



BRASSball League News

March 2005

www.brassball.org

Draft Recap

Even though I was unable to participate in the draft, I would like to summarize some of the best selections, in my opinion, of the draft. There are many selections that I believe were excellent, in addition to these, but I wanted to keep this somewhat brief.

Some of the very best young talents in baseball were drafted in the first round. Fleetwood started the draft off with Joel Guzman and Jason Kubel. Every team would have loved to add Guzman to their roster. Personally, he reminds of a young Juan Gonzalez. If he turns out to be anything like Juan, Joal will be extremely pleased. Joal will have to wait a year for Kubel, but he showed as much promise as anyone prior to his knee injury. For the Twins' sake, I hope he turns out to be the player they project him to be.

Plaza selected the player Mark Lentz convinced me not to draft with my last amateur selection lasst year. Carlos Quentin looks like SOM machine. He combines power, on-base and strong defensive skills. I really regret passing on this future stud.

Who wouldn't have been pleased to land Chris Carpenter with the 9th pick. This is called getting value for your selection. Several teams could use this solid starter in their rotation. Now, the same cannot be said for the #11 pick. It appeared, at the time, that Rick Ankiel was a great pick. However, it was very short lived. Having lived with selecting Matt White with the #8 pick, I know how much this hurts. Don't feel sorry for Joal though. His previous four selections should put a smile in the very near future.

Springfield selected my favorite prospect available in the draft. Chris Nelson looks to be a future stud at shortstop. Add to this the thin air in Colorado and he could be as valuable a shortstop in SOM. Time will tell though. Man, I wish he fallen one more selection. Daric Barton was selected one pick after my pick. If I had been participating, he would have been mine. I just didn't believe he would last this long.

It is unfortunate that Adam Miller is experiencing arm troubles. He sure appears to be an up-and-coming young stud. Now, it appears that we will have to wait another year to know for sure. Based on the baseball preseason, it looks like Metropolis landed a solid shortstop at #25. Andy may have a nice dilemma next year with Jason Bartlett and Furcal at shortstop.

Here are some players that I think have a huge potential that were selected in second round. Port Richey's Luke Hudson selection appears solid. I just have this feeling that he will be a solid starter. Anyone following the preseason will also rate Boston's Brandon McCarthy pick as excellent. Personally, I really like Santa Barbara's Philip Humber selection. This guys looks special.

As for the rest of the draft, here are some of my other “diamonds in the rough”.

#66 Bloomington – Chris Young – He appears that have nice looking career ahead of him. Vaughn only had to use his 3rd round selection to grab this future innings eater.

#76 Cincinnati – Brandon Wood – This guy appears destined for a breakout season. He certainly looks like a solid major leaguer waiting to happen.

#107 Plaza – Andy LaRoche – Another guy that seems to be blossoming. Third base power is something everyone can use. Even the Dodgers need this now.

#125 Toledo – Travis Blackley – Will Cook County regret leaving this guy unprotected? I already had submitted my draft list to Ray before noticing he was available. If I were drafting, I certainly would have been had a hard time passing on this guy.

#134 Glen Allen – Ezequiel Astacio – I think many of us will kick ourselves for passing on this guy. He looks like he will another solid starter for the Astros.

#145 Ocala – Mike Pelfrey – If he signs shortly after being selected, he is well worth the selection. Then again, he is represented by Scott Boras so this may turn out to be a wasted pick. For reference, check Stephen Drew.

#164 & # 173 Cook County - Russell Martin & George Kottaras – Kevin decided he didn’t need one top-shelf catcher prospect. He needed two. These guys look as solid as any catcher prospect.

#229 Maine – Richie Robnett – This guy may turn out to be the steal of the draft. Not only does he have the five tools, but he has baseball skills. Playing for Oakland, he will definitely refine these skills with a chance at being a SOM-sensation.

BRASSBALL PREVIEW

AL WEST PREVIEW

	W	L
Santa Barbara	92	70
Toledo	88	74
Brooklyn	75	87
Boston	63	99

Santa Barbara	
Keys to Success	A healthy starting rotation. Early reports are not good on Roy Halladay. Considering he is the ace of the staff, the team will have its work cut out for them if he misses time. A repeat performance by some of their sluggers (Garrett Anderson, Nomar Garciaparra, Carlos Lee, Mike Lowell) could ease the strain on the pitching staff.
Strengths	The offense is loaded. The Outlaws have power potential at almost every position on the squad.
Weaknesses	Their starting staff is not deep so any injuries could be devastating. The outfield

	defense appears adequate at best.
Outlook	The team should knock the ball around the park, but will it be enough. This team was built on pitching last year, but this year it is not as imposing.

Toledo	
Keys to Success	The defending champions are hoping that their stars best years are not behind them. A let down by Chipper, Piazza or Kendall could spell doom for this squad. They do have some inning eaters, but the big question is whether they can hold a lead until the solid bullpen takes over.
Strengths	The bullpen has some very nice arms. They have a nice mix of offensive players that can be mixed and matched to sneak a few wins.
Weaknesses	The starting pitching on this club doesn't appear to be as reliable as its championship squad. Though the defense is reliable, it appears that some weaker defenders may have to play some important innings.
Outlook	The Mudhens have some young talent, but is it enough to cover any big deficits caused by the pitching staff. The fans were spoiled last season so this year's squad could turn out to be a huge disappointment.

Boston	
Keys to Success	Boston doesn't live and die with the Ramirez's, but they may be a team that lives and die by the long ball. If the sluggers hit any type of slump, the team may have trouble winning games as the pitching staff has limited potential.
Strengths	The power potential of Manny and Aramis Ramirez along with the emergence of Wily Mo Pena, the consistency of Aubrey Huff and leadership of Johnny Damon.
Weaknesses	The pitching staff is definitely looking like the weak link on this squad. They have an ace in Carl Pavano, but none of the other pitchers could be considered stoppers. The bullpen is suspect at best.
Outlook	The squad certainly will be entertaining to watch. The Rust and their opposition should push many runs across the board. When they do have the lead late, will Percival be able to close the door?

Brooklyn	
Keys to Success	The pitching staff has to keep the team in games. For the squad to have any chance at competing in this division, they can't give up more than a couple runs a game.
Strengths	The squad has a fine collection of starting pitchers in Kerry Wood, Javier Vazquez, Ryan Drese and Steve Trachsel. Jason Istringhausen is in the pen to close out the victories.
Weaknesses	There one impact offensive player, Austin Kearns, is injured and will likely miss a large portion of the season. Other than Kearns, the rest of the offense will not strike fear into the opposition.
Outlook	The pitching staff may shine this year, but that may not result in wins. Holding the opposition to 3 or 4 or even 5 runs may not be enough for the victory. It appears to be a long season for the Bulldogs. The team will need to scratch for enough wins to prevent 100 losses.

AL CENTRAL PREVIEW

	W	L
Plaza	100	62
New Hampshire	84	78
Box City	68	94
Cook County	60	102

Plaza	
Keys to Success	They have the offensive talent to play with anyone in BRASSball. Not to mention, they have one of the top staffs, on paper, in the league. As long as their players play to their potential, this could be a breakout season for the Lions.
Strengths	High-caliber offensive players at nearly every position on the field, and even the bench. Two front-of-the-rotation starters in Ben Sheets and Oliver Perez and two solid innings-eaters in Jake Westbrook and Kip Wells.
Weaknesses	The bullpen has some good arms, but it lacks a stopper. The defense should be reliable, but it is not in the upper echelon of the league.
Outlook	This should be the Lions season. They have talent that oozes playoffs. As long as the team doesn't hit any major hurdles, management can begin printing playoff tickets.

New Hampshire	
Keys to Success	A huge season by Jim Thome will help, but not enough. They need significant contributions from Torii Hunter, Jason Varitek, Shannon Stewart. The Derry Heifers rotation has to keep the team in games.
Strengths	Jim Thome's presence makes this team more formidable. The starting rotation, including Kelvim Escobar, Odalis Perez, John Thomson and Kris Benson, should provide many quality starts. Damaso Marte leads a very deep bullpen.
Weaknesses	Consistent offensive output from players not named Jim Thome. Lack of a rotation stopper that will ease the stress on the offense.
Outlook	On paper, this team doesn't strike fear into anyone. However, the Heifers have many quality players that, over a 162 game season, should help the team win more than they lose. The question is whether that is enough to reach the playoffs.

Box City	
Keys to Success	The health of Richie Sexson, Maggio Ordonez and Jason Bay. It appears that each guy could miss significant time. That will have an impact on a lineup that looked very strong with them in it. The rotation has pitchers that don't allow many walks, but how much will this help if they are giving up more hits than innings.
Strengths	Miguel Tejada, by himself, is worth 10-15 wins. Francisco Rodriguez is waiting in the bullpen to close out games.
Weaknesses	Other than Eric Young, the team really doesn't have anyone that can steal a base. With the big bats on the sideline, this could have really helps. Michael Young's inability to play the field this year due to undisclosed reasons.
Outlook	The offense has talent, but many of the guys are banged up or playing hurt. This

	will put more pressure on the pitching staff to hold down the opposition. It just doesn't appear the Parcelmen have enough to compete this year.
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Cook County	
Keys to Success	For the youth movement to come of age quickly. Carl Crawford needs to build on last season. Another repeat performance would do wonders for a team lacking star power.
Strengths	The team has excellent speed with several players having the ability to take the extra base or steal a base. John Lackey, not an old gent by any means, can help tutor the young staff.
Weaknesses	Inexperience. Lack of any proven boppers and/or run-producers in the lineup. Other than Lackey, the rest of the pitching staff may cause the manager to turn to gray.
Outlook	The team has many talented young offensive players. Whether they are ready for "biggs" is still a huge question. If they need more "seasoning", this will be a long, long season for the Maulers.

AL EAST PREVIEW

	W	L
Moline	98	64
Windy City	92	70
Tinley	84	78
Hessville	66	96

Moline	
Keys to Success	For the starting rotation to live up to the hype. With Mark Prior, Carlos Zambrano, Livan Hernandez and Matt Morris, there should be very few games that the team should not have a chance to win. This is built around the pitching staff with the expectation that the pitchers will take the team to the next level.
Strengths	As mentioned above, they have four upper echelon right-handed starters. The bullpen is deep with Juan Rincon setting up Trevor Hoffman with other quality arms available if needed. Brad Wilkerson is quickly approaching elite outfielder status.
Weaknesses	The team is depending on many first-year / rookies to contribute heavily. They need Khalil Greene and Victor Martinez to play to their potential.
Outlook	This looks to be an exciting season in Moline. They have a rotation that many teams in the league dream about and quality bullpen to back them up. With a very deep offensive squad, the team should be able to match up with most opposition pitchers.

Windy City	
Keys to Success	Alex Rodriguez should deliver another sensational year. The question is whether Sammy Sosa can. The former Ocala star was shuttled out of town after a lack-luster season that saw Sosa on the bench more than in the lineup. The team has

	several young offensive stars, but none is ready to protect A-Rod in the lineup.
Strengths	Any team that has A-Rod is a tick above the rest, but this team also has top-notch talent at several other positions, including Mark Kotsay, Reggie Sanders and Kevin Mench in the outfield. The team added Bartolo Colon and Jon Garland in the off-season to bolster the pitching staff.
Weaknesses	The bullpen may turn out to be the Achilles heel for this squad. They did add a stopper to the rotation in Colon, but that could be moot if the bullpen blows too many games.
Outlook	How well Brett Tomko and Jeff Suppan bounce back from sub-par seasons could decide the fate of the squad. Even with Colon, Garland and up-and-comer Jeremy Bonderman, the team needs these guys to step in order to match Moline's starters.

Tinley	
Keys to Success	The Redbirds need to continue to get maximum output from their players. Derrek Lee and Andruw Jones have led this squad for the past few seasons and need to continue to do so. The pitching staff needs to once again limit the oppositions run output giving the Redbirds 4-3 and 3-2 victories.
Strengths	Tim Hudson, Freddy Garcia, Wade Miller and Russ Ortiz lead one of the top rotations in BRASSball. The bullpen is solid with Tom Gordon setting up for Keith Foulke. There will not be a letdown going from the starters to the bullpen.
Weaknesses	The team's offensive capabilities seem to be limited after Jones and Lee. The addition of Raul Ibanez will help, but is not likely to be enough.
Outlook	Tinley, formerly known as Bakersfield, have sat in the catbird seat the last few seasons. It appears that their division title may be in jeopardy this season. Don't count them out though, with their pitching staff, anything can happen.

Hessville	
Keys to Success	Hessville revamped the offense in the off-season, but will it be enough. Adding Carlos Delgado and Jeromy Burnitz should help put fans in the seats, but these two guys can't pitch. The pitching staff was the problem last season and another repeat performance needs to be prevented.
Strengths	This team has guys that can drive the ball. Travis Hafner's and Jayson Werth's development could add even more power to an already formidable lineup.
Weaknesses	The team lacks speed. This team very much resembles a softball team that takes a base at a time. Other than Dontrelle Willis and Mike Mussina, the pitching staff doesn't have anyone that can be truly counted on to deliver a big win.
Outlook	Without a huge improvement in the pitching staff, the team can add all the offense it wants and still not compete in the division. However, this team does have some sluggers that will cause other teams pain.

NL WEST PREVIEW

	W	L
Metropolis	108	54
Ocala	104	58

North Georgia	74	88
Gem City	66	96

Metropolis	
Keys to Success	This team is loaded with hitting and pitching talent. They just need to keep their players on the field. Everything else should take care of itself. Win the key match ups against the other strong teams in the league, most notably Ocala.
Strengths	The 1-2-3 punch of Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and Jason Schmidt cannot be matched by any other team in the league. The bullpen is stacked as well with Eric Gagne ready to slam the door shut on games. Barry Bonds anchors the offense.
Weaknesses	The defense of the team will be suspect at times. Vernon Wells, Eric Chavez and JT Snow are stellar defenders, but the rest of the squad could be considered average to adequate at best.
Outlook	All the Avengers need to do is perform to their expected level. If they can do this, the division should be theirs to lose. 2004 was a remarkable turnaround for the squad and it appears that it was only the beginning.

Ocala	
Keys to Success	Ocala still boasts one of the best offenses in BRASSball. In many ways, this year's club could be more well-rounded than last year's squad. Success does hinge on the development of Adam Eaton and Jake Peavy.
Strengths	With Todd Helton, Gary Sheffield and Larry Walker, the opposition will not enjoy pitching to the heart of the order. Roy Oswalt appears healthy and the addition of Tom Glavine should result in better numbers from the rotation. The defense remains one of the best in the league.
Weaknesses	Offensive output from third base and catcher may be limited. The team survived Burroughs subpar season last year, but with Jason Kendall gone, can they survive two.
Outlook	For the first time in several seasons, the Ocelots are not the returning NL West winners. This team should reach the playoffs. However, will it have enough ammunition to take overtake Metropolis for the division?

North Georgia	
Keys to Success	Several young players have some experience under their belts and need to take the next step. Like most teams, the ability of their starting pitching to contribute quality starts will have a huge impact on the Yellow Jackets' success.
Strengths	Mark Teixeira appears ready to become the core of the team. Eric Byrnes and Corey Patterson provide a nice power, speed, defense combination. Joe Nathan's presence should help the team secure more victories.
Weaknesses	The team has a plethora of arms, some which have failed to reach their potential, others taken from the scrap heap. If a couple of these guys don't step up, there could be many long innings.
Outlook	If some of the young guys grow as expected, this team could surprise a few teams. Whether it will be enough to reach the playoffs is an unknown, but they will cause headaches for some other teams.

Gem City	
Keys to Success	Several players need to step up and show they are worth the money invested. If they don't, management may need to take a different direction rebuilding this squad.
Strengths	Mark Bellhorn, Vinny Castilla and Mike Cameron have performed well in the past and should be expected to have solid seasons. If the team can take a lead into the late innings, Armando Benitez is there to close the door.
Weaknesses	The starting staff lacks consistency. Chan Ho Park and Jamie Moyer are nowhere near the pitchers they used to be.
Outlook	Gem City waited several seasons for the opportunity to snatch the top spot from Ocala. Now, with Metropolis firmly entrenched in that spot, it appears that they will have to wait even longer.

NL CENTRAL PREVIEW

	W	L
Cincinnati	94	68
Maine	90	72
Bloomington	64	98
Fleetwood	50	112

Cincinnati	
Keys to Success	This year's team is built, as with previous seasons, is built around OPS and pitching. If Moises Alou, Jim Edmonds and Javy Lopez can put up numbers similar to last year, the team should reach the playoffs once again. Having Curt Schilling for a full season certainly won't the Royals chances.
Strengths	As noted above, the team's offense is built around players that regularly reach base and slug the ball. Along with the guys noted above, the team has above average talent at most positions. The starting rotation should be solid again with a front three of Schilling, Mark Buehrle and Woody Williams.
Weaknesses	Though Octavio Dotel has lights out stuff, he has a penchant for the long-ball. This could result in some games "getting away". Their middle of the infield defense is questionable at best.
Outlook	Cincinnati has been asking for a BRASSball team for many years and their wish was finally granted with the Royals (formerly Sioux) moving from Stanley. Not only does the city have a team, they have the returning NL champions. The team shouldn't let them down with the talent this squad has onboard.

Maine	
Keys to Success	Opponents will fear Johan Santana, but will the rest of the staff be able to contribute enough wins. The team needs to be able to score enough runs to secure enough wins when their ace is not on the mound.
Strengths	The team has an excellent blend of power and speed. This should prevent teams from simply issuing free passes to avoid potential problems. Mariano Rivera in

	the bullpen is about as automatic a win as you can get.
Weaknesses	The pitching staff appears to lack the depth to win the division. Other than Santana and CC Sabathia, who has the potential to be rock solid, the rest of the starting rotation has significant question marks.
Outlook	A team that features Carlos Beltran, Scott Rolen, Paul Konerko, Ken Griffey and Santana should provide excitement and wins. The Black Flies have a reasonable chance of reaching the playoffs this year.

Bloomington	
Keys to Success	Alfonso Soriano needs to repeat on his monster 2004 season. Richard Hidalgo and Bernie Williams need to revert to the glory years. Josh Beckett and Jaret Wright need to stay healthy and become a formidable 1-2 punch.
Strengths	The team has some nice role players that should allow the team to matchup well with some teams. The bullpen has some power arms that should pose problems for the some the swing-happy teams in the league.
Weaknesses	The offense is lacking high-caliber players with the exception of Soriano. Other than Beckett and Wright, the rest of the pitching staff is either injured or unproven.
Outlook	The Bees have several exciting young players, but it appears that most will need another year in the minors. Due to this, their outlook for the season doesn't look promising. However, Soriano should provide enough excitement to bring the fans to the ballpark.

Fleetwood	
Keys to Success	The Walkers have three of the top young hitters in Miguel Cabrera, David Wright and Bobby Crosby. Fleetwood needs these guys to become stars in short order for the team to be competitive. AJ Burnett recovery from arm surgery is critical to the team's success.
Strengths	Marcus Giles had an excellent 2004 season and appeared poised to become a SOM star. When healthy, Burnett can be considered one of the elite pitchers in the league. Brad Penny, Zach Greinke and Esteban Loaiza add depth to the rotation.
Weaknesses	The lack of any proven quality relievers in the bullpen. Outside of Cabrera, the outfield is questionable at best. The team lacks a solid contributor at first base.
Outlook	The team will probably fall out of contention before mid-season. It will be interesting to watch how long it takes management to start marketing some its players. The rumor mill already reports that Brad Penny may be on his way out of town.

NL EAST PREVIEW

	W	L
Charlevoix	92	70
Springfield	91	71
Glen Allen	86	76

Charlevoix	
Keys to Success	The squad has a healthy Vladimir Guerrero entering the season. If he weren't lost for one half of last season, the team would have probably reached the playoffs. The pitching staff is well rounded with some quality starters and dominating relievers.
Strengths	The team has Guerrero, but it appears that Adrian Beltre may be heading for a breakout season. If this is the case, the team will certainly put up more runs than last year. The one two punch of Brad Lidge and Billy Wagner in bullpen will put pressure on the opposition to score early. Easier said than done when the starting staff features, rookie phenom Rich Harden, Al Leiter, Derek Lowe and Tim Wakefield.
Weaknesses	Shortshop depth seems to be a concern with Adam Everett's lingering injuries. The range of the outfielders will result in many extra hits.
Outlook	Charlevoix narrowly missed the playoffs last season. It will be interesting to watch if this proves to me motivation for this team, or if it hangs over their heads. With the star-caliber players on this squad, it appears that this will be the season that stretches into October.

Springfield	
Keys to Success	The rotation needs to prove once again, that it is one of the tops in the league. The young stars need to continue to improve. This was a key to their playoff run a season ago. Any sophomore slump could have a drastic impact on the Isotopes 2005 aspirations.
Strengths	The team leader, Jeff Bagwell, anchors the team. Hank Blalock is quickly approaching the upper echelon of third baseman. Jose Guillen, acquired during the season from Metropolis, will be in the lineup all season. The 1-2-3 combination of Roger Clemens, Mark Mulder and Brad Radke should keep the team in games that the offense if slumping. John Smoltz anchors the bullpen.
Weaknesses	The bullpen, after BJ Ryan and Smoltz, is questionable. The team defense in the outfield also appears adequate at best.
Outlook	Springfield has retained or acquired the talent necessary to take another run at the division. Once again, the season will be won or lost by the starting pitching. The staff rose to the occasion last year, but are they up to the challenge again this year.

Glen Allen	
Keys to Success	Albert Pujols put on a hitting display last year that most people can only dream of. Many of the other stars on this club either left via free agency or are hurt. The entire season may hinge on his ability to repeat last year's performance and whether Ichiro Suzuki was worth price paid to acquire this hitting sensation. The starting rotation needs to continue to have quality start after quality start.
Strengths	Barry Zito, who had a Cy Young type of 2004 season, leads the rotation. If the arms of Chris Carpenter and Eric Milton, bounce back, and word out of camp is that they look great, the starting rotation looks solid heading into the season. Dan Kolb had a breakout season as the team's closer last year and is back for a repeat performance.
Weaknesses	Other than Pujols and Suzuki, the rest of the hitters don't strike the fear into anyone. They need a few of these guys to step up for any chance of reaching the playoffs this

	year. The bullpen preceding Kolb appears average, especially with the early injuries to Brendan Donnelly and Mike Gonzalez.
Outlook	Glen Allen's playoff run may be coming to an end this season. Considering how long it has been since the Mets didn't reach the playoffs, this is almost unfathomable for the fans. Time will tell if Ichiro and Pujols have what it takes to carry this squad.

Port Richey	
Keys to Success	The team features some productive sluggers in Jose Cruz, Tony Batista and Eric Hinske. For this team to have any chance to compete this season, these guys need to step up big time. The pitching staff has been decent in year's past, but, again, they need to take a huge leap forward for the club to have success this year.
Strengths	Joe Kennedy, Victor Zambrano and Jose Contreras are a reasonable front three. The bullpen, though not star-studded is deep and should keep the team in games. The team has plenty of speed. The Everglades will put pressure on many teams when their base-stealing threats reach base.
Weaknesses	Injuries have already decimated the ball club. Nick Johnson, Jody Gerut and Todd Hollandsworth are out indefinitely. The club lacks star power to draw fans to the ballpark. They need to add a player they can market to the community.
Outlook	It appears to be another long season for the Everglades. The team hasn't taken the plunge into free agency to rebuild the club. Many of the teams minor leaguers have failed reach their potential. It may be time for the club to take another path in order to reach the top of the division.

BRASSball Reporter

Ray resigned his post as BRASSBall Reporter due to some medical issues related to his hands/arms. Instead of fighting through the injury and typing one word per week, he decided that it wasn't worth the trouble. As a result, I have eliminated this position for this year.

He had started to create the BRASSball Pre-season predictions, but was not able to finish. He will receive compensation on per article basis as the rest of the league.

2005 Player Usage

To avoid any problems with player over-usage, here is how the league will handle usage this year. The initial BRASSball league files, sent by Dave Little, contain the actual amount of PA/IP that players accumulated in the Majors last season. As such, the usage will be 1.05 times the amount of PA/IP listed. Note the amount for each of your players to ensure that you are tracking to the correct limits.

The BRASSball league game structure may or may not have the players' 2004 ML statistics adjusted during the season. It is each BRASSball owner's responsibility to know their players' limits, regardless of whether or not an adjustment to stats occurred.

However, we will attempt to "not" adjust the league files during the season. If this does occur, we will attempt to notify the membership that they were adjusted. Just be forewarned that it is still the BRASSball owner's responsibility to know their players' limits.

If a BRASSball owner exceeds the usage buffer (5 PA or hitters and 3 IP for pitchers) for a player, the following fines will result:

- Each plate appearance over the buffer will cost \$250,000.
- Each inning pitched over the buffer results in a \$500,000 fine.

In-Season Standings Incentive Program

This is a reminder about the In-Season Standings Incentive Program. The purpose of this program is to provide results “as they happen” to the LD so he can have the up-to-date standings published on the website.

Here is the text from the constitution pertaining to this incentive program:

In order for the league to have up-to-the-moment standings on the league website, the following incentive program is in place.

When a manager completes a HOME series he sends a message to the LD that states in the Subject line the results of the series. Example: OCALA (2) @ WINDY CITY (2). This is all that is needed. Please follow that format.

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 or \$300,000.

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.

Transactions

54. Ocala trades Jose Lopez, Larry Bigbie and Paul Quantrill to Toledo for Larry Walker.
55. Tinley upgrades the contracts of Alfredo Amezaga, Alberto Castillo and Kit Pellow from MO to Y1.
56. Port Richey upgrades the contracts of Orber Moreno, Jesse Garcia and Dave Williams from MO to Y1.
57. Brooklyn trades Ken Griffey Jr. to Maine for Maine's 2006 5th round draft choice.
58. Cook County trades Ryan Madson and \$250,000 to Charlevoix for Kendry Morales, Cody Ross and John Riedling.
59. Box City trades Raul Ibanez to Tinley for Tinley's 2006 3rd round draft choice.
60. Charlevoix trades Steve Sparks and \$350,000 to Cook County for a Chicago Metropolitan phonebook.
61. (no transaction)
62. Gem City trades Braden Loper to Windy City for Chad Harville and Windy City's 2006 4th round draft choice.
63. Ocala trades Justin Miller to Port Richey for Port Richey's 2006 5th round draft choice.
64. Glen Allen trades Wes Obermueller to Port Richey for Port Richey's 2006 6th round draft choice.
65. Toledo trades Toby Hall, Dave Roberts, Ryan Franklin and Daric Barton to Cook County for Bronson Arroyo and \$250,000.
66. Fleetwood upgrades the contract of Chris Magruder from MO to Y1.
67. North Georgia upgrades the contracts of Jeff Keppinger and Shane Halter from MO to Y1.
68. Port Richey trades Dustin Pedroia, Elijah Dukes, Tom Gorzelanny and Port Richey's 2006 3rd round draft choice to Metropolis for Jose Contreras and Chad Gaudin.
69. Santa Barbara trades David McCarty to Cook County for \$50,000.

70. Plaza trades Justin Speier to Santa Barbara for a box of balls.
71. North Georgia trades Lou Merloni to Metropolis for Metropolis' 2006 4th round draft choice and \$50,000.
72. Plaza upgrades the contract of Olmedo Saenz from MO to Y1.

Upcoming League Deadlines

April 15

April Home Series Results deadline

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

May Trade deadline.

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

April 25

May Rotation deadline.

Starting pitcher rotations for May games due to the LD.

May Road Instructions deadline.

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

League Membership Articles

Jim Clark submitted the March edition of Mets Watch. Ray submitted an article previewing the NL West.

Mets Watch March 2005

Vol 8, #2

Draft Day Results

The much-anticipated annual Brassball draft day has come and gone, but Glen Allen is more than happy with their results. This year the Mets had two selections in the first round and were hoping to strengthen their starting pitching, targeting three candidates with the hope that one would fall down to #9, unbelievably not only did one fall, but the second fell to #16! Chris Carpenter will fill the void left by Clemens departure and Bobby Madritsch will give some quality starts this year and into the future. Since all seven amateurs made such great progress last season, the next item on the agenda was to replenish those prospects. The tally came out as three pitchers: Renyel Pinto, Ezequiel Astacio and Tim Stauffer, two infielders Ian Kinsler and Robinson Cano, a first base/outfielder John Gall and a catcher/hitter Ryan Garko. While the Mets did not acquire any of the more hyped prospects, these all have talent and good futures.

ROUND 4

Not only did the Mets not have a selection due to trades, but also they lost three guys that were not protected: Ober Moreno, Oscar Villarreal and Nate Bump. In subsequent rounds the Mets also lost Claudio Vargas and Tom Martin. Mets GM, "Unfortunately we had too many players on the roster that we could not cover them all. I would have reclaimed most of these guys, but wish them well with their new teams."

After all the Mets were reclaimed one spot was open and Veteran Roberto Hernandez was selected to fill the void left when all the guys mentioned above were no longer part of the Glen Allen team.

Secondary Free Agents

After almost 400 selections in the draft, there were some players still available for this additional draft. The Mets put in their bids for a handful of players and when the numbers were crunched, came out with two additional pitchers. Scott Proctor and Kyle Denny will be assigned to the minor leagues this year, but given an opportunity could pitch for Glen Allen in the future.

Spring Training News

As opening day draws near, several veteran players have become injured and will stay in Florida for an extended time. Outfielders Trot Nixon and Quinton McCracken both have back trouble that will not heal in the cool spring weather of April. Catcher Vance Wilson has elbow trouble that is slow to heal. Morgan Ensberg has been hampered at third base with shoulder trouble so he will begin the year on the disabled list. Pitching casualties include Orlando Hernandez and Trevor Miller, both have some shoulder tenderness so the Mets will now risk additional injuries in the cooler weather.

Ichiro Suzuki has been sizzling and not just in the heat of the sun. He is batting over .525 for the spring and has displayed such control of his bat that even the veteran players are watching. Omar Vizquel can only smile when asked about his new teammate, "Wow can that guy hit everything! High, low inside or out he never misses a pitch. He will be so much fun for the fans to watch this year." Juan Pierre known for his bat control, "Ichiro is on another planet! I mean he's like from another world." The 'three amigos' as their teammates call them are always sitting together discussing baseball.

NL West Preview-Battle of the Juggernauts II ?

Metropolis-Predicted record 110-52

Rotation- Here's the recipe for 110+ wins. Jason Schmidt, Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez and Brandon Webb.

Bullpen- This is simply ridiculous, especially following the 800 K starting four. As Gagne is supported with Otsuka, Kline, Eyre, and Harper.

Line-up- This line-up is devastating with C-Posada, 1B-Snow, 2B-Vidro, 3B-Chavez, SS-Furcal, OF-Bonds, Abreu and Wells. As if that isn't enough the crushing bat of Melvin Mora is in place for DH duty. It should also be noted that this team has been assemble to win astutely with the availability of key bench players like Pickering, Merloni, and Hernandez.

Prospects on the Horizon- Distant help will be in place with the nine amateurs currently in the stable. It was said here first that Dan Meyer will never become a big three, but instead toil until his mediocrity can be tolerated by Avenger faithful.

Ocala-Predicted record 97-65

Rotation- With a starting four of Oswalt, Peavy, Glavine and Eaton they clearly have the makings of another substantial playoff run, but not the horsepower to overpower Metro.

Bullpen- Clearly a strength with Calero, Hawkins and Shields setting up for Mota.

Line-up- This is the team's strongest asset and alone allows for a potential return to 100 wins. C-Ausmus, 1B-Helton, 2B-Boone, 3B-Burroughs, SS-Jeter, OF-Drew, Finley, Sheffield and Walker.

Prospects on the Horizon- With Mauer, Sizemore, and Iguchi on the immediate horizon continued success is guaranteed.

North Georgia- Predicted record 79-83

Rotation- Doug Davis, Paul Byrd, Tim Redding, Jose Lima, Andy Pettite, and Ted Lilly should keep them in most games, save against the Brass elite.

Bullpen- With set-up coming from Mercker and Nathan a gifted closer the potential is there in close games for North Georgia to split.

Line-up- With line-up of C-Buck, 1B-Hillenbrand, 2B-Kent, 3B-Teixeria, SS-Renteria, OF-Patterson, Dellucci, and Byrnes, hovering around the .500 mark is very likely.

Prospects on the Horizon- Kazmir, Diamond, Teahen, and Wainwright offer some future help to Yellow Jacket faithful.

Gem City-Predicted record 58-104

Rotation- This is going to be softball guys- With Moyer, Jennings, Ponson and Johnson tee it up for rival hitters.

Bullpen- The bullpen projects to be average to slightly below average with Benitez as the closer. Set-up will have to come from several arms-Gabe White, Harville, Atchison and Choate.

Line-up- With line-up of C-Pierzynski, 1B-Harvey, 2B-Bellhorn, 3B-Castilla, SS-Lugo, OF-Cameron, Mohr, and Bautista, Gem City looks to be on the tail end of many 7-2 games this season.

Prospects on the Horizon- Marte, Navarro, Logan and Hancock provide some real support for future success.