

1858 NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE REVIEW

NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE SEASON SUMMARY

The 1859 Northeastern League Season was heavy on talent thanks to offseason signings, but aside from the Inland Championship it was a little short on drama. In the end, the biggest club in each regional championship finished first and advanced to the playoffs. However, there was a mighty shock in store...

The Coastal Championship was a race confined to Boston, as Massachusetts Bay & Shamrock were clearly the two best teams in the subdivision this season. Shamrock had a one-game lead over their intra-city rivals Mass. Bay at the start of June, and they were able to keep them just far enough away over the rest of the season. June 15th: ahead by one game. June 30th: ahead by two. July 15th: ahead by three. July 30th: ahead by four. That left Shamrock able to withstand a 9-1 Mass. Bay finish and win the Coastal by two games.

The Inland Championship pennant race was incredible. At the start of July there were five teams – Alleghany, Merrimack Milles, Pioneer, Sportsman's & Susquehanna – within two games of each other & fighting for top spot in the standings. By the middle of the month Sportsman's opened a four-game lead, and going into the final week their lead was two over Alleghany/Reading & three over Pioneer/Susquehanna. Sportsman's' final series was against Alleghany, and they proceeded to lose 4/5 games AT HOME to give Alleghany the Inland Championship on the final day via a one-run loss. Merrimack, Pioneer, Reading Athletic, Sportsman's, & Susquehanna all finished within four games of first place.

The New England Championship was simple. St. John's sat alongside Granite at 14-7 to start June and from there they tore New England apart, going 40-9. They won the N.E.C. by fifteen games and set N.B.B.O. records for wins, runs, and run differential.

The N.E.L. Semi-Final between big clubs Alleghany & Shamrock felt like a toss-up, and indeed played out like one.

- **GAME ONE** was an even battle until late. Shamrock entered their half of the sixth inning with the game tied 2-2 and proceeded to score ten unanswered runs – two in the sixth, four in the seventh, and four in the eighth. Shamrock .400 hitter Thomas Maloney was 4/5 with three runs scored and two driven in.
- **GAME TWO** was effectively over after two innings. After the teams traded runs in the first Shamrock scored four times in the home half of the second to make it 5-1, and that was the final tally of the contest thanks to solid pitching by Orran McLoughlin and good defensive work behind him.
- **GAME THREE** was decided in the bottom of the eighth. With Shamrock up 6-4, Joe Blake hit a two-run double to tie the game and Henry Fowler then hit a run-scoring single to give the hosts a 7-6 lead that stood thanks to two weak ground outs and a strikeout in the top of the ninth.
- **GAME FOUR** was dominated by hosts Alleghany. After scoring thrice in the bottom of the first, they kept periodically tallying runs until it was 8-0 by the end of the seventh inning. Shamrock rallied in the eighth & ninth but it was too late, and Alleghany won 8-4 to force Game Five.
- **GAME FIVE** was a thriller. Shamrock was up 6-2 halfway through but allowed five runs over the sixth & seventh before clawing back a run to make it 7-7. They allowed another run in the eighth but came back with two to make it 9-8, but allowed a tying run by Alleghany in the 9th. In the bottom half Thomas Silke hit a single to center field deep enough to drive in James Keane from second base, and Shamrock won the series with a 10-9 Game Five victory.

The energy Shamrock had to expend led just about everyone to presume that the Bostonians would be ripped to shreds by St. John's in the N.E.L.C.S., but the actual series proved to be precisely the opposite.

- **GAME ONE** went eleven innings – 4-4 going into the ninth before both teams traded runs to make it 5-5. In the bottom of the eleventh Collin Henderson singled and a poor throw from center field allowed William Johnson to score, giving St. John's the win. Johnson was 4/4 with three runs and two steals on the afternoon.
- **GAME TWO** was a Shamrock smash-&-grab. They scored eight times over the first two innings, and that was more than enough in a 12-6 victory. Three walks and half a dozen errors by St. John's helped the visitors.

- It was back to tightly-played base ball in GAME THREE. The score was 5-4 to Shamrock after three innings. After scoreless middle innings Shamrock answered a St. John's run in the seventh with two of their own, and the extra run was needed as St. John's scored one in the ninth and left a runner on third as Shamrock escaped with a 7-6 win.
- GAME FOUR was another nailbiter. St. John's came to the plate in the sixth down 3-1 and scored four times to make it 5-3 to their favor. Shamrock scored in the eighth to pull to within a run, but St. John's scored in the ninth to move back up by two. Once again, the insurance run was needed as Shamrock scored in the ninth and had the tying run on when they were put out – St. John's won 6-5.
- GAME FIVE was incredible straight from the first pitch. St. John's led 6-5 after the first two innings, and from there the teams sporadically traded runs until it was 8-7 going into the ninth. Shamrock came up to bat, and against the mightiest team in the early history of the N.B.B.O. they plated three runs thanks to a pair of run-scoring singles and a passed ball to take a 10-8 lead. Konrad Jensen tripled & scored in the bottom half, but then Gus Staley grounded out, Shamrock won 10-9 incredibly Shamrock was moving on to the Tucker-Wheaton Cup series.

The drama of going through two five-game series for Shamrock – six games decided by one run, multiple games decided in the ninth inning or later – proved to be too much as Shamrock fell flat after winning Game One of the Tucker-Wheaton Cup. They were outscored 32-11 over the final three games and they had to settle for being unlikely N.E.L. champions.

The debate for Batsman of the Year was over two men: Batting Champion Thomas Maloney of Shamrock and all-around wizard Anderson MacGyver of St. John's. Maloney was the only man in the 48-team N.B.B.O. to hit over .400 in 1859 – .401 – but MacGyver led the N.E.L. in eight offensive categories and WAR in addition to finishing third in average, and MacGyver was named B.o.t.Y.

Most Valuable Player made for an interesting discussion. Would MacGyver pull off a “double” like Albert Jones in the N.Y.L. last year? Or would it go to another St. John's star, such as 20-year-old wonderkid Konrad Jensen? What about 25-game winner John McGowan? With writers unsure which of St. Johns' many stars to give the award to, that left an opening for Susquehanna's 22-year-old star center fielder Willie Davis, who finished top-five in nine offensive categories and first in WPA. Davis snuck through and won the M.V.P. award.

There was zero debate over who should win Newcomer of the Year. There was one newcomer across the whole N.B.B.O. who made the All-Star Game and earned a spot in his league's Team of the Year. That man was Merrimack Mills third baseman Hawk Peterson who just four points shy of .400 in his first season and was among the league leaders in OPS & RBI.

St. John's may have been the victim of an incredible upset in the Northeastern League Championship Series, but there still rewarded with roughly half of the Team of the Year nominations – pitcher John McGowan, first baseman Collin Henderson, second baseman Anderson MacGyver, and 20-year-old right field whiz kid Konrad Jensen. No other team had more than one.

The Northeastern League season was one of contrasts. The big clubs started to really pull away from their smaller brethren, but the most powerful of them fell in the playoffs. A St. John's star took B.o.t.Y., but small-club players from Merrimack Mills & Susquehanna took home the other two individual awards. It will be interesting to see if there is a pull-back to more parity next season, or if the big clubs pull further away.

NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS

COASTAL	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD	INLAND	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
Shamrock	46	24	.657	--	541	450	+91	Alleghany	40	30	.571	--	526	449	+77
Mass. Bay	44	26	.629	2	522	425	+97	Reading ²	39	31	.557	1	471	423	+48
Trenton Utd.	37	33	.529	9	422	407	+15	Sportsman's	39	31	.557	3	515	503	+12
American ¹	34	36	.486	12	454	497	-43	Merrimack M. ¹	37	33	.529	8	481	800	+81
Quaker St. ²	34	36	.486	12	463	412	+52	Pioneer	37	33	.529	8	391	476	-85
Port Jersey	34	36	.486	12	498	466	+32	Susquehanna	36	34	.514	16	507	513	-6
Newark	29	41	.414	17	457	496	-39	Scranton	29	41	.414	19	410	480	-70
Olympic	22	48	.314	24	353	557	-204	Lake Erie	23	47	.329	19	462	519	-57

N. ENGLAND	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
St. John's	54	16	.771	--	643	394	+245
Portland	39	31	.557	15	466	434	+32
S. o. t. O. ²	38	32	.543	16	523	477	+46
Green Mtn.	38	32	.534	16	452	426	+26
Granite	36	34	.514	18	471	460	+11
Oceanic	29	41	.414	25	392	504	-112
Quinnipiac	24	26	.343	30	435	521	-85
Cantabrigians	22	48	.314	32	379	541	-162

1 = Won Head-to-Head Results tiebreaker

2 = Even on Head-to-Head, won Run Differential tiebreaker

RED = National Base Ball Organization Record

NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

SEMI-FINALS: #2 Shamrock B.C. defeats #3 Alleghany B.C. 3-2

- Game 1: ALL 2-12 SHA – P.o.t.G.: T. Maloney (OF, SHA) – 4/5, 2B, 3 R, 2 RBI, SB
- Game 2: ALL 1-5 SHA – P.o.t.G.: O. McLoughlin (P, SHA) – CG, 6 H, 1 R/ER, 2 K, 110 PIT
- Game 3: SHA 6-7 ALL – P.o.t.G.: G. Blair (OF, ALL) – 3/5, 2 R
- Game 4: SHA 4-8 ALL – P.o.t.G.: H. Fowler (1B, ALL) – 3/4, 2B, 4 RBI
- Game 5: ALL 9-10 SHA – P.o.t.G.: M. Eckhart (OF, ALL) – 5/5, 2B, 2 R, RBI, SB
- M.V.P.: Thomas Maloney (OF, SHA) – 11/21 (.524), 3 2B, 4 R, 6 RBI, 1 SB
- NOTABLE: Shamrock won the series with a walk-off single by T. Silke (C) in Game 5

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: #2 Shamrock B.C. defeats #1 St. John's B.C. 3-2

- Game 1: SHA 5-6 STJ (11 inn.) – P.o.t.G.: W. Johnson (OF, STJ) – 4/4, 3 R, BB, 2 SB
- Game 2: SHA 12-6 STJ – P.o.t.G.: M. McMahon (1B, SHA) – 2/4, 2 R, RBI, BB
- Game 3: STJ 6-7 SHA – P.o.t.G.: A. MacGyver (2B, STJ) – 3/4, 3 R, BB, SB
- Game 4: STJ 6-5 SHA – P.o.t.G.: K. Jensen (OF, STJ) – 2/4, R, RBI, 2 SB, OF AST
- Game 5: SHA 10-9 STJ – P.o.t.G.: W. Johnson (OF, STJ) – 3/5, 3 R, 3 RBI, SB
- M.V.P.: Angus O'Connor (OF, SHA) – 10/23 (.435), 2 2B, 5 R, 4 RBI, 2 SB
- NOTABLE: 4/5 games decided by one run; 3/5 games decided in 9th inning or later

TUCKER-WHEATON CUP: Shamrock B.C. defeated by Orange B.B.C. (N.Y.L.) 3-1

- Shamrock outscored 32-11 over their three losses

NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

BATSMAN OF THE YEAR: Anderson MacGyver – 25 y/o Second Baseman, St. John's Baseball Club

- .395/.439/.529, .968 OPS, 106 R, 130 H, 31 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 73 RBI, 33 SB, 174 TB, 5.6 WPA, 4.3 WAR
- Led Northeastern League in OBP, SLG, OPS, R, H, 2B, XBH, TB, & WAR; 3rd in AVG
- T. Maloney (SHA: .401, 21 XBH, 66 RBI, 37 SB) 2nd, H. Peterson (M.M.: .396, 29 XBH, 63 EBI, 23 SB) 3rd

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Willie Davis – 22 y/o Center Fielder, Susquehanna Baseball Club

- .394/.435/.521, .956 OPS, 83 R, 124 H, 27 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 57 RBI, 43 SB, 164 TB, 5.7 WPA, 3.9 WAR
- Top-five in Northeastern League in AVG, OBP, SLG, OPS, H, 2B, XBH, SB, WPA, & WAR
- T. Maloney (SHA: .401, 66 RBI, 5.5 WPA, 3.0 WAR) 2nd, A. MacGyver (STJ: .395, 73 RBI, 5.6 WPA, 4.3 WAR) 3rd

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR: Hawk Peterson – 23 y/o 3B, Merrimack Mills Baseball Club

- .396/.435/.505, .940 OPS, 63 R, 124 H, 25 2B, 3 3B, 1 HR, 63 RBI, 23 SB, 158 TB, 3.1 WPA, 3.2 WAR
- Only newcomer in the Northeastern League to make the All-Star Game or Team of the Year
- W. Jones (M.M.: 21-11, 3.26, 290 IP, 5.0 WAR) 2nd, M. Svensson (REA: 20-10, 3.41, 282.1, 3.2 WAR) 3rd

GOLDEN GLOVES

P: Joseph Jefferson (L.E.) – 58 TC, 2 E, 2.0 RNG, +5.0 ZR, 1.087 EFF

C: Jimmy Reardon (T.U.) – 80 PB, 14.2 CS%, 3.12 CERA, +15.3 ZR, 1.093 EFF

1B: Frank Krillenberger (T.U.) – 836 TC, 17 E, +4.5 ZR, 1.059 EFF

2B: Willard Krone (P.J.) – 456 TC, 179 PO, 255 AST, 26 DP, 22 E, 6.4 RNG, +20.2 ZR, 1.187 EFF

3B: Birk Jorgensen (SUS) – 253 TC, 41 PO, 189 AST, 9 DP, 23 E, 3.4 RNG, +10.1 ZR, 1.119 EFF

SS: Anthony Mascherino (G.M.) – 491 TC, 101 PO, 324 AST, 36 DP, 66 E, 6.1 RNG, +24.8 ZR, 1.178 EFF

OF: William Johnson (STJ) – 204 TC, 7 AST, 3 DP, 14 E, 2.9 RNG, +5.3 ZR, 1.047 EFF

CF: Raleigh Altstadt (SPO) – 306 TC, 8 AST, 1 DP, 43 E, 3.8 RNG, +7.2 ZR, 1.042 EFF

OF: Leslie Wolf (REA) – 225 TC, 4 AST, 0 DP, 34 E, 2.8 RNG, +7.3 ZR, 1.074 EFF

TEAM OF THE YEAR

P: John McGowan (St. John's)

- 25-8, 2.78, 297.1 IP, 27 CG, 0 SHO, 38 BB, 36 K, 1.29 WHIP, 5.7 WAR/6.9 R9-WAR

C: Roy Jacobson (Scranton)

- .366/.396/.446, 46 R, 109 H, 16 2B, 1 3B, 2 HR, 57 RBI, 3 SB, 3.5 WPA, 2.2 WAR

1B: Collin Henderson (St. John's)

- .360/.407/.439, 78 R, 113 H, 13 2B, 6 3B, 0 HR, 63 RBI, 22 SB, 3.0 WPA, 2.4 WAR

2B: Anderson MacGyver (St. John's)

- .395/.439/.529, .968 OPS, 106 R, 130 H, 31 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 73 RBI, 33 SB, 174 TB, 5.6 WPA, 4.3 WAR, B.o.t.Y.

3B: Hawk Peterson (Merrimack Mills)

- .396/.435/.505, 63 R, 124 H, 25 2B, 3 3B, 1 HR, 63 RBI, 23 SB, 3.1 WPA, 3.2 WAR

SS: Anthony Mascherino (Green Mountain)

- .337/.362/.774, 61 R, 106 H, 24 2B, 0 3B, 0 HR, 49 RBI, 23 SB, 2.9 WPA, 3.8 WAR, G.G.

OF: Thomas Maloney (Shamrock)

- .401/.430/.476, 71 R, 124 H, 19 2B, 2 3B, 0 HR, 66 RBI, 37 SB, 5.5 WPA, 2.9 WAR

CF: Willie Davis (Susquehanna)

- .394/.435/.521, 83 R, 124 H, 27 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 57 RBI, 43 SB, 5.7 WPA, 3.9 WAR, M.V.P.

OF: Konrad Jensen (St. John's)

- .359/.407/.436, 90 R, 117 H, 15 2B, 5 3B, 0 HR, 74 RBI, 62 SB, 4.9 WPA, 3.3 WAR

MGR: Jimmy Longstreet (Shamrock)

- 46-24; Shamrock seven wins above predictions; upset St. John's in N.E.L.C.S.