

# Cambridge Cubs Peewees (2019)

## National Baseball Champions 2019



The 2019 Cambridge Cubs Peewee National Championship team, pictured here at the nationals in Repentigny, Quebec, wearing their Ontario uniforms, includes front: Lachlan Litman, Brady Reeve, Josh Davis, Travis DeMerchant, Daniel Lee, Mark Rogers, Alex Baril, Cooper Love, Ryan Brenton, Caleb McArthur. Back left: Coach Tim McArthur, Coach Chad Dube, Coach Bryan Reeve, Alex Popadopoulos, Jack Fitzgerald, Jackson Kornylo, Cam Dube, Logan Duarte, coach Sean Rogers, and coach Brian Cole.

In 2018 the Cambridge Cubs Minor Peewees captured the Ontario AAA championship and followed up with the 2019 13U Baseball Canada National Championship.

They did it with a core group of players that had been together since Rookie Ball. At the Ontario Playdowns at St. Thomas in 2019 the Cubs outlasted a field of 22 teams and defeated Brampton in the finals to earn their ticket to the Nationals in Repentigny, Quebec. Just getting out of the Ontario playdowns was, arguably, their biggest challenge of the season; compelled to play eight games in four days, the Cubs began their grueling journey to the Canadian championships with victories over Milton, Whitby, and perennial nemesis—Brampton—in the finals. Not only did the Cubs receive the 'Ontario 1' title but also a \$15,000 stipend from Basenal Ontario to offset the cost of travel and uniforms.

"The boys just had a never-quit mentality, which was typical of our guys," said coach Dube. "We were always, on average, the smallest team on the field. but we were just gritty. hard-working and always played for each other."

In Repentigny, Quebec, at the National Championships, the Cubs reeled off pool play victories against Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and host Repentigny before defeating P.E.I. in the semi-finals. This created a rematch with Repentigny for the title. Cubs long-time ace Mark Rogers was dominant on the mound, throwing a complete game 4-2 victory using less than 85 pitches while striking out 13 opposing batters.

Dube said they were truly a team, something that distinguished them from others. "That was the reason for their success. They were truly a team that cared about each other, that played for one another. It was never about the individual." The coaches had instilled this concept since Rookie Ball, a trait that both the players and parents embodied. The team had their eye on a national championship for the previous couple of years, but one of their coaches, Brian Cole, had planned to retire. "We were able to keep Brian involved as a non-parent volunteer," said Dube, "to make a run for the Nationals."

Though permitted to draft up to six players to make their run at the Nationals, they opted for only two. "That's all we needed."

While other provincial teams were comprised of all-star players, the Cubs were a Cambridge team. "With the same core group of Cambridge players since rookie ball,

we were a community team."

Aside from the fabled Terriers of the Senior Intercounty league, Cambridge has only won four AAA provincial ball championships in its history, and this group of players have been responsible for three of them, not to mention being the only Cambridge team to win a national title.



AAA Cambridge Cubs Minor Peewees (2018 Ontario Baseball Champions) included, front: Brady Reeve. Kneeling, left: Travis Demerchant, Caleb McArthur, Cam Fries, Cooper Love, Ryan Brenton. Middle left: Logan Duarte, Lachlan Litman, Cam Dube, Jacob Skuta, Mark Rogers, Alex Baril. Back left: Coaches Sean Rogers, Tim McArthur, Bryan Reeve, Brian Cole, and Chad Dube.

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