

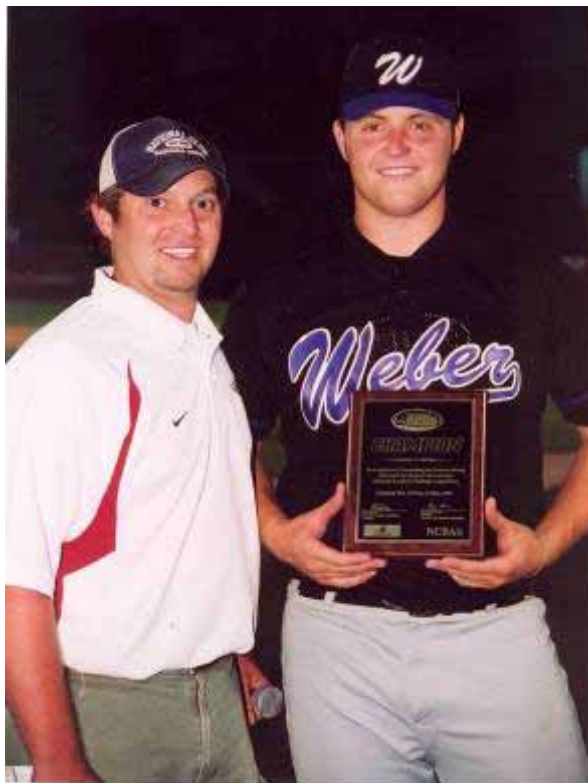


HISTORY of the DeMARINI LONGBALL CHALLENGE

In the summer of 2006, DeMarini and Wilson Sporting Goods signed a sponsorship deal with the NCBA to become the “Official Baseball Bat of the NCBA” and will remain the exclusive bat sponsor of the league through the 2008 NCBA season. As part of this landmark relationship, DeMarini agreed to co-host (with the NCBA) an annual Home Run Derby competition. And thus the DeMarini Longball Challenge was born.

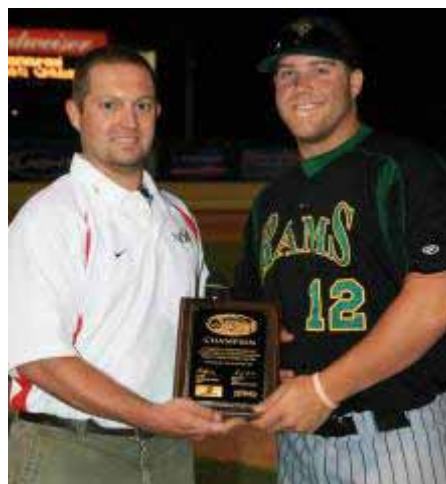


The 2006 DeMarini Longball Challenge marked the first NCBA sanctioned event of its kind in the 6-year history of the league. The event was held during the 2006 NCBA World Series at Eastwood Field in Niles, OH. Knowing that this event should draw quite a bit of interest from all the participating World Series teams and fans, the NCBA decided to hold the LBC on the night of Memorial Day (Monday May 29th). The field of 16 participants was stacked with sluggers from all corners of the country and they did not fail to impress all in attendance with the mammoth home runs they hit. Bombers such as Richie Marrero (Wisconsin), Chris Crum (Virginia Tech), and Zac Snow (Weber State) continuously displayed the sheer power of the DeMarini bats by knocking pitcher after pitcher out of the STADIUM! Ultimately, Zac Snow showed that consistency dominates (3 HR in Final Round) by outlasting the rest of the field and thus earning the crown of 2006 DeMarini Longball Challenge Champion.



As DeMarini and the NCBA eagerly prepared for the 2007 DeMarini Longball Challenge, a few changes were implemented to further enhance the event. Participants were given 10 outs (Up from 8 outs in 2006) per round to hit as many home runs as possible. Also, the event was moved to Friday night (May 25th) in order to kick off the weekend of 2007 NCBA World Series action. Despite the strong breeze blowing in from right field, the field of predominate right-handers lit up the night sky with a spectacle of dazzling

homeruns. Preston Prado (Sam Houston State) put on an awesome display by hitting an LBC record 17 Homeruns!!! However, Eric Zaruba (Colorado State) took a page out of the defending champion Zac Snow's (Weber State) book, by staying consistent through out the event and out lasting Preston in the final round to take the 2007 Demarini Longball Challenge with a total of 8 Homeruns.



As the NCBA prepared for the 2008 DeMarini Longball Challenge, the day of the event was once again changed. This time to Saturday night (May 24th) in order to showcase the LBC as the marquee event of the 2008 NCBA DI World Series. While the derby got off to a slow start in round 1, the bats got hot and stayed hot the rest of the way. The



field set a new DeMarini LBC record by cranking out a total of 47

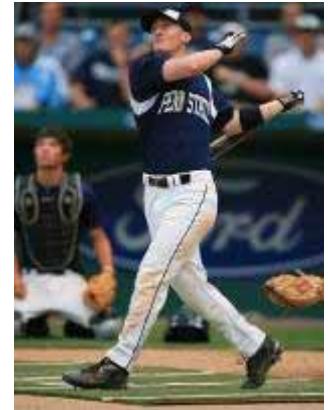
Homeruns (2007 - 45HR), while Brian Dilley (Colorado State) over came a first round goose egg to TWICE tie the event's single round record for Homeruns (Preston Prado - Sam Houston - 2007 - RD3 - 7HR) by blasting 7 in both the 3rd AND final rounds. LBC favorite, Chris Crum (Virginia Tech) joined Dilley as each of them entertained the crowd with a barrage of majestic homeruns to left and right field respectively.



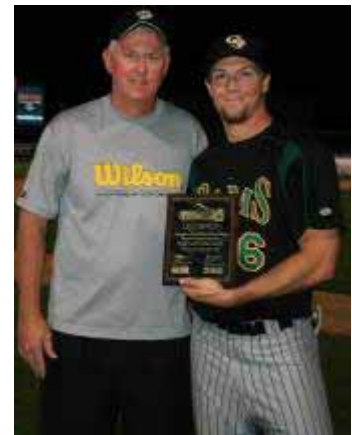
However, despite tying Crum with a total of 16 Homeruns overall, Dilley claimed the 2008 DeMarini Longball Challenge title by besting Crum's Final round (4HR) with 7 of his own!!!



As the NCBA continued to improve the DeMarini Longball Challenge for 2009, the league decided to alter the rules slightly to make the event a bit more exciting for the fans in attendance. Having realized that the first round of the competition can get a bit long and drawn out, the league lowered the number of outs from 10 to 8 for the first round only. While the 2009 event lacked the tape measure homeruns previously provided by



Chris Crum (Virginia Tech) and Preston Prado (Sam Houston State), a crew of new comers made the night exciting for everyone. Nick Powden (Penn State) and Shawn Linebaugh (Clemson) got the fire started in the first round with 3 homeruns a piece. Watson Lavigno (Georgia) warmed up in round 1 with 2 homeruns and then caught fire in rounds 2 and 3 leading the way with 3 homeruns in each of those. But a familiar face to the DeMarini Longball Challenge was looming close behind. Brian Dilley (Colorado State) was operating at his usual slow but steady pace through the first three rounds hitting just enough homeruns to qualify for the next round. Perhaps Lavigno was starting to run out of gas in the finals as he was only able to muster 2 homeruns while defending LBC champion Dilley was just getting warmed up. Dilley hit 3 homeruns in walk off fashion to claim the 2009 DeMarini Longball Challenge title becoming the first participant to successfully defend his crown.



2010 marked another great year of DeMarini Longball Challenge competition. Amongst the celebration around the 10th anniversary of the NCBA, the DeMarini Longball Challenge



was also marking it's 5th year of homerun derby competition. With the reigning back to back champion (Brian Dilley –CSU) off playing pro baseball, all eyes were on the 2009

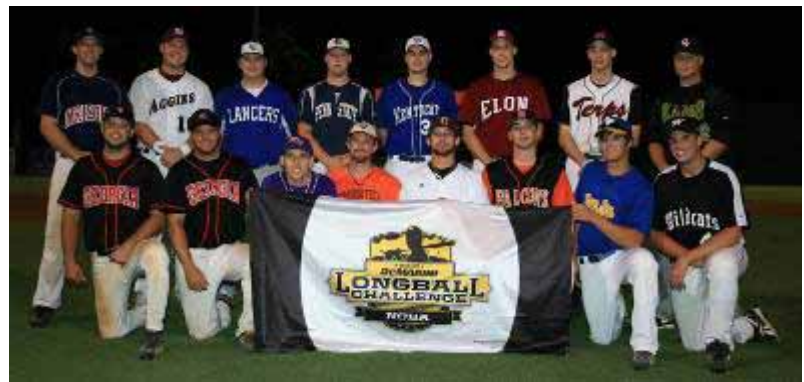


runner-up Watson Lavigno (Georgia) as this year he entered the event surrounded by the support of his entire team who was making their first ever



NCBA World Series appearance. Watson was quick to impress as he led the first round by hitting 3

homeruns. The first round also brought an end to Mike Abernathy's (Colorado State Head Coach) run of pitching to 4



straight DeMarini Longball Champions when CSU's representative (Ryan Cooper) was eliminated. The 2nd round was

dominated by Aaron Smith (Texas A&M) who slammed 3 more of his own. The 3rd round went back to Watson who smashed 4 more majestic shots while a no name out of Division II Longwood University (BJ Harlow) kept chugging along smacking a pair himself to put himself in head to head competition with Watson in the finals. In the finals it was Déjà vu from 2009 as Watson's bat seemed to tire as he could only muster a single HR while BJ kept at it hitting yet another pair of homeruns, and thus taking the 2010 DeMarini Longball Challenge title in true upset fashion. It appeared that BJ did his homework taking a page out of Brian Dilley and Zac Snow's playbook that to take home the title, you have to pace yourself and have some gas left in the tank for the final round.



This year's LBC and NCBA DI World Series have moved to a Golden Park in Columbus, GA. Located on the Chattahoochee River in downtown Columbus, Golden Park is a 5,000 seat baseball only stadium that opened in 1926. Multiple minor league teams have called Golden Park home including the Columbus Astros (1970-1988) and most



recently the Columbus Catfish (2004-2008). Having undergone major renovations for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Golden Park will serve as a phenomenal backdrop for the NCBA's sluggers to compete for the 2011 DeMarini Longball Challenge title. Will Longwood's BJ Harlow be able to defend his crown or will a new homerun hitter emerge from the shadows? The answers to that question lies ahead, so be sure to stay tuned and follow along as one thing is for sure. The 2011 DeMarini Longball Challenge is sure to be the best ever! We hope you'll be able to join us in Columbus on May 28th (7:00 pm) to watch the show first hand.