

The Pressbox

By Lenny Luchtefeld
February 2000

New Season about to Begin

When we begin this new season there will be another very significant new change in how we do things. We have outlined most of the newest changes that we voted on in earlier discussions, so everyone should be fairly familiar with those. However, there will be a new procedure for keeping, tracking and saving stats in the upcoming 2000 season. This new procedure should streamline statistic keeping for us. No more filling out team leader forms, individual leader forms and home/road records. It will permit each team to have complete league stats for their team and every other team also on their own PC every month and on a timely basis. One suggestion I might have for everyone, and I know I will be doing this, is to print out the new stat keeping procedure and keep it near you when you finish your first game of the season. I will be following the instructions to the letter to ensure I have done everything correctly. I will keep the instructions handy until I know that I am comfortable with the new procedure and have sent my results correctly.

As soon as the game company sends out the computer game, we will setup the league files and send them out. Roster files will be distributed by March 25th in anticipation of Brassball's opening day. The directions for loading these rosters to your game are included in the

procedure guide that was distributed previously by Kevin. Each month, we will all receive updated roster files, which will be loaded to our game and overwrite the previous month's roster/stat files. **WE ARE NOT TO ALTER THE ROSTER FILES IN ANY WAY. ALL CHANGES TO TEAM ROSTERS WILL BE DONE BY THE LEAGUE STATISTICIAN, DAVE LITTLE.** Tom Taormina will no longer be doing stats for the NL. Dave will tabulate all stats for both leagues starting this season.

The trade deadline will move up to the 15th of the month, in order to give Dave time to update the rosters to reflect all player movement, as well as stat files (which are also due the 15th). Dave will then have the new rosters out on the 20th of the month for all of us to load to our game. That will allow each of us 5 days to examine our player usage situation before sending out road instructions for the following month, which are due out by the 25th. This is especially important to managers who use HAL. **MGR files cannot be created until the owner has received his updated roster file for the following month.** Owners who use WORD documents to create instructions may get their instructions out earlier than the 25th if they wish.

As our deadline for road instructions has been pushed back 5 days to the 25th, we now have 5 fewer days to play our games each month. In a related move, rotations are now due on the 25th, NOT THE 20th as in previous

years. Please be sure to send your rotations to YOUR LD each month. Finally, the deadline to send out our home game results remains the 15th.
Let Kevin, Dave or myself know if you have any questions.

Yogisms

I found these quotes by Yogi Berra and thought I would through them at you this month just to lighten things up before the start of the season. I hope you enjoy them.

"The game's not over until it's over."

"You can observe a lot just by watching."

"Bill Dickey is learning me his experience."

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going because you might not get there."

"A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore."

"You should always go to other people's funerals, otherwise, they won't come to yours."

"It ain't the heat, it's the humility."

Yogi on golf: "80 percent of the balls that don't reach the hole, don't go in."

"If people don't want to come out to the ballpark, nobody's going to stop 'em"

"Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical."

"I never blame myself when I'm not hitting. I just blame the bat and if it keeps up, I change bats. After all, if I know it isn't my fault that I'm not hitting, how can I get mad at myself?"

"Nobody goes there anymore because it's too crowded."

"The towels were so thick there I could hardly close my suitcase."

"I never said most of the things I said."

When told by the New York mayor's wife that he looked cool in his new summer suit, Yogi said, "You don't look so hot yourself."

"I'm not going to buy my kids an encyclopedia. Let them walk to school like I did."

Asked if the fans that ran naked on the field were men or women, Berra replied, "I don't know. They had bags over their heads."

"I always thought that record would stand until it was broken."

"I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house."

"So I'm ugly. I never saw anyone hit with his face."

"How can a guy hit and think at the same time?"

"It gets late early out there."

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

"He hits from both sides of the plate. He's amphibious."

"We made too many wrong mistakes."

Proving the seed never falls far from the tree, Dale Berra said: "You can't compare me to my father. Our similarities are different."

Secondary Free Agency

The secondary stage of the draft is now completed. Thanks go out to Corey for supplying the names of the carded players not drafted in the rookie draft.

There wasn't a great deal of talent or help for this year out of this set of extra players not picked in the rookie draft. There might, on the other hand, be some sleepers in this list for next year. Greene, Belinda and McMichael are names that come to my mind.

5 teams participated in the first time secondary free agency fun. 18 players received bids this year. Willie Greene received the highest bid at 400K minor league contract from Minnesota. There was one tie bid for a player and that was Stan Belinda. Minnesota and Morris both bid a minimum MO contract for his services. Minnesota was awarded the bid based off of reverse order finish from last year's record. Here is a summary of the winning bids and by what teams.

<i>Player</i>	<i>Bid</i>	<i>Team</i>
Belinda, Stan	MO	Minnesota
Bennett, Gary	MO	Morris
Berroa, G	1,A1-203K	Wauwatosa
Brantley, Jeff	MO	Morris
Cunnane, Wil	MO	Morris
Dolster, David	MO	Morris
Duvall, Mike	MO	Morris
Eyre, Scott	MO	Morris
Greene, Willie	400K MO	Minnesota
Hinchcliffe, Brent	MO	Morris
Jensen, Marcus	105K MO	Fleetwood
Jones, Bobby	1,A1-230K	Morris
Jones, Terry	MO	Morris
Mathews, Terry	1,A1-205K	Morris
McMichael, Greg	MO	Morris
Perez, Eduardo	1,A1-207K	Wauwatosa
Spencer, Stan	MO	Morris
Velandia, Jorge	MO	Morris

Trades

1. **Minnesota** deals Jorge Fabregas to **St Croix**. St Croix assumes the contract.
2. **Minnesota** trades Braden Loper, Michael Tucker, Minnesota #1, and 1.5 million to **Wauwatosa** for Rickey Henderson.
3. **Morris** acquires Quentin McCracken and the remainder of his contract from **Minnesota**.

4. **Morris** trades Gil Heredia to **Minnesota** for Andrew Lorraine, Mike Oquist, Jason Grilli, and Minnesota's #4.
5. **Metropolis** trades Benny Agbayani and its 2002 #5 pick to **Morris** for its 2002 #1 pick.
6. **Box City** trades Manny Martinez to **Wauwatosa** for the Wizards #5 pick.
7. **Florida** trades Matt Anderson, John Vanderwal, and its #4 pick to **Plaza** for Travis Fryman.
8. **Cook County** trades Ryan Dempster, Garrett Stephenson, its #3 pick and \$666,667 to **Brooklyn** for Scott Williamson and Brooklyn's #6 pick.
9. **Fleetwood** trades Mariano Rivera to **Gem City** for Marcus Giles, Mike Maddux, GC#1, and \$250,000.
10. **Ocala** sends Pablo Ozuna to **Morris** for Edgar Martinez (contract paid).

Contract Signings

Florida: Sean Lowe---2 years

Hessville: Ryan Rupe---4 years, Bobby Witt/David Howard---1 year, Eric Plunk/Tom Candiotti---MTM

Minnesota: Joe Mays/Henry Blanco---2 years, Doug Johns/Paul Abbott---1 year

Iowa: Kris Benson/Carlos Lee---4 years, Vladimir Nunez---3 years, Dave Veres, Jose Paniagua---2 years, Keith Lockhart/Dan Smith/Dan Naulty---1 year

Brooklyn: Mike Thurman---3 years, Chad Allen---2 years

Morris: Charlie Hayes/Joe Oliver---1 year

Box City: Mike Mordecai/Scott Aldred---1 year

Santa Barbara: Rafael Bournigal---MTM

St. Croix: Hal Morris---1 year

Glen Allen: Todd Ritchie---3 years, Brian Hunter---1 year

Long Island: Larry Luebbers---MTM

Racine: Chris Singleton/Joe McEwing---3 years, Guillermo Mota---2 years

Wauwatosa: Glen Barker/Ray Holbert/Jacob Brumfield/Curtis Goodwin---1 year

Columbus: Kevin Millar/Angel Echevarria---1 year, Randall Simon, Craig Paquette---MTM

Gem City: Pedro Borbon---2 years, Steve Schrenk/Ramon Martinez/Jeff Barry/Jeff Frye/Tim Spehr---1 year

Metropolis: Gary Gaetti---1 year, Willie Blair---MTM

North Georgia: Bruce Aven/Eric Owens---3 years, Rheal Cormier---2 years, Mike Williams, Greg Hansell---1 year

Bits and Pieces

We have a new member taking over the old Monroeville Gary's. His name is Dan Blitz. He comes to us as a referral from Bob Gale. Thanks Bob, I think Dan will fit in nicely with our league.

He has been the Commissioner of a very intense, state-of-the-art APBA league for 8 years. He is not experienced with SOM, but he's been playing Baseball sims since 1984,

and I'm sure he would be able to pick up the game in no time.

He always thought it would be fun to play in a league other than APBA which is why he's interested in SOM and Brassball. Also, he thought it would be nice to not have to run the league for a change, but rather be a "normal owner. In his APBA league they played all their games live, in real-time over the internet which does require scheduling time with your opponent each week. A play-by-mail league would also be nice for a change because the time scheduling is more flexible.

Dan has selected the team name of Milwaukee Blitz. Catchy team nickname! He still needs to select a ballpark and to get his team ready for the upcoming season. Here is Dan's address and e-mail address and also his ICQ number. If you get a chance to send an e-mail or see him on ICQ, please give Dan a hardy Brassball welcome.

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blitz@pitnet.net ICQ: 563951.

Upcoming Deadlines

MARCH 15th: ---Trade deadline for April games. All subsequent in-season trade deadlines to take place on the 15th of the month.

MARCH 25th: ---Road instructions due out to April opponent. (assuming roster files have been delivered to each of us) ---Starting pitcher rotations are due to your league director.