

THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld
April 2001

New Season Gets Underway

It was a tough first month for the National League during interleague play versus the American League. Only one team, Ocala, was clearly above .500 for the month. Two teams, Stanley and Fleetwood came in with 14 wins. The NL was 139-197 against the AL. Is the American League that much better than the Nation this year? I don't think so. I look for things to get evened out in May.

NL EAST

LONG ISLAND TIGERS 13-15

The Tigers get out to a 7-7 home record and win only six games on the road and yet find themselves in first place. Thomas had a very good April hitting .314 with 10 homers and 21 RBI's. Thomas also has 20 walks. Lightenberg and Remlinger lead the pitching staff with a combined record of 2-0 with 8 saves.

GLEN ALLEN METS 12-16

The Mets stumble out of the gate. Predicted early to finish first, they are only one game out but struggled with a 5-9 road record. Lawton leads the team with a .330 average with 11 doubles, 3 homers and 19 RBI's. Bob Wickman is saving everything in sight with 7 saves and a 1.04 ERA.

WAUWATOSA WIZARDS 9-19

The Wizards were one of the few teams that played better on the road than at home. Still only 5 wins on the road is nothing to brag about. Koskie is leading the Wizards attack with a .301 average, 3 homers and 15 RBI's. Karsay is carrying the load for the pitching staff with a 3.04 ERA and 2 wins. He has already pitched 23.2 innings the first month. Karsay's arm may fall off before the end of the year.

RACINE HEAT 7-21

The Heat find themselves in last place with 21 losses and 6 games out after the first month. A team batting average of .255 and a team ERA of 7.38 don't make for a good formula. The news is not all bad for Racine as Joe Randa is 4th in the league in hitting at .330 and Jose Jimenez leads the league in ERA.

NL CENTRAL

STANLEY SIOUX 14-14

Stanley was predicted to easily win the Central division but after one month they find themselves in a dog fight with Fleetwood. The offense has underachieved so far with a team batting average of .263. When they do take off, look out. The pitching has held them in many games as the team has posted a 3.85 ERA. Randy Johnson is 3rd in ERA at 3.30.

FLEETWOOD WALKERS 14-14

After April, the Walkers are tied for the lead in the Central division. They have gotten there by batting .283 as a team and slugging 33 homers. Abreu has lead the offense with a .333 average (4th in the league) with 4 homers and 19 RBI's. If the Walkers are to stay in first their pitching will have to improve as they registered a 5.28 team ERA.

COLUMBUS BUCKEYES 13-15

The Buckeyes tallied a sub .500 record for April but only find themselves 1 game out of first. Darryl Ward has been the offensive leader. Ward has been tearing the cover off the ball as he hit .383 (1st) with 10 homers (2nd) and 23 RBI's (5th). Randy Wolf is 2nd in ERA at 2.74.

BLOOMINGTON BEES 13-15

The Bees were another team that played better on the road than at home. 7 wins on the road and 6 at home. This isn't the Bees team that we have come to know but are only 1 game back after the first month. The pitching will need to improve to keep pace with the rest of the division as they posted a 6.64 team ERA.

NL WEST

OCALA OCELOTS 16-12

Ocala is the only NL team to be clearly over .500 after a tough month of play against the AL. The Ocelots had identical 8-6 records home and away. Kendall and Alphonso are both batting .330 Helton leads the league in RBI's with 35 and Percival is leading in saves with 8.

GEM CITY WOLFPACK 13-15

The Wolfpack are just 3 games behind after April's play. If they are to stay in the division race they must improve in the area of pitching. Gem City posted a 6.53 team ERA. No hurler had an ERA under 4.00. That kind of pitching won't win many games. Ivan Rodriguez has been awesome in limited play batting .429 with 6 homers in 56 AB's.

NORTH GEORGIA YELLOW JACKETS 11-17

Had the Yellow Jackets had a good month at home, they may have been closer to the top of the division. They won 8 games on the road but only 3 at home. The home cooking

wasn't very tasty this month. Brad Fullmer is batting .360 (2nd) with 7 homers and 18 RBI's. Donnie Wall has posted 3 wins in relief and has a 1.29 ERA.

METROPOLIS AVENGERS 4-24

Not much left here in the gas tank. Last in hitting (.217)) and second last in pitching (6.73). Not much to say except, that is the strategy employed here is to be bad now and better in couple of years. Even Superman couldn't save this team from last place this year. The only excitement here is who will be their first pick next year. It will be a long season in Metropolis.

Trades



No trades were reported to the National League office so there are none to report this month.

Contract Signings

Stanley signs Gil Meche to his first MO-1 call-up for May.

Ocala signs JD Drew will use his 2nd call-up in May.

North Georgia signs Canizaro, Lorraine and Valdes to M0-1 contracts and Gagne to an M0-2 contract.

Glen Allen signs Trot Nixon to an MO-1 contract for May.

Fleetwood signs Dan Plesac and Ben Molina to their second minor-league call-ups.

Columbus signs Daryle Ward to his second major league option (MO-2).

Wauwatosa signs Redman and Richard to (MO-2) contracts, Sheldon and Mulder to (MO-1) contracts and Masaoka and Barker are signed to (1,B1) contracts.

Long Island signs Berkman, Klassen and Guillen to MTM contracts and Rivera to 1 year contract.

Metropolis signs Reboulet and Brian Hunter (the 1B one) to MTM contracts and Jason Johnson's to his third and final MO call-up.

Fines

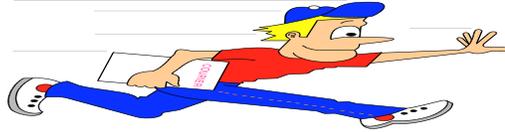
Columbus is fined 500,000.00 for not sending a copy of their subsets stats to the back-up statistician.

Gem City is fined 500,000.00 for not sending a copy of their subsets stats to the back-up statistician.

Morris is fined 500,000.00 for not sending a copy of their subsets stats to the back-up statistician.

Racine is fined 500,000.00 for not sending a copy of their subsets stats to the back-up statistician.

Upcoming Deadlines



May 15th...Series results are due out to your April 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.

May 15th....If you make a trade during the month of May, you must e-mail the trade to your LD for it to take effect for the next months play.

May 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.

May 20th...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.

May 25th...Instructions due to June opponents. Pitching rotation for June due to your LD.

Article for Paul Weltz

BRASS vs. Brassball – a free agency comparison

Has one ever wondered just how good or bad a deal you made in your free agency signings? Well, to help us evaluate some of our signings I made a comparison of free agent contracts of the same players signed this year in BRASS and Brassball. A few disclaimers here:

1. There is no intention of making any owner appear bad (or good). Just because a signing is higher in one league doesn't necessarily make it a bad signing. You can form your own opinion in that area.
2. The minimum 2 year contract in BRASS is 800k, whereas in Brassball it is 500k.
3. The overall budget is indeed 35 million in both leagues. BRASS has contract payments on a year to year basis. Brassball pays for the entire contract at the time of signing. My hypothesis would be that the year to year contracts would be more inflated since the "pain" of a big contract is spread out.

4. What you don't see is also important but not factored into this report. There may have been more RFA's and/or UFA's at certain positions in one league.
5. BRASS bidders do have the advantage of the free agency process occurring during MLB spring training, whereas the Brassball free agency process is in the winter.

OK. With that said, here are the numbers.

28 BRASS contracts were signed at an annual salary less than a Brassball contract.

56 Brassball contracts were signed at an annual salary less than a BRASS contract.

1 contract was identical. Kent Bottenfield was worth 2yrs/3.0m in both leagues.

<u>Player</u>	<u>BRASS contract, team, avg. salary</u>	<u>Brassball contract, team, avg. salary</u>
D. Young	4yr/10.7m Hpy Valley(2.675m)	3yr/5.685m, Florida (1.895m)
S Dunston	1yr/301k Meridian (301k)	1yr/320k Hessville (320k)
JA McDonald	1yr/202k Twin City (202k)	1yr/200k Hessville (200k)
B Johnson	1yr/202k SoCal (202k)	1yr/200k Hessville (200k)
D Weathers	4yr/4.0m (Qeynos) (1.0m)	2yr/1.3m Minnesota (650k)
H Slocumb	2yr/955k Washington (477k)	1yr/250k Minnesota (250k)
T Lampkin	1yr/202k Meridian (202k)	2yr/3.0m Queens (1.5m)
J Franco	2yr/2.611m Washington (1.305m)	2yr/3.0m Queens (1.5m)
T Womack	2yr/2.5m Washington (1.25m)	3yr/5.0m Queens (1.667m)
K Lofton	3yr/9.0m Painful Gulch(3.0m)	3yr/8.0m Box City (2.667m)
J Burkett	2yr/1.65m Ashland (825k)	1yr/801k Box City (801k)
D Mlicki	2yr/1.001m Meridian (500k)	2yr/1.301m Box City (650k)
M Morgan	1yr/600k Ashland (600k)	1yr/351k Box City (351k)
O Oliveras	2yr/1.001m Meridian (500k)	2yr/1.201m Box City (600k)
T Adams	2yr/3.5m Dayton (1.75m)	2yr/2.575m Cook Co. (1.288m)
T Gordon	2yr/1.02m Andover (510k)	2yr/505k Cook Co (252k)
D Oliver	2yr/805k Twin City (402k)	2yr/520k Cook Co (260k)
J Jaha	2yr/801k Leesburg (400k)	2yr/505k Cook Co (252k)
RN White	4yr/10.555m Manhattan(2.638m)	3yr/4.0m Iowa (1.333m)
K Rogers	3yr/11.75m Leesburg (3.916m)	2yr/5.65m Iowa (2.825m)
<u>Player</u>	<u>BRASS contract, team, avg. salary</u>	<u>Brassball contract, team, avg. salary</u>
E Young	4yr/8.4m Leesburg (2.1m)	3yr/8.15m Iowa (2.717m)
A Ochoa	4yr/12.0 Qeynos (3.0m)	3yr/4.84m Iowa (1.613m)
K Lockhart	1yr/220k Twin City (220k)	1yr/251k Iowa (251k)
T Worrell	1yr/615k Painful Gulch (615k)	2yr/501k Iowa (250k)
A Benitez	4yr/18.4m Happy Vly (4.6m)	3yr/6.601m Plaza (2.2m)
RE Martinez	3yr/2.1m Manhattan (700k)	3yr/2.001m Plaza (667k)
B Chouinard	2yr/800k Qeynos (400k)	MTM – 35k Plaza
A Telford	2yr/1.95m Leesburg (975k)	1yr/600k S Barbara (600k)
J Baldwin	4yr/15.1m Timber Lake (3.775m)	2yr/5.0m St. Croix (2.5m)
S Hasegawa	2yr/2.2m Painful Gulch (1.1m)	2yr/2.96m St. Croix (1.48m)
L Harris	1yr/202k Twin City (202k)	2yr/1.9m St. Croix (950k)
L Sojo	2yr/1.555m Washington (778k)	2yr/2.1m St. Croix (1.05m)
T Martinez	2yr/5.5m Qeynos (2.75m)	2yr/4.0m Brooklyn (2.0m)

M Myers	2yr/2.9m Happy Vly (1.45m)	2yr/2.75m Brooklyn (1.375m)
M Benard	3yr/4.31m Washington (1.437m)	2yr/4.1m Brooklyn (2.05m)
J Oliver	1yr/750k Ashland (750k)	2yr/1.667m Toledo (834k)
J Burnitz	6yr/14.837m Qeynos (2.473m)	4yr/8.5m Toledo (2.125m)
G Norton	1yr/200k Meridian (200k)	2yr/500k Toledo (250k)
J Olerud	5yr/12.11m Washington (2.422m)	4yr/4.0m Long Island (1.0m)
K Bottenfield	2yr/3.0m Dayton (1.5m)	2yr/3.0m Long Island (1.5m)
H Carrasco	1yr/602k Andover (602k)	1yr/205k Long Island (205k)
R Springer	2yr/826k SoCal (413k)	1yr/205k Long Island (205k)
M Cordova	1yr/200k Iowa (200k)	2yr/500k Racine (250k)
A Osuna	4yr/4.0m Qeynos (1.0m)	2yr/3.12m Racine (1.56m)
M Lewis	1yr/205k Twin City (205k)	1yr/250k Racine (250k)
B Wickman	3yr/8.945m Happy Vly (2.982m)	3yr/6.001m Glen Allen (2.0m)
W Gomes	2yr/1.6m Painful Gulch (800k)	1yr/700k Glen Allen (700k)
M Stanley	1yr/801k Leesburg (801k)	1yr/750k Glen Allen (750k)
M Wilkins	1yr/202k Twin City (202k)	2yr/540k Glen Allen (270k)
G Colbrunn	2yr/2.5m East Lyme (1.25m)	3yr/4.1m Glen Allen (1.367m)
C Ripken	2yr/2.75m Timber Lake (1.375m)	2yr/2.5m Glen Allen (1.25m)
D Bautista	1yr/1.2m Dayton (1.2m)	3yr/2.01m Glen Allen (667k)
R Velarde	3yr/2.0m SoCal (667k)	2yr/2.001m Glen Allen (1.0m)
M Matheny	2yr/3.6m Cream City (1.8m)	3yr/3.6m Bloomington (1.2m)
B Moehler	2yr/5.5m Dayton (2.75m)	4yr/5.069m Stanley (1.267m)
J Fabregas	1yr/375k Andover (375k)	1yr/450k Stanley (450k)
K Osik	2yr/801k Leesburg (400k)	1yr/275k Stanley (275k)
S Hatteberg	2yr/1.87m Happy Vly (935k)	2yr/1.8m Stanley (900k)
V Castilla	3yr/2.5m Manhattan (833k)	3yr/2.2m Stanley (733k)
C Curtis	2yr/2.0m East Lyme (1.0m)	1yr/805k Fleetwood (805k)
C Grebeck	2yr/1.25m Leesburg (625k)	1yr/805k Fleetwood (805k)
M Jensen	1yr/201k Iowa (201k)	1yr/200k Fleetwood (200k)
D Patterson	1yr/400k Happy Vly (400k)	1yr/205k Fleetwood (205k)
B Higginson	4yr/13.35m Happy Vly (3.337m)	4yr/16.21m Columbus (4.053m)
M Dejean	1yr/210k Leesburg (210k)	1yr/251k Columbus (251k)
<u>Player</u>	<u>BRASS contract, team, avg. salary</u>	<u>Brassball contract, team, avg. salary</u>
S Green	4yr/18.2m Andover (4.55m)	3yr/11.82m Ocala (3.94m)
S Sparks	2yr/4.4m Ashland (2.2m)	1yr/1.825m Ocala (1.825m)
L Hawkins	3yr/4.96m Plainsfield (1.653m)	2yr/2.39m Ocala (1.195m)
J Mouton	2yr/801k Leesburg (400k)	1yr/200k Ocala (200k)
D Jones	1yr/1.05m Happy Vly (1.05m)	1yr/411k Ocala (411k)
B Groom	1yr/1.0m East Lyme (1.0m)	1yr/411k Ocala (411k)
D Miceli	2yr/1.45m Happy Vly (725k)	2yr/890k Ocala (445k)
J Mecir	4yr/6.5m Qeynos (1.625m)	2yr/4.005m N Georgia (2.003m)
B Haselman	2yr/1.45m Boston (725k)	1yr/2.224m N Georgia (2.224m)
MI Williams	3yr/9.5m Boise (3.166m)	1yr/701k N Georgia (701k)
K Stocker	1yr/300k Twin City (300k)	1yr/376k Metropolis (376k)
De Bell	2yr/2.6m Inyo (1.3m)	1yr/376k Metropolis (376k)
M Morandini	1yr/444k Andover (444k)	1yr/376k Metropolis (376k)

BL Hunter	2yr/1.3m Boston (650k)	1yr/251k Metropolis (251k)
R. Reed	3yr/7.626m Andover (2.542m)	3yr/9.0m Gem City (3.0m)
R Becker	1yr/310k Leesburg (310k)	1yr/300k Gem City (300k)
M Trombley	1yr/750k Leesburg (750k)	2yr/750k Gem City (375k)
M Feters	2yr/2.0m East Lyme (1.0m)	2yr/1.2m Gem City (600k)
P Schourek	1yr/1.15m Leesburg (1.15m)	1yr/250k Gem City (250k)
O Palmeiro	2yr/1.75m Manhattan (875k)	1yr/600k Gem City (600k)

General notes and points of interest:

About 5 of the cheaper Brassball contracts were less expensive due to the 2yr/500k minimum salary versus the 2yr/800k minimum.

Most starting pitching was more expensive in BRASS (for those of you who bid and signed this should be no great surprise). About the only major exception was Rick Reed.

BRASS had more longer term contracts. Eleven 4 year contracts, one 5 year contract (John Olerud), and one six year contract (Jeromy Burnitz) were issued. Brassball had only four 4 year contracts, and no 5 or 6 year contracts issued. (All comparisons done only for the identical signed players – not the entire free agency list).

Till we talk again....

Paul Weltz

Stanley Sioux – Defending Brassball NL Central winner

Iowa Roscos – BRASS cellar dwellers in midst of major rebuilding

Article form Jim Clark

Good News and Bad News!

The Glen Allen Mets won twelve games in their first month of the 2001 season! Most of the pitchers did a good job especially the bullpen. This was led by new closer Bob Wickman with 7 saves & 1.05 ERA, left handers Felix Heredia 2.42, Mike Venafro 3.07 and righty Wayne Gomes 2.93. The starters all gave up much more: Milton (4-1) 4.50 with 8 homers, Gardner(3-1) 5.63 and 10homers, Trachsel (1-4) 7.08 And 5 homers, only Todd Ritchie (0- The Glen Allen Mets won twelve games in their first month of the 2001 season! 1) 3.41 and 2 homers neared the standards of the relievers. Pitching Coach Jimmy Key was often scratching his head looking for solutions, " Historically, Trachsel is a slow starter so we expect him to really improve. Gardner and Milton gave up too many homeruns for my liking."

The team's ERA of 4.51 was about a half a run higher than last season so we know the pitchers will be working to improve.

The Mets lost sixteen games in April, finishing 3-4 against each opponent in the American League West. Bench Coach Buddy Harrellson was frustrated, "We were 1-3 in extra inning games and 3-7 in one run games. We did not come through with the clutch hits when we needed it the most!"

Hitting Coach Eddie Kranepool was satisfied with a few of his pupils, "John Flaherty seemed to hit all the time! In 19 games he batted .350 with 2 homers and 6 RBIs. He was signed primarily

for his defense but we are pleased with his offensive numbers." His second star goes to rightfielder Matt Lawton, "We knew last year his stats were not his norm so batting .330 with 3 homers and team leading 19 RBIs is no surprise. The team home run leader is Ryan Klesko with 5 and he had a couple caught or blown foul by the bad weather at home that will be out of the Yard most of the year."

Firstbase coach Mookie Wilson lamented, "I missed Omar!" Usually the team catalyst Vizquel did not spend much time with Mookie at first base because he batted only .150.

Harrelson said, "We need to get our tablesetters (Vizquel, Velarde (.265) and Grissom (.261) on base to generate some offense ahead of our #3,4,5 hitters. We knew that third base would be our Achilles heal of pulled hamstring or whatever with Fernando Tatis and Cal Ripken Jr. who have combined for 5 homers and 16 RBIs but batting only .220.

Rookie Centerfielder Melvin Mora batted a respectable .276 but had 23 strikeouts. General Manager Clark has decided to send Mora back to the minors to try to cut down on his swing. "We like his play in the outfield, but he needs to put the ball in play." When asked who will man centerfield, the GM responded, "Bautista, Grissom and Trot Nixon. He will add another lefthanded batter in the order to balance our attack. I like defense as much as maybe more than the next guy does, but we have to try something. I was pleased with Charles Nagy in April, but we need to shut him down for a while with that shoulder trouble. Scott Erickson is rehabbing nicely so he will be our #5 in May. Joey Hamilton is still working on his control and Barry Zito still needs more time in the minors. The fifth spot in the rotation will be juggled throughout the season, maybe somebody different each month. Right now the team is hitting only .259 so that is my biggest concern. How are we going to generate more offense and take some pressure off of the pitchers? We are only one game out of the division leader so there is still plenty of time. I expect our veteran hitters like Cal, Ryan, Fordyce, Colbrunn and Vizquel to improve over their first month's statistics. Once the weather warms up some more balls will fly out of the Yard so that will help our hitters, but the pitchers will have to work harder to keep it in play."