

Cats overcame more than 180 roster changes to win the championship. This meant that they accomplished the feat by receiving contributions from numerous and sometimes unlikely sources. No one epitomized this more than Nick Blasi, who spent much of the season with Class-A Stockton before becoming a playoff catalyst and the Pacific Coast League's Series MVP. Blasi hit a remarkable .457 in the play-off.

Throughout this roster shuffle, every member of the 2007 River Cats demonstrated outstanding commitment to team play and hard work. Manager Tony DeFrancesco once again was the steady mentor for his young and ever changing roster that featured some of baseball's brightest prospects who are destined to become the stars of tomorrow. The roster was anchored by contributions from now major leaguers: Daric Barton, Kurt Suzuki and Santiago Casilla, as well as prospects Jason Perry, J.J. Furmaniak and Brad Knox.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Art Savage the River Cats players reaffirmed the front offices commitment to the people of Sacramento. On the Opening Day of the season, the River Cats unveiled their Mario Encarnacion Humanitarian Award which will annually honor a young student athlete who shows a commitment to his or her teammates and classmates. Furthermore, the River Cats Foundation has been providing support to Sacramento nonprofits that assist with youth and family activities. The River Cats commitment to the community was reciprocated by the Sacramento fans, as the River Cats led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for an astounding 8th year in a row. Around 710,000 fans attended River Cats 71 home contests this year, and since beginning play at Raley Field in 2000, the River Cats have drawn over 6,000,000 fans.

Madam Speaker, as the River Cats prepare for another successful season, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard-working men and women of the River Cats organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Sacramento. Their successes are highly commendable. I ask all my colleagues to join one in celebrating the River Cats 2007 championship season.

PAYING THE PRICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, the time has come to recognize the effects of climate change on the Caribbean community; I want to enter into the RECORD editorials from the New York CaribNews for March 4, 2008 and March 11, 2008, respectively, "Paying the Price for Climate Change" and "Deal with Climate Change."

The Caribbean community countries (CARICOM), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other Least Developed Countries (LCD's) are experiencing the serious effect of climate change even though they contribute the least to the problem and have the least capacity to adapt to the new conditions created.

CARICOM Member States are being forced to divert resources from important develop-

ment initiatives such as health, food, education and critical infrastructure issues to adapt to the damages being caused by the climate change. Some of the major effects being experienced include sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes, drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching and declining fish stocks.

CARICOM is asking developed countries to take immediate action to help counteract the effects of climate change and to increase funding over and above traditional official development assistance. The United Nations has been requested to assist specifically with disaster preparedness.

I encourage the International Community to mobilize to help the Caribbean protect its precious beautiful environment as a legacy for all mankind.

DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

REGION OUTLINES WISHES TO U.N.—HOW INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP CARICOM STATES

(By Tony Best)

Citing their own high vulnerability CARICOM nations have called on the international community to help them deal with the costly impact of climate change.

What the countries, which include Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica Grenada, Haiti, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago want the United Nations system to do is to help them cope with disaster preparedness.

This means high-priced insurance to aid in recovering losses due to the fall-out from climate change while aiding in risk management and climate monitoring, among other things.

CARICOM's shopping list of needs, will, was presented to the U.N. General Assembly by Dr. Christopher Hackett, Barbados' U.N. Ambassador, who in an address on behalf of the entire region complained that although an "unfortunate reality" was that Caribbean nations and other Small Island Developing States, (SIDS), as well as the world's least developed countries, (LDCs), contributed "the least to the problem" they were "confronted with the most serious challenges" associated with climate change.

Just as important, Dr. Hackett told a special session in New York that was devoted to the issue that the smaller and poorer nations "possess the least capacity to adapt" and meet the challenges.

"CARICOM member-states are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes and other extreme weather events, such as drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks," he explained.

That is why Caribbean states wanted U.N. agencies, funds and programs to "ensure that their activities in the area of climate change in our region are fully supportive of national and regional efforts to address these specific challenges."

Specifically, they appealed to the U.N. to: * Assist CARICOM in "incorporating climate change adaptation concerns in national development plans and strategies"

* Provide technical and other forms of assistance to CARICOM so they can "strengthen" the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center and other "co-ordination mechanisms."

* Back plans designed to promote information sharing "on adaptation technologies, development and transfer between exchange developing countries;" including the exchange of ideas on "best practices."

* Help CARICOM undertake the monitoring of climate while expanding the ability

to assess the region's vulnerability and to carry out impact studies.

* Give both "technical and financial" support in such areas as disaster preparedness, early warning, risk management, disaster mitigation and disaster recovery and rehabilitation.

* Develop new financial arrangements to support "adaptation measures" while providing insurance coverage to small island states so they "recoup losses due to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise."

As Dr. Hackett explained it, "climate change of very damaging proportions and which poses a very serious danger to the very existence of our countries is already occurring and the longer the international community postpones the implementation of the necessary greenhouse gas emissions cuts, the more adaptation will be required by SIDS and at much greater costs." The region complained that the island-nations and coastal states in the region had "been forced to divert scarce resources" from key development initiatives" such as health, education, food and the provision of critical infrastructures to meet the demands of climate change adaptation.

"Surely," he added, "this has major implications for achieving sustainable development goals."

PAYING THE PRICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

HOW CARIBBEAN NATIONS ARE FACING SERIOUS CHALLENGES

It is an unfortunate reality that CARICOM countries and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), all of whom contribute the least to the problem, are confronted with the most serious challenges associated with climate change; yet we possess the least capacity to adapt. Climate change of very damaging proportions and which poses a very serious danger to the very existence of our countries is already occurring and the longer the international community postpones the implementation of the necessary greenhouse gas emission cuts, the more adaptation will be required by SIDS and at much greater costs.

Negotiations around the four themes agreed to at Bali—Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Technology—should not prevent advancement of, or immediate action under any theme. For CARICOM adaptation, finance and technology are not only required in 2009 or post-2012, they are urgently needed now.

CARICOM Member States have been forced to divert scarce resources from key developmental initiatives (e.g. health, education, food, provision of critical infrastructure etc) to climate change adaptation activities. Surely this has major implications for achieving sustainable development goals.

The inadequacy of financing for adaptation activities in developing countries is a major failing of the entire international system. As stated in the 2007 UNDP Human Development Report "the current framework provides the equivalent of an aid sponge for mopping up during a flood". That report estimates that new additional adaptation finance of at least US\$86 billion a year will be required by 2015 to meet the most basic and pressing adaptation needs of developing countries. Expressed in other terms this figure represents a mere one tenth of what developed countries currently mobilize for military expenditure.

While increasing emphasis is being paid to private-public partnerships the role of international cooperation remains essential and must be enhanced. CARICOM urges developed countries to take immediate action to significantly scale-up the level of financing devoted to adaptation through the provision

of new and additional resources, over and above traditional official development assistance (ODA). This would serve as a major confidence building measure and demonstration of good faith, as we enter a period of great uncertainty.

The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies of the UN System by the very nature of their respective mandates are important for a dialogue, awareness raising and the exchange of information on issues of global concern. CARICOM believes that the General Assembly and ECOSOC must continue to ensure that addressing climate change remains a global priority, while fully respecting and not duplicating the ongoing negotiating process with the Convention. In this context, future actions or initiatives by the GA or the ECOSOC should add value to the ongoing negotiations, and be guided by the needs of Member States, particularly those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. While we are convinced that a parallel negotiating theatre should not be established within the GA, we are equally convinced that the issue of climate change should not be held in abeyance in New York until our work is completed within the Convention.

CARICOM has some concerns over the orientation of the SG's report and in particular the rationale given for what he terms "a more inclusive and coherent approach to climate change". We believe that the first and overriding priority of the U.N. System's work in climate change should be addressing the needs of those most vulnerable and most adversely impacted by climate change—SIDS, LDCs, countries in Africa and disaster prone developing countries, rather than, as the report states providing support for negotiations. The effectiveness of the U.N. System should be assessed by its capacity to deliver the required assistance to, and build capacity in, these vulnerable countries and other developing countries.

CARICOM Member States are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts including sea-level rise, increasingly severe hurricanes and other extreme weather events, drought and water scarcity, coral bleaching, and declining fish stocks. In this regard we call on relevant U.N. agencies, funds and programs to ensure that their activities in the area of climate change in our region are fully supportive of national and regional efforts to address these specific challenges. This demand driven approach with strong national and regional ownership must be embedded in the U.N.'s work at the national and regional levels. Areas, sectors, projects and program identified as priority in our national communications to the Convention, national and regional adaptation plans and sustainable development plans and strategies should receive the full support of the relevant parts of the U.N. System.

IN HONOR OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 738

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of American Legion Post 738, on its sixtieth anniversary; and in honor of its members' outstanding service to their country and community.

American Legion Post 738 is comprised of over one hundred people, each of whom has served our country during a time of war. Rec-

ognized by Mayor Eileen Patton of Fairview Park as a "dedicated group of true Americans that are proud to serve our country", the members of American Legion Post 738 have played a significant role in the community for sixty years.

Every year, Post 738 organizes Fairview Park's spectacular Memorial Day Parade. Located on Lorain Road, Post 738 has served as a beacon of hospitality. After every Memorial Day Parade, they welcome all members of the community back to their post and host them for a bountiful cookout. Members of the Post also host bi-monthly dinners there.

Every year before Christmas, Post and auxiliary members of Post 738 put together care packages for fellow veterans at the Louis Stokes Veterans Administration Medical Center in Brecksville, Ohio and nurturing local children whose parents are veterans at their annual Christmas party. Always willing to participate in City events, six times a year, Post and ladies auxiliary members deliver refreshments and play bingo with veterans at the VA medical center.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the members of American Legion Post 738 for their outstanding and tireless efforts on behalf of veterans of this country, as well as for their extensive and diverse service to many individuals and families who call the Greater Cleveland area home.

[From the WestLife Newspaper, Apr. 2, 2008]

AMERICAN LEGION POST 738 MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY

(By Kevin Kelley)

The ladies auxiliary of American Legion Post 738 is putting on a dinner marking the organization's 60th anniversary April 12.

Despite the celebratory nature of the event, Joanne Hulec, president of the ladies auxiliary, has a sense of trepidation.

"I hope this is not the last birthday dinner we have," she said.

Property taxes and utility costs have combined with declining membership to put American Legion Post 738 in a financial pinch in recent months.

Three months ago, some leaders associated with the post put out a public appeal to help with the organization's cash flow problems.

Ron Hulec, Joanne's husband and a former post commander and member of its executive board, said while the organization is currently solvent, its finances are still tight.

Hulec said that when he joined about 14 years ago, the post had about 240 members. Today it has around 140.

There has been some discussion in recent months among post leaders, Hulec said, of selling its property, located at 1931 Lorain Road. In the event of such a sale, the post would seek to share facilities with another area post, possibly American Legion Clifton Post 421, headquartered at 22001 Brookpark Road. However, members have held off on making any decision to sell the post's hall, said Hulec, who served in the Army in the 1950s.

"We're doing everything we can to keep functioning the way we have been," he said.

The post's current commander, Jim Babitsky, noted that most community organizations have been having financial problems lately.

"We're hoping to stabilize the finances and keep the post alive and keep it going," said Babitsky, a Marine veteran who was stationed in Vietnam in 1968-69. "The economic times are just rough on everybody."

Meanwhile, the post's members, who already served their country during wartime, continue to serve the community and their fellow veterans in various ways.

The post raises the American flag at Fairview High School home football games and provides color guards at local civil events.

"If City Hall needs the colors posted, we usually do that," Babitsky said.

Mayor Eileen Patton said she appreciated their service.

"Legion Post 738 has always played an important role in our community," Patton told WestLife. "They participate in our Summerfest every year as well as every We Do Care ceremony each November at the high school. They also organize our Memorial Day parade and invite the community back to the post for a ceremony and a great cookout at no cost."

"I also have the honor of attending all the Legion ceremonies installing their new boards and the women's auxiliary boards as well. They are a wonderful dedicated group of true Americans that are so proud of serving our country. They are always willing to participate in our city events, and I am so glad that I have gotten to know each and every one of them."

Post and ladies auxiliary members travel about six times a year to the U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Center in Brecksville to visit, deliver refreshments, and play bingo with the veterans. "They seem to appreciate that a lot," said Sue Carson, treasurer of the ladies auxiliary. Before Christmas each year, post and auxiliary members put together care packages containing toiletries, cards and books for the veterans at the Brecksville hospital, she added.

The post also hosts an annual Christmas party for local children whose fathers and grandfathers are veterans, said Carson, whose husband, Don, is a Korean Conflict-era Army veteran.

About two dinners are held each month at the post's hall, Carson said. In recent weeks, the ladies auxiliary has been focusing on the anniversary dinner.

"We have a birthday dinner every year," Carson said, "but this year we're trying to make it more special because of the 60th anniversary."

Joanne Hulec said it's shaping up to be one of the post's highlights of the year. "I like to think of it as one of our 'white table cloth' dinners," she joked. Because the dinner will be catered, the ladies will be relieved of kitchen duty, except for those making the hor'dourves, she said.

Several certificates of appreciation will be awarded to a number of post and auxiliary members, Carson said. Just who will be recognized is a secret; however, Carson said recognition will be given to "people who have put forth a concerted effort to be active in the post."

The post's 60th anniversary dinner April 12 is open to the public. Cocktails and appetizers will be served from 5:45 until 6:45 p.m., with dinner following at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person. To make reservations, call Sue Carson at (440) 331-2730 by April 7.

PRO OF THE YEAR: For nearly five decades, Post 738 hosted its "Pro Of the Year" dinner honoring a member of the Cleveland Browns. This year, quarterback Derek Anderson will be honored at the April 22 event, which Hulec said is the organization's biggest annual fund-raiser.

TRIBUTE TO KIRKLAND CALVET ANDERSON, SR.

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Kirkland "Kirk"