

BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

2052 MEDIA GUIDE



TEAM PREVIEWS

TEAM & PLAYER RANKINGS

2042 DRAFT REVIEW

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CAN MVP LUIS ESTRADA HELP N.O. REPEAT?

Preamble

-Matt Rectenwald

The New Orleans Crawdads are, without dispute, one of the pinnacle franchises of the Brewster Baseball Association. With eight Monty Brewster Championships (in an amazing fourteen appearances), only the Las Vegas Hustlers can truly rival their history and achievements. Recent history has been "frustrating" for Crawdads fans, as they had not been to a Monty Series since 2028, and had not won one since 2019. While most pundits had them pegged for a playoff spot once again, they were not a front of mind Monty contender in 2051. The Crawdads had other ideas. They ambushed the BBA in the regular season to a 108-54 finish. After a bye past the Geoghegan Round, they outlasted a pesky Phoenix Talons club in the Doubleday (4 games to 3) and advanced to the Cartwright Cup. There, they overcame the favored Mexico City Aztecs 4 games to 2, and advanced to the Monty Brewster Memorial Series. It would be an epic battle with the perennial powerhouse Portland Lumberjacks (which still sounds weird), and they would have to do it without injured ace Cristian Garcia. It took the full seven games, but the Crawdads came out on top and took home the Monty.

2051 also saw a major shift in the numbers of the BBA. Strikeouts were down significantly around the league as batters made adjustments finally to counter their hard throwers around the league. BBA teams all got an unexpected influx of Media Revenue, just in time for an epic Free Agency class that still features big names like Ernest McBride unsigned on the doorstep of the regular season.

In a major development, the Des Moines Kernels finished .500. This has not happened since 2015. Amazing stuff there. This massive accomplishment was achieved by Aaron Weiner, who resigned at the end of the season both from his post as GM of the Kernels as well as his long-term Vice Commissioner position. It is the end of an era, as Aaron has been a huge part of the BBA for a long, long time. I certainly hope this is a temporary break for Aaron, as he brings so much to the league in terms of a steady voice as well as his amazing writing style.

However, we have to move forward. In addition, forward we shall move. Randy Weigand, formerly of the San Fernando Bears, returns to the BBA as the new GM of Des Moines. In addition, Stephen Lane, GM of the Long Beach Surfers and longtime BBA historian, becomes the new Vice-Commissioner of the Brewster Baseball Association.

The GBC had a successful season and we graduated several GM's to the BBA. Mike Neugebauer took over in Edmonton, Brian Pinnell in Louisville, and Douglas Aiton in Montreal all took the leap to the BBA and all have had promising starts to their tenures.

2051 Milestones:

04/05/2051 Ángel Zalapa 500 Home Runs, while playing for Portland
04/07/2051 Eduardo González 1000 Runs Batted In, while playing for Montreal
04/07/2051 Oliverio Luna 300 Home Runs, while playing for Phoenix
04/11/2051 Dan Flores 2000 Hits, while playing for Sacramento
04/11/2051 André Ly 300 Home Runs, while playing for Omaha
04/15/2051 Kidane Ata 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Las Vegas
04/15/2051 Todd Rice 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Long Beach
04/18/2051 Alex Ramírez 400 Home Runs, while playing for Mexico City
04/19/2051 Pedro Huerta 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Charlotte
04/20/2051 Juan Rivera 2000 Hits, while playing for Atlantic City
04/21/2051 Aaron Haney 2000 Hits, while playing for Charlotte
04/21/2051 Mike Campbell 1500 Runs Batted In, while playing for Sacramento
04/22/2051 Félix Román 2000 Hits, while playing for Mexico City
04/23/2051 Juan Rivera 500 Home Runs, while playing for Atlantic City
04/24/2051 Jeffrey Smith 2000 Hits, while playing for Portland
04/28/2051 Manuel Aguilar, Jr. 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Portland
05/06/2051 Dong-po Thum 1000 Runs Batted In, while playing for Yellow Springs
05/07/2051 Ernest McBride 400 Home Runs, while playing for Portland
05/08/2051 Girolamo L'Archibudelli 2000 Hits, while playing for Calgary
05/11/2051 Gonzalo Martínez 300 Home Runs, while playing for Long Beach
05/16/2051 Norihisa Yokoyama 300 Home Runs, while playing for Phoenix
05/21/2051 Aki Kondo 3500 Strikeouts, while playing for Phoenix

05/25/2051 Eduardo González 300 Home Runs, while playing for Montreal
05/25/2051 Dong-po Thum 2500 Hits, while playing for Yellow Springs
05/28/2051 Manobu Shimizu 2000 Hits, while playing for Madison
06/04/2051 Steven Collins III 1500 Runs Scored, while playing for Boise
06/07/2051 Girolamo L'Archibudelli 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Calgary
06/07/2051 Pedro Huerta 300 Home Runs, while playing for Jacksonville
06/08/2051 Francisco Flores 2500 Hits, while playing for Portland
06/08/2051 Sawyer Slizz 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Jacksonville
06/14/2051 José Salas 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Edmonton
06/15/2051 Chua-kah Yang 300 Home Runs, while playing for Phoenix
06/15/2051 Ernest McBride 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Portland
06/22/2051 Larry Stinson 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Calgary
06/29/2051 André Ly 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Omaha
06/29/2051 Félix Román 500 Home Runs, while playing for Mexico City
07/02/2051 Girolamo L'Archibudelli 500 Stolen Bases, while playing for Calgary
07/11/2051 Pedro Huerta 2000 Hits, while playing for Jacksonville
07/16/2051 Lúcio Cuellar 500 Stolen Bases, while playing for Twin Cities
07/17/2051 Manobu Shimizu 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Madison
07/21/2051 Valentin Fitas 2000 Hits, while playing for Seattle
07/23/2051 Carlomaria Donadoni 1000 Runs Batted In, while playing for Atlantic City
07/26/2051 Ángel Zalapa 1500 Runs Batted In, while playing for Portland
07/27/2051 Semei Kwakou 2500 Hits, while playing for Louisville
08/03/2051 Gonzalo Martínez 1000 Runs Batted In, while playing for Long Beach
08/06/2051 Sawyer Slizz 300 Stolen Bases, while playing for Jacksonville
08/07/2051 Fernando Castillo 2000 Hits, while playing for Chicago
08/09/2051 Semei Kwakou 1500 Runs Batted In, while playing for Louisville
08/10/2051 Fernando Castillo 1000 Runs Batted In, while playing for Chicago

08/13/2051 Alex Ramírez 1500 Runs Scored, while playing for Mexico City
08/14/2051 Po-sin Shi 400 Stolen Bases, while playing for Portland
08/17/2051 Joël Ottoboni 400 Saves, while playing for Calgary
08/20/2051 Manuel Aguilar, Jr. 400 Home Runs, while playing for Portland
08/23/2051 Rocky Wattson 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Calgary
08/29/2051 Dong-po Thum 1500 Runs Scored, while playing for Yellow Springs
08/30/2051 Wilson Andrade 2000 Hits, while playing for Seattle
08/30/2051 Edgardo Encarnación 2000 Hits, while playing for New Orleans
09/04/2051 Júlio Barajas 2500 Hits, while playing for Rockville
09/05/2051 Ernesto González 2000 Hits, while playing for Atlantic City
09/07/2051 Zak Johnson 2000 Strikeouts, while playing for New Orleans
09/09/2051 Lineu Aldo 400 Stolen Bases, while playing for Montreal
09/09/2051 Orlando Ordóñez 2000 Hits, while playing for Omaha
09/15/2051 Daniel Pepper 1000 Runs Batted In, while playing for Vancouver
09/17/2051 Tony Frost 1000 Runs Scored, while playing for Nashville
09/17/2051 Chip Puckett 1500 Runs Scored, while playing for Rockville
09/21/2051 David Simpson 2000 Hits, while playing for Jacksonville
09/21/2051 Lineu Aldo 1000 Runs Batted In, while playing for Montreal
09/27/2051 Semei Kwakou 500 Home Runs, while playing for Louisville

BBA Combined Power Rankings

-James Walker

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 playoff appearances *4+ championships *8+ average 3 yrs pyth + average 3 yrs actual wins + average 3 yrs season rating/ 5.



The Sacramento Mad Pops overtake the Las Vegas Hustlers in the Brewster Power Rankings. The Hustlers fall to third by a slim margin as Nashville squeezes by after a 104-win season. Mexico City also added a big 100+ win season propelling the Aztecs to the fourth spot in the rankings. New Orleans rounds out the Top 5 with the Brewster Memorial win.

Portland inched up as they made another Brewster Memorial appearance followed by the consistent Yellow Springs Nine. Charlotte, Louisville and Jacksonville round out the Top 10.

Twin Cities and Des Moines are beginning to climb out of the cellar with new GMs and some success. Brooklyn has hit rock bottom and now has nowhere to go but up. The Robins may be able to make some things happen with the rich free agent class for the upcoming 2052 season.

Rank	Prev	Team	Power Rating
1	2	Sacramento	106.7
2	3	Nashville	105.5
3	1	Las Vegas	105.3
4	8	Mexico City	100.3
5	11	New Orleans	98.9
6	7	Portland	98.7
7	4	Yellow Springs	97.5
8	10	Charlotte	91.7
9	6	Louisville	91.3
10	5	Jacksonville	87.9
11	9	Atlantic City	87.1
12	12	Rockville	83.1
13	18	Phoenix	82.7
14	19	Valencia	82.1
15	13	Madison	81.6
16	14	Calgary	80.6
17	17	Vancouver	80.3
18	21	Hawaii	75.4
19	15	Chicago	73.4
20	16	Omaha	72.8
21	25	El Paso	71.1
22	20	Charm City	70.8
23	26	Boise	70.4
24	24	Montreal	69.9
25	22	San Fernando	67.0
26	27	San Antonio	66.1
27	23	Long Beach	66.0
28	30	Des Moines	65.9
29	29	Seattle	59.0
30	28	Edmonton	58.5
31	32	Twin Cities	57.9
32	31	Brooklyn	53.7

BBA Player Rankings

-James Walker

In previous Brewster Media Guides, I used the Player Rater to rank BBA players. I used counting stats and game scores to come up with a final score. I was bored, so I decided to revamp it and decided to use stats that better describe a player. For hitters, I will use ISO (power), wOBA (weighted on base average) and wRC+ (weighted runs created plus). As in previous rankings, I will take an average and standard deviation of each stat to get a zSCORE. The scores will be added to come to a Total Score.

For pitchers, I will use K%, BB%, GO%, FIP- and SIERA. SIERA was just added in 23 and I decided, "What the hell, use it for giggles."

On defense, I will utilize Fielding %, Range Factor, Zone Rating and Efficiency. Catchers will be on their own using the same as the fielders but adding RTO% and CERA.

I will also rank player over their last three seasons combined, weighting them 50% current year, 30% last year and 20% 2 years ago.

Top 10 Hitters in 2050 (minimum 502 AB)

PO	Name	TM	zSco
1B	Larry Stinson	CLG	8.30
1B	Wafid Bishr	NSH	7.84
1B	Ernest McBride	POR	7.72
LF	Juan Rivera	ATC	7.07
CF	Hector Cano, Jr.	ELP	6.62
2B	Tomás Borges	YS9	5.82
RF	Tom Rudge	LV	5.68
RF	Donald Miller	VAL	5.64
CF	Weaver Ripley	PHX	5.51
RF	Manobu Shimizu	MAD	5.48

Calgary first baseman Larry Stinson had a resurgent season in 2051 as he slashed .346/.415/.694 with 42 homers and 111 RBI. He lowered his strikeouts from 141 to 82.

Top 10 Hitters (3 seasons combined)

POS	Name	TM	Total zScore
LF	Juan Rivera	ATC	7.19
1B	Ernest McBride	POR	6.80
1B	Larry Stinson	CLG	6.69
RF	Manobu Shimizu	MAD	5.86
CF	Hector Cano, Jr.	ELP	5.68
RF	Juan Donéstevez	NO	5.26
RF	José Romero	ATC	5.00
RF	Aaron Haney	CHA	4.88
1B	Wafid Bishr	NSH	4.84
3B	Luis Mendoza	LOU	4.84

Juan Rivera is coming back to the pack with Ernest McBride creeping up on first with his big season in Portland. Wafid Bishr debuts in the Top 10 at number 9 and with another big season, he will vie for a Top 3 spot.

Top 10 Hitters vs RHP in 2051

PO	Name	TM	zScore
1B	Larry Stinson	CLG	8.93
LF	Juan Rivera	ATC	7.46
1B	Ernest McBride	POR	7.28
CF	Hector Cano, Jr.	ELP	7.13
RF	José Romero	ATC	6.81
1B	Tyler Ober	SFB	6.35
1B	Wafid Bishr	NSH	6.30
RF	Pedro Bustamante	SA	6.20
RF	Manobu Shimizu	MAD	6.06
RF	Ángel González	RCK	5.84

Against RHP, Larry Stinson dominated while Rivera falls to the second spot but still had a good season. Manobu Shimizu had an off year but still was good enough to get the number nine spot.

Stinson slashed .356/.439/.751 vs righties with 33 homers and 84 RBI. He posted a 203 wRC+ and OPS+ with a 5.7 WAR.

Top 10 Hitters vs LHP in 2050

PO	Name	TM	zScor
1B	Wafid Bishr	NSH	8.05
LF	Jeffrey Smith	POR	7.57
CF	Weaver Ripley	PHX	7.55
2B	Mahine Karetu	NO	7.03
CF	Alexander Julyan	SEA	6.54
3B	Alex Ramírez	MEX	6.50
2B	Tomás Borges	YS9	6.15
LF	Bret Powers	CHA	6.05
RF	Tom Rudge	LV	5.92
1B	Sertaç Safavî	ELP	5.86

Wafid Bishr was the top hitter against LHP in 2051 with Jeffrey Smith of Portland and Weaver Ripley of the Talons close behind. Young Sertac Safavi pummeled lefties for the El Paso team then saw himself traded off to Twin Cities.

Bishr slashed .363/.440/.584 against lefties with 12 homers and 48 RBI. He posted a 207 OPS+, 196 wRC+ and 2.5 WAR against south paws.

Top 10 SP in 2050

POS	Name	TM	zScore
SP	Alaric Wullenweber	DM	7.33
SP	Billy Kelly	NO	6.08
SP	Dave Corfield	MEX	5.37
SP	Bernie Stuart	CHI	5.18
SP	Carlos Flores	ATC	4.68
SP	António Hernández	YS9	4.63
SP	Amayas Moelling	PHX	4.53
SP	Rubén Vázquez	SAC	4.51
SP	Mauro Mendoza	MEX	4.20
SP	Carlos Olivas	MEX	4.01

Ruben Vazquez finished the 2050 season as the top pitcher in the Brewster but tumbles to eighth in 2051. Alaric Wullenweber re-established himself as the premier starter in the BBA. New Orleans starter Billy Kelly makes into the Top 10 with an appearance at number 2. Mexico City dominated the Top 10 with Dave Corfield, Mauro Mendoza and Carlos Olivas taking spots.

Wullenweber threw 204 1/3 innings winning 16 games while dropping 9. He posted a 3.30 ERA, 138 ERA+ and a 3.47 SIERA.

Top 10 SP (3 seasons combined)

PC	Name	TM	Total Score
SP	Rubén Vázquez	SAC	7.86
SP	Alaric Wullenweber	DM	7.84
SP	Dave Corfield	MEX	7.10
SP	Carlos Flores	ATC	6.98
SP	Dave Lee	YS9	4.88
SP	António Hernández	YS9	4.69
SP	Barney Lindsay	NSH	4.68
SP	Cheuk-yan Liu	ATC	4.58
SP	Jay Hodge	LV	4.49
SP	Bernie Stuart	CHI	4.44

Ruben Vazquez keeps his crown for the three-season total by .02 points over Wullenweber. The Yellow Springs Nine add another starter into the Top 10 with Antonio Hernandez joining Dave Lee.

Top 10 RP in 2050 (30 IP)

PO	Name	TM	zScor
RP	Ollie Lowry	NSH	8.46
RP	Luis Manuel Rodríguez	LBC	7.60
RP	Mike MacRobb	CHA	7.31
RP	Sergio Herrera	YS9	6.73
RP	Aaron Anderson	SAC	6.58
RP	Juan Martínez	POR	6.26
RP	Tiernan O'Macken	PHX	5.74
RP	Clarence Pritchard	CHI	5.44
RP	Angus Trew	SAC	5.41
RP	Anthony Annear	MTL	5.20

There has been a large turnover of the Top 10 this season as we see many new faces. Ollie Lowry made a giant leap with his stuff and with his performance as he now the top man out of the bullpen. Tiernan O'Macken makes his return to the Top 10 after a down year in 2050.

Lowry threw 66 2/3 innings of relief allowing just 10 runs in 39 hits. He did walk 30 batters but also fanned 82. He posted a 337 ERA+, a 2.95 SIERA and a 2.5 WAR.

Top 10 RP (3 seasons combined)

PC	Name	TM	Total Score
RP	Senen Subandrio	MAD	6.79
RP	Luis Manuel Rodríguez	LBC	6.28
RP	Tiernan O'Macken	PHX	5.59
RP	Ollie Lowry	NSH	5.34
RP	Clarence Pritchard	CHI	5.21
RP	Aaron Anderson	SAC	4.75
RP	Mike Jayne	LV	4.36
RP	Sergio Herrera	YS9	4.29
RP	Juan Martínez	POR	4.10
RP	Ángel Hernández	LBC	4.09

Peter Sanders drops out of the top spot and the Top 10 after a disastrous season. Madison's Senen Subandrio moves up to take the number one slot after a season in which he was 6-7 with 15 saves and a 3.40 ERA. He fanned 86 batters while walking 22 in 79 1/3 IP. He had a 137 ERA+, a 4.27 FIP and a 2.90 SIERA.

Top 10 Closers in 2051

PO	Name	TM	zScore
CL	Derrick Chaney	YS9	4.07
CL	Todd Stone	MAD	3.77
CL	Manuel Cruz	MEX	3.22
CL	Renato Lacerda	NO	1.89
CL	Martin Román	VAL	1.83
CL	Alejandro Chávez	JAX	1.82
CL	Bill Keil	DM	1.42
CL	Pedro Huerta	VAN	1.28
CL	Gilberto Sosa	PHX	1.15
CL	José Ordóñez	VAN	0.98

The closers were affected by the drop in Ks as we also see major shuffling in this group. Derrick Chaney of the Yellow Springs Nine makes the jump from 12th to 1st as Lorenzo de'Medici falls off the list.

Chaney made 65 appearances throwing 69 1/3 innings. He struck out 74 batters and walked 19 while posting a 2.86 ERA, 159 ERA+ and a 3.03 SIERA.

Top 10 Closers (3 seasons combined)

PC	Name	TM	Total Sco
CL	Todd Stone	MAD	4.54
CL	Lorenzo de' Medici	POR	2.74
CL	Derrick Chaney	YS9	2.42
CL	Manuel Cruz	MEX	2.18
CL	Alejandro Chávez	JAX	1.67
CL	José Ordóñez	VAN	1.48
CL	Joe Walter	CLG	1.04
CL	John Olson	VAL	0.96
CL	Renato Lacerda	NO	0.94
CL	Martin Román	VAL	0.91

Madison's Todd Stone slides into the top spot while de'Medici holds on to #2. Derrick Chaney has the biggest moves as he climbs from 10th to 3rd.

Top 5 First Baseman in 2051 (1000TC)

PO	Name	TM	Total
1B	César Feliciano	VAN	5.54
1B	Pancho Costa	JAX	5.49
1B	Burhan Tahir	YS9	4.23
1B	Lineu Aldo	MTL	2.10
1B	Raúl Fernández	SEA	1.52

Mounties First Baseman Cesar Feliciano edged out Jacksonville's Pancho Costa for the top first baseman. Nine first baseman Burhan Tahir made a big impression with his glove work in his first full season in the bigs.

Top 5 Second Baseman (500TC)

PO	Name	TM	Total
2B	Daniel Pepper	VAN	6.02
SS	Scott Torres	CHI	4.05
2B	Ryan Geauxinue	MEX	3.27
2B	Thomas Jefferson	CLG	3.05
2B	Ettan Cherukuri	MAD	2.40

The Mounties cover the right side of the infield with Danie Pepper earning the top spot in the second baseman group. Pepper displayed his great range with 4.84 and a ZR of 18. He turned 95 double plays and committed just six errors in 1312 1/3 innings at second with 712 chances. Chicago Black Sox's Scott Torres was a distant second after playing 1306 innings at second with a 17.9 ZR but committed 20 errors with 93 double plays.

Top 5 Third Baseman (250TC)

PO	Name	TM	Total
3B	Salvador Allende	MAD	5.50
3B	Alex Ramírez	MEX	4.68
3B	Roberto Rivera	SFB	3.63
2B	Jesús Yan	CHA	3.32
3B	Luis Mendoza	LOU	2.98

Madison Wolves third baseman Salvador Allende leads a great fielding group at the hot corner. Allende has range and a strong arm for a third baseman. Aztec third baseman Alex Ramirez had a fantastic season at the plate and in the field as he put up a 7.6 WAR season.

Top 5 SS (500 TC)

PO	Name	TM	Total
SS	Mauro Soto	MAD	5.52
SS	Quintin Trewartha	VAL	4.31
SS	Luis Peña	VAN	4.27
SS	Thomas Kramer	HAW	3.45
SS	Sammy McNeill	NSH	2.90

Madison completes the sweep of the left side of the infield as Mauro Sato takes the top spot followed by Valencia's Quintin Trewartha and Vancouver Mountie Luis Pena. Tropic SS Thomas Kramer had a slow start to the season and committed too many errors (17) but did have a 26.2 ZR.

Top 5 LF (200TC)

PO	Name	TM	Total
LF	Hasheem Makin	DM	4.78
LF	Ramão Saturnino	HAW	3.35
LF	Luis Manuel Alonzo	MAD	2.97
LF	Dennis French	NSH	2.50
LF	Mu'ayyad bin Nu'man	LOU	1.88

Des Moines Kernel LF Hasheem Makin doesn't put up big hitting numbers, but he covers left field better than anyone in the Brewster. In over 1317 2/3 innings played in the field he committed just one error in 418 total chances. Hawaii's Ramao Saturnino made no errors in the 2051 season but played a little more than half the innings in the field. Thirty-four year old Bluebird Dennis French still finds himself on this list as he committed just one error in 309 chances.

Top 5 CF (395TC)

PO	Name	TM	Total
CF	Hector Cano, Jr.	ELP	5.24
CF	Arthur Daniel	TWC	2.98
LF	Jeffrey Tate	CLG	2.92
CF	Angelo Lucchesi	HAW	2.68
CF	Orlando Ordóñez	OMA	2.31

El Paso Chili Hector Cano, Jr. runs away from the pack with an excellent season in center. He posted a ZR of 17.5 while committing just two errors in 1349 innings played with 584 chances.

Top 5 RF (250)

PO	Name	TM	Total
CF	Alexander Julyan	SEA	5.65
RF	Tom Rudge	LV	3.66
RF	Kosho Kondo	LOU	3.10
RF	Tomás Guillén	HAW	2.61
RF	André Ly	OMA	0.79

Seattle Storm's Alexander Julyan takes the top spot by a large margin over Las Vegas Hustlers' Tom Rudge. Julyan committed just an error in 268 chances in the field over 929 1/3 innings.

Top 5 C (700TC)

PC	Name	TM	zScore
C	John Kinsella	SAC	12.24
C	Todd Tatlock	NO	7.24
C	Jesús Rodríguez	YS9	7.16
C	Quinton Lara	MEX	6.13
C	Taylor Michaels	LOU	4.26

Mad Popes C John Kinsella is an all-around great catcher. Kinsella threw out base runners at a 63.6 % clip while also allowing just two passed balls. Kinsella steals strikes with a solid 6.1 Framing Runs. Crawdads back stop Todd Tatlock and Yellow Springs Nine's Jesus Rodriguez trail Kinsella by 5+ points.



POSTSEASON

2051



2051 CRAWDADS CHAMPIONS



Frick League Heartland Predictions

-Mike Neugebauer



Will the Wolves Ever Hunt Again?

Is Des Moines Ready For Harvest?

Will The Bluebirds Continue To Rule The Roost?

Can The Nine Avoid Another Year Of Heartbreak?

Will Twin Cities' Free Agent Haul Be A Factor?

Will The Cyclones Touch Down This Year?

Can The Sluggers Bring The Wood?

Can Black Sox Ownership Evade Assassination?

Some BBA teams have been on a Free Agency shopping frenzy!!!

2051 FINAL STANDINGS

Nashville Bluebirds	104 - 58
Yellow Springs Nine	98 - 64
Louisville Sluggers	91 - 71
Des Moines Kernels	81 - 81
Twin Cities River Monsters	76 - 86
Madison Wolves	75 - 87
Chicago Black Sox	73 - 89
Omaha Cyclones	71 - 91

2052 CLUELESS PREDICTIONS

Yellow Springs Nine	101-61
Nashville	99-63
Louisville Sluggers	84-78
Omaha Cyclones	83-79
Des Moines Kernels	76-86
Twin Cities River Monsters	82-80
Chicago Black Sox	75-87
Madison Wolves	70-92



General Manager: Ron Collins
in Cartwright Round)

2051 record: 98 - 64

(Lost to POR 4-1

Key Losses:

- 2B Tomas Borges (FA/???)
- DH Stewart Illingworth (FA/???)
- C Ben Scott (FA/CAL)
- CF Rocky Allen (FA/GBC BUA)
- RF Millard Younger (FA/GBC CAI)
- SP Carlos Valle (FA/HAW)

Key Additions:

- SP Ricardo Rivera (FA/SA)

2052 Outlook:

The big story regarding Yellow Springs is the free agent departure of Tomas Borges and his 53 home runs. Some critics think the Nine might fall off a cliff without Borges' power. But the Nine track record of success indicates they will find a way and someone else will step up. 1B Burhan Tahir might be ready to take a step forward and increase his power numbers. Aptly-named 3B/DH Banger Dan might also add more power to go along with his .336 average. Fans just breathed a sigh of relief, as the team was able to reacquire C Jesus Rodriguez in free agency. The Nine are a contact-oriented team, leading the

division in batting average but being second-to-last to walks. We'll have to see if that approach continues to serve them well.

On the pitching side, the Nine bring back most of their rotation and bullpen pieces. The team will hardly miss starter **Carlos Valle** since free agent signee **Ricardo Rivera** is not only a superior starter, but a bonafide ace to head up the entire staff. Yellow Springs was somehow able to secure the superstar pitcher for only \$8 million in 2052 coming off an injury. The bad news is he is on a one-year deal and keeping the injury prone Rivera happy and healthy could be a challenge..

Ultimately, I think management will find a way to mostly offset Borges and other hitters lost during the offseason. They can be creative financially due to their BBA-leading budget. I'm banking on Rivera to stay healthy and lead the Nine in a resurgent 2052 campaign.

2052 clueless prediction: 101 - 61 (+3)



NASHVILLE

General Manager: Chad Nason

2051 record: 104 - 58

(Lost to POR

4-3 in Doubleday Round)

Key Losses:

- 2B Bing De-Zhao (FA/PHX)
- C Alberto Rodriguez (FA/EDM)
- LF Dennis French (FA/POR)
- SS Jose Montano (FA/EDM)
- DH Matt Garrison (Trade/EDM)

Key Additions:

- 2B Helmut Grun (FA/GBC BUA)

2052 Outlook:

The Nashville offense was dominant in the Frick in 2051. They led the Heartland Division in runs scored and OPS. The Bluebirds made one big, large, expensive splash in free agency when they signed free agent 2B/1B Helmut Grun from GBC Buenos Aires. Their offense should be formidable as ever, led by 2051 Sawyer Silk winner 1B Wafid Bishr, who is only 24. Replacing catcher Alberto Rodriguez is a concern, but the combo of Grun and Bishr, if they click, could give the entire BBA nightmares.

SS Sammy McNeill is an expert defender, and has stolen 159 bases in the last 3 seasons. Theo Bourges continues to patrol center fielder with ease. There's no glaring holes in the lineup or defensively.

If you are looking for pitching changes from 2051, you will not find much. The Bluebirds decided to run it back with the same pitching group they featured in 2051. The rotation and bullpen makeup may look darn near the same. And why not? They won over 100 games and led the division in least runs allowed and lowest opponent batting average.

The Bluebirds are young and talented. Financially, the Bluebirds are set up well and ready to win now. You have to look hard to find a player in his 30's. Their inexperience may cost them at times, but you should be able to pencil in the Bluebirds for another winning record and a playoff berth.

2052 clueless prediction: 99 - 63 (-5)



LOUISVILLE

General Manager: Brian Pinnell

2051 record: 91 - 71

(Lost to POR)

3-2 in Geoghegan Round

Key Losses:

- RP Francisco Salgado (FA/SA)
- RP Dave Houston (FA/LBC)

Key Additions:

- RF Ernesto Alfonso (Trade/ELP)

2052 Outlook:

The Sluggers were suspiciously quiet this offseason. They sat back and watched the majority of free agency pass them by with nary a move. Perhaps because they are capped out with a \$114m+ payroll. They lost a few bullpen arms that should not be hard to replace with internal options, waivers or late-breaking free agency. Their only significant transaction was a trade for RF Ernesto Alfonso. Alfonso is a prolific contact hitter who carries a career .330 average in the BBA. But watching the Sluggers mostly stand pat this offseason was a bit worrisome. If you stand still, you tend to get passed up.

The Sluggers have a productive offense and were 3rd in runs scored in the Heartland. 3B Luis Mendoza is one of the best at his position in the entire BBA. If Mendoza can generate a bit more contact and hit .280 or higher, the Sluggers could garner some more wins on his greatness.

The pitching staff, however, was mediocre last year. They were in the bottom half of most pitching statistics in the Frick. Their starting rotation is young. Which means they could hit their stride and improve on their 2051 numbers. However, I would feel more confident if the Sluggers had acquired a veteran starter to help get them over the threshold of youth.

I am not feeling very confident in the Sluggers' prospects for 2052. It is very unlikely the rotation will improve enough, and the bullpen looks like it could be a liability. They had a Frick-leading +5 Pythagorean value aiding them last year. That luck may run out in a big way in 2052. However, I think they will still manage to clear the .500 mark.

2052 clueless prediction: 84 - 78 (-7)



General Manager: Justin Niles

2051 record: 71 - 91

Key Losses:

- SS Juan Medrano (FA/???)
- SP Jose Barron (Trade/TWC)
- SP Jose Martinez (FA/TWC)
- SP Elliot Woodger (Trade/TWC)

Key Additions:

- SP Haravira Chandar (Trade/TWC)
- SP Esteban Cruz (FA/MTL)
- SP Neill Fenomore (FA/GBC SAO)
- CL Juan Santana (Trade/EDM)
- RP Al Ziersch (R5/BOI)

2052 Outlook:

The Cyclones will try to rebound from a hard-luck 2051, which saw them record a tragic -9 Pythagorean figure. Omaha did not stand still and made a series of moves to right the ship. P Al Ziersch joins the team via Rule 5. Young power pitcher Haravira Chandar, closer Juan Santana, SP Esteban Cruz and SP Neill Fenomore all join a Cyclones staff that was worst in runs allowed in the division in 2051. On the offensive side, the Cyclones lost SS Juan Medrano to free agency and replaced him with SS Luis Pena. Pena's a few million cheaper and a bit sharper defensively.

Omaha's potent offense returns intact. Power hitting outfielders Orlando Ordonez and Andre Ly hope their BABIP luck improves in 2052. Together with Eric Wagner, these three form one of the best starting outfield units in the BBA. However, they'll need a better contribution from 2B Thomas Jefferson and their squad of corner infielders. Young and capable C Sloth Fratelli also needs to amp up his average and HR's.

Two-time All-Star SP Timo Dooley remains and should still be the ace even with all the starting pitching imports. Rookie phenom SP Takashi Nakamura took his lumps with a 6.10 ERA and should be much better in his sophomore outing. The returning relief group of Clancy Moles, Dave Ferrell and Gyoo-jae Han is not too bad and should help support the restructured starting rotation. There is a good chance the pitching will come back together and Omaha sees a big rebound this year.

2052 clueless prediction: 83 - 79 (+12)



General Manager: Alan Ehlers

2051 record: 76 - 86

Key Losses:

- LF Ricardo Mendoza (FA/EDM)
- DH Wilson Alomar (FA/???)
- SS Pedro Diaz (FA/CHA)
- RF Aires Penharanda (FA/BOI)
- CL Sebastian Seabert (Trade/CHA)
- SP Jamie Barber (Trade/CHA)
- RP Mark Moore (Trade/DM)

Key Additions:

- 1B Sertac Savafi (Trade/ELP)
- LF Felipe Vega (FA/MEX)
- LF Pedro Guzman (Trade/DM)
- RF David Simpson (FA/JAX)
- 3B Murray Healey (Trade/PHX)
- SP Curt Fields (Trade/CHA)

2052 Outlook:

After finishing second to last in runs scored and being a middling pitching team, Twin Cities decided to go to Mall of America and buy themselves some new players. On their way home, they stopped at the pawn shop and exchanged some of their other ones.

But maybe this was to be expected. A chunk of the players lost were on one year deals and were not franchise regulars. Speaking of franchise regulars, Gillstrom Newcomer Winner **2B Felix Ramos** will be one. The 2051 1st overall pick was brought right up to the majors and led the Frick in OBP. However, he only scored 72 runs. **1B Sertac Savafi** and a trio of corner outfielders (**Vega**, **Guzman**, **Simpson**) were acquired to bring in Ramos more often. The Monsters are not messing around here - those four men drove in a combined 468 runs last year. They also added a solid young 3B in Murray Healey.

The River Monsters gave up a lot of pitching, most notably solid young closer **Sebastian Seabert**, in order to get **SP Curt Fields**. For Twin Cities to have success Fields will have to excel and other candidates will need to step up and fill the closer role and shore up the bullpen. However, the River Monsters likely have little cap space left to spend after the big offensive acquisitions. They are going to need to find some solid pitching on the cheap this year. I think they can.

Twin Cities has not made the playoffs since 2045, and are still looking for their first Landis title. There is a chance they could sneak into the playoffs and make some noise, even if they aren't championship ready quite yet.

2052 clueless prediction: 82 - 80 (+6)



General Manager: Randy Weigand

2051 record: 81 - 81

Key Losses:

- LF Pedro Guzman (Trade/TWC)
- SP Thomas Turner (Trade/CHA)
- CF Chuck Dickens (FA/???)
- SP Thomas Turner (Trade/CHA)
- SP Ivan Ruiz (FA/GBC LON)

Key Additions:

- RP Mark Moore (Trade/CHA)
- 1B Barney Miller (Trade/TWC)
- RF Abdul-Ra'uf Yasar (Trade/TWC)
- C Pat Alexander (R5/PHX)

2052 Outlook:

The Kernels executed one of the most controversial trades of the offseason when they dealt 57 HR hitter Pedro Guzman to their division foe in the Twin Cities. It was understandable from a financial perspective to dismiss the 31-year old Guzman and his big contract. However, sending him up north on I-35 to the River Monsters is a hard one for the Des Moines fans to stomach. Des Moines did not seem to get a lot in return for Guzman either - Barney Miller and Abdul-Ra'uf Yasar are young but have low ceilings. They also lost a quality starter in Thomas Turner, getting back pitcher Mark Moore. It is hard to tell so far if Moore will be added to the rotation or the bullpen.

Despite the strange moves, Des Moines retains a talented young duo of hitters in 2B Felix Parreno and 3B Malik Bin Mazin. LF Hasheem Makin returns and has hit 120 HR's in his last 3 seasons. If he can get above 50 HR's, that would do a lot to offset the loss of Guzman.

They also have one of the BBA's premier aces in SP Alaric Wullenweber, a 10-time All-Star and 5-time Nebraska winner. The talent of Alaric alone is enough to assure Des Moines will not sink to the division basement. Former 1st round pick Bill Keil is also asserting himself in the bullpen and closing games now.

Des Moines has the stars to build around, but losing Guzman and not adding anyone of great significance dims their outlook for 2052.

2052 clueless prediction: 76 - 86 (-5)



General Manager: Mike Dunn

2051 record: 73 - 89

Key Losses:

- 1B Aarnoud Budding (FA/???)
- SP Miguel Ayala (FA/GBC TOK)
- 3B Tomas Duran (FA/???)
- CF David McElroy (FA/???)
- RP Fernando Bruno (FA/???)

Key Additions:

- 1B Manuel Aguilar Jr (FA/POR)
- SP Juan Guzman (FA/GBC LON)
- 2B Zenobius Kazantziakis (R5/CLG)

2052 Outlook:

The attention of the Black Sox players turns back toward baseball after the tragic events of the offseason regarding ownership. 2051 was a year to forget for Chicago. The pitching struggled mightily and the offense was ill equipped to pick up the heavy load of many deficits created. Given the poor results, management decided to part ways with costly 1B Aarnoud Budding and a number of other lesser contributors. Almost all of them remain unsigned in free agency, so those decisions seem justified.

The most significant addition thus far appears to be 1B Manuel Aguilar Jr., who should help fill the void left by Budding at a cheaper price tag. The team also signed GBC London SP Juan Guzman, but he is far

from a difference maker. It is puzzling that the Black Sox haven't added more pitching via free agency. Maybe a few late breaking moves to augment the pitching are yet to come.

The fans continue to be teased by the Black Sox because the front office certainly has the stars to build around. 4-Time All-Star SP Bernie Stuart is an ace in his prime at 27. SS Badr Isam is an elite contact hitter with a fine glove. 2B Scott Torres had a fine rookie outing, clubbing 35 dingers. The catchers and infielders in general are strong on this team. The weakness is the outfield, which is strange because that is usually the easiest position at which to find quality talent. But then again, this is the team that selected three Rule V players only to turn around and send two of them back to their original team right after the draft. The tragic demise of an owner under dubious circumstances has certainly had its effect on this team's psychology. Fans are hoping the Sox can clear their heads and get back to normal soon.

2052 clueless prediction: 75 - 87 (+2)



General Manager: Mike Simon

2051 record: 75 – 87

Key Losses:

- SP Gerald Sizemore (FA/LV)
- CF Jorge Jopez (FA/PHX)
- CF Steven Buset (FA/GBC ATH)

Key Additions:

- SS Shalom Van Buuren (FA/SEA)
- CF Antonio Gonzales (R5/PHX)

2052 Outlook:

Wolves' fans are beginning to get impatient with their Madison ballclub. The list of moves to improve the team has been very short thus far this offseason. The media is worried that the losing days of the early 2040's are back again.

The team let SP Gerald Sizemore leave via free agency, and has yet to sign any pitching help in free agency. That is a big concern for a team that scored the fewest runs in the Frick in 2051. The pitching needs to be darn good, because they are not likely to get much run support.

SP Buwono Mainaky is only 21 and might have a very long and prosperous career in the BBA. In addition, the bullpen has a great closer duo in Todd Stone and Senen Subandrio. These two are crucial since the Wolves' leads are often small.

The offense, though limited, still has some assets. 3B Salvador Allende has 6 All-Star appearances and 3 Zimmer Diamond Glove Awards. The recently acquired Shalom Van Buuren is a solid mix of defense and offense as well. RF Manobu Shimizu is a contender for the batting title every year and should make the BBA Hall of Fame someday. He is only 31 and still has plenty left in the tank. However, opponents get to pitch around him because the protection in the lineup is not very great.

Madison appears to be a team with many holes. The outfield is very lackluster outside of Shimizu. They might need to consider trading some of the more expensive pieces if the losing continues.

2052 clueless prediction: 70 - 92 (-5)



BIZARRE RECORDS OF THE BREWSTERVERSE

-Mike Simon

Of course, I would do something different with my contribution to the media guide this year. I was going to do it as part of recurring feature in season but got too tied up with other stuff, plus JWalker of Hawaii said *"Why do something for free, when you can get paid for it?!"* Just kidding. With this Viz I take a look at 14 of some of the most bizarre records in the Brewsterverse.



Such as:

Most AB without a Stolen Base

Most Wild Pitches

Most AB without a Home Run

Most Hit Batsmen

Most HBP in a career

Most Stolen Bases allowed by a Pitcher

Most Caught Stealing in a career

Most Walks by a pitcher

Most GIDP in a career

Most Passed Balls in a career

Most Errors made

CLICK THE LINK TO FOLLOW TO THE VIZ

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/mike.simon/viz/BBA-BizzareRecords/Dash-Main?publish=yes>

So click here and enjoy....but don't forget to come back and finish up the guide!

Johnson League Atlantic Preview

-James Walker & Brett Golden

The Johnson League had some playoff turnover from 2050 to 2051 as Rockville, Atlantic City and Jacksonville fall short of the Fall Tournament while Calgary, Phoenix and Charlotte found themselves in the competition. The New Orleans Crawdads dominated the JL Atlantic Division ending the season with 108 wins and a bye while Mexico City came out on top of the fight in the JL Frontier with 104 wins. It was inevitable that these two teams would meet in the Johnson League Cartwright Cup. Both teams did their job with New Orleans getting to the Cup game with a 4-3 series win over the Phoenix Talons and Mexico City eliminating Las Vegas 4-3.

The Aztec offense disappeared in the Cartwright Cup against the Crawdads as New Orleans moved on to the Monty Brewster Series with a 4-2 series win. The Crawdads faced off with the Portland Lumberjacks in a classic Brewster matchup with New Orleans winning the series 4-3 and hoisting their first championship since the 2019 season.

After one of the biggest free agent seasons in recent memory there are teams in the Johnson League that are trying to close the gap with these playoff teams. In the Atlantic, Charm City made some big moves to try to get to the Crawdads as New Orleans lost a key player in their championship run while San Antonio also made a splash in free agency to reel in the a new look Aztecs team.

ATLANTIC DIVISION PREDICTIONS	
NEW ORLEANS	100-62
CHARLOTTE	93-69
MONTREAL	82-80
ATLANTIC CITY	78-84
JACKSONVILLE	78-84
CHARM CITY	70-92
ROCKVILLE	67-95
BROOKLYN	59-103



Prediction 78-84

The Atlantic City Gamblers finished the regular season a disappointing 80-82 after three consecutive 90+ win seasons. They lose 3B Carlomaria Donadoni, RP Woody Tyler and RP Pat Waites from the 2051 squad and have a quiet off-season on the free agent front. The offense should remain potent but they have a lack of depth so a few injuries will set them back. The Gamblers have little wiggle room with their financials as they sit close to the \$110,000,000 Brewster salary cap. The Gamblers also will need their pitching staff to step up after a dismal effort in 2051 that saw them post a 5.08 ERA.

The Gamblers fortunes will rest on the arm SP Carlos Flores. Flores has made 30+ starts for 7 straight seasons and is consistently one of the league and association pitching leaders. Young Closer Steven Flannery puts is emerging as the leader of the 'pen and looks to close out more games in 2052. Flannery has the stamina to rack up some innings in relief and shorten games at the back end.

On offense, the Gamblers have veteran catcher Octavio Moreno. Moreno put up some nice offensive numbers for Atlantic City and he will be pushed to maintain that pace. Juan Rivera is the main cog in the Gamblers offense and is hoping to fend off father time. Flores has slowed in center the last few seasons and the Atlantic City brass are hoping for his move to LF last season will continue to pay dividends.



Prediction 59-103

The Brooklyn Robins are coming off their sixth straight 100+ loss season. The Robins didn't do anything well in 2051 as they hit just .243 while the pitching staff posted a 5.75 ERA. Brooklyn didn't lose a player of any significance in the off season unless you consider former Yellow Springs SP Carlos Pineda who decided he had enough of being an Atlantic Division pinata.

The Robins climbed out of their financial bind and had enough cash flow to make some moves in free agency. The first move was signing former San Fernando SP Ashton Brooks to a two-year contract worth \$6.5 million per year with a player option in 2053. Brooks will be paired with former Edmonton SP Armando Feliciano who was signed to a one-year deal for \$1.8 million. They added uber RP Lorenzo De'Medici to a two-year deal worth \$18.8 million per year to give Closer Arnold Cantrell a mentor in the bullpen.

The offense has only CF Chris McFadden to lean on but his defense in defense is hit or miss, mostly miss. RF Tommy Bailey, 1B Raghil bin Nasim and C Gerardo Eremitani give the Robins three power hitters in the middle of the lineup. Brooklyn is another team that has depth issues and will walk that tightrope the entire season.



Prediction 93-69

The Charlotte Cougars returned to the playoffs after an off year in 2050 as the Cougs improved from an 80-82 record to 98-64 in 2051. The Cougars had their season ended quickly as they were swept in the Geoghegan Round by the Las Vegas Hustlers. GM Brett Golden had some decisions to make with the roster and quickly set to work.

Closer Manuel Barrera, C Roelof Klooster, 2B Jesus Yan, 1B Masaki Sato, 3B Blaine Tyler, SP Mike MacRobb and SP Emanuele Mercati left the team via free agency or opting out of their contracts. SP Haravira Chandar and P Curt Fields were traded for P Jaime Barber and RP Sebastian Seabert. P Mark Moore was shipped out to Des Moines for P Thomas Turner, 2B Guillermo Fuentes and a minor leaguer. The Cougars signed SS Pedro Diaz to a four-year contract worth a total of \$16.5 million and CF Michel Noel to a five-year deal worth \$9.45 million.

Charlotte now has a balanced rotation of three righties and three lefties to take advantage of any teams' weakness at the plate. The bullpen is anchored by Closer Micheal Dixon in his second season in Charlotte. At the plate, the Cougars are led by the duo of RF Aaron Haney and LF Brett Powers who provide the bulk of the run production.



Prediction 70-92

The Charm City Jimmies finished the 2051 BBA season 64-98 good for seventh place in the Johnson League Atlantic Division. They hit .260 as a team and their pitchers allowed 4.77 runs per nine innings. They did attract 3,494,773 fans through the crab pot turnstiles and wore down some of their financial issues.

With their newfound salary cap space, the Jimmies spent \$116.1 million combined for LF Tadataka Yoshikawa on a five-year deal worth \$90.5 million and 3B Tsuyoshi Kobayashi to a four-year deal worth 25.6 million. These two players bring plenty of question marks with them as both players have prior experience but all with GBC teams.

Charm City has a very young rotation ranging between 23-26 years of age and having between 2-4 years of experience. Their bullpen will be their strength but are all right-handed. In the field, the pressure will be on Yoshikawa and Kobayashi to produce. The Jimmies will rely on SS Pepe Espinoza to be the glue that keeps this team together. While he can hit, he is held back by his defense at short.



Prediction 78-84

The Jacksonville Hurricanes blew into the 2051 BBA season with four straight playoff appearances and fans were hoping that they would make some big noise this season. Things did not go as expected as their pitching faltered when it counted and the 'Canes fizzled out with a 77-85 record finishing in fourth place in the Atlantic Division. Jacksonville has very little wiggle room with their salary cap sitting at \$103+ million with players on their payroll such as Pancho Costa, Sawyer Slizz, Pedro Huerta, Dane Licht and Peter Dean.

Jacksonville pitching will need their starters to eat innings and keep the game short as their bullpen is a weakness. Stephen Best is coming off an injury plagued 2051 and should give around 195+ innings to go with Hayden Bennion and Peter Dean adding 180+ apiece. The bullpen is suspect outside of Closer Alejandro Chavez. Reliever Dean O'Gribben is a home run waiting to happen and should have his exposure limited.

The offense is centered on Pedro Huerta, Pancho Costa, Dane Licht and Sawyer Slizz. The Hurricane front office is hoping this group will perform up to their expectations and score more runs for this pitching staff. There are murmurs around the BBA that Pedro Huerta's best days are way behind him.



Prediction 82-80

The Montreal Blazers took a step forward in 2051 finishing in sixth place in the Atlantic Division with a 73-89 record. The Blazers made some progress in the hitting and pitching departments raising their average to .267 and lowered their ERA from 5.18 to 4.90. Montreal will have about \$11 million in payroll flexibility to make any emergency signings or take on salaries in trades during the season. Their big-ticket items on their roster include 3B Eduardo Gonzalez, 2B Lineu Aldo, P Carlton Casson, SS Dick Walton and P Toby Bundy.

Montreal has two rookie starters joining their rotation in 2052 in Ralph Boyd and Carl Vincent. They will join Lance Harrison, Boris Milatovic and Bill Mills in the rotation to begin the season. There are some pitchers in AAA that could be called up in a pinch in case of emergency. The bullpen seems solid with just a couple of holes, but they are not a big concern. Toby Bundy could be a relief workhorse after what he showed scouts in the 2051 season in the GBC.

The Montreal offense should cause Johnson League pitchers to have nightmares on game days led by 3B Eduardo Gonzalez. Gonzalez and Ulvi Basgil will provide the power in the lineup for the Blazers with some help from Pedro Rosales and Lineu Aldo.



Prediction 100-62

After a six-year playoff run from 2039 to 2044, the New Orleans Crawdads began to slip a little. Not in talent but in luck. Players went down with injuries, left the organization or just regressed. The rise of the Cougars, the resurrection of the Hurricanes and the steady greatness of Rockville cut into the 'Dads. But they were lurking there, in the dark waters of the swamp. Waiting.

They showed some signs in 2047 with a playoff appearance. They missed in 2048 after dropping just two games from the previous season. Then, everything came together. New Orleans made the playoffs in 2049 as a Wildcard then as the Atlantic Division winner in 2050 and '51. In '50, they were knocked out by rival Mexico City in the Doubleday Series via the sweep. But in '51, the 'Dads exacted their revenge on Mexico City with a win in the Cartwright Cup 4 games to 2. Then New Orleans battled through a tough Monty Brewster Memorial Series against the Portland Lumberjacks before coming out on top in seven games to win their first championship since 2019.

The defending champs bring back most of the pitching staff but add former Phoenix Talon SP Marco Gonzales and call up two minor leaguers to work out of the bullpen. RP John Lucas and Jaime Mendoza will get the ball sparingly to begin the season. SP Cristian Garcia will begin the season on the IL, but he has recovered from his elbow inflammation and should have his innings managed due to his fragility.

New Orleans let oft injured 2B Edgardo Encarnacion leave the swamp to go into free agency and replaced him with Felipe Reyna. The team is led by RF Juan Donestevéz but any one of the hitters on this team can take over a game. Brody Bond, Sebastian Fradesso, Mal Fountain or Luis Estrada provides plenty of power and drive in runs at a high rate. The Crawdads have the ring, come and take it.



ROCKVILLE

Prediction 67-95

With 2 seasons under his belt, Rockville GM Jim Slade seems to be settling in nicely. While inheriting a team that had just finished a 15-year presence in the playoffs, Slade also inherited a team that was coming to a salary cap catastrophe. The Pikemen finished 2051 with 76 wins, the first time they had not achieved a winning record in 19 seasons.

In 2051 the team found it hard to overcome their pitching woes with their team ERA jumping 0.63 points even though the pitching staff's BABIP decreased by 0.10 points. With the offseason loss of SP Warren Moore, SP Jafar Haamid not expected to come off the IL until May, and no significant offseason signings, it doesn't look like the Pikemen's pitching staff is going to be the rock of the 2052 team.

The strength of this team is its outfielders. Even after having to deal OF Ángel González to Vancouver to escape their cap issues, most people will still be aware of the names Julio Barajas and Matthew Reilly. Add to that OF Qadir bun Gamal, coming off a good rookie season and you have a strong outfield. Throw in the aging Chip Puckett and the powerful Vasco Fonzarelli and the Rockville offense could be potent this season.

The Pikemen also lost almost \$23M last season and threatened to fall below 3 million fans for the first time since the 2016 season. I hope that their cap problems can continue to be managed well until this team can get back on their feet.

Johnson League Frontier Preview

-James Walker & Brett Golden

FRONTIER DIVISION PREDICTIONS	
MEXICO CITY	100-62
LAS VEGAS	95-67
PHOENIX	85-77
CALGARY	84-78
BOISE	81-81
SAN ANTONIO	72-90
EL PASO	72-90
EDMONTON	65-97



Prediction 72-90

Coming off a 71-91 record in 2051, the Chilis are a team that will struggle at times again in 2052. While the 2051 Chilis saw its highest team batting average during the franchise's existence, it also saw on of its top 5 team ERAs as well.

The Chilis have decided to try and address those pitching woes for 2052, and beyond. This offseason they traded the young stud 1B Sertaç Safavî to Twin Cities for Micah Harrington, who is still several seasons away from making it to the big leagues. What is confusing is their addition of two very sturdy bullpen pieces in the deal, giving up Peter Fuller and Hotha Buyoya for a couple of guys that wont do much for the big league club. They also traded LF Ernesto Alfonso for SP Edward Joseph Pfeffer, who is still a couple of seasons away as well.

The Chilis also lost OF Hao Hung and SP Stan Cyr this past offseason. They did go on a little bit of a shopping spree with Free Agent additions of LF Julio Garcia, SP Matt Alicea, SP Anders Salinas, and 3B Alfonso Trinidad. Add is Rue 5 picks of RP Dwight Dunn and SS Wagaw Fakihi and at Irast the Chilis have a team to put on the field.

One good thing for the Chilis, they managed to lock down Hector Cano Jr. for another 6 years. The question is though, will he still be able to be around, and producing like he has been, when the #1 ranked farm system makes it to El Paso to join the big boys..

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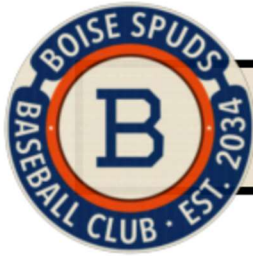


Smallest Player

C John Adams

John Adams of the Chillis might have a big heart, but he has a child's body – 5'5" must make framing a nightmare. While he may not be the strongest bat, he has compiled a .257/.330/.345 line in over 100 BBA games across Boise and El Paso, and has one of the best arms in the game. We can all hope that he and Hansen are one day united in the weirdest combination in the game!

**All body-types are beautiful to
us at RAMJACK!**



BOISE

Prediction 81-81

Boise finished at 77-85 last season. The Spuds have been quietly increasing their win percentage over the last 4 years and look to do so again this season and earn their first non-losing season since 2045.

What will get this season's Spuds those extra wins will be the strength of their pitching staff. Danny Leach, Gavrilovich Mastinsky, Brian Ioneki, Josh Dougherty, and Ommar bin Ayyub are all a force to be reckoned with and somehow Robin Cooper's decision to come back shouldn't hurt them either.

While the Spuds offense won't be lighting the town on fire, it's solid enough, and powerful enough, that they will manage to be in any game until the end and can win it with just one swing. Gary Allen comes over from Charm City and should lead the team. The Spuds lone Free Agent acquisition, OF [Aires Penharanda](#) will no doubt be a welcome addition as well.

Boise came close to drawing 3 million fans last season, a feat that they haven't seen since 2046, and actually made a profit for the first time since that same year. A few more wins should mean more fans but it might be another season before we see the Spuds back in the playoffs.



Prediction 95-67

The Las Vegas Hustlers took a big step back in 2051. They still made the playoffs but after winning the Johnson League Frontier Division five straight years and averaged 109 wins doing it, an 87-75 record is a big step back. Pitching let the Hustlers down as the hitters maintained their excellence. Player demands and the salary cap took their toll on this team, but GM Matt Rectenwald always finds a way.

The Hustlers signed former Madison Wolves SP Gerald Sizemore to a four-year deal worth \$30 million with two team options. The journeyman righty will slot in as the number two starter and should be able to give his team 170+ innings.

Jay Hodge will lead this crew in his seventh season in Las Vegas. The 2046 First round pick (8th overall) will be joined by Matin Ross, Javier De Jesus, Sizemore and Gamal bin Badr. The bullpen is fronted by pit boss Mitchell Purssell. Purssell was acquired via trade with the Nashville Bluebirds and will get a full season in Las Vegas to show his value.

The offense remains pretty much the same with RF Tom Rudge still patrolling the outfield in Vegas. He is joined by 3B Abu Wamukota, CF Kidane Ata, 2B Scotty Beemeup and the rest of the mayhem makers.



Prediction 84-78

The Calgary Pioneers are one of the most consistent teams in the Frontier Division. If they don't have a above .500 record, they will be close. This team is 4881-4361 since 1995. They have made the playoffs 25 times and won 2 titles. But there has been a title drought here as they haven't hoisted 'The Trophy' in 30 years.

The Pioneers missed the playoffs in '49 and '50 with a combined 162-162 record but returned in '51 with a wild card berth after a successful 90-72 season. They continued to hit well, and their pitching improves a bit and won 13 games more than the previous season.

The Pioneers revamped their starting rotation for the 2052 BBA season with the additions of pitchers Leon Ludeman and Jose Mercio. Ludeman was signed as a free agent for six years and \$62.3 million. He has a player opt out and a player option near the end of the deal. Ludeman pitched 5 seasons for the Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers in the GBC and London for a season. The rookie Mercio has made the team out of spring training and will slot in behind Ludeman in the rotation. Mercio began his career as a Las Vegas Hustler farmhand then was signed by the Chicago Black Sox before finding himself Up North. The back end of the bullpen is solid but middle relief could present some problems for the Pioneer.

The Calgary offense goes through two players, Adam Backhouse and Larry Stinson. Backhouse blasted 46 homers and drove in 150 runs while Stinson slugged 42 homers and drove in 111 in 2051. With LF Girolamo L'Archebudelli and company on base often, this offense can be scary.



Prediction 72-90

It has been seven seasons since the Outlaws have made the playoffs and won the Championship. They have some payroll room but are cash poor now and need some success to get the fans in the seats.

The starting rotation has some promise, and the Outlaws expect them to make some improvement. They are led by veteran starter Francisco Franco. Franco's shoulder and back is beginning to fail him. The Outlaws need him to stay healthy. It is also time for P Sakutaru Kawano to make some improvement and eat some innings for the Outlaws. The back end of the bullpen is strong with relievers Cristian Chavez and Francisco Salgado in as the stoppers. The rest of the 'pen is iffy and don't expect many games to make it to the stoppers.

Offensively, the Outlaws have some power in the bats of RF Patrick Stolz, Pedro Bustamante, 1B Lee Hogan and LF Lucio De La Cruz. The San Antonio defense was one of the worst in 2051 and will need to improve to help the pitching staff.



Prediction 65-97

The Edmonton Jackrabbits have fallen on hard times the last four years as they try to dig themselves out of a financial hole. They have finished 8th in the Frontier Division the last three seasons with 60 wins, 59 wins and 65 wins. In the offseason, the Jackrabbits made changes to their roster to try to get a different outcome.

The pitching staff was re-worked by claiming SP Jim Conley off waivers and signing Chris Moran to join Niccolo Destafani, Claudio Garcia and Gabriel Soto. The signed relievers Hao Kun, Jesus Rios and Joel Ottoboni to bolster the bullpen.

Toshikazu Noguchi were signed to catch the pitching staff. 1B Dylan Malloch, Ricardo Mendoza, 3B Manny Collazo, SS Jose Montano, CF Keith Schultz were signed to work the infield and the all-important CF. RF Matt Garrison was acquired from Nashville via a trade to patrol the outfield.

There are a lot of moving parts that all have to hit for this team to make large gains this season.



Prediction 85-77

The Phoenix Talons broke through their wall of heartbreak with a 96-win season and a wild card berth. The Talons fielded the best offense in the Brewster and pitched just well enough to put up that win total. The Talons make some big changes and it will be tough to get back to the playoff in 2052.

The Talons signed free agent starters Don Jaramillo and Keijo Reini to bolster their staff. Jaramillo hits well enough that he can forgo the DH. They then signed former Omaha RP Francisco Hernandez and signed minor league RP Jose Rodriguez to bridge the gap to Jose Arellano and Tiernan O'Macken.

Reggie Leeper was brought in to back up Ichizo Sugiyama at catcher. Brad Parkinson will staff 1B while Steven Collins III was signed to man the hot corner. This team will not lead the league in offense but will pitch better.



Prediction 100-62

The Mexico City Aztecs had an incredible 2051 making the playoffs for the third straight season. The Aztecs used their altitude advantage in Mexico City blow by teams and their pitching to hold those leads. In the end, they lost the Cartwright Cup to the eventual Champ New Orleans.

The Aztecs will roll with a solid rotation led by Dave Corfield. Corfield had a down year in 2051 and is looking to bounce back to silence his critics within the league. The youngster Arthur Dunn is expected to do some big things this season and make the leap to star pitcher.

GM Fred Holmes brought in C Roelof Klooster to catch that pitching staff. He then signed former Omaha Cyclone SS Juan Medrano in a good move to improve his team defense. Jeffrey Smith was signed to patrol left and team up with Felix Roman offensively. This team match last season's win total of 104.

Revisiting the 2042 Amateur Draft (Round 1 only)


-Mike Neugebauer





By Lem Piker Sr., Spring 2052











Foreword: Many of these players were traded or landed with multiple teams. For grading purposes, we are mostly considering the career output of the individual player - not the net reward for the team that drafted the player.





In 2042, there were some fantastic picks made later in the first round. There also are plenty of head-scratchers. Another oddity is that no middle infielders or catchers were selected in the first round. However, 39 out of 40 players selected in the first round and its supplemental portion agreed to financial terms with their team. Thus, there are many players here to evaluate, so let us get started ...




Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 1	SP Dave Lee: This great lefty was drafted by Charlotte and then shockingly traded to Yellow Springs in November of 2042. Lee spent a portion of 2043 in AAA, but he's been a fixture of the Nine's rotation ever since. A two-time All-Star, he's won 133 games in the BBA and he's still going strong. Charlotte probably has regrets about this trade.





Team	Pick	Player
		GRADE: B+
	Round 1 Pick 2	<p>SP Itze Woertgen: What was it with trades of amateur pitchers in 2042? Like Lee, Woertgen was also traded in his first minor league offseason, leaving Portland and landing with Edmonton. In his BBA rookie campaign in 2045, he won 12 games and contributed to a Landis championship. But since 2048, he's toiled in the BBA and GBC upper majors. With only 7.4 total rWAR in the BBA, he didn't have the staying power in the bigs that many projected.</p> <p>GRADE: C</p>
	Round 1 Pick 3	<p>RF Pedro Bustamante: San Antonio hit it out of the park with their third overall selection. Bustamante was called up in his first season at age 21 and has terrorized right-handed pitching in the Johnson League ever since. He helped the Outlaws win it all in 2045, and in 2048 he won a Sawyer Silk Award with a colossal 1.107 OPS. He's also been consistent and has never hit below .290 in any of his full seasons.</p> <p>GRADE: A</p>
	Round 1 Pick 4	<p>1B Pancho Costa: Yet another post-draft trade! Costa was dealt a few months after the draft (from Twin Cities to Jacksonville). He's been a full-time first baseman with the Hurricanes ever since. He came on strong from 2048-2050, earning 3 All-Star selections. He's also been a thief, particularly for a first baseman, stealing 411 bases so far in the BBA. A high quality contributor.</p> <p>GRADE: B+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 5	<p>SP Chris Sackett: He was drafted by the El Paso franchise (then the Wichita Aviators) and made the majors in 2045. But alas he had a disastrous debut as a starter, with a 7-13 record, 8.42 ERA and a 1.93 WHIP. He was demoted to the bullpen and then put up middling numbers for a number of seasons. In 2051 he was traded to Mexico City, but was soon after released. Sackett remained a free agent for a bit in 2051, but ultimately decided to retire at age 30.</p> <p>GRADE: D-</p>




Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 6	<p>RF Jose Romero: Atlantic City found a bonafide left-handed power hitter in Romero. It took him a few seasons to get on track, but in the last four seasons he's hit more than 30 homers and his OPS keeps climbing. He finally made the All-Star team in 2051, but lost a month due to a broken foot. Presuming the foot is healed, he should stay on track and drive in plenty more runs for the Gamblers going forward.</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>
	Round 1 Pick 7	<p>1B Erik Wignes: The switch-hitting first baseman was drafted by Brooklyn. But during his minor league years, he was traded to Yellow Springs, then to Charlotte. In 2046 Wignes made his debut with the Cougars. But he failed to make much of a difference, and in 2048 he was dealt to Montreal. He's been a steady producer for the Blazers, managing OPS+ a tick over 100 most years, but hasn't flashed All-Star ability. It's doubtful he ever will. Wignes has been a bit of a disappointment considering his draft slot.</p> <p>GRADE: C</p>
	Round 1 Pick 8	<p>1B Wilson Estrada: Yet another first baseman came off the board in Estrada. After a short season in the minors, Omaha brought him up the next year. The Cyclones have been pretty satisfied with the results. Estrada has made 2 All-Star teams, and in 2046 he was a big part of the team's Landis-winning campaign, hitting at a .299 clip and driving in 100 RBI's. He's generated 31.7 WAR and is under contract through the year 2054. He can also play a bit of third base, but hasn't been asked often. I'd grade him higher if he was at a position that was more vital defensively.</p> <p>GRADE: B+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 9	<p>CL Carlton Casson: Casson is a two-way wonder who has had a nice career with Montreal. He started out in the minors as more of a hitter than a pitcher. But after he reached the majors, pitching became his primary calling card. He has earned 4 All-Star selections as a closer and has generated 207 career saves with the Blazers while sporting a 2.78 FIP. As a bonus he's also been absolutely injury proof.</p> <p>In the last few years, management has been attempting to revive his bat and return him to two-way status. But the hitting stats haven't been living up to his scouting reports, evidenced by his sub .720 OPS in the last two seasons. Casson's left arm will continue to be his moneymaker.</p> <p>GRADE: A-</p>





Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 10	<p>CL Bill Keil: Unlike the man selected before him, Keil has been wracked with injuries. On paper, Keil is far and away one of the best lefty relievers in the entire BBA. But injuries have limited him to 279 innings pitched, with 39 holds and 83 saves over 8 seasons. The IL time that Keil has logged probably has Des Moines wishing Casson would have fallen one more spot to them.</p> <p>GRADE: B-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 11	<p>1B Chris Mann: With the 11th pick, Madison nabbed Mann, a contact hitting first baseman who was born and raised in the Big Apple. In the BBA, he's definitely lived up to his billing, with a career batting average sitting at an impressive .326. On top of that, he's provided top-tier defense at first base and has 5 Zimmer Diamond Gloves as proof of it. He continues to be entrenched at first base for the Wolves. Next season (2053) he has a player option and will need to decide if he wants to stick with Madison or test the free agent market. But as a system guy, Mann was a very nice get for Madison.</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>
	Round 1 Pick 12	<p>SP Melvin Simpson: "Short Circuit" ultimately did not work out as a starting pitcher for San Antonio. In 2046, he did have a good year with 12 wins and 3.10 ERA. But he soon declined and was relegated to the bullpen. In 2051 the wheels fell off with Simpson posting a 9.00 ERA and 1.88 WHIP in 32 innings of relief work. This prompted an outright release from Outlaws in June of 2051. He was then signed as a minor league free agent by Phoenix, but played sparingly. We will see if Simpson can rejuvenate a disappointing career in 2052 and going forward.</p> <p>GRADE: C-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 13	<p>DH Yo Miyamoto: The Japanese hitter has been somewhat productive but has not done enough as a hitter to be considered a big draft-day success for Seattle. He's hit .270/.331/.441 for his career. He's managed to stay in the lineup but those are pretty marginal numbers for a full-time DH. He might need to be featured in a weak-side platoon to improve, but it's tough to have the space to carry a vs LHP DH on a pro-roster. He did lead the league last year with 49 doubles though, so the talent is there. 2052 is a contract year for Miyamoto and he needs to put together a very good year to continue to stick in the BBA.</p> <p>GRADE: C+</p>





Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 14	<p>SP Antonio Gonzales: Gonzales was drafted by Phoenix and the team had hopes of him making the major league rotation. He did so in 2044, but unfortunately put up poor numbers (6.45 ERA, 1.61 WHIP). This prompted an offseason trade to Edmonton, with whom Gonzales was able to improve a bit. He went 11-5 with a 4.74 ERA during the Jackrabbits' Landis-winning 2045 campaign. He then held his own as a starter for a number of years, but in 2051 failed to make Edmonton's major league roster and was released by the club. He's still a free agent looking for a home as of this writing.</p> <p>GRADE: C</p>
	Round 1 Pick 15	<p>SP Raul Alvarez: Long Beach drafted Raul Alvarez hoping they were getting a future starter, but the lefty proved to be much better pitching out of the bullpen. He hung around the Surfers and pitched almost 500 innings with the team before leaving as a free agent and signing with Edmonton. In 2051, the Jackrabbits returned Alvarez to the rotation and mostly struggled to the tune of a 5.39 ERA and 1.53 WHIP with a 8-13 record. Jackrabbits management is now returning Alvarez to the long relief role and hoping he proves solid. If not he could lose his job to a younger player on waivers. At any rate, this is not the pitcher Surfers fans had hoped for.</p> <p>GRADE: C+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 16	<p>RP Gilberto Cordero: The right-handed Cordero reached the majors in 2045 and has settled in nicely as a short relief setup man in the Chicago bullpen. He's appeared in 468 games, notching 77 holds and 37 saves. For his career, he holds a 2.94 ERA and a 141 ERA+. He hasn't made any All-Star teams, but he's been very reliable and injury-free. He still has great stuff and velocity even at age 31. Plenty of other BBA teams would be happy if Cordero was in their pitching arsenal.</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>
	Round 1 Pick 17	<p>CF Bart McIntosh: McIntosh didn't take long to reach the majors, debuting in 2043 for Jacksonville. But he wasn't given much playing time once he got there. He only collected 77 plate appearances in 2043 and 2044 before spending a lot of time in the high minors. In 2047 he was then waived and claimed by Edmonton, where he got the biggest opportunity of his career - 377 plate appearances. But he only managed .234/.318/.362 and found himself waived again. He eventually wound up with San Fernando, who used him mostly at AAA. He's a free agent now and probably destined for the AAA level with the BBA or GBC, at best. This was a pretty disappointing result for the first center fielder taken off the board in 2042.</p>





Team	Pick	Player
		GRADE: D+
	Round 1 Pick 18	<p>CF Chuck “Pip” Dickens: San Fernando had “Great Expectations” for the switch-hitting Dickens. He reached the majors in 2043 and played some good baseball, managing 5.3 WAR in his first two seasons. But injuries cost Dickens a big chunk of his playing time in 2045, and he has yet to recover from that setback year. In 2049 he signed a two-year deal with GBC Mumbai and in 2050 he had a return to form with a .295 average and a 2.2 WAR overseas. This led to a 2051 spot with Des Moines, but he only managed to slash .269/.305/.391 in 46 games. Pip’s now a free agent again who remains unsigned as of this writing. He did okay in the BBA, but in a redraft Dickens would probably slip into the second round.</p> <p>GRADE: C</p>
	Round 1 Pick 19	<p>CF Manny Garcia: Hawaii continues the 2042 first-round run on disappointing center fielders. He reached the majors in 2043 but saw limited playing time in his first two seasons while hitting below .200. But over the next four seasons, Garcia earned solid playing time as a glove-first starting center fielder. In 2045 and 2046 he managed to contribute with the bat and stay above .260. But from then on his offensive production fell off. In 2050 he resurfaced with Twin Cities, but spent most of the time in AAA. In 2051, Portland gave him ample opportunity, and to no one’s surprise he excelled with the glove but struggled at the plate. The well-traveled Garcia is now part of the GBC Tokyo minor league system.</p> <p>GRADE: C-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 20	<p>RF Chris Jenkins: El Paso (aka the Wichita Aviators) took the right-handed Jenkins with their 20th overall pick. He had a successful cup of coffee in 2044, hitting .297/.392/.562 in 19 games. But that pretty much has become his career highlight. His hitting slumped and he failed to earn decent playing time. Vancouver, Boise, Mexico City and Twin Cities all tried to recycle Jenkins at the majors or AAA level but couldn’t get much in the way of results. In 2052 he will continue to toil with the Phoenix Talons AAA affiliate. He has a decent glove and plays hard, but future prospects are quite dim.</p> <p>GRADE: D+</p>

Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 21	<p>3B Juan “Flying Frenchy” Hernandez: Hernandez came up gradually in the Charm City system, but then basically hit the brakes at the AAA level and was traded to Long Beach. He came up the pros for good in 2048 and had his most successful campaign - 3.6 WAR while hitting .287/.333/.507. He continues to receive lots of playing time with Long Beach - for now. In 2050 and 2051 he only hit .238 in each season. Long Beach may not be patient for much longer and start looking elsewhere soon.</p> <p>GRADE: B-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 22	<p>RP John Olson: Finally, we have a success story, for both player and team. Olson came up to majors in 2043 and established himself as Valencia’s closer, where he remains to this very day. He’s recorded 178 saves with a 3.12 ERA and 1.17 WHIP for his career. Stars fans are a bit nervous though after watching Olson suffer a major elbow injury at the end of last season. But reports are that Olson is fully recovered now and can ramp up gradually in spring training.</p> <p>GRADE: A-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 23	<p>CL Martin Roman: Roman quickly ascended to the majors and became a big part of Nashville’s bullpen. He recorded 98 saves and posted a solid 3.29 ERA and 1.10 with the Bluebirds.</p> <p>At the end of 2048 he was traded to Valencia for starting pitching help. Roman’s been a bit better with the Stars and basically now shares closing duties with Olson, the man taken right before him in this draft. Funny how things worked out. Last year he had arguably his best season statistically, recording a sublime 1.45 ERA and 1.08 WHIP and helping the Stars to 90 wins. Valencia has a bullpen they can rely on, thanks to this draft and a timely trade.</p> <p>GRADE: A</p>
	Round 1 Pick 24	<p>RP Pat Brown: Boys and girls, we have our first failing grade of the 2042 draft. The lefty reliever Brown didn’t have the arsenal or pedigree to make it in the upper minors, let alone the BBA. He quickly withered away in the Mexico City lower farm system, and retired from baseball in 2045. It’s a mystery why the Aztecs selected him. Maybe someone in Brown’s family was owed a big favor.</p> <p>GRADE: F</p>

Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 25	<p>SP Jose Torres: The power-pitching Dominican was selected by Vancouver at age 19 and showed some promise in the minors as a starter.. He parlayed that success into some respectable outings in the majors. His best season was in 2047, where he went 11-15 with a 4.04 ERA and 1.33 WHIP. But after that season, his ERA has only gone north, both with the Mounties and then with El Paso (via trade). A torn UCL wrecked his 2051 campaign, and he's still got a few months of recovery left. He's now a free agent, and we'll have to see if anyone in the BBA or GBC calls Torres once he heals. It's most likely he'll spend time in the upper minors since he still has strong velocity and is only 28 now.</p> <p>GRADE: C-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 26	<p>3B Alfonso "Snapper" Trinidad: The impressive Trinidad was drafted by Omaha but dealt later in 2042 to Calgary. He hit the ground running with the Pioneers, managing a .302 batting average in his rookie year. His best season statistically came in 2045 as he slashed .317/.379/.582. The next year he came through in the clutch, helping Calgary win the Landis and earning the Memorial Series MVP Award.</p> <p>He continued to post good offensive totals for the Pioneers, but became a free agent this last offseason. El Paso recently signed him to a huge contract that will pay him \$78 million over 6 years. Snapper fields the ball well at third base, but has very little range at all for the position so he's a liability defensively. Nonetheless, Trinidad was an absolute steal near the end of the first round.</p> <p>GRADE: A</p>
	Round 1 Pick 27	<p>LF Mario Pereira: The left-handed slugger Pereira was drafted by Boise and hit the bigs in 2044, but has been a bit of a disappointment. He has mostly become a replacement-level corner outfielder. His career year came in 2047 for the Spuds, where he hit .290 with 19 homers and managed a 2.0 WAR. But other seasons were fairly lackluster, and he was waived by Boise in 2049 and claimed by San Antonio. 2051 saw a bit of a resurgence for Mario, as he hit .312 in 396 plate appearances. But the Outlaws have other plans for 2052, and Pereira is now a free agent. Pereira may need to sign with a GBC to keep his career rolling.</p> <p>GRADE: B-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 28	(unknown player, did not sign)

Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 29	<p>SP David Williams: Unlike other pitchers in this first round, Williams was given plenty of time to develop in the minors and did not debut with New Orleans until 2046. The lefty was adequate as a starter, but ultimately settled in as a bullpen arm and had more success there. He posted his best numbers in 2050, managing a 2.69 ERA and 1.03 WHIP in 67 innings.</p> <p>2051 was a strange affair for Williams. He pitched 1/3 of an inning in April and suffered a torn labrum and spent the season on the IL, eventually watching his teammates win the Landis. He'll get a ring for his tiny contribution, but is now a free agent. He's still recovering from his injury and will need another month off. We'll have to see where he might land in 2052.</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>
	Round 1 Pick 30	<p>SP Marvin "Groucho" Winston: Winston eventually became a fixture of the Sacramento rotation and did well. The lefty made the 2049 All-Star team and posted 15 wins and a 3.19 ERA that season. He reached free agency this offseason and decided to sign a 1-year deal with GBC Jerusalem for \$13 million. His career pitching numbers are good, and he's pretty skilled at not giving up the longball. This was a fine pick toward the end of round one.</p> <p>GRADE: A-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 31	<p>CL Shinsaku Sato: The Japanese lefty debuted for Edmonton in 2044 but was used sparingly in the bullpen. Over 5 seasons he only pitched 99.2 innings. During Edmonton's 2045 Landis run, he only pitched 1.2 innings. Perhaps discouraged by the lack of consistent playing time, he chose to retire from baseball in 2049 at age 28. Sato is somewhat of an enigma. Scouts projected him to be much better than what he showed.</p> <p>GRADE: C-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 32	<p>RF Chris "Don't Touch My Drums!" Thomas: Thomas was drafted at age 18 by Calgary and was given plenty of time to develop in the minors. After a small cup of coffee in 2047, he made his true debut in 2048 and has done a solid job as a power-hitting corner outfielder. He's produced more than 20 homers in each of the last 4 seasons. Last season saw him slash .280/.350/.528 and he's only 28, so perhaps the best is yet to come. This was a quality pick by the Pioneers.</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>

Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 33	<p>RP Raul Gonzales: Las Vegas chose to fortify their bullpen with the selection of Gonzales in 2042. He pitched well, and became an important trade chip in a deal with Omaha. In 2045 Gonzalez took on the closer role for the Cyclones and delivered with an impressive 33 saves and a 1.39 ERA. But in the following season his production declined sharply and he lost his closing role. He pitched a bit for GBC Beirut, but has now been an unsigned free agent for the last 3 years. He'll need to take a minor league deal to resurrect his career, or likely retire soon. Still, this pick gets a good grade due to his impressive 2045 outing.</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>
	Round 1 Pick 34	<p>3B Mike Galloway: Galloway is a strong-armed hot corner player who has transitioned nicely to the pros. From 2046-2050 he generated 1.3 WAR or greater in each season with Rockville. In 2051, Vancouver took interest in Galloway and executed a trade for him. But Galloway's campaign with Vancouver turned into a disaster. His batting average dropped almost 60 points to .201 and his OPS also slid down by over 150 points. Due to this horrid showing, the 27-year old is a free agent who remains unsigned. Can he bounce back, and will he be given an opportunity?</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>
	Round 1 Pick 35	<p>CL Derrick "Crash Test" Chaney: Yellow Springs made the most of the final regular pick of the first round. After a few years of seasoning in the minors, Chaney has been a high-quality setup man and closer in the Nine bullpen. For his career, he's recorded 125 holds and 114 saves in 627.2 innings of work, with a 3.00 ERA and 0.99 WHIP. The great production is likely to continue. What a steal for the end of the first round.</p> <p>GRADE: A+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 36 (supp)	<p>SP Allen Gunn: New Orleans picked first in the supplemental portion of the first round and made a very wise selection. The right-handed Gunn came up to the bigs in 2045 and has spent time both as a starter and a reliever. He had his best season as a pro in the recent Crawdads championship run. In 2051 he started 31 games, going 12-2 with a league best 3.10 ERA. He's not the most dominant starter in the BBA, but as he showed last year when he is on he can totally get the job done.</p> <p>GRADE: A-</p>

Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 37 (supp)	<p>RP Albert Love: Love reached the majors in 2043 and became an adequate reliever at the BBA level. In 244.2 innings of work, he put up a 3.90 ERA and 1.44 WHIP. These have been pretty pedestrian results and while not bad, quite not what Edmonton had hoped for. He departed in free agency in 2050, and he's now with AAA Charlotte.</p> <p>GRADE: B-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 38 (supp)	<p>1B Francisco Borges: Little information is available about Borges and his failure in the Rockville minor league system. It appears he reached AA and seesawed between decent and poor seasons. At any rate, Borges retired in 2049 at age 26 and this was a failed pick. I'll grade him a touch higher than Pat Brown because at least he made it to AA.</p> <p>GRADE: F+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 39 (supp)	<p>3B Derek Cumming: Yellow Springs got decent production out of their supplemental pick. Cumming reached the majors in 2046 and received full time at bats from 2047 to 2050. But in 2051 he was moved to AAA in favor of other options at the hot corner. Now Cumming seems to be an odd-man out in the Nine system. Cumming is being shopped so maybe he can find a home elsewhere in the BBA. In summary, Cumming was a decent pick as he generated 5.5 WAR in his career. Far from a star, but at least an adequate role player on a competitive squad.</p> <p>GRADE: B</p>
	Round 1 Pick 40 (supp)	<p>RP Curt Davis: Davis is very similar to 38th pick Francisco Borges: he reached AA, stalled out and subsequently decided to retire. Long Beach barely seemed to notice. With little other information to go off of, we'll be consistent and assign them both the same grade.</p> <p>GRADE: F+</p>



WORLD-RENOWNED BBA EXPERT LEM PIKAR SR.

Frick League Pacific Previews

-Woody Donahue

PACIFIC DIVISION PREDICTIONS	
SACRAMENTO	100-62
VALENCIA	95-67
HAWAII	88-74
PORTLAND	85-77
VANCOUVER	78-84
LONG BEACH	76-86
SEATTLE	69-93
SAN FERNANDO	61-101

The FL Pacific, which last year's Media Guide described as "Sacramento's House," ended up being a lot closer of a race than anticipated. Sacramento won the division, but only through a one-game playoff against Portland for supremacy. And as it turned out, Portland made it further in the postseason, making it all the way to the Brewster series for the second time in three years.

It would appear that we have the makings of a classic dogfight on our hands, one that could last for a decade. Except for the fact that Portland lost nearly half its roster to free agency after last season, leaving them with all that playoff revenue to go shopping on the free agent market for a new team. So the battle is really between Sacramento's dynasty and Portland's spending decisions.

But wait — there are more than just two teams in the picture. Valencia rebounded nicely last year after a rough 2050, but an early postseason exit left them hungry to improve the team even more. And they certainly did.

Vancouver has been making some noise through trades, shipping off young talent to bring in a former Silk winner. That's the type of move a team makes when they're "going for it".

Hawaii has an impressive core of young pitching, and Long Beach's top pitching prospects will be on the way soon. And let's not forget the #1-ranked prospect in the BBA, who appears ready to suit up for Seattle.

I have not mentioned San Fernando. Let's keep it that way.

One thing is clear in the Pacific: no matter who rises to the top this season, it will be an interesting fight for many years to come, with as many as seven teams in the mix to lay claim to the division either now or at some point in the near future.

And the best part is, they don't need a stupid hashtag to feel validated like the #Heartland. The Pacific speaks for itself.



SACRAMENTO

2051 record: 98-65, first place in Pacific

Notable additions: OF Todd Rice

Losses (and 2051 WAR): LF Rex Foster (0.9), 3B Alfredo Rosas (1.9), RP Manuel Cruz (1.4), SP Marvin Winston (3.3)

Outlook: Sacramento has reached “dynasty” status, winning the Pacific in four of the last five seasons, though they are trending downward, with 98 wins last year their lowest total since 2047.

They are built on strong defense and the elite bats of Okay Nisancî and Unem Ploid, both of whom are coming off “down” years by their standards. You’ve got to think they’ll bounce back — maybe not all the way to their 2050 forms, when the pair was just otherworldly — but bridging some of that gap will help Sacramento recoup some of those lost W’s.

The Popes also doubled down on their defense, bringing in free agent Todd Rice, who will be roaming the outfield alongside 2051 Zimmer winner Dan Flores, spelling death to all fly balls in a ten-mile radius. The move also allows Ploid to DH full-time, instead of filling in at right field, costing them runs with his limited range.

I still have questions, though. Mainly I wonder whether Ploid and Nisancî have enough RBI-type bats behind them to bring them home. And I don’t mean power guys — because we all know power doesn’t work in that ballpark — but dependable hitters who can be counted on for a few doubles and sac flies. First baseman Mike Campbell is close to what they need, and he actually led the league in sac flies in 2050. But he hit a rough spot last year that he was never able to get out of, posting a career-low 45 extra-base hits. A cleanup hitter needs to be more productive than that.

The pitching staff should hold up all right, with Rubén Vázquez and Robert Hanson returning to lead the rotation. Hanson in particular should be even more effective, with the team’s renewed focus on outfield defense.

Sacramento lost Marvin Winston, who led the staff in innings and was behind only Hanson in WAR. They will call on young Joe King, the BBA’s #9 prospect, to fill his spot. Having won the AAA Mitch Cain Hurler Award last year (as well as the AAA championship with Black Hills), King is more than ready to step in.

The bullpen, one of the strongest in the league, should not have any problems, with stopper Aaron Anderson still locking down the late innings. They've even got reinforcements, with young Augusto Ayala knocking on the door of the big leagues, though it's not clear if Sacramento even has a spot for him.

With their near-elite bullpen and defense, Sacramento should win a lot of close games, and a lot of games in general.

2052 prediction: 100-62. I'm taking the over on Ploid and Nisancî bouncing back, and knowing their GM, he'll probably go out and sign someone in the eleventh hour of Spring Training to address their need for a RBI bat.



2051 record: 90-72, 3rd place in Pacific

Notable additions: OF Omer Dijkstra, SP Brian King, IF Ángel Zalapa, OF Jim Ashford

Losses (and 2051 WAR): 1B Juan Mateo (2.9), SP Cornelio Lozano (0.4), OF Freddy Ayala (1.2), C Kyle Baker (1.3), OF Frédéric Brisset (2.8), OF Gilberto Falchonelli (1.9), RP Salmund Adlersparre (0.0), C Luis Fernández (0.1), LF Lee Stone (0.4)

Outlook: Valencia has had an up-and-down couple of years, making the playoffs last season but losing 100 games the season before that. They're trending in the right direction, but their early playoff exit in October shows they're still a few pieces short of fielding a winner. Or at least, that was the case last year.

This year, they inked one of the premier players on the free agent market, Ángel Zalapa, bringing him home to the organization that drafted him nearly 20 years ago. Zalapa will play second, and allow Yodo Sato to move to first full-time, shoring up the defense at both positions.

Valencia's lineup also features the exciting Mike Brodt, who posted a career year in 2051 and whose advanced bat and outfield defense also earned him an All-Star nod. After a rather slow development, it would seem that the real Mike Brodt has finally arrived, and he's putting the team on his shoulder.

The Stars have a deep lineup with excellent on-base ability top to bottom, and it's not just their starters. Even bench players like catcher Clinton Tyler and utility man Prabhu Vogelsang draw a ton of walks, and help to extend innings and knock pitchers out of the game quicker.

One area where there was a need for improvement was in their rotation, particularly with stamina. Valencia didn't get a lot of innings from their starting pitching last year, with Ken Arroyo leading the staff with just 166. This year, they signed Brian King to round out the rotation, who averages around 200 innings per year. That's an instant improvement right there, since he'll shorten the bullpen game, reducing the need for innings from the middle relief corps (which, like most middle relief corps, leaves something to be desired).

Martin Román returns as the closer, and he seems to get better every year. With the ball in his hands, as well as those of setup man John Olson, the Stars should feel pretty secure with late-game leads.

2052 prediction: 95-67. They added the right players to a playoff team that didn't lose many pieces. If everyone can keep playing to their potential, we should expect Valencia to stick around a while longer in the playoffs — even potentially going all the way.



2051 record: 77-85, 5th place in Pacific

Notable additions: RP Ángel Hernández, RP Rich Martínez, RP Dominic Thompson, SP Carlos Valle

Losses (and 2051 WAR): 1B Alejandro Ortiz (0.6), RF Tomás Guillén (2.9), RP Denny Hamilton (0.2), RP Atmo Ananas (-0.2), SP Bill Dempsey (0.0), IF Abay Azzouzj (0.0), RP Ernie Poole (-0.8)

Outlook: Hawaii is a team that always seems to flirt with being good, but ends up settling somewhere between mediocre and decent.

There are a lot of things to like. Third baseman Rhys Brickell gets on base as well as anybody, and can field his position well. He anchors a lineup that has some speed (Adhyapayana Mehta, Ramão Saturnino) as well as power (Shafiq Zahir, Carlos Sánchez). They even have a defensive wizard who isn't terrible with the bat (Thomas Kramer), and catcher Ron Shiplack is one of the best in the game at shutting down steal attempts.

It's like the perfect imitation of a winning team, that when you see their win-loss record makes you scratch your head a little bit.

If I had to pinpoint the missing ingredient, I'd say the lineup is missing some star power. A true middle-of-the-order bat to be the core of the offense. A bit more power would be a boost for the team, whose .402 slugging percentage was 14th in the Frick League last year. Maybe Hawaii's not finished making moves in free agency, and still plans to make a splash.

There are some positions that could use an upgrade, like right field, where the Tropics will be missing Tomás Guillén's production.

But overall, what I can say about the lineup is that it's solid, and features a little bit of everything.

The rotation is promising, filled with young guys with potential to break out. Semih Gurani has a nasty six-pitch arsenal, and if he can improve his walk rate, could reach "ace" status for the Tropics. Michael Kalil also has great stuff, but he needs to improve command of his secondary pitches. Austin George is another starter with some control issues, but if he can pull it together, could really be special. And Terry Hansen was really impressive in his brief BBA call-up last year.

To mentor the collection of young talent, Hawaii signed future Hall-of-Famer Carlos Valle, who will look super weird in a Tropics uniform, but will still get outs with his elite movement.

The rotation probably has the biggest upside of any in the Pacific, if a few of these kids can reach their potential. But it's also the rotation with the most "ifs", which is a concern. It's just as likely that some of them don't pan out, and if that happens to several of them, it could send Hawaii scrambling for starting pitching.

Ángel Hernández is the likely closer; he is usually lights-out in the bullpen, but is coming off a rough season that saw his ERA nearly double. If he falters, Hawaii has a few depth options in Rich Martínez and Dominic Thompson, both newly signed free agents.

2052 prediction: 88-74. They've got all the necessary components of a winning team, with lots of youth and upside, so why not Hawaii? I'd say a Wildcard spot is likely if they play free agency and the waiver wire smartly.

RAMJACK Skincare Solutions



Tallest Player SP Terry Hansen

Scraping 7ft at 6'11, Hawaii's Terry Hansen is the tallest player on the BBA books right now. At only 21 he's just had the 30 days service time, but has worked his way to a 3-1 record with 18 strikeouts in 25 major league innings. He better watch out though, as there's a kid in college, Alehbert 'Wonderkid' Schlondorrf, who used his 7'2# frame to win the Fox Mulder award in 2050!

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PORTLAND

2051 record: 97-66, 2nd place in Pacific

Notable additions: C Rainer Scheffer, 3B/OF Wlilbald Akbulut, OF Rex Foster, OF Dennis French, 1B Andrew Gallagher, CF Ronnie Hubbard, IF Donald Love, RP Gilberto Sosa, SS Jonathon O'Reilly, IF Carlomaria Donadoni

Losses (and 2051 WAR): OF Hadji Ufanisi (0.7), DH Ernest McBride (7.2), RP Lorenzo de' Medici (1.6), OF Po-sin Shi (1.8), IF Ángel Zalapa (5.7), OF Jeffrey Smith (3.4), OF Manny García (0.6), IF Jorge Lugo (0.3), 1B Manuel Aguilar, Jr. (1.9), RP Faical Engeitado (-0.4), 1B Mark Simpson (0.5), IF José Benavidez (0.9), IF Francisco Otero (1.2), RP Matt Alicea (0.8), RP Armando Castro (-1.0), C Francisco Flores (-1.1)

Outlook: Portland lost a *lot* of players to free agency this winter, which I think we all knew, but maybe didn't understand the extent of until seeing them all listed out like that. That's 24.1 WAR altogether. That's more than some entire teams accumulated last year, including Jacksonville and Montreal.

This meant that Portland had a ton of cap money to spend on free agents this winter, but they also had the most ground to make up. Let's look at the players they brought in, and see whether it'll be enough to get them back to the playoffs.

First, Ronnie Hubbard and Dennis French are the new additions to the outfield. With a chance to get younger, Portland opted instead to sign two aging veterans to multi-year contracts. That isn't to say these two can't still make it happen on the field. But you can't ignore the fact that French is already on a noticeable decline, and Hubbard spent most of last season as a free agent, so we don't really know where his skills are at.

But offsetting some of that concern will be left fielder Jiao-long Ma, who is becoming a star in his own right. He put up 5.4 WAR for the Lumberjacks last season, and he'll look to continue his ascent.

Next, Rex Foster, another top free agent target, was added to be the primary DH. After an injury-plagued 2051, he appears fully healthy and able to make up some of the lost production from the departed Ernest McBride.

Rounding out the new additions are catcher Rainer Scheffer, first baseman Andrew Gallagher and third baseman Wlilbald Akbulut. Give them credit — it's one of the best lineups money could have bought from this year's free agent crop, but Scheffer is the only one who's a clear upgrade from the player he's replacing.

The rotation has not changed, with the trio of Warren/Sparks/Vidaca still leading the staff. I'm also intrigued by the growth of Randolph Marable, who has outstanding stuff and a six-pitch arsenal. If he puts it all together, he could emerge as Portland's ace.

Xuan Ngo is the incumbent closer, but he's coming off a bit of a shaky season. If his struggles continue, Portland could shift him to a lower-leverage role, and give the closer's job to the seasoned veteran Gilberto Sosa, newly acquired as a free agent.

2052 prediction: 85-77. Portland has put together an extraordinary run of success, culminating in two Brewster Series appearances. But rebuilding half the roster is too tall an order for any team to go through and expect everything will work out perfectly again. The loaded young rotation will still carry them pretty far, and a Wildcard spot could be in the cards.



2051 record: 79-83, 4th place in Pacific

Notable additions: 2B Manny Toledo, 1B Philip Waymouth, RP Aidan MacKechie, RF Ángel González, SP Mahad Einan, SS José Gonzáles, RP Troy Andrews, IF Isaac Emmott, 3B Félix Ladaga, DH Hugh Mangrourhormone, OF Ferit Torlak, 1B António Romero, OF Thurman Witt

Losses (and 2051 WAR): RF Gilberto Villanueva (2.5), OF Reece Swaffield (0.0), SS Luis Peña (1.7), SP/RP Romeu Tameiro (0.0), OF Ramiro Hernández (1.2), RP Jorge Fuentes (0.7), 3B Mike Galloway (-0.3), LF Grant Prince (-0.3), 1B Eduardo García (0.6)

Outlook: The 2051 season in Vancouver was an example of just about everything going wrong. But a season where everything blows up in your face can actually be a blessing, since it very clearly highlights a team's biggest problem areas, giving you a chance to fix them next year.

Vancouver is certainly a better team than last year's 79-83 record. They underperformed their Pythagorean record by five games, so there's some expected improvement right there. On top of that, if they can apply last year's learnings to this year, fix their holes and cut the dead weight, they should be able to get back into contention.

But there was work to do — the Mounties were dead last in the BBA in on-base percentage last year (.305). Though they were second in the BBA in home runs (281), the power wasn't enough, because no one was getting on base.

They needed to stop focusing on home runs, and make plate discipline a top priority to have a chance at getting back to respectability. Right? Surely their GM could see that, and adopt this very sensible plan?

Enter Hugh Mangrourhormone. If there's anyone who sacrifices on-base percentage in favor of hitting big, fat, dingers, it's this guy. And Vancouver made him their first free agent signing of the off-season, effectively saying "Nah, screw on-base percentage, I'm just going to double down on what clearly didn't work last year."

They then went on to trade for another power hitter, right fielder Ángel González, who is an eight-time All-Star and former Silk winner. And while he does make them better, he also lacks plate discipline.

The starting rotation is improved, with another free agent signing, Mahad Einan. Formerly an ace and a three-time All-Star in the GBC, Einan has a five-pitch arsenal that should translate well to the BBA. He'll form a nice 1-2 punch with incumbent staff ace Phil Cole.

In the bullpen, Vancouver has several stoppers to close games, and likes to play matchups with them. Lefty Pedro Huerta takes the lion's share of the work, eclipsing 100 innings last year for the first time in career while posting a career-low 2.26 ERA. And José Ordoñez is their end-game option from the right side, a seasoned closer with nearly 200 saves to his name.

2052 prediction: 78-84. While the caliber of talent added is quite good, it doesn't change what is clearly a broken offensive strategy. So I hope the fans in Vancouver like reruns, because this year is going to look a lot like last year, and produce the same lackluster results.



LONG BEACH

2051 record: 59-103, 8th place in Pacific

Notable additions: OF Len Loder, OF José Leyva, 1B Wa'il Ahmad, OF Reginald Millar, 1B Tso-i Gu, RP Dave Houston, 3B Alex Ramírez, RP Damad Aksoy, 2B Rashad bin Hadad, SP Chris Duncan, RP Louis Adams, IF Jorge Lugo, SP Takehide Gertrudes

Losses (and 2051 WAR): CF Todd Rice (2.2), SP Danya Tchekanov (1.5), 2B Francisco Arredondo (1.3), RP Jesús Ríos (0.2), RP Ángel Hernández (0.8), CF Bill Morley (-0.5), OF Mike O'Hanly (-0.1), IF Francisco Martínez (-0.3)

Outlook: In last year's Media Guide, it was written that Long Beach, though not yet in position to contend, would be "interesting" next year. Well, it's next year, and the assessment was correct — they are interesting. Good? Not sure about that, but they're definitely interesting.

Long Beach needed a stud defender in the infield to support their up-and-coming groundballer pitching prospects. Preferably one who could also hit, because the offense was also in pretty bad shape. There really was only one guy for the job.

And they got their man: Alex Ramírez, the star third baseman who is coming off a 7.3 WAR season with Mexico City. The move will allow Juan Hernández to move to first, shoring up both positions defensively. Though it's not clear what happens with Danny Adkins now, whether he's platooning with Hernández, or what. But more depth is not the worst problem to have.

The middle infield is also improved defensively, with the addition of Jorge Lugo, who seems like he might play second base to complement defensive wizard Steveland Morris at short.

The focus on improved defense also included center field, where the Surfers added José Leyva, the GBC veteran who may not have the hitting skills of the departed Todd Rice, but has elite range in the field to make up for it.

The pitching staff is where the fruits of the club's rebuilding years will finally start to show. It actually started last April, when #11 BBA prospect Lucas Wood and #89 prospect Luke Everard were both called up for brief stints on the big-league squad. They each had their moments, but it became clear that they needed more development, so they were both sent back down to Triple-A for the rest of the season.

Now with an additional year of experience under their belts, they should both be ready to stay in the big leagues.

If they're able to perform as they're expected to, it'll go a long way towards improving the Surfers' staff ERA of 5.50, which was the worst in the FL last year.

Also joining the bullpen is veteran Dave Houston, signed to a two-year deal. He'll likely assume a role of stopper, alongside mainstays Luis Manuel Rodríguez and Del Willis, giving the Surfers an impressively deep 'pen.

2052 prediction: 76-86. The starting rotation is still not where it needs to be, but I think we'll see substantial improvement, fueled by the call-ups of Wood and Everard. So I'll reuse the line from last year's Media Guide and say when it comes to Long Beach, "next year looks interesting".



2051 record: 62-100, 7th place in Pacific

Notable additions: SS Orlando López, RP Cliff Crudge, C Zach Reid, 1B Julián Guerrero, 3B Anastasio Guillén, OF Rory Linseman, 3B David Graham, RP Fernando Bruno

Losses (and 2051 WAR): 1B Pedro Martínez (1.0), IF Shalom van Buuren (1.0), IF Eric Jones (-1.3), SP Yun Zhang (2.2), C José Vélez (-0.8)

Outlook: Let's start with the positives. Seattle can hit pretty well, and they play pretty well at home. Their ballpark is geared for contact and doubles, and Seattle employs some of the premier gap hitters in the league.

The middle of Seattle's lineup includes Valentin Fitas, Raúl Fernández, Alexander Julyan, and Yo Miyamoto. Fitas and Miyamoto finished in the top five in the Frick in doubles last season. Julyan would have likely been up there too, if he wasn't injured for nearly half the year. My point is: these guys double.

That can get you pretty far as an offense, provided they're able to command the other side of the ball. That is, defense and pitching.

The defense is not great. Jamie Angwin is a below-average center fielder who is probably better suited for left, and Seattle's park (which favors gap hitters, remember), will not be kind to him.

In the infield, the defense should be better, helped by the acquisition of shortstop Orlando López. His durability should allow Wilson Andrade to never set foot at the shortstop position again, which will help. Second-year player Run-ming Gui also has an excellent glove, and can play every infield position.

But we need to talk about the pitching. Last year, the staff's 655 walks allowed were the most in the BBA, and the 5.31 ERA was fifth-worst. Normally when that happens, you clean house and rebuild. But in Seattle's case, they've brought back many of the worst offenders, and basically said "control shmoncontrol", so buckle up for another walk party this season.

We will definitely see the call-up of #1 BBA prospect Lúcio Juárez this year, which will be a nice boost. He boasts elite movement with an excellent fastball-sinker combo that gets a lot of ground balls, so hopefully Seattle's revamped infield shows up to work.

Prospects Doug Eckhoff and Harley Phillips should not be far behind Juárez, though I expect both will begin the season in Triple-A.

2052 prediction: 69-93. The offense is decent, but the pitching will be an adventure every single night. The season will likely turn into an exposure year for Juárez and other top prospects, but Seattle will limit their innings and protect their investments.



2051 record: 66-96, 6th place in Pacific

Notable additions: C Heui-seong Park, RP Raúl Reyes, RP Bert Hanbridge, C Quinton Lara, SP Jim Wilkinson

Losses (and 2051 WAR): OF Bobby Parker (0.7), OF Omer Dijkstra (0.4), RP Alan Gray (-0.5), RP Peter Roop (0.2), RP Ángel Romero (0.0)

Outlook: San Fernando has not finished above .500 since 2046, and there aren't many reasons to expect them to turn it around any time soon.

Last year's squad was led by Tyler Ober, who hit 39 homers and is a pro at getting on base. He was one of three players in the BBA to hit 35+ homers and draw 110+ walks last year, and the others are perennial All-Stars: Louisville's Luis Mendoza and Des Moines' Hasheem Makin.

Ober was also the only player in the BBA with 20 doubles, 35 homers, and at least 4.4 pitches seen per plate appearance.

You can tell I'm going on tangents to avoid having to talk about the Bears, because the rest isn't pretty.

San Fernando's other best hitter is DH Reggie Vargas, who is always a home run threat, but like Ober is a lefty who struggles against left-handed pitching. As a result, this team is pretty hopeless against lefties, with a dreadful 13-34 record last season when a lefty starter was on the hill. They didn't do much to fix that.

The rotation is hit-or-miss, anchored by Jorge Moreno, who is no longer as effective as he once was, but is at least durable enough to have not missed a start in over four years.

Also, hopes should still be high for third-year player Zach Davis. He has struggled in the BBA, but he's been the victim of high BABIP, which can be fixed by fielding a proper defense behind him.

And if Spring Training is any indication, the Bears are planning to shift former closer Ramón González to the rotation, which might actually work. He's got a solid three-pitch arsenal and can induce ground balls, but like Davis, his effectiveness will come down to whether he has the defense behind him.

Hey San Fernando, what have you done this off-season to improve the defense? *crickets*

Anyway, with González moving to the rotation, someone needs to take over the closer's role. Could it be Kurt Hanson? He was one of the only effective arms in the 'pen last year, so if anyone has earned the job, it's him. Though they may also take a look at young fireballer Raúl Reyes, who was claimed on waivers in January.

But speculation aside, the bullpen is thin and problematic. And knowing how baseball works, when the bullpen goes wrong, a team's season can be completely derailed. Maybe another few waiver claims are in order to get them back up to respectability.

2052 prediction: 61-101. With two years left before Ober and Vargas hit free agency, we might see San Fernando start selling off pieces this year if things go south.



GBC Team Previews

-Neil Thomas



GM - Dustin Parmalee

2051 GBC Tokyo 92- 71 .564 1st WON GBC Championship

Who They Were 2051.

A team that made short work of the lower teams within the GBC but struggled against the lower teams more than they should have, however they lifted the GBC title in the end so the Pearls could say so what if the Brisas win 14 games against them or Sao Paulo had a better record against them. The Tokyo Pearls won the last game of the season, it's all that matters.

Vs OPPONENT

Athens Fighting Centaurs 12-12

Buenos Aires Brisas 9-14

Cairo Pharaohs 14-9

Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers 18-5

London Monarchs 14-9

Sao Paulo Pilots 11-13

Sydney Sharks 14-9

TEAM INFORMATION

Record overall 92-71, .564 PCT
Position in Division 1st, - GB
Record at home 46-35, .567 PCT
Record on the road 46-36, .560 PCT
Record in X-inning games 7-6, .538 PCT
Record in one-run games 23-22, .511 PCT
Record versus LHP 18-11, .620 PCT
Record versus RHP 74-60, .552 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS

Batting Average .283 - 1st in GBC
On-Base Percentage .330 - 3rd in GBC
Slugging Percentage .443 - 2nd in GBC
On-Base + Slugging .774 - 2nd in GBC
Runs Scored 840 - 2nd in GBC
Hits 1639 - 1st in GBC
Extra-Base Hits 522 - 4th in GBC
Home Runs 190 - 5th in GBC
Bases On Balls 414 - 8th in GBC
Strikeouts 984 - 1st in GBC
Stolen Bases 66 - tied for 5th in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS

Earned Run Average 4.29 - 3rd in GBC
Starters' ERA 4.67 - 4th in GBC
Bullpen ERA 3.73 - 2nd in GBC
Runs allowed 732 - 3rd in GBC
Hits allowed 1497 - 5th in GBC
Opponents AVG .264 - 5th in GBC
BABIP .304 - 5th in GBC
Home Runs allowed 169 - 2nd in GBC
Bases On Balls 518 - 5th in GBC
Strikeouts 1168 - 1st in GBC

What They Need 2052.

With a few players leaving through FA the Pearls like a few other teams in the GBC need to either dig deep in the FA market or look to the minors if the fee agents seem out the big money in the BBA.

King of Swing.

LF Taylor Barfoot.

Barfoot takes over from Scott Bell in being the position player par excellence of the Tokyo ball club hefty shoes to fill indeed but with 32 dingers and 130 runs batted in and at a tender age of 26 he could be the leader of the line up for years to come.

King of the Mound.

RP Owen McKelvey.

An 11-6 record with a 2.39 era is a stat line a starting pitcher would be proud of let alone a bullpen pitcher, many thought he struggled last season but some have the reason he was switched from closer to set up but a season in and he's found his stride and started to put up the numbers that Tokyo thought he could.

Young Gun

SP Jayin 'Padfoot' Ranjani

Number 1 ranked pitcher in the Tokyo pipeline as struggled a bit in the minors, at just 19 years of age Tokyo shouldn't be worried though as Ranjani as plenty of developing to do before he hits the big leagues.



Tokyo Pearls

2051 GBC Championship by Denny's & Marko Worldwide Winners

Record: 92-71, .564 PCT

Season Score: 705 out of 1000





SYDNEY SHARKS

GM - Kevin Vanderpoorten.

2051 GBC Sydney 79- 83 .488 6th

Who They Were 2051.

Looked like they were on the march to a play off spot in June & July going 32-20, however the other months weren't as kind. A 15-31 record against two of the top three teams in Cairo & Tokyo showed they couldn't compete with the big boys, however a 12-11 record against the Brisas showed they did have some fight in them.

Vs OPPONENTS.

Athens Fighting Centaurs 15-8

Buenos Aires Brisas 12-11

Cairo Pharaohs 6-17

Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers 15-8

London Monarchs 11-12

Sao Paulo Pilots 11-13

Tokyo Pearls 9-14

TEAM INFORMATION

Record overall 79-83, .487 PCT

Position in Division 6th, 12½ GB

Record at home 44-37, .543 PCT

Record on the road 35-46, .432 PCT

Record in X-inning games 3-8, .272 PCT

Record in one-run games 13-21, .382 PCT

Record versus LHP 20-17, .540 PCT

Record versus RHP 59-66, .472 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS

Batting Average .266 - 4th in GBC

On-Base Percentage .327 - 5th in GBC

Slugging Percentage .411 - 7th in GBC

On-Base + Slugging .738 - 6th in GBC

Runs Scored 766 - 5th in GBC

Hits 1495 - 5th in GBC
Extra-Base Hits 462 - 7th in GBC
Home Runs 158 - 7th in GBC
Bases On Balls 495 - 4th in GBC
Strikeouts 1097 - 3rd in GBC
Stolen Bases 121 - 1st in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS

Earned Run Average 4.45 - 5th in GBC
Starters' ERA 4.76 - 5th in GBC
Bullpen ERA 4.06 - 6th in GBC
Runs allowed 765 - 5th in GBC
Hits allowed 1456 - 3rd in GBC
Opponents AVG .260 - 4th in GBC
BABIP .285 - 2nd in GBC
Home Runs allowed 195 - 6th in GBC
Bases On Balls 537 - 7th in GBC
Strikeouts 1020 - 8th in GBC

What They Need 2052.

Although not even close to being the worst team in the league, the Sharks need to improve in every department as they were ranked middle of the road in every department. The pieces are there both in the majors and the farm systems, they just need a few additions and a handful of rough diamonds polished in the minors.

King of Swing.

3B Bodil Sellevold.

One if not the top third baseman within the league, not one of the elite players of the GBC as of yet but more work on his power and home run totals and he could easily reach that elite status.

King of the Mound.

RP You-Cheng Hang.

21 saves and a 1.35 era, if the Sharks could bump his innings production up a notch or two from the 53+ innings he produced last season then Hang could be winning awards for seasons to come.

Young Gun

SP Niegloslaw Woywitka.

Woywitka could be the ace that any title contender needs, at 19 the Polish native as time to develop but look to him hitting the majors sooner rather than later.



LONDON MONARCHS

GM - Michael Crawley.

2051 GBC London 27 -18 .600 5th

Who They Were 2051.

Started of with a solid winning record in April but came of the rails in May, June and July with a 34-47 in those months but finished the season strong. If they could link the good start and finish to the season they could be a contender.

Vs OPPONENTS.

Athens Fighting Centaurs 12-11

Buenos Aires Brisas 10-13

Cairo Pharaohs 14-10

Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers 11-12

Sao Paulo Pilots 11-12

Sydney Sharks 12-11

Tokyo Pearls 9-14

TEAM INFORMATION

Record overall 79-83, .487 PCT

Position in Division 5th, 12½ GB

Record at home 40-41, .493 PCT

Record on the road 39-42, .481 PCT

Record in X-inning games 8-6, .571 PCT

Record in one-run games 21-28, .428 PCT

Record versus LHP 15-14, .517 PCT

Record versus RHP 64-69, .481 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS

Batting Average .249 - 8th in GBC

On-Base Percentage .309 - 8th in GBC

Slugging Percentage .390 - 8th in GBC

On-Base + Slugging .698 - 8th in GBC

Runs Scored 680 - 8th in GBC

Hits 1388 - 8th in GBC

Extra-Base Hits 451 - 8th in GBC
Home Runs 148 - 8th in GBC
Bases On Balls 475 - 6th in GBC
Strikeouts 1052 - 2nd in GBC
Stolen Bases 86 - 2nd in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS.

Earned Run Average 3.99 - 1st in GBC
Starters' ERA 4.28 - 1st in GBC
Bullpen ERA 3.50 - 1st in GBC
Runs allowed 679 - 1st in GBC
Hits allowed 1424 - 2nd in GBC
Opponents AVG .256 - 2nd in GBC
BABIP .290 - 4th in GBC
Home Runs allowed 144 - 1st in GBC
Bases On Balls 520 - 6th in GBC
Strikeouts 1037 - 7th in GBC

What They Need 2052.

Hitting, there pitching is as good as any team within the GBC. However there hitting ranks 8th in pretty much every stay category, however after poor management that was in charge of contract extensions it's a matter of getting as many warm bodies in as they can.

King of Swing.

3B Nicolai Reshetkov

After the great exodus of players through free agency, Reshetkov is not only the best hitter they have but until replacements are brought in he could be the only bat they have. He put up 28 home runs with 102 runs batted in for a 4.0 WAR last season, however with the loss of players to FA he needs to improve those stars of London could be in free fall.

King of the Mound.

SP Jordan Knowles.

Knowles needs to be signed to a contract extension and quick before they lose another talent, and before they lose the fans faith in them. However he will have to prove himself as a starter, after only starting 2 of 20 games in the majors, he could also do with trimming his walks down if he's to make the

top tier of BBC pitching.

Young Gun

SP Ricardo Martinez.

Started 29 games in AAA last season and finished with a 13-11 record, with the loss of talent the Monarchs faced this off season Martinez could find himself in the majors sooner rather than later, that being due to the lack of talent depth the Monarchs have at the major league level.



SAO PAULO PILOTS

GM - Douglas Aiton.

2051 GBC Sao Paulo 61- 39 .610 2nd Lost GBC Championship

Who They Were 2051.

Hitting, hitting and more hitting that's who the Pilots were, if there pitching had been above average then it would have been the Sao Paulo Pilots name engraved on the GBC Trophy and not the Tokyo Pearls. 1st or 2nd in every stay category bar Ks and SBs and you don't want to be high up in Ks, they are without doubt the best line up within the GBC.

Sao Paulo Pilots Record

Athens Fighting Centaurs 12-11

Buenos Aires Brisas 15-8

Cairo Pharaohs 11-12

Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers 15-8

London Monarchs 12-11

Sydney Sharks 13-11

Tokyo Pearls 13-11

TEAM INFORMATION

Record overall 91-72, .558 PCT

Position in Division 2nd, 1 GB

Record at home 52-30, .634 PCT

Record on the road 39-42, .481 PCT

Record in X-inning games 9-4, .692 PCT

Record in one-run games 24-18, .571 PCT

Record versus LHP 25-16, .609 PCT

Record versus RHP 66-56, .540 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS

Batting Average .277 - 2nd in GBC

On-Base Percentage .349 - 1st in GBC

Slugging Percentage .456 - 1st in GBC

On-Base + Slugging .805 - 1st in GBC

Runs Scored 872 - 1st in GBC

Hits 1597 - 2nd in GBC
Extra-Base Hits 579 - 1st in GBC
Home Runs 206 - 2nd in GBC
Bases On Balls 625 - 1st in GBC
Strikeouts 1127 - 8th in GBC
Stolen Bases 81 - 4th in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS

Earned Run Average 4.44 - 4th in GBC
Starters' ERA 4.35 - 2nd in GBC
Bullpen ERA 4.57 - 7th in GBC
Runs allowed 758 - 4th in GBC
Hits allowed 1462 - 4th in GBC
Opponents AVG .259 - 3rd in GBC
BABIP .282 - 1st in GBC
Home Runs allowed 222 - 8th in GBC
Bases On Balls 462 - 2nd in GBC
Strikeouts 1069 - 5th in GBC

What They Need 2052.

Pitchers who don't give up the long ball and a faster start to the season, the Pilots pitchers have up 222 home runs and started the season 13-15 which meant they were always playing catch up to Tokyo even though the Pearls had a sluggish start at 13-14.

King of Swing.

LF Tadataka Koshikawa.

40 home runs, 135 runs batted in with 115 runs and an average over the magical .300 you can understand why Koshikawa is not only the best Pilot bat but one of the best in the GBC

King of the Mound.

SP Adam Barber.

A 3.82 era may not point to a lights out starter but a 12-3 record is on the right road, if he can cut his home runs down its easy to see him getting 15 wins, it's also not impossible to see him with help from his teammates hitting 20 wins in a season.

Young Gun

RP Siaso Aroona.

He may not be the number 1 pitching prospect within the organisation but if Aroona can fit into his development shoes then he could be one of not best bullpen arm within the GBC, a lights out fastball and curveball along with a changeup that's still developing gives him an arsenal a starter would be proud of.



JERUSAELM HEBREW HAMMERS

GM - GM Mark Becker

2051 GBC Jerusalem 65- 97 .401 8th

Who They Were 2051.

Rock bottom with a mountain to climb, the only light at the end of the tunnel was a winning record against the 3rd place Cairo Pharaohs, however much as they'd love to they don't play the Pharaohs 162 games a season. There is another glimmer of hope though, hitting they ranked in the top half of most hitting stats, however that glimmer is extinguished with the pitching which is ranked last in most categories.

Vs OPPONENT.

Athens Fighting Centaurs 10-13

Buenos Aires Brisas 9-15

Cairo Pharaohs 13-10

London Monarchs 12-11

Sao Paulo Pilots 8-15

Sydney Sharks 8-15

Tokyo Pearls 5-18

TEAM INFORMATION

Record overall 65-97, .401 PCT

Position in Division 8th, 26½ GB

Record at home 43-38, .530 PCT

Record on the road 22-59, .271 PCT

Record in X-inning games 7-5, .583 PCT

Record in one-run games 18-22, .450 PCT

Record versus LHP 11-23, .323 PCT

Record versus RHP 54-74, .421 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS.

Batting Average .262 - 6th in GBC

On-Base Percentage .330 - 4th in GBC

Slugging Percentage .423 - 5th in GBC

On-Base + Slugging .753 - 5th in GBC

Runs Scored 791 - 4th in GBC
Hits 1478 - 6th in GBC
Extra-Base Hits 489 - 6th in GBC
Home Runs 195 - 3rd in GBC
Bases On Balls 556 - 2nd in GBC
Strikeouts 1125 - 7th in GBC
Stolen Bases 63 - 7th in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS

Earned Run Average 5.11 - 8th in GBC
Starters' ERA 5.98 - 8th in GBC
Bullpen ERA 4.04 - 5th in GBC
Runs allowed 963 - 8th in GBC
Hits allowed 1694 - 8th in GBC
Opponents AVG .287 - 8th in GBC
BABIP .320 - 8th in GBC
Home Runs allowed 209 - 7th in GBC
Bases On Balls 439 - 1st in GBC
Strikeouts 1104 - 4th in GBC

What They Need 2052.

They need to improve in every aspect of the game but pitching is a priority, you can't give up close to a 1,000 Runs in a season and expect to get out of the cellar let alone fight for honours.

King of Swing.

LF Bronx Cortez

30 home runs and 95 runs batted in was a solid return for the outfielder but opponents soon found a weakness in the Hammers slugger, left-handed pitching as he only managed 2 dingers and 2 rbi against lefties, at 28 he maybe to long in the tooth to change his ways so expect Bronx to be sitting on the bench when lefties are on the mound.

King of the Mound.

RP José González

How the Hammers would love a younger González to build there bullpen around, by far and away there best pitcher be it rotation or bullpen González is the only pitched for the Hammers to have posted a winning record in 2051. The Hammers need to regain his services and quick or it could be one ugly 2052.

Young Gun

SP Arturo 'Pendragon' Damasco.

The Italian starting pitcher maybe of short stature at 5 feet 11 inch but he makes up in talent what he lacks in height, spent his career so far in rookie ball many are predicting a rise up the ladder in the coming seasons. How quick of a rise will depend on how much he can improve his movement, or how quick.



CAIRO PHAROHS

GM - Julian Dime.

2051 GBC Cairo 67 -64 .511 3rd

Who They Were 2051.

Cairo must have been wondering what could have been, a solid start to the season saw them hit June with a 27-26 record and still in touch for a play off spot, sadly that all fell away in June when the wheels fell off and they ended the month with a record of 36-45.

Vs OPPONENT.

Athens Fighting Centaurs 12-11

Buenos Aires Brisas 14-9

Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers 10-13

London Monarchs 10-14

Sao Paulo Pilots 12-11

Sydney Sharks 17-6

Tokyo Pearls 9-14

TEAM INFORMATION.

Record overall 84-78, .518 PCT

Position in Division 3rd, 7½ GB

Record at home 45-36, .555 PCT

Record on the road 39-42, .481 PCT

Record in X-inning games 5-3, .625 PCT

Record in one-run games 25-21, .543 PCT

Record versus LHP 19-21, .475 PCT

Record versus RHP 65-57, .532 PCT

Record last 10 games 6-4, .600 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS.

Batting Average .256 - 7th in GBC

On-Base Percentage .318 - 7th in GBC

Slugging Percentage .416 - 6th in GBC

On-Base + Slugging .734 - 7th in GBC

Runs Scored 715 - 7th in GBC

Hits 1424 - 7th in GBC
Extra-Base Hits 530 - 3rd in GBC
Home Runs 165 - 6th in GBC
Bases On Balls 494 - 5th in GBC
Strikeouts 1117 - 6th in GBC
Stolen Bases 57 - 8th in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS.

Earned Run Average 4.22 - 2nd in GBC
Starters' ERA 4.36 - 3rd in GBC
Bullpen ERA 4.00 - 4th in GBC
Runs allowed 702 - 2nd in GBC
Hits allowed 1395 - 1st in GBC
Opponents AVG .253 - 1st in GBC
BABIP .287 - 3rd in GBC
Home Runs allowed 174 - tied for 3rd in GBC
Bases On Balls 510 - 4th in GBC
Strikeouts 1136 - 3rd in GBC

What They Need 2052.

The Pharaohs need a bigger run differential be that more runs scored or fewer runs allowed, they scored 715 and allowed 702 to make the step from 3rd to 2nd or 1st that gap needs widen

King of Swing.

LF Edward Lake.

At 32 it's a bit of a stretch to teach an old dog new tricks, however if Ed Lake could not learn a new trick so to say but just improve a bit of two against lefties Cairo could have a possible MVP contender on there hands.

King of the Mound.

RP Mitch Freeman.

Freeman came over from the BBA with a scouting report of a solid but not a superstar pitcher, a season in the GBC changed that scouting report to boy that guy can pitch. He may have only pitched in 28 games but came away with 20 saves and a microscopic 0.85 era. If he could pitch in another 20 games could take Cairo to the promised land.

Young Gun

CF Blair 'Breezy' Peyton.

If Cairo are in need of a CF in 3 or 4 seasons who can field and get on base then they need look no further than Blair 'Breezy' Peyton, you'll not see Peyton trotting round the bases after hitting one into the bleachers but you may see him running the bases after someone else hits one into the bleachers.



BUENOS AIRES BRISAS

GM - N/A.

Who They Were 2051. 84-78, .518 PCT 4th, 7½ GB.

Looked like world beaters with a 34-23 record within the first 2 months of the season, however they slipped a bit in June with a 12-15 losing record. Things seemed to be on track again in July with a 14-11 record and an overall record of 60-49, a glimmer of hope for a play off spot was snatched away though when the Brisas would only win 24 games in the final 2 months far from the 34 they won the first 2 months.

V's OPPONENTS.

Athens Fighting Centaurs 14-9
Cairo Pharaohs 9-14
Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers 15-9
London Monarchs 13-10
Sao Paulo Pilots 8-15
Sydney Sharks 11-12
Tokyo Pearls 14-9

TEAM INFORMATION.

Record overall 84-78, .518 PCT
Position in Division 4th, 7½ GB
Record at home 44-37, .543 PCT
Record on the road 40-41, .493 PCT
Record in X-inning games 2-7, .222 PCT
Record in one-run games 21-18, .538 PCT
Record versus LHP 23-20, .534 PCT
Record versus RHP 61-58, .512 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS.

Batting Average .267 - 3rd in GBC
On-Base Percentage .332 - 2nd in GBC
Slugging Percentage .433 - 4th in GBC
On-Base + Slugging .765 - 3rd in GBC
Runs Scored 820 - 3rd in GBC

Hits 1507 - 3rd in GBC
Extra-Base Hits 520 - 5th in GBC
Home Runs 192 - 4th in GBC
Bases On Balls 525 - 3rd in GBC
Strikeouts 1111 - 4th in GBC
Stolen Bases 66 - tied for 5th in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS.

Earned Run Average 4.51 - 6th in GBC
Starters' ERA 4.94 - 7th in GBC
Bullpen ERA 3.91 - 3rd in GBC
Runs allowed 773 - 6th in GBC
Hits allowed 1530 - 6th in GBC
Opponents AVG .272 - 6th in GBC
BABIP .305 - 6th in GBC
Home Runs allowed 174 - tied for 3rd in GBC
Bases On Balls 487 - 3rd in GBC
Strikeouts 1048 - 6th in GB

What They Need 2052.

Although the bullpen rated 3rd within the GBC they recorded a lowly 2-7 record when games went into extra innings, so when the pen took over they were solid but a 2-7 record suggests depth seems a problem within the bullpen of the Brisas.

King of Swing.

1B Helmut Grün.

Grün is the best position player on the Brisas by a comfortable margin, there are those in the know that he could even be the next hitter in the league. If he could add around 15-20 home runs then the list of Grün fans would increase significantly through the GBC.

King of the Mound.

RP Chris Hall.

He maybe closer to the end of his career than the beginning but Chris Hall as reinvented himself since his move from the BBA to the GBC, it took him a season to fit in but the last two seasons as him recognized as one of the best bullpen arms within the GBC specially having notched up 38 saves in 2051.

Young Gun

SP Taua Fatani.

The futures bright, the futures Fatani. Especially if he can increase his velocity above the 98 he tops out at the moment, Having showed his worth through the minors we could see the starting pitcher in a Brisas uniform during the 52 season maybe not the start but surely he'll be tested in the latter half of the 52 season.



ATHENS FIGHTING CENTAURS

GM - Neil Thomas.

2041 GBC Cairo 8-5 .615 3rd
2042 GBC Athens 85-77 .521 3rd
2043 GBC Athens 27-40 .403 6th
2044 GBC Beirut 90-72 .556 2nd Lost GBC Championship.
2045 BBA Valencia 53-109 .327 7th
2046 BBA Valencia 62-100 .383 7th
2047 BBA Valencia 70-92 .432 5th
2049 GBC Athens 72 -81 .471 5th
2051 GBC Athens 75-87 .463 7th

Who They Were 2051. 75-87, .462 PCT 7th, 16½ GB.

The Athens think tank must be wondering why they ended up with only the Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers below them in the standings, a record of 34-36 against the top 3 teams within the GBC pointed to a better season than their eventual 75-87 would be. However a 9-14 record against the 4th place Buenos Aires Brisas and a 8-15 mark against the Sydney Sharks who settled for 6th in the GBC derailed the Fighting Centaurs season.

Vs OPPONENTS.

Buenos Aires Brisas 9-14
Cairo Pharaohs 11-12
Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers 13-10
London Monarchs 11-12
Sao Paulo Pilots 11-12
Sydney Sharks 8-15
Tokyo Pearls 12-12

TEAM INFORMATION.

Record overall 75-87, .462 PCT
Position in Division 7th, 16½ GB
Record at home 37-44, .456 PCT
Record on the road 38-43, .469 PCT
Record in X-inning games 2-4, .333 PCT

Record in one-run games 21-16, .567 PCT
Record versus LHP 17-22, .435 PCT
Record versus RHP 58-65, .471 PCT

BATTING STATS & RANKINGS.

Batting Average .266 - 5th in GBC
On-Base Percentage .323 - 6th in GBC
Slugging Percentage .441 - 3rd in GBC
On-Base + Slugging .765 - 4th in GBC
Runs Scored 760 - 6th in GBC
Hits 1498 - 4th in GBC
Extra-Base Hits 542 - 2nd in GBC
Home Runs 209 - 1st in GBC
Bases On Balls 473 - 7th in GBC
Strikeouts 1116 - 5th in GBC
Stolen Bases 84 - 3rd in GBC

PITCHING STATS & RANKINGS.

Earned Run Average 5.01 - 7th in GBC
Starters' ERA 4.82 - 6th in GBC
Bullpen ERA 5.18 - 8th in GBC
Runs allowed 872 - 7th in GBC
Hits allowed 1568 - 7th in GBC
Opponents AVG .276 - 7th in GBC
BABIP .316 - 7th in GBC
Home Runs allowed 176 - 5th in GBC
Bases On Balls 584 - 8th in GBC
Strikeouts 1147 - 2nd in GBC

What They Need 2052.

Better pitching but doesnt everyone which makes it a tough ask specially with the salary cap near to bursting, if they can improve there record against the teams in the bottom half of the league and keep on par with the teams in the top half of the league ti could be a solid 2052 for the Athens ball club.

King of Swing.

LF Quinn Greene.

How Quinn Greene dropped to the 4th round of the then UMEBA draft in 2045 is one of the great mysteries of the UMEBA/GBC, whilst his strikeouts have gone up, many pointing to the pressure he puts

on himself to hit for the fences in a average Athens line up, his home runs have also gone up to the point that a 60 home run 2052 season isn't beyond the realms of fantasy, far from it.

King of the Mound.

SP Liam Johnston.

If we had four more Liam Johnstons we'd be play off bound every season said GM Thomas at the start of this season, that was in reply to a media article that after a 4.81 era from last season felt that Johnston was taking a back seat in a faltering Athens organisation. However in his FA season he bounced back and put up some of his best numbers, the Centaurs will be hopeful that he'll kick on in 2052 and become the ace of the rotation.

Young Gun.

SP Dong-po Jiang.

The 6 foot 4 inch Mongolian Jiang despite only being ranked 6th within the Athens farm system is thought to be the jewel in the crown in the eyes of the coaches of the Athens prospects, earmarked for a bullpen roll its thought if he could raise his stamina and add another pitch he could add more worth to his skill set, however Athens would be satisfied with Jiang being the stopper of the future.

THE BBA IS ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC

-John Momberg

Not long after I ascended to the BBA, I noticed a shortstop with the name “Steveland Morris”. Hey, I thought- that’s Stevie Wonder’s legal name. So I started to wonder: how many other players in BBA history share a name with a notable musician?

So, with plenty of time on my hands as a disappointing season for my team dragged on, I made it a project to assemble as many music/BBA player names as I could. A number of them seem to be from players who were created by GMs as a nod to music figures they admired; others are just coincidences. I’m sure I’m missing a goodly number, especially since there are whole genres of music that I’m not familiar with. However, for what it’s worth, here is a team of musical BBA players (annotated for the non-music fan):

CATCHERS:

Darius Rucker (Seattle, 1986-99)- Blowfish turned country star.

Dave Clark (Atlantic City, 2024)- Leader of the Dave Clark Five (duh!)

FIRST BASE:

Chris Brown (5 teams, 1985-97)- R and B/ Hip-hop star

Jack Johnson (Birmingham, 1999-2011)- Soft-rock guy

SECOND BASE:

Jonathan Richman (Mostly Calgary, 1983-1993)- Leader of the pioneering art-rockers the Modern Lovers.

Ray Anthony (Minors, 2003-04)- 1940s bandleader; crony of Hugh Hefner and known in his latter days as a creepy old man hanging around the Mansion ogling the girls.

THIRD BASE:

Gary Lewis (Vancouver, 2038-43)- Jerry's kid; had several mid-60s hits, mostly "This Diamond Ring".

SHORTSTOP

Bill Payne (New Orleans, 2045)- Co-founder and only remaining charter member of Little Feat.

Steveland Morris (Long Beach, 2049-present)- See above

OUTFIELDERS:

Mickey Hart (6 teams, 2012-25) Drummer for the Grateful Dead

Lightnin Hopkins (5 teams, 2015-26)- Country blues legend

Randy Jackson (2021-23, Carolina)- Either one of the lesser Jackson Five-ers, or a former American Idol judge who referred to everyone as "dog".

Robert Johnson (4 teams, 1992-99)- King of the Delta Blues

Jack Jones (Mostly Long Beach, 2034-37)- Crooner known for "Wives and Lovers" and the Love Boat theme.

Geddy Lee (2 teams, 1999-2002)- Singer and bassist for Rush

Mike Love (A bunch of teams, 2014, 2032)- Beach Boys frontman, considered obnoxious by many fans.

Glenn Miller (4 teams, 1980-92) Trombonist and bandleader.

DESIGNATED HITTER:

Gary Wright (2049-present, Omaha)- Big 1975 hit "Dream Weaver".

PITCHING STAFF:

Brian Adams (3 teams, 2012-20)- Slight spelling variation from "Bryan", but still cuts like a knife.

Trey Anastasio (1985-90, Mexico City)- Phish phrontman.

Zach Brown (4 teams, 2002-2016)- Drop the “H” from “Zach” and you have a country star.

Chris Dougherty (3 teams, 2024-34)- Another slight spelling adjustment needed to get the former “American Idol” winner.

Joe Jackson (Seattle, 2049-present)- Britpop-jazz guy

Ozzie Osborn (1976-82, mostly Mexico City)- If you’re reading this you know who he is.

Nick Sixx (1973-78, Seattle)- Bassist for Motley Crue, currently hanging on as best they can.

John Taylor (2049-present, New Orleans)- Founding member of the ‘80s band Duran Duran.

Scott Walker (2018, Marquette)- Member of the Walker Brothers. They were bigger in Britain than the U.S. but still had a stateside hit with “The Sun Ain’t Gonna Shine Any More”.

Paul Young (2 teams, 1991-95)- There were two British singers with that name. One sang “Every Time You Go Away” and the other sang “All I Need Is A Miracle”, which should be my team’s theme song.

Looking at it another way, you could make a heck of a band out of these guys: say, Mickey Hart on drums, Geddy Lee on bass, Robert Johnson on guitar, Bill Payne on keyboards, and Stevie Wonder on everything else.

You Just Got ~~UMEBA'd~~ GBC'd

-Brian Pinnell



The Brewster Baseball Association (BBA) and the Global Baseball Consortium (GBC) - the best duo not created in a secret genetics experiment.

Before the GBC, there was the UMEBA. A league with such promise. A league that thought it could do no wrong. But hubris and 'hookers and blow' both start with h.

This feature is not about the GBC versus the UMEBA. It is about the BBA's fascinating partnership with both leagues and how BBA players have used them to:

- 1) Get paid (see the definition of UMEBA'd from the 2046 Media Guide);
- 2) Work on themselves to perhaps get another shot at BBA glory; or
- 3) Keep the dream of playing baseball alive past their expiration date.

Please turn the page to read about some notable BBA players who fit these categories.

It's Raining UMEBA/GBC Money!



While the UMEBA and GBC clearly haven't been able to match the finances of the BBA, some shrewd GMs have been able to lure BBA players away from the top league with contracts too good to pass up. Capitalism has been alive and well in the 2030's-2050's and these players have needs. Curiously, I discovered that most of these players are all clients of Duke & Duke Wealth Management Specialists (not Winthorpe & Valentine which most BBA players use).

Here are a couple players in this category:

Frank "The Tank" Mahaffey

Frank liked hitting the ball as hard as he could. He impressed the fans in Valencia with his power, getting multiple awards and even an all-star nod at just 24 years of age. Then a whirlwind time as a free agent saw him get paid (peaking at \$10.5M) while playing for five teams in three years. There were complaints about his difficult personality, and he couldn't seem to hit anything except fastballs down the middle. His BBA career was seemingly going off the rails.

Then along came Mumbai with a two-year 8.2M offer. Feeling loved again, Frank became a monster for Mumbai, hitting over 45 homers three times, and helping them become three-peat champions from 2045-47 (while taking home a nice MVP trophy in 2047).

He then finished up his career in Cairo, spending three seasons with decent production. But the years of undisciplined swinging took their toll, and he chose to gracefully retire in 2050.

After signing with Mumbai, he was hounded by rumors of leaving the BBA due to unspecified “extras” in his contract. The photo below went viral and some say helped lead to the UMEBA’s eventual downfall. Per Frank, “Look, that was just for a team calendar. It was all in good fun. I love my wife. She makes the best meatloaf. I already told the press that when they asked me before. I went to Mumbai for the cash. That’s it. Mr. Duke advised me to take the deal. He said he needed the commission to help pay some old family debts.”



Undated photo of Mahaffey in Mumbai with unidentified team employees (courtesy of the 2051 Media Guide)

Where is he now? Photos from his retirement party in his hometown of Las Vegas made their way online recently:



Frank "The Tank" is always the life of the party.



Bill "Blue Screen" Microsoft was rumored to have died following his own retirement party in 1997 but showed up to taunt Frank about selling out to the UMEBA. "In my day, we only had one major league and we liked it!" Frank just smiled and retorted, "You're my boy Blue Screen!"

Frank's stats:

Year	Age	Team	LVL	G	GS	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	WAR
2034	22	VAL	BBA	158	150	645	572	72	153	22	1	32	85	67	136	1	0	.267	.347	.477	.825	119	2.3
2035	23	VAL	BBA	159	156	665	585	83	162	24	0	38	97	68	139	0	1	.277	.354	.513	.867	127	3.6
2036	24	VAL	BBA	159	157	685	611	89	150	26	1	34	89	66	164	0	0	.245	.321	.458	.779	105	2.5
2037	25	VAL	BBA	158	153	671	580	101	180	33	1	44	117	76	141	0	0	.310	.397	.598	.995	155	6.4
2038	26	VAL	BBA	157	155	678	595	87	163	28	1	38	112	71	150	0	0	.274	.358	.516	.874	124	3.7
2039	27	VAL	BBA	158	157	678	603	96	155	18	1	50	107	70	176	0	0	.257	.335	.539	.874	118	2.6
2040	28	VAL	BBA	100	88	365	334	43	70	4	0	26	55	28	109	0	0	.210	.271	.455	.726	83	-0.7
2041	29	BRK	BBA	107	107	467	425	82	117	15	0	38	84	39	130	0	0	.275	.336	.579	.915	121	1.7
2041	29	BOI	BBA	23	21	93	80	11	25	1	0	7	16	13	16	0	0	.312	.409	.588	.996	144	0.6
BBA Total 2041			BBA	130	128	560	505	93	142	16	0	45	100	52	146	0	0	.281	.348	.580	.928	125	2.2
2042	30	JAX	BBA	90	82	354	308	42	62	5	1	20	50	42	136	0	0	.201	.297	.419	.715	81	-0.2
2042	30	YS9	BBA	31	26	125	111	18	19	5	0	3	13	13	35	0	0	.171	.256	.297	.553	41	-0.7
BBA Total 2042			BBA	121	108	479	419	60	81	10	1	23	63	55	171	0	0	.193	.286	.387	.673	70	-0.9
2043	31	MUM	GBC	96	96	437	383	71	119	13	3	32	82	47	97	0	0	.311	.394	.611	1.005	142	2.1
2044	32	MUM	GBC	146	143	638	569	95	159	15	1	47	113	61	137	0	0	.279	.353	.557	.910	130	3.5
2045	33	MUM	GBC	144	135	584	520	63	118	10	0	28	79	56	136	0	0	.227	.303	.408	.711	90	0.4
2046	34	MUM	GBC	156	154	676	601	97	164	19	0	47	121	67	155	1	0	.273	.345	.539	.884	131	4.5
2047	35	MUM	GBC	154	147	650	593	83	154	12	0	46	113	52	163	0	0	.260	.320	.513	.833	118	2.7
2048	36	CAI2	GBC	72	47	229	207	24	50	8	0	8	28	22	67	0	1	.242	.314	.396	.711	85	-0.2
2049	37	CAI2	GBC	148	141	625	551	79	143	26	1	29	89	64	146	0	0	.260	.336	.468	.804	107	1.6
2050	38	CAI2	GBC	50	48	202	186	25	43	4	0	13	35	15	65	0	0	.231	.287	.462	.749	93	-0.0
TOTAL			MLB	2266	2163	9467	8414	1261	2206	288	11	580	1485	937	2298	2	2	.262	.338	.506	.844	116	36.2

Keijo "Coach" Reini

Keijo "Coach" Reini you ask? Yes, indeed. Doesn't he play for Boise? Yes, he does. Then why he is on this list? Because he got UMEBA'd!

Keijo has the distinction of being the first-ever draft pick of the Charlotte Cougars. He won multiple reliever awards and all-star nods while putting up insane strikeout numbers. He hovered just under and over 20 K/9 many times, and led the league in strikeouts in 2044 and 2045. As a reliever!

In late 2047, he decided to test free agency, tired of the scene in Charlotte. Sacramento swooped in and signed him for one year at 8.1M. He rewarded them by posting career lows in ERA (1.55) and WHIP (0.64), and a career high in K/9 (21.4). Likely thinking Keijo would sign an extension, Sacramento instead witnessed something they are surely still talking about. The Athens Fighting Centaurs of the UMEBA threw 31.2M at him! A two-year deal at 15.6M per year. Keijo's agent dutifully called the Athens GM to verify before pleading with his client to take the money. "This is life-changing!"

Keijo recalled an old Hungarian proverb about never turning down clean money, and from what he could tell, this dough was squeaky. He agreed to the deal but couldn't shake the feeling that he would regret turning his back on the best league in the world. Would he ever get back? What if the UMEBA folded? Did he leave the iron on? All these questions weighed on him as he flew to Athens.

That 2049 season was the hardest of this career as Athens leaned on him to be their #1 starter. "I hadn't really started in six years, and now I had to carry the rotation? It wore me out physically and mentally," lamented Keijo. He led the league that season in starts (33), strikeouts (215), and K/9 (10.7), with his K/9 number still holding as the single season record.

Luckily for Keijo, his agent reluctantly included a player option for the second year of the contract. Exhausted by the number of starts and the souvlaki prepared by the team chef, he opted out, and hoped to get BBA'd. Almost six months later, he inked a three-year deal for less money per year with Sacramento (3 years 19.52M). According to Keijo, "I was very happy to be back in the BBA, and I was really glad it was Sacramento that got me. It wasn't about the money in the end. I learned there is more to life."

Wrecked by too many starts in Athens, Keijo had to have surgery on his elbow (see picture below) and was eventually released by Sacramento. He was recently picked up by Boise with a one-year deal at 2.8M. Asked if he would ever go back to Athens or any other GBC team, he replied, "I never say never. I hear good things about Buenos Aires. One thing is for sure is that I will never start another game. Print that to give to my agent." Asked whether he would ever shave his 'stache, he laughed and defiantly shouted "F\$&# no!"



Keijo's stats:

Year	Age	Team	LVL	W	L	SV	ERA	G	GS	IP	HA	ER	HR	BB	K	WHIP	HR/9	BB/9	K/9	BABIP	ERA+	WAR
2041	23	CHA	BBA	1	0	0	7.78	4	4	19.2	23	17	3	10	21	1.68	1.4	4.6	9.6	.370	65	0.3
2042	24	CHA	BBA	7	10	1	4.90	34	31	183.2	156	100	34	78	210	1.27	1.7	3.8	10.3	.273	98	2.4
2043	25	CHA	BBA	5	17	9	4.90	46	23	163.1	155	89	40	49	200	1.25	2.2	2.7	11.0	.293	81	0.2
2044	26	CHA	BBA	5	6	16	3.13	78	0	141.0	82	49	24	44	263	0.89	1.5	2.8	16.8	.283	134	3.7
2045	27	CHA	BBA	8	4	13	2.41	73	1	153.0	60	41	23	71	341	0.86	1.4	4.2	20.1	.262	199	5.2
2046	28	CHA	BBA	6	3	8	1.57	93	0	114.2	46	20	8	29	230	0.65	0.6	2.3	18.1	.262	277	5.8
2047	29	CHA	BBA	6	4	14	2.12	87	0	114.2	51	27	17	29	253	0.70	1.3	2.3	19.9	.288	201	4.6
2048	30	SAC	BBA	4	1	6	1.55	88	0	104.1	35	18	13	32	248	0.64	1.1	2.8	21.4	.265	247	5.1
2049	31	ATH	GBC	12	11	0	5.13	33	33	180.2	179	103	31	71	215	1.38	1.5	3.5	10.7	.322	92	2.7
2050	32	SAC	BBA	1	3	5	2.20	52	0	57.1	31	14	10	28	121	1.03	1.6	4.4	19.0	.304	168	1.3
2051	33	SAC	BBA	0	1	0	6.75	5	0	9.1	11	7	5	4	9	1.61	4.8	3.9	8.7	.250	66	-0.5
2051	33	BOI	BBA	0	1	0	9.00	4	0	5.0	7	5	1	5	9	2.40	1.8	9.0	16.2	.545	51	-0.0
BBA Total 2051			BBA	0	2	0	7.53	9	0	14.1	18	12	6	9	18	1.88	3.8	5.7	11.3	.343	61	-0.5



Sometimes you're feeling not so fresh or the physical and mental demands of the BBA are grinding you down and you need a safe space to better yourself. The UMEBA/GBC has been that safe space for many players, with some even using it as a springboard back to the big time.

Here are a couple players in this category:

Weaver "Game Over" Ripley

The fifth pick in the 2034 draft went to Phoenix, and they excitedly chose the talented Mr. Ripley. The expectations were high – "Ripley could end up with the best power bat in the franchise this side of Bartolo Ortiz" and "He has a bazooka for an arm."

In his first seven seasons in Phoenix, the power was there, but also poor plate discipline. He led the league in strikeouts three times. Some speculate it was the pressure of the big stage, while others speculate it was the big Z. It was widely reported that Weaver indulged in the controversial malt beverage known as Zima in his rookie year. An anonymous source recounted how irate Weaver would get if he didn't have his fix, and that continued throughout his years with the team. Anyone knows one Zima might be one too many, so hundreds surely did some damage to Weaver's body and soul.



Ripley raising the roof and his beloved Zima

Finally fed up with Weaver's excruciatingly poor performance in 2041-2042 where he hit under .200 with negative WAR, Phoenix released him. Ten days later, Kuwait City of the UMEBA offered good cash (3 years 12M) and a lifeline. Weaver's agent convinced him it was a no-brainer. Not only would he get similar money to what he had been enjoying despite his horrible play of late, he would also be forced to confront his Zima addiction since he couldn't imbibe while in Kuwait. He promptly checked into a Zima rehab facility during the off-season (see photo below) and batted 1.000 on the path to sobriety.



Weaver at rehab telling his therapist how he blames Phoenix for his addiction, not himself

Free from his Zima shackles, Weaver returned to form in the UMEBA while playing for Kuwait City, Beirut, Mumbai, and Jerusalem. He became a 5-time all-star and 4-time league champion who hit over 50 homers twice. Yes, he led the league in strikeouts in six of his eight seasons, but the fans loved him.

He did, however, suffer from injuries and a drop-off in production after signing with Jerusalem for the 2049 and 2050 seasons, and thought about throwing in the towel.

Then, as if taken straight out of a Hollywood screenplay, freshly released by Jerusalem and in a funk that had him thinking about the big Z again, the Phoenix Talons of the BBA offered a whopping four-year 17.7M contract. He couldn't believe it. He could go back to the BBA and play for the team that gave him his first chance. He could go back without the vile Zima aftertaste. He had fortunately stopped blaming Phoenix for his addiction toward the end of his recovery, so he slid at the offer headfirst.

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, Weaver went on to have a monster year for Phoenix, winning the Comeback Player of the Year by posting his highest BBA single season WAR ever, along with 40 HR and 99 RBI. He has undoubtedly made other BBA GMs pick apart the rosters of GBC teams looking for other second chance stories. Will they find them?



Weaver's stats:

Year	Age	Team	LVL	G	GS	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	WAR
2036	20	PHX	BBA	24	24	91	75	16	19	4	0	6	13	13	26	3	1	.253	.374	.547	.920	137	0.6
2037	21	PHX	BBA	157	156	661	592	98	137	19	3	40	83	64	228	38	23	.231	.310	.476	.786	101	2.2
2038	22	PHX	BBA	137	136	566	503	79	119	18	6	29	64	58	184	33	13	.237	.322	.469	.791	103	2.6
2039	23	PHX	BBA	161	159	688	600	113	135	22	0	45	119	64	232	39	11	.225	.317	.487	.804	107	3.0
2040	24	PHX	BBA	159	158	671	579	97	133	22	1	34	86	76	238	39	7	.230	.332	.447	.780	99	2.4
2041	25	PHX	BBA	120	118	494	432	59	75	9	0	18	44	59	196	31	6	.174	.277	.319	.597	49	-1.7
2042	26	PHX	BBA	43	42	163	150	15	27	5	1	4	10	10	72	6	2	.180	.239	.307	.546	39	-1.0
2043	27	KWC	GBC	160	157	737	640	117	177	27	1	45	133	89	218	9	3	.277	.370	.533	.903	124	4.9
2044	28	BEI	GBC	154	153	689	594	106	143	8	0	51	115	70	223	18	3	.241	.338	.512	.850	111	3.2
2045	29	BEI	GBC	151	150	676	577	104	144	16	1	37	106	84	196	18	4	.250	.351	.473	.824	116	4.0
2046	30	MUM	GBC	157	155	714	631	103	163	11	1	50	122	66	196	16	13	.258	.337	.517	.854	123	5.6
2047	31	MUM	GBC	153	150	668	596	107	160	25	7	36	112	63	202	15	6	.268	.340	.515	.855	124	4.2
2048	32	MUM	GBC	123	121	547	497	77	128	19	2	34	87	44	170	4	2	.258	.318	.509	.827	112	2.4
2049	33	JER	GBC	50	49	207	182	31	48	6	0	15	31	19	67	2	0	.264	.333	.544	.877	134	1.6
2050	34	JER	GBC	89	88	379	338	50	76	10	1	13	46	37	139	2	4	.225	.303	.376	.679	81	0.2
2051	35	PHX	BBA	130	128	534	464	96	131	13	5	40	99	65	142	7	6	.282	.372	.591	.963	146	5.2

Mitch “Pepsi” Freeman

Maybe that next rising phoenix is Mitch Freeman. Drafted by Boise in the 2nd round of the 2041 draft, Mitch quickly carved a place for himself in the Boise bullpen after earlier being groomed as a starter. In 2045 he won 10 games as a reliever and posted under 1.00 WHIP, earning an all-star nod in just his second year. He then gave Boise three more seasons of solid relief innings before being traded to Charm City in late 2048. Despite a raise and a more charming atmosphere, he couldn’t quite replicate the numbers he had in Boise.

In late 2050 he quietly filed for free agency with no takers except Cairo who signed him to a minor league contract with Pretoria. Despite mediocre numbers most of the season in Pretoria, he was called up to Cairo to finish up the 2051 season. He pitched well in 28 games, with an ERA of 0.85 and 1.01 WHIP, and was awarded a 3.8M one-year extension from Cairo. Will the Cairo GM’s gamble be rewarded? If so, don’t be surprised if BBA scouts do more than tour the pyramids while in Cairo this season.



Mitch has been flying high in Cairo under the watchful eye of Thoth, the team’s god and pitching coach

Mitch’s stats:

Year	Age	Team	LVL	W	L	SV	ERA	G	GS	IP	HA	ER	HR	BB	K	WHIP	HR/9	BB/9	K/9	BABIP	ERA+	WAR
2044	24	BOI	BBA	6	3	4	3.40	36	9	90.0	70	34	16	23	84	1.03	1.6	2.3	8.4	.239	123	0.8
2045	25	BOI	BBA	10	5	6	3.13	53	0	86.1	56	30	12	27	81	0.96	1.3	2.8	8.4	.211	153	0.9
2046	26	BOI	BBA	1	6	12	3.43	88	1	99.2	89	38	14	35	90	1.24	1.3	3.2	8.1	.278	127	0.6
2047	27	BOI	BBA	1	4	16	4.10	58	0	59.1	52	27	11	13	57	1.10	1.7	2.0	8.6	.263	104	0.1
2048	28	BOI	BBA	2	6	23	3.93	56	0	52.2	45	23	5	21	56	1.25	0.9	3.6	9.6	.294	106	1.0
2049	29	CCJ	BBA	4	5	6	4.79	87	0	92.0	97	49	14	34	97	1.42	1.4	3.3	9.5	.335	87	0.6
2050	30	CCJ	BBA	2	5	4	5.23	54	0	51.2	54	30	11	22	60	1.47	1.9	3.8	10.5	.339	80	-0.1
2051	31	CAI2	GBC	1	1	20	0.85	28	0	31.2	21	3	1	11	31	1.01	0.3	3.1	8.8	.241	533	1.2



Some players don't want to stop playing. They love the game and it makes their old decaying bodies feel young again. Instead of giving into retirement requests, they choose to take a pen to their expiration dates to fudge the year and sign with an UMEBA/GBC team. They then walk off into the sunset knowing they truly had no more to give to the game.

Here are a couple players in this category:

Luis “Don’t Call Me Garcia” Gracia



Luis needs no introduction. BBA Hall of Famer inducted in 2049. During his BBA career spent mostly with California, he started 572 games with 252 wins and a career 3.49 ERA. Over 3,680 innings with 2,786 strikeouts plus a career WAR over 85. After such a stellar career, he could have hung them up and spent the rest of his life counting his money. But he wasn't done. Unfortunately, the BBA was done with him, forcing him to find another venue for his talents.

He came to Riyadh of the UMEBA on a white horse offering him a one-year deal. “I was only 40, not 45 when everything really starts to break down. I had more in the tank, and I was eager to show what I could still do,” recounted Luis. Unfortunately for Riyadh fans, they had to endure what Luis could still do as he posted a 4-10 record with a cringe-worthy 7.36 ERA. He was the oldest player in the UMEBA and it showed.

Like a bad guest overstaying their welcome, Luis simply could not take a hint. One BBA GM could no longer contain his frustration and told the press, “Luis Gracia decides he'd like to pitch at 41... come on, man... just retire...” Luis proudly put this quote on his locker as he suited up for a trip through basically the entirety of Sacramento's farm system for the 2047 season, hoping to break back through to the top. As it became clear that was not going to happen, Luis announced his retirement with his head held high, confident he would eventually be recognized as one of the best BBA players ever.

Luis now enjoys spending time with his family while serving as a pitching coach with the Philipsburg Saints in the Angela Drake League. “I think that last year of my career spending time in the depths of the Sacramento system really opened my eyes to the possibility of coaching. I know I have a lot to learn but I think I can coach until at least age 120.”

Luis' stats:

Year	Age	Team	LVL	W	L	SV	ERA	G	GS	IP	HA	ER	HR	BB	K	WHIP	HR/9	BB/9	K/9	BABIP	ERA+	WAR
2028	22	CAL	BBA	10	10	0	3.91	25	25	156.2	133	68	17	52	122	1.18	1.0	3.0	7.0	.261	107	2.4
2029	23	CAL	BBA	15	12	0	3.26	34	34	212.2	194	77	15	51	196	1.15	0.6	2.2	8.3	.305	125	5.9
2030	24	CAL	BBA	17	10	0	2.86	34	34	226.1	192	72	17	60	204	1.11	0.7	2.4	8.1	.285	145	5.9
2031	25	CAL	BBA	10	9	0	3.43	33	33	207.1	199	79	22	54	182	1.22	1.0	2.3	7.9	.298	124	4.7
2032	26	CAL	BBA	11	15	0	4.71	32	32	197.0	198	103	26	60	153	1.31	1.2	2.7	7.0	.297	92	3.0
2033	27	CAL	BBA	10	9	0	3.42	31	31	197.1	178	75	17	57	151	1.19	0.8	2.6	6.9	.283	122	4.3
2034	28	CAL	BBA	14	8	0	2.89	33	33	224.0	184	72	17	58	174	1.08	0.7	2.3	7.0	.265	147	5.7
2035	29	CAL	BBA	19	7	0	2.93	33	33	214.2	172	70	17	54	190	1.05	0.7	2.3	8.0	.268	150	6.6
2036	30	CAL	BBA	15	9	0	3.39	33	33	218.0	189	82	19	49	188	1.09	0.8	2.0	7.8	.279	130	6.4
2037	31	CAL	BBA	16	12	0	3.46	33	33	218.2	200	84	20	56	177	1.17	0.8	2.3	7.3	.283	132	5.6
2038	32	CAL	BBA	21	7	0	2.85	32	32	208.2	198	66	15	43	173	1.15	0.6	1.9	7.5	.299	159	7.0
2039	33	CAL	BBA	9	11	0	4.18	33	33	204.1	211	95	27	41	146	1.23	1.2	1.8	6.4	.295	114	4.5
2040	34	CAL	BBA	17	9	0	3.23	34	33	214.1	211	77	15	46	179	1.20	0.6	1.9	7.5	.312	145	6.9
2041	35	CAL	BBA	17	5	0	3.69	33	33	210.0	197	86	15	46	143	1.16	0.6	2.0	6.1	.290	139	6.1
2042	36	CAL	BBA	14	10	0	3.98	32	32	192.0	204	85	17	49	118	1.32	0.8	2.3	5.5	.306	124	4.4
2043	37	SAC	BBA	17	7	0	2.64	32	32	222.0	190	65	20	19	118	0.94	0.8	0.8	4.8	.248	168	5.6
2044	38	MEX	BBA	14	14	0	4.31	32	32	202.1	227	97	21	28	93	1.26	0.9	1.2	4.1	.298	97	3.3
2045	39	MEX	BBA	5	6	0	5.03	16	16	87.2	119	49	12	19	35	1.57	1.2	2.0	3.6	.341	95	0.9
2045	39	SAC	BBA	1	6	0	3.19	14	8	67.2	51	24	6	25	44	1.12	0.8	3.3	5.9	.232	146	1.2
Total 2045	39		BBA	6	12	0	4.23	30	24	155.1	170	73	18	44	79	1.38	1.0	2.5	4.6	.299	113	2.0
2046	40	RIY	GBC	4	10	0	7.36	28	19	99.0	143	81	20	21	27	1.66	1.8	1.9	2.5	.324	58	-0.3

Gervasio “The Riddler” Ridder



A beast. A legend. A HOF'er. One of the greatest players in Las Vegas history, and still holding franchise records in total WAR, At Bats, Runs, Hits, Total Bases, Home Runs, and RBIs. Multiple awards including seven BBA all-star appearances. Las Vegas won a title in his third full year but it was the only time he tasted ultimate victory, thrice a runner-up in later seasons.

His early 30's saw a decline in production but also his biggest contract (16M per year), which the Las Vegas front office was eager to move despite his deep ties to the community. A nifty trade to Omaha in 2039 and then another nifty trade to Charlotte the next season quickly tripled the amount of teams for which he played.

The next season he filed for free agency and signed a 2-year 13.2M contract with Des Moines, a decent deal at age 36. But disaster struck while running the bases – a torn ACL and 9 months on the shelf. Gervasio never played a game for Des Moines, and he failed to meet the vesting criteria in his contract. Dejected and fearing his career was over, he filed to free agency not expecting a call.

Lucky for him, Bucharest of the UMEBA offered Gervasio a 2-year 11.93M deal. At first he was hesitant to leave the only league he knew, but he thought the team's name was really cool and no other team was interested at even close to that amount of money. He repaid Bucharest with an all-star performance in his first year, and pretty close to an all-star performance in his second year. That second year would be his last. "I am so thankful the UMEBA existed so I could end my career with dignity. I hope those BBA GMs that didn't have faith in me can sleep at night knowing that I could have changed their careers."

Gervasio's stats:

Year	Age	Team	LVL	G	GS	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	OPS+	WAR
2024	19	LV	BBA	6	6	22	21	1	3	0	0	1	4	1	5	0	0	.143	.182	.286	.468	24	-0.2
2025	20	LV	BBA	94	94	391	359	46	101	24	0	16	53	24	74	0	0	.281	.335	.482	.817	118	2.1
2026	21	LV	BBA	147	147	616	564	82	189	36	1	31	84	44	84	4	0	.335	.384	.567	.952	158	6.1
2027	22	LV	BBA	105	105	459	403	66	138	25	0	20	88	44	57	0	1	.342	.405	.553	.959	159	4.5
2028	23	LV	BBA	161	161	739	632	113	207	40	2	31	145	84	86	0	0	.328	.411	.544	.956	151	6.4
2029	24	LV	BBA	162	162	702	644	107	222	45	2	28	106	51	59	0	0	.345	.396	.551	.947	155	6.3
2030	25	LV	BBA	160	160	713	647	101	193	32	1	36	119	53	96	0	0	.298	.353	.518	.871	134	4.4
2031	26	LV	BBA	158	155	695	621	124	220	40	3	40	136	60	73	0	1	.354	.413	.622	1.035	162	6.9
2032	27	LV	BBA	162	162	730	656	107	222	41	3	47	109	66	108	1	0	.338	.404	.625	1.029	160	6.4
2033	28	LV	BBA	160	160	713	628	112	214	42	1	37	127	71	67	0	2	.341	.412	.588	1.000	158	6.0
2034	29	LV	BBA	156	155	693	624	97	209	36	2	37	119	51	72	0	0	.335	.387	.577	.964	149	5.4
2035	30	LV	BBA	159	159	688	615	103	200	41	2	39	110	58	85	1	0	.325	.391	.589	.980	153	5.9
2036	31	LV	BBA	145	143	651	562	95	163	41	2	29	109	67	84	0	0	.290	.370	.525	.895	131	3.7
2037	32	LV	BBA	133	126	568	508	65	140	34	0	27	101	50	92	0	0	.276	.345	.502	.847	117	2.2
2038	33	LV	BBA	98	76	319	278	41	75	17	2	8	49	37	49	0	0	.270	.354	.432	.786	105	0.7
2039	34	LV	BBA	90	81	340	306	42	82	17	1	10	47	30	66	0	0	.268	.332	.428	.760	99	0.3
2039	34	OMA	BBA	21	20	80	69	8	17	2	0	2	7	7	24	0	0	.246	.338	.362	.700	80	0.0
Total 2039			BBA	111	101	420	375	50	99	19	1	12	54	37	90	0	0	.264	.333	.416	.749	95	0.3
2040	35	CHA	BBA	113	95	423	363	40	89	19	1	11	43	49	68	0	0	.245	.350	.394	.744	93	0.3
2042	37	BUC	GBC	104	102	450	374	81	123	14	1	21	59	65	60	0	0	.329	.438	.540	.978	137	3.0
2043	38	BUC	GBC	148	142	642	569	87	174	36	1	28	93	63	77	0	1	.306	.380	.520	.900	119	2.3

2051 Caleca Team News Award winner

2051-0002: Talons Draft Your Mom



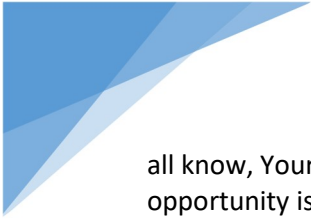
Phoenix, AZ--

Night shifts at the local neighborhood iron smelter can get boring. But for the Talons' Reclusive GM, its all he knows. Drawbacks remain, of course, when said GM is also trying to run an internet baseball franchise as a day job.

One such situation arose last night, as the GM waited to clock out from his overnight shift. Checking the interwebs, he cursed to himself when he noticed that his BBA franchise had been up next in the draft ever since 7:30pm, shortly after he clocked into his shift. The pick expired at 11am, and the GM did not want to stay up after he got home. So, glancing at the timeclock, he had 9 minutes left to make his draft selection on his phone before punching out and driving home. Checking the draft pool, the GM was relieved when he saw Your Mom.

The pick was made with dispatch. After all, Your Mom had low greed and was willing to work for cheap. In fact, one could say that Your Mom was available. The GM called Your Mom and plans were made to report to Traverse City, where there are, at any given time, at least 40 guys who are definitely looking forward to meeting Your Mom.

Players and staff were contacted by this publication to gather their thoughts about the rookie club's newest addition. "Oh, we've all heard about Your Mom," said TC Talons manager Albert Martinez. "I mean, who hasn't?" Starting pitcher Jeffery Flowers concurred. "Oh yeah, ever since high school, I heard that Your Mom could play any position, most times multiple positions every night. But I think DH is best right now, because everyone knows that Your Mom sure can handle the bat," he remarked. "And, as we



all know, Your Mom loves nothing more than getting to second base, or even third base if the opportunity is there."

Other teammates were excited about the team's newest player. Stories were told about Your Mom's legendary exploits. "I heard about this one game, Your Mom was in the box and took a hit-by-pitch on the cheekbone with the bases loaded. It just goes to show that Your Mom will gladly take one to the face if it helps a guy score," said 1B Kent Landry. Fellow rookie Jodie Hanna was also looking forward to her new teammate. "Us newbies have to help out during batting practice," Jodie said. "Good thing Your Mom has ample experience in shagging balls, especially balls deep in the gap," Hanna concluded.

"The main thing is, we are a team here in Traverse City," manager Martinez remarked. "In fact, we like to think of our club as a railroad, because we are all travelling to the same destination, and that's the big leagues."

"And from what I heard, Your Mom will have no problem running this train."



Good Cop / Bad Cop

- Chad Nason

HEARTLAND

Nashville:

GC - The pitching staff is loaded. There are All Stars up and down the batting order. Frost came back. McNeill just had a “down” year last year. *Maybe* the COF spots aren’t super-studs like the rest? Have fun Heartland foes!

BC – The Bluebirds put all their eggs in one basket in 2B Helmut Grun this offseason. Problem is, he can’t really play 2B. The 2050 Champs have a lack of depth on the bench and could cause havoc with an injury or two and no cap room.

Louisville:

GC – A lot of young guys that still need to develop some but Kwak and Mendoza are still around. Pitching staff should keep them in ball games. Not going to run away with the division but should be able to make a playoff push.

BC – The trainer has been busy this offseason and without and without salary room to add any replacement players, things could get ugly quickly for the perennial contenders. Loserville is on their third GM in the past two seasons and it’s not question why nobody wants to be there.

Madison:

GC – If Madison’s SPs can get the game to their set-up and closer, they’ll have a shot. There are a few bright spots in the infield and in the outfield, Shimizu still around.


BC – Everyone’s favorite 6th place team. Nothing exciting happening in Madison this offseason means another 6th place finish for the Wolves...if they’re lucky. Omaha and Chicago will be battling them hard from the basement.

Yellow Springs:

GC – GM Ron Collins is back. Nothing more needs to be said.

BC – Exactly. The Nine missed their window while Collins was away. Now they will surely NEVER win a championship. Here comes another string of division titles.

Chicago:



GC – GM Mike Dunn left and then GM Mike Dunn came back. Owner Vinnie Vitale’s passing is sure to bring this team together enough to keep the team from spiraling all the way to the basement of the Heartland.

BC – Poised with finishing in last place for the first time in franchise history probably really killed Vinnie and drove Dunn away. Curious how Dunn disappeared around the time Vinnie passed. You know what Dunn rhymes with? Gun. Coincidence? You decide.

Des Moines:

GC – GM Randy Weigand tries his hand in Des Moines after a season away from the game. Last season was DM’s first winning season in over 15 years. This team isn’t quite in Weigand’s style yet but they should still get a good sweat as they reach for the playoffs.

BC – A truly cursed franchise as the team gets placed with GM Randy Weigand who immediately trades the team’s best hitter for a couple of bats not even good enough to play in Twin Cities. Back to the basement they go!

Omaha:

GC – New SS Luis Pena is no Juan Medrano in the batter’s box but plays better defense. SP Timo Dooley is back. Brought in SP Havaría Chandar, that should help. That outfield is still going to terrorize teams for at least a couple more season.

BC – You could bring in Steve Nebraska and he would still allow 4 HR per game in Omaha’s bandbox. The Cyclones have been full of bark the past few years, but haven’t shown any bite.

Twin Cities:

GC – GM Alan Ehlers feels like he sees an opening in the Heartland and is positioning his River Monsters to take advantage. He’s got the lineup and the pitching staff to make the playoffs a reality, and as well all know – once you are in the tournament, anything can happen.


BC – Well, well, well. Look who’s trying to play with the big boys. Isn’t that cute. Top of the lineup might take a lot of pitches, but his pitchers gonna throw a lot of pitches, too if their defense cant get to routine balls. This team will need to score 7 runs a game to make playoffs.

PACIFIC

Vancouver:

GC – Couple of big addition with SP Mahad Einan and RF Angel Gonzalez will certainly help. The Mounties giving it one more big shot before Daniel Pepper’s contract expires and they just might be able to make it a good send-off.

BC – Is this gonna be the 2050 Mounties or 2051 Mounties? Either way, people are only showing up to see HGH.



Sacramento:

GC – Still the leader of the Pacific. Lost SP Marvin Winston and 3B Alfredo Rosas and signed CF Todd Rice. Hard to really see any drop off here from last season. Even their GM cant really screw this one up without trying.

BC – This guy still has a job? The West Coast Nine are one of the most boring teams to watch but get results...in the regular season. Time to win a ring before Shoeless' campfire gets put out by the mob of angry fans.

Hawaii:

GC – GM James Walker spent some money this offseason trying to shore up his pitching staff. Their biggest loss was in the OF though, Tomas Guillen, but surely one of those young Centerfielders will be able to figure the position out. The Tropics will definitely be in the playoff hunt this season as the Heartland teams devour each other.

BC – Playoffs? The Tropics probably don't even sniff the top 4 in the Pacific let alone taking a wild card spot away from a Heartland team. Carlos Valle went to the way wrong place to finally win a championship, but hey, the weather is nice. Good way to kick off retirement early.

Valencia:

GC – The Stars lost some offensive value but seemed to have found it all if the aging Angel Zalapa can continue his march towards the Hall of Fame. Adding Brian King to the rotation was a good idea. The back-end of this bullpen looks to be formidable.

BC – Pitching looks like it might not be capable enough to win any games. Not so much because the quality, but their ability to stay healthy enough to make it through five innings. The once promising Carlton Day has more IL stints than wins.


San Fernando:

GC – The Bears didn't really lose anyone this offseason. They didn't really add anything either. Luckily its not looking like the Pacific will be too strong this season so the Bears should be able to void losing 100 games at least.

BC – The Bears are still a franchise? I thought they shipped off to sea with he former GM. There are a lot of sexy thing about San Fernando, the Bears are not one of them.

Long Beach:

GC – Long Beach is *finally* out from under that monster Danya Tchekanov contract. 3B Alex Ramirez should have another big year in him as he hasn't shown much decline lately. Strong bullpen so you're going to have to get to the Surfers early. And with \$20M left to spare under the cap, Long Beach could take a couple jumps up in the Division with some after-Opening Day discount Free Agents.



BC - \$20M cap space, but who in their right mind would want to play for the Surfers? Not a lot going on in Long Beach and the Surfers will be bad again. Even for a Pacific team.

Seattle:

GC – A slight upgrade at the SS position and an easily replaceable RP added to a couple of usable Rule 5 picks but otherwise this is the same team that lost 100 games last season (and an average of 99.2 over the last 5 seasons.) It's got to get better, right? Those young guys keep getting older and developing some more, but how much longer can those older guys hang around to help them be relevant?

BC – Never really known what the plan was in Seattle. Hell, I don't think their GM, Nathan Eagan, does either. Five straight seasons of not finishing better than 6th in the Pacific. Ouch.

Portland:

GC – They lost more WAR than any other team; losing McBride, Zalapa, and Jeffrey Smith. Wait, this is the Good Cop part. Well, they signed a pretty good OF in French, Foster, and Hubbard. And, GM Chris Wilson has been in the game a long time – if he can focus this season, they'll still be a threat to ruin someone's post-season hopes.

BC – Tonight on the 11 o'clock news, a murder in Portland as GM Chris Wilson is accused of murdering the Lumberjacks' offense. Wilson will be available for comment in early October at the annual golf tournament.

ATLANTIC

Brooklyn:

GC – The addition of future Hall of Famer, Lorenzo de' Medici, will hold down the bullpen. The question is, how many times will he be holding down a lead? Early round draft picks should be poking their heads around the corner soon enough to turn this franchise around.

BC – The Robins have lost almost an average of 106 games a season for the last 6 seasons. But hey, they sold a lot of tickets and their ledger isn't showing a lot of red so that's something, right?

Jacksonville:

GC – With Simpson off the blocks this team is ready for a complete overhaul. Sometimes a fresh start is best.


BC – Even Charlotte has **one** prospect in the top 100. And three years of operating at a significant loss...how do you still have a job? Hey, at least you aren't paying Simpson anymore.

Montreal:

GC – The good news? There are 2-3 teams worse than the Blazers in the Atlantic.

BC – Twelve players lost to Free Agency! Guess not everyone is flocking to be a part of the House of the Dragon.

Atlantic City:



GC – Carlos Flores. Had a down year in 2051, but hopes to bring back his Nebraska-quality stuff this season. Just one year removed from playing in the championship, this team still has some tools to compete.

BC – First time missing the playoffs in 4 seasons; don't sign any Free Agents or basically make any changes. That's a strategy, I guess.

Rockville:

GC – Julio Barajas looks to still be a dangerous middle of the lineup hitter and just needs a few other pieces around him to be able to compete. If they can't, he might walk after 2053.

BC – Your owner wants to know why you lost \$22M last year and yet still missed the playoffs. Oh yeah, its from paying those two old guys \$33M for their combined 3.8 WAR.

New Orleans:

GC – What's not to love about coming off a championship season? Now you get a full season of Felipe Reyna and Christian Burgos? Seems like early favorite to win again.

BC – You won the Brewster last season...woo-hoo. You also lost 10 players to Free Agency, signed one, and are still sweating the cap. You *wish* you could be the Des Moines GM. Oh, and you still have a Nigel Laverick on your team.

Charm City:

GC – A couple of Japanese imports from the GBC look to add some spark to the top of the Jimmies' lineup. The big questions is whether or not GBC success will translate to the BBA.

BC – The Jimmies have signed 13 Free Agents – how do they still have cap space left? Oh yeah, guys that aren't that good don't cost a lot of money. Its nice that the Jimmies keep asking to play with the big boy teams.

Charlotte:

GC – Perhaps the strongest Atlantic team on paper in recent years, the Cougars have yet to breakthrough. Haney and Powers have had amazing Springs and the lethal combo should get the Cougars to 100 wins this season.

BC – The Cougars have been to the playoffs in 5 of their 12 seasons. Three of those times they lost to the Hustlers and the other 2 were still Frontier teams. Keep ramming your head into that wall, surely you can breakthrough. Maybe some of those prospects can help? Oops, sorry, should I not have mentioned that?



FRONTIER

Mexico City:

GC – Corfield has been lights out this preseason; a good sign considering his recent extension after an uncharacteristically bad 2051. Armed with he best offense in the Frontier, the Aztecs should win the division handedly.

BC – Just put a freaking roof on your stadium so I don't have to listen to everyone bitch anymore. You lost more WAR than everyone (except Portland) and only signed 2 players so you should have plenty of extra money.

San Antonio:

GC – Something tells me we haven't seen the best of bin Husam yet. He is ready to break out and become a Silk-level hitter for the Outlaws.

BC – That amazing pitching staff I wrote about last season gave you your second worse team ERA in 10 seasons. You let 3 of them walk and signed....let me see here.....none. Yep, that should do it.

Calgary:

GC – The Pioneers landed the top SP from the EBC the past two seasons. Surely adding him will bolster the rotation and continue the consistent winning tradition in Calgary.

BC – Calgary has been named one of the top 5 most livable cities in the world for 7 years in a row. Its also known as Cowtown because of its famous stampede. Its gotta suck to be behind a rodeo and hockey as a favorite sport.

Las Vegas:

GC – Never really concerned about the Hustlers. Despite losing staple leadoff hitter, Jim Ashford, Vegas will have younger options to choose from and signing Rocky Wattson on the cheap was a great move. Still a dominant team in the Frontier, although recently surpassed by Mexico City as the team to beat.

BC – Whose tired of the Hustlers winning all the time? “Oh, my team isn't that good, you'll definitely win this one.” Famous last words right before a playoff sweep! Eat rocks!

Phoenix:

GC – Bing-de Zhao is one of the best hitters on the planet when healthy, but he will begin the season on the IL. If his playing time gets monitored this season, Phoenix will be in the postseason once again.

BC – Whose pitching career gets destroyed this season? I'm going with Jaramillo just because it will be fin to watch him drag his arm along for the next 5+ years at \$11M+ a year.

Edmonton:

GC – With 7 former Bluebirds on their roster, the Jackrabbits have gone with the “if ya can't beat them, BE them” strategy. The biggest addition is arguably Alberto Rodriguez. The veteran backstop will bring a ton of leadership to the younger players on this team.

BC – The Jackrabbits lost 15 players in the offseason and brought in 17. At least the moving companies and realtors are making something happen in Edmonton Well, the Edmonton Front Office is keeping pace by losing 700,00 fans and almost \$16M last season too.



Boise:

GC – Adding Gary Allen and Aires Penharanda to the top of the lineup will certainly help Boise get out of their 6th place funk. Whether or not its enough to get them into the playoffs remains to be seen.

BC – Averaging 75 wins and only breaking 80 three times in 17 seasons just isn't going to cut it. But hey, at least your logo doesn't look like a pile of poo anymore.

El Paso:

GC – A team with Hector Cano Jr will always be fun to watch. Add in a few young prospects and this team could be one to watch in a couple seasons, especially if those pitchers develop.

BC – Yep, chicks dig the long ball. However, pitching wins. That pitching staff needs a lot of work.