

THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld
July 2001

NL Notes

As we enter the final two months of the season, not many questions remain for the 2001 season. The leaders after the half way point have stayed in charge and only the NL Eastern division title seems to be the only unanswered question.

Ocala maintained and extended their lead in the West to 27 games. No one in this division has made any kind of a run at Ocala or the Wildcard spots. Ocala and Stanley now have the honor of the best records in the NL at 70-42.

Stanley stays in control of the Central but dropped to a 3 game lead over Columbus. The Buckeyes moved into 2nd place all alone after last month being tied with Fleetwood and are charging hard. The Buckeyes and Walkers are in the playoffs at least as a Wildcard if not division winners. Both teams are more than 14 games ahead of their Division rival Bloomington for the 2 Wildcard spots.

Glen Allen lost a bit of the lead and is now only 3 games ahead of Wauwatosa. The Wizards did move up but are just about out of gas as most of their key players are about used up for the year. Long Island stays 8 games back and could make some noise but they have 2 teams to jump over to get there.

2001 Brassball All-Star Game

BRASSball's 2001 All-Star Game was played by John Winters of Columbus. John hosted the All-Star game this year at his home park of Fred Bridgedale Park. The BRASSball National League held on to a 5-4 victory over the American League. The Nationals got out to a 5-0 lead, then had to hold off an 8th inning rally by the Americans. Below is the write-up about the All-star game from John. Thanks go out to John for playing the game this year.

All-Star game day opened hot and humid here at Fred Bridgedale Park, home of the Columbus Buckeyes in Columbus, Ohio. By 2:00 it was a hot 92 degrees.

After the usual preliminaries, the fun began. ARod led off against the Big Unit with a sharp base hit to left. But Johnson settled down and got Glaus, Delgado, and Vlad.

Derrick Jeter led off with a basehit for the Nationals in the 1st, and stole 2nd. Jason Kendall's single up the middle scored Jeter, and it was 1-0, Nationals. Lawton followed with a double to deep center, scoring Kendall, and it was a quick 2-0. Sosa walked, and Thomas reached on a Delgado error to load the bases. Amazingly, the first 6 batters had

all reached vs. Pedro. Pedro struck out Alou, and Charlie Johnson hit a sharp grounder to Glaus, which resulted in a rare 5-2-3 DP and the end of the National threat.

Johnson set the Americans down easily in the 2nd, allowing only a single to Bonds before Jeff Kent hit into a 6-4-3 DP.

Pedro was much sharper in the bottom of the 2nd, allowing only a lead off single to Alfonzo, and getting Randa to bound into a DP.

The Big Unit pitched a polished 3rd, allowing a 2-out triple to ARod, but otherwise setting down the Americans with ease. Johnson, done for the day, pitched 3 shutout innings against the best the Americans had to offer.

Pedro set the Nationals down in order in the bottom of the 3rd, the only 1-2-3 inning so far. Pedro also pitched well, but the Nationals managed to get 2 runs before Pedro could get an out, and so he leaves the game down 2-0.

Mike Mussina came on to pitch in the 4th for the Nationals. Three up, three down.

Greg Maddux replaced Pedro for the Americans to lead off the 4th. With 2 outs, Todd Helton became the first substitution of the game, and he reached on error. Alfonzo ripped his second hit of the day into center, but Maddux shut down Randa.

Randy Wolf then came in to pitch for the Nationals. The only offense the Americans could muster was a squibber booted by Kendall.

Andrew Jones replaced Gonzalez in CF to open the bottom of the 5th, and Kevin Millwood came on to pitch for the Americans. Jeter led off with a single, and Lawton followed one out later, but Sosa grounded into a DP to end the inning.

The Nationals opened the 6th with 3 substitutions, Vazquez on the mound, Bernie Williams in CF and IRod behind the plate. ARod led off by smacking his 3rd hit of the day into left field. But Glaus struck out, and Delgado chopped into a 1-6-3 DP to end the inning.

Cirrillo, Galarraga and Albi Lopez took the field for the Americans in the top of the 6th. After Frank Thomas went down on a sharp lineout to 3rd, Derrick Bell came in to hit for Alou, but grounded out. However, the Nationals started a 2 out rally. Helton singled, and Durham, hitting for Alfonzo, got an infield single. Tony Batista, hitting for Randa, struck out, ending the threat.

Troy Percival came on to pitch for the Nationals, and Durham, Batista and Bell stayed in the game. Gary Sheffield led off for Vlad, but popped out. Ramirez and Bonds walked, but DeShields, hitting for Kent, and Andrew Jones went down.

Sheffield stayed in the game in left, and Ordonez went in right to start the 7th. Rivera also came in to pitch. For the Nationals, Larkin led off for Jeter, but he hit a comebacker for out number 1. One out later, Bernie Williams was hit by Rivera, and Sosa knocked a single into left. Frank Thomas then punched the 1-2 pitch down the RF line into the distant Fred Bridgedale stands, and the Nationals were up 5-0. This prompted a pitching change, with Benitez coming in for Rivera.

Larkin stayed in the game at SS, and Troy Percival came on to pitch for the Nationals. Mike Piazza came in to hit for Javey Lopez to lead off. He slapped one up the middle for a single. Tejada came on for ARod, but struck out. Cirrillo slapped a hit into RF, and the ball got by a charging Sosa. Piazza scored, and Cirrillo ended up on 3rd. Galarraga ripped one into the seats in LCF, and all of a sudden it was 5-3. Garces then came on to pitch for the Nationals. Garces was completely ineffective, walking Sheffield and Ramirez, and allowing a single to Ordonez that scored Sheffield, making it 5-4. However, he got DeShields to line out to Durham, and Andrew Jones to fly out to his counterpart in CF, and so held the lead.

Tejada and Piazza stayed in the game for the bottom of the 8th, and Hampton joined them, taking the mound. Helton led off with a walk, followed by Durham's single to left. Batista's slow roller was an out, but Helton and Durham moved up. With men on 2nd and 3rd and only one out, Nen was brought in to pitch to Larkin. He fanned, and IRod bounced out to 2nd to end the threat.

Derek Lowe then came in to seek to finish off the Americans in the 9th. He succeeded, getting 3 quick outs, and closing the victory for the Nationals.

Randy Johnson picked up the and Pedro suffered the loss. Frank Thomas drew MVP honors for his 3-run shot that put the game out of reach, though Randy Johnson drew substantial support for his strong 3 IP.

The Nationals got their first threat going in the 2nd. Sosa led off with a walk, and Thomas followed with a single up the middle. But Pedro struck out Alou and Alfonso and got Randa to pop up weakly to third, ending the threat.

[1]BOXSCORE: 2001 American AL All-Stars At 2001 National NL All-Stars 7/8/101

[1] AL All-Stars	AB	R	H	RBI	AVG	NL All-Stars	AB	R	H	RBI	AVG
A.Rodriguez SS	3	0	3	0	1.000	D.Jeter SS	2	1	1	0	.500
O-M.Tejada PH,SS	2	0	0	0	.000	M-B.Larkin PH,SS	2	0	0	0	.000
T.Glaus 3B	3	0	0	0	.000	J.Kendall C	3	1	1	1	.333
E-J.Cirrillo 3B	2	1	1	0	.500	C-I.Rodriguez C	2	0	0	0	.000
C.Delgado 1B	3	0	0	0	.000	M.Lawton CF	3	0	2	1	.667
F-A.Galarraga 1B	1	1	1	2	1.000	D-B.Williams CF	0	1	0	0	----
V.Guerrero RF	2	0	0	0	.000	S.Sosa RF	3	1	1	0	.333
J-G.Sheffield PH,LF	1	1	0	0	.000	F.Thomas 1B	4	1	1	3	.250
M.Ramirez DH	2	0	0	0	.000	M.Alou LF	2	0	0	0	.000
B.Bonds LF	2	0	1	0	.500	G-D.Bell PH,LF	2	0	0	0	.000
L-M.Ordonez RF	1	0	1	1	1.000	C.Johnson DH	1	0	0	0	.000

J.Kent 2B	2	0	0	0	.000	A-T.Helton PH	1	0	0	0	.000
K-D.Deshaields PH,2B	2	0	0	0	.000	E.Alfonzo 2B	2	0	2	01.000	
L.Gonzalez CF	2	0	0	0	.000	H-R.Durham PH,2B	2	0	2	01.000	
B-A.Jones CF	2	0	0	0	.000	J.Randa 3B	2	0	0	0.000	
J.Lopez C	2	0	0	0	.000	I-T.Batista PH,3B	2	0	0	0.000	
N-M.Piazza PH,C	2	1	1	0	.500						

[1] Totals	34	4	8	3		Totals	33	5	10	5
------------	----	---	---	---	--	--------	----	---	----	---

A-Pinch Hit For Johnson In 4th Inning
 B-Subbed Defensively (CF) For Gonzalez In 5th Inning
 C-Subbed Defensively (C) For Kendall In 6th Inning
 D-Subbed Defensively (CF) For Lawton In 6th Inning
 E-Subbed Defensively (3B) For Glaus In 6th Inning
 F-Subbed Defensively (1B) For Delgado In 6th Inning
 G-Pinch Hit For Alou In 6th Inning
 H-Pinch Hit For Alfonzo In 6th Inning
 I-Pinch Hit For Randa In 6th Inning
 J-Pinch Hit For Guerrero In 7th Inning
 K-Pinch Hit For Kent In 7th Inning
 L-Subbed Defensively (RF) For Bonds In 7th Inning
 M-Pinch Hit For Jeter In 7th Inning
 N-Pinch Hit For Lopez In 8th Inning
 O-Pinch Hit For Rodriguez In 8th Inning

INJURY: Charles Johnson INJURED (for 3 more games) in 1st inning

AL All-Stars.... 0 0 0 0 0 0 4 0 - 4 8 2
 NL All-Stars.... 2 0 0 0 0 0 3 0 - 5 10 2

[1]AL All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	PC	ERA	SCORESHEET
P.Martinez LOSS(0-1)	3	4	2	2	1	2	0	50	6.00	A1 B4
G.Maddux	1	1	0	0	0	0	20	0.00	B5 B9	
K.Millwood	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	16	0.00	C1 C4
A.Lopez	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	24	0.00	C5 C9
M.Rivera	0 2/3	2	3	3	0	1	1	17	40.50	D1 D5
A.Benitez	0 1/3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.00	D6 D6	
M.Hampton	0 1/3	1	0	0	1	0	0	11	0.00	D7 D9
R.Nen	0 2/3	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	0.00	E1
[1]Totals	8	10	5	5	4	6	1			

[1]NL All-Stars	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR	PC	ERA	SCORESHEET
R.Johnson	3	3	0	0	0	4	0	37	0.00	A1 B2
M.Mussina WIN(1-0)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0.00	B3 B5
R.Wolf HOLD(1st)	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	14	0.00	B6 B9
J.Vazquez HOLD(1st)	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	10	0.00	C1 C3
B.Wickman HOLD(1st)	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	20	0.00	C4 C8
T.Percival	0 1/3	3	3	3	0	1	1	14	81.00	C9 D3
R.Garces HOLD(1st)	0 2/3	1	1	1	2	0	0	20	13.50	D4 D8
D.Lowe SAVE(1st)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	15	0.00	D9
[1]Totals	9	8	4	4	4	10	1			

ATTENDANCE- 48,361 DATE- TIME- Day
T- 3:10
LEFT ON BASE- AL All-Stars: 7 NL All-Stars: 9
DOUBLE PLAYS- AL All-Stars: 3 NL All-Stars: 2
ERRORS- C.Delgado, G.Maddux, J.Kendall, S.Sosa
DOUBLES- M.Lawton(1st)
TRIPLES- A.Rodriguez(1st)
HOME RUNS- A.Galarraga(1st), F.Thomas(1st)
STOLEN BASES- D.Jeter(1st)
WALKS- G.Sheffield, M.Ramirez-2, B.Bonds, D.Jeter, S.Sosa, T.Helton-2
HIT BY PITCH- B.Williams
STRIKE OUTS- M.Tejada, T.Glaus-2, J.Cirillo, V.Guerrero, M.Ramirez, B.Bonds,
L.Gonzalez, A.Jones, J.Lopez, D.Jeter, B.Larkin, J.Kendall,
I.Rodriguez, M.Alou, T.Batista
GIDP- C.Delgado, J.Kent, S.Sosa, C.Johnson, J.Randa

Trades

Ocala trades Greg Myers to **Morris** and Morris agrees to take over Myers contract.
Gem City trades Wil Cordero along with \$100K to **Plaza** for Midre Cummings and Adam Bernero.
Columbus trades their #4 pick and John Mabry (contract already prepaid) to **Gem City** for Brad Fullmer.

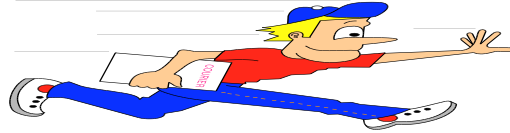
Contract Signings

Gem City signs Midre Cummings to a contract MO-1 contract for August .
Bloomington signs Paul Wilson (M0-1), Makoto Suzuki (M0-2), Matt LeCroy (M0-2), Kevin Beirne (M0-1) and Travis Miller (M0-1) contracts.
Stanley signs Frank Menechino to his first MO-1 call-up.
Metropolis signs Mike Lamb, Luis Matos and Stan Belinda to MO-1 contracts and Darren Bragg to an MTM contract.
North Georgia signs Andrew Lorraine and Shane Spencer to an M0-2 and Everett Stull to an M0-1 contract.
Wauwatosa signs Mark Quinn to a four-year major-league contract and Morgan Burkhart, Alfonso Soriano and Mark Mulder to MO-1 contracts.
Columbus signs A. Ojeda to an MO-2 and T. Evans to an MO-1 contract.
Fleetwood signs Brad Penny to an MO-1 contract.

Fines

North Georgia is fined 1,000,000.00 for not e-mailing their All-Star ballot by the July 15th deadline.

Upcoming Deadlines



AUG 15:

- Σ Mailing deadline for Aug home game results to opponent, Statistician, **and BACKUP Statistician.** (Lenny)
- Σ Trade deadline for SEPT games
- Σ TRADE DEADLINE FOR INTERLEAGUE DEALS.

AUG 25:

- Σ Deadline to activate players for September games
- Σ Road instructions due to September Opponents
- Σ Starting rotations for September due to your LD
- Σ NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS due to your LD

Mets Need Some Home Cooking

The Glen Allen Mets maintained first place in the National League (L)East despite a mediocre month. They did not win a game in Stanley or Fleetwood 0-4 in each. Do they miss their own pillows, the home cooking or what is it? Bullpen coach John Stearns half jokingly replied, "

We could hire a chef to travel with the team to provide quality, balanced nutritious meals. Guys could ask for their favorites, it might be nice..."

Bench coach Buddy Harrellson replied " We still need to play the game on the field. A roast beef dinner is not going to catch or throw the baseball. We have lost some heart breakers that we won last year, but at home we have more confidence to win them late.

Hitting Coach Eddie Kranepool was asked about the team from his perspective. Smiling he started, " Eric Karros got hot as the day in July, so he will get more playing time even against right handed pitchers and move Klesko to the outfield sometimes. Ryan continues his solid play and was glad to get some protection behind him in the batting order even if he has to share first base. Colbrunn and Lawton remain solid hitters, but both will have some time off to rest this month. Melvin Mora will go back to the minors to try to cut down on his strikeouts, and Danny Bautista will be given the chance to start in centerfield in August. Our catchers Flaherty and Fordyce have combined for good stats .290, 15 Hr and 61 RBI. Brook has had less opportunity against left handed pitchers lately since he is one of the league leaders and John has surprised me with his clutch hitting. So many guys had a poor month so as a team we only hit .252 at home dropping our overall average to .269. The hitting really needs to improve down the stretch for us to have any chance in the playoffs."

Jimmy Key the pitching coach was questioned about his pitchers performance. "Painter did great! Hamilton did not and that shoulder will shut him down for the rest of

the year. Barry Zito will come back this month to try to improve on those June stats. Dude will be busy in the pen since we have added a twelfth man this month. On the road Lance will help out so there will be eight to juggle. We do not want to wear out everybody with the division title still at stake. Bob (Wickman), Wayne (Gomes) and Felix (Heredia) will maintain their eight and ninth inning prowess but the setups will change almost daily. Do not be surprised for us to use five or six guys almost every game. We do want to stretch Zito out a bit, but the other starters will be on a short leash. I already have spoken with Eric (Milton), Steve (Trachsel) and Todd (Ritchie) and explained that this is still a marathon which is only 3/4 completed. We want them to give us six good innings and turn it over to the pen. Gardner and Magnante rejoin the team for early or long relief so the starters will not be allowed to struggle this month.

Coaches Billy Ripken and Mookie Wilson compared notes on the teams' defensive play. Both smiled at the stats 42 errors in 112 games. Tatis leads the team with eleven errors. "We must continue with our fundamentals. Mookie had to remark about 99 steals in 120 attempts.

GM Clark was unable to complete any trades this month. He will leave it up to the team that he has assembled. "We have veteran guys who know how to play this game. We are not laden with lots of super stars and most of the guys are comfortable with their roles to lead the Mets to that Division title. After that we will have to wait and see. "