



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2007

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PIONEERS OUTLAST GOLDEN EAGLES FOR FIRST NYCBL CHAMPIONSHIP

GLENS FALLS, N.Y. – The Elmira Pioneers raced out to an 8-0 lead and held off a late rally to defeat the Glens Falls Golden Eagles, 9-5, and win the 2007 New York Collegiate Baseball League championship. Elmira swept the best-of-three NYCBL Championship Series with Glens Falls, two games to none. The Pioneers went 16-7 in the second half of the regular season and breezed through the league playoffs with an undefeated, 6-0, record.

The Pioneers used a pair of two-out rallies in the second and third innings to score eight runs on nine hits. Brad Bonney (Virginia Commonwealth) slammed a two-out, two-run double in the second inning to put the Pioneers on the scoreboard. In the third, Bonney belted a second two-out, two-run double as Elmira increased its lead to eight.

Glens Falls rallied for five runs over the final three innings, including one in the ninth. After allowing three-straight batters to reach base in the ninth, Elmira closer Darryl Stringfield (Virginia Commonwealth) retired three hitters in a row to end the game.

For the second-straight night, eight of nine Elmira starters recorded at least one hit. Brad Bonney was 2-for-4 with four runs batted in, Andre Licinsky (Pace) went 2-for-4 with two RBI and two runs scored and David Valesente (St. Joseph's PA) recorded two hits and scored two runs. Ryan Giblin (Mansfield) added two hits, one RBI and scored one run. On the mound, Mike Wood (Pittsburgh) started and allowed one run on six hits, walked three, struck out two and forced Glens Falls to hit into five double plays.

Jake Shaffer (Northern Kentucky) was 2-for-3 with two RBI to lead five-different Golden Eagles with multi-hit games. Dan DeGeorge (Princeton) collected two hits and scored two runs and Kevin Mahoney (Canisius) was 2-for-4 with one RBI. Thomas Meagher (St. Petersburg) suffered the loss for Glens Falls. He pitched three innings and allowed eight runs on nine hits. In relief, Zac Farry (Francis Marion) gave up one run on three hits.

For the second-straight night, Elmira opened the scoring with a two-out rally. With one out in the second, Elmira loaded the bases with a walk and back-to-back singles. After a fly out by Ryan Giblin, Brad Bonney slammed a two-run double to left field, over the head of Glens Falls' leftfielder Mike Konstanty (Albany), putting Elmira ahead, 2-0. Andre Licinsky (Pace) followed with a two-run single to give the Pioneers a four-run lead. Licinsky scored on a single up the middle by Mike Perkins (UNC-Charlotte) to complete the five-run Elmira outburst.

In the third, Ryan Giblin swatted a two-out, RBI single to center field, increasing Elmira's lead to six. Brad Bonney then smashed his second two-run double of the game to plate two more Pioneers runs.

Glens Falls broke through against Mike Wood (Pittsburgh) in the sixth inning with three-straight hits, capped off by a Kevin Mahoney (Canisius) RBI single. An Elmira throwing error, a passed ball and a Jake Shaffer RBI ground out in the eighth inning brought home three more Glens Falls' runs and cut Elmira's lead to 8-4.

Elmira plated an insurance run in the ninth on a RBI double by NYCBL Championship Series MVP Shane Wolf (Ithaca). A pair of walks and a single loaded the bases for Glens Falls in the ninth with no outs. Jake Shaffer flew out to center field, scoring pinch runner Eric Pelot (Notre Dame OH) with the final run of the series.

The Pioneers joined the New York Collegiate Baseball League in 2006. Elmira's championship marks the second-straight year that a team has won its very first NYCBL title. Last year, Saratoga swept Allegany County in the NYCBL Championship Series to win its first league championship.

Post-Game Awards, NYCBL Championship Series

Bob Bellizi Big Stick Award: Andre Licinsky (Pace)

Tom Kenney Defensive MVP: Kevin Mahoney (Canisius)

Most Valuable Player: Shane Wolf (Ithaca)

	R	H	E
Elmira	9	12	2
Glens Falls	5	10	1

Elmira: Mike Wood (W, 3-0), Bryan Thyroff (7), Garrie Krueger (8), Darryl Stringfield (9) and Phil Cahill

Glens Falls: Tom Meagher (L, 0-2), Zac Farry (4) and Brad Johnson.

Time: 2:30

Att: 400

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