

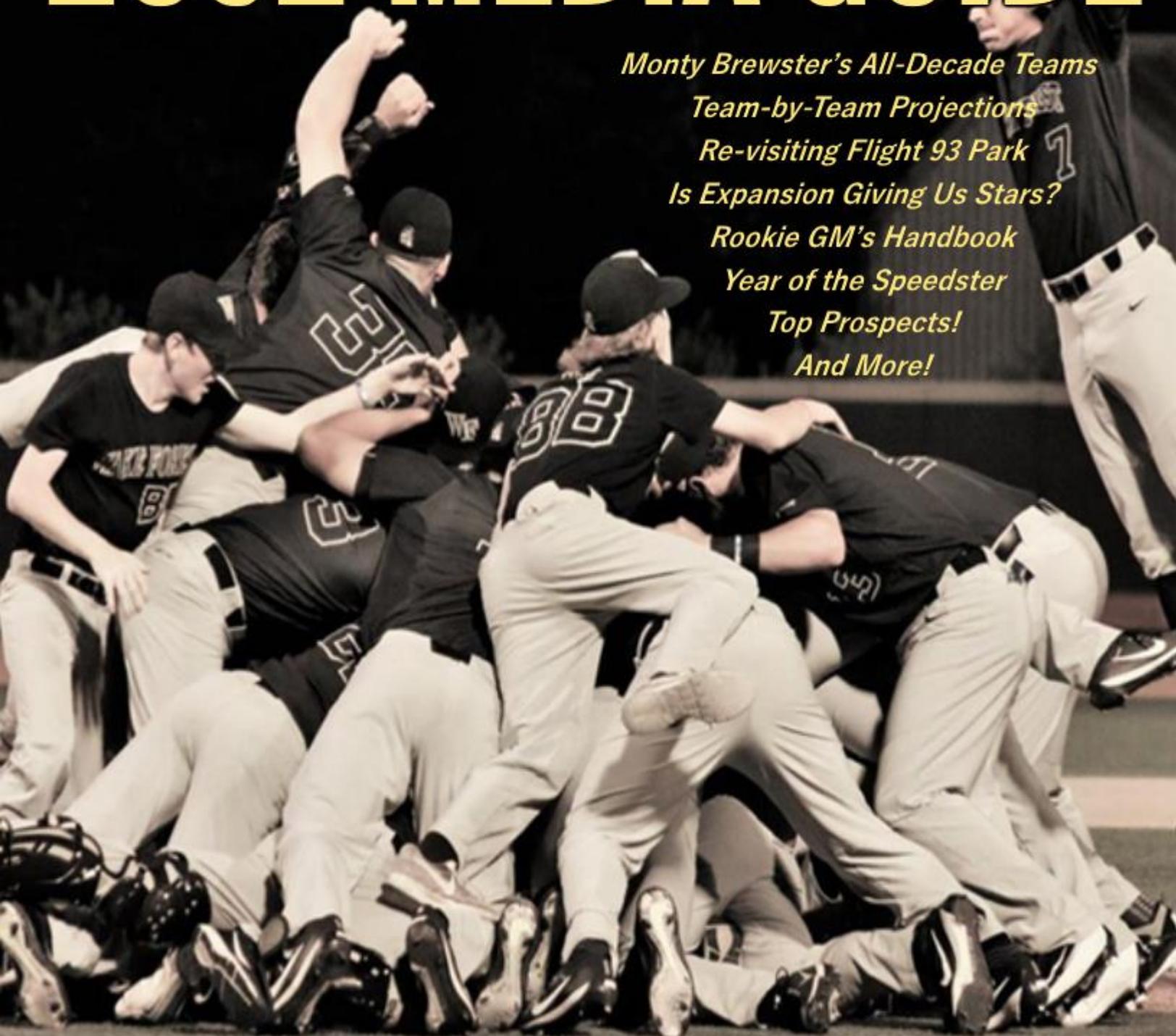
BREWSTER

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

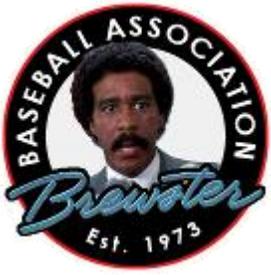


2032 MEDIA GUIDE

Monty Brewster's All-Decade Teams
Team-by-Team Projections
Re-visiting Flight 93 Park
Is Expansion Giving Us Stars?
Rookie GM's Handbook
Year of the Speedster
Top Prospects!
And More!



60th ANNIVERSARY EDITION!



EST. 1973: WE VOTE NONE OF THE ABOVE

LEADERSHIP

Commissioner: Matt Rectenwald
Vice Commissioner: Aaron Weiner
League Director: Ted Schmidt
PR Director/Historian: Stephen Lane

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<http://montybrewster.net/application-2/>

Constitution:

<http://montybrewster.net/constitution/>

Every year the fans think “well, it can’t get any better than this.” Every year they’re wrong. 2032 represents the Brewster’s 60th season. Maybe we’ve passed the audition, eh? If nothing else, 60 seasons means the Brewster ain’t no Texas Leaguer, no bloop-single of a check swing. No one-season wonder that can’t adjust up to big league curveballs. Things like this league don’t happen by chance, you now? Things like this are the result of massive quantities of coffee, more than a few beers, massive quantities of super dogs, and maybe a couple hundred passionate zanies spread over a couple decades of real time, not necessarily in that order.

Regardless of what you think about all that, 60 seasons of fake baseball nerdery is a helluva run. Here’s a tip of the cap the guys who made it happen, and a hope for 60 more.

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And, Finally, More People Who Have Not Advertised With Us



FINAL 2031 STANDINGS

JOHNSON LEAGUE

LEAGUE STANDINGS ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Jacksonville Hurricanes	94	68	.580	-	879	771
Montreal Blazers	87	75	.537	7	933	866
Charm City Jimmies	83	80	.509	11½	815	836
Brooklyn Robins	72	90	.444	22	706	789
Atlantic City Gamblers	71	91	.438	23	782	881
Carolina Kraken	68	94	.420	26	711	859
Halifax Hawks	66	96	.407	28	846	941

LEAGUE STANDINGS SOUTHERN DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Las Vegas Hustlers	102	60	.630	-	962	740
Huntsville Phantoms	86	76	.531	16	873	774
San Antonio Outlaws	85	77	.525	17	744	706
Hawaii Tropics	82	80	.506	20	705	729
New Orleans Crawdads	82	81	.503	20½	708	702
Phoenix Talons	81	81	.500	21	787	746
Havana Sugar Kings	66	96	.407	36	719	929

FRICK LEAGUE

LEAGUE STANDINGS HEARTLAND DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Yellow Springs Nine	100	62	.617	-	818	619
Louisville Sluggers	94	68	.580	6	781	635
Madison Wolves	90	72	.556	10	867	788
Des Moines Kernels	83	79	.512	17	736	745
Omaha Barnstormers	74	88	.457	26	672	760
Indy Grasshoppers	64	98	.395	36	653	822
Twin Cities River Monsters	64	98	.395	36	691	831

LEAGUE STANDINGS PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Long Beach Surfers	100	62	.617	-	831	700
Vancouver Mounties	95	67	.586	5	733	603
Calgary Pioneers	89	73	.549	11	816	687
California Crusaders	85	77	.525	15	787	729
Edmonton Jackrabbits	70	92	.432	30	706	872
Seattle Storm	68	94	.420	32	777	825
Valencia Stars	68	94	.420	32	672	825

Geoghegan Round

San Antonio 3, Huntsville 1
Montreal 3, Charm City 1

Louisville 3, Madison 1
Calgary 3, Vancouver 2

Doubleday Series

Las Vegas 4, San Antonio 0
Jacksonville 4, Montreal 0

Yellow Springs 4, Louisville 0
Long Beach 4, Calgary 2

Cartwright Cup

Jacksonville 4, Las Vegas 3

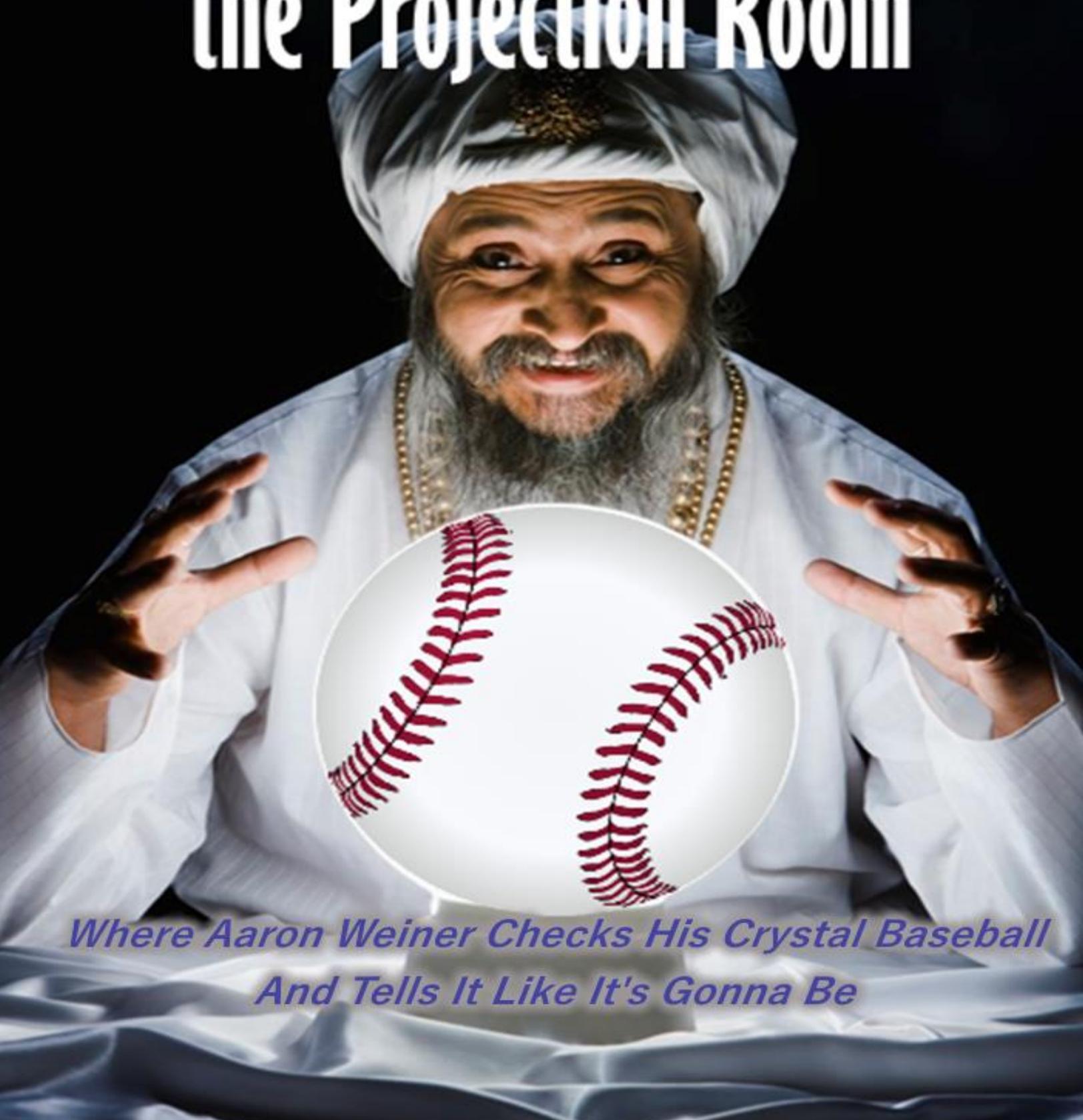
Yellow Springs 4, Long Beach 1

Landis Memorial Series

Jacksonville 4, Yellow Springs 2



Welcome to the Projection Room



*Where Aaron Weiner Checks His Crystal Baseball
And Tells It Like It's Gonna Be*

The Projection Room

*Let's call a fundamental law of physics a fundamental law of physics. No other fake baseball league on the face of the earth has a guy like **Aaron Weiner** around. I mean, the guy knows his stuff, am I right? Ted Schmidt is fantastic, and in a pinch I can hum a few bars and get a good noise going. But Aaron is legendary like a 12-to-6 curveball snapped off with that kind of precision that comes from guys named Koufax is legendary, or like a heater up and in from Gibby. Or, dare I say it, like a wristy swing from that guy named...hmmm...what was that guy's name again? Oh, yeah, right. Kinda like a blast by that guy named Aaron, eh?*

Yeah, that's a long-winded way of saying we got the swami of the Brewster back. So rather than waste your time listening to me, let's all dig in and see what he's got to say about how the 60th season in BBA history is gonna unfold.

The Greenville Moonshiners moved to Jacksonville five seasons ago, so Hurricanes fans haven't existed long enough to experience the heartbreak of nearly four decades of waiting for a championship. After a ton of maneuvering, trading for top starters, and developing young stars, the Hurricanes fans got their title in the 2032 season. Moonshiners fans won't take much solace from that, but reports have it that some of them sent letters to the team, wishing them well and congratulating the city of Jacksonville.

The Hurricanes won the title with young players like David Noboru and Norris Rutledge and veterans like former Steve Nebraska winners Jesus Tonche and Billy Chapel, Jr., a thorough mix of players. They lost a little this offseason, but not enough to sweat about and they should be back in the mix again.

There are plenty contenders for Jacksonville's crown. The Hustlers, Surfers, and Sluggers are always dangerous and should be prime suspects in the mystery of who's standing at the end of the year. Yellow Springs clearly lost some ground, but they were a dubious 100-win team to begin and should be fine. California set team records in offense last year and should return to the playoffs this year.

The rest of the picture is murkier. San Antonio might have a real shot at the title with one of the biggest offseason additions in superstar DH Frank Thomas III and a superb starting rotation. Madison has a killer offense and enough pitching to make it interesting. Huntsville isn't built to win in the playoffs, though they're still a solid team. Don't count out Calgary, who has some real talent in both the lineup and the rotation and has often surprised in the playoffs, either.

There are a few dark horses. Phoenix, who made real strides forward this offseason, has the best chance to come out of nowhere and surprise. Des Moines still has two of the best players in the BBA and could get hot at the right time. And, few teams are more improved than the Omaha Barnstormers, but they seem like they're a year away. The rest of the teams seem like they're on the outside looking in, but in a league where nearly half the teams make the playoffs, it's still anyone's ballgame.

Don't count out a Hurricanes repeat. They still have one of the top rotations in the game, a solid, deep bullpen, and Norris Rutledge, a clearly special player against righties, quietly had one of the top 20 seasons in OPS in BBA history. But if you're playing the odds, go with the field, because we've had twelve different champions in the last thirteen Landis Memorial Series. The Jacksonville win leaves just Valencia, Seattle, Yellow Springs, Indy, Omaha, and Havana out of the twenty-four original teams that haven't won a championship; three of the six are still in the city where they started, and at least two of those teams could be contending for a title either this year or next. League parity has never been better for titles, and with twelve playoff spots, the trend should continue.



JL Atlantic

The Jacksonville Hurricanes won their second division title in three years in 2031, putting together an excellent season and earning nearly every bit of their 94 wins. The Moonshiners lost quite a bit of talent in the offseason, but they still have a real chance to win this in a runaway. Realistically, only the Hurricanes and the Montreal Blazers have a real chance to win the division. Halifax and Carolina are on heavy rebuilds, Brooklyn is on the outs, and it seems that Charm City and Atlantic City don't quite have the horses this year.

Jacksonville did lose a little ground this offseason, but they had a little bit to give. The Blazers especially are suffering the loss of Jorge Stanza for the second straight season, but they made enough contingency plans and had enough talent to win 87 games last year and could take the division if Jacksonville stumbles enough.

Dark horses include Charm City, who made their first playoff appearance last season, and Atlantic City, who have given it their best shot in free agency. Brooklyn simply isn't good enough to take the division from solid teams like Montreal and Jacksonville. The Kraken and the Hawks simply aren't competitive but could be soon.

Jacksonville should win their third division crown in four years, but as we know, anything can happen in the BBA, and there's enough traffic in this division that we could see a close race.

	PROJECTED STANDINGS				2031			
	W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	RS	RA
Jacksonville	91	71	.562		94	68	879	711
Montreal	88	74	.543	3	87	75	933	866
Charm City	83	79	.512	8	83	80	815	836
Atlantic City	81	81	.500	10	71	91	782	881
Brooklyn	72	90	.444	19	72	90	706	789
Halifax	62	100	.383	29	66	96	846	941
Carolina	59	103	.364	32	68	94	711	859



Jacksonville Hurricanes

General Manager: Tyler Simmons

Projection:

Last Season: 94-78, Won JLA
 Post Season: Won Landis Cup
 Runs Scored: 879
 Runs Allowed: 771

New Faces
 SP Mario Mendez

Players Gone
 LF Emilio Rodriguez
 SP Len Caldwell
 2B Orlando Medrano

“Yes, Diaz is done. You should trade him to me for Chapel and prospects. We guarantee that Chapel will have at least one functional arm when he comes off the DL. Which arm you ask? Well, now we’re just talking semantics. Don’t you just need one arm to pitch?”

In response to Ted, 2031 Sim #8 Chatter



It’s always a combination of smarts, guile, good timing, and good luck that makes a champion, and I’m sure that Tyler Simmons could point out every single thing that went wrong along the way, but, well, that’s my job and I’ll be damned if I let someone else do it. What’s fascinating for a championship team that’s built around pitching is that the pitching staff wasn’t nearly so productive as the offense last year. Jacksonville’s offense was solidly in the top quarter of offenses in the BBA last year, but their pitching staff was just average. It seems like they caught lightning in a bottle: can lightning strike twice?

Diving deeper into the pitching staff, it sure seems like you’ve stumbled upon one of the best pitching staffs in the game.

Jesus Tonche has been as solid a starter as you’d want, and while it’s difficult to figure out why Tully Crow isn’t more dominant, 50 more innings might help. Despite age and a precipitous velocity drop, Billy Chapel, Jr. still has plenty left in the tank despite a mediocre regular season. Offseason signing Mario Mendez was probably one of the shrewdest signings of this offseason, and despite his age (he turns 36 during the season) he was willing to take two team options. You could do a lot worse than Luis Manuel Torres as a fifth starter. Netuno Markert probably gets a lot of run this year. The bullpen is plenty good enough. You’d expect this pitching staff to produce better this year.

At this point I wouldn’t expect much of an offensive falloff. The best Jacksonville young players could both improve: David Noboru might not have tapped his full potential yet, and Lloyd Braun was better in 2030; his numbers last year are probably his floor. Norris Rutledge is special against righties, and while the 26th highest single-season OPS of all time might be higher than he’s going to be, it’s within his reach. Bertram Hahn is probably one of the most overlooked players in the league today. James Braddock and Jake Blues probably do more for the team this year. Sergio Ramos hit 41 homers last year. The loss of Orlando Medrano and Sunshine aren’t huge because the veterans weren’t huge for the Hurricanes last year.

Overall, this is a fairly young team, and there's no reason to believe that they're not right back in contention again. This is perhaps a more complete team than the Blazers, and perhaps not; they certainly don't have the star power that Montreal has. It would be unsurprising to see Montreal take the division title back from the Hurricanes this year, but it would be shocking if they didn't win at least a wild card.



Montreal Blazers

General Manager: John Callahan

Projection:

Last Season: 87-75, 2nd in JLA
Post Season: Lost in Doubleday
Runs Scored: 933
Runs Allowed: 866

New Faces

P Domingo Hernandez

Players Gone

SP Jorge Stanza (injury)
SP Jorge Jimenez
P Josh Rosser

"I love Ted's rants about WAR. Mostly because I agree with them"

In response to: Welcome to my annual diatribe on positional WAR adjustments

Montreal was expected to drop from 104 wins last year the minute Jorge Stanza blew out his arm in Spring Training. Stanza would miss the entire season due to injury, and, unfortunately, he'll miss at least half of this season with a partially torn labrum also, which casts a shadow on the team's ability to compete for a division crown.



Can T-Bone's Return Put the Blazer's Back on Top of the JLA?

Stanza is still the Montreal ace until further notice, and losing him sends a ripple effect down the rotation. Leon Flores can take over as the #1 starter, though he's not as good as Stanza. The Blazers did do some work to try and sure up the rotation this offseason, but the duo of veteran Domingo Hernandez and vitriolic righty Van Willard are just adequate, not stars. Alex Lopez should be a solid fourth starter. The team's bullpen is highly talented but might not be the steadiest group we've seen.

We've talked about Montreal's pitching in the lead, but usually any conversation about Montreal starts and ends with Jared Gillstrom. Gillstrom's combined 24.2 WAR over the past two seasons is the second most ever, after only the great Cricket Puckett's superb 2005-2006 seasons, and Puckett usually enters the conversation when talking about Gillstrom's potential place in history. Cisco

Guerrero would be the biggest name on just about any other

team, and posted the 20th highest OPS in the history of the league last season. The two players finished first and second in batting average last year and were two of the three most valuable players in the Johnson League. Ettienne LaFitte is an excellent third wheel, and players like Ken Jenkins, Juan Fernandez, Antonio Santana, and Gary Schneider help to set the table for the big bats.

Montreal will go as far as their offensive stars will carry them. The offense was just behind Las Vegas for first place in the Johnson League, but without Stanza the pitching staff gave up well over five runs a game, more than teams like Carolina and Brooklyn. They have enough talent to survive without Stanza, as they did last year, but it's going to be a tricky path for the Blazers, especially since they're pressed hard against the cap as it is. They do have a top five farm and players like Jubal Troop, but Troop at this point would likely be rushed. The Blazers will have to outwit teams to get to the playoffs, but they're equal to the task.



Charm City Jimmies

General Manager: Branden Slouck

Projection:

Last Season: 83-80, 3rd in JLA
Result: Lost Geoghegan
Runs Scored: 815
Runs Allowed: 836

New Faces
SS Pablo Soto
SP Yan Heijnen
SP Bonaventure Habermas

Players Gone
SP Mario Mendez
SP Martin Pacheco
RP Jose De La Cruz

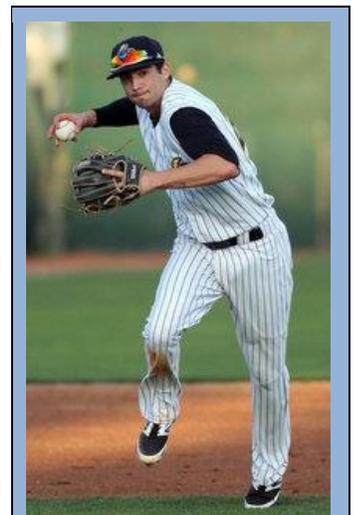
"We jumped at the chance to sign him, knowing we couldn't let anyone else see him. But according to him, about 12 teams had already seen him, including the "great" Genius Hopkins, and all passed on him. Luck certainly is better than skill sometimes."

Regarding the signing of Wilton Rivera, 2031.02 - Potential Gem Found in the DR

Sometimes your humble prognosticator hits one on the head. Last year, I predicted that the Charm City Jimmies, a team that didn't exist four seasons ago, would be the first expansion team to make the playoffs and, yea, verily, it came to pass. A casual observer would be concerned about the moves that were made this offseason, especially the loss of solid starting pitcher Mario Mendez, but I don't think Charm City falls back too far this year, if at all.

First, trading for Pablo Soto could be a solid move for the Jimmies, even if it cost them the prospect mentioned in the quote, Wilton Rivera. The team no doubt regarded Rivera as found money after signing him out of the Dominican after last season, and they used it to sure up the shortstop position for a decade. Soto, one of the more solid shortstops in the game, will be a nice addition for the Jimmies, who could also afford his salary. He also fits into the team strategy of high contact hitters that pair with superstar Alfredo Salazar. Several players on the offense could improve, including catcher Don Logan and young first baseman Byron Hearle. Brian Whitten probably won't improve, as the veteran DH has not aged particularly well, but he's still the likely starter this year; waiting in the wings is top prospect Bartolo Ortiz, who is a monster prospect.

Another thing I wrote last year was that Egbert Behner was the best pitcher you've never heard of, and that is no longer a problem after the 26 year old righty made the All-Star team and finished third in JL Steve Nebraska voting. Now the unquestioned ace of the staff, Behner will lead a rotation that has more questions than answers. Chester Kipling bounced back from a poor start last year to post a passable season, but he's not finding a ton of success in Charm City. Arturo Cruz



*Jimmie Faithful Hope Soto
Will Shore Up the Middle
Infield*

should still be shipped to Vancouver, stat. Offseason acquisition Bonaventure Habermas is a sneaky under-the-radar signing, but his endurance will keep him to #4 starter status. Norberto Leon is probably a year too early to help, though Yan Heijnen has a good track record. The Jimmies' bullpen is fairly solid throughout, with solid closer Wilmot Schlondorff often completing an all-German game with Behner.

Charm City isn't going to come out of nowhere and surprise anyone after making the playoffs last year, but they should have been considered a threat all along. To this point the most successful of the expansion teams, the Jimmies have been consistently solid since coming into the league three seasons ago. It would be silly to not expect yet another year like that, and while they're projected to lose money again this season, they're clearly competitive. I wouldn't expect them to be eliminated from the wild card race until much later this season, and they could win it again.



Atlantic City Gamblers

General Manager: Joshua Biddle

Projection:

Last Season: 71-91 – 5th in JLA
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 782
 Runs Allowed: 881

New Faces
 SP Eduardo Lopez
 SP Antonio Correa

Players Gone
 SS Ernesto Chavez
 RP Jesus Feliciano

“...given our organization's need to get younger and replenish the minor league system, a pick in the supplemental 1st round outweighed the benefit of having him on the roster...”

Regarding Carolina's signing of Valeri Kharlamov: Boardwalk Empire-#4-FA Round 2 / Rule 5

No team has attempted to make a bigger splash in free agency than the Gamblers, who lived up to their name by going all-in on a pair of lefty pitchers: superstar Eduardo Lopez and hugely productive Antonio Correa. The moves might have been partially good sense and partially overreaction to a 91-loss season in 2031, Atlantic City's worst result in a decade and a half that followed three straight playoff appearances. At the same time, the team dropped a few consistent performers in pursuit of stardom. Did they do enough to put themselves back in contention?



The Gamblers three aces are going to have to sell a lot of popcorn and beer

The rotation will likely be better. Surefire Hall of Famer Lopez had yet another huge season at the age of 34 for Yellow Springs last season, and is by himself a rotation maker. Pairing him with young Dan Cannon, maybe the most complete young pitcher in the game today, gives them a strong 1-2 punch in the rotation. Correa has been a spectacular player for the Mounties, so we have to give him some benefit of the doubt. If players like Gonzalo Fajardo, Gustavo Medina, or Tony Nelson can solidify the back end of the rotation, they could find regular-season

success. Their bullpen is unfortunately a hot mess, made even more so by the departure of Jesus Feliciano through free agency, so the rotation will have to find success.

The lineup carries with it few surprises from last season. Obviously, Rafael Bido and Antonio Sanchez are the headliners, and should be good for around 70 homers and a good on-base percentage in the middle of the order. Outfielder Chang-hyeok Chang was a dynamic rookie last year, but apparently should not be allowed to steal bases any time soon. Catcher Joaquin Camacho appears to be a steady presence both behind the plate and in the batter's box, and while time appears to be marching on for players like Boone Carlyle and Juan Trevino, the rest of the lineup is still serviceable without any trace of stars.

We're starting to say goodbye to the Atlantic City teams that were successful for two decades. Manuel Garcia is long gone. Sanchez might not be a Gambler next season based on salary demands, ending an era in the Garden State. Boone Carlyle is in his walk year also. Bido is still around, but he's about the last of the old guard from the team's glory years. Because of the horrid bullpen, the highly suspect back half of the rotation, holes in the lineup, and a poor balance sheet because of escalator clauses in both Lopez and Correa's contracts, this team is going to have a tough time doing anything at all for the next few seasons. With just one top 100 prospect and a lot of very big holes on the team, it's hardly a sure thing that they'll be able to contend even past this year. As for this year, their pitching signings and a decent core will help this team contend in 2032 for a wild card.



Brooklyn Robins

General Manager: Alan Ehlers

Projection:

Last Season: 72-90 - 4th in JLA
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 706
 Runs Allowed: 789

New Faces
 SP Phillip Morris
 SP Gerardo Castillo

Players Gone
 SP Domingo Castillo
 3B Diego Moreno

"Ward: Skip, I heard we are going to start all lefties.

Farve: That's correct Wardy.

Ward: I don't think that's a good idea sir. Leon Ramirez's arm will fall off starting all 4 games."

Robins Roundup 2030/6

Brooklyn used to be among the upper echelon of franchises in the BBA. With two championships and a record 18 straight winning seasons from 1996-2013 as the Baltimore Monarchs, the organization was first rate all the way. However, after four straight losing seasons, the franchise is losing money, their farm isn't at all impressive, and one has to wonder: is this the new normal for the Brooklyn Robins, at least for a while?

Offensively, the team lacks two-way players in spades. Luis Soto is the team's best chance at one, but he stumbled badly in his first short stint in Brooklyn. Holden Blackwell is still getting paid for breaking the single-season hits record in 2029. Henry Rectenberg will help offensively, but his defense is poor, and he's an absolute Yogi Zimmer compared to Enrique Salazar, whose homers should put him solidly

at DH. There isn't an obvious star here of any sort, and there isn't a potential position player star in the organization at this point.

The offense looks like a juggernaut next to the rotation. De facto ace Jose Morales had poor luck with defense last year and could improve with a number of solid infield defenders, and on better teams he'd be a #2/3 starter. Offseason signing Gerardo Castillo seems overpaid at \$6.5 million and has a terrible escalator clause in his contract that gives him an extra \$1 million every time he throws 200 innings. Phillip Morris might still have a little left in the tank, but just a little. Leon Ramirez is one of the league's more intriguing pitchers, but he'll probably never be a star. The bullpen is fine, with veterans like Flint Colbert, Miguel Dezgado, Fernando Lopez, and Joost Breakwell joining a number of mediocre middle relievers, but it's not a good enough squad to save them.

Simply put, Brooklyn just doesn't have enough firepower to climb back from the hole they're in. There aren't enough wild cards in the rotation or offensively to make up for the lack of continuity. Their finances aren't good enough that they should make moves to improve. Brooklyn's best hope is that Francisco Flores and Francisco Chacon opt out, which would put them at a very reasonable \$58 million payroll. (Nearly zero chance on Blackwell opting out next year.) If they don't, the team is on the hook for a lot more money over the next few years and they still have to figure out a way to pay Morales. There's isn't much to pay attention to here, as Brooklyn should miss the playoffs for the fifth consecutive year.



*The Robin's Rotation-by-Committee reports to Spring Training:
Who's going to pitch for Brooklyn? I am! I am!*



Halifax Hawks

General Manager: Jason Russell

Projection:

Last Season: 66-96, 7th in JLA
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 846
 Runs Allowed: 941

New Faces
 Juliano Fallardo

Players Gone
 2B Manuel Garcia

“Halifax has to decide between trying to score a few runs or trying to stop a few runs. I don’t really have any combinations that will do both”

Response to: BBA Defenses: The FIP-ERA Perspective



Halifax: Riding Out the Storm in 2032?

Sometimes there’s no mystery to a team strategy. The Halifax Hawks, coming off a horrid 66-96 season, with a 60 million dollar payroll, and 20 million dollar pitchers on the open market, lost several bullpen members and signed...several bullpen members. The Hawks, who were actually seven games better last year by Pythagorean record than their dismal result, aren’t making a lot of waves, meaning we can probably project their path fairly easily for 2032.

There’s a lot of wisdom in the Hawks’ rebuilding strategy. For example, former All-Star Stelio Kontos has mysteriously begun to lose bat speed in the middle of what should be his prime, and as a free agent next year they’ll probably let him walk. The team can’t wait to get out from under the Jorge Martinez contract. The team does have some young pieces in place like Domenic Wyatt, Elijah Curry and Bucky Dornster, and Luis Miguel Carrillo is solidly in his prime, so they do have some talent to build around.

The awesome hitter's park is also not helping the pitchers, though Lee McHone is almost as good as I thought he could be when he was drafted. It takes quite a pitcher to lead the league in walks and still post a 3.2 WAR, and he's still just 24 years old. Guillermo Martinez will miss most of the 2032 season with bone chips in his elbow, but if he makes a full recovery he could be a superstar, and he struck out 52 batters in his first 48 innings at age 21. The rest of the staff is aging and questionable. Martin Lewis is a shell of himself, and even long-time #1 starter Sancho Delgado is starting to show signs of wear. I still love Lee McHone, but he needs to develop more control. The bullpen members they signed are universally mediocre, and Armando Figueroa was set up to be a leader of the pen before a spring training injury.

Halifax isn't nearly as bad as their horrid record last year if everyone is healthy, but it's going to be a tough year for them with possibly their top starter and top reliever out for at least four months. They were in many ways right to keep out of free agency, as next offseason they'll have a tough decision to make on Domenic Wyatt but could get their payroll as low as \$35 million or so. They need to develop some prospects, but they're moving in the right direction overall, I think. Their balance sheet is very clean going forward and as long as they don't clutter it up with bad deals, they should have a reasonable chance to regain consistent contender status. Just not yet.



Carolina Kraken

General Manager: Aaron Weiner

Projection:

Last Season: 68-94, 6th in JLA
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 711
 Runs Allowed: 859

New Faces
 RP Manny Vargas
 3B Davis Locke

Players Gone
 DH Frank Thomas III
 RP Hector Reyna

"I don't look in the mirror and see a superstar. I see a guy who's worked for everything he has and is very lucky to have been as successful as he is."

Frank Thomas III: Wise Kraken 21.3031: Perspective on FT III

Carolina staged one of the most shocking developments of the offseason, trading away team icon Frank Thomas III for a pitching prospect. Dealing Thomas away has been the reaction to a tough time for the Kraken, and it's hard to imagine a more fitting scene than this one: watching Valeri Kharlamov knocked out on the diamond around second base, a lump on his head and a dagger in the heart of the Kraken season. One wonders what might have been had the superstar second baseman, who earned a meager \$44 million last season, had played the next three months. (And he's already hurt again, albeit a smaller injury.) Instead, the Kraken appear to now be in the late stages of a complete rebuild.



*So, just when **will** the kids come up?*

This leads to the pressing question on everyone's minds when they see the Kraken: when are they going to call up the kids? Just a short time ago, the team had the #1 farm in the game, and they still have ten of the top 100 prospects, a list that doesn't even include top catching prospect Francisco Flores. A lot of parameters make this tricky: there are spots on the team which are taken by other players, players the team needs to try out, and a limited number of spaces on the team's 27-man roster. The team is due to lose money for the second straight season, and there are a lot of guys there who either aren't 100% developed or who have never seen the AAA level.

Of course, this ignores the team on the field, which stands to be pretty good in a lot of spots but really nothing to write home about. Jorge Vargas has turned himself into one of the league's better two-way players, and Gabriel Delgado has a chance to be that kind of player. Chet Gabriel and Chris Klein could both hit better next year; Klein specifically made a quantum leap forward from his disastrous rookie year and could make another this year. Catcher was very productive, as Colby Stephens stole 58 bases in 70 tries and Alberto Padilla hit 12 homers in just 180 at bats. It's hard to say when the young guys will be called up, but we'd expect a few players to join the big club this season.

Still, the bullpen is full of questions beyond Rafael Mata, the pitching staff is still breaking in players like Andre Georges and maybe Celio Marin or Lucas Meech, and they still haven't called up the rest of the kids. The good news: the team stands to cut payroll to under \$60 million in 2033, they have a #1 overall pick coming of age in Dempster, an expansive and deep farm, more high draft picks coming up, and a lot of trade capital to spend. There are rumbles of a new ballpark or even departure from the Queen City next year. The Kraken aren't good now, but they might be exciting in as little as a year.

JL Southern

Las Vegas has won this division in six of the last seven seasons, though some teams are trying to make it interesting for them. Division titles are, of course, a huge advantage in the era of two-division leagues as those two teams and *only* those two teams get a bye directly into the Doubleday round. The Hustlers have won just one title over the past twelve years despite making the playoffs in each season, so they'll take any advantage they can get.

Vegas could win this division in a walkover, and it wouldn't be new: they won this division by 16 games last year. They've failed to win 100 games just once since 2026, and in that year they did finish in second place to the Huntsville Phantoms, who are projected to win 90 games in 2032. The real contender for the JL Southern throne might be San Antonio, who made huge offseason adds offensively and still have a superb pitching staff.

In fact, just Havana is projected to be completely out of the playoff race in this division. The Phoenix Talons are one of the league's more intriguing dark horses. New Orleans still has a ton of pitching even without Miguel Datz, though they still have offensive issues. The Hawaii Tropics are a solid team, though it's hard to see the major upswing from them.

It's been Las Vegas' to lose for quite some time, and the division appears to be still be in that state 2032, but we'll see if anyone can steal the crown from the Hustlers.

	PROJECTED STANDINGS				2031			
	W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	RS	RA
Las Vegas	97	65	.599	-	102	60	962	740
San Antonio	91	71	.562	6	85	77	744	706
Huntsville	90	72	.556	7	86	76	873	774
Phoenix	83	79	.512	14	81	81	787	746
Hawaii	81	81	.500	16	82	80	705	729
New Orleans	78	84	.481	19	82	81	708	702
Havana	67	95	.414	30	66	96	719	929



Las Vegas Hustlers

General Manager: Matt Rectenwald

Projection:

Last Season: 102-60, Won JLS
 Post Season: Lost Cartwright Cup
 Runs Scored: 962
 Runs Allowed: 771

New Faces
 2B Jonathan Archer
 RP Julio Velasco
 RP Shawn Huber

Players Gone
 3B Alex Ramirez
 RP Juliano Fallardo

“Was there any scenario in which I envisioned that Hyun-sik Chang (0 - 1, 6.57 ERA, 1.62 WHIP, 7 K) and Hirotada Miura (1 - 1, 3.95 ERA, 1.17 WHIP, 9 K) would both be in our rotation at the end of August?” mused Rectenwald. “Zero percent. That’s not to disparage them, we like them both very much; but down the road, not now”

WHIV 2030.32- Rolling the Dice at the End of July



Look for the Hustlers To Be Top of the Table Again in 2032

Las Vegas has been up so long, it’s absurd to begin to predict their demise. You won’t see any such preview here. The top offense in the BBA last year shows no signs of stopping, slowing down, or pausing for anything, and the pitching staff added pieces this offseason that might help the team even more than their price tags would suggest.

First of all, you know almost all the names on offense: Ridder, Martinez, Brewer, Gulliver. The Hustlers’ core could be paired with just about anybody with a pulse, but Juan Sweetworld took the league by storm last year after a tepid debut, and Alfredo Bermudez had what appears to be a career year in 2031. The team finished with a league-best 38.9 WAR offensively last year, and it wasn’t even all that close.

As the Hustlers won only 94 games, you might have guessed their pitching staff wasn’t quite the unit their offense was, and you’d be correct. Top starter Gary Estes should still be a good pitcher this year,

but scouts say the possible future Hall of Famer dropped a huge amount in velocity this offseason, and we saw what that did to Billy Chapel, Jr. Fortunately, Estes isn't precisely the ace of the staff any longer, as Sam Romero and his gaudy 23-3 record give him a remarkable 41-7 record over the first two full seasons of his career. The Hustlers have a number of major league ready pitching prospects to fill out the rotation, and they'd probably be better off having players like Hyun-sik Chang or Roberto Martinez in the rotation than Jesus Ramos, Julio Velasco, or Hiroyuki Rin, all three of which could make up the basis for any bullpen in the BBA. There's little question that at the very least, Vegas has the best bullpen in the Johnson League; they may have too many options rather than too few in the pen.

Las Vegas should have no problem getting under the cap next year as it stands right now. They have a very interesting decision to make on Estes, as the veteran lefty's \$14.2 million vesting option takes effect only if he has 30 starts. At age 37, with some wear and tear on the tires, letting Estes go in free agency and taking your chances elsewhere would make the most sense for the organization. They've already traded him in the past, so there shouldn't be any sort of odd conflict. Presuming a falloff from Estes, it will be interesting to see how they manage to cover for the loss of his production. Bottom line: the Hustlers will surely be back in the playoffs again and should have no problem winning at least 95 games.



San Antonio Outlaws

General Manager: Mike Calvaruso

Projection:

Last Season: 85-77, 3rd in JLS
Post Season: Lost in Doubleday
Runs Scored: 744
Runs Allowed: 706

New Faces
DH Frank Thomas III
3B/OF Alex Ramirez
1B Dale Jones

Players Gone
C Juan Castillo
RF Mark Stuart
IF Jonathan Archer

"San Antonio is entering their second season at their new home and excitement is at an all-time high. Fan Interest and Fan Loyalty could not get any higher and it showed as the Outlaws sold over 30,000 season tickets."

The Outlaw Chronicles 2031-11 Wick Lands Spot

San Antonio made the playoffs last year and even won a first round matchup against Huntsville. They had a little money in the bank, tremendous fan interest and a massive market. And after a long period of what seemed like total apathy, San Antonio dealt a pitching prospect to Carolina for Frank Thomas III, which ought to put a Little Hurt in the lineup. Do the Outlaws still have enough to call themselves contenders, or did they abdicate to someone else?

Let's start with the pitching staff, which was the second best group in the Johnson League last season. Juan Jose Ornelas finally won the Steve Nebraska after four second-place finishes, which helps to potentially bolster his Hall of Fame credentials. The Outlaws also still have Nelson Ramirez, still a top starter, and they also have one of the best young pitchers in the game in John Wick, who scouts say has surged forward this offseason. That's maybe the best 1-2-3 combination around right now. Juan Rodriguez is a highly capable #4 starter and Elliott Buckland looks like another prime young starter at the #5 spot. That's an awesome rotation, maybe the best in the BBA right now. Jonathan Bowen is also still a top closer, though the bullpen is highly questionable in the middle innings.



Little Hurt Turns the Outlaws Into Contenders

The offense got tremendously better with the addition of Thomas (and Alex Ramirez), but there are still question marks on the team. Jesus Fernandez is the most shocking 5 WAR player I can imagine, though with his speed and defense he's valuable. John Aguilera hadn't posted a league average OPS since 2027. Antonio Tobias also hit for an absurd 1.112 OPS in 164 at bats, though he could be expected to do well. So what's driving this lineup? Defense. They have solid, often spectacular defensive players at most positions on the diamond, and they're just praying for guys like Robert Gowron, Paul Warren, and Roberto Ramirez to hit. Adding Dale Jones for peanuts was a shrewd move, though, and Thomas can slide right into their

vacant DH spot seamlessly.

It's possible that the Outlaws still need to make a move or two for offense, especially in the outfield. If some of their current players become solid or they manage to make another move for offense, this is an extremely dangerous team. If pitching wins championships, San Antonio can, but they're going to have to figure out a way to not get shut out by playoff starters if they're going to be serious contenders. They're on a short window because just about all of their top guys are on the wrong side of 30, but for the short term, we can see them winning 90 games.



Huntsville Phantoms

General Manager: Scott Murphy

Projection:

Last Season: 86-76, 2nd in JLS
 Post Season: Lost in Geoghegan
 Runs Scored: 873
 Runs Allowed: 774

New Faces
 RP Robby O'Bryan

Players Gone
 3B Connor Tyldsley

To say the Phantoms fanbase was stunned at the trade that sent RP Jorge Jiménez to Montreal for RF Joaquín Salars and SP Andrés Martínez would be an understatement. Both fans and the local media were openly wondering if the team had given up on the playoffs when they dealt one of their most consistent relievers.

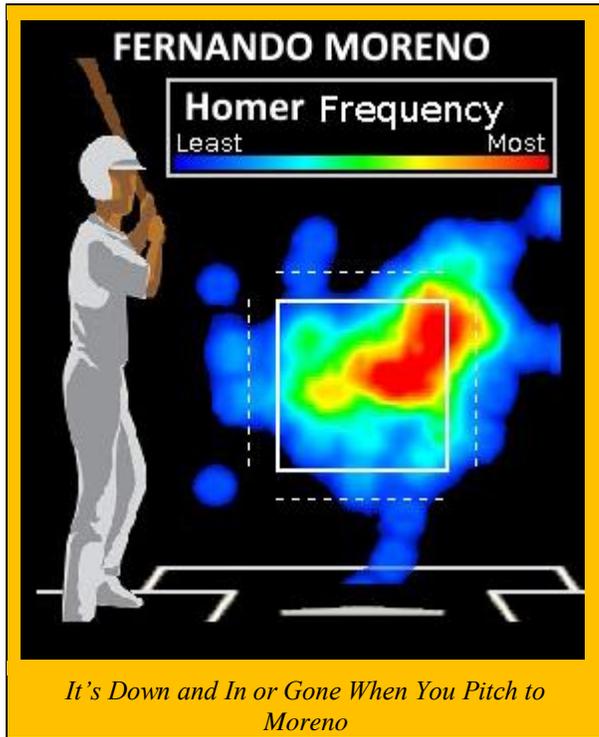
31.7 Roster shakeup????

Huntsville is as solid a contender as there is in the game right now. With a starting rotation whose core hasn't changed in years, a solid offense led by superstar Fernando Moreno, and one of the all-time greats at closer, the Phantoms have no serious issues in the near term and should be solid for years to come. They're on a ticking clock, but for now, the team looks every bit like a playoff team.

The Huntsville pitching staff will likely get a big boost from the development of top pitching prospect Heinrich Peithner, a top 20 prospect who should make a big splash in the rotation this year. Add those



to the consistency of Chunk Cavazos, Gerardo Fajardo, and a likely bounce-back year from Felipe Baez, and you have the makings of a very good starting rotation. The bullpen is mediocre with little upside or downside other than closer Turtle Sanderson, one of the finest relievers in the game for a decade.



The offense was quite good last year, helped by Fernando Moreno’s astonishing season. Not only did he have a career-best 61 home runs, but his 1.138 OPS was the highest mark in – get this – twenty-five years. The lineup also benefited from continued excellence from DH Ed Curry, catcher Jim Miranda and center fielder Jean-Luc Lacaze, and another huge season from infielder Juan Rodriguez. The team lacks productive role players because of their budget issues, though Anthony Templeman might have some juice if given a starting role.

The team on the field is productive, but the front office has some serious questions to answer. After Moreno’s 61 homer season, he’s going to want six years and \$100 million, and Curry will probably want \$50 million. Creative accounting and allowing Gerardo Guzman to walk ASAP will probably let them pay both, but it sets them up for a future crash. Add those contracts to the Cavazos deal and they’re highly exposed to big future problems and will have to figure out how to pay Felipe

Baez in two years.

In the meantime, though, this is a rock-solid team with a solid present. It’s hard to imagine them as contenders in 2036, but in 2032, this team has every chance to make the playoffs and win playoff series.

	<h1>Phoenix Talons</h1> <p>General Manager: Sean Marko</p> <p>Projection:</p>	
	<p>Last Season: 81-81, 6th in JLS Post Season: None Runs Scored: 787 Runs Allowed: 746</p>	<p>New Faces SP Ignacio Rodriguez 2B Orlando Medrano P Josh Rosser</p>

“We’re just going to throw money and a ML contract at Deortez and hope for the best.”

2031, Ammy Draft Chatter

Phoenix is the best team you’ve never heard of, know nothing about, barely knew existed. And yet this is a team that can clearly contend for a wild card, which has one of the shocking late-blooming stars in the game, a competitive pitching staff with an award-winning closer, and has definitely piqued my



interest. They've had a 200% increase in season tickets, and I can see why – I'd probably buy one myself if I were in the Grand Canyon State.

Let's start with the guy you've never heard of: Carlton Winson. Winson was amazing last year for the Talons, defensively excellent with an incredible power/contact/patience combo that gave him a 1.028 OPS last year – and what's remarkable is that Winson was at best a middling player before he turned 28 years old. At this point perhaps the most untouchable player in the league, Winson is going to be a bargain well into his 30s. It's a good thing they have him, too, because the rest of the Talons' lineup is marginal. Gilberto Keating and Felix Avila's worth was nearly all derived from stolen bases last year. Luis Baca is still passable offensively but he's a shell of his former self. The team got solid half-seasons from Al Gordon and Cesar Valencia, and the offseason signing of Orlando Medrano might reap some dividends, but overall it's mostly a mess outside of the superior bat of Winson. They could really use top prospect Mario Deortez at some point this season.

If Phoenix's offense has problems with continuity, there are much fewer of those problems on the pitching staff. The big move for Ignacio Rodriguez gives them at least the potential for a second top starter to go with Martin Ssempe, whose numbers were only down because of partially torn labrum. The team is walking a tightrope with Harry Considine, but he's been a solid starter two years in a row. Floyd Carter is still reliable, and Jose Cisneros posted 13 wins and a 3.75 ERA last year. Last year they also had the top closer in the JL in 24 year old Timofei Bakitski, and you get a cookie if you'd ever heard of him before last year. The rest of the pen is mediocre at best.

Rodriguez is clearly the team's salvo to try to move ahead in the pecking order. It could work, too; the veteran righty is so good he can post a 3.40 ERA while giving up 40 homers, like he did in 2030. If the team makes a ton of money this season, they could even try to get out from under the Baca contract by buying him out, and they could clear \$22 million in cap space by declining all the team options next year, giving them some more flexibility to move forward. Oh, and in case you didn't know, Phoenix also has the #2 ranked farm system in the BBA. This is a franchise with potentially big things coming, and they may start this season. I wouldn't be surprised a bit.



Ssempe's Injury Winged the Talon's Chances Last Year. Can He Bring Phoenix Back From the Ashes in 2032?



Hawaii Tropics

General Manager: Mike Bieschke

Projection:

Last Season: 82-80, 4th in JLS (tie)
 Result: None (error in tiebreaker)
 Runs Scored: 719
 Runs Allowed: 729

New Faces
 SP Chris Lee
 C Paul Scholes
 RP Jesus Feliciano

Players Gone
 RP Tomas Claros
 C Jeremy Carter

“The Hawaii Tropics, whom many have called “a mess”, and “a train wreck”, are sitting at 19-20 through 39 games. That’s not so messy.”

2031/3 Pitching, pitching, pitching, oh and defense



The Tropics added Paul Scholes to settle the pitching staff

Hawaii had a potential playoff appearance stolen from them by a technical flaw which processed a three-way tie for the fourth wild card as a two-way playoff. Otherwise, after two-straight 90-loss seasons, the season was a success for the Tropics. The number shouldn't have been surprising: over the past eleven years, Hawaii has had 82, 83, or 84 wins six times. What is remarkable about their solid season is that the Tropics managed to finish above .500 last year and still add serious help. Hawaii managed to add talent in every aspect of the game, and didn't lose anyone they couldn't live without. Did they do enough to make the playoffs while keeping chance out of the equation this year?

The Tropics' biggest add this offseason was probably the triumphant return of former Hawaii ace Chris Lee, who returned after four seasons in the wilderness. Lee is still most of what he was, and has been one of the most consistent starters in the game for a decade and a half. Along with Jody Nunez, Antonio Cardenas, Matt Mills and Germao Traado (and possibly Raul Sanchez), Lee makes up one of the most complete rotations in the league. Jesus Feliciano, Jose Garcia, and Alfredo Chavez were also all acquired and join Lawrence Stokes and Hector Barajas to spearhead a now powerful bullpen, and we might even see an appearance from top prospect Dean Oulton this year.

The Hawaii offense isn't quite as impressive as the pitching staff. The hitting stars are Joe Wilcox, one of the best third basemen in the game, and Bill Amezaga, who has found success with the Tropics in recent years. Paul Backstrom is still launching homers, and players like Bill Ayers and Manuel Rodriguez help out offensively. Michael Durham went through a rough year last year, but we'd expect the youngster to bounce back big this year. Defensively the team can really pick it, with Paul Scholes the newest addition to the crack defensive group.

Pitching, defense, and a few guys who can hit a little should spell at least a .500 record for the Tropics, who were third in the league in preventing runs last year. They might need a trade or two to really make the offense go, but if they can manage to get it together, the Tropics might have a chance to win 85-90 games this year and really break the mold. They will need to consider the direction of the franchise, as the Tropics don't have an extensive farm and aren't a particularly young team, but for this year Hawaii should have a wild card contender.



New Orleans Crawdads

General Manager: Jim Roberts

Projection:

Last Season: 82-81, 4th in JLS (tie)
Post Season: Lost 1-game play-in
Runs Scored: 708
Runs Allowed: 702

New Faces
SS Jerome Marion
C Hsin Mei

Players Gone
SP Miguel Datiz (injury)
C Kirk Burkett
CF Jeremy Land

"I tried to re-sign him this offseason, but he said he didn't get along with my manager (or pitching coach). Then as free agency passed and he didn't have a team, he begged me to take him...and i told him to go to Hell. He ended up in Yellow Springs. Draw your own conclusions

Response regarding Jose Marroquin: The Most Interesting Man in Baseball



The Crawdad's Lost a Play-In Last Year To See Their Wild Card Dreams Crash and Burn

half, they may be pressed to maintain even mediocrity.

The New Orleans Crawdads have settled into a well of mediocrity over the past few seasons. Their mediocrity has been enough to take the third or fourth wild card in each of the past few seasons with the exception of last season, when they finished 82-81 after losing a tiebreaker, but that doesn't change the fact that they haven't been particularly good in any of those seasons. They also haven't won a playoff game, going a combined 0-7 over the past three years including their tiebreaker last year. With the untimely loss of superstar righthanded pitcher Miguel Datiz for the year, and #3 starter Gabriel Alfonso for

If the Crawdads are going back to the playoffs, they'll need some pitchers to step up. They finished first in runs allowed last year, though a repeat of that is probably optimistic at this point. Freddy Delgado and Luis Espinosa can fortunately hold together most rotations, and they'll have to pick up the slack

here. The team also has Dave Martin in reserve, and could use prospect Sergio Franco as a fourth starter. Few teams have enough pitching depth to overcome the loss of maybe the top pitcher in the BBA, but New Orleans does. The loss of Martin in the pen weakens the unit, but they still have quite a few strong throwers in there like Duggan Padgett, Rafael Morales, and Jose Gutierrez.

They'll need the rotation to step up, because New Orleans scored just 708 runs last year in a virtual tie for last place in the Frick League. The Crawdads could get a full year from former IFA Hsin Mei, who despite his "Hollywood" nickname wasn't ready for prime-time yet in a September callup. He should be better this year, and numbers like his AAA numbers last year, when he hit .285 with 52 doubles, are within reach. Mark Dempsey was his usual spectacular self, and the so-called ageless wonder Fred Hernandez crushed it, but the team didn't get much help anywhere else. Even with Mei, the team isn't particularly good on offense; their only and best hope at this point is that outfielder Arthur Norris makes the leap.

New Orleans will have to dig into their top-rated farm system this season, and while the team is as solid financially as anyone in the BBA, their payroll will make it a little tricky to add players. If Norris and Mei make the leap this year, and their bullpen remains relatively solid, they might overcome their enormous losses and make the playoffs again. However, they also might not get there. Next year, when Datiz returns, their prospect will be a year older, the team could reasonably have as much as \$45-50 million in cap space to carefully pursue free agency, and they could make some serious noise. They should be careful what they do this year, because a knee-jerk response might hurt the franchise long-term.



Havana Sugar Kings

General Manager: Randy Weigand

Projection:

Last Season: 66-96, 7th in JLS
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 719
 Runs Allowed: 929

New Faces
 1B Albert Gaona
 CF Abdelwahab Kamade
 LF Hector Cantu

Players Gone
 SP Ignacio Rodriguez
 RP Miguel Macias
 1B Julio Morin

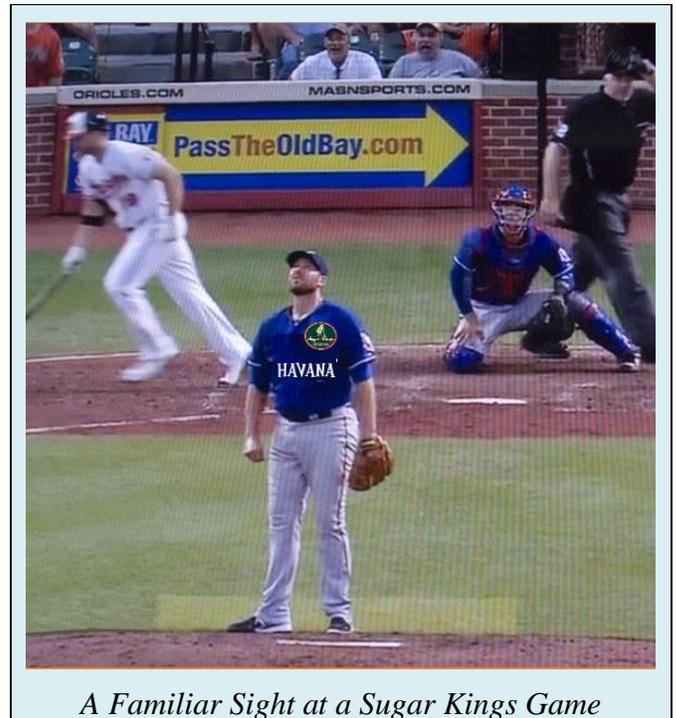
"Arriving to the press conference eschewing the traditional business attire of suit and tie, preferring instead for a pair of slacks and a comfortable shirt Weigand got right to the point by sitting down at the podium, rolling up his sleeves and announcing "I am here to work and fix this franchise, and anyone who isn't willing to do the same can catch the first flight back to the States for good, as they are not welcome in this organization."

Havana Herald 2031.3

Havana was not a good team last season, and they will undoubtedly struggle this year. Their most significant moves this offseason involved trading away their two best pitchers to get younger. They have built up an excellent farm but not much on the major league level. And so on. And so forth. Let's first look at how bad the team is, then a serious look at how good they might be, soon.

To get this out of the way: the Sugar Kings' pitching staff is just atrocious. Not only is there not a single pitcher on the staff who could be considered a quality major league pitcher, there isn't much of anyone who's likely to become a top starter. Noonien Soong has the best shot, but he's a junkballing lefty who throws flyballs. Fernando Alaniz is on the downside of his career. Paul Farrell might be fine, but he wasn't last year at all and he's already 28. The bullpen is possibly the biggest wreck of any single unit in the BBA.

Their offense is another story. Reece Wareham is a legitimate star at shortstop and could even improve, and Jose Gamboa is a strong performer at catcher. Players like Dave Wilfer, Jeffrey Cunningham, Abdelwahab Kamade, and Hector Cantu are solid performers. Albert Gaona is a potential Joe Gillstrom candidate, even as a righty first baseman. This is a middle of the pack lineup, but the addition of Gaona might make them put them in the upper half of the middle third.



A Familiar Sight at a Sugar Kings Game

A better focus for this team is on the rebuilding effort. The team is obviously serious about a complete rebuild, and by 2034, the only player they'd have under a legitimate major league contract is Dave Wilfer. They'll have some tough choices to make at that time with some arbitration contracts, especially players like Gamboa and Kamade. They have a number of solid pitching prospects, and they'll have to hope that players like Feliciano Rafael and Aki Kondo begin harnessing some of their significant talents.

In the meantime, getting out from under Ignacio Rodriguez, as harsh as that is, does excellent things for their franchise. Given their current path, if they're careful with money, show restraint in free agency, and get some luck from their minor leagues, I can see this team in contention for at least a wild card by 2035. It's going to be a long slog, and they'll have to be very conservative, but they have a real chance to succeed in the future.

FL Heartland

For a team that's made the playoffs in five of the last six years, the fact that Yellow Springs won their first division title since 2019 is a bit of an eye opener. The Nine have been in the mix several straight seasons, and finally broke through last year with not only their first division title in twelve seasons, but their first pennant ever.

However, no team fell back further than the Nine this year, and there are three outstanding teams in the FL Heartland, and two potential risers in the middle (and Twin Cities and Indy). Louisville is still a dominant force in the BBA, and Madison finally broke through with a 90-win season last year which could improve with some offseason adds. These three teams could duke it out until the season's final month to see who gets the first round bye.

Don't count out more playoff appearances from the middle teams, though. The Des Moines Kernels have two of the biggest stars in the league. Omaha is a year away, probably, but check back next year because they're building something special.

Indy spent a ton of money to improve this offseason, but it looks like it's not quite enough to rise out of the hole they were in. Twin Cities has a long way to go, and they haven't been lucky with draft picks, but they're doing fine.

It's going to be a difficult race to call at any point in the season, and that makes it pretty exciting. All three teams at the top should make it to the playoffs, so it's conceivable that we have an all-Heartland Cartwright Cup.

	PROJECTED STANDINGS				2031			
	W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	RS	RA
Louisville	97	65	.599	-	94	68	781	635
Yellow Springs	93	69	.574	4	100	62	818	619
Madison	92	70	.568	5	90	72	867	788
Des Moines	83	79	.512	14	83	79	736	745
Omaha	80	82	.494	17	74	88	672	760
Indy	71	91	.438	26	64	98	653	822
Twin Cities	67	95	.414	30	64	98	691	831



Louisville Sluggers

General Manager: Stu Hopkins

Projection:

Last Season: 94-68, 2nd in FLH
 Post Season: Lost in Doubleday
 Runs Scored: 781
 Runs Allowed: 635

New Faces
 2B Chester Owens
 SS Jaime Ramirez
 2B Gabriel Talamante

Players Gone
 Nobody worth noticing

"Imagine how far behind you be if I hadn't already lost five starters to various lengths of injury this season..."

Response to: 9-Lives: 31.026 – Tepid Start Has Fans Grumbling

Louisville is basically like Brigadoon. (Shoot, my education is showing.) Brigadoon is a miraculously blessed village that rises out of the mist for only a day, then disappears so that nothing will change. Louisville's history goes something like this: decades of ineptitude, year after year after year of losing records, sometimes in the hundreds, and then, from the mist, comes three or four years of solid contention before fading back into nothing. The 2030 BBA champions have won 102, 115, and 94 games in the last three years, and their run is due to fade into the mist any time now. Will they disappear this year, or are they still around?



Genius is the Hot Dog that Stirs the Burger in Louisville

Louisville's personnel seems to imply contender status for another year. Louisville's top lineup wouldn't have been the same without Brian Clough, who they stole on the open market for \$5 million a year to return, but it's still awfully good no matter how you slice it. The team is especially strong up the middle, with Sean MacGuire and Gabriel Talamante a superb double play combination and Shag Hopkins and future Hall of Famer Leon Sandcastle monitoring the bookends. Players like Ramiro Marino and Mike Barnett are stars in their own right. We're sure they're not thrilled about the injury to Antonio Robles, but Shag Hopkins is plenty good enough to start. The lineup is one of many good lineups in the Frick League, but will certainly keep them competitive.

Where Louisville excelled last year was in preventing runs, and especially defense. Jon Chandler has hit his stride playing for the Sluggers and is a legitimate annual Steve Nebraska candidate. Anastasio Quintana has been nails since winning Comeback Player of the Year in 2028. Abe Colbert, Jr. is showing everything they say about knuckleballers might be true, and Mario Gonzalez was solid last season. Pepe Jaramillo might be a year early, but they might break him in later in the season. The return of Felipe Murillo will help them somewhere, as the righty is listed as a starter but was dominant in the bullpen before a full-season injury last year.

It would be shocking if the Sluggers didn't compete for at least a wild card this year, and they also have one of the strongest and deepest farm systems in the league. They're going to need it: much of their core is 33 years old or older. However, a bird's-eye view is very rosy. The Sluggers have a solid bridge to the future, a powerhouse on the field, and a complete team. They should be a force to be reckoned with in October.



Yellow Springs Nine

General Manager: Ron Collins

Projection:

Last Season: 100-62, Won FLH
 Post Season: Lost in Landis
 Runs Scored: 818
 Runs Allowed: 619

New Faces
 RP Miguel Macias
 RP Steve Russell

Players Gone
 SP Eduardo Lopez
 RP Cesar Martinez
 SS Juan Arevalo

“And it makes people who follow baseball as a religion wonder if this is beginning to look like a team of destiny, a team where the parts are falling into place as the season goes along, a team the gets those mystical clutch hits and gritty pitching performances just when they need them. That double play in a tight spot. Could it be? Could the Nine be Destiny's Child in 2031?”

9-Lives: 31.068 – Gonzalez Homer Beats Barnstormers

Yellow Springs won 100 games last year and the FL pennant, the first pennant in franchise history if we don't count the unyear of 2017. However, some of the superior play seems like a bit of a fluke. Indeed, the Nine jumped from 85 wins the year before to 100 with only a modest increase in payroll. Part of that was the development of now superstar shortstop Angel De Castillo, but some of that is just pure luck. The team also lost ace starter Eduardo Lopez this offseason in free agency. While continued contention makes perfect sense for the Nine, is this this the sort of team that could repeat as division winners and a 100-win juggernaut?



Will Lucas McNeill's Dalliance with Mikki Manning be a distraction?

Just about every Yellow Springs regular hit to the fullest of their ability last year, most likely. Sure, De Castillo and superstar second baseman Lucas McNeill were expected to post remarkable numbers, and they didn't disappoint. Carlos Garcia is one of the better Moneyball hitters in the game today, posting solid numbers without a good batting average. But when you're getting guys like Juan Arevalo putting up 12 homers in 208 at bats and 5 WAR out of the platoon of Earl Jackson and J.J. McQuade, you're maxing out your talent on the field. Just about every role player played above average baseball for the Nine last year, and that's not likely to happen again. So let's chop off 3-4 games just for good measure.

Then we have to start chopping off games for the loss of Lopez, who was fantastic for the Nine after coming over in what was in retrospect one of the great ripoff trades ever.

Alberto Sanchez is likely to fall back, not the opposite, and 2029 Steve Nebraska winner Jose Chavez is



still dominant but has been unable to stay on the field lately. The team's best chance to cover for the loss of Lopez' numbers is to hope Chavez stays healthy or for some player like Tim Oliver or Francisco Catazara to come out of nowhere. The Nine's bullpen is one of the more dominant units in the game, but even they have some room for fallback just because of how good they've been.

The team has the #10 prospect in the game in catcher Aaron Stone, who probably has the starting job this year, and the team is cleverly designed with good but not great players at nearly every position. The Nine should be a very strong team again, but let's put them somewhere between their current 100 win season and their 85 win season of a year ago. A 93-win record seems about right.



Madison Wolves

General Manager: Chris Wilson

Projection:

Last Season: 90-72, 3rd in FLH
Post Season: Lost in Geoghegan
Runs Scored: 867
Runs Allowed: 788

New Faces
SP Alfredo Granados
RF Mark Stuart
2B Manuel Garcia

Players Gone
CF Manuel Freyta
RP Manny Vargas

"This is rather unprecedented stuff we are dealing with here. Myself, Mayor Ett, and the Governor of Wisconsin are working to close the border to the state and not allow anyone from Kentucky into Madison for the games." When asked how they'd screen travelers, Wilson responded: "It won't be too difficult. Basically anyone wearing a cut off t-shirt, jorts, and or missing some teeth won't be allowed to enter the state on days we are playing at home."

That's What Cheesehead: 31.19 - Madison Mayor Insulted

It's almost impossible to believe this, but before Madison's surprise 90-win season in 2031, the Wolves hadn't had a single winning season since – get this – 2021. That's nearly an entire decade of losing seasons between winning seasons. For a franchise that reeled off thirteen straight division titles and two MBBA crowns between 1997 and 2009, that was an incredibly shocking result. The big question in Madison after breaking out of those doldrums last year is a simple one: was their last season a fluke?

Good news for Madison fans: it's NOT a fluke. The #1 offense in the Frick League resides in Madison, and that was without Dusty Rhodes doing anything approaching a batting title. It shouldn't have come as a huge surprise to anyone: the Wolves' offensive players are superb. It ain't Bopper and Cricket, but Madison can really rake. Don Draper and Mons Raider might be the best infield combination in the game (unless you count Gillstrom and anybody with



Raider Stole the Show in 2032

a pulse). Raider, a rookie last year, might be the best basestealer the BBA has ever seen: he set the all-time record for steals in a season in his only BBA season. Jon Mick and Luis Barrera are big stars in their own right, and Steve Dempsey DID win the batting title, his first, with an incredible 62 doubles. And, yes, there's Rhodes, whose lifetime .327 average is 16th all time for players with more than 4000 plate appearances. This team can really rake, and they added veteran Mark Stuart.

With that much offense, it should come as little surprise that the Wolves spent a fair amount of their cap space on starting pitcher Alfredo Granados this offseason, who should pair well with starters Luis Soto, Marcos Villegas, Tommy Dietz, and possibly rookie Ricardo Ortiz. None of these guys are exceptional, but with the Wolves' ability to rake, they should be able to keep them in games enough to do the job. Their bullpen is somewhat marginal, especially with the loss of Manny Vargas, though players like Emilio Sanchez and Ruben Vargas could be better.

It's easy to see Madison's offense skyrocketing to the front of the line again, and in a league where six out of fourteen teams make it to the playoffs, a #1 offense will get you to the postseason, especially if your pitching isn't bad. They need a true top starter to really bring this all together, but it's difficult to see how they'd get one without surrendering Luis Maldonado. Ultimately, this team will go as far as their offense will take them, or if they're somehow creative enough to turn Ruben Vargas' salary slot into a better starting pitcher.



Des Moines Kernels

General Manager: Edward Murphy

Projection:

Last Season: 83-79, 4th in FLH
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 736
 Runs Allowed: 745

New Faces
 SP Juan Hernandez
 3B Diego Moreno

Players Gone
 SP Chris Lee

"The Kernels finished the sweep of the Valencia Stars then were swept by Long Beach Surf. GM Ed Murphy said " what comes around goes around"

TN & Sim 5 Recap 2031-06

Welcome to the Hawkeye State, home of superstars. Cisco Arreola and William Moreland are two of the best players in the BBA, but the team hasn't kept up precisely, winning 81, 83, and 83 games respectively in the last three seasons. Yes, this means that if the team gets a little bit of luck, they'll make the playoffs, and the Kernels did make steps to improve the team somewhat, but they may have to improve six games to do it, and it's hard to say they've gone the whole way up there; they might need some other teams to fall back. So, to fill space, we'll start projecting some of Arreola and Moreland's career numbers later on in this preview.

All you really need to know about the Kernels' offense is that they have Moreland and Arreola and scored just 736 runs last year, which is not flukish: that followed 723 runs in 2030. Adding Tony Banuelos back from a year hiatus should help the offense. If you're looking for the other offensive performers, the returning Steve Jefferson was solid last year, and Lew Driscoll and Sergio Cordova were

league average. That's it. William S. Hardy didn't live up to his gaudy draft position, but he has been a rock-solid defensive shortstop who isn't a total zero offensively. The offense may improve with the return of Banuelos.



Is Arreola One of the Best Ever?

Mike Davis has turned into a solid 1A starter, consistent and solid as it gets. Offseason signing Juan Hernandez was a slight overpay, but he's only 28 years old so he's unlikely to fade too quickly; all he's doing is replacing Chris Lee, however. Don Bird had a fantastic year last year, and he has a chance to repeat but won't be better. Ramon Hernandez is decent enough as a fourth starter. Julio Negrete and Elwood Blues are interesting options in the rotation, and either could have a decent season. The bullpen is shaky, but not disastrous, and closer Carlos Sanchez was solid last season. Colt Anderson is one of the better setup men in the game, too.

So the Kernels have a pretty solid team. Could they make the playoffs with what they have and what they got off the market? Instead, we'll think about what might happen to the superstars that they have. Using Bill James' favorite toy, we projected out 605 career homers for Moreland and Arreola to have 432 homers. That would put Arreola 5th all time among catchers, and Moreland seventh all time among all players and first among first basemen. At some point, they have to start thinking of whether or not they can contend with the players around the two (and desperately need to shed salaries like Carlos Sanchez and Antonio Gonzales), but for now, it's awfully fun to have two of the biggest superstars in the league.



Omaha Barnstormers

General Manager: Fred Holmes

Projection:

Last Season: 74-88, 5th in FLH
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 672
 Runs Allowed: 760

New Faces
 SP Scotty Pendleton
 C Sam Adams
 2B Mario Garcia

Players Gone
 RP Steve Russell
 RP Wil Aviles

“Gomez, Pendleton, Trujillo, Rios (if he can ever make it off the DL and doesn't get mauled by the lump monster in the process) and Totten has me cautiously optimistic about my ability to compete next season.”

2031.3: Pendleton wins Mitch Cain Award



Fireballer Scotty Pendleton: the First of A New Wave of Barnstormers

The Barnstormers have one of the most intriguing teams in the BBA this season, one of the cleanest balance sheets, and one of the top Joe Gillstrom candidates in the game in Scotty Pendleton. The team is set to make money this season and has a huge glut of cash for 2032. The question with Omaha, who finished below .500 last year in a respectable fashion, is whether or not there's another gear to the team on the field right now.

Omaha still has one of the top ten starters in the game in Enrique Gomez, whose two Steve Nebraska awards and overwhelming consistency make him a potential Hall of Fame candidate. Jose Trujillo is as consistent a #2 starter as you might want. Then we get to Pendleton, who has at least #2 starter ability and flashed that kind of potential at AAA last year. Mark Totten is a constant injury risk, but that's a good #4 starter. We can't believe that the Barnstormers will run Carlos Medina out there every fifth day this year, but they have candidates for the fifth starter spot. That's a rotation worth noticing. The bullpen is less impressive, though players like Ramon Balderas and Maxence Mace should be good support for Medina, if they make him the closer.

If the pitching staff seems fairly solid, so does the lineup. Jose Estrada is 200 pounds of liquid awesome. Jorge Castellanos, Valentin Colon and Juan Pablo make up one of the best infields in the game, so long as they stay healthy. Ralph Benson is still a solid on-base threat but can't play defense at all anymore. Free agent signee Sam Adams is starting to lose what little plate discipline he has, and he could strike out over 200 times this year depending on playing time. Armando Casteneda might bounce back, but it's difficult to envision a situation in which the lineup produces better than middle of the pack. Omaha finished with 4.1 runs scored per game last year, and they could easily eclipse those numbers this year with good luck.

What's really exciting about Omaha is what I mentioned in the first part: their balance sheet is as clean as anyone in the league. The Barnstormers are likely to be \$50 million below the hard cap next year, and they won't need much to get back into contention. It'll be tricky to manage that and 2034, but it's very possible to see a .500 record for the Barnstormers in 2032 with better records going forward, and that's good management. Looking forward to seeing what this group can do.



Indy Grasshoppers

General Manager: Justin Niles

Projection:

Last Season: 64-98, 6th in FLH (tie)
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 653
 Runs Allowed: 822

New Faces
 RF Emilio Rodriguez
 SP Domingo Castillo
 CF Manuel Freyta

Players Gone
 SP Gerardo Castillo

"All things seem to be going as expected. The leaves are beginning to change colors, professional and college football has taken back over the country in a vicious fever, and the Indy Grasshoppers have officially been eliminated from playoff contention..."

Season Review & Off-season Plans (2031.17)

Let's start off by noting that a 98-loss season for Indy isn't a disaster: it's easily their best showing in three years. Since making six straight playoff appearances from 2021-2026, the Grasshoppers have been the worst team in the BBA over that span, losing an average of 100 games during that time span and that while finishing on or ahead of their Pythagorean record every one of those seasons. However, Indy did a bunch in free agency this offseason, and it's worth wondering: is this the year the Grasshoppers turn the corner?



Can Morales's Growth Carry the Hoppers?

Indy has two of the absolute best prospects in the league, Emilio Morales and Jimmy Starks, and virtually nothing else (though Poto Tornatore is a name worth knowing).

Starks is being transitioned to shortstop, which is interesting as he could be one of the league's biggest stars if he makes the switch. Offensively, other than the over-the-hill combo of Sunshine Rodriguez and Esteban Contreras, only Bob Wagner is worth noticing on the major league level offensively (despite a

very fine year from Jim Tremblett). So, yeah, still not there yet. They improved their bullpen dramatically.

Indy might not continue to rebuild over time, but if they're looking to win now, they don't have much more capital to move forward. It's not helping that last year's #5 overall pick, Hotzen Plotz, is an obvious bust, but they have to get past that. They should be cautious. Even with a stealthy-good Domingo Castillo signing and an interesting move on Manuel Freyta, they still only have three or four major league starting pitchers on the roster with zero room for error with injury-prone players.

On the other hand, they may have set themselves up fairly well in the trade market the other way; though nobody's dealing for \$20 million of Sunshine, they picked up two very movable assets in Domingo Castillo and Reynaldo Garza and might even be able to move Contreras. They're doing a perfectly fine job, but they still have a long way to go back to contender status.



Twin Cities River Monsters

General Manager: Scott Piccoli

Projection:

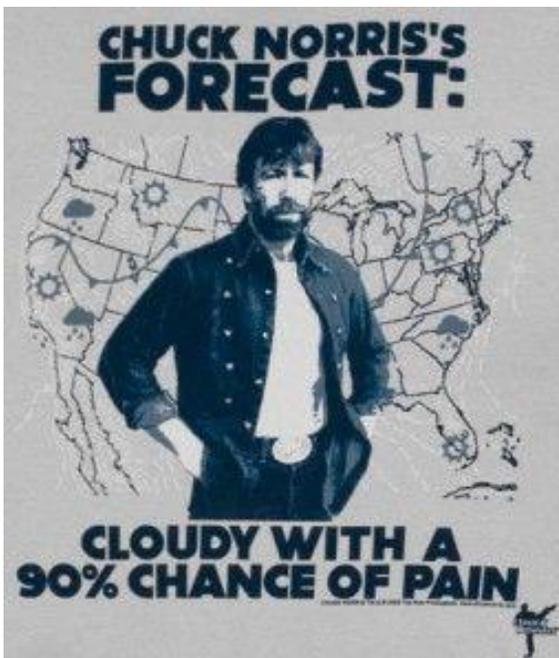
Last Season: 64-98, 6th in FLH (tie)
Post Season: None
Runs Scored: 691
Runs Allowed: 831

New Faces
RP Felix Alvarado
P Jose De La Cruz

Players Gone
SS Matheus Simeio
CF Ivan Castillo

"There's no way to sugar coat it, 2031 was a miserable season for the River Monsters."

2031 River Monsters Beat (2031-09-30) Issue 5 - Wrap Up



Quantifying badness is always a fool's errand. Invariably, things happen during the process; you start in with the hyperbole, you start to over-criticize, you begin finding flaws where there were only minor problems, and all of a sudden you've snowballed into a full-blown criticism of a team that's exactly three seasons old. So I'm not going to do anything like that. Let's go ahead and look at what this team has done right so far in its young existence.

Twin Cities' first draft pick, Xue-Qin Man, has become an excellent two-way second baseman. Duane Whitley has lumped, but his platoon bat still makes him an asset as a potential starting third baseman. Ricardo Juarez still looks like a good two-way player with a ton of upside. Chris Limon is youngish, good, and even his arbitration salary might not be huge. So far so good. The team has several very strong pitching prospects and a reasonably clean balance sheet and is making money every single year

while spending none, and they can keep Juan Cruz and Juan Jose Mayorga from doing extra damage to the team by making sure their vesting options don't vest – and they don't have any other bad contracts.

The bad news we know, of course: they're going to lose at least 90 games and maybe more. They have exactly one starting pitcher worth putting out there every fifth day, Jessie Stewart, who's a solid #3 starter but nobody they're having long conversations about at bars. The bullpen is actually rather good, but I'm still confused how that happens on teams that aren't very good.

Continued badness is probably healthy for this franchise, who hasn't started their now three-year old life with a bang, but are at this point in no shape to even bother contending or moving forward. When rebuilding, it's all about time horizons. When are you going to declare your first year of potential contention? When are you good enough to make a push? If Twin Cities decides that's two or three years out at least, Stewart and Limon could even be considered tradeable assets if they wanted to consider that, and considering the leaguewide hunger for center fielders, they could probably do pretty well for Jayden Harsnett. So there are lots of ways this team could go right now. It'll be interesting to see what they decide.



FL Pacific

The Long Beach Surfers appear to be the class of the FL Pacific this year, much as they were last season. Long Beach has made the playoffs in each of the last three seasons, last year easily posting their best regular season of the three and the second-highest win total in team history. There aren't a lot of contenders for this division unless the Surfers wipe out, but it's worth watching nonetheless.

Not helping the cause of division parity is the fact that the Vancouver Mounties lost 3/5 of their pitching staff this offseason. Vancouver, of course, couldn't afford in the slightest to keep the team together, and while their offense is still solid they're going to have to scramble to get their pitching staff in order.

California ought to move into the #2 spot in the Pacific nicely, and Calgary should be in the mix, also. The rest of the division should be noncontenders. Seattle should bounce back from the depths, but not overmuch, and Edmonton and Valencia should be completely out of the race again.

Long Beach is still in very solid shape, but the landscape of the division will change again next year, as the Surfers may be in flux. This year it looks like it's the Surfers' crown to lose.

	PROJECTED STANDINGS				2031			
	W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	RS	RA
Long Beach	97	65	.599	-	100	62	831	700
California	91	71	.562	6	85	77	787	729
Calgary	87	75	.537	10	89	73	816	687
Vancouver	81	81	.500	16	95	67	733	603
Seattle	79	83	.488	18	68	94	777	825
Valencia	65	97	.401	32	68	94	672	825
Edmonton	62	100	.383	35	70	92	706	872



Long Beach Surfers

General Manager: Stephen Lane

Projection:

Last Season: 100-62, Won FLP
 Post Season: Lost Cartwright Cup
 Runs Scored: 831
 Runs Allowed: 700

New Faces
 C Juan Castillo
 SS Juan Arevalo
 RP Sebastian Durand

Players Gone
 RP Alfredo Chavez
 RP Jose Garcia
 RP Julio Velasco

Okay who the hell didn't vote for Carlos Gonzales?

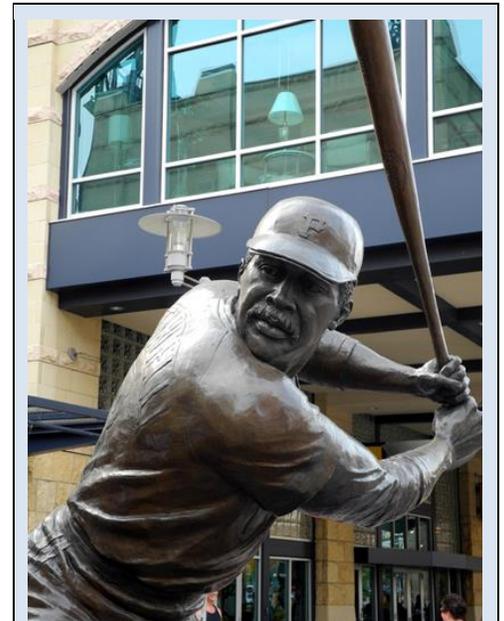
Response to: 2031, All-Star Voting Chatter

Long Beach has been a league power for three years now, winning the Landis in 2029 and losing in the Cartwright Cup in each of the last two seasons. With a powerful offense led by Carlos Gonzales and Mark Simpson, and a pitching staff led by future Hall of Famer Manuel Ramirez and Jimmy Greenwood, this team seems as if it lacks for nothing. However, several contract decisions will make this year very interesting, as the Surfers, an almost certain playoff team in 2032, will have to start choosing which players get to stay.

Gonzalez had one of the top fifteen seasons in the history of the BBA last year, but it was so far outside his career norms that it's difficult to project him to do anything like that ever again. Mark Simpson, on the other hand, repeated his .940 OPS for the second straight year and led the league in walks by a huge margin. Former top pick Kade Cummins is still on the team, though he's not acted like any kind of star since his rookie season. Third baseman Raymond Aguilera had yet another solid season for Long Beach in a platoon role, though long-time Surfer Ippolito Basaglia might be due for a dropoff this season. Offseason addition Juan Castillo and second-year player Tom Kazansky should help. Antonio Valentin does a workmanlike job setting up the offense.

The pitching staff wasn't quite as productive last year as the offense, but you're not going to find much more solid rotations than Manuel Ramirez, Jimmy Greenwood, Esteban Gil and Jose Lozano. Last year's big offseason signing, Tavio Ciccolella, will probably be in his last year with the team; he was solid in 2031. The bullpen was done by committee last year, and while saves leader Alfredo Chavez is now a Hawaii Tropic, there were more games saved by the combination of Robert Hansen and Mark Watson than by Chavez. Watson was clearly the better reliever last year, but Hansen has been excellent in the past. Eric Trujillo is dominant in the middle innings. The team signed Sebastian Durand this offseason to try to help the group. Most teams couldn't have weathered the loss of three solid relievers, but this is a complete pitching staff.

The Surfers are one of the premier teams in the BBA, but to hold on to that status, they'll have to make some big choices this offseason. They'll have plenty of wiggle room, though, by declining on Ciccolella; they're projected to have around \$30 million in cap space. Other key options this offseason:



If Carlos Gonzalez has another season like 2031, the Surfers will be putting up a status sometime soon.

Juan Castillo, Esteban Gil, Raymond Aguilera, Jose Marroquin. Big arbitration decisions: Jose Lozano, Ippolito Basaglia, Juan Arevalo. That's a lot to work around while needing to re-sign Manuel Ramirez to stay on top. They'll also be starting arbitration on Simpson and Jimmy Greenwood. With one of the most shallow farm systems in the game, the team will have to make good decisions to stay on top after 2032. They should have no such problems this year.



California Crusaders

General Manager: Ted Schmidt

Projection:

Last Season: 85-77, 4th in FLP
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 787
 Runs Allowed: 729

New Faces
 SP Roberto Ramos
 RP Cesar Ramos

Players Gone
 3B John Galt
 C David Bruno
 SP Jose Rivera

"The Crusaders organization has always taken care of me. This is the only home I've known, and the only one I want to. I can't believe it's been nearly ten years since Schmidt told me he was rebuilding the team around me."

Ricardo Diaz: California 2031.2 - Diaz a Crusader For Life!

California had the NBA and NHL's least favorite spot last year: they were the best team in the BBA that didn't make the playoffs, the first time they've missed the postseason since 2026. That's not to say that the Crusaders' season was a gigantic flop because they didn't get to play in the postseason. The Crusaders shattered a franchise record for runs scored last year, and, staggeringly, it was the pitching staff that let them down. Huge questions swirl around the Crusaders this season, and not even the questions you would have thought to ask about them. Can California bounce back and make the playoffs in 2032?



California Fans Expect Diaz to Bounce Back

California clearly wasn't taking any chances on Ricardo Diaz laying another egg of a season and went out and signed Ricardo Ramos, a player who should be a big help to the already strong California rotation. Diaz' season was so uncharacteristic, it's difficult to remember quite so big a choke from a superstar player in his prime in the BBA. Diaz stumbled to a 11-13, 4.68 mark without so much as a sign that he'd lost anything else. The first-ballot Hall of Famer will certainly get help from Ramos this year, but they should also get big help from the talented combination of Luis Gracia and Cisco Morales. In fact, the group might be the best rotation in the entire Frick League. The bullpen isn't nearly so strong as the rotation and has a lot of holes in it, though Emerson Mills should once again be among the league's best relievers.

The offensive surge last year was also not at all a fluke, as the team has cultivated a lineup that's highly competitive with the other teams in the Frick League. Hunter Eisenhower continued his possible march to the Hall of Fame with another strong season. Outfielder Dave Brunskill was spectacular in a platoon role and could be again this year. Claudio Defazio is one of the league's most productive shortstops. Chris Workman and defensive whiz Reynaldo Martinez were both solid regulars. Superior defensive catcher Chip Saunders showed he was ready for an expanded role with a solid season offensively. The lineup might not score five runs a game again, but they should be productive.

With the addition of Ramos, the opening of a playoff spot with Vancouver losing half their pitching staff, and a record-setting offense (for California), there's a good chance that 85 wins will be good enough for a playoff spot all by itself. Even with a little offensive falloff, Diaz's improvement should be enough to get them to the playoffs. California even has a highly underrated farm system, with Miguel Ramos and Felipe Rosado two of the top pitching prospects in the game and Bryan Robson and Brian Sullivan excellent infield prospects. Look for California back in the postseason again.



Calgary Pioneers

General Manager: Kevin Dickson

Projection:

Last Season: 89-73, 3rd in FLP
 Post Season: Lost in Doubleday
 Runs Scored: 816
 Runs Allowed: 687

New Faces
 C David Bruno
 P Martin Pacheco

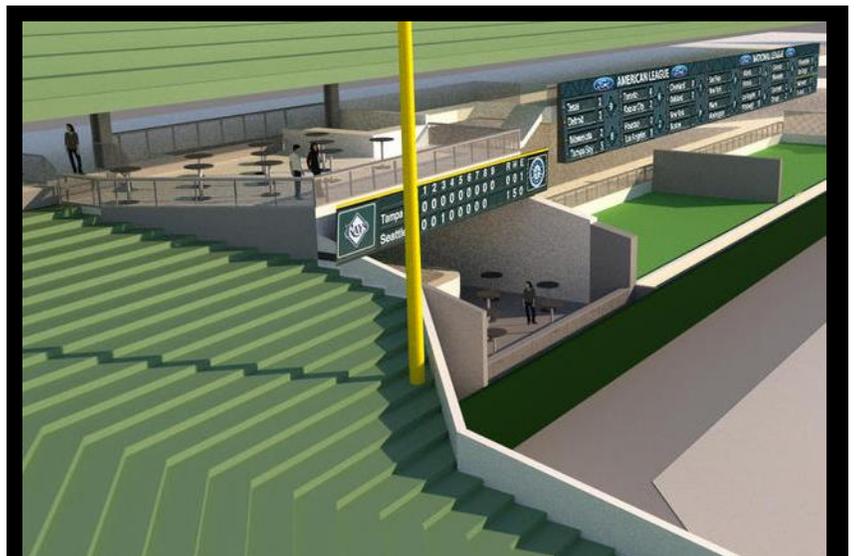
Players Gone
 RP Bonaventure Habermas
 RP Cesar Ramos

"Normally I don't put much stock in Spring Training results, but since we finished 25-5 I think this year they are pretty accurate."

2031, Spring Training Sim #2/WCB Playoffs Chatter

Calgary is expected to be an hitter's paradise, a right-handed powerhitter's dream, and a place to go and watch the ball fly around the park for nine innings. So it came as a surprise to everyone when the Marauders not only finished fourth in offense last year but also a strong fourth in runs allowed. The Marauders had a thoroughly excellent season last year, making the playoffs even while finishing five games below their expected record. Is this remarkable feat repeatable, or was it a total fluke?

Calgary does have one of the very finest starting pitchers in the game in Cristobal Hernandez, and at 25 years old he appears set to take over as one of the top aces in the



Fans, grab your mitts! The Pioneer front office moved their fences to help their right handed hitters

BBA. Atsumori Maeda has shown no serious signs of slowing down at age 33. Lefty Carlos Ramirez had a remarkable season last year, but nobody believes he can repeat the feat. Last year's result from Jake Dickson was way outside his excellent rookie season, as he gave up about half as many home runs. Martin Pacheco didn't pitch well in Charm City, but he could improve. In fact, the entire staff gave up less homers than one would expect from them. The Calgary bullpen is very strong, with players like Jason Morris, Jesus Arce, and Rob Miller possibly joined by the superior stuff of Oswald Brenner.

While the rotation is likely to take a step backwards or two, the offense could actually move forward this year despite some aging players. A whole season of Rupert Grant should make a huge difference; he's MADE for Calgary. Sparky Anderson should be his usually outstanding table setter, and David Bruno might very well solidify the catcher spot. Players like Tony Franco, Dan Leonard, Mario Soriano, and Ron Whitney might all fall backwards this year, but the first three at least should be good, if not their usual superior selves.

The Maruaders had a virtually ideal season in the rotation last year, as their team ERA of 3.97 was their second-lowest since they were winning titles in the late teens and early twenties. They've been making the playoffs consistently since 2026, so there's every reason to believe they'll contend for a spot again this year, especially since Vancouver looks like they've given up their place. This team has a #1 starter, one of the top twenty prospects in the minors in Juan Karyabwite, superb levels of fan interest and an extremely clean balance sheet. The team will have a ton of wiggle room in 2034 as well, and they might be a very dangerous squad for years to come.



Vancouver Mounties

General Manager: Brett Schroeder

Projection:

Last Season: 95-67, 2nd in FLP
 Post Season: Lost in Geoghegan
 Runs Scored: 733
 Runs Allowed: 603

New Faces
 P Jorge Jimenez

Players Gone
 SP Antonio Correa
 SP Juan Hernandez
 SP Alfredo Granados

Brett: "Playing Fernandez in CF is a fireable offense in my opinion..."

Justin: "Why's that? He has 7,7,6 outfield defense ratings..."

Brett: "Exactly."

Conversation in: CF...a question with no answer(2031 Season. Article 1)

Nobody lost more this offseason in terms of raw production than the Vancouver Mounties, who won 95 games last year and have won at least 89 games in four of the last five seasons, but there's a debate to be had here. While Antonio Correa, Juan Hernandez, and Alfredo Granados represented the beating heart of the Vancouver pitching staff, the threesome were part of an organizational strategy that led to a lot of regular season success but led to repeated flameouts in the playoffs.



Vancouver Fans Mount A Search For Their Lost Pitchers

It's worth mentioning that Vancouver couldn't have afforded to re-sign any of the three pitchers, as the lowest salary of the three was Hernandez' \$16 million. However, the effect of losing all three starters is catastrophic. The Mounties are reduced to hoping that Pablo Figueroa recovers from a torn labrum, are now using Lambert Snabel as their de facto #1 starter, and players like Carlos Delgado and an over-the-hill Jorge Jimenez aren't likely to make an All-Star team. Their bullpen was rock solid last year and could have been even better with a good year from Bart Ender, but even if Figueroa were healthy this rotation is second-rate.

The fact that their rotation took a serious hit is a bigger deal because their offense is now surprisingly solid. Aloysius Gonzaga and Pierre Cordona had career years last season in the lineup, and potential future Hall of Famer Elroy Hinson is starting to come down from being a superstar to merely being a star. With players like Dani Lopez, Jorge Sierra, and Jesus Gonzales in the lineup, it's a solid group 1-9, but it's likely to finish no better than middle of the pack given their ballpark parameters.

When you lose 16 WAR from the starting rotation (including Figueroa) on Opening Day, that's a monster hit. Vancouver won't crash and burn this year, but they are going to take a hit in the win/loss column. The Mounties were barely profitable last year with a \$133 million expense sheet, and this year they'll probably break even. Next offseason the balance sheet will start looking very good as they'll likely decline on players like Dani Lopez, Bart Ender, and maybe Jimenez, and no doubt decline arbitration on Nate Fletcher.

With no changes that should put the Mounties at a cap number of around \$50 million for 2033, which could put them back on track if their core performs. Vancouver doesn't have a farm, and they might not have a playoff spot this year, but the near future could be very bright.



Seattle Storm

General Manager: Nathan Eagan

Projection:

Last Season: 68-98, 6th in FLP (tie)
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 777
 Runs Allowed: 825

New Faces
 SP Len Caldwell
 RP Ed Staples
 RP Fernando Rivera

Players Gone
 SP Roberto Ramos

"MATT PLEASE HEAL MY BELOVED JORGE RODRIGUEZ! He can't get hurt for real until May."

Response to: 2031, Spring Training Sim #1/WCB Prelims

No team crashed to Earth harder last year than the Seattle Storm, as the team's 94 losses was the third worst in team history and just the fifth time in 37 seasons the team had lost as many as 90 games. While the team might be tempted to rebuild the squad, they're blessed with so much offensive talent that they may even be able to weather the free agency departure of Roberto Ramos, their de facto #2 starter. Seattle represents an interesting conundrum: does their reality match their planning? In other words, is this team still a contender or did last year expose their weaknesses?



Can Juan Escobar Bounce Back From a "Tepid" 2031?

The poster boys for Seattle's big question of contention is are Juan Escobar and Jorge Rodriguez, two of the finest players in the history of the game and two surefire first-ballot Hall of Famers. Rodriguez won

the Silver Bat award last year, his first such award since 2025, but his defensive skills have eroded from age and injuries, and he's no longer particularly effective against lefthanded pitching. Escobar won a Sawyer Silk in 2030, but his numbers dropped precipitously last year and he has reportedly lost some of his otherworldly bat speed. We'd still happily take either guy, but they're on the wrong side of 30 and they're not going to get better at this point.

The good news is that the supporting cast of the Storm is fantastic. Atilio Seabra, Manny Montanez, and Hector Valentin are all strong offensive performers, though Seabra is now 32 years old. Rookie John Hickman was a huge performer last year at 20 years old, posting a .900 OPS and promising to get even better. Their seventh-place finish in offense could move to the top 4 just by random variants, so that could spell an internal improvement right away.

If the offense is good news, the pitching staff has more questions than answers. Seattle finished just a hair out of 13th place in pitching last year, and their 4.84 team ERA was their second-worst mark in the last twenty years. Alfredo Contreras is one of the best young arms in the game and could win a Steve Nebraska if he gave up 20 homers instead of 40. Craig Browning and Esteban Sanchez stand to improve just on the basis of reversion to the mean, and the team has one of the best closers in the game in Esteban Velazquez, but nothing else works all that well for Seattle on the mound.

Seattle is obviously at a crossroads right now, but there's a light at the end of the tunnel, er, sort of. While the team will likely pay whatever it takes to retain four-time Sawyer Silk winner Escobar next year, the rest of the payroll will drop to around \$80-\$85 million next year and that's only that high if Rodriguez doesn't opt out of his player option for the good of the franchise. They also have ten of the top 200 prospects. The Storm might not be contenders next year, but their rebuild might not take as long as their excellent long-term track record would suggest.



Valencia Stars

General Manager: Lee Honigsfeld

Projection:

Last Season: 68-94, 6th in FLP (tie)
Post Season: None
Runs Scored: 672
Runs Allowed: 825

New Faces
CF/2B Ivan Castillo

Players Gone
SS Pablo Soto

The lumps are coming across the board. My 2030 1st rounder 1B Pepe 'Cha Cha' Quintero had ratings of 8-9-6 only one year later his ratings are 5-8-3, ugh...I really don't have many success over the last 10-12 drafts and now with little depth because my minors are so dry the team has many years of rebuilding to go.

Valencia Stars: A look back at past number 1 picks # 7

Valencia is beginning to move in the correct direction, but they still have an awfully long way to go. The team is blessed with one of the finest pitchers in baseball in Mauro Flores and one of its finest shortstops in Harlan W. Moore, yet the rest of the team is largely so disheveled that it leaves little doubt about the fate of this ballclub. Fortunately, the team is on an upswing and should be better in due time – but that time is not now.

Only Indy scored less runs last year than the Stars, and that's not surprising: the offense is one of the single worst units of any sort in the BBA. Moore has hit at least .323 in each of the past three seasons with an apex of .352 last season. Moore is a superstar, though his consistent injuries have made it difficult to keep him on the field regularly. Ricardo Guzman has settled into a role as solid run producer after being drafted by the team over a decade ago and has maintained a high level of performance for four years. The team got reasonable offensive production out of Edgar Leon, but his defense is so bad he finished below replacement anyway. The team pulled Ivan Castillo off waivers and he's their best chance for some surprise offense, plus he's a much better defensive player at 2B than they had. The defense is so awful as to defy reason, even moreso when Moore sits.



Will Kevin Lee Be Tradebait?

The rotation has the same story: it's basically Mauro Flores and pray for four snow days. Petro Struyk has made himself into an interesting major leaguer, and he might be a useful rotation member, but he hasn't demonstrated it obviously yet. Ezechiele Marriotto is a nice name from the past, but he hasn't been an effective starter since the mid-2020s. Fernando Suarez could be tried in the rotation, but he's been effective in the pen. The bullpen is solid in spots, but players like Kevin Lee and Juan Martinez really have no place on a team this poor.

Valencia made a big step forward this offseason by dealing away Pablo Soto to Charm City for top prospect Wilton Rivera. Rivera, along with top pick Frank Mahaffey and Flores and Moore represent a solid nucleus for the future, though the above mentioned massive lumping of Pepe Quintero is a huge setback. Rebuilding is all about time horizons and having the

same people mature at the same time, but dealing away Flores is probably a bad idea unless they get an offer they can't refuse; he's exactly the sort of player you'd want to build around. That should be the mentality in Valencia this year and for at least the next few seasons, as this franchise might be in the worst shape of any team in the BBA.



Edmonton Jackrabbits

General Manager: Rhys Allen

Projection:

Last Season: 70-92, 5th in FLP
 Post Season: None
 Runs Scored: 706
 Runs Allowed: 872

New Faces
 SS Ernesto Chavez

Players Gone
 RP Eddy de Greef

Beating teams that are worse than you is key to winning records, and we've been crap at it.

2031.21 Making the most of little

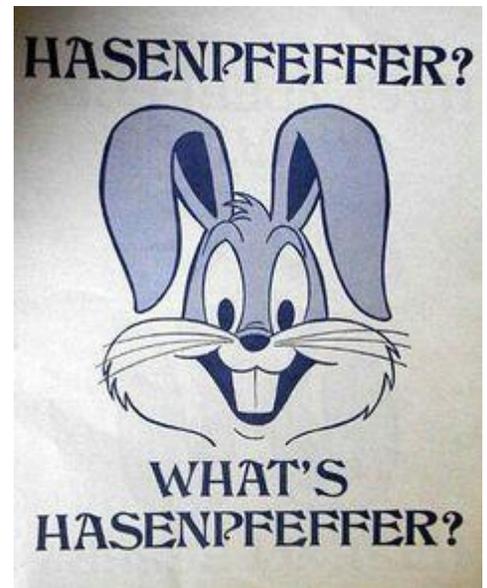
Edmonton has put away a bunch of bonus cash, and this year they're dipping into the stash to try and move their team a little further forward, signing Ernesto Chavez and re-signing Lienhard Zieff on the open market. With a step forward in win/loss record every single year, Edmonton is trying to gain some respectability. Will they manage to do it, or are they still doomed to the cellar?

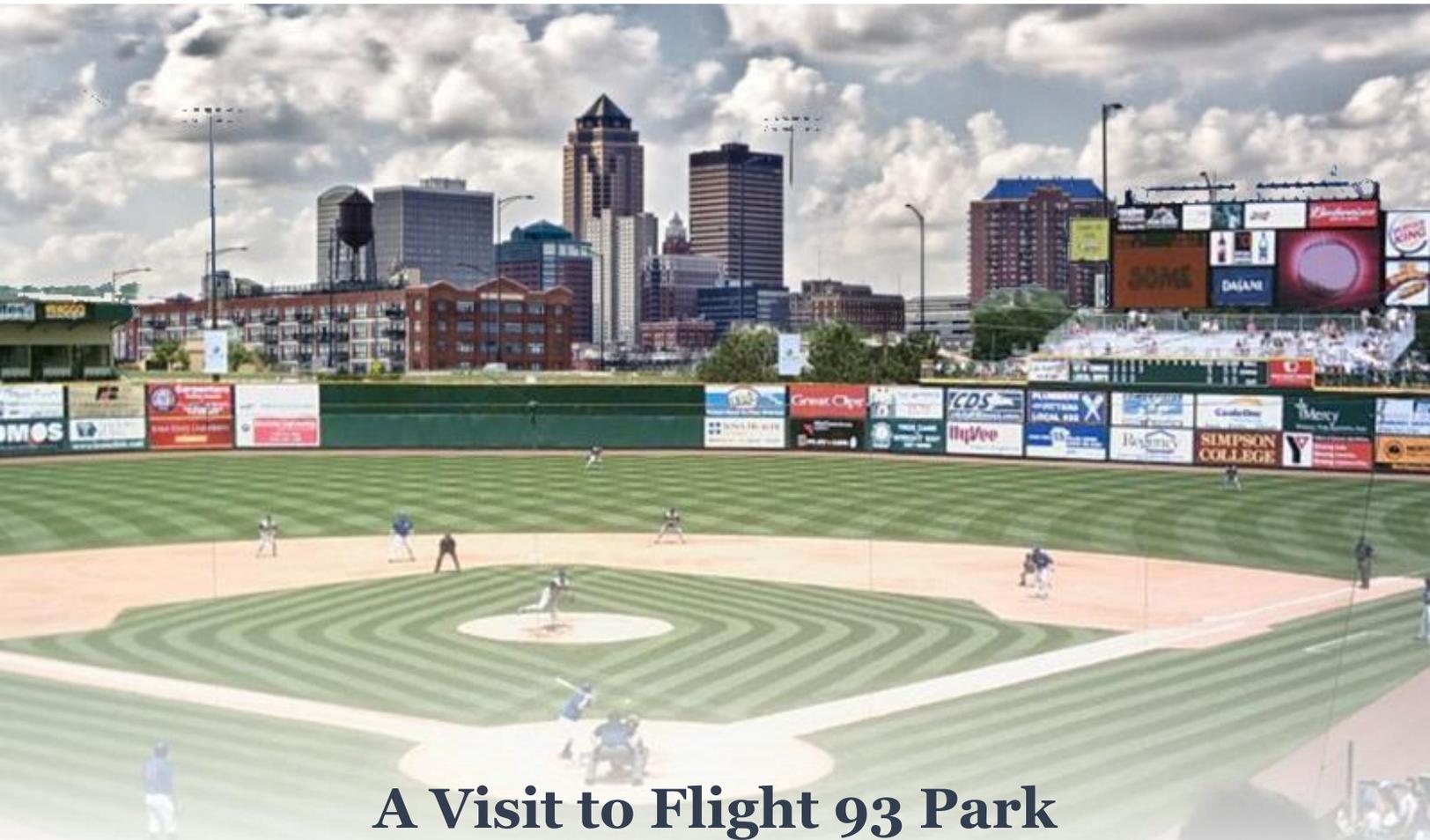
It can be very reasonably argued that nobody had a much worse offense than the Jackrabbits did last year, though they were better on paper than four teams. Felix Duarte and Jimmy Strambi combined for a solid OPS in the middle of the order, and Alain Pichon's base stealing and Luke Jordan's defense led the way in WAR for the team. Mario Murillo continued to hit home runs, and now has 260 in eleven seasons despite the fact he's hit for a league-average OPS just twice. Most players were less than two games above replacement level with very little upside.

If the offense was poor, the pitching staff is AAA quality. No pitcher on the staff was as many as two games above replacement, and the best pitcher on the staff, Edgardo Burin, couldn't start for anybody else in the BBA. Taisuke Suzuki has some upside, as does Johnny Morin, but, ultimately, there isn't a single pitcher on the staff who's likely to be pitching for them when they become a contender. Domingo Ayala is a legitimately excellent reliever and should probably be traded post haste.

You must think by now that with my panning this team, they have a pretty good farm, and, yes, that's true. Bobby Lynch is the #1 prospect in the entire BBA, and a well-deserved status as he's a potential superstar, and Luis Costello and Augie Plascencia are two of the most promising young outfielders in the game today. The team has a few prospects past those three, including the underrated Malcolm Guesne and future DH candidate Santiago Gonzalez, and based on the team on the field should have more high draft picks to come.

For now, Edmonton isn't much of a team. They had it pretty rough as an expansion club, and while they have some potential future cornerstones in place, they'll have to be gentle easing them in. The team could win as many as 75 games this year with good luck, but it looks more like 95+ losses to me.





A Visit to Flight 93 Park

At its core, baseball can be said to be defined by the places in which it's played. No other major sport is like it in this fashion, right? Football is played on identical gridirons, or pitches, if you prefer the international game. Basketball and volleyball on courts. Tennis, the same. No two baseball fields are the same, though, right? The game plays differently everywhere you find pitches thrown and line drives hit.

*Of course, a baseball stadium is more than its dimensions. Often much, much more. And, let's face it, fake baseball stadiums are no different to the crazies who play it. These places are real, breathing things. So, strap in with me now, while **Edward Murphy** takes on a tour of what baseball is like, Iowa style, and in one of the premier parks in the Brewster.*

The Des Moines Kernels have been in the “new” Flight 93 Memorial Park since the 2024 opener. Both the fans and players have settled in and love the ballpark. The park features 44,971 seats and offers panoramic views of the Des Moines skyline.

On opening day, back in 2024, the small memorial for Flight 93 opened just inside the gates, first level, behind home plate. This memorial will provide fans that attend the park today and decades from now with information on why the park was originally named Flight 93 Memorial Park. Kernel's former key owner, Stephen Collins, was instrumental in the park's name. Flight 93 Memorial Park was named in honor of the people who died trying to regain control of the airplane on 9/11. From time to time ordinary people encounter unordinary events, for people they don't know or never have met; they make the ultimate sacrifice giving up their lives. Our society needs to remember those individuals from generation to generation. Flight 93 Memorial Park can help us never forget their sacrifice and the fateful day on September 11, 2001.



On Sunday day games, children under the age of 12 can run the bases after the game. Whether the Kernels win or lose, there is always a long line of excited children waiting their turn to run those bases.



John Deere, one of Flight 93 Memorial Park's main sponsors, has sponsored a number of tractor pull competitions in the new ball park. The tractor pull competitions have just as strong of a fan base as the Kernels.

The fans love to come out to the ballpark several hours before the game for the tailgating and partying that goes on in the parking lot surrounding the park. However, this season has seen the portable toilets in the parking lot all removed. The Kernels have added permanent restrooms that are only accessible from the outside of the park to enhance the tailgating experience. The Kernel's female fan-base have loved the addition to the park.

The Kernels added a “Bring your Dog to the Park Night” in 2028. Kernel’s designated hitter, Lew Driscoll, was instrumental in starting the Bring your Dog to the Park Night. He volunteers at the Des Moines Humane Society during the off season. All well behaved dogs are welcomed. This night has grown over the past few years. The first year 100 dogs attended. Last year over 300 dogs entered the park with each of them receiving a special Kernels bandana. Kernels have added a special doggie concession stand just for the dogs attending. The evening is sponsored by Purina.



Ticket prices, concession prices, and parking have remained the same over the past few years to keep an evening at the ballpark to be affordable for families.

The Kernels have also started to sponsor summer baseball camps for local Des Moines boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 17. The campers have the opportunity to play in the same park the Kernels play. The schedule is set up each year once the Kernels road games have been announced. The campers are usually very surprised when a Kernel currently on the DL list makes a guest appearance at the camp.

The Kernels keep looking at expanding food and beverage choices at the ballpark. They have hired chef Jim Carlson, from New York. Chef Carlson has brought in more unique ballpark items and healthy choices, including fruit smoothies, salads, and frozen yogurt. However, dollar hot dog nights still remain a fan favorite. This year, the State Farm Deck located on the second level, third base side, has become an all you can eat section. The price of the ticket includes both food and soft drinks. Beer and alcohol is extra.

On the last game of a home stand, players on the DL list players sign autographs for fans. The fans have named this autograph alley and it has become a fan favorite.



The Kernels have set records this year in fan attendance just north of 3.5 million. This is a little surprising as the team is still just slightly over 500. The fan base has been growing, and win or lose, they love their Kernels. The entire community has gotten Kernel fever. The team has tried various promotions that include tickets to both the ballgame and tractor pull, both the ballgame and county fair, and even both the ballgame and FarmFest.

As a result, the Kernels have also seen an increase in merchandise sales. The park's team shops are always busy. During some games, they have long lines waiting to get in.



THIS YEAR IN BASEBALL

Is Expansion Giving Us Our Greatest Offensive Stars?

Four years ago, the Brewster Baseball Association took a defining action, and expanded its operation, absorbing players in from the European Baseball Association, placing teams in Edmonton, Phoenix, Baltimore (Charm City), and Minneapolis (Twin Cities). Along the way, it rejiggered its divisions and modified its playoff format just a touch. Though not without its controversy, we think it can be said hindsight shows it was a smashing success.

*The question at hand, though is this: Did expansion create a new glut of offense? Is it responsible for some of the numbers we're seeing? Is expansion giving us our greatest offensive stars? Madison GM **Chris Wilson** has stepped up to the plate to take a crack at these questions. Let's see what kind of answers he's got as he mines the past to see what it says about the present.*

It wasn't difficult to see that 2031 saw an explosion of young, offensive stars across the Brewster Baseball Association. No matter what your offensive preference, 2031 likely saw guys litter the record books with stats. Whether it was hits, homeruns, RBI, stolen bases, or OPS, 2031 saw the league witness a flurry of talent that the league has never seen before in its history.

Since expansion occurred in 2029, the BBA has begun seeing a steady increase of offensive power across the leaderboards. Last season alone saw a huge increase in the frequency in which players showed up on the all-time record boards. Some individuals had all-time great seasons.

Fernando Moreno's season ranked him in the top 10 in OPS and Homeruns and just outside of that in runs scored. Carlos Gonzalez produced the 5th most homeruns in a season while finishing 3rd in RBI and 15th in OPS. Jared Gillstrom finished the season 18th in hits and 15th in RBI. You can go up and down the other leaderboards and find several instances of players ranking very high in 2031. Here are just a few others: Hector Valentin (9th in hits), Steve Dempsey (10th in hits), Jon Mick (12th in RBI), Alfredo Martinez (11th in runs), Mark Simpson (6th in Walks), and Mons Raider who broke the single season stolen base record. This is just to name a few. If you scroll the top 50 in each of the main categories you will see plenty of other names mentioned from the 2031 season.



Hit it Like It's 1986!

When comparing last season's offensive output against the history of the league, you'd have to go all the way back to the mid-late 1980s to find a comparable era to what we are currently witnessing right now in the league. In 1986, one name stands above the rest as being a force and that was Long Chamberlain. His 1986 season was one of the greatest ever. But it wasn't just he that was dominating the leaderboards. Billy Wilson and Dave Winfield were having some record breaking runs during this span as well. Randy Spratt and Davis Birch find their names on leaderboards as well. And there may have been a guy named Sawyer Silk having his way with the offensive leaderboards as well. The great Steve Collins was also putting up one of, if not his best ever season in 1986. When you look back at that 1986 season, you'll find that offense exploded across the league. 1986 was the first season in BBA history where both leagues scored over 10,000 runs with the average runs per game topping out at 5.2 in the Johnson League and 5.3 in the Frick League. The average team scored 850 runs in the BBA in 1986. It actually climbed in 1987 with each team averaging 868 runs with 5.3 runs being scored in the JL and 5.4 in the Frick.



Kengos

The Greatness of the 2000s

If the offense of 2031 continues into the next few years, you'll start seeing the names of the current players drawing comparison to the stars of the 2000s who also put up monster individual seasons. I'd be a fool not to say that Bopper Kengos and Charles Puckett rise to the top of any list when you look at single seasons and record books. From 2004-2008, Kengos showed up on the hits and RBI leaderboards several times while Puckett was racking up walks and runs scored. But those weren't the only stars of that offensive era. For a small glimmer of time we saw the greatness of Manuel Aguilar in 2003. Douglas Newhouse was walking and scoring runs at a high rate in the 2000s while Jim Wilson was blasting homeruns. Unlike the 1986 and 1987 seasons which were the highest scoring years in BBA history per



Puckett

average runs per team and per game, the mid 2000s weren't exactly seeing high numbers across the board. Rather it was just some solid stars that were either emerging or in their prime. In fact the highest scoring season of that decade didn't come until 2009 when most of the names mentioned above were already into their 30s in age.



Can We Blame Expansion and Weak Pitching?

One logical explanation to the increase in production that has been thrown out is that pitching across the board has grown depleted thanks to expansion and the lack of quality pitching to fill rosters. When looking across the pitching leaderboards to see how many pitchers ranked in the top 100 in Homeruns, Walks, or Hits allowed in 2031 you will find exactly.... ZERO pitchers listed. Consequently when you compare it to that 1986 season you will find that the top 3 homeruns allowed seasons by pitchers were in that year led by Roy Raleigh who allowed 60 long balls that season. In fact 6 of the top 10 homerun allowed seasons were in 1986 and 1987. So the offensive numbers during the late '80s can perhaps be just as much a part of weak pitching as it was good hitting. High scoring seasons were the norm from 1986 through 1994, producing 8 of the top 15 run producing seasons in league history.

Despite the offense explosion we saw from the individuals in 2031, you might be shocked to learn that the league as a whole did not witness the overall rise in runs scored that it saw in 1986 or even what we saw in the 2000s. While 2031 did see a record number of runs scored in the league (21,710 to be exact) the average output across the board was only slightly above the historical average. The average runs scored last year (798 per team/4.9 per game in the JL and 753 per team/4.6 in the FL) are actually on par with what we witnessed the year BEFORE expansion. The total number of runs scored has obviously grown by leaps because of the addition of 4 more teams and consequently the extra games being played over a full season. But the league averages have not seen the growth. When you go by the average runs scored per team last year, 2031 ranks 22nd in average runs scored per game compared to all of the other seasons in league history.

Face it! These Guys are Great!

So what all of this babbling means to me is that we are currently witnessing some of the greatest offensive players the Brewster Baseball Association has ever seen. Rather than trying to dissect and find the reasons why this is happening, we as fans should just sit back and enjoy the greatness we are witnessing in the game right now. The incredible offensive seasons we are seeing from guys like Moreno, Gonzales, and Gillstrom are a testimony to their talent rather than inflated pitching numbers or weaker staffs made depleted by expansion. Even when you see guys like Jon Mick, Rupert Grant, or Norris Rutledge emerge with a season that ranks in the tops in an offensive category, who can rest assured that that player has earned it and it wasn't a by-product of weak pitching. So if in the next few seasons the name Carlos Gonzales gets lumped into the same sentence as Jim Wilson or Jared Gillstrom mentioned in the same breath as Sawyer Silk, don't go laughing it off or make up excuses for the current generation of player. They're great! And they're going to end up Great!

Just don't go comparing anyone to Puckett or Kengos. At least not yet!

The Newbie's Take on Assuming the BBA GM's Seat

*Sure, the BBA is going on 60 years, and it's surprising that there are some strong, long-term GMs in the league. But the strength of any organization is its young blood (or it's fresh meat as Genius would say). So, what's it like to join a group like the BBA? Let's ride along with **Rhys Allen**, who helms Edmonton, one of the league's recent expansion teams, and find out.*



Taking the helm. Taking command. Being placed in charge. Assuming the position. Wait, that last one doesn't belong here...

These are the voyages of a new General Manager. Or at least something like that. It's no easy task being #1. They say the face of the organization is the guy who hits the home runs, or bats in the runs, or is the lights out pitcher. Technically that's true. No one buys shirts with the General Manager's name in any great numbers. They don't tend sell many bobbleheads with his face, and he's usually blamed when things go wrong, rather than praised when things go right. Or at least that last depends on the city - after all, in Louisville the team wins despite the manager.

I've been asked to outline what it takes to become a new General Manager in the Brewster Baseball Association, more affectionately known as the Brewster. I know, I know, who asks a manager with 2 years' experience and a rather ugly record line of 135-187 to write a primer on anything but losing? I guess maybe the rest of the guys were busy or were no longer new enough. So you're stuck with my musings and you can take them for what they're worth. Truth be told, I wish I had just one more year's experience as I'd be able to convey some thoughts on expansion drafting, but I was a little late for that and got saddled with someone else's efforts to improve upon.

I'd like think it's gone not entirely horribly. I mean, we were better than that guy in year 2, and improved again in year 3 despite some significant challenges. I think some of that comes down to some managerial decision-making, and some gets credited to the outstanding play of some of our players. The rub of it is that things could have been so much better, too. But that's baseball - things often could have gone differently, for better or worse.

So to kick things off, there's a bit about my current situation - a moderately improved baseball club that isn't doing so well, but has only been in existence for 3 seasons. Not as good as [fellow expansion team] Charm City, but not as bad Twin Cities, nor some other longer established teams.

But let's focus on some practical advice for the new manager. I'd say there are three key things that are most important:

1) Ask questions.

The folks in the Brewster are incredibly helpful, and much as it might seem contrary, willing to help each other succeed. Let's not confuse this with not trying to win, because I'll tell you - everyone here wants a Landis every year. But it is to everyone's benefit to have a competitive, engaging league, and in that regard, the managers in the BBA are more than willing to share advice, opinions, and help out where they can. There is no question too stupid to be offered a helpful answer - trust me, I asked lots of them.

2) Read up

Read the Constitution. Read the rules. Read them again. Read the forums. Scan all the stats. Scan the history. Scan and read as much as you can. Some of the managers here (ahem Ron Collins ahem) make managing here seem a little involved, but you don't need 200+ team news posts to be a successful, contributing manager, nor to have fun. It's wonderful that we have GM's like Ron, and a commish like Matt, but there's being active and engaged, and then there's being active and engaged. As long as you are immersing yourself in the league and contributing, you will be a successful (though not necessarily winning) manager.

It's important though, to realize that rather than just sitting here simulating week after week, this league is actually a living thing.

3) Try things.

Just because you have Steve Nebraska (look him up) doesn't mean you are going to win. Ok, I guess you means you have a pretty good chance of winning, but just nailing down that one good

player isn't enough. You need to experiment. You need to have players that fit not only your park, but the players around them. Occasionally, you need them in places you didn't think. That guy you signed to hit dingers for the middle of the order may be better served in the lead-off spot, because you have someone complementary, and the new guy is actually hitting better at the top. Who knows? I guess this one is more of a general tip, than a New BBA Manager tip, but I think it's an important one. You aren't playing against the AI, if that's all you knew.

Oh, right, I forgot ... feel free to trade. It's not easy, and you won't always find something worthwhile, but it never hurts to talk! I've seen to some crazy good deals go down between a team in a need and someone just looking to shed some salary or some other situation.

So those are just some basic foundational important items, from my perspective.

It's important though, to realize that rather than just sitting here simulating week after week, this league is actually a living thing. There are lots of active managers posting team updates, asking questions, creating polls, discussing non-BBA related things, etc... Being part of the community is at least half the fun. While it's a bit of a time commitment, it's a rewarding one. You'll note from my own Edmonton forums that the team news was rolling along, my posts in other threads was up, I was super active. It's a ton of fun. But occasionally life hits and you have to take a break for one reason or another. Even the prolific Ron Collins had a down-season when I first joined. People get busy. Other people pick up in the meantime. This all combines to make this league a fascinating thing.

If you're only in it to win, you're likely not going to enjoy yourself very much though when the pendulum swings the other way. I'd suggest that enjoying the league itself is your biggest key to success.

Amongst all of that, you still have to manage your team! Maybe you lucked out and you've got a team one top of the world, or near it, and you just need a few tweaks to nail a Landis your first season here. Maybe you're just taking over a new expansion team as I did (in its second year, as I mentioned earlier). Regardless your situation, every manager has a different approach. You might lose a lot of games. You might win a lot of games. If you're only in it to win, you're likely not going to

enjoy yourself very much though when the pendulum swings the other way. I'd suggest that enjoying the league itself is your biggest key to success. But even in that everyone has their own approach.

As an example, my first trade in the league was, in hindsight (and straight for those who had been playing for a while) pretty terrible. Especially the way I managed it afterwards. In my defence, it had been a long time since I'd played OOTP, and jumping back into online play right away was probably not the smartest idea for solid decision-making. No one ever accused me of being that bright though. In any case, in my experience, young pitchers often busted and giving them up wasn't always the end of the world. That was several versions ago and things have changed since then though. The guy I gave up is likely to be a solid contributor now, and the guy I got in exchange has been sitting on my bench playing second fiddle to a guy I picked up relatively cheap for his skills. I suppose it's a little embarrassing, but it could have easily gone in my favour with that pitcher lumping and being next to worthless.

I've also picked up a shortstop who was supposed to spell me for a few years, who has turned out to be next to garbage offensively, and not as good as he should be defensively either.

Both these things are frequent for many managers. While you can avoid this in offline play to some extent, even without cheating, you need to be able to stomach these losses if you want to enjoy yourself in the BBA. Because just as often (ok maybe not just as often but you get the idea) you'll pick up some guy as a fringe player only for him to go on and have a year or two of amazing ball. You'll think you're a genius then (just ask Genius).

As you make these successes and failures, you'll learn the league, you'll learn the other GMs, and you'll hopefully have fun. I certainly hope I've used that word enough, because I personally think that's the best part of the BBA, is that it's fun. Lots of fun.

It's a good thing I don't have an editor or a true publisher, as I think they'd have had me re-start around the first paragraph, and this has meandered a tiny bit, but I'm fairly confident the main message got across about enjoying yourself. It's the best advice I can give.

Okay, Meat. Think you got the chops? Think you can handle the heater and the curve and Ted's dissertations on WAR? Here's your chance Meat. Serve it on up:

Application:

<http://montybrewster.net/application-2/>



2031: YEAR OF THE SPEEDSTER



Rookie Mons Raider
Introduced a New
Era of Speed

Toward the end of the season, the Madison Wolves' news service, *That's What Cheesehead* put out a release with the title "Speed Kills." As could be expected, the story focused on Mons Raider, who became the first base stealing to pilfer over 100 bases in thirty-one years, and a suite of other swift stealers the Wolves fielded.

For his success, Raider was elevated to a front-runner position for Rookie of the Year.

"We are definitely a running team" said General Manager Chris Wilson. "You have to do what you have to do and use your strengths to their best ability. While stealing bases is an obvious risk, we seem to be successful more than we're not so we'll keep using it."

And, use it they did. But they were not the only one. To put it mildly, there was something in the water in 2031.

Raider raided, yes he did.

Vancouver unleashed Frenchy Cordova, and Aloysius Gonzaga, and Las Vegas let Alex Rodriguez loose. For a while it looked like all four of them were going to crack 100. But it didn't stop there.

The runs were catching, and as much as pitchers tried to vaccinate against them taking off, and as often as catchers threw runners out (which stayed at about 66% across the league), guys were taking off and running like they had just finished a batch of Granny's "special" ex-lax brownies. How much did teams run in 2031? Let's put it this way...in 2016, the Yellow Springs Nine stole 284 bases, which had been the most ever from any BBA team.

After 2031, that Yellow Springs season stands as *6th*.

You saw that right.

Five teams beat the record.

On top of that, six more teams topped what used to be the second highest total in history. This is an amazing thing, when you think of it. Of the top dozen stolen base team-seasons in league history, 11 of them happened last season.

Huntsville's 2031 total of 241 doesn't make the list, but if they had been done any other year that total would have been the second highest ever.

So, is this truly a new era? Will we see steals go the way of the dodo bird once again?

Sometime. Sure. Probably. But we're guessing it won't be in the near future.

At least not until someone finds a way to throw out Mons Raider.

2031 Vancouver - 363
2031 Montreal - 354
2031 Jacksonville - 324
2031 Brooklyn - 320
2031: Charm City - 310
2031: Madison - 293
2031: Las Vegas - 286
2016 Yellow Springs - 284
2031: Des Moines - 281
2031: Twin Cities - 263
2031: California - 262
2031: Omaha - 246
Top Stolen Base Seasons



Monty Brewster's All-Decade Teams

*It's hard to believe, but the Brewster Baseball Association is now celebrating 60 years of action! To celebrate this milestone, we were able to sit down with the venerable founder of the league, **Montgomery Brewster** himself. Now 93 years old, Brewster is still heavily involved in the league behind the scenes, but his public appearances have been few and far in between in recent years.*

We asked Brewster, who refers to himself "as the biggest baseball fan in the world", to lend us his wisdom in an effort to name All-Decade teams for our 60th Anniversary. He was more than happy to oblige. Only one rule- players were not allowed to be named twice, no matter how good they were in multiple decades (see Nebraska, Steve and Puckett, Charles for example). Let's see how he did.

The 1970's

Team- Washington Bobwhites

- "Washington was one hell of a team back then. They were run by a cocky kid named Allen Rainey who thought he was an amazing General Manager. Not to say he wasn't, but it sure didn't hurt having Steve Nebraska pitch every fifth day."

C- Rube Baker

- "One hell of a defensive catcher, but he was a huge power hitter as well. I find it amazing that a player like Rube bounced around so much (7 team changes in 9 year career).

1B- Bombo Vadabonceour

- "He burst on the scene in 1976 and was such a consistent hitter over the years, and a really smart player as well."

2B- Hayfu Sobah

- "Too bad he had such a short career (he was 30 when the league began), but the voters got it right by putting him in the Hall of Fame anyhow. Just think of the numbers he would have put up if we didn't miss his prime years. A really important player who gets overlooked frequently."

3B- Jon McNecirty

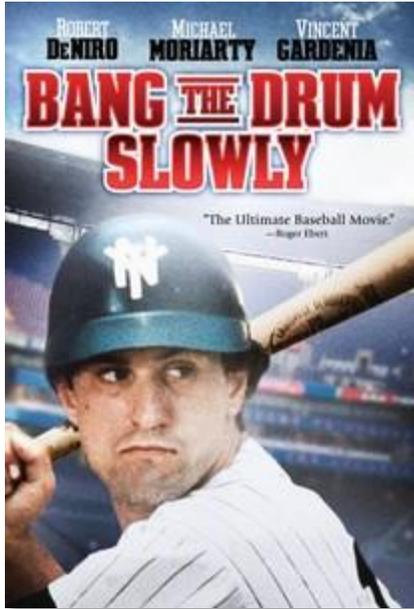
- "Year in, year out you could count on him to hit at least .280 and hit 25+ homers. A lot of folks these days who bag on



some of the earlier players in the Hall of Fame don't understand just how skewed the league was towards pitching in the first couple of decades."

SS- Sanderson Roosevelt

- "Like Sobah, he was 30 when the league started so he got robbed of some prime years. Still, in the time he did play he was an outstanding shortstop, had pop at the plate, and was blazing fast. I'm not afraid to say he was the most underrated player of the 1970's."



LF- Joe Gillstrom

- "So we have the Gillstrom Award named after this guy, but how many of the current players, fans and even team executives know about this guy? Big rookie year in 1973, and then a three year peak run that can't be matched in this decade. The original truly feared hitter in our league."

CF- Sam Hell

- "First of all, what a great name! I thought he was shitting around with me when I first met him! Another of these Hall of Famers from the 70's whose careers were cut short by no fault of their own, he was 29 when the league started. Still managed to win four Zimmer Awards and get four All-Star selections. His career evolution was interesting, where in the early thirties he was more of a defensive first player, upon getting back to Seattle in his mid to late thirties he became a .300/25 homer type. You don't see that too much."

RF- Elroy Futon

- "Thirty one years old when we started. Elroy was the best natural hitter I'd ever seen at the time. If he was playing now he'd probably hit .400 every year. And after a Hall of Fame playing career he went on to have a Hall of Fame managing career with the Hustlers as well. He was truly the "Mr. Baseball" of our early years, and a huge part of our fledgling league gaining traction among fans."

SP- Steve Nebraska

- "What can I say about Steve except to say that there will never be another pitcher like him. Fourteen Pitcher of the Year Awards? Of course we named the award after him. 382 wins. 6156 strikeouts. 53 shutouts. These numbers can never be approached."

RP- Damon Lombardi

- "Year in, year out when Lombardi came in you knew the Crusaders were going to win. Apologies to Schmidt Meyer here who may have had higher highs, but Lombardi was enduring."





The 1980's

Team- Baltimore Monarchs

- “Four Landis Memorial Series in a row is an amazing feat. Winning two of them if just as impressive. These Monarchs teams were amazing, a beautiful balance of pitching led by J.R. Riles, Jr. and Mark Bobovnik, and hitting led by Steve Collins and the most underrated player of All-Time in my opinion -- doubles maching Emile Santos who played right field. Brian Miller was the GM who built the team, we all called him “Brian The Stunt Bum” and the man was not only a brilliant baseball mind, but one of the funniest and wittiest men I ever worked with.”

C- Billy Wilson

- “We hadn’t seen consistent power like this yet, and from a catcher nonetheless was spectatular. He hit 50 or more homers five times, once hitting 63 in a year. I always love to see guys spend their entire careers with one team, and Wilson was the first in a string of guys who were able to do that during this era. Amazing player.”

1B- Randy Spratt

- “He came up with Omaha in 1978 and for his first few years he was a .340 hitter with limited power. No one saw what was about to come. His 1981 season remains one of the best All-Time seasons by a hitter. He hit .395. THREE-NINETY-FIVE!!! Then he contined on to not only hit for a huge average but develop 30-40 homer pop. Smart player who was a slam dunk Hall of Famer.”

2B- Ryoko Masaki

- “Don’t get fooled by Wilson and Spratt, this still was not a power hitting era. Why is Masaki in the Hall of Fame? 2574 hits in 2082 career games work for you? Career .326 average work for you? He was so good, and so consistent. It’s not always about all of these counting stats. He was the best second baseman of the decade, and there’s no argument about it.”

3B- Benjamin Caldwell

- “Everyone feared this guy when he came to the plate. He wouldn’t hit you with a lot of homer power, but he could hit the gaps and do damage. He won the MVP Award in 1981 with just 11 homers and 78 RBI, but he did so many things great. A lot like Futon in that regard, with a longer career. It was too bad he couldn’t hang on just a bit longer to reach 3000 hits (he ended with 2921).”

SS- Donnie Rotten

- “A power hitting shortstop? This wasn’t an everyday thing in the early days. In many ways he was a trend setter. So dependable and durable. Omaha really hit the jackpot by having both Rotten and Spratt in this decade.”

LF- Steve Collins

- “Earlier I said Futon was the best natural hitter I’d seen at the time. I was careful to say at the time because Collins is the greatest pure contact hitter who has ever played the game. The man hit over .400 twice. TWICE! He was to hitting what Nebraska was to

pitching. I've often said maybe we should have named the MVP Award after him, but I don't want to slight the next guy on our list..."

CF- Sawyer Silk

- "There's a reason why Silk's name is on our MVP Award. Six straight years with an OPS over 1.000, two of them were over 1.100. Remember, this was a time when pitching ruled the roost. It'd be easy to look at his total career and wonder what the big deal is about, but you have to look at the peak years. Absolutely mind boggling."

RF- Long Chamberlain

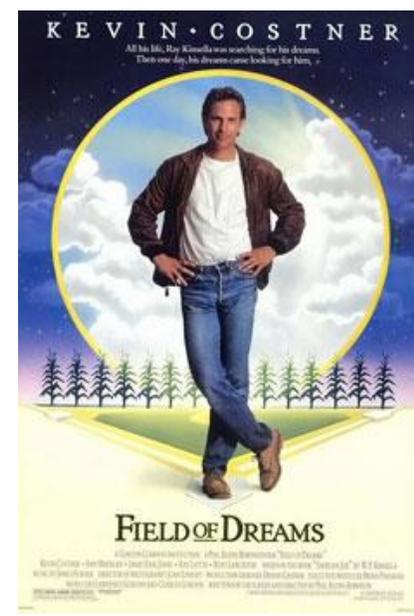
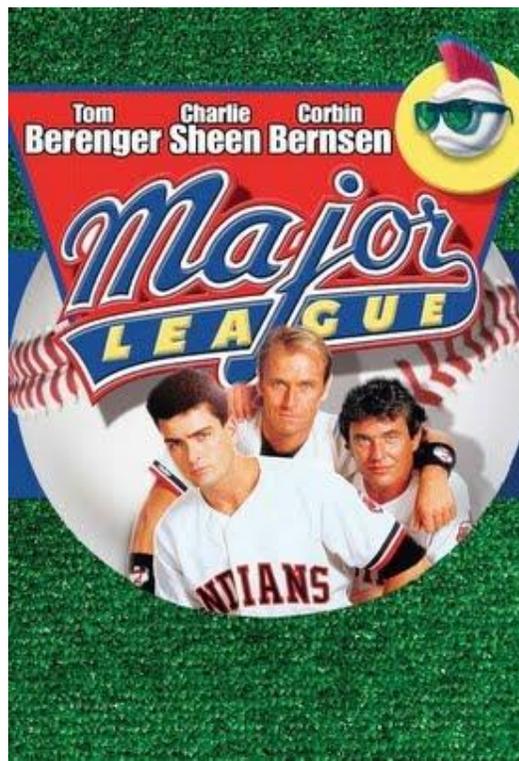
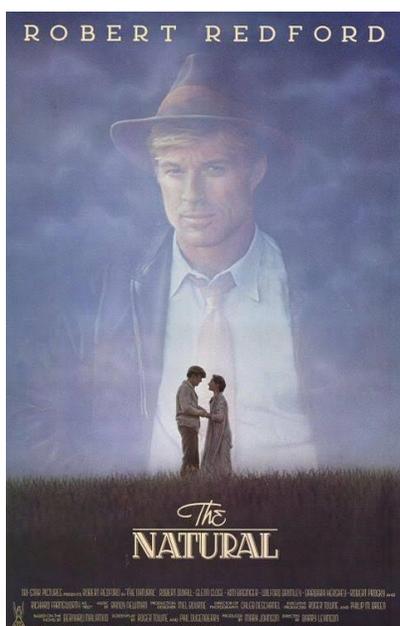
- "Speaking of peak years! This was the hardest pick on the list for me. John Bockus is a Hall of Famer as well and he had a long stretch of excellence. At the end of the day I had to go with Chamberlain for a number of reasons. When he came up as a 19 year old in 1983 and hit 19 homers in 361 at-bats, a lot of people thought he'd be a really good player. Over the next four seasons he was much, much more than that. He was the transcendent player of his generation. His 1986 season still remains the penultimate power season of All-Time (.314/.396/.786/1.182, 73 HR, 182 RBI). You know the famous quote- 'It's better to burn out than fade away?' Chamberlain's star burned brighter than most, and despite him being a .220 hitter for the last seven years of his career, he still has 560 career homers and a .913 OPS. Might be the most unique player in our league history."

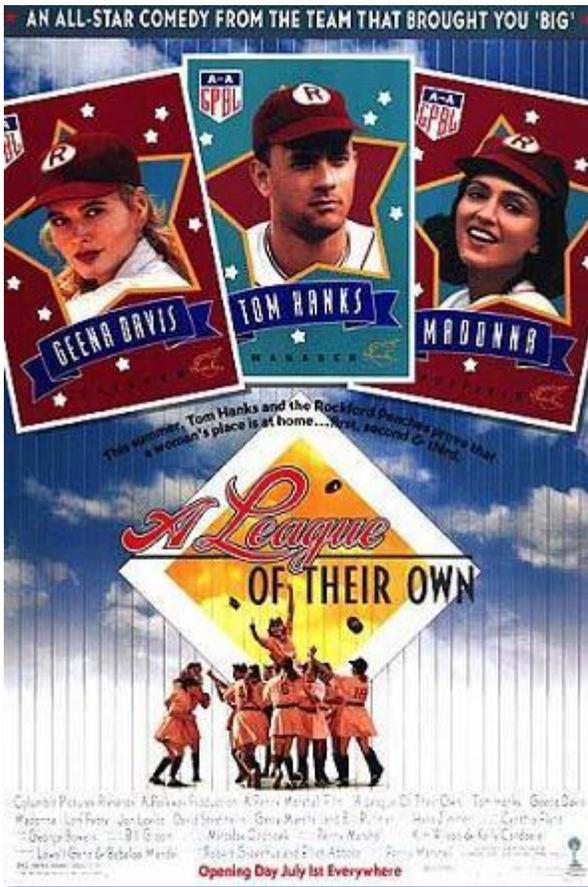
SP- John Ross Riles, Jr.

- "So, I have to pick someone other than Nebraska here? I could have gone with Bobovnik as well, but Riles, Jr. gets the nod. His 287 wins are the second most All-Time. What a one-two punch the Monarchs had. He'd go on to be dominant through most of the nineties as well."

RP- Gunga Oogolagunga

- "Most people have a beef with Gunga being in the Hall of Fame. I love it. He was such a dominator out of the pen. Sure, he'd have his meltdowns. One of the big things I point to when people complain about his 4.35 career ERA is that is FIP is 3.79. How many closers have 425 saves and 1022 strikeouts? He belongs. Put it to rest. Want to start another debate? I've got a beef with all of you Hall of Fame voters- why don't you start giving closers a little more respect!"





The 1990's

Team- Chicago Black Sox

- “Four LMS appearances and three titles, including the first two of what we know call the ‘Modern Era’ (1995, 1996). Of course they had Henry Jones, who we all called ‘The Natural’, but that was a team with a lot of great players. Resurrection Santos was their sparkplug, Richard Wasson is yet another highly underrated closer who didn’t get his due, and Chet Steadman was a dominating pitcher for them. The irony was they were largely a team without a captain at the outset of the Modern Era, but Mike Giovacchini came in during the 1995 season and became a great GM in our league.”

C- Hurley Reyes

- “The Hall of Fame debate has already been had regarding Reyes. I think the voters ultimately probably got it right, he was just on the outside. He was a really solid backstop for a long time though, and his years with Madison in the late nineties were the best of his career by far.”

1B- Ted Sale

- “Consistent power hitter with average. He knew how to draw a walk and unlike most power guys he didn’t strike out much. For a while Long Beach tried to play him in left field. That was uncomfortable.”

2B- Rob Van Winkle

- “I gotta hand it to the Hall of Fame voters last year. RVW was given another chance to get in and everyone recognized that he belonged. Not only was he a great natural hitter, he could play every infield position with aplomb, and he was a threat on the basepaths as well. I heard he was into music off the field. Can’t say I ever heard any of his work.”

3B- Henry Jones

- “Ah, ‘The Natural’. Great during the late eighties as well, we put him on the nineties team because he has two of his best seasons in 1990 and 1992, also it allowed us to sneak Caldwell onto an All-Decade team. He was a no brainer to the Hall of Fame despite only hitting .258 for his career. I wonder if he’d be elected today.”

SS- Rafael Rodriguez

- “He was often dubbed ‘The Greatest Right-Handed Hitter Ever’ by Aaron Weiner. It’s hard to dispute. 3520 career hits as a righty is exceptional. Like RVW, he could play all four infield spots and did so at elite levels.”

LF- Johnnie Iraq

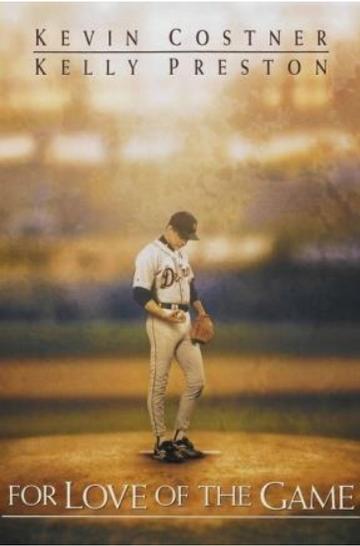
- “After overcoming a big injury that cost him most of 1996, Iraq was one of the most explosive players in the game in the late nineties, and then well into the next decade.”

CF- Ross White

- “I know, he only played three years in the nineties...but look at how incredible those three years were! Perhaps the best three year start of a player in our history.”

RF- Morris Pennebaker

- “T-Rex, man, now that’s a power hitter. He’s a lot like Hank Aaron from the old MLB, only hit 50 homers one, but played for a long time, ended up with 704 career homers and 3009 hits.”

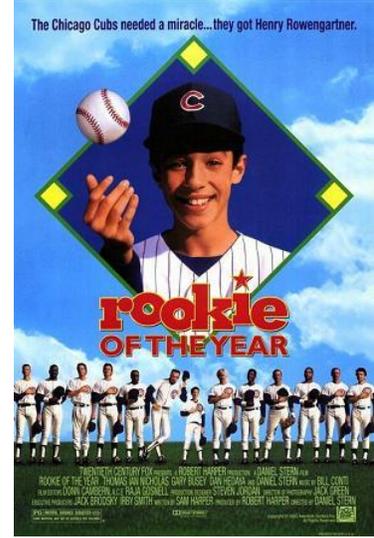


SP- Jay Lee

- “Jay was a throwback pitcher. As the league evolved to five man rotations and more offense, Jay was still dealing like guys before him. 300 strikeouts in a season twice in his six full seasons in the nineties.”

RP- Gil Daniels

- “Another pitcher that clearly should have gotten a better look for the Hall of Fame. He started his career as a fairly decent starter, then became an amazing workhorse reliever in the late eighties and 1990, appearing in 100+ games for four straight seasons. Then he closed for the next five years, one of the best closers in the game. There’s very few to have a resume like that with three different roles and excelling in all three of them.”



The 2000's

Team- Las Vegas Hustlers

- “Six Landis appearances and five titles. There’s no team in league history to match that run. Of course they had the two Hall of Fame starters in Chris Stoller and Davey Acheson and then you add another four HOF’ers in Donald Nobaru , Ross White , Roman Empire and Jake Urban to go along with one of the more underrated catchers of All-Time in Roark Dempsey- now that was a juggernaut.”

C- Jeremy Hunter

- “Best all-around catcher in league history. The 2000’s featured the top two catchers of All-Time when you think of Dexter Sheehan as well.”

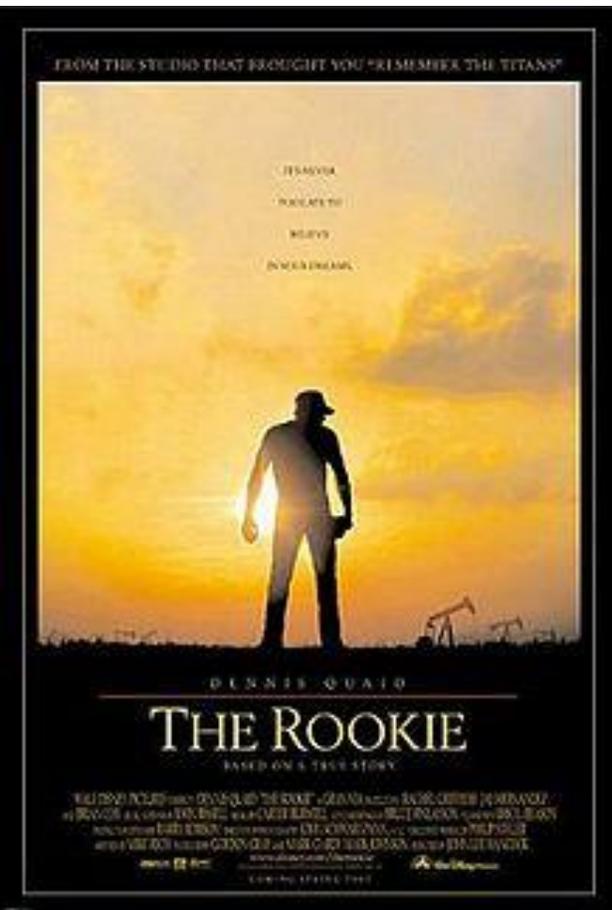
1B- Paul Barfoot

- “Paul was always a great player, but once he got to Long Beach and out from behind the plate his career really took off. 3235 hits and 537 homers are astounding numbers.”

2B- Charles Puckett

- “So we already talked about Collins being the best pure contact hitter that ever lived. Puckett was every bit the contact hitter that Collins was throughout most of his carer, but also one of the top power hitters in the game. Mix that in with his versatility between second base and third base (and

some shortstop when rarely needed), Puckett is the best overall player this old man has had the pleasure of watching play ball. Special shout-out to Douglas Newhouse who will always, unfortunately, be in the shadow of Puckett.”



3B- Rogelio Morales

- “A left-handed throwing third baseman? Not only did he pull it off, he posted a +84.1 ZR at the hot corner throughout his 2402 games played there. Did I mention he was a pure hitting machine? 604 homers and his .316 career average is actually slightly higher than Puckett.”

SS- Bopper Kengos

- “It amazes me that Madison was able to have both Puckett and Bopper on the same team, and it’s unbelievable they were able to keep them together for so long. He followed the Pennebaker track to the All-Time Home Run Crown, never hitting more than 48 in a year but ending up with 720 in an amazing career. Never mind the fact that he couldn’t, or wouldn’t, take a walk. Still a great hitter and perfect fit with Cricket. Most people forget that he was an incredible talent at shortstop. 2982 games played there and, get this, +251.7 ZR.”

LF- Daniel Labrie

- “The first Labrie. He was an amazing hitter, like no Baltimore team had seen since Collins. He had power, too, finishing with 374 homers. He walked like no other- 1728 career walks and a .440 OBP. He was an awful fielder, though, but his hitting allowed us to look past that.

CF- Armando Santos

- “Four seasons in the 2000’s with an OPS over 1.000. 824 career steals. 1523 career runs. An outstanding center fielder. For some reason it took the voters a long time to realize he was in a class of his own and get him into the Hall.”

RF- Rex Bell

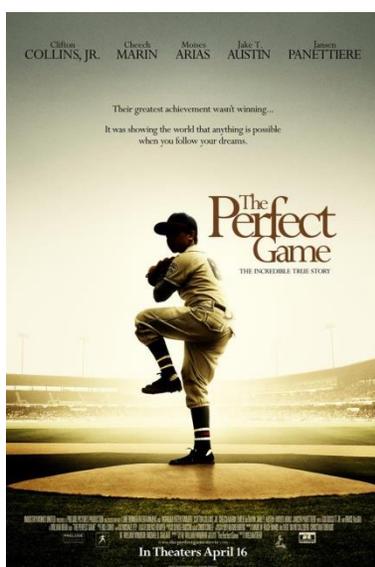
- “This one is a bit out of left field, or in this case right field (haha). I was surprised when Bell was the clear cut choice here as well...we simply don’t talk about him amongst the greats. One of the best sluggers of the decade, though; that can’t be denied. Always defensively challenged.”

SP- Christopher Stoller

- “Absolutely dominated the nineties. A bulldog who had 151 complete games, extremely out of character for his era. He was a throwback pitcher. It was strange that he just lost it after his 35 year old season. A lot of folks think the Hustlers threw him too many innings for too long and it caught up to him (259+ innings for eight straight years). I bet that given their success in the decade the team and the player would do it all over again. He has the fifth most wins of all time and the most complete games, second only to Nebraska in shutouts. Stellar career.”

RP- Jason Egan

- “The gold standard for all relievers. His 753 career saves is another record that might never be broken. So good, in fact, that despite being a reliever the voters couldn’t help but elect him to the Hall.”



BRAD PITT

The 2010's

Team- New Orleans Crawdads

- “They gave the Hustlers of the previous decade a run for their money. Four trips to the Landis, four titles. Jim Roberts is the master of building from within. Seemed like they just kept coming up with studs every season. Offensively it was really just mix and match other than Bartolo Melendez and maybe Al Jones (both HOF'ers), though Joey Rosko seemed like he was going to be a star for a while before fizzling out. The real story was pitching- led by Jimmy McCabe and his three Nebraska Awards, and Carlos Altavista who was one of the best closers in history.”

C- Jason Dunn

- “Mr. Valencia Stars. Dunn is still trying to hang on after signing with Halifax, but he'll go into the Hall as a Star and that's something Valencia has waited a long time for.”

1B- Alberto Guzman

- “Legendary High School Player, who quickly reached the big leagues and became an absolute powerhouse for the Surfers. Not a lot of teams can claim two Hall of Famers at the same position, but with Sale and Guzman this is one of those anomalies.”

2B- Eric Martin

- “Martin played like Masaki in the eighties, man. He wasn't a difference maker on offense like some of these other guys, but he held his own. At the end of the day he is arguably the best defensive second baseman we've seen, and the voters went outside of their comfort zone in electing him to the Hall.”

3B- Trey Williams

- “Elite defender at third, and a phenomenal hitter who got everything out of his ability. Despite only hitting 20 or more homers twice in his career, he drove in more than 100 runs six times. That's hard to do. Elite grasp power with 577 career doubles.”

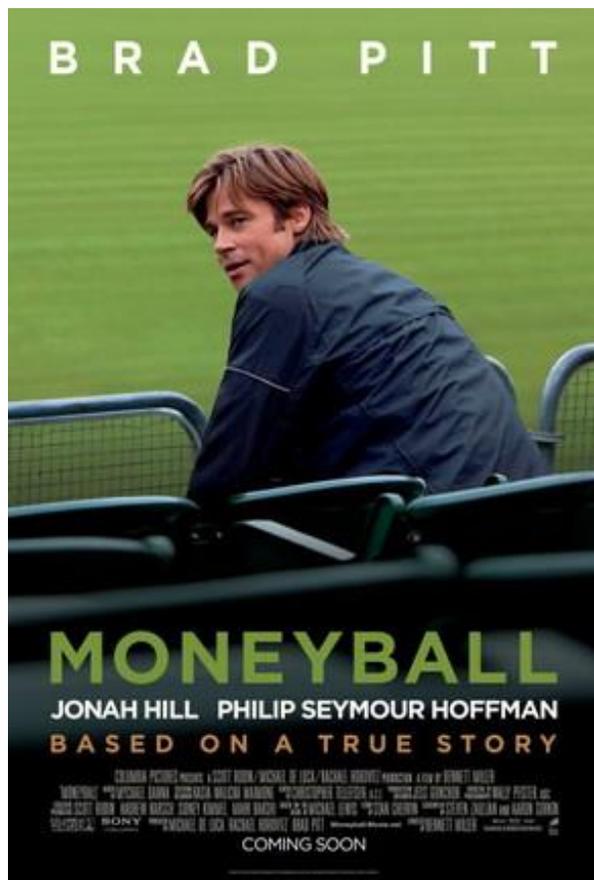
SS- Doug Glover

- “Incredible defensively, primarily at shortstop but also at third and second bases when he had to. He'll be remembered for his amazing power, though. I find it incredible that he did what he did with really pretty poor plate discipline (480/2036 BB/K for his career).”

LF- Juan Garcia

- “I'll cheat a little here in the outfield. Garcia technically played 38 more games in center field, and most of his left field games came in the 2020's. But he and the next guy both deserve to be on this team. Outstanding peak seasons in this decade, unfortunately he faded out after his age 34 season even though he was still a contributor.”

CF- Juan Heredia



- “Even though most of his peak offensive seasons came in the previous decade, I wanted to get him on this list. His career was mostly defined by his incredible defense at any rate. He once had a +41.8 ZR in center field, and ended with a total of +274 ZR at his primary position.”

RF- Martin Felix

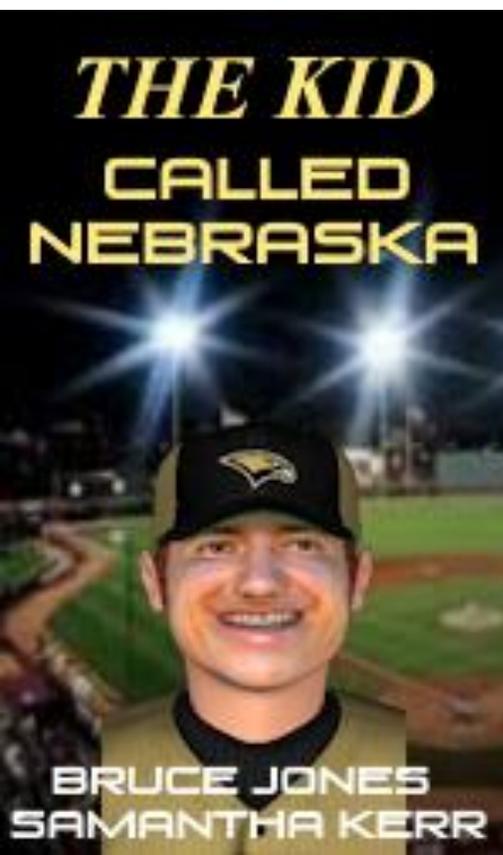
- “Pure hitter and a good right fielder with a plus arm. I got a sneak peek at this year’s Hall of Fame Voting results and I’m frankly disappointed with the response for him. He’s one of the best to play his position.”

SP- Mike Swanson

- “He looked like the Modern Era edition of Nebraska in his twenties. 2017 was going to be his huge breakout season, he was at 8-3, 1.79 ERA with 9 BB and 151 K’s (that’s not a typo) when he got injured. Came back strong and had a run of seven really strong seasons. Then at age 33 he started to fade out, and was out of the league the next year. I think it’s interesting that a pitcher of his caliber never won 20 games in a season, not once.”

RP- Jonathan Sorensen

- “Year after year, ‘Snuffy’ was one of the top closers in the league. He kept going and going, which was really fun to watch when he saved 31 games at age 40 for Calgary in 2023. Another great reliever who didn’t get a sniff of the Hall.”



The 2020's

Team- Huntsville Phantoms

- “Toughest call of any of the decades. Eight different franchises won a title in the twenties. Huntsville was the only one to win two. They’ll be remembered mostly for their controversial but innovative GM Kyle Stever. Fernando Moreno is well on his way to the Hall; how many GM’s have fleeced Matt Rectenwald like Stever did in that deal (he got Moreno for an aging Bartolo Melendez and Alfredo Chavez)? Chris Workman came up with the Phantoms and became their impact player, Stever later fleeced Havana to get another future Hall of Famer in Hunter Eisenhower to play third base. While Huntsville didn’t have a true ace, Stever always insisted Luis Freitas was indeed one; meanwhile they kept coaxing career years out of a mix of pitchers. For example, in 2025 Jose De La Cruz won 22 games for them (he’s won a total of 43 in the six seasons since). The Phantoms biggest strength was their bullpen, headlined by the dominant combination of closer Bob Sanderson and set-up man Reynaldo Garza .

C- Elroy Hinson

- “Still amazes me how long it took voters to realize that his father was a no-brainer member of the Hall. If you compare the careers of Riley and Elroy, and adjust for eras, they are amazingly similar. Dad was a better defender, Son is a better overall hitter. They’ll both be together in the Hall someday.”

1B- Juan Escobar

- “Do we as fans just take Escobar for granted at this point? His ‘down year’ of 2031 is still an amazing year, yet the fan in me wonders why he didn’t have another Silk Award season. He won four of the five previous years (finishing second the year he didn’t win). Despite that, it seems like Escobar is an underappreciated superstar. He’s just 31 years old and look at his place in history already. 2nd best average of All-Time (Collins), 6th best OPS of All-Time (Editors Note: Without peeking, do you know who’s currently #1 going into the 2032 season? Answer at the end of the article.) I even used a tool from my dear old friend Bill James called ‘The Favorite Toy’ to check his chances to break the All-Time Hits Record (3990, Bopper Kengos).

Based on his age, your player can be expected to play for 6 more years, at an average of 208.3 per year. At that rate, he will finish at 3614 for his career. **He has a 27 percent chance to reach 3990.**

2B- Juan Pablo

- “Pablo, to me, is all about consistency. Now he’ll probably end his career with more games as a first baseman, but he played second base for the majority of this decade and while he wasn’t the best defender there he wasn’t a disaster either. Solid, solid player.”

3B- Diego Moreno

- “Easily the best third base defender of All-Time. He makes it look easy out there. He’s been a pretty decent offensive player too, for the record.”

SS- Jonathan Archer

- “One of the most influential team leaders we’ve seen. When I think of a ‘Captain’, I think of Archer. Outstanding defensive shortstop, excellent hitter despite not being a great on-base guy. He’s hanging around, with 2670 hits it doesn’t look like he’s going to make it to 3000 but stranger things have happened.”

LF- Mike Love

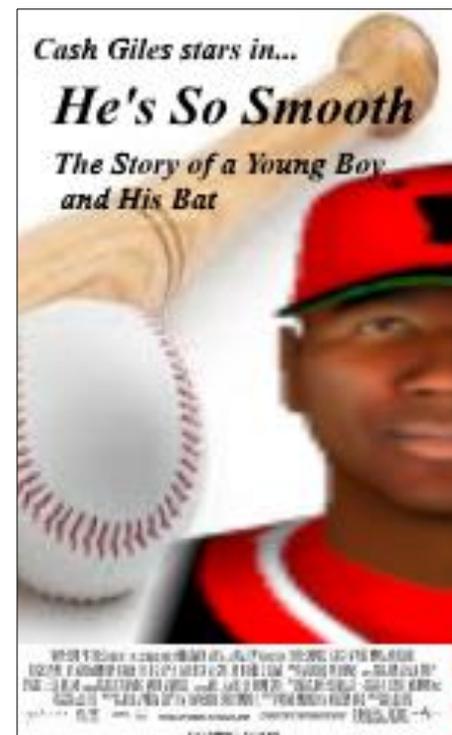
- “First thing that pops in my head when I think of this guy is that he was the perfect complimentary hitter in any lineup. He’s been a bit of a vagabond, hasn’t he? (played for nine teams). Great leader and team player with an extraordinary work ethic. What most people forget is that he was an incredible defensive left fielder.”

CF- Leon Sandcastle

- “A lot of people have this perception that Sandcastle is always injured. It really just seems that way for whatever reason. He’s played in 110 or more games in every season of his career. He’s simply one of the best players to ever grace our fields.”

RF- Jorge Rodriguez

- “The shadow that Escobar casts is a pretty large one. It makes it easy to forget that in the early years of this decade, Rodriguez was the guy winning all the Silk Awards. Too bad the Storm never



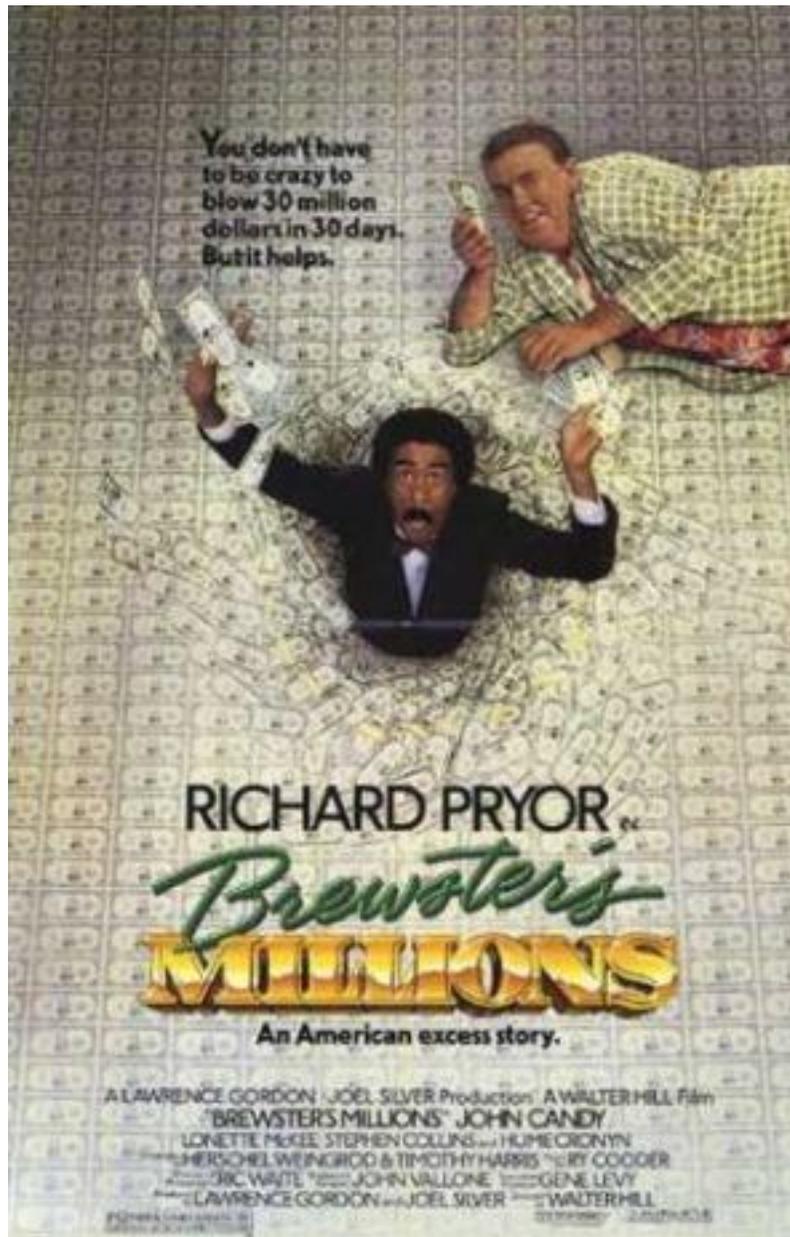
could figure out some pitching, because a club with those two guys in the meat of their order should have won something.”

SP- Ricardo Diaz

- “Diaz was the clear choice here, but I will say that when I did some research I was surprised by how close it was between him and Billy Chapel, Jr. for the nod. It’s hard to overlook Diaz’s three Nebraska Awards. Like Swanson, Diaz has never won 20 games in a season. Unlike Swanson, Diaz has never missed a turn in the rotation since 2020 (409 starts).

RP- Skip Glendenning

- “It’s amazing just how dominant this guy was throughout his career and yet he is 220 career saves behind Egan. That really puts Egan’s record into perspective, given how amazing Glendenning was. He’ll give Valencia another Hall of Famer when he decides he’s done.”



Hall of Fame Voting

Another year of Hall of Fame voting is now officially in the books. 26 of 28 potential voters submitted a ballot, and as always there were wide ranging opinions.

This year 598 points were needed for election into the Hall of Fame.

We are pleased to announce the election of two Brewster Baseball Association Greats in 2032.



Manny Bautista , SP, Las Vegas Hustlers

Nickname: "Little Bull"

2017-2025; 2031, Las Vegas Hustlers

2025-2028, Hawaii Tropics

2029, Louisville Sluggers

2030, Phoenix Talons

Career: 192-100, 436 G, 396 GS, 2 SV, 3.27 ERA, 2681.2 IP, 2524 H, 556 BB, 2134 K, 1.15 WHIP, 62.5 WAR, 137 ERA+

Drafted: 2015 (1st Round, 4th Overall) by the Las Vegas Hustlers

All-Star: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2023, 2028

Zimmer Award: 2028

Landis Titles: 2025 (Hawaii)

Bautista was one of the most electric left-handed starting pitchers of his era. He was the picture of consistency throughout his twenties and early thirties. Unfortunately, like many of his contemporaries, his career fizzled out far too early and he was out of the league at age 35. He was a quiet, hard-working player who may not have been the smartest pitcher in the league but made up for it with his outstanding stuff.

CAREER PITCHING STATS

Year/Team/League	Age	G	GS	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	HA	R	ER	HR	BB	K	CG	SHO	WHIP	BABIP	FIP	WAR	ERA+
2017 Las Vegas - BBA	21	32	0	2	0	2	3.79	54.2	41	23	23	5	15	59	0	0	1.02	.279	2.86	1.1	110
2018 Las Vegas - BBA	22	30	30	16	4	0	3.17	193.1	187	72	68	17	54	182	2	0	1.25	.326	3.47	4.2	131
2019 Las Vegas - BBA	23	32	31	13	10	0	2.87	219.1	189	75	70	12	36	220	3	0	1.03	.294	2.52	7.9	145
2020 Las Vegas - BBA	24	28	28	19	3	0	2.65	187.0	153	60	55	6	23	181	0	0	0.94	.289	2.14	7.6	154
2021 Las Vegas - BBA	25	22	22	14	3	0	2.21	146.2	121	41	36	8	18	133	0	0	0.95	.278	2.48	5.0	178
2022 Las Vegas - BBA	26	33	33	16	7	0	2.73	220.2	210	71	67	14	32	206	1	0	1.10	.313	2.70	6.9	147
2023 Las Vegas - BBA	27	33	33	14	6	0	2.33	227.2	183	66	59	15	26	192	0	0	0.92	.267	2.73	6.9	170
2024 Las Vegas - BBA	28	33	33	17	11	0	4.11	212.2	202	119	97	33	57	148	0	0	1.22	.264	4.67	1.2	99
2025 Hawaii - BBA	29	20	20	13	2	0	1.83	137.1	107	31	28	6	24	92	0	0	0.95	.249	2.94	3.8	219
2025 Las Vegas - BBA	29	12	12	5	6	0	5.59	66.0	80	42	41	11	24	54	0	0	1.58	.350	4.85	0.2	71
2025 Total - BBA	29	32	32	18	8	0	3.05	203.1	187	73	69	17	48	146	0	0	1.16	.282	3.56	3.8	130
2026 Hawaii - BBA	30	32	32	14	7	0	3.05	209.1	179	78	71	14	60	184	0	0	1.14	.285	3.21	5.1	133
2027 Hawaii - BBA	31	32	32	11	6	0	3.99	205.1	231	105	91	19	43	153	0	0	1.33	.330	3.63	4.0	103
2028 Hawaii - BBA	32	33	32	14	11	0	2.58	216.1	183	68	62	15	51	144	1	0	1.08	.260	3.50	5.3	171
2029 Louisville - BBA	33	32	32	18	10	0	3.69	229.1	239	108	94	26	43	133	3	0	1.23	.293	4.13	3.1	112
2030 Phoenix - BBA	34	28	26	5	14	0	6.50	151.0	214	112	109	18	50	51	2	0	1.75	.346	5.15	0.3	65
2031 Las Vegas - BBA	35	4	0	1	0	0	5.40	5.0	5	3	3	2	0	2	0	0	1.00	.214	7.50	-0.2	82
Total BBA		436	396	192	100	2	3.27	2681.2	2524	1074	974	221	556	2134	12	0	1.15	.294	3.36	62.5	137



Steve Hoffman , SP, Halifax Hawks

Nickname: "Horse"
 2011-2013, California Crusaders
 2013-2017, Omaha Barnstormers
 2017-2019, Halifax Hawks
 2020, Yellow Springs Nine
 2021-2022, Buffalo Bison
 2022, 2026, Las Vegas Hustlers
 2022-2024, Birmingham Bandits
 2024, Huntsville Phantoms
 2025, Valencia Stars
 2027, Havana Sugar Kings

2028, Madison Wolves

2029, Indy Grasshoppers

Career: 184-132, 470 G, 416 GS, 5 SV, 3.48 ERA, 2962.2 IP, 2943 H, 722 BB, 2547 K, 43 CG, 7 SHO, 1.24 WHIP, 69 WAR, 131 ERA+

Drafted: 2011 (1st Round, 1st Overall) by the California Crusaders

All-Star: 2014, 2017, 2018, 2021,

Gillstrom Award: 2013

Nebraska Award: 2017

Landis Titles: 2017 (Halifax)

Hoffman was undoubtedly one of the most talented pitchers of his era. He nearly singlehandedly led the Halifax Hawks to their 2017 Landis Title by going an incredible 16-0 en route to the Nebraska Award after being acquired from Omaha. Steve was the ultimate competitor, challenging hitters and going deep into games. Even though he was able to stay in the game until he was 40 years old, his career was marked by injury after injury. Major injuries in his career included a torn labrum (2011), radial nerve decompression surgery (2012), elbow strain (2016), partially torn ulnar collateral ligament (2020), and ulnar nerve irritation (2026). Fans and voters alike chose to remember him at the top of his game, and tip their cap to him for the effort he gave throughout his career even though he was rarely at complete health.

CAREER PITCHING STATS

Year/Team/League	Age	G	GS	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	HA	R	ER	HR	BB	K	CG	SHO	WHIP	BABIP	FIP	WAR	ERA+
2011 California - BBA	22	2	2	2	0	0	3.14	14.1	16	7	5	0	4	14	0	0	1.40	356	2.12	0.7	143
2012 California - BBA	23	5	5	3	0	0	2.10	34.1	27	8	8	0	15	28	0	0	1.22	273	2.91	1.1	209
2013 Omaha - BBA	24	13	13	7	2	0	2.13	97.0	80	23	23	5	19	95	2	1	1.02	288	2.89	3.4	216
2013 California - BBA	24	20	20	11	7	0	4.04	133.2	138	66	60	9	30	116	2	0	1.26	323	3.31	3.7	109
2013 Total - BBA	24	33	33	18	9	0	3.24	230.2	218	89	83	14	49	211	4	1	1.16	310	3.14	7.3	142
2014 Omaha - BBA	25	34	34	15	9	0	3.65	253.2	259	109	103	31	54	247	1	0	1.23	320	3.80	5.8	125
2015 Omaha - BBA	26	33	33	14	10	0	2.63	229.0	188	78	67	17	52	227	3	0	1.05	279	3.08	6.8	165
2016 Omaha - BBA	27	22	22	14	3	0	3.32	173.2	158	64	64	15	34	156	5	0	1.11	300	3.28	4.6	130
2017 Omaha - BBA	28	12	12	6	4	0	2.16	91.2	78	26	22	3	10	88	4	2	0.96	301	2.11	3.9	193
2017 Halifax - BBA	28	22	22	16	0	0	2.57	168.1	145	51	48	9	31	178	0	0	1.05	308	2.43	6.5	166
2017 Total - BBA	28	34	34	22	4	0	2.42	260.0	223	77	70	12	41	266	4	2	1.02	305	2.32	10.2	172
2018 Halifax - BBA	29	35	35	19	11	0	3.28	266.1	274	103	97	19	56	247	11	1	1.24	333	3.01	7.8	129
2019 Halifax - BBA	30	36	36	16	16	0	3.56	257.2	277	117	102	21	41	227	4	1	1.23	331	3.10	7.3	120
2020 Yellow Springs - BBA	31	8	8	3	3	0	4.76	45.1	57	25	24	4	15	29	1	0	1.59	368	4.18	0.5	85
2021 Buffalo - BBA	32	26	26	13	5	0	2.56	183.0	157	55	52	8	55	177	2	1	1.16	307	2.69	5.6	154
2022 Birmingham - BBA	33	8	6	4	2	0	3.18	39.2	32	14	14	3	17	34	0	0	1.24	276	3.69	0.7	127
2022 Buffalo - BBA	33	21	21	7	5	0	2.94	125.2	119	45	41	13	35	115	0	0	1.23	313	3.58	2.4	137
2022 Las Vegas - BBA	33	4	4	1	2	0	7.77	24.1	35	21	21	12	5	18	0	0	1.64	315	8.76	-0.8	52

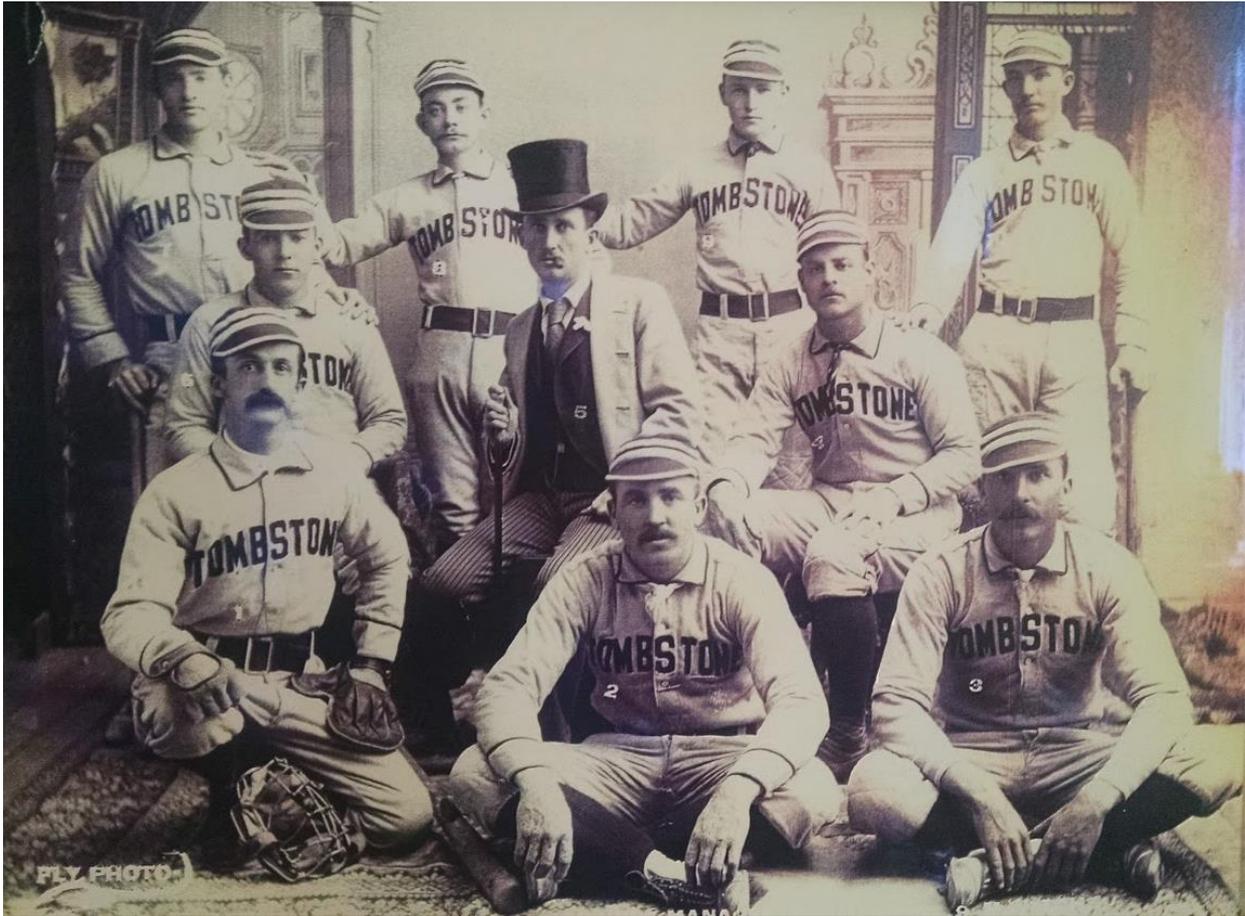
Year/Team/League	Age	G	GS	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	HA	R	ER	HR	BB	K	CG	SHO	WHIP	BABIP	FIP	WAR	ERA+
2022 Total - BBA	33	33	31	12	9	0	3.61	189.2	186	80	76	28	57	167	0	0	1.28	.306	4.27	1.9	111
2023 Birmingham - BBA	34	32	32	10	16	0	4.40	202.1	235	107	99	28	62	182	2	0	1.47	.343	3.99	2.7	90
2024 Huntsville - BBA	35	14	3	3	1	0	2.78	35.2	29	11	11	5	6	31	1	0	0.98	.253	3.76	0.5	146
2024 Birmingham - BBA	35	19	19	7	7	0	4.34	112.0	117	62	54	11	39	77	0	0	1.39	.310	4.17	1.3	94
2024 Total - BBA	35	33	22	10	8	0	3.96	147.2	146	73	65	16	45	108	1	0	1.29	.297	4.07	1.8	102
2025 Valencia - BBA	36	32	32	9	15	0	3.07	219.2	205	84	75	19	54	124	5	1	1.18	.268	3.92	2.9	127
2026 Las Vegas - BBA	37	2	1	0	0	0	0.90	10.0	10	3	1	0	1	6	0	0	1.10	.303	2.29	0.4	448
2027 Havana - BBA	38	29	2	2	2	4	3.43	60.1	58	23	23	5	17	39	0	0	1.24	.290	3.77	0.8	119
2028 Madison - BBA	39	23	10	0	2	1	6.27	89.0	103	66	62	20	36	54	0	0	1.56	.282	6.00	-0.6	69
2029 Indy - BBA	40	18	18	2	10	0	6.47	96.0	146	76	69	7	34	38	0	0	1.88	.377	4.38	1.1	65
Total BBA		470	416	184	132	5	3.48	2962.2	2943	1244	1145	264	722	2547	43	7	1.24	.312	3.46	69.0	131

FINAL VOTE TOTALS

2032 HOF Voting	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOTAL
Manny Bautista	7	5	4	1	4		2		2		1					676
Steve Hoffman	5	3	7	4	1	2		1	1	2						616
Terry Cochran	3	8	1	1	1	2		1	1	1	1		1	2	3	527
Milt Linares, Jr.	1	2	6	5	3	1	2	4	1		1					474
Carlos Altavista	5		3	2	1	2	1	2		1	1		2	4	2	463
Maxwell Weiss, Jr.	2	5	1	1	1	2	2	3	4		1	1	2	1		461
Jimmy McCabe	2	1	1		3	5	3	3		1	1	2	1	2	1	388
Martin Felix			3	6	3	2	6	4		1				1		380
Brian Middleton				1	4	4	5	1	2	1	5	1	1	1		307
Kevin Minuso				4	3		2	2	4	3	1	2	5			293
Esteban Benitez	1			1		4	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	1	4	288
Pedro Espin		2			1	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	3	2	6	261
Luis Freitas							1		5	2	4	6	3	4	1	222
Pete King					1			1	2	5	1	4	4	5	3	213
Bob Burke						1			1	4	4	5	2	3	6	203
	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	598



This Year's History Lesson



The Tombstone Tigers Baseball Association Team was formed in May of 1882, a few months after the Earps and the Clantons shot themselves up at the OK Corral.

Tombstone was a thriving mining town back then, filled with tough men who worked hard for their living, and located among several other such mining towns. Superintendent George Rice wanted to create a community and give his guys things to do, so he started games as early as 1880. Once the team became a formality they played on public holidays and a few other occasions, competing against teams from Bisbee, Tucson, and soldiers at Fort Huachuca.

Stories are told of gambling and a certain level of rambunctiousness inherent in the time. A local Reverend was the team's Vice President, meaning he gathered the roster for any particular game. He promised to umpire Sunday games as long as the players all went to church beforehand.

It was said that during some games the team would put a keg of beer at third base and that only players who made it that far were allowed to drink.

2032's Top Hitting Prospects:

#	Name	Team	Age	Pos	Contact	Power	Eye/Discipline	Speed	Defense	Level
4	Hsin Mei	New Orleans	21	C	8	9	5	1	7	ML
5	Aaron Stone	Yellow Springs	21	C	8	8	7	1	4	ML
6	Tu-fu Yong	Phoenix	20	SS	8	9	6	10	8	AA
7	Bartolo Ortíz	Charm City	18	1B	8	9	6	2	1	AA
8	Mario Deórtex	Phoenix	20	LF	8	10	6	2	4	ML
9	Jesús Flores	Havana	20	2B	7	7	4	10	-	ML
10	Pedro Navarro	Montreal	19	CF	7	8	6	9	7	ML
11	Jimmy Starks, Jr.	Indy	19	SS	8	7	7	10	4	ML
12	Tai hoi Wie	Havana	21	1B	8	9	9	7	7	AAA
14	Emilio Morales	Indy	22	2B	8	10	3	2	7	ML
16	Juan Karyabwite	Calgary	19	CF	9	6	3	10	8	ML
17	Luis Costello	Edmonton	18	CF	9	9	5	10	4	S A
18	Frank Mahaffey	Valencia	20	LF	8	10	6	1	6	A
21	Martín Marín	Phoenix	18	LF	8	9	5	4	3	S A
31	Jin-song Xuan	Carolina	21	SS	8	2	2	11	8	ML
34	Albert Gaona	Havana	24	1B	7	9	6	4	6	ML
37	Pedro Costa	New Orleans	20	CF	6	8	5	10	5	AAA
39	Gabriel Talamante	Louisville	24	2B	6	9	6	4	9	ML
40	Jérôme Delage	Phoenix	19	2B	8	8	6	5	6	S A
49	Luis González	Halifax	21	SS	9	2	5	11	7	ML
51	Lionnel Crépin	Seattle	21	RF	7	9	9	2	7	A
54	Bryan Robson	California	21	3B	6	3	6	6	4	ML
55	Mario Guerrer	Carolina	20	1B	8	8	6	1	3	ML
56	Walter Finch	Seattle	21	CF	7	2	6	11	9	AAA
60	Yi-ke Zang	Carolina	21	CF	7	3	3	10	10	ML
64	Jaime Ramírez	Louisville	20	SS	8	1	3	10	10	ML
66	Brian Sullivan	California	21	SS	5	5	6	10	8	ML
69	Luis Maldonado	Madison	18	CF	6	9	6	8	3	S A
71	Calvin Clohessy	Brooklyn	22	CF	6	6	5	10	8	ML
74	José Ríos	Calgary	17	1B	8	8	4	4	4	R
76	Dan Norman	San Antonio	21	3B	5	8	8	3	7	ML
79	Wilton Rivera	Valencia	18	LF	8	8	6	3	3	R
81	Harold Smith	Brooklyn	23	LF	7	7	4	8	8	ML
84	José Cortéz	Havana	18	LF	8	4	7	10	2	AAA
86	Héctor Correa	New Orleans	23	LF	5	6	8	10	4	ML
89	Ernesto Alfiche	Hawaii	17	SS	6	5	7	10	6	R
91	Benjamin Dale	Montreal	20	1B	7	9	7	3	8	AA
93	Henry Rectenberg	Brooklyn	19	LF	7	7	7	6	6	ML
96	Garth Hickey	Halifax	20	CF	6	7	5	10	6	ML
99	Ricardo Juárez	Twin Cities	18	RF	8	8	4	9	4	A



2032'2 Top Pitching Prospects

#	Name	Team	Age	Role	Stuff	Movement	Control	Level
1	Bobby Lynch	Edmonton	20	SP	12	7	9	AAA
2	Scotty Pendleton	Omaha	22	SP	10	7	7	ML
3	Jubal Troop	Montreal	21	SP	12	7	8	ML
13	Héctor Amaral	New Orleans	23	SP	9	7	8	AAA
15	Pepe Jaramillo	Louisville	21	SP	9	8	7	ML
19	Heinrich Peithner	Huntsville	21	SP	9	8	7	AAA
20	Miguel Ramos	California	20	SP	11	7	7	AA
22	Hyun-sik Chang	Las Vegas	23	SP	8	7	7	ML
23	Josh Brown	Twin Cities	21	SP	10	7	8	AA
24	Byung-doo Yi	Carolina	20	SP	9	8	8	AAA
25	Kevin Morales	Louisville	20	SP	9	7	9	ML
26	Jon Reed	Las Vegas	24	SP	12	6	4	AAA
27	Sergio Franco	New Orleans	22	SP	10	6	7	ML
28	Adam Barnard	Atlantic City	20	SP	9	8	7	ML
29	Javier Venegas	New Orleans	20	SP	10	6	8	AAA
30	Ken Walter	Seattle	18	SP	9	8	6	A
32	Felipe Rosado	California	18	SP	11	8	6	A
33	Yoshimatsu Yamaguchi	New Orleans	21	SP	8	7	8	ML
35	Fernando Márquez	Carolina	19	SP	8	8	7	AAA
36	Masahiro Ogawa	Carolina	19	SP	10	7	6	AA
38	Alejandro Alvarado	Twin Cities	20	CL	9	8	8	AAA
41	Manuel Solíz	Seattle	22	SP	7	7	8	ML
42	Feliciano Rafael	Havana	19	SP	9	6	9	AA
43	Pierre Legrand	Las Vegas	20	SP	9	7	6	AA
44	Ragnar Lothbrok	Des Moines	19	SP	9	7	7	AA
45	Ricardo Maldonado	Carolina	24	SP	7	7	8	ML
46	Júlio Barajas	Louisville	21	SP	9	7	8	A
47	Armando Rasquilha	Carolina	20	SP	8	8	8	ML
48	Júlio Alicea	Seattle	21	SP	8	7	8	ML
50	Maxime Manceau	Edmonton	21	SP	7	8	7	AA
52	Patrick Patchett	Omaha	24	SP	7	7	9	AAA
53	Charlie Iron-Knife	Havana	18	SP	10	8	7	R
57	Ángelo Delgado	San Antonio	20	SP	9	6	6	AAA
58	Bob Corrigan	Phoenix	19	SP	9	7	7	S A
59	Netuno Markert	Jacksonville	20	RP	10	7	6	ML
61	Héctor Mata	Las Vegas	22	SP	9	7	6	AAA
62	Chris Kelly	Twin Cities	19	SP	8	7	7	AA
63	Ken Bates	Las Vegas	20	SP	8	7	8	AA
65	Alexandre Renard	Phoenix	21	CL	10	8	6	AA
67	Travis Arnold	Twin Cities	22	SP	8	7	8	ML
68	Chin Kim	Las Vegas	20	RP	11	6	7	A
70	Raúl Gerela	California	20	SP	8	7	7	AAA
72	Aki Kondo	Havana	18	SP	9	7	8	A
73	Jerry Coyle	Twin Cities	21	SP	8	8	8	ML
75	Luis Torres	Hawaii	18	SP	9	7	7	S A
77	Miguel Archuleta	Carolina	21	SP	9	7	6	AA
78	Bob Coleman	Carolina	21	SP	8	7	7	ML
80	Pablo Morales	Seattle	24	SP	9	6	7	ML
82	Knud Zeitler	California	18	SP	8	8	8	R
83	Jaime Mercado	California	22	SP	8	7	7	ML
85	Guus Alberink	California	20	SP	7	7	8	AAA
87	Ernie Kinney	California	21	SP	8	7	6	ML
88	José Romero	Omaha	22	SP	9	8	5	ML
90	Johnny Morin	Edmonton	21	SP	7	7	7	AAA



92	Palmer Perry	Montreal	21	SP	9	7	6	ML
94	Mario Villarreal	Louisville	22	SP	8	7	7	ML
95	Hiroyasu Osaragi	Havana	19	SP	9	7	7	ML
97	Stephen Clulow	Halifax	19	SP	9	7	7	ML
98	Noonien Soong	Havana	26	SP	7	7	9	ML
100	James Robinson	Madison	19	SP	9	6	6	ML



Farm System Rankings

#	Team	Points	Top 5 Prospects
1st	New Orleans Crawdads	175	C H. Mei (4th) , P H. Amaral (13th) , P S. Franco (27th) , P J. Venegas (29th) , P Y. Yamaguchi (33rd)
2nd	Phoenix Talons	149	SS T. Yong (6th) , LF M. Deórtéz (8th) , LF M. Marín (21st) , 2B J. Delage (40th) , P B. Corrigan (58th)
3rd	Havana Sugar Kings	137	2B J. Flores (9th) , 1B T. Wie (12th) , 1B A. Gaona (34th) , P F. Rafael (42nd) , P C. Iron-Knife (53rd)
4th	Carolina Kraken	137	P B. Yi (24th) , SS J. Xuan (31st) , P F. Márquez (35th) , P M. Ogawa (36th) , P R. Maldonado (45th)
5th	Montreal Blazers	111	P J. Troop (3rd) , CF P. Navarro (10th) , 1B B. Dale (91st) , P P. Perry (92nd)
6th	Edmonton Jackrabbits	105	P B. Lynch (1st) , CF L. Costello (17th) , P M. Manceau (50th) , P J. Morin (90th)
7th	Louisville Sluggers	97	P P. Jaramillo (15th) , P K. Morales (25th) , 2B G. Talamante (39th) , P J. Barajas (46th) , SS J. Ramírez (64th)
8th	California Crusaders	89	P M. Ramos (20th) , P F. Rosado (32nd) , 3B B. Robson (54th) , SS B. Sullivan (66th) , P R. Gerela (70th)
9th	Las Vegas Hustlers	88	P H. Chang (22nd) , P J. Reed (26th) , P P. Legrand (43rd) , P H. Mata (61st) , P K. Bates (63rd)
10th	Seattle Storm	77	P K. Walter (30th) , P M. Solíz (41st) , P J. Alicea (48th) , RF L. Crépin (51st) , CF W. Finch (56th)
11th	Omaha Barnstormers	76	P S. Pendleton (2nd) , P P. Patchett (52nd) , P J. Romero (88th)
12th	Indy Grasshoppers	67	SS J. Starks, Jr. (11th) , 2B E. Morales (14th)
13th	Twin Cities River Monsters	67	P J. Brown (23rd) , P A. Alvarado (38th) , P C. Kelly (62nd) , P T. Arnold (67th) , P J. Coyle (73rd)
14th	Yellow Springs Nine	55	C A. Stone (5th)
15th	Charm City Jimmies	45	1B B. Ortíz (7th)
16th	Calgary Pioneers	34	CF J. Karyabwite (16th) , 1B J. Ríos (74th)
17th	Valencia Stars	33	LF F. Mahaffey (18th) , LF W. Rivera (79th)
18th	Huntsville Phantoms	27	P H. Peithner (19th)
19th	Atlantic City Gamblers	23	P A. Barnard (28th)
20th	Halifax Hawks	17	SS L. González (49th) , CF G. Hickey (96th) , P S. Clulow (97th)
21st	San Antonio Outlaws	16	P Á. Delgado (57th) , 3B D. Norman (76th)
22nd	Brooklyn Robins	15	CF C. Clohessy (71st) , LF H. Smith (81st) , LF H. Rectenberg (93rd)
23rd	Des Moines Kernels	14	P R. Lothbrok (44th)
24th	Hawaii Tropics	9	P L. Torres (75th) , SS E. Alfiche (89th)
25th	Jacksonville Hurricanes	9	P N. Markert (59th)
26th	Madison Wolves	8	CF L. Maldonado (69th) , P J. Robinson (100th)
27th	Long Beach Surfers	0	
28th	Vancouver Mounties	0	

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