

*Courtesy of the Otago Daily Times*

## **Softball: Lowly Cardinals upset Ellis Park**

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 14 Dec 2009

Glenn Forrester and Crete Whaanga hit lead-off home runs to inspire the Cardinals to an upset 9-4 win against Ellis Park on Saturday.

It was just the second win this season for the Cardinals, who went into the weekend with a 1-9 record at the foot of the premier men's competition.

Forrester took a ball, sliced two fouls and then took a second ball before putting veteran Ellis Park pitcher Pete Mathieson over the fence in the first at-bat of the game.

Simon Maole added a two-run homer in the first inning to give the Cardinals immediate control against Ellis Park.

Whaanga's big blast came at the top of the third, when he saw off Mathieson with a 1-1 count.

Cardinals led 6-1 going into the bottom of the fifth inning, with young pitcher Joshua Ludlow doing a sterling job on the mound.

Ludlow coughed up two runs before each side got a run in the sixth, making it 7-4 with one to play.

The Cards could smell blood by now and added two more runs at the top of the seventh, with a Doug Hill double scoring Dave Arthur, and a Forrester double bringing home Hill.

There were no such heroics for the Cardinals in the early game against the Saints, which ended in a 13-1 win to the second-placed side.

The Saints led 2-1 after two and a-half innings but smashed the game open with five runs at the bottom of the third and six at the bottom of the fourth.

Mike O'Neill provided the moment of the day when he smashed a grand slam (bases loaded) homer off Ludlow in the third inning.

The Saints backed up with an upset of their own, 5-3, against the competition-leading Dodgers, who had lost just one game all season.

Sam Jones pitched six clean innings for the Saints, his only blemish a three-run fifth inning when he walked four batters.

With the bat, the Saints were effective rather than spectacular, scoring one run in each of the first four innings and in the sixth.

The Dodgers produced one big inning to beat Ellis Park 6-2 in the other game of the doubleheader round.

Both teams' bats were cold through the first three innings before the Dodgers leaped into the lead in a chaotic four-run, four-error fourth inning.

Ellis Park responded with a two-run Chang homer but the Dodgers pushed further ahead with runs in the fifth and six innings.

## **Softball: Runs aplenty in club games**

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 30 Nov 2009

[Softball](#)

Two wins gave the Dodgers bragging rights but most of the action was in other games in Dunedin softball on Saturday.

The Dodgers beat the Saints 9-4 and backed up with a clinical 7-0 shutout of the Cardinals to extend their lead at the top of the premier grade.

Other games featured a runfest and a rare tiebreaker that ended up being a one-sided win in extra innings.

Ellis Park and the Cardinals shared 30 runs in a 16-14 Ellis Park win, while the Saints and Ellis Park went to a tiebreaker before the Saints pulled away to a 10-4 victory.

It was 3-3 through the regulation seven innings.

Mark Ahlfeld, Tim Howard and Mike O'Neill all scored for the Saints at the top of the fourth inning, while Ellis Park spread its runs over the fourth, fifth and sixth.

Neither side could break the deadlock in the seventh, but the Saints wasted no time in the eighth, pouring in seven runs, including a two-run blast from homer specialist Travis McIntosh.

Ellis Park could answer with just one more run as it tried to make up the deficit.

It was a different story against the Cardinals, with Ellis Park staging a remarkable late rally to win a high-scoring game.

The Cardinals leaped to a 9-3 lead, with both Chang Chang (off Ryan Williams) and Crete Whaanga (off Adam Mathieson) belting home runs.

At the sixth-inning changeover the Cardinals held a commanding 11-6 lead and it appeared to be game over.

Ten runs, nine hits and two errors later and it was Ellis Park, led by a Mathieson triple, a Tyron Pelasio double and a flurry of singles, which had rallied for a 10-run inning and a 16-11 lead.

The Cardinals scored three more, including a two-run Whaanga homer, at the top of the seventh but it was not enough.

The Dodgers continue to set the standard by playing smart, winning softball.

They scorched rising pitcher Sam Jones for six runs, including a two-run Scott Cartwright homer, at the top of the second inning to lay the foundation for their win against the Saints.

Then, in the late game, young Dodgers pitcher Ben Watts showed his talent on the mound by retiring the first 10 Cardinals batters he faced.

Watts collected six strikeouts in five innings.

## **Saints, Dodgers dominate first doubleheader**

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 23 Nov 2009  
[Softball](#)

It was doubleheader day for the first time in Dunedin club softball on Saturday and the big guns took the opportunity to dominate.

Both the Saints and the Dodgers fired up their bats to hand twin defeats to Ellis Park and the Cardinals.

Such was the one-sidedness of the four games played that in just one, Ellis Park's 11-1 loss to the Dodgers, did a losing side score a run.

The Dodgers backed that up with a 7-0 win against the Cardinals, while the Saints crushed the Cardinals 16-0 and blanked Ellis Park 10-0.

Two of the stars of the day were Ricky Boebel (Dodgers) and Travis McIntosh (Saints).

Boebel batted 3-from-3 against Ellis Park, with two doubles and a single.

He is also a promising pitcher and did some neat work behind the plate to starting Dodgers pitcher Scott Cartwright and relief pitcher Ben Watts.

The Dodgers scored four runs in the bottom of the second inning and three in each of the third and fourth, with Tyron Pelasio's run in the fourth the only time across the plate for Ellis Park.

McIntosh achieved the rare feat of hitting two homers in the same game when he belted a pair out of the park in the Saints' 16-0 win against the Cardinals.

McIntosh's dingers came off Glenn Forrester in the bottom of the second and off Joshua Ludlow in the bottom of the third.

Mike Wilson also hit a home run, Mike O'Neill added a triple and Mike Crowley had a double as the powerful Saints scored five, seven and four runs in the first three innings and did not have to bat again.

The highlight of the Saints' 10-0 win against Ellis Park was a six-run sixth inning that included a Tim Howard homer and an RBI Crowley triple.

# Softball: Thumpings for Cardinals

By [Steve Hepburn](#) on Mon, 16 Nov 2009  
[Softball](#)

The Cardinals were brought down to earth with two heavy losses in club softball on Saturday.

They lost to Ellis Park (11-4) and then to the Saints (8-0), while in the other game, the Dodgers beat the Saints 5-2 to go top of the competition.

The Cardinals have played well this season but failed to get out of first gear on Saturday, losing both games by the mercy rule.

In the first game against Ellis Park, the Cardinals were immediately on the back foot, with Adam Whelan hitting a home run in the first inning to put his side three runs up.

Ellis Park scored another five runs in the second inning to go to a commanding 8-1 lead.

The Cardinals scored three runs in the fifth inning but Ellis Park then went further ahead and the match was called off at the end of the fifth inning.

Saints pitcher Sam Jones had a fine game, not conceding a hit in the three innings he pitched.

He was replaced by Tim Howard, who kept up the good work, conceding just one hit.

The Saints had a great second innings, scoring six runs, with Mike Crowley hitting a triple.

Travis McIntosh hit a homer to seal the win for the Saints in the third inning and the match was over at the end of the fifth inning.

In the last game of the day, the Dodgers scored three runs in the second inning to get a lead which it would never surrender against the Saints.

The Saints had scored a run in the first innings through Ben Foster, but it paid for walking a couple of players and a fielders' choice.

Young Dodgers pitcher Ben Watts combined with catcher Ricky Boebel to keep the Saints' bats quiet.

Jones scored a run in the fifth innings after hitting a triple but it was too little, too late for the Saints side.

New umpire Rebecca Taylor, from Dubai, officiated her first game on Saturday.

## Father-and-son double act victorious

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 9 Nov 2009  
[Softball](#)

A father-and-son combination inspired the Cardinals to a rare win in the Dunedin club competition on Saturday.

Seventeen-year-old Kaikorai Valley College pupil Joshua Ludlow got his first win as he pitched the Cardinals to an 8-4 upset of the Saints.

It was the first win for the club since February 28, when it broke a 15-game losing streak by upsetting the Saints 5-4.

What made it even more special for the rising Ludlow on Saturday was the combination he struck up with his catcher - his father, Cardinals player-coach Mark (50).

Glenn Forrester has started this season behind the plate but Ludlow senior had his turn on Saturday.

Joshua Ludlow made a rough start, coughing up three runs in the first inning, but he recovered beautifully to pitch five scoreless innings out of the next six.

The game was in the balance going into the seventh, with the Cardinals holding a 5-4 lead highlighted by a Doug Hill home run in the fourth.

Forrester and Richard Hunt chipped singles off Sam Jones and were batted in by a Mark Ludlow double.

Ludlow then scored, and after the change of inning, he watched his son concede a Mike Crowley double before retiring three Saints batters in a row.

It was back to reality with a thump in the late game for the Cardinals as they were beaten 8-1 by the Dodgers.

Brendan Taylor and Jamie Robinson both had triples off the pitching of Forrester as the Dodgers scored three runs in the first inning, and Ricky Boebel scored after his own triple in the third.

It was 4-1 Dodgers through four innings and the new competition leaders flexed their muscles in the fifth and final inning as seven consecutive batters got on base through hitting relief pitcher Steven Todd or being walked.

Sam Jones pitched a one-hit shutout through seven immaculate innings as the Saints clobbered Ellis Park 6-0 in the third game.

Jones had seven strike-outs and the solitary hit he conceded was a Scott Dundass single in the final inning.

Saturday's games were the last for the year for most of the students in the various Dunedin teams who do not return until February.

## Debutants undone by Dodgers

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 2 Nov 2009

An American woman and the latest member of a New Zealand dynasty made their debuts in Dunedin club softball on Saturday.

Claire Velaski made her first start for Ellis Park and pitched all seven innings in an 8-3 loss to the Dodgers.

She later pitched two innings in relief in a 7-3 win over the Cardinals.

Also playing for Ellis Park was Junior Black Sox catcher Campbell Makea, part of the great softball family that includes long-serving Black Sox players Thomas and Fabian.

The younger Makea is studying health sciences at the University of Otago.

He returns to Wellington over the holidays to play for Poneke-Kilbirnie, but is expected back in Dunedin softball in February.

Makea showed his class by hitting home runs in both games he played.

Velaski, who is also a university student, has dispensation to play in the men's competition, along with Ellis Park team-mate Kate Brewerton.

Velaski removed the first two Dodgers batters she faced in the early game but then gave up a home run to the experienced bat of Scott Cartwright.

The Dodgers eased to a 4-0 lead but then Cartwright, in pitching mode, gave up three runs in the bottom of the fourth when Makea belted a homer with Brewerton and Adam Whelan on the bags.

Velaski found her control in the fifth and sixth innings, giving up no more hits and no more runs, but the Dodgers finished strongly with a 6-hit, 4-run seventh to seal the win.

Veteran Peter Mathieson got the start for Ellis Park against the Cardinals and got off to a shaky start when lead-off Dodgers batter Doug Hill hit a home run.

Ellis Park capitalised on two errors in the bottom of the second inning and got two runs, and took a commanding 5-2 lead when Makea smashed a two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth.

The Saints beat the Dodgers 6-2 in a third game that featured some outstanding pitching.

Cartwright retired the first seven Saints batters he faced, and Dodgers pitcher Sam Jones had excellent support from his defence as the game went scoreless through three innings.

Both teams scored twice in the fourth, with the Saints adding four runs - including a Mike O'Neill homer - over the final two innings.

Ellis Park, the Dodgers and the Saints are tied at the top of the competition.

## Age no barrier for Ellis Park

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By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Mon, 12 Oct 2009

Age could not slow Ellis Park, as it upset the defending champion Saints in the opening round of premier club softball in Dunedin on Saturday.

Ellis Park shocked the Saints 7-6, with the Dodgers coming from behind to beat the Cardinals 13-9 in the second game.

The results made for an entertaining start to the club season in chilly and windy conditions.

Ellis Park was struggling to fill its roster weeks ago and, on Saturday, fielded possibly the oldest pitcher-catcher combination in Dunedin softball history, with 50-year-old Peter Mathieson on the mound and 53-year old Grant Johnstone behind the plate.

But the side shrugged off its battles to get a morale-boosting win on opening day.

Both teams scored two runs in the first inning, then the Saints scored two more in a third inning highlighted by Michael Crowley's triple.

Ellis Park got on top of Saints pitcher Mark Ahlfeld in the top of the fourth and poured in five runs.

Luge Egan tripled and was brought home by a Mathieson hit, Mathieson scored on a fielder's choice, Kate Brewerton and Bevan Campbell were batted in by Sean Martin, and Johnstone scored on a Mitchell O'Neill error.

Brewerton's debut in men's softball included two walks and a ground-out to first.

Sam Jones replaced Ahlfeld on the Saints mound and pitched three clean innings.

Trailing 7-4 going into the bottom of the seventh, the Saints got back into the game with Crowley and Ahlfeld scoring, but Lachie Brensell flied out to right field to end the game.

In the other game, the Dodgers leaped to a 2-0 start on the back of home runs by Jamie Robinson and Brendan Taylor.

The Cardinals responded with four runs at the top of the third and three at the top of the fourth to take a commanding 7-2 lead.

All that did was prompt the Dodgers' bats into action.

They cracked five runs at the bottom of the fourth and six at the bottom of the fifth to take control of the game.

Scott Cartwright had a double and a triple for the Dodgers, who also had five batters walked in two innings by Cardinals pitcher Joshua Ludlow.

Doug Hill added a late homer for the Cardinals but Dodgers pitcher Ben Watts cleaned up the game with two strike-outs in the final inning, giving him nine for the game.

## Women to add new dimension to club competition

By [Hayden Meikle](#) on Sat, 10 Oct 2009

Women, a rising teenaged pitcher and a 53-year-old catcher-coach will be among the cast of interesting characters in Dunedin premier club softball this season.

The summer on the diamond is scheduled to begin today, with the Cardinals playing the Dodgers in the early game and the Saints meeting Ellis Park in the main game.

An early talking point will be the presence of women in an Ellis Park side that won last season's pre-Christmas title but has been struggling for numbers.

The club has dispensation to field as many as three women, and has already recruited American pitcher Claire Velaski - a student at the University of Otago - and Southern Pride hopeful Kate Brewerton.

"That should make us a point of interest," Ellis Park coach Grant Johnstone said.

Velaski, who played for Linfield College in Oregon, will play only before Christmas and is not available this weekend.

Brewerton needs a chance to play top softball to prepare her for the national league.

Women have only occasionally appeared in Dunedin men's softball since the women's game slid into oblivion, but it is apparently a relatively common occurrence in Southland.

Johnstone, who coached Ellis Park in the late-1980s and the Cardinals in 2001-02 and was going to coach Otago three years ago until ill health intervened, joined Ellis Park only a couple of weeks ago, when he heard the club was battling.

"The club was really struggling to get a team together. But I think we're getting to a point where we can be competitive."

Ellis Park has no recognised catcher, so Johnstone (53) expects to have to spend some time squatting behind home plate.

"I'm going to be the oldest catcher in the world," he said.

Another seasoned player is Pete Mathieson, who turned 50 this week and will be joined in the team by son Adam.

Ellis Park has lost key player Daniel Tarapi, who has joined the great Poneke-Kilbirnie club in Wellington, but retains the services of Bevan Campbell, Simon Wallace and Scott Dundass.

The Saints are heavily favoured to defend their title, having lost only Hami Goldsmith from last year's roster.

Infielder Ben Foster is back after missing last season, Sam Jones is the starting pitcher and Tim Howard, Michael Crowley, Mitchell and Michael O'Neill, and Lachie Brensell form the heart of a powerful batting line-up.

"There have been a lot of rumours about other teams getting weaker and that can make it difficult to keep your intensity levels up," Saints coach Kevin Jones said.

"But if we play to our potential, I think we'll be hard to bowl."

Sixteen-year-old Ben Watts will continue his pitching apprenticeship by leading the Dodgers from the mound.

If Watts can find his groove, the bats of Scott Cartwright, Chris Anderson and Wayne Sangster should help the Dodgers go close to getting back to the final.

"We've been pretty competitive the last few seasons.

We missed out on the title last season but we know we can put it together on the day," Dodgers coach Aran Bailey said.

The Cardinals struggled last season but coach Mark Ludlow thinks his side looks stronger this summer.

Glenn Forrester, Shane Whaanga, Crete Whaanga and Ricky Scott are among the key players, while Ludlow's son, Kaikorai Valley College pupil Joshua Ludlow (17), will get a chance to pitch.