

THE PRESSBOX

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NL News



N. L. Playoff News

Wildcard Playoff Series-Bloomington and Gem City

The Bees, a slight underdog going into the series after leading the National League in homers by 75 over the closest competitor and finishing second in runs scored, really rose to the occasion behind some nice pitching performances by Pedro Martinez, Roger Clemens and rookie Miguel Batista. Bloomington won the first 3 games before the Wolfpack snagged game 4 in 10 innings. The comeback was short lived as Bloomington rallied in game 5 with an 8-3 win.

Bees shortstop Tony Batista was named series MVP after his stellar series in which he hit .429, scored 8 runs, had 2 doubles, 4 homers, 7 RBI and no errors at shortstop.

And now the defending NL Champs Bees will get the heavily favored Ocala Ocelots in the Division Series. Ocala, owners of the National League's best record in 2000, ran up 105 wins in the regular season to just 89 for the Bees. The Ocelots took the season series from Bloomington 4 games 3, including a nice 3 of 4 effort in Bloomington's home park. The Ocelots bring the most productive offense in the league to the series against the Bees and one of the best pitching staffs all season long. The Bees will certainly have their work cut out for them.

National League Series-Stanley and Glen Allen

This was a battle of 92-70 teams. Game 1 Ritchie allowed 3 hits pitching a complete game shut out. Randy Johnson had 10 K and 1 BB but allowed Omar Vizquel to score on a Brook Fordyce single for the games only run. Final Mets 1 - Sioux 0

Game 2-Scott Erickson allows 4 runs in second inning and total of 6, but the Mets score only 5 off Rick Helling and friends. Sioux and Mets series tied 1-1.

Game 3-Glen Allen starter Eric Milton shuts down the Sioux, limiting them to 4 hits. Only a late 2 run HR by Bubba Trammell made it as close as it appeared. Eric Karros homers in game 3, and the Mets win 4-3 to take a 2-1 series advantage.

Game 4 looked like a decent pitching matchup for the Sioux. Randy Johnson took the mound against Charles Nagy. The Sioux bounce out Nagy in the 4th with 3 early runs. Then the Met bats take Nagy off the hook with a 5 run uprising in the 5th. The Sioux respond with 1 in the bottom of the 5th to make it 5-4 Mets. Juan Gonzalez fails to deliver as the Sioux had scored 1 in the 5th and had bases loaded with one out. Omar Vizquel continued great defense with a rally killing 6-4-3. Both bullpens respond with 3 innings of shutout. Met closer Roberto Hernandez gives up a leadoff hit in the 9th, but closes the deal to give Glen Allen a 3-1 series lead.

Game 5-After seeing the first four games of the series decided by one run, Stanley felt like they cruised to a 4-1 even though the game was always within reach.

Game 6-After a Glen Allen rain delay (aka computer lockup and loss of game data) during a PH appearance by Bubba Trammell, the dice of the game went to Stanley where it was finished. An hour or more later, and with two wives wondering how it could possibly take so long to play ONE baseball game, the Sioux were sent packing with the Mets moving on.

It was a great series for both teams, unfortunately for the Sioux they will have to "wait till next year" just like 23 other Brass teams.

NL Division Series-Bloomington and Ocala

GAME 1: Roger Cedeno slammed a homerun and had 3 RBI as the Bloomington Bees defeated the Ocala Ocelots 10 to 6 at Double O Dome.

Matt Mantei(1-0) was brilliant in relief and registered the victory. He did not allow a hit or a walk in his 1 and 2/3 innings seeing his ERA drop from 3.38 to 2.08. Despite scoring in 5 separate innings, Ocala could not get the win.

Jeff Suppan(0-1) was the loser. He gave up 7 runs in 5 innings of work.

GAME 2: Javier Vazquez came through with a solid 6 innings as the Ocala Ocelots defeated the Bloomington Bees in 10 innings 2 to 1 at Double O Dome.

The score was knotted at 1 after nine innings. Ocala won it in the 10th inning. James Mouton slapped a one-base hit. After an out was recorded, Shannon Stewart came to the plate and lined a base-hit. Stewart took off for second and slid in with a stolen base. Tony Gwynn came up and he hit a sacrifice fly giving Ocala the victory as 46,123 happy fans celebrated wildly. For the game Ocala out-hit Bloomington 7 to 2.

Troy Percival(1-0) went 2 innings allowing no runs for the victory. Matt Mantei(1-1) took the loss in relief. He gave up 2 hits and no walks in 1 and 1/3 innings.

GAME 3: Preston Wilson launched 2 homeruns and had 4 RBI as the Bloomington Bees outscored the Ocala Ocelots 9 to 4.

It was a good day for Bloomington thanks to Wilson. He smashed a two-run homer in the 1st inning, popped a two-run clout over the fence (his 3rd of the season) in the 6th inning and banged out a single in the 8th inning. Overall Bloomington out-hit Ocala 14 to 10.

Roger Clemens(2-0) got credit for the victory, pitching 5 and 1/3 innings and allowing 4 runs. Rick Aguilera earned his 1st save. Kenny Rogers(0-1) was tagged with the loss. He was knocked around by Bloomington, allowing 5 hits and 3 walks in 2 and 1/3 innings.

GAME 4: Jeff Huson had 2 base hits and 2 RBI as the Bloomington Bees beat the Ocala Ocelots in 15 innings by a score of 6 to 5.

The game was deadlocked at 5 after nine full innings. Bloomington won the game in the 15th inning. After an out was recorded, Huson drew a walk. Rafael Palmeiro followed and he doubled giving Bloomington the victory and sending the 45,110 home-town fans home happy. Bloomington had 12 hits for the night.

Alan Mills(1-0) got the win allowing no runs in 3 innings. Todd Stottlemyre(0-1) was the losing pitcher in relief. He pitched 1 and 2/3 innings allowing 1 hit and 1 walk.

GAME 5: Dave Nilsson jacked one out of the ballyard and had 5 RBI as the Ocala Ocelots crushed the Bloomington Bees 18 to 5.

Nilsson provided the offensive punch. He rifled a three-run blast (his 1st of the season) in the 1st inning, stroked a one-base hit in the 3rd inning and slapped a base-hit bringing in two baserunners in the 8th inning. Ocala kept the scorekeepers busy in the 8th inning which saw them plate 8 runs on 6 hits. Ocala had many opportunities throughout the game and scored in 6 separate innings.

The win went to Steve Kline(1-0) who allowed no runs in 2 and 2/3 innings. Miguel Batista(1-1) suffered the loss. Ocala scored big getting 4 runs off him in 2 innings.

GAME 6: The Ocala Ocelots nipped the Bloomington Bees 7 to 6 at Double O Dome in a hard fought contest.

Bloomington was unable to recover after Ocala went ahead in the 7th inning when they tallied 2 runs on 3 hits. The key at-bat was by Dave Nilsson who came through for the home fans when he cleared the fences for a two-run home run (his 2nd of the season). Bloomington made it exciting in the 9th, but they were unable to push the needed runs across.

Javier Vazquez(1-0) got credit for the victory, pitching 7 innings and allowing 5 runs. Vazquez got help from Troy Percival who was credited with his 1st save. Pedro Martinez(1-2) ended up with the loss. He got hit pretty hard, allowing 11 hits and 3 walks in 7 and 1/3 innings. In a good matchup it was the Ocala Ocelots 6, the Bloomington Bees 4 at Double O Dome.

Jeff Suppan(1-1) gave Ocala a solid outing. He went 5 innings allowing 3 hits and 2 walks. Suppan struckout 6 Bloomington batters. Ocala rapped out 9 hits for the night.

Suppan got help from Troy Percival who earned his 2nd save. Greg Maddux(0-1) was given the loss. He pitched 2/3 of an inning allowing 4 hits and no walks.

The Ocala Ocelots finished a thrilling NL Division Series win over the defending National League Champion Bloomington Bees with a 6-4 victory in the series finale. Ocala erased a 3-1 series deficit and earns a much-deserved trip to the National League Championship Series. It was a memorable series in which Corey and Vaughn enjoyed a great deal.

NL Championship-Glen Allen and Ocala.

Game 1-Glen Allen took the 1st game in the best of seven series against Ocala. Eric Milton pitched an outstanding game allowing only 6 hits. Kenny Rogers, on the other hand, had a horrible 1st inning that took the crowd out of the game. Management has already pointed Rogers to the door. Another team can have this "wonderful" pitcher.

Game 2-Ocala evened the series with an excellent outing from young Javier Vazquez. Vazquez went the entire way allowing 4 hits and 4 walks while striking out 7. Javier has been the anchor of the staff in the playoffs for the Ocelots. Todd Ritchie pitched out of many jams getting Edgar Martinez out with the bases loaded three times. Todd allowed 2 runs in 6.2 innings.

Game 3-Ocelots scored all their runs in the fifth on 4 singles and 2 SB. Ocala's bullpen went wild in the 8th. T.J Matthews (L) allowed a single and 2 walks, then Troy Percival(BS) poured gas on the fire with bases loaded walk, then wild pitch before allowing a double to Velarde for two more runs. Erickson went the distance for win
Ocelots 3 9 0

Mets 6 10 1

Game 4-Another Battle late into the night. Finally, veteran Tony Gywnn decided 10 was enough, opened the inning with single off Mike Munoz(L) Roberto Hernandez came in but after sacrifice was successful, Scott Brosius double drove in the game winner. Troy Percival (W) pitched more like himself tonight 3 K, 1 H in 2 innings.

Ocelot 6 15 1

Mets 5 13 0

Game 5-After a quiet first inning the Mets bats came alive knocking out Rogers in second, he gave up four runs. Stottlemyre gave up three runs in his inning of work and Gardner four runs in mop up work. Milton had a shut out until the 8th.

Ocelots 2 5 1

Mets 11 15 0

Game 6-Glen Allen and Ocala are enjoying a fantastic series as it will take seven games to decide. At the last minute, Manager Eddie Murray decided to start Javier Vazquez. He mentioned that he would not be able to sleep if Ocala lost with Javier being able to go. Javier did not let the coach down. In arguably the best pitching performance I have ever had, Vazquez threw a 1-hit shutout. Omar Vizquel reached on a triangle 1-10 single split in the top of the 7th and he was the only baserunner Javier allowed. This was the 2nd straight shutout thrown by Javier against Glen Allen in the playoffs. Todd Ritchie of the Mets was not going to be outdone. He didn't allow a run in 7.2 innings only allowing 5 hits and 2 walks. The game was decided with 2 outs in the bottom of the 9th when Scott Brosius drew a bases-loaded, game-winning walk off Roberto Hernandez. Brosius had been a force at the plate earlier in the game collecting two doubles, but his walk was the decisive play.

Game 7- The Mets grabbed an early 5-0 lead and then led 8-2 and then coasted to the 8th inning when Ocelot bats decided to wake up. It was a little too late as the Mets had already secured themselves the victory. Roberto Hernandez did his best to keep it interesting. Edgardo Alfonzo had a chance with 2 outs in the bottom of the 9th to tie the game, but hit a fly ball to left to end the game. Alfonzo had homered the inning before, but couldn't keep the season going. Fernando Tatis connected for a homerun in the game, his 5th homerun in the series. To put that and the Mets pitching in perspective, the Ocelots only hit 3 homeruns the entire series and 2 came in the 8th inning of this game and the other came in the 9th inning of Glen Allen's Game 5 blow out.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Glen Allen Mets who are moving on to the Brassball World Series after there hard fought seven game series with Ocala.

Series MVP: Eric Milton 1.65 ERA 2-0 16.1 IP, 8 Hits, 10 Walks, 11 Strike outs

(Honorable Mention): Javier Vazquez 0.00 ERA 2-0 18 IP 5 Hits, 4 Walks, 13 Strike outs

Next up, the Mets will meet the A.L. Division winner for the Brassball Championship.

National League MVP, CY Young and ROY Awards

NL MVP

The Wolfpack's, Jeff Bagwell, is named the National League's MVP in 2000. Bagwell's name appeared on every ballot. Last year's winner, Mark McGwire, finished way down the list this year. Bagwell finished 2nd to McGwire a year ago. Bagwell batted .304 with 44 homers, 132 RBI's with 31 stolen bases. The Bees, Palmeiro, finished 2nd this year, followed by Edgar Martinez of Ocala and then Bernie Williams of Stanley. Here is the way the rest of the voting looked:

Bagwell	41
Palmeiro	29
E. Martinez	27
Williams	21
Gonzalez	17
Jeter	17
Tatis	13
Helton	6
P. Martinez	5
C. Jones	3
McGwire	1
I. Rodriquez	1

NL CY Young

Bloomington's, Pedro Martinez, is this year's CY Young award winner. Martinez takes the award by finished ahead of Jose Lima by a 57-38 vote. Martinez was 24-4 with 2.07 ERA. He also fanned 329 batters. Martinez won 24 of Bloomington's 89 wins. Roger Clemens won the award last year beating out Greg Maddux. Below is the final wrap-up of the voting:

P. Martinez	57
Lima	38
Johnson	31
Reynolds	25
Percival	9
Radke	5
Ritchie	5
R. Hernandez	3
Milwood	2
D. Lowe	2
Mantei	1
Vasquez	1

NL Rookie of the Year

Glen Allen's Todd Ritchie, is voted in as the Brassball Rookie of the Year for 2000. Kerry Wood won the award last year. Ritchie just edged out Racine's Ken Singleton by a 32-27 vote. Ritchie had an ERA of 3.48 and record of 14-8. Here are all the votes:

Ritchie	32
Singleton	27
Konerko	26
Wilson	24
Belliard	12
Mantei	12
Vasquez	10
Dye	10
Beltran	8
Koch	6
Benson	4
Nathan	3
McGlinchy	2
Patrick	2
Bush	2

Trades



- 1) Ocala sends Nick Johnson and Carlos Perez to Metropolis for Jeremy Giambi and Metropolis' 1st round pick
- 2) Metropolis trades Wauwatosa's sixth round pick in 2001 and \$200,000 to Gem City for Jose Lima.
- 3) Metropolis sends \$80,000 to North Georgia for Ken Hill.
- 4) Minnesota sends Hitchcock, the rights to Johnstone and \$2,000,000 to Metropolis for Rod Beck.
- 5) Columbus trades Dan Wilson, Columbus #1 and #2 picks in 2001 and Mike Lamb to Metropolis for Mike Lowell and \$725,000.
- 6) Santa Barbara trades Scott Service to Metropolis for \$35,000.
- 7) Florida trades John Mabry to Metropolis for 200,000.

Free Agency

Looking for that cleanup hitter, that number one starter or that one piece to the puzzle that is missing? This could be your year. By November 10th you should receive a list of all the free agents from Mark Lentz. Mark has done an outstanding job with free agency since he has taken the helm. Mark did a quick and efficient job of keeping track of all the free agents and their contracts. Mark will be announcing the due date for the

bids to be returned to him shortly. He will also spell out the details of the bidding process

This is an exiting and yet nervous time for all of us. We might all be asking ourselves, will I be able to keep that franchise player who has been with my team since the beginning? Will I be able to snatch that one player that will put my team into the playoffs? Out of the free agents I have, which ones will go and which ones will stay? All of these questions will be answered soon enough. Please read through the constitution for the details on bidding. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin, Mark or myself.

Around the Horn

Σ We are down to one league opening. Robert Emrich has joined our league and is taking over the Milwaukee franchise. Robert has played strat for 6 years. He is currently a member of the Robin Yount retro league, CECBA, IBL and the NCBL. Robert is from New York City. His address is 25 42-43st astoria NY, and his AOL name is stratobobby. Robert comes to us with a lot of knowledge and a wealth of experience. I see Robert has already wasted no time, offering up Barry Bonds and Roberto Alomar up for trade. If you get a chance, please welcome Robert to the league. I hope Robert has fun, success and lengthy stay with us in Brassball.

If anyone else has a candidate for the other league opening (Milwaukee), please let Kevin or me know.

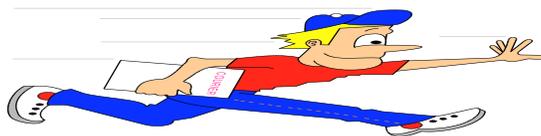
Σ Kevin will be announcing the outcome of the rule change proposal voting in his A. L. newsletter, which will be out shortly.

On Time Mailing Awards

Several teams this year have completed all of their mailings and deadlines on time for the entire year. In our busy lives this is really a credit to achieve such an accomplishment.

To reward these teams, they are given an extra sandwich pick between the 3rd and 4th rounds of the draft. Here are the teams and congratulations on this feat. Bloomington, Fleetwood, Gem City, Glen Allen, Ocala and Stanley.

Upcoming Deadlines



Nov. 10 - list of restricted and unrestricted free agents sent out by Free Agency Conductor (Mark Lentz).

Nov. 25 - sealed bids for free agents due to Free Agency Conductor (Mark Lentz).

Dec. 15 - free agent signing report sent out by Free Agency Conductor (Mark Lentz).

Jan. 25 - your 30-man protected list due to Draft Conductor (Corey Weisser).

Feb. 1 - 30-man protected lists sent out by Draft Conductor (Corey Weisser).