

# THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld  
May 2001

## NL Notes

Four teams are now at or above the .500 mark in the NL. Only one team, Ocala, is clearly having a great season. Ocala leads the West by an amazing 17 games. Stanley is now starting to make a charge and has taken control of the NL Central. Stanley's lead is 3 games over Fleetwood. No team in the East is above .500. Long Island managed only 12 wins in May but still leads Glen Allen by 2 games. Fleetwood and Columbus are the front runners for the Wild Card spots. They are out in front of Glen Allen and Bloomington by 5 games.

### NL EAST

#### **LONG ISLAND TIGERS 12-16**

The Tigers continues to lead the East but they are still under .500 as a team. Thomas had another very good month and is carrying the load. Thomas is leading the league in average .360, hits 80 and homers with 20. Remlinger continues to lead the pitching staff with a 0.90 ERA and 8 saves.

#### **GLEN ALLEN METS 11-17**

The Mets need to make something happen if they are going to take this division. They fall another game back on the Tigers and continue to struggle on the road going 8-20 so far. Lawton is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league in hitting with .352 average. He also has 4 homers, 31 RBI's and has stolen 16 bases. Bob Wickman is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league with 13 saves.

#### **WAUWATOSA WIZARDS 12-16**

The Wizards are taking steps to climb back into this divisional race. With everyone above them struggling they seem to want to take advantage of the situation. Tucker is leading the Wizards attack with a .283 average, 10 homers and 33 RBI's. Elarton has 4 wins and a 3.57 ERA for the Wizards staff.

#### **RACINE HEAT 8-20**

The Heat falls to 10 games out after 2 months and it appears as though the Heat will be looking to next season. Another 8-win month doesn't help their chances to get back into the race. Joe Randa is mister everything for the Heat. He is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league in hitting at .349, tied for the lead in hits 80, 9<sup>th</sup> in RBI's with 41 and 8<sup>th</sup> in runs scored with 42.

## NL CENTRAL

### **STANLEY SIOUX 17-11**

The cream has finally come to the top. Stanley finally takes control of the division and carries a 3 game lead. The offense started to take off this month as the raised their team batting average to .278. Alou is the teams MVP so far posting a 345. Average, 14 homers and 38 RBI's. Helling is off to a great start at 9-2 with a 3.72 ERA.

### **FLEETWOOD WALKERS 14-14**

Another 14 win month for the Walkers in May. After being tied with Stanley for the lead in the Central division, they are now 3 games back. The good news is they are tied with Columbus for a Wildcard birth. Fleetwood may have to tighten up their defense at SS. Valentin has already committed 12 errors in 2 months. Abreu has lead the offense with a .326 average with 9 homers and 36 RBI's.

### **COLUMBUS BUCKEYES 15-13**

The Buckeyes also finds themselves 3 games out and tied with Fleetwood for a Wildcard spot. Columbus climbed back to .500 and had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best record in the division this month. Darryl Ward continues to be dominant with a .296 average with 15 homers and 38 RBI's. Randy Wolf is 4th in the league in ERA at 3.62.

### **BLOOMINGTON BEES 10-18**

The Bees end May with 10 wins. After being only 1 game out in April, they are now 8 back and seem to be dropping further out of the race. The Bees team hitting is respectable at .276 as Bichette is hitting .328 with 12 homers and 34 RBI's. The pitching has been another story as they have posted a team ERA of 6.62. Jeff Weaver has already given up 24 homers. That's 72 if your project it out. OUCH!

## NL WEST

### **OCALA OCELOTS 21-7**

Ocala is the only NL team to be clearly over .500 after 2 months of tough play against the AL. The Ocelots have the best record in the league and unless the wheels fall off, should have home field advantage in the playoffs. Helton has started to take charge this month and is now hitting .336 with 14 homers and 61 RBI's. Vazquez is off to a fine start posting an 8-1 record with a 3.30 ERA after 11 starts.

### **GEM CITY WOLFPACK 7-21**

The Wolfpack turn in just the opposite record as Ocala. 21 losses in the month dashed any hopes of a divisional title. The Wolfpack are still in 2<sup>nd</sup> but now find themselves 17 games out. Bagwell's average is down (.276) but his other numbers are great. Bagwell has 19 homers and 49 RBI's. The pitching staff continues to be the problem. Gem City has a 6.45 team ERA. No hurler has and ERA under 5.00.

## **NORTH GEORGIA YELLOW JACKETS 7-21**

The Yellow Jackets had another disappointing month. North Georgia falls to 19 games out and it looks like a long season for the fans in North Georgia. Brad Fullmer is still tearing it up batting .317 with 14 homers and 36 RBI's. Will Clark, in his last season, is also starting to heat up posting a .343 average with 8 homers and 25 RBI's.

## **METROPOLIS AVENGERS 4-24**

Metropolis turns in another 4 win month. Only 8 total wins after two months of play. The only question here is, who will they be taking with their first overall draft pick next year. D. Bell leads the team in hitting with at .295 with 7 homers and 32 RBI's. Lima (9) and Hill (8) have 17 losses between them with zero wins. The team ERA ballooned to 7.32.

## **Trades**

**Stanley** sends Jose Nieves and the Stanley 4th round pick in 2002 to **Iowa** for Iowa's 3rd round pick in 2002.

**Long Island** trades their 2002 5th round pick to **Glen Allen** for Andy Fox.

## **Contract Signings**

**Columbus** sign Daryle Ward for his third call-up option month.

**Bloomington** signs David Ortiz, Dan Reichert and Mark Buehrle to their fist call-up for June.

**Long Island** signs Berkman to a 4 year deal and Guillen to 3 Years.

**Fleetwood** signs Dan Plesac to his third minor-league call-up (MO-3) and Ben Molina to his third minor-league call-up (MO-3).

**Glen Allen** signs Trot Nixon to MO-2 and Barry Zito to MO-1 for June.

**North Georgia** signs Joe Nathan to an M0-3 and Shane Spencer to an M0-1.

**Wauwatosa** signs Redman and Washburn signed to (MO-3) contracts, Mulder and Quinn signed to (MO-2) contracts and Burkhart signed to an MO-1 contract.

**Metropolis** signs Desi Relaford and Brian Sikorski to their first call-ups, Rob Ducey to a MTM contract and Willie Greene, John Johnstone and Carlos Perez to 1 year deals.

## **Fines**

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

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## **Upcoming Deadlines**



**June 15th**...Series results are due out to your May 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.

**June 15<sup>th</sup>**...If you make a trade during the month of June, you must e-mail the trade to your LD for it to take effect for the next months play.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**...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.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**...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.

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

Enclosed is a review of the 2001 BRASS draft with a comparison of where players were drafted in comparison with the summer Brassball league. The first two BRASS rounds were compared in the below chart. Certain players had been selected in previous Brassball drafts and were therefore not available (designated "NA"). A small number of players were not drafted in Brassball and are designated "ND". See chart at the end of this article.

BRASS has a slightly different definition of AM/MO status. Any player receiving a computer only card is considered MO (likely 1 AB or 1 IP). This definition will help Brassball clarify who is carded, and may even cause the draft to last just a bit longer next season up on conversion to this definition.

Of the top 26 Brassball picks, 10 were already on BRASS rosters from previous drafts and couldn't be drafted this year. (Glendon Rusch #1, Redman #5, Radke (from SB) #9, Herges #14, Paul Wilson #15, Tam #17, Ben Christensen #18, Alex Cora #20, Chris George #21, Jose Mercedes #26.

Some players who saw their stock rise – Ichiro Suzuki (Yes it will pain me to see him on the Bloomington roster for a few years) went #2 vs. #4 in Brassball. Roy Oswalt rose to #7 vs. #13 in Brassball (Ocala pick). Albert Pujols hot start made him the #3 pick in BRASS vs. #23 in Brassball (nice pick for Glen Allen)

Some players who saw their stock drop (or may have been misjudged or drafted later based on needs) – Joe Borchard dropped to #16 in BRASS from #3 in Brassball. Chuck Smith dropped to #18 in BRASS from #6 in Brassball. Wilson Betemit dropped to #32 in

BRASS from #10 in Brassball. Andy and I will be cheering for Wilson, as this was my 2<sup>nd</sup> round pick in BRASS ☺

| 2001 BRASS |               |                          | Brassball |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| PICK       | TEAM          | PLAYER                   |           |
| 1          | Andover       | Mark Teixeira (AM)       | NA        |
| 2          | Meridian      | Ichiro Suzuki (AM)       | 4         |
| 3          | Twin City     | Albert Pujols (AM)       | 23        |
| 4          | Twin City     | Luis Rivas (from Qeynos) | NA        |
| 5          | Iowa          | Jon Rauch (AM)           | 2         |
| 6          | Qeynos        | Julio Lugo               | NA        |
| 7          | Happy Valley  | Roy Oswalt(AM)           | 13        |
| 8          | Diamond       | Mark Prior (AM)          | 169       |
| 9          | Plainsfield   | Jose Ortiz               | 7         |
| 10         | Hoth          | Frank Castillo           | 10        |
| 11         | Ashland       | Juan Pierre              | NA        |
| 12         | Syracuse      | Chin-Hui Tsao (AM)       | 117       |
| 13         | Inyo          | Brian Tolberg            | 8         |
| 14         | Painful Gulch | Juan Cruz (AM)           | 28        |
| 15         | Boise         | Tike Redmon              | ND        |
| 16         | Meridian      | Joe Borchard (AM)        | 3         |
| 17         | East Lyme     | Antonio Perez (AM)       | 16        |
| 18         | Boston        | Chuck Smith              | 18        |
| 19         | Milwaukee     | Chris Truby              | 34        |
| 20         | Dayton        | Xavier Nady              | NA        |
| 21         | Inyo          | Paxton Crawford          | 29        |
| 22         | Washington    | Luke Prokopec            | 51        |
| 23         | Dayton        | Adrian Gonzalez (AM)     | 74        |
| 24         | Milwaukee     | Matt Kinney              | 33        |
| 25         | Ashland       | Elmer Dessens            | 31        |
| 26         | Dayton        | Chris Richard            | 32        |
| 27         | Diamond       | Mark Buehrle             | 41        |

|    |                  |                         |     |
|----|------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| 28 | Andover          | Jerome Williams<br>(AM) | 62  |
| 29 | Meridian         | AJ Pierzynski           | 127 |
| 30 | Twin<br>City     | Matt Ginter             | 57  |
| 31 | Cream<br>City    | Adam Johnson (AM)       | 47  |
| 32 | Iowa             | Wilson Betemit (AM)     | 10  |
| 33 | Qeynos           | Chris Reitsma (AM)      | ND  |
| 34 | Meridian         | Santiago Perez          | 84  |
| 35 | Diamond          | Britt Reames            | 53  |
| 36 | Plainsfield      | Bobby Hill (AM)         | 40  |
| 37 | Ashland          | Osvaldo Fernandez       | 61  |
| 38 | Milwaukee        | Paul Rigdon             | 102 |
| 39 | Andover          | Tim Redding (AM)        | ?   |
| 40 | Andover          | Jacob Peavy (AM)        | 111 |
| 41 | Boise            | Scott Stewart (AM)      | ?   |
| 42 | East<br>Lyme     | Matt Belisle (AM)       | 67  |
| 43 | Timber<br>Lake   | Kelly Wunsch            | 22  |
| 44 | East<br>Lyme     | JR House (AM)           | 46  |
| 45 | Qeynos           | Kevin Jarvis            | 121 |
| 46 | Andover          | John Riedling           | 75  |
| 47 | Dayton           | Kevin Walker            | 30  |
| 48 | Inyo             | Dave McCarty            | 45  |
| 49 | Hoth             | Ed Rogers (AM)          | 181 |
| 50 | Dayton           | Kevin Elster            | 114 |
| 51 | SoCal            | Kevin Mench (AM)        | 36  |
| 52 | Washington       | Bronson Arroyo          | 76  |
| 53 | Washington       | Timoniel Perez          | 54  |
| 54 | Painful<br>Gulch | Joe Torres              | 190 |
| 55 | Meridian         | Keith Ginter            |     |

## DISAPPOINTING START!

The Glen Allen Mets' fans remember that their team went to the Brassball World Series less than six months ago. As the defending National League Champion this team was supposed to play much better than 23-33 after the first two months of the season. Look at the league standings to see that the Mets are only two games behind Long Island

in the NL East and tied with Bloomington five games behind Fleetwood and Columbus for the Wild Card spot so things are not so bad. Then why is the general manager asked what is he going to do to right his team?

GM Clark's response, "First we can not panic! This team was assembled to contend for the NL East title, and we are only two games out after two months. That is not too bad considering this team is overall, not hitting or pitching like they should be. We do have some individuals that I would like to mention for their efforts. John Flaherty has surprised me with his batting average .313 and .320 Vs right handed pitchers to complement Brook Fordyce .288 and .459 Vs left handed pitchers so our catching corps is solid. Matt Lawton could be our all-star representative and Ryan Klesko is solid. New acquisitions Greg Colbrunn .318 and Danny Bautista .290 are doing what I expected. Unfortunately, the other 2/3 of the batters is underachieving! Omar .222 and Velarde .237 & 46 K, are not setting the table like they did last year."

After catching his breath, the perplexed manager continued, "I'm tinkering with the batting order to try to find some combination that will work. Have you seen the home run differential? Well, at home in the Yard the Mets have 37 opponents 32 while on the road we have 21 and the opponents 40. Then look at our record in close games: 1-5 in extra innings, 4-13 in one run games similar to the Parcelmen 1-7 and 4-12 and they won the series."

I guess you should also look at the pitching, team ERA 5.29 is a run higher than last year. Milton and Ritchie are anchoring the rotation with Wickman, Gomes and Heredia solid out of the pen. The rest of the guys are nothing to write home about! We do have a young guy that has been impressive in the minors, so I have decide to bring up Barry Zito for June. The veterans Gardner and Trachsel will be dropped down in the rotation so that Barry can have six starts."

Pitching Coach Jimmy Key echoes the concern and possible solution, "I've personally scouted Zito and he will help take some pressure off the other guys. Despite his age, fans, umpires, errors or other factors do not easily shake up Barry beyond his control. He is also healthy and can give us some innings, which is more than I can say for some of our other guys. We are putting a lot of pressure on our bullpen going to them early and often. Felix Heredia will rest in June to save him for the second half of the year. Marc Wilkins will join the bullpen and take a little pressure off Wayne Gomes. We have 2/3 of the season to go and can not wear out everybody half way through the year."

Glen Allen looks forward to improvement in the months ahead and a chance to defend their National League title.