



## *League News* *November 2002*

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### **MOLINE DETHRONES OCELOTS FOR 2002 TITLE!**

Once again this prognosticator had it right this post-season. I saw the ALCS going a full seven games and it did. I made the same prediction for the BRASSball World Series. Ocala and Moline were BRASSball's best all year long. Moline had an awesome pitching staff while the Ocelots trotted out one of the finest offenses the league has ever seen. Moline had the AL MVP in Barry Bonds and Ocala countered with its NL MVP and Triple Crown winner, Sammy Sosa. Congratulations to rookie manager David Barber on a fine season and his title. Below is a game-by-game recap of the series.

#### **Past BRASSball Champions**

**1995 Box City Parcelmen**  
**1996 St. Lucie Snook**  
**1997 Bloomington Bees**  
**1998 Cook County Maulers**  
**1999 Box City Parcelmen**  
**2000 Box City Parcelmen**  
**2001 Ocala Ocelots**

#### **Game 1**

##### **Schilling vs Vazquez**

Not only did this series have the two MVP's but it also had the two Cy Young winners and they climbed the hill in Game 1. Ocala notched a run in the first on a Sosa sac fly. In the third inning Ruben Sierra made a clumsy attempt to pick up the solid single of Derek Jeter's. The error allowed a hustling Adrian Beltre to score from first and make the score 2-0 Ocelots. That was all Vazquez would need in the opener. He pitched eight strong innings, allowing a single run while whiffing ten and walking none. In the seventh and eighth the Ocelots plated three insurance runs to safely win 5-1.

Moline            000 000 100            1 5 1  
Ocala            101 000 12X            5 10 1

WP: Vazquez, (1-0) LP: Schilling, (0-1) HR: None

## **Game 2**

### **Park vs Oswalt**

An intense pitchers duel in Game 2. Chan Ho was stellar as he threw a complete game shutout. He allowed only two hits, three walks and struck out eight. Barry Bonds' first inning solo homer was all the Cutters would need. In the eighth an Einar Diaz sac fly gave Park a little cushion for the ninth. For nine innings the Ocelots were unable to get a runner to second base.

Moline	100 000 010	2 5 0
Ocala	000 000 000	0 2 1

WP: Park, (1-0) LP: Oswalt, (0-1) HR: Bonds (1)

## **Game 3**

### **Wright vs Maddux**

The series swung up to Moline for the middle three games. The starting matchup appeared to definitely favor the Cutters in this one. After three innings of play, indeed, the Cutters had a 4-0 lead. Bonds smacked solo homers in the first and third innings. Ruben Sierra had a two-run single in the third inning as well. In the fifth the Ocelots got on board with a two-out single from Jeter. But in the bottom of the frame the Cutters got the run back after Adrian Beltre threw wildy to first on an infield hit Torii Hunter had easily beaten out. The throwing error allowed Sierra to come in. In the seventh and eighth the Ocelots chipped away. A solo blast from Sosa in the sixth made it 5-2. A one out grounder in the seventh from Todd Helton inched the Ocelots to within two runs. In the top of the eighth the Ocelots exploded for six runs. Jason Kendall's two-run tater off of rookie reliever Bob File tied the contest. An error by Mark Grace allowed the Ocelots to plate the go-ahead run from third. Sosa followed with a bases clearing double to put this one to bed, 9-5.

Ocala	000 011 160	9 13 2
Moline	103 010 000	5 9 2

WP: Remlinger, (1-0) LP: File, (0-1) HR: Sosa (1), Kendall (1), Bonds-2(3)

## **Game 4**

### **Vazquez vs Schilling**

Game 4 was not pretty for the Ocala faithful. A thumping was laid on the Ocelots to the tune of 16-3. The Cutters rapped out 16 hits and four homers. Scott Brosius, batting ninth, scored four runs and plated four more. Catcher Diaz also came around four times. Bonds hit two more homers. Schilling steered his way through six walks to win comfortably while going the distance.

Ocala	020 000 100	3 7 1
Moline	003 540 40X	16 16 0

WP: Schilling, (1-1) LP: Vazquez, (1-1) HR: Drew (1), Bonds-2(5), Diaz (1), Brosius (1)

## **Game 5**

### **Rusch vs Park**

Always the critical game in a seven game series, this one was even more so for the Ocelots. Not only were they coming off of a shellacking but Manager Weisser had to send out Glendon Rusch to reverse the trend against Chan Ho Park who stifled the Ocelots in Game 2. A tall task indeed. The Ocelots got out quickly, albeit they scored their first run on a double play ball off the bat of Helton. In the fourth the Ocelots used five consecutive base runners after one out to pick up four runs. In the sixth Edgardo

Alfonzo mashed a homer to deep right field to give him three ribbies on the day. The Ocelots won Game 5 easily, 6-0. Glendon Rusch allayed Corey's fears and tossed a shutout. Ocala now headed home up three games to two.

Ocala	100	401	000	6	12	0
Moline	000	000	000	0	7	0

WP: Rusch, (1-0) LP: Park, (1-1) HR: Alfonzo (1)

### **Game 6**

#### **Maddux vs Oswalt**

With their backs against the wall the Cutters sent out 18-game winner Greg Maddux for Game 6. Ocala countered with the brilliant rook, Roy Oswalt. Cutters jumped out quickly as they scored three times in the first. Bonds plated the first run with a sharp single to right. Sierra then came through in the clutch with a two-run single of his own. A Shawn Green solo homer got a run back for the Ocelots in the second inning. But in the top of the third the quiet Luis Gonzalez responded with a solo blast of his own. Todd Helton answered in the bottom of the frame with a run scoring single to make it 4-2. Amazingly, that's how this one ended. The Ocelots could not get a runner to second base or beyond the rest of the contest. With two outs in the ninth Alfonzo worked a walk out of reliever Jeff Zimmerman and thus setup potential heroics from Kendall. But Zimm was able to get Kendall to fly weakly to right and push the series to a deciding seventh game.

Moline	301	000	000	4	9	0
Ocala	011	000	000	2	6	0

WP: Maddux, (1-0) LP: Oswalt, (0-2) SV: Zimmerman, (1) HR: Gonzalez (1), Green (1)

### **Game 7**

#### **Schilling vs Vazquez**

For the third time in the series the Cy Young winners would square off. Once again the Cutters got things going in the first inning. Mark Grace led off with a single and was bunted over by Vizquel. After a wild pitch to Bonds moved Grace to third, Weisser gave in and motioned for Vazquez to just put Bonds on first. Up came Gonzalez with runners on the corners and one down. Luis grounded back to Vazquez on the mound and it appeared for a moment the Ocelots would get a double play. But veteran Grace on third deaked home which froze Javier. Javier then wheeled to first and could only get Gonzo. Bret Boone was the next batter and he stepped in to take his cuts. Boom! Boone got a meaty pitch and delivered it down the left field line for a stunning three-run homer.

All stayed quiet in the game till the fifth when Bonds homered for the sixth time in the series to make the score 4-0. In the bottom of the inning Shawn Green blasted his own souvenir beyond the fence to tally a run for the Ocelots. A leadoff homer in the bottom of the sixth from J.D. Drew made it 4-2 and now the Ocelots were back to where a bloop and a bomb could tie it up. Nothing else came across in the sixth for the home team so the game went to the seventh at 4-2. Quietly the seventh went by.

Wanting to keep the game close and noticing that Vazquez was tiring Corey went to his pen and grabbed Troy Percival for duty. Vizquel walked to open the inning. Up came Bonds with a man on. Power versus power was the matchup now. Who would win? Bonds. Percy challenged the mighty Cutter slugger with a 98 mph heater and Bonds turned it around faster than that. A majestic blast sailed over the right field fence and the Cutters went up 6-2. To the Ocelots detriment, Percy remained unfocused for his next batter, Luis Gonzalez, and yielded a homer to him also! After batting in the eighth the Cutters could smell the title with their 7-2 lead.

In the Ocelot eighth the first two batters went down quietly. It wasn't looking good in Ocala as it appeared the wind was out of their sails after Percival's debacle. JABA Park was quiet. With two outs up stepped Derek Jeter. Jeter smacked a gap double that produced a small rustle through the park. Into the batters box stepped Todd Helton. Bam! Helton lifted a Schilling offering over the center field wall to make the score 7-4 and got the crowd up and rockin'. Next batter saw Sosa draw a walk and with that came a call to the bullpen from Barber. Out came Norm Charlton to face the lefty swinging Brian Giles. Corey pulled Giles back and sent up Brian Buchanan. Buck delivered a single to put runners on first and second and thus the rally continued. Next up was Shawn Green. A good matchup for Barber and his Cutters. Green had already homered in the game off of Schilling so he was feeling good out there. Charlton worked him to a 2-2 count. On 2-2 he tried to get Green on a slider on the outside corner. But Shawn recognized it and was able to get good wood on it. He sent a liner to left field that took a funny carom and got past Bonds. With the runners on the move they scored easily to make it 7-6 while Green chugged into third with a triple. With the Ocelot faithful now in a frenzy, the tables appeared to be reversed. Now the Cutter pen couldn't record an out. Alfonzo was next and a base hit from him would tie up this incredible game. Alfonzo was able to get around on Charlton's pitch but lined out to Vizquel at short to end the eighth. But with the score now 7-6 the Ocelots had new life.

**Past World Series MVP's**

- 1995 Frank Thomas**
- 1996 Albert Belle**
- 1997 Kevin Brown**
- 1998 Tino Martinez**
- 1999 Albert Belle**
- 2000 Albert Belle**
- 2001 Javier Vazquez**

In the top of the ninth a leadoff walk from Diaz was followed with a bunt from Brosius to get a crucial insurance run down to second. Weisser made another call to the pen to remove the rattled Percival. In came Mike Remlinger to keep the game at 7-6. He was able to do so as he retired Grace and Vizquel to give his teammates one last shot at the Cutters. On from the Moline pen came ace closer Jeff Zimmerman. Jason Kendall led off and grounded out. Denny Hocking pinch hit for Russ Johnson and he too grounded out. With two down it was up to rookie J.D. Drew to keep the inning alive. It wasn't to be. Zimmerman whiffed Drew and the celebration began out on the Ocala mound. The Moline Cutters were champions!

Moline	300 010 030	7 9 0
Ocala	000 011 040	6 11 0

WP: Schilling (2-1) LP: Vazquez (1-2) SV: Zimmerman (2) HR: Bonds-2(7), Gonzalez (1), Boone (1), Drew (1), Helton (1), Green (2)

***BRASSball World Series MVP: Barry Bonds, 11 for 25 with 7 homers.***

## **ALCS Recap**

The 2002 ALCS was also a fine matchup between two excellent teams. The Maulers opened up the series with a 3-1 victory that was punctuated with Jeff Bagwell's two homers and Pedro Martinez' three-hit complete game. The first four games of the series were all decided by three runs or less. The two squads were split after these four games. But the deciding last three games were not as close. In Game 5 the Cutters thumped Cook County and Pedro 8-4. In Game 6 Kevin daringly went to rookie Dave Williams who threw six magnificent innings in a 7-0 shutout to force a Game 7. Game 6 also saw Troy Glaus slug two homers and pick up 4 ribbies to pace the Mauler attack. In Game 7 though it was all Moline as they cruised to the AL title by the score of 8-1. The Maulers could only muster three hits off of Chan Ho Park, who had lost his two previous ALCS starts despite excellent numbers. Eventual series MVP Mark Grace pushed the score to 6-0 in the sixth with a two-run homer. Bret Boone had started the fireworks in the first inning with a two-run blast of his own. In all, Moline recorded four taters in the

decisive game. For the series the Cutter staff was able to contain the explosive bats from suburban Chicago. Kevin's men could only launch nine souvenirs during the series. Troy Glaus did all he good with his three homers and eight ribbies. Chan Ho was 1-2 with a 2.55 in his three starts. Schilling won both of his starts. ***Series MVP: Mark Grace with 3 doubles, 3 homers, 6 rbi and a .391 average.***

## **NLCS Recap**

The National League series went six games. Ocala overcame the gutsy Stanley Sioux for the second straight post-season in the NLCS. Ocala stomped around in Game 1, winning 16-3. The game was capped by a Jason Kendall Grand Slam. Roy Oswalt's complete game performance in Game 2 had the Sioux quickly down 2-0. Games 3 & 4 saw the Sioux get back into the series with victories. Game 3 saw a four run rally in the seventh lead the Sioux to victory. Paul LoDuca was 4-5 in that win. In Game 4 the Sioux rode "The Big Unit's Wild Ride." RJ threw a complete game and allowed only 2 hits. But he walked nine and whiffed 12 to make the victory all the more surreal. Bernie Williams' solo homer was the difference maker. But then the champion Ocelots got back on their horse and won the next two games. In Game 5 they thumped the Sioux 10-5. Todd Helton had 4 ribbies, but LoDuca tried his best going 3 for 5 with 2 homers and 5 rbi. In Game 6 it was rook Roy Oswalt who clinched the series for the Ocelots. He allowed two solo homers to Sioux hitters for their only runs in eight innings of work. Troy Percival closed out the ninth to move Ocala on to the series for the second straight year. Paul LoDuca hit .500 for the Sioux in six games. ***Series MVP: Roy Oswalt with two wins and a 2.08 ERA, allowing only nine hits in 17 plus innings.***

## **Playoff Tidbits**

Preston Wilson hit .583 for the Bees...Bobby Higginson hit .406...Carlos Beltran drove in 12 in 10 games for the Buckeyes...Desi Relaford committed four errors...Rich Aurilia hit 5 doubles...Jeff Bagwell drove in 10 despite a .184 average...Jamie Moyer was 2-1 with a 2.40 ERA in his starts for the Maulers...Fernando Vina hit .318 for Georgia...Russ Ortiz won games with his 6.92 ERA...Trot Nixon hit .412 with 4 taters in 5 games for Glen Allen...Jason Giambi hit .500...Edgar Martinez drove in 8 in his 7 playoff contests...Aaron Sele posted a 2.20 ERA in his two starts...On his run to a title, Barry Bonds had 11 homers and 20 ribbies...Luis Gonzalez smacked 6 playoff long-balls...Curt Schilling was 5-1 with a 3.25 ERA...Chan Ho Park completed five of his six starts...Bret Boone hit .333 with 8 doubles and 13 rbi...Ruben Sierra bumbled and stumbled four different times out in right field...Sammy Sosa got on base at a .513 clip, hit 5 homers and scored 17 runs...JD Drew hit .350...Ocelots hit 29 homers in 18 games...Roy Oswalt was 3-2 with a 2.41 ERA...Troy Percival picked up 3 saves...Bernie Williams hit .415 with 8 doubles...Paul LoDuca hit .405 and drove in 12...Randy Johnson whiffed 43 and went 3-1 in his starts...Jose Macias hit .375 with 2 steals for Toledo.

## **Updated Constitution**

Enclosed in the ZIP archive is an updated constitution. Please disregard any earlier copy you may have. Thanks.

## **New E-Mail Addresses**

David Barber can now be reached at [Dbarber600@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbarber600@yahoo.com) and Joal Kjarsgaard can be reached at [joalk@earthlink.net](mailto:joalk@earthlink.net).

## Official Raw Draft Order

- |                    |                |                 |                 |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Metropolis      | 7. Springfield | 13. Iowa        | 19. Columbus    |
| 2. Plaza           | 8. La Crosse-* | 14. Minnesota   | 20. Georgia     |
| 3. Santa Barbara-* | 9. Racine-*    | 15. Bloomington | 21. Stanley     |
| 4. Box City-*      | 10. Brooklyn   | 16. Hessville   | 22. Cook County |
| 5. Charlevoix      | 11. Gem City   | 17. Glen Allen  | 23. Ocala       |
| 6. North Georgia   | 12. Fleetwood  | 18. Toledo      | 24. Moline      |

\* Indicates that these teams tied and will alternate their positions in each round.

## Trades

16. Fleetwood trades Steve Sparks and \$1,500,000 to Hessville for a bag of peanuts.
17. Charlevoix trades Lance Berkman to Metropolis for Carlos Pena, Juan Rivera, Brad Lidge, Peter Bergeron, Chin-Feng Chen, Russell Branyan, Julio Zuleta and Metropolis' 2003 7th round draft choice.
18. Cook County trades Rick Aurilia to Santa Barbara for Milton Bradley, Carl Everett and \$1,850,000.
19. Minnesota trades Gary Bennett to Racine for Racine's 2003 4<sup>th</sup> round draft choice.

## Upcoming League Deadlines

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|---------------------------|--|
| November 27 <sup>th</sup> | Free Agent bids due to Robert                        |
| December 15 <sup>th</sup> | Deadline for free agency results to be distributed.  |
| December 25 <sup>th</sup> | Deadline for submitting articles for the next issue. |

## Next Issue of League News

A recap of free agency. Winners? Losers?

## Articles

None. ☹