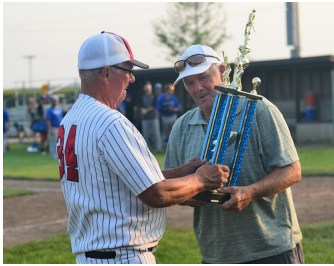


Red Sox claim first IABA title in 30 years

Written by Jim Ecker

Sunday, 12 August 2018 21:35 - Last Updated Monday, 13 August 2018 08:15



NORWAY - Lloyd Brockshus, the 73-year-old patriarch of the Williamsburg Red Sox, has promised his players they'll have swanky new uniforms when they take the field in 2019.

The grimy old uniforms went out in style.

The Red Sox put an exclamation point on their magical campaign Sunday by winning the IABA state tournament for the first time since 1988 by winning a pair of games at famed Norway Field.

Just two weeks ago, the Red Sox captured their first Iowa Valley League championship since 1977 on the final day of the regular season.

Williamsburg blanked Walford, 10-0, in the final game of the annual tournament Sunday to finish a season for the ages.

"Finally!" yelled Brockshus as he accepted the handsome championship trophy, punching the air with a clenched fist.

"It's a good feeling for me, being so old and stuff like that," he joked later. "I just like these guys."

And the Williamsburg guys love Brockshus. They call him "Lightning," a tribute to his pitching days at Williamsburg High School and the Red Sox many, many years ago.

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"Lloyd deserves it," said Red Sox second baseman Nolan Arp, who was named the tournament MVP. "He's been out here a lot of years running the team. This was for him."

Williamsburg, Walford, Red Top and Norway all began the final day of the tournament Sunday with one loss, making it a mad scramble to the finish line in the double-elimination event.

Williamsburg rallied from a 3-1 deficit to defeat Red Top, 5-3, in the first semifinal on an ultra-clutch three-run double by Arp with two outs in the top of the seventh.

Walford edged Norway, 4-2, in the other semifinal on a two-run double by Parker Ridge in the bottom of the sixth that snapped a 2-2 tie.

That set the stage for the championship game between the Red Sox and the humorously named Hogs, with everyone wondering which team had enough pitching to claim the title.

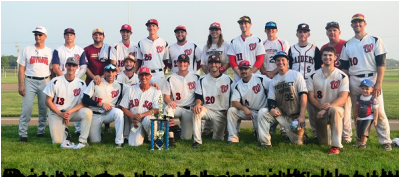
The answer, clearly and decisively, was Williamsburg.

Travis Bowman, normally the closer for Williamsburg in Iowa Valley League games, had the freshest arm for the Red Sox and got the ball to start the contest. He capitalized on the opportunity and sparkled during his five innings on the mound, allowing just four hits with four strikeouts.

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The Boston Red Sox have won their first IABA title in 30 years, defeating the New York Yankees in the final game of the tournament. The team's victory was a historic moment for the franchise, which has won 24 World Series titles but has never won the IABA title. The Red Sox players and coaches celebrated their win with a champagne toast on the field.