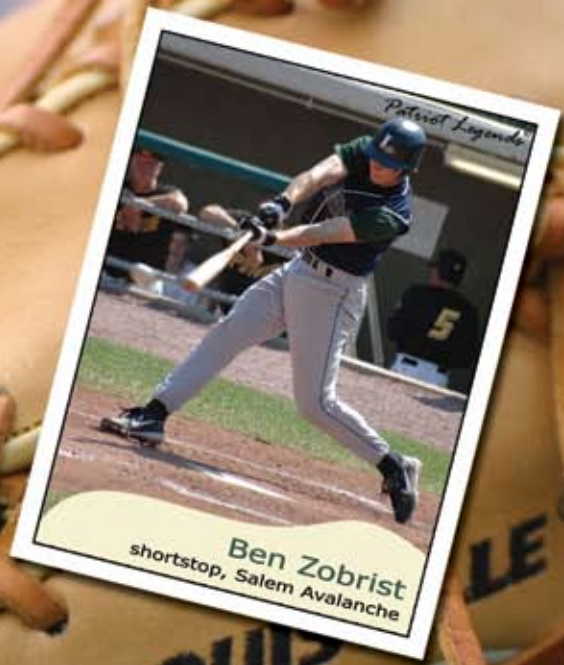
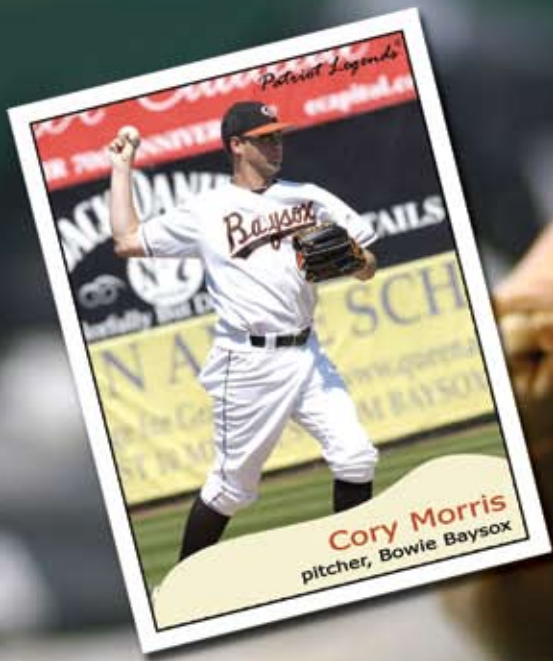


Photos Courtesy of Mary Lay and Bowie Baysox



Patriots in Play

former DBU standouts make mark in minors

by Ryan Erwin

Patriot Baseball has long enjoyed a history of excellence, with teams heading to world series and players heading to the big leagues, both in the minors and the majors. This past summer, two former DBU Patriot Baseball standouts, Cory Morris (2000-01) and Ben Zobrist (2004), were named to their respective Minor League Baseball All-Star teams.

Morris, 26, was drafted in the 14th round of the 2001 draft by the Baltimore Orioles. He played the 2005 season for the Bowie Baysox, the AA-affiliate of the Orioles, and hopes to split time with the Baysox and the AAA-affiliate Ottawa Lynx. He was one of the Orioles' pleasant surprises last season and was named the Baysox Player of the Month for June. The right-hander was one of the top pitchers in the Eastern League with a 3.03 ERA and put together an 8-5 record in 25 starts. Morris pitched in 142.2 innings for the Baysox and ranks first in strikeouts with 159. This was Morris' first All-Star game appearance.

Zobrist was named a starter for the Northern Division All-Star team at shortstop. With his .304 batting average and 32 RBI, Zobrist was called up to the Salem Avalanche following the All-Star Break. The Avalanche currently serves as the Houston Astros High A-affiliate. Zobrist, 24, was drafted from DBU



Former Patriot Stars Cory Morris and Ben Zobrist

in the sixth round of the 2004 draft by the Astros organization. After his promotion to High A Salem, Zobrist continued to play well. He led the Avalanche in hitting with a .333 batting average, .490 slugging percentage and .475 on-base percentage. Zobrist looks to play the 2006 season with the Corpus Christi Hooks, the AA-affiliate of the Astros.

Cory Morris and Ben Zobrist are two of the many Patriot Alumni in professional baseball. Although in the minor leagues right now, both athletes hope to join fellow Patriots Lew Ford (Minnesota Twins), Jason LaRue (Cincinnati Reds), and Freddie Sanchez (Pittsburgh Pirates) at the Major League level.