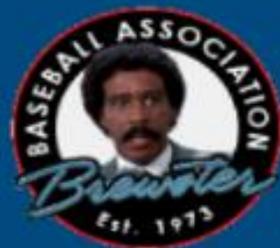


2036 BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



MEDIA GUIDE

Crusaders Win! Crusaders Win! *An Overview From Offie*

PREVIEWS FOR EVERY TEAM!

NO-HIT MANIA

THE 2031 DRAFT: REVISITED

CUT-DOWN DAY, a player essay

PITCHER USAGE, PART III

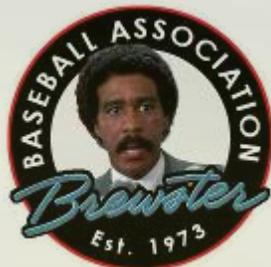
A BIT OF HISTORY

THE BIG HALL OF FAME REVEAL



BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

WE VOTE NONE OF THE ABOVE



LEADERSHIP

Commissioner: Matt Rectenwald
Vice Commissioner: Aaron Weiner
League Director: Ron Collins
League Advisor: Randy Weigand
PR Director/Historian: Stephen Lane

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<http://montybrewster.net/MBBA/phpBB3/index.php>

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Application:

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

Constitution:

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

Look, we keep this up and people are going to start to talk. I mean, crap, sixty-three seasons and counting. I mean, that's got to be some kind of record. Pretty soon we'll be able to qualify for Social Security or something. Maybe we'll get the gold watch, eh? And no one had killed anyone, yet. I mean, except the OOTP development engine, and that's just been the San Antonio pitching staff. No big loss, right, Mike? Hmm...err...sorry, man. That's gotta cut you right to the Wick.

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



(*) Spoonerisms by Stephen Lane

FINAL 2035 STANDINGS

JOHNSON LEAGUE					Geoghegan	Doubleday	Cartwright	Landis
JL Atlantic Division								
 x-Rockville Pikemen	103	59	.636	-				
 z-Brooklyn Robins	90	72	.556	13				
 Montreal Blazers	89	73	.549	14				
 Atlantic City Gamblers	70	92	.432	33				
 Charm City Jimmies	64	98	.395	39				
JL Southeast Division								
 x-Jacksonville Hurricanes	94	68	.580	-				
 z-New Orleans Crawdads	91	71	.562	3				
 Huntsville Phantoms	86	76	.531	8				
 Louisville Sluggers	81	81	.500	13				
 Nashville Goats	45	117	.278	49				
JL Sun Belt Division								
 x-Mexico City Aztecs	95	67	.586	-				
 z-Phoenix Talons	90	72	.556	5				
 Las Vegas Hustlers	89	73	.549	6				
 Wichita Aviators	67	95	.414	28				
 San Antonio Outlaws	57	105	.352	38				
FRICK LEAGUE					Geoghegan	Doubleday	Cartwright	
FL Heartland Division								
 x-Yellow Springs Nine	98	64	.605	-				
 z-Twin Cities River Monsters	93	69	.574	5				
 Omaha Hawks	88	74	.543	10				
 Madison Wolves	84	78	.519	14				
 Des Moines Kernels	78	84	.481	20				
FL Pacific Division								
 x-California Crusaders	98	64	.605	-				
 z-San Fernando Bears	91	71	.562	7				
 Long Beach Surfers	85	77	.525	13				
 Hawaii Tropics	63	99	.389	35				
 Valencia Stars	61	101	.377	37				
FL Frontier Division								
 x-Seattle Storm	92	71	.564	-				
 z-Calgary Pioneers	91	72	.558	1				
 Vancouver Mounties	74	88	.457	17½				
 Edmonton Jackrabbits	65	97	.401	26½				
 Boise Spuds	59	103	.364	32½				
					New Orleans Def. Phoenix (3-2) Brooklyn Def. Jacksonville (3-1)	Rockville Def. New Orleans (4-1) Brooklyn Def. Mexico City (4-3)	Rockville Def. Brooklyn (4-2)	<u>GAME 1</u> California 8 Rockville 0 <u>GAME 2</u> California 5 Rockville 1 <u>GAME 3</u> Rockville 1 California 7 <u>GAME 4</u> Rockville 4 California 2 <u>GAME 5</u> Rockville 4 California 6
					San Fernando Def. Twin Cities (3-1) Calgary Def. Seattle (3-1)	California Def. San Fernando (4-3) Calgary Def. Yellow Springs (4-3)	California Def. Calgary (4-2)	





Things were different the last time California won the title back eleven years ago. It was a quieter time, maybe. Gentler. The Landis almost fell into their laps, and no one was more surprised than its fans. But by 2035, the world had gotten harder, the fans more jaded after season over season of thinking they could win, but...well...not winning.

Then came Offen Sichtlich der Kunstgriff and his unfettered joy of fandom and his off-kilter views and his awkward moments. Of course, he went into a apoplectic coma when the Crusaders won. So he can't write this. Luckily, we found a replacement who maybe understands things even more than Offie himself does.

You all know him as Offen Sichtlich der Kunstgriff, the pen of the California Crusaders. But I know him as Offie-Buns, and as the biggest Crusader fan in the world. That's what he is, you know, though he would blush when you say that. But the guy burst in joy so hard after they won that he put himself into the hospital. I think that wins him that award, don't you?

Why are men so strange?

Me, I'm just Maddy.

Don't get me wrong, I love the Crusaders, too. Did even before I met Offie-Buns. Who couldn't love the lunky dolts who won the whole thing in 2024, and who couldn't be transsfixed by The Great Ricardo Diaz. But I guess I'm just a fan, and not a Fan. The guys are cute and they win a lot even if they don't win it all every time. Offie-Buns calls me pragmatic and pretends to hate me for it.

Still, this was an amazing season, and I'll admit to wearing my Crusaders gear as much as your average rabid fan, and I'll admit to being worried when the team crushed its opposition so hard so early. It was hard on poor Ofie, though. Oh, in public he was that same bubbly face he shows, but in private such early success had him wound tight as a drunk on Saturday. Let's just say November wasn't his first time in the hospital.

He was so worried because, well, you know why, right? California doesn't win in April. They just don't. And behind that jovial façade Offie's insides were dying. "What if it's all just a set-up?" he asked me on our first date at the super-doooper Vietnamese place. "What if the whole season goes backwards and we lose at the very end? Oh! I don't hink I can take that!" It got worse when Zeitler tore his UCL and was out for like forever.

Poor guy.

I'll be honest, I don't really remember much of that last month. I write to you from my hospital bed. My month also ended with an, um.. well.. not rally a bang. More of a series of splats ... and then a thud. Hmm ... Well, you see my neighbor called the police when he heard a loud crash from my apartment. I'm glad he did! Apparently I passed out. Ah .. it turns out that feeling in my stomach wasn't excitement after all. I spent most of the Yellow Springs series ... well... indisposed. I learned a fun word by the way. Hematochezia! I didn't think I could loose that much blood that quickly. Anyway, I'm out of the intensive care unit, and I feel much better. Having blood is good!

Crusaders News! 2035.25 - Crusaders Enter May in First

Well poop! I have to say, I'm really unhappy. I know this edition is a bit early, but SOMETHING happened. Something bad. Some really bad thing. It's just ... it's so disappointing. And worrisome. One of those BAD THINGS that makes you wonder if more BAD THINGS will happen later.

Crusaders News! 2035.28 -
Dooooooooooooooooom!

Offie, I mean, not Zeitler. We knew Zeitler would be back next year, but Offie-Buns might have been a different case all together. He tried so hard to keep his stiff upper lip, but you could see his utter disappointment in his writing.

That's how he says I know him so well, really. I can see through him even when it's just writing. I tell him he's being daft—and that he's such a good writer that *everyone* can see thourgh him to that big heart of Crusader Gold. But he just blushes and gets his toung tied.

So, naturally, the team just kept winning and it took a while and several nice neck rubs (if I do say so myself), but eventually he

came around to being realistic about the idea that this team was something special. That maybe the Crusaders had the momentum going, and that even if it didn't win it all...because, you know, it happens...that there was something going on here that was monumental in its depth. The pitching was working, the hitting was pretty good, and the team was winning in places where maybe last year it would have just kind of ... uh ... can I use the word "choked" here?

I guess I can. But there was no choking going on in Crusaderville, and Offie-Buns was off-the charts. He's so cute when he gets like that. Totally absorbed in his love for the team, which is really his love for the game, and for the place and for life itself. How can you not get interested in a man with that kind of joy?

That's why it was about this time that I told my mom that I was seeing someone special.

Of course, when he told his mama he was seeing someone special (and he even meant me, can you believe it!), his mama got the vapors so bad she got herself put into the hospital, requiring so much of my Offie-Buns' time that he stopped writing, and I thought he was breaking up with me. But he wasn't. All it took was a doctor saying there wasn't anything wrong with his mama, and a little playoff baseball to get him back into his right mind.

Okay! So I should strive to be less hyperbolic, because high school algebra was a waste of time! Well ... maybe not a waste ... I mean .. some people are going to have careers where it matters I guess? Maybe? I'll look into this ...

Umm. What were we talking about? Oh yeah. Our Crusaders are amazing! We're on pace for 100 wins. Do you know how many times that has happened in Crusaders history? None! None times! Not once in 60+ years! And this last week we just powered through some really good teams on our way there.

Crusaders News! 2035.29 - I'm Running Out of Superlatives!

(Author's note: Dear fans. Please excuse my long absence. Mother has been very ill and in the hospital again. She also had a prolonged recovery at home. She is doing better now, but there simply wasn't time for blogging until recently. Also, I have to tell you, I'm quite put out. GM Ted Schmidt ASSURED me someone would take over in my absence and keep you all informed. This seems to not have happened. I would never have abandoned my post of bringing you all things Crusaders newsy .. or .. at least I would have felt a lot worse about it. Worse than I already did anyway. Anyway, I may just be a lowly blogger in the PR department but there will be consequences for this! Repercussions! Ramifications! Blowback! Eh ... Ahem, anyway, I'm back.)

Crusaders News! 2035.33 - Playoff Baseball!!

And the playoffs! Oh my goodness mercy, the playoffs!

I was so excited. You could smell the victories in the air. When things started, we were both oddly really comfy. I remember Offie-Buns sitting in his seat with his notepads and recorders, and asking if my Cracker Jacks and Crusader Dogs were enough. He's wonderful that way. Always worried about other people. But there were games to win, and his attention turned to the field.

And Game one was everything it was made up to be. Gracia, Defazio, Garza...everything Crusader baseball is supposed to be. The team won 4-0, and Offie hummed along as he wrote those golden words "Things are LOOKING GOOD!"

To be honest, though, I thought those next three games with San Fernando were going to kill him. Those horrific Bears beat our Crusaders like we were guilty of crimes against humanity, and at the end of game four I thought I might be making another hospital trip. Poor Offie-Buns was despondent, sitting in his hotel room

staring at the blank wall and muttering the names of San Fernando ballplayers. He didn't even want a beer.

I was at a total loss.

But the team held onto its dignity to eek out a 3-2 win in San Fernando, then won 8-5 at home to force a Game 7. And what a Game 7. Two great teams going neck-and neck

When Defazio threw out Maldonado, Offie hugged me and kissed me and jumped up and down. The season was going forward! The team of Destiny was still alive!

Of course, there was Calagary to deal with, and a series that started off with a match-up that would leave tingles in the spines of any true Crusader fan—of which I’ve told you I am most definitely one. You know the deal, Ricardo Diaz, the aging old guy who’s going to go from a California jersey straight to the Hall of Fame (or both Offie-Buns and I are going to show up at voters’ houses and make their lives miserable), the guy who winds up 12-10 this year despite clearly being on the downside of the injury that put him out of commission a year back. On a night when the pitching staff is gassed and the club needed something special, he takes the ball in game one, and for that one glorious night rolls back time and gives the fans a gift.

It was a glorious moment, and one Offie-Buns wrote some of his greatest and purplest prose over. And when it was done, after the parties and the celebrations and then the obligatory comments from the players that there was more baseball to be played, I heard Offie-Buns in the quiet of the night whispering to himself. “Maybe this is real,” he said. “Maybe this is going to actually happen.”

The old man's final line? 9 innings, 127 pitches. 5 hits. 3 runs. 2 walks. 4 strikeouts. It wasn't vintage Ricardo Diaz, but it was on the of the most gritty, relentless playoff performances I've ever seen. With his Crusaders in desperate straits, Diaz turned in an effort that says everything anyone ever needed to know about why he was the most dominant pitcher of his generation.

Crusaders News! 2035.36 - Team of Destiny?

Because that’s what Ricardo Diaz did that night. The old man turned a dream into a reality. And that reality showed up on Offie-Buns’ cheek as a streaming tear that glistened in the moonlight and made him look as magical as a Diaz breaking pitch.

Of course, there was more to play, but the cards were cast.

Calgary’s was a good team, but they went down in six games. And Rockville might have been better, but they went down in five.

My Crusaders ... er ... our Crusaders ... were Landis

Champions for the second time.

Offie-Buns screamed and screamed, and I screamed and screamed with him.

The next day he wrote his final piece and we went out and celebrated in grand style, back to the Vietnamese place that we both loved so much. He was literally glowing. We joked and laughed and drank thai beer and even had seconds.

One out away from the Cartwright! Morales just had to get Luis Maldonado and the series was ours! Ball one. OH GOD! Don't get behind to Maldonado. Don't go 2-0! STRIKE! Okay! 1-1. Come on Cisco! The third pitch of the at bat! Cisco delivers, Maldonado swings ... and weakly grounds the ball to one Claudio Defazio, who guns it to first for the last out of the game! CRUSADERS WIN! GAME OVER! SERIES OVER! POSTSEASON .. NOT OVER!

Crusaders News! 2035.35 - Crusaders Beat The Defending Champs in Seven!

Then we took a walk past the ballpark where the sign already said “Defending Landis Champions!”

And in the cool air, my Offie-Buns took my hand and whistled.

It was a perfect moment, and so I took a chance and told him what I’d like to do next. I’m a discreet woman, so I’ll keep that part to myself, but Offie-Buns got this look on his face like he’d never had anyone say that to him before, and next thing you know he got into that same catatonic state he can get when he’s high on the Crusaders.

Someone nearby panicked and called 911, so, yeah, he’s off in the hospital now and can’t write this last piece. So I’m taking that up for him.

And don’t worry, the doctors all say he’s fine. They just can’t figure out why he’s not waking up yet. I could tell them that they just need to give my Offie-Buns his time and his space, and that’ he’ll come around. But I don’t need to tell them that. Just like I don’t need to tell them why he’s wearing that big smile even in his sleep.

Why are men so weird?

Crusaders fans! Can you believe it? We did it! Champs! Well I don't. I can't. I really don't know what to say. My mind is ... racing! It's been twelve hours since we won it all and I I've never been so happy!!! I'll not bore you with the details of a series you won't ever forget. Instead, let's focus on the incredible performances that got us here, and the players who made our dreams come true.

Crusaders News 2036.1 - TEAM OF DESTINY!



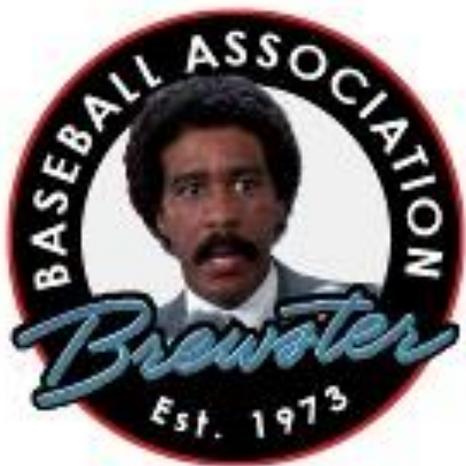
WELCOME TO THE

Projection Room



*By now, you know the score, right? California GM **Ted Schmidt** vs. Rockville GM **Aaron Weiner**. It's Alien vs. Predator rolled up with the Thunderdome and sprinkled with a touch of the Genius and the Brain. And we do mean a touch. You get the idea. Herein lies a forecasting match off to end all forecasting match-offs. I mean, it just doesn't get any better than this. So strap on the feed bag and settle in*

**"The media guide is fun to read when it comes out and even more fun to read after the season."
Brooklyn GM Alan Ehlers**



BBA 2036

The Big Picture

California, our new BBA Champs, have been a perennial contender since 2023, but last year felt, well, different. A few things happened on their way to a title that hadn't happened in recent memory. They tied a franchise record with 98 wins. They also tied for the league lead in wins, something they hadn't done in two decades. They hit home runs, which they had virtually NEVER done.

In other words, Cali's championship had all the markings of a different sort of team. The team played to their ballpark's strength, fielding an outstanding pitching staff in an outstanding pitching environment and loading up on lefty power hitters, who took advantage of the short porch in right field. They smashed a team record with 265 homers last year; the franchise hadn't hit 200 in over two decades. All the signs were there, and when they came up against the modestly favored Rockville Pikemen in the final, they were prepared to make good on those advantages. It's ironic that Matt Rectenwald, back in the day, started all of this with a little game called "Earl Weaver Baseball," because that's exactly what California plays: pitching, fundamentals, and three run homers.

Speaking of the Pikemen, they'll have to be first on anyone's contender list this year as the 103- win team didn't lose anything this offseason, but there's a deep group of contenders in the Johnson League. Mexico City looks like the real deal, and Jacksonville has set up shop in October lately. Teams like Montreal, New Orleans, Phoenix, Huntsville, Brooklyn, and Las Vegas are surely also contenders to the JL throne. That's over half the league with 86 wins or better last year, so it's a minefield in the JL.

The picture does seem a little clearer in the Frick, where Cali and Yellow Springs have been consistently above the pack. Twin Cities has performed solidly the last two years and has proven that being an expansion team isn't a permanent death sentence. San Fernando is one year removed from a Landis, and teams like Seattle and Calgary seem always in it. Watch out for Omaha, though, as they're definitely a team on the rise.

The Crusaders are a study in how playing to your strengths can be a path to success. You could make the argument that California's superb pitching staff would have been successful in any ballpark, yet California's park amplifies their success. You can make

the argument that lefty power hitters are in style everywhere, but in California they're the only exception to the pitching park. California didn't win the title only because they played directly to their home field advantage, but it surely didn't hurt.

There's a lesson in there for all of us: it's not an obvious path to success in this league. Other teams like Phoenix, Huntsville, and Rockville utilize their home park, but California has turned this up to an extreme and has the pitching to win on the road with no drama. Rockville sure looked like the better team; they're a phenomenal franchise and are going to have a lot of winning seasons with their formula. But Cali took care of them with no trouble because they had confidence in their system.

We can question whether their offense is going to repeat their success, but California doesn't have to hit a ton to outscore their arms, and one three-run homer might be enough to send the fans home happy. And isn't that why we all do this every day? So if you're building a team around offense, build a team around offense. If you're building it around pitching, do that. There's no one way to win a title in the BBA, and 40% of the league makes the playoffs every year. Go forth and contend.

**JOHNSON
LEAGUE**

Atlantic

2036 Projected Standings	W	L
Rockville Pikemen	96	66
Montreal Blazers	88	74
Brooklyn Robins	83	79
Atlantic City Gamblers	69	93
Charm City Jimmies	68	94

Welcome to the Johnson League Atlantic Division, which would be the home of the last three non-Jacksonville JL champions if Havana didn't move west. It's also the home of the potential best team in the BBA, my Rockville Pikemen, who are looking to build on their first JL pennant with another strong team this season. The intrigue is not whether or not any of these teams is likely to keep Rockville from the playoffs, though there's enough talent here that they could do a lot of damage to the Pikemen. It's how many teams are likely to go to the playoffs from this division. Last year, it was three, including Rockville's Cartwright victim, Brooklyn.

At this moment I'm projecting a maximum two playoff teams from the division at this point. Rockville should be a shoo-in, though stranger things have happened than the pre-season favorite watching from the sidelines in October. Still, they seem head and shoulders above the rest of the division. Montreal just missed the playoffs last year and are under new management, but they seem about as solid as ever; I'm predicting a tie with New Orleans for the last playoff spot. Charm City has unloaded a lot of their talent; they're probably over before it begins. Atlantic City has finally begun to loosen the ties a little bit that were binding them, but they're just not the sort of team that looks like it can reasonably post a winning record.

So that just leaves Brooklyn, who basically successfully told everyone to suck it last year, winning two playoff rounds before running into the Rockville buzzsaw. Brooklyn didn't lose anyone from last year and did gain a huge player in Francisco Cruz, but I'm not feeling the Robins this year much more than I did last season. It's just not clicking for me in my brain.

I'm not sold on most of these teams, but the ball bounces in funny ways when we have to actually play the games. Rockville could win this thing by double digits again.

JLA Spoonerisms

Ducky Bornster (ATC) – Ben Kates (BRK) – Lorberto Neon (CCJ)
Tubal Jroop (MON) – Pip Chuckett (RCK)

ROCKVILLE PIKEMEN

GENERAL MANAGER: Aaron Weiner



"We hope you realize now we're serious about taking home a Landis trophy,"

"It's been said that our franchise was blessed with two generational stars in Billy Chapel, Jr. and Frank Thomas III, and we agree,"

2036 Prediction: 96-66

Well, they didn't win a Landis Memorial Series, but Rockville, in their second year in contention, did take their first pennant in fifteen years, went to the Landis, and were promptly and severely discarded by the California Crusaders, who will also get to write their own preview in this Media Guide. Better still: Rockville will return basically the same team this year, really only subtracting two relievers. Can we expect another year of contention for the Pikemen?

Um, yeah. Let's start with the offense. Led by returning Joe Gillstrom Award winner and OBP champion Lorenzo Palacios and third place's Manuel Marino, Rockville has two total studs who can just newly drink and can both rake. An .818 OPS was a down year for catcher Francisco Flores, who also more than doubled his home run output and also just took his first legal American drink. Add those guys to perennial 30 homer man Mario Guerrer, a solid pair of outfielders in Gabriel Delgado and Yi-ke Zang, more young stars like Larry Blake and Chip Puckett, and an aging but still effective Valeri Kharlamov, and the Pikemen might have the best offense in the BBA. They finished just 16 runs off the JL lead despite having 100 less homers than the teams in front of them, and handily led the league in batting average and OBP again despite losing batting champion Dusty Rhodes before the season.

The pitching staff is still led by the current top starter in the BBA, Arthur Dempster. Dempster won his second consecutive JL Steve Nebraska last year, finishing 16-6 with a stellar 2.99 ERA, and 250 strikeouts, both career bests. The Pikemen still have superstar Enrique Gomez, and spent some of their chips to acquire lefty Dan Cannon. Cannon was solid in the playoffs and advanced stats show he was better than his 8-6, 4.67 during the regular season. That's a rockstar top three, and the Pikemen have solid starters behind them like Andre Georges (an unlikely to repeat 16-9, 3.60 season last year), Bob Coleman, and Robbie Van Mierlo. The Rockville pen is also solid, with top closer Fernando Marquez coming off another solid season, and a good lefty-righty balance. Minor league closer Nick Snyder is waiting in the wings if there are any injuries.

The Pikemen even have a bit of an underrated farm, as top international signee Pedro Mendez leads a group that includes Francisco Rocel (blocked at the major league level), Pedro Ruela, Manuel Rivera, and Sam Bertrand. They're a bit messy on the major league level right now, pressed against the cap, but they'll have cap space next year even with some absurdly high arbitration projections (Zang and Xuan come to mind) and some luxury players like Georges and backup infielder Santiago Morales possibly on the chopping block. The only concern is that this team was so good, so fast, that we might have found their cap. I think that's probably true. Their expected record last year based on run differential was more like 96 wins. Of course, that'll get you into the playoffs without much drama, and they're title contenders again. They might even be able to make a move if they can move Kharlamov or Georges' contracts.

MONTREAL BLAZERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Gary Bartle



Alan Ehlers: We need a new Montreal GM ASAP. Every since Recte took control of the wheel, the Blazers have been on fire..

Recte: And at my own expense, I might add. :) We both missed by ONE GAME!

2036 Prediction: 88-74

One of the losers in a crazy six-way wild card race, Montreal might have been better than the teams that beat them out last season but had to stay home in October for the first time since 2026, breaking a streak of almost a decade of playoff appearances. In fact, last season was just the third year in the nine-year stretch that the Blazers won less than 90 games, but the second in a row. Are the Blazers suddenly in decline at all or is this just a blip in the data for this extremely successful franchise?

The pitching staff is one of the more interesting in the BBA. Jubal Troop, the 2033 Steve Nebraska, bounced back in a big way last year, though maybe not enough to totally dispel concerns about his makeup. Aki Kondo shrugged off 42! homers allowed in 203 innings to post his first winning season at age 21. Jesus Ramos has been fantastic for the Blazers. Along with the underrated Manuel Pena and multiple fifth starter options, Montreal's rotation can go any which way in 2036. I wouldn't be surprised if by June Jacob Pillbeam takes the fifth starter spot; he could be the best starter on the staff potentially. The Blazer pen is fairly solid though somewhat unspectacular; closer Chris Adkins might be starting to fade a little at age 33, though he was okay last year; the middle relief is fairly solid most of the way through, also.

The Blazers' offense was the surprise last year, finishing with 5.2 runs per game and leading the JL in hits. Remember, of course, that hits are a notably fickle stat. They also got some good luck last year, as notoriously injury-prone third baseman Mark Dempsey stayed healthy all year and played 144 games. The offense is led by Ettienne Lafitte, but they also got a lot of help from rising young star Juan Santana and another amazing season from catcher Joaquin Camacho; the latter looks like he lost a little bat speed this offseason, though. The team hit 200 homers last year and should be productive again this year, possibly hitting even more homers. One guy who might be an interesting sleeper is Pedro Navarro, who had a fantastic 2033 season and could bounce back big at any time.

The Montreal farm is a little bit underrated at #28, as they actually have quite a few prospects in the top 200 and they have quite a bit of talent down there, some of which might help fairly soon. The Blazers have some legitimate salary issues this season. They have one of the of the highest payrolls in the league, have a lot of salary already on the books for 2037 and have 2B Charles Martin and Robert Gowron in a contract year. However, the Blazers usually figure out these problems and get it right. The Blazers have a solid team, enough chips to deal, and a few salaries they could move. Expect them right back in the mix again.

BROOKLYN ROBINS

GENERAL MANAGER: Alan Ehlers



*I told my boys to groove Ol Big Head nothing
but BP fastballs so he'd get to 3,000 in
Brooklyn. We need all the ticket sales we can
get.*

*So as the t-shirt says.. you can all suck
it! The 2035 Brooklyn Robins have made
the playoffs*

2036 Prediction: 83-79

Brooklyn was a huge surprise success last year, taking the dual offseason signings of Cisco Guerrero and Mario Balderas and parlaying it into 90 wins, a playoff spot, and a Cartwright loss to the Rockville Pikemen in an all-Atlantic final. An August trade for superstar Fernando Cruz also helped quite a bit, but the big surprise was the pitching staff, which has benefited from the meteoric rise of Francisco Ruiz. Brooklyn won't be sneaking up on anyone this year; can they repeat as wild card contenders or even take down the Pikemen for the division title?

Some things about last year just aren't going to happen again. For example: Juan Hernandez finding the Fountain of Youth with an absurd 14-6, 3.69 ERA season didn't seem possible the first time and hardly seems rational a second time. However, Francisco Ruiz could take another step toward superstardom this season and even maybe make huge waves in the JL Steve Nebraska race. We could see improvement from Manuel Romano this year too, though Ken Bates and Juan Jose Fuentes were probably right about where they should have been last year. Nobody does more strange things than Brooklyn with their pitching staff, so it's worth being on your toes with them, especially late in the season; predicting any kind of pen is folly. One guy who's likely to be in there all the time is Ryosei Akayama, who has prime stuff, but, as a whole, their predicted bullpen isn't much to write home about.

The Brooklyn offense will benefit hugely from the addition of Cruz, who really provides a stable force in the middle of the lineup to go along with Guerrero. Balderas also dispelled any notion that he's simply a Calgary hitter, knocking 33 homers with 111 RBI and 23 steals last year. There are some concerns about the rest of the lineup, however. Infielder Chris Workman should still be solid, but catcher Sean Smith might be losing some bat speed at 29 and outfielder Harold Smith is just fine, not great. Even Guerrero, as great as he is, should fall back somewhat this year, and it's also worth noting that Cruz was absurd after coming over from Louisville in a pace that's almost not sustainable.

This is sort of the same team we saw last year, though Ruiz's impressive leap forward skewed our projection somewhat. I'm not buying Cruz as an offensive savior; Brooklyn's park is one of the hardest to hit a home run and Cruz hit 15 in 51 games. The right-handed hitting focus plays to their ballpark, but could give them problems on the road. Brooklyn isn't deep on the farm and doesn't have a ton of help coming, so they're going to have to do it on the field. They look like a winning team to me, but just barely. I'm not buying what they're selling despite their team success last season, and I'm seeing a potential fall back for the Robins.

ATLANTIC CITY GAMBLERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Joshua Biddle



In what should not be a surprise to the Atlantic City faithful, there are expected to be sweeping personnel changes in the Gamblers' dugout following a disappointing 2035 season.

Q: "Any splurges you'll be making with the money?"

A: "Let's just say that a significant portion of my home is about to look like a public library".

2036 Prediction: 68-93

No team was as fortunate this offseason as the Atlantic City Gamblers, who watched fading relief pitcher Eduardo Lopez sail off into the sunset. Lopez left an absurdly large amount of money on the table, which would have surely capped out Atlantic City; while the team is still stuck with the high-priced deals of Antonio Correa, Alfredo Salazar, and Bucky Dornster, for the first time in a few years Atlantic City's cap situation has a light at the end of the tunnel. Is it wise to bet on Atlantic City this season, or are they holding another 7-2 offsuit?

The Gamblers' offense wasn't strictly bad last year. Atlantic City hit a whopping 266 homers, spurring most of their offensive production, and drew 574 walks last year, leading to a middle of the pack finish despite a team batting average of .244 last season. The batting average isn't a mirage; the Gamblers run some serious Moneyball players out there like Glenn Gorman (.212/30 HR/91 walks) and Ricardo Hernandez (.214/29 HR/89 walks). A few more balls falling in for those types of guys would go a long way towards helping this offense step forward. We're not expecting 44 homers again from Stanley Perimutter or Adrian Salazar, though 30 each would be reasonable. The aforementioned Dornster is the star here, and he's one of the most consistent players at third base in the game.

Alas, the Atlantic City pitching staff is a mess. Starter Luis Soto is an interesting roll of the dice for the Gamblers, though for my money he gives up too many homers to pitch in ATC. Francisco Barrero should be serviceable, Carlos Rodriguez and Rogerio Vazquez look fine, and Javier Venegas isn't strictly bad. There's not a lot to crow about on Atlantic City's pitching staff, and their bullpen is mostly brutal, with nothing much really to talk about.

The Gamblers don't have much of a farm or any serious chance to rise to a playoff position with too many 90-win teams to jump over. Their cap situation doesn't get normal until maybe 2038, though in 2039 they should have some legitimate cap space if they don't eat it up. You gotta know when to hold 'em and know when to fold 'em, and the Gamblers should definitely lay down their cards in 2036 and wait for a better deal.

CHARM CITY JIMMIES

GENERAL MANAGER: Branden Slouck



"We are ecstatic to announce the Carlton will be here for at least another half decade," said a beaming Brandon Slouck, General Manager of the Jimmies.

No Man's Land is the worst. If I'm not going to be competitive, I'd rather be bad.

2036 Prediction: 68-94

Charm City has shown us what an expansion team can do. In 2034, the Jimmies garnered their fourth playoff appearance in six years of existence with a stellar 106-win season; with a reseed they wouldn't have gotten knocked out in the first round by Montreal but would have instead had a first round bye. But Charm City crashed and burned last season with 98 losses, and barely showed a resemblance to the team with an average of 97 wins over their last three seasons. With Egbert Behner in Jacksonville, Alfredo Salazar in Brooklyn, Aubrey Anderson in Omaha, and Carlton Winson looking mortal last year, do the Jimmies have it in them for another playoff run?

Charm City's offense is still mostly Winson, but it's even more blatant now. The superstar third baseman hit 49 homers last year but managed just a .224 batting average to drag his numbers down from amazing to, well, still very good. The man is making a fortune, though, and at \$31 million for the next two seasons they'd better hope he ages well. Past Winson, the lineup is sparse and inconsistent but plays good defense: Paul Backstrom, Jay-hoon Choe, Luis Claudio, and Earl Jackson are all good defenders with marginal bats. (Every so often Backstrom is pretty good.) Sergio Maldonado doesn't hit enough to play first base, though he's a major leaguer. The team finished 13th in offense last year and barring another Winson explosion will probably finish no better than the bottom third this year.

The pitching staff does have one big star on it: Felipe Murillo, cast as a reliever for a decade in Louisville, was signed to a make-good deal on the back of his excellent stint with Boise. He's #1 starter material if he can stay on the field. Arturo Reyes is looking to capture the magic of 2033-2034, when he went 33-14 with an ERA in the 3s; he was below replacement last year. Past those two, there isn't a thing, and one has to expect that Murillo might have been signed for his trade value. Charm City might also unload relievers like Orlando Rivera and maybe even Noberto Leon this year, as their staff is unlikely to better the 11th place finish of last season.

Charm City didn't have much of a farm before this season, but they're slowly building up. They got Jorge Nevarez in the Aubrey Anderson deal and Thiongo Muiru looks good, too. It's a start. Before their 2034 surprise season – nobody expected them anywhere near to 106 games – I used this space to recommend that the Jimmies begin rebuilding a year early rather than a year late, and I recommended dealing Winson. That's not going to happen that way, obviously, but other than Winson the team has virtually no payroll committed past this year (they can get to \$50 million in payroll next year WITH Winson making \$31 million) and are beginning to get some players. Let's see if they can build this back up. For now, they'll have to be satisfied with whatever they get.

**JOHNSON
LEAGUE**

Southeastern

2036 Projected Standings	W	L
Jacksonville Hurricanes	92	70
Huntsville Phantoms	90	72
New Orleans Crawdads	88	74
Louisville Sluggers	73	89
Nashville Goats	58	104

We have ourselves a serious dogfight here. Well, really it's between a rainstorm, a ghost, and a crustacean, but for the purposes of this division, they're all dogs, goddamn it. I'm predicting Jacksonville, Huntsville, and New Orleans within four games of each other, and I'm going to come right out and say it: I don't see an actual clear favorite among the three. As always, those are median projections, and there's no reason why Huntsville or New Orleans can't blow by these projections and win 100 games. I have my doubts, and for good reason, but they're not massive doubts that this is a legitimate three-way race.

I felt like Jacksonville's lineup last year, for example, could have been a lot better than last season. I might even be underestimating their division chances, but I'm struck by the talent level here and I think we've got a good race. Huntsville was one of the most breathtaking teams last year, racing out to an excellent start and then fading late before making a hapless charge at the end, but they play to their strengths. New Orleans is a complete team, but it's questionable whether they have the star power to be a real contender. All three of these teams have flaws, but they're all quality ballclubs.

Not so much Louisville, whose run of consecutive 90-win seasons ended at six last year and is unlikely to resume any time soon. Surely not Nashville, whose players, as the old saying goes, have a chance at the end of this season to be one year older. But the other three teams? Yeah, we've got some rainy ghostly claws in this division.

JLSE Spoonerisms

Seon Landcastle (HNT) – Rorris Nutledge (JAX) – Hag Shopkins (LOU)
Dreddy Felgado (NO) – Stoitto Vromberg (NSH)

JACKSONVILLE HURRICANES

GENERAL MANAGER: Tyler Simmons



*...saying his best position is bench doesn't mean
I don't think he has value...*

*Lots of 1st/2nd round picks not signing.
Was this a strategy, or just picks playing
hardball?*

2036 Prediction: 92-70

With an offense that's finished in the top three in each of the past five years and a solid pitching staff that upgraded with Egbert Behner last season, Jacksonville is continuing their path along the perennial contender lane. However, the Hurricanes are facing some headwinds with the revival of the New Orleans Crawdads and Huntsville Phantoms, both of whom pressed Jacksonville very hard last season despite their 94-win finish. It's possible to make the case that Huntsville, who had a serious funk late in the season, might have been the better team last year. With so many teams finishing within five games of the Hurricanes last year (and one of them not even Huntsville), are the Hurricanes, who lost more this offseason than any team but San Fernando, in trouble this season?

There was a lot that went right for Jacksonville offensively last year, but there's still room for improvement. Forget for a second about David Noboru and Reese Wareham, the best left side of the infield in the BBA; those guys are superstars. Even Norris Rutledge's down season was an .870 OPS, though he's starting to show some holes against lefties and his steals were down last season. It's not as if the team doesn't have any room for improvement, though, as outfielder Aloysius Gonzaga, Rutledge, and even Alfredo Martinez could be better this season once he's off the DL. (Martinez has, notably, been so good for so long that we forget he's just THIRTY and has 386 homers.) Even 19-year old outfielders Juan Ramirez and Brett White might get in on the act. Players like Luzmino Arbizo, who was legitimately a star last year, and role players like Brandon Bailey (20 homers in 95 games) and Ivan Castillo (.400 OPS) might fall back, but Jacksonville could be even better offensively this year.

Jacksonville's pitching isn't quite as astonishing as their amazing bats, but it's still a good group. Behner has been one of the league's better starters for a while, but he also led the league in homers allowed last year. He ought to be fine, though. Raul Gerela had a good debut last year and could make a huge impact this season. Jose Carlos Soliz and Ruben Nunez have been solid performers, and while the team isn't rolling in fifth starter candidates we feel they'll find a way to get by. The Jacksonville bullpen has a lot of inconsistency to it, but they have maybe the best closer in the game in Peter Grady and could get a lot more out of some of their players there like Lorenzo Montalvo this year.

The Hurricanes have some HUGE salary issues this year, as Noboru and Gonzaga are both in contract years and it's very difficult to see a path to re-signing both of them, or maybe even just Noboru, without some very, very creative cap maneuvering, especially since they project as capped out in 2038 without any Noboru or Gonzaga money on the books. They have two of the worst contracts in the league in \$4.3 million in annual dead Bertram Hahn money and \$40 million worth of Vicente Chavez. With all that we could probably see Alfredo Martinez move, and that would make for interesting times in Jacksonville. This year? Put them in the playoffs.

HUNTSVILLE PHANTOMS

GENERAL MANAGER: Kyle Stever



While we are certainly pleased with our 20-16 PYTH record at the quarter pole of the season, we are even more so with having the Huntsville "identity" back.

Ah, Crap, I'm Abusing My Pitchers

2036 Prediction: 90-72

Huntsville is everyone's dark horse this year, and for good reason. The Phantoms led the league in scoring last year by tailoring their ballpark to their current talent while still somehow finishing third in runs allowed. That is very, very good. Very few teams had as much go right as the Phantoms did last year, right up until they didn't: a 15-game losing streak near the end of the season put the kibosh on what looked like a surefire wild card team. With the disappointment of last year's collapse behind them and much the same group that was second in the JL in run differential last year, Huntsville could be primed to make noise again in 2036.

Characteristic of a Kyle Stever team, nearly the entire major league team for Huntsville is left handed, and barely anyone else plays; the ballpark is tailored to this kind of lineup as lefty powerhitters get a huge boost in the Opera House. This in part led to a player like David Hall hitting 46 homers last year and the Phantoms hitting 276 homers as a team, tops in the BBA. It's worth noting, however, that the Phantoms hit just .258 as a team last year (12th in the JL), meaning they might have some room for improvement on that front. This would help tremendously as they led the league in walks last year, yet tied for just seventh in OBP, but they could easily fall back between 30-50 homers this season. They got a shocking complete season from Leon Sandcastle, who played the most games he has played since 2027; the 151 games marked just the seventh time in his 19-year career he has played at least 135 games, and we're unlikely to see the future Hall of Famer do it again at age 40. Of course, 21 year old Tim Torres (3.1 WAR in 104 games last year) should do a pretty good job of filling in for Sandcastle. Gerardo Guzman can play better, too, and they could get more games from Luis Berrera.

The pitching staff is where I find myself doubting the Phantoms, but even that has a lot of talent. I mean, asking Ludwig Charles to do anything like last year again is silly, as the marginal lefty posted a 3.4 WAR last season (tied for 50th in the BBA), and asking Yu-bao Tong to lead the league in ERA is equally silly. Before you point out both guys are lefties in the lefty homer park, let me shoot back that Huntsville's park is neutral for everything except the lefty homers, so they're not getting a huge home field advantage. This isn't California. Juan Nicto has a long-term proven track record of wildness, so I wouldn't expect him to become a control pitcher this year. Heinrich Peithner (and for that matter Nicto, and Tong) are good pitchers, but I have a problem expecting them to do anywhere near as much this season. Their bullpen is one of the more complete units in the game though, and so I'd expect them to pitch well enough.

It's going to be hard for Huntsville to improve, but they don't really HAVE to improve – they just have to repeat. The Phantoms don't seem likely to lead the league in homers again, but they could. They surely don't look like a team that's going to be third in the league in runs allowed, not in that ballpark. The team has a few prospects and no salary issues. So let's see what they got.

NEW ORLEANS CRAWDADS

GENERAL MANAGER: Jim Roberts



The first week is in the books. New Orleans went 4-1 against Mexico City and Rockville, and although the bats got off to a sleepy start, the pitching staff sure didn't.

In 10 games, he had a 1.89 ERA. But then...as the tragic story goes...he tore his rotator cuff and was out for another 28 months.

2036 Prediction: 88-74

New Orleans has to be on everyone's short list of stealth contenders in 2036, along with division rival Huntsville. Few teams have as complete a team as the Crawdads, who made the playoffs for the second time in three seasons but surprisingly also just the second time in the last FIVE years, an unusually unimpressive finish for one of the league's storied franchises. Can New Orleans, who finished just three games back of the Hurricanes last year, overtake them and win the division?

Few teams have as much power hitting as New Orleans with less results than the team got last year. In a league where Stanley Perimutter hit 44 homers, just one Crawdads player hit more than 40 last year in a good homer park. New Orleans has room for improvement here, as few teams have more pure power than they do. Yancy Cravat was their sole 40 homer man, knocking 47 into the stands and playing superb first base defense. Hsin Mei has yet to take the next step, but the step he's taken is to rank somewhere amongst the top catchers in the league. Players like Dean Ludlam and Ricardo Vargo are good bets for 30 again at least, and 21 year old center fielder Virgil Shafer should make a huge impact in his rookie season. Arthur Norris is perennially rock-solid. The Crawdads might also play better on defense this year; they could hardly be worse. While only Mei and maybe Cravat could properly be called stars, their lineup depth is excellent.

The pitching staff has a similar makeup. Starters Freddy Delgado, Hector Amaral, and Dave Martin were all strong last year, and there's no reason why Delgado and Martin can't be even better than that. Yoshimatsu Yamaguchi could also be better this year. New Orleans pairs that solid foursome with maybe the best bullpen in the BBA. Luis Ortega was liquid awesome last year, posting an absurd 3.2 WAR in relief, and the team has a number of outstanding bullpen arms, complementing their reputation as a complete team.

While the Crawdads don't have Jacksonville's superstar power, they have so few holes that you can pen them in for a winning season. The question is whether or not they have room to improve. The Crawdads could hit more homers this season and could get better years from their top starters. Shafer looks like an immediate upgrade. The team has a number of prospects to trade (nine in the top 200) and some salaries they could use for matching, so there's a possibility they could make a deal or two this year. I'm not sure they can overtake the Hurricanes, but there's really no reason they can't with some good breaks going their way.

LOUISVILLE SLUGGERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Nigel Laverick



This week was a perfect illustration of the inconsistencies that Sluggers have been producing this season so far

Always the showman Clough had reached 3,000 with a two-run homer. Three days afterwards, he started on the next 1,000 as he went 4 for 4.

2036 Prediction: 73-89

Few teams have gotten worse faster than the Louisville Sluggers, and dumping this team on Nigel Laverick might have been the last laugh of the Genius. That said, Louisville had a positive run differential last year and finished at .500, both solid positions, even despite dealing away Francisco Cruz late in the season. Do they have enough star power left to do threaten the deep pool of JL contenders, or did their star power leave with their Tzar power?

One quick look at the offense confirms Louisville fans' deepest fears: this team might not be very good this year. Sure, Sean Maguire is still there and doing fantastic work, and Shag Hopkins has been a rock-solid catcher for years. But, the loss of Cruz leaves no leader to this offense, no one to consistently drive in runs. There's a chance Louisville, who is in perhaps the best home run ballpark in the league, doesn't make it to a homer a game this year: last year WITH Cruz they hit just 164 and few players on this team profile as powerhitters. There are some plusses. Pedro Saldana should be good for them as a rookie, and it appears that nobody is more highly regarded defensively than the Sluggers as a whole. Still, it could be some rough sledding offensively.

The offensive issues will probably affect the numbers of top starters Kevin Morales and Pepe Jaramillo somewhat. Both players are outstanding young arms worth building around, and build around them they will, because the rest of the rotation is trashed. Julio Barajas has plenty of promise, but he needs to show he can do it for a whole season. And, well, that's it. Douglas Wils is at least a year away, Douglas Clement can hardly be trusted, and everyone else on this staff appears to never have been there at all. We like the bullpen trio of Carlos Rosa, Ramon Garza, and Lando Klomp, but if you're brightening at relievers, maybe you should be concerned with the rest of the team.

The team has some legitimately unmovable contracts, the worst of them Desiderius Kirshbaum who will haunt this team until 2038, though Shag Hopkins is absurdly overpaid at \$17 million per. Maguire could look bad by the end of it in 2039 or 2040. Gabriel Talamante might be movable and they could start moving some of their top relievers for prospects. They're not capped out, but they're going to have to take a little time and figure out what to do about the huge deals. They're going to need to work on the farm, and I'm not bullish on their chances this year, either, even while at this point they're probably too talented to bottom out completely.

NASHVILLE GOATS

GENERAL MANAGER: Brett Golden



The Nashville Goats finished the month of May with a record of 7-19, on pace for a win total slightly lower than last season's 56 wins. That doesn't mean there can't be a few bright spots however.

The Nashville Goats finished the month of June with a record of 9-20, slightly better than May's .269 winning percentage. That doesn't mean we can't try and shine the turd though.

2036 Prediction: 58-104

Welcome to Trashville. The Nashville Goats have been bad and worse over the past five years, finishing with a minimum of 96 losses each season. However, they found a new low last year, going 45-117 in what can only be considered a complete team collapse. The Goats finished last in offense and last in runs allowed, and while their 117 loss season was a little unlucky (the team run differential was actually a ghastly 111 losses), the Goats were just awful. Is there any hope for this team at all or are we looking at another #1 overall pick next year?

You can't say they've stopped trying. The Goats upgraded their outfield by dealing for Abdedwahad Kamade, giving up nothing they couldn't live without. Kamade was signed to an expensive five-year extension this offseason considering his production, but he's rock solid. Kamade will join potential young star Justin Jackson in the outfield; Jackson projects as a good if inconsistent two-way outfielder. The Goats also acquired multiple players for a huge pitching prospect (Jefferson Pierce) last year, adding young first baseman Miguel Suarez and multiple pitching prospects. Suarez projects to be very good over time. Unfortunately, those are the biggest highlights on offense for the Goats, who are hoping to get something out of players like Jack Bullock, Elijah Curry, Jesus Mojica, and Xie-li Luo. Voitto Stromberg will probably be a pretty good hitter for a shortstop eventually, and the Goats are solid up the middle defensively.

Unfortunately, any progression that might have happened on offense is cancelled out by the woeful pitching staff. If the pitching wasn't bad enough already, several of the players that Nashville acquired in trade are currently on the DL. Atsumori Maeda continued his solid career last year but he stopped striking guys out last year and looks to be fading. Alfredo Peralas will try to make an impact, but he's probably a year away. Kidanu Cherono is probably better than his woeful numbers last year, but he's not a LOT better. Most of the other rotation members are injured or worse than these guys, and they can probably start giving up on Jonathan Frank and Miroslav Tomanek as potential starters. Their pen is also fairly bad.

You might wonder if Nashville has a farm, and they do: currently ranked #15 in the league, it's not underrated despite some depth. Other than Stromberg, they have nearly zero impact players on the farm. They'll be hoping for continued development from OF Jackson and for some of the multiple players they acquired for Pierce to work out. For now, this is a rebuilding team that still has a long way to go.

Sun Belt

2036 Projected Standings	W	L
Mexico City Aztecs	93	69
Phoenix Talons	89	73
Las Vegas Hustlers	85	77
Wichita Aviators	69	93
San Antonio Outlaws	62	100

So, having peeled the egg off my face from last year, it appears I'm going with recency bias for my predictions. Not so. It's obvious that Las Vegas might have overreacted last year to some weakness in their record, but to say that's the only reason why they lost the division last year is to belie the rising powerhouses here: Mexico City and Phoenix.

I go so far in Mexico City's preview to call them possibly the best team in the BBA, and I think that could be truth. They profile very similarly to reigning champion California and could be a real live contender this year after flaming out against Brooklyn last year in the Doubleday, especially if they add a bat. Phoenix needs to add to their pitching staff, but they might be in a solid holding pattern where they win a couple wild cards and accumulate in free agency. I love the Talons' hitting and have said so for several years now.

The intrigue comes in with Vegas, who just barely missed the playoffs for the first time in – gasp – fifteen years. I'm saying they miss it again, albeit just barely; they're surely in range. Vegas has a very good ballclub; I just don't see them quite as good as Montreal or Phoenix or Huntsville or New Orleans, but I could be wrong.

I'm not wrong about the other two. Wichita should have an amusing offense but virtually no pitching, and San Antonio should have a high draft pick again this season, even if their pitching staff hadn't been cracked in half preseason. So we'll watch to see if Vegas can jump back up. It's important to remember, of course, that Vegas being better doesn't necessarily mean the other two miss the playoffs. I think they could all go.

JLSB Spoonerisms

Swan Jeetworld (LV) – Potty Scendleton (MEX) – Bamofei Tikitski (PHX)
Nan Dorman (SA) – Get Chabriel (WIC)

MEXICO CITY AZTECS

GENERAL MANAGER: Fred Holmes



Aztec GM Fred Holmes dismissed the notion that the team would look to put a roof on the currently open air Ullamalitzli Field.

"I just hope we have enough pitchers..." mumbled Bruner shuffling through lineup cards, "this is madness."

2036 Prediction: 93-69

It is not out of the question that the Mexico City Aztecs are the best team in the BBA. There, I said it. Let the flame wars begin. Mexico City's pitching started out white-hot last year and then cooled off as the year went on, but the Aztecs' bats heated up as the year went on too. Beyond that, the Aztecs have managed the cap better than anyone, have a solid farm, and are in prime shape to return to the playoffs in 2036.

Mexico City's pitching staff could be the best such group in the BBA, which might be how they ranked if not for California's home field advantage. While advanced stats don't like the Aztec starters, they pass the sight test. It's a strong staff all the way through, and some of the statistical noise is because the Aztec starters were on very strict pitch counts. No Aztec starter threw more than Scotty Pendleton (15-3, 3.48) who only tossed 178.1 innings in 2035. This sort of thing demonstrates just how good the whole Aztec staff is, because there isn't a noticeable hole on the entire pitching staff; good, better, best. Newcomer Dennis Pham could be the best of all of them; he could be even better than the 11-6, 3.57 he had last year. The team lacks a classical "ace," but everyone's good.

The lineup for the Aztecs is not quite as imposing as the pitching staff, which isn't actually saying much since their pitching staff is so powerful. There's plenty of talent here, too. Potential future Hall of Famer Elroy Hinson was a very solid addition for Mexico City last season. Jose Estrada hit 40 homers and could easily do that again. Augie Plascencia lived up to every expectation last year, and in some years would have won the Joe Gillstrom by leading the JL in hits. Players like Gipper Kengos, Brett Compton, and Willard Gagne give this team the same sort of feel as Fred Holmes' Omaha contenders earlier in the decade. Plascencia is maybe the star, but it's sort of starless productive; everyone plays well, everyone hits, everyone has a role. There's enough power to keep opposing pitchers honest but not a ton; they could use maybe one more RBI bat, though if Mike Ellis keeps hitting .356 (he shouldn't) they won't (they do.)

Could Mexico City upgrade this year? A resounding yes. Mexico City has \$40 million in cap space and plenty of prospects to trade. They're profitable with plenty of extra cash. And they could use the boost; they have only a medium fan interest despite all their impressive winning. So yeah, they should damn well upgrade this year unless they're not serious about contending, and they should be serious, because this is a damn good team.

PHOENIX TALONS

GENERAL MANAGER: Sean Marko



*That's not to say there's no chance;
after all 20% is still 20%.*

*The Talons would have to wait until the final day
of the regular season to see if they would be
playing October baseball.*

Go Talons!

2036 Prediction: 89-73

I have been talking up this organization for at least two seasons now, and it's good to see the Phoenix Talons finally take the next step, into the playoffs. There really is no toughest division in the Johnson League, as all three divisions have three contenders and two also-rans, but Phoenix makes the JL Sun Belt as competitive as any of them. The Talons are young, and hungry, and talented. Can they build on last year's success and take the next step forward to a division title?

Phoenix's 844 run output last year has to be considered a little bit of a disappointment considering the amount of talent that this team has. In my head they, along with Jacksonville, are the clear favorites to lead the JL in runs this year. I mean, how can we justify Bartolo Ortiz putting up a .271/.341/.485 slashline in a hitter's park? We can't. He should surge this year. Much of the Phoenix lineup is very right-handed, but they're so talented they should probably overcome it: players like Mario Deortez, Martin Marin, Thad Meyer, and Tu-fu Yong are good enough that it might not matter if they batted with their feet. Al Gordon had a nice year last year, and he's a nice player against righties, but he could fall off a little bit. Assuming Ortiz takes a quantum leap forward this could easily be the #1 offense in the JL.

Now, the pitching staff is another story. Phoenix actually finished a remarkable 5th last year in runs allowed, made even more impressive by the fact that the team is just fair defensively. Some of that is flukish: George House shouldn't be counted on for a 10-7, 4.39 line every year. Some of it is not: Jose Trujillo (19-7, 4.01) has a ton of talent, and Bob Corrigan is one of the more talented young pitchers in the JL. Either one could be even better this year. Cesar Aguilar and Juan Martinez seem like lunchpail rotation guys. The Talons didn't even get a good season from top closer Tim Bakitski or talented young arm Alexandre Renard, who could find his way into the rotation this year. The Talons middle relief is just fine, but they pitched very well last year, contributing to the 5th place finish. Phoenix isn't likely to finish 5th in pitching again, which seems about their cap, but they could do it, and that's a testament to their talent.

The Talons even have a pretty good farm. Top prospects Weaver Ripley and Arturo Barron could be up this year with some rapid development, and they're going to be contributors when they get there. The Talons have no current nor any apparent future salary issues, as, like Mexico City, they're way under the cap this season, and they have one of the absolute best contracts in the game in Corrigan, who somehow will earn just \$3.3 million over the next two seasons. We'd like to see them take a step forward this year on the pitching staff and improve their rotation, but if they don't do it this team still has an awfully bright future and a very nice present, too. They might give their owner the present of back-to-back playoff appearances.

LAS VEGAS HUSTLERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Matt Rectenwald



This year for the first time in forever, the Hustlers were sellers as they look to reinvent themselves in the coming seasons.

Let's All Take a Collective Breath Here....

2036 Prediction: 85-77

Las Vegas had one of the strangest seasons I've seen in a while last year. The next team I'll preview, Phoenix, kind of followed the path we all thought Vegas WOULD take. The Hustlers looked like obvious contenders, overloaded in the rotation, strong in the lineup, and seeming locks for a playoff spot. All of a sudden, midseason, they're considerably behind other teams for a wild card and they start dealing away players like Jimmy Greenwood, Elroy Hinson, and Sam Romero – and then they began to surge and finished one game back of playoff teams Phoenix and Brooklyn with 89 wins. The Hustlers sure seem good enough to make the playoffs again for the sixteenth time in seventeen years, but have all the moves softened this team?

Offensively, they're down Elroy Hinson and up the free agent addition of Jayden Harsnett. Harsnett had a phenomenal 2035 season to follow up three straight years of mediocrity, so this has to be considered a very expensive gamble. Geravasio Ridder is still very dangerous and had one of his best statistical seasons last year, leading the JL in OPS with a .980 mark. Juan Sweetworld has been one of the better outfielders in the league for several years now, and Hank Brewer still might be the league's very best two-way catcher. Henry Rectenberg is a solid two-way outfielder. We'll probably see Quant Kouros this year, whose budding contact bat should overcome his below-average defensive skill at second base. Albie Racist could also be productive, though it hasn't happened yet. Vegas finished middle of the pack last year offensively, and it's difficult to see how they've improved.

The pitching staff is worse, too. While every team in the league would still gladly take players like Hyun-sik Chang and Gerardo Fajardo, there are plenty of players on this team that will have to prove themselves. Hao Kun had a strong debut last year, and he looks good. Jesus Lopez has been ineffective so far at the major league level, but if he can keep the ball in the ballpark at all he looks like a really good one. Even Fajardo and Chang have their warts, and neither is precisely a #1 starter. The Hustlers do have one of the better bullpens in the league, deep and talented and superb in the late innings with Shawn Huber and August Balun.

Vegas doesn't have much of a farm right now, so they might not have a lot of help. Pressed near the cap with not a lot of wiggle room, the Hustlers will have to rely on the team that they have to move back into a playoff spot. They weren't strictly good last year, either, with an 84-win run differential and kind of a mediocre feel to them. They did have to make some moves, notably; they were projected to be way over the cap in 2036, and now they're not. Vegas could win a wild card spot just by random chance this year, but they don't feel like the overwhelming favorites anymore, especially with the rise of Phoenix and Mexico City.

WICHITA AVIATORS

GENERAL MANAGER: Stu Hopkins



"I've made a lot of bad decisions, "announced Wichita Genius, GM Hopkins, "But...they make for my best stories."

Costless acquisitions are what I'm all about, baby.

2036 Prediction: 69-93

In their first year of existence, the Wichita Aviators weren't half bad. I mean, you know, they were. They lost 95 games and failed to finish in last place in their division only due to the horribleness of San Antonio, but their expected record by run differential was a mediocre 73-89 and that's, well, that's not half bad. Mostly powered by their offense in a park that isn't entirely hitter-friendly, the Aviators' downfall was that they couldn't pitch last year.

We're not sure that Bonaventure Habermas and Mark Watson are the way to turn this pitching staff around, but at least the Aviators are trying, which considering the way they hit last year, they should. After all, the team had only three pitchers finish as much as a game above replacement last year, none of whom were full-time starters: Aldo Hes, who had 6 starts, Antonio Gonzales, who had 7, and Viacheslav Vasilyev, who had 17 starts. I'd expect Hes and Double-V in the rotation this year. Abe Colbert couldn't find the plate or keep the ball in the ballpark, but he's a fan fav so there's that. The bullpen has a few talented pitchers in it, but it's mostly retreads and rejects. All in all, not a huge upgrade unless Habermas and Watson can both help the team.

The offense actually got better this offseason, which is interesting. Ken Jenkins came over in a trade, and while he's going to cost an absurd amount of money, he's also had some wildly successful years. Don Draper can still play ball, and Sparky Anderson can get on base almost at will. Ed Curry had 50 homers and 120 RBI last year, and he could repeat, and the team has a number of pretty decent players like Alvin Dickinson, Chet Gabriel, Juan Perez, and I like Marcus Forryan to improve this season. Oh, and Brian Clough, who can still play at 42 years old. All this is to say that I think this team will get on base, will hit, and they have players like Curry and Felix Duarte to drive in some runs. All in all not a bad offense; I think they could use another RBI guy.

Wichita hasn't had much time to build a farm or an organization, though they do have top prospect Alex Ramirez down there. What's interesting is that they're going to lose a ton of money this year, though once they've had time to build up the organization, in two years, they'll have some cap space. I wouldn't bet against the Genius doing some real damage soon, but, for now, they'll probably just be an entertaining team to watch that scores a lot of runs and desperately tries to keep the opponents off the board. That's not bad either.

SAN ANTONIO OUTLAWS

GENERAL MANAGER: Mike Calvaruso



"The season has been a far cry from what we had envisioned when the season began, and after some complaints by players and coaches alike, I took it upon myself to begin an investigation that was wrapped up pretty quickly."

"When I heard Calvaruso say that heads were about to roll, I sure didn't think he meant every damn one of them"

2036 Prediction: 62-100

So we can 2036 one up early in a nice little bow and send it along its merry way for the San Antonio Outlaws, who only had the slimmest of margins to begin their way back to respectability anyway. After all, we're talking about a team that was really ONLY better than Trashville last year, 14th in hitting and 14th in pitching with the second-worst record in the JL and BBA. Fortunately, there are some silver linings here; let's focus on building blocks.

The offense has a few guys already at the major league level who look like part of the future. Mark White should be really nice, a righty with no holes against righties. Albert Carrasco and Andy Seekins look fine, the sort of guys you don't mind using at 1B and DH so long as you have better players at other positions. They should be careful they don't overpay in the future. Dan Norman should be fine for a third baseman long-term also. George Claussen had a very good year at age 23. And, well, that's just about it other than Antonio Tobias, who should probably be dealt.

On the pitching staff, Buckland's injuries have kept him cheap and he's still talented, if he can stay on the field. Bengt de Meza was a good gamble, and Mei-shan Ngui looks fine as a rotation starter, and Angelo Delgado is interesting. Jesus Tonche still has plenty in the tank, too, but he should be traded. The San Antonio bullpen has some talented pitchers in it, but is mostly trashed also and hasn't shown any productivity.

The Outlaws also have the third ranked farm system in the game and if they were inclined to push could probably improve the ballclub on the field. Don't you dare. This team is gonna be crummy for at least another season or two as it unwinds from the Nelson Ramirez/Juan Jose Ornelas quagmire, and it even has two good trade chips in Tonche and Tobias and maybe even Valentin Colon. They've got a total of \$30 million on the payroll for next season if they decline on Tonche, too. There's lots to like about the long-term health of this team, but in the short term, 100 losses seems appropriate.

**JOHNSON
LEAGUE**

Frontier

2036 Projected Standings	W	L
Calgary Pioneers	92	70
Seattle Storm	91	71
Vancouver Mounties	77	85
Edmonton Jackrabbits	64	98
Boise Spuds	60	102

Last year this division featured three teams no one expected to have any chance of winning, and one team no one really though could miss out on a division title. Well, we all got it half right. Seattle was just better than everyone thought, and looking back, it's hard to see how we all missed it. They're legitimately good, but then, so is Calgary, and honestly I think they underachieved a bit last year. I have no confidence picking a winner between the two this year.

On the other hand, I have no lack of confidence in knowing that those are the only playoff contender in this division. Vancouver is rounding into shape, but has a lot of work left to do. Edmonton is stuck in neutral, as poor free agencies and bad team makeup have stalled their ascent. Boise had so little to work with in terms of big league talent. The hill the have to climb to get to .500 is daunting in and of itself.

Back to Seattle and Calgary. Calgary looks the best right now. Strong starters, strogn bullpen, balanced, deep offense. Seattle on the other hand had some of the best pitching ever assembled, and has deep reserves. They need a little help on offense. Should Seattle make a good trade, they could still have better pitching AND a high powered offense, and leave Calgary in the dust. That's how deep their pitching pipeline is. As anyone who has been around for a while knows, it feels absolutely bizarre to say that about Seattle.

FLF Spoonerisms

Chanford Stase (BOI) – Grimmy Jeenwood (CLG) – Pet Charrish (EDM)
Tick Rerry (SEA) – Mashardo Renne (VAN)

SEATTLE STORM

GENERAL MANAGER: Nathan Eagan



Heading into the 2035 trade deadline, Seattle's fans were wondering what, if anything, the Storm would do in anticipation of a playoff push. Seattle fans got their answer: nothing

For one week, at least, everything was beautiful and nothing hurt for Seattle fans. The Storm...Stormed out of the gates of the 2035 season, as they went 5-0, and outscored their opponents 28-10.

2036 Prediction: 91-71

Good lord can Seattle pitch! Alfredo Contreras was in the Nebraska running last year, with a 6.5 WAR, 2.65 era, 244.2 innings year. Somehow he did that despite allowing 37 homers. Of course, that's significantly decreased from his 50! The year before. He's not even the best pitcher on his team. Ken Walter is. You know, the guy who lead the league in pitching WAR last year, for what that's worth. Even if you don't like fangraphs pitching WAR (because it is too strikeout reliant), Walter has the pedigree to be in the best pitcher in the Brewster discussion. Elite stuff? Check. Elite Movement? Check. Elite command? Aaaaaaand check. He's only 22. Cripes.

Gordon Graves, Pablo Morales, and Juilo Alicea are better than a good number of team's 1-3 options. The Storm don't even have a spot for Shotaro Kawamura. Oh and Hector Marquez and Zoraide Anto will be here soon. Just another couple aces. Some teams have been moving towards more relievers, more bullpen, reliever as starter models. The Storm could literally do the opposite in 3 or 4 seasons. Only starters! 10 man ace only rotation! Of course, they don't need to do this, because they have an excellent 'pen, too. I don't feel like listing reliever names. Take my word for it.

Okay! That was quite a pitching staff. And as the Strom always have a talented offensewait Well, these guys are fine. Lionel Crepin and John Hickman are nice pieces in the outfield. The infield is flush with good glove, acceptable bat types like Lloyd Braun, Rick Terry, and Rubem Bordonhos. The team could really use another slugger though, and first base looks like a prime position to upgrade as the legendary Juan Escobar is probably better suited to DH these days.

I like this team. A lot. Of course, I start to drool whenever someone even mentions starting pitching and defense. And Nathan Eagan's club could really use another bat. Should he decide to trade pitching for hitting, he has the assets to get one. Maybe two. Last year, Seattle might have surprised a few with how the hung with front runner Calgary all season long. This year, no one is sleeping on the Storm.

CALGARY PIONEERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Kevin Dickson



Q - So you won the Pacific last season and made it to the final 4 for the second time in 3 years, but no Landis?

T.C. - Yeah that was a bit disappointing.

The Calgary Pioneers are having one of their best offensive years on record, on pace to score 937 runs, which would be a team record.

2036 Prediction: 92-70

Calgary's farm system has me so jealous I don't even want to look at their big-league team, which I know is outstanding. The 10th best prospect in their system is Rafael Solis, a good but not great contact hitting, high power righty. Sure, he doesn't play much D, but that's his tenth best prospect. Susumu Nakanshi, a plus contact, plus power, plus eye, left handed third baseman is his THIRD best hitting prospect. I am absolutely thrilled to not have this team in my division anymore. Barring glaring mismanagement, an unpresented number of development busts, or like four CEI's, Calgary's window to compete for their division is for all intents in purposes limitless. Is it still a window if they removed the glass? Then tore down the wall it was in? That's the view the Pioneers currently have, an expanse of possibility, option after option for the next route to excellent. Jealous.

It's not like the present is so bad either. Cristobal Hernandez, Jimmy Greenword, and Julio Velasco will give the Pioneers a lot of easy chances to win games. Jefferson Pierce looks almost ready to become the fourth ace in this group, and likely only the fact that he's not yet into the third decade of his life will keep him in AAA. So the Pioneers will have to put up with the likes of Noonien Soong and Jose Torres in the 4 and 5 spots in the rotation. Poor Calgary. And then they'll have to hope that Jesus Arce, Jason Morris, and Paul Farell can hold on to leads. I don't know how their little hearts will make it.

On a more serious note, can we all take a moment to celebrate the career of Mario Soriano? Almost ten seasons ago he departed the then Indianapolis Grasshoppers for Calgary on his first free agent deal. At the time we thought Calgary had paid a hefty price, but the back end could get ugly as most players didn't maintain the range or speed to play center into their 30's. Mario Soriano didn't get the memo. He's 35 and hauls down liners into the gap like a 20 year old. He's had more value with Calgary after age 27 than he had with Indy. Oh and he set a personal best for both steals and steal percentage last year. Next stop, Hall of Fame.

Soriano has some good company in this offense. Jose Rios will look to take a step forward from a strong rookie campaign last year and cement himself in the top second baseman conversation. Juan Karabyawhite just had a six-win season. Rupert Grant is still around. So is Tony Franco. The aforementioned Nakanashi should take over at third this year. This group can hit. They're a tad right handed, but Calgary's park is set up to take advantage of that.

Calgary was the front runner to win this division last year, and only a marvelous surge by the Seattle Strom took the title from them. Expect another dogfight in 2036.

VANCOUVER MOUNTIES

GENERAL MANAGER: Joe Geoghegan



Hahn, forever the opportunist when money is to be made, immediately signed a deal with La-Z-Boy to endorse their line of recliners.

Thank God for Boise who came to town and get swept out.

2036 Prediction: 77-85

The Vancouver Mounties haven't posted a winning record in four years. They suffered some indecision as to whether they were a team trying to win or rebuild, and as such made some moves that seemed to be in conflict with one another. This is often the case when you go through a handful of GM's in a short period of time. However, Joe Geoghegan seems to be firmly entrenched now, and he has the Mounties looking a good deal healthier than they have for some time.

One of the hallmarks of bad teams is mismatched parts, or huge holes in the rosters where replacement level or sub replacement level players are optimistically shoehorned into positions they cannot succeed in. One of the benchmarks any rebuilding team has to clear is starting to look organized as flaws are eliminated. The Mounties look like they've made that mark. They have pitching staff. It lacks star power, but there are some good pieces here in Jose Zamora, Alejandro Ramirez, Manuel Soliz, and Jose Morales. Juan Guerrero is starting to round into shape, and legitimately could take the step needed to become a top of the rotation guy. This bullpen needs a little work, but it's not a dumpster fire.

Similarly, where the Mounties lineup used to be teeming with AAAA guys and no-stick all glove players, there is now legitimate young talent. Rashardo Menne III had a nice rookie year. Ki-Seop Park looks like a big leaguer. Scott Harper has settled in as a solid, if not great bat. This group still needs a big masher or two and will be limited by long stretches where they struggle to score runs.

Vancouver was in bad shape a couple years ago. Bad trades and bad extensions had really derailed the building effort. Some of those problems still need to be addressed, but this group definitely improving. That being said, I don't think they contend this year. They still have too many weaknesses, bullpen and lack of middle of the order hitting chief among them. But they aren't a tire fire anymore, and that's something.

EDMONTON JACKRABBITS

GENERAL MANAGER: Brandon Brooks



For the first time in franchise history, a Jackrabbit has won the Frick League batting title

"This is going to be tough."

Those were the words of Ernie Lara, manager of the third-place Edmonton Jackrabbits, as he answered questions at a notably Bobby Lynch (4 - 1, 4.04 ERA, 1.04 WHIP, 45 K)-less press conference

2036 Prediction: 64-98

Another year, another half-baked Edmonton team. To be fair, I don't know how I'd finish the baking with this one either. The typical plan is to supplement a crop of young talent with free agent veteran role players, maybe on big missing piece, when those youngsters are ready. Unfortunately, free agency has been so bad that the pieces to add have been hard to come by for the Jackrabbits. I could wax all poetic about how the Jackrabbits are one or two moves away from blah blah blah blah, but the truth is, unlike the Mounties, this team just had too many zeroes in the lineup.

Disagree? Let's look. Shortstop? Zero. Luis Soto is the best option. Third base? Zero. Holden Blackwell is done. Steve Collins III is close to being big league ready, but Brandon Brooks hasn't show a willingness to let guys play into their potentials at the Brewster level. I'm not sure I'd even bring up Collins quite yet, and I'm one of the more aggressive promoters. Second base? Well, the Juan Rodriguez signing is a nice try. He could I suppose duplicate last year's performance, but he probably won't. Left Field/DH? Whichever one of these DeClaun Craun is not playing is another hole in this lineup. It's pretty tough to win many games when you're getting essentially nothing out of 30-45 percent of your lineup. Bringing up William Wood I suppose could be an option, but again, Brooks hasn't show a penchant for early promotions.

On the pitching side, the magnificent Bobby Lynch is still about two months from returning after surgery. Chet Parrish is decent as is Maxime Manceau. Taisuke Suzuki is just acceptable. Pjotr Eland might be good someday, and Wen Huang is alright. That's it. That's the extent of the players you can expect to provide positive value. Let's say Edmonton get's lucky with two other pitchers. That's eight pitchers with some more than marginal degree of positive value.

If we assume a typical team has around eleven batting "regulars" and eleven pitchers that see frequent use, we end up with 22 players out of the 27 man roster that are expected to make a difference. That feels about right. Utility backups, 12th relievers, backup catchers, etc, are pretty marginal even for the best teams. So out of those 22 core players, the Jackrabbits have absolute back holes at six or seven spots. You just can't win like that. It's going to be another long year in Edmonton. On the other hand, I hear the summers are gorgeous there.

BOISE SPUDS

GENERAL MANAGER: Ryan Wangman



Boise routinely starts the worst hitter in the league. And it's not close.

In the midst of all the turmoil surrounding the Boise Spuds' organization, a potential international superstar-in-the-making arrived quietly at the team's secluded international complex in Puerto Rico.

2036 Prediction: 60-102

Bosie has a 34 million dollar payroll. 'Nuff said.

No? Okay. Actually Ryan Wangman has done a decent job with a train wreck of a dismantled franchise. The late offseason Don Logan signing is perfect for a team that can't expect to win. He's at a good value, he's tradeable. They'll win a couple more games because of him. Maybe add an option is my only comment. If he works out, you can have him again net year. Or it increases his trade value. Yunoske Terada is ready. Let's find out what he is. Ricardo Guzman is another nice signing. Okay, that's it. Those are all the non replacement level position players. I don't even want to bother talking about the pitching staff. The greatest pitching staff of all time couldn't win 80 games with this lineup. This group isn't that. Expect 100 losses in Boise.

**JOHNSON
LEAGUE**

Heartland

2036 Projected Standings	W	L
Yellow Springs Nine	97	65
Twin Cities River Monsters	87	75
Omaha Hawks	92	70
Madison Wolves	82	80
Des Moines Kernels	77	85

Over the course of the 2035 season the Frick Heartland teams yet again displayed their strength as a group. They were the only Frick division to have four teams over .500, and their last place team, the Des Moines Kernels, was better than five other teams in the league.

2036 was also more of the same in another way. The Yellow Springs Nine continued their tour de force, wrapping up their sixth 95+ win season in the last seven years. The teams from the Twin Cities and Omaha again were among the league's best, and eventual 4th place Madison had stretches of tremendous play. Des Moines finished sixteen games better than 2034, and made a push for .500 before fading at the end.

Like every other division, the Frick League Heartland looks pretty similar to the 2035 edition. Yellow Springs will have to have significant injuries to finish anywhere but first. Twin Cities and Omaha will battle it out for second and for the wild card spots. Madison has talent, but not enough as the other teams in their division. Des Moines will again be the best last place team in the league.

FLH Spoonerisms

Arisco Careola (DM) – Rons Maider (MAD) – Clephen Stulow (OMA)
Omarlino Caoboni (TWC) – Wate Nood (YS9)

YELLOW SPRINGS NINE

GENERAL MANAGER: Ron Collins



"I told him at the beginning of the year that I planned to go to a full four-man rotation for as long as we could pull it off—that we were going to lean on him harder than we've ever leaned on him—and he took it like man. Just said bring it on."

But—and let's face it here, this is becoming a very real but the calendar is moving to October and we all know what happens in October.

2036 Prediction: 97-65

The Yellow Springs Nine have become one of the models of sustained excellence in the Brewster. They have won 95+ games in every year this decade except one. You do that by locking up your core talent, and continually supplementing that talent with second tier players from your minor league system. Well, the process continues in 2036. George Robertson and Bob Frazier will be the newest Nine hitters Ron Collins plugs into the machine. Lose your top relievers over the last couple free agencies? No problem, here comes Curt Phillips.

Of course, the Nine wouldn't be what they are without LaLoosh, Chavez, and McNeil. Or Angel De Castillo. Or Aaron Stone. But as fun as those guys are, it's the Carlos Garcia's, George Robertson's, Tristan Alfama's and Tim Oliver's that set the Nine above the rest. This is attention to detail. It's saying, "Okay, I've got aces, big bats, bullpen anchors. Good start. I've got role players and back end starters, so I'm a playoff team. But that 8th place hitter is only a half win guy. Where do I get a 1 win guy? Where else can I squeak out another win or two? Who is going to be playing 3rd in four years?" Most of us trade for big positions of need or draft to address them, but Collins does this with every spot on his roster, out for several seasons.

This is how you sustain success. Not every move works, so you are relentless. You have options, flexibility. Now, as much as Ron probably likes hearing about monster team he has built, and Yellow Springs is a monster, (ask any of his division rivals who should by all rights had a couple more playoff appearances by now) he knows the next part is coming. Yellow Springs is 0 for championships during this run, proving how fickle the baseball gods truly are.

Or I suppose you could say these teams have some fatal flaw that gets exposed in the playoffs. I don't see it. This has just been bad luck. Still, it's hard to consider any winning run a success without a title. Well, Yellow Springs should have no problem winning their division in 2036, and will get another shot.

OMAHA HAWKS

GENERAL MANAGER: Justin Niles



The very first player on that list all of a sudden has a new position. Jimmy Starks Jr, who has played center field almost exclusively in his pro career will take his shot at playing shortstop.

Jimmy Starks went down while turning 2nd base this past week and the diagnosis is not what anybody wanted for the youngster.

2036 Prediction: 92-70

I feel like I owe Omaha a bit of an apology. I recall drooling over the potential of the nearly developed Jimmy Starks Jr a few years back, and someone told me not to count my chickens before they hatch. Well, they probably didn't actually say that, but you get the point. It's been two years and Starks hasn't progressed at all. He did seem to break out a bit offensively in 2035, but then suffered a season ending torn ACL. So Justin Niles, I hope it wasn't me that jinxed you.

The good news is that this offense is a lot more than Starks. James Monger and Emilio Morales are two of the better infielders in the league. Aymeric Barajas, Maximo Quezada, and Aubrey Anderson are solid, if not exciting outfielders. Heck, Niles even got something out of the perpetually underachieving Patrick "Baba" Lue last year. Now if he can only do the same for Jack Gulliver. This isn't an all-world offense, but it's strong, and can carry them for long stretches. The infield defense isn't terrific, but it's not bad. The outfield is fine.

Omaha can pitch as well. Mtume, Barnard, Stoller, and Clulow are a good 1-4. The bullpen is strong with pieces like Canales, Muirhead, Rin, Rivas. I suppose you could ask for another top arm. Too bad Stoller didn't turn out quite as good as everyone expected.

This is another tough team to predict. You look at this group and see a division title contender. How then, did Omaha finish with "only" 88 wins with a balanced schedule? This is more or less the same team as they fielded last year. I don't know what else to add. I like the Omahawks this year. I don't think they can catch Yellow Springs. I do think they have a shot at Twin Cities.

TWIN CITIES RIVER MONSTERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Scott Piccoli



With 4 games left in the season, Twin Cities finally clinched a Wild Spot after splitting a double header with Des Moines.

The bright spot for a tough Twin Cities weeks was Hunter Eisenhower smashing his career 400th home run.

2036 Prediction: 87-75

A few years ago Twin Cities stood on the verge of becoming the next big powerhouse in the Brewster, and stumbled. Or maybe they were tripped. Lack of development really hurt them, especially the most frustrating kind where a potential superstar just never takes the leap. They've had this happen multiple times. Chris Kelly and Josh Brown come to mind, and I'm sure GM Scott Piccoli could give you other examples.

Now, many of those players, including Kelly and Brown are still quite good. Along with Jerry Coyle, they make a nice 1-2-3 for the rotation. However, the River Monsters will have to make do without Kelly for the first couple months of the season as he recovers from Tommy John surgery. That means Reese Raynor, Travis Arnold, or Vladimir Reichel will have to pitch above their heads for a good long time. Or maybe Tavio Ciccolella has something left in the tank.

Those starters will have to get deep into game, because the bullpen looks pretty pedestrian. It's not bad, just not, overwhelming. Or even whelming. Will Franklin is okay. So is Jan Legrand. Ditto Jesse Stewart. But that's really all you can say. They're just okay.

Offensively, there is still some exciting talent. Mark Wareham is a terrific player. Xue-qin Man and Chris Limon are pretty nice pieces as well, if less famous. Ray Cooper appears to have a few good years at least left in him. The supplementary players like Daune Whitely Jr., Albert Goana and We Savage provide depth. But much like the pitching situation, I recall looking at this team a few years back and thinking, "Wow! That's gonna be a really good group!" This isn't a "wow!" group of players.

This preview sounds a bit more pessimistic than it probably should. Twin Cities won 93 games last year, more or less with this roster. However, no longer having Harsnett, and missing out on Kelly for a bit will hurt. I'm not sure I see 90 wins for the River Monsters this year without a change. They'll be in the playoff hunt, but may well fall short.

MADISON WOLVES

GENERAL MANAGER: Chris Wilson



There are no participation trophies in the BBA. There's only one and it's the Landis. But to at least prove these people wrong and show that we were a contending team feels pretty good. Hopefully we can build on it for next season.

59 steals! That's cute!

2036 Prediction: 82-80

Are the Madison Wolves contenders? Well, to be honest, my answer to that question is not necessarily fair. Chris Wilson does not draft like I draft. He does not assemble a roster like I do. This is not my kind of team, and that leaves be with a bias that may cast them in a more negative light than is warranted.

So let's look at what Madison does well. The Wolves can hit. They can hit and they can run. It all starts with the exemplary Mons Raider, who at this point has shown he's the greatest combination of on base ability and game changing speed to ever play in the Brewster. He's lost enough range that he has to play first base now. However, he's such a unique talent that it works just fine. Better than fine, in fact. You know what, why do you go look for the list of first basemen who put up 6 WAR seasons while hitting five or fewer home runs. I'll wait. Take your time. What's that? You're still looking? That's okay. Take as long as you need. Nothing yet? Alright, are you getting the point? Raider is amazing. Feel privileged you get to watch him.

Steve Dempsey is no slouch either when it comes to putting the ball in play and turning on the burners. He's 30 and has barely slowed a bit. John Mick seems to have settled in as a consistent 40 homer masher. The complementary pieces aren't bad either. Jarod Thealer is a breakout season waiting to happen. They're not the Madison offense of a few years ago, but they defend a good deal better, recouping some of the lost offensive value. Moreno and Machiavelli should hold down center field at one of the best rates in the league, and while Ton Kouda and Oliver Burrell don't hit much, they won't let too many balls get out of the infield.

So far, so good. Why then, am I so curmudgeonly about the Madison Wolves? Well, you're never going to get me to believe you're a contender without pitching. To be fair, Wilson did yeoman's work in brining Mario Gonzales and Jose Cavazos over from Jacksonville. It's probably a year too late for the pair, but with the FA market as poor as it is, Wilson's emotions have to be riding high on his acquisitions, especially considering that he won't be getting another magical year out of Alfredo Granados. Jody Nunez is still banging around, but after that it gets pretty thin. And the bullpen? Let's not talk about the 'pen.

So there you have it, your 2036 Madison Wolves. If Nunez, Cavazos, and Gonzales can stave off father time for another year, this team is a contender. I do not believe they can, so the Wolves are not. Oh sure, they'll show flashed of division winning ball at times that would convince many of us to continue to play for now, trading away the future, but in the end, they'll finish short. Sorry Chris, sorry Wolves, sorry Madison.

DES MOINES KERNELS

GENERAL MANAGER: Edward Murphy



Kernel's starting pitcher, Elwood Blues, was named the player of the game, going 5.1 innings, giving up two hits, one run, and four walks.

Rumors are floating that many unnamed front office staffers are telling GM Ed Murphy and owner Stephen Collins Jr. to make a push for the post season.

2036 Prediction: 77-85

Ah Des Moines. Another tough preview to write. Frankly, these are becoming painful. Not specifically Des Moines, but giving pessimistic outlooks to the same teams year after year. Des Moines SHOULD have had better results over the last half decade. Ed may not have made all the right moves, but he didn't make all the wrong ones. That's what makes it so heartbreaking to see such a talented team miss out over and over and over

Let's look at the positives. The starting pitching looks strong. Ragnar Lothbrok, Elwood Blues, Mario Mendez, Mario Villarreal and co. can get it done. Bunk Moreland and Cisco Arreola might not be at their peaks anymore, but at most have only marginal slippage. The infield defense is still outstanding, and the addition of Manny Montanez, should Ed be able to find a place to play him, gives the Des Moines a much needed on base threat. It looks like Chon is the odd man out.

So here's the bad news. This group still needs another bat. Ernesto Garza needs to repeat his performance from last season. That may or may not happen. The outfield can defend but doesn't provide much oomph. As a group, they could put up a sub .300 OBP. That's just too big a portion of your lineup that is a non-factor. The bullpen also looks a bit thin. Colt Anderson and Jose Perez are the only arms I'd want to count on, and this offense can't afford to blow any leads.

It really is a shame that free agent classes have been so poor. On the other hand, Des Moines doesn't make enough money to spend more than they have. I don't know that there is a quick fix for the Kernels problems, which is a shame because they have some truly great players and a good young framework. And they are running out of time.

**JOHNSON
LEAGUE**

Pacific

2036 Projected Standings	W	L
California Crusaders	92	70
San Fernando Bears	93	69
Long Beach Surfers	83	79
Hawaii Tropics	67	95
Valencia Stars	61	101

The California Crusaders ran the table in the Pacific last year en route to their first championship in eleven years. For a time, it appears as though they would post on of the great season of all time, and perhaps one of the biggest leads over second place in league history. San Fernando and Long Beach, expected by some to beat out the Crusaders, fell on their faces in April and May. However, as the season wore on, both righted the ship and contented for the playoffs. The Bears finished the season as one of the hottest teams in the league, and Long Beach really didn't miss out on the playoffs by much. Hawaii seemed to take another step forward, recovering from a disastrous 2034, but Valencia seems stuck in neutral.

2036 will be an interesting year, largely because the 2036 Crusaders were so surprising. Was 2036 the true talent of a team previously handcuffed by park factors? Or was this a high water mark for a team where everyone overachieved at once? The Bears made a strong case that their early season struggles were a fluke, and are definitely in contention to take the division crown from California. Long Beach remains solid, although they really do seem to have dropped back from the leaders a bit. It would not be out of the question for them to finish in first, but seems the least likely option.

Hawaii and Valencia won't be in it this year. They just don't have enough talent on the roster yet. Both appear to have promising futures, but also have hurdles in place to truly mov forward. One needs more star power, the other more depth.

The last two Landis winners reside in this division, and both look like legitimate contenders for 2036. There may not be another division with as little turnover as the Frick Pacific. All five teams look remarkably similar to last season's clubs.

FLP Spoonerisms

Daudio Clefazio (CAL) – Berbrand de Gest (HAW) – Cape Pestillo (LBC)
Ron Jeed (SFB) – Flauro Mores (VAL)

CALIFORNIA CRUSADERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Ted Schmidt



Umm. What were we talking about? Oh yeah. Our Crusaders are amazing! We're on pace for 100 wins. Do you know how many times that has happened in Crusaders history? None! None times! Not once in 60+ years!

**sigh* Well, we can't have it all. Maybe Offie is getting a bit greedy. We ARE the best team in the league, at least for now*

2036 Prediction: 93-69

I really need to rein in the guy writing our team news. He's getting out of control. A little unprofessional if you ask me. Well, we still didn't win 100 games thanks to a late season swoon, but we did finish tied (won the tiebreaker with Yellow Springs) for the best record in the league, and more importantly, took home the only hardware that matters. Can the Crusaders repeat in 2036? It will be tough. Because it's always tough to win a Landis.

On the other hand, the Crusaders will bring back almost the exact same team in 2036. "We don't believe in roster churn," said GM Ted Schmidt, to himself, as he somehow quoted himself in the preview he writes about his own team, and now to you, dear reader. Whereas some teams wheel and deal with an addiction-like necessity, they Crusaders just bring back the same formula year after year. Pitching, defense up the middle, and home runs. Luis Gracia, Cisco Morales, Miguel Ramos and Jaime Mercado are back. Any of those guys would be a number one or two starter on half the teams in the league. Oh, and Knud Zeitler is ready to take the 5th spot in the rotation any time. Who is holding that spot down now, you ask? Just some guy named Ricardo Diaz.

The bullpen, like the starting rotation, was tops in the league last year. Reynaldo Garza and his 3 wins of production over 120 innings out of the bullpen will be missed, but the Crusaders pitching machine has churned out multiple relief prospects to replace him.

We mentioned defense up the middle. (Now he's I'm? ... referring to himself in the royal third person). It doesn't get much better than Chip Saunders, Jesus Flores, Claudio Defazio, and Bryan Robson. Actually, it just doesn't get better period. Every one of those guys has won a Zimmer diamond glove, or finished in a dead heat for one.

This team can hit a little too. In a specific sort of way. They hit home runs and steal bases. Fernando Moreno resurrected his career last year. He, Flynn Johnson, and Esteban Cuervo are all 30 home run threats. Defazio, Cuervo and Jesus Flores can all steal 50 bases with ease. Speaking of Defazio, will 2036 be the year he makes his first all star team? He has five 5 win seasons through his first six seasons. He keeps that up, and he'll land himself in the hall of fame.

So can the Crusaders repeat? Sure. Will they? Probably not. You only get to be the Team of Destiny once every few decades, and the competition, as always is stiff.

SAN FERNANDO BEARS

GENERAL MANAGER: Randy Weigand



In a move that can only be described as bad news for the rest of the league, the Havana Sugar Kings have left the “island paradise” for the sunny climate of the San Fernando Valley, California.

After a season that started off incredibly frustrating for San Fernando and their new fans, the team finally managed to get out of neutral and put together an incredible hot streak

2036 Prediction: 94-68

San Fernando is a bit tough to forecast. Not so much in terms of good versus bad, but in terms of how good. Is this a Landis contender, or just another playoff team? The Bears started out poorly in 2035, but were eventually able to sort themselves out. They were one of the very best teams in the league during the second half and took the eventual champion California Crusaders to seven games in the second round of the playoffs. So which team will we see? The 2034 champion, late 2035 juggernaut? Or perhaps some lesser version of that? Adding to the confusion is the constant roster churn promoted by Randy Weigand, who exhibits an almost maniacal need to trade.

So what's different this year? The Bears will have an entire season of Sam Romero. Miguel Macias and Bob Sanderson have been added to the bullpen, which has often been a chink in the Bears' armor. Abdel-wahab Kamade is gone, replaced by Grant Lee. That's either an upgrade or a wash. But Jean Luc Lacaze and Jayden Harsnett have departed via trades and free agency. Is San Fernando's mighty offense weaker? Well ... no. The outfield probably isn't even. Luis Maldonado remains one of the premier sluggers in the game. The aforementioned Lee looks like a real gem. Victor Guerra/Sheldon Cooper might be a slight downgrade from their predecessors, but not much of one. Of course, we might not have mentioned their best bats yet, Jared Gillstom and Tai hoi Wie. And then there's Angel Garcia, and Jesus Lopez, and so on and so forth.

Alright then. Offense good. Bullpen upgraded. Last season, the Bears were getting hurt by poor pitching. Hmm. This is looking better. Feliciano Razaal is probably better than last year's performance. Ernie Kinney seems to have settled in as an overachieving lefty. Sam Romero will struggle against left handed pitching at times, but he's not a bad number two or three. Jon Reed's all right in a middle of the rotation role, and you could have a worse number five starter than Leon Ramirez.

I think I'm going to take the over. San Fernando looks more well rounded than at any other time I've seen them, and they still have an absolutely terrifying offense. I think California's time atop the division might be short lived.

LONG BEACH SURFERS

GENERAL MANAGER: Stephen Lane



Just yesterday, we called for the Surfers front office to make a move for pitching in the wake of the Allain Jolivet injury. They did that yesterday with two trades for three pitchers coming over from the Johnson League.

All but mathematically eliminated means that technically they're not eliminated! Let's dream

2036 Prediction: 83-79

I thought that this year I was going to predict the demise of Long Beach. It seems as though the last few seasons, they have slowly lost a player here or there, succumbing, if gracefully, to the implacable attrition that all franchises combat. I was pleasantly surprised (read: frustrated) to see the opposite. Long Beach's minors have turned out a few players to plug some holes, and the Surfers appear to be a solid team.

Sloan Daniel should play a decent second base, a position the Surfers have struggled with at times. The Michael Best, Victor Bedolla pairing at third looks decent. Perdo Hologiu showed last year that he is a nice on base option. As far as the vets, Mark Simpsons remains a premier first baseman. CarGo is on the wrong side of 30, but simply downgrades him to "star" from "superstar". Signing Ippolito Basalgia on the cheap will shore up a catcher position that looked rough. This team looks like it can hit and defend.

Recently however, the question about Long Beach has been whether or not they can pitch. Appearances aside, I think they probably can. Just enough anyway. Stephen Lane seems to have prioritized some bullpen spending this offseason, adding Dillon Young, Felix Alvarado, and Mark Little among others. When your starting pitching is a bit questionable, but you have a competent offense that can hit some dingers, adding bullpen can be a cheap way to get some efficient wins.

It's not that the starting pitching is bad, it's just lacks oomph. Mike Bailey and Pierre Legrand are alright. You can say the same about Pepe Castillo and Allain Jolivet. These guys are all number 3's and 4's though. Long Beach probably hoped one of Manny Gabriel or Pierre Legrand (acquired for Jimmy Greenwood last year) would take a step forward. It doesn't look like either will, but they remain decent pieces.

The Achilles heel of this team will be it's starting pitching. They will go through stretches where too many of their threes and fours will be in slumps and their offense, while solid, isn't good enough to power them through those kinds of doldrums. That's the likely scenario. Two of those starters could have down years, or get hurt, and Long Beach could lose 90 games. The baseball gods could time things so that the pitching staff doesn't have any prolonged, coincidental slumps by too many pieces at once, and the Surfers could get into the playoffs. But most likely, this team will end up a little over .500.

HAWAII TROPICS

GENERAL MANAGER: Mike Bieschke



After a 47 win season, how low can they go. Not too low apparently. Through 56 games the Tropics are 28-28 for an even .500 record. A definite improvement

After a decent start to the season, the wheels on the bus may have never existed. The same things that plague the Tropics every year began to show up. Inconsistent hitting, lack of pitching, lopsided losses....

2036 Prediction: 67-95

After years of Hawaii Tropics preview that have basically said, “Wait for next year” this time I’m going to write ... “Wait for next year.” But with a different tone! Hawaii really does have something to look forward to next year. GM Mike Bieschke had mentioned he did everything he could to keep from going the full rebuild route, before eventually capitulating to necessity. Well, that was a few years ago, and the farm is starting to bear fruit.

Stephen Taub and Benton Allen look like nice players. Taub has some real upside to be one of those overachieving lefty types. Liam Massey looks promising. Manuel Aguilar Jr. is getting close, as are Charlie Iron Knife and Lee Morgan. In the case of those last two, it was a bit touch and go as to whether they’d develop at all, but the wheels seem to be moving in the right direction now. The minors are flush with mid tier pitching prospects that should help sustain a prolonged run.

Bieschke has also done a good job getting supplementary pieces from free agency while he’s waited for his prospects to bloom. Jorge Vargas and Rob Fuller were added for reasonable prices this year, and are young enough to be around and useful when the Tropics really get going. Hawaii will need to find a big bat somewhere to pair with Aguilar. He won’t be able to do it by himself, and that’s the biggest hurdle I see for them going forward. For once however, Hawaii’s bright future is no longer a distant spark. It can now be seen creeping over the horizon, and may fully flourish next year.

Alas, that’s next year. This year, the Topics will still be pretty bad. They can’t hit. Really at any level resembling big league competency. They probably will not be a threat to lose 100 games again, but 90 seems quite likely. Still, these are the kinds of incremental improvements one has to make to climb out of the cellar, and the Hawaii Tropics are headed in the right direction.

VALENCIA STARS

GENERAL MANAGER: Lee Honigsfeld



After many years of all the Stars top picks tanking last year we saw the first potential star from the minors. Outfielder/1B Frank Mahaffey played in his first season with the STARS

The Stars number one prospect is Ángel Zalapa. Zalapa is tearing it up in AAA this season hitting .334 57 homeruns and 137 RBI'S. The Stars wanted him to develop his defense this season and he really has improved.

2036 Prediction: 61-101

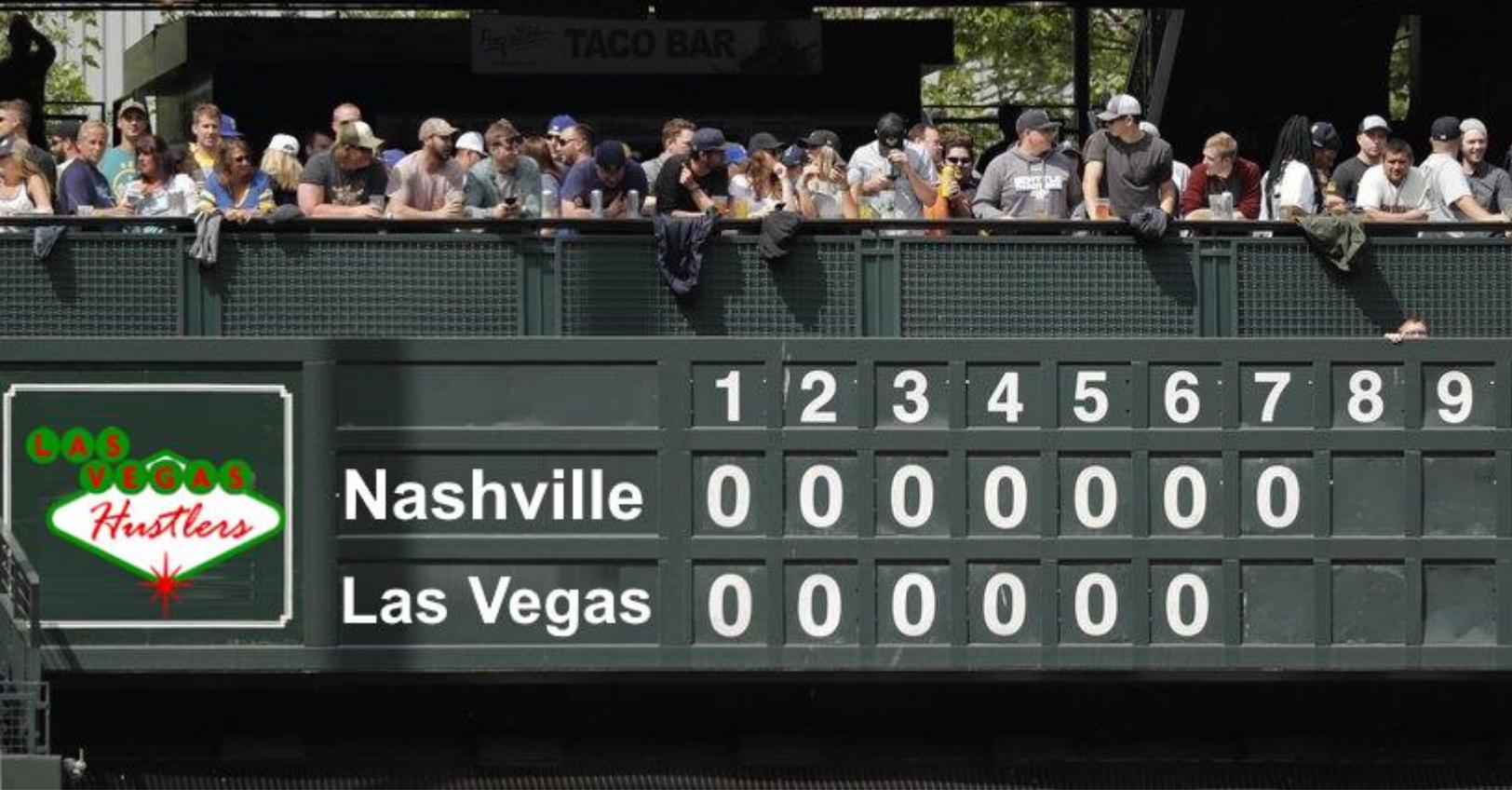
It is somewhat surprising that Valencia lost 100 games last year. Having Frank Mahaffey, Mauro Flores, and Wilton Rivera on your team should be a good bit of foundation. Harlan Moore, too. Valencia has some help on the way as well in Angel Zalapa who immediately becomes one of the best shortstops in the league. Having just completed a 57 homer, 9.5 WAR, 1.159 OPS stint in AAA, he certainly has nothing left to prove in the minors. Valencia's minor leagues look to have waves of talent for the next half decade or so, which is a nice change from the sputtering and lumping Lee has watched for a while.

So how does a team with players as good as we mentioned lose 100 games? Well, there's not much else. Lots of AAAA players and mismatched parts. Take for example, two of the best three Valencia hitters, Rivera and Mahaffey. Both left fielders. Zalapa and Moore, both shortstops, although one could easily move. This team also currently lacks the unsung heroes. The 1.5 to 2 win players that have to hold down the bottom of the lineup. They could use another starter.

Lee Honigsfeld generally doesn't play in free agency much, but that can be a good source of those types of players. (Perhaps not in this last class or two). You can also churn those types of players out of your minors if you work at it, but it's a tough proposition.

So the Valencia Stars just need more. Not more stars, but more averageness to replace the below averageness they've trotted out in recent years. You don't lose 100 games with players like Flores, Rivera, and Mahaffey on your roster unless you're giving wins back by playing sub replacement level guys. Eliminating those players from the roster and putting 1-2 win bodies in their place is the next task for Valencia.

I don't see it happening this year. There are just too many spots to fill. It's not impossible, there's enough depth in this farm system for the Stars to wheel and deal themselves into contention this year, but that's not Honigsfeld's m.o. While this roster has more high end talent than Hawaii's, they also have more players that don't seem to belong in the league. I think we're looking at another last place finish unless that changes.



NO-HIT' MANIA!

BBA Fans Witness Record-Setting Five No-Hitters

It was Tuesday, September 4th, 2035 I Las Vegas, Nevada, and the fans were getting antsy. You could hear it in the buzz between innings, and in the tone of voice that the crowd used to gasp at every ball and strike and the way those voices rose with every crack of the bat. They knew what was happening. Despite a laggardly season in Hustlerville, they understood the import of what was happening before their very eyes. Yes, they did, these fans. They understood that never in the history of the BBA had it happened before.

For the first time in its 63-season history, the Brewster Baseball Association saw five pitchers go to the hill and walk away having held the opponents hitless. “Technically, we can’t say that,” said Calvin P. McGillicudy, the league’s chief statistician, as he grumbled about certain records from the pre-historic moments of the league having been either lost or eaten by an irate GM at one point. It all adds up to mean that we really can’t say what we just said.

So, let’s start again.

For the first time in modern day history, the Brewster Baseball Association saw five no-hitters in a single season. Let’s take a look at them, shall we?

No-No #1



LOUISVILLE PITCHING LINESCORE

Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	HR	PI	PS	ERA
M. Villarreal W (3-1)	9.0	0	0	0	5	10	0	116	67	4.03
PITCHING										
Game Score: M. Villarreal 92										
Batters Faced: M. Villarreal 29										
Ground Outs - Fly Outs: M. Villarreal 10-3										
Pitches - Strikes: M. Villarreal 116-67										

The string started on a chilly 48-degree night on April 20th and in Louisville when Mario Villarreal struck out ten Huntsville Phantoms en-route to a 7-0 victory. It was a blustery day and the wind said about any ball hit in the air to right would have a better than average chance of going out of the park.

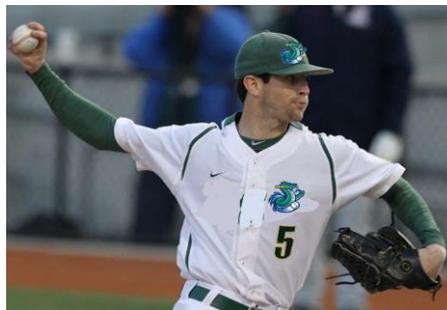
Villarreal wasn't particularly sharp, walking 5 hitters, but he put the ball on the ground ten times and benefited from a pair of slick double plays.

Pumped on adrenalin, Villarreal sandwiched a weak grounder to first between a pair of strike outs in the ninth and final inning. "I took a breath and told myself 'This is the last one,'" Villarreal recalled. He'd struck out ten hitters on at least three occasions, but this was his first no hitter.

No-No #2

TWIN CITIES PITCHING LINESCORE

Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	HR	PI	PS	ERA
C. Kelly W (6-2)	9.0	0	0	0	1	10	0	101	64	3.69
PITCHING										
Game Score: C. Kelly 96										
Batters Faced: C. Kelly 29										
Ground Outs - Fly Outs: C. Kelly 7-10										
Pitches - Strikes: C. Kelly 101-64										



Nearly two months to the day later, on June 19th, Twin Cities' sensational youngster Chris Kelly went to Hawaii and overpowered the hapless Tropics, leading his team to a 6-0 victory. Like Villarreal before him, Kelly K'ed 10 hitters, but he walked only one. All total, he threw only 101 pitches.

It was as dominating of a performance as you'll find, marred only by that one walk and an error charged to second baseman Xi Man.

"I didn't want him to feel bad about missing the perfect game," Man joked afterward.

No-No #3

PHOENIX PITCHING LINESCORE										
Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	HR	PI	PS	ERA
J. Trujillo W (10-1)	9.0	0	0	0	6	5	0	131	73	3.86
PITCHING										
Game Score: J. Trujillo 86										
Batters Faced: J. Trujillo 34										
Ground Outs - Fly Outs: J. Trujillo 11-10										
Pitches - Strikes: J. Trujillo 131-73										



Fans didn't have to wait two months for the next dose of No-No. Only ten days later, June 29th, Phoenix's veteran hurler Jose Trujillo shut down the Boise Spuds in front of 34,000 semi-avid Spud fans.

Unlike the others, Trujillo got his through a balanced attack, striking out only five, but getting 11 grounders and 10 fly balls. "If you keep them in the park here, you can do pretty good," Trujillo said after the game. His team needed that kind of an outing, too, as Phoenix managed to scratch out only a pair of runs to take the game by a score of 2-0.

The victory ran his record to 10-1, and had some wondering if a Nebraska was in his future. At 32, this was perhaps his finest season, topped off with a No-No.

No-No #4



TWIN CITIES PITCHING LINESCORE										
Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	HR	PI	PS	ERA
R. Rayner W (7-7)	9.0	0	0	0	1	6	0	101	60	4.17
PITCHING										
Game Score: R. Rayner 92										
Batters Faced: R. Rayner 28										
Ground Outs - Fly Outs: R. Rayner 8-11										
Pitches - Strikes: R. Rayner 101-60										
Hit Batsmen: R. Rayner 2										

Which takes us back to Twin Cities and August 19th, when the River Monsters and Reese Rayner completed an odd "double-double" of a No-Hitter, blanking Boise by a score of 6-0. He matched his teammate Chris Kelly by throwing only 101 pitches, but Rayner added a pair of hit batsmen to his walk.

He located the ball well and kept hitters off-balance enough that his ten fly balls—usually a bit of a fearful thin in Boise—didn't hurt him.

The No-hitter was the second of the season for Twin Cities pitchers, and the second of the season for Boise hitters.

No-No #5

LAS VEGAS PITCHING LINESCORE										
Player	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	HR	PI	PS	ERA
H. Kun W (3-2)	9.0	0	0	0	1	9	0	103	65	3.79
PITCHING										
Game Score: H. Kun 95										
Batters Faced: H. Kun 28										
Ground Outs - Fly Outs: H. Kun 7-11										
Pitches - Strikes: H. Kun 103-65										



If you've read the opening of this piece, you know where we're going to end. Right there in Vegas, where what happens stays. In this case, what happened was that 22-year-old Hao 'Basher' Kun dropped 9 strikeouts and only a single walk on the Nashville Goats, beating a valiant 4-hitter by the opposing pitcher by a 1-0 score, that 1 run coming on a two-out double.

The outing was a cap to one of the more impressive debuts of a season that saw several.



So, there you have it. Five no-hitters. There had been seasons (1997, 2024) where four of the events were turned in, and several more (2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2029) that saw three, but when Kun made it through an uneventful 9th inning in Las Vegas, the record book was rewritten.



The 20/20 Hindsight 5-Year Draft Review

*So, yeah, just what is a high draft pick worth? It's a question that GMs around the world ask themselves every day. Some of them use pretty heavy calculus to get their answer, others go by the gut. Let's follow Twin Cities GM **Scott Piccoli** as he uses a more tried and true method—reviewing the results of a past selection year...in this case, 2031, five years in the past.*

1st OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 1st Pick)



Twin Cities



3B Duane Whitney Jr
AGE 23

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	ACT/POT (CURRENT)	POT +/-
CONTACT	8	7/7	-1
POWER	8	7/7	-1
EYE	7	5/5	-2

CURRENT TEAM – Twin Cities River Monsters (TWC – BBA)

CAREER BBA Totals – 408 Games, .261 BA, .755 OPS, 52 HR's, 3.0 WAR

Son of Hall of Famer, Duane Whitney, who's currently managing Twin Cities AA Affiliate – St Joseph. To be honest, Whitney Jr. is a baffling 1st Over-All pick, however if his current overall ratings had held to his 2031 potentials, he could have been solid 3B/1B BBA player. However, with his ratings drop offs and his awful split against Lefty Pitchers, he's at best a platoon player who can play corner infield and outfield positions.

Analysis – While not a complete bust as Duane has contributed at the BBA level, he's nowhere near the expectations of an Over-All #1 pick.

DISSAPPOINTMENT

2nd OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 2nd Pick)



Edmonton Jackrabbits



CF Luis "Love Machine" Costello
AGE 22

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	ACT/POT (CURRENT)	POT +/-
CONTACT	8	8/9	+1
POWER	8	9/9	+1
EYE	5	5/5	0

CURRENT TEAM – Edmonton Jackrabbits (EDM – BBA)

CAREER BBA Totals – 147 Games, .268 BA, .782 OPS, 25 HR's, 2.8 WAR

A central part of an upcoming young Edmonton groups whose future appears bright. At draft time, The Love Machine looked to be nice defensive Centerfielder who had a decent bat and could steal some bases.

Analysis – Costello's bat has only improved since being drafted. Luis made his BBA debut in 2035 and made an excellent run for Newcomer of the Year. Looks to be an offensive force and a core player in the Jackrabbit Organization.

NAILED IT

3rd OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 3rd Pick)**Phoenix Talons****LF Mario "Toxin" DeOrtez****AGE 24**

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	ACT/POT (CURRENT)	POT +/-
CONTACT	8	8/8	0
POWER	10	9/9	-1
EYE	6	6/6	0

CURRENT TEAM – Phoenix Talons (PHX – BBA)

CAREER BBA Totals – 486 Games, .278 BA, .878 OPS, 118 HR's, 7.3 WAR

Mario was projected as a hitting machine with no speed on the base paths and a potential defensive liability.

Analysis – Mario has fulfilled his end of the bargain with his production at the plate. A 2035 BBA All Star who has hit over .900 OPS the last two seasons. Predictably, it looks like he's transitioned to DH, but can still play some Left Field in a pinch.

EXCELLENT

4th OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 4th Pick)**Charm City Jimmies****C Gabriel Flores****AGE 20**

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	ACT/POT (CURRENT)	POT +/-
CONTACT	8	5/6	-2
POWER	9	6/8	-1
EYE	6	5/5	-1

CURRENT TEAM – Long Island Legion (ATC – A)

CAREER BBA Totals – N/A

Flores was projected as an extremely young catcher (15? 16?) with a cannon arm, average defensive ability and who looked to have some skills with the bat.

Analysis – Flores has yet to completely fill out, still being only 20 years old when drafted. While his projected batting ability has slipped, he still seems to be improving and also has that excellent arm.

CONCERNING, BUT THERE'S STILL HOPE

5th OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 5th Pick)



Indy Grasshoppers (Current – Omaha Hawks)



P Hotzen “Crime Lord” Plotz
AGE 24

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	POTENTIALS (CURRENT)	POT +/-
STUFF	10	7/7	-3
MOVEMENT	7	5/5	-2
CONTROL	7	3/3	-4

CURRENT TEAM – Sioux City Explorers (OMA – AA)

CAREER BBA Totals – N/A

Hotzen Plotz was the first pitcher selected in the 2031 draft and appeared to be safe pick at 19 years old and coming out of the college with a wide array of junk pitches, but no fastball.

Analysis – The alarm bells went off immediately for Plotz after being drafted. His arm strength was not as advertised and has never improved since. He’s been beat up in his brief time at AAA and has struggled keep an ERA under 5.00 at AA. At 24 years old, the writing is on the wall for the Crime Lord...

BUST

6th OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 6th Pick)**Carolina Kraken (Current – Rockville Pikemen)****CA Francisco Flores****AGE 21**

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	ACT/POTS (CURRENT)	POT +/-
CONTACT	8	9/9	+1
POWER	6	6/6	0
EYE	3	4/4	+1

CURRENT TEAM – Rockville Pikemen (BBA)

CAREER BBA Totals – 351 Games, .330 BA, .834 OPS, 25 HR's, 10.4 WAR

Cisco looked to be a solid defensive catcher with a good bat at draft time.

Analysis – Flores has exceeded his draft projections, earning a Gold Bat (CA) in 2034 and an All Star Appearance. While Cisco lacks HR power, he hits a ton of doubles and if he didn't have catcher speed, he'd hit a lot more. He's already put in three full season at the BBA, averaging 3.4 WAR a season.

WELL WORTH THE PICK

7th OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 7th Pick)



Havana Sugar Kings (Current – San Fernando Bears)



P Charlie Iron-Knife

AGE 22

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	ACT/POT (CURRENT)	POT +/-
STUFF	10	7/10	0
MOVEMENT	8	6/7	-1
CONTROL	7	4/7	0

CURRENT TEAM – Medford Mules (A – Hawaii Tropics)

CAREER BBA Totals – N/A

Unlike Plotz, Iron-Knife was an extremely raw 17 year old with a long way to go reach his potential. Charlie was also a knuckleballer and had below average armspeed.

Analysis – Progress for Charlie has been slow, but steady. At 22 years old, he still has ways to go before being BBA ready. His knuckleball looks to be almost unhittable and getting nastier... and Charlie is still trying to find some control to keep the knuckler in the same zip code. If ever he puts it together, he could be a nasty lefty in the BBA.

PROMISING, BUT STILL UP IN THE AIR

8th OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 8th Pick)



Hawaii Tropics



P Dean Oulton

AGE 24

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	POTENTIALS (CURRENT)	POT +/-
STUFF	8	9/9	+1
MOVEMENT	8	6/6	-2
CONTROL	7	5/5	-2

CURRENT TEAM – Death Valley Scorpions (AAA Hawaii)

CAREER BBA Totals – 60 Games, 13 Wins – 22 Losses 2 Saves, 272.1 IP, 4.92 ERA,

The Top of the 2031 draft seems to be loaded with offspeed pitchers with no fastball and Dean's no exception.

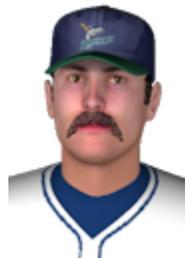
Analysis – Olton is the first pitcher on the list to see any BBA action. While he's shown he can belong at the BBA level, at the time he appears to be the type of pitcher who's always going to be hanging around the waiver wire.

JUST MISSED?.... TBD

9th OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 9th Pick)



Madison Wolves



P Gabriel "Clutch" Vallejo

AGE 21

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	POTENTIALS (CURRENT)	POT +/-
STUFF	9	6/6	-3
MOVEMENT	8	7/7	-1
CONTROL	7	4/4	-3

CURRENT TEAM – Burlington Big Eyed Fish (AA Madison)

CAREER BBA Totals – N/A

Gabriel appeared to be a young promising starter with several pitches, including an actual fastball. However, he was coming into the draft young, 16 years old, and very raw.

Analysis – There were concerns immediately after being drafted over command and control of his pitches, which have never really developed to expectations. Despite Gabriel gaining good pitch velocity and movement on his pitches, he has just never mastered being a starter. Could be a nice candidate in the reliever role someday, but is currently stuck at AA.

CAREER MINOR LEAGUER

10th OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 10th Pick)



Valencia Stars



P John Pierce

AGE 24

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	POTENTIALS (CURRENT)	POT +/-
STUFF	9	6/6	-3
MOVEMENT	7	4/4	-3
CONTROL	7	4/4	-3

CURRENT TEAM – Van Nuys Devil Dogs (AA Valencia)

CAREER BBA Totals – N/A

John Pierce looked to be an extremely similar pitcher to the man picked before him.... Nice Pitch selection, decent velocity....

Analysis – Unfortunately for Valencia, John Pierce was across the board, not cut out for the BBA. He'll be lucky to see action at the AAA level.

OUCH

TOP 2031 DRAFT STAND OUT

21st OVER-ALL PICK (Round 1 – 21st Pick)



Seattle Storm



P Ken Walter
AGE 22

RATING	POTENTIALS (2031)	ACT/POT (CURRENT)	POT +/-
STUFF	8	11/11	+3
MOVEMENT	8	8/8	0
CONTROL	6	8/8	+2

CURRENT TEAM – Seattle Storm

CAREER BBA Totals – 83 Games, 36 Wins – 10 Losses, 567 IP, 4.12 ERA, 17.4 WAR

Projected to have the potential to be a nice BBA Starter with decent arm speed.

Analysis – Exceeded all expectations and then some. Overcame the 2035 movement disaster, mastered command of all his pitches and has developed velocity in the 97 MPH range. Will have a chance every year to win a Nebraska Best Pitcher award for the foreseeable future. Fans Love Him, He's the Envy of every GM in the league... Anything else to say here?

CREAM OF THE 2031 DRAFTEE CROP



*It's easy to get caught up in the wheeling and dealing, and the decisions to move a player down or just cut a guy. It's easy to play the numbers game. Sometimes, though, it helps to remember we're dealing with people here. Join Las Vegas GM **Matt Rectenwald** as he rides shotgun on an emotional roller coaster of a feature by one of his players dealing with the stresses of Spring Training.*

Cutdown Day:

A Players Perspective

*A Special Contribution to the BBA Media Guide by
Manuel Orozco of the Las Vegas Hustlers*

I reported to camp this year finally healthy and ready to go. The Hustlers brass told me that I would be in competition for a job as a reliever this year, but the odds were probably against me due to my experience and remaining minor league options.

See, to understand everything about this camp you have to know my journey. It started in Panama where I grew up in an affluent family. My father was a banker there, and my family didn't want for anything. However, my father wanted me to have more and his love of baseball transferred to me at a young age. When I was fifteen years old we moved to the United States so that I could play High School ball where scouts would see me. The problem was they barely saw me. In two years with my team, POS Portal Machines, I pitched in only twelve games. Right away in my first year the triceps kept acting up, and I tried to pitch through it. Then came the sore shoulder, and again, I tried to pitch through it. Finally after exactly a month of trying to pitch through injuries I tore my labrum and was out for the year.

My senior year was no different. First a tender shoulder, and then the doctors told me the shoulder was badly inflamed and I was out for the year. Would my BBA dreams be dashed by injuries?

Luckily for me the Las Vegas Hustlers saw enough in me to select me with their first-round pick in 2033 (31st overall). I signed with them quickly, and my father invested my \$1,600,000 signing bonus to ensure that no matter what, I would be set for life. With that out of the way, it was time for me to begin my quest for the big leagues.

Despite three new day-to-day injuries (wrist soreness, sore back, mild hamstring strain) I pitched a full season for the first time since coming to the U.S. for the Hustlers' Rookie League team, the Roswell Aliens. My numbers weren't great (3-5, 5.55 ERA in 12 starts) but I was happy to get through the season and gain experience. The Hustlers liked what they saw as well, and sent me to Winter League where I saw relief action in five games.

I came to camp in 2034 ready to go. Vegas assigned me to Kingston (Short A), and I got off to a good start in my first five starts but then, you guessed it, more injuries. The hamstring popped

again and this time it was serious- I would miss three months. Fought back though, and joined Pahrump (Class A) just in time for their stretch run. My three regular season starts for them were ugly, but I fared much better in the playoffs and we won the Pegler Series! Then, I got to join the Milwaukee club (AAA) for their playoff run, I started one game and the Choppers won the Big One! Two championships in one year! Then I went to the Prospect League again, and pitched really well.

Going into 2035, it seemed I might have a real shot to make the big leagues this year. That was incredible, given all of the injuries and being only age 20. I'd gone through six levels of minor league ball in two seasons. BBN named me the #59 prospect in the league. I pitched well in Spring but was sent back to minor league camp, and then in my first start of the year I went down again. Biceps tendinitis. Out for at least two months. Ugh. Fought back, pitched well, and then sprained my ankle and boom- out for the season, just five days before September Roster Expansion.

So for the first time, the Hustlers told me there would be no Winter Ball for me. Go home and rest, they said. Panama did name me to their WCB roster but I didn't play. I came to camp and was greeted by Christopher Stoller the Hustlers' Pitching Coach and BBA Hall of Famer. He asked me how I was feeling and I told him I was ready. They talked about the plan to pitch me in relief and I was on board. I got in against Mexico City and pitched 3 1/3 innings out of the pen, but took the loss. Still, it felt great. I wouldn't pitch again for two weeks. It seemed I was destined for the minor leagues. Then, our big free agent signee Gerardo Fajardo suffered an injury. They wanted me to start in his slot. I took the ball three times, pitching four innings in each start and faring pretty well- as you may expect Spring Training is more about getting the feel for things rather than results.

On March 21st, Chin Kim was our starter. He had an awesome season last year and was really starting to establish himself as a centerpiece of the rotation. Unfortunately, he tore meniscus in his knee and the news was bad- four months on the shelf. Could there be an opening?

I started the final game of Spring Training on March 28th. "Skip" (Edward Allen) told us all to go back to the hotel and relax- the cuts would be coming over the next 48 hours.

I asked Coach (Stoller) what they were thinking with Chin's spot in the rotation. He said that with the off days they were going to start with a four man rotation, but I should hang in there. With Chin and Maximo (Trevino) on the DL to start the year there were a couple of positions in flux. We also lost our LOOGY, Ruben Vargas, earlier in camp and there was a chance they might not keep a lefty- that would also affect my status.

Joey Flannery is one of my buddies- we were close last year after he joined the organization. Earlier in spring someone reported that he still had minor league options but that wasn't the case. His agent looked into it and he is indeed out of options. For that reason, I think my buddy Joey might be safe for now- at least until Maximo returns in a couple of weeks.

We all love Floyd Carter and his crazy antics. That guy is a ball of energy! He didn't pitch well at all in Spring but I have to believe he's going to make it- especially with Chin Kim down we need his experience.

Back to the hotel I went- it was 8pm here in Arizona and all I can do is wait.

8:15pm- Fellow prospect Alvin Chartrand calls. He's been sent down to minor league camp, and he tells me Wayne Jackson, Alfonso Archuleta, Masahiko Nemoto and Antonio Reyes are all scheduled to travel with him. We have a laugh and promise to meet up if I join him in Milwaukee. He says he'll bring the cheese if I bring the beer.

8:37pm- I see veteran lefty Alphonse Salvarani walking through the hallway, and he says his agent called and told him he was heading to Milwaukee. He thought he had a pretty good chance to make it with Ruben out, and if he didn't make it that means there's either no LOOGY on the roster or my buddy Ryosei Akahori might be the guy. Interesting. I'll give Ryosei a call.

8:39pm- Ryosei says he hasn't heard anything yet. He's nervous...I can relate.

8:43pm- Alistair Grieves stops by to say he's been sent down to Milwaukee. He's surprised and so am I. He says they told him to go down to Milwaukee and be ready at a moments notice. Sounds mysterious.

8:51pm- Still no call. What does that mean?

8:53pm- Powell Canning tells me he's been sent down. Great guy. He'll be back.

8:57pm- Well, Corey Jackson calls me and he's been told he didn't make the team. That not only opens up a roster spot but a 40 man roster spot. This could be huge.

9:02pm- Here comes Salvarani again, this time with a big smile on his face. His agent had bad info at first, he made the roster after all. Great for him...bad for me?

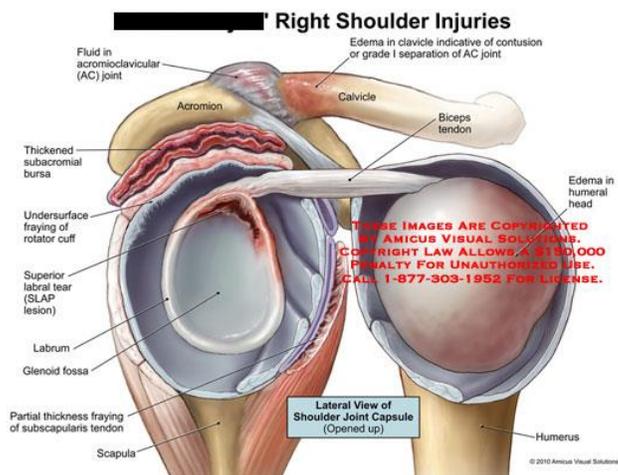
9:04pm- I call Ryosei to see if he heard about Alphonso, and yes, he did. The Hustlers told him he was going to the minors. He asks if I'm going too, tell him I still haven't heard anything.

9:08pm- Big catcher Robinson Lopez bounds in- he made the team! I asked him if he heard about Jeffery Warren then-and yes, Jeff got waived. Wow- we all thought it was a possibility but that's still a surprise.

9:12pm- The phone rings. Deep breath- you're ready Manuel. I pick up, it's Matt Rectenwald the Hustlers' GM. He asks how I'm doing...I say pretty good, but nervous. He chuckles, and says to relax. Then come the words I've been waiting for my whole life. "Manuel, we're bringing you to Vegas on our 27 man roster." I can't remember anything he said after that.

9:15pm- I call my dad. Three simple words sum up everything- "We did it!"





Pitcher Usage: Year III



*By now you should pretty well get the gig. San Fernando Valley GM **Randy Weigand** returns with an update of one of the most useful pieces of information in the GM's toolbox—a run-down of pitcher usage and Game Scores from 2036.*

Methodology: Warning, this section will likely make your eyes glaze over with boredom, but it is important I promise!! I compiled every start made from every team and pulled the following information from it: date, starter, innings pitched (IP), pitches, game score (GS), opponent, location, game result, decision and Pitcher Abuse Points (PAP). From there I kept an average of every pitcher who started a game this season, and crunched the numbers for various rankings. For rankings based on individual games, every start was eligible, but for ranking pitchers based on their season long performance, a minimum of 25 starts was required.

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PLAYER ANALYSIS: Alright enough with the preliminaries, let's get into some of the rankings. I will list the top 10 overall for each individual player ranking and then also list the top 10 in each league (with their overall ranking listed as well). I will also list the bottom 10 for each category as well.

TOP 10 -AVERAGE GAME SCORE (2035)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 61.79	Arthur Dempster (RCK)- 60.21 (2)	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 61.79 (1)
2	Arthur Dempster (RCK)- 60.21	Kevin Morales (LOU)- 59.94 (3)	Ken Walter (SEA)- 59.45 (4)
3	Kevin Morales (LOU)- 59.94	Yu-bao Tong (HNT)- 59.25 (5)	Luis Gracia (CAL)- 59.03 (6)
4	Ken Walter (SEA)- 59.45	Aki Kondo (MTL)- 57.16 (9)	Lawrence LaLoosh (YS9)- 58.39 (7)
5	Yu-bao Tong (HNT)- 59.25	Hector Amaral (NO)- 56.31 (12)	Miguel Ramos (CAL)- 57.69 (8)
6	Luis Gracia (CAL)- 59.03	Jubal Troop (MTL)- 55.21 (14)	Cristobal Hernandez (CLG)- 57.16 (10)
7	Lawrence LaLoosh (YS9)- 58.39	Hyun-sik Chang (LV)- 54.94 (17)	Mauro Flores (VAL)- 57.00 (11)
8	Miguel Ramos (CAL)- 57.69	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 54.84 (18)	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 55.56 (13)
9	Aki Kondo (MTL)- 57.16	Francisco Ruiz (BRK)- 54.60 (21)	Jon Reed (SFV)- 55.00 (15)
10	Cristobal Hernandez (CLG)- 57.16	Scotty Pendleton (MEX)- 54.59 (22)	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 54.97 (16)

TOP 10 -AVERAGE INNINGS PITCHED (2035)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 7.49	Yu-bao Tong (HNT)- 7.14 (6)	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 7.49 (1)
2	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 7.31	Jimmy Greenwood (LV)- 7.09	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 7.31 (2)
3	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 7.28	Doug Martin (NO)- 6.99 (12)	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 7.28 (3)
4	Jimmy Greenwood (TOT)- 7.26	Yoshimatsu Yamiguchi (NO)- 6.98 (13)	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 7.19 (5)
5	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 7.19	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 6.94 (14)	Tavio Ciccolella (BOI)- 7.13 (7)
6	Yu-bao Tong (HNT)- 7.14	Hector Amaral (NO)- 6.90 (15)	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 7.12 (8)
7	Tavio Ciccolella (BOI)- 7.13	Hyun-sik Chang (LV)- 6.90 (15)	Jose Zamora (VAN)- 7.05 (9)
8	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 7.12	Kevin Morales (LOU)- 6.89 (17)	Ken Walter (SEA)- 7.03 (10)
9	Jose Zamora (VAN)- 7.05	Andre Georges (RCK)- 6.87 (19)	Julio Alicea (SEA)- 7.00 (11)
10	Ken Walter (SEA)- 7.03	Pepe Jaramillo (LOU)- 6.81 (23)	Gordon Graves (SEA)- 6.87 (20)

- (NOTE: Jimmy Greenwood qualifies with this Las Vegas total due to meeting minimum start requirement, his combined total is split between leagues. Mario Villareal (#18 in BBA) does not qualify due to splitting starts between leagues).

Ron's Notes: It's always interesting to see how the league thinks of pitchers and Game Score. For example, last year's Nebraska Winners were Morales and Dempster, neither of whom led the league in average game score (Morales was 2nd, Dempster 3rd). This year, Dempster wins while leading the league, while LaLoosh's performance was only 4th.

You might note that neither Dempster or LaLoosh show up in the top 10 for Innings Pitched, however, and the GS metric heavily weights staying in games.

TOP 10 -AVERAGE PITCHES/GAME (2035)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 114.83	Hector Amaral (NO)- 112.09 (6)	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 114.83 (1)
2	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 114.16	Abe Colbert Jr. (WIC)- 108.32 (12)	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 114.16 (2)
3	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 114.07	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 108.23 (14)	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 114.07 (3)
4	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 113.71	Tony Canales (CCJ/NO)- 106.48 (22)	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 113.71 (4)
5	Jon Reed (SFV)- 113.52	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 105.48 (23)	Jon Reed (SFV)- 113.52 (5)
6	Hector Amaral (NO)- 112.09	Doug Martin (NO)- 104.96 (25)	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 111.09 (7)
7	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 111.09	Arthur Dempster (RCK)- 104.94 (26)	Stephen Clulow (OMA)- 111.00 (8)
8	Stephen Clulow (OMA)- 111.00	Atsumori Maeda (NSH)- 104.93 (27)	Jose Zamora (VAN)- 110.54 (9)
9	Jose Zamora (VAN)- 110.54	Heinrich Peithner (HNT)- 104.58 (28)	Gordon Graves (SEA)- 109.48 (10)
10	Gordon Graves (SEA)- 109.48	Yoshimatsu Yamiguchi (NO)- 104.34 (29)	Maxence Mace (BOI)- 108.79 (11)

- (NOTE: Mario Villareal (#18 in BBA) and Sam Romero (#20 in BBA) do not qualify for either league due to trades)

TOP 10 -PITCHER ABUSE POINTS (2035)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 1205	Hector Amaral (NO)- 763 (7)	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 1205 (1)
2	Stephen Clulow (OMA)- 1113	Manuel Pena (MTL)- 636 (10)	Stephen Clulow (OMA)- 1113 (2)
3	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 1041	Mario Villareal (LOU)- 566 (14)	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 1041 (3)
4	Maxence Mace (BOI)- 833	Heinrich Peithner (HNT)- 500 (18)	Maxence Mace (BOI)- 833 (4)
5	Jon Reed (SFV)- 805	Tony Canales (CCJ/NO)- 491 (19)	Jon Reed (SFV)- 805 (5)
6	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 784	Arthur Dempster (RCK)- 464 (20)	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 784 (6)
7	Hector Amaral (NO)- 763	Abe Colbert Jr. (WIC)- 400 (24)	Jody Nunez (MAD)- 726 (8)
8	Jody Nunez (MAD)- 726	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 400 (24)	Manuel Soliz (VAN)- 690 (9)
9	Manuel Soliz (VAN)- 690	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 388 (27)	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 627 (11)
10	Manuel Pena (MTL)- 636	Pepe Jaramillo (LOU)- 332 (33)	Tavio Ciccolella (BOI)- 567 (13)

2. (NOTE: Mario Villareal had his total (#12 in BBA) split between leagues, so his Johnson League performance and ranking is listed here. Ken Vazquez (#32 in BBA) does not qualify for either league due to trades).

Ron's Notes: Vancouver rookie Juan Guerreo led the Frick with 7.49 Innings per start, and threw 11 pitches per outing, yet doesn't show up on the list PAP list—suggesting he's quite efficient. One might assume he's #11-#12 on that chart for the Frick. I'll note also that Jon Reed should be at the top of the Johnson list. It should be interesting to see the raw data in the spreadsheet this year.

BOTTOM 10 -AVERAGE GAME SCORE (2035)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Rogelio Vazquez (LOU/WIC)- 37.67	Rogelio Vazquez (LOU/WIC)- 37.67 (1)	Tavio Ciccolella (BOI)- 43.94 (7)
2	Tony Canales (CCJ/NO)- 41.32	Tony Canales (CCJ/NO)- 41.32 (2)	Ricardo Jaramillo (HAW)- 44.60 (9)
3	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 41.69	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 41.69 (3)	Jody Nunez (MAD)- 44.91 (11)
4	Angelo Delgado (SA)- 41.79	Angelo Delgado (SA)- 41.79 (4)	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 45.68 (12)
5	Nicholas Sutton (NSH)- 43.37	Nicholas Sutton (NSH)- 43.37 (5)	Travis Arnold (TWC)- 45.84 (13)
6	Mark Totten (CCJ/PHX)- 43.44	Mark Totten (CCJ/PHX)- 43.44 (6)	Maxence Mace (BOI)- 45.91 (14)
7	Tavio Ciccolella (BOI)- 43.94	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 44.15 (8)	Chet Parrish (EDM)- 46.40 (15)
8	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 44.15	Manuel Romano (BRK)- 44.77 (10)	Juan Perez (CLG)- 46.96 (16)
9	Ricardo Jaramillo (HAW)- 44.60	Ludwig Charles (HNT)- 47.06 (17)	Reese Rayner (TWC)- 47.10 (18)
10	Manuel Romano (BRK)- 44.77	Atsumori Maeda (NSH)- 47.59 (21)	Cris Rios (BOI)- 47.28 (20)

- (NOTE: Mario Villareal (#19 in BBA) did not qualify for either league due to trades)

BOTTOM 10 -AVERAGE IP/START

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Ken Bates (BRK)- 4.81	Ken Bates (BRK)- 4.81 (1)	Cris Rios (BOI)- 5.38 (3)
2	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 4.96	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 4.96 (2)	Pierre Legrand (LBC)- 5.38 (3)
3	Cris Rios (BOI)- 5.38	Manuel Romano (BRK)- 5.59 (8)	Jose Chavez (YS9)- 5.43 (5)
4	Pierre Legrand (LBC)- 5.38	Juan Jose Fuentes (BRK)- 5.60 (9)	Gerardo Fajardo (YS9)- 5.44 (6)
5	Jose Chavez (YS9)- 5.43	Angelo Delgado (SA)- 5.61 (10)	Pepe Castillo (LBC)- 5.51 (7)
6	Gerardo Fajardo (YS9)- 5.44	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 5.66 (12)	Tristan Alfama (YS9)- 5.63 (11)
7	Pepe Castillo (LBC)- 5.51	Jesus Tonche (SA/WIC)- 5.71 (15)	Adam Barnard (OMA)- 5.69 (13)
8	Manuel Romano (BRK)- 5.59	Denis Pham (MEX)- 5.75 (17)	Mike Bailey (LBC)- 5.70 (14)
9	Juan Jose Fuentes (BRK)- 5.60	Francisco Ruiz (BRK)- 5.82 (18)	Reese Rayner (TWC)- 5.92 (21)
10	Angelo Delgado (SA)- 5.61	Scotty Pendleton (MEX)- 5.88 (19)	Ricardo Jaramillo (HAW)- 5.95 (24)

- (NOTE: Irving Espinoza (#15 in BBA) and Randall Thomas (#19 in BBA) did not qualify for either league due to trades)

BOTTOM 10 -AVERAGE PITCHES/START (2035)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Ken Bates (BRK)- 77.76	Ken Bates (BRK)- 77.76 (1)	Gerardo Fajardo (YS9)- 82.04 (3)
2	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 80.88	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 80.88 (2)	Mike Bailey (LBC)- 82.88 (4)
3	Gerardo Fajardo (YS9)- 82.04	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 84.93 (5)	Pierre Legrand (LBC)- 86.10 (6)
4	Mike Bailey (LBC)- 82.88	Bonaventure Habermas (HNT/SA)- 88.32 (10)	Pepe Castillo (LBC)- 86.82 (8)
5	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 84.93	Juan Jose Fuentes (BRK)- 89.26 (12)	Jose Chavez (YS9)- 88.14 (9)
6	Pierre Legrand (LBC)- 86.10	Jesus Tonche (SA/WIC)- 90.47 (13)	Cris Rios (BOI)- 89.03 (11)
7	Irving Espinoza (CCJ/LBC)- 86.81	Denis Pham (MEX)- 90.59 (14)	Tristan Alfama (YS9)- 92.63 (20)
8	Pepe Castillo (LBC)- 86.82	Mark Totten (CCJ/PHX)- 91.37 (15)	Ragnar Lothbrok (DSM)- 93.26 (24)
9	Jose Chavez (YS9)- 88.14	Francisco Ruiz (BRK)- 92.23 (17)	Josh Brown (TWC)- 93.69 (26)
10	Bonaventure Habermas	Manuel Romano (BRK)- 92.54 (18)	Reese Rayner (TWC)- 93.77 (27)

- (NOTE: Irving Espinoza (#7 in BBA) and Randall Thomas (#16 in BBA) did not qualify for either league due to trades)

INDIVIDUAL GAME SUPERLATIVES: Now that we have broken out the pitchers based on a full season, lets take a look at the best (and worst) individual performances over the course of the season. Unless otherwise noted, we will be taking the top and bottom 20 for each list including ties.

TOP 20 -INDIVIDUAL GAME SCORE (2035)

RAN	NAME	TEAM	DATE	OPPONEN	IP	PITCHES	GS
1	Hector Amaral	NO	28 August	@NSH	9	122	98
2	Chris Kelly	TWC	19 June	@HAW	9	101	96
3	Hao Kun	LV	04 September	NSH	9	103	95
3	Cristobal Hernandez	CLG	06 September	@BOI	9	110	95
3	Feliciano Rafael	SFV	29 September	HAW	9	115	95
6	Cristobal Hernandez	CLG	25 June	HAW	9	91	94
7	Manuel Soliz	VAN	27 August	BOI	9	116	93
7	Luis Gracia	CAL	05 September	@OMA	9	103	93
9	Mario Villareal	LOU	20 April	HNT	9	116	92
9	Chet Parrish	EDM	11 May	BOI	9	106	92
9	Jubal Troop	MTL	21 June	BRK	9	97	92
9	Reese Rayner	TWC	19 August	@BOI	9	101	92
9	Hyun-sik Chang	LV	23 September	SA	9	93	92
14	Enrique Gomez	RCK	23 April	ATC	9	96	91
14	Feliciano Rafael	SFV	05 June	@LBC	9	136	91
14	Ernie Kinney	SFV	14 July	NSH	9	107	91
17	Yoshimatsu Yamiguchi	NO	18 May	PHX	9	104	90
17	Ken Walter	SEA	02 June	VAN	9	112	90
17	Aurelio Fernandez	VAL	01 July	DSM	9	125	90
20	Josh Brown	TWC	02 April	MAD	9	109	89
20	Arthur Dempster	RCK	22 April	ATC	9	97	89
20	Cris Rios	BOI	29 April	MAD	9	101	89

Ron's Notes: Interesting again to see that Nebraska winners Dempster and LaLoosh barely dent this list, Dempster making it as a #19 tie with Josh Brown and Chris Rios. Another interesting note is that the league had 5 no hitters this season, four of them appear on this list, but Jose Trillo's 5K, 6 BB effort (86 GS) does not.

BOTTOM 20 -INDIVIDUAL GAME SCORE (2035)

RAN	NAME	TEAM	DATE	OPPONEN	IP	PITCHES	GS
1	Angel Guerrero	MAD	23 June	YS9	1.66	87	-21
2	John Wick	SA	21 April	BOI	1.66	69	-15
3	Rogelio Vazquez	LOU	03 May	@RCK	3	99	-13
4	Doug Martin	NO	17 May	PHX	2	60	-12
4	Pablo Morales	SEA	29 July	MAD	3	98	-12
6	Gerald Keynes	VAL	05 April	BOI	3	82	-10
7	Abe Colbert Jr.	WIC	24 July	MEX	4	113	-9
8	Juan Perez	CLG	29 May	OMA	2.33	56	-8
9	James Robinson	MAD	22 May	BOI	2.66	80	-7
9	Pepe Jaramillo	LOU	17 September	WIC	3.66	106	-7
11	Manuel Pena	MTL	01 May	@PHX	2.33	62	-6
11	Enrico Rivera	NO	29 June	MEX	4.66	91	-6
13	Juan Lopez	VAL	17 August	@YS9	3.33	86	-5
14	Francis Wiles	NSH	11 July	SFV	3.33	103	-4
14	Marcos Medina	CCJ	02 September	SA	3.33	92	-4
16	Aurelio Fernandez	VAL	28 April	@SEA	1	48	-3
16	Angel Lopez	TWC	26 July	LBC	3	84	-3
16	Poto Tornatore	OMA	01 August	@SFV	3.66	98	-3
19	Ken Bates	BRK	14 June	LV	2.66	65	-2
19	Diogo Lindt	LBC	06 September	SFV	2	73	-2
19	Esteban Feliz	ATC	17 September	@SA	1.66	52	-2

Ron's Notes: Perhaps this isn't really the point here, but the thing I find interesting is to see the opponent in these "early blow-outs." Homer-centric Boise and San Fernando tagged pitchers three times. Yellow Springs, Mexico City, Phoenix, and San Antonio all get multiples. Interesting collection. Another weird trivial face, Valencia's Aurelio Fernandez threw only 48 pitches to register his -4 GS, fewest on the list.

TOP 20 -INDIVIDUAL SINGLE PITCHES (2035)

RAN	NAME	TEAM	DATE	OPPONEN	IP	PITCHES	GS
1	Jose Morales	VAN	19 June	MEX	9	151	53
2	Tony Canales	NO	22 August	WIC	8.66	147	54
3	Stephen Clulow	OMA	09 August	YS9	9	146	65
4	Gerald Keynes	VAL	28 August	LBC	8.66	145	48
5	Carson Stoller	OMA	17 May	BOI	8	143	60
5	Poto Tornatore	OMA	04 June	TWC	6.66	143	48
5	Manuel Pena	MTL	25 June	@ATC	9	143	68
5	Carson Stoller	OMA	30 July	@SFV	8.33	143	64
9	Johnny Morin	EDM	01 May	LBC	8	142	56
9	Carson Stoller	OMA	07 September	@TWC	6.66	142	15
11	Manuel Pena	MTL	06 July	LV	9	141	62
11	Johnny Morin	EDM	14 July	@PHX	8.66	141	61
11	Johnny Morin	EDM	18 September	TWC	8	141	63
14	Carson Stoller	OMA	14 July	CCJ	8.33	139	53
14	Carson Stoller	OMA	01 September	@SEA	8	139	63
16	Stephen Clulow	OMA	17 July	@ATC	9	138	70
16	Mario Villareal	LOU	26 July	BRK	8.33	138	46
16	Tony Canales	NO	28 July	PHX	9	138	46
16	Ken Vazquez	MAD	20 August	@EDM	8.66	138	52
16	Ken Vazquez	MAD	06 September	DSM	8	138	68
16	Carson Stoller	OMA	28 September	LBC	8	138	46

Ron's Notes: There is apparently no truth to the rumor that Omaha pitcher Carson Stoller's arm has been replaced with a composite that's half rubber and half Rocky Balboa. Some, however, do think it's looking a bit like pounded rib roast. Stollers shows up on this list six times. Impressive. I think. Edmonton's Johnny Morin three times. A few others are on it twice. We're getting far enough along here to start looking for trends, aren't we? We'll see.

TEAM RANKINGS: The next item we will be looking at is team rankings in the three major categories. I have broken this down by division, with the overall Brewster ranking listed in parentheses. This takes into account every game started by that team, not just by qualified starting pitchers.

AVERAGE TEAM GAME SCORE (2035)

RANK	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Rockville Pikemen- 52.84 (3)	California Crusaders- 54.27 (1)
2	Montreal Blazers- 51.67 (4)	Seattle Storm- 53.95 (2)
3	Mexico City Aztecs- 51.55 (6)	Yellow Springs Nine- 51.57 (5)
4	Huntsville Phantoms- 51.28 (8)	San Fernando Bears- 51.52 (7)
5	New Orleans Crawdads- 51.23 (9)	Long Beach Surfers- 50.15 (12)
6	Las Vegas Hustlers- 50.76 (10)	Vancouver Mounties- 50.14 (13)
7	Louisville Sluggers- 50.21 (11)	Des Moines Kernels- 49.31 (14)
8	Phoenix Talons- 49.09 (16)	Twin Cities River Monsters- 49.24 (15)
9	Jacksonville Hurricanes- 48.85 (18)	Calgary Pioneers- 48.91 (17)
10	Brooklyn Robins- 48.30 (20)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 48.52 (19)
11	San Antonio Outlaws- 45.45 (25)	Omaha Hawks- 47.94 (21)
12	Atlantic City Gamblers- 45.35 (26)	Valencia Stars- 47.72 (22)
13	Charm City Jimmies- 44.56 (28)	Hawaii Tropics- 46.75 (23)
14	Wichita Aviators- 44.53 (29)	Boise Spuds- 45.85 (24)
15	Nashville Goats- 43.35 (30)	Madison Wolves- 45.04 (27)

AVERAGE TEAM INNINGS PER START (2035)

ANK	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	New Orleans Crawdads- 6.82 (2)	Seattle Storm- 6.90 (1)
2	Las Vegas Hustlers- 6.57 (6)	Vancouver Mounties- 6.76 (3)
3	Louisville Sluggers- 6.56 (7)	San Fernando Bears- 6.62 (4)
4	Huntsville Phantoms- 6.36 (9)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 6.60 (5)
5	Rockville Pikemen- 6.34 (11)	California Crusaders- 6.37 (8)
6	Jacksonville Hurricanes- 6.17 (14)	Boise Spuds- 6.35 (10)
7	Phoenix Talons- 6.12 (15)	Omaha Hawks- 6.26 (12)
8	Wichita Aviators- 6.10 (16)	Calgary Pioneers- 6.19 (13)
9	Montreal Blazers- 6.09 (17)	Valencia Stars- 6.06 (18)
10	Nashville Goats- 5.99 (21)	Twin Cities River Monsters- 6.06 (18)
11	Mexico City Aztecs- 5.91 (24)	Madison Wolves- 6.04 (20)
12	Atlantic City Gamblers- 5.78 (25)	Hawaii Tropics- 5.98 (22)
13	San Antonio Outlaws- 5.76 (26)	Des Moines Kernels- 5.97 (23)
14	Charm City Jimmies- 5.60 (27)	Yellow Springs Nine- 5.57 (28)
15	Brooklyn Robins- 5.45 (30)	Long Beach Surfers- 5.48 (29)

Ron's Notes: Interesting to see teams at the top and bottom of these two stats. Given that GS is a bit of a counting stat, it makes me ponder a "junk stat" of GS/IP. Do some yourself...they're interesting numbers even if I don't really know what to do with them.

AVERAGE TEAM INNINGS PER START (2035)

RANK	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	New Orleans Crawdads- 107.26 (2)	San Fernando Bears- 108.43 (1)
2	Louisville Sluggers- 102.02 (7)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 106.85 (3)
3	Las Vegas Hustlers- 100.89 (9)	Vancouver Mounties- 106.09 (4)
4	Rockville Pikemen- 98.14 (13)	Seattle Storm- 106.06 (5)
5	Nashville Goats- 97.95 (14)	Omaha Hawks- 103.44 (6)
6	Huntsville Phantoms- 97.90 (15)	Boise Spuds- 101.88 (8)
7	Wichita Aviators- 97.37 (16)	Valencia Stars- 99.49 (10)
8	Jacksonville Hurricanes- 96.11 (17)	Madison Wolves- 98.90 (11)
9	Montreal Blazers- 95.75 (18)	California Crusaders- 98.83 (12)
10	Phoenix Talons- 95.67 (19)	Hawaii Tropics- 94.94 (20)
11	Atlantic City Gamblers- 94.64 (22)	Calgary Pioneers- 94.80 (21)
12	San Antonio Outlaws- 94.01 (25)	Twin Cities River Monsters- 94.41 (23)
13	Mexico City Aztecs- 92.39 (26)	Des Moines Kernels- 94.29 (24)
14	Charm City Jjimmies- 89.05 (28)	Yellow Springs Nine- 89.07 (27)
15	Brooklyn Robins- 87.62 (29)	Long Beach Surfers- 85.43 (30)

PITCHER ABUSE PER GAME (2035)

RANK	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	New Orleans Crawdads- 2570 (5)	Omaha Hawks- 3431 (1)
2	Louisville Sluggers- 1650 (8)	San Fernando Bears- 3060 (2)
3	Huntsville Phantoms- 1329 (11)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 2880 (3)
4	Montreal Blazers- 968 (12)	Vancouver Mounties- 2785 (4)
5	Wichita Aviators- 905 (13)	Boise Spuds- 2326 (6)
6	Phoenix Talons- 870 (14)	Madison Wolves- 1749 (7)
7	Jacksonville Hurricanes- 814 (15)	Valencia Stars- 1637 (9)
8	Nashville Goats- 796 (16)	Seattle Storm- 1633 (10)
9	Rockville Pikemen- 794 (17)	Twin Cities River Monsters- 705 (19)
10	Las Vegas Hustlers- 753 (18)	California Crusaders- 400 (21)
11	Brooklyn Robins- 493 (20)	Calgary Pioneers- 322 (23)
12	Atlantic City Gamblers- 363 (22)	Hawaii Tropics- 251 (24)
13	Charm City Jimmies- 197 (26)	Des Moines Kernels- 220 (25)
14	Mexico City Aztecs- 170 (27)	Yellow Springs Nine- 164 (28)
15	San Antonio Outlaws- 120 (29)	Long Beach Surfers- 15 (30)

Ron's Notes: It's not a terrible surprise that San Fernando, New Orleans and Louisville are toward the top of the list. They were among the unrepentant leaders in this stat last year. Edmonton and Vancouver were also around the upper regions. Omahamade some serious attempts to leverage their rotation in 2035, moving from 10th to first. The bottoms of this list look similar, too, showing that these are probably real differences in philosophy or basic team construction.

“ALL-TIME” RANKINGS

These are the same charts as above, same rules except instead of just this past season we will be examining all seasons for which data has been compiled (starting in 2033).

ALL-TIME BEST AVERAGE GAME SCORE (SEASON)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Bobby Lynch (EDM)- 62.79 (2034)	Jon Reed (HAV)- 62.15 (2034)	Bobby Lynch (EDM)- 62.79 (2034)
2	Jon Reed (HAV)- 62.15 (2034)	Jubal Troop (MTL)- 60.47 (2033)	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 61.79 (2035)
3	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 61.79 (2035)	Arthur Dempster (RCK)- 60.21 (2035)	Kevin Morales (LOU)- 61.09 (2034)
4	Kevin Morales (LOU)- 61.09 (2034)	Kevin Morales (LOU)- 59.94 (2035)	Chris Kelly (TWC)- 60.61 (2034)
5	Chris Kelly (TWC)- 60.61 (2034)	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 59.65 (2033)	Miguel Ramos (CAL)- 59.69 (2034)
6	Jubal Troop (MTL)- 60.47 (2033)	Yu-bao Tong (HNT)- 59.25 (2035)	Mauro Flores (VAL)- 59.67 (2034)
7	Arthur Dempster (RCK)- 60.21 (2035)	Feliciano Rafael (HAV)- 59.23 (2034)	Bobby Lynch (EDM)- 59.48 (2033)
8	Kevin Morales (LOU)- 59.94 (2035)	Arthur Dempster (RCK)- 57.90 (2034)	Ken Walter (SEA)- 59.45 (2035)
9	Miguel Ramos (CAL)- 59.69 (2034)	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 57.64 (2034)	Tavio Ciccolella (OMA)- 59.21 (2033)
10	Mauro Flores (VAL)- 59.67 (2034)	Aki Kondo (MTL)- 57.16 (2035)	Luis Gracia (CAL)- 59.03 (2035)

ALL-TIME MOST AVERAGE IP/START (SEASON)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Tavio Ciccolella (OMA)- 7.96 (2033)	Feliciano Rafael (HAV)- 7.50 (2034)	Tavio Ciccolella (OMA)- 7.96 (2033)
2	Feliciano Rafael (HAV)- 7.50 (2034)	Jon Reed (HAV)- 7.49 (2034)	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 7.49 (2035)
3	Jon Reed (HAV)- 7.49 (2034)	Antonio Correa (ATC)- 7.46 (2033)	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 7.31 (2035)
4	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 7.49 (2035)	Hector Amaral (NO)- 7.39 (2034)	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 7.28 (2035)
5	Antonio Correa (ATC)- 7.46 (2033)	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 7.38 (2034)	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 7.19 (2035)
6	Hector Amaral (NO)- 7.39 (2034)	Sam Romero (LV)- 7.30 (2033)	Tavio Ciccolella (BOI)- 7.13 (2035)
7	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 7.38 (2034)	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 7.26 (2033)	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 7.12 (2035)
8	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 7.31 (2035)	Hector Amaral (NO)- 7.23 (2033)	Alfredo Contreras (SEA)- 7.11 (2033)
9	Sam Romero (LV)- 7.30 (2033)	Tavio Ciccolella (BRK)- 7.14 (2034)	Jose Zamora (VAN)- 7.05 (2035)
10	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 7.28 (2035)	Yu-bao Tong (HNT)- 7.14 (2035)	Ken Walter (SEA)- 7.03 (2035)

ALL-TIME MOST PITCHES/START (SEASON)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU/SEA)- 128.04 (2034)	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 118.91 (2033)	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU/SEA)- 128.04 (2034)
2	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 118.91 (2033)	Jon Reed (HAV)- 116.92 (2034)	Troy Downey (OMA/VAN)- 115.48 (2034)
3	Jon Reed (HAV)- 116.92 (2034)	Feliciano Rafael (HAV)- 114.58 (2034)	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 114.83 (2035)
4	Troy Downey (OMA/VAN)- 115.48 (2034)	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 114.39 (2034)	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 114.16 (2035)
5	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 114.83 (2035)	Hector Amaral (NO)- 114.21 (2034)	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 114.07 (2035)
6	Feliciano Rafael (HAV)- 114.58 (2034)	Hector Amaral (NO)- 112.09 (2035)	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 113.71 (2035)
7	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 114.39 (2034)	Heinrich Peithner (HNT)- 112.06 (2034)	Jon Reed (SFV)- 113.52 (2035)
8	Hector Amaral (NO)- 114.21 (2034)	Freddy Delgado (NO)- 110.46 (2033)	Tavio Ciccolella (OMA)- 112.45 (2033)
9	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 114.16 (2035)	Tavio Ciccolella (BRK)- 110.29 (2034)	Juan Guerrero (VAN)- 111.09 (2035)
10	Ernie Kinney (SFV)- 114.07 (2035)	Abe Colbert Jr. (WIC)- 108.32 (2035)	Stephen Clulow (OMA)- 111.00 (2035)

ALL-TIME MOST PAP (SEASON)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU/SEA)- 2079 (2034)	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 1160 (2033)	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU/SEA)- 2079 (2034)
2	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 1205 (2035)	Tavio Ciccolella (BRK)- 955 (2034)	Carson Stoller (OMA)- 1205 (2035)
3	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 1160 (2033)	Heinrich Peithner (HNT)- 860 (2034)	Stephen Clulow (OMA)- 1113 (2035)
4	Stephen Clulow (OMA)- 1113 (2035)	Feliciano Rafael (HAV)- 805 (2034)	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 1041 (2035)
5	Jody Nunez (HAV/MAD)- 1086 (2034)	Hector Amaral (NO)- 783 (2034)	Troy Downey (OMA/VAN)- 1022 (2034)
6	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 1041 (2035)	Hector Amaral (NO)- 763 (2035)	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU)- 955 (2033)
7	Troy Downey (OMA/VAN)- 1022 (2034)	Jon Reed (HAV)- 753 (2034)	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 847 (2033)
8	Tavio Ciccolella (BRK)- 955 (2034)	Jose Trujillo (PHX)- 721 (2034)	Maxence Mace (BOI)- 833 (2035)
9	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU)- 955 (2033)	Jody Nunez (HAV)- 691 (2033)	Jon Reed (SFV)- 805 (2035)
10	Heinrich Peithner (HNT)- 860 (2034)	Antonio Correa (ATC)- 666 (2033)	Feliciano Rafael (SFV)- 784 (2035)

ALL-TIME LEAST GAME SCORE/START (SEASON)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Juan Jose Ornelas (SA)- 37.34 (2033)	Juan Jose Ornelas (SA)- 37.34 (2033)	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU/SEA)- 40.54
2	Rogelio Vazquez (LOU/WIC)- 37.67 (2035)	Rogelio Vazquez (LOU/WIC)- 37.67	Tavio Ciccolella (BOI)- 43.94 (2035)
3	Abe Colbert Jr. (LOU/SEA)- 40.54 (2034)	Jonathan Frank (NSH)- 41.30 (2034)	Johnny Morin (EDM)- 44.10 (2033)
4	Jonathan Frank (NSH)- 41.30 (2034)	Tony Canales (CCJ/NO)- 41.32 (2035)	Scotty Pendleton (MEX)- 44.13 (2034)
5	Tony Canales (CCJ/NO)- 41.32 (2035)	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 41.69 (2035)	Alfredo Granados (MAD)- 44.31 (2034)
6	Jose Cavazos (HNT/LOU/OMA/VAN)-	Angelo Delgado (SA)- 41.79 (2035)	Adam Coughlan (EDM)- 44.53 (2033)
7	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 41.69 (2035)	Ricardo Maldonado (SA)- 42.31 (2034)	Lorenzo Pena (MEX)- 44.86 (2033)
8	Angelo Delgado (SA)- 41.79 (2035)	Nicholas Sutton (NSH)- 43.37 (2035)	Joe Clements (OMA)- 44.89 (2034)
9	Ricardo Maldonado (SA)- 42.31 (2034)	Kazunori Sato (ATC)- 43.38 (2034)	Jody Nunez (MAD)- 44.91 (2035)
10	Kazunori Sato (ATC)- 43.38 (2034)	Mark Totten (CCJ/PHX)- 43.44 (2035)	Julio Negrete (DSM)- 45.23 (2034)

ALL-TIME LEAST AVERAGE IP/START (SEASON)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Conan Harris (BRK)- 4.81 (2033)	Conan Harris (BRK)- 4.81 (2033)	Jake Dickson (CLG)- 5.00 (2033)
2	Ken Bates (BRK)- 4.81 (2035)	Ken Bates (BRK)- 4.81 (2035)	Scotty Pendleton (MEX)- 5.22 (2)
3	Manuel Ramirez- 4.96 (2035)	Manuel Ramirez- 4.96 (2035)	Cris Rios (MEX)- 5.32 (2033)
4	Jake Dickson (CLG)- 5.00 (2033)	Aki Kondo (MTL)- 5.15 (2034)	Rick Ward (YS9)- 5.33 (2034)
5	Aki Kondo (MTL)- 5.15 (2034)	Robbie van Mierlo (RCK)- 5.40 (2034)	Alfredo Granados (MAD)- 5.33 (2034)
6	Scotty Pendleton (MEX)- 5.22 (2034)	Ricardo Maldonado (SA)- 5.41 (2034)	Claudio Delgado (MEX)- 5.34 (2033)
7	Cris Rios (MEX)- 5.32 (2033)	Angelo Delgado (SA)- 5.41 (2034)	Cris Rios (BOI)- 5.38 (2035)
8	Rick Ward (YS9)- 5.33 (2034)	Guillermo Martinez (NSH)- 5.48 (2034)	Pierre Legrand (LBC)- 5.38 (2035)
9	Alfredo Granados (MAD)- 5.33 (2034)	Juan Rodriguez (SA/RCK)- 5.57 (2034)	Jose Chavez (YS9)- 5.43 (2035)
10	Claudio Delgado (MEX)- 5.34 (2033)	Manuel Romano (BRK)- 5.59 (2035)	Gerardo Fajardo (YS9)- 5.44 (2035)

ALL-TIME FEWEST PITCHES/START (SEASON)

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Ken Bates (BRK)- 77.26 (2035)	Ken Bates (BRK)- 77.26 (2035)	Gerardo Fajardo (YS9)- 82.04 (2035)
2	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 80.88 (2035)	Manuel Ramirez (JAX)- 80.88 (2035)	Mike Bailey (LBC)- 82.88 (2035)
3	Gerardo Fajardo (YS9)- 82.04 (2035)	Conan Harris (BRK)- 83.40 (2033)	Jake Dickson (CLG)- 85.24 (2033)
4	Mike Bailey (LBC)- 82.88 (2035)	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 84.93 (2035)	Pierre Legrand (LBC)- 86.10 (2035)
5	Conan Harris (BRK)- 83.40 (2033)	Irving Espinoza (CCJ)- 87.30 (2034)	Alberto Sanchez (YS9)- 86.40 (2033)
6	Arturo Reyes (CCJ)- 84.93 (2035)	Guillermo Martinez (NSH)- 87.52 (2034)	Pepe Castillo (LBC)- 86.82 (2035)
7	Jake Dickson (CLG)- 85.24 (2033)	Jose Cisneros (SA)- 87.93 (2033)	Dan West (VAN)- 87.40 (2033)
8	Pierre Legrand (LBC)- 86.10 (2035)	Harry Considine (PHX)- 88.13 (2033)	Pepe Castillo (LBC)- 87.81 (2034)
9	Alberto Sanchez (YS9)- 86.40 (2033)	Bonaventure Habermas (HNT/SA)- 88.32 (2035)	Jose Chavez (YS9)- 88.14 (2035)
10	Irving Espinoza (CCJ/LBC)- 86.81 (2035)	Juan Rodriguez (SA/RCK)- 88.40 (2033)	Gonzalo Fajardo (LBC)- 88.32 (2034)

INDIVIDUAL GAME SUPERLATIVES:

ALL-TIME BEST GAME SCORE

RANK	YEAR	NAME	TM	DATE	OPP	IP	PITCHES	GS
1	2035	Hector Amaral	NO	28 August	@NSH	9	122	98
2	2034	Freddy Delgado	NO	03 July	SEA	9	121	96
2	2035	Chris Kelly	TWC	19 June	@HAW	9	101	96
4	2033	Bobby Lynch	EDM	14 July	DSM	9	102	95
4	2035	Hao Kun	LV	04 September	NSH	9	103	95
4	2035	Cristobal Hernandez	CLG	06 September	@BOI	9	110	95
4	2035	Feliciano Rafael	SFV	29 September	HAW	9	115	95
8	2035	Cristobal Hernandez	CLG	25 June	HAW	9	91	94
9	2033	Mauro Flores	VAL	11 April	DSM	9	117	93
9	2035	Manuel Soliz	VAN	27 August	BOI	9	116	93
9	2035	Luis Gracia	CAL	05 September	@OMA	9	103	93
12	2033	Heinrich Peithner	HNT	06 April	PHX	9	104	92
12	2033	Alfredo Contreras	SEA	18 April	@MEX	9	110	92
12	2033	Freddy Delgado	NO	17 July	CLG	9	107	92
12	2033	Jaime Mercado	CAL	06 September	EDM	8.33	102	92
12	2034	Freddy Delgado	NO	29 July	PHX	9	99	92
12	2035	Mario Villareal	LOU	20 April	HNT	9	116	92
12	2035	Chet Parrish	EDM	11 May	BOI	9	106	92
12	2035	Jubal Troop	MTL	21 June	BRK	9	97	92
12	2035	Reese Rayner	TWC	19 August	@BOI	9	101	92
12	2035	Hyun-sik Chang	LV	23 September	SA	9	93	92

ALL-TIME WORST GAME SCORES

RANK	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	DATE	OPPONENT	IP	PITCHES	GS
1	2033	Jaime Moreno	HNT	16 July	MTL	6	147	-23
2	2035	Angel Guerrero	MAD	23 June	YS9	1.66	87	-21
3	2034	Abe Colbert Jr.	SEA	30 September	MAD	2	83	-20
4	2034	Kazunori Sato	ATC	04 July	@TWC	3.33	99	-18
5	2035	John Wick	SA	21 April	BOI	1.66	69	-15
6	2033	Rodger van der Knaap	EDM	28 August	@CLG	6	135	-13
6	2035	Rogero Vazquez	LOU	03 May	@RCK	3	99	-13
8	2035	Doug Martin	NO	17 May	PHX	2	60	-12
8	2035	Pablo Morales	SEA	29 July	MAD	3	98	-12
10	2033	Juan Jose Ornelas	SA	24 June	PHX	3.33	103	-11
10	2034	Juan Jose Mayorga	NSH	09 August	CCJ	4.33	95	-11
12	2035	Gerald Keynes	VAL	05 April	BOI	3	82	-10
13	2033	Jaime Moreno	HNT	12 April	@SA	2.33	79	-9
13	2034	Kazunori Sato	ATC	18 September	@CCJ	4.33	102	-9
13	2035	Abe Colbert Jr.	WIC	24 July	MEX	4	113	-9
16	2033	Esteban Gil	LBC	02 May	MEX	3	75	-8
16	2035	Juan Perez	CLG	29 May	OMA	2.33	56	-8
18	2033	Anastasio Quintana	LOU	01 June	TWC	2.33	103	-7
18	2034	Marcos Villegas	PHX	04 August	CCJ	4.66	111	-7
18	2035	James Robinson	MAD	22 May	BOI	2.66	80	-7
18	2035	Pepe Jaramillo	LOU	17 September	@WIC	3.66	106	-7

ALL-TIME MOST PITCHES IN ONE GAME

RANK	YEAR	NAME	TEAM	DATE	OPPONENT	IP	PITCHES	GS
1	2034	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	01 July	TWC	8	178	17
2	2034	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	15 May	MAD	8	175	32
3	2033	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	09 September	SEA	9	170	66
4	2034	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	15 June	EDM	9	161	60
5	2034	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	10 May	@LBC	9	156	51
6	2034	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	10 July	DSM	8	153	55
7	2034	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	26 June	VAN	8	152	31
8	2035	Jose Morales	VAN	19 June	MEX	9	151	53
9	2033	Abe Colbert Jr.	LOU	20 September	DSM	8	150	69
10	2034	Johnny Morin	EDM	20 May	@VAL	9	148	61
10	2034	Oliver Leyva	VAL	31 May	@EDM	9	148	76
10	2034	Mario Villareal	LOU	02 July	@CCJ	7.66	148	24
13	2033	Jose Reyes	OMA	15 April	LOU	8	147	6
13	2033	Jaime Moreno	HNT	16 July	MTL	6	147	-23
13	2035	Tony Canales	NO	22 August	WIC	8.66	147	54
16	2035	Stephen Clulow	OMA	09 August	YS9	9	146	65
17	2033	Johnny Morin	EDM	19 April	TWC	8.33	145	63
17	2034	Edris Mtume	OMA	12 April	TWC	8	145	69
17	2034	Troy Downey	OMA	14 May	TWC	8.33	145	67
17	2035	Gerald Keynes	VAL	28 August	LBC	8.66	145	48

TEAM RANKINGS:
ALL-TIME BEST AVERAGE GAME SCORES

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Havana Sugar Kings- 55.97 (2034)	Havana Sugar Kings- 55.97 (2034)	California Crusaders- 55.59 (2033)
2	California Crusaders- 55.59 (2033)	Havana Sugar Kings- 53.03 (2033)	California Crusaders- 54.28 (2034)
3	California Crusaders- 54.28 (2034)	New Orleans Crawdads- 52.86 (2033)	California Crusaders- 54.27 (2035)
4	California Crusaders- 54.27 (2035)	Rockville Pikemen- 52.84 (2035)	Seattle Storm- 53.95 (2035)
5	Seattle Storm- 53.95 (2035)	Las Vegas Hustlers- 52.44 (2033)	Twin Cities River Monsters- 52.29 (2034)
6	Havana Sugar Kings- 53.03 (2033)	Las Vegas Hustlers- 52.37 (2034)	Omaha Hawks- 52.25 (2033)
7	New Orleans Crawdads- 52.86 (2033)	Atlantic City Gamblers- 51.74 (2033)	Yellow Springs Nine- 52.09 (2033)
8	Rockville Pickmen- 52.84 (2035)	Montreal Blazers- 51.67 (2035)	Louisville Sluggers- 51.72 (2034)
9	Las Vegas Hustlers- 52.44 (2033)	Mexico City Aztecs- 51.55 (2035)	Louisville Sluggers- 51.58 (2033)
10	Las Vegas Hustlers- 52.37 (2034)	New Orleans Crawdads- 51.44 (2034)	Yellow Springs Nine- 51.57 (2035)

ALL-TIME MOST AVG IP/GAME

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	New Orleans Crawdads- 6.93 (2034)	New Orleans Crawdads- 6.93 (2034)	Seattle Storm- 6.90 (2035)
2	Seattle Storm- 6.90 (2035)	Havana Sugar Kings- 6.83 (2034)	Omaha Hawks- 6.79 (2033)
3	Havana Sugar Kings- 6.83 (2034)	New Orleans Crawdads- 6.82 (2035)	Vancouver Mounties- 6.76 (2035)
4	New Orleans Crawdads- 6.82 (2035)	Las Vegas Hustlers- 6.72 (2033)	Louisville Sluggers- 6.72 (2034)
5	Omaha Hawks- 6.79 (2033)	Havana Sugar Kings- 6.64 (2033)	Seattle Storm- 6.64 (2034)
6	Vancouver Mounties- 6.76 (2035)	Atlantic City Gamblers- 6.61 (2033)	San Fernando Bears- 6.62 (2035)
7	Las Vegas Hustlers- 6.72 (2033)	Las Vegas Hustlers- 6.57 (2035)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 6.60 (2035)
8	Louisville Sluggers- 6.72 (2034)	Louisville Sluggers- 6.56 (2035)	Seattle Storm- 6.59 (2033)
9	Havana Sugar Kings- 6.64 (2033)	New Orleans Crawdads- 6.47 (2033)	Twin Cities River Monsters- 6.56 (2033)
10	Seattle Storm- 6.64 (2034)	Las Vegas Hustlers- 6.46 (2034)	California Crusaders- 6.55 (2033)

ALL-TIME MOST PITCHES/START

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	New Orleans Crawdads- 108.81 (2034)	New Orleans Crawdads- 108.81 (2034)	San Fernando Bears- 108.43 (2035)
2	San Fernando Bears- 108.43 (2035)	Havana Sugar Kings- 107.54 (2033)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 106.85 (2035)
3	Havana Sugar Kings- 107.54 (2033)	New Orleans Crawdads- 107.26 (2035)	Seattle Storm- 106.27 (2034)
4	New Orleans Crawdads- 107.26 (2035)	Havana Sugar Kings- 107.01 (2034)	Vancouver Mounties- 106.09 (2035)
5	Havana Sugar Kings- 107.01 (2034)	Las Vegas Hustlers- 102.68 (2033)	Seattle Storm- 106.06 (2035)
6	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 106.85 (2035)	Louisville Sluggers- 102.02 (2035)	Louisville Sluggers- 105.29 (2034)
7	Seattle Storm- 106.27 (2034)	New Orleans Crawdads- 101.07 (2033)	Omaha Hawks- 103.44 (2035)
8	Vancouver Mounties- 106.09 (2035)	Las Vegas Hustlers- 100.89 (2035)	Seattle Storm- 103.21 (2033)
9	Seattle Storm- 106.06 (2035)	Atlantic City Gamblers- 100.78 (2033)	Omaha Hawks- 103.11 (2033)
10	Louisville Sluggers- 105.29 (2034)	Huntsville Phantoms- 100.14 (2034)	Twin Cities River Monsters- 102.53 (2033)

ALL-TIME MOST PITCHER ABUSE POINTS

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Omaha Hawks- 3431 (2035)	Havana Sugar Kings- 3289 (2034)	Omaha Hawks- 3431 (2035)
2	Havana Sugar Kings- 3289 (2034)	Havana Sugar Kings- 3191 (2033)	Louisville Sluggers- 3133 (2034)
3	Havana Sugar Kings- 3191 (2033)	New Orleans Crawdads- 2888 (2034)	San Fernando Bears- 3060 (2035)
4	Louisville Sluggers- 3133 (2034)	New Orleans Crawdads- 2570 (2035)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 2880 (2035)
5	San Fernando Bears- 3060 (2035)	Phoenix Talons- 2048 (2033)	Vancouver Mounties- 2785 (2035)
6	New Orleans Crawdads- 2888 (2034)	Huntsville Phantoms- 1968 (2034)	Boise Spuds- 2326 (2035)
7	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 2880 (2035)	New Orleans Crawdads- 1842 (2033)	Omaha Hawks- 2057 (2033)
8	Vancouver Mounties- 2785 (2035)	Huntsville Phantoms- 1754 (2033)	Edmonton Jackrabbits- 1994 (2033)
9	New Orleans Crawdads- 2570 (2035)	Louisville Sluggers- 1650 (2035)	Madison Wolves- 1961 (2034)
10	Boise Spuds- 2326 (2035)	Brooklyn Robins- 1420 (2034)	Louisville Sluggers- 1810 (2033)

ALL-TIME WORST GAME SCORES

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	San Antonio Outlaws- 41.70 (2033)	San Antonio Outlaws- 41.70 (2033)	Madison Wolves- 45.04 (2035)
2	Nashville Goats- 43.35 (2035)	Nashville Goats- 43.35 (2035)	Boise Spuds- 45.85 (2035)
3	Nashville Goats- 43.65 (2033)	Nashville Goats- 43.65 (2033)	Hawaii Tropics- 46.75 (2035)
4	Wichita Aviators- 44.53 (2035)	Wichita Aviators- 44.53 (2035)	Mexico City Aztecs- 46.76 (2034)
5	Charm City Jimmies- 44.56 (2035)	Charm City Jimmies- 44.56 (2035)	Long Beach Surfers- 47.01 (2033)
6	Madison Wolves- 45.04 (2035)	Hawaii Tropics- 45.35 (2034)	Madison Wolves- 47.41 (2034)
7	Hawaii Tropics- 45.35 (2034)	Atlantic City Gamblers- 45.35 (2035)	Des Moines Kernels- 47.46 (2034)
8	Atlantic City Gamblers- 45.35 (2035)	San Antonio Outlaws- 45.45 (2035)	Des Moines Kernels- 47.62 (2033)
9	San Antonio Outlaws- 45.45 (2035)	Huntsville Phantoms- 45.84 (2033)	Valencia Stars- 47.72 (2035)
10	Huntsville Phantoms- 45.84 (2033)	Nashville Goats- 46.14 (2034)	Omaha Hawks- 47.94 (2035)

ALL-TIME LEAST IP/START

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Brooklyn Robins- 5.45 (2035)	Brooklyn Robins- 5.45 (2035)	Mexico City Aztecs- 5.47 (2034)
2	Mexico City Aztecs- 5.47 (2034)	San Antonio Outlaws- 5.56 (2033)	Long Beach Surfers- 5.48 (2035)
3	Long Beach Surfers- 5.48 (2035)	Charm City Jimmies- 5.60 (2035)	Long Beach Surfers- 5.49 (2033)
4	Long Beach Surfers- 5.49 (2033)	San Antonio Outlaws- 5.65 (2034)	Yellow Springs Nine- 5.57 (2035)
5	San Antonio Outlaws- 5.56 (2033)	San Antonio Outlaws- 5.76 (2035)	Mexico City Aztecs- 5.62 (2033)
6	Yellow Springs Nine- 5.57 (2035)	Atlantic City Gamblers- 5.78 (2035)	Long Beach Surfers- 5.62 (2034)
7	Charm City Jimmies- 5.60 (2035)	Nashville Goats- 5.84 (2033)	Vancouver Mounties- 5.80 (2033)
8	Mexico City Aztecs- 5.62 (2033)	Brooklyn Robins- 5.88 (2033)	Yellow Springs Nine- 5.88 (2034)
9	Long Beach Surfers- 5.62 (2034)	Mexico City Aztecs- 5.91 (2035)	Madison Wolves- 5.88 (2034)
10	San Antonio Outlaws- 5.65 (2034)	Rockville Pikemen- 5.95 (2034)	Yellow Springs Nine- 5.90 (2033)

ALL-TIME FEWEST PITCHES/GAME

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Long Beach Surfers- 85.43 (2035)	Brooklyn Robins- 87.62 (2035)	Long Beach Surfers- 85.43 (2035)
2	Long Beach Surfers- 85.78 (2034)	Charm City Jimmies- 89.05 (2035)	Long Beach Surfers- 85.78 (2034)
3	Long Beach Surfers- 86.41 (2033)	San Antonio Outlaws- 90.17 (2034)	Long Beach Surfers- 86.41 (2033)
4	Brooklyn Robins- 87.62 (2035)	San Antonio Outlaws- 91.02 (2033)	Mexico City Aztecs- 88.57 (2034)
5	Mexico City Aztecs- 88.57 (2034)	Mexico City Aztecs- 92.39 (2035)	Yellow Springs Nine- 89.07 (2035)
6	Charm City Jimmies- 89.05 (2035)	Charm City Jimmies- 93.66 (2034)	Vancouver Mounties- 89.39 (2033)
7	Yellow Springs Nine- 89.07 (2035)	Montreal Blazers- 93.67 (2034)	Mexico City Aztecs- 92.63 (2033)
8	Vancouver Mounties- 89.39 (2033)	San Antonio Outlaws- 94.01 (2035)	Des Moines Kernels- 93.82 (2034)
9	San Antonio Outlaws- 90.17 (2034)	Charm City Jimmies- 94.48 (2033)	Calgary Pioneers- 94.21 (2033)
10	San Antonio Outlaws- 91.02 (2033)	Atlantic City Gamblers- 94.64 (2035)	Madison Wolves- 94.22 (2033)

ALL-TIME LEAST PITCHER ABUSE POINTS

RANK	OVERALL	JOHNSON LEAGUE	FRICK LEAGUE
1	Long Beach Surfers- 8 (2034)	San Antonio Outlaws- 59 (2034)	Long Beach Surfers- 8 (2034)
2	Mexico City Aztecs- 12 (2034)	San Antonio Outlaws- 120 (2035)	Mexico City Aztecs- 12 (2034)
3	Long Beach Surfers- 15 (2035)	San Antonio Outlaws- 160 (2033)	Long Beach Surfers- 15 (2035)
4	San Antonio Outlaws- 59 (2034)	Mexico City Aztecs- 170 (2035)	Long Beach Surfers- 126 (2033)
5	San Antonio Outlaws- 120 (2035)	Charm City Jimmies- 197 (2035)	Yellow Springs Nine- 164 (2035)
6	Long Beach Surfers- 126 (2033)	Hawaii Tropics- 216 (2034)	Des Moines Kernels- 171 (2034)
7	San Antonio Outlaws- 160 (2033)	Hawaii Tropics- 282 (2033)	Des Moines Kernels- 220 (2035)
8	Yellow Springs Nine- 164 (2035)	Montreal Blazers- 289 (2034)	Hawaii Tropics- 251 (2035)
9	Mexico City Aztecs- 170 (2035)	Rockville Pikemen- 303 (2034)	Calgary Pioneers- 322 (2035)
10	Des Moines Kernels- 171 (2034)	Atlantic City Gamblers- 363 (2035)	California Crusaders- 344 (2034)

3rd Big League Set Up; Will Begin Play in 1961

NEW YORK (UPI)—Major League Baseball's third major league, the Continental League, will begin play in 1961 with a schedule of eight clubs, it is announced today.

William Shea, appointed last year as chairman of Mayor Robert Wagner's baseball committee to bring a second major league club to New York, was named chairman of the founders' group of the new league.

SHEA ALSO listed 11 other population centers which have shown interest in the continental league—Buffalo, Montreal, Atlanta, New Orleans, Miami, Indianapolis, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Seattle, Portland, San Diego and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Shea stressed that the league was being formed to meet the needs of the structure of the



William Shea

A Moment in Baseball History

A lot of people think baseball owners are greedy SOBs, and they're probably right. They'll do about anything for a buck, and about anything to keep their bucks from flowing to the players. Some people even think they'll expand just to make money. Well...

If you spend any real time reading or learning about the nuts and bolts of baseball, it seems likely that you'll come to the conclusion that baseball owners are, in general, not much brighter than your average guy. The examples are numerous. They fought the idea of broadcasting games back in the day hoping to squeeze every dollar they could out of the gate. Now they're restricting it again, hoping to squeeze every dollar they can out of guys sitting in the comfort of their home in the form of MLB Network and whatnot.

Did you know, for example, that the MLB most certainly did not expand just to capture new markets? In fact, MLB owners were, in general, angsty about adding teams to baseball—an that was when there were only 16 teams.

Of course, Branch Rickey was in the middle of it all. And William Shea. Yeah, that's right, the Shea of the Mets stadium. He was pissed then the Dodgers and the Giants went West Young Man...as were a lot of folks. They wanted baseball back in New York—not counting the Yankees, I guess.

So, yeah, go do some Googling, my friends. Look up the Continental League and you'll find 8 cities ready to start a competing Major League—New York, Houston, Toronto, Denver, Minneapolis, Dallas, Atlanta, and Buffalo. aNd you'll find names like Shea and Jack Kemp and Bob Howsam—pretty much all of whom managed to eventually get themselves sheperded into the MLB, right? I mean, those 8 teams were going to sing away some of Major League Baseball's biggest stars, and unlike the old Federal League before them, they had a chance to make it stick.

So, in the face of that kind of competition, the National League and American League agreed to expand.

Slowly.

A few teams at a time, yes, but still 8-teams worth before it was all said and done. And them more, of course. More because they discovered that yes, more teams is more money.

Those owners, you see, they may not be any smarter than your average Joe, but they aren't any dumber, either.

These days, it looks like theMLB is finally going to move to 32—which is a better number all around. Rounder than 30, allowing for better schedules. Even divisions. We'll see what happens, right? Maybe they'll do 8 divisions of four to make for a broader playoff thing, or maybe they'll do what God intended and go to four divisions of 8. That's unlikely, though. Fewer playoff opportunities there. Less fan excitement.

I think about this as we look at adding two teams to our own little BBA someday.

Yes, I know. Not everyone agrees with me that this is desireable. That's okay.

A guy can still dream.





Brewster Baseball Association Hall of Fame

Five Inducted as 2036 BBA Hall of Fame Class Announced

In a year in which the voting process was changed from a weighted system to a simple Yes/No system, the ballot was flooded by a bevy of qualified players who recently retired from the league, along with two interesting Veterans Committee candidates. The vote was comprised of 28 of the 30 BBA GMs, with 20 abstaining. Against this backdrop, the Brewster Baseball Associations added five new members to its Hall of Fame this season.

As expected, Frank Thomas III was elected with unanimous support on his first ballot. Joining him as first ballot Hall of Famers are pitcher Manuel Ramirez, outfielder Jorge Rodriguez, and outfielder Emilio Rodriguez. Relief ace Skip Glendenning also gained election on his second ballot as the new voting system helped him tremendously.

Corey Aubrey and Zebediah "Yahoo!" Williams were the Veterans Committee candidates this year, and they received split support, falling well short of the required 75% needed for election.

Three first time nominees came oh-so-close to making the hallowed halls of Hackensack, New Jersey. Antonio Sanchez, Mingo Boone and Gary Estes will have to "Wait 'Til Next Year" in order to try again.

Players receiving less than 10% of the vote are now removed from future ballots. Some of the most noteworthy players who are no longer Hall of Fame Candidates are Jon Chandler, Daniel Labrie, Jr., and Luis Freitas.

The final vote tallies are listed below:

2036 HOF Voting	Votes	Pct
Frank "Little Hurt" Thomas III	28	100.00%
Manuel "Eyechart" Ramirez	27	96.43%
Jorge Rodriguez	25	89.29%
Skip "Crunchy" Glendenning	24	85.71%
Emilio "Sunshine" Rodriguez	22	78.57%
Antonio Sanchez	20	71.43%
Mingo Boone	19	67.86%
Gary "Coop" Estes	19	67.86%
Nelson "Slider" Ramirez	15	53.57%
Corey Aubrey	15	53.57%
Zebediah "Yahoo!" Williams	14	50.00%
Lionel Sanguinacco	14	50.00%
Mike Love	10	35.71%
Martin Felix	10	35.71%
Maxwell Weiss, Jr.	9	32.14%
Eduardo Lopez	9	32.14%
Rafael Bido	8	28.57%
Juan Jose Ornelas	8	28.57%
Diego Moreno	8	28.57%
Kal "Man of Steel" El	6	21.43%
Juan Pablo	6	21.43%
Boone Carlyle	5	17.86%
Juan Castillo	4	14.29%
Jonathan Bowen	2	7.14%
Jon "City" Chandler	2	7.14%
Daniel "Danny Boy" Labrie, Jr.	2	7.14%
Luis Freitas	1	3.57%
Esteban Benitez	1	3.57%
Benjamin Franklin Pierce	1	3.57%
Roberto "Chappy" Ramos		0.00%
Ralph "Rat" Benson		0.00%
Newman "Calico" Watson		0.00%
Jorge "T-Bone" Stanza		0.00%
Chris Lee		0.00%
Brian Middleton		0.00%

Frank "Little Hurt" Thomas III



First Base

Active Career: 2016-2035 (20 seasons)
 3732 hits, 503 HR, 1911 RBI, .319/.398/.517 85.6 WAR
 Sawyer Silk Award: 2017, 2018
 Joe Gillstrom ROY 2017
 6-Time Charles Puckett Golden Bat
 12-Time All-Star

Hall of Fame Metrics: (average HoF)

JAWS: 65 (55)
 Black Ink: 61 (22)
 Gray Ink: 268 (105)
 HOF Standards: 68 (53)
 HOF Monitor: 281 (123)

Manuel "Eyechart" Ramirez



Starting Pitcher

Active Career: 2018-2035 (18 seasons)
 245-130, 3.29 ERA, 3381 K, 85.2 WAR
 Landis Champion: 2019
 2022 Nebraska Award
 6-Time All-Star

Hall of Fame Metrics: (average HoF)

JAWS: 65.7 (72)
 Black Ink: 17 (34)
 Gray Ink: 182 (162)
 HOF Standards: 57 (49)
 HOF Monitor: 147 (125)

Jorge Rodriguez



Center Field

Active Career: 2018-2034 (17 seasons)
 2508 hits, 505 HR, 1651 RBI, .293/.350/.518 80.9 WAR
 Sawyer Silk Award: 2022, 2023
 6-Time Charles Puckett Golden Bat
 6-time Zimmer Diamond Glove
 8-Time All-Star

Hall of Fame Metrics: (average HoF)

JAWS: 66.2 (57)
 Black Ink: 12 (22)
 Gray Ink: 152 (105)
 HOF Standards: 57 (53)
 HOF Monitor: 162 (123)

Skip Glendenning



Relief Pitcher

Active Career: 2016-2033 (18 seasons)
 533 Saves, 86-70, 1,400 K, 323 BB, 2.57 ERA, 29.9 WAR
 13-Time All-Star
 4-Time Jason Egan Reliever Award

Hall of Fame Metrics: (average HoF)

JAWS: 21.1 (12)
 Black Ink: 25 (34)
 Gray Ink: 76 (162)
 HOF Standards: 78 (49)
 HOF Monitor: 166 (125)

Emilio "Sunshine" Rodriguez



Center Field

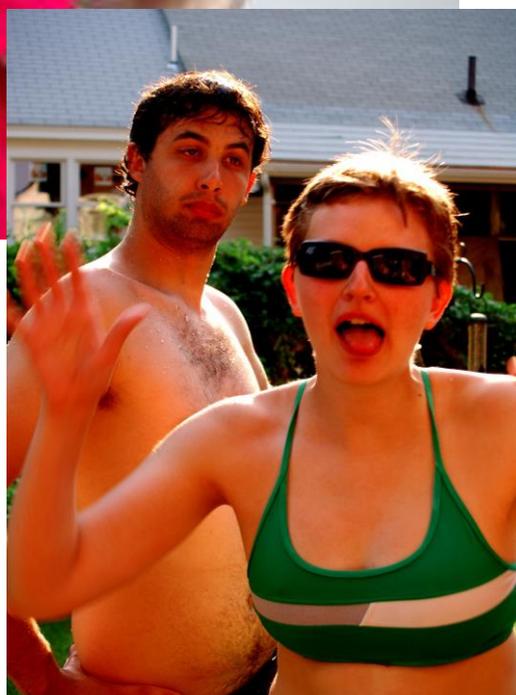
Active Career: 2016-2034 (19 seasons)
 2457 hits, 486 HR, 1459 RBI, .295/.331/.539 73.3 WAR
 Landis Champion 2031
 Joe Gilstrom ROY: 2018
 7-Time Charles Puckett Golden Bat
 3-time Zimmer Diamond Glove

11-Time All-Star

Hall of Fame Metrics: (average HoF)

JAWS: 60.7 (57)
 Black Ink: 12 (22)
 Gray Ink: 160 (105)
 HOF Standards: 53 (53)
 HOF Monitor: 156 (123)

Thanks for reading!
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Here's To Another Great Season!

