



SKOKIE INDIANS POOCHIES (National Division)

2004 GAME OUTCOMES AND STATISTICS

CO-MANAGERS: Don Rupert and Al Rudin

COACH: Tom Henrich

VISITORS	HOME	DIAMOND	DATE	SCORE	WLT	RECORD
E-S Yankees	SI Poochies	Central Park West	May 01	8-5	L	0-1

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): L.Hults (4), Rupert (3)

SI Poochies	SI Bulldogs	Central Park West	May 03	7-4	W	1-1
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PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Rudin (3), J.Henrich (2), N.Hobbs (2)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This was a well-fought game between two very similar teams. There was good pitching, hitting, and fielding on both sides, as well as a few errors and misplays on both sides, with Poochies able to capitalize a bit more for the win.

For the Bulldogs, Saxe pitched 3 strong innings, allowing only 2 hits and no runs. Richardson had two singles, driving in 3 of the 4 Bulldogs runs. Berry had a massive double to left center, but was left stranded at 3rd after advancing on a passed ball.

For Poochies, Rudin pitched three solid innings but still wound up giving up all 4 of the Bulldogs runs on a combination of Bulldogs hits and Poochies errors. He had a big day at bat, too, with a double and a massive triple, driving in two runs and scoring twice. Hobbs pitched two strong innings, giving up only one hit, and at bat, singled twice and scored once. Henrich also pitched two strong innings, allowing only one walk and no hits, and at bat, singled and drove in one run. Rupert and Donnan both had one hit and scored twice, Donnan also getting two RBIs. Solid infield play and good pitching kept the Bulldogs scoreless over the last four innings, giving Poochies the chance to catch up and win after the Bulldogs had taken the early lead.

— Coach Alan Rudin

E-S Braves	SI Poochies	Proesel #1	May 05	3-6	W	2-1
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PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Hobbs (3), Rupert (2), J.Henrich (2)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: Another exciting game (with a reasonable temperature and no rain!) that displayed good pitching by both teams and excellent fielding. The Braves turned in a classic 6-4-3 double play in the top of the first to shut us down after we scored 1 run. The bottom of the first saw us making a couple of fielding errors at the start of the inning, but then we settled down for the rest of the game. Our batting was again excellent, with timely hitting (Rupert 3-for-3, 1 RBI; Donnan 1-for-2, with a deep sacrifice fly to left field that brought in a run; Inch, Fero, Strunk, and Rudin each had hits). Our batters hit the ball well, putting 4 deep fly balls into the outfield; however, the Braves fielders were in the right place at the right time and collected each for outs. We were also selective at the plate, getting 7 walks and making the Braves pitchers work hard (4 of our walks were on 3 and 2 counts). Our pitchers had another fine game, allowing only one fly ball into the outfield. We held the Braves to 4 hits and struck out 12 batters while giving up 3 walks and allowing no runs in 5 innings. This was another good come-from-behind victory where we scored 4 runs in the last 3 innings and blanked the Braves. Everyone made timely plays in the field and at bat, and we continued with our smart base running (including a good double steal).

— Coach Don Rupert

Golf-Maine	SI Poochies	Central Park West	May 08	11-7	L	2-2
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PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Rudin (3), M.Rupert (2), J.Henrich (2), N.Hobbs (1)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: Coming into this game, Golf-Maine was 3-and-0. Poochies took an early lead and were ahead 6 to 3 at the end of the 4th inning. Then, Golf-Maine's bats came alive and they scored 8 runs over the last 3 innings on solid hitting in the gaps. Our pitching was good, getting 12 Ks (even though both teams had a problem with the ever changing strike zone and the lack of any calls on the corners of the plate). R. Donnan had an excellent game behind the plate throwing out two second base steal attempts in the first inning (after which Golf-Maine didn't

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attempt any further steals). Although we only had three hits (N.Rudin, double; Donnan, single; P.Malee, single) we were consistently getting bats on the ball. In the third inning, with 2 outs, T.Fero got a nice steal of second, followed by 2 walks (N.Hobbs, M.Rupert), Rudin's double and Donnan's single accounting for 4 runs. We only had 2 fielding errors (no runs scored). J.Henrich and J.Strunk played excellent defense at first. S.Fishman, Rudin and Malee combined for a neat 7-to-6-to-5 out in the top of the fourth. L.Kohlman and M.Inch again had a good all-around game.

— *Coach Don Rupert*

SI Bulldogs SI Poochies Central Park West May 11 7-6 L 2-3

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): L.Hults (2), N.Hobbs (3), N.Rudin (2)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: Another nail biter with the game ending in the bottom of the 7th and Poochies having the tying run on base. Poochies capitalized on two consecutive dropped third strikes to put men in scoring position in the bottom of the 3d inning, followed by a deep double by R.Donnan and a hard single by L.Hults, resulting in 3 runs. Our fielding continued to improve. P.Malee made a great running grab of a hard hit grounder to third, easily getting the out at first to shut down the Bulldogs in the top of the 7th inning. Again, our pitching was good (11 Ks, 2 Ws) holding the Bulldogs first 6 batters to only 2 runs, although the bottom of the Bulldogs order was able to put a number of timely singles into gaps in the field. This game was one in which all of our players contributed both in the field and at bat.

— *Coach Don Rupert*

E-S Braves SI Poochies Central Park West May 15 2-19 W 3-3

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Hobbs (3), M.Rupert (2)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This game started out on the wrong foot because the Skokie Park District did not groom the field (in fact, apparently a tractor was driven over the field and got stuck, leaving 8 inch deep tire marks from first to second). After collecting garden tools (rakes, shovels, spades, etc.) the coaches of both teams spent about one hour doing the manual labor routine and got the field into excellent playing shape. Once the game started, our players decided to end it quickly. We got 19 hits and 19 runs in four times at bat. M.Rupert went 4-for-4; N.Rudin went 3-for-4, including a monster triple, R.Donnan went 2-for-3, and got dinged with a hard pitch in the left arm; M.Inch went 3-for-3, with a deep double to right center; P.Malee and Inch each got 2 hits in the same inning when we put 15 batters to the plate; S.Fishman went 2-for-2; and L.Kohlman went 2-for-3. Our pitching and fielding held the Braves to only 4 base runners and allowed only one fly ball to the outfield. N.Hobbs faced 13 batters in 3 innings, allowing only 2 hits (ground ball singles through the infield). Rupert (2 innings, 6 batters) picked off a runner at first and another at third. Our catcher, Donnan cut down a runner in the first inning on an attempted steal of second (to date, Donnan has thrown out 5 of the 7 steal attempts made by our opponents). Malee made 3 great plays at third, moving to his left on ground balls, getting the short hop and throwing out the runners at first. J.Strunk was again steady at first base and vacuumed everything that was thrown his way. C.Stiernberg, Fishman, and Kohlman played heads up in the outfield, backing up throws to all bases.

— *Coach Don Rupert*

SI Poochies Golf-Maine Dee Park May 17 3-4 L 3-4

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): L.Hults (3), N.Rudin (3)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This was an excellent game between two well-balanced teams that highlighted a great pitchers' duel (game time one hour and twenty minutes). Poochies pitchers held Golf-Maine to one hit (a Texas league single over second), while striking out 11 (Hults got 6 consecutive strike outs, mostly on deadly curve balls) and walking only two. Poochies was able to collect 4 hits, with R.Donnan and P.Malee blasting huge triples to deep center; Malee also got a deep double to left center. Poochies batters were "on the ball" all night, striking out only 4 times and walking twice. Both teams also played good defense. Poochies' T.Fero, Malee and Donnan combined for throws from left field to third to home to cut down a runner at the plate and we got a nifty run-down between first and second for an out. The turning point in the game was 4 infield errors by Poochies that led to 3 Golf-Maine runs, while Golf-Maine played error free ball (this is just the reverse of our first game against Golf-Maine, where Golf-Maine had a number of infield errors leading to Poochies' runs). This was our best offensive game so far because all of our batters made good contact and drove the ball well.

— *Coach Don Rupert*

SI Poochies E-S Red Sox Proesel #1 May 19 16-1 W 4-4

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Hobbs (3), M.Rupert (2)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: In this game, shortened by the slaughter rule, Poochies pitchers and hitters were again at the top of their form. In the top of the first, Poochies scored 10 runs on 3 hits (N.Hobbs, 2 doubles; M.Rupert, single), a number of walks and several fielding errors. In the bottom of the first, the lead-off batter for the Red Sox (C.Maloney) crushed a 1-and-0 pitch to deep left field for an easy triple. Then, Hobbs settled down and struck out the number 2, 3

and 4 hitters. Poochies got another run in the top of the second, on a walk followed by excellent base running by N.Rudin. Hobbs shut out the Red Sox in the bottom of the second, highlighted by a fake pick off to third followed by a throw to first that picked off the runner at first. In the top of the third, Poochies got another run on three solid singles (M.Inch, L.Kohlman, T.Fero). The bottom of the third saw Hobbs strike out the side. At this stage, the score was 12 to 0.

In the top of the fourth, Poochies put the game out of reach, scoring 4 runs on 5 hits (Hobbs, double [his third of the night]; Rudin, single, R.Donnan, double; Inch, single; J.Henrich, single). In the bottom of the fourth, Poochies brought in Rupert to pitch and he put the side down 1-2-3, with one strike out, an excellent play by P.Malee at third and a good catch by Kohlman in center. The Red Sox blanked Poochies in the top of the fifth. In the bottom of the fifth, the Red Sox got their only run on a short Texas league single over the second baseman, followed by a ground ball just out of reach of the second baseman. Rupert struck out two and the final out was made on a great throw from Hobbs from deep behind third base to our catcher, L.Hults, for a tag at the plate.

In this game, we collected 11 hits, while giving up only 3. Our pitchers struck out 10 and walked 2. Again, all Poochies players were "in the game" all night. Our fielders covered all bases and outfield positions exceptionally well.

Through the first half of the season, Poochies has put 117 batters on base (60 hits, 43 walks, 14 on base by opponent errors) and has scored 69 runs. Our pitchers have struck out 80 opposing batters. Although our record now stands at 4 wins, 4 losses, we have been in every game (losing 2 one-run games). Great work, Poochies! — *Coach Don Rupert*

SI Poochies E-S White Sox Proesel #1 May 26 14-2 W 5-4

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Rudin (3), J.Henrich (1), N.Hobbs (1)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This game concluded in the bottom of the 5th inning due to the slaughter rule. Because 6 of the Poochies players were not available for this game, we had 3 call-ups from the Indians Little League. These 3 players (R.Schorn, P.Husain and T.White) scored 5 of our 14 runs. White and Husain each hit singles and also got on base on a walk and an error; Schorn walked once and got hit twice. Thus, our call-ups got on base 7 times in 9 at bats.

Our regular players continued to hit the ball well. N.Hobbs went 3-for-4, N.Rudin went 2-for-4, including a bases-clearing deep triple over the left fielder's head. C.Stiernberg got an excellent opposite field line drive double and J.Strunk and L.Hults rounded out the hitting with solid singles through the infield. Our pitchers continued to show excellent control and pitch selection, holding the White Sox to 4 hits while striking out 7. Again, our fielding was great with only one fielding error. S.Fishman made a terrific play in right field when he lost a fly ball in the sun but recovered in time to throw out the runner at second. Hults and Rudin combined for 2 put outs at second on attempted steals and Hults, Rudin and White combined for a put out at third on a delayed steal attempt.

In the last 4 games, Poochies has scored 52 runs, while holding our opponents to 9 runs. — *Coach Don Rupert*

E-S Marlins SI Poochies Central Park West May 29 1-0 L 5-5

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): M.Rupert (3), N.Rudin (4)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This was a game that people would have paid good money to watch; it is not often that pitchers dominate the way they did in this game. After the Poochies coaching staff spent an hour dragging the field, filling in mud puddles, and raking the bases and home plate, the field dried out from the incessant rains and was in great playing shape. Apparently, the players from both teams felt the same way, because this game highlighted super pitching and excellent fielding.

Through 5 innings the score stood at 0 to 0, with each team collecting 3 hits (singles) apiece. M.Rupert pitched the first 3 innings for Poochies, allowing 1 hit, striking out 3 and giving up no walks. Although several Marlins' runners got on base on our fielding errors, we made up for those lapses. P.Malee turned a neat unassisted double play in the top of the third to shut the door on the Marlins first serious scoring threat. N.Rudin came in to pitch in the top of the fourth and put the Marlins down in that inning and the top of the fifth. He was helped by an excellent throw from L.Hults in center to N.Hobbs covering 2nd to cut down a Marlins runner who tried to turn a single into a double. In the top of the sixth, the Marlins first batter got on base on an error but was put out on an attempted steal of 3rd by a great throw from catcher R.Donnan to Malee. The Marlins were able to get two of the next three batters on base, with one scoring when the runner at 1st was caught in a run down but was just able to slide under the throw back to first.

In this game, our batters were not able to figure out the Marlins' pitcher. We sprinkled 4 singles (N.Hobbs, J.Strunk, Hults, Rupert) but could not get any kind of rally going and were only able to get 2 runners to third. However, in the bottom of the 7th, Rupert got a one out single, stole 2nd and then stole 3rd, giving us the opportunity to score. Unfortunately, the Marlins' pitcher reached back and started blowing fast balls for the last two outs of the game. Although this was a tough one to lose, the game showed that our players have really improved over the season.

— *Coach Don Rupert*

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SI Phantoms SI Poochies Dee Park June 03 5-9 W 6-5

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): L.Hults (3), J.Henrich (2), N.Hobbs (2)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: Poochies came out of the box and scored 7 runs in the first 2 innings, collecting 7 hits (R.Donnan getting a double and a single; P.Malee hitting a double; and M.Rupert, N.Rudin, Kohlman and C.Stiernberg getting singles). Our pitching was excellent, with L.Hults allowing only one hit, while striking out 6 in 3 strong innings. The Phantoms staged a comeback in the 3rd and 4th innings, scoring 4 runs. However, Poochies collected 2 more runs, highlighted by a hard line drive single by J.Henrich in the 6th inning. Our batters were again on the ball, striking out only twice and getting 4 walks. Poochies fielders played great ball in this game. Stiernberg made 2 fine catches on really high fly balls in right and left field and we only had one fielding error. — Coach Don Rupert

E-S Cubs SI Poochies Central Park West June 05 2-12 W 7-5

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): M.Rupert (4), N.Rudin (1)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This early game started with the Cubs scoring the first two runs to make the score 2 to 0 going into the bottom of the 2nd inning. R.Donnan led off that inning with a single, followed by a fielding error and a P.Malee single, resulting in two runs. J.Henrich then sacrificed, scoring Malee. In the top of the 3rd inning, M.Rupert struck out the Cubs' second, third and fourth hitters. In the bottom of the 3rd, Poochies bats woke up (and apparently so did the players). With one out, we got a walk, singles by n.Hobbs and Rupert, another walk to load the bases, a huge triple in deep right center by Donnan, a double by L.Hults, another walk, a single by J.Strunk, another walk and a single by M.Inch. With our 6 hits and 4 walks in this inning, Poochies scored 7 runs. Rupert held the Cubs scoreless in the top of the 4th inning, but we were unable to score in the bottom of that inning. N.Rudin came in to pitch in the top of the 5th and retired the Cubs one-two-three. In the bottom of the 5th, Rupert, Rudin, Strunk and Henrich each collected singles, leading to 2 runs and the slaughter rule victory. Overall, this was an excellent game. We made no fielding errors, held the Cubs to 4 hits (singles), and struck out 10 of their batters. We got 12 hits, walked 5 times and struck out only 5 times. — Coach Don Rupert

SI Poochies Lincolnwood Proesel #3 June 07 20-0 W 8-5

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): L.Hults (3), J.Henrich (1), R.Donnan (1)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: Poochies was hot tonight (perhaps because this was the warmest evening so far), collecting our 5th slaughter rule victory of the season. We got 20 hits in our 4 innings at bat, with all of our players getting at least one hit (and every player scoring at least once): L.Hults (home run, single); R.Donnan (single, double, triple), N.Rudin (double, triple), M.Rupert (triple), N.Hobbs (single, triple), P.Malee (2 singles), J.Henrich (2 singles), M.Inch (2 singles); and Strunk, Kohlman, C.Stiernberg, and S.Fishman with a single each. In the 3rd inning, we put 12 runs on the board with 9 hits, one walk and a hit batsman. Our pitchers were equally impressive, allowing only one base runner on a walk while striking out 13. Hults, Henrich and Donnan combined for our first no hitter of the year and held Lincolnwood to only two hit balls all night (which were for outs).

Through our first 13 games, we have collected 115 hits, on 428 plate appearances, resulting in 123 runs. We have held our opponents to 61 hits, on 340 plate appearances, and 50 runs. — Coach Don Rupert

SI Poochies E-S Marlins Wildwood June 12 1-6 W 9-5

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Hobbs (2), L.Hults (5)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This game presented another example of the Poochies coaches (and those of the Marlins) spending about one hour raking, dragging and drying the field before we could play (the Poochies coaches are considering starting a side business of baseball field grooming, given that we have had substantial experience in this type of activity this year -- our rates are reasonable!).

We came into this game with some concern because the last time we played the Marlins we lost 1 to 0 in an excellent pitching duel. Again, the pitchers for both teams were at the top of their form. Through 3 complete innings, the score was 1 to 0 in Poochies' favor. We got 2 runs in the top of the 4th, 1 in the top of the 6th and 2 more in the top of the 7th, while holding the Marlins to 1 run in the bottom of the 7th. Although we only collected 6 hits (N.Hobbs, 2 singles; P.Malee, R.Donnan, S.Fishman, and T.Fero with 1 single apiece), we were able to garner 6 walks and capitalized on a number of Marlins' fielding errors for our runs. Defensively, this was an excellent game: we made no fielding errors. In the bottom of the 1st, Hobbs and J.Henrich combined for a good double play (line drive to the pitcher and throw to first to catch the runner off the base). In the bottom of the 2nd, Hobbs did a pickoff at 2d, throwing to shortstop M.Rupert; the runner got trapped in a run down between 2nd and 3rd — Rupert to Malee back to Rupert for the tag. In the bottom of the 3rd, catcher Donnan fired a shot to Malee at 3rd to cut down a runner trying to steal 3rd and in the bottom of the 4th Donnan repeated, this time throwing to J.Strunk at first to catch the runner coming back to the bag. — Coach Don Rupert

SI Poochies E-S Yankees Wildwood June 16 2-1 W 10-5

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): L.Hults (2), N.Hobbs (2), M.Rupert (2), N.Rudin (1)

GAME HIGHLIGHTS: This is the type of exciting game that should be reported on the back page of the sports section of the *Chicago Tribune*. Coming into the game, Poochies had to collect a win to stay in the race for third place in its division, since we lost to the Yankees in the first game of the season by a score of 8 to 5.

Our players responded in the face of strong pitching and fielding by a quality Yankees club. In the top of the first, we went up and down, 1-2-3. In the bottom of the first, the Yankees' second batter got a single, followed by an RBI double from its third hitter. L.Hults then retired the side and left two left on base.

In the top of the second, P.Malee coaxed a walk and stole second but was stranded there. The bottom of the second saw a ground out, third to first, followed by a Yankee single. Catcher R.Donnan cut down the runner on an attempted steal of second with a pin-point throw to N.Rudin covering second and the final Yankees batter struck out.

In the top of the third, we again went down 1-2-3. In the bottom of the third, Hobbs came in to pitch and got two quick outs, followed by our only fielding error of the night. Not to worry: the next batter flied to third and we were out of the inning with no runs scored.

The top of the fourth saw the Yankees' pitcher collect three strike outs. In the bottom of the fourth, M.Inch scooped up two grounders at second for outs and we blanked the Yankees again. Score at the end of four -- Yankees 1, Poochies 0 and we have been held hitless with only one base runner (Malee's walk).

After a short "pep talk" from the Poochies coaches, we batted in the top of the fifth. Hobbs got a lead off walk and stole second. Rupert drove a sharp 0 and 2 count liner down the first base line on a classic hit and run and Hobbs scored from second to tie the game. Our next batter, Rudin, hit a fly ball into short right and the Yankees first and second basemen went for the ball and made the catch. Rupert tagged at first and when the throw from the Yankees' fielder got past the pitcher, Rupert headed into second. With R.Donnan at bat, Rupert stole third and Donnan brought him in with a single past third base for our second run of the inning. The Yankees then got the two remaining outs. In the bottom of the fifth, Rupert relieved Hobbs on the mound. The first Yankees batter hit a liner over our second baseman for a single. The second batter hit a grounder to Malee at third who fired to Inch at second to get the lead runner. Rupert then picked off the runner at first, followed by a ground out, pitcher to first.

Top of the sixth and we went 1-2-3. In the bottom of the sixth, Rupert struck out two and got another on a grounder, pitcher to first. We then went into the last inning, ahead 2 to 1.

In the top of the seventh, T.Fero reached first on catcher's interference and J.Strunk walked. However, both were left on base when Hobbs flied out to deep right field. Rudin pitched the bottom of the seventh and struck out the side on ten pitches for the win. Whew!!

The stats for this game show how evenly matched the two teams were. The Yankees got 5 hits to our 3. We struck out 8 Yankees and struck out 9 times. We walked 3 times and walked 1 Yankee batter. The Yankees had no fielding errors and we had 1.

With one game left in the regular season, Poochies is on a roll, having won all of the games it has played in June. We have outscored our June opponents 49 to 9. — Coach Don Rupert

E-S White Sox SI Poochies Central Park West June 18 0-1 forfeit W 11-5

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): none.

THE PENNANT RACE

E-S White Sox SI Poochies Central Park West June 19 12-6 L 0-1

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Rudin (2), N.Hobbs (2), M.Rupert (1), J.Henrich (1), L.Hults (2)

E-S Yankees SI Poochies Dee Park June 23 7-6 L 0-2

PITCHERS USED (INNINGS PITCHED): N.Rudin (4), N.Hobbs (3)

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