

BRASSBALL: News and Notes

Volume I, no.4
January, 1995

D-DAY IS COMING!

Believe it or not, draft day is barely over a month away. (Feb. 18-19) If the rest of you are anything at all like me, I suspect you have already put in a fair amount of time into draft preparation. I know I can't wait.

At this point, I know of seven people who will be in Chicago for the draft. (They are Kehlmeier, Gale, Wright, Klugh, Kolb, Taormina, and Nuest.) I know more of you are coming, but only those I mentioned are **definites**. As for the rest of you, if you could let me know when I can consider you as a definite, I would appreciate it.

Of the seven people I mentioned above who are definitely coming, only two are flying in. Tom Taormina was able to secure a very reasonable flight to and from Chicago (less than \$150) and Jim Klugh has generously decided to use a frequent flier bonus ticket to come to the draft. All of us attending the draft should say thanks to Jim for saving us some money. Jim certainly could have used that ticket on him or his family just as easily. However, having had the pleasure of being a fellow strat player with Jim in other leagues over the past four years, his selfless gesture does not surprise me in the least. We are all lucky to have him in our league. While I'm on the subject, Jim has also informed me he is willing to share a hotel room with someone to help reduce the cost. Anyone interested in cutting his hotel bill in half should call Jim and work out an arrangement.

Because the travel costs of the seven people who are definitely coming are so low, those of you who were on the fence as to whether you would come or not should give it some serious thought. Anyone who needs to fly in to get here will certainly be getting a great deal given the fact that all of us at the draft will share the costs.

WHAT IF WE DONT FINISH?

The possibility that we will not complete the draft during the 18th and 19th does exist. I hope this is not the case, but we do need to be prepared all the same. Because the season starts only a month after the draft, we will need to pick a day soon after the 19th. Therefore, **if we do not finish** the draft over draft weekend, we will finish it, by phone, on Saturday, March 4th, starting at 10AM central standard time. I will conduct this portion of the draft, if it is necessary. Now I know some of you out there won't be able to participate due to other commitments. That is o.k. What you will have to do in that case is prepare a list and send it to me so I can draft the remainder of your team for you. Because any drafting we do on March 4th will be towards the tail end of the draft, you need not be too concerned that drafting by list

will disadvantage you to any great extent. March 4th is two weeks after our draft in Chicago. This will give time to anyone not available on the 4th to make up a list and send it to me. Hopefully, all this will be moot, and we will finish on the 19th. But if we need more time, we now have a plan.

LEAVE HIM ALONE!

I noticed that this month I received several messages from other league members via Vaughn Nuest. This seemed odd to me, but I guess I understand. Many of you have been used to dealing with Vaughn due to his being the commissioner of the winter BRASS league, as well as the fact that Vaughn did much of the work getting this league off the ground while I was studying for the Bar exam. However, all that is in the past. I am now, and will always (?) be the commissioner of this league. For that reason, anything concerning BRASSball business should be brought to my attention. Noone should be calling Vaughn anymore, unless it involves his team. It simply is not fair to Vaughn that he should be expected to be the conduit between league members and myself. If you need to bother anyone, it should be me. 'nuf said.

SPEAKING OF THE WINTER BRASS LEAGUE...

The winter BRASS league is in need of a couple quality owners to take over existing franchises. The winter BRASS league is the league which spawned the BRASSball league and is virtually the same as our new league. Anyone interested, or anyone knowing someone who would be interested, should contact Vaughn.

LEAGUE DIRECTORY

Doug Kehlmeier has informed me that the response to the league directory has been sparse. It now appears unlikely that he will be able to have the directory published by draft day, as we had hoped. However, I still want those of you who haven't done so to take twenty minutes and type up a page or so about yourself, your family, hobbies, etc. along with a photo of yourself, and send it off to Doug as soon as possible. Let's get this done guys!

NEW LEAGUE MEMBER

Unfortunately, we already have a casualty in our league. Keith Koszut was going to be unavailable for draft day and as a result, he decided to give up his team. Keith will be placed at the top of the backup owner list and will be offered the first existing team becoming available in the future.

Our new league member is Chris Jewel. His phone number is [REDACTED]. His address is [REDACTED]. Chris, if you could get me your new team name and ballpark dimensions (if you want to change them) as soon as possible, I'd appreciate it.

NEW ADDRESS

Bob Gale's new address is [REDACTED]. Everything else, including town and phone number, remains the same.

BRASSBALL LEAGUE SCHEDULE AND BALLPARKS ENCLOSED

As you can see, enclosed is the 1995 BRASSball schedule along with each teams ballpark configurations. Observe that the shedule provides for off days as well as day games. (Also note that because the Crown Point Comets of the NL Central are under new ownership, their ballpark and team name are subject to change.)

There will be one more newsletter coming before the draft. If any of you have any questions or concerns, contact me as soon as possible so I may address those items in the February newsletter.

That's all for now,
KK

BRASSball Historian's Report

...by Vaughn Nuest

**vol. 1, no. 2
December, 1994**

Homes, Sweet Homes...

I understand there was a 2 percentage point jump in BRASSland's GNP this year as a result of all the construction contracts handed out for building 24 new BRASSball franchise's ball parks. I'm happy to report that they were all completed ahead of schedule and should be ready for Opening Day festivities on April 1, 1995. A complete rundown of the new ball yards is enclosed in this mailing.

A few of them don't have names yet, but I'm sure they will in good time. These BRASSball owners are obviously holding out for the highest corporate bidder before granting naming rights. But I understand the fans in Racine, Wauwatosa, Tolar, Nashville and Madhatterville (wherever that is?) are each circulating "show a spine" petitions which call for the local baseball magnates to select from a variety of local heroes and not sell out to the highest bidder.

We'll see what happens with the name game on these franchise's parks.

Ball Park Analysis...

The crafting of our home digs represents perhaps the final significant event in BRASSball history prior to the creation of our franchise rosters. Like all good baseball owners, the BRASSball franchise owners have duped the taxpayers into spending millions of dollars for these new palaces, thereby preserving the \$50,000,000 they have available for initial player salaries. Aren't we clever?

Now what's left is to match roster with ballpark and test your squad against every team in the league over 162 long games. With this in mind, I thought I'd add a little ball park analysis to our embryonic historical record this month. I hope you enjoy it.

With all the effort we've put into constructing a PBM league that tries to simulate real baseball as much as possible, it looks like the first evidence we have of that success is quite random and coincidental. If the ballparks are any indication, it appears as if BRASSball's AL and NL differences will simulate MLB's AL and NL differences. The power parks and power game will definitely be played in BRASSball's American League, while the National League has far more pitcher's parks. Anybody want to petition Kevin to abolish the DH in the NL?

Despite the more pitcher-friendly NL, it is clear that BRASSballers like offense. This is shown by looking at the weather-effect dimensions of the "average" BRASSball ball park. In the average park, singles are 10.8 and 10.0 for lefties and righties, respectively, while home runs are 12.9 for lefties and 11.9 for righties. On balance, every hitter will have better than

a 50-50 chance for a weather effect single or homer, in BRASSball play. Pity the poor pitchers. If BRASSball were real, the hurlers would never sign to play in our league!

Below are some interesting weather effect averages for teams in BRASSball, each league, and each division. The most offensive numbers (no pun intended) are highlighted in bold.

BRASSball AVERAGE: SI*: 10.8 / 10.0 HR: 12.9 / 11.9

AMERICAN LEAGUE AVERAGE: SI*: **11.7 / 10.6** HR: **14.0 / 13.6**

NATIONAL LEAGUE AVERAGE: SI*: 9.9 / 9.4 HR: 11.8 / 10.1

AL WEST AVERAGE: SI*: **17.3 / 13.9** HR: 14.3 / 13.2

AL CENTRAL AVERAGE: SI*: 6.0 / 6.0 HR: **15.3 / 15.3**

AL EAST AVERAGE: SI*: 11.8 / 11.8 HR: 12.3 / 12.3

NL WEST AVERAGE: SI*: 10.0 / 9.5 HR: **12.3 / 11.5**

NL CENTRAL AVERAGE: SI*: **11.6 / 12.1** HR: 11.1 / 10.6

NL EAST AVERAGE: SI*: 8.2 / 6.7 HR: 12.1 / 8.3

As you can see from the chart above, the lowest average homer chance in an AL division is equal to the number that represents the highest average homer chance in an NL division. In all, a player is a full 26% more likely to nail a ball park homer split in an AL park, on average, than if he is in a NL park. What's more, he's almost 16% more likely to beat out a ballpark single in an AL park. Pretty interesting stuff--at least as far as weather effects go.

Not surprisingly, the top two hitters parks, the aptly named Homer Dome in Florida and Ocean Front Stadium at Santa Barbara, are both in the American League. While the top pitcher's park, Three Rivers Stadium (using the current MLB Pirates dimensions) being used by the Blind Lemons, is in the NL. Most of the rest of the pitcher's parks are in the NL as well. Sticking out like a sore thumb are the exceptions. The AL's Metro Dome, the ironically-named home to the AL East's Minnesota Mudcats, is an island in a sea of AL offense. And The Yard, home to the NL Central's Charlevoix Cutters, is one of the few dinger havens in the NL.

On the weather front, BRASSball has eleven domed stadiums where the elements never come into play. Of the 13 outdoor facilities, you are more likely to encounter good weather year-round in Santa Barbara than anywhere else. And the sun apparently never shines in Wauwatosa. The unnamed stadium there is more likely than all others to see bad weather.

Aw Shucks, Itwern't Nuthin'...

I want to finish this report with a couple words for a surprising number of BRASSballers who have taken the time to acknowledge the hard work I put in to get the our new League off the ground. I've really been surprised at the number of complimentary notes and phone calls I've received since we rounded out the League's membership. I know it's a well-worn cliché, but it's apt. It really does make it worthwhile when people acknowledge and appreciate your efforts. Thanks for kind words, guys. Remember that Tom Taormina and Kevin played big roles as well. I hope we will all remember to acknowledge the work of the various League Administrative Team members every year too. Oh, the couple words?: **You're welcome!**

B. R. A. S. S. b a I L E A G U E B A L L P A R K S

AMERICAN LEAGUE

WEST

| TEAM: Poway Posse | | | | STADIUM: O. K. Corral | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-12 | 1-7 | 1-11 | 1-6 | GOOD | 13/13 | 13/13 | |
| 13-19 | 8-19 | 12-19 | 7-19 | AVG. | 12/12 | 12/12 | |
| 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | BAD | 11/11 | 11/11 | |

| TEAM: Santa Barbara Outlaws | | | | STADIUM: Ocean Front Stadium at Santa Barbara | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-15 | 1-15 | 1-13 | 1-10 | GOOD | 20/20 | 20/20 | |
| 16-19 | 16-19 | 14-16 | 11-17 | AVG. | 20/20 | 16/16 | |
| 20 | 20 | 19-20 | 16-20 | BAD | 20/20 | 10/10 | |

| TEAM: Santa Monica Sharks | | | | STADIUM: Santa Monica Stadium | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 20/10 | 20/10 | |

| TEAM: So Cal Golden Knights | | | | STADIUM: The Round Table | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-16 | 1-10 | 1-8 | 1-5 | GOOD | 19/15 | 6/14 | |
| 17-19 | 11-16 | 9-17 | 8-16 | AVG. | 16/12 | 6/10 | |
| 20 | 19-20 | 18-20 | 16-20 | BAD | 10/7 | 3/8 | |

CENTRAL

| TEAM: Arlington Thoroughbreds | | | | STADIUM: The Omega Multiplex | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-7 | 1-7 | 1-7 | 1-7 | GOOD | 7/7 | 18/18 | |
| 8-17 | 8-17 | 8-17 | 8-17 | AVG. | 9/8 | 16/16 | |
| 18-20 | 18-20 | 18-20 | 18-20 | BAD | 3/3 | 10/10 | |

| TEAM: Box City Paracmen | | | | STADIUM: The Center | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 12/12 | 14/14 | |

| TEAM: Cook County Maulers | | | | STADIUM: Bill Weick Field | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-11 | 1-10 | 1-8 | 1-5 | GOOD | 9/8 | 18/18 | |
| 12-18 | 11-17 | 8-18 | 6-19 | AVG. | 8/8 | 16/16 | |
| 19-20 | 18-20 | 16-20 | 14-20 | BAD | 4/4 | 14/14 | |

| TEAM: Madhatters | | | | STADIUM: | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 5/5 | 5/5 | |

EAST

| TEAM: Florida Aces | | | | STADIUM: Homer Dome | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 20/20 | 19/19 | |

| TEAM: Heasville Evereadys | | | | STADIUM: The Palace in the Pasture | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-11 | 1-7 | 1-6 | 1-2 | GOOD | 16/16 | 10/10 | |
| 12-17 | 8-17 | 7-13 | 3-10 | AVG. | 14/15 | 6/6 | |
| 18-20 | 18-20 | 14-20 | 11-20 | BAD | 14/14 | 6/6 | |

| TEAM: Minnesota Mudcats | | | | STADIUM: Metro Dome | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 2/2 | 8/8 | |

| TEAM: St. Lucie Snook | | | | STADIUM: Jacobs Field (Cleveland - AL) | | | |
|--|-------|-------------|-------|--|-----|----|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| Please consult the game company's ballpark listings for this franchise's ball park dimensions each season. | | | | GOOD | | | |
| | | | | BAD | | | |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

WEST

| TEAM: Emerald City Cyclones | | | | STADIUM: Shasta Field | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-----------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 7/7 | 12/15 | |

| TEAM: Nashville Assassins | | | | STADIUM: | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------|-----|-----|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 6/6 | 6/6 | |

| TEAM: Nome Gnomes | | | | STADIUM: Gnome Dome | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 12/14 | 18/16 | |

| TEAM: Tolar Redders | | | | STADIUM: | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------|------|------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 13/9 | 11/7 | |

CENTRAL

| TEAM: Blind Lemons | | | | STADIUM: Three Rivers Stad. (Pittsburgh - NL) | | | |
|--|-------|-------------|-------|---|-----|----|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| Please consult the game company's ballpark listings for this franchise's ball park dimensions each season. | | | | GOOD | | | |
| | | | | BAD | | | |

| TEAM: Bloomington Bees | | | | STADIUM: The Hive | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-12 | 1-7 | 1-7 | 1-4 | GOOD | 12/14 | 17/15 | |
| 13-17 | 6-17 | 6-15 | 5-14 | AVG. | 12/14 | 12/10 | |
| 18-20 | 18-20 | 16-20 | 15-20 | BAD | 12/14 | 7/5 | |

| TEAM: Charlevoix Cutters | | | | STADIUM: The Yard | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 14/14 | 17/17 | |

| TEAM: Crown Point Comets | | | | STADIUM: Edmund Healey Memorial Stadium | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-6 | 1-6 | 1-6 | 1-6 | GOOD | 15/15 | 11/11 | |
| 7-14 | 7-14 | 7-14 | 7-14 | AVG. | 13/13 | 8/8 | |
| 15-20 | 15-20 | 15-20 | 15-20 | BAD | 11/11 | 7/7 | |

EAST

| TEAM: Long Island Tigers | | | | STADIUM: Ethen Edwards Memorial Field | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-----|------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-12 | 1-9 | 1-8 | 1-5 | GOOD | 7/7 | 12/9 | |
| 13-16 | 10-16 | 9-16 | 6-16 | AVG. | 6/6 | 9/7 | |
| 19-20 | 19-20 | 17-20 | 16-20 | BAD | 4/4 | 6/5 | |

| TEAM: Racine Heat | | | | STADIUM: | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | 1-20 | AVG. | 12/12 | 13/13 | |

| TEAM: Seacucus Travelers | | | | STADIUM: Del Ennis Memorial Stadium | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-12 | 1-7 | 1-8 | 1-4 | GOOD | 8/5 | 17/11 | |
| 13-17 | 6-17 | 6-15 | 5-14 | AVG. | 7/4 | 16/10 | |
| 18-20 | 18-20 | 16-20 | 15-20 | BAD | 6/3 | 14/8 | |

| TEAM: Wauwata Wizards | | | | STADIUM: MILWAUKEE COUNTY STADIUM | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|-------|-----------------------------------|------|------|-----|
| JUN/JUL/AUG | | APR/MAY/SEP | | WEATHER | SI* | HR | |
| DAY | NIGHT | DAY | NIGHT | | | | L/R |
| 1-12 | 1-7 | 1-4 | 1 | GOOD | 11/7 | 16/7 | |
| 13-17 | 6-17 | 6-10 | 2-8 | AVG. | 8/6 | 9/2 | |
| 18-20 | 18-20 | 11-20 | 10-20 | BAD | 6/2 | 5/0 | |