



## League News May 2003

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### Matchup of the Month



VERSUS



North Georgia	Tale of the Tape 2003 Stats	La Crosse
+11	Run Differential	+1
.733	OPS	.762
3.26	ERA	4.72
8-3	One Run games	7-4
18-10	2003 Record	15-13

The May *Matchup* features two teams that got off to surprisingly strong starts in April. The Lagers tied for the AL West lead while North Georgia's 18-10 mark served notice that they are intent on contending for a NL playoff spot. La Crosse has more offensive firepower while the Yellowjackets will be able to throw more consistent pitching. North Georgia's powerful pen duo of Smoltz and Gagne may be the difference. Let's see how it turned out.

The series opened in North Georgia with Carl Pavano taking the ball for the visiting Lagers while David Wells twirled for the home team. A Mark Grudzielanek solo-homer had the Lagers out to a quick lead in the first inning. A two-out run scoring single from Deivi Cruz in the second inning made it two zip Lagers. In the third the Lagers stretched their early lead to 3-0 with a Damian Miller double. In the bottom of the third the Jackets exploded for five runs. Brian Jordan drew a bases loaded walk for the first NG run. Then Fred McGriff followed with a long blast for a grand slam that made the score 5-3 to the Jackets favor. That would be the end of the Jacket scoring offensive. Immediately in the top of the fourth the Lagers came back to take the lead. After Wells whiffed the first two batters the next two batters stroked singles to start a rally. Up came Mark Grudzielanek again. Once again Grudzy turned around a Wells off speed offering and sent it sailing to the fans. Up 6-5 at this point the Lagers would tack on four more to take game one 10-5. Grudzielanek finished with 5 rbi while Giovanni Carrara's four scoreless innings proved critical in relief for the Lagers.

Game two had rookie Jason Simontacchi on the hill for the Lagers and Paul Byrd opposing him for the Jackets. In the first Mike Sweeney opened things up with a solo home run to make it 1-0. That one run was all Simontacchi would need. The big rook was incredible on this day. Through the first eight innings he allowed only one runner to second or third base. In the bottom of the ninth the Jackets tried to rally with runners on the corners with one out, but Simontacchi induced a game-ending double play from Julio Franco to record the shutout. The Lagers won game two 4-0. Aubrey Huff and Ben Grieve provided homers in the victory.

In game three the Lagers went for the sweep in NG with their ace, Kevin Millwood, on the mound. The Jackets would turn to the unlikely Joe Beimel to stop the slide. For the third straight game the Lagers put runs on the board in the first inning. This time Manny Ramirez and Damian Miller delivered run scoring singles to give the Lagers a 2-0 lead after the first frame. A Corey Patterson double in the second plated one run for NG and made it 2-1. In the bottom of the fifth Edgar Renteria led off with a single. With Placido Polanco up, Renteria danced off the bag at first. Millwood threw over twice to keep Edgar honest. But on a 2-2 count Edgar dashed for second. The pitch to Polanco was outside for a ball. Miller had a good shot at the speedy Renteria, but Edgar slid in under the tag. With a 3-2 count now Polanco got a pitch to hit and drove Edgar in with a single. After five innings of play the game was tied at two. In the top of the sixth the Lagers took the lead for good in this one. The first three batters reached base to load the sacks for Gary Matthews Jr. Matthews then lofted a flyball high and deep to left. But Jordan had room to make the catch for the out. However, Ramirez trotted in from third for the third run. In the seventh Ricky Gutierrez added an insurance run with a run scoring single. With a final score of 4-2 the Lagers had themselves a road sweep in hilly North Georgia.

The series turned to La Crosse for game four. Jon Lieber was set to face off against Kip Wells for the Lagers. In the top of the second a Corey Patterson groundout gave the Jackets an early 1-0 lead. In the bottom of the third Shea Hillenbrand booted a Sweeney grounder with two outs to plate an unearned run. The game was now tied up at one. After Wells retired the Jackets quietly in the fourth the Lagers headed back to the plate looking to start the offense up. Ben Grieve singled to start and was followed up by a Matthews single also. With runners on first and second Grudzielanek popped out to second for the first out. Damian Miller stepped in and ripped a gapper to score both runners and make it 3-1. The La Crosse fans always enjoy seeing local boy Miller collecting big hits ☺ Deivi Cruz finished the scoring with a double of his own and the Lagers were now up 4-1. In the top of the sixth a Placido Polanco two-run homer narrowed the gap to one run. Wells, however, composed himself on the mound and got through seven without allowing any further runs from the Jackets. The final score ended up at 5-3 after Johnny Damon's solo homer in the bottom of the sixth.

Game five featured Andy Pettitte for the Jackets versus John Burkett for the Lagers. In the top of the second Corey Patterson got the Jackets on the board first with a prodigious two-run blast. Spotted two runs, Pettitte was in good shape as he went out for the bottom of the second. Pettitte then promptly loaded the bases with none out in the second. In to the box stepped Matthews looking to deliver a big hit. Matthews tagged one but sent it out to the deepest part of the park and thus gave Patterson plenty of time to run under it. Sweeney trotted in from third to make the score 2-1. Pettitte recovered and got the next two batters to kill off a potentially large inning for the Lagers. In the top of the fourth the Jacketes got the run back with a two out single from Julio Franco. Up 3-1 Pettitte cruised through seven innings of work, scattering eight hits. In the bottom of the ninth Eric Gagne entered for the Jackets to close this one out. A quick whiff of Matthews brought up Julius Matos. Matos surprisingly stroked a single. Harlan then called upon Aubrey Huff to pinch hit for Deivi Cruz. Huff worked the count into his favor at 2-1. Huff now waited for a fastball to drive. He got one. And drove a

majestic blast over the right field wall to even the game up at three. Damon followed with a flyout for the second out. Grudzielanek singled, but got caught trying to steal second. The Lagers had made it a brand new game though with their late inning heroics. Edgar Renteria kicked off the top of the tenth with a double. Benito Santiago followed with a well executed sacrifice to get the go-ahead run on third. Brian Jordan delivered a single to drive in the run and give the lead back to the Jackets. Jordan, unfortunately, was caught trying to steal second. Fred McGriff would have had himself a two-run homer rather than a solo blast had Jordan been a step quicker on his attempt. Up 5-3 Gagne went back out in the tenth to try and finish the game off again. The tenth was much easier for him as he put the Lagers down 1-2-3 to preserve the first Jacket win in the series.

Game six had veteran David Wells scheduled for the Jackets against the still raw Carl Pavano for the Lagers. This one was put to bed early. North Georgia exploded for six first inning runs. Placido Polanco nailed a two-run homer and Corey Patterson delivered yet again, this time with a three-run shot of his own. Wells would go the distance allowing only seven hits and striking out ten. The final score was 10-1. Patterson finished with 4 rbi for North Georgia. Gary Matthews Jr. did go 4 for 4 in a losing effort.

In the finale it was a return engagement of the fabulous game two matchup . And like game six the Jackets came out of the gate ready and exploded once again in the first, this time for five runs. Brian Jordan smashed a three-run homer this time while Fred McGriff followed him with a solo shot of his own. 6-1 was the eventual final score of game seven. Paul Byrd went eight plus innings as he toyed with Lager hitters by giving up 10 hits. Byrd finally was relieved with Gagne in the ninth after Byrd had loaded up the bases. Gagne promptly whiffed Alex Cora and that was that.

Neither team fared very well in May play, but it can be argued that La Crosse's four wins sure helped in keeping them close in the AL West. North Georgia, unfortunately for them, tumbled in May and this series was emblematic of that fall.

## AL Notes

	<b>AL EAST Expanded Standings</b>								
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs AL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Bakersfield Rattlers	35-21	---	18-10	17-11	0-0	11-7	9-7	.821	3.63
Minnesota Mudcats	28-28	7	13-15	15-13	0-0	5-14	2-10	.796	3.69
Moline Cutters	26-30	9	12-16	14-14	0-0	5-12	7-11	.724	4.00
Hessville Everreadys	13-43	22	7-21	6-22	0-0	5-14	4-13	.684	6.13

A fine 19-9 month of May gave the Rattlers a tighter hold on the AL East. The Rattlers hit a robust .308 in May while pounding out 43 dingers. Jose Hernandez was the big stick during the month as he hit .307 with 11 homers and 33 rbi. Derrek Lee hit .327 in May and tripled five times. On the season Lee leads the club with 46 rbi. Jeromy Burnitz posted an impressive .338 May batting average and also got on at a .422 clip. Gene Kingsale hit .417 in spot duty. Pokey Reese hit .306 and led the club for the month with 9 two-baggers. Russ Ortiz reversed his won-loss record in May as he was 4-1 for the month. Tim Hudson was 5-1 in May with 4 CG's. Huddy is now 7-2 on the young season. Keith Foulke has allowed only one run in 29 innings of work so far. Freddy Garcia struggling again on the hill as he posted a 2-3 record with a 5.74 earnie in May.

The Mudcats moved into second place in the division with a reasonable 15-13 month. Kevin Millar hit .391 in part time action for the month. He leads the Mudcats with a .351 batting average. A-Rod led the club for the month in homers (8) and rbi (26). Mike Lowell got going

as he hit .299 in May with 10 doubles. Gary Sheffield hit a putrid .186 in May and has a paltry 10 rbi through 56 games of play. Mark Kotsay hit .316 in May. On the mound Matt Morris was a perfect 5-0 in his six May starts. Mark Guthrie did not allow a run in 12 May innings and won 2 games and saved 2 others. Ron Villone came up for the month and stumbled (1-3, 6.13). Pedro Astacio also had a rough month (2-3, 6.48). Mudcats have a miserable 2-10 record in games decided by one run.

A 12-16 May has sunk the defending champs to third in the East. Barry Bonds continued his onslaught as he hit .390 in May with 12 dingers, 24 rbi and 24 walks. Torii Hunter is hitting an even .300 on the season for the Cutters and leads the club with 39 rbi. Brian Hunter doubled 11 times in May. Bret Boone is slumping and is only hitting .225 on the year. Pedro Feliz hit only .206 in May with a gaudy ratio of 2 walks to 30 whiffs. Youngster Mark Prior was called up in May and went 3-0 with a 2.41 ERA. Elmer Dessens went 4-1 in May with a 2.97 ERA. Elmer is an impressive 7-3 so far in 2003. Calvin Maduro pummeled in seven May starts (0-5, 7.17 ERA).

A 7-12 May leaves Hessville with the worst record in the AL so far. John Vander Wal hit .308 with 13 rbi in a platoon role in May. Jeff Cirillo hit .284 with 6 homers and 16 rbi. Milton Bradley hit .270 and scored 14 runs in May. Rondell White leads the club in homers (10) and rbi (38). No Everready starter was able to post a sub-five ERA in May action. Shawn Estes ended up with the worst of it as he lost all five of his starts. He is now 1-9 on the year. Steve Sparks went 2-3 for the month. Antonio Alfonseca saved four of the seven Hessville wins in May. Scott Sullivan's arm very tired after pitching 36 innings in relief in May.

<b>AL CENTRAL Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs AL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Cook County Maulers	38-18	---	21-7	17-11	0-0	14-9	12-7	.901	3.53
Iowa Rubes	32-24	6	20-8	12-16	0-0	10-10	8-6	.806	4.07
Box City Parcelmen	20-36	8	12-16	8-20	0-0	6-18	6-9	.726	5.86
Plaza Lions	16-40	12	9-19	7-21	0-0	8-11	6-6	.701	5.77

An 18-10 month of May from the Maulers has them firmly in the Central lead. A magnificent May was had by Vlad Guerrero. Vlad hit 12 May bombs, drove in 26, hit for a .374 average and swiped 9 bags. Jim Thome hit .315 with 7 homers of his own. Alfonso Soriano struggling just a bit out of the gate as he is hitting only .260 so far. Soriano did steal 11 bases in May. Mike Piazza led the club with 8 May doubles. Nomar hit only .234 in May. Jason Giambi also struggled for average (.240) but did pound out 9 homers. The Maulers have the best ERA in the AL so far and Pedro Martinez showed why as he went 4-0 in May with a 1.80 ERA. Pedro is now a perfect 9-0 to start the season. Tom Glavine righted himself in May (4-0, 2.45). Mike Stanton won 3 games in relief in May. Vulture ☺ Closer Mariano Rivera hit hard in May (2 losses, 7.20 ERA).

The Rubes slumped in May as they went 13-15. Craig Biggio produced a huge May as he hit .389 and led the club in runs (20), homers (5) and doubles (13). For the year Biggio is now hitting .349. Cliff Floyd hit .330 in May with 20 rbi. Mark McLemore hit .360 and swiped 10 bags but also committed 8 miscues in the field. Magglio Ordonez hitting a quiet .303 for the season so far. Cristian Guzman slumped in May, hitting only .200. Tino Martinez got on at a .391 clip in May. The bullpen was the factor for the Rubes in May as their four best combined to go 6-1 in relief. Odie Perez was the strongest starter going 3-0 with a 3.38 earnie. Danys Baez (1-3, 7.39 in May) continues to struggle. Hideo Nomo winless (0-3) in six May starts.

Box City struggled in May and went 10-18 for the month. Miggy had a big month as he hit .322 with 11 homers, 26 rbi and 21 runs scored. Tim Salmon still on a nice roll to start 2003 as he is

now hitting .330 with 17 doubles and 14 homers. Fernando Tatis led the Parcelmen with 7 May doubles. Kenny Lofton smacked 3 triples and stole 7 bases. Cory Lidle was the star on the mound as he went 4-1 with a 3.72 ERA. Jason Bere was 2-3, 4.70 in May. A tough month for Mike Hampton (0-4, 9.51). Closer Lou Pote has a fine 0.75 ERA in 10 outings this season.

Plaza went 9-19 in May. The Lions, somewhat surprisingly, lead the AL in doubles after two months of play with 120. In May alone they smacked 68 with no fewer than five Lions having eight or more two-baggers. Junior Spivey hit .302 in May with 4 homers and 17 rbi. Fellow callup Eric Hinske led the club with 5 May dingers. Little Neifi Perez is hitting a surprising .299 and leads the Lions with 11 doubles. Jorge Fabregas hit .148 in part time duty behind the dish. On the mound Masato Yoshii fared the best as he went 3-1 with a 3.86 ERA. Hideki Irabu saved 5 May wins. It was not "Lima Time" in May as Jose went 0-5 with a bulging 8.88 ERA. Callup Brett Myers also took his lumps (2-4, 8.36).

<b>AL WEST Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs AL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Santa Barbara Outlaws	28-28	---	16-12	12-16	0-0	12-9	5-11	.761	3.63
La Crosse Lagers	27-29	1	14-14	13-15	0-0	9-10	7-10	.784	5.08
Toledo Mudhens	26-30	2	15-13	11-17	0-0	8-9	9-10	.756	5.05
Brooklyn Bulldogs	20-36	8	12-16	8-20	0-0	7-13	8-9	.670	5.04

A 15-13 May from the Outlaws was good enough for them to sneak into first ahead of the Lagers. Adam Kennedy hit .388 in May action, including 10 doubles. Raul Mondesi hit .292 with 6 dingers and 15 rbi. On the season big Mo Vaughn leads SB with 11 homers, but is only hitting .219. Aaron Boone broke out of a bad start in April by hitting .289 in May with 6 homers and collecting 8 swiped bags. Super-sub Eli Marrero hit only .200 in May. Byung-hyun Kim went 3-1 in relief in May. Robb Nen saved 6 Outlaw victories in May and now has 11 total for the season. Roy Halladay was 4-1 with a sparkling 3.35 May ERA. Matt Clement went a perfect 4-0 in his May starts. Bartolo Colon pitched well (3.38 ERA) but could only muster 2 May wins against 3 defeats.

The Lagers struggled to a 12-16 mark in May but remain in the West hunt. Offense is the key to this team as they continued to mash the ball in May. Youngster Aubrey Huff hit 11 May bombs and drove in 21. For the season he leads the Lagers in homers (19) and rbi (46). Keep in mind this team as powerful vets in the form of Manny Ramirez and Mike Sweeney. Very impressive. Johnny Damon showed surprising May power as he launched 9 souvenir shots of his own. Mike Sweeney hit .357 in May with 8 homers and a team high 25 rbi. Manny Ramirez took a breather in May (only 25 Ab's) but still hit .440 when he did enter the box. On the mound Kevin Millwood took advantage of all the offense to go 4-2. No other Lager starter could register a sub-five May ERA. Troy Percival has 13 saves on the young season.

A 13-15 record in May by the Mudhens has them in the thick of the West race. Orlando Cabrera was strong with the bat in May (.309 average, 14 doubles) but did commit 8 errors in the field. Diminutive Luis Castillo still hitting a robust .356 for the season and even drove in 15 runners from his leadoff spot. If Dave Roberts could improve on his .217 batting average there is no telling how many more steals he would have (25 through May). Richie Sexson led the Mudhens with 7 May homers. Randall Simon drove in 19 to lead the club for the month. Todd Ritchie went 3-0 in four May starts. Scott Strickland posted a 1.53 May ERA while saving 3 games and winning two. Mike Mussina struggling in his new digs (2-6, 4.46 ERA). John Halama will want to forget about May quickly (1-3, 9.16).

The Bulldogs have produced back-to-back 10-18 marks to start 2003. Brian Daubach had a very solid May as he hit .324 with 8 doubles and 5 homers. On the year Daubach leads the club

in doubles (17), homers (11) and rbi (28). Shortstop Alex Gonzalez produced four May homers. Juan Pierre swooned in May as he hit only .211 for the month. He does have 22 steals on the year. Tsuyoshi Shinjo produced 4 homers and 14 rbi despite a .213 average in May. Veterans Ken Griffey Jr. (.200) and Robby Alomar (.194) off to tough starts. Kerry Wood was very impressive on the mound in May as he went 5-1 with a 2.39 ERA. Kaz Sasaki saved 5 May victories. Omar Daal went 2-3 despite a respectable 3.99 ERA. Youngster Josh Fogg still in a...well...fog as he is 1-6 on the season with a 6.38 ERA.

AL STATS LEADERBOARD							
Runs Scored		Batting Average		Stolen Bases		On Base Perct.	
Johnny Damon	48	Barry Bonds	.376	Luis Castillo	27	Barry Bonds	.544
Vladimir Guerrero	48	Randall Simon	.363	Dave Roberts	25	Jim Thome	.427
Jason Giambi	43	Luis Castillo	.356	Juan Pierre	22	Tim Salmon	.411
Alfonso Soriano	43	Craig Biggio	.349	Johnny Damon	19	Luis Castillo	.409
Derrek Lee	43	Vladimir Guerrero	.339	Aaron Boone	18	Shannon Stewart	.406

**AL May Leaders:** Junior Spivey batted 126 times. Johnny Damon scored 28 runs. Mike Sweeney collected 41 hits. Orlando Cabrera had 14 doubles. Derrek Lee hit 5 triples. Jose Hernandez drove in 33. Barry Bonds walked 24 times. Adam Dunn whiffed 38 times. Aaron Boone produced 11 sacrifice hits. Magglio Ordonez grounded into 8 DP's. Vlad Guerrero amassed 82 total bases. Aubrey Huff homered 11 times off RHP's. Pedro Martinez posted a 1.80 ERA. Tim Hudson threw 51.1 innings. Scott Sullivan appeared in 18 contests. Tim Hudson had 4 CG's. Brett Myers allowed 35 runs. Calvin Maduro yielded 11 gopher balls. Matt Clement struck out 48 opposing batters. Ben Sheets uncorked 6 wild pitches. Matt Morris allowed only 0.21 homers per 9 innings. Brian Anderson had a K to BB ratio of 6.67.

## NL Notes

NL EAST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Springfield Isotopes	34-22	---	18-10	16-12	0-0	6-5	9-6	.790	4.03
Glen Allen Mets	34-22	---	17-11	17-11	0-0	11-2	7-8	.810	3.72
Charlevoix Tigers	25-31	9	14-14	11-17	0-0	9-6	8-5	.846	6.56
Port Richey Everglades	22-34	12	10-18	12-16	0-0	8-6	6-7	.702	5.51

On the strength of a 20-8 May, Glen Allen roared into a tie with Springfield. Albert Pujols hit .311 with 7 big flies and 24 rbi. Trot Nixon was equally impressive as he launched 10 taters and drove in 28. Jose Vizcaino (.404 BA) and Eric Karros (.527 SLG) performed well in part time duty. Quinton McCracken lined 8 doubles in May. Chad Kreuter homered 4 times in only 16 May at bats. Melvin Mora still in a funk, but his average has crept over .200 (.208). Andy Ashby was 4-0 with a 2.02 ERA in his five May starts. Eric Milton went 4-1. Barry Zito is 8-3 after a third of the season. The Mets utilized a double-headed closer in May with Luis Vizcaino saving 5 contests and Esteban Yan 6. Roger Clemens is still adjusting to Glen Allen at the moment (4-3, 4.44).

The Isotopes went 15-13 in May. Larry Walker had a solid May as he hit .345 with 6 homers and 15 rbi. New second baseman Robby Alomar hit .308 in his first month with the Topes. Jeff Bagwell slugged at a .515 clip and drove in a team high 17 May runs. Michael Tucker hit .294 with 8 steals. Marquis Grissom has a 1.043 OPS after two months of play. Corey Koskie couldn't get it going in May as he hit for a .196 average. Mark Mulder was 4-1 in May with a 2.02 ERA. Mulder is now an impressive 9-1 on the season. Jarrod Washburn was 3-1, 2.60. Ramon Ortiz had some struggles in May as he posted a 1-4 record and a 5.06 ERA. Kyle Lohse went 2-1 despite being shellacked (20 runs in 22 IP).

A respectable 14-14 May moved the Tigers up to third in the East. Brad Fullmer was the hitting star in May as he slugged at a .716 rate and drove in a team high 27 runs. Karim Garcia continued on an early season tear as he hit .336 with 6 dingers. Big Frank Thomas had a fine month as he rang up a .408 OBP in May with 8 big flies and 25 rbi. Ron Belliard's 15 doubles leads the club after two months of play. Russ Branyan hit only .216 in May but delivered 7 homers and 17 rbi. The worst staff in BRASSball got some better results in May. Jeff Suppan was 3-0, 4.29. Dave Burba was 3-2, 4.50. Steve Kline saved 5 games. Dennys Reyes had a 2.61 ERA out of the pen in May.

A tough 10-18 May dropped the 'Glades to last in the East. Jay Payton was huge for Port Richey in May as led the club in average (.355), homers (5), rbi (21) and steals (5). Herbert Perry homered 4 times in May. Fernando Vina hit .294 with 7 doubles. David Eckstein was second on the team in rbi in May with 14. Doug Mientkiewicz is off to a tough start with the bat in 2003 as he is hitting only .229 so far. Pete Walker went 3-1 in May. Billy Koch saved 4 May wins without allowing an earned run. Damian Moss' 2.72 ERA sparkles but he has only a 2-2 record in his starts. Mike Lincoln had a rough month out of the pen as his 7.41 ERA can attest.

<b>NL CENTRAL Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs NL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Stanley Sioux	36-20	---	20-8	16-12	0-0	6-4	11-6	.830	4.32
Fleetwood Walkers	34-22	2	20-8	14-14	0-0	4-6	5-10	.846	3.81
Columbus Buckeyes	28-28	8	15-13	13-15	0-0	6-2	12-8	.757	5.38
Bloomington Bees	25-31	11	17-11	8-20	0-0	6-6	8-9	.750	4.56

Stanley went 15-13 in May and thus saw their lead dwindle over the Walkers. Jeff Kent hit .284 in May with 7 homers and 23 rbi. On the season Kent leads the club in both homers (16) and rbi (48). Ryan Klesko hit .345 with 9 doubles. Randy Winn had a .414 OBP and stole 12 bags. Jermaine Dye clubbed 9 May dingers. Bernie Williams is hitting .347 for the young season, albeit with only one lone homer. Rafael Palmeiro still struggling as he is hitting only .247. Randy Johnson was 3-3 in May with a 3.40 ERA. No other Sioux starter could post a sub 4.50 ERA in May action. Rick Helling really struggled as he allowed 10 taters in 26 innings of work and recorded a 7.52 ERA. Chris Hammond has yet to allow a run in 23 innings this season.

A fine 18-10 month of May has helped the Walkers close the early gap. Paul Konerko was impressive in May as he hit .412 and slugged at a .632 rate. He also drove in a team high 29 runs. Bobby Abreu's numbers in May were just as impressive: .406 BA, .531 OBP and 24 runs scored. Jim Edmonds also had a big month as he hit .372 with 7 dingers and 24 rbi. Heck, the Walkers hit .310 as a team in May! Jorge Posada's 11 homers ties him for the club lead with Abreu. Chuck Finley was 4-1 in May with a 2.94 ERA. Al Leiter registered an even better ERA (2.58) but only went 2-1. Derek Lowe is 7-2 so far in 2003. Jorge Julio picked up 5 more saves in May. AJ Burnett had the roughest May (6.55 ERA).

Columbus got things going in May and went 16-12 to pull themselves to level for the year. Bobby Higginson hit .344 with 4 homers and 22 rbi. Scott Rolen still in an early season funk as he is only hitting .220 so far. Carlos Beltran posted a .385 OBP in May, scored 23 runs and swiped 10 bases. Edgar Martinez hit .325 in May with 20 driven in. John Olerud batted .300 for the month. Jimmy Rollins off to an awful start as he is hitting .179. Jeff Nelson went 3-0 in relief in May with a 1.42 ERA. Livan Hernandez was the winningest Buckeye starter in May (3-1) despite a hefty 6.99 ERA. Randy Wolf should improve on his 4-4, 4.76 start.

After a 13-15 month of May the Bees find themselves in last in the tough Central. The normally fleet footed Bees could only pick up 15 steals in May. Ichiro hit .327, but couldn't find his groove on the basepaths as he netted himself only 3 swipes. Marlon Anderson improved in

May as hit .295 with 7 doubles and 4 homers. Tony Batista did Marlon a little better as he hit 9 doubles with 5 homers. Preston Wilson made his .238 May average count as he led the team with 20 rbi. He also led the Bees with 6 steals. Vinny Castilla has yet to find his stroke (.205). Armando Benitez was very impressive out of the pen in May. He did not allow a run, saved 5 games and won two others. No Bee starter could get below 4.50 for an ERA in May. The best effort came from youngster John Lackey who was 3-3 with a 4.76 ERA. Mark Buehrle is up and down do far in 2003 as he is 5-5 with a 4.26 ERA.

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Ocala Ocelots	44-12	---	21-7	23-5	0-0	8-1	9-4	.852	2.91
Gem City Wolfpack	32-24	12	20-8	12-16	0-0	8-1	13-8	.739	4.04
North Georgia Yellowjackets	29-27	15	14-14	13-15	0-0	8-3	12-8	.710	3.56
Metropolis Avengers	20-36	24	10-18	10-18	0-0	2-7	9-4	.655	5.16

Another 22-6 month from the Ocelots has them sitting pretty with the best record in BRASSball. Even more impressive within the Ocelot record is that they are better on the road so far at 23-5. Oh my! Shawn Green mashed opponent pitching to the tune of a .324 average, 11 bombs and 24 rbi. Sammy Sosa hit .343 and his 30 rbi were high for the Ocelots in May. Todd Helton hit .370 in May, as did catcher Jason Kendall. Kendall also smacked 9 two-baggers to lead the club. The only struggling Ocelot is found in the form of JD Drew who is hitting a lowly .223. Glendon Rusch finally lost in May as he went 5-2 in his seven starts. That makes him 11-2 for the year. Roy Oswalt was 4-1 with a 3.18 May ERA. Arthur Rhodes and Mike Williams both picked up 4 saves during the month. Only in Ocala can a pitcher, Javier Vazquez, post a 4.53 ERA and still win 5 games ☺

A big 18-10 May has Gem City in the thick of things in the NL now. Carlos Delgado was the May star as led the Wolfpack hitters in homers (8), rbi (16), walks (28), runs (23) and average (.299). Todd Walker also had a very nice month as he collected 13 doubles and stole 7 bases. Steve Finley cooled off a tad in May as he could only muster 4 dingers. He still has 13 for the year, though. Jeff Hammonds drove in 15 despite a rough time at the dish in May (.214 BA). On the hill Rick Reed led the staff as he went 4-0 in his six starts. Ryan Rupe went 3-2 with a 3.00 ERA in his starts. Rook Jason Jennings had another solid month as he was 3-1 in May. Izzy has 11 saves so far to go along with his tiny 0.89 ERA.

North Georgia faithful hope their 11-17 May was the worst of it in 2003. Just not the same team that played so well in April. Edgar Renteria continues his robust hitting as he hit .362 in May and stands at .367 for the season. Placido Polanco was a needed spark in May as he hit .319 with 11 doubles and posted team highs in homers (6) and rbi (21). Hopefully Polanco's play will serve notice to the more powerful duo of Fred McGriff (.225 BA in May) and Brian Jordan (.243) who need to rebound quickly. Paul Byrd was stellar on the mound in May as he went 4-2 with a 2.55 ERA. A tough month was had by Jon Lieber who went 1-4 despite a solid 3.89 ERA. Eric Gagne has 13 saves so far and a gaudy ratio of 27 K's to one base on balls.

Metropolis' 11-17 month was a steady improvement over April. Pat Burrell was the big hitting star in May as he launched 11 big flies and picked up 31 rbi. Jose Vidro hit .297, scored 16 times and collected 8 doubles. Eric Chavez is in an early hole as he is hitting only .219. Must be some contract related pressure ☺ Lee Stevens leads the Avengers with 34 walks so far. Gregg Zaun, a catcher, led the Avengers with 9 errors in May. How does this happen? Brian Powell was on in May as he went 2-1 with a 2.87 ERA. Matt Ginter pitched like his hair was on fire in May. He went 3-4 in 16 relief appearances. Somehow he also saved 4 games. His May ERA was 7.63. Tony Armas Jr.' 3.88 ERA is a nice start for him in 2003.

NL STATS LEADERBOARD							
Winning Pct		Hits Allowed		Hits per 9 Innings		K's per 9 Innings	
Mark Mulder	.900	Javier Vazquez	108	Mark Mulder	5.99	Roger Clemens	10.29
Chuck Finley	.889	James Baldwin	106	Jason Jennings	6.90	Curt Schilling	9.32
Glendon Rusch	.846	David Wells	104	Curt Schilling	7.39	Randy Johnson	9.17
Kenny Rogers	.800	Paul Byrd	103	Orlando Hernandez	7.41	Chuck Finley	8.45
Curt Schilling	.800	Jeff Suppan	89	Roy Oswalt	7.47	Randy Wolf	7.41

**NL May Leaders:** Paul Konerko batted .412. Shawn Green scored 29 runs. Todd Walker hit 13 doubles. David Eckstein legged out 4 triples. Pat Burrell drove in 31 runs. Carlos Delgado walked 28 times. Russ Branyan generated a breeze 37 times. David Eckstein got in the way of 7 pitches. Randy Winn stole 12 bases. Mark Loretta hit .800 in his pinch hitting at bats. Jim Edmonds slugged .731. Bobby Abreu collected 73 total bases. Andy Ashby had a 2.02 ERA. Paul Byrd threw 53 innings. Esteban Yan saved 6 games. Matt Ginter allowed 62 hits. Matt Ginter allowed 13 balls to leave the park. Randy Johnson whiffed 55 hitters. Rick Reed allowed 0.46 walks per nine innings. Opponents hit only .178 off Mark Mulder. Jeff D'amico received 9 runs of support in his starts.

## Award Watch

Reigning AL MVP Barry Bonds makes an appearance. Lagers place a young masher on the tote board while two pitchers are off to phenomenal starts in 2003.

Award	Player	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB	
AL MVP	Barry Bonds, MOL	.376	.544	.826	18	37	37	0	
NL MVP	Bobby Abreu, FLE	.333	.452	.628	11	32	43	3	
AL ROY	Aubrey Huff, LAC	.276	.316	.604	19	46	28	1	
		W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	K
AL CY	Pedro Martinez, CC	9	0	0	2.12	81	56	25	93
NL CY	Mark Mulder, SPR	9	1	0	3.05	83	55	25	60
NL ROY	Luis Vizcaino, GA	4	1	6	1.88	24	17	7	28

## Big Reminder

Guys, the following needs to be said again apparently:

Dave Little is the League statistician. Corey is the backup statistician. Both men must receive your results by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Corey is also the receptacle for all signings. The signings deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. I personally need to receive your rotations by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. The 15<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> are the two big deadline days in BRASSball.

## Fines

Bloomington is fined \$350,000 for late mailing of signings.

Fleetwood is fined \$250,000 for late mailing of signings.

Charlevoix is fined \$1,000,000 for late mailing of stats to backup statistician.

Bloomington is fined \$1,000,000 for late mailing of stats to backup statistician.

Glen Allen is fined \$1,000,000 for late mailing of stats to statisticians.

## Trades and Roster Stuff

No trades to report this month.

## Upcoming League Deadlines

- June 15<sup>th</sup> Trade deadline for July games
- June 15<sup>th</sup> Results due to both opponents and Dave and Corey
- June 25<sup>th</sup> Instructions and rotations due out for July

## Guest Authors

Jim C. has authored an article for us.

## Next Issue of “League News”

Season #9 reaches the midway point. All Stars to vote on!



**Hitting Stars for the month** Hitting coach Eddie Kranepool was happy to turn in this report: Ramon Vazquez has been solid. He is our leading hitter against right-handed pitchers and has shown good patience at the plate for a young hitter. Right behind him is Quinton McCracken, the veteran who has fit right into the clubhouse and the lineup. Against the southpaws, Greg Colbrunn has been unbelievable! He slugged 1.115 with a .500 average with 4 homers and 10 RBIs in 30 AB. Then Eric Karros has done a great job vs. those lefties. I need to at least mention Chris Gomez who has been playing real hard and batting .293.

Now if we could get the rest of the guys doing what they should we could raise the team batting average over .260.



## Pitching Goats

Jimmy Key, the pitching coach was pleased with the overall team performance, but was disappointed in a few guys. “I have been working with Eric Milton for a few years and while he keeps improving, but he often struggles with the long ball. He gave up a team leading 9 home runs, while striking out 28 and walking only 7 in 45 innings. Veteran Andy Ashby also had trouble with allowing home runs 8 in only 25 innings. Andy has not found his groove yet for the Mets, but maybe he does not like the cold weather and will do better in the warmer months ahead.”

“I have been surprised pleasantly by Mike Venafro. He made the team as our tenth pitcher because he throws left-handed, but has 1.88 ERA and 8K-1 BB although he allowed 2 homers. Keep up the good work Mike!”

*Hey, Hey, Hey, Where's Albert?*

Last season Albert Pujols was the National League Rookie of the Year and the Mets Most Valuable Player. He was predicted to carry his team this year as he did last year, but that has not been the case so far. Mets bench coach, Mike Stanley is still in the corner of the Mets star player. “Albert still leads the team in RBI, hits, doubles and has started games in left field, third base and first base. No his average is only .272 so he is not quite where we expect him to be, and he has only 2 home runs. He has been pulling off the ball a little and popping the ball up, instead of getting those line drives. With Greg (Colbrunn) and Eric (Karros) hitting so well against the south paws, Albert has moved down from his familiar #3 or #4 to #5 for now. We expect him to make some adjustments and be back to where he should be, representing us at the All-Star game.”

### **Last month's question?**

In April, we wondered if Brian Roberts could hit enough to help the Mets. When the dust settled the answer was, a broken finger on his right hand after one of those headfirst slides. He batted only .246, but was 14/17 in stolen bases, to lead the team, 22 bases on balls, to lead the team and 6 sacrifice hits to lead the team. He also played flawlessly in the field in 21 games. Mets manager liked what he saw, “Brian provided us a spark and scored 13 runs, unfortunately the injury will keep him out for some time. We hope to have him back in September.