



BRASSball League News

May 2004

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AL Report

(AL Reporter – Robert Smith)

AL Notes

AL EAST Expanded Standings						
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs LH	1-RUN
Bakersfield Rattlers	28-28	---	15-13	13-15	12-10	10-8
Moline Cutters	23-33	5	13-15	10-18	11-11	9-9
Hessville Everreadys	18-38	10	11-17	7-21	6-16	8-6
Minnesota Mudcats	15-41	13	8-20	7-21	6-16	4-17

The Rattlers went 14-14 again in May thus increasing their lead in the East to 5 games. AJ Pierzynski hit a whopping .391 for the month while Andruw Jones supplied the pop with 12 homeruns and 22 rbi. Jeremy Burnitz also contributed to the tune of 7 homeruns and 23 rbi. The pitching staff was led by pitcher of the month Tim Hudson. Hudson went 5-1 with a sparkling 2.47 era. Wade Miller also had a good month going 4-0 with a 3.43 era.

AL BATTING: J. Phillips, MAU .395, Ibanez, PAR .383, Thome, NWH .380

The Cutters went 13-15 for the month of May to remain in 2nd place, 5 games behind Bakersfield. Pedro Feliz had another solid month smacking 10 homeruns while driving in 21. Despite hitting only .177, Torii Hunter hit 8 homeruns and drove in 19. Ramon Martinez provided the spark hitting .364 with 11 doubles. The pitching was solid as both Carlos Zambrano and Mark Prior were 3-0 with low ERA's. Elmer Dessens' job could be in jeopardy after posting a 1-5 record and a terrible 7.33 era.

AL RBI: Thome, NWH 31, Ibanez, PAR 28, M. Ramirez, BOS 26, Salmon, PAR 24

The Everreadys continued to struggle as they again went 9-19 to fall 10 games back. One of the offensive bright spots for Hessville was the ageless Craig Biggio. Biggio hit .303 with 8 doubles and 2 homeruns. Power continues to be a problem for the Everreadys as they hit only 19 homeruns for the month. The pitching was pounded to the tune of a 7.10 era. Everyone chipped in but by far the biggest culprit was Steve Parris who had a whopping 21.27 era and a 0-4 record. In 22 innings Parris yielded a mind-boggling 70 hits.

AL OBP: Thome, NWH .473, J. Phillips, MAU .459, Ibanez, PAR .454

The Mudcats improved on their April record by going 9-19 in May, still good for last place though. Minnesota had a good offensive month batting .288 as a team with 37 homeruns. Alex Rodriguez continued to put up solid power numbers hitting 8 homeruns while driving in 18, but he continues to struggle with his batting average hitting only .238 for May. Craig Wilson had a big month for the Mudcats with 8 homeruns, 16 rbi and a .351 batting average in only 57 at bats. Jeremy Bonderman pitched well for an otherwise underwhelming pitching staff going 3-0 with a 4.75 era.

AL HITS: Ibanez, PAR 44, R. Martinez, MOL 43, M. Young, PAR 42, Thome, NWH 41

AL CENTRAL Expanded Standings						
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs LH	1-RUN
New Hampshire	33-23	---	21-7	12-16	12-9	10-12
Cook County	27-29	6	12-16	15-13	9-13	4-6
Plaza Lions	23-33	10	11-17	12-16	7-12	4-7
Box City Parcelman	22-34	11	13-15	9-19	7-14	5-6

New Hampshire increased their lead in the Central division with an impressive 17-11 record in May. Offensively the Derry Heifers ripped apart the league batting .295 with 40 homeruns and 162 rbi. They were led by the player of the month Jim Thome. Thome hit 10 homeruns drove in 31 and hit .380. Also contributing was Jose Cruz Jr who hit .327 with 5 homeruns and 20 rbi. The pitching staff held their own as well. Closer Fransico Rodriguez notched 7 saves to go with a 0.90 era. Middleman Chad Bradford appeared in a stunning 26 of the Derry Heifers 28 games. Bradford was 4-1 with a 3.94 era.

AL HR'S: A. Jones, BAK 12, M. Ramirez, BOS 11, N. Johnson, LIO 11

Who said the Maulers were rebuilding? Cook County went 15-13 for the month to remain in 2nd place 6 games back. The Maulers were led by rookie of the year candidate Jason Phillips who hit .395 with 3 homeruns and 16 rbi. Chris Stynes also had a big month hitting .368 with 11 doubles, 4 homeruns and 17 rbi. The pitching staff came around for the Maulers in May as the team pitched to a respectable 4.29 era. Jon Garland led the way with a 2-0 record and a 2.09 era.

AL RUNS SCORED: N. Johnson, LIO 26, Thome, NWH 25, M. Ramirez, BOS 24

The Plaza Lions also improved on their April record going 13-15. Offensively the Lions were led by Geoff Jenkins who hit .314 with 8 homeruns and 20 rbi. Nick Johnson continued his fine season hitting .282 with 11 homeruns and 22 rbi. The Lions pitching staff got a shot in the arm from rookie Brett Myers. Myers was 3-1 with a 2.09 era. Ben Sheets contributed a 3-3 record but had a robust 4.81 era.

AL STEALS: Pierre, BUL 18, Podsednik, BUL 10, D. Roberts, TOL 9, E. Young, MUD 9

The Box City Parcelman remained in last place in the tough central division despite their 14-14 record. The Parcelman had a big offensive month as a team hitting .299 with 40 homeruns. Box City was led by Raul Ibanez' .383 batting average, 5 homeruns and 28 rbi. Michael Young had another solid month batting .333 with 6 doubles, 4 triples and 3 homeruns. The offense

wasn't just led by the younger guys as veteran Tim Salmon hit .295 with 7 homers and 24 rbi. Pitching continued to be the problem for Box City as the team era was 7.16. Brett Tomko was lucky to get some offensive support as he was 4-1 but posted a 4.65 era.

AL WEST Expanded Standings						
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs LH	1-RUN
Santa Barbara	33-23	---	18-10	15-13	8-6	8-12
Toledo Mudhens	32-24	1	19-9	13-15	8-8	5-11
Boston Rust	23-33	10	12-16	11-17	7-9	6-6
Brooklyn Bulldogs	19-37	14	10-18	9-19	7-9	9-11

The Outlaws broke free of their April tie with Toledo to go 15-13 in May, grabbing a slim 1 game lead. Garret Anderson continued to lead an otherwise disappointing Outlaw offense hitting .374 with 3 homeruns and 17 rbi. Nomar Garciaparra chipped in with 4 homeruns and 14 rbi. The Outlaws are in 1st place because of their pitching staff. The Outlaw staff compiled a mesmerizing team era of 3.04. Leading the way for the Outlaws was Roy Halladay who went 3-1 with a 2.05 era. Not to be outdone Bartolo Colon was 4-0 with a 2.17 era.

AL SAVES: Kim, OUT 8, Cordero, NWH 7, Foulke, RAT 6, Guardado, TOL 5

The Mudhens slipped 1 game back after going 14-14. Toledo had a tough time offensively as the team could only manage 27 homeruns with a .241 batting average. Bill Mueller was one of the lone bright spots as he hit .279 with 3 homeruns and 13 rbi. David Ortiz continued to put up power numbers hitting 5 homers while driving in 16. The pitching kept the Mudhens afloat in May. The team era was a solid 3.35. Leading the way was Mike Mussina who contributed a 4-3 record with a 3.05 era while rookie Ryan Franklin continued to impress with a 4-0 record and 3.27 era.

AL APPS: Bradford, NWH 26, Cordero, NWH 16, Fuentes, MAU 16

Boston fell 10 games behind West-leading Santa Barbara in May posting a horrible 7-21 record. Another weak hitting offensive display in the west as the Rust hit .253 as a team with only 22 homers. Aubrey Huff had a big month hitting .304 with 5 homers and 20 rbi. Fresh off his player of the month award for April, Manny Ramirez continued to shine batting .296 with 11 homers and 26 rbi. The Rust pitching staff fared no better as they were hit with a 7.18 era. Kevin Millwood was the lone bright spot as he pitched to a 3-3 record and 3.70 era.

AL OPP BA: Zambrano, MOL .159, J. Gonzalez, MAU, .169, Wood, BUL .170

The Bulldogs continued to keep the basement warm in the west with a 9-19 month. If you thought the other western division teams couldn't hit you didn't watch the Bulldogs. Brooklyn's offense was missing in action. The team hit .232 with an abysmal 13 homeruns and 70 rbi. Rookie Scott Podsednik continued his hot hitting with a .304 average and 10 stolen bases. The other speedster, Juan Pierre, swiped 18 bases while hitting .282. Pitching helped Brooklyn get their 9 wins. Rookie Zach Day was solid posting a 2-2 record to go with a 2.92 era. April's pitcher of the month, Kerry Wood received no support as he was 1-3 with a 3.15 era.

American League Player of the Month: Jim Thome

American League Pitcher of the Month: Tim Hudson

NL Report

(NL Reporter – Ray Martin)

Another dominant month by the NL has been realized. The NL is currently a ridiculous +80 versus the Junior Circuit. In fact, the six best records in Brass belong to NL teams. Unfortunately, the inter-league portion is winding down and these records will no longer be able to increase versus the weaker AL.

The battle between the NL best continues to be a good one, as both Corey and Andy continue to win games at above a .750 clip, Corey at a juggernaut pace of over .800. The NL East is clearly the division of balance as three teams are separated by less than three games, with only Port Richey falling out of the fold. Stanley has forged a solid lead, but not insurmountable, as Bloomington is still hanging around at .500.

#1 Ocala (45-11) Predicted/Previous Week (#2/#1)

Ocala remains #1 with a 22-6 month. This team is simply dominant. A mix of the 3rd best hitting and 4th best pitching has elevated them clearly to the top. The hitting did fall off slightly in May with a team average of .264, but this didn't reflect in a fall off in their record for the month. Helton continues to put up MVP type numbers and hit .315 with nine dingers and 22 RBI for the month. These efforts were greatly enhanced with the pop provided from Giles (.329, 3, 13), Sheffield (.290, 7, 21), and Boone (.300, 7, 20). On the pitching side an outstanding 2.66 era was forged with the entire staff's input. Cormier continues to get the majority of the save opportunities (6 of 10 for the month). Oswalt dominated for the month compiling a 2.19 era in six starts and a 3-0 record. Shields was the biggest winner for the month, going 5-0 in five starts and pitching two complete games to go along with a 2.87 era. Having stretched their lead out to three games, these fine individual results will have to continue to stave off the meteoric Metropolis bunch.

#2 Metropolis (42-14) Predicted/Previous Week (#1/#2)

Another dominant month for Metropolis, but Ocala remains ahead of them and clearly perched in the one hole. On the offensive side they were well served with the nearly twin production of Bonds (.310, 10, 23) and Sexson (.300, 10, 30). These efforts clearly led a mediocre overall offense for the month with a .255 composite team average. The pitching accumulated an amazing 2.32 team Era, with two Cy Young contenders leading the way. Pedro made six starts, going 4-2, striking out over a guy an inning and having a ratio of well under a 1.0. Schmidt went 3-0, with two complete games and a shutout in just five starts. These efforts were bolstered by a renaissance by Johnson (5-0 in six starts with 44 K's). The bullpen stepped up as well, with Wagner, Dotel and Gagne accumulating six saves in 30 innings while also managing a ridiculous 47 K's. Everything remains in place for this to be the clearly dominant team in the NL, save those pesky studs from Ocala.

#3 Glen Allen (38-18) Predicted/Previous Week (#4/#3)

Glen Allen stays the best amongst the second tier in the NL. The offense was solid throughout the month, as many players were utilized likely for future usage purposes. The .291 average demonstrates that the managing of this was well done. Both Pujols (.348, 9 and 20) and Nixon (.322, 4 and 20) played magnificently in fulltime action. Once again behind the scenes this

team did extremely well with 111 walks for the month versus just 159 K's. The pitching was also solid with a stalwart effort being provided by Zito (5-0 in six starts). The team was 18-5 without the efforts of Hampton (0-5 for the month). One ace in place of Hampton and we'd be talking about the big three in the NL, rather than just the pair.

#4 Stanley (37-19) Predicted/Previous Week (#3/#4)

Stanley continues to lead their division and enjoys one of the largest leads in Brass. However, they are seriously in jeopardy of being tagged the fifth-to-seventh-best team in the NL. The offense was clearly trying to avoid this fate with a composite .310 average and 57 dingers. The individual efforts were many, but Lopez (.389, 13 and 39) was just Ruthian. Koskie, Winn, Alou and Edmonds combined to hit over .300 with 19 homers and 65 RBI. The pitching remains the difficult part for this team, as they had a combined, and less than stellar, 4.85 ERA. Only Kevin Brown (2-0 with 3.55 ERA) pitched well amongst the starters. Ayala, Hammond and Hasegawa led the pen, but they too fell prey to giving up the long ball, which greatly masked the offensive production. This team needs a couple of the middle of the rotation type starters and a dominant bullpen arm to move up from their current ranking.

#5 Charlevoix (38-18) Predicted/Previous Week (#11/#8)

Okay, I'm starting to believe, but I'm not sure how this is happening. Back to back 19-9 records have resulted in the jump to #5 and the highest ranking versus their preseason thought prowess. Offensively, this team remains outstanding. A .301 average for the month, while resting some studs (amazing), while also hitting 55 HR's is simply awesome. The bats were led by Green (.367, 5, 23) Loretta (.339, 3, 9) and Pena (.317, 8, 24). These overachievers filled in admirably while Guerrero was rested for a dominant conclusion to the season. The pen with Lidge, Adams and Sparks again surprised, but is simply too weak to allow for consistent bullpen success without garnishing another power arm to go along with Lidge. The starters continue to utilize Vaseline, KY, emory boards and good ole fashion spit to stay in games long enough for the offense to win the games. ☺ Glavine and Leiter pitched okay, but gave up way too many HR's. 21 of the 37 allowed HR's came from this duo with Lowe included as well. Lowe, along with Suppan represent the greatest hindrance to further improvement for this team.

#6 Springfield (35-21) Predicted/Previous Week (#5/#5)

Springfield falls one spot, but still looks to have the talent to place higher, but not to challenge the big two. The offensive was solid with a .289 average and clouting a respectable 37 HR's. The offense was aided from the power of Blalock (.250, 9, 25). Berroa, Martinez and Grissom all cleared .300 and were heavily depended upon for offense. Berroa at .370 and Martinez with nearly a .500 OB% were the foundation blocks for the team. The starters were solid with all five being respectable or at least expected to be in the future, in the case of Mulder. Washburn (4-0 3.33 ERA), Redman (1-2, 3.58 ERA and 1 CG), Ortiz (2-1, 4.35 ERA and 1CG), Mulder (4-1, 4.65) and Lohse (2-3, 4.46 and 2 CG) are the anchors to an otherwise mediocre pitching staff. The pen survived another month with Ryan, Shuey and Remlinger keeping leads and doing well to provide dependable late inning relief. Shuey going six for six in save opportunities was surprising and his being depended upon speaks highly to the need to secure a power arm in the pen for this season to stay on track.

#7 Gem City (31-25) Predicted/Previous Week (#9/#7)

Gem City would be a title contender if only they were in the AL. As is, they are closest to an 11 game uphill battle for the wildcard. That being said they had another solid month behind the hitting of Walker (.363, 2HR, 18RBI and 12 walks. Also contributing to the effort were Lofton (.330 and 10 steals) and Spiezio (.298, 20 Runs, 4HR's and 13 RBI). This solid hitting was greatly enhanced through a 3.76 era, which fell on two starters (Radke 2-4 3.08 and Ponson 3-2 with a 3.48 ERA) and a solid pen (Franco 1.69 ERA in 16 innings, Looper 1.29 ERA in 7 innings, Brower 2-1, 2 saves in 19 innings and White with solid production in 13 appearances encompassing nearly 25 innings). With little to no hope of a playoff berth in the stacked NL, and stuck behind Brass's two finest team, Gem City will have a great deal to do with settling the playoff participants either through dealing losses or through becoming an active trading partner to those above them with holes.

#8 Bloomington (28-28) Predicted/Previous Week (#5/#6)

12 more wins and a .500 record allow them to maintain the #8 spot. The bullpen and weak 3-5 in the rotation eliminated another month with a winning record. The offense however was up to the task with an accumulated .307 average. Soriano is an MVP candidate with a .402 average, 5HR, 23 RBI, 22 Runs and 11 steals for the month. Rodriguez (.381, 6 HR, 17 RBI and 20 Runs), Conine (.370, 6HR and 24 RBI) and Suzuki (.326, 3 HR, 13 RBI, 20 Runs and 9 Steals) were all highly productive in the 12 wins. Borowski did his damndest giving up 0 earned runs in 13+ innings, but Rivera managed to secure three losses to go with his mere four saves and cinched a losing record for the month. Beckett (3.24 ERA in 25 innings and 3-0 record) and Sabathia (3.67 ERA, 2CG and 3-0 record in 34 innings) were stalwarts in the rotation. Unlike higher rated Gem City, Bloomington remains in the divisional race with a worse record, but a nine game deficit will need to be addressed in the next month's play.

#9 North Georgia (22-34) Predicted/Previous Week (#7/#9)

North Georgia joins Gem City and the rest of the NL non-contenders in having the pleasure of determining the playoff berths of others through games played or active trading. May saw not a lot of highlights as the team combined for a .260 average and a less than stellar 5.04 ERA. Smoltz rebounded from a rough April with a 2-0 record, 3 saves and 2.31 ERA. Schoenweis was heavily depended upon for 31 relief innings just to get through games without greater inflicted damage. T. Lilly, rumored to be on the block, deserved better than his 1-4 record. David Wells, H. Ramirez and A. Pettite all were truly forgettable, at least for non-North Georgia fans. On the offensive side only Renteria was deserving of praise with a .314 Ave, 20 Runs, 13 RBI and 7 steals. Teixeira was a severe disappointment with a .213 average and just 3HR and 13 RBI in fulltime action.

#10 Maine (23-33) Predicted/Previous Week (#8/#10)

No real improvement here, but no greater decline realized as well. The team averaged .249 for the month and had an okay ERA of 4.95. The pitching was led steadily by May (3-3 with a 3.55 ERA), Hentgen (3-1 with a 3.66 ERA) and Santana (0-4 but a respectable 3.92 ERA). K. Wunsch got an amazing 5 saves with a 0.00 ERA in just seven innings. Carlos Beltran is truly a man amongst boys on this team and showed it with a .337, 3HR and 14 RBI, this coupled with his 22 runs represented the offensive highlights for the month

#11 Port Richey (22-34) Predicted/Previous Week (#12/#11)

Identical 11-17 records still kept them out of the NL cellar. With a .299 cumulative average and a 4.22 ERA they certainly could've had a much better month. Mientkiewicz (.410, 2HR, 18

RBI and 21 RBI) was simply dominant. His efforts and those of Payton (.398, 6HR, 23RBI and 20 Runs) were simply the leaders of a fine effort from nearly all of the Port Richey hitters. The pitching with Speier (2 saves in 22 quality innings), DeLosSantos (3.33 in 27 innings despite 18 walks) and Victor Zambrano (3.35 ERA and 3-0) was solid as well. Despite the monthly improvement on offense and defense, they still need to find a way to win the close games or at least garnish a little greater luck.

#12 Fleetwood (15-41) Predicted/Previous Week (#10/#12)

The 6.31 ERA says it all. Only in competitive softball would this be good. The offense clearly led the way in the 9 wins by hitting .274. Abreu and Jimenez led the way by both clearing .300. Fultz and Boehringer were surprisingly effective in 35 relief innings. J. Seo went 2-1 in six starts with a 3.41 ERA. After these three the performances for regular pitchers was truly dismal. This team, like those immediately above them, is in the enviable position of being able to hold the keys to the contender's chances and can clearly make out through astute trades and salary dumping for future flexibility.

National League Player of the Month: Javy Lopez

National League Pitcher of the Month: Pedro Martinez

Statistician Position: Still Open

Dave Little has decided to resign his post as League Statistician, effective immediately or until a viable replacement is found (or he decides he wants to stay longer). If you have interest in this position, let me know. Be sure to elaborate on your experience / abilities. In other words, explain the things that will make you an asset in this position.

Trades

72. Cook County trades Carl Everett to New Hampshire for Bubba Nelson and New Hampshire's 2005 2nd round draft choice.
73. Toledo trades Felix Rodriguez and Julio Franco to Charlevoix for Charlevoix's 2006 2nd round draft choice.

Upcoming League Deadlines

June 15

June Home Series Results deadline

Series results for June are due to home opponents, League Statistician and Backup Statistician.

July Trade deadline.

Trades must be reported to the LD by this date to be effective for July

June 25

July Rotation deadline.

Starting pitcher rotations for July games due to the LD.

July Road Instructions deadline.

Instructions (HAL) for July games are due to road opponents.

League Membership Articles

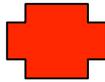
Jim Clark's Met Watch is below.

Mets Watch May 2004

Still in First Place in N. L. East

The Mets remain on top of their division, although they are actually tied with Charlevoix with 38-18 records, which is the third best in all of Brassball. Manager Clark, although please with his team's present position reiterates an annual message to the team, "The season is not the 60 yard dash but rather a marathon. We are about one third of the way to the finish line, so we must continue to play our game, be fundamentally sound cut down on our mistakes and take advantage of what the opponent gives us. We are doing well in all facets of our game, but there is always room for some improvement. We realize that injuries and slumps are something to contend with, so minor changes will be in order. "

Pitching Coach Jimmy Key like to see the team ERA around the 4.20 mark, but we still give up too many walks. "My biggest disappointment so far has been Hampton. Mike was a key acquisition in the off-season and he did not pitch too well last month. (Stats: 0-5 29.1 IP 53 hits and 28 earned runs) I have been please with the work of Jeriome Robertson and his two complete games, which is second on the team to Zito. Next month he will get an additional start from Hampton."



Claudio Vargas- hyper extended elbow will be on disabled list at least two months, spot in the rotation will be take by Runelvys Hernandez who had been on rehab.

David Segui- knee trouble will be replaced by Ricky Ledee.

Mark McLemore- shoulder trouble has led to poor hitting and defense, replaced by Chris Gomez.

Luis Vizciano-blister mop up role will go to Juan Rincon.



Maintenance Award: Melvin Mora batted .387 in April and again in May.

Most RBI: Dimitri Young 24 for the month.

Improved average: Reed Johnson +51 points.

Player of the month: Albert (I want to go to the All-Star game) Pujols- nine home runs, 20 RBI, 39 hits, 8 doubles, 33 runs.

Plummeted average: Vance Wilson from .400 to .264 & Quinton McCracken .360 to .237



Barry Zito has started the season 10-0. He thanked his teammates for coming back when he pitched his worst game against Minnesota and they got him off the hook.