



## League News August 2003

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### Matchup of the Month



versus



Springfield	Tale of the Tape 2003 Stats	Fleetwood
+87	Run Differential	+130
.770	OPS	.822
3.96	ERA	3.72
-2	HR Home/Road Diff.	+24
69-43	2003 Record	67-45

Ah, finally a meeting of the Brothers Kjarsgaard for the *Matchup* series. Both of these clubs are quite close record-wise. Statistically, though it would appear the Walkers excel a bit more than the Topes at both hitting and pitching. Of note is the two clubs home run differential for their parks. Springfield actually hits more big flies on the road while the Walkers enjoy the cozy confines of Riverfront Stadium.

#### **Game 1:** Chuck Finley (FLE) versus Mark Redman (SPR)

Two talented lefties were scheduled to start the series. The Walkers struck immediately in the first frame when Paul Konerko's two-out single allowed Bobby Abreu to trot in from third with the first run. But in the bottom of the first the Topes made some noise of their own when Jeff Bagwell's plunking loaded the sacks with only one out. Larry Walker followed Bagwell and he was able to bloop a single to shallow left to score one run. Unfortunately the Topes couldn't get any further runs across as Robbie Alomar's 6-4-3 double play killed the inning. To start the second the Walkers went right back to work as the first two batters reached. After number nine hitter Craig Counsell lined out to second, up came Lou Merloni. Lou was able to connect to Redman's offering and sent the ball flying to deep right center. From there it caromed off the wall and past the frantically charging Marquis Grissom. The ball bounded away from Grissom and Lou had an easy two-run triple. Abreu promptly followed with a base knock to make it 4-1.

The Walkers would finish the second up 5-1. After batting in the fourth the Walkers would have this one put to bed as they went 7-1 at that point. Finley pitched into the seventh to pick up the in for the Walkers. The final score would end up 7-4 with Konerko contributing 3 rbi on the day.

**Game 2:** Scott Eyre (FLE) versus Mark Mulder (SPR)

The second game saw yet another all-lefty matchup. To start the second Jim Edmonds led off with a double for the Walkers. After a Tom Wilson whiff, Raul Ibanez came up and delivered a solid single to put runners on the corner. Shane Halter followed and he was able to drive in the first run of the contest with a sac fly. With Merloni's subsequent single the sacks were full for Abreu. Abreu was able to respond in the situation as his solid single up the box brought in two runs for an early 3-0 lead for the Walkers. Surprisingly, the second inning Walker outburst would be all that Eyre would need on the hill. Eyre pitched into the eighth and allowed only three hits on the day. The final ended up 4-1 to the Walkers favor. Mike DeJean closed out the game to secure the Walkers second victory.

**Game 3:** Derek Lowe (FLE) versus Jarrod Washburn (SPR)

A very fine pitching matchup for game three. To start the game the Walkers put their first two batters on base. Chipper Jones was up third and his ground out to second moved the runners up for Jorge Posada. Washburn was now in trouble because he had to choose between two difficult options: Posada at the dish or Edmonds in the on deck circle. Washburn conferred on the mound with Mike Redmond and they set their sights on retiring Posada. The plan did not succeed as Jorge was able to drill a double to the gap that easily plated two runs for the Walkers. Up 2-0 Lowe was able to go to work with a nice lead. Lowe, however, stumbled badly as a double and a single to the first two hitters left runners on the corners with none out. Luis Gonzalez was next and his ground out was able to get back one run while keeping the heat on Lowe. With runners on first and second Lowe now had to get past the dangerous Jeff Bagwell. Lowe was able to get Bags to also ground into a fielders choice. With two out now Lowe was almost out of the dark. He wasn't. The mighty Matt Stairs stepped in to take his cuts. Stairs was able to lay off the first two Lowe offerings to go up 2-0 in the count. Lowe came back with a fastball on 2-0 but Stairs was locked in as he yanked it down the right field line for a two-run blast that made the score 3-2 Topes. Somewhat surprisingly that would be all the scoring in this game. The Walkers challenged from time to time in the game but Washburn was always able to turn them back.

**Game 4:** Al Leiter (FLE) versus Ramon Ortiz (SPR)

The pitching was masterful in game four. Through seven innings this contest was scoreless. After their seventh innings Ortiz had yielded only three hits and Leiter only two! But in the bottom of the eighth the Topes struck to secure a victory. After his second whiff of the inning Leiter was seemingly through the eighth as he just needed to get around Marquis Grissom with one runner on base. Grissom took an awful swing at Leiter's offering and sent a bouncer down to Konerko at first. The ball must of hit a rock or something because it bounced over Konerko's glove for an error. Rattled, Leiter now had to get around Luis Gonzalez, but he couldn't as Luis coaxed a walk from Leiter to load the bases. Leiter was now clearly exhausted and was lifted in favor of Mike DeJean. DeJean's pressing assignment was to retire Bagwell. But Bagwell got the better of DeJean and delivered a double that plated the two winning runs for the Topes.

**Game 5:** Kyle Lohse (SPR) versus A.J. Burnett (FLE)

In the bottom of the second the Walkers exploded for five runs. Booby Abreu smacked a two-run double and Konerko followed shortly thereafter with a huge three-run blast off of Lohse. Down 5-0 the Topes were going to have to scrap. In the top of the third they got two back with the aid of Larry Walker's two-out, two-run double. In the bottom of the fourth the Walkers could have put the game to rest when they loaded the sacks with none out. Konerko strode to the plate with a chance to deliver an even bigger hit. But Konerko couldn't do it as he grounded weakly into a double play. Still, the Walkers were able to leave the frame comfortably ahead 6-2. In the top of the sixth that man, Matt Stairs, did it again as he connected this time for a two-run homer to narrow Fleetwood's lead to 6-4. In the top of the eighth Jorge Julio was trying to get the game to closer Mike DeJean. The rook couldn't do it though as a single and two walks left the sacks loaded and DeJean was summoned sooner to the game. His first batter to face was Stairs. Stairs was up to the task yet again, this time doubling down the right field line. Two runs came in and the game was all square at six. Veteran Orlando Merced was next and he knew what to do as he drilled a single back up the box that scored two more runs to make it 8-6 Springfield. After starting down five runs the Topes had completed an improbable rally to pull out the victory here in game five.

**Game 6:** Mark Redman (SPR) versus Chuck Finley (FLE)

In the top of the third of this one the Walkers seemingly imploded as a squad as they committed two errors with the bases loaded. After all the frantic play of the inning finished Fleetwood would find themselves down 4-0. But the Walkers were determined and in the bottom of the frame returned the favor as they sent eleven batters to the dish. Redman somehow finished the inning for the Topes, but not without yielding six runs. Two doubles and a triple were interspersed with two wild pitches and a Tope error. All in all they were able to score six runs to reverse their fortunes in this one quite quickly. That would be all Finley and the Walkers would need as they ended up cruising to an 8-5 victory. Finley was able to whiff 10 batters on the day and allowed only one earned run.

**Game 7:** Mark Mulder (SPR) versus Scott Eyre (FLE)

The series was all square at three games apiece and the pitching matchup was a replay of the solid game two matchup. The clubs traded solo runs in the second inning to make it 1-1. In the top of the fourth the Topes the notched all the runs they would need to secure the series. Three runs would come across with Mike Redmond's clutch two-run single proving to be the big blow. Mulder kept the Walkers at bay for seven innings when he then yielded to a pen that did the same.

This series easily could have gone to the Walker's favor. Both teams played quite well as one could sense a playoff atmosphere around all seven games. Indeed these clubs may well see each other later in the year when the games are just a bit more important.

## 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	88-52	---	43-27	45-25	40-16	24-18	25-17	.795	3.51
Minnesota Mudcats	82-58	6	39-31	43-27	38-18	16-25	11-22	.805	3.74
Moline Cutters	70-70	18	34-36	36-34	32-24	16-24	21-25	.750	3.94
Hessville Everreadys	40-100	48	20-50	20-50	17-39	16-27	13-27	.670	5.85

Another fine 20-8 month from the Rattlers has them safely atop the East. David Bell swung a big bat for the Rattlers in August as he slugged 7 dingers and drove in 23. Jeromy Burnitz also

was a solid contributor as he knocked 8 out of the park and collected 22 rbi. Gene Kingsale hit .300 with 5 swipes. Derrek Lee had a down August as he hit only .231 and committed 5 errors. Andruw Jones also slumped in August as he hit just .216. A.J. Pierzynski leads the club with a .323 average for the year. Tim Hudson went 4-1 in August with a 2.70 ERA. Russ Ortiz and Freddy Garcia also won four games. Keith Foulke allowed only one run enroute to five August saves. Wade Miller posted a fine 2.13 ERA for the month but only went 1-2. Reliever Darren Holmes has allowed only 26 baserunners in 42 innings this season.

The Mudcats solidified their playoff chances with a 19-9 August. Newcomer Pudge had an impressive debut as he hit .355 for the month with 8 jimmy-jacks and 17 rbi. The Mudcats clubbed out 55 homers in August and A-Rod was a big contributor to that huge total as he slugged 15. A-Rod also got on at a .409 clip and drove in 39 runs. Scott Hatteberg posted a .442 OBP in August. As well as those two performed a few slumped terribly in August. Mark Ellis (.178), Jeremy Giambi (.171) and Mark Kotsay (.146) were miserable in the month. Out on the hill Kirk Rueter went 4-1 with a 2.65 ERA. Rueter is now 15-6 on the campaign. Pedro Astacio somehow won three games despite allowing 12 taters in 39 innings of work.

The Cutters got themselves back to .500 with a solid 18-10 month of August. Barry Bonds was just ridiculous in August as he hit .378 and walked 42 times! That works out to a gaudy .608 OBP. Torii Hunter hit .317 with 8 homers and 25 rbi. Bret Boone finally got going as he hit .351, slugged .588 and drove in 28 in August. Omar Vizquel batted .301 for the month and scored 23 times. Greg Maddux's 6-1 month of August was quite impressive, but Mark Prior was even better. The youngster went 4-0 with 1.38 earnie. Oh, and he threw two one-hit shutouts in the month also. Oh my! Kelvim Escobar picked up six August saves.

The Everreadys struggled through another month as they went 5-23 in August. Terrence Long was the best hitter by far as he hit .305 with 3 homers and 10 rbi. Alex Gonzalez collected 8 doubles and scored 14 times. Delino DeShields swiped 7 bags in August. Jack Wilson still having a nice rookie season as he sits on a .285 batting average. Frank Castillo picked up two of the 'Ready victories. Aaron Sele registered a 3.50 ERA in August. Mike Fetters had a 1.32 ERA in relief in August.

<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	98-42	---	52-18	46-24	39-17	27-14	27-17	.886	3.36
Iowa Rubes	76-64	22	42-28	34-36	28-28	18-22	21-24	.800	4.10
Box City Parcelmen	48-92	50	25-45	23-47	15-41	11-33	10-23	.742	5.85
Plaza Lions	38-102	60	19-51	19-51	13-43	17-24	15-21	.670	5.70

The Maulers are simply waiting for the playoffs to begin after their 21-7 August. Nomar had the big month for the Maulers as he hit .349 and slugged .713 while driving in 34. Alfonso Soriano flashed that power/speed combo of his by slugging 12 taters and swiping 9 bases in August. Vlad Guerrero's 10 August homers now leaves him 9 short of the regal total of 60. Mike Piazza hit .324 in August with 10 two-baggers. Pickup Steve Finley struggled a tad (.235 BA) in his new digs. Jason Giambi quietly enjoying a season that sees him slugging at a .617 clip and posting a .425 OBP. Tom Glavine back on track with his 5-1, 2.72 performance in August. Steve Trachsel went 4-1 in August with a 2.60 earnie. Pedro now 19-3 on the year. Mariano Rivera picked up 5 more saves in August.

After a 16-12 August the Rubes first playoff appearance has come more into focus. Cliff Floyd swung the hot Rube bat in August as he hit .373 with 15 doubles, 10 homers and 28 rbi. Carlos Lee hit .409 with 6 taters in part time action. Ellis Burks keeps on chugging along as he hit .338 with 6 August homers. Robin Ventura kinda slumped in August. He did hit only .162, but

managed to send 6 of his 11 hits over the fence. Both Floyd and Mags Ordonez have 49 doubles so far. Jason Schmidt went 3-1 with a 2.81 earnie in August. John Thomson went 3-1 with a 3.25 ERA for the month. Hideo Nomo (7.05 ERA) struggled mightily in August. Odie Perez is now 16-6 for the year and should see himself receiving votes in both the Cy and Rookie post-season award categories. Reliever Juan Acevedo has allowed only 49 baserunners in 60 innings of work this season.

Box City enjoyed one of their better months this year as they went 13-15 in August. Miggy was on top of his game as he hit .314 with 10 homers and 22 ribbies. Troy O'Leary hit .400 in platoon duty. Jose Offerman hit .340 with 7 doubles in August. Steve Cox led the Boxmen with 25 rbi for the month. Dave Coggin won four games out of the Box City pen in August. Mark Hendrickson came up for the month and allowed no runs in 20 innings of work. Kirk Saarloos needs more time on the farm (1-5, 6.75). Cory Lidle's 8 wins lead the club.

Plaza went 9-19 in August. Mike Lieberthal hit .389 for the month. Kevin Young's 7 homers led the club in August. J.T. Snow put together a .387 OBP in August to go along with his 9 doubles. Greg Norton hit .275 with 5 big flies. Keith Lockhart will want to forget August and his .148 BA during it. Youngster Oliver Perez came up and went 2-2 with a 3.92 ERA. Hideki Irabu picked up 4 August saves. Dave Mlicki was not a veteran stabilizing force in August: 1-3, 6.83 ERA.

<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	79-61	---	42-28	37-33	35-21	23-20	20-22	.771	3.49
La Crosse Lagers	70-70	9	35-35	35-35	25-31	22-20	21-18	.769	4.52
Toledo Mudhens	69-71	10	40-30	29-41	30-26	17-20	17-25	.743	4.52
Brooklyn Bulldogs	54-86	25	30-40	24-46	24-32	17-27	16-27	.715	4.60

<b>Matt Clement throws a no-hitter!</b>										
Hessville	AB	R	H	BI	Santa Barbara	AB	R	H	BI	
Gonzalez, ss	4	0	0	0	Erstad, cf	4	0	1	0	
DeShields, 2b	3	0	0	0	Boone, 3b	1	0	0	0	
Long, lf	3	0	0	0	Nevin, 1b	3	1	0	0	
Glanville, cf	3	0	0	0	Anderson, lf	3	0	1	1	
Guillen, rf	3	0	0	0	Mondesi, rf	2	0	0	0	
Vaughn, dh	2	0	0	0	Wilson, c	3	0	1	0	
Johnson, c	3	0	0	0	Mackowiak, dh	3	1	0	0	
Ortiz, 3b	2	0	0	0	Aurilia, ss	2	0	0	0	
Lankford, ph	1	0	0	0	Kennedy, 2b	2	0	0	1	
Vander Wal, 1b	3	0	0	0						
	<hr/>					<hr/>				
	27	0	0	0		23	2	3	2	
Hessville	000	000	000	0 0 1						
Santa Barb.	001	100	000	2 3 0						
Hessville	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO				
Estes, L	8	3	2	1	4	4				
Santa Barbara	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO				
Clement, W	9	0	0	0	1	7				

Santa Barbara has a division title firmly in view after their 17-11 month of August. Jacque Jones hit .295 with 6 homers and 16 rbi. Adam Kennedy hit .337 in August. Catcher Dan Wilson hit .344 with 7 two-baggers. Rich Aurilia (.204 BA in 2003) needs to get going in the final month for the playoffs. Garrett Anderson has 45 doubles so far and Aaron Boone has 36 steals. The Outlaw staff posted a fine 3.35 ERA in August. Bartolo Colon won the

most games (4), but Tomo Ohka (2.45) and Matt Clement (3.16) put together better stat lines. Indeed, Clement tossed the third BRASSball no hitter of 2003! Robb Nen saved 11 August games for the Outlaws. Rodrigo Lopez is an impressive 12-5 with a 2.95 ERA in his rookie year.

La Crosse's 9-19 month of August has left them with slim playoff hopes. Offensively, the team fell apart in August hitting only .234 as a team to go along with 21 homers. The two biggest Lager bats, Manny Ramirez and Mike Sweeney, hit .244 and .230 respectively in August. Mark Grudzielanek hit only .180 but somehow led the club with 11 Lager ribbies. Aubrey Huff (.344) and Gary Matthews Jr. (.320) were two of the few bright spots in August. Kip Wells went 2-2 with a 3.68 earnie in August. Carl Pavano pitched well enough (3.76 ERA), but couldn't win a game in August. Troy Percival saved 5 of the 9 Lager victories.

Toledo is almost back to .500 after a 13-15 August. Randall Simon continued a fine season by hitting .340 with 5 homers and 20 rbi. For the year Randall is now hitting .326. A pleasant surprise he has been for Mudhen faithful. Richie Sexson (.333, 10 doubles) and Orlando Cabrera (.324, 11 doubles) also had big months. Luis Castillo hit .336 and stole 14 more bags to raise his league leading total to 78. Brian Meadows was 4-0 with a 3.48 ERA in his five August starts. Mike Mussina pitched well in August as he posted a 3.26 ERA, but just couldn't get enough runs behind him and thus went 3-3. Pretty much the story of Moose's 2003 campaign.

The Bulldogs went 11-17 in August. Tony Clark hit .338 with 6 doubles in platoon duty. Alex Gonzalez hit .296 with 16 runs scored and 5 taters in August. Brian Daubach cranked out 6 more homers in August. Despite batting only .237 for the month, Tsuyoshi Shinjo led the club with 20 rbi and 17 runs scored. Denny Neagle was 2-2 with a 2.97 ERA in August. Fellow southpaw Omar Daal also won two games while registering a 3.99 ERA. Ryan Dempster was knocked around in August as he allowed 83 baserunners in 47 innings of work.

**AL August Leaders:** Mike Lieberthal hit .389. Alfonso Soriano scored 32 runs. A-Rod smacked 15 homers. Barry Bonds walked 42 times. Keith Lockhart whiffed 33 times. Gary Sheffield was plunked 7 times. Luis Castillo swiped 14 bags. Eric Owens hit into 8 doubles plays. Cliff Floyd slugged .800. Nomar collected 92 total bases. Orlando Cabrera committed 10 miscues. Einar Diaz allowed 32 steals. Greg Maddux won 6 games. Mark Prior posted a 1.38 ERA. Robb Nen saved 11 contests. Tim Hudson allowed 59 hits. Pedro Astacio allowed 12 dingers. Oliver Perez whiffed 53 batters.

AL STATS LEADERBOARD							
Winning Pct.		Losses		Games Pitched		Home Runs allowed	
Pedro Martinez	.864	Steve Sparks	18	Octavio Dotel	65	Freddy Garcia	37
Matt Clement	.857	Frank Castillo	16	Tim Worrell	65	Tom Glavine	33
Tom Glavine	.750	Shawn Estes	16	Scott Williamson	63	Sidney Ponson	33
Odalis Perez	.727	Scott Erickson	15	JC Romero	57	Hideo Nomo	31
Tim Hudson	.727	Mike Hampton	15	Ricky Rincon	56	Tim Hudson	31

## NL Notes

NL EAST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Springfield Isotopes	86-54	---	44-26	42-28	35-21	22-14	20-16	.761	3.90
Glen Allen Mets	81-59	5	42-28	39-31	29-27	23-12	18-22	.794	3.85
Port Richey Everglades	54-86	32	22-48	32-38	18-38	14-23	18-13	.714	5.54
Charlevoix Tigers	46-94	40	25-45	21-49	15-41	16-24	16-15	.779	7.36

Springfield stayed in first after a 17-11 month of August. Larry Walker hit .305 in August but that actually lowered his batting average to .353 for the season. Walker led the club with 18 August ribbies. Catcher Mike Redmond hit .339 for the month. Michael Tucker doubled 9 times, swiped 7 bases and led the club with 5 August homers. Jeff Bagwell registered a .388 OBP in August. Robbie Alomar slumped in August, hitting only .218. Mark Mulder led the moundsmen as he went 3-1 with a 2.17 earnie. Billy Wagner picked up two relief wins and

saved 7 more games in August. Ramon Ortiz pitched well (3.86 ERA) but ended up 2-3 in his August starts. Jarrod Washburn is 16-8 with a 3.49 ERA in 2003.

The Mets have pretty much secured a playoff spot with their 17-11 month of August. All that is left to see now is if they can catch the Topes in the final month. Albert Pujols carried the big lumber as he hit .339 with 10 dingers and 24 ribbies. Jose Vizcaino posted an impressive .358 BA in August. Rookie Ramon Vazquez had another nice month (.308 BA). In 43 August at bats Danny Bautista slugged .721 and got on at a .432 clip. El Duque was tough on the hill in August as he went 4-1 with a 2.89 earnie. Barry Zito went 3-2 with a 3.07 ERA. Luis Vizcaino netted 5 August saves while veteran Bob Wickman picked up four for himself.

Port Richey went 10-18 in August. Joe Randa hit .357 with 9 doubles and 15 rbi. Jay Payton was especially impressive for the 'Glades as he hit .309, walloped 9 homers and drove in 29 runs. Doug Mientkiewicz posted a .395 OBP to help him cross home 20 times. Port Richey batters have been plunked 85 times which leads the NL by a healthy (or is that unhealthy) margin. If Damian Moss (7-8, 3.89, 143 innings, 105 hits) could get some runs when he pitches he may just yet get himself into ROY consideration. No PR starter could get below a 4.50 ERA in August with Julian Tavarez (1-4, 9.84 ERA) faring the worst.

Charlevoix struggled through another rough month as they went 8-20 in August. Some players continue to astound in Charlevoix. Foremost is Brad Fullmer who hit .429 in August with 12 doubles. On the season Fullmer now has 40 two-baggers. Little Mark Loretta hit .336 with 16 rbi. Frank Thomas equally impressive in August as he hit .313, posted a .406 OBP, scored 24 times, slugged 7 homers and drove in 28 runs. The Tigers hit .291 as a team in August. Travis Driskill fared the best of the pitchers as he went 3-2 with a 4.29 ERA. John Stephens had his hat handed him (0-6, 13.67 ERA) in August.

<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	94-46	---	47-23	47-23	39-17	15-13	28-17	.828	3.85
Fleetwood Walkers	81-59	13	45-25	36-34	33-23	16-16	17-18	.826	3.93
Bloomington Bees	69-71	25	37-33	32-38	27-29	12-17	23-22	.761	4.60
Columbus Buckeyes	66-74	28	35-35	31-39	27-29	14-17	23-18	.760	5.02

A 19-9 month for the Sioux has them firmly in control of the Central and the second seed for the NL playoffs. Bernie Williams put together a big month as he hit .388 with 5 homers and 18 rbi. Jeff Kent hit .345, slugged .618 and drove in 19 runs. Randy Winn collected 9 August doubles. Ryan Klesko hit .306 in August. Jermaine Dye is slumping as he hit .216 in August and has fallen to .234 for the season. Raffy Palmeiro whacked 8 long balls and drove in 23 runs in August. Randy Johnson went 5-1 on the bump with a 2.54 earnie. Curt Schilling went 4-2. Schilling and Unit have combined for 38 victories in 2003. Jose Mesa picked up 6 August saves despite some unsteady moments as his 7.36 ERA reflects.

Fleetwood stumbled slightly in August as they went 14-14. Chipper Jones very solid in August as he hit .382, posted a .673 slugging and got on at a .481 clip. Frank Catalanotto tripled 4 times in 29 at bats. Bobby Abreu was very productive for the Walkers in August as he scored 28 runs and drove in 25 more. Jorge Posada hit .282 with 10 doubles and 22 ribbies. The Walkers as a team smacked 67 two-baggers in August. Paul Konerko led the club with 26 August ribbies. The pitching staff is what let the Walkers down as it came in with a 4.75 August ERA. Chuck Finley won four times despite a plus-five ERA. Al Leiter did post a 3.34 ERA. Brad Penny performed poorly (8.31 ERA).

The Bees continue to hang around .500 after a 13-15 month of August. Big David Ortiz hit .338 with 5 homers and 17 rbi. Carlos Febles hit .328 and swiped 7 bags. Preston Wilson clubbed 5 homers and swiped 9 bags himself. For the season Roger Cedeno has 30 steals while being caught only 3 times. C.C. Sabathia could only go 2-4 in August despite a respectable 3.52 earnie. Josh Beckett came up in August and went 2-1 in his starts. Armando Benitez reached 30 saves for the year after picking up 5 more in August. Paul Wilson had a tough month: 0-5, 11.51 ERA.

Columbus went 14-14 in August. John Olerud hit .352 with 6 dingers and 20 ribbies. Matt Lawton hit .406 in platoon duty. Scott Rolen hit .302 and collected 10 doubles. Jimmy Rollins hit .310 and scored 22 runs. Carlos Beltran doubled 9 times and drove in 20 runs in August. Ray Durham leads the club with 8 triples and 26 errors. Randy Wolf went 4-2 with a 3.31 ERA in August. Wolf also hurled two shutouts. Livan Hernandez also won 4 games. Roberto Hernandez saved 8 Buckeye victories. Jared Fernandez had a rough month (1-5, 8.13).

NL WEST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Ocala Ocelots	100-40	---	53-17	47-23	38-18	23-11	26-14	.868	3.62
Gem City Wolfpack	74-66	26	41-29	33-37	26-30	19-17	31-21	.756	4.45
North Georgia Yellowjackets	68-72	32	33-37	35-35	26-30	20-14	29-19	.722	4.38
Metropolis Avengers	49-91	51	25-45	24-46	23-33	11-28	14-17	.680	5.34

Ocala finished August with an 18-10 mark and now look to collect the best record in BRASSball for playoff purposes. Shawn Green's power display bordered on the ridiculous in August. He pounded out 17 souvenirs. Consider this: he homered for seven straight games at one point and also hit two homers in a game in **four** straight contests! Brian Giles posted a .440 OBP in August. Edgardo Alfonzo led the Ocelots with 12 August doubles. Todd Helton scored 27 runs and hit .345 for the month. Sammy Sosa pounded out 11 dingers and drove in 35 runs. J.D. Drew had a rough August as he could only muster a .208 average. Glendon Rusch and Javier Vazquez both went 5-1 in their August starts. Roy Oswalt had a tough month of August (6.69 ERA). Steve Reed (1.20) and Mike Remlinger (1.22) have microscopic ERA's in 2003.

The Wolfpack trade away some talent and then go 16-12 in August to rekindle the fans faint playoff hopes. Scott Spiezio hit .356 for the month. Shawn Wooten batted 33 times and doubled in 9 of those appearances. Todd Walker hit .299 with 8 doubles and 19 runs scored. Reggie Sanders and Mark Bellhorn both smacked 7 dingers to lead the squad in August. Jeff Hammonds (.220) and Barry Larkin (.174) are sweltering in the Dog Days. Relievers Jason Istringhausen and Vlad Nunez both won three games in August. Rick Reed is 11-6 for 2003.

North Georgia went 13-15 in August. Shea Hillenbrand was the August hitting star as he hit .319, drove in 22 runs and connected for 8 homers. Ron Gant homered 9 times himself and drove in 20 runs. Wes Helms hit .293 and produced 10 doubles. Placido Polanco scored 19 runs. Rook Corey Patterson is struggling (.216 BA through August) but should be a much better player in the years to come thanks to these experiences. Benito Santiago needs a breather behind the plate as he hit only .227 in August. Joe Beimel picked up 3 wins in relief. Somehow someone scored 10 runs off of Eric Gagne in August. David Wells and Doug Davis three wins apiece in August.

The Avengers finished a trying August with a 6-22 mark. Eric Chavez hit .327 with 6 homers and 24 ribbies. Lance Berkman homered 7 times in August. Lance now has 36 taters on the season. As a team the Avengers hit .199 in August. Ouch! Jason Smith committed 14 errors. Aramis Ramirez' .152 average was pretty much the worst of it for the regulars. Newcomer Mike Bacsik went 2-2 with a 2.93 earnie in his August starts. Brian Powell went 0-4 despite a



sound 3.76 ERA. Chuck Nagy continues to get starts (0-6, 10.86 ERA), but it escapes me as to why ☺ Tony Armas Jr. and Jorge Sosa lead the staff with 9 wins in 2003.

**NL August Leaders:** Bernie Williams batted .388. Todd Walker batted 127 times. Shawn Green slugged 17 homers. Brian Giles walked 23 times. Jim Edmonds whiffed 37 times. Jose Vizcaino executed 8 sac bunts. Chipper Jones posted a .481 OBP. Brad Fullmer batted .439 off RHP's. Mark Mulder sported a 2.17 ERA. Randy Wolf tossed two shutouts. Roberto Hernandez picked up 8 saves. Charles Nagy allowed 72 hits. Scott Schoeneweis yielded 23 bases on balls. Jared Fernandez uncorked 6 wild pitches. Curt Schilling rang up 56 hitters. Randy Johnson allowed only 5.8 hits per 9 innings. Casey Fossum posted an 8.50 K to BB ratio.

NL STATS LEADERBOARD									
Hits	Hit by pitch	Runs created per 27 outs	Runs scored						
Bernie Williams	191	David Eckstein	24	Brian Giles	10.2	Derek Jeter	127		
Derek Jeter	180	Fernando Vina	18	Larry Walker	9.5	Sammy Sosa	119		
Todd Helton	178	Brad Fullmer	16	Todd Helton	9.0	Shawn Green	111		
Jeff Kent	177	Melvin Mora	14	Shawn Green	8.8	Todd Helton	107		
Ichiro	175	Reggie Sanders	13	Bob Abreu	8.7	Bob Abreu	107		

## Award Watch

This month's watch finds three hitters who are quietly performing integral roles in their club's championship dreams. Three talented pitchers make the list and should be heard from even more in future BRASSball seasons.

Award	Player	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB		
AL MVP	Nomar Garciaparra, CC	.308	.347	.565	32	100	97	6		
NL MVP	Bernie Williams, STA	.351	.424	.496	13	80	100	4		
NL ROY	Ramon Vazquez, GA	.293	.358	.403	3	32	65	3		
		W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	K	
AL CY	Tim Hudson, BAK	16	6	0	3.88	216	236	61	124	
NL CY	Barry Zito, GA	16	10	0	3.60	207	184	89	159	
AL ROY	Roy Halladay, SB	14	10	0	3.38	205	170	84	146	

## September roster reminder

You are allowed to use players on MO contracts without the benefit of a callup assessment in September. Please also remember that there is a 35-man roster limit in September.

## September 25<sup>th</sup>

The 25<sup>th</sup> is a big contract deadline for renewals, cuts and extensions. All this stuff **must** find its way to Corey. Please see the deadline section below for the specifics.

## Dues

Good news here guys- BRASSball has all it should need to make it through to 2004. As such, no dues will be requested this offseason.

## Fines

None ☺

## Trades

75. Metropolis trades Christ Magruder to Fleetwood for an autographed Marv Throneberry baseball card.
76. Charlevoix trades Wil Cordero and \$100,000 to Fleetwood for Chad Hermansen.
77. Glen Allen trades Jacob Cruz and Jason Romano to Charlevoix for Charlevoix's 2004 8th round draft choice.
78. Toledo trades Todd Zeile to Hessville for \$75,000.

## Upcoming League Deadlines

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| September 15 <sup>th</sup> | Results due to both opponents, Dave and Corey                        |
| September 25 <sup>th</sup> | Any ideas for changing BRASSball due to Mark                         |
| September 25 <sup>th</sup> | Contract extension deadline (due to Corey)                           |
| September 25 <sup>th</sup> | Contract renewal deadline for players on MO contracts (due to Corey) |
| September 25 <sup>th</sup> | Any player cuts you wish to make (due to Corey)                      |

## Guest Authors

Jim Clark has the latest news from Glen Allen for us.

## Next Issue of “League News”

The season is wrapped up and a look ahead to the playoff fun. Plus, all kinds of voting takes place.

### [Mets Watch August 2003](#)

#### **And the player of the month for July...**

This reporter could not pick out one guy so instead will recognize the outstanding work of “The Dude’s Crew”. The members of the Glen Allen bullpen have t-shirts with this designation for their coach’s nickname. John Stearns was a former Major league All-Star catcher and the current Mets bullpen coach. “The Dude” as he was called during his playing days was delighted with the news, “This past month was great! Luis Vizciano has been outstanding all season. He leads the crew with 43 games, 56 IP, 57K and contributed 5 saves this month of his 14. Current save leader E. Y. (Esteban Yan) has 19 and chipped in 3 and the two young guys have been unbelievable!”

Mike Venafro developed a sore shoulder after an extended outing in North Georgia and wound up on the disabled list this month, but Scott Mullen came up to fill that left-hander role. He pitched 16 innings allowing 11 hits and only one run and three saves. Right-handed setup man Jason Grimsley was

also on the disabled list and his replacement was Brendan Donnelly. He pitched 29.2 inning allowing 21 hits and striking out 31 and only walking 6 with 4 saves. Even Todd Jones, the veteran workhorse lowered his ERA to 3.86 from 4.54.

“The Dude” and his crew gathered for photographs while wearing their t-shirts after receiving the news as players of the month.

Mets Pitching coach Jimmy Key also could not be happier, “The crew has developed a friendship and comradely beyond merely teammates. Since they always sit together during the games, often isolated from the rest of the Mets they have developed into their own little team within the team. It’s not the dreaded cliché because they also get along great with the rest of the guys!”

### Hey, Hey Hey, What’s Albert up to?

Pujols was quietly disappointed that his stats did not allow him to gain a position on the National League All-Star team, “I’ve just been a little off all year.”

Only batting .286 with 21 doubles and 20 homeruns with a team leading 80 RBI while playing in all 112 games at either first, third or left field. “I hope to get hot in the last couple of months and lead our team into the playoffs.”

### Injury Report

- + Esteban Yan sore ankle replaced by Bob Wickman
  - + Mike Venafro to return for August
  - + Orlando Hernandez to return for August