



League News August 2002

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Matchup of the Month



VERSUS



Gem City	Tale of the Tape 2002 Stats	Columbus
.284	Batting Average	.294
.818	OPS	.835
4.27	ERA	4.20
113	Errors	67
57-55	Record	64-48

The *Matchup* in August brings us our first “rivalry” series. Dave and John have been known to be friendly rivals. The series would be the first FTF encounter in our monthly feature. The Buckeyes, at the moment, are battling for the NL Central crown. Failing that, they sit in a good spot currently for wild-card entry. The Wolfpack started the season with high hopes but have had to reconfigure their plans. But given that, Dave’s boys still sit on the outside edge of the NL playoffs and with a big August could make the final month interesting. Let’s see how our rivals handled each other.

The series opened in Columbus with a rather unassuming mound matchup of Bobby Jones versus Matt Wise. For the first four innings the starters controlled the game as they held it scoreless. In the bottom of the fifth the Buckeyes were able to strike first. A leadoff walk by John Olerud was promptly followed up with a Benito Santiago double. With runners on second and third Jimmy Rollins grounded out to second to score Olerud. Jones battled through the remainder of the evening to hold the score at 1-0. In the top of the seventh the Wolfpack finally cracked Matt Wise. Steve Finley led off with a single and then stole second. Julio Lugo then whiffed. Rey Ordonez stepped up and he slapped a single to score the hustling Finley from second. That was all for Wise, but he pitched admirably. Paul Quantrill finished the inning with two routine fly outs to keep the game tensely knotted at one. In the top of the ninth John sent out Jeff Tam to pitch. Greg Vaughn drilled a gap double to put Tam in trouble immediately. Finley came up and walked. Lugo got the signs and perfectly executed a sacrifice to move the runners up ninety feet with one out. Dave sent up Dave Martinez as a pinch-hitter for

Ordonez. The Buckeyes pulled their infield defense in and it paid off as Martinez grounded to second, unable to plate the go-ahead run. With two outs up came the number nine hitter, Herb Perry. Perry, comfortable at the plate, dinked a ball into no man's land that was able to score the runner from third and give the Wolfpack a 3-2 lead. Rickey Henderson followed with a groundout to end the inning. Jason Isringhausen came in from the pen to close this one out. Ah, but it was not to be for Izzy as he was bombed and could not record an out. After two singles and a walk loaded the bases, Chad Kreuter came out to pinch-hit for Richard Hidalgo. He did not fail as he doubled in two runs to win game one for Columbus.

Game two featured Jason Johnson on the mound for Gem City while veteran Denny Neagle would take the ball for Columbus. The Buckeyes struck early for one run as Ray Durham recorded a first inning sac fly. In the fourth the Wolfpack responded with a clutch two out hit from Steve Finley to draw the score to even. In the bottom of the fifth, with one out, Scott Rolen was given a free pass and up stepped up the Buckeyes best player so far, Carlos Beltran. Carlos delivered a two run single to regain the lead for the Buckeyes. But in the top of the sixth the Gem City boys answered with two solo homers from Mark Smith and Reggie Sanders. The game was once again even. Once again in the bottom of the sixth Ray Durham was able to deliver a sac fly. This time it would be the game winner as The Buckeyes went on to win 7-3. Sean Lowe and Jason Christiansen were perfect in relief of Neagle to secure the second win in the series.

The finale in Columbus gave us another rookie-veteran mound battle. Rick Bauer would go for Gem City while John sent out Kevin Tapani. After three innings the Buckeyes had a comfortable 2-0 lead thanks to Ray Durham's third sac fly and a home run from Jimmy Rollins. In the top of the fourth, though, the Wolfpack came back. A run scoring single from Bengi Gil and a gap double from Herb Perry got the score back to even. While Tapani whiffed Pudge Rodriguez to end his trouble in the fourth, the Wolfpack came right back at him in the fifth. Greg Vaughn doubled off Tapani to put runners on second and third with one out. Steve Finley gave Gem City with a sharp single. Bengi Gil plated another run to increase the lead to 4-2, this time with a sac fly. A Jeremy Giambi single off reliever Al Levine in the seventh got a run back for the Buckeyes, but it would not be enough in game three. Izzy this time pitched a perfect ninth and the Wolfpack finally won one of these nail-biters.

The opener in Gem City saw two BRASSball vagabonds take the mound: Paul Abbott and Albie Lopez. The Wolfpack had this one headed for a rout as they were up six to nothing after four innings. The big damage to that point had been a three-run blast from Herb Perry. Albie Lopez cruised into the eighth, comfortably enjoying the six run cushion. In the eighth the unraveling began. A harmless single from Jimmy Rollins led off the frame. Jeremy Giambi quickly whiffed and Albie appeared settled again. Aged BRASSball star Tony Gwynn pinch-hit and drilled a double to get Rollins home. Ray Durham followed with a single and the score was now 6-2 with one out. Pedro Borbon relieved Lopez, who headed to the showers confident he would notch a 'W' for his effort. Indeed, after Borbon whiffed lefty Olerud for the second out, all looked right for the Wolfpack. But then in came Mike Fetters. Armed with gasoline, er...a timid fastball, Fetters walked Beltran and gave up a double to Kevin Millar. The score was now 6-3 and runners were standing on second and third. Fetters promptly unloaded a pitch to the backstop and the score was 6-4. Bobby Higginson, dazzled by all the events of the inning, popped out to the catcher to end the inning and saved Fetters from himself. With an uneventful bottom of the eighth Dave called for his ace closer Izzy to take the ball in the ninth. Jimmy Rollins singled after a Chad Kreuter strikeout. Jeremy Giambi also whiffed for the second out. Up stepped Scott Rolen. With a whip of the bat, Rolen sent a mighty drive to the outfield fence that got over with room to spare. Izzy just blew another game and the rivalry gained a new footnote in its history. Izzy whiffed Durham to finish the inning but it was now all tied at six. Deflated, the Wolfpack went 1-2-3 in the bottom of the ninth. On to extra frames and Izzy stayed in to pitch. He too was able to record a perfect frame to give his teammates another shot. With Jeff Nelson on the mound and Pudge Rodriguez at bat the fans had a quality matchup to savor. Nelson, ridiculously tough on righties, would be a stiff challenge for the free

swinging Pudge. But Pudge was up to the challenge. Nelson hung a slider and Pudge jumped on it, clubbing it over the fence for the victory. The Wolfpack persevered and won a wild, wild affair.

Game 5 would prove to be anti-climatic in comparison to the stirring game four. Rick Reed started for Gem City and was wounded immediately as the Buckeyes got four quick runs across in the top of the first. Kevin Millar's two-out, two-run homer was the big blast. But in the bottom of the second the Wolfpack sent eight batters to the plate and got three runs back. Bengi Gil's two-run single had the key hit in the inning. But that would be all for the Wolfpack in this one. Randy Wolf settled down on the mound and watched his teammates come up with four more runs in the remaining innings to win handily 8-3.

Game six was a reprisal of game one with Jones and Wise facing each other yet again. A John Olerud double followed by a Scott Rolen single gave Columbus a quick first inning run. Frankly, that was it. Matt Wise turned in the most dominating pitching performance of the series as he went the distance. He allowed only four hits while striking out eleven Gem City batters. Bobby Jones was also excellent on the day as he too registered a complete game. Unfortunately for him his teammates were silent. On to the finale the series went with Columbus up four games to two.

Game seven saw Johnson versus Neagle again. Unlike the previous game the Wolfpack were able to exhibit some offense for the hometown fans. A Mark Smith double plated one early run while a Bengi Gil tater gave the 'Pack a two run lead after three innings of play. In the fifth a two-out single from Shawn Wooten off of Neagle got the lead up to 3-0. That would prove to be more than enough. On the mound Jason Johnson was solid and got into the seventh. His bullpen got him out of a jam as the Buckeyes could muster only one-run in their rally. Wooten iced the game in the seventh with a two-run homer. A 5-1 win in game seven gave the Wolfpack a respectable series result.

All in all this was a very exciting series. The rivalry proved to be all that and then some. Both managers must have had some great fun playing this one at the PC versus each other. This is one of those series that I think if cards were still being used a few players might have seen themselves heaved in various directions ☺

AL Notes

No letup from the AL East in August. This time the NL East was fed through the buzz saw and the entire AL East heaped onto their records. Continuing out front was Moline (20-8). Bret Boone hit .353 in August action. Luis Gonzalez was also particularly impressive as he hit .330 and led the Cutters in homers (11) and ribbies (26). Barry Bonds continues his second half surge as he hit .347 with 10 dingers. Omar Vizquel continues to be in a season long slump. Curt Schilling was perfect on the mound again (5-0) and now stands at 26-2 on the season. Chan Ho was 5-2 in August. Greg Maddux was a perfect 4-0 with a 2.37 ERA in his first month for the Cutters. The only troubles for the Cutters in July occurred in the pen where Zimmerman (5.19), Arrojito (9.43) and Rhodes (5.40) experienced bumps.

AL East Standings

Moline	98-42	---
Hessville	88-52	10
Georgia	87-53	11
Minnesota	80-60	18

Hessville posted a 19-9 mark in August to cling to second place in the East over Georgia. Larry Walker had another big month as he hit .363 and smacked 11 homers. Sophomore Terrence Long hit an impressive .339 for the month and led the 'Readys with 29 driven in. Jason Giambi clubbed 9 homers to help Walker out. Newcomer Edgar Martinez hit .404 in limited action. For the season the 'Readys have five regulars hitting over .300. On the mound Shane Reynolds had a stellar 5-0 month to set his record

on the year at 14-4. No other Hessville starter had an ERA under five in August. Tom Gordon squeezed four saves out of 2.2 innings of work.

Tim Wakefield's No-Hitter						
Georgia	AB	R	H	BI		
Cameron, lf	3	1	1	0		
Reese, 2b-ss	3	0	0	0		
Young, dh	4	0	1	1		
Lee, 1b	4	0	1	0		
Trammell, rf	2	0	0	0		
Vina, 2b	0	0	0	0		
Jones, cf	4	0	0	0		
Hernandez, ss	3	0	1	0		
O'Neill, rf	0	0	0	0		
Fryman, 3b	2	0	0	0		
Machado, c	3	0	0	0		
	28	1	4	1		
Springfield	AB	R	H	BI		
Tucker, cf	2	0	0	0		
Biggio, 2b	4	0	0	0		
Koskie, 3b	3	0	0	0		
Richard, 1b	3	0	0	0		
Davis, rf	4	0	0	0		
Caminiti, dh	3	0	0	0		
Frye, lf	3	0	0	0		
Fletcher, c	1	0	0	0		
Anderson, pr	0	0	0	0		
Pratt, c	1	0	0	0		
Sanchez, ss	3	0	0	0		
	27	0	0	0		
Georgia.....	000	000	100	1 4 0		
Springfield.....	000	000	000	0 0 0		
Georgia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
W'field, W	9	0	0	0	4	9
Spr' field	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
H'cock, L	6.1	4	1	1	0	6
Nitkowski	1.2	0	0	0	3	2
Howry	1	0	0	0	1	1
LOB- Georgia: 5 Springfield: 5						
DP- Georgia: 0 Springfield: 2						
2B- Cameron 3B- None HR- None						
SB- None						
A-33,968 T-2:17						

Georgia went 20-8 in August to inch closer to Hessville and separate from the trailing Mudcats. Two Words: Derrek Lee! Lee hit a sick .516 in August. Oh my! On the year he leads the Braves with a .343 average. He led the team in everything in August: runs (27), doubles (11), homers (6) and ribbies (29). Probably drove the team bus, sold tickets and rescued kittens from trees to top the month off. Ex-Mudcats Paul O'Neill (.375) and Fernando Vina (.370) played quite well in August. Rook AJ Pierzynski was heard from again in August as he hit a respectable .290. Andruw Jones has hit .342 in three months for the Braves and slugged 20 homers. Russ Ortiz went 4-1 in August for Georgia with a fine 2.33 earnie. Tim Hudson did even better as he registered a 1.96 ERA, but only won a trio of his starts. But the month was Tim Wakefield's as his only victory in August produced a no-hitter (at left). Pen trio of Jose Mesa, Keith Foulke and Matt Herges did excellent work in relief.

In August the Mudcats (17-11) had designs on pushing their way back into the wild-card race but instead fell a few games further back. That didn't stop them from making yet another late season acquisition, but it may well be too late. Hitting stars were Chris Stynes (.404) and Geoff Jenkins (.366) who put up a quality numbers in part-time duty. Alex Rodriguez clubbed 8 homers and drove in 20 to lead the Mudcats. Gary Bennett came up and hit .220, barely outperforming Minnesota icon, Henry Blanco. John Vander Wal free fell in August and now sits under .260 on the season. Chuck Finley came back to Minny and had a 3-1 month with a 2.16 ERA. Kirk Rueter is now 8-2 the last two months. Jerrod Riggan did not allow an earned run in 14 innings of August work.

Cook County had a solid August (19-9) that has them now focused on the post-season once again. Gary Sheffield led the Maulers across the board with 11 homers and 26 ribbies while hitting .333. Troy Glaus got going in August hitting .317 with 7 dingers. Alfonso Soriano hit .317 with 13 doubles as he was called up for a month of play. Jeff Bagwell and Jim Thome continued to produce in August. Mike Piazza hit only .224 in August, but still leads the Maulers with 41 taters on the season. Five Maulers already have 30 or more homers with Glaus sitting at 29. Roger Clemens' 4-0 August has him at 17-8 on the season. Mariano recorded five more saves during the month. Rookie Dave Williams went 3-0. Steve Kline worked 26 innings in relief during the month.

AL Central Standings		
Cook County	90-50	---
Iowa	76-64	14
Box City	49-91	41
Plaza	42-98	48

Iowa is getting hot late, but it is probably too late. They topped July with a 19-9 August. Carlos Lee hit .341 in August and notched four of the seven homers he has on the season. Cristian Guzman hit .337 and stole 12 bases. Ageless Mark McLemore swiped 13 for himself and leads the Rubes on the season with 44. Mags Ordonez hit only 5 taters, but did bring in 22 base runners during August. Jose Cruz continues in a second half slump. Jose Mercedes was a perfect 4-0 in August. Jason Schmidt went 4-1 despite a 5.35 ERA. Hideo Nomo tripped up again (7.14). Vlad Nunez was excellent out of the pen in 17 plus innings of work (2-1, 2.04).

August was by far and away the best month of the season (17-11) for Box City. The reason comes from a robust hitting performance and a solid 3.96 ERA. On offense Jose Offerman was heard from and hit .344. Call-up Steve Cox hit .342. Darin Erstad raised his season's average to .264 with a .306 month. Miguel Tejada had the best month for the men in brown as he hit .295 with 9 homers and 30 ribbies. Esteban Loaiza and Cory Lidle both went 4-1 in August. Callup Dave Coggin had the only real miserable month with a seven plus ERA, but still won three of his starts. Lou Pote and Wayne Gomes did excellent work out of the pen.

Fans up in Plaza surely want to move on to next season when a 7-21 month has to be regarded as an improvement. The Lions are rebuilding and these are the tortuous times that make the future success sweeter. Kevin Young was the Lion leader in August as he hit .333, drove in 16 runs and hit 4 of the Lions' 10 homers. Orlando Palmeiro got some regular duty and hit .325. Luis Castillo just can't shake this bad season and still sits below .250. JT Snow hit .152 while playing in 28 games. Rod Beck saved 5 Plaza wins in August. Jose Lima was 1-4 with a 9.85 ERA. Ouch!



Toledo bounced back from a sub par July with a respectable 15-13 August. Mike Lamb hit .359 with 13 doubles in August. Mike Lowell hit .328 for the Mudhens before he departs for Minny. Richie Sexson got back on track and hit .302 while leading the squad in homers (6) and ribbies (20). Jason Tyner swiped 12 more bases and now has 48 on the year to lead the AL. Ramon Hernandez and Luis Rivas not having great campaigns. Kerry Wood sat out August for Toledo and it showed. Mudhen starters were not terribly impressive in August, although Jeff Suppan did go 3-1. With Wood traded he is now the ace. John Riedling was the best Mudhen reliever in August.

AL West Standings			
Toledo	72-68	---	
Brooklyn	64-76	8	
La Crosse	62-78	10	
S. Barbara	48-92	24	

The Bulldogs used a 16-12 August to climb back into second, but are a distant 8 games behind Toledo. Robby Alomar hit .404 for the Bulldogs in August. The All-star is enjoying a fine season. Jeff Conine (.375) and Javy Lopez (.321) made some noise in August for Brooklyn. Despite hitting .219, Brian Daubach led the Bulldogs in homers (6) and ribbies (19). Kevin Appier was 2-1 in August. His 11-9 record for the year is not indicative of his solid contribution to the team. Kaz Sasaki picked up five saves. Andy Pettitte (2-3, 6.94) did not have a solid end to his Brooklyn career as he was traded away at the deadline.

The last glimmer on the Lagers playoff hopes died with an 11-17 August. Eric Chavez did come back strong in August as he hit .300 with 11 homers and 37 ribbies. Ricky Gutierrez continues to dazzle and sits at a unexpected .333 for the year. Mike Sweeney helped out with his .272 average and 6 taters. For second straight month significant rest was seen for lager regulars. This time Manny Ramirez, Damian Miller and Jerry Hairston received breathers. After being lambasted in the local press for much of the year, Kevin Millwood finally had a month worthy of recognition as he went 4-1 in August. He's still 6-9 on the season with an 8.02 earnie. Closer Scott Strickland struggled mightily (1-2, 11.75) in August.

The Outlaws are another BRASSball team waiting for the offseason so they can start out fresh. August produced a miserable 8-20 record for the team on the Pacific. Garrett "Mr. Outlaw" Anderson hit .306 with 6 homers and 16 ribbies to lead the club. Aaron Boone hit .295 August, but committed nine errors. Raul Mondesi was better (.234) but not great in August. Juan Uribe hit .333 during his call-up. On the mound Lance Davis pitched much better (4.38) than his record (1-5) indicates. Bart Colon was 3-1 in August and is now 13-12 on the season. Roy Halladay also suffered from support as he went 1-4 despite a 2.50 ERA.

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August NL Leaders: Derrek Lee hit .516. Larry Walker scored 29 runs. Eric Chavez had 37 ribbies. Barry Bonds had 31 walks (9 intentional). Carl Everett was hit 7 times. Johnny Damon had 17 steals. Jason Giambi hit into 8 DP's. Derrek Lee had an OPS of 1.436. Luis Gonzalez had 41 total bases. Aaron Boone committed 9 errors. Kelvim Escobar had a 1.82 ERA. Curt Schilling pitched 56 innings. Ryan Dempster threw 4 CG's. Jeff Zimmerman had 9 saves. Andy Pettitte allowed 62 hits. Willis Roberts had 3 balks. Pedro Martinez registered 11.90 K's/9 innings. Russ Ortiz had 10.67 runs of support.

AL STATS LEADERBOARD					
Home Runs		RBI's		Errors	
Barry Bonds, MOL	51	Mags Ordonez, IOWA	134	Cristian Guzman, IOWA	27
Mike Piazza, CC	41	Luis Gonzalez, MOL	123	Aaron Boone, SB	25
Mags Ordonez, IOWA	41	Rich Aurilia, CC	120	Alex Gonzalez, HES	22
Luis Gonzalez, MOL	40	Gary Sheffield, CC	118	Ricky Gutierrez, LAC	21
3 tied with	39	Barry Bonds, MOL	118	Alex Rodriguez, MIN	19

NL Notes

Hard to imagine an 11-17 record increasing a team's divisional lead, but that is exactly what the Glen Allen Mets accomplished during the month of August. After surviving the dreaded AL East the Mets now sit in the lead headed into a three way September showdown. Albert Pujols once again had an impressive month for the Mets (batted .382), but he received support from others again, which is a good sign for Jim. Greg Colbrunn led the team with 16 August ribbies while Trot Nixon had 6 homers. On the season, though, Trot still is hitting an underwhelming .243. Eric Karros pitched in 5 taters and 14 RBI's. Pitching in August provided mixed results for the Mets. Steve Trachsel got back to early season form (2-2, 3.37) while Bryan Rekar contributed four solid starts that kept the Mets in games. But Milton, Zito and Ritchie all struggled in August.

NL East Standings			
Glen Allen	66-74	---	
Racine	63-77	3	
Springfield	62-78	4	
Charlevoix	53-87	13	

A 9-19 August has dropped the Heat to three games off the divisional pace. Despite the tough August Fred has to be feeling good that this September could be the most rewarding ever for Heat faithful. Despite a .248 average, Juan Encarnacion was the Heat's most productive player for the month. He drove in 20 runners while providing 4 of the team's 13 long balls. Homer Bush hit .322. Doug Mientkiewicz provided a helpful .398 OBP for the Heat in August. However, he also contributed an anemic .394 slugging average at a corner position. Al Martin hit .157 in 28 games of August play. On the mound Brad Radke and Josh Towers could receive little support and thus ended up a combined 1-4 in 10 starts. Mike Lincoln picked up three wins out of the pen.

Springfield sits in the same boat as the Heat after an 8-20 August. While they dropped a few games off the place they still have a good shot of pulling the division out in the end. The 'Tope offense was horrendous as Chris Richard led a team that hit .198 for the month by hitting .247. Richard did collect 10 doubles. Mark Quinn amazingly drove in 12 runners with a .163 average. Rookie Mark Mulder preformed admirably in August as he posted 3 wins and now sits at 14-11 for the season. Mark Gardner (7.56) and Ramon Ortiz (7.32) were bombed. Newcomer Sterling Hitchcock threw a shutout.

Charlevoix went 8-20 in August. Ron Belliard had another nice month in limited time as he hit .429 for the month. Lance Berkman hit .333 in August and has a very nice 1.099 OPS for the year. But the best Tiger performer in August was Marvin Benard who hit .326 while knocking out 8 souvenirs and driving in 22 runners. Brad Fullmer popped seven August homers. Pitching wise no Tiger starter finished the month with a sub-five ERA. Omar Daal did go 3-1 in his six starts. Kerry Ligtenberg posted a fine 1.69 ERA in 16 innings of work.

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The Sioux gained themselves some much needed breathing room with their 19-9 August mark. The Stanley offensive attack was on high again, but did muster only 34 homers in August which is actually low considering the last few months for them. Jeff Kent pounded out nine jimmy-jacks. He also hit .366 for August and drove in 24 runners. Jeff Cirillo hit .337 for the month. Bernie Williams ended up with weird results. He hit .311, led the Sioux with 11 doubles, smacked four homers and could only plate 5 men that weren't him. Odd. Jermaine Dye squeezed all he could out of a .222 August average to drive in 20 runners. Randy Johnson had another tough month in August and is 5-6 since the break. Paul needs to help get the Unit figured out this last month. John Burkett had his best month as he went 5-1 with a 3.13 ERA. Antonio Alfonseca picked up five saves and had a 1.17 earnie in August.

NL Central Standings

Stanley	84-56	---
Columbus	80-60	4
Bloomington	80-60	4
Fleetwood	74-66	10

A tough month for the Buckeyes as they both performed well with the bat and on the mound, but couldn't do better than 16-12. Months like that come along. John has his team positioned well for a return to the playoffs. Kevin Millar hit .330 in August with 13 doubles. Jimmy Rollins continues to be a little sparkplug for the Buckeyes. On the season he sits at .301 with 34 steals. In August he hit four triples, five homers and led the team with 18 ribbies. Scottie Rolen got on at a .440 clip. Ray Durham hit .215 and continues to be the only Buckeye who is struggling in 2002. Jeff Tam went 4-1 in 13 relief outings. Amazingly, Matt Wise's shutout outlined above in the Matchup section was his only win in six starts. His ERA was 2.54! Give the kid some runs ☺ Randy Wolf won 3 more outings in August to improve to 14-6 on the year. No sophomore slump here.

Bloomington also did all the essentials well in August but could only muster a 16-12 showing. In any event, Vaughn appears headed back to the post-season. Just has to keep the Walkers at bay. Ichiro hit .406 in July with 20 steals. That gives the stylish import 75 on the season to lead all of BRASSball. Preston Wilson hit .380 in August with 14 doubles. For those of you who haven't noticed, Marlon Anderson is quietly hitting .339. Vinny Castilla led the Bees with 19 August ribbies. Tony Batista contributed five long balls. Mark Buehrle in August: 5-0, 42 innings, 24 hits, 1 walk. Helluva rookie. In the articles section you can see how Buehrle narrowly missed out on a perfect game. Mark is now 21-4 on the year. Mike Mussina 16-12 on the year. Steve Karsay (1.62) and Jesus Colome (0.96) had great months.

Joal picked up a game in the wild card race with a 17-11 August. His Walkers pounded out 52 homers in August. Youngster Marcus Giles was called up again and hit .420 with a Walker-high 7 homers and 18 ribbies. Bob Abreu hit .356 and swiped 8 bases. Chipper hit .314 and led the Walkers with 25 RBI.

Shannon Stewart collected 12 August doubles and has 44 on the season. Jim Edmonds' .204 in August as sunk his average to .258 on the year. Steve Sparks went 6-2 in eight August starts. Brad Penny went 4-1 with a nice 2.36 ERA. Trade acquisition Daryl Kile did not impress in his first month as he posted a 2-3 record with a 5.91 ERA. AJ Burnett (0-4, 12.46) was miserable. Esteban Yan registered six saves.

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With a 22-6 August the defending champs are 46-10 since the break and are charging on all cylinders heading into the final month of play. The Ocelots already have the division crown locked up. Todd Helton hit .370 in August and smacked 18 doubles. He leads all of BRASSball with 69 two baggers. Sammy Sosa sits atop the Triple Crown categories and his 14 homers and 34 ribbies in August piled on to his impressive run for the history books. The home run (66) and rbi (180) categories appear locked up for Sam at the moment.

Ocala	101-39	---
Gem City	68-72	33
N. Georgia	61-79	40
Metropolis	32-108	69

Ichiro will challenge Sammy in the last month for the batting crown as he sits only eight points behind Sosa (.360 to .352). Shawn Green contributed 26 August ribbies and is only third on the Ocelots with 136 for the season. Javier Vazquez's 5-0 August has him at 21-4 on the year with a 3.11 ERA. Troy Percival 10 saves without allowing an earned run. Rook Roy Oswalt went 5-0 in August also and is 14-2 in his freshman season. Glendon Rusch and Blake Stein were a combined 8-0 in 11 starts.

Gem City posted an 11-17 August. Carlos Delgado hit .289 with 8 homers and 15 ribbies in August. Veterans Steve Finley (.212), Greg Vaughn (.173) and Rey Ordonez (.121) had very rough months. Pudge Rodriguez is tied for the team lead in homers with 28. Bobby Jones was the best Wolfpack starter in August: 2-2, 3.44. Call-up Rick Bauer picked up 3 wins. Albie Lopez and Jason Johnson posted identical 5.40 ERA's in August.

Tony's Yellowjackets went 6-22 in August. Pitching (6.04 ERA) destroyed North Georgia's chances for the month. The team did hit okay. Brian Jordan hit .347 with 6 homers. Rookie Shea Hillebrand hit .312 in August and has a respectable .278 average to show for the year. Fred McGriff led the 'Jackets with 13 ribbies and also recorded a .407 on base pct. On the mound...well...Ted Lilly won two games despite a 7.02 ERA ☺ John Smoltz did not allow a run in collecting his 3 saves. Smoltzie's earnie has now dropped to 0.76 on the year. After a 0-5, 11.41 showing in August, Scott Schoenweis is 6-17 with a 7.89 ERA for the year.

The Avengers had a 5-23 August. Aramis hit .292 with 9 ding-dings and 22 ribbies. Delino DeShields had 8 doubles and a .365 OBP in August. Pat Burrell hit 7 August homers and now has 30 on the season. On the mound, Luke Prokopec went 4-2 in his six starts. Mak Suzuki returned this month and unfortunately had a 4.18 ERA that left him winless in August, 0-3. The education of Tony Armas Jr. continues as he now stands at 6-19 on the year.

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August NL Leaders: Marcus Giles hit .420. Ichiro collected 52 hits. Todd Helton had 18 doubles. Sammy Sosa 14 homers. Derek Jeter whiffed 35 times. Richard Hidalgo was plunked 7 times. Neifi Perez successfully executed 10 sacrifice bunts. Sammy Sosa slugged .816. Michael Barrett allowed 42 steals. Steve Sparks won 6 games. Adam Pettyjohn lost 6 times. Mark Buehrle had a 1.50 ERA. Troy Percival recorded 10 saves. Jason Johnson walked 25 batters. Alan Embree whiffed 48 batters. Mark Buehrle had a 28:1 K to BB ratio. Blake Stein received 7.83 runs of support.

NL STATS LEADERBOARD									
ERA			Strikeouts				Saves		
Mark Buehrle, BLO	2.82		Randy Johnson, STA	299		Troy Percival, OCA	39		
Javier Vazquez, OCA	3.11		Mike Mussina, BLO	215		Billy Wagner, SPR	35		
Randy Johnson, STA	3.44		Barry Zito, GA	190		Armando Benitez, BLO	32		
Brad Radke, RAC	3.73		Javier Vazquez, OCA	185		John Smoltz, NG	30		
Jason Bere, NG	3.77		John Burkett, STA	163		Bob Wickman, GA	29		

Award Watch

This month's watch sees one of Andy's young prospects make it in BRASSball. Miller joins fellow Brave Tim Hudson in recognition this year. And the Hometown Team merits a mention with Matt Morris having an excellent season.

Award	Player	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB	
AL MVP	Jason Giambi, HES	.320	.456	.648	38	110	106	1	
NL MVP	Jeff Kent, STA	.332	.389	.590	29	111	100	3	
NL ROY	Aramis Ramirez, MET	.280	.338	.532	32	75	70	3	
		W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	K
AL CY	Matt Morris, MIN	17	4	0	3.31	204	203	63	160
AL ROY	Wade Miller, GEO	15	8	0	3.79	195	172	67	140
NL CY	Mike Mussina, BLO	16	12	0	3.78	219	232	47	215

September 25th an important BRASSball date

By this date we all need to report to Corey what we wish to do with our players who are currently on MO contracts. You can sign them to a ML deal, cut them loose or resign them to an MO deal. For those of you still new to BRASSball, the SOP at this time is to simply resign them to a MO deal if you feel they have any potential value.

Also on the 25th I need to receive any and all proposals you have for altering BRASSball. The next newsletter will contain a ballot for our consideration.

Lastly, I am happy to report that while ordinarily the 25th is also dues deadline, it will not be so this season. BRASSball should have no problem meeting its financial obligations till the 2003 offseason.

Netplay Tip

For those of you who play via Netplay then you are surely aware of the screwy "HBP+injury" result that causes you to lose the player you send in to pinch run. Strat did not fix this with the patch. A handy way of getting around this silly problem is to simply pinch run a starting pitcher for the injured player. This allows you to keep your full bench available. This was an especially messy bug when catcher's were injured. Please utilize this strategy when playing future Netplay games to avoid frustration ☺

Fines

None to report this month.

Trades

82. Toledo trades Mike Lowell and Kerry Wood to Minnesota for Chris Reitsma, Sean Burroughs and Minnesota's 2004 1st round draft choice.
83. Cook County trades Damon Minor to La Crosse for Kyle Farnsworth.
84. Brooklyn trades Andy Pettitte, Woody Williams and Matt Lawton to Toledo for Steve Woodard, Jon Rauch, Bob Wells, Ricky Ledee and Toledo's 2003 2nd round draft choice.
85. Cook County trades Jason Middlebrook to Iowa for Scott Sullivan.

Upcoming League Deadlines

September 15th Results due to opponents and statisticians (Dave & Corey)

September 25th MO decisions; Proposals to Mark

Next Issue of League News

The regular season comes to a close. BRASSball revs up to a crown a 2002 champion. Proposals Ballot comes out to vote on.