



BRASSball League News

September 2004

www.brassball.org

Playoffs

With the end of the season come the playoffs. Here are this year's entrants.

American League

AL West Winner (#1 Seed) – Toledo Mudhens
AL Central Winner (#2 Seed) – New Hampshire Derry Heifers
AL East Winner (#3 Seed) – Bakersfield Rattlers
AL Wildcard #1 (#4 Seed) – Santa Barbara Outlaws
AL Wildcard #2 (#5 Seed) – Cook County Maulers

If Santa Barbara defeats Cook County, they will travel to New Hampshire to face the Derry Heifers. If the Maulers pull out the victory, they will travel to Toledo.

National League

NL West Winner (#1 Seed) – Metropolis Avengers
NL Central Winner (#2 Seed) – Stanley Sioux
NL East Winner (#3 Seed) – Springfield Isotopes
NL Wildcard #1 (#4 Seed) – Ocala Ocelots
NL Wildcard #2 (#5 Seed) – Glen Allen Mets

If Ocala defeats Glen Allen, they will travel to Stanley to face the Sioux. If the Mets win, they will travel to Metropolis.

AL Report

(AL Reporter – Robert Smith)

AL EAST Expanded Standings						
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs LH	1-RUN
Bakersfield Rattlers	86-76	---	45-36	41-40	28-19	30-20
Minnesota Mudcats	72-90	14	41-40	31-50	24-28	16-26
Moline Cutters	69-93	17	34-47	35-46	25-23	30-24
Hessville Everreadys	65-97	21	39-42	26-55	18-29	21-21

The Rattlers won the AL East with an 86-76 record. Offensively the team was led by Derek Lee who hit .283 with 42 homeruns and 92 rbi's. Lee tied for 3rd with a .416 oBP. Also contributing on offense was Andruw Jones who batted .264 with 40 homeruns and a team high 103 rbi. The pitching staff was led by CY-Young candidate Tim Hudson, who went 22-6 with a 2.54 era. In the bullpen Keith Foulke was impressive with 8 wins and 34 saves to go with a 3.36 era.

AL BATTING: ANDERSON, OUT .341 RAMIREZ, BOS .339 YOUNG, PAR .331

Minnesota finished strong in September going 14-8 for the month to just fall short of a wild card berth by one game. The offense was led by none other than Alex Rodriguez who led the team with a .298 batting average, 53 homeruns and 149 rbi's. Also contributing on offense was Jay gibbons who batted .266 with 29 hr's and 105 rbi. The pitching wasn't as strong as the team era was a robust 5.41. Rookie Jeremy Bonderman led the team in wins with 11 but finished with a 6.02 era.

AL RBI: RAMIREZ, BOS 160 A.RODRIGUEZ, MIN 149 THOME, NWH 139

The Moline Cutters fell to 3rd place with a 7-15 month of September. Edgardo Alfonzo led a rather disappointing offense hitting .283 with 20 homers and 73 rbi. Rookie Rocco Baldelli contributed a .276 average with 27 doubles, 19 homers and 28 stolen bases. The pitching staff was led by two rookies, Carlos Zambrano went 13-10 with a 3.25 era and Mark Prior who also went 13-10 with a 3.38 era.

AL OBP: THOME, NWH .427 RAMIREZ, BOS .416 LEE, RAT .416

The Everreadys finished in last place with a 65-97 record. Craig Biggio was the star offensively hitting .296 with 44 doubles, 13 homers and 60 rbi's. Rondell White led the team in homers with 24 and rbi with 82. Rookie Dontrelle Willis led a disappointing pitching staff by going 14-5 with a 3.77 era.

AL HITS: M.YOUNG, PAR 218 IBANEZ, PAR 204 ANDERSON, OUT 203

AL CENTRAL Expanded Standings						
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs LH	1-RUN
New Hampshire	89-73	---	54-27	35-46	24-17	27
Cook County	73-89	16	34-47	39-42	21-21	16-26
Box City Parcelman	72-90	17	39-42	33-48	17-25	18-14
Plaza Lions	63-99	26	34-47	29-52	15-20	15-24

New Hampshire cruised to the central division title with a 89-73 record. Offensively the Derry Heifers led the AL with 240 homeruns. MVP candidate Jim Thome led the charge with a .321 average, 57 homers and 139 rbi. Magglio Ordonez also contributed with a .298 average 25 homers and 95 rbi. The pitching staff was solid as well led by a strong bullpen. Francisco Cordero led that bullpen with a 7-2 record, 20 saves and a 1.42 era. Kenny Rogers led the team with a 15-5 record.

AL HR'S: RAMIREZ, BOS 60 THOME, NWH 57 A.RODRIGUEZ, MIN 53

This was supposed to be a rebuilding year for the Maulers but instead went 73-89 to grab the final wild card spot in the AL. Josh Phelps led the team with 28 homers and 80 rbi. Rookie

Jason Phillips hit .310 with 12 homers and 63 rbi in a limited role. John Lackey led the Maulers staff with 11 wins, but had 15 losses and a 6.25 era. Rookie Jon Garland had a 10-11 record with a 3.90 era.

AL RUNS SCORED: RAMIREZ,BOS 132 THOME,NWH 132 A.RODRIGUEZ,MIN 124

The Parcelmen led a late charge to finish 72-90, one game behind the last playoff spot. Offensively, Box City led the AL with a team batting average of .289. Michael Young finished 3rd in the AL with a .331 batting average and led the league in hits with 218. Raul Ibanez also had a big year with 204 hits, 42 doubles and 126 rbi. The pitching was the problem as the team era was 6.33. Cory Lidle led the team with 15 wins but had a 4.92 era.

AL STEALS: CRAWFORD,MAU 83 PIERRE,BUL 56 PODSEDNIK,BUL 50

The Lions finished in last place with a 63-99 record. Offensively the team was led by Geoff Jenkins who hit .295 with 29 hr and 94 rbi. Preston Wilson led the team with 39 hr and 108 rbi but hit only .245. The pitching staff was led by rookie Brett Myers, who was 10-12 with a 4.78 era. Ben Sheets had a rough year going 9-18 with a 5.12 era.

AL WEST Expanded Standings						
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs LH	1-RUN
Toledo Mudhens	108-54	---	59-22	49-32	28-17	23-22
Santa Barbara	93-69	15	47-34	46-35	22-20	20-34
Boston Rust	62-100	46	34-47	28-53	17-31	18-27
Brooklyn Bulldogs	59-103	49	31-50	28-53	16-28	25-25

The Toledo Mudhens finished with the best record in the AL going 108-54. Offensively David Ortiz led the way with a .316 average, 51 doubles, 33 hr's and 116 rbi. Bill Mueller had a solid season batting .275 with 37 doubles, 15 homers and 93 rbi. The pitching staff was the story for Toledo as they finished 2nd in the AL in both team era and opponents batting average. Rookie Ryan Franklin was 21-4 with a 4.30 era, Esteban Loaiza was 19-10 with a 3.49 era and Mike Mussina went 17-10 with a 2.80 era.

AL SAVES: KIM, OUT 44 FOULKE,RAT 34 REITSMA,MAU 26

Santa Barbara finished 2nd in the West but received a wild card berth with a 93-69 record. Garret Anderson led the offense with a .341 average and 53 doubles; he also slugged 28 homers while driving in 123. Nomar Garciaparra also had a solid season hitting .293 with 28 doubles, 14 triples and 22 homeruns. The Outlaws pitching staff was sensational as they led the AL in both team era at 2.90 and opponents batting average at .213. CY-Young favorite Roy Halladay was 22-3 with a 1.94 era, while teammate Bartolo Colon was 18-9 with a 2.66 era.

AL APPS: WESTBROOK, LIO 80 REITSMA,MAU 74 KIM,OUT 68

The Boston Rust finished off a disappointing season with a 5-17 month of September. Where would the Rust of been without MVP candidate Manny Ramirez. Ramirez just missed the triple crown by coming in 2nd in hitting at .339 and leading the league in both hr's at 60 and rbi at 160. The "forgotten" Ramirez, Aramis had a big season with 32 hr's and 106 rbi. The pitching staff was led by Kevin Millwood who went 14-12 with a 4.33 era.

AL OPP/BA: WOOD,BUL 144 HALLADAY,OUT 186 COLON,OUT 202

The Bulldogs finished in last place once again going 59-103. There was a power outage in Brooklyn this year as the team could manage only 103 homeruns. On the flip side the Bulldogs led the AL in steals with 180. Rookie Scott Podsednik had a solid season battin .291 with 32 doubles and 50 stolen bases. The pitching staff was led by Kerry Wood who went 12-8 and with a 2.72 era. He led the AL in strikeouts with 258 and opponents batting average at 1.44.

EXTRA INNINGS

Looking back at my predictions for the season I predicted the following...

AL East
Bakersfield
Moline
Minnesota
Hessville

What really happened

AL East
Bakersfield
Minnesota
Moline
Hessville

I predicted the AL Central as follows...

AL Central
New Hampshire
Box City
Plaza
Cook County

What really happened

Al Central
New Hampshire
Cook County
Box City
Plaza

And finally in the West I predicted...

AL West
Toledo
Santa Barbara
Boston
Brooklyn

What really happened

AL West

Toledo
 Santa Barbara
 Boston
 Brooklyn

Not too bad for my first year. Now to try my hand at predicting the AL playoffs...

I think Santa Barbara with it's solid pitching and timely hitting will revenge their 2nd place finish in the AL West and represent the American League in the BRASSSball Championship game. Good Luck to all the playoff participants.

NL Report

(NL Reporter – Ray Martin)

FINAL NL POWER RATINGS

Rank	Team (PR)	Record	Home	Away	RS	RA	Notes/Highlights for Season:
#1	Metropolis (#1)	127-35	66-15	61-20	1054	509	Finish as predicted in the #1 slot with a fine mix of pitching and hitting. Only seven games with Ocala stands in their way with destiny.
#2	Ocala (#2)	119-43	65-16	54-27	1074	633	Undeniably one of the finest teams ever assembled in League History, but finished, as predicted in the two hole. World Series will likely be determined when Juggernauts collide.
#3	Stanley (#3)	104-58	51-30	53-28	967	718	Division title and projection at #3 have been assured, but the they'll face a daunting task in trying o slay at least one of the powerhouses if their fine season is to continue.
#4	Springfield (#5)	99-63	55-26	44-37	911	728	One game truly meant a lot here, as they move up one spot higher than projected, but more importantly avoid a wildcard match-up with Ocala.
#5	Glen Allen (#4)	98-64	48-33	50-31	910	744	The good news is that your in the playoffs and truly reached projections with a fine season, unfortunately they look to lose in five to Ocala.
#6	Charlevoix (#11)	92-70	45-36	47-34	1020	927	Third most runs in the league, fourth most given up says it all. What a fun team and it is a shame that Cinderella does not get to continue with what was predicted as improbable. Congrats!!!
#7	Bloomington(#6)	86-76	46-35	40-41	917	879	Finished strong and likely would have been a major player in the much weaker AL. Fine season projects to an even brighter future.
#8	Gem City (#9)	78-84	38-43	40-41	799	843	Solid team building towards the future. Finished ahead of two higher projected teams and can be proud of their season long effort.
#9	Maine (#8)	67-95	30-51	37-44	740	873	Lack of pitching and damn near worst home record leads to the nearly 100 loss plateau being reached.
#10	N. Georgia (#7)	59-103	28-53	31-50	735	940	Fell steadily towards the end with roster adjustments and GM's decision to look to the future. Should merit high draft picks and has maintained some parts for the foundation of tomorrow.
#11	Port Richey (#12)	55-107	27-54	28-53	700	931	Only Fleetwood could keep them out of the cellar. Lots of work here with the draft being the start for the rebuilding.

Rank	Team (PR)	Record	Home	Away	RS	RA	Notes/Highlights for Season:
#12	Fleetwood (#10)	49-113	28-53	21-60	757	1039	If scoring 1000 runs makes you one of the finest teams all time, then it should be clear that giving up 1000 runs cannot be a good benchmark. Nice draft slot coming.

PR-Preseason
Note: Ranking
Wild Card
Division Winner
RS-Runs Scored
RA-Runs Allowed

2005 Draft

Here is the draft order for the 2005 draft.

1	Fleetwood	9	Moline	17	TBD
2	Port Richey	10*	Box City	18	TBD
3*	North Georgia	10*	Eric Spitz	19	TBD
3*	Brooklyn	12	Gem City	20	TBD
5	Boston	13	Bloomington	21	TBD
6	Plaza	14	Charlevoix	22	TBD
7	Hessville	15	TBD	23	TBD
8	Maine	16	TBD	24	TBD

* represents teams that tied for that draft position. The team listed higher won the tiebreaker and will have the higher selection in the first round. The teams will then alternate positions the remainder of the draft.

TBD will be determined by the playoffs.

Home / Road Discrepancy Award

Average BRASSball team won 3.833 more games at home than on the road. Maine had the biggest road differential winning 7 more games on the road than at home.

The resulting range buckets and awards buckets are:

Award Range 1	-7.00 to -4.83	\$3,000,000	Maine, Cook County
Award Range 2	-4.82 to -2.67	\$2,500,000	North Georgia
Award Range 3	-2.66 to -0.50	\$2,000,000	Glen Allen, Moline, Port Richey, Stanley, Charlevoix, Gem City
Award Range 4	-0.49 to 1.67	\$1,500,000	Santa Barbara
Award Range 5	1.68 to 3.83	\$1,000,000	Brooklyn

In-Season Standings Incentive Award

In order for the league to have up-to-the-moment standings on the league website, the following incentive program is in place. A manager will receive \$10,000 for each series reported in such manner. If a manager reports all 23 of the series that he is responsible for, he receives a \$70,000 bonus, which results in the equivalent of one newsletter article. As this is meant to reflect the contribution equivalent of a newsletter article, the same rules apply as outlined in the "Article Incentive Program," i.e., the maximum allowed articles is twelve, the LD doesn't receive credit for articles and so forth.

Here is the breakdown of payments.

Bakersfield	23	\$300,000	Metropolis	19	\$190,000
Bloomington	19	\$190,000	Minnesota	23	\$300,000
Boston	23	\$300,000	Moline	23	\$300,000
Box City	23	\$300,000	New Hampshire	23	\$300,000
Brooklyn	23	\$300,000	North Georgia	19	\$190,000
Charlevoix	15	\$150,000	Ocala *	23	\$0
Cook County	23	\$300,000	Plaza	23	\$300,000
Fleetwood	19	\$190,000	Port Richey	23	\$300,000
Gem City *	23	\$0	Santa Barbara	23	\$300,000
Glen Allen	23	\$300,000	Springfield	23	\$300,000
Hessville	23	\$300,000	Stanley	19	\$190,000
Maine	23	\$300,000	Toledo *	23	\$0

* Gem City, Ocala and Toledo did not receive payment due the maximum amount of allowed articles clause.

New Free Agency Conductor Announced

Brian Budzyn has accepted the position as free agency conductor. Brian has been in the league since the very beginning and is always willing to help. Thanks Brian for taking on this huge effort.

AL Reporter Needed

The American League Reporter position is open for 2005. This position pays \$3,750,000 and will begin at season's end (beginning with the playoffs).

Thanks to Robert Smith for doing a great job authoring the AL's articles for 2004. Due to a busy schedule, Robert Smith will not be able to continue as the American League Reporter.

New BRASSball Manager (well sort of)

We have filled our one opening with someone most of us know. Eric Spitz is returning to the AL East, taking over ownership of the Minnesota franchise. Eric left the league a few years ago due to personal reasons, but now was ready to return.

As some probably remember, Eric led the Georgia Braves before departing. Scott Mueller who has since relocated them to Bakersfield now leads this team. Eric will get the joy of facing his old squad and rebuilding the Minnesota squad. I suspect that his new squad will be moving south to the warmer

weather.

Welcome back Eric. Eric's e-mail is espitz@yahoo.com.

End of the Season Signings

MO, Y1, Y2, A, U and "am" player signings are due by October 25. For roster administration purposes, I will begin moving all players currently on MO, Y1, Y2 and "am" to their next contract and highlight them in color. This roster file will be provided right after the MLB season completes. (Or, as close to it as I can get it done.) This will aid you in your decision-making. However, I also recommend that you refer to the constitution for clarity on this subject. I know there are some tough decisions out there. It might be beneficial to give some of these some advance thought. By the way, roster cuts are also due on this date. As always, if you have questions on this, let me know.

Trades

There are some trades, but I will be waiting until the rosters are ready to go before listing them.

Proposals / Awards Ballots

I will be sending out the MVP, Cy Young, Rookie of the Year ballots shortly. I will also be sending out the proposal for change ballot. These need to be completed and returned to me by October 25.

Upcoming League Deadlines

October 25

Contract Signings / Roster Cuts deadline

- MO, Y1, Y2, A, U and "am" contract signings are due to the LD.
- Any roster cuts are due to the LD.

League Awards Ballot deadline

League Award ballots due to the LD.

Rule Changes Ballot deadline

Rule Change ballots due to the LD.

League Membership Articles

Jim Clark has submitted an article this month.

Mets Watch SEPTEMBER 2004

Mets MVP

Batting average .369, 150 runs, 226 hits, 46 doubles, 57 Home Runs, 157 RBI, 86 walks, only 70 strikeouts in 613 at bats are his statistics. These are the numbers for Albert Pujols the Glen Allen Mets most valuable player. "He could also be the MVP of the entire National League with those stats." Said teammate Dmitri Young, the Mets DH who had some decent numbers himself with 34 Homers and 129 RBI with 26 doubles and tying for the team lead in triples with 9 although he also lead the team with 140 strike outs. "Albert is a professional hitter, always looking for ways to improve himself. He was so down after the last weekend series when he made 3 errors after make only three the whole season. You might have thought he just lost his child or his favorite hunting dog. He felt like he let the entire franchise down, but he's really the heart of our team, pumping us up and carrying us into the playoffs. He has no time for childish pranks and does not say much except with his bat and boy can that do some shouting." DY smiles.

TOP Pitchers

Pitching coach Jimmy Key and Bullpen coach John Stearns have a couple guys to be proud of this year. Ace starter Barry Zito finished with 20 victories and a nice 3.36 ERA. Key remarked, "Over 240 innings and only 90 earned runs is not too shabby, but imagine if he did not surrender 102 walks. That great curveball can be hard to control sometimes, it's usually unhittable and if the batter is smart and lets it go by it just might be low. We will continue to work with the zany lefthander.

"Dude" as Stearns was called in his playing days has instilled that gunslinger attitude in his bullpen staff and no one exemplifies that better than the Glen Allen closer, Brendan Donnelly. "He has been a great closer this year! Brendan ranks right up there with the best of baseball having 38 saves, 1.37 ERA allowing only 11 runs, 33 hits and 23 walks in 72 innings pitched and 91 K and 2 HR. Every time he goes out there he know he will get the guys out, he only blew a few saves and one lose. Our setup guys have done a good job and that certainly has helped put us in the playoffs."

Playoffs

Glen Allen split a critical eight game series with Springfield as the Isotopes win the National League Eastern Division and the Mets settle for a wild card matchup against the mighty Ocelots from Ocala.

Home Runs Leaders

Pujols	53
Young	34
Ensberg	30
Nixon	24
Mora	22