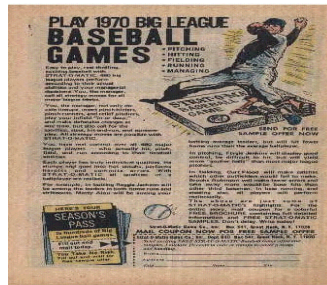


THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld
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NL News



With only 22 games to play it seems as if all of the divisional races have been decided but one Wildcard spot remains up for grabs. Glen Allen maintains a lengthy lead in the East of 16 games over Long Island. Ocala remains ahead of Gem City by 9 games in the West. Ocala has tight hold on home field advantage throughout the NL playoffs. Stanley continues to lead in the Central by 9 games over Bloomington. Gem City is in the driver's seat on one Wildcard spot with the other team to be decided by Bloomington and North Georgia. The Jackets trail the Bees by 3 games for the final playoff birth.

National League Standings

East

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	GB
Glen Allen	83	57	'.593	
Long Island	67	73	'.479	16
Racine	66	74	'.471	17
Wauwatosa	58	82	'.414	25

Central

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	GB
Stanley	83	57	'.593	
Bloomington	74	66	'.529	9
Fleetwood	68	72	'.486	15
Columbus	63	77	'.450	20

West

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	GB
Ocala	90	50	'.643	
Gem City	81	59	'.579	9
North Georgia	71	69	'.507	19
Metropolis	37	103	'.264	53

Wildcard

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.	GB
Gem City	81	59	'.579	
Bloomington	74	66	'.529	7
North Georgia	71	69	'.507	10
Fleetwood	68	72	'.486	13

NL EAST

GLEN ALLEN METS 16-12

The Mets stayed out in front in the division and picked up 2 games in the standings to make their lead 16 games. Glen Allen checks in, along with Stanley, has having the second best record the NL with 83 wins. The Mets continue to pull away from the rest of the division each month. With the divisional title well in hand the Mets look to the playoffs. It looks like a first round match-up with the powerful Stanley Sioux

RACINE HEAT 13-15

Racine will finish either second or third in the standings this year. A tough 7 game series with Long Island will determine where they finish. A Wildcard spot seems out of the question unless they go undefeated in the final month. The Heat do have some players that are having very good seasons. Guzman has the team lead with 11 wins and is among the leaders in ERA at 4.00.

NL CENTRAL

STANLEY SIOUX 13-15

The Sioux actually increased their lead in the Central division by 2 games despite only winning 13 games. The Sioux, as did the rest of the division, ran into the tough AL Central this month. Juan Gonzalez remained hot again this month. He is batting .330 (6th) with 50 homers (1st) and has knocked in 136 (2nd). Gonzalez continues to put up MVP numbers carry the team. The Sioux should be able to rest some players this month and get ready for the playoffs next month.

Homer Bush is also 10 in the league in hitting going into the final month.

LONG ISLAND TIGERS 14-14

Long Island played at a .500 clip for August and lost 2 more games in the standings. Either a second or a third place finish is in the cards for this year depending on the series match-up with Racine. The Tigers are 10th in the league in hitting at .270 and may want to make offense a priority for next year. The Tigers have already started to re-tool the team for the future.

WAUWATOSA WIZARDS 11-17

Wauwatosa turns in another 11 win month and drops further behind. A last place finish in the division is a sure thing. The Wizards are 11th in the league in batting at .253. The pitching has been caring the team as Finley 4.10 and Hermanson 4.43 are among the leaders in ERA. Burnitz has chipped in with 31 homers and 96 RBI's so far this year.

BLOOMINGTON BEES 11-17

The Bees only managed 11 wins this month. 16 of their 17 losses came at the hands of the Maulers, Parcelmen and the Lions. Bloomington continues to struggle away from home as they are 4 games under when on the road. Palmeiro has been the star of the team, batting .321 (9th) with 48 homers (2nd) and 157 RBI's (1st). He's a definite MVP candidate along with Gonzalez. The Bees will need to play well the final month against their division rivals to keep the 2nd Wildcard spot.

Fleetwood Walkers 10-18

The jury is in and the decision is that Carl Everett was the heart and soul of this team. The Walker's traded Carl Everett 2 months ago for future help but may have made a mistake. After jumping back in the divisional and Wildcard races with Everett they have since fallen on tough times. 10 wins this month does not help their playoff cause. Fleetwood have fallen 6 games behind Bloomington for the final Wildcard position. On a bright note, the Walkers may have the Rookie of the year candidate in Paul Konerko. He has a .301 BA with 18 homers and 79 RBI's.

NL WEST

OCALA OCELOTS 17-11

Ocala posted 17 more wins this month and strengthened their lead to 9 games over Gem City. The Ocelots continue to have the best record in the NL with 90 wins. Manager, Corey Weisser, has built his team around OBP, total extra-base hits and speed. There isn't another team in the league with a tougher ballpark to hit in. High OBP, doubles and speed are not impacted by these ballpark numbers while homeruns are. This has been the key to the Ocelots success.

GEM CITY WOLFPACK 17-11

The Wolfpack kept pace with the front running Ocelots this month at 17 wins. Gem City appears to have locked up the first Wildcard slot and will begin tuning up for the playoffs. If the standings don't change in September, then the Wolfpack would have home field advantage in the Wildcard series. Gem City has plenty of firepower in Larkin, Rodriquez, Bagwell and Thome. Should they get to the 9th with a lead, they can

COLUMBUS BUCKEYES 9-19

Columbus ended July just 4 games under .500 but took it on the chin this month losing 19 games. Just when they thought they might be able to climb to the .500 mark they took a tumble at the hands of the AL Central. The Buckeyes have actually played better on the road than at home. It has been an uphill battle for Columbus all year. They are 9th in the league in hitting and a respectable 5th in ERA. The thing that has hurt them the most is they have given up 10+ runs twenty times this season.

hand the ball off to Rivera, one of the games best, to finish off the game.

NORTH GEORGIA YELLOW JACKETS 17-11

The North Georgia registered 17 wins this month. The Yellow Jackets continued to hang around the .500 mark all year are now making a real push for a Wildcard spot. They gained 6 games in the wildcard standings on Bloomington in August. Now only 3 games back of the Bees, they are in a position to make a charge.

METROPOLIS AVENGERS 7-21

Except for 1 month, Metropolis continues to post 6 or 7 win months. After 5 months of play they are a whopping 53 games behind Ocala. I have good news and I have bad news. The good news is the Avengers may set some new records in BRASSball. The bad news is the records could be for total team losses in a season and worst team ERA for a season.

Trades



Minnesota trade their 2001 #2 pick to **Hessville** for John Johnstone

Minnesota sends Dave Newhan to **St. Croix** for \$5,000.

Gem City trades 1B/OF Ryan McGuire to **Fleetwood** for \$90,000.

Plaza trades Jason LaRue to **Brooklyn** for Chilli Davis and Hector Carasco. All contracts are paid for by their former clubs.

Box City traded Scott Hatteberg to **Brooklyn** for Box City's 6th round pick.

Contract Signings

Minnesota signs Willie Greene to a MO-1 contract for September play.

Metropolis calls up David Roberts and Micah Bowie for an MO-1 contract and Willie Blair and Jeff Reboulet sign MTM contracts.

Ocala signs Greg Gagne to 1st call-up (MO-1).

Bloomington signs Creighton Gubanich, Ryan Minor and Pat Mahomes to MO-1 contracts.

Stanley signs Paquette to a MTM contract.

Gem City signs Mike Fyhrie to an MO-1 contract.

Wauwatosa signs Howry and Looper to 3-year deals and Elarton to an MO-2 contract.

North Georgia signs Cho and Schoenweis to MO-2 contracts and Lowery to an MO-3 contract.

Around the Horn

Be sure to check out of the league due dates. In addition to all the normal mailings, there are other obligations each of us has to meet. Some of those obligations include, league dues payments, contract extensions, roster cuts, contracts for MO and MA players and any league proposals for rule changes that you might want to submit. League dues are set at \$15.00 for next year and are due to be paid to your LD by September 25th. We were fortunate to not have to collect dues last year; we will need to do so this year for league administrative duties, including the website.

You must notify your LD no later than September 25 of which of your players you intend to sign to major, minor, or month to month deals, who are now under initial (MO) or (MA) contracts. This mailing should also include those players whom you intend to cut from your organization.

A manager may extend a player's contract for any amount of years, using the current bank account money, under the following cost structure:

Years 1-3: \$5,000,000 per year

Years 4-7: \$4,000,000 per year

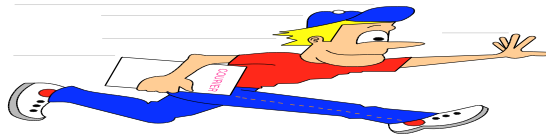
Years 8-12: \$3,000,000 per year
Every additional year is \$2,000,000 per year.

League proposals may be submitted by September 25th for future changes in league operations, potential changes to rules or improvements to the league. These proposals must be submitted in the form of a question and must be clear in their format so that everyone can understand them. An example would be: Do we want to institute the Strat-O-Matic closer rule? Brian has posted some questions on the web site that we have had league discussion about during the summer. These questions on the web site are not official proposals. Any proposal must be submitted to your LD for consideration.

Fines

North Georgia is fined \$500,000.00 dollars for not meeting a deadline of reporting statistics to a league administrator.

Upcoming Deadlines



Sept 15th...Series results are due out to your September opponents. You must send box scores, play by play and subset stats by e-mail to your opponents. Send only the subsets files in one zip file to Dave Little and Lenny Luchtefeld.

Sept 20th...If you wish to submit a trade wire listing, you must submit the listing to your LD by e-mail by the 20th of the month for it to be included in the following newsletter. If you wish to submit an article for the newsletter, you must submit the article by e-mail in a Word format to your LD by the 20th of the month for it to be posted on the web site.

Sept 25th... League dues are \$15.00 each year and are to be postmarked no later than midnight on September 25. New contracts for players with (M0) & (MM) deals due to your LD. Any post-season roster cuts you wish to make due to LD and contract extensions due to LD.