

BRASSBALL: News and Notes

Volume I, no.2
November, 1994

All Systems Go!

In the first newsletter, I told you we needed 7 more owners to fill out the league. Well, we got them. We are officially 24 teams strong. And "strong" is a very appropriate word. I'm convinced that our lineup of 24 owners can stack up with any league out there when it comes to knowledge of the game and ability to build a quality franchise.

Not only are all 24 slots filled, but I also have a draft order and divisional allignments to announce. The draft order was determined in a simple lottery-type manner, while the divisions were set up based on geography. Both are listed later in this newsletter.

OOPS!

Remember the last newsletter where I told you the draft was "set in stone" for the second weekend in February? I was using sandstone. The start-up draft is actually set for the third weekend in February. (that would be Feb. 18-19 according to my calendar) To some of you this wont be a surprise, since about half the league recieved recruiting packages which stated that the draft was on the third weekend in February. To those who were going on my info, I apologize. Score it E-1.

Just as a reminder, the start-up draft will be held in Chicago in a hotel near or at O'Hare airport. For you 7 new owners, you should know that all travel costs will be shared equally between those who attend. Thus, people who live in the Chicagoland area will be paying the same amount as those flying or driving in from other spots in the country. I am encouraged with the apparent interest many of you have in actually being in Chicago for the start-up draft. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Our draft is 45 rounds. 45 rounds cannot be completed in an hour and a half. In fact, I have a feeling it will take the entire weekend to complete it. Even then, it is possible that we will run out of time. Personally, I do not think that will be the case. However, we will have to cram a lot of drafting into a short period of time. Thus, here is the plan.

We will begin the draft at 9AM central time on Saturday, the 18th of February, 1995. We will go, in all liklihood, late into the evening. By late I mean anywhere from 8 to 11 PM, depending on how fast the draft is moving. The more people who are in Chicago for the draft, the faster things will go. We will resume the draft at 9AM on Sunday. We will go until we finish, or until 5:30 PM Sunday night, whichever comes first. If we do not finish, we will complete the draft by phone or mail at a later date.

I came up with the 5:30 cutoff point Sunday evening so

that those flying in for the draft can make their flight plans accordingly. Anyone wishing to be present at the draft should be prepared to stay until 5:30 PM Sunday. If that is going to be a problem, you may want to reconsider whether you should come. I don't say that readily, because obviously I want as many of you there as is possible. However, if staying in Chicago til the early evening Sunday isn't feasible for you, it probably would be better for you to participate in the draft via the phone.

I realize this is going to be a marathon of a draft. And I know each of you has a life away from strat. But because we are only going to do this one time, and because everyone has had several months notice, I ask that you do your best to be available for the entire weekend. As I said in the first newsletter, the start-up draft is not one which should be done by list. The balance of power within the league hinges on everyone actually participating live and in person. Picks being made by list are **never** as good as those made by an active participant.

It has been suggested that to ensure completion of the draft, we do the first 4-7 rounds in advance. Although it is a sensible idea, I feel it would take some of the fun out of "draft weekend". I feel the first part of the draft is the most enjoyable, due to the wealth of talent available. If we complete the first several rounds before the 18th & 19th, I feel it may diminish the desire of league members to make the trek to Chicago. Thus, we will keep to our plan, the "draft weekend" format.

Next month, I will have information on where in Chicago the draft will be based out of. I will also lay out the cost of rooms at that particular hotel. Any place we stay will definitely have shuttle service to and from O'Hare Airport. I will also list a couple alternatives for those who wish to stay at a different hotel. It probably would be best for everyone coming to Chicago to stay at the hotel in which the draft is based, but I will leave that to each of you to decide. More on this topic next month.

I would like to start getting some feedback from you out there on whether or not you will be coming. So if you know **for sure one way or the other**, let me know. If you truly do not know for sure, just let me know when you do.

Also, if you know you are coming, let me know if you would be interested in cutting your hotel costs in half by sharing a double sized room with another league member. I will inform those who are interested in doing this of other members wanting to do same.

BRASSBALL League Administrative Team

By looking at the list of managers, you can see that most of the administrative positions have been filled. However, I still need a National League Reporter and a League Directory Publisher. Remember, those positions pay 1.5 and 1 million respectively. Your League Constitution outlines the responsibilities of each position. Anyone interested, let me know.

Draft Order

Is anyone out there interested in knowing where they will pick in the upcoming start-up draft? I thought so. So without any further delay, here is how it shakes out:

1.Kehlmeier 2.Taormina 3.Luchtefeld 4.Lembrecht 5.Nuest
6.Ellis 7.Telgenhoff 8.O'Connor 9.Kirkwood 10.Johnson 11.Wright
12.Caddell 13.Manna 14.Liesenfelt 15.Koszut 16.S.Campbell
17.D.Campbell 18.Gale 19.Klugh 20.Lentz 21.Julin 22.Kolb
23.Budzyn 24.Nelson

Needless to say, I was thrilled to find out I am picking at #22. Will Thomas still be there when I pick? Gee, I sure hope so. But remember fellow bottom dwellers, we pick in inverse order every other round. So although Allen Nelson got stuck with the last pick in the first, he gets the first pick in the second.

Divisional Allignments

Again, these were determined strictly based on geography. After discussing this with several league members, I came to the conclusion that this was the best way to do it. I want people to have the option of playing those late season crucial divisional games face to face if possible. A couple "eastern" teams had to be sent out west simply due to the lack of western teams. But hey, the Arizona Cardinals are in the NFC East, right? Providing we have no change in our list of 24 managers before the draft, the following will be the divisional allignment for Brassball: (we will not reallign divisions once the league starts up officially-even if league turnover causes a west-coast team to "move east")

West

O'Connor
Julin
S.Campbell
Budzyn

American League

Central

Kolb
Wright
Luchtefeld
Caddell

East

Liesenfelt
Ellis
Kirkwood
Lentz

West

Klugh
A.Nelson
Johnson
D.Campbell

National League

Central

Nuest
Kehlmeier
Telgenhoff
Koszut

East

Gale
Lembrecht
Taormina
Manna

Divisional Alignments (cont)

As you can see, the geographic set up works out fairly well. The AL West consists of all California "dudes". The AL Central has three Illinoisians. (Illinoisians?) And the AL East consists of four Florida teams.

The NL Central consists of 3 Hoosiers and one Wolverine. The NL East has two Wisconsinites and two from the New York area. And the NL West, well, kind of a hodge podge there. One Texan, an Oregonian, as well as a team from Ohio and Tennessee. Hopefully, these divisional alignments and a low amount of league turnover will result in friendly rivalries developing within the league.

Team Names, Ballparks, and Dues

I have received dues, team names, and ballpark configurations from about half of you. I would like to have all of these things from all of you soon. I know the draft isn't until February, but I want to know I have commitments from all of you before that time. Let's set a postmark deadline for all of these items at midnight, November 20. If there is some reason you cannot meet this deadline, please call me and let me know. Otherwise, I'll expect to have these three items from everyone around November 25.

The following are those who I have received dues from. (at the time of this mailing) If you do not see your name here, please get them out to me.
Lentz, D. Campbell, Nelson, O'Connor, Luchtefeld, Wright, Taormina, Nuest
Lembrecht, Johnson, S. Campbell, Manna, Kirkwood, Kehlmeier, Budzyn

The following are those who have given me team names. Those not listed should do so.
Julin, Johnson, Caddell, Luchtefeld, D. Campbell, Kirkwood, Ellis, Lentz, Manna, Nelson, Nuest

The following are those who I have ballparks from. Those not listed, well, you know the drill.
Manna, Nelson, Lentz, Ellis, Kirkwood, Luchtefeld, Julin

Start Up Costs

I mentioned in the first newsletter that in getting this league off the ground, Vaughn Nuest had to put up approximately \$300 of his own money. I asked if each of you could help Vaughn recoup this by sending him \$10. Some of you have. For those who haven't, please do so by November 20. I know Vaughn would appreciate it. Thanks.

SPEAKING OF VAUGHN...

Enclosed is the first of many reports we will be receiving from Vaughn over the next 10 to 20 years. Included is a complete layout of PA and IP limits for all players eligible to be drafted in our start up draft. Note that not all the players

listed will have cards. But a BRASS league always tries to cover all the bases.

It is true that some players will benefit from the uniform system I have elected to employ. (Those who were injured at the time of the strike--see:Jeff Bagwell) However, it is simply to difficult to compute how many pa's or ip's each individual player would have had absent the strike. Therefore, each player was treated equally. Although the system may not be perfect, I'm satisfied it is better than any other alternative. Besides, everyone knows going into the draft what each players limits are. Everyone is starting on even ground.

A WORD ABOUT AMATEUR STATUS

As you know, each team may own up to five amateur players. To avoid any confusion, here is the definition of an amateur for our purposes: An amateur is any player who has never had a strat card. Thus, Rob Dibble, if drafted, will count against that team's 40 man major league roster, even though he wont have a card. Same goes for someone like Butch Huskey. (yes, the Butch Huskey) He had a strat card last year. He wont this year. If you draft him, he will not be considered an amateur. Nuf said.

YOU'RE ALL OFFICIALLY RICH!

Since each of you is an official member of the league, I am pleased to announce that each team now has a 50 million dollar bank account. This really doesn't mean much now, since none of us has any players to pay. However, if one of you wants to use some of your money as part of a pre-draft deal, you may do so.

A word of caution: For those of you who have never been in a league which uses money, heed this warning: **DO NOT FORSAKE YOUR BANK ACCOUNT!** Just because it is technically only "play" money, don't throw it around willy nilly. Money is the lifeblood of your Brassball franchise. Without money, as is the case in "real" baseball, you cannot hope to compete. Thus endeth the lesson.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

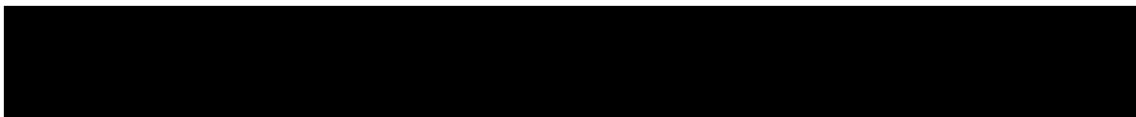
Talk to you in December,
KK

1995 BRASSBALL

Mark Lentz

Keith Koszut

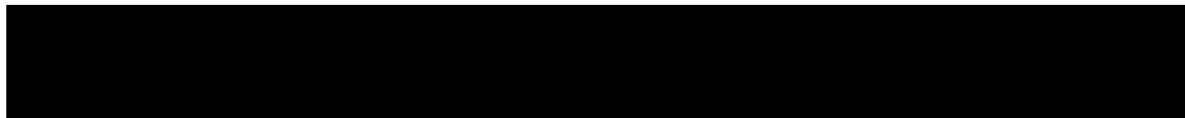
Tom Manna



Doug Campbell

Jim Klugh

David Caddell



Bob Gale

Kevin Kolb

Charles Kirkwood



Allen Nelson

Tom Taormina
NL Statistician

Doug Kehlmeier



Allen Telgenhof

Vaughn Nuestr
League Historian

Brian Budzyn



Mike O'Connor
AL Reporter

Fred Lambrecht

Scott Ellis



Lenny Luchtefeld
Free Agency Conductor

Tom Johnson



Colby Wright

Scott Campbell



Jim Liesenfelt

Bruce Julin
AL Statistician



BRASSball Historian's Report

...by Vaughn Nuest

vol. 1, no. 1
October, 1994

Let the Fun Begin...

Up to now, all of the work that we've been devoting to the new league has been purely administrative in nature. Constitution creation and revision, printing, binding, mailing, advertising, recruiting and all the other work that was necessary to turn a concept into reality. So now that we have a quality constitution and the league has been filled with excellent managers, it was with great enjoyment this week that I participated in the first purely fun event in BRASSball history---the determination of the draft order for the BRASSball Dispersal Draft. With the league filled, divisional alignment set and Dispersal Draft order determined, we're all ready to let the fun begin!

Oh, by the Way...

You'll be hearing from me periodically for as long as I hold my League Historian post. I will periodically issue **BRASSball Historian's Reports** which will focus, not surprisingly, on league history. As the league progresses, my historical database will grow. As will the topics on which I plan to report.

I'll be asking folks to send me copies of boxscores and play-by-play reports for all play-off games to maintain as a league record, as well as for the annual BRASSball All-Star Game. I'll also be maintaining a database of each team's player-by-player statistics for each season, season-by-season league standings, season-by-season team statistics, free agency and trade records, year-by-year award winners and more.

From this information, I'll be able to publish team records and league records (both individual and career), individual manager records, milestones, and many other historical tidbits. And ultimately, I plan to make available a bound copy of **The BRASSball Almanac** to everyone on an annual basis. It will include each player's BRASSball career stats, standings, team stats, post season and league award results for each season, single-season and career player records for each franchise, team records for each team, a Draft, trade and free agency report, and some more goodies.

The Almanac will not take shape until the completion of the league's second year at the earliest, because there will not be a significant enough accumulation of league history until then. And it will be offered at additional cost to the league dues. But I plan to make it a one-of-a-kind league record that will be worth the additional cost to anyone who chooses to buy it.

Oh, by the Way... (cont'd.)

My periodic reports (like this one) are covered in our annual league dues payments and will be published and mailed in Kevin's mailings to the league. I'll have less to write about in the earlier months and years of the league, but will be contributing in other ways I'm sure. An example of one of those ways is included in this month's mailing and detailed later in my report.

I'm sure that most of our BRASSball colleagues are like me, and have followed baseball for a good chunk of our lives. I doubt whether you could classify anyone who enjoys our SOM hobby a "casual baseball fan" and I suspect that PBM'ers are even less casual than the typical SOM hobbyist. Especially ones who have played long enough, and well enough, to be considered for this league.

So I expect, like me, you will enjoy the historical information I will develop and publish. Baseball enthusiasts tend to enjoy historical debates, making historical player and team comparisons, and looking at player career records. I plan to cater to that interest with my historical work.

Baseball fans' appreciation for and understanding of the game's history gives them and the game a unique identity among our society's pastimes. I expect the volume and depth of my BRASSball historical work to be among the many factors that gives the BRASSball league and it's colleagues a unique identity in the SOM gaming world.

The Dispersal Draft Order

Now I'm sure Kevin is going to report the draft order in his newsletter, so there's no point in doing so here. But what I will do is give a brief report of how it was determined, and by whom, for your information and for the BRASSball history books.

The draft order was determined in typical BRASS fashion. It was left to the "The Great Decider", the twenty-sided die. Well, five of them actually. In the early BRASS days, on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, our BRASS buddies would get together and roll fistfuls of twenty-siders for an hour or so to figure out the order of the snatchin' and grabbin'. We did the same thing this time, only there were just three BRASS guys there.

Kevin, Colby Wright and I gathered at Kevin's house in Des Plaines, IL on Tuesday morning, October 18 for the festivities. We arranged everyone's names in alphabetical order on a page and, in turn, each grabbed a handful of five twenty-siders to toss for each of the 24 BRASSball league members. Kevin started the proceedings by making his 24 tosses first. The rolls were totalled and the first round was over. I relieved Kevin and made the 24 tosses for the second round, and Colby closed the proceedings by throwing the 24 final-round rolls.

We then summed up the results of each roll in each round and when it was all over, there was a dead-tie for the first pick! We tried to consult the usual BRASS tie-breaker of on-time mailing records for the two guys who were tied, but alas, there have been no league-wide mailing deadlines to date. So we did a one-die roll-off with the highest die total getting the first pick. And with that, the draft order was in the books.

1995 PA and IP Limits Enclosed

Speaking of league history, thanks to MLB's on-going cat fight, our inaugural season is going to be based on a shortened MLB season. This does not mean that our season will be shortened (that's one of the beauties of fantasy baseball), but it does mean that the usual method of determining a BRASSball player's PA and IP limits will not apply for this year.

Kevin has elected to simply multiply each player's 1994 MLB season PA or IP total by a factor that would project his totals over a full 162-game MLB championship season, then add the usual BRASSball 5% usage bonus. I have enclosed a report that details the results of this process for each MLB player. This report will serve as your sole 1995 BRASSball season source document for determining the usage limits of the players you will own. You'll want to save it.

In order to determine the usage limits of each MLB player, I calculated the average number of games that each MLB team played in the aborted 1994 season. That number was 114.21. I then divided this number into 162 and came up with the usage factor that projects each player's total to a full season. That factor was 1.418. I then multiplied each MLB player's 1994 season PA and IP total by this factor to get our adjusted BRASSball total. Finally, I multiplied the adjusted total by BRASSball's 5% usage bonus to arrive at the 1995 BRASSball League PA and IP Limits.

Please don't confuse these lists with a Dispersal Draft list. As far as I know, there will not be such a list. It would be a daunting task to go about creating a list of every major and minor league player out there. And also don't confuse these lists with the list of players who end up receiving 1994 SOM game cards. I don't know anymore than you do about that at this point.

These lists are simply the 1995 BRASSball season usage limits of every player who batted once or threw an inning in the 1994 MLB season. I'm assuming there will be many players on these lists who do not receive SOM cards this year, but I included everybody so that no one was left out. But they are official, so be sure to save them.

My statistical work is typically very accurate. I plugged the formulas into a spreadsheet I created and arrived at the totals. And I checked my entries against the player's season totals before I calculated the spreadsheet. There is little margin for error in this process. But if you want to check my work for any of your players, here's what you do....

Take his 1994 MLB season IP's total or PA's (AB + BB) total and multiply by 1.418. Round to the nearest whole number. Then multiply this total by 1.05 and round again to the nearest whole number. If your number differs from what is on the lists I published, please notify your Statistician so he won't have to announce a fine for overuse erroneously.

On the IP limits sheet, you'll also notice that there is a MLB-to-BRASSball conversion chart for starts. Since we can't use the shortened MLB season as our starts base and since some pitchers' total starts might come into play when determining their 1995 BRASSball usage, use this chart to figure the BRASSball equivalent of their MLB starts total.

1995 PA and IP Limits Enclosed (cont'd.)

If any of you wants to use these documents to help determine PA and IP limits for another league you are in, please feel free to do so. I'll be glad to have helped you. It will end up making the time I put into it more valuable than if I just helped two leagues--the BRASS winter league being the other one.

By the way, our winter league uses 100% PA and IP usage and I have produced similar documents to fit that league's usage limit system. If 100% fits your league better, write me and I'll send you the 100% documents. I'll gladly print out my 100% documents or my 105% documents, but I won't personalize one for whatever other usage limit schemes are out there. It's too much work.

Have You Mailed Your Check for League Start-up Funds?

Unfortunately for me, many of you haven't. Despite newsletter text and/or telephone instructions from Kevin, I still don't have them all. Just in case there has been some mix-up in communication on this issue, here's what the money is for:

Over the course of the past 6 months, I have spent more than \$300 out of my own pocket to start the BRASSball league. I wrote the constitution and related start-up documents, mailed copies and revisions, paid for the printing, binding and mailing of 35 constitutions and recruiting packages, and I absorbed phone call, supplies, mailing, advertising and other related costs. And while I am happy to have contributed these things to the league's creation, it is certainly appropriate for these costs to shared equally by all, now that we have a full roster of BRASSball colleagues.

So, if your name is not Kevin Kolb, Tom Taormina, Tom Johnson, Lenny Luchtefeld, Charles Kirkwood, Mike O'Connor, Jim Liesenfelt, Scott Campbell, Doug Campbell, Colby Wright, *Fred Lambrecht*, Tom Manna or Doug Kehlmeier, please send me a check for \$10 now. My address is: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] For anyone who has sent a check in the past couple days (I'm writing this on October 22), please disregard this. I just haven't received it yet. I'll ask Kevin to publish a binding deadline for these to get to me in his newsletter.

Trade Wire

Huh? How can there be a trade wire already when I don't even own a player yet? Easy. I can trade the one thing of value that I do own at this point. That's the 5th pick in the Dispersal Draft. Anybody want Mike Piazza? Matt Williams? Albert Belle? Kenny Lofton? Greg Maddux? Four of these five players will almost certainly be available with this pick if you are interested. I'd probably trade the 5th pick for your first and second round picks if you have a favorite player from among this group (or someone else) that you just have to own.

Contact me if you are interested. Otherwise, good luck in the draft and I hope to see you in Chicago on Draft Day!!