



League News July 2002

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Matchup of the Month



VERSUS



Moline	Tale of the Tape	Toledo
.290	2002 Stats	.273
.855	Batting Average	.766
3.32	OPS	4.12
101	ERA	58
61-23	Homers in Home Park	47-37
	Record	

An intriguing *Matchup* this month. Moline sported the best record in BRASSball as July play commenced. Toledo won their division last year and looks to repeat. Each team will pitch two dominating righties: Schilling for the Cutters and Kerry Wood for the Mudhens. Finally, it will be interesting to see how the ballparks affect this series. As evidenced by the stats above, Toledo plays in a canyon. The Cutters, while they play in no bandbox, have an average park with sluggers to boot. Who will win? Let's see.

The series opened in Moline with the dream mound matchup: Schilling vs. Wood. These two have been breaking bats all season long and are headed towards the All Star game. The contest was scoreless through four as both aces continued to rack up K's. Schilling struck out Jason Tyner to end the Toledo half of the fifth quietly. In the bottom of the frame Ruben Sierra got things going for the Cutters with a solid single. Torii Hunter then whiffed. Scott Brosius was next and rapped a single. Luis Rivas, however, mishandled the throw-in from the outfield, allowing Ruben to scramble in from third. Amazingly, Brosius ended up on third after this wacky play. Einar Diaz followed with a fly to left that got the hustling Brosius in from third. Mark Grace was next with two outs and reached when Mike Lowell kicked the routine grounder away. There were now two outs and a runner on first. Omar Vizquel followed with a single to left that Tyner allowed to get past him to the wall. When the dust settled, the Mudhens had made three errors in the inning and the Cutters had three runs. Another quiet sixth for the Mudhens allowed the Cutters to come up and put this one to bed. Homers from Luis

Gonzalez and Ruben Sierra gave the Cutters a 5-0 lead and they ended up winning 5-1. Schilling went the distance, whiffing nine. Kerry Wood was victimized by his defense, but the two solo-homers would have been the difference anyway.

In game two the Cutters started their new ace acquisition, Chan Ho Park. Vagabond Pat Rapp climbed the hill for the Mudhens. Once again the game started off very quiet as the game was scoreless through four. But once again the Cutters broke out first in the fifth. A leadoff Torii Hunter blast gave Moline a 1-0 lead. The Cutters tried to get some runs across in the fifth as they loaded the bases with two outs. But Rapp struck out Luis Gonzalez to end the threat. That was all Park would need. Chan Ho allowed only one hit and three base runners total through eight innings. Jeff Zimmerman closed the game in the ninth and the Cutters won easily 3-0.

The finale in Moline pitted Jeff Suppan versus Ismael Valdes. The Mudhens finally woke up as they had three runs on the board after their first time at bat. A two run shot from Richie Sexson the key hit. Shane Halter then led off the second with a solo shot and, whaddya know, the Mudhens were out front 4-0. The Cutters hung in this one though. Ellis Burks got two back in the bottom of the second on his homer. Valdes settled down, allowing his teammates to get him on the mound. In the bottom of the fourth the lower third of the Cutter order generated two more runs. The game was now tied up at four. The bottom of the fifth proved to be the undoing of Jeff Suppan. A one out walk seemed harmless as Suppan quickly whiffed Bret Boone for the second out. But into the batter's box stepped veteran Ellis Burks. Ellis responded with his second two-run homer of the game. That was enough for Suppan as Ray called Bob Wells in from the pen. Torii Hunter greeted Wells with the fourth homer of the game. Now up 7-4 the Mudhen bats went quietly the rest of the way. Two more homers finished the score off at 10-4. In Moline the Mudhens were manhandled and out-homered 8-2. They would need the home park to even things out for them.

The opener in Toledo started with the odd pairing on the mound of Dicky Gonzalez and Kelvim Escobar. This game reverted to form, as the score was held to 1-1 through six innings. The Mudhens were finally able to get some offense going as they exploded for seven runs in the seventh and eighth to win 8-1. The key hit that sent them on their way was a two-run homer from Edgar Martinez off of reliever Rolando Arrojo.

Game two in northern Ohio saw Kevin Jarvis facing Dave Burba. Cutters got back on their horse early in this one, breaking out to a three zip lead after the first inning. Luis Gonzalez nailed a two-run homer, while Ruben Sierra smacked a gapper to plate Bret Boone. But the Mudhens battled back in the second. After a leadoff single, Jarvis whiffed Lowell and Burnitz, seemingly on his way to an innocuous second frame. But the 'Hens got a two-out rally started. Ramon Hernandez singled and Jose Macias followed with a double for one run. Jarvis then proceeded to walk the number nine hitter, Damian Rolls, to load the bases and subsequently get guys scurrying around in the pen. Luis Rivas, sensing the moment, rapped a bases clearing double that got the score in the Mudhens favor, 4-3. Jarvis ended up walking for the showers, muttering all the way. In the Cutter fifth things started to get interesting again. Two singles and two outs later left Bret Boone up in a clutch situation. He forced a walk from reliever Troy Brohawn to load the bases. Ruben Sierra delivered again in the series, this time a two-run base hit that put the Cutters back out on top 5-4. But the Mudhens were not interested in losing this one it appeared. With two outs in the bottom of the fifth, Edgar Martinez tied the affair up at five with a double. John Reidling came on in the seventh for the Mudhens and was super-tough. He allowed no Cutter to reach base in the last three innings. In the bottom of the seventh the Mudhens generated the winning run after Damian Rolls singled to lead off. He promptly stole second which allowed Luis Rivas to be the hero of the game as he scored Rolls with a solid base knock. Two games at home and the Mudhens were back in the series.

Game three in Toledo finally saw the rematch of Game One. Schilling faced Wood once again. The Cutters got on the board first with an RBI single from Luis Gonzalez in the first. In the bottom of the third the Mudhens drew even. Shane Halter tripled to start the inning and came home on a groundout. The pitchers kicked in and all stayed quiet through seven. Ray relieved Wood after he gave up a leadoff to double Einar Diaz to start the eighth. Ray then massaged his pen to get two quick outs from his relievers. Roberto Hernandez was brought on to face the man we haven't heard a peep from yet: Barry Bonds. Proving it was only a matter of time, Bonds slugged a long double that just missed going out. That left the score 2-1 for the Cutters. Schilling closed the game himself as he got the Mudhens to go 1-2-3 in the ninth. Schilling 2, Wood 0.

The finale brought Park and Suppan back out to the mound. Through four complete neither team could muster a run. But thanks to a Tyner triple and a Burnitz homer the Mudhens saw themselves up 2-0 after six. Ruben Sierra, again, cut the lead in half in the top of the seventh with a solo shot. But the Mudhens would not be denied. A big two-run double from Richie Sexson got the lead out to 4-1 for the Toledo. In the eighth, Shane Halter sealed the victory when he knocked in two with a sharp single.

The series ended up in Moline's favor 4-3. Some very exciting contests this month. I dare say this *Matchup* has proven to be the best so far. Cutters out-homered Toledo 8-2 in Moline and swept the three games there. Back in Toledo the teams shared four total dingers which is much more amenable for Ray's squad. One last note: Barry Bonds went 4-21 with his only ribbie winning game six. I think the Cutters are very deep when they are able to overcome this.

2002 BRASSball ALL STAR GAME

Nationals win 6-2

Ocala's Brian Giles named MVP

This year the midsummer focus of BRASSball came to suburban Chicago and Bill Veeck Field, home of the league dynamo, Cook County Maulers. The fans were packed in and ready to see a matchup between BRASSball's finest. The Americans were hoping to get the annual event to even on their home turf. Set to oppose each other on the mound were two of BRASSball's finest pitchers, Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson. Late additions were made to both lineups as the starting DH's were named: Ichiro for the NL and Mags Ordonez for the AL. The ump signaled to start the affair and it was begun.

Both starters were strong to start. Johnson and Schilling both threw two impressive innings without allowing a run. The Unit was able to rack up four whiffs in his brief start. The AL turned to Brooklyn's Greg Maddux who was able to keep the NL scoreless for another inning. For the NL Chan Ho accomplished the same.

In the top of the fourth Maddux faced Ichiro. Quickly, the stylish import slapped a single to right. Looking to prove that he is indeed lighting in a bottle, Ichiro stole second to put himself in scoring position. Stanley's Jeff Kent promptly delivered a single and the Nationals went up by one. Todd Helton singled for the third straight batter to put runners on first and second. Fellow Ocala teammate, Sammy Sosa, helped Maddux out greatly by grounding to Eric Chavez at third, who effortlessly started the DP. Harmlessly, Sosa now stood at first and two down. Rod Beck was called in from the pen to finish the fourth. All Star rook Lance Berkman greeted Beck with yet another single in the inning to put runners on the corners. Up strutted Brian Giles. Locked in and familiar with the ways of his former team-mate in Minny last season, Giles had reason to wink as Rod fired a fastball towards him. Brian uncoiled, and the ball rocketed upon its flight. It was a 'no doubter.' The partisan AL fans stood up to see only how far Giles had sent the souvenir. Now 4-0, the Nationals were sitting pretty.

**2002 All Star Game
Bill Veeck Field**

Nationals	AB	R	H	BI
Ichiro, dh	5	1	2	0
Kent, 2b	3	0	1	1
Biggio, 2b	1	0	0	0
Helton, 1b	2	1	1	0
Sosa, rf	4	1	0	0
Berkman, cf	3	2	2	0
Beltran, cf	1	0	1	0
Giles, lf	2	1	1	4
A. Ramirez, ph-3b	1	0	0	0
Jones, 3b	2	0	0	0
Pujols, ph-3b-lf	2	0	1	1
I. Rodriguez, c	1	0	0	0
Klesko, ph	1	0	0	0
Lo Duca, c	2	0	0	0
Clayton, ss	2	0	0	0
Jeter, ss	1	0	0	0
	34	6	9	6

Americans	AB	R	H	BI
Aurilia, ss	2	0	0	0
A. Rodriguez, ss	2	0	1	0
Boone, 2b	2	0	1	0
Thome, ph	1	0	0	0
Alomar, 2b	1	0	0	0
Guerrero, cf	3	1	0	0
Bonds, lf	4	2	2	2
M. Ramirez, rf	4	0	0	0
Giambi, 1b	3	0	0	0
Bagwell, 1b	1	0	0	0
Ordonez, dh	1	0	1	0
Cruz, ph	2	0	0	0
Piazza, c	2	0	0	0
C. Johnson, c	0	0	0	0
Chavez, 3b	2	0	0	0
Nevin, ph	1	0	0	0
Blum, 3b	0	0	0	0
	31	2	5	2

Nationals.....000 402 000 6 9 0
 Americans.....000 100 001 2 5 0

Nationals	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
R. Johnson	2	2	0	0	0	4
Park, W	1.1	0	0	0	0	1
Buehrle	0.2	1	1	1	0	0
Vazquez	1	0	0	0	0	1
Smoltz	1	1	0	0	0	2
Mays	1	0	0	0	0	0
Percival	1.1	0	0	0	1	0
Wagner	0.2	1	1	1	1	1

Americans	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schilling	2	0	0	0	0	2
Maddux, L	1.2	3	2	2	0	1
Beck	0.1	2	2	2	0	0
Wood	1.1	2	2	2	1	0
Rivera	0.2	1	0	0	0	1
Hudson	1.2	1	0	0	0	4
Zimmerman	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gordon	0.1	0	0	0	1	0

LOB- NL: 4 AL:4 DP-NL:1 AL:1
 2B- Berkman, Beltran, Pujols, Boone 3B- Bonds
 HR- Giles, Bonds SB-Ichiro (2)
 A-48,547 T-2:48

In the bottom of the fourth with one out, Mark Buehrle was brought on to face sweet swinging Barry Bonds. The AL home run leader lived up to his credentials and deposited a souvenir of his own in the bleachers to get a run back for the Americans. Buehrle settled in and was able to get Manny Ramirez and Jason Giambi with little trouble.

Pitching quieted the game down in the fifth. Ocelot Javier Vazquez impressively sat Jose Cruz, Mike Piazza and Eric Chavez down 1-2-3.

In the top of the sixth Todd Helton led off with a walk. Sosa followed, this time flying out. Rookie Berkman then notched a second hit, this time a double to put runners on second and third with one out. Mariano Rivera then came in from the pen and was greeted with much applause from the hometown faithful. Giles lofted a long fly to Manny in right who retreated all the way to the track. Both runners moved up easily on that one and the Nationals now had a 5-1 lead. In came pinch hitter Albert Pujols, and like fellow newcomer Berkman, drilled a gap double off Mariano to make the score 6-1. The sixth finally ended with Paul Lo Duca whiffing, but now the Nationals were securely in front of their rivals.

The pitching returned to form in the seventh and eighth innings. The Americans just couldn't get their bats started. In the seventh they went 1-2-3 in the face of Joe Mays while in the eighth Troy Percival induced Alex Rodriguez into a double play. Jeff Zimmerman and Tom Gordon got the Americans through the top of the ninth to give them one last shot at a rally.

In the bottom of the ninth Robbie Alomar harmlessly grounded to short. On came Billy Wagner for the NL, who promptly walked Vlad Guerrero. Barry Bonds then followed with a triple to score the only other run for the Americans. Manny whiffed to follow and Jeff Bagwell ended it with a groundout. The Nationals had a 6-2 win.

With four ribbies, three coming on a long homer, Brian Giles was an easy choice as this year's game MVP.

A hearty thanks to Kevin for managing this season's All Star game. He assured me that he quite enjoyed his duties. Next year's All Star destination? Who knows? I can tell you a NL manager will host it ☺

Your 2002 BRASSball All Stars...

AL HITTERS

Name	Team	Pos	Gms	BA	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB
Bagwell, Jeff	CC	1B	83	.332	.427	.603	18	61	77	3
Giambi, Jason	HES	1B	56	.326	.476	.660	22	72	43	1
Thome, Jim	BOX	1B	66	.316	.443	.650	19	47	44	0
Alomar, Roberto	BRO	2B	81	.303	.379	.515	12	38	50	12
Boone, Bret	MOL	2B	80	.344	.373	.613	23	71	55	3
Aurilia, Rich	CC	SS	84	.382	.442	.658	24	74	87	0
Rodriguez, Alex	MIN	SS	84	.314	.407	.596	24	65	59	5
Blum, Geoff	SB	3B	70	.320	.371	.504	9	34	46	10
Chavez, Eric	LAC	3B	83	.302	.339	.598	24	69	60	2
Nevin, Phil	BRO	3B	81	.270	.352	.549	24	64	51	2
Johnson, Charles	HES	C	77	.316	.391	.527	10	30	32	0
Piazza, Mike	CC	C	76	.301	.356	.606	22	66	43	0
Bonds, Barry	MOL	OF	82	.291	.489	.720	31	74	75	3
Cruz, Jose	IOWA	OF	83	.286	.327	.563	21	61	61	20
Guerrero, Vladimir	CC	OF	83	.349	.409	.698	25	71	71	18
Ordonez, Magglio	IOWA	OF	83	.338	.410	.634	26	84	60	14
Ramirez, Manny	LAC	OF	81	.302	.389	.682	36	78	63	0

AL PITCHERS

Name	Team	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	HR
Hudson, Tim	GEO	11	3	0	3.58	123	112	37	90	17
Maddux, Greg	BRO	12	4	0	2.80	145	122	25	97	14
Schilling, Curt	MOL	14	1	0	2.06	140	105	32	148	16
Wood, Kerry	TOL	10	3	0	3.24	108	69	54	133	7
Rivera, Mariano	CC	4	3	14	2.19	37	26	7	38	2
Beck, Rod	PLZ	0	1	15	4.22	21.1	23	6	17	3
Zimmerman, Jeff	MOL	1	1	26	1.48	30.1	13	7	39	2
Gordon, Tom	HES	0	1	29	0.00	26.1	12	15	28	0

NL HITTERS

Name	Team	Pos	Gms	BA	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB
Helton, Todd	OCA	1B	83	.328	.433	.662	20	83	79	2
Klesko, Ryan	STA	1B	77	.287	.386	.580	18	46	67	4
Olerud, John	COL	1B	84	.317	.389	.508	14	57	53	2
Biggio, Craig	SPR	2B	83	.282	.411	.492	15	50	52	8
Kent, Jeff	STA	2B	84	.327	.378	.558	16	64	63	2
Clayton, Royce	RAC	SS	74	.340	.367	.568	11	47	37	7
Jeter, Derek	OCA	SS	81	.302	.374	.430	8	37	69	14
Jones, Chipper	FLE	3B	83	.306	.409	.603	22	70	61	1
Pujols, Albert	GA	3B	84	.306	.388	.574	19	79	57	1
Ramirez, Aramis	MET	3B	75	.277	.337	.547	20	41	44	0
LoDuca, Paul	STA	C	77	.292	.352	.527	13	39	46	0
Rodriguez, Ivan	GEM	C	69	.319	.360	.597	18	55	37	4
Beltran, Carlos	COL	OF	84	.342	.397	.521	10	75	49	18
Berkman, Lance	CHA	OF	84	.316	.415	.558	17	65	67	1
Giles, Brian	OCA	OF	77	.327	.391	.616	20	66	54	5
Ichiro	BLO	OF	84	.348	.369	.486	8	53	73	44
Sosa, Sammy	OCA	OF	83	.364	.446	.828	39	118	81	0

NL PITCHERS

Name	Team	W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	HR
Buerhle, Mark	BLO	11	4	0	2.78	129	110	21	84	17
Johnson, Randy	STA	12	2	0	2.95	131	102	34	176	17
Mays, Joe	RAC	9	4	0	3.62	127	113	39	71	14
Park, Chan Ho	GEM	11	3	0	2.64	126	87	46	123	10
Vazquez, Javier	OCA	11	4	0	3.26	127	118	30	117	15
Smoltz, John	NG	2	1	20	0.59	30.2	15	11	25	1
Wagner, Billy	SPR	0	2	22	1.95	32.1	21	10	39	2
Percival, Troy	OCA	3	0	21	1.15	31.1	12	10	32	3

BOLD indicates game starter

AL Notes

The AL East had a fine month as a group in the month of July. While the Cutters didn't have the best month in the division (17-11), they still maintain a comfortable lead. Barry Bonds rebounded from an off month: .330-10-23. He now holds the AL home run lead with 41. Torrid, oops Torii, Hunter played like he was upset over not making the All Star squad. In July he hit .309 and led the Cutters with 12 bombs. Luis Gonzalez drove in 26 runs despite a .269 average. Omar Vizquel's .182 July has sunk his average on the season to .248. On the mound, Schilling wasn't perfect. He just went 7-1 instead. New acquisition, Chan Ho Park, was 5-2 with a 2.57 ERA. Zimm got into only four games, but saved them all while not allowing a runner.

AL East Standings

Moline	78-34	---
Hessville	69-43	9
Georgia	67-45	11
Minnesota	63-49	15

Hessville was able to pick up a game on Moline with their 18-10 July. The 'Readys hit .306 in July, highlighted by Jose Vidro's .438 month and Larry Walker's .398. Walker also led with 7 dingers and scored 24 runs. All Stars Jason Giambi and CJ both hit over .330 after their selections. BJ Surhoff stumbled in July, managing to hit only .217. No matter, he's still at .297 for the year. Tom Gordon finally allowed an earned run in July! His 38 saves are supported by a 0.27 ERA for the season. Oh my! While Shawn Estes (5-0, 2.93) and Shane Reynolds (4-1) had very fine months, this is a staff that still depends greatly on its pen for success. No Everready starter has an ERA below four on the year.

Georgia held strong in July, going 17-11. Andruw Jones quickly becoming a fan fave in the Peach State as hit .304 for the month with a team leading 9 souvenirs and 29 ribbies. Continuing in his platoon role, Paul O'Neill hit .341 in July. Bubba Trammell and Dmitri Young provided the Braves with strong play in part time roles. Keith Foulke recorded a save in each of his nine appearances. In the process he got his earner on the year down to a respectable 3.19. Tim Wakefield posted a fine 2.63 ERA in 24 innings of swing duty. Wade Miller (4-0) and Tim Hudson (5-1) sparkled in July. Freddy Garcia continued to have a rough year in July, going 1-5. He is now a surprising 7-12 on the season.

Thanks to an AL best 19-9 July the Mudcats find themselves back in the wild card race. Inspired, the team's wacky management went out and acquired Ray Lankford in time for August play. Sean Casey hit .333 with 14 doubles in July. The Mayor is now tied for the AL's two-bagger lead with Vlad Guerrero. Geoff Jenkins finally broke out of a season long slumber as he hit .317 for the month and led the Mudcats with 25 ribbies. Local favorite, Hank White, hit .078 in July. No matter, as Hank's bobble-head day is still scheduled for August 13th vs. Springfield. Matt Morris continues his run as he went 5-0, 1.54 in July. Kirk Rueter was 4-1, 2.12 for the month. Trevor Hoffman notched eight saves despite a five plus ERA.

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In July the Mauler fans not only witnessed the All Stars, they also got to see their local heroes continue their march towards an unprecedented sixth straight division title. For the month the Maulers went 18-10. Mike Piazza poured it on in July as he drove in 35 runners with the aid of 13 homers. Vlad Guerrero hit .366 for the month and now sits a hair behind Larry Walker in the batting race (.354-.353). Desi Relaford (.327) and Abe Nunez (.327) had nice months in part time duty. After missing out on an All Star

AL Central Standings

Cook County	71-41	---
Iowa	57-55	14
Plaza	35-77	36
Box City	32-80	39

appearance Gary Sheffield hit .344. Toy Glaus' .214 in July has him down to .238 now for the season. Roger Clemens a steady 3-1, 3.35 July. Rocket is 13-8 on the year and is leading the Mauler staff. Terry Adams returned to a swing role and posted a 5.65 ERA. He is still 11-2 on the season though. Mariano Rivera 10 July saves.

July was the best month of the year (18-10) for the Rubes so far. Mags Ordonez continues to have a fine year and July just added on for him: .350-10-28. Carlos Lee broke out of season-long doldrums to hit .322 with 13 doubles. Eric Young leading the swiftest AL team with 32 steals. All Star rookie Jose Cruz Jr. hit .240 in July, walking only 3 times and whiffing 26 times. Ouch! Tanyon Sturtze's fine 2.78 earnie in July could only net him a 2-1 record. Scott Sullivan went 3-0 in 19 plus innings of July work. Hideo Nomo continued to reverse a bad start to the season as he posted a 3.76 ERA in July. Jason Schmidt (6.43) a rough month.

For the sake of the fans up in Plaza, I hope things don't get worse than they did in July for the Lions (4-24). The Lions were just raw meat for the grinder that is the AL East in July. Not surprisingly the team ERA was a mountainous 6.81. Rod Beck did notch two saves in relief with a 2.70 ERA. Call-up Ben Sheets lost all six of his starts. Gil Heredia (9.86) was punished in 21 innings of relief work. Hitting star in July was Tony Eusebio who led the Lions in hitting (.333), homers (5) and tied for ribbies (16). Tony Womack continued his steady season as he hit .288 with five steals for the month.

Box City had a 6-22 July, but that wasn't enough to get in front of Plaza. Troy O'Leary delivered in July: .330-9-25. He led the team in all categories. Recently traded (twice!) Ray Lankford hit .328 in July, which made him attractive to Toledo then Minny. Miguel Tejada hit .317 to get himself up to .269 on the year. Miguel leads the Boxmen with 21 dingers on the year. Darin Erstad at .252 is not playing up to his contract at the moment. Esteban Loaiza's 2-3 July led the staff. Dave Mlicki (14.77) was destroyed in his five starts. Somehow he only lost two games, though.



Well Toledo still holds a comfortable lead in the AL West, but the Mudhen faithful are hoping the 10-18 July doesn't portend an ominous future. Amazingly, the team leader in hitting in July for the Mudhens was Edgar Martinez at only .253. Jeromy Burnitz smacked seven dingers in July. It was another rough month for Richie Sexson (.213). Brian Hunter stole six bases while amassing only 20 AB's. Jeff Suppan 3-2, 3.63 in July to lead the starters. Mike Matthews went 0-2 despite a team best 3.10 earnie. Roberto Hernandez is possibly auditioning now for an AL club after he posted a 1.04 July ERA. Kerry Wood had a horrible July: 1-4, 6.33.

Toledo	57-55	---
La Crosse	51-61	6
Brooklyn	48-64	9
S. Barbara	40-72	17

An 11-17 July has the Lagers within six games of first and thinking maybe, just maybe, they can pull this thing out. Actually the Lagers staying in the race was quite impressive in July considering key players like Mike Sweeney, Manny Ramirez, Johnny Damon and Eric Chavez all got noticeable breathers. Mike Bordick hit .348 in platoon duty. Scott Spiezio led the Lagers in homers (5) and ribbies (15) despite a .252 average. Jerry Hairston tumbled in July (.176). Giovanni Carrara a sparkling 2-0, 0.51 in 17 innings of relief. Heck, Farnsworth, Strickland and Dotel all posted ERA's under two in July. Chuck Smith 0-4, 11.79 in five starts. Bruce Chen 3 wins despite a six plus earnie.

July was no welcome sight for the Bulldogs (10-18) who continue to under perform. Robert has ended up pitching this season and the result has been a trading of ace Greg Maddux for the future. Probably best for Greg seeing he posted a 1-2, 4.84 July. Tino Martinez hit 5 homers and drove in 21 to lead the Bulldogs. Another nice month from Juan Pierre (.277) has him on the AL ROY radar. Woody Williams

(2.10) and Kevin Appier (3.34) could only combine for a 3-5 record in July. Kaz didn't allow a run in recording six July saves. On the year Kaz has been excellent and was a close miss for the All Star squad.

Keeping with a July theme, the Outlaws were the third team in the division to go 10-18 in July. Garrett Anderson stormed through July after missing out on the All Star squad as he hit .364 with 21 extra base hits and 20 ribbies. Call-up Juan Uribe hit .351 in July. Rob Fick (.218) and Raul Mondesi (.173) had tough months. Odd stats line from Raul Mondesi on the season: 29 steals, 23 times caught. Ryan Franklin posted an impressive 2.14 ERA in 42 innings of relief. Roy Halladay 2-2. 4.22 in his first month of action. He should improve as gets more starts under his belt. Ohka, Davis and Clement combined to go 2-11 in their starts. Bart Colon almost back to even (10-11) on the season.



July AL Leaders: Jose Vidro hit .438. Barry Bonds scored 30 runs. Sean Casey 14 doubles. Mike Piazza 13 homers. Richie Sexson whiffed 40 times. Einar Diaz was hit by 8 pitches. Luis Gonzalez hit into 7 DP's. Barry Bonds had a .520 on base pct. Garrett Anderson 82 total bases. Curt Schilling 7 wins. Ben Sheets 6 losses. Matt Morris a 1.54 ERA. Omar Olivares appeared in 18 games. Mariano Rivera 10 saves. Chad Durbin allowed 15 taters. Pedro Martinez averaged 11.65 K's/9 innings. Ismael Valdes enjoyed 8.75 runs of support.

AL STATS LEADERBOARD					
Innings Pitched		Batting Avg. against		Appearances	
Curt Schilling, MOL	203.2	Curt Schilling, MOL	.196	Scott Sullivan, IOWA	58
Freddy Garcia, GEO	171.1	Kerry Wood, TOL	.197	Rich Rodriguez, TOL	49
Matt Morris, MIN	169.2	Kevin Appier, BRO	.218	Ricky Rincon, MIN	49
Tim Hudson, GEO	167.2	Hideo Nomo, IOWA	.230	Octavio Dotel, LAC	48
Greg Maddux, BRO	167.0	Allen Levrault, PLZ	.239	Jeff Fassero, CC	47

NL Notes

With a 14-14 record the Glen Allen Mets have reclaimed first place in the topsy-turvy NL East. Rookie Albert Pujols got some more help this month than last (.287-7-25). Trot Nixon also smacked seven bombs in July. Armando Rios hit .306 and led the squad with eight doubles. David Segui continues to be a solid contributor in a part time role (.324 and 40 ribbies). Pitching had a respectable 4.28 in July. Todd Ritchie 4-1, 3.03. Young lefties Milton and Zito made solid contributions in July. Milton leads the staff with his 12-7 mark. Ricky Bottalico has a 5-3 record on the season despite a 7.90 ERA. Vulture ☺

NL East Standings		
Glen Allen	55-57	---
Racine	54-58	1
Springfield	54-58	1
Charlevoix	45-67	10

The Heat went 11-17 in July, which dropped them out of first, but only by a game. Doug Mientkiewicz hit .333 in July with a team high 14 doubles. Vet Mark Grudzielanek batted .295. Off-season pickup Juan Encarnacion had his best month so far with the Heat: .291-6-10. He also swiped 10 bases. Joe Randa had 15 extra base hits in July and led the team with 23 ribbies. Nobody was able to star on the Heat staff in July. Joe Mays had only one decision in his six starts (he won). Luther Hackman was 1-4 in 13 relief appearances. Chris Holt and Tony McKnight lost all seven of their starts. Jose Jimenez did go 2-0 in eight relief appearances.

With a 13-15 July the Isotopes continued to hang in the race. Returning All Star Craig Biggio hit .318 in July. Mark Quinn drove in 16 runners to lead the Topes. Corey Koskie just can't shake his season-long funk. His .242 July was just a notch below his .243 mark for the season. Corey still leads the team in the power categories. Billy Wagner added nine more saves to his resume in July without allowing a run. Ramon Ortiz and Jarrod Washburn had fine months with their sub three earnies, but because of a lack of support they could only go a combined 4-3. Mark Gardner (7.00) and Scott Elarton (7.64) had a tough July.

The offense continues to power the Charlevoix Tigers. With a 13-15 month they picked up some ground on the three in front of them. Lance Berkman showed no let down on his way back from the All Star game. He hit .343 in July with a .485 OBP. Ronnie Belliard put together a ridiculous stat line. In only 46 at bats Ronnie hit .413, with 11 extra base hits and tied for the team lead of 22 ribbies. Todd Zeile also knocked in 22. The only Tiger that suffered a poor month was Marvin Benard (.228). Pitching was vastly improved (5.79 ERA) over last month's (8.38) debacle. Jimmy Anderson led the turnaround with a 4-1 month and sported a 3.13 ERA. Omar Daal a 2-2 mark on his 3.57 ERA. Matt Anderson straightened himself out and picked up five saves.

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The race is on! The NL Central now has three teams sitting within one game of each other. A 15-13 July was just enough to keep the Sioux out front of their rivals. There was no letup in the Sioux bats as they continued to hit as their .308 batting average raised the team to .295 on the season. Jermaine Dye hit .349. Neifi Perez .337. Ryan Klesko hit .323 and led the Sioux with 8 dingers and contributed 22 ribbies. Jeff Kent led with 13 doubles and 23 ribbies. But the staff let the bats down. The squad finished up with a plus five ERA. Randy Johnson was slightly off his mark and ended up with a 2-3, 4.05 July. Rick Helling and John Burkett did contribute wins despite bloated ERA's. Ryan Drese and Julian Tavarez were not so fortunate.

Stanley	65-47	---
Bloomington	64-48	1
Columbus	64-48	1
Fleetwood	57-55	8

With a 19-9 July the Bees have just about re-climbed the NL Central roost they used to own. Marlon Anderson hit .400. Roger Cedeno led Team Speed in July with 17 swipes while also hitting .348. Ichiro hit .310 in July and now no longer leads the team in hitting. Preston Wilson led the Bees with 21 thieves knocked in. Dave Ortiz and Juan Gonzalez hit a combined 15 bombs, but also could combine for only 25 ribbies. No matter, the Bees did win games. Rookie CC Sabathia sparkled in July: 5-0, 2.27. Mark Buehrle also went 5-0 in July. Mark is now 16-4 for the season. Armando Benitez collected 10 more saves. Moose Mussina had solid numbers but finished the month with a 3-3 mark.

A 16-12 month from the Buckeyes has them also within a game of first. Like the Sioux the Buckeyes hit over .300 for the month (.306). Jeremy Giambi hit .406 with a .524 OBP in July. Scott Rolen simply destroyed the July competition: .340-10-35. Jimmy Rollins did some very good things, a .349 average and 13 swipes, but also committed 10 errors. Kevin Millar had eight bombs to go along with his .383 average. John Olerud (.250) and Bobby Higginson (.244) slipped up slightly. Randy Wolf bounced back to early season form with a 4-0, 1.89 July. Masato Yoshii had a 2-3 July despite a 3.41 ERA. All year Masato has been a tough-luck pitcher as he is only 3-10 in his starts despite a respectable 4.26 ERA. Oddly, the Buckeyes could record only three saves in July.

Fleetwood treaded water in July with their 16-12 mark. They are still in the race though. Bob Abreu hit .360 in July and slugged .632. Paul Konerko, powered by 10 dingers, slugged .636. Chipper hit .352 and drove in 29 teammates. Jeff Reboulet (!) four homers in only 38 July at bats. For those of you following along at home that makes seven on the season for Reb and probably eight in his BRASSball

career ☺ Jim Edmonds mid-season slump continued as he hit only .247 in July. On the mound in July Steve Sparks: 4-1, 3.72 led the Walkers. Brad Penny also went 4-1. Al Leiter a tough month: 1-3, 7.33.



Don't look now, but on the strength of their 24-4 July the champs from Ocala have taken over the best record in BRASSball from Moline. Jason Kendall, JD Drew and Brian Buchanan all hit over .400 in part time duty. Sammy Sosa resumed pummeling BRASSball pitchers in July: .377-13-28. Shawn Green drove in 41 runs in July. Todd Helton hit .376 in July and slugged .780. With all this production the Ocelots were more than able to cover All Star MVP Brian Giles' rough July (.260). Jamey Wright had his finest month on the mound as he went 4-0 with a 2.70 ERA. Javier Vazquez 5-0, 2.79. Call-up Roy Oswalt was 5-1. Oswalt is now 9-2 in two months of action. Methinks that man should be given a contract! Troy Percival eight July saves.

Ocala	79-33	---
Gem City	57-55	22
N. Georgia	55-57	24
Metropolis	27-85	52

Gem City's 15-13 July has them still sniffing around a wild card spot. Shawn Wooten hit .418 and slugged .701 in 67 July AB's. Carlos Delgado finally broke out with a .362 average and 20 ribbies. Julio Lugo hit .328 and tied for the monthly homer lead with six. Reggie Sanders back to earlier form with his .222 July. Life after Chan Ho was okay in Gem City. Albie Lopez went 2-1 with a 3.72 ERA. Daryl Kile 3-2. Bobby Jones roughed up (8.56) upon entering the rotation for the departed Chan Ho. Izzy five saves in six appearances.

A 13-15 July for the Yellow Jackets against the weaker NL East has Tony possibly focused on 2003. Still, some solid performances came though. Brian Jordan hit .324 and led the Jackets with 5 taters and 24 ribbies. Edgar Renteria hit .343. Luis Alicea hit .292 with eight steals. On the mound Ted Lilly led with a 3-1, 2.58 July. Scott Schoeneweis having a lousy year: 6-12, 7.04. Smoltzie now has 27 saves and a sub one ERA (0.88). What a draft pick! Jon Lieber keeps chugging along like the ace he is (12-9).

In Metropolis the Avengers enjoyed a 9-19 month. Pat Burrell had a Triple Crown month for the men in tights: .305-9-24. All Star Aramis Ramirez hit .275. Brad Wilkerson (.184) and Enrique Wilson (.160) had horrible months. On the mound Paul Rigdon led the Avengers with two wins. Staff ace Tony Armas a disappointing 1-4, 6.00 month.



July NL Leaders: Marlon Anderson hit .400. Carlos Beltran 4 triples. Lance Berman 24 walks. Shawn Green 41 ribbies. Brad Wilkerson 40 whiffs. Roger Cedeno 17 stolen bases. Sammy Sosa had a .840 slugging pct. Russ Johnson made 10 errors. Jorge Posada allowed 24 steals. Randy Wolf had a 1.89 ERA. Armando Benitez 10 saves. Randy Johnson 52 K's. Chris Michalak 3 balks. Roy Oswalt had a 6.33 K/BB ration.

Batting Average		Home Runs		RBI's	
Sammy Sosa, OCA	.367	Sammy Sosa, OCA	52	Sammy Sosa, OCA	146
Marlon Anderson, BLO	.346	Shawn Green, OCA	40	Todd Helton, OCA	117
Roger Cedeno, BLO	.341	Todd Helton, OCA	29	Shawn Green, OCA	110
Todd Helton, OCA	.340	Juan Gonzalez, BLO	29	Albert Pujols, GA	104
Ichiro, BLO	.339	2 players with	28	Carlos Beltran, COL	101

Award Watch

This month's Watch sees some bashers and speedsters on the board. Two young pitchers get featured on their way towards CY consideration.

Award	Player	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB	
AL MVP	Barry Bonds, MOL	.301	.497	.736	41	97	105	4	
AL ROY	Juan Pierre, BRO	.261	.311	.308	0	25	36	27	
NL MVP	Todd Helton, OCA	.340	.440	.693	29	117	108	3	
NL ROY	Ichiro, BLO	.339	.364	.477	10	64	93	55	
		W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	K
AL CY	Tim Hudson, GEO	16	4	0	3.49	168	156	54	123
NL CY	Javier Vazquez, OCA	16	4	0	3.14	169	161	37	158

“The Strat-O-Matic game people did what MLB could not. They finished off the All-Star Game, the NL winning 8-7 in 12 innings. Cincinnati's Adam Dunn wasn't happy with how the game played out. He walked but was thrown out trying to score on Shawn Green's double to center. Green scored the winning run on an Andruw Jones' single off Freddy Garcia. “Throw me out at home?” Dunn said. “No way does that happen. That's a lie.” -quoted from the July 24th edition of *Baseball Weekly*

Results

We are having some problems with who is to receive your results at the completion of your month of play. Sometimes we have Dave Little missing out on the receipt of the stats. Sometimes Corey doesn't get the stats. These two gentlemen absolutely, positively must receive your subsets. Dave is the main stat guy, Corey the backup. Sending them to me is not necessary. I have nothing to do with stats. I will forward them along, but to avoid errors please get them to Dave and Corey without my aid. I only need to receive a quick e-mail on how a series went so the web standings can be promptly updated.

Web Standings

As you can see two NL divisions have electric races in store for the final two months. Also, the AL wild card could be a battle also. Check out the updated standings on the web. Andy and I get them updated a couple times a week. Sometimes every day a new file goes up there. Enjoy.

Corey on September call-ups

Corey and I have fielded more than a few questions on September roster call-ups, which is good. Right from roster guru Corey is the answer to all your questions about players on some form of a MO contract:

“They are free to be used. This means they will not be charged a call-up, MO-1,2,3, and will not be charged \$35,000. The only limit you have in September is your roster size (35). The same 35 need to be active the entire month. In other words, you cannot have a revolving 35 depending on the series.”

Vaughn updates All-Time Leaderboards

Out on the website you can check out the updated league leaderboards and see who are the various record holders in BRASSball. Thanks, Vaughn.

Fines

JULY 2002: Racine fined 1 million for late mailing of results to statistician.

JULY 2002: Racine fined 250K for late mailing of results to opponent.

JULY 2002: Metropolis fined 250K for using the wrong players for the opponent.

Trades

71. Toledo trades Pablo Ozuna and \$400,000 to Moline for Ricky Ledee.

72. Toledo trades Wayne Gomes and Toledo's 2003 5th round draft choice to Box City for Ray Lankford and \$200,000.

73. Glen Allen trades Calvin Murray to Toledo for \$250,000.

74. Brooklyn trades Greg Maddux and Brooklyn's 2003 2nd round draft choice to Moline for Austin Kearns, Brian Tollberg and \$1,000,000.

75. Gem City trades Darryl Kile to Fleetwood for Antonio Perez.

76. Toledo trades Ray Lankford to Minnesota for Wascar Serrano and Minnesota's 2003 4th round draft choice.

77. Toledo trades Brian L. Hunter to Moline for Moline's 2004 5th round draft choice.

78. Springfield trades Chuck Finley to Minnesota for Sterling Hitchcock and Minnesota's 2004 4th round draft choice.

79. Toledo trades Calvin Murray to North Georgia for Calvin Maduro.

80. Toledo trades Edgar Martinez to Hessville for Hessville's 2004 3rd round draft choice.

81. Metropolis trades Alex Cora to La Crosse for Shigetoshi Hasegawa, Alan Embree, La Crosse's 2004 2nd round draft choice and \$643,333.

Upcoming League Deadlines

August 15th Results due to opponents and statisticians (Dave & Corey)

August 17th Trade deadline for September action

August 25th Instructions due out. Contract signings to Corey. Rotations to Mark.

Next Issue of League News

The pennant races get serious.