

THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld
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NL News



New Season About To Begin!

The start of the 7th BRASSball season is about to begin. The cards and CD-ROM are here. Kevin and I are trying to get things ready for opening day, like the schedule, last minute ballpark information and the roster files. I will be updating all the files needed and send them out shortly.

All teams should be starting the process of getting set to begin the Brassball season next month. We have a couple of new owners this upcoming year and we have some new rules that we voted in. All of these changes will help to make BRASSball a better and more realistic league. Here is a list of some of the new rules that will affect the teams during the season.

1) **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:** We voted by a 13-9 margin to increase the number of articles an owner may author during the year, up to a maximum earnings amount of 3.6 million per year. LD's will not be paid for additional articles. The Statistician may be compensated for one article during the year, and the WEBSITE Coordinator three articles. All other positions may be compensated for up to 6 articles.

2) **TWO-YEAR CONTRACT PRICE:** By a 16-6 margin, we voted to reduce the cost of a 2 year contract back to \$500,000. (Any 2 year deal signed immediately after the just completed BRASSball season will be credited with \$500,000) Any player beginning the 2nd year of a 2 year deal remains on a 2 year, 1 million dollar contract. If such a player were dealt, the team trading the player would be entitled to reimbursement based on a \$500,000 salary for the second year of the contract.

3) **CLOSER RULE:** We elected to adopt the CLOSER Rule, 13-9.

Trades

- 1) **Minnesota** sends Almanzar, Parris, Jas Johnson, Belinda, W Greene, Hutchinson, Restovich and the MIN #2 in 2003 to **Metropolis** for Jason Bere and Bobby Bonilla.
- 2) **Metropolis** pays \$2,000,000 to **Gem City** for Juan Cruz, Gem City #1 and #3 in 2003.
- 3) **Columbus** trades Stan Javier to **Metropolis** for Travis Lee and Ramon Castro.
- 4) **Minnesota** sends their 2002 5th round pick to **Plaza** for Tomas de la Rosa.
- 5) **Fleetwood** pays \$100,000 to **Metropolis** for Benard Gilkey.
- 6) **Ocala** sends Joe Crede to **Bloomington** for Roger Clemens (contract paid).
- 7) **Box City** trades Rob Ducey to **Metropolis** for \$50,000.
- 8) **Stanley** sends Brian Cooper and the Sioux's 7th round pick in 2002 to **Plaza** for Frank Menechino and the Lions 6th round pick in 2002.
- 9) **Toledo** trades Delino DeShields, Arthur Rhodes and \$2.31M to **Santa Barbara** for Eric Owens & \$1,333,333 and Fernando Seguignol & \$100k
- 10) **Box City** trades John Burkett to **Santa Barbara** for \$99,000.
- 11) **Metropolis** pays \$2,000,000 to **Brooklyn** for Matt Ginter, Brooklyn #1 and #3 in 2003 and Desi Relaford.
- 12) **Plaza** trades Butch Huskey to **Fleetwood** for James Mouton Fleetwood's 2002 5th Rd Pick and \$100,000.
- 13) **Metropolis** trades Wiki Gonzalez to **Santa Barbara** for \$400k.

Contract Signings

Bloomington signs Beirne, Bellinger, Buehrle, Frascatore, Geraldo Guzman, Padilla, Slusarski and Paul Wilson to MO deals and Suzuki to an amateur deal.

Columbus signs Tam, Fultz and Brock to 2 years deals. McMillon, Johan Santana, Valdes, Boyd, Ojeda, Moeller, Moore and Dickson to MO deals. Crawford, Paxton Barnes, John, Gonzalez, Dicky and Inge, Brandon to amateur deals.

Fleetwood signs Turnbow, Cornelius, Elster and Crespo to MO deals. Perez, Antonio and Mench, Kevin to amateurs deals.

Gem City signs Adam Kennedy a 2 year deal. Benji Gil, Jose Macias, Mark Smith, Doug Creek and Rich Loiselle to 1 year deals. Matt Whiteside and Chris Woodward to MTM deals. Scott Downs and Jim Brower to MO deals and Luke Prokopec and Brad Wilkerson to amateur deals.

Glenn Allen signs B. Arroyo & H Ortiz to MO deals and A. Pujols, A. Hernandez & Mike MacDougel to amateur deals.

Long Island signs Cardona, Harper, Hernandez, DeHaan, Nicholson, Klassen and Meyers to MO deals.

Metropolis signs Luis Matos and Brian Sikorski to MO deals and Jose Ortiz Wilson Betemit and Ben Christensen to amateur deals.

North Georgia signs Kelly Wunsch to a 2 year deal. Canizaro, Maxwell, Valdes, Stull and Lorraine to MO deals and Morales, Hart, Wainwright and Byrd to amateur deals.

Ocala signs Rusch, Wilson, Benes, Wise, Rigdon, Parrish and Buchanon to MO contracts and Oswalt and Peavy to AM contracts.

Racine signs Schneider, Johnson, Santana Julio and Speiers to 2 year deals.

Stanley signs Julio Zuletta, Chris Fussell and Frank Menechino to MO deals and Joel Piniero, Wes Helms and Corey Smith to amateur deals.

Wauwatosa signs Mark Redman , Chris Richard , Morgan Burkhart , BJ Ryan and Scott Sheldon to MO deals and Luis Montanez and Joe Torres to amateur deals.

Secondary Free Agency

The secondary stage of the draft is now completed. There wasn't a great deal of talent or help for this year out of this set of extra players selected in this year's rookie draft. 8 teams participated in the secondary free agency process. 18 players received bid's this year. Emil Brown received the highest bid at 401K minor league contract from Bloomington. The Metropolis Avengers and the Santa Barbara Outlaws were the big winners, signing 4 players each. Here is a summary of the winning bids and by what teams.

Metropolis signs Trenidad Hubbard to a 1 month MTM (\$39,000).

Metropolis signs Brian Hunter to a 2 months MTM (\$76,000).

Metropolis signs Dan Serafini to a 1 month MTM (\$36,000).

Box City signs Sean Bergman to a MO deal.

Box City signs Brant Brown to a MO contract.

Minnesota signs Wilton Veras to a MO for 130K.

Bloomington signs Emil Brown to a MO for 401K.

Minnesota signs FP Santangelo to a MO for 120K.

Metropolis signs Darren Bragg to a 2 months MTM (\$86,000).

Morris signs Jamie Arnold to a MO.

Ocala signs Chris Turner to a 1,A1-245 contract.

Morris signs Jeff Brantley to a MO contract.

Morris signs Gary Bennett to a MO for 107K.

Ocala signs Alex Cabrera to a 1,A1-225 contract.

Santa Barbara signs Tim Belcher to MTM contract.

Santa Barbara signs Ozzie Timmons to MTM contract.

Santa Barbara signs Ryan Thompson to MTM contract.

Santa Barbara signs Raul Chavez to MTM contract.

Upcoming Deadlines



MARCH 15th: ---Trade deadline for April games.

MARCH 25th: ---Contract signings for any MO, MA or MTM players that will be on your active roster. Road instructions due out to April opponents. Starting pitcher rotations are due to your league director. Newsletters, if any, due to your LD.