

FOUNDERS' CUP MATCHUP IS SET

ST. JOHN'S & AMERICAN WILL TAKE PART IN A REMATCH FOR APBL TITLE

NORTHEAST U.S.A. (Aug. 25, 1873) – The APBL season is over, and the matchup for the third edition for the Founders' Cup is now in place.

COLONIAL: St. John's (52-38) took the pennant once again, although their final record was four games worse than the 56-34 they finished with in 1871 & '72, and their two-game margin atop the Colonial was the smallest they've seen in the three seasons of the APBL. Still, their postseason experience is unmatched.

KEY PLAYERS:

- Konrad Jensen (LF) – .380, .904 OPS, 113 R, 156 H, 30 XBH, 2 HR, 87 RBI, 27 BB, 88 SB, 7.7 WPA, 4.6 WAR
- Mario Fusilli (1B) – .326, .763 OPS, 102 R, 134 H, 26 2B, 2 3B, 89 RBI, 21 BB, 6 SB, 5.1 WPA, 2.1 WAR
- Theo Kohlberg (2B) – .335, .751 OPS, 71 R, 117 H, 19 XBH, 1 HR, 81 RBI, 7 BB, 51 SB, 3.5 WPA, 1.8 WAR
- Thomas Smith (P) – 26-15, 3.14 ERA, 352.1 IP, 27 CG, 1 SHO, 18 K, 0.8 K/BB, 1.33 WHIP, 5.3 WAR, 6.6 rWAR

METROPOLITAN: American (65-25) Turned their eight-game lead with a month left into a seventeen-game margin atop the Metropolitan standings. They led the APBL in Runs, Runs Allowed, Average, On-Base, Slugging, OPS, Stolen Bases, Shutouts, & Opponents' Average during the most dominant season in baseball history.

KEY PLAYERS:

- James Burke (CF) – .368, .884 OPS, 130 R, 155 H, 33 XBH, 1 HR, 109 RBI, 17 BB, 113 SB, 6.7 WPA, 4.8 WAR
- Franklin Petty (RF) – .335, .786 OPS, 127 R, 143 H, 29 XBH, 2 HR, 78 RBI, 16 BB, 80 SB, 6.1 WPA, 3.3 WAR
- Martin Prince (SS) – .332, .765 OPS, 88 R, 127 H, 21 XBH, 2 HR, 67 RBI, 32 SB, +27.7 ZR, 4.3 WPA, 3.9 WAR
- John Henry (P) – 30-5, 3.14 ERA, 341.1 IP, 21 CG, 1 SHO, 18 K, 0.7 K/BB, 1.22 WHIP, 3.0 WAR, 10.4 rWAR

The Founders' Cup is a best-of-seven series with the following schedule:

- Aug. 26th: GAME 1 – St. John's at American
- Aug. 27th: GAME 2 – St. John's at American
- Aug. 28th: No game
- Aug. 29th: GAME 3 – American at St. John's
- Aug. 30st: GAME 4 – American at St. John's
- Aug. 31st: GAME 5 – American at St. John's (if necessary)
- Sep. 1st: No game
- Sep. 2nd: GAME 6 – St. John's at American (if necessary)
- Sep. 3rd: GAME 7 – St. John's at American (if necessary)

The Writers Pool doesn't expect this to be as close of a series as last year:

- American (34-11 Away, 11-4 Post A-S, +284 RD) over St. John's (7-12 1-Run, 6-9 Post A-S)
- The series will go five games

Not only was American the most dominant team in the APBL's short history but St. John's sputtered down the stretch, and the belief is that the combination of the two will lead to a short series and a repeat for American.