

## SPORTS

# Orleans crowned champ

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ORLEANS — The Orleans Cardinals lost a lot of things in Saturday's nine-run romp in Bourne: Game 2 of the Cape Cod Baseball League Championship Series, ace starter Everett Teaford and the momentum they gained from their East Division triumph over Chatham.

But the Cardinals never lost hope.

Last night they defeated the Bourne Braves 13-1 in the final game of the Cape League playoffs to win their 11th Cape League title, two games to one, at Eldredge Park in Orleans.

The Cardinals scored only twice in the first two games of the series, but the runs came when they needed them.

"We've bounced back all season," Orleans manager Kelly Nicholson said. "We only had two runs in the series before tonight, so I knew the runs were gonna come."

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Orleans notched five in the first inning on a Brett Pill double that scored Manny Burriss and David Uribes. Two batters later, Chris Pettit roped a line drive over the left field fence for a three-run homer to make the score 5-0.

Bourne starter Forrest Cory III came out after the first inning. He took the mound on only three days' rest after pitching Game 2 of the Western Division finals against Cotuit.

In all, six Braves took the mound to Orleans' three.

"We were hoping Cory could go three or four (innings)," Bourne manager Harvey Shapiro said.

Bourne's top starter, Brad Lincoln, started Game — of the Western Division finals but left the team Saturday after Game 2 of the finals. Shapiro said he returned to school in Houston.

In the third inning, Matt Camp and Jason Jacobs each brought in a run on a sacrifice fly to left before Manny Burriss hit a two-RBI single up the middle to make it 9-0.

"I'm pleased that we got here," Shapiro said. "It's never easy to get down 5-0, but those four runs were deflating."

Orleans scored two more runs in each of the seventh and eighth innings.

Burriss, who was named co-MVP of the playoffs, went 5-for-6 last night with a stolen base, three runs and two RBIs.

Orleans starter Brad Meyers, who also received MVP honors, faltered only once when Robbie Widlansky scored on a Josh Stinson single in the fourth. Meyers improved every inning until he was relieved in the seventh by Brant Rustich.

Meyers went 6

164 innings, allowing nine hits and a run with two strikeouts. He left to raucous cheers when he came out in the seventh.

Steven Wright, who finished the regular season with 12 saves, pitched a scoreless eighth and ninth inning, striking out four Braves.

The win marked Kelly Nicholson's first championship in his first year as head manager of the Cardinals. Nicholson, who coaches at Loyola High School in Los Angeles, started as an assistant in 2001.

After the game, the crowd of 6,815 mobbed the field and young fans swarmed Burriss and Meyers for autographs. As Nicholson and the Cardinals congregated in center field after the game, Orleans fans witnessed Burriss' speed one last time as he sprinted to meet his team in center.

Burriss, who joined the Cardinals as a temporary player this season, led the league in steals with 37 during the regular season.

"It was hard coming here because I didn't expect to play," Burriss said. "It doesn't get much better than this."

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