

SUMMER 25

Cape League, NBC Champs On Top

The 2009 summer college baseball season has been underway for the better part of three weeks for some leagues, and not even a week for others. Despite the staggered start, it seems apparent already that the powerful Cape Cod League will get a stiff challenge atop PG Crosschecker's ranking of the nation's top summer teams again from the California Collegiate League's Santa Barbara Foresters, the reigning National Baseball Congress World Series champions.

The Foresters (8-2) are ranked No. 2 in the summer's first ranking of the top 25 summer-league clubs. The No. 1 spot, not surprisingly, is occupied by a Cape League team, the newly-named Chatham Anglers, winners of their first three games this season. There's no assurance that Chatham will continue its early pace in the highly-competitive Cape League, but the Foresters should stay in contention throughout, particularly with a pitching staff headed by Wichita State ace Tim Kelley and San Diego righthander A.J. Griffin, a Team USA pitcher in 2008.

We'll rank the top 25 teams every Wednesday from 20-plus leagues around the country, and here's our early take on the top teams.

Rank	Team	League	Record
1.	Chatham Anglers	Cape Cod	3-0
	Ex-Chatham A's getting early production from Oklahoma State 2B Tom Belza (.363-1-1) and Baylor RHP Shawn Tolleson (1-0, 0.00).		
2.	Santa Barbara Foresters	California Collegiate	8-2
	Foresters getting stellar pitching from Wichita State RHP Tim Kelley (1-0, 0.60), Westmont RHP Tim Crabbe (1-0, 0.00, 13 IP/17 SO)		
3.	Forest City (N.C.) Owls	Coastal Plain	12-2
	SIU Edwardsville RHP Spencer Patton (1-0, 0.90, 20 IP/30 SO) and N.C. State IF Pratt Maynard (.340-1-13) hot in early going.		
4.	Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox	Cape Cod	3-1
	Florida Gulf Coast RHP Chris Sale (1-0, 0.00) and Michigan RHP Tyler Burgoon (0-0, 0.00, 2 SV) lead pitching-rich Red Sox.		
5.	Eau Claire (Wis.) Express	Northwoods	13-5
	Express takes early lead in standings, gets production from NWL batting leader Jon Bonfe (.420-0-14), a Sierra (Calif.) JC 3B.		
6.	Waynesboro (Va.) Generals	Valley	7-2
	Auburn C Tony Caldwell (.395-1-9) and Vanderbilt SS Alex McClure (.371-0-5) set hot early pace for traditional Valley power.		
7.	Wareham Gatemen	Cape Cod	2-1
	Duke LHP-1B Eric Pfisterer (1-0, 0.00, 5 IP/10 SO; .333-0-1) and UConn OF George Springer (.400-0-1) pivotal for Gatemen.		
8.	DeLand Suns	Florida Collegiate	8-1
	Ex-big league skipper Davey Johnson has pitching-rich Suns on a roll; '09 fourth-rounder Thomas Berryhill is 1-0, 0.00 with 2 SV.		
9.	Mat-Su Miners	Alaska	4-1
	LHP Danny Almonte (0-1, 4.00) of Little League infamy on roster, but Central Florida 3B Shane Brown (.381-0-3, 4 2B) a bigger factor.		

