

TWC XXIII: THREE DAVIDS VS THREE GOLIATHS

NORTHEAST U.S.A. (Aug. 20 to Sep. 8, 1879) – After taking an extra day to determine the winner of the Coastal Championship, the N.B.B.O. season is over and it's now time for the 23rd edition of the Tucker-Wheaton Cup Playoffs.

The 22nd edition of the Tucker-Wheaton Cup had a familiar setup that resulted in an unfamiliar ending. Both League Championship Series were rematches, and for the second straight year New York A.C. beat Atlantic in the N.Y.C.L.S. and Susquehanna beat Portland in the N.E.L.C.S. to setup a rematch in the Tucker-Wheaton Cup Final. Then, just like the year before the final went the full five games. However, this time N.Y.A.C. came out on top instead of Susquehanna, thanks to a four-run rally in the ninth inning that saw them hoist the cup for the first time.

This year's edition of the T.W.C. was a very interesting one, as there were three champions in the field and three teams in the N.B.B.O. playoffs for the first time.

The defending champions headlined the familiar faces. N.Y.A.C. were brilliant after May (40-16), and both of their star pitchers looked great during the stretch run. Susquehanna, 2x champs, won their seventh Inland pennant in nine years and 50+ games for the fifth time in six, so they were expecting another trip to the final at the very least. Eckford lifted the cup in 1872, but some of the regulars from that team were still present, and they'd taken five Brooklyn pennants this decade.

The big name among the playoff newcomers was Philadelphia B.C.C. After spending three years (1875-77) beating the rest of Philadelphia into submission, they left the P.C.B.L. for the N.B.B.O. in 1878, and after an 38-32 adjustment year won this season's Coastal Championship via playoff. Frontier, who joined the N.B.B.O. after the league split in 1871, entered August 3rd in Upstate New York, but then reeled off eleven wins over their final thirteen games to snatch the pennant from the likes of former champions Minuteman & Utica. Green Mountain, a founding member of the N.B.B.O., was in the playoffs just three years after a second consecutive last-place finish in New England, and they were able to fight off Portland to make it.

The above meant the following was the big question for T.W.C. XXIII: Would one of the three teams with championship-winning pedigrees lift the cup? Or would one of the three teams that had never seen the cup playoffs do the unexpected and go all the way?

OVERVIEW

BROOKLYN – Eckford started the year 19-1 over the first four weeks, a run that featured a fifteen-game winning streak. That quickly placed them six games clear atop Brooklyn, and nobody else was able to come close. However, they were 6-7 in August and lost their final four games.

Eckford entered the playoffs with the N.B.B.O.'s fifth-best offense, the likely N.Y.L. Most Valuable Player, a pitching duo that both had ERA's under 3.00, and a group of fielders that ranked in the N.B.B.O.'s top five.

ECKFORD OF GREENPOINT KEY PLAYERS

- Louis Murray (LF): .356, .866 OPS, **101 R**, **120 H**, 19 2B, 11 3B, 1 HR, 62 RBI, 77 SB, **164 TB**, **6.8 WPA**, **3.7 WAR**
- Isaac Kelly (3B): .346, .810 OPS, 76 R, 117 H, 22 2B, 3 3B, 68 RBI, 19 BB, 3 SB, +8.6 ZR, 3.3 WPA, **3.7 WAR**
- Robert Borut (C): .323, .787 OPS, 55 R, 90 H, 17 2B, 6 3B, 2 HR, 55 RBI, 7 BB, 2.80 CERA, 2.0 WPA, 2.5 WAR
- William Barnhill (P): **27-9**, 2.76 ERA, 51 K, 349.1 IP, 26 CG, **2 SHO**, 1.1 K/BB, 1.23 WHIP, 4.4 WAR, 4.3 rWAR

NEW YORK CITY – After an 8-6 May, the defending cup champions went 15-6 during June, 16-6 during July, and 9-4 in August while winning their final seven games. The result: even though N.Y.A.C. didn't have the best record in the N.B.B.O., they had the largest winning margin of any regional champion: ten games over second-place Union.

Of course, this team's strength was pitching, pitching, pitching. They led the N.B.B.O. in Runs Allowed, ERA, Strikeouts, WHIP, and all four opposition batting categories: Average, On Base Pct. Slugging Pct. & OPS. They had the presumptive 5x N.Y.L. Pitcher of the Year Charles Rhodes, All-Star #2 George Cerven, and a solid group of batsmen to support them.

NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB KEY PLAYERS

- Manuel Romeiras (CF): .308, .760 OPS, 90 R, 103 H, 8 2B, 13 3B, 0 HR, 40 RBI, 21 BB, **80 SB**, 4.4 WPA, 3.1 WAR
- Thomas Cox (2B): .323, .804 OPS, 79 R, 101 H, 21 2B, 8 3B, 2 HR, 61 RBI, 5 BB, 35 SB, 1.3 WPA, 2.8 WAR
- Charles Rhodes (P): 24-14, **2.20 ERA**, **134 K**, **359.2 IP**, **28 CG**, 3 SV, **6.7 K/BB**, **1.06 WHIP**, **10.3 WAR**, **11.5 rWAR**
- George Cerven (P): 15-7, 2.56 ERA, 107 K, 207.1 IP, 14 CG, 1 SV, **4.6 K/9**, 1.26 WHIP, 5.6 WAR, 2.9 rWAR

UPSTATE N.Y. – Frontier began August 3rd in Upstate, one game behind Utica and two behind Minuteman. They then went 11-2 over the August portion of the schedule, including a 4-1 series win vs Minuteman in the final week, to take the Upstate pennant by two games and go the playoffs for the first time. They played their best baseball at the perfect moment.

Frontier took a top-five offense to the playoffs that led the N.Y.L. in Average, On-Base Pct, Slugging Pct., & OPS, but was 4th overall in Runs due to some slow baserunners. They also had two fine pitchers, but questionable fielding behind them.

FRONTIER B.B.C. KEY PLAYERS

- George Whaley (CF): .343, .839 OPS, 89 R, 108 H, 19 2B, 9 3B, 2 HR, 73 RBI, 9 BB, 25 SB, 4.0 WPA, 2.4 WAR
- William Rockford (3B): .317, .808 OPS, 82 R, 105 H, 25 2B, 6 3B, 2 HR, 56 RBI, 19 BB, 10 SB, 3.8 WPA, 2.1 WAR
- John White (RF): .355, .787 OPS, 67 R, 102 H, 8 2B, 5 3B, 0 HR, 58 RBI, 6 BB, 19 SB, 3.1 WPA, 1.8 WAR
- Edward Pelham (P): 22-13, 3.30 ERA, 51 K, 316.1 IP, 19 CG, 2 SHO, 3.2 K/BB, 1.43 WHIP, 6.7 WAR, 5.1 rWAR

COASTAL – Trenton Utd. led the Coastal to start August, with Bunker Hill & P.B.C.C. two games behind and Maryland four games back. P.B.C.C. then went on a 10-2 run to take the lead with one game left, but a 9-5 loss at Diamond St. combined with a 4-2 Trenton Utd. win vs Brighton meant the Coastal Championship was going to a playoff.

Due to head-to-head record Trenton Utd. hosted the playoff, but it didn't matter as P.B.C.C. won it with two big rallies. In T3 they scored on a Wild Pitch and a two-run Double by Leroy Moore, and a four-run rally in T7 featuring two run-scoring Singles, a one-run Double by Frederick Pike, and a one-run Triple by Gilbert Ingels gave P.B.C.C. a 7-3 lead. Trenton Utd. made it a 7-6 game in B8, but in B9 they stranded men on second & third and P.B.C.C. had earned their first Coastal Championship with a [7-6 victory](#) in New Jersey.

P.B.C.C. had a well-rounded team: top-ten offense, top-fifteen pitching, and top-ten defense. Five of their regular batsmen hit over .300, and none hit below .285. They also had three talented Pitchers who could be called upon.

PHILADELPHIA BASEBALL & CRICKET CLUB KEY PLAYERS

- Frederick Pike (2B): .358, .834 OPS, 84 R, 113 H, 17 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 73 RBI, 10 BB, 23 SB, 3.5 WPA, 2.8 WAR
- Gilbert Ingels (3B): .332, .802 OPS, 60 R, 94 H, 17 2B, 2 3B, 2 HR, 79 RBI, 20 BB, 3 SB, 4.3 WPA, 2.4 WAR
- Wilbur Graff (1B): .339, .847 OPS, 77 R, 104 H, 15 2B, 1 3B, 1 HR, 49 RBI, 54 BB, 11 SB, 3.8 WPA, 3.1 WAR

- William Burrow (P): 25-14, 3.18 ERA, 47 K, 345.0 IP, **26 CG**, 0 SHO, 1.5 K/BB, 1.27 WHIP, 5.9 WAR, 4.8 rWAR

INLAND – Involved in yet another thrilling pennant chase with Lancastra Britannia, Susquehanna ended up taking their seventh Inland pennant in nine years thanks to a 10-3 August finish that saw them finish atop the standings by three games, along with the N.B.B.O.'s best record and Run Differential.

EVERYBODY knew what Susquehanna were all about: frightening offense (10.2 R/G) fueled by the best batting in the N.B.B.O. (#1 in AVG, OBP, SLG, OPS, HR, & WAR), a venerated, 4x 30-game winner in #1 in William Hawk, a quality #2 in Frank Cyphert, and fielding good enough to ensure that the offense, if it was in shape, wouldn't be outscored.

SUSQUEHANNA B.C. KEY PLAYERS

- Scott Lyons (C): **.399, 1.005 OPS**, 86 R, 105 H, 22 2B, 5 3B, 3 HR, 78 RBI, 23 BB, 43.2 CS%, 4.4 WPA, 3.9 WAR
- Walter Braden (LF): .388, .921 OPS, 89 R, **123 H**, 20 2B, 6 3B, 2 HR, 61 RBI, 12 BB, 19 SB, 3.2 WPA, 3.2 WAR
- Stephen Barley (SS): .318, .801 OPS, 85 R, 98 H, 17 2B, 12 3B, 70 RBI, 15 BB, 16 SB, +26.1 ZR, 3.6 WPA, 3.9 WAR
- William Hawk (P): **30-11**, 2.68 ERA, 87 K, **346.0 IP, 26 CG**, 1 SV, **4.6 K/BB**, 1.23 WHIP, **7.7 WAR, 7.5 rWAR**

NEW ENGLAND – Green Mountain started the month knowing that no less than four teams, including 6x champs Portland, were within five games. They weren't perfect, but Green Mtn. responded with an 8-5 August that allowed them to clinch their first New England Championship with two games left to play.

Green Mtn.'s strength was their excellent pitching duo of Paul Caldwell, a former A.P.B.L. All-Star, and Richard Majors. They were supported with a decent offense led by 7x All-Star C Bertrand Bosley and rangy players in the middle of the field.

GREEN MOUNTAIN KEY PLAYERS

- Bertrand Bosley (C): .336, .857 OPS, 69 R, 94 H, 29 XBH, 51 RBI, 18 SB, 43.1 CS%, **2.77 C-ERA**, 3.7 WPA, 3.2 WAR
- Otto Olson (2B): .316, .732 OPS, 56 R, 91 H, 11 2B, 1 3B, 2 HR, 56 RBI, 18 BB, 2 SB, 2.8 WPA, 2.0 WAR
- Paul Caldwell (P): 21-10, **2.59 ERA**, 57 K, 239.1 IP, 19 CG, 1 SHO, 2.4 K/BB, **1.22 WHIP**, 4.2 WAR, 3.8 rWAR
- Richard Majors (P): 20-17, 2.89 ERA, 97 K, 308.1 IP, 23 CG, 1 SHO, 1.5 K/BB, **9.8 HA/9**, 5.9 WAR, 3.4 rWAR

TUCKER-WHEATON CUP FORMAT & NOTES

SEEDING

- N.Y.L. #1: Eckford of Greenpoint at 49-21 (+161 RD) – 5th appearance (1872-75), 1x winner (1872)
- N.Y.L. #2: New York Athletic Club at 48-22 (+183 RD) – 3rd appearance (1877-78), 1x winner (1878)
- N.Y.L. #3: Frontier B.B.C. at 44-26 (+127 RD) – 1st appearance

- N.E.L. #1: Susquehanna B.C. at 50-20 (+212 RD) – 8th appearance (1868, 71-72, 74, 76-78), 2x winner (1874, 77)
- N.E.L. #2: Philadelphia B.C.C. at 43-28 (+133 RD) – 1st appearance
- N.E.L. #3: Green Mountain at 42-28 (+109 RD) – 1st appearance

FORMAT

LEAGUE SEMIFINALS

- #2 vs #3; #2 seed has Home Field Advantage
- HH-AA-H; day off after Game Two & Game Four

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

- #1 vs L.S.F. winner; #1 seed has Home Field Advantage
- HH-AA-H; day off after Game Two & Game Four

TUCKER-WHEATON CUP FINAL

- N.Y.L. champ v N.E.L. champ; N.Y.L. champ has Home Field Advantage
- HH-AA-H; day off after Game Two & Game Four

The favorites to lift the cup were New York A.C. While Susquehanna had the best record and Eckford the season's longest winning streak, N.Y.A.C. had the strongest finish of any of the six teams and the New York League was going to have Home Field Advantage in the final.

NEW YORK LEAGUE SEMIFINALS

GAME 1: FRO 4-9 NYAC – NYAC RF Jack Anastasio: 2/4 (3B), 1 R, 2 RBI, 2 SB, 4 TB

GAME 2: FRO 5-19 NYAC – NYAC C Clarence Jamison: 3/5 (3B), 2 R, 3 RBI, 5 TB

GAME 3: NYAC 6-3 FRO – NYAC LF Frank Williams: 3/5 (2B, HR), 3 R, 2 RBI, 7 TB

SERIES M.V.P.: NYAC LF Frank Williams – 7/15, 7 R, 2 2B, 1 HR, 2 RBI, 11 TB, 1x P.o.t.G.

Frontier didn't have much of a chance in the opening two games at the N.Y.A.C. Grounds. N.Y.A.C. went ahead 7-0 in the opener before Frontier scored all of their runs in T7, and N.Y.A.C. pounded them into submission in Game Two, taking an 18-1 lead by the end of the sixth inning.

The defending champs finished the sweep in a tense Game Three. It was 3-2 after four, and after the 5th-7th went by without runs the visitors plated one in T8 on a Single before sealing the series on a two-run homer by Williams in T9.

NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE SEMIFINALS

GAME 1: GM 1-14 PBCC – PBCC RF Edwin Bortz: 3/5 (3B), 2 R, 3 RBI, 5 TB

GAME 2: GM 12-16 PBCC – PBCC 1B Wilbur Graff: 3/3 (all 1B), 3 R, 1 RBI, 3 BB, SB

GAME 3: PBCC 9-6 GM – PBCC 3B Gilbert Ingels: 3/4 (2B), 2 R, 2 RBI, 4 TB – DEF DP

SERIES M.V.P.: PBCC 1B Wilbur Graff – 6/14, 5 R, 3 RBI, 4 BB, 1 SB, 6 TB, 1x P.o.t.G.

P.B.C.C. hammered Green Mtn. in the opener at Willow Grove, taking a 13-1 lead by the end of the third and coasting from there. They repeated that level of offense against the team that led the N.E.L. in Runs Allowed in Game Two, but it took a frantic eight-run rally in B8 to earn the victory.

P.B.C.C. finished a most impressive sweep in Vermont thanks to two big innings. They took a 3-1 lead in T2 on a run-scoring Error followed by a two-run Single from 1B Wilbur Graff. Then, with the score 4-3 to Green Mtn. P.B.C.C. put up a five-run rally in T6 that featured a pair of two-run Singles, giving them an 8-4 lead that was never threatened.

NEW YORK LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

GAME 1: NYAC 7-11 ECK – ECK LF Louis Murray: 4/5 (2B), 4 R, 1 RBI, 2 SB, 5 TB

GAME 2: NYAC 6-10 ECK – ECK CF J.W. Williams: 2/5 (2 3B), 2 R, 3 RBI, 6 TB – OF AST

GAME 3: ECK 7-8 NYAC – NYAC LF Frank Williams: 2/4 (both 1B), 1 R, 1 RBI, SB

GAME 4: ECK 2-4 NYAC – NYAC P George Cerven: CG, 7 HA, 0 ER, 0 BB, 2 K – 1/2

GAME 5: NYAC 10-11 ECK – ECK RF Carl Smith: 3/5 (HR), 3 R, 2 RBI, 6 TB

SERIES M.V.P.: ECK LF Louis Murray – 9/22, 8 R, 1 2B, 2 3B, 1 HR, 2 RBI, 1 BB, 4 SB, 17 TB, 1x P.o.t.G.

There was excitement early in the opener, with the score 5-4 to the hosts after two innings. After that, it was all Eckford as they scored six of the game's final eight runs to get the better of Charles Rhodes and win Game One. Eckford racked up double figured on N.Y.A.C. again in Game Two by scoring eight runs from the 6th-8th, and they had a 2-0 lead going to the N.Y.A.C. Grounds.

N.Y.A.C. earned a hard-fought win in Game Three to live another day. The 8th inning was the key – Eckford scored twice to even the score (7-7), but N.Y.A.C. took the lead and the win on a one-run Single by PH William Hopkins. The champs then evened the series thanks to excellent pitching from Cerven that allowed them to beat Eckford by two even though their offense only totaled five Hits, with one of those by Cerven himself. The series would be decided at Manor House.

Game Five at Manor House was a classic. It was a back-and-forth affair, and with the score 9-6 to Eckford going into the ninth inning N.Y.A.C. put up a four-run rally to take a 10-9 lead. They brought in George Cerven to close out the series, but Eckford was able to score twice against him, first on a Single by Smith and then on a Sacrifice Fly by CF J.W. Williams, to take the N.Y.L.C.S. with an 11-10 victory.

The defending champions were out, and there would NOT be a third straight N.Y.A.C. vs Susquehanna final.

NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

GAME 1: PBCC 6-7 SUS – PBCC C Harrison Hearst: 3/4 (all 1B), 2 R, 3 RBI – 1/1 CS

GAME 2: PBCC 21-6 SUS – PBCC 3B Gilbert Ingels: 4/7 (all 1B), 3 R, 5 RBI

GAME 3: SUS 9-8 PBCC – SUS CF John Schultz: 3/5 (2B), 2 R, 1 RBI, SB

GAME 4: SUS 11-9 PBCC – SUS CF John Schultz: 3/5 (2 2B, 3B), 2 R, 1 RBI, BB, 7 TB

SERIES M.V.P.: SUS CF John Schultz – 7/20, 5 R, 3 2B, 1 3B, 3 RBI, 1 BB, 1 SB, 12 TB 2x P.o.t.G.

P.B.C.C. gave Susquehanna everything they could handle during the opener in Wilkes-Barre, with a three-run T8 bringing them to within a run before the tying run stuck to 3B in T9. P.B.C.C. then hit Susquehanna with a stunner in Game Two: a fifteen-run beating that evened the series in which the visitors finished with 27 Hits. An upset looked entirely possible.

Susquehanna cancelled out P.B.C.C.'s away win in Game Three, but it wasn't easy. The visitors used a four-run rally in T7 to take a 9-6 lead, and after P.B.C.C. made it 9-8 in B7 Susquehanna made it a 2-1 series by stranding men on 2nd & 3rd in B9. Susquehanna then took the series with another hard-fought victory in Game Four. With the score 9-9, the visitors scored twice in T9 on a Single by 10th-year 1B Joseph Jurski. P.B.C.C. could move nobody past first in B9, and the series was over.

Incredibly, Susquehanna would be going to the Tucker-Wheaton Cup final for the fifth time in six years. For P.B.C.C., by taking three close losses to Susquehanna in the N.E.L.C.S. while giving them one thorough beating, they proved that they would likely be a club to be reckoned with in the years ahead.

TUCKER-WHEATON CUP FINAL

It was time for the final of Tucker-Wheaton Cup XXIII.

For the second straight season it would be #1 seed vs #1 seed. N.Y.L. champions Eckford would have Home Field Advantage, and with a 28-7 home record they were happy to have it. However, Susquehanna was 25-10 both home and away in 1879, so defeating the kings of the N.E.L. at Manor House wasn't going to be easy. There was also the fact that this was Susquehanna's fifth final in six years to consider. Playing for the cup was now a normal thing for them, and that granted a mental edge over an Eckford team that hadn't been to the playoffs in four years.

For neutrals, the hope was for yet another five-game series.

GAME ONE (Manor House Grounds in Brooklyn, N.Y. – ATT: 6,731)

SUS 3-5 ECK – ECK P William Barnhill: CG W, 5 HA, 1 ER, 1 BB, 1 K – 1/3 (2B), 1 R, 1 RBI

If Eckford had more nerves compared to Susquehanna going into the opener, they didn't show it.

Susquehanna took the lead with a three-run rally in T4, with a run-scoring Single by LF Walter Braden followed by an Error and Sacrifice Fly that sent men across the plate. Often that would mark the start of a Susquehanna bludgeoning, but Eckford instead took the lead with a four-run rally in B5 that was capped with a two-run Single from All-Star C Robert Borut.

Eckford #1 Barnhill was able to keep the mighty Susquehanna attack in check, and he gave the hosts a two-run lead with a run-scoring Double in B8 before setting Susquehanna down 1-2-3 in T9 and giving the 1872 champs the Game One victory.

GAME TWO (Manor House Grounds in Brooklyn, N.Y. – ATT: 6,729)

SUS 16-11 ECK – SUS C Scott Lyons: 4/6 (2B), 2 R, 6 RBI, 5 TB

Game Two was more to Susquehanna's liking, and the result was an even series.

The 2x champs started the game with three runs in T1 that scored via two Errors and a Single by 2B Jacob Falk. Eckford would then score the next eight – three in B2, a pair in B3, and three more in B4 – to take an 8-3 lead. However, Susquehanna took the lead back in T5 on a six-run rally, with the key hit a three-run Double by likely N.E.L. Batsman of the Year Lyons, to take a 9-8 lead. Eckford then forced another lead change with three runs in B6 via three run-scoring hits to take an 11-9 lead.

After six innings of hectic baseball, Susquehanna won the game late. They scored once in T7 on an Error to cut the deficit to one (11-10), took the lead (12-11) in T8 on a two-run Single by Lyons, and then sealed the win with four runs in T9, a rally capped with another two-run Single by the brilliant Lyons.

Susquehanna had the advantage now, with the series about to head to Wilkes-Barre.

GAME THREE (River View Field in Wilkes-Barre, Penn. – ATT: 1,855)

ECK 3-10 SUS – SUS C Scott Lyons: 2/4 (3B), 2 R, 3 RBI, 4 TB – 1/1 CS

Susquehanna used big rallies during the middle innings to take the series lead.

After the opening two innings went by scoreless, Eckford scored the first runs of the game in T3 when a one-run Triple by LF Louis Murray was followed with a run-scoring Ground Out. Susquehanna responded with a five-run rally in B4, with 1B Joseph Jurski hitting a one-run Single, Lyons hitting another one-run Single, Jacob Falk cracking a two-run Double, and RF Karl Valentine finishing matters with a run-scoring Triple. Ahead 5-2, Susquehanna sealed the Game Three win with four runs in B5 that granted them a 9-2 lead. This time the runs came through on a one-run Double by Jurski, a two-run Triple by Lyons, and a run-scoring Ground Out.

Susquehanna was now one win away from their third cup triumph.

GAME FOUR (River View Field in Wilkes-Barre, Penn. – ATT: 1,854)
ECK 3-6 SUS – SUS SS Stephen Barley: 2/4 (2B), 1 R, 3 RBI, SB, 3 TB

Thanks to six runs over the first four innings, Susquehanna lifted the Tucker-Wheaton Cup for the third time.

Eckford scored twice in T1, with a Double by Robert Borut opening the scoring. Susquehanna saw that as no trouble at all and responded with three runs in B1 to take the lead, thanks to a two-run Double by Barley that was followed up with a one-run Single by Scott Lyons. The hosts then made it a 5-2 game in B2 on a Joseph Jurski Single and a Fielder's Choice, and they increased the lead to 6-2 in B4 when 3B Frank Carter hit a run-scoring Double.

The rest of the game was uneventful. While Susquehanna was surprisingly held scoreless after their initial outburst, Eckford was only able to put one run on the scoreboard against P Frank Cypert and the Susquehanna fielders over the final five innings. Susquehanna won by three, and because of that they had title number three.

The people of Wilkes-Barre gathered to celebrate another championship for their beloved team, while the Writers Pool sat in astonishment at just how one of the smallest teams in the N.B.B.O. has remained so great for so long.

TUCKER-WHEATON CUP MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

SUS C Scott Lyons – 8 G, .333 (11/33), 10 R, 1 2B, 2 3B, 12 RBI, 1 BB, 16 TB, 1.0 WPA, 8/12 CS – 2x P.o.t.G.

Scott Lyons won the Tucker-Wheaton Cup M.V.P. for his work in the Final, during which he was 7/17 with eleven Runs Batted in over just four games whilst also throwing out four of six would-be Eckford base thieves. While he only hit 4/16 in the N.E.L.C.S., Lyons also threw out 4/6 runners on Stolen Base attempts in that series.

For Lyons, winning Tucker-Wheaton Cup M.V.P. marked a wonderful end to an incredible season. Having signed with the team just before he turned 22 in 1874, Lyons started five games for them in 1875 and was then in their Reserve Roster for the next three years. He spent that time working on his batting, and after being given his chance to start this year had an incredible campaign. Lyons agonizingly fell short of the .400 mark by one point (AVG: .399, OPS: 1.005), but he'll almost certainly finish his first season as a regular by winning N.E.L. Batsman of the Year and earning a spot on the Team of the Year. That's not bad for someone who was toiling away in the Reserves until he was 26.

For runners-up Eckford, their best player in the cup playoffs, by far, was likely N.Y.L. Most Valuable Player Louis Murray:

- ECK LF Louis Murray: 9 G, .425 (17/40), 13 R, 4 2B, 3 3B, 1 HR, 4 RBI, 6 SB, 30 TB, 0.7 WPA – 1x P.o.t.G.

They also received a great performance from CF J.W. Williams in the final (9/17, 1 2B, 3 RBI). Unfortunately, half of their lineup hit below .200 against Susquehanna, and All-Star 2B William Syder was just 1/16. Conversely, the only Susquehanna batsman to bat below .200 in the final was 3B Frank Carter, who hit .167 (2/12).

TUCKER-WHEATON CUP FINAL SUMMARY

Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint (1) vs. Susquehanna Baseball Club (3)

Susquehanna Baseball Club win series, 3 to 1.

Game 1: Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint defeat Susquehanna Baseball Club, 5 to 3:

Tucker-Wheaton Cup Game 1 Victory for Barnhill and Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint

W: W. Barnhill (1-0) L: W. Hawk (0-1)

HR - None

[Boxscore](#) [Game Log](#)

Game 2: Susquehanna Baseball Club defeat Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint, 16 to 11:

C Lyons Lights Up Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint for 6 RBIs as Susquehanna Baseball Club Tie TWC

W: W. Hawk (1-1) L: W. Barnhill (1-1)

HR - None

[Boxscore](#) [Game Log](#)

Game 3: Susquehanna Baseball Club defeat Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint, 10 to 3:

Susquehanna Baseball Club Wins at Home to Take 2-1 Lead in TWC

W: W. Hawk (2-1) L: W. Barnhill (1-2)

HR - None

[Boxscore](#) [Game Log](#)

Game 4: Susquehanna Baseball Club defeat Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint, 6 to 3:

Susquehanna Baseball Club Defeats Eckford B.B.C. of Greenpoint

W: F. Cyphert (1-0) L: R. Hall (0-1)

HR - None

[Boxscore](#) [Game Log](#)

Series MVP: C Scott Lyons (Susquehanna Baseball Club)