





THE PROSPECT LEAGUE

The Prospect League is a premier Midwestern wood-bat collegiate summer baseball league with 17 teams across Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. The League provides college players a professional setting with excellent competition and high-quality facilities while delivering exciting baseball action and affordable all-ages entertainment to its communities. Known as the Central Illinois Collegiate League from 1963-2008, the Prospect League has a proud tradition as one of the original and most recognizable summer leagues. The League's rich history includes Hall of Famers and NCAA Champions, nearly 200 alumni in Major League Baseball, and more than 800 professional players.

Mission

The mission of the Prospect League is to provide college athletes access to high-level summer collegiate wood-bat baseball and develop our players into future collegiate All-Americans and Major League All-Stars.

Vision

The Prospect League and its member teams enhance the future of baseball in all aspects by developing high-quality players, coaches, staff members, and fan experiences. The League provides family-friendly, affordable baseball entertainment in the communities where our teams are located, and a venue for scouts to access high-level college talent in a competitive summer wood-bat baseball atmosphere.



Objectives

- Provide family-friendly, affordable baseball entertainment in the communities where our teams are located.
- Provide first-class baseball amenities and facilities for our players, coaches, and fans.
- Provide a high-level summer baseball league for eligible college players to prepare them for the next level.
- Provide an accessible environment at our stadiums and through our digital channels for players to be scouted by college and professional teams.
- Provide a “Minor League” environment including night games, bus trips, and schedules to prepare our players for a future in professional baseball.
- Provide a safe environment for all players, including through our protective pitching restrictions, to limit injuries.
- Provide experienced coaching staffs focused on player development and long-term baseball relationships.



THE LEAGUE

Operating in its current form since 2009 after merging with the Central Illinois Collegiate League, which served the summer baseball needs of top collegiate players since 1963, the Prospect League has a reputation as one of the nation's premier collegiate wood-bat summer baseball league. Now at 17 teams, the Prospect League added two brand-new teams for the 2023 season with new markets in Marion, Ill., and Jackson, Tenn.

With East and West conferences and four total divisions, the League's schedule limits divisional crossover to minimize long trips and expenses while maintaining the Minor League feel of schedule and travel. Teams play 58-60 games per season in just under 70 days. The Prospect League Playoffs include 8 teams, the first half and second-half winners of each division. Postseason play includes four one-game divisional championships, two one-game conference championships, and a best-of-three league championship series.

The Prospect League is made up of high-quality collegiate baseball players looking to develop their talent for the next level. Prospect League players are enrolled in college during the spring before the summer season begins, and over 50% of our players come from NCAA Division I institutions.

Teams provide their players with meals, lodging, and road trip transportation via charter buses throughout the season. Local host families are an integral part of summer housing for the players and teams rely on community support.

The Prospect League continues its growth and impact nationally with more than 450,000 fans attending League games during the 2022 season. In 2023, the Prospect League's footprint includes population totaling more than 18 million people living within a 50-mile radius of the 17 team markets.

Team	City	Pop.	50mi
Alton River Dragons	Alton, Ill.	25,676	2.4 m
Burlington Bees	Burlington, Iowa	23,982	329 k
Cape Catfish	Cape Girardeau, Mo.	39,540	472 k
Champion City Kings	Springfield, Ohio	58,763	3.2 m
Chillicothe Paints	Chillicothe , Ohio	22,059	2.1 m
Clinton Lumberkings	Clinton, Iowa	24,469	659 k
Danville Dans	Danville, Ill.	29,204	646 k
Thrillville Thrillbillies	Marion, Ill.	16,855	511 k
Illinois Valley Pistol Shrimp	Peru, Ill.	9,896	795 k
Jackson Roackabillys	Jackson, Tenn.	68,205	482 k
Johnstown Mill Rats	Johnstown, Pa.	18,411	1.0 m
Lafayette Aviators	Lafayette, Ind.	70,783	910 k
Normal Cornbelters	Normal, Ill.	52,736	948 k
O'Fallon Hoots	O'Fallon , Mo.	91,316	2.4 m
Quincy Gems	Quincy, Ill.	39,463	235 k
Springfield Lucky Horseshoes	Springfield, Ill.	114,394	652 k
Terre Haute REX	Terre Haute, Ind.	58,389	455 k





HISTORY

1963 Central Illinois Collegiate League (CICL) formed as a charter member of the National Association of Summer Collegiate Baseball (NASCB) and one of multiple leagues with NCAA oversight

2005 The NCAA disbands its college summer league oversight program and the CICL's certification ends

2007 Discussion begins about establishing a top collegiate summer baseball league to better fit communities with independent professional baseball

2008 The Prospect League is formed and absorbs teams six teams from the CICL and five from former Frontier League cities

The CICL plays its final season with five teams and the Springfield Sliders are crowned champion

2009 The inaugural Prospect League season is played with 11 teams and the Quincy Gems won the first championship

2010 Dave Chase, former General Manager of the AAA Memphis Redbirds, is named as the league's first commissioner

Four new teams, including the league's initial forays in Tennessee and West Virginia, bring the league to 15 teams

2013 All Prospect League player information, from contracts to reports, become part of a new electronic documentation system developed through a partnership with Pointstreak.com

2016 The League footprint tightens and its 12-team alignment allows for minimal crossover games between East and West Divisions and nearly all Mondays are designated as league-wide off days

2018 Rule changes designed to limit pitching overuse became part of the League rulebook.

Prospect League TV (PLTV), a subscription-based streaming platform broadcasting every game across the Internet and on Apple TV, Android TV, and Amazon Fire TV debuts

2019 The League footprint shuffled west and forced a realignment of the two six-team divisions, allowing for more off days during the season.

The League All-Star Game, complete with a Home Run Derby contest, returned and is held in Normal, Ill.

A new playoff format is introduced culminating in a best-of-three championship series won by the Chillicothe Paints

2023 The League reaches 17 teams with new locations in Jackson, Tenn., and Marion, Ill.

A partnership with Rapsodo, brings cutting edge Stadium technology to each team's ballpark to deliver real-time metrics and in-depth data for each Prospect League player





NOTABLE ALUMNI

As one of the original and most notable collegiate summer baseball leagues, The Prospect League, formerly known as the Central Illinois Collegiate League from 1963-2008, has a rich tradition of producing Major League players. To date, nearly 200 alumni reached the Major Leagues and over 800 played professional baseball.

Hall of Famers

- **Mike Schmidt** - 1995 National Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee
 - A 10-time Gold Glove Award winner and six Silver Slugger Awards. He was voted the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1980, 1981, and 1986.
- **Kirby Puckett** - 2011 National Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee
 - A six-time Gold Glove Award winner, and named to 10 consecutive All-Star teams from 1986-1995. He finished in the Top 10 in MVP voting seven times during his 12-year career.
- **Danny Goodwin** - 2011 National College Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee
 - A three-time All-American and *The Sporting News* 1975 College Player of the Year. He had a .394 career batting average, 20 home runs and 166 RBIs.

Notables

- **Warren Morris** (*Danville, 1994*)
 - Hit the most famous home run in College World Series history, a walk-off in LSU's 1996 Championship Game victory.
- **Tim Stoddard** (*Bloomington, 1973-74*)
 - The only athlete to play for both a World Series Champion (Baltimore Orioles 1983) and NCAA Men's Basketball Champion (N.C. State 1974).
- **Ben Zobrist** (*Twin City, 2022*)
 - 2-time World Series Champion and 2016 World Series MVP with the Chicago Cubs

Rowley Jordan (*Terre Haute, 2017*)
2021 College World Series All-Tournament



PROSPECT LEAGUE HALL OF FAME

Brian Dorsett

Quincy Rivermen (1982)

Ben Zobrist

Twin City Stars (2002)

Sean Manaea

DuBois County Bombers (2011)

Olympians

- Mickey Morandini (*Twin City, 1986*) - 1988 Seoul
- Joe Slusarski (*Springfield, 1986-88*) - 1988 Seoul
- Ted Wood (*Springfield, 1986*) - 1988 Seoul
- Warren Morris (*Danville, 1992-93*) - 1996 Atlanta
- Kurt Ainsworth (*Danville, 1997*) - 2000 Sydney
- Ernie Young (*Springfield, 1988-89*) - 2000 Sydney

Players to MLB Managers/NCAA D1 Coaches

- Bob Brenly (*Bloomington, 1974-75*) - Diamondbacks
- Joe Girardi (*Peoria, 1983*) - Marlins, Yankees, Phillies
- Art Howe (*Lincoln, 1967-68*) - Astros, A's, Mets
- Don Kessinger (*Peoria, 1963*) - White Sox
- Doug Rader (*Bloomington, 1963-64*) - Rangers, Angels
- Jason Anderson (*Danville, 1998*) - Eastern Illinois



FACILITIES

The Prospect League features a variety of top-level baseball facilities. Venue capacities range from 1,500 to more than 6,000 with each possessing unique character and history. Eight ballparks formerly hosted professional teams while others double as spring homes for universities.

Two Iowa Minor League affiliated cities, Burlington and Clinton, joined the Prospect League in 2021 and brought high-quality ballparks to the League. Beginning this season, Jackson Stadium in Tennessee, a former MiLB AA stadium, will be home to the Jackson Rockabillies, and Mnt Dew Park in Marion, Ill., formerly an Independent Frontier League stadium, houses the Thrillville Thrillbillies.

Prospect League stadiums are full of history. One of the oldest staples, Danville Stadium in Illinois and home to the Dans, recently celebrated its 75th anniversary and once hosted Hall of Famers Satchel Paige, Jackie Robinson, and Duke Snider on its field. Other venues, like Loeb Stadium, in Lafayette, Ind., are modern and state-of-the-art. The home of the Aviators underwent a multi-million dollar rebuild completed in 2021 with party decks, multiple suites, and a water park beyond its outfield fence.



Danville Stadium, Danville Dans



Jackson Baseball Stadium, Jackson Rockabillies



VA Memorial Stadium, Chillicothe Paints



QU Stadium, Quincy Gems



Community Field, Burlington Bees



EXPOSURE

The Prospect League continues to make major advancements in its digital presence. In 2017, the League launched Prospect League TV (PLTV), a subscription-based streaming platform broadcasting every game across the Internet and on Apple TV, Android TV, and Amazon Fire TV.

In the past four seasons, Prospect League games totaled more than 70,000 views on PLTV. Each team produces its own home games with productions varying from in-house college student-run operations to more robust remote broadcasts.

The advancements continued in 2021 when the Prospect League partnered with Presto Sports for league statistics and a revamped website. As a result, **ProspectLeague.com** became a leading website among the college summer baseball circuit by making player stats, schedules, rosters, and history readily accessible.



The most recent digital advancement came prior to the 2023 season when the Prospect League partnered with Rapsodo as the League's exclusive in-game data provider. Rapsodo Stadium™ will be installed across Prospect League ballparks allowing players, coaches, and scouts to analyze game data and outcomes throughout the season. This available asset further strengthens the Prospect League's player development resources.



The Prospect League has a robust social media presence. The launch of a Prospect League YouTube channel and a new video and audio podcast highlights 2023 developments. The League boasts more than 10,000 combined followers on its social media channels and more than 220,000 followers combined across its teams Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube sites.



◆ PROSPECT LEAGUE ◆

CELEBRATING
60 YEARS
OF BASEBALL

