throughout the season. NYCBL earned run average leader Steven Beckham will get the ball for the home Power on Friday evening. In his last outing on July 20th, Beckham pitched six scoreless innings of one hit baseball against these same Oilers at Sal Maglie stadium in route to his fourth victory of the season. The Oilers will be no strangers to Beckham as this will be the fourth time seeing him this summer. The Oilers come into town looking more like a seasoned NYCBL franchise rather than an expansion team and are lead by potential player of the year candidate Jon Kemmer (Clarion U). Kemmer barely missed winning what is believed to be the first ever Triple Crown in league history. Expect to see some running in this one as the two clubs enter the post season ranked #1 and #2 respectively in stolen bases. The Power has stolen a league best 108 bases while the Oilers have swiped 82.