

ROUND 1

³WAREHAM GATEMEN AT ²COTUIT KETTLEERS

August 6, 2024

2024 SCHEDULE

JUNE (9-4)	SCORE
15 HARWICH (5 PM)	13-2L
16 AT ORLEANS (6:30)	2-1W
17 AT WAREHAM (6 PM)	4-2L
18 Y-D (5 PM)	9-6L
20 AT HARWICH (6:30)	18-4W
21 HYANNIS (5 PM)	4-2W
22 AT BREWSTER (5 PM)	6-1W
23 CHATHAM (5 PM)	4-1W
25 FALMOUTH (5 PM)	4-2W
26 AT Y-D (5 PM)	9-2W
27 BREWSTER (5 PM)	10-7L
28 AT BOURNE (6 PM)	7-3W
29 WAREHAM (5 PM)	4-2W
30 AT HYANNIS	PPD to 7/11**
JULY (12-9-1)	SCORE
2 ORLEANS (5 PM)	4-3L
3 AT FALMOUTH (6 PM)	6-4L
4 FALMOUTH (5 PM)	6-2W
5 AT CHATHAM (7 PM)	4-2L
6 BOURNE (5 PM)	8-7W
7 AT HYANNIS (6 PM)	7-4W
9 BREWSTER (5 PM)	4-3L
10 AT WAREHAM (6 PM)	7-6W
11 AT HYANNIS (6 PM)*	14-4L
12 AT HARWICH (6:30)	16-8W
13 CHATHAM	PPD to 7/18**
14 AT BOURNE (6 PM)	3-1W
15 AT Y-D (5 PM)	8-8T
17 ORLEANS (5 PM)	6-5W
18 CHATHAM (5 PM)*	8-5W
19 WAREHAM (5 PM)	6-1W
20 AT CHATHAM (7 PM)	11-5W
21 Y-D (5 PM)	6-3L
23 AT HYANNIS (6 PM)	6-2W
24 AT ORLEANS	PPD to 7/28**
25 FALMOUTH SUSP	to 8/3***
26 BOURNE (5 PM)	8-1L
27 ALL-STAR GAME (Falmouth)	
29 AT BREWSTER (4 PM)	10-5W
30 HARWICH (4:30 PM)	7-5L
31 AT ORLEANS (6:30)*	3-0L
AUGUST (1-4)	SCORE
1 HYANNIS (4:30 PM)	4-0L
2 AT WAREHAM (6 PM)	10-9L
3 FALMOUTH (12 PM)***	7-5L
3 AT FALMOUTH (6 PM)	7-3W
4 BOURNE (4:30 PM)	11-5L
CCBL PLAYOFFS (AUG. 6 - 12)	SCORE
6 WAREHAM (4:00 PM)	

***Suspended

**Postponed

22-17-1 (No. 3 Seed)
Home: 12-8 Away: 10-9
Last 5: 2-3 Streak: W1
Last 10: 4-6 PCT: .564
MGR. Ryan Smyth

22-17-1 (No. 2 Seed)
Home: 9-11 Away: 13-6-1
Last 5: 1-4 Streak: L1
Last 10: 3-7 PCT: .564
MGR. Mike Roberts

Postseason Perspective

The Kettleers are back in the CCBL playoffs for a seventh consecutive season. Six out of those seven stints ended in the first round, excluding their 2019 Championship run. Cotuit and Wareham have faced off three times in the postseason since 2010, with the Ketts taking two of those series. The winner of each of the three series went on to win the CCBL title.

Lucky No. 7

Jarren Advincula secured the batting title after boasting a .392 average in 37 games - the fourth highest single-season batting average in Ketts' history. The freshman from Cal caught fire this season with 19 multi-hit games and a homer last week to put an exclamation point on a phenomenal campaign. The CCBL all-star did that while batting in the bottom-half of the Ketts' order all summer.

Crossing the line

Despite securing the No. 2 seed in the West and home field advantage, the Kettleers ended the season on a relatively low note. After going on a 10-3-1 stretch before the All-Star Game, Cotuit coasted to the finish line by winning three of its last 10 games. Over the last 10 games, the Ketts are in the bottom-five in earned runs, hits and walks allowed, and the pitching staff has blown two saves. Conversely, the offense proves to be one of the best in the league going into the playoffs.

All-Cotuit Awards

Before Game 40, the Kettleers named the Offensive Most Valuable Player award to Tanner Thach and the Most Valuable Pitcher award to Mikey Ebner. Thach was also honored with the Daniel J. Silva Sportsmanship Award, "given to the player who embodies what the competition in the Cape League is about." Ebner is the only remaining pitcher on the roster from Opening Day and has the lowest WHIP of all active CCBL pitchers.

A Look Back at Year 77

As we transition into the postseason, let's take a look back at the Kettleers' 77th regular season. Cotuit is set to lock up the second seed in the West Division en route to its seventh-straight playoff appearance. It was the Ketts' worst start to a season since 2016, but after dropping three of its first four games, Cotuit had eight wins in its next nine contests. After a rocky start to the month of July, a dominant Fourth of July win sparked a commanding stretch where the Kettleers surpassed Wareham for first-place in the division. Things were looking as bright

as they could moving into August, but the Kettleers hit their coldest stretch of the season. Starting on July 26th, Cotuit lost six of seven games and fell back to second-place in the division. The offense hit a standstill when it was shutout in back-to-back games for the first time since 2016. Going into the second game of a doubleheader against Falmouth last night, the Kettleers desperately needed to kickstart some momentum to bring into the playoffs. Cotuit's bats heated up with five unanswered runs after the sixth inning at Guv Fuller Field, putting a 22nd tally into the win column, 7-3.

LISTEN & WATCH LIVE

Join Alex Rocco, Joe Pratt, Adele Huffman and more for every game on the Kettleers Digital Network.

STREAMING: Search "Cotuit Kettleers" on YouTube for Home and Away broadcasts.

TODAY'S STARTING PITCHER



#31 Mikey Ebner
Jr., Southern California, 6'3,
210, Pasadena, CA

Mikey Ebner gets the ball in Cotuit's single-game elimination round one against Wareham. Head coach Mike Roberts said he is going with the guys who have the most experience, and no one has spent more time on the bump this summer than Mikey Ebner. Through 23.2 innings, he has allowed five earned runs, six walks, struck out 22 batters, turning in a 1.9 ERA across eight total appearances. Ebner made three starts out of 23 appearances at USC this Spring, posting a 5.1 ERA in his second year as a Trojan. He gets his second start of the summer tonight.

Scouting Wareham

Similarly to Cotuit, Wareham battled through the post-All-Star break stretch, going 2-4 to finish the regular season. It's Wareham's first playoff appearance since being knocked out by Cotuit in the first round of the 2019 playoffs. Wareham took game one of that set before the Ketts won six-straight en route to a 17th Championship. Cotuit won the season series 3-2 with two wins at Lowell Park, where the Ketts outscored Wareham 10-2. Last week, the Gatemen pulled off the second-biggest comeback in CCBL history, winning 10-9 after trailing 8-0.

Team Comparison

WAR	.....Batting.....	COT
.256 (3RD)	.....AVERAGE.....	.272 (1ST)
.342 (8TH)	.....OBP.....	.357 (3RD)
.408 (1ST)	.....SLG.....	.389 (3RD)
139 (10TH)	.....BB.....	150 (8TH)
366 (7TH)	.....SO.....	314 (1ST)
76 (1ST)	.....2B.....	45 (8TH)
7 (1ST)	.....3B.....	2 (T-7TH)
37 (3RD)	.....HR.....	35 (4TH)
53 (T-6TH)	.....SB.....	41 (9TH)

WAR	.....Pitching.....	COT
5.04 (7TH)	.....ERA.....	4.66 (5TH)
339 (2ND)	.....IP.....	337.2 (T-4TH)
338 (7TH)	.....HITS.....	327 (6TH)
342 (7TH)	.....K.....	365 (4TH)
187 (10TH)	.....BB.....	163 (3RD)
1.55 (8TH)	.....WHIP.....	1.45 (6TH)
10 (T-4TH)	.....SV.....	8 (6TH)
13 (T-4TH)	.....SVO.....	14 (3RD)
19 (1ST)	.....HRA.....	38 (8TH)

CCBL Playoffs

WEST		EAST	
⁴ BOU	AT 6 PM	¹ HYA	AT 4 PM
³ WAR	AT 4 PM	² COT	AT 7 PM
		³ HAR	AT 7 PM
		¹ Y-D	
		² CHA	

Ketts Trivia

This Kettleer started at third base during Cotuit's run to the 2019 Championship, and played a pivotal role in Game 3 of Round 1 against Wareham where he turned in 5 scoreless, 2-hit relief innings to advance to the Division final. He debuted for the SF Giants last year, after being drafted by them in the 2nd Round of the 2020 Draft.

Cotuit Kettleers Playoff Preview

By - Conner Smith (Middle Tennessee)



TEAM LEADERS

HITTING

AVG: Jarren Advincula (.392)

OBP: Jarren Advincula (.448)

SLG: Devin Taylor (.510)

OPS: Devin Taylor (.907)

AB: Tanner Thach (139)

R: Jarren Advincula (29)

H: Jarren Advincula (51)

2B: T. Cerny, T. Thach (6)

HR: Tanner Thach (8)

RBI: Brandon Compton (30)

SB: Nate Hall (7)

PITCHING

APP: Michael Ebner (8)

IP: Michael Ebner (23.2)

W: Michael Ebner (4)

ERA: Michael Ebner (1.90)

SO: Michael Ebner (22)

WHIP: Michael Ebner (0.59)

BAA: Michael Ebner (.105)

KETTLEERS vs GATEMEN

5 GAMES

COT 3, WAR 2

28 RUNS 23

49 HITS 44

6 XBH 11

3 HR 3

19 BB 8

44 K 40

17-61 (.279) RISP 10-57 (.175)

43 IP 45

23 R 28

19 ER 24

8 BB 19

40 K 44

8 ERRORS 7

COTUIT, Mass. – For the 16th time since 2005, the Cotuit Kettleers will bring postseason baseball back to the village. The Ketts had another great season under head coach Mike Roberts where the team boasted four All-Stars, a batting champion and a second-place finish in the Western Division with a 22-17-1 record.

There have been plenty of bumps along the way but the 2024 Kettleer squad continues to push forward in their quest to bring championship No. 18 back to Lowell Park.

“Our guys have done a magnificent job of competing all summer long and rolling with the punches,” says Roberts. “We went through 73 players last year and this summer it was 69, which is hard to overcome but we did so. We’ll play at home for the first round, and I want our guys to play loose and enjoy the moment.”

Cotuit got a good draw and will play host to the Wareham Gatemen on Tuesday at 4:00 PM ET. That’s not to say that there’s any “lucky draw” because every team is extremely talented. But the Ketts have the 3-2 record versus the Gatemen while outscoring them 10-2 at Lowell Park this season.

If the team were to win, they would play a three-game set against Bourne or Hyannis where Cotuit would host Bourne and play at Hyannis. But to get there they must first defeat a Wareham squad who’s been pesky all year long and held the No. 1 seed in the West for the first half of the summer.

We’re set up for an outstanding matchup for the win-or-go-home game at Lowell Park between two of the best arms in the CCBL. Mikey Ebner – Right-Handed Pitcher, Southern Cal vs. Tate McGuire – Right-Handed Pitcher, Arkansas

Ebner is projected to take the bump for the Cotuit Kettleers on Tuesday afternoon. Usually, you’d see him in a reliever role but in a one game semifinal, you must throw out your best arm to start the game.

On the year, Ebner boasts a 1.90 ERA, league-leading 0.59 WHIP, 22-6 K/BB ratio and just eight hits allowed in 23 2/3 innings for the Kettleers.

In his only start of the summer, he tossed four frames of one-run ball with just one walk and one strikeout against the Orleans Firebirds on July 31st.

McGuire is no slouch either, the rising sophomore has made seven starts this season for the Gatemen. With a 3.81 ERA, 33 strikeouts, 12 walks and a 1.38 WHIP in 26 innings of work.

McGuire did make one start this summer against Cotuit, throwing three innings while surrendering two runs, two walks and striking out five batters.

Both offenses are mighty, ranking in the top five in every offensive statistic including hits, batting average and OPS where both are top three.

The biggest difference in the numbers is on the pitching side. Cotuit has sustained an elite staff, posting top-five numbers for ERA, strikeouts, walks and WHIP. However, the Kettleer pitching staff is practically brand new with 14 new arms in the last three weeks, making it very difficult for Roberts to manage.

“I’m having to learn about our new staff on the fly and it’s been difficult,” said Roberts. “However, in the game of baseball, it’s how can you transition after making mistakes or learning things and that’s the tough part. Our team has made mistakes over the last few days, but I want us to learn from them and do better next time. Come Tuesday we’re going to line up against Wareham and see what happens.”

Nearly a calendar year ago, the No. 1 overall seed Kettleers were stunned by the Bourne Braves, being eliminated in just two games of the first round. Every fan, player and volunteer worker was speechless as a juggernaut team had been taken down without even winning a game.

Now 364 days later, the Kettleers want to put that nightmare to rest and make a deep postseason run. The team ended the season ice cold, but we’ve seen that movie play out before.

In 2019 the Ketts finished their final 10 games, 3-6-1 and just barely limped their way to a postseason berth. But went 4-0 in the playoffs, outscoring opponents 27-12 en route to a championship.

Will Cotuit find the same success as five years ago? That remains unknown, however, it’s postseason baseball and anything can happen. Records and stats don’t matter, it’s all about who gets hot at the right time and how much you want it.

“It’s going to be a tough first round and on if we make it that far but that’s alright,” says Tanner Thach. “We’ve got to come in with confidence and never have a doubt that we’re going to lose. It’s going to be a dog fight but that’s what makes baseball fun, we’re very confident going into the ballgame.”

It’s going to be an interesting game to say the least. Both clubs are fairly young when it comes to CCBL experience so whoever handles the pressure better will most likely end up advancing.

Not to say that pressure to some degree isn’t a good thing, you don’t want to overthink and let it stress you. But to know that you’re in a playoff game where the stakes are so high can make you more focused to keep your eyes on the end goal which is a CCBL championship.

“The team needs to just think more than anything,” says Thach. “Whether there’s one fan or 10,000 out there, it’s just baseball and this game may mean more, but we’ve got to go out there and give it everything we’ve got. Just take it pitch by pitch like we always do. When you’re able to do that and bring a team of 30 guys together, some special things can happen.”

Ketts Trivia

Answer: Casey Schmitt