

# BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

2050 MEDIA GUIDE



LEAGUE PREVIEWS

POWER RANKINGS

3 TRUE OUTCOMES

GOOD COP/BAD COP

PLAYER RATER

WHAT'S IN A NAME

CALECA AWARD

AND MORE...

ASHFORD WINS BACK TO BACK SERIES MVP



# MEDIA GUIDE

APRIL 2050

## INNING

### *BBA Power Rankings*

3 years of combined power rankings analyzed by your very own Hawaii GM James Walker.

### *League Previews*

New season, same authors, and new previews. GMs Weiner & Wilson provide their take on the 2050 season.

### *What's in a name*

GM Simon reviews the player origins of the BBA's MiLB awards.

# MEDIA GUIDE

APRIL 2050

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# PREAMBLE

Aaron Wiener

Matt Rectenwald is a gamer. When he tired of running Las Vegas for the 60<sup>th</sup> straight year, he packed his bags, moved to Nashville, and worked the Bluebirds into a playoff spot for the first time in fifteen years. But when his seat of power in Las Vegas opened back up, the place where he'd won seven titles, and four in six years, he couldn't resist coming back and seeing if he could restore it to its former glory. The results were probably unexpected even to him, as Las Vegas this year became the first ever BBA team to three-peat as BBA Champs, and just the second ever to win three straight pennants.

But Recte, as we call him for short, is also a gamer in the other sense: he knows how to put together a ballclub to succeed in his ballpark. Their pitching staff doesn't look special, but they pitch like they're special because of Rectenwald's endless devotion to defense first, defense second, defense always. It appears to be Matt's philosophy that you can teach a great defensive player how to hit, but you can't teach a great hitter how to be a great defensive player. Players like Calvin Johnson and Kidane Ata have found their greatest success in Las Vegas, a notable hitter's park that caters to their talents.

With the core of the Hustlers still together, there's absolutely no reason why they can't go right ahead and four-peat this year, but before we hand them the title, there are plenty of contenders all over the league. Portland pushed them to six games last year in the Monty Brewster, and while Portland isn't the most complete team the FL has to offer, they have a young pitching core and a team of excellent veteran hitters that's very formidable.

Speaking of having a pitching core and sluggers, that describes Nashville, Sacramento and Yellow Springs to a T. Those three teams combined for 315 wins last year, and while they are not carbon copies of each other, they reach a dominant level through excellent starting pitching, excellence on offense, and solid defensive work. All three of them fell short of even the Cartwright Cup last year, but if you gave the option of betting on those three teams or the field to win the FL pennant this year, most people would take these three. It's difficult to remember when we've had three teams in one league this dominant.

Who was the other team that kept them out of the title round? Upstart Madison, who not only had their first playoff appearance since Mons Raider was stealing 130 bases, but won two playoff rounds. Madison has Manobu, arguably the best player in baseball, and maybe the best late inning duo of all time in Senen Subandrio and Todd Stone. One of the series that Madison won was against Valencia, who themselves hadn't made the playoffs since Aaron Haney was 22 years old and still a Star. Valencia just keeps adding talent, and they have one of the best young pitchers in the game in Ken Arroyo.

We've gotten this far and we haven't even brought up Louisville, who has made the playoffs in eight of the last ten seasons with two BBA titles in that time. Or Omaha, who won two straight pennants just two years ago. Both teams stumbled last year, but we're talking about two of the more successful franchises in very recent memory, and it would be difficult to have a conversation about contending teams in the FL without them.

The FL has become a bit of a murder's row, though, as teams like Chicago, San Fernando, Vancouver, and Long Beach have a reasonable chance at the fourth wild card. Even teams like Des Moines and Twin Cities recently got veteran GMs with a track record of success, and it shows just what kind of a climb they'll have just to be mentioned in the conversation with these teams.

And that's not to disparage Recte's competition in the JL, either, despite the Hustler's relatively easy path to the MBCS last year. In their own division, Mexico City presents the biggest challenge to Las Vegas. The Aztecs have a huge amount of star power behind starter Dave Corfield and outfielder Aaron Haney, and they just won 93 games and look dangerous to me. And Calgary missed the playoffs last year, but they've had six straight winning records and four playoff appearances over that time.

In the other division, Jacksonville also is a 100-game winner, and they've won two consecutive JL Atlantic titles and are favored to win their third. Charlotte has suffered a lot of attrition in recent years, but they're still a dangerous ballclub who's made the playoffs four straight years. Rockville has lost their GM and Daniel Pepper, but they still look frisky. New Orleans has made the playoffs in two of the last three years and have a GM who's won four championships. And Charm City just went 22-8 in spring training, so they're looking spry.

The fact that it took a whopping 77 seasons to get our first three-peat is a testament to the ownership and talent that exists in the BBA. As the only other person who's ever made three straight title rounds, I can tell you that it was a combination of good luck, long-term planning, and aggressive trading that created the conditions that allowed for both of those two events.

But Recte's success has been staggering: he has almost 20% of all titles won in the modern era (10 out of 56, 17.8%). We may never have seen a dynasty like this; this could be Matt's Tom Brady moment, where he just shows the rest of the league what the greatest of all time looks like. And similar to Tom Terrific, there's nothing better in the whole world than taking him down. Hey Matt, that's not a 21 gun salute you're hearing – that's a declaration of civil unrest. It's Commish takedown time. Let's go!

# 1 POWER RANKINGS

James Walker



## BBA Combined Power Rankings

These power rankings are a combination of playoff appearances, championships, 3 yrs Pythagorean wins, 3 yr actual win total and 3 yr season RPI.

The formula is  $\text{playoff appearances} * 4 + \text{championships} * 8 + \text{average 3 yrs pyth} + \text{average 3 yrs actual wins} + \text{average 3 yrs season rating} / 5$ .

With their three-peat, the Las Vegas Hustlers post a 110.4 Power Rating and extend their lead. Sacramento climbs from 7<sup>th</sup> to the #2 spot in the Power Rating after another dominating season in the Pacific Division of the Frick League. They need to take the next step to dethrone the Hustlers from that #1 spot.

Yellow Springs is entrenched in the #3 position as they did not win the Heartland but they posted another 100+ win season and made the playoffs. Nashville leaps from #18 to #4 after a 105 win season and winning the Heartland Division from the tight grasp of Yellow Springs. Louisville rounds out the Top 5 with an 88 win season but missed out of the playoffs.

At the bottom, the El Paso Chilis crawl out of the basement to #31 as the Twin Cities River Monsters complete their fall to the #32 spot.

Ran	Pre	Team	Power Ratin
1	1	Las Vegas	110.4
2	7	Sacramento	103.0
3	3	Yellow Springs	101.1
4	18	Nashville	94.9
5	9	Jacksonville	94.7
6	2	Louisville	94.3
7	6	Charlotte	94.0
8	5	Omaha	88.7
9	13	New Orleans	88.6
10	4	Chicago	88.5
11	8	Rockville	87.3
12	17	Mexico City	86.8
13	10	Calgary	86.7
14	20	Madison	86.5
15	21	Atlantic City	84.3
16	15	Phoenix	79.7
17	24	Portland	79.3
18	11	Hawaii	78.6
19	14	Charm City	78.4
20	27	Valencia	78.1
21	19	San Fernando	76.8
22	12	Montreal	76.3
23	16	Edmonton	74.1
24	25	Vancouver	73.5
25	22	San Antonio	71.4
26	29	Long Beach	68.7
27	26	Boise	67.9
28	23	Seattle	61.5
29	31	Des Moines	57.9
30	30	Brooklyn	55.3
31	32	El Paso	54.3
32	28	Twin Cities	50.2

# 2 LEAGUE PREVIEWS - FRICK

Aaron Wiener & Chris Wilson

HEARTLAND	
NASHVILLE	99-63
YELLOW SPRINGS	99-63
LOUISVILLE	89-73
OMAHA	86-76
MADISON	84-78
CHICAGO	78-84
DES MOINES	66-96
TWIN CITIES	58-104

Some of the juggernauts in the FL Heartland fell back a bit last year, and some of the Pacific teams rose up to take two of the wild cards, the most the Heartland has lost since the 2044 season. I'm predicting that it could happen again.

We should have an interesting race at the top of the division between Yellow Springs and Nashville. Keep in mind that either one of those two massively talented teams could run away with the division, but neither one of them is likely to miss the playoffs under any circumstances. It would take quite the catastrophe for either one to miss the playoffs completely. Yellow Springs specifically hasn't missed since 2037 (13 years), the longest active streak and one of the longest in BBA history.



Those two teams appear to have widened the gap at the top of the division. Louisville still seems like the next best team to me, but it might be the last hurrah for the team as currently constructed as they have a number of key free agents.

I also predict that Omaha and Madison will be amongst the several teams fighting for the other two wild card spots. Madison went to the Cartwright Cup last year, but they got a little lucky along the way, as their run differential was 8 games lower than their 90-win season. They're well-equipped in the late innings, though. I also thought that Omaha hit their floor last year at 82 wins, though there are some cracks forming in their armor.

As for the other teams, Chicago's players are all on the wrong side of 30 now, and while they could bounce back up I don't see them doing it. Des Moines and Twin Cities both seem improved this offseason, but it's very hard to see them leapfrogging so many teams; still, this would be incremental improvement for both squads.

Nashville and Yellow Springs fought this out at 105 and 104 wins last year, and I think we're in for another dogfight with a first round bye on the line. It'll be fun to watch at any rate.



Welcome to the Sacramento Mad Popes Invitational, where nobody's going to mess with Sacramento's house. Based on my projections, I'd put it at less than a 5% chance that anyone wins this division but Sacramento, and you'll see that theme running throughout the team previews for this division. I think Sacramento is the best team in the Frick League, and also I think they're the most talented team in the BBA, though calling them the "best" team in the BBA is silly with a three-peater in the other league.

So what intrigue is there? Well, it was Portland, not Sacramento, who won the FL pennant last year. Portland has a fine young pitching staff, a crack bullpen core, an offense featuring some of the better hitters in baseball, and I might be underrating them at just 88 wins, but keep in mind that means that 95 wins would be a normal result. Valencia was outstanding last year in making the playoffs, and while I have dropped them back somewhat, 90+ wins wouldn't be shocking for them. I'm just not buying into the Stars' stars.

San Fernando, Long Beach, and Vancouver I feel all have a reasonable chance at a wild card, and since I've pinned the 4th wild card at 86 games I don't expect any of them to be eliminated until mid September. San Fernando has a killer offense but a highly suspect pitching staff, Long Beach was solidly mediocre last year and looks to be similar this year, and Vancouver lost a fairly legit 90 games even with Phil Cole's massive effort.

## 2 | LEAGUE PREVIEW

Aaron Wiener

<b>PACIFIC</b>	
<b>SACRAMENTO</b>	<b>105-57</b>
<b>PORTLAND</b>	<b>88-74</b>
<b>VALENCIA</b>	<b>85-77</b>
<b>SAN FERNANDO</b>	<b>78-84</b>
<b>LONG BEACH</b>	<b>76-86</b>
<b>VANCOUVER</b>	<b>75-87</b>
<b>HAWAII</b>	<b>68-94</b>
<b>SEATTLE</b>	<b>62-100</b>

As for Hawaii, the Tropics actually finished ahead of the three teams I just mentioned, but their run differential was that of a 94 loss team, and nobody's so lucky as to do that twice. Seattle has finally hit rock bottom, I think; just try to find a professional pitcher who still pitches for the Storm.

Just because there's no drama at the top doesn't mean there can't be a ton of drama in the middle, and it's entirely possible that any of the top six teams could win a wild card. It'll be exciting to watch.



# Yellow Springs

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

I didn't exactly predict the demise of the Yellow Springs Nine last year, but I wasn't bullish. What I should have been doing was fading the Chicago Black Sox. Yellow Springs did not win the division last year, but they did post their third consecutive 100-win season and their seventh in the past eight years. Their offensive rating, which did slip a bit from third place, couldn't have possibly been a problem with them giving up 3.4 runs per game. In fact, the only thing that went wrong for the Nine last year was the usual thing that goes wrong: they got knocked out of the playoffs by the eventual FL pennant winners, the Portland Lumberjacks. Can we finally put the endless meme to bed this year?

We'll start with the offense, where just about everyone has warts. Rex Foster is simply nasty, but he's nasty for about 90 games per year at the moment. Brett Powers has been brutal to lefties, and for the last two years he's been a beast to everyone. Dong-po Thum is still one of the best two-way players in baseball, though his bat speed is starting to slip a little at age 32. OF Nazeeh Ragheb shouldn't be allowed to play the field, but his bat outhits his negative defense.

This might be the first year of 1B Burhan Tahir's career, and I jeer who would fear Tahir's career. He looks good. Third baseman Banger Dan led the FL in doubles last year, which tracks closely with what he did in the minors. It's hard to know what they're getting out of center fielder Arvin Duggan except defense, though it's never bad. Between Duggan, Thum, SS Elvan Masuki, and C Jesus Rodriguez, Yellow Springs is one of the best teams up the middle in the league, though they're just okay defensively everywhere else. Rodriguez and Masuki hit extremely well for their skillsets last year, though both could easily fall back.

Yellow Springs' 3.12 team ERA, while astonishing, was their highest in three seasons. So, it's hard to have significant worries about the pitching staff. Future Hall of Famer Carlos Valle is the headliner here, but Antonio Hernandez and Dave Lee are probably their best starting pitchers now. Hernandez has been electric since being called up in 2048, and Dave Lee is consistently among the top 25 pitchers in baseball. Loan Duval is still working his way back from a catastrophic elbow injury two years ago, and while he may never be the same, he was solid in 150 innings last year. The Nine has a few options for their fifth starter, and two of them might be top 30 prospects Mathis Gerard and Edgardo Mota. Yellow Springs has also had one of the top bullpens in the BBA for several years now.

Beyond Gerard, Mota, and Tahir, Yellow Springs' farm has a lot of promise: there's Ziad Abdul-Samad and Francis Pfeffer and a few others of note. The Nine have no major cap issues, but with the huge deal to Thum, they are dancing close to the edge there. Thum's extension, which guarantees him \$160 million over six years and brings him to age 38, is going to be a major obstacle to signing players, as will Rex Foster's potential \$51 million over the next three years. Bret Powers' player option and Jesus Rodriguez' opt out for 2051 are also significant concerns, and Antonio Hernandez hits arbitration next year. For 2050, though, this team is still a juggernaut, and they're one of the surest playoff locks in the league. Just don't ask about a title. Please.



# Louisville

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

The Louisville Sluggers showed how fragile a playoff streak is when theirs came to an abrupt end in 2049, and they have a right to be pretty angry about it: only Nashville, Yellow Springs, and Valencia(!) had a better run differential last year than the Sluggers. Louisville led the league in offense again last year, albeit by a small margin, and their pitching staff was solidly middle of the pack. Many of their all-timers are free agents after this year, so this might be the last hurrah for the franchise in this form. Can sneaky-smart moves get them back into a playoff spot for 2050?

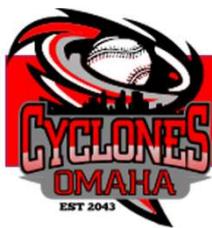
Louisville's offense is the annual draw for the appropriately named Sluggers. While they're not quite as formidable as they were three years ago, they're still good enough to lead the league in offense for the fourth straight year. Twenty-three year old Theo Bourges is not coming back, but he's still a superstar at age 29. This is Luis Mendoza's team now, and he's a constant threat to go 30-60 with a .900 OPS with solid defense at the hot corner. He's just superb. Semei Kwakou has to be considered a potential Hall of Famer at this point. Juan Medrano is an excellent shortstop and has stayed healthy and could bounce back hard if he hits .250 this year.

The Sluggers' two big offseason offensive acquisitions are 33 year old outfielder Fernando Castillo, who's still a big threat offensively, and 29 year old first baseman Ricardo Yanez, who might finally find success in Louisville's home run paradise. They also signed 41-year old Mark Simpson, who's still a crazy on-base machine. Defensive whiz Philitis Tsafento should bounce back at catcher, and is backed up by top prospect Taylor Michaels. I think I'd take Sacramento's lineup at this point, but there isn't another offense in the FL I'd want.

The pitching staff, though, hasn't been quite the same since James Browning left. Edward Crutcher was the best pitcher by a fair margin last year, and he has double digit wins every year of his career. Jorge Diaz crapped out last year before serious surgery, though he has regained most of his stamina. He's still very talented. Greg Shaw has risen to become a very impressive pitcher, though he's also fragile after a torn UCL in 2047. Yoshii Takuda went 13-11 in his debut and nothing in his minor league career suggests he'll give up 31 homers again, unless he tries to pitch through his frequent ticky-tack injuries. The Sluggers' pen is pretty fair, led by Elvin Hilliard and Al Colbert, though Peter Sanders could use a change of scenery, I think.

In addition to Michaels, Louisville might get some help from prospects Antonio Baldez and Ragheb Burhan, but I don't buy them all as a top five farm system – are Ragheb and Ryobe Watanabe really top 30 prospects? It's a nice group at any rate, and their presence might help with the potential talent exodus about to take place in Louisville. Kwakou's contract demands are likely to be absurd, and Bourges, long one of the BBA's best bargains, might ask for more money to stay, too.

They've built a huge glut of cap space for the purpose. There isn't anyone to replace Medrano, either. This might be the last hurrah for Louisville, and while it's good enough to make the playoffs, there's enough uncertainty on the pitching staff that they're far from a lock. They can re-sign Crutcher long term this year if they want, though, and he and Mendoza should be a solid, affordable core for a rebuild.



# Omaha

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

The Omaha Cyclones have fallen from first in offense in 2046 to second in 2047, fourth in 2048 and all the way down to 10<sup>th</sup> in 2049, which is catastrophic considering their ballpark is one of the biggest offensive parks in the game. There's been quite a lot of turnover in that time, but a lot of their young players that look really good haven't done a damn thing for the Cyclones. So, is this team destined to underachieve, and can they manage the cap before the year starts? Is Omaha last year's news?

Omaha's offense is a familiar cast of characters. Andre Ly fell from the superstar range to still very good last year, and he's developing holes against lefties. Orlando Ordonez is one of the surest things in the BBA and despite all kinds of little injuries has been mostly healthy for his whole career. Wilson Estrada is good for 500 excellent plate appearances every year. And 37-year old James Monger is still a professional baseball starter, even if this is his third season in four where that's all he is. It's past those four players that the question marks begin. Any sighted observer would suggest that outfielder Eric Wagner and third baseman Malik bin Mazin are two of the best young hitters in the BBA, but they didn't do a ton last year.

DH Luis Urbina had a very nice debut, and I think he's underrated. Ramon Pagan maybe sticks around and maybe doesn't; he could be a cap casualty. Thomas Jefferson has been a megabust so far, and whatever the scouts say he doesn't quite pass the sniff test at shortstop. The team is just fair defensively overall, and their 150 steals came at a terrible 62% clip.

If that didn't sound like the most rousing endorsement for the hitting, the pitching is also in many ways suspect. Timo Dooley is still a huge workhorse, and they are determined to run him out there until his arm falls off. Norio Hayashi is still doing the job at #2 starter.

Mike Alexander inexplicably saw all of his metrics fall last year, but he still looks very talented. Jorge Hernandez didn't do the job last year, either, and one has to wonder whether he's even the same pitcher, as his K rate fell from around 7 per nine innings down to 4.7, junkballer territory. He might bounce back but the scouts are concerned. We'll see how Rich Jacobs and Jose Barron bounce back from a torn UCLs. Omaha has a weak bullpen compared to other teams in the Heartland, and just okay overall, though Rule 5 pick Jose Martinez is a nice add.

The Cyclones have a bit of an overrated farm system based largely on the #3 prospect rating for Takashi Nakamura, who for my money might be the top prospect in the BBA. Past that, I'm not sold on either Amid Kasim or Du Wu as top 60 prospects, but their prospects are really Mazin, Wagner, and Urbina, all on minimum contracts, all really good by my count. Omaha has serious cap issues, worse long-term, but will probably get back to normal this year before the season starts. The question is whether the talent level is back to normal, not the cap number.

Their season is going to rest on whether the kids develop and whether their rotation can bounce back to normal levels of production, and it's hard to say. Some of the stuff they were trying isn't working, and some of it is illogical, like extending Monger to 40 years old. This team has a huge span of outcomes, but I think they hit their minimum last year with 82 wins. Assuming Dooley's arm stays attached, I'd be surprised to see them that low again.



# Chicago

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

The Black Sox were fortunate to have won even the 79 games they won last year. The Black Sox found themselves at the top of the third tier offensively (the bottom tier is just Twin Cities) and the bottom of the second tier in runs allowed, and their run differential suggests a team who should have won just 74 games last year. They had an awful lot go wrong last year to be that bad, but a lot of their underachievers passed onto the wrong side of 30 last year, too. Does Chicago have what it takes to bounce back from a serious letdown or is this the new normal for the Black Sox?

Chicago's pitching was always the draw, especially with one of the better pitcher's parks in the league, so their 12<sup>th</sup>-place finish there was disconcerting. Last year, advanced numbers liked Jim Wilkinson's numbers over #1 starter Bernie Stuart, but that just feels like a good problem to have. But past those two and stud short reliever Clarence Pritchard, not a single pitcher on the Chicago staff was above replacement level. Former first rounder John McClain consistently walks too many batters and was actually demoted to the bullpen last year. L J Foley's debut was a bit of a flop, though he didn't look half bad. Matt Spencer and Clay Bingham can't really be trusted. The bullpen was a disaster past Pritchard: Phil Brown and Gilberto Cordero, usually trustworthy, both busted last year but both could bounce back and have above-average seasons. Their park will cover up some of their issues, but this might not be as good a staff as its' been in recent seasons.

The Chicago offense has been erratic for years; last year it crashed and burned. Of the teams that scored less than Chicago, just surprising Hawaii lost less than 91 games. The mainstays didn't hold: Rocky Wattson showed all the signs of the diminished bat speed we've been noticing, Aarnoud Budding has gone from 41 homers in 2047 to 27 in 2048 to 21 last year, Tomas Duran hit league average, which won't work with his glove, and Pedro Gomez fell right off the table. Duran is the youngest of the group at age 29.

The best player for Chicago last year was their rookie phenom Badr Isam, who won the Joe Gillstrom.

Isam's numbers are repeatable, which would put him in the top five or ten shortstops in the BBA, but unless the hits fall in by luck he doesn't have a next level. The team brought in Manoell Whanon from Edmonton this offseason, a really solid hitter who should help. I'd caution against too much faith in Carlos Garza, whose minor league numbers suggest his major league performance last year was a mirage. The team is marginal defensively and most players don't run, so the 30-somethings will have to bounce back this year for Chicago to have a chance.

The Black Sox probably won't get a lot of help from their farm this year unless they get injuries, but they have multiple middle infield prospects and an excellent if still wild pitching prospect in Malik Bin Adnan.

They're toeing the line on the cap, but they'll have no problem getting back under next year with a couple team options to choose from and some potential opt-outs. They have one of the biggest betas of any team because so much went wrong last year, but an unbiased observer might suggest that their core is just aging. They don't look ancient to me, but they have longer to climb than in previous years.



# Madison

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

Madison is a study in how I can be right while still being very, very wrong. Madison's run differential put them on exactly the 82 wins I predicted, but since they still play the games, Madison actually won 90 games, two playoff series and pushed Portland to six games to almost make their first title round since Bopper and Cricket were a combined 70 years old. (They're now EACH 73.) It was also their first playoff appearance since 2037. Madison might have made subtle improvements this offseason and still has the cap space to maybe bring back last year's surprise hero Jesus Yan, but it's obvious they got a little lucky last year with their +8 Pythagorean record. Can they make a push forward this year?

Madison runs on some guy named Manobu, who bounced back from his ghastly .351 average in 2048 to hit .372 in 2049, lead the league in OPS and WAR, and, well, there's a reason nobody needs to know his last name. He could be the best position player in baseball. Salvador Allende and Luis Manuel Alonzo are OBP gods, and recklessly steal 30+ bases a year. The recently re-signed Chris Mann is a walking .300 average with a Yogi Zimmer level glove at first base.

Sign me up for catcher Bin Wan's rookie season, where 2 WAR is not out of the question. I think it is for 2B Ettan Cherukuri, who looks like he'll draw walks at least. Ghastly overpaid 1B Jose Hernandez continues to post meh numbers. The rest of the lineup is highly suspect, which makes sense for a team who finished second in OBP but eighth in offense; offensive continuity is a big problem.

Madison also finished tenth in runs allowed per game, but hidden within this number is the reason why Madison's Pythagorean record might have been so good: the late inning duo of Todd Stone and Senen Subandrio, who have combined for an absurd 15.5 WAR over the past two years spanning 325 innings; to put this into perspective, Alaric Wullenweber has 16.4 WAR over his last 420 innings. At least they make three million bucks combined. Savage.

The team also got a massive 63 innings from reliever Brian Smith, who is good but not that good; he'll fall back. They have starters, too, but Yorikane Miyamoto had his worst season in a while, Carter Morris was his usual just fine, and Elijah Campos had an okay year but his metrics all fell off the table as expected after his surprise 2048 season. They don't generally let their pitchers go deep into ballgames, though; Miyamoto had the most innings on the staff at 180.

The Wolves have potentially an underrated farm; I like Bin Wan better than 80<sup>th</sup> and players like Wesley Turner and Jose Diaz are interesting. They have no serious cap issues, though I wouldn't have re-signed Chris Mann, since Jose Hernandez is a little bit of a duplication of him and already makes \$8 million. They do have a potential issue with Yorikane Miyamoto potentially opting out this year, and I probably would if I were him.

This is a cleverly designed team working with less resources than the other teams around them, and last year they almost went as far as you CAN go. They should be competitive yearly with Manobu manning the 3 spot, but I think they're capped from above unless they start putting together either a better rotation or a deeper lineup. They should win a lot of the close ones, though, and that's a good recipe for surprise success. Barring injury, I can't see them falling below .500 this year.



## Des Moines

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

So I have the rare privilege of previewing my own team. (That's not true, of course: you can do it too! Two PPT for you.) I came over from Rockville to try to see if I could end the long, dark hallway that Des Moines has found themselves in for decades: 42 years in a row with no playoffs. It was my answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything. Well, maybe not. Des Moines did make some waves this offseason, of course; they were the biggest WAR gainer in the BBA by a fair margin and picked up two legitimate superstars in Alaric Wullenweber and Pedro Guzman. The question is starting from as low as they are, will it make a difference?

Des Moines really did hit a massive star in Alaric. He's the best pitcher in the BBA, and it's hardly close: he's never had below 6.7 WAR in a season. The question is whether this move represents, as one person put it, a Steve Carlton moment or Spahn and then c'mon. Manuel Camacho looks like a legitimately good starter; we'll see. Deron Alexander has proven better at leading the league in walks than stopping anyone from scoring, and got sent to AAA to get straightened out last year.

Jamie Barber is still waiting for that developmental change to catch up with him, though his control is much better than when he was drafted. Timmy Karnes and Larry Fain appear out, and players like Ken Sproul and Jae-myung Kim are likely in. The bullpen isn't particularly good, led by players like Francisco Salgado and Daniel Camacho, and Bill Keil will miss most of the season.

Des Moines is also hoping that a new commitment to defense will help. Players like Guillermo Fuentes and the departed Norihisa Yokoyama and Chua-kah Yang were among the worst players in the BBA defensively last year. Des Moines also hit a big offensive star in Pedro Guzman. Guzman doesn't field or run, but is one of few players in the BBA with his kind of power bat.

He joins holdovers Felix Parreno, who can stay at first base, and Hasheem Makin, their lone All-Star selection last year as a rookie, whose 37 homers tied for second in the Frick League. Parreno was ninth in HR. Both strike out a megaton, but both can draw walks and run. 3B Lucio Cuellar and CF Michel Noel were signed primarily for their defensive prowess.

Fuentes will play his natural second base, which leaves shortstop to some combination of Carlos Correa and Rakim Stevenson, neither of whom can hit a lick. Catcher Andy Elmer might be better and he might not, too, though he's going to start the year on the DL.

Their farm system is nothing special, as the Kernels have either missed or traded away top picks like Atmo Ananas and Steven Clayton, though they do have some intriguing pitching prospects. Jon Brown and last year's #1 Tommy Akers might help soon, but nobody's ready yet.

Des Moines does have some ugly \$5 million type contracts still on the books (like literally everyone making \$5 mill), but the team doesn't have any serious cap issues. It's hard to see how even signings like Alaric and Guzman move this team enough to bring them far out of the cellar, especially in a division like the FL Heartland. The bar for the playoffs last year was 89 wins, which is a hurdle that Des Moines won't clear, and it remains to be seen whether Alaric and Guzman will be Kernels in 2051.



# Nashville

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

Nashville was the other victim in the Carnage-'R'-Us Doubleday series last year, as both they and Sacramento, heavily favored home teams, fell in seven games to underdogs Portland and Madison. Nashville had the worse excuse, but they could easily be forgiven: it was their franchise's third playoff spot in the last 24 years. However, given the talent level of this team and given that they don't have that much to replace this year, the Bluebirds are favored to go to the playoffs for the third straight season and could win their second consecutive division title. Can Nashville break through?

The Bluebirds' top three starters might be the best 1-2-3 punch in the BBA, punctuated by the development of Steven Clayton last year. Clayton was absolutely electric in 14 starts and can be considered a legitimate #1 starter, or at least a 1A. Barney Lindsay (17-4, 2.61 last year) is their current #1 starter, and he's a stud. Nobuhito Kan took the leap last year, finally, going 19-4 with a 2.71 ERA in his first season in the rotation, and it's hard to see him falling back out ever again. Adrian Custello is full of talent but has yet to take a similar leap as Kan. No reason this can't be the year for Custello. And then there's Chris Moran, Mr. Consistency, who had his best BBA season last year. Nashville also has one of the best bullpens in the BBA, with Juan Cerda and Mitchell Pursell the headliners but a deep group of talented players behind them, including past but maybe not present superstar Cornelio Lozano. Pound for pound this is the best pitching staff in the BBA.

Their lineup is stacked, too. Tony Frost is the quietest superstar in the BBA, but he's amazing. Dennis French is still getting it done at age 33, and while his massive 2049 season isn't likely repeatable he's still great. Shortstop Sammy McNeill has been an incredible rising star, and last year his two-way game made him look like a superstar. Maybe he is.

Speaking of risers, Martin Hemming is every bit the player I thought he'd be when I said he was the #3 prospect in 2047, and thus far he's easily the #1 producer from that draft. Nashville is stacked at catcher with Dave Butler, Alberto Rodriguez, and prospect Hak-Joon Yi, and I bet they'd pay cash money to have someone take Rodriguez off their hands. Speaking of which, Liann-wei Mao is free for this season, as Phoenix is paying his salary.

He's not the player he was a couple years ago, but he's good enough to keep the seat warm for top prospect Wafid Bishr – almost there! Ronnie Hubbard is one of the league's best defensive 8s. The big loss from last year is second baseman Roberto Viramontas, who they are trying to replace with prospect Candranibha Saswata from India, who's neither really good offensively or defensively yet but might have a little Geauxinue, um, in him. It's a good lineup with a lot of solid performers.

The Bluebirds are totally stacked on the farm, too; they have the #1 and #2 prospects in Bishr and 2047 S1 pick John Dawson, whose changeup has become an absolute weapon since being drafted. They have some interesting contract situations, but they have some wiggle room to maneuver for next year. This team has the guns to be competitive for the short and long term, and while it's difficult to pick a team to rule the powerful FL Heartland, if any team could be that team, it's Nashville. They'll hit the century mark again this season.



# Twin Cities

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

The Twin Cities River Monsters have been historically bad lately. How bad? The worst season in the history of the Frick League is the 2048 River Monsters, whose 40 wins are 5 worse than the second worst team...the 2049 River Monsters. Oof. Enter veteran GM Alan Ehlers, who has raised the fan interest significantly this offseason and added a few notable players. A lot of local eyes are on the team this year, who will almost certainly not lose 122 games again. How many can they win?

Whatever else Twin Cities did this offseason, they did get one keystone piece in Thomas Turner, who was one of the best pitchers in the JL last year and has been consistently solid throughout his major league career. Frank Walbourne, another offseason acquisition, is a former top 100 prospect who has plenty of upside.

The two players cost much of the River Monsters' youth, and the rest of the rotation looks blasted: Carlos Rodriguez has thrown 88 innings in the last two years, though he's just \$1.5 million on the cap. Pat Sloan and Hao Kun should be consistent #5 types and Miguel Ayala couldn't stick in the rotation on pitching-hungry Rockville. The bullpen is lousy, which is usually something I give a thumbs up to on rebuilding teams.

I like their offensive moves, too, though I have some serious doubts about Bing-de Zhao's ability to hold up to playing second base. If it doesn't fail then Zhao should be productive as long as he's healthy at the pivot. Acquiring catcher Quinton Lara is how they dumped Rodriguez' contract, and while Lara is not a consistent player there's no reason he can't repeat his 2048 season. Pedro Diaz is also an interesting signing, especially at \$6 million a season.

Rory Linseman has been a solid platoon performer in his first two years, though he needs a caddy. I think they could get modest production out of the platoon combination of Grant Prince and Wayne Morris, but that's the best that will do. After that, well...Michael Best is old, Enrique Hernandez can't hit, etc. But what do you want for a one-year rebuild anyway? They'll be passable defensively, too, but likely not better.

Twin Cities is soon going to get some help for the rotation, as top prospects Erik Brooks, Ace Young, Jr., and Maurice Jeffes are all getting closer to ready. To the team's credit they don't look in a hurry to rush any of them.

Their cashflow is fine and they're on pace to have a cap number around \$53 million next year, which could be as low as \$32 million depending on how it works out. For this year, they're still very much the worst team in the FL Heartland, but they're not going to lose 120 games unless it all goes bad, and I can see some glimmers of a team here. Let's give Sparky a chance.



# Sacramento

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

Sacramento is fantastic, and is not only a surefire playoff lock, but heavily favored to win their division, which I think they will by maybe even a bigger margin than last year's twelve games. The question is whether this is the year where they break through and win a playoff series, since they've bowed out with home field advantage for three straight years, which leads to the question: if they faced Yellow Springs in the Cartwright, could both teams lose? Can Sacramento break through this year?

If I had to draw up a lineup, that lineup would rarely ever strike out, draw walks, hit for average, and have a few power hitters who could clean up. Outfielder Okyay Nisanci might be the player I drew up in the lab, and fellow outfielder Unem Ploid would be just a phenomenal #2 hitter. Mike Campbell is still a huge star at age 33. Dallas Dixon had a phenomenal rookie campaign.

Ricardo Mendoza is a huge threat. Jay Pochin is poised to become a star at catcher, and he's backed up by John Kinsella, one of the best defensive 2s anywhere. CF Dan Flores and SS Henri Charriere make them strongish up the middle. They play in Sacramento, but they finished just 15 runs out of the FL lead last year. Bold prediction: first in franchise history to lead the Frick League in offense. They were the first ever to lead in OPS last year.

Why hasn't it happened before? They start every year with a ballpark that depresses offense more than anywhere in the BBA. If you think that doesn't help their pitching staff just a touch, led now by superstar Ruben Vazquez, Sacramento has led the BBA in runs allowed in each of the past two years, which represent the second and third best run prevention totals of all time. Vazquez is coming off a major arm injury that took him out of most of 2048, but he is still as good as just about any pitcher in the BBA. Marvin Winston is a legitimately solid #2 starter.

Warren Moore would probably still be pretty good if he didn't throw half his games in Sacramento, but he's benefiting from the ballpark for sure. Matt McCartney, too. Dylan Wonnocott looked smashing in four September starts, and the fireballing lefty has now struck out 30 batters in 20 major league innings. The team also has several quality arms in the bullpen, including Aaron Anderson, Manuel Cruz, and Luis Ramos.

Not enough for you yet? Sacramento also has the sixth best farm system in the BBA, with potential studs like Joe King and Robert Hanson poised to join the pitching staff within the next couple years. Their cap situation is especially clean, and it gets even better over the next couple years.

They may have some interesting decisions to make with Marvin Winston and Warren Moore, but they have gobs of room to re-sign them. I've never seen a team shed so much talent in the offseason that still has, lordy, so much talent. Their lineup is straight out of my dreams. Their pitching staff is led by Ruben Vazquez. They run and field and their pitching staff is still good even without Alaric.

They're the biggest lock in the BBA for a playoff spot. They even have serious cap room to make a screw you move in August. There are some pretty darn good teams in the FL, but Sacramento is one of them. Put this elite team down for 105 wins and throw away the key.



# Seattle

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

Somewhere along the line, Seattle started to get predictable. They lost 95 games in 2047, 100 games in 2048 and 105 last year, and the weird, twisted path they were taking appears to have ended in the cellar. The Storm weren't quite Twin Cities last year, but a -250 run differential is nothing to brag about: they earned every one of those losses. Without a lot of top-flight talent and virtually no pitching, Seattle is not a playoff team in 2050. Let's take a look into the Pacific Northwest to see how the climb back to random respectability is going.

The Storm brought in a new middle infield this offseason, with the headliner Wilson Andrade. Andrade had a couple of down seasons for Portland until being freed by Vancouver, but since his 162 game average is 20% above league average and 5 WAR, he's worth the \$100 million he's guaranteed over the next five years. Alexander Julyan bounced back from breaking his ankle in 2048 to post his usual top-flight numbers.

Valentin Fitas might need to do more for this team to be productive offensively, and Fitas was a mild letdown in year one in Seattle. Shortstop Ewan Allman doesn't have the household recognition of Eric Jones, but he's outperformed him over the past two years, so this might be a position battle. Pedro Martinez is getting by on just his defense now, as he hasn't posted a league average OPS since 2046.

We'll see how catcher and former first round pick Trevor Eteldrum does offensively, but he's weak defensively. Taro Kudo had an excellent season last year...in AAA. Seattle's offense is probably better this year with Andrade, but there are still a lot of question marks and it's not the strongest defensive alignment.

Oh, and that was the really good news because their pitching staff is – is crap too crude? Let's say crap. Scouts project exactly one player on the pitching staff above league average, oft-injured Len Conboy. Malcolm Jolly is one of the worst Opening Day starters you're likely to see in some time; since coming up from AAA in 2048 he's a combined one win above replacement.

The team is hoping to revive Yun Zhang's career, which has been in the tank for some time. Jose Costello might be more than meets the eye, but he hasn't shown it yet. Jorge Castro is in the long line of pitchers waiting for his changeup. Their bullpen is barely passable as a unit. It's not an accident that they let up the most runs by far in 2049 and with Des Moines improving should match the feat easily in 2050.

The team does have a little hope on the horizon. Joe Jackson and Doug Eckhoff could be the foundation of a pitching staff, soon, and Run-ming Gui could be a perennial 30-homer shortstop. Aaron Sims is probably somewhat underrated, too, and I can buy this as a top ten farm system even though it's not especially deep.

Seattle also frees themselves from the onerous Hector Marquez deal this year, and if Aaron Jones opts out of his player option the team might have some wiggle room in 2051. The Andrade move probably helps everything a little bit, and I can see Seattle climbing out of the 100-loss territory in 2050 if things go normally, but there's no pitching here, and I can't see a path to contention.



# Hawaii

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

Wow. Literally just wow. It took Hawaii quite a long time to fall out of contention last year despite a run differential that would normally have put them around 95 losses, in what has to be the biggest Pythagorean win of all time, a +14 in 2049. It's safe to say they're the first team with a winning record to score 3.3 runs per game, and their combined offensive output was 5 WAR, which is equivalent to about half a season of Manabu. This year, Hawaii features some interesting young pitchers and a lineup that doesn't look quite as broken as their offense was last year. Could Hawaii do it again?

The Tropics went out and signed offense this offseason, and the results might be pretty fair. The Tropics signed outfielders Tomas Guillen and Ramao Saturnino, both of whom are productive bats. On a better team, this would probably spell the end for Bronx Cortez' major league career, but they're playing the guy with a career .195 batting average at DH, so either they're less serious than we think or they're playing four-dimensional chess.

Ron Shiplack's numbers have cratered in recent years and nobody knows quite why, since the eye test tells us he's not notably worse than in previous years. Shiplack is still owed \$88 million so they'd like him to hit. Similarly, first baseman Alejandro Ortiz's numbers fell dramatically and nobody knows quite why. He should bounce back somewhat. They've stopped running shortstop Logan Niles out there, but veteran backup Hector Vazquez isn't the answer either. They do have some decent young players: rookie third baseman Rhys Brickell was an on-base machine for the Tropics, and center fielder Angelo Lucchesi was decent offensively and excellent with the glove.

The Tropics are hoping to get more this year from Adhyapayana Mehta, who hasn't been productive even for a second baseman. Shortstop Thomas Kramer is still incredible last year with the glove, though he can't hit. Hawaii is also above average defensively at most positions and does run, albeit inefficiently.

Every one of Hawaii's young pitchers has some kind of flaw, but it is an interesting group. Scouts say that consistent injuries have hurt Atmo Ananas' game, but he's still got promise if he can stay on the field. Count me in on the Daruna Maddukuri bandwagon: he doesn't have a ton of stamina, but he can definitely pitch.

Same is true of Semih Gurani, who isn't Jay Hodge but could be a really nice 5 inning starter. Bill Dempsey had a really good year in 2049, but it's hard to expect that from him again. Ernie Poole is the very model of a #5 starter, and neither Tomas Franco nor Michael Kalil is ready to perform. Denny Hamilton and Ronnie Sprinkles are probably underrated pitchers in the pen, but overall it's not a great group.

Hawaii's farm system is heavily overrated; other than Kalil I don't buy any of their other top 100 prospects actually being that impressive. Their cap situation is very clean, though, other than the Shiplack deal, and maybe Maup Manshert if he doesn't come back whole from his UCL tear suffered last year.

It's pretty hard to see this team contending again, but if I were to totally ignore their numbers from last year, their top five hitters are actually not a bad core. I'd say this team is one or two years away at best, and if the rotation can stabilize in its current form, less. Somewhere around 85-90 losses seems about right.



# San Fernando

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

San Fernando was the polar opposite of Vancouver last year: their offense was rock solid, but their pitching staff was porous. They led the FL in home runs by a significant margin, doubling up last place Vancouver, and if they'd made it to about a .270 team average they might have led the FL in offense. A lot is going right in the San Fernando lineup, and for them to move forward, they're going to have to stop other teams from scoring. Under no circumstances could they take out Sacramento, but could the Bears' potent offense get them a wild card?

San Fernando's offense is Beane Moneyball, walks and home runs, with the exception of their best player, Angel Gonzalez. Since coming to San Fernando, Gonzalez is on an offensive run like few players have ever experienced. Bill James' Favorite Toy suggests he now has an 80% chance of hitting 100 WAR, which would put him 11<sup>th</sup> all time. 1B Tyler Ober made a second year leap, and CF Wasim Ala, who came over in the Alaric trade, had a strong debut season.

Both had OBPs that were 125 points above their batting average. Long-time Bear Reggie Vargas has been in a bit of a decline, but he's still very capable. Roberto Rivera set a career high in homers last year with 29; anything over 20 would be fine with San Fernando. Second baseman Marcello Custello and catcher Farid bin Mubarak did not impress in their debut seasons with the Bears, but they both have some potential. They play passable defense, but really most of these players are in the lineup for their bat.

As for their pitching staff, let me be the first to say I'm not buying long-time reliever Christo Munoz's foray into the starting rotation, as fantastic as he's been for Jacksonville in the pen.

I am buying a bounce-back season from Jorge Moreno, though, who was genuinely just unlucky. Gusby Pinkerton at this point is legitimately underrated, and he was rock-solid again. I'd like to see what Ramon Gonzalez could do with a whole year in the rotation again, even though his first effort wasn't amazing.

They might try out Zach Davis this year, and I'd recommend that, since the fifth round surprise was solid at two levels last year. Last year I faded the Bears because of what I perceived to be a bad bullpen, and that perception became reality. I'm still not impressed, even despite solid years from Kurt Hanson and Fritz Brinson.

Other than Davis, San Fernando is not prospect rich and can't really afford to make trades during the year. Their cap situation is fine, and so they have some room to maneuver if they can make some bargain bin trades, though they have to keep an eye on their 2052 cap number to be able to re-sign Angel Gonzalez.

Regardless of what happens with the Bears this year, they ought to be fun to watch, and it is entirely foreseeable that their offense blows up, they get closer to a league average ERA because of good rotation work, and they pick up 85-90 wins and sneak into the playoffs. I'm putting them closer to .500 this year.



# Portland

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener & Chris Wilson

Portland is not the fastest expansion team to make a Brewster Championship Series. They are in fact the ONLY expansion team to make a Brewster. The Lumberjacks chopped down the redwoods on their way, knocking out Yellow Springs AND Nashville on their way to the title round. When something like this happens, people take notice. Their success was a product of a decade of drafting, 100 loss clubs, climbing respectability and finally a few playoff wins. But Portland also won just 89 games last year. Are the Lumberjacks even a lock for the playoffs this year, or were they a one-chop wonder?

Enough copy has been written about Portland's young pitching staff, so much so that they're not that young anymore: Ace Ken Sparks is 24, Chris Thompson is 25, and Steve Warren is 26. The latter two of those are lefties, and they're two of the most talented lefties in the BBA, and Sparks is the #1 starter of your dreams for \$4 million in 2050.

The young guns allow the team max flexibility in the offense, which we'll get to later. Felix Vidaca doesn't get as much press, but the big armed righty is the forepaw answer to Warren's southpaw. As far as the pen goes, Lorenzo de' Medici has now been in Portland since 2046, and at 33 years old his next stop might be the Hall of Fame. He has three 300-strikeout seasons if you round up. He's paired with Xuan Ngo, who has been good but not Subandrio, and the talented Jose Castro and Matt Alicea.

As mentioned, the young pitching staff lets them spend on offense, and they do: Ernest McBride was worth every penny last year and could have won his third Sawyer Silk last year if not for Angel Gonzalez and Manobu.

Outfielder Jeffrey Smith is losing a little bat speed and had a weak year last year, but he's probably better than that. Ditto OF Wilson Alomar, who is also probably better than he played last year. Alex Ramirez continues to be ageless.

Portland brought in two veterans this offseason, Roberto Viramontas and Po-sin Shi; Viramontas has been a solid 3-WAR performer in the middle infield, while Shi needs only hit around .230 to be the same. Portland ran extremely poorly last year, converting just 146/246 (59%) of steal attempts, but it's possible Shi and Viramontas helps this stat. Portland is also not particularly good on defense, but it hasn't seemed to hurt them that much.

Portland does have one more solid prospect left, Jiao-long Ma, who I do like. Tynan Potter still doesn't look bad either, though he might not be the top five pick he was. Portland is close to the cap for the next three years, but that's perfect, since that's when their main trio of starters become free agents, just so long as they don't get opt-outs.

I am troubled by a few things in Portland, but I think they even out: McBride falls back, Smith and Alomar play better, Viramontas helps the offense and Shi manages center field. I think they have no chance to unseat Sacramento for the division title either, but I think they have a really good chance to be still playing in October when the dust clears.



# Vancouver

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

Vancouver had the year that Hawaii earned last year, scoring just 3.3 runs per game and crashing down to 91 losses. The Mounties got a lot of underwhelming performances last year from players they were counting on last year, and if those players don't bounce back in 2050, this season will probably look about the same. Still, there were some very hopeful signs in British Columbia. Phil Cole showed why he was the 2045 #1 overall pick last year, and Vancouver also traded for second baseman Daniel Pepper, one of the best two-way players in baseball, who might do more than just replace Wilson Andrade. Vancouver's not Sacramento by any means, but it was two wild card teams who played for the FL pennant last year. Does Vancouver have what it takes to rise up and grab a playoff spot?

Last year, Cole finished with a 2.45 ERA and 242 strikeouts to finish as the runner-up to Alaric's historical season. Still, there's some cause for skepticism even on Cole, undoubtedly a star, who is very likely to allow more than the 12 homers in 205 innings he let up last year. Similarly, Gerardo Lopez looks like the very model of a #2 starter, but he let up a ton of homers last time he was in that role. Neither Carlos Silva nor Shinsaku Ine is likely to be as good this season. Their bullpen was led last year by the combination of Hani Goddard and Jimmy Bumble, who are probably both a little underrated. With their ballpark significantly deflating batting average, they could hypothetically finish fifth in run prevention again, but I'm concerned about their staff when they go on the road.

Pepper's arrival makes him immediately the biggest offensive threat on the Mounties. He's actually a bad fit in Vancouver, since he's very contact dependent and not a huge powerhitter, but Pepper plays basically anywhere. Besides, I would have said the same thing about Andrade and that went fine.

John Hopkins is a rising young star who I think could hit 4 WAR this year. Luis Pena is an outstanding defensive shortstop. And then...if you've been following my writing a long time, you'll know that me saying that Mike Brodt was the next most productive player on this offense is a little bit scary. I'm not the biggest Manuel Torres fan, but I like him in Vancouver; his .200 average plays there and he might hit 25-30 homers and play good center field defense. Same with a guy like Vasco Fonzarelli, though he's not a good defensive player. Eduardo Garcia, too. I'm looking forward to Davenport Hinkle's second season; the top catcher prospect will hopefully struggle less. This team is good defensively but will likely have problems scoring again.

The Mounties really don't have much of a farm system to speak of, which makes sense since they're aggressive on the trade markets. Phil Cole might be farm enough for them. They have absolutely no cap issues at all and have just \$20 million devoted in guaranteed money in 2052, just two years from now.

Some of that goes to Cole, of course, but it will certainly increase their flexibility. They might still have Pepper then but I'm guessing they don't have too much dough devoted. I don't think Vancouver's pitching staff is as good as they looked last year, so I'm thinking both units rise. A .500ish record is a possibility, but I can't see them grabbing a wild card.



# Long Beach

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

With Hawaii winning 14 games more than their record expected, those games had to come from somewhere. Long Beach won eight less than expected in 2050, because their run differential was a very respectable -4 last year, far outpacing my expectations. It was even more impressive that Long Beach did it without Satan's Whelp having a great year, as the long-time ace of the staff was merely very good at age 32. Did Long Beach do enough this offseason to right what went wrong last year?

Tchekanov is still the ace of the staff, of course, and despite the shaky year there's really no cause for concern there. Pitch per pitch, Ernesto Delgado may have outdone him last year, which is also a good sign for 2050. Sam Rutgers didn't embarrass himself late last year, and that is very good news indeed; the former #10 overall has top of the rotation stuff. I'm also a fan of Barry Short, last year's first rounder, who I thought might have been the second best player in the draft.

That said, they need to give up the ghost on Del Willis being a starting pitcher already – it's not pretty. Ron Smith, too, who is just not doing the job at all. If you put Willis into the pen it actually is probably quite good, since Luis Manuel Rodriguez is one of the league's best middle relievers and they have several players like Luis Equivel, Angel Hernandez, and Jesus Rios who get the job done.

The offense was actually respectable, sitting at the bottom of the second tier last year, and that's potentially repeatable.

Todd Rice is their most consistent hitter, and the career .331 hitter hit .343 for the Surfers last year. Third baseman Juan Hernandez has been an extremely productive late bloomer. For the Surfers to move forward, they're going to need Stevie to be a wonder, and Steveland Morris could be a really fine hitter for Long Beach.

I'm not sold on the whole Bobby Horne and Mike Fowler middle of the order thing, and I keep waiting for the clock to strike twelve on Hsin Mei, but overall lineup isn't really half bad so long as the guys who are producing keep it up. Long Beach is just marginal defensively, which won't help, though they were very efficient stealing bases last year, especially Morris and Josh Mesh.

Long Beach has been drafting in the top ten for a while, and they have a lot of solid players to show for it, like Rutgers, Short, and Yoshimatsu Miyauchi, though I'm not buying the hype on Kwan-uk Chong.

The Surfers have also managed their cap well, and while they have a significant situation in two years when Tchekanov is a free agent, they could afford to re-sign him if that's the route they go. In the meantime, Long Beach should be much closer to .500 this year, and if Rutgers and others take a step forward they could sneak into the playoffs.



# Valencia

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Aaron Wiener

Valencia's success last year is staggering to me. Is it possible I've found my new Seattle, and Seattle is the new Valencia? Is this actually offensive to everyone? Just checking. I'm considering a few things before I properly identify how I could have missed so badly on this team, if I can make actual sense of it or whether just give up and start pounding oranges. It's not going to help this playoff team with an expected record of 97 wins to have lost their #2 starter, but I'm just gonna accept that I was wrong on this ballclub, at least at first.

We'll start with the Valencia 3+ WAR hitters. So Kenan Reis might not be a 4.5 WAR player in his dreams. He's the exact same player who had posted 3.4 WAR in four years before breaking out, but fine, okay, he's a star. Juan Mateo at least had some success in his past, even if his .936 OPS last year basically blew every other season he's had away.

Julio Garcia has pedigree as a top five pick, and really did kick the minors in the teeth before doing that last year, so, hey, I'll buy that one too, though I can't wrap my head around it either. Yodo Sato I'll buy; he looks a lot like Rafael Guterrez. Did I mention that Valencia is a pitcher's park and only Mateo among this list plays any defense? Roelof Klooster is currently hurt, but when healthy he's one of the BBA's better catchers. Donald Miller's not a good defensive player either, but nobody questions if he can hit.

Valencia is trying to reclaim Antonio Martinez' career; based on their track record he should win Sawyer Silk. Frederick Brissett looked like he had this thing figured out and last year he fell back. And then Habbib Bin Ameen will win the Joe Gillstrom and Sven Burel will hit .400 and can we just agree that I don't know ANYTHING here? This offense looks like a 11<sup>th</sup> place offense to me and a 14<sup>th</sup> place defense, and last year they finished with more runs than Yellow Springs and Omaha in a pitcher's park.

Their pitching staff makes more sense to me. I pegged Ken Arroyo as a great fit for this franchise, and he has been. Harold Newbold and Greg Jackson are talented pitchers that are pitching in a pitcher's park and should have been successful. Martin Roman and John Olson are excellent relievers, so their success isn't weird, either. Valencia got solid performances up and down the pitching staff last year, and while Carlton Day's torn UCL is kind of a big deal they still have an okay pitching staff without him.

I have some doubts they can finish fourth in pitching again, but not when I consider their competition; the FL, for all its poor run scoring, is not actually a league of 16 amazing pitching staffs. They're clearly behind the big three of Sacramento, Nashville, and Yellow Springs, and then there's some competition.

The Valencia farm is significantly weakened by attrition, but most of the young players are in the major leagues at this point. Sergei Bobrovsky is deeply overrated but could yet make it. Their cap situation is a lot worse than you'd expect, though it starts clearing back up next season.

So is Valencia as good as they looked last year? Well, if they're going to hit like this every year then yeah, they're that good. Even if they fall back a little, they do have some solid pitchers to fall back on. They shouldn't be a serious challenger to Sacramento either, but given their recent track record, it'll be a while before they fall out of contention.

# 2 LEAGUE PREVIEWS - JOHNSON

Chris Wilson

ATLANTIC	
CHARLOTTE	94-68
ATLANTIC CITY	93-69
JACKSONVILLE	92-70
NEW ORLEANS	88-74
ROCKVILLE	82-80
CHARM CITY	81-81
MONTREAL	68-94
BROOKLYN	50-112

Look we all know this its Las Vegas vs the field in the Johnson this year. Much like Sacramento over in the Frick. But lets talk about the field, shall we? 2050 could be the year of the expansion teams. While my Portland Lumberjacks made it to the Series last year, could it be the Cougars turn this season?

Could it be a third times charm for the Cougars if they meet again in the playoffs in 2050? Which both seem destined to do again, it just all depends on the seeding.

They even signed an ex-Vegas player in Blaine Tyler. If you can't beat 'em sign 'em is the thinking in the front offices of Charlotte.



The Atlantic could be won by one of 3 teams this season, its that close with parody in the division. Based on my predictions, its only 2 games that will separate the top 3 teams going into 2050. One untimely injury here to Charlotte, Atlantic City, or Jacksonville could open the door for New Orleans to return from the playoffs.

How will Rockville fair now that their long time GM and fan favorite has left for a new challenge over in Des Moines?

Charm City is at a teetering point with back to back sub .500 seasons for the first time 44 & 45. They've never finished higher than 4<sup>th</sup> in the Atlantic since 2046. With a new GM back in town (Stu), things could be looking up in ol' Charm City.

Montreal and Brooklyn are no threat this season to make the playoffs, Montreal has another familiar GM who returns to attempt to restart the resurrection of the franchise back to its playoffs days. Then theirs Brooklyn. Anything less than loosing 100 games again (it would be the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive season), would be a step in the right direction for the club.



Yes your reading that right, I've predicted Vegas not winning 100 games this year (although I could be wrong). When you're the defending champs you're the defending champs until someone knocks you off. But can anyone do that within the Frontier, or even in the Johnson League? That's why we play the games.

Mexico City once again plays a sloppy second in the division, hopefully more than the 14 games last season. I'll go out a limb and say 9. Its hard to stay on top as long as Vegas has, but with some key loses by Vegas (Tyler, King, Pi) to name a few and some pickups by the Aztecs, perhaps that gap will shorten.

Calgary is looking to gain some ground and make some noise for that final wild card spot between Mexico City and New Orleans from the Atlantic. Will the 6<sup>th</sup> straight winning season yield the fruit of a playoff ticket? We shall see.

While over in Phoenix after dealing with most of the offseason with the Planning & Zoning board after the fiasco that was the 2050 All Star Game, the club added a couple of arms to help them get back to missing the playoffs again on the final sim of the season.

San Antonio suffered a horrible season last year, with only 63 victories, 2<sup>nd</sup> worse in the Johnson. They have been on a downward trend the last 3 seasons, but it hard to see them getting any worse than their 2049 campaign. Although they weren't active in the big FA off-season, they do have some pieces in place to improve in 2050.

## 2 | LEAGUE PREVIEW - JOHNSON

Chris Wilson

FRONTIER	
LAS VEGAS	97-65
MEXICO CITY	88-74
CALGARY	86-76
PHOENIX	80-82
SAN ANTONIO	78-84
EL PASO	75-87
BOISE	74-88
EDMONTON	72-90

That's right we are talking about El "Fucking" Paso here. No longer the cellar dwellers of the division, GM Momburg has quietly been pulling the right levers behind the scenes to finally get this club back to respectability.

While over in Boise rebuilds are underway, with one club ahead of the other. I don't expect much from these two clubs this season, except who can not finish last in the division for the title of the best last place team in the Johnson League.



# Atlantic City

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

None

### Key Losses:

SS Ewan Allman  
RF Millard Younger  
LF Luis Costello

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 73-89  
2046: 78-84  
2047: 71-91  
2048: 93-69  
2049: 91-71

### Top Player:



**Juan Rivera**  
.326/.410/.617 in  
2049.

Atlantic City's 2049 season ended in a slight disappointment after making it to the post-season only to fall to Charlotte in the Geoghegan Series. The team rode a pitching staff and offense that were both in the upper third of the Johnson League last season. With no major additions or subtractions, Atlantic City should hover right in the hunt again in 2050 for a spot in the post-season.

Juan Rivera anchors the offense in the middle. He'll be flanked in the lineup by a solid core of guys that include Cinema Jones, Ernesto Gonzalez, Carlos Donadoni, and Jose Romero. The biggest question mark for the Gamblers, like most teams, is what production do they get offensively from their catcher, SS, and CF. They have Moreno behind the dish which puts them ahead of most teams, but it could be all glove man Asher Chuang at SS. If he can hit his weight it'll be a bonus for the Gamblers. As a unit in 2049, the Gamblers offense posted an impressive 31.9 Wins Above Replacement.

Carlos Flores returns with his 2049 Nebraska to be the leader of the rotation. Kevin Shephard gives them a solid number 2 guy in the rotation, but after that, the entire staff fell sort of flat in 2049. The rest of the staff had just 3.9 WAR in 2049 while that pair totaled 11.0 between the two.

Joe Melucci appears to be a young guy on the rise in Atlantic City, assuming there is a spot for him in the lineup. He'll either get some spot starts as a DH in 2050 or wait again until June or see if a spot opens up via trade. All in all, the offense and two solid starters will be enough to keep the Gamblers back in the hunt in 2050.



# Brooklyn

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

P Xiao-shuang Chi

### Key Losses:

P Aki Kondo  
3B Brian Dixon  
SS Reynante Alvero

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 91-71  
2046: 60-102  
2047: 51-111  
2048: 55-107  
2049: 59-103

### Top Player:



**Felipe Vega**  
.304/.379/.500 in  
2049.

Brooklyn fell on hard times in 2049, posting the Johnson League's worst record and their 4th consecutive season with 100 or more losses. To make matters worse, they lost what was likely their 2nd best starter in Aki Kondo to trade as well as their starting SS and 3B from a season ago.

Fans who actually choose to buy tickets to Brooklyn Robins games in 2050 will likely be paying solely to see Felipe Vega play. It's somewhat surprising the team didn't actively pursue trading Vega last season or perhaps in the off-season, if it did mean they'd have to cover some salary just so they could try and land some younger pieces for a rebuild. Considering Brooklyn's current standing, they may be silently hoping he opts out at the end of this season.

There are a few young pieces the team may hope can step up this season. Mike LeBlanc looks ready to perhaps make a leap at some point this year, but having no experience above A-ball may make him a late roster addition. Raghil bin Nasim will look to rebound from a disastrous rookie season that saw him post a -2.9 WAR. While not as bad, Chris McFadden will look to improve during his sophomore run as well.

There is some excitement over Chi, the piece acquired in the Kondo trade, but the pitching is a slight mess as well. Domenic Blondell had a career year in 2049, posting a 3.5 WAR in his first season with Brooklyn. Jose Ordonez is a solid piece out of the pen.

All in all, for a team that lost 100 games last season and a farm system that ranks 28th in the league right now, tough times could continue in Brooklyn in 2050.



# Charlotte

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

Charlotte enters the 2050 season trying to figure out how to get over the hump. And that hump is currently in the form of the Las Vegas Hustlers who have ended their season in 2 of the last 3 seasons, including the 2049 season that saw the Cougars fall in 5 during the Doubleday Series. As has been the case with Charlotte the last few seasons, a high roster turn over rate presents a challenge in trying to figure out where this team lands in the tough Johnson League.

The club added Vegas' Blaine Tyler (via Edmonton) to help round out the lineup alongside Pedro Huerta and Aires Penharanda. Brett is hopeful that Tyler at 3B can replace the offense lost by a departing Francisco Arredondo at 2B. Assuming he does, then the offense that ranked 2nd in the JL a season ago should continue to be near the top.

On the pitching side, the loss of Turner and Brooks means the team loses over 7 WAR and 20 wins combined. In to replace that is former River Monsters youngster bin Majid al Din of Rule 5 theft fame. Al Din had little success in Twin Cities last year, but that could be a result of a variety of factors. He'll join a staff that does still hold some solid arms in the form of Kyle Smallwood and sophomore arm Haravira Chandar who Cougars fans hope to see boost his numbers in year 2.

There isn't a lot to look for as far as prospects making their mark in 2050 for Charlotte. But you can expect a late signing or trade to be made that gets left out of this preview that throws things out of sorts. Nonetheless, I've doubted Charlotte in several editions of these, so might as well give them some higher praise this year. Granted, that may be a reverse jinx of a reverse jinx.

### Key Additions:

3B Blaine Tyler  
P Ruben bin Majid al Din  
3B Brian Dixon  
C Kyle Baker  
P Emanuele Marcati  
OF Brad Parkinson

### Key Losses:

P Thomas Turner  
2B Francisco Arredondo  
P Ashton Brooks  
C Felipe Delgado  
P Niccolo Destefani

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 74-84  
2046: 93-69  
2047: 94-68  
2048: 95-67  
2049: 92-70

### Top Player:



**Pedro Huerta**  
.337/.368/.613 in 2049.



# Charm City

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

P Ashton Brooks  
C Kazuki Saito  
SS Jose Montano  
P Juan Garcia

### Key Losses:

RF Tomas Guillen  
P Boaty  
McBoatface  
C Shan Guan

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 78-84  
2046: 87-75  
2047: 83-79  
2048: 73-89  
2049: 78-84

### Top Player:



**Felix Roman**  
.281/.350/.589 in  
2049

All eyes are on the Charm City Jimmies in 2050. No, not because they have Felix Roman but because they have Stu “The self-proclaimed Genius” Hopkins at the helm. The last time we saw Stu, he was either leading the Louisville Sluggers to success or running the Wichita (now El Paso) franchise into the ground. Honestly, it just depends on which version of Hopkins you chose to remember.

After hovering around .500 for much of the season, the Jimmies fell off late in the season for another losing season. The hope was the addition of Felix Roman would help turn them into a contender, but all it did was add 5 wins to their record, at no real fault of Roman mind you as he produced nearly half of their offensive WAR in 2049. Gary Allen is still around to provide protection to Roman, but gone is Tomas Guillen and his 3.4 WAR to Hawaii.

The big name firepower carries over to the pitching staff as Bill Constable returns. He won the Nebraska in 2046 and all he’s done since is capture a pair of runner-ups and a third place finish in the voting. The team signed Ashton Brooks to provide some more pitching firepower and rookie Waseem bin Suhayb appears ready to make the leap to the big leagues. His addition would make the Jimmies rotation a formidable one for sure.

Another thing the Jimmies have in their favor is strength in an area that most teams have weakness. Saito gives the club a very good catcher while Pepe Espinosa is a very good shortstop who had a down year in 2049. Add in Roman in CF and this team has the pieces to make a run at the post-season in 2050 if everything goes just right. Perhaps all that was needed was a little “genius” magic.



# Jacksonville

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

SS Larry Barkin  
SS Quinn Richardson  
P Jose Arrellano

### Key Losses:

P Cristo Munoz  
2B Edgardo Encarnacion  
SS Robbie Krok  
3B Curt Love

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 73-89  
2046: 84-78  
2047: 93-69  
2048: 98-64  
2049: 100-62

### Top Player:



**Pancho Costa**  
.332/.380/.505 in 2049

Jacksonville enters the 2050 season in much the same way as Charlotte. Both teams trying to figure out how they can solve the post-season. The Hurricanes appeared in their 3rd consecutive post-season in 2049 only to be bounced in their opening round series in each of those 3 seasons. And none of those series had them facing Las Vegas. This has been frustrating for Hurricanes fans as they've arguably been the 2nd best team the last few years in the Frick League. The key here is, like Charm City, we see a new, old face in with Robillard now at the helm of the Hurricanes.

The big loss to this team this off-season was the loss of Encarnacion who departs 3.1 WAR from last season. The team will look to fill that void with Larry Barkin and Quinn Richardson. Richardson had his worst season of his career last year in San Fernando who looked to pawn him off on any takers. Barkin comes over from Chicago after some mediocre play in Chicago. Those guys however will play backup roles to the main guys in the lineup like Pancho Costa, Sawyer Slizz, and David Simpson. Those three will be the main guys looking to carry this offense to it's third straight division title.

Stephen Best, who won 19 games a season ago, will be joined by the new face of Jose Arellano in the rotation who came over in the Barkin trade this winter. Gertrudes returns to the rotation and they'll hope to see a repeat performance of 2049 out of Luis Rubio. I'm not as high that'll happen. The back end of the bullpen also saw Cristo Munoz depart to San Fernando, leaving the bullpen with some real question marks starting the season.

With little in the farm to help and a team salary already against the cap, the Hurricanes may have 1 more push at knocking off Vegas before they have to really start considering some serious moves. Let's see how a new GM plays this out.



# Montreal

## 2 | TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

None

### Key Losses:

SS Orlando Lopez

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 91-71

2046: 98-64

2047: 84-78

2048: 73-89

2049: 77-85

### Top Player:



**Eduardo Gonzalez**

.297/.370/.535 in

2049

Out with the old and in with the, well, new old. Another GM change in the Atlantic Division sees the return of Jeffrey back to his old club in Montreal. We last saw Jeff back in 2043 just as Montreal was on the up-tick before his departure. It's been a steady trickle downward in Montreal for a franchise that was once a staple of the post-season. Can Jeff get them back?

There weren't a lot of changes made in Montreal this season, which probably doesn't bode well for a team that won just 77 games last season. Back are Eduardo Gonzalez and Lineu Aldo to anchor the offense. Joe Bradshaw is also back behind the dish. All 4 of these guys have value. It'll be interesting to see if Montreal stumbles out of the gate if a new GM in town looks to try and move some of these pieces or tries and find ways to build around them.

In order to build in Montreal however, they'll need more than Don Jaramillo to pitch. He compiled 3.2 of the 5.2 total WAR accumulated by the pitching staff in 2049. Cheslav Evgrafov is on the cusp to being ready and after 2.5 seasons in Triple-A, may be forced into action in 2050. After that, there are a few bullpen pieces but not much help.

With the state of the league being a little more pitching heavy at the moment, perhaps Montreal could change things up and find a partner who has ample pitching but could use a boost on offense to perhaps mix it up in the Atlantic Division. If only there was someone who wrote these previews that was in that situation!



# New Orleans

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

CF Paul Wapshott  
P Zak Johnson  
P Renato Lacerda  
C Howard Burton  
1B Manuel Aguilar, Jr  
2B Francisco  
Arredondo

### Key Losses:

2B Jose Sanchez  
CF Xavier Rangel  
1B Raul Fernandez  
P Don Smith  
C Rainer Scheffer

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 83-79  
2046: 74-88  
2047: 89-73  
2048: 87-75  
2049: 90-72

### Top Player:



Juan Donestevez  
.331/.393/.612 in 2049.

New Orleans shook the Johnson League world in 2049. Not so much that they won 90 games and returned to the post-season, but for what they did IN the post-season. They captured a pair of series before running into eventual champs Las Vegas in the JL Cartright Series. The Crawdads roster saw some shake-ups this off-season, so do they have it in them?

On the offensive side, stud outfielder and Silk Award winner Juan Donestevez returns. He alone makes the offense click, but with the help of Mal Fountain the team has a solid two man approach. The Crawdads will then look to see how Aguilar Jr, Paul Wapshott, and Howard Burton can replace the combined 10.3 WAR that departed with Sanchez, Rangel, Fernandez, and Scheffer. Granted, it's more likely to be rookie Todd Tatlock who sees the bulk of the time behind the dish over Burton.

Pitching was a sort spot last season despite their success. The team will have to find a way to replace...(checks notes)... Don Smith in 2050. Yeah, you read that right! That Don Smith went 10-3 last year for the Crawdads. Granted, that's a stretch to say he's all they had. The Christians (Burgos and Garcia) still give the Crawdads a solid pair of arms. They also have some guys who will enjoy the offense scored by New Orleans like Navarez and Johnson who are serviceable enough in the rotation. Then they added Renato Lacerdo from Las Vegas to close the deal at the end.

The two main keys in New Orleans this season will be can the 2050 offense, with several new faces, do what the 2049 version did to keep this team's pitching staff in games. I doubted them in the post-season and they came through twice. Why can't they do it again!?



# Rockville

## 2 TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

RF Pedro Mendoza  
C Heui-seong Park

### Key Losses:

RP Luis Equivel  
SS Jose Montano  
DH Bing de Zhao  
2B Daniel Pepper

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 97-65  
2046: 92-70  
2047: 90-72  
2048: 89-73  
2049: 87-75

### Top Player:



**Julio Barajas**  
.353/.400/.583 in  
2049.

While a lot of eyes will be on Charm City to see how the return of Hopkins goes, other eyes will be focused on Rockville to see how Jim Slade can handle the pressure of filling the shoes vacated by Aaron Weiner who has taken on the challenge of building Des Moines to prominence. Rockville's 15 consecutive trips to the post-season came to an end in 2049 which begs the question: Did Aaron see the writing on the wall and leave Jim with a floundering franchise or is there still something left for Jim to build around?

It's not like this team struggled in 2049. They still won 87 games and narrowly missed out on the post-season. Offensively the team returns Julio Barajas, Chip Puckett, and Daniel Pepper. You could find a lot worse players to inherit when taking over a team. Isn't that right, Aaron? The biggest loss from last year's club might be Zhao, but losing his injured body and salary may help the team in the long run.

Pitching was a slight sore spot last season with Rockville, but there are some nice pieces to compete with. Leach, Haamid, and Verhoeve are formidable arms in the rotation while Edward Johnson gives them an excellent piece at the back end to close games.

With little to nothing of note ready in the farm for the Pikemen, the biggest key to this season will just be watching what Jim does with the franchise. It's always interesting to see what a new face does to a franchise that had that stability Rockville has had over the last few decades. Does Jim continue to ride out Aaron's work or does Jim come in and put his own twist on the organization? Both questions that make it difficult to really predict what to expect out of the Pikemen this season. Even moreso when you consider their record has declined each of the last 5 seasons.

**B**

# Boise

**2**

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

**Key Additions:**

P Luis Rojas  
 SS Orlando Lopez  
 RP Jeremy Donahue

**Key Losses:**

SS Sven Burel  
 P Jorge Ayala  
 RF Raul Valdes  
 LF Jude Carter  
 C Rafael Mendoza

**Last 5 Seasons:**

2045: 90-72  
 2046: 79-83  
 2047: 67-95  
 2048: 62-100  
 2049: 72-90

**Top Player:**

**Steve Collins III**  
 .289/.338/.444 in  
 2049

Boise sort of surprised me a year ago. Sure, their record was still 18 games below .500 but after trading off Felix Roman, I really imagined they were in full on rebuilding mode and would get slightly worse before they'd build back up. Instead, they improved their win total by 10 even without Roman, perhaps giving some hope that this team got the right pieces it needed to build back up to a contender.

Granted with all of that said, Boise still struggled offensively in 2049, posting just 11.1 total WAR. 4.1 of that came from free agent signing Steve Collins, III. Israel Comacho was next in line with 1.7 WAR produced and showed that the Roman trade did yield some success for the Spuds. Cordell Vaughn did not produce as much after the trade for Boise, granted, he missed a good portion of the season with injury. They'll hope for a bounceback from him this season. If Pepe Madrid and Jim Antolin can improve on their dismal 2049 seasons, Boise could be in the running for a jump offensively.

Of course the pitching side wasn't very good in 2049. Grabbing Luis Rojas in free agency should help improve a staff that posted just 5.1 WAR last year. Kent Montoya is back after putting up 2.4 of that WAR last season. The club will hope that the waiver claim of Ernesto Ramos will also help matters. That's typically not a good sign. The biggest question for the pitching will be is Amayas Moelling and Thomas Ramirez healthy? If so, the pitching that wasn't very good in 2049 could be dramatically improved in 2050.

It does appear as though Boise has some pieces in place to be competitive. If health doesn't get in the way, it's not out of the realm of possibility that this is a .500 ball team in 2050.



# Calgary

## 2 TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

LF Girolamo L'Arch  
P Mauro Rios

### Key Losses:

2B Scott Bell  
P Armando Feliciano

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 94-68  
2046: 85-77  
2047: 86-76  
2048: 95-67  
2049: 85-77

### Top Player:



Larry Stinson  
.309/.376/.607 in  
2049

Calgary's solid play continued in 2049 despite missing out on the post-season for the 2nd time 3 years. They've had 5 straight winning seasons but very little to show much for that in terms of accolades or trophies.

The offense continued to shine north of the border led by Larry Stinson and his 6.4 WAR and 45 homeruns. Chris Thomas and Alfonso Trinidad gave, and still gives, the team a solid deep ball threat as the latter hit 37 and 36 homeruns respectively. They added Giralamo L'Archibudelli to the fray which should give them a solid top of the lineup guy ahead of these boppers to add more runs to their total. However, the jury is still out on what they'll do to replace Scott Bell at 2B. Bell posted 3.7 WAR last year and has since departed via free agency to Manama! It very well could be minor league signee Grady Fern that steps in at 2B.

On the pitching side, Frank Boland returns after turning in a career season in 2049. Mauro Rios was brought over in the L'Arch trade and Calgary will hope he can replace "Commie Child" in the rotation. Granted, Feliciano didn't produce much due to his oft-injured state. Calgary also has a solid back end of the bullpen with Rodas, Walter, and Lopez so there is no reason to think they'll slip back any this season.

All in all Calgary has all the pieces to stay above .500 and contend yet again for a post-season spot. I had them predicted to make it last year and missed the call. I think they rebound this season and climb back into the mix.



# Edmonton

## 2 TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

CF Xavier Rangel  
P Ben Velez  
P Niccolo Destefani  
P Armando Feliciano  
P John Taylor

### Key Losses:

1B Manoell Whanon  
LF Girolamo  
L'Archibudelli  
P Albert Love  
1B Manuel Aguilar, Jr  
3B Don Hattie

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 101-61  
2046: 77-85  
2047: 90-72  
2048: 75-87  
2049: 60-102

### Top Player:



**Jorge Moran**  
.244/.316/.414 in  
2049

Things did not go well for Edmonton in 2049. They finished dead last in the Frontier Division, scoring the 3rd fewest and allowing the 2nd most runs in the Johnson League. Ben Teague returned to the Brewster early last season but didn't get the chance to dive into spring training with the team. With an off-season under his belt, and a hard search for pitching for 2050, how do the Jackrabbits stack up in 2050?

Teague sought after and found some pitching help for 2050. He's added Armando Feliciano and Niccolo Destefani to the rotation which will provide some solid work atop the rotation. Frias and Soto return to give the club a pair of decent bottom of the rotation guys. They aren't quite good enough to make this team a contender but perhaps can at least improve on the 60 win season.

Adding pitching though may have cost some offense. Gone are L'Arch, Whanon, and Aguilar. The trio produced 6.0 of the 11.1 WAR from the offense a season ago. There are still some solid pieces left that'll need to step up more in 2050. Xavier Rangel is a nice piece brought over from New Orleans this season who is a solid hitter and glove man in CF. Andrew Wright is a solid, power hitting platoon OF out in left as is Cesar Feliciano at 1B. Both are currently listed as the everyday starter which could lower their production if they struggle against lefty pitching.

Keep an eye out for Sandipan and James House down in the minors. Both are close to being ready and could see some starter or bullpen action throughout the year as well. All in all, I don't see a 102 loss team in Edmonton. I don't see a team that hangs with the top guys in the division quite yet, but I think they'll win more games than they did last year and perhaps look more like they did in 2048.



# El Paso

## 2 TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

2B Jose Sanchez  
P Damian Taylor  
LF Ernesto Alfonso

### Key Losses:

P Luis Rojas  
3B ~~Wilibald Akbulut~~  
C Howard Burton  
P Jeremy Donahue  
P John Bartlett

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 54-108  
2046: 58-104  
2047: 37-125  
2048: 55-107  
2049: 69-93

### Top Player:



**Hector Cano**  
.283/.359/.526 in  
2049

For the first time in 8 years, the El Paso Chilis franchise failed to lose 100 or more games. Let that sink in. For 8 straight seasons, this franchise (dating back to Wichita) lost 100 or more games! The franchise that is yet to have a winning season though, did gradually climb back into some respectability with its 69 win campaign in 2049 and has a player all the fans want to see.

Hector Cano, Jr is the real deal in CF. He led the team in WAR a year ago with a 7.1 mark for an offense that held its own in the WAR department, producing over 21 WAR. Robert Chenowith departed Yellow Springs in Free Agency to sign with El Paso last year and he put up a solid 3.9 WAR while Bayissa Mbaya added a 3.7 mark. There are plenty of pieces here to score runs, and in the ball park they play in, that's a must.

The pitching still has holes but was decent with a 7.4 WAR and was led by Luis Rojas. Of course, there lies a problem as Rojas departed this off-season. That likely makes Stan Cyr the default ace of the staff. He's a solid piece and should be ok. Anthony Jones is another solid arm. Both would make a good 3-4 combo on most staffs. Problem for El Paso is they'll be the #1-2 guys as the rest of the rotation lacks a lot to be desired. The bullpen has Garcia and Herrera at the back end which means they'll be ok in keeping leads they get.

Mike Adams is a young guy who will likely help the rotation this year and there are some other young arms that are on the verge of being ready. I think El Paso still has another year or two left before they become contenders in the division but I think the team gets to 70 wins this season. If you're wondering, the franchise record is 79. I think they'll have to wait until 2051 to go at that mark!



# Las Vegas

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

P Shawn Huber  
P Dwight Dunn  
3B Don Hattie

### Key Losses:

3B Blaine Tyler  
P Brian King  
P Renato Lacerda  
P Bang Pi  
1B Carlos Santillan

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 75-87  
2046: 88-74  
2047: 105-57  
2048: 107-55  
2049: 107-55

### Top Player:



**Tom Rudge**  
.303/.372/.538 in  
2049

Las Vegas enters the 2050 season fresh off of it's 3rd consecutive Brewster title, taking the title last season in 6 games over the Portland Lumberjacks. Vegas blitzed through the 2049 season in the Johnson League as they led the league in Runs Scored, Runs Allowed, and ultimately wins in capturing their 3rd straight title.

Facing some salary cap issues coming into the 2050 season, the Hustlers were forced to trade away 3B Blain Tyler this off-season. The \$16 million cap loss now has Vegas comfortably under the cap and with some flexibility to make some moves if it chooses during the season.

The team will continued to be anchored by the two headed monster in their lineup of Rudge and Ashford. The pitching lost very little and returns the stalwarts of Jay Hodge, Martin Ross, and John Rasmussen III. To make up for the loss of Tyler, it appears the club is looking to moving Wamukota from 1B to 3B this season with Jen-kan Zhai taking on full-time 1B duties, a luxury the Hustlers have that won't cost them much in the terms of games in 2050.

A new face to look for this season for the Hustlers could be rookie Scotty Beemeup. He appears to be tasked with trying to replace the offense lost in the lineup by the trade of Tyler. Beemeup is no Blaine Tyler, but shouldn't hurt the Hustlers too much on the offensive side of things.

Until proven otherwise, there is no reason to not expect the Las Vegas Hustlers to be right back up at the top of the Frontier standings yet again, competing for their 4th Brewster title.



# Mexico City

## 2

## TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

P Nelson Hoskin  
C Ben Scott  
P John Avery

### Key Losses:

1B Matt Normore  
P Amos Swallows  
2B Angel Zalapa  
CF Niccolo Machiavelli  
C Francisco Flores

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 63-99  
2046: 80-82  
2047: 88-74  
2048: 78-84  
2049: 93-69

### Top Player:



**Fernando Moreno**  
\_341/.393/.520 in 2049

Mexico City won the third most games in the Johnson League last year with 93 only to get knocked off and upset in the Geoghegan Round by New Orleans. Many, myself included, had the Aztecs as the favorite to advance behind a top 4 pitching staff led by an ace. They fell short. Can they rebound and advance further in 2050?

The club lost a lot of offensive production this off-season, mainly in the form of Angel Zalapa who departs to division foe Phoenix. He takes his 2.8 WAR with him. Also gone is high average DH Matt Normore who put up over 3 WAR at the position last year. The team didn't do much to replace either, but still has pieces to hold the offense down. Fernando Moreno is back and so is Manny Collazo and Aaron Haney. That's a sold trio. Yazeed bin Saleem hasn't matured as quickly as the Aztecs may like, but he may be thrust in to the infield in 2050 and Ryan Geauxinue will be needed to elevate his game some and pick up some of the production vacated by Zalapa.

The pitching staff is still anchored strong by Dave Corfield. After winning the Nebraska in 2047, he's followed that up with a pair of 3rd place finishes in the voting. He's most certainly one of the top arms in the game today and will give the Aztecs a chance to win every 5th day. Mauro Mendoza is an exceptional number 2 guy to back up Corfield. After that, it gets a little shaky. Even moreso perhaps if John Avery and his trouble with control are being counted on as a top 5 rotation arm. May be he turns a corner now that's out of Twin Cities. The bullpen is also solid with 3-4 decent arms to fill it out.

All in all, there are questions about replacing Normore and Zalapa's production on the WAR front. There are still post-season pieces in Mexico City, but perhaps a little regression could be expected.



# Phoenix

## 2 TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

P Gilberto Sosa  
2B Angel Zalapa  
P Aki Kondo

### Key Losses:

P Cornelio Lozano  
P Xiao-shuang Chi

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 87-75  
2046: 84-78  
2047: 87-75  
2048: 85-77  
2049: 73-89

### Top Player:



**Andrew Torres**  
.283/.349/.455 in  
2049

After several seasons of near misses in making it to the post-season, the Phoenix Talons slipped back in 2049 and failed to finish above .500. In the off-season, they made some big additions, as well as some corporate money from Denny's, to help boost their chances at a post-season spot in 2050. Will it be enough?

The Talons were the 2nd worst offensive team in the JL a season ago, in large part to trading off several pieces late in the season. Andrew Torres returns as the biggest piece for the offense. The 32 year old outfielder put up 2.4 WAR last season in his first year outside of Madison. Ichizo Sugiyama is one of the top hitting catchers in the league, but the Talons need more than the 1.2 WAR they got combined during his time in Phoenix and Omaha. After that, the big addition for Phoenix was that of Angel Zalapa who departs from Mexico City to Phoenix. Despite a disappointing 2049 campaign that saw Zalapa post just 2.6 WAR, he is coming off a 2048 season where he posted a 6.2 mark.

The pitching in Phoenix ranked in the top half last season. They lost Cornelio Lozano but gained Aki Kondo for the rotation and Gilberto Sosa for the bullpen. That's an overall net gain in the pitching department. Jeremy Smith is a nice looking starter who may be plagued with some inconsistencies due to a weaker changeup as his 3rd pitch. Feliciano Rafael is a shell of his former self, however Grant and Magdalena possess some solid attributes that could give the Talons a nice little rotation in 2050.

Overall, Phoenix has the pieces to stay competitive in a wild card battle in 2050. I think they've done enough to improve on the 73 win total from last season. Let's see if it's enough to get them over the hump.



# San Antonio

## 2 TEAM PREVIEWS

Chris Wilson

### Key Additions:

None

### Key Losses:

LF Ramao Saturnino

P Gilberto Cruz

1B Antonio Martinez

C Johnny O'Rourke

### Last 5 Seasons:

2045: 72-90

2046: 79-83

2047: 81-81

2048: 76-86

2049: 63-99

### Top Player:



**Majid bin Husam**

.285/.380/.510 in

2049

San Antonio finished with a dreadful 63 wins last season, 3 clear of Edmonton for the worst in the Frontier division. After a solid middle of the decade of the 2040s, 2049 put the Outlaws back how they began the 40s, down near the bottom. With no major additions and some losses, it could be another tough road for the Outlaws in 2050.

But then you dive into the Outlaws offense and you instantly like some of what you see! Outside of the catcher position, San Antonio has some good looking guys. None better than Pedro Bustamante and Majid bin Husam. Bustamante had a down 2049, producing his lowest WAR since his rookie season and a full 6 WAR lower than 2048. Meanwhile, Husam came into his own some during his sophomore season and I only see better things ahead for him. If Bustamante returns to form, that alone will put the Outlaws back near the .500 mark.

The pitching side also returns some studs. Ricardo Rivera is a top of the line starter who had a 2049 like Bustamante's. Francisco Franco came in via trade with Sacramento last season when the team sent Ruben Vazquez to the Mad Popes. Franco is now Vazquez but he's a viable replacement. That deal also landed the Outlaws Alex Payne who you'll likely see in the rotation this season along with Kawano who may be another year out from being ready for the big leagues. With a couple solid lefties as well to fill out the rotation, the Outlaws should be do for a bounceback.

I suppose it all hinges on whether or not Bustamante and Rivera bounce back. If they do, the Outlaws should be back up near that 81 win mark.



# 3 WHAT'S IN A NAME

Mike Simon – Madison GM

We all know about the prestigious awards handed out to mostly Madison players each year in the Brewster, the “Steve Nebraska”, “Sawyer Silk”, “Joe Gillstrom” and the “Yogi Zimmer” awards. Those players have plenty of lore around them and why the awards are named after them.

But did you stop and wonder who were the players that our MiLB awards are named after? I did. So I did some background research on each of them and came up with this feature. Sadly, we have no Short-A Season Awards named for players, just some generic ones. Perhaps topic for another feature.

BATTER	BALL	STRIKE	OUT											
09	3	2	1											
INNING	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	R	H	E	
VISITOR	2	0	4	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	1	4	9	1
HOME	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	8	6	3



## SPIKE NOLAN - ROOKIE

**MVP / Hitter - Frank Moore** was a RF who played his college ball for Team Nike college and was selected in the 2002 BBA draft in round 2 supplemental pick by the Hawaii Tropics. His professional career lasted from 2002 – 2012, only once making it above Rookie ball, and that was in the 2004 season. Where he played in 2 games, started both and batted a whopping .125. He spent his 11-year career solely playing for the Gaylord Sting Rays, the Rookie ball league team for the Hawaii Tropics. He played in 574 games and posting a .329 /.391 /.468 slash with a 20.3 career WAR. He had 165 EBH, and a career 157 wRC+. He was a 4-time player of the week, 1x Batter of the month, 2x All-Star, 4x best fielder in RF, and 1x league MVP (2005). He only hit **UNDER** .300 only ONCE in his career, his first season in Rookie ball. He hit over .400 2x in his career (2006 & 2021 – at the ripe old age of 32). He leads the Spike Nolan League in PA (2220), AB (1964), WAR (20.3), RBI (356), Hits (647). He is only 1 of two players to have 2000 or more PA in the Spike Nolan league. With players with over 1500 PA he ranks second to Chris Josey (1610 PA & .338 Avg) vs. He is 2<sup>nd</sup> on the all-time list for EBH in the league with 165, behind only Ron Larson. Moore retired from baseball in 2014, and currently resides with his family in Cerritos, California.

### Best Pitcher – Leonard Puckett

**Leonard** retired in 2009 after just 7 seasons in the Spike Nolan League. He was drafted as the 23<sup>rd</sup> pick in 4<sup>th</sup> round of the 2001 BBA Draft by the Baltimore Monarchs. He went straight to R ball and pretty much stayed put his entire career. Only once venturing up to A ball in 2006 for 7 games. He is one of only 3 pitchers to throw over 500 innings at this level (501.1), he is #2on that list to (Eric Roy 570.1). He is the Spike Nolan League level leader in pitching WAR with 13.6. He had some pinpoint control only walking 50 hitters in the 1,890 batters faced. Puckett started more games in Rookie ball (65) than he walked batters. He is 2 behind the leader in total W with 45 career victories. His miniscule ERA of 1.60 almost a 1.50 better than the next closer pitcher with 500 IP. He was a 1x pitcher of the month, and a 3x All-Star selection.

## 3

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Mike Simon



**MVP/HITTER**  
**FRANK MOORE | #34**  
RF | Bats: Left | Age 70 | 6' 1" - 180 lbs | Retired 2014 |



**BEST PITCHER**  
**LEONARD PUCKETT | #40**  
SP | Throws: Right | Age 70 | 5' 11" - 210 lbs | Retired 2009 |



**GOLD GLOVE**  
**PAT CARTER | #38**  
RF | Bats: Left | Age 74 | 6' 5" - 210 lbs | Retired 2010 |

### Gold Glove – Pat Carter

**Pat Carter**, from what I can tell, played RF for only 4 seasons in the Spike Nolan League, from 1997-2000 with the Port Arthur Pythons. The Rookie level club for the Jacksonville Hurricanes. His Rookie Ball career lasted a total of 244 games. There are no fielding stats to speak of w/in game or stats plus. So, I really can't tell you much there. However, he is a 3x player of the week, 2x batter of the month, 2x league MVP and 5x Best Fielder, and a 4x All-Star. Must be nice to win the award 5x that's named after yourself. He retired from the game at the age of 35 in 2010. He did make it to the Brewster for 5 games in 2003 with Greensboro. Looking at the [Spike Nolan History Leaderboards](#) for career fielding records for players with 1500 innings played, he doesn't appear on the list at all for a guy who has the leagues Gold Glove named after him.



## CHARLIE PEGLER - A-BALL

### MVP / Hitter – Sixto Mazzola

**Sixto Mazzola** was a SS/2B drafted in the 1995 player draft, by the Atlantic City Gamblers. He played his entire 9-year career in the MiLB systems of the Atlantic City Gamblers & Des Moines Kernels making it up to the AAA level for 2 years (2000 & 2001). He started out playing for the Long Island Legion (ATC) and then with the Portsmouth Vikings (DM). In his Charlie Pegler League career, he boasts a .307/.414/.431 slash along with a 17.3 WAR and a 148 wRC+. His 2708 PA ranks him 25<sup>th</sup> on the list. However, with players with over 2000 PA in the Charlie Pegler League, he ranks #1 in Batting Average with .307. Only one other player has hit over .300 in their A ball career that has over 2000 PA and that was (Carlos Gonzalez) with a .304 average. Sixto's ranks 29<sup>th</sup> in EBH (207), 15<sup>th</sup> in Hits (693) and 11<sup>th</sup> in WAR (17.3). He was a 3x player of the week, 1x hitter of the month, 6x best fielder, and 3x All-Star.

### Best Pitcher – Jack Sellers

**Jack** played 10 seasons in A ball (1997,1999-2007). In that time, he racked up 1153.2 IP posting a 3.22 ERA. Another player to retire from the game in 2009, I can't tell if he was drafted or not, out of HS at the age of 17. But he looks to have been signed by the New Orleans Crawdads and designated to the Aspen Gentlemen (who later became the Surge) due to the passing of proposition 303. (JK just seeing if you're still reading). Jack is one of only 6 players who have faced over 4,200 batters and has over 1,000 IP at the A-Ball level. He is second on the list for batters faced with 4,763, and is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league with 1,153.2 IP. He is only behind Emilo Perez in both those rankings. However, his A level career WAR is tops on the list with 22.7, and his ERA is 2<sup>nd</sup> (3.22) behind Juan Vado (2.94). He is a 1x Pitcher of the month, a 2x Pitcher of the year (2005 & 2006), and a 1x All-Star recipient.

## 3

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Mike Simon

	<b>GOLD GLOVE</b> <b>SIXTO MAZZOLA   #40</b> SS   Bats: Right   Age 77   6' 0" - 205 lbs   Retired 2003
	<b>BEST PITCHER</b> <b>JACK SELLERS   #48</b> SP   Throws: Right   Age 70   6' 3" - 200 lbs   Retired 2009
	<b>MVP/HITTER</b> <b>BEAU MARSH   #4</b> 3B   Bats: Right   Age 67   6' 4" - 210 lbs   Retired 2014

### Gold Glove – Beau Marsh

**Marsh** a 3B who hails from Centennial Colorado, retired from the league in 2014. He played 5 seasons in A Ball from 2005-2009 with the Portsmouth Vikings. In those 5 seasons, he was a 3x Best Glove winner, and a 2x player of the week. He has a A-Ball Fielding % of .943 with a total of 54 putouts and a ZR of 12. Marsh played in only 73 games starting 68 of them. Another head scratcher, as he's doesn't even hold the record for most gold glove awards in A-Ball. That honor goes to 3B Bobby MetCalf who has 4 Gold Gloves at 3B with a career fielding % of .987. Metcalf also played 5 seasons from 2015-1029 for yours truly Bolder Crush. In those seasons, he appeared in 424 games and starting 410 of them.



## WARREN COX - AA-BALL

3

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Mike Simon

### Best Pitcher – Todd Demko

**Demko** is one of only four pitchers in AA-Ball history to have over 1,100 IP. Demko comes in ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with (1,174), only behind Ernest Wells (1,240). His 26.5 WAR is best ever for a P in AA. He retired in 2007, and data goes back only as far as 1995 when he was a member of the Monterey Toro (a AA affiliate of New Orleans). He stayed within that organization for most of his career. Making it up to the BBA for 3 seasons' (1999-2000). He finished his career in AA with the Racine Raiders (of the Omaha Hawks) franchise in 2005. He is 3<sup>rd</sup> in games started in this list (166), but has the most complete games of the 4 with 47. 2.5x more than the next closet person with 15. He is 2<sup>nd</sup> in total batters faced with 5,507 behind Ernest Wells (5,510). Of the four, he has the lowest ERA at 3.52, followed by Juan Gonzales (3.77). Not much of an award section to mention only 2x All-Star. No other bling in AA, he just went to work. In his 9 seasons in AA, he tossed over 160IP more than half of them. He is 2<sup>nd</sup> on this list in Ks with 1,039 and leads the list with 82 wins. He was outstanding at keeping the ball in the park, allowing only 44 HRs to the 5,057 batters he faced, roughly once every 115 batters faced in his career.

### Gold Glove – Brad Aramathal

Another 3B who the leagues award was named after. (I'm sensing a trend here). He retired at the age of 31 after playing 7 seasons in the Brewster-verse, 3 being in AA (2000-2003) for the Trenton Generals of the Atlantic City Gamblers organization. He's a 3x Gold Glove Winner in the Cox League. (2001 & 2002). I know it doesn't count but he followed that up with three more consecutive Gold Glove awards in AAA from 2003-2006). That's six in a row for those of you playing at home. He retired at the age of 31 in 2008, he never did make it to the Brewster, spending his entire career in the minors. He was a 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick (27<sup>th</sup>) overall in the 1999 draft.



### MVP/HITTER

**JORGE OLIVAS | #51**

1B | Bats: Left | Age 73 | 6' 1" - 220 lbs | Retired 2014 |



### GOLD GLOVE

**BRAD ARAMATHAL | #47**

3B | Bats: Right | Age 72 | 6' 2" - 215 lbs | Retired 2008 |



### BEST PITCHER

**TODD DEMKO | #39**

SP | Throws: Right | Age 73 | 6' 2" - 230 lbs | Retired 2007 |

### MVP / Hitter – Jorge Olivas

**Olivas** a 1B played 5 seasons at the AA level in his 13-year BBA career, but it was enough to leave an impact on the league directors, who named the award after him. Born in 1977 and drafted in 2001 by the Birmingham Bandits in the 6<sup>th</sup> round (11<sup>th</sup> pick). As mentioned above, he played for 13 seasons in all, 5 with the big-league club, and the rest in the minors. His MiLB accomplishments are long for 5 seasons. He was a 13x time player of the week, 6x batter of the month, 2x MVP and a 5x All-Star. His .364 Average is tops in AA for players with 2,000 career ABs (he has 2030). His OBP (.436) and OBPS (.983) are tops in the Cox league also. He also ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in SLG% with (.983). His 19.7 WAR is ranked 6<sup>th</sup> best. Other than that he's not a TOP 25 in any other major category.



## RUPERT HORN - AAA-BALL

### Best Pitcher – Mitch Cain

Cain, a Colorado boy made his way to the Brewsterverse via Rutgers College. He made his first appearance in AAA at the age of 26. He never made it to the Brewster (sadly in not making it, he could never be allowed to have fungus on his shower shoes). He spent 11 seasons in AAA (2002-2013), all but one season with the San Jose Sharks, now the Mars Martians. He retired from the game at the age of 37 after one season with the Racine Raiders of the Omaha organization. (The Talons weren't looking for a new R ball SP at the time I guess.) He was a 2x pitcher of the month, 1x best fielder, and a 1x All-Star selection while in AAA. Another head scratcher to me why the award is named after him. There are 14 players in AAA history who have over 1,500 IP. Of those Cain ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in IP. His WAR (24.7) also ranks 8<sup>th</sup> on the list, ERA 9<sup>th</sup> (4.27), complete games 4<sup>th</sup> (34). There are only 2 players on the list of 14 that have ERAs under 4. He's 2<sup>nd</sup> overall with Wins (113) to Luis Escobar (134), who one could argue this award should be renamed for. But that's a different feature. 😊

### Gold Glove – Clayton Chancey

The LF Clayton played from 1995-2003, 2006 in AAA. He was awarded 4x best fielder for his time in the league (1995, 1996, 1998, and 2000), before he left for the EBA. Spending 4 years playing for Paris. He played 248 games in his AAA career, starting 149. He had a fielding % of .995, and a career Zr of 24.3. Only 4 other players have won this award that many times, in the history of the Rupert Horn League since he left. (1B - Allen Turner 2003-2006), (3B - Eduardo Montoya 2019, 2020, 2024, 2025), and (RF - Lawrence Wilson 2009-2012).

## 3

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

Mike Simon



**MVP/HITTER**  
**STEVE GARVEY, JR. | #90**  
 2B | "Horndog" | Bats: Right | Age 75 | 6' 2" - 225 lbs | Retired 2013 |



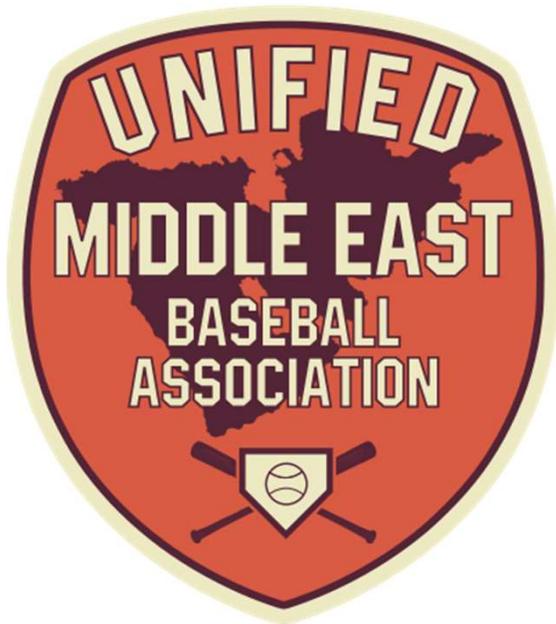
**BEST PITCHER**  
**MITCH CAIN | #6**  
 SP | Throws: Right | Age 74 | 6' 1" - 210 lbs | Retired 2013 |



**GOLD GLOVE**  
**CLAYTON CHANCEY | #50**  
 LF | Bats: Switch | Age 75 | 6' 4" - 200 lbs | Retired 2008 |

### MVP / Hitter – Steve Garvey Jr

The "Horndog" – this one is kind of a head scratcher for me. This award could have gone many ways. Garvey is only **1 of 4** players in the history of the Rupert Horn League who has logged more than 5,000 PA in AAA (he's #1 at 5,909). Yet his .261 Average Ranks him 3<sup>rd</sup> on that list. He is 2<sup>nd</sup> in OBP, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in SLG% and 3<sup>rd</sup> for OBPs in that same list of 4 players. He **DOES** lead all of AAA in total bases at 2,119, and is 2<sup>nd</sup> in HRs (148). He is 18.9 WAR behind the overall AAA leader - Christopher Claudel (34.7). He's hardware isn't that impressive either, 1x POW, 1x Best fielder, and 1x All-Star when he retired in 2013. In 1995 he was 20yo and was in AAA, he stayed there for 18 seasons. In 1995 he was part of the Brooklyn Bombers (AAA of Atlantic City). In 2000 was traded over to the San Jose Sharks (now the Mars Martians) of the Valencia Stars. He only hit .300 1x in his AAA career (2009) with 155 PA.



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Evaluating the Bancroft team this season is a bit unusual in this sense: as I write this, three of the teams are unowned, and another has only had a GM for a short time. That being the case, trying to predict what these teams will look like position by position once they become “owned” is total guesswork, but a fella’s gotta do what he’s gotta do. So rather than going position-by-position, this season I thought I’d try to identify three things I like and three things I don’t like about each team. And then I’ll conclude by throwing my two cents in on the subject of what I’d do if I were running the team, for whatever that’s worth (given my record, it’s not worth too much...).

## 4 | UMEBA PREVIEW

John Momburg



### Athens Fighting Centaurs

**I LIKE:** the frontline pitching. The four starters and the closer are, if not superstars, at least solid.

**I DON’T LIKE:** the pitching depth. Once one gets beyond the five spots mentioned above, the talent seems to me to be pretty thin on the ground. There are highly-rated arms in the minors, but so far none of them have posted statistics that match their ratings.\

**I LIKE:** the catching situation. There are four of them listed on the current active roster, and they all look pretty legit.

**I DON’T LIKE:** that only one of them figures to be in the lineup on a given day. Three of them rate only as catcher, and while the fourth can play some 1B, Sosa Seki has that spot pretty much nailed down. And as far as DH, there’s a youngster named Emile Ollier who has laid claim to that spot and looks like he’ll keep it indefinitely.

**I LIKE:** the middle of the lineup. Quinn Greene is maybe the best player currently in UMEBA, and Seki and Oliver behind him should create major problems for opposing pitchers.

**I DON’T LIKE:** the other outfield spots. They’re being filled right now by Juan Lopez (career OPS .668) and Cristo Lopez (no relation- career OPS .661). Outfielders who can contribute more than that should be readily available.

**IF I WERE RUNNING THIS CLUB:** I’d try to flip two of the catchers; catching is always a needed commodity and they should bring you a decent fifth starter and an upgrade in the outfield. Then sign a couple of bullpen arms in free agency, and I personally would feel pretty good about this team.

## Bucharest Impalers

**I LIKE:** Owen Geddes. He's the all-time UMEBA leader in wins, and he's 24. Think about that. And Neill Fenomore isn't far behind him. Whichever of them sticks around in UMEBA the longest will probably end up with most of the UMEBA career pitching records.

**I DON'T LIKE:** The nominal closer, Alfonso Castillo. He's one of those guys you keep running out there because he has great ratings, but other than one good year as a starter in AAA, he hasn't really delivered the goods yet. David Torres, another guy listed as a closer, is of the same ilk: all potential, weak production.

**I LIKE:** The top of the order. Ricardo de Jesus is an OBP beast. He doesn't have the traditional power you associate with a first baseman, but when a guy gets on base 45% of the time, you can sacrifice a little pop. And second baseman Cameron Patmore is almost as good, and slots in nicely behind de Jesus in the order.

**I DON'T LIKE:** The current #5 hitter, Vladimir Karamurzov. He whiffed 152 times in 150 games, and his intangibles are rated low across the board. Manny Gomez would seem to be a better option here.

**I LIKE:** The general positioning of this team. They have a GM who's been in place longer than any in the Bancroft, and they have a tradition of sharp, savvy management that shows in the deep talent pool.

**I DON'T LIKE:** The fact that six of their eight highest players could be gone after this season, with the only two remaining being a middle reliever and a light-hitting shortstop. The GM may well be looking at a major rebuild for the 2051 season; if so, at least he'll have some young talent and some money freed up.

**IF I WERE RUNNING THE CLUB:** Other than replacing Karamurzov with Gomez, as I mentioned above, my biggest chore would be to keep my stinking hands off this club. It's built to win right now. I would try to extend Geddes and/or Fenomore if I could.

## 6 UMEBA PREVIEW

John Mumburg



## Cairo Pharaohs

**I LIKE:** Right fielder Juan Rocha. He was just a guy in the BBA, but since coming over to the UMEBA he's hitting over .300 every year with power and a rifle arm in right. What he's doing hitting sixth is a mystery, but maybe that's a temporary situation.

**I DON'T LIKE:** Left fielder Jung-Kyoo Kim. His bio says he's "well respected by teammates" but it can't be for his bat; he hit .207 last year as a rookie, and it's not like it was a fluke- he's a career .225 hitter in AAA.

**I LIKE:** Shortstop Quintin Trewartha. His defensive ratings- well, I suppose there may be someone better out there, but not many. He's coming off a bad season at the plate, but he puts the ball in play and runs fast, and if he rebounds even a little, he's a valuable guy to have out there.

**I DON'T LIKE:** LF Ernie Schoonmaker. Not that he's in the starting lineup or anything, but he's making a million bucks a year as a corner outfielder with a career .687 OPS. His lone virtue is that he plays a lot of different positions, but you wouldn't really want him at any of them for very long.

**I LIKE:** The depth of the starting pitching. No flashy aces, but a number of guys who will give you a chance to win every time they toe the rubber. Of course, the team plays great defense behind them, so their stats may be a little inflated by that.

**I DON'T LIKE:** The contract of catcher Antonio Ruiz. Cairo is on the hook for seven million this year and next, and I'm not even sure he's their best option at catcher. Ed Cooper is an established .300 hitter, and while he's not the defensive force Ruiz is, he's no slouch.

**IF I WERE RUNNING THE CLUB:** Hmmm... I might see what bullpen arms are available on the waiver wire or in late free agency. I might also try Scott Patterson as the long half of a LF platoon. This isn't a bad team at all, but I don't see it catching Bucharest, so I wouldn't sell out any tomorrows for short-term gain.

## Mumbai Metro Stars

**I LIKE:** Knox Sked. I mean, how can you not like Knox Sked? He's literally led the league in saves every year he's been in the league. I just hope that he gets enough opportunities this season to extend his streak. He's a free agent after this year, and whoever takes over this team will have to decide if having an ace closer on this team is worth big money.

**I DON'T LIKE:** The starting rotation. Exactly one starting pitcher in camp had an ERA under 4.7 last season. And their top pitching prospects are all low-minors guys. Maybe there's a potential reliever-to-starter conversion lurking there somewhere, and maybe a couple of those guys are due for a rebound.

**I LIKE:** Shortstop Matthew Hewat. He hit a pretty empty .287 last year (only a .699 OPS), but hey, .287 is .287 for a shortstop with a good glove, which he has. And he's only a year away from a 202-hit season. He's currently listed as batting ninth, which screams "unowned team" as much as anything...

**I DON'T LIKE:** The catching situation. Manuel Hernandez has potential, but he just barely reached AA last year, and he hasn't hit anywhere yet. Xiao-Gang Peng might eventually be the answer; he's hit in AA but he needs some growth as a receiver. And Vicente Melendez, the only candidate with ML experience, hit .209 as a backup last year.

**I LIKE:** The fact that a new owner, if he survives this season, will have a sizable war chest for next year. As best I can tell, around 30 million dollars in salaries will come off the books this year. So the new person will have the opportunity to build this team from the ground up.

**I DON'T LIKE:** Nick Sneddon as a DH. Not that he's terrible or anything, but there's always some guy lurking around at the end of free agency who can DH for you. Sneddon is a perfectly serviceable left fielder; if there's no room for him in this outfield, he should be floated as trade bait.

**IF I WERE RUNNING THE CLUB:** As I mentioned earlier, I'd try to trade Sneddon or another outfielder; maybe to Athens for one of their spare catchers. I'd look at someone like Sorcha Heiton for a conversion to starter. And if possible, I'd try to move Knox Sked for a prospect or two; I think that where this team is, his greatest value would be as a trade chip.

## 6 UMEBA PREVIEW

John Mumburg



## Tripoli Piranhas

**I LIKE:** Geoffroy Robert. He split time between the rotation and the bullpen last year, posting a 10-5 record with a 2.84 ERA and a 1.24 WHIP. And he's only making 780K this year. He looms as the staff ace, because...

**I DON'T LIKE:** Any other potential starter. Jonathan Merritt comes over from the BBA, but his stuff comes in straight as a string, and I'm not optimistic. The other three guys in the listed rotation are much of the same type: great ratings, not so great results.

**I LIKE:** I always like a contributor who's making the minimum, and that's Alex Leon. I'm a fool for a groundball pitcher, and Alex has pitched well at every stop. He seems to thrive more in the bullpen, but he's capable of starting.

**I DON'T LIKE:** The free agent contract that was given to catcher Parker Davenport. Not that he's a horrible player or anything, but I feel like Ramon Camacho can give you about the same production, and Parker's 2.4 million could be put to better use signing a pitcher or two.

**I LIKE:** Takechi Eida. One of the flagship talents of UMEBA, he's the best on-base guy and the best stolen base guy in league history. He's 28 now, at an age when many players of his caliber have moved on to the BBA, but he's still getting it done for Tripoli. Not a great fielder, but you can live with that as long as he keeps producing at this level.

**I DON'T LIKE:** Bob Williams. Hey, I know we all are willing to live with a low-hitting glove man at shortstop, but Williams really takes it to the extreme. His career OBP in the UMEBA is .244. If you could have him do the fielding and Eida do the hitting, you'd have a helluva player. But you can't...

**IF I WERE RUNNING THE CLUB:** I guess I'd mostly pray that a few of my starting pitchers began to pitch to their ratings. The lineup, minus Williams, isn't bad. And I'm not saying I'd trade Eida, but if some contender offered me a nice young player or two for the last year of Takechi's contract, I'd be sorely, sorely tempted.



## 2050 Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers Preview

**2049 record:** 94-68, 1st place in Burt League

**2049 recap:** Rolled to a first-place finish in the Burt League, but lost to Manama in the Round of Four. Adam Backhouse won his 3rd Position Player of the Year award before opting out of his contract and going off in search of BBA money (as of this publication, he still hasn't found it). Swept the league pitching awards, with Hsuang-tsung Xú winning Pitcher of the Year and Jan Chmelyk earning Reliever of the Year.

**Notable additions:** IF Mario Rodríguez, OF Gipper Kengos, 1B/DH Bratislev Marousek, RP Bryce Emery, CF Bill Bowers, IF Carlos Reyes, RP Jay Warwick, RP Shigenobu Takeuchi, CF Manny Peña, CF Bob Carpenter, C Kyuichi Tanaka

**Losses:** OF Pedro Ávila, 1B Adam Backhouse, OF António Cordero, 2B Ab Elders, OF José Figueroa, 3B Quant Kouros, OF Juan López, 3B Felipe Soto, C Jorge Martínez

**2050 outlook:** The lineup will be a different picture without Backhouse in the lineup. The Hammers have replaced him with a more balanced attack on offense, re-signing center fielder Weaver Ripley, calling up young power-hitting Garry Mihalsky for his second stint in the big leagues, and adding BBA veteran Gipper Kengos for good measure. Everyone in Jerusalem's new lineup from 1 to 9 can hurt you, and without Backhouse they may be *even better* at getting on base, which is scary to think about.

They are well-balanced and use platoons well. Dane Licht, possibly the team's best hitter, will now get some extra off days against lefties to allow Bratislev Marousek to fill in at DH. Jerusalem's goal is to make every player the absolute best version of themselves, which they're well set up to do.

They're a bit short on the backup catcher position, but we'll let that slide, since Baden Dutton is generally good for at least 130 games, it usually doesn't matter who starts the other 32.

In the rotation, Xú is the reigning Pitcher of the Year winner and is slotted in as Jerusalem's third starter, if that gives you any idea of their depth. Edwin Harney and Leon Ludeman are still above Xú in the pecking order, though it may not be that way for long. Harney still struggles sometimes to go deeper into games, and Ludeman has control problems flare up sometimes. But their small issues aside, I'm sure any UMEBA team would be happy to have these guys 1-3 in their rotation.

Jorge Vega is another starter who really surprised last year, going 11-4 with a 2.24 ERA in 17 starts after being signed in June as extra rotation depth. The Hammers will be looking for another impressive season from the lefty.

Jan Chmelyk naturally owns the ninth inning, and part of the eighth, and basically anything he wants, since he's become pure dominance at the back end for Jerusalem. And with Adrian Kraft, who would be a closer on any other team, laying claim to the seventh, opponents don't have much of a window to score runs late in games. Basically if the Hammers are winning after six, it's game over, and I'd start planning for tomorrow.

**2050 prediction:** 106-56. Are we really predicting the Hammers to get *better* after losing possibly the greatest UMEBA player of all time? Heck yes! By being able to spread Backhouse's 8-figure salary around to improve the whole team, they're better in almost every aspect.



## 2050 Manama Pearls Preview

**2049 record:** 93-69, 2nd place in Burt League

**2049 recap:** Finished one game behind Jerusalem in the league standings, which ultimately didn't matter, because they made it all the way to the United Cup and one game from bringing home the title. After winning games 1, 2, and 3, it seemed like they were a shoo-in for the title, but Bucharest swept games 4-7, stealing the crown and stunning the Pearls' faithful.

**Notable additions:** IF Curt Burton, IF Carey Gray, IF Leonard Jones, IF Hal Thorne, IF Scott Bell, C Patrick Faber, C Felipe Delgado, SP Collin Browning, SP Harry Ackland, IF Gerald Hough, 1B/OF Dante Tiller, SS Burt Davies

**Losses:** 2B Mike England, IF Jack Nichols, IF Rakim Stevenson

**2050 outlook:** The Pearls were a win away from glory last season, so they just needed to find the one piece that would put them over the edge. That piece could very well be second baseman Scott Bell. The 8-year BBA veteran was scooped up on a two-year contract to replace the departed Mike England. Bell has averaged 3.9 WAR his last two years in the BBA, which should translate nicely to the UMEBA.

Bell will have one of the brightest young stars in the UMEBA as his double play partner, shortstop Socrates Kazantziakis. "The Philosopher" is one of the slickest-fielding shortstops in the game, and holds his own with the bat as well, winning a Platinum Stick last year at his position.

The Pearls' lineup is built around putting the ball in play and avoiding strikeouts, which they do quite well — Patrick Strolz, Felipe Delgado and Mike Pedarzolli all managed a K% rate of less than 10% last year. And they can all hit! The lineup is so deep, five-time All-Star Joshua Koka bats eighth or ninth most of the time.

Still, the Pearls learned last October that they need a pitcher who they can trust with the ball in game 7 of the United Cup. That is where they're still a little short, having made no real upgrades to the pitching staff since last season.

The rotation is solid, but if you had to point to an ace, I'm not sure who it would be. Maybe Edgar Sosa, the groundball specialist who led the UMEBA in WHIP last season. There's also Rick Clarijs, who led the UMEBA in ERA during the regular season, but completely imploded in October.

Turning to the bullpen, what Manama has is depth. Calvin Fletcher finished 2nd in Reliever of the Year voting last year. Jin-Suk Im is a converted starter who can get you out with a five-pitch arsenal, and then he'll give the ball to Huang Cheng, who comes out throwing 101 with movement. And none of those guys are even their closer — that's Owen McKelvey, the second-year player with excellent stuff, but who still sometimes has some issues harnessing it.

That much depth should see the Pearls do well in extra inning affairs and one-run games, and probably outperform their Pythagorean win-loss record, as they did last season.

**2050 prediction:** 96-66. Despite the few offseason signings, their rotation still lacks the "ace" factor, though it'll carry them pretty far.



## 2050 Baghdad Kings Preview

**2049 record:** 52-110, 5th place in Burt League

**2049 recap:** Their 110 losses were the most in UMEBA history, a pretty remarkable decline for an established, non-expansion team. Still, a couple players had notable years. Left fielder Zephyr Orphanides and second baseman Danny Glatz won Platinum Stick awards.

**Notable additions:** C Rafael Mendoza, C Jason Bowen, 1B Mark Haynes, 1B Tony Hernández, 2B Hakim Ngowa, RP Raúl Luna, SP Leo Sutherland, CF Júlio Soriano, SP Raúl Avellano, RP Dave Walsh, SP Lance Harrison, SP Johnny Hale, 3B José Díaz, RP Peyton Hampton, RP Robert Hodnett

**Losses:** C John Todd, 1B Otto Altaner, SS Per Bakhuis, RP Miguel Angel Garza, SP Héctor Granados, SP Luis Pasillas, SP Mauro Ríos, RP/DH Tai Minh, SP Allan Stallard, RP Jean Kattenberg

**2050 outlook:** The Kings are a team filled with bright young hitters, but they proved last season that you still need pitching and defense to win games, neither of which they had. Let's see if they improved their position in either of those areas for 2050. Pitching? Well, to start, they said goodbye to two of their starting five from last year, which might be addition by subtraction. They immediately spent that extra money on a three-year extension for Romeu Tameiro, a pitcher they claimed on waivers from Riyadh at the end of last season. He struggled at times in Riyadh, but should do well in Baghdad's pitcher-friendly park. Tameiro will be backed up by second-year player Slobodan Omeragic, who has found some extra bite to his sinker since last year and should improve on his 5.45 ERA. And Leo Sutherland will also be suiting up for the Kings, the #2 UMEBA prospect who was available in the Rule 5 draft because Beirut was asleep at the wheel, apparently. His skills are a bit raw, but he's got the stuff to play in the big leagues.

The bullpen may have some trouble. They're weak in the middle innings, and closer Sebastian Seabert depends on the ground ball, which means he needs a good defense behind him to be effective. The Kings don't really have that. The shortstop position was a black hole last year, with the three guys who played there combining for a total of -3.5 WAR. Two of them are back for another year and should be sharing the shortstop duties again, which doesn't really bode well for the infield.

The Kings do have an exciting rookie set to make his debut, center fielder Shafiq Zahir. He should shore up the outfield defense, allowing Orphanides to move to his more natural position in left field. He'll also provide a key bat against left-handed pitching, which was a major weakness for the offense last season, managing only a .652 OPS against lefties.

On the topic of Orphanides, he's the guy who needs to have a year if the Kings want any chance of getting back to their standard level of mediocrity. The Kings of course are hoping he returns to his MVP form of two seasons ago, which would go a long way towards pulling the team out of the gutter.

**2050 prediction:** 83-79. The pitching has improved, but they don't have the defense to back up their new arms. Orphanides will return to MVP form just in time to opt out of his contract and flee the Middle East for BBA money.



## 2050 Riyadh Red Crescents Preview

**2049 record:** 84-78, 3rd place in Burt League

**2049 recap:** It was the first winning season in the history of the Red Crescents, and it was done on the strength of a strong starting rotation, which saw young Umar Dogar put the team on his shoulders in April and May before getting injured for the season, still earning the Rookie of the Year award for his efforts. The rest of the year, it was the veterans leading the charge — ageless wonder Kevin Morales had a nice season, and finished 2nd in the Burt in Pitcher of the Year voting.

**Notable additions:** CF Ramón Moreno, SP Dana Pualani, SS Luke Collingridge

**Losses:** C Parker Davenport, 1B Michael Blankenship, 1B Masaki Sato, 2B Grady Fern, 2B Juan Luis Manuel, 3B Anastasio Guillén

**2050 outlook:** The Crescents made virtually no changes to their pitching staff, because why change what works? Dogar has recovered from his torn rotator cuff, and reports from Spring camp are that the 21-year-old has gained a couple ticks on his fastball since a year ago. He'll be followed by veterans Terrence Kelly, Morales, Ricardo Quadrado and José Lima. The concern with such a veteran-heavy staff is, while they were dependable last season, they ain't gettin' younger, and a few of them are injury prone. Riyadh may not have the depth to field a competitive rotation if they're hit with too many injuries. Although Rule 5 pick Dana Pualani is another option to start if needed. The bullpen includes a few guys who can close games: Constantino Teixeira racked up 35 saves last season, so he knows how to do the job.

Fernando Guerrero also has closing experience, but as a flyball pitcher, he can't do his job well in Riyadh's home park. Is there such a thing as having one closer for home, and another for the road? Riyadh's pitching in general depends on a strong defense, as evidenced by their UMEBA-best .279 BABIP allowed last season. However, a couple guys who were a big part of that equation are now gone: second baseman Grady Fern and part-time first baseman Michael Blankenship. It's unclear whether Riyadh has enough gloves to fill in the gaps — Roy MacGugan is a downgrade defensively at first, and Isaac Emmott probably won't hit enough to keep the second base job. Let's talk about the hitting. Riyadh is vehemently averse to reaching base, finishing last in UMEBA in OBP (.306) last season.

A lineup full of free-swingers like José Leyva and Diesel Dave leave them relying on hits to score, which is generally not a good strategy when your team batting average is also the worst in the UMEBA (.252). In fact, the loss of Fern has left them without one of their premier hitters, so they're hurting now even more in that department. UMEBA's #1 overall prospect, Ramón Moreno, has a bat that could help, but he may not be ready, since he hasn't played a day above A-ball. Plain and simple, Riyadh needs to sign some hitters, and it looks like they've got some budget reserved to do so, but I don't know what they're waiting for. If they wait much longer, it'll be a very long, rough season for the Red Crescents.

**2050 prediction:** 65-97. The pitching might carry them in the early months, but the cracks and lack of depth will be revealed later in the year. Meanwhile, the offense will be lucky to score 3 runs a game.



## 2050 Beirut Cedars Preview

**2049 record:** 73-89, 4th place in Burt League

**2049 recap:** Were cruising through July, above .500 as late as August 8. But an awful second half saw them slide into the depths of the Burt League. Still, they weren't without accolades. Jamie Angwin and Nicolai Reshetkov finished 2nd and 3rd in Position Player of the Year voting, proving that a team with good players is not necessarily a good team.

**Notable additions:** none

**Losses:** RP A.J. Mahoney

**2050 outlook:** To understand what happened last year and how to right the ship, we should start with the offense. And they can hit — when they make contact. Beirut led the UMEBA in strikeouts by a wide margin last year, and as a result, were also probably near the top of the league in rallies snuffed with men on base. They made no signings this winter to try to correct that trend — literally, they did not sign a single player — so we can expect them to be the same, free-swinging bunch that we saw in 2049.

You've got Angwin, the young center fielder who improves offensively every year. Then there's first baseman Marco Acheson, who has led the Burt league in walks three years in a row. And Reshetkov is the power bat. He hit 26 homers last season, but you can probably expect more this year, now that he's had a full season of seeing UMEBA pitching. A couple positions are up in the air: Dave Boyd won a Great Glove at second base last year, but it looks like he'll lose the starting job to second-year player Zenobius Kazantziakis. And at catcher, the plan appears to be "we'll figure it out when we get there".

On the pitching side, Dmitr Zhivlyuk is still one of the top arms in the UMEBA, but his strikeout rate took a big dip last season, but hopefully it was just an off year, and that he quickly returns to form. He heads up a rotation with Boris Milatovic, Juan Guzmán and David Díaz, all dependable with the good movement one needs to pitch in Beirut. Guzmán, I would go out on a limb to say, is the most critical to Beirut's success, with his ability to pitch deeper into games than the rest of the bunch. Any time you can delay handing the ball over to Beirut's bullpen is a good thing.

Let's talk about that bullpen. Their 4.89 ERA last season was worst in the UMEBA, but it seems as though they were just overtaxed. A couple extra long guys in the 'pen would go a long way.

As it stands, there's Masaru Yokota, the closer, who has seen plenty of success in five years with the Cedars, and a pair of young groundballers in David Prigent and Jesús Torres. All of them have the stuff to deliver on this stage, it's just a matter of stocking enough extra arms so that they're not going out there three days in a row.

**2050 prediction:** 63-99. The Cedars are a little more than one player short of a full roster, so they'll be starting the season at a disadvantage. But it looks like they still have some budget to play with, so maybe their strategy is to wait for Opening Day so they can sign all the BBA castoffs for sweet discounts.

# 5 CALECA AWARD

Mike Simon

By Javaris Jamar Javarison-Lamar | [JavarisJamarJavarison-Lamar@3Wolves.net](mailto:JavarisJamarJavarison-Lamar@3Wolves.net)

Madison, WI

In what can be seen a bad sign for the league offices, to go along with not a single [@jiminyp Hopkins](#) Phoenix player being selected to play in the ASG game in 2049, Madison sent 3 players to represent Wolves Nation this year. We all know [Gertie](#) was happy when her Manobu-bear showed up. Tagging along with [Manobu](#) (his 5th appearance), were 1st time award RP [Senen Subandrio](#) & 3x award winner RP [Todd Stone](#). While both Manobu & Senen saw time in the game, curiously absent from making an appearance was Todd Stone.

After returning from the flight from Phoenix (swag bag in hand), reporters asked Todd what happened. "Oh man, you guys probably heard about it, but sitting in the bullpen for the better part of the game, all we kept on hearing was this massive party going on inside that Denny's in center field. My boy [Ben Velez](#) was like you should go and see what's going on in there, it sounds like there [5000 people](#) crammed in there. I was like no way, but he kept on bustin' my balls as only Ben can, so finally I went in.

I don't know I'm supposed to say this but like half of the Talons team was in there, drinking those 64oz Bourbon Shakes, (minus the milk). [Brian Gill](#) comes over to me plastered and mumbling about being extraneous. ... "Tell me that I'm extraneous, I'll show you who's f\*cking extraneous, bunch of as\*holes, I'll burn this whole place down. They can take my .114/.205/.143 slash and mmmrmmmsm...." Brian walks off and then I turn the corner and see my old teammate, [Andrew Torres](#). He's memorized staring at the back of the Denny's kids' menu just staring at the Grand Slams. He's looks at me and says with a 1000-yard stare, I can't get enough of these little anthropomorphic breakfast foods.

So I pull up a chair next to 'drew and I'd figure I'd screw with him. I said 'drew, you know each of these characters has a back story, right? He's like Huh? I'm like oh yeah, the fried egg, she's a prostitute! Yeah, just look at her, she has way too much eye makeup on, her mouth is the brave broken little smile, she like "Look I'm out here, I'm trying, OK? I didn't ask for this. I was a golden yoke and they dropped me into the skillet of life, and you know what I'm proud of what I am, and I'm doing my best, OK? Don't god-damn judge me!"

Now the pancake is her son and look, I'm not going to put a name to it, but something's wrong with the pancake, all right? I'm not going to say what it is, but his eyes are a *little* far apart, his smile is WAAAAAY to big. It like he's just not aware of a lot of the horror around him. Uhhm how do i put this 'drew...God gave him a curse and a gift? Does that make sense? So that's her son, and she's doing what she can to raise him, all right.

The bacon is the pancakes Dad. He's not married to the fried egg, he doesn't hate her, they just aren't married, and the economy, it's all post-capitalism, everything is collapsing. He has to go wherever the work is. So, he's like "I got a job on an oil rig for eight months. Its high risk pay, I'll send back whatever I can. They are going to take a big chunk out of my room and board. You know, but just do what you can while I'm gone to raise the kid. Just do what you can." When he says that to her "Do what you can," he knows she's hooking. Look all right! He's not judging her okay! They are all struggling. He's out in the North Atlantic, getting the last of the crude oil out of the earth. It's all gonna collapse, but goddammit, he's going to try and help that pancake.

And the sausage, the sausage is the fried eggs regular customer, okay. They...He, he and Okay look he and the bacon served together in Desert Storm, and he's in... look I'm just going to say it, he's in a shitty marriage okay. He's not... he married some hash browns. They're not part of the Grand Slams. She didn't want to be a part of it. She's got a lot of problems. If you look at him, he's always very sweaty and, like, he always looking like he's going "Hey, uhhhm.... My wife's in her Zumba class for the next hour. We have an hour, can I come by for like an hour?" So then she's got to tell the pancake, like "Hey mommy's friends going to come over, and uhh...why don't you go play with your Paw Patrol toys for a while. Can you do that? Can you play with your PAW...OK just go work on your spelling? Go do a couple of your spelling sheets. Mommy's going to be with her friend, and afterwards how about we go get some ice cream? I'll have some money to go get you some ice cream. You want to go do that?" OK... so now go play with your Paw Patrol toys, and go work on your spelling, and don't bother mommy for the next hour, okay?" Go work on your spelling, ok?"

The pancake is 32 years old by the way. I don't know if mentioned that 'drew. OK look there's a lot going on! She's doing her best goddammit!



# 6 BBA PLAYER RATER

James Walker

For this system we will utilize the two player rater systems that I used for the League Feature on the forums and the previous media guide.

The first system is a stats-based system where I plugged in a player's stats. The stats I chose were HR, RBI, Runs, Avg, OBP, SLG and SB. I took those stats and found the Average and Standard Deviation of each stat.

I used those to make a zScore for each stat then totaled the zScores for a final score for each player.

This time I used stats from 2047, 2048 and 2049 seasons then weighted each season zScore. I gave a 10% weighting for 2047, 30% for 2048 and a 60% for 2049.

I then added the three weighted zScores to come up with the final score.

*\*Editor's Note: zScore is a measure of how far above or below the mean (average) a particular data is. More precisely, when looking at a single zScore, it indicates how many standard deviations away from the mean that point is. In a summation and weighting of zScores as we see here, it's best to view it as an indicator of how far above average by multiple measures these players are.*



The Top 10 Hitters in the BBA (zScore)

ID	POS	Name	wScore
43048	RF	Manobu Shimizu	14.325984
43014	CF	Juan Donastevéz	12.888029
42518	RF	Pedro Huerta	12.501111
43663	LF	Juan Rivera	12.354084
42081	RF	Ángel Gonzalez	12.218255
43236	1B	Larry Stinson	11.307609
43388	1B	Pancho Costa	11.113375
48051	3B	Luis Mendoza	10.632422
42346	CF	Aaron Haney	10.064185
42503	1B	Ernest McBride	9.8929102

**#1 Madison Wolves RF Manobu Shimizu** - Shimizu has been a consistent force in the Madison lineup since being called up in the 2041 season. He suffered an injury in the 2042 season which saw him make just 19 starts but since then has averaged 157 games a season. In 2049, he slashed .372/.428/.628 with a blistering 183 OPS+ and putting up 8.9 WAR on the season. Those big numbers take him from #4 in last season's Player Rater to the top spot.

**#2 New Orleans Crawdads RF Juan Donestevez** - Donestevez bounced back from an injury riddled 2048 season with numbers that he is used to putting up. He slashed .331/.393/.612 with a nice 164 OPS+ and a 9 WAR. He jumps into the #2 spot after dropping out of the Top 10 last season.

**#3 Charlotte Cougars RF Pedro Huerta** - Huerta was traded early in the 2049 Season from Edmonton to Charlotte and then Edmonton watched him put up big numbers for the Cougars. He put up a .337/.368/.613 slash line with an OPS+ of 150 and a 4.6 WAR. Huerta made the move from #10 to the #3 spot.

**#4 Atlantic City Gamblers LF Juan Rivera** - The Gamblers rode the nice season that Rivera posted all the way to the playoffs in 2049. Rivera slashed .326/.410/.617 with an OPS+ of 170 and a 7.3 WAR. He hit 37 homers and stole 32 bases while being caught 10 times. This moves him from #8 to the #4 spot in the Player Rater.

**#5 San Fernando Bears RF Angel Gonzalez** - Bears Star RF Angel Gonzalez flexed his muscles and flashed his speed in the 2049 Season but it wasn't enough to keep him in the #2 spot as he falls to #5. He slashed .339/.382/.567 with a 150 OPS+ and an 8.4 WAR. Swiped 65 bags while getting gunned down 24 times.

**#6 Calgary Pioneers 1B Larry Stinson** - Why does it seem that Stinson has been in the Brewster forever? Maybe because he hits tons of homers, then results in lots of RBI and runs scored. He does have big strikeout numbers but he gets the job done. He hit .309 with 45 HR, 119 RBI and scored 111 runs in 2049. He posted an OPS+ of 155 and a 6.2 WAR. Stinson moved up a spot from #7 to #6 in the Player Rater.

**#7 Jacksonville Hurricanes 1B Pancho Costa** - Costa had an off year in 2049 as he still hit for average and got on base but his HR total dropped from 38 in 2048 to 18 in '49. He slashed .332/.380/.505 with his OPS+ dropping to 136 and posting a 5.1 WAR. He falls from #3 to the #7 spot in the Player Rater.

## 6 BBA PLAYER RATER

James Walker



**#8 Louisville Sluggers 3B Luis Mendoza** - Mendoza saw his average drop to .264 last season but he still gets on at a torrid rate with a .396 OBP. He hit 29 homers and drove in 94 runs while scoring 109 runs. He stole 53 bags while being caught 23 times. He posted a 6.7 WAR with a 144 OPS+. He falls from #5 to #8 but expect a bounce back year from him in 2050.

**#9 Mexico City Aztecs CF Aaron 'Slowpoke' Haney** - Haney's second season in Mexico City saw his average dip a bit but his homers jumped from 28 to 42 in 2049. He drove in 118 runs while scoring 103. He stole 33 bases but was caught 18 times. He posted an OPS+ of 149 with a 6 WAR. He enters the Top 10 at #9.

**#10 Portland Lumberjacks 1B Ernest McBride** - McBride blasted his way into the Top 10 with a big first half of 2049. He finished with 53 homers, 129 RBI and 113 runs scored. He slashed .306/.362/.633 with a 167 OPS+ and a 6.8 WAR.

**The second system I used is the Hitters Game Score. The formula for this score is from Stats+ and is as follows:**

$$(-4XAB)+(7XR)+(7XRBI)+(5XHR)+(5XBB)=\text{Game Score.}$$

I plugged in the players stats for 2047, 2048 and 2049 seasons, calculated the Average Game Score and then weighted each season's game score as before (10%, 30% and 60%), then totaled for a final Weighted Game Score.

The Top 10 BBA hitters in Hitters Game Score:

ID	Name	wGS
43014	Juan Donéstevez	9.6201
43663	Juan Rivera	9.5652
42518	Pedro Huerta	9.2339
43236	Larry Stinson	9.1965
43048	Manobu Shimizu	8.9427
42994	Júlio Barajas	8.8847
41474	Mike Campbell	8.8707
42503	Ernest McBride	8.6975
42347	Tom Rudge	8.2363
41483	Dennis French	8.2339



Up from 2048



Down from 2048



No Change from 2048

## 6 | BBA PLAYER RATER - PART 2

James Walker



**#1 New Orleans Crawdads RF Juan Donestevez** - Donestevez rocketed to the top of the Hitter Game score to match his rise to #2 in the zScore.



**#2 Atlantic City Gamblers LF Juan Rivera** - Rivera moved to #2 with his big season.



**#3 Charlotte Cougars RF Pedro Huerta** - Huerta moves from #8 with improvement in Charlotte.



**#4 Calgary Pioneers 1B Larry Stinson** - Stinson is #4 in zScore and #4 in Hitters Score.



**#5 Madison Wolves RF Manobu Shimizu** - Shimizo drops from #2 to #5.



**#6 Rockville Pikemen RF Julio Barajas** - Barajas had a solid season for the Pikemen that had him in the Top 20 in zScore and kept him in the Top 10 in Hitters Score. He slashed .353/.400/.562 with 28 homers and 117 RBI. He had a 156 OPS+ and a 6 WAR in 2049.



**#7 Sacramento Mad Popes RF Mike Campbell** - Campbell drops in at #7 after a .334/.367/.589 performance with 29 homers and 101 RBI in 117 games played. He had an OPS+ of 167 and a WAR of 4.9.



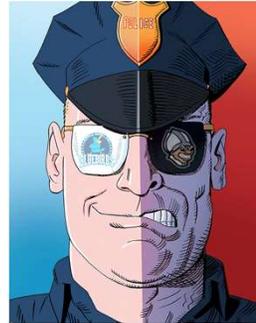
**#8 Portland Lumberjacks 1B Ernest McBride** - McBride also moves into the Top 10 Hitters Score with his magnificent 2049 Season.



**#9 Las Vegas Hustlers RF Tom Rudge** - Rudge was Top 15 in the zScore list and makes his move into the Top 10 in the Hitters Score list. Rudge had a solid season crushing 29 HR with 117 RBI and 100 runs scored. He stole 45 bags while being thrown out just 11 times. He slashed .303/.372/.538 with an OPS+ of 137 and posted a 7 WAR.



**#10 Nashville Bluebird LF Dennis French** - French took the last spot in the Top 10 with a bounce back year in Nashville. The 32-year-old slashed .343/.370/.540 with 21 homers, 98 RBI and scored 113 runs. He stole 39 bases and was caught 17 times. He had an OPS+ of 148 and a 6.8 WAR.



# 7 GOOD COP BAD COP

Doug Olmsted & Chad Nason

## Nashville Bluebirds

GC: The GM has the looks, the brains, the winningest team in the Heartland last season, and the #1 farm in the BBA. The Bluebirds are just getting started with many of its stars still on rookie contracts.

BC: Ranked #1 in the recent "Who is most likely to be Al Hoot?" pool. A clumsy disaster of a team looking at a decades-long slide.

## Louisville Sluggers

GC: Upset about missing the playoffs, coaches being poached, and lack of trading, the Sluggers took things into their own hands and signed Mark Simpson, Fernando Castillo, and Ricardo Yanez to bolster their lineup. Expect to see the Sluggers back in the postseason this year.

BC: I can't even bad cop this damn team. I'm fairly certain we could take away Louisville's draft picks, halve their salary cap, severely injure all 27 players on his opening day roster, and Shaw would still find a way to make the playoffs. I hate Louisville.

## Madison Wolves

GC: Reigning Silk winner, Manobu Shimizu, finally led his team to the postseason and is up for the challenge again in 2050. Will his beau, Gertie, be a distraction or motivation?

BC: Oh, look! The team that paid Recte \$500 to re-sim the playoffs 35 times before the Wolves finally found a way to beat the Mad Popes in a seven-game series. Send them to the UMEBA.

## Yellow Springs Nine

GC: Perennial Silk candidate, Dong-Po Thum, was just locked up for six more years. The key addition, though? Lucas McNeill is the new manager and the Hall of Famer might just have what it takes to finally bring home a well-deserved championship to Yellow Springs.

BC: They could be the Yellow Springs Ninety-Nine and still lose in the playoffs.

## Chicago Black Sox

GC: The Sox brought back Jim Wilkinson that will continue to provide a solid 1-2 punch with Bernie Stuart. Young SS, Badr Isam, looks to be a star and depending how the final month goes, Chicago could be the last team in or the first team out of the playoffs.

BC: The quintessential little brother of their division. Will find a way to sucker punch you when you're not looking but scurries away when confronted.

## Des Moines Kernels

GC: This is not your mama's Kernels. Des Moines brought in veteran GM Aaron Weiner who has performed an extreme makeover on the corn eaters, headlined by Alaric Wullenweber. The stockpile of former #1 picks making their way to the Big Leagues will push the Kernels close to .500.

BC: If Aaron Weiner isn't bald now, he will be after Des Moines fails to make the playoffs for thirty more seasons.

## Omaha Cyclones

GC: The powerhouse Cyclones missed the playoffs for the first time since 2043, but remain a threat to all Frick League teams. Solid pitching and hitting will bring this team back to the playoffs and young star, Malik bin Mazin, will have a breakout season.

BC: Brought franchise favorite Emilio Morales back for a swan song. Groundskeepers are working to move the fences in another 100 ft so both Morales and bin Mazin can pop 30 dingers in 2050.

## Twin Cities River Monsters

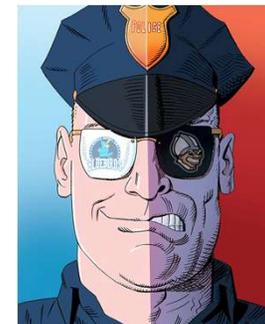
GC: Another cellar dweller being transformed by a veteran GM. Alan Ehlers brought in several veterans headlined by Bing-de Zhao. Probably another last place finish, but at least they'll put up a fight.

BC: Inventor of the Cyclone takes over the reigning Toilet Boil – a match made in gas station bathroom heaven.



## 7 | GOOD COP BAD COP

Doug Olmsted & Chad Nason



### Vancouver Mounties

GC: Phil Cole finally unleashed his potential since moving to Vancouver. The young knuckleballer will be a candidate for his first career Nebraska award. Will Nasir al Din bin Sahir join hi atop the rotation?

BC: Look for the Mounties to be completely neglected over the coming seasons due to their GM seeing a real-life boob for the first time in his life and forgetting his own name.

### Sacramento Mad Pops

GC: If anyone can lose more than 18 WAR to free agency and still be a contender, it's the Pops. The team is loaded with talent and should still win near 100 games. Nisanci and Ploid will continue to take the Frick League by storm for several years.

BC: Fire Shoeless! Had arguably the best two starters in the game, a top-rated, elite-level offense, and the best record in the Frick and couldn't even piece together a winning playoff series. A great draw for any playoff team. At least his wife is a smoke show.

### Hawaii Tropics

GC: The Tropics lost Mike Campbell and Ernest McBride following the 2048 season and have helped fill that hole in 2050 by signing Tomas Guillen and Alejandro Ortiz. A healthy Atmo Ananas can help prove this team's 82 wins in 2049 wasn't a fluke. Pythagorean who?

BC: Hide your clocks! Hide the croutons! The greater the hope in Hawaii, the greater the devastation.

### Valencia Stars

GC: The Stars were one of the most improved teams in 2049 and look to continue that trend in 2050. They lost some firepower from the left side when Pedro Guzman and Gene Meade headed for free agency, but Ken Arroyo and Carlton Day are the stars of the Stars and will lead them to another playoff berth.

BC: I'm beginning to think Morris is just Shaw in disguise. Please move this team to a real place with a better logo.

### San Fernando Bears

GC: When Angel Gonzalez is on your roster, you're never too far out of reach of the playoffs. If some of the younger players come through again with solid seasons like Tyler Ober and Wasim Ala did last season, the Bears will be a bubble team.

BC: Remember when San Fernando was good? Of course you don't, not even your grandma's grandma remembers. Put \$20 on a Wasim Ala injury holding him out for over half the season and cash out. Stonks!

### Long Beach Surfers

GC: Beautiful weather keeps the fans coming to the games and the 2051 draft class is looking promising!

BC: All the pollution in Los Angeles is not enough to provide cover for this erectile dysfunction of a smoke and mirror show. Beep-boop-beeping to an eighth-place finish.

### Seattle Storm

GC: Adding Wilson Andrade to any roster is a huge improvement and re-signing Alexander Julyan will lockdown two top of lineup spots over the next six years. Joe Johnson and Doug Eckhoff will be much needed additions to the rotation when they get called up.

BC: Does anyone else forget Seattle exists?

### Portland Lumberjacks

GC: If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Manager of the Year Farri Agymah took the Lumberjacks to their first championship, but was not re-signed in favor of bringing in Vegas pitching coach, Yves Lemoine, as new skipper. Maybe he can remind Ernest McBride how to hit so the Lumberjacks can repeat success in 2050.

BC: Proud owner of every conceivable 2049 Participation Ribbon. Most are green. One is brown, just like the seat of Wilson's pants when his terrible team made it to the Monty.



**Atlantic City**

GC – As long as Juan Rivera digs into the batter's box and Carlos Flores pushes off the mound in Gambler uniforms, Atlantic City will remain a playoff regular and may push for an Atlantic title in 2050.

BC- They're called Atlantic City Gamblers instead of Atlantic Title Gamblers because they haven't won one since 2028. After Flores and Kevin Shepard, the next best pitcher on the staff had 1.3 WAR last season and they haven't made any changes to address that issue this offseason.

**Brooklyn**

GC – The hot dog, mini bagel, and warm beer combo from select Robin's concession areas will be priced reasonably for 2050. Look for Felipe Vega to have a great year before opting out at season's end.

BC- More like Crooklyn Robbers. The poor fans (what's left of them at least) have been robbed by the front office as they continue to throw money at aging/aged veterans relievers instead of surrounding Felipe Vega with a little support. How he hasn't forced a trade out of there yet is a miracle and indicator of stupidity on his part.

**Charm City**

GC - A talented team anchored by Felix Roman in centerfield receives a jolt from the baseball gods as an actual genius now sits in the general manager office.

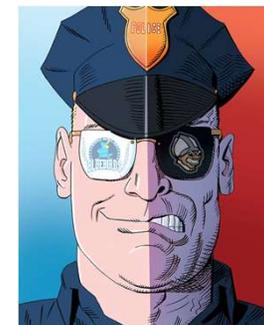
BC- Losing the production from Tomas Guillen makes the Jimmies worse, not better. Hamsterdam was run better than this franchise.

**Charlotte**

GC - Looking to make it five straight playoff appearances, GM Brett Golden continues to successfully shuffle his roster with more veracity than the ecstasy-abundant 1998 charity rager in the hospitality hall at St. Paul's Church in downtown Charlotte.

BC- Best way to create revenue is swapping out half the team every year so fans have to buy new jerseys. The team is a little weaker than last year's, but could still win the pathetic Atlantic division. It's called Least Coast for a reason, right?

**7 | GOOD COP BAD COP**  
Doug Olmsted & Chad Nason



**Jacksonville**

GC – Former Jackrabbit GM Chris Robillard inherits the 2048 and 2049 Atlantic Division winner. Look for his decisive management style and the horrible David Simpson to wreak more havoc in 2050. The worst-ranked farm system in the BBA foreshadows a bleak future for the Canes.

BC- Should be a top contender in the Atlantic, but the team is a little worse than last season. Does any team in the Atlantic even *want* to be better? Simpson is earning about \$10m per WAR the past couple seasons.

**Montreal**

GC – After two straight seventh place finishes, Montreal has been fairly quiet this offseason. Look for Lineu Aldo to have a great year before opting out.

BC- What's this? Another Atlantic team that got worse in the offseason? Yep. Thank God Brooklyn is there to catch them from falling any further. Even losing their top prospects in Rule 5. Aldo will be traded before he can opt out.

**New Orleans**

GC – Despite a very active offseason to replace 15.6 WAR lost from 2049, look for the Crawdads to push for 90 wins again and playoff birth.

BC- At least they're trying to get better. Execution needs work, though. They've done enough to keep from being relegated to UMEBA...oh that's not a thing. It should be.

**Rockville**

GC – A ho-hum offseason in Rockville along with long-time GM Aaron Weiner leaving the team to take his talents to the drought-ridden cornfields in Iowa will likely lead to a second consecutive season of missing the playoffs for the Pikemen after a string of 15 straight.

BC- How the mighty have fallen. Weiner took his talents to fucking IOWA to escape this once great franchise.



**Boise**  
 GC – Dennis French and Felix Roman will continue ... oops ... well, hmm ... in conjunction with the Idaho Potato Council, the Spuds will introduce an additional team mascot this season. Yet to be named, the many eyed potato is said to thrive in nutrient deficient, over-fertilized soil.

BC- I don't even know what to say here. Like, they're bad, but not terrible, but like, not close to being good, but awful. It's like they just held an expansion draft and got a bunch of unprotected players. Let's hope their old GM, Joe Lederer uses protection.

**Calgary**  
 GC – Longtime Calgary GM Kevin Dickson added the Italian Stallion Girolamo L'Archibudelli to an already pesky lineup. Look for the well-run Pioneers to itch for another playoff spot in 2050.

BC- The Pioneers have won between 85-95 games every year since 2044. Expect more of the same mediocrity to get to the playoffs, but miss out on the big one. Is Joey O'Brien ever gonna not get paid?

**Edmonton**  
 GC – The best thing for the Jackrabbits about winning just 60 games in 2049 is they don't have a very high bar to exceed their low expectations. GM Ben Teague has been very active this offseason. The jury is out if those moves will bear fruit.

BC- Worst. Superstar team. Ever.

**El Paso**  
 GC – The El Cano Jr.'s as they will now be called are living off hope and street vendor tacos entering 2050. GM John Momberg has guided this franchise from apocalyptic terror to the cusp of respectability. The Chili's are almost impossible to cheer against.

BC- Just way too big a heap of garbage to sprout any success. Cano will be debating free agency by the time this team can compete, but Momberg has been actively trying. Kudos.

## 7 | GOOD COP BAD COP

Doug Olmsted & Chad Nason



**Las Vegas**  
 GC – This author has never heard of this team. According to Wikipedia, they're pretty good, but a quick perusal of their Reddit feed surmises they won't be quite as good as they were over their 2047, 2048, and 2049 title runs, meaning they'll win their unprecedented fourth consecutive title with ease.

BC- This is like when Alabama schedules preseason games against Alabama City College. Feel good about yourself? Should be well-rested to beat the gassed Frick League again.

**Mexico City**  
 GC – With not a single knuckleballer in their entire organization, many pundits believe GM Fred Holmes has given up. But the Aztec's surprise 93 wins in 2049 may mean all the rain in Mexico City has given Holmes time to stare out the window and reflect on and adjust his preferences.

BC- Great candidate for 85 wins and a wild card spot. If they drop behind that pace early on you might see Haney shipped off.

**Phoenix**  
 GC – A string of 11 straight division titles and 16 titles over the past 21 seasons, the Toledo Liberty are expected to add veteran depth to an already legendary roster. The best run team in all of organized baseball.

BC- Unfortunately the A-ball players are all in retirement homes by the time they can get called up to the Bigs, which is great for GM Sean Marko so he can book his golf tournament early.

**San Antonio**  
 GC – It's time for Outlaw first baseman Majid Bin Husam to become the best hitter to ever grace the Brewster Baseball Association. His underwhelming 2049 season coincides with a string of lackluster seasons for the Outlaws.

BC- This team is much better on paper. Unfortunately for San Antonio, these games aren't played on paper. They're played on computers. Get with the technology.

In the most recent AFBI, we had a discussion (if that is what really happens in an AFBI), about the three true outcomes in baseball. I used the formula of  $(HR+BB+SO)/PA$  to find the top hitters and pitchers in the BBA in 3TO%. The cutoff is 250 PA or 250 Batters Faced to get the list down to 300+ Hitters and 300+ Pitchers. Here is the list of top 100 of each.

Ran	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
1	Ichizo Sugiyama	25	43	223	504	0.577
2	Odemar Lock	24	65	160	435	0.572
3	Stephen Geloran, Jr.	22	37	201	456	0.570
4	Bronx Cortez	27	47	184	466	0.554
5	Kyle Baker	10	32	116	289	0.547
6	Grant Prince	16	43	178	440	0.539
7	Jim Antolin	17	86	156	488	0.531
8	Tyler Ober	29	105	190	619	0.523
9	Vasco Fonzarelli	26	74	189	554	0.522
10	Shawn O'Bagy	8	67	210	553	0.515
11	Hasheem Makin	37	87	211	653	0.513
12	Gerardo Eremitani	16	55	161	465	0.499
13	Holden Dickson	45	21	231	602	0.493
14	Wasim Ala'	20	65	154	485	0.493
15	Randy Bader	12	30	129	357	0.479
16	Jim Lorenzen	14	27	106	307	0.479
17	Carlos Arroyo	14	38	146	417	0.475
18	Pepe Prieto	22	46	163	493	0.469
19	Manuel Aguilar, Jr.	17	26	132	376	0.465
20	Donald Miller	27	83	168	598	0.465
21	Raghib bin Nasim	8	69	207	615	0.462
22	Francisco Otero	10	40	152	439	0.460
23	Blaine Tyler	33	76	188	660	0.450
24	José Romero	35	58	182	614	0.448

# 8 | 3 TRUE OUTCOMES

James Walker

Ran	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
25	Pedro Martínez	17	43	144	456	0.447
26	Mark Simpson	26	120	151	664	0.447
27	Félix Parreno	32	52	196	627	0.447
28	Gordon Ford	17	46	127	430	0.442
29	Israel Camacho	17	43	133	437	0.442
30	Lee Hogan	15	33	144	436	0.440
31	José Calderón	24	48	139	481	0.439
32	Hao Hang	39	42	173	583	0.436
33	Juan Mateo	33	60	139	534	0.434
34	Jared Bolen	7	27	124	364	0.434
35	Norihisa Yokoyama	24	66	206	682	0.434
36	Manuel Marino	20	72	115	478	0.433
37	Andrew Wright	22	35	147	475	0.429
38	Colm Alker	32	61	126	512	0.428
39	Pete Brace	16	33	147	460	0.426
40	Qutuz Mahdi	5	31	149	436	0.424
41	Jorge Salas	9	32	112	361	0.424
42	John Henderson	8	23	144	416	0.421
43	Tommy Bathgate	8	34	144	444	0.419
44	Gene Meade	16	31	121	402	0.418
45	Aarnoud Budding	21	67	178	637	0.418
46	Chris Thomas	37	49	151	572	0.414
47	Reynante Alvero	6	50	204	628	0.414
48	Steven Bursey	8	37	97	343	0.414
49	Jesús Rodríguez	12	52	99	395	0.413
50	Raúl Fernández	34	70	165	653	0.412

## 8 | 3 TRUE OUTCOMES

James Walker

Ran	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
51	Glenn Gouloze	7	29	82	289	0.408
52	Eric Wagner	22	70	154	605	0.407
53	Reggie Leeper	7	26	140	426	0.406
54	Wilibald Akbulut	28	38	168	581	0.403
55	Chua-kah Yang	26	31	183	596	0.403
56	Billy McKay	6	52	184	603	0.401
57	Alejandro Córdova	9	62	176	616	0.401
58	Josh Mesh	20	44	159	557	0.400
59	Andy Elmer	11	56	132	504	0.395
60	Lawrence Roger	8	51	99	401	0.394
61	Bret Powers	23	16	80	303	0.393
62	André Ly	22	73	127	571	0.389
63	Tommy Bailey	21	51	168	618	0.388
64	Reggie Vargas	30	40	149	564	0.388
65	Octávio Moreno	18	41	140	516	0.386
66	Ernest McBride	53	58	167	721	0.386
67	Matt Garrison	23	52	113	490	0.384
68	Félix Román	49	62	139	652	0.383
69	Marcello Custello	16	30	119	431	0.383
70	Orlando Ordóñez	28	51	159	623	0.382
71	Pepe Madrid	23	56	154	610	0.382
72	Pedro Mendoza	28	34	157	575	0.381
73	José Núñez	8	38	120	437	0.380
74	Hector Cano, Jr.	37	69	141	652	0.379
75	Andrew Gallagher	17	32	76	330	0.379

Ran	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
76	Pedro Guzmán	37	65	135	628	0.377
77	John Todd	5	60	119	488	0.377
78	Alex Ramírez	23	83	156	696	0.376
79	Luis Mendoza	29	119	108	681	0.376
80	Katsumi Matsumoto	11	29	110	401	0.374
81	Robert Chenoweth	42	21	186	667	0.373
82	Oliverio Luna	21	38	133	515	0.373
83	Bing-de Zhào	15	66	109	510	0.373
84	Rex Foster	25	34	97	424	0.368
85	Hsin Mei	22	39	106	456	0.366
86	Stewart Illingworth	19	47	131	540	0.365
87	Roberto Rivera	29	37	156	609	0.365
88	Gehrig Jelinowicz	8	44	94	401	0.364
89	Carlos Flores	17	48	138	558	0.364
90	Dick Walton	7	45	175	625	0.363
91	Mariano López	5	18	80	284	0.363
92	Robert Menzies	10	93	141	674	0.362
93	Arvin Duggan	22	63	140	624	0.361
94	Alberto Rodríguez	10	26	100	378	0.360
95	Ewan Allman	5	44	152	559	0.360
96	Ángel García	6	76	119	561	0.358
97	Mark Moon	20	35	89	402	0.358
98	Jeremy Pickens	20	41	143	570	0.358
99	Thomas Kramer	8	48	148	571	0.357
100	Júlio García	37	54	127	613	0.356

## 8 | 3 TRUE OUTCOMES

James Walker

Rank	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
1	Augusto Ramírez	8	21	154	260	0.704
2	Lorenzo de' Medici	13	36	185	407	0.575
3	Senen Subandrio	9	16	121	255	0.573
4	Alonso Estrada	14	54	102	313	0.543
5	Adergazoz Ouakili	10	18	131	306	0.520
6	Hani Goddard	5	28	97	255	0.510
7	Xuan Ngo	9	26	98	261	0.510
8	Dean Stranaghan	4	41	92	270	0.507
9	Luis Ramos	7	19	108	267	0.502
10	Wang-fen Law	10	59	80	298	0.500
11	Peter Sanders	25	14	135	348	0.500
12	Len Conboy	6	48	96	305	0.492
13	Vaughn Mullally	10	42	85	283	0.484
14	Cornelio Lozano	21	71	160	538	0.468
15	Gerardo López	12	35	163	450	0.467
16	Luis Alonso	15	37	134	405	0.459
17	Tiernan O'Macken	7	24	110	310	0.455
18	Derrick Chaney	15	23	122	352	0.455
19	Carlos Flores	14	68	271	780	0.453
20	Rubén Vázquez	26	40	260	735	0.444
21	Gilberto Sosa	6	31	124	363	0.444
22	Ben Vélez	5	22	91	267	0.442
23	Quirke Roddis	11	20	88	270	0.441
24	Juan Cerda	13	29	132	396	0.439

Ran	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
25	Alejandro Chávez	10	18	94	279	0.437
26	Seung-cheol Kim	5	40	99	332	0.434
27	Rafael Gómez	8	26	77	257	0.432
28	Ángel Hernández	3	25	92	279	0.430
29	Louis Adams	16	29	97	336	0.423
30	Carlton Casson	7	28	72	254	0.421
31	Alaric Wullenweber	14	29	292	796	0.421
32	José Torres	12	56	126	461	0.421
33	John Avery	16	105	162	676	0.419
34	Jim Armstrong	39	112	168	766	0.416
35	Billy Kelly	10	16	81	260	0.412
36	Ashton Brooks	7	29	128	399	0.411
37	Slawomir Trzcinski	7	25	133	403	0.409
38	Jorge García	6	46	97	365	0.408
39	Dwight Owens	7	23	103	326	0.408
40	Cristo Muñóz	4	18	86	265	0.408
41	Manuel Domínguez	6	41	59	262	0.405
42	Toshikazu Sardinha	4	44	58	262	0.405
43	Dave Corfield	20	58	258	835	0.402
44	Bill O'Connor	9	44	95	368	0.402
45	Archie Honour	7	38	84	322	0.401
46	Alberto Castaneda	9	44	94	367	0.401
47	Vassilis Zorba	3	26	75	261	0.398
48	Luis Manuel Rodríguez	6	23	110	352	0.395
49	Aaron Anderson	4	15	90	281	0.388
50	Todd Stone	2	14	148	424	0.387

## 8 | 3 TRUE OUTCOMES

James Walker

Ran	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
51	Royce Wright	17	52	88	406	0.387
52	Micheal Dixon	16	58	154	591	0.386
53	Joel Crawford	12	33	95	363	0.386
54	Adrian Custello	26	61	173	676	0.385
55	Randolph Marable	19	48	165	609	0.381
56	Juan Martínez	7	30	81	310	0.381
57	Kyle Smallwood	15	52	165	610	0.380
58	Clarence Pritchard	3	26	98	334	0.380
59	Juan García	22	60	145	597	0.380
60	Juan Pinto	15	34	98	387	0.380
61	Alonso Blanco	7	30	65	270	0.378
62	Nobuhito Kan	18	50	210	737	0.377
63	Bill Constable	23	49	264	891	0.377
64	Benjamin Charlet	14	73	81	446	0.377
65	Max Birstall	15	29	75	317	0.375
66	Aurelio Castillo	3	32	64	264	0.375
67	Edward Johnson	4	36	62	272	0.375
68	Juan Santana	6	27	67	267	0.375
69	Haravira Chandar	13	50	86	398	0.374
70	Raúl García	12	12	80	278	0.374
71	Marcos Gonzáles	13	61	150	599	0.374
72	Eugenio Asseldonk	7	16	77	269	0.372
73	Chris Hilliard	6	31	70	288	0.372
74	Phil Cole	12	48	242	814	0.371
75	Chris Sackett	14	56	75	392	0.370

Ran	Name	HR	BB	SO	PA	3TO%
76	Gilberto Cruz	2	29	67	265	0.370
77	Ronnie Sprinkles	11	22	96	350	0.369
78	José Avelina	16	8	98	332	0.367
79	Jim Pollock	12	29	51	251	0.367
80	Dave Lee	28	37	234	819	0.365
81	Eiichi Takahashi	11	29	65	288	0.365
82	Jarred Perkins	7	18	73	269	0.364
83	Arnold Cantrell	12	30	72	314	0.363
84	Félix Vidaca	19	60	184	725	0.363
85	Mitch Freemann	14	34	97	401	0.362
86	James Kidd	6	46	76	355	0.361
87	Doug Cooper	11	26	56	259	0.359
88	Jefferson Pierce	28	50	188	741	0.359
89	Jason Ramey	6	34	73	315	0.359
90	Francisco Concepción	9	39	65	316	0.358
91	Deron Alexander	15	69	86	477	0.356
92	Shawn Huber	8	14	90	316	0.354
93	Sotaro Abe	11	36	89	384	0.354
94	Robert Larson	13	48	98	450	0.353
95	Malcolm Jolly	25	98	154	786	0.352
96	Earl Hutchinson	5	36	92	378	0.352
97	Manuel Cruz	6	22	96	353	0.351
98	Sergio Herrera	8	20	83	316	0.351
99	Barney Lindsay	19	58	242	919	0.347
100	Byron Ratcliffe	6	15	87	312	0.346

# 2049 FINAL STANDINGS

## LEAGUE STANDINGS HEARTLAND DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Nashville Bluebirds	105	57	.648	-	788	568
Yellow Springs Nine	104	58	.642	1	734	553
Madison Wolves	90	72	.556	15	688	675
Louisville Sluggers	88	75	.540	17½	799	673
Omaha Cyclones	82	80	.506	23	668	656
Chicago Black Sox	79	83	.488	26	621	680
Des Moines Kernels	55	107	.340	50	594	799
Twin Cities River Monsters	45	117	.278	60	424	772

## LEAGUE STANDINGS PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Sacramento Mad Popes	106	56	.654	-	784	537
Valencia Stars	94	68	.580	12	742	594
Portland Lumberjacks	89	74	.546	17½	716	623
Hawaii Tropics	82	80	.506	24	532	634
San Fernando Bears	77	85	.475	29	747	760
Long Beach Surfers	73	89	.451	33	676	680
Vancouver Mounties	71	91	.438	35	540	598
Seattle Storm	57	105	.352	49	597	848

## LEAGUE STANDINGS ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Jacksonville Hurricanes	100	62	.617	-	772	631
Charlotte Cougars	92	70	.568	8	795	621
Atlantic City Gamblers	91	71	.562	9	777	667
New Orleans Crawdads	90	72	.556	10	780	735
Rockville Pikemen	87	75	.537	13	781	735
Charm City Jimmies	78	84	.481	22	680	701
Montreal Blazers	77	85	.475	23	726	761
Brooklyn Robins	59	103	.364	41	552	767

## LEAGUE STANDINGS FRONTIER DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Las Vegas Hustlers	107	55	.660	-	840	605
Mexico City Aztecs	93	69	.574	14	740	639
Calgary Pioneers	85	77	.525	22	732	680
Phoenix Talons	73	89	.451	34	605	685
Boise Spuds	72	90	.444	35	655	748
El Paso Chilis	69	93	.426	38	777	872
San Antonio Outlaws	63	99	.389	44	623	802
Edmonton Jackrabbits	60	102	.370	47	621	807



# 2049 FINAL STANDINGS

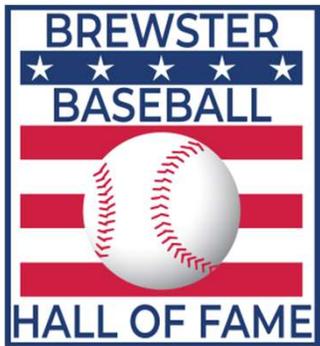
## LEAGUE STANDINGS BANC

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Bucharest Impalers</u>	93	69	.574	-	924	822
<u>Tripoli Piranhas</u>	84	78	.519	9	874	811
<u>Mumbai Metro Stars</u>	81	81	.500	12	810	813
<u>Cairo Pharaohs</u>	80	82	.494	13	796	787
<u>Athens Fighting Centaurs</u>	76	86	.469	17	878	878

## LEAGUE STANDINGS BURT

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers</u>	94	68	.580	-	798	673
<u>Manama Pearls</u>	93	69	.574	1	750	683
<u>Riyadh Red Crescents</u>	84	78	.519	10	724	734
<u>Beirut Cedars</u>	73	89	.451	21	732	835
<u>Baghdad Kings</u>	52	110	.321	42	703	953





# 9 HOF CLASS 2049

Matt Rectenwald & Aaron Wiener



Luis Gracia may be the best BBA pitcher to never win a Steve Nebraska Award. He ended his career, largely with the Sacramento/California franchise, with the 7<sup>th</sup> most wins in BBA history, 3<sup>rd</sup> most in the modern era. One of the greatest postseason pitchers in history, Gracia won a championship in the 2035 season, going 4-1 with a 1.82 ERA in the postseason. His postseason totals: in 30 starts spanning 193 innings, Gracia went 10-8 with a 2.05 ERA. He also threw the 15<sup>th</sup> most innings of all time, was 48<sup>th</sup> all time in strikeouts, and was 21<sup>st</sup> in losses. Gracia also played with the Mexico City Aztecs and the Riyadh Red Crescents of the UMEBA.

Luis Gracia Career Numbers: 252 wins, 176 losses, 3.49 ERA, 3681 IP, 2786 strikeouts, 85.1 WAR



Australian Arthur Dempster was the centerpiece of the Rockville dynasty. Dempster won three Steve Nebraska Awards and finished in the top three in the award voting four more times in his stellar career. In 2037, Dempster won the pitching Triple Crown, with 17 wins, a 2.59 ERA, and 258 strikeouts. Dempster's 242 wins place him 13<sup>th</sup> all time, his 3523 strikeouts place him 12<sup>th</sup>, and his 3513 innings place him 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dempster won two championships in 2036 and 2037 with Rockville. Was famously traded for future Hall of Famer Mark Simpson.

Arthur Dempster Career Numbers: 242 wins, 155 losses, 3.87 ERA, 3 Steve Nebraska Awards, 82.8 WAR.



Wie was one of the greatest powerhitting and on-base threats in BBA history. He finished his career as the #20 home run hitter of all time, and currently is fifth all time in walks with no active player likely to surpass him. Wie spurred the Havana Sugar Kings, now the San Fernando Bears, to a championship in 2034 with his best professional season. He played his entire professional career with the San Fernando franchise. From Taiwan, and partially credited with the major international movement in the BBA.

Tai Ho Wie Career Numbers: .267 AVG, 544 HR, 1481 RBI, .397 OBP, .484 SLG, 60.8 WAR.

## 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - GARCIA

Matt Rectenwald



Lets take a look at the posting history involving Luis Gracia

Luis Gracia, unlike his HOF counterpart Dempster, was not a sure fire star coming into the league. He was, in fact, an afterthought.

California/Huntsville

California receives:

P Ricardo Ortiz (prospect)

P Luis Gracia (prospect)

Huntsville receives:

RF Doug Kendall

- **(Ted Schmidt writes):** Well, at least the couple last trades were exciting. Huntsville really made over the roster, has an outfield injury, and was still finding itself at this point in the season. Kendall was a 26 year old switch hitter who had nothing to prove in AAA, but didn't have a spot on my team. Huntsville took a flyer and shipped two pitchers who will both need a couple bumps to make it to the big time. At 19 and 18, they both have a chance to do so, and probably won't. Kendall stank in Huntsville, but they really gave up next to nothing to try him out. At least neither guy has lumped for me so far. Ho-hum. Moving on.
- Gracia was acquired via trade with Huntsville during the middle of the 2023 season. The left has developed quite a bit more arm strength over the last few years, and may someday parlay that into back of the rotation stuff. At worst, he looks like a solid bullpen lefty. ETA 2027
- The only guys who I picked up via trade that have done well are Jesus Tonche, who was 9/6/7 when I traded from him and had already bumped from 7/7/6 I think and ended at 10/7/8, and Luis Gracia who again had already bumped once but bumped again from 7/6/6 to 8/7/6 although he's really struggling to finish off his control.
- 2028- Luis Gracia was looked at a bit more closely as a possible middle reliever while he adjust to big league hitting, but struggled enough that he will also start the season in AAA.
- California 2028.13 - Gracia Gets the Call – **A Post by Ted » Wed Sep 14, 2016 5:26 am**  
Luis Gracia can hardly contain himself. The 23 year old lefty admits he didn't sleep at all last night, not after the phone call he got. The team translator could barely keep up. "Rico called me," Gracia exclaims! "My phone rang and I heard him say, 'Pack up your stuff.' I asked, 'You need me in the 'pen?'" Gracia rushes past the translator, "He say, 'No. Start en Hawaii Jueves.'" It must have seemed like an eternity for Gracia, who has been the most advanced pitching prospect in the Crusaders system for the last few years. Some thought he could make the club last summer, but control issues plagued him in AAA, to the tune of 105 BB in 159 innings. He got the longest look of the young pitchers in spring training as well, after rumors he had figured something out with his mechanics over the winter. It wasn't to be however, as he was sent down on the last day of spring training. The Crusaders front office had publicly talked about using him out of the pen this year if needed, but Gracia has exceeded all expectations in AAA. He truly seems to have figured something out, as he's now thrown 40 innings though six starts without allowing a single free pass. Scouts seem to think Luis has added a little velocity as well, noticing him hitting triple digits with more frequency. Gracia brings a blistering fastball and a wipeout slider that he complements with a plus changeup he uses to keep right handed batters honest. His performance will allow the Crusaders to move the struggling Gerardo Castillo to the bullpen. On calling Gracia himself, Ricardo Diaz stated, "I asked Teddy if I could handle it when it was time. We have a lot of young Dominicans, a lot of young latinos in this system. It's time for me to take more of a role in helping them get adjusted, just like Gabriel [Hall of Fame pitcher and now AAA pitching coach Gabriel Campos] did for me."

## 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - GARCIA

Matt Rectenwald



- California 2028.16 - Great Debut for Gracia** – A Post by Ted » Sun Sep 18, 2016 4:08 am. Luis Gracia looked like the real deal in his debut Brewster appearance on May 4th in Hawaii. The Crusaders were looking for a boost to the rotation when they promoted the 22 year old lefty at the beginning of the month. Outside of their ace, the rotation had yielded a series of inconsistent, lackluster performances to start the year. After dealing with control problems that kept him from making the big league team last season, Gracia had yet to walk a batter six starts this season with the Clash City Rockers. His newfound command of the strikezone apparently impressed the front office enough to promote the youngster. In the minors, the big lefty earned a reputation for pounding the lower half of the strike zone and getting groundball outs. Gracia had no difficulty translating that experience to the bigs as he frustrated Tropics hitters to the tune of 16 groundball outs over eight innings. He let only five balls put into play to leave the infield, also striking out five. Two of those hits were rather hard, as Edgardo Jaso homered to drive in Joe Wilcox who had hit a one out double in the bottom of the seventh to tie the game. Crusaders fans might have wondered if the home run would shake up the rookie, but Gracia got Jeremy Carter to ground out to second to end the innings. After the crusaders took a 3-2 lead on an Armando Reyes single in the top of the 8th, Gracia would return to the mound and calmly retire the Tropics in order, again not letting a ball leave the infield. Gracia would yield to the incomparable Skip Glendenning in the 9th, but had to be pleased with an eight inning, three hit, five strikeout performance for his first big league game. "For me, the most important thing is what Full Pack (AAA pitching coach Gabriel Campos) had me working on. No free passes."

- California 2031.3 - Another Extension - A Post by Ted » Sun Apr 23, 2017 4:59 am** A highly successful offseason for the California Crusaders continued the other day, as the team announced a three year deal with lefty starter Luis Gracia. The 6'7" southpaw has been tremendous thus far in his Crusaders career. Since being promoted in 2028, he's posted a 42-32 record to go with a 3.28 ERA and an 83 FIP-. Fresh off back to back 5+ WAR seasons, Gracia and the Crusaders looked to avoid the uncertainty of arbitration and came to an agreement on a three year, eighteen million dollar deal. "The yearly value exceeds his projected arbitration salaries in all but the last year," noted GM Ted Schmidt, "but Luis just keeps getting better and better and those projections keep rising. He's happy to have the security, and we're happy to know what we'll have for the next few years." The deal will take Gracia through his age 28 season, at which point the Crusaders will likely offer a long term deal, if they follow their established habits.
- The 2035 Season** - Luis Gracia had one heck of a year. The thirty year old lefty posted a 19-7 record over 214.2 innings in 33 starts. He compiled a 2.93 ERA, 71 FIP-, while striking out four times as many batters as he walked, and only allowed 17 homers. Let's see where he sits on the Frick leaderboards. Tied for first in wins. Well, I wish I could say I felt more strongly about this but I can't. Pitching wins look nice, but they are a pretty noisy stat. Second in era though. I like that! Sure, there's some defensive impact and batted ball luck, but when it comes down to it, having allowed runs at the second best rate in the Frick is a pretty big deal. Fifth in WAR. Well, pitcher WAR pretty heavily overvalues strikeouts, being that it's just FIP x innings, and FIP overvalues strikeouts. I mean, maybe I shouldn't say overvalues. FIP is supposed to be predictive, right? And being able to strike guys out is more predictive of being able to get outs in the future than getting other types of outs. Still. It's annoying how it consistently undervalues guys who don't rack up big "K" totals. Some good names there though. Ken Walter, Lawrence Columbus Laloosh, Cristobal Hernandez, Alfredo Contreras (first in ERA by the way). Gracia isn't top ten in innings pitched. Some of those previous names are. You've got Contreras all over the strikeout totals, LaLoosh all over opponent hitting. Walter's there over and over. Offie's as much of a homer as the next team blogger, but Gracia might not have the case these other guys do. If there's anywhere he truly excelled, it was limiting damage via the home run. He had a very very good, Nebraska worthy year. But some of these other guys do too. We'll just have to see how the voting goes.
- 2035 Brewster Champs** - Luis Gracia was just amazing! I mean, us Crusaders fans have know he was one of the best in the league for a long time. But I get the feeling he wasn't appreciated nationally. Not anymore! Six starts, four wins, 39.2 innings, 1.82 ERA! Don't forget his incredible back to back starts in the Doubleday when our Crusaders were on the ropes! Despite that abbreviated second outing (one of the greatest demonstrations of guts ever!) he averaged seven innings per start!

## 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - GARCIA

Matt Rectenwald



- **(by Ron Collins): Luis Gracia (43.08 WAR).** Here's a name that might not have jumped into your head as a top 5 in the decade, but Gracia joined Californis as a 22 year old in 2028 (only seems like yesterday), and immediately started making a difference. While he's only had nine seasons to accumulate his WAR, he's been mostly healthy throughout, and highly consistent, averaging 200 innings+ a year while compiling a 119-87 record (and led the league in 2015 with 19 wins for the defending Landis Champions). His numbers hold a similarity to Chavez's except that Gracia does his damage by keeping the ball in the park while Chavez relies on overpowering stuff—which is a trait that leads one to think Gracia might have the longer and stronger career in the end. Ultimately, he's been a guy who flies under the radar (perhaps a result of being on the same team with Ricardo Diaz?). Despite his standing in this cross-decade study, he's made only one All-Star appearance. One of those steady-eddies rather than a star bursting at a peak. If you wanted to argue Gracia was more valuable than Chavez in this span, you could make a case. Bottom line, a fine, fine pitcher.
- **Gracia—a 33-year-old lefty who throws 101—**leads the league in ERA and sits #2 in FIP. Overall his numbers are flirting with career best, and indeed by ERA+, he's there. More to the point, he's won 12 of his last 14 starts, dropping his ERA from 4.26 to that gaudy 2.91. Yes, he's getting a little run support at times, but he beat Seattle 2-0 in that streak, and beat both Long Beach and Boise by 2-1 scores. He's held teams scoreless in four of those starts, including allowing Nashville only two hits in seven innings to win 1-0. It's easy to say that Gracia's stretch was a big element in keeping the Crusaders firmly at the top of the Pacific division. He's got 18 wins vs. seven losses. If he keeps this up, he may find himself kicked out of the Great Pitchers Who Never Won A Nebraska Award club.

- Ah, Luis Gracia. When I traded for him from Huntsville back in 2023, I never saw a potential future Hall of Famer. He was 4/6/5 by today's ratings at the time (I remember him being like 6/6/6 so that seems about right). Gracia was a lottery ticket that I got along with Ricardo Ortiz for OF Doug Kendall. I didn't have a spot for Kendall, and he was wilting away in the minors. In hindsight, I should have played him over some of the guys I did. Kyle saw his potential and flipped me a couple lottery tickets for him. Who would have thought I'd win that deal? Gracia just bumped and bumped and bumped. His California days may be numbered though, as he's asking for 6 years at 25+ mil per and is an FA at the end of this season. I'd forgotten all about Ortiz. Looks like I traded him to Buffalo (back when that was a thing) along with other crap for a crap SS. Neat to see he made a career for himself in Vancouver.
- **2039: Shoeless Named Crusaders GM: [BEGIN AUDIO OF STARTING PITCHER, LUIS GRACIA]** "Man, I'm going to miss Ted. He always had my back. He traded for me way back in 2023. I got here, and I was a perfect fit for his style of baseball. I owe that man my whole career. I mean, he led this team to over 1600 regular season wins and two Landis championships. He's a damn legend."  
Re: 2043, All-Star Voting Chatter  
Hi.  
Have you met Luis Gracia?  
He's a fine player. A great teammate. A proven winner.  
He should start the ASG.  
Thank you for listening to my TED talk.
- **43.12 Gracia Named Best 38-Year-Old Pitcher Ever by Rival** - Post by shoeless.db » Wed Aug 12, 2020 2:28 pm. SACRAMENTO (AP) -- Even stout rivals were aware of the historic season Mad Popes' southpaw, Luis Gracia put together in 2043. "(Gracia pitched) the best age 38 season in history," said San Fernando General Manager, Randy Weigand. Weigand made mention of Gracia's advanced BBA age of 38 years as a dominant starting pitcher, a feat rarely seen in highs and lows of the BBA development engine. Gracia was tied for most wins in the Frick with 17. He led the league in ERA at 2.64 and also in BB/9 at 0.8. Despite the historic season, Gracia is being all but overlooked for the Frick's Nebraska award, with rival GMs spouting nerd-filled saber-metric data and the love of Hawaii ace and 23 year old youngster, Al Wullenweber. "Sure, I guess those morons can vote for whoever the hell they want," said a defiant GM Shoeless. "Everyone knows if they could hand the ball to one guy to win them a game, they'd pick Gracia in a heartbeat. If they tell you otherwise, they're drunker than that fool from Madison on a Tuesday night."
- **2044** - But, it was another type of change weighing heavily on Shoeless' mind. The end of the 2043 Brewster season meant franchise stall-worths, Luis Gracia and Cisco Morales, were headed to free agency. Both pitchers formed the anchor to the Mad Popes' success over the last decade or more. Yet, baseball was a business, and extending the two aging hurlers would set the organization back over the coming years.
- **(Now on Mexico City, by Fred Holmes):** 2045- Veteran Luis Gracia feels like a glue guy for this rotation. Ad 39 years old, it's just fun to watch him pitch.



## 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - DEMPSTER

Matt Rectenwald

- Then, something entirely unexpected and in retrospect, extremely rare happened. Dempster was traded to Carolina (now Rockville, run by GM Weiner) for another future Hall of Famer (well, once he retires) in Mark Simpson and prospects.

[Carolina / Long Beach](#)

[Post by Lane](#) » Sat Feb 11, 2017 11:10 am

Carolina Receives

[Arthur Dempster](#)

Long Beach Receives

[Mark Simpson](#)

[Imad bin Ibrahim](#)

[Carl Shoebottom](#)

- Arthur Dempster was a highly sought after prospect who came into the BBA with Hall of Fame aspirations. He was drafted by the Long Beach Surfers and GM Stephen Lane, who had this to say about the newest Surfer: The Long Beach Surfers held the first overall pick in the 2029 BBA Amateur Draft that began today. The draft order was the subject of much consternation around the league this offseason with the expansion and realignment. In the end, the four expansion teams were granted picks #3 through #6 thus maintaining the top pick that the Surfers earned while in the depths of their rebuilding in Tucson. With this first pick, GM Stephen Lane selected Arthur Dempster, a right handed pitcher out of college. OSA scouts give him 10/8/7 potential (5/7/5 current) with his 4-pitch mix of fastball, curveball, changeup and forkball. He sits 96-98 with the fastball, and the forkball helps him maintain a ground ball percentage of about 60%. His 10-rated stamina was also a likely contributor to the decision to select him first overall. Dempster is reportedly seeking a \$5MM bonus, as well as a 4 year, \$4MM major league contract. In three previous BBA drafts, Lane has not granted a major league contract to any draftee. We can't say if it's team policy, or if they just haven't had the situation come up, but this could be an interesting negotiation.
- Our Vice-Commissioner, Aaron Weiner, had this to say about the pick in his Amateur Draft analysis: SP Arthur Dempster (Long Beach): Dempster is not signed as of this writing but I can't see why they wouldn't; he looks like a future star. A classical four-pitch starter who is nicely developed for age 20. Durable with the ability to go deep into ballgames, by all accounts pleasant and driven to be a winner, and needs only develop his potentially superior stuff to come on very fast. Hard to quibble with this one.
- It didn't take long for Long Beach to unload the Brinks truck to sign Dempster. Long Beach Surfers: Signed 1st round draft pick Arthur Dempster for a signing bonus of \$5,500,000 and a 4-year major league contract worth a total of \$4,000,000.
- Aaron: I have to be honest: I'm kind of excited about the Simpson/Dempster deal. Dempster is the sort of player I wouldn't be able to get unless I bottomed out, so it's a big move here. My minor league pitching farm is really strong now.
- Lane: Yeah, Carolina wins the deal if Dempster reaches that potential and stays healthy. I just have a bad feeling about him that I can't shake. And Simpson should be a good reliable hitter for a long time. Bottom line I see higher upside with more risk for Carolina, lower risk lower upside for me.
- 2030: AA Winston-Salem- Arthur Dempster, former #1 overall pick and one of the top five prospects in the minors, hasn't looked indomitable this year. The team dealt possible superstar 1B Mark Simpson for him and is hoping that manager and former Carolina ace Al Hall can get him to where he needs to be.
- 2031: Arthur Dempster looks like a future TOR SP. He probably would be better suited for more time in AAA, but a great Spring could see him in the majors.

## 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - DEMPSTER

Matt Rectenwald



- **2031- Hot take from Aaron**

- 3) Dealing Mark Simpson for Arthur Dempster might have been the worst move of the Weiner regime.
- OK, so this one's a little unfair. The Kraken were and are extremely deep at first base, and as soon as Mario Guerrer and Chris Klein and the newly drafted Manuel Marino start doing their best work at the major league level, it's going to look very unfair. Still, it's hard to ignore that the Kraken traded away a player who at this point looks like he might be a perennial All-Star and Hall of Famer. Dempster is by all accounts not ready yet, and he did look awfully good as a rookie for the Kraken, but Simpson has played two years in the BBA, and in two years he has posted a 13.1 WAR. Dempster, a former #1 overall draft pick, will have to exceptionally good to make up for that kind of loss. Thankfully, of course, he has that kind of potential.

- **Re: Wise Kraken 22.2031: Hard Truths - Post by recte44 » Wed Jul 05, 2017 3:01 pm**

I wouldn't sell yourself short on that Dempster deal quite yet. I'd still MUCH rather have Dempster if I was given the choice.

- **Wise Kraken 5.2032: Dempster and Perez Shine - Post by aaronweiner » Mon Jul 17, 2017 1:22 pm.** When the Carolina Kraken called up Arthur Dempster and Juan Perez, it may have spawned a new Carolina era of baseball. Dempster, of course, was the #1 overall bonus baby acquired for superstar first baseman Mark Simpson, while Juan Perez was an international free agent signing. Both pitchers, each just 22 years old at the end of the season, came up and shone last year, posting ten wins each and showing a lot of promise. Both pitchers had to overcome early jitters to achieve last year. Perez allowed seven home runs in his first month in the majors, but followed it up allowing no more than 4 in any given month afterward. Dempster posted a 5.35 ERA in his first month in the bigs, but had an ERA of 2.79 or below in June, July, and September (and just a 3.68 ERA in August). "We came up together at the same time, and, yeah, we were nervous," said Dempster. "I mean, it wasn't just the fact that we were in the pros, but we were being called up to fix a rotation that had fallen apart and we didn't know if we were anywhere near that good yet." Both pitchers received votes for the Joe Gillstrom, but not many. That sort of thing doesn't bother Perez, who has bigger game on the mind. "Listen, this was a good start, but maybe we can win some awards, me and Arthur," said Perez. "We're close friends and we have big goals on the mind, like the playoffs, or better." Kraken GM Aaron Weiner, when told about Perez' remarks, had nothing but smiles for the righty. "Oh, I love hearing that," said Weiner. "Hearing that Juan's young and hungry reminds me of when I started in this business and we had four straight seasons with 93 losses or worse, and I remember in 2016 when we finally broke through and had our first winning season of twelve that I knew we were onto big things. Next four years we won 97 or better and the title. I remember letting out a yelp when we clinched a record above .500 in 2017." Dempster holding the ball in a Game 7 in the future doesn't look like such a bad thing to hope for the Kraken faithful, and it would be a big deal to achieve it.
- **Re: 2033, Sim #8 Chatter** -- A good sim, and Dempster is starting to look like a #1 starter. Rockville's Arthur Dempster won his first JL Steve Nebraska Award in 2034, while Rockville's Enrique Gomez finished second in the voting for the fifth time (Gomez has two awards of his own).
- **Re: 2037, Geoghegan Round Chatter -- Post by recte44 » Sun Feb 17, 2019 8:59 pm.** Dempster of Rockville Wins Pitching Triple Crown: Arthur Dempster of the Rockville Pikemen could be headed for the Johnson League Steve Nebraska Golden Arm Award after an unforgettable 2037 season. The Pikemen pitching star won the league's Triple Crown, winning 17 games, striking out 258 and logging a 2.59 ERA -- all league bests. "It's an honor," Dempster told BNN, "Not many pitchers can say they've won the Triple Crown. Usually the batting Triple Crown gets all the attention." In his sensational year he registered 17 wins and 7 losses. An opposing manager said, "I can see how he won 17 games. What I don't understand is how he lost 7."



## 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - DEMPSTER

Matt Rectenwald

- **Pre-2038: Signed SP Arthur Dempster to a 6-year contract extension worth a total of \$132,000,000.**
- **Sticking Points 2042.2: Rockville Off to Worst Start in Almost a Decade** ... this current dynasty began. The Pikemen just don't seem like the same team they've had for years. "We're not the same team," said starter Arthur Dempster, who shrugged off a rough start to once again look dominant. "We have so many new faces here that it's hard to say we're at all the same team." ...
- **DEMPSTER, PIKEMEN COME TO TERMS** -- The first movement on this front was the news that Rockville GM Aaron Weiner opened up the pocketbook and signed 33-year-old Pikeman starter Arthur Dempster to a five season extension for \$115M, split in five equal \$23M installments. Even discounting the All-Star and Nebraska bonuses, that's some serious grub and—of more interest—serious time for a guy who will be 34 as 2043 starts—which makes a difference because this extension builds on top of that original option season, meaning it will run through Dempster's age-39 seasons (assuming that last year's option is picked up). Of course, Dempster is some serious pitcher. He's a three-time Nebraska winner and has been at the top of the Rockville rotation for as long as the Pikemen have been at the top of the Atlantic division. He's still got his velocity, and still has his forkball. So, yes, it's risky. But it's understandable that the club would keep him in the corral for as long as he's got gas in the tank. Of particular note is that the agreement means that the pair of Dempster and Dan Cannon will stay together for at least three more seasons barring Cannon opting to get out of his mega-deal.

- **Ron's Grade: Good Decision by Dempster to parlay one year into six. -- Triumph Number 200 for Pikemen Arthur Dempster.** It was a special day at Owen's Ordinary for Rockville's Arthur Dempster. The Pikemen ace logged his 200th career win against the Jackrabbits. In the 7-0 decision Dempster tossed 8.2 innings, surrendered 3 hits with 1 walk and 8 strikeouts. "I'm real fortunate that I had the opportunity to play with such good players during my career," said Dempster. "I just couldn't have drawn it up any better. I'm glad I did it in this uniform, too. Rockville is a great organization to play for." A look at his career stats shows Dempster has a record of 200 wins and 110 losses and a 3.58 ERA.

- **A very sad trade for Rockville.**

Rockville deals:

Arthur Dempster & Cash to cover his salary for the rest of this year and next year (approximately \$35 million I think)

Valencia deals: Sergio Tormes

Rockville will also cover Dempster's player option should he opt in and not retire, transferrable at the beginning of the 2047-2048 offseason.

Cash for this and next season will be transferred at the end of the 2046 season and the beginning of the 2046-2047 offseason.

And thus ends the Big Three.



## 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - DEMPSTER

Matt Rectenwald

- **Who Won The Trade? Dempster for Simpson and change -- Post by HerbD » Fri Jun 04, 2021 6:19 pm**

November 25, 2029

Carolina(Rockville) received: SP Arthur Dempster

Long Beach received: 1B Mark Simpson, P Imad bin Ibrahim, P Carl Shoebbotham

Long Beach and Carolina(soon to be Rockville) couldn't have been in different places during the 2029 offseason. Rockville won just 72 games and were going south when the trade went down. Long Beach, on the other hand, had just won the Landis defeating three, ninety plus win teams in the process. They scored a BBA best 5.3 runs per game while finishing middle of the pack in allowing 4.2 per game. Those stats alone have me wondering about this trade at that particular time. Dempster was the number one overall pick in the 2029 draft who climbed four different minor league levels following the draft settling into AAA before the end of the season. He would play 15 full seasons for the Pikemen winning 235 games and three Nebraskas including a Pitching Triple Crown in 2037 and was a member of two Landis winning clubs. He won 21 post season games and accumulated over 82 WAR while with the Rockville franchise.

Simpson did his fair share and, like Dempster, is still playing into his late thirties. He played in over 1400 games while with the Surfers notching almost 57 WAR and 679 extra base hits in ten seasons before leaving as a free agent after the 2039 season. He earned two Zimmers and was named to six all star games with Long Beach but the Surfers won the Landis during his tenure despite seven playoff appearances during the ten season span. The two pitchers included in the deal never amounted to much. Shoebbotham never saw the majors after an elbow injury in 2031 robbed him of his control and bin Ibrahim registered just a 1.1 total WAR while with Long Beach.

WINNER:

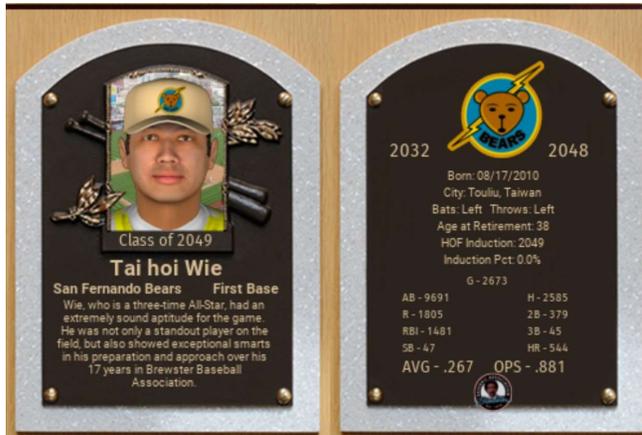
Rockville is the winner for sure but it's not necessarily as one sided as it might seem. Dempster was great during his time in Rockville and the three Landis trophies will blind you with their sparkle if you let them. He's a Hall of Famer for sure. Simpson's career was also, in my opinion, Hall of Fame worthy but he just didn't get the championships that Dempster did. You have to ask yourself if you are Long Beach, how many Landis trophies would we have if we had kept Dempster? Dempster wasn't a great post season pitcher but he did ok and he's a big reason why Rockville made it into the playoffs all those years.

- **Points 2045.4: Dempster Shipped to Valencia -- post by aaronweiner » Sun Mar 21, 2021 2:20 pm.**

Arthur Dempster was born and grew up in Australia before he was a three-time Steve Nebraska Award winner and two-time BBA champion, and while he still has houses in Potomac, MD and near Charlotte, NC, where the Pikemen used to play, he's made no secret about his desire to play on the West Coast so that he could occasionally fly home between starts. Welcome home, Arthur Dempster. Dempster, after a heavily decorated sixteen-year Rockville career, has been traded to Valencia, California, where he can dine on fresh oranges and fly home some weekends. "Rockville and I have reached an understanding that I have been trade to Valencia to give me a chance to get 250 wins," said Dempster. "They're doing me a huge favor and for that I am grateful." Dempster's magic appeared to fade last year, when he went 10-12 for Rockville with an ERA well over 6.0. This season, Dempster started out well, but his velocity has been notably lower this season and he has been notably fading in June. Dempster, now alone without either of his long-time colleagues and best friends Dan Cannon and Dave Martin, was struggling on the team he once led to two titles. "We are heartbroken that Arthur won't spend the rest of his career with us," said Rockville GM Aaron Weiner. "We wanted to give him the best chance to succeed, but we knew that it wouldn't be in Rockville." The Pikemen sent Dempster to Valencia all-expenses paid, though they'll transfer the cash at the end of the year, according to team sources. This will allow Rockville to reset a little bit, giving them almost \$30 million in cap space to play with as they try to hold on in a very competitive wild card race. Owner Daniel Snyder has deep pockets, and authorized the Pikemen to use the cap space any way they wanted. "We're winning ballgames and we've got a chance to move forward with this move," said Weiner. "Arthur was in danger of falling out of the rotation and we knew he'd be miserable. This gives him a real chance to succeed somewhere else." Rockville also received pitching prospect Sergio Tormes in the deal. Rockville is currently 41-30, tied for the lead in the wild card race and four and a half games behind Montreal in the JL Atlantic. "It's hard not finishing my career in Rockville, but I understand that this is the best thing for the franchise," said Dempster. "I want to see the guys I've played with win another title, even if it's not with me. I know that Rockville will welcome me back with open arms when I am ready to retire."

# 9 | 2049 HOF CLASS - WIE

Matt Rectenwald



In the case of Tai hoi Wie, we have a classic example of a late bloomer who gives hope to each and every non-prospect coming into the BBA.

- 2026: Havana Sugar Kings: Signed international amateur 1B Tai hoi Wie out of Taiwan to a minor league contract.
- 2031: Havana Sugar Kings: Purchased the contract of 1B Tai hoi Wie from Triple A Brooks.
- 2032: Top prospect Tai hoi Wie is sitting in AA oozing with potential, and at 21 years old will hopefully be in the majors sooner rather than later.
- Randy - He bumped quite a bit after signing, but Tai hoi Wie was a scouting find for me back in the day. not an IFA, but Tai Hoi Wie was a 16 year old minor league signing for nothing. He was a 5/6/5/6/5 talent when he was signed, and is now 8/7/9/10/5.
- 2033- DH: Called up early in the season due to injury issues, highly touted rookie Tai hoi Wie (7/7/6/8/5 Ratings) held the position all year, but really didn't do much with it. With a line of .228/.329/.333, it is clear the rookie requires some more seasoning, and was in all likelihood promoted before he was ready. That being said, August and September were clearly his two best months of the year, so hopefully he can build on those this winter and come back next season ready to justify his lofty expectations. The big question is whether he will get that chance in Havana or somewhere else, and it is well known that Weigand has been dangling him as trade bait all winter.

- Starting off with a franchise rock, star 1B Tai Hoi Wie was discovered as an unheralded 16 year old scouting find (5/5/5 at signing) before blossoming into one of the most feared hitters in the entire Brewster. Currently in the last season of his contract, the Bears are hoping to come to an extension to keep one of the greatest hitters in the history of the franchise around to make a run at some of the records currently held by the HOF duo of Jeremy Hunter and Frank Boerner.

FIRST	LAST	POS	YEAR	METHOD	ROUND	PICK	OVERALL	LENGTH	TOTAL	BONUS
Tai hoi	Wie	1B		Oct-26 SCOUT FIND						

- **by unspecialist » Sun Nov 10, 2019 12:48 am** -- I probably did word that poorly. What I mean is that I dont necessarily wait for a guy to be 100% ready in all cases before bringing him up, I will let them work it out and develop a bit at the BBA level. A prime example of this is Tai hoi Wie, I brought him up in April of 2032 when he still has quite a bit of development to do. Not sure of this exact ratings, but looking at the HTML he was 6/4/7 with 8/9/9 pot on 01 Jan 2032 and 7/6/8 with same pot on 01 Jan 2033. His first year was the definition of hot garbage with a .228/.329/.333 line and -1.9 WAR. The very next season he was .306/.430/.545 with 4.4 WAR out of the DH spot.
- **2046:** The legendary Tai hoi Wie is finally showing some cracks in his foundation, as the team has moved him out of his spot at the top of the order in the hopes that it will jumpstart his season.
- **2048:** As his career in San Fernando likely comes to an end, it is only appropriate for the franchise to induct longtime franchise 1B and tentpole Tai hoi Wie into the franchise Hall of Fame. Quite simply (with all due to respect to BBA Hall of Famers Jeremy Hunter and Frank Boerner), the greatest offensive player in franchise history, Wie has spent his entire 17 year BBA career with the Bears organization, representing the last on-field link to the Havana Sugar Kings days of the franchise as well as the 2034 Landis winning team. Called up during GM Randy Weigand's first season with the organization, Wie struggled mightily that first season, but the franchise stuck with him and was rewarded by a career that will likely end up in the BBA Hall of Fame when all is said and done and one that dominates the franchise leaderboards.

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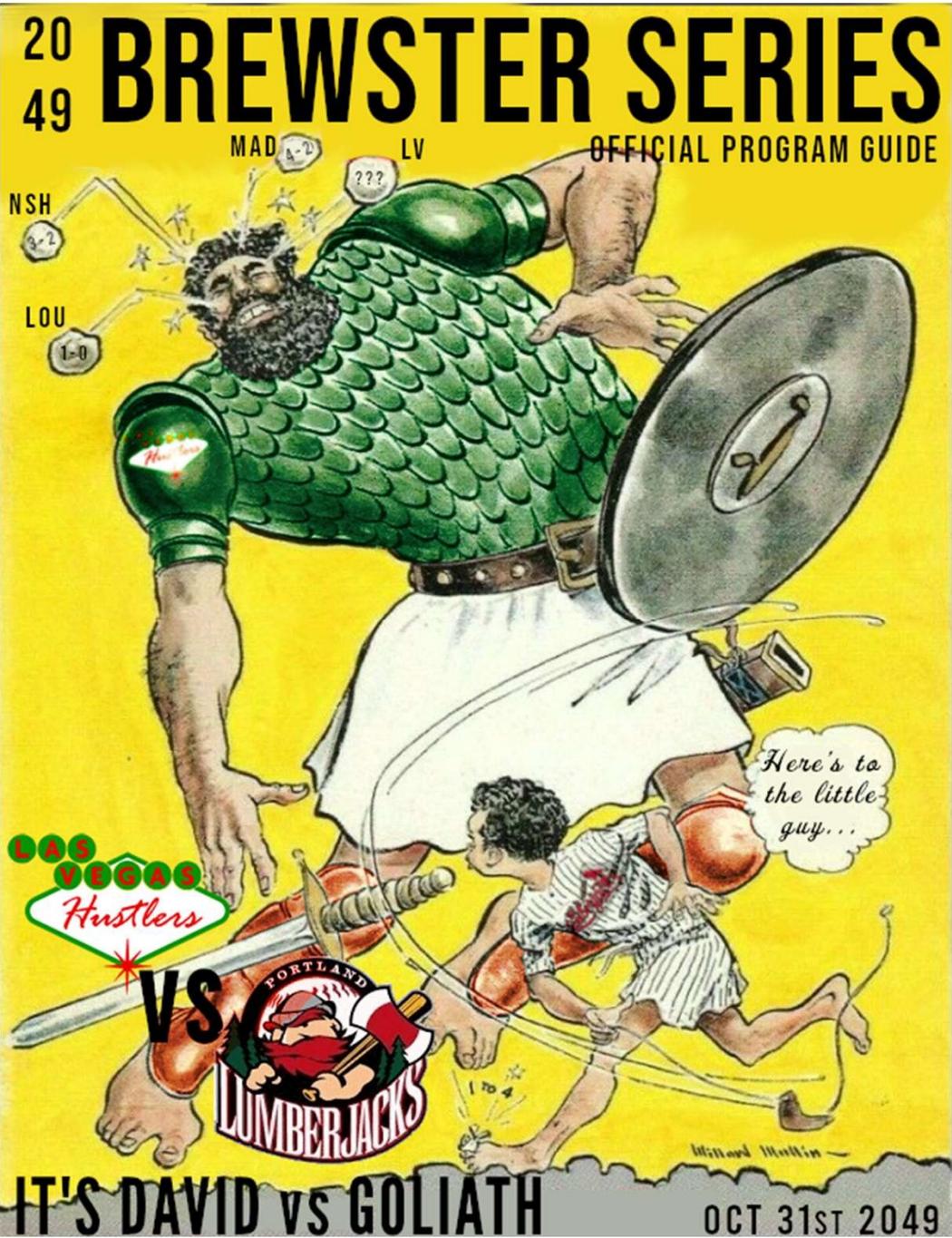
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