

# BRASSBALL: NEWS AND NOTES

VOLUME III, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER, 1997

## BLOOMINGTON DETHRONES ST. LUCIE!!!

In a stunning seven game series, the Bloomington Bees won the BRASSball Championship over last year's champ from Florida. While each team exchanged tremendous pitching performances, five of the seven games were decided by an amazing SIX runs OR MORE. Series MVP Kevin Brown won Games #1 and 7 to lead the Bees to victory. (Each of you should have already received a Series summary via e-mail)

Bloomington arrived in the season's final series by defeating Motor City with surprising ease, 4 games to 1. The tone was set in Game One, where home runs by McGwire and Ventura tied it and won it respectively in the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup> off Madmen closer Trevor Hoffman. That demoralizing defeat sent Motor City into a tailspin they could not recover from. A complete summary of this series is enclosed in this newsletter.

St. Lucie advanced to the Series by defeating Richmond in four straight! The Madhatters may have taken the Snook lightly, considering they had just knocked off the AL's best team during the regular season. The Hatters defeated Cook County in an emotional seven game series that was decided in EXTRA INNINGS.....

### MAULERS vs HATTERS

Cook County took *Game 1* with little difficulty. Cy Young favorite Roger Clemens shut Richmond down on five hits, while his team scored 11 runs for him. In winning 11-1, the Maulers seemed to be sending a statement that this was indeed their year.

*Game Two* was decided in exciting fashion. Trailing 5-3 in the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup>, Cook County's Mike Piazza took Troy Percival deep, tying the game at 5. In the bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Kevin Elster won it with a 2-run shot off TJ Mathews. Heading to Richmond up 2-0, all looked good for the Maulers.

*Game 3* pitted Juan Guzman versus Alex Fernandez. Barry Larkin's 2-run HR in the 1<sup>st</sup>, and Robbie Alomar's 2-run double in the bottom of the 4<sup>th</sup> were all the Hatters needed. Alex allowed but 3 hits while fanning nine in 7 2/3 innings. In winning 4-2, the Hatters had decided to show up after all.

*Game 4* was over early. In a rematch of Game 1, Pedro Martinez was hooked up against The Rocket. Clemens did not have it on this day, allowing six runs in 3 innings. Reggie Jefferson was 3 for 4, with a HR and 4 RBI, as Richmond won it 7-2.

*Game Five* was the turning point in the series. In this battle of lefties, Jeff Fassero and Donovan Osborne hooked up in a beauty. They matched goose-eggs for 6 innings. But it all went bad for Cook County in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>. When it was over, six runs had crossed, keyed by a pinch 2-run HR by Kevin Mitchell. In winning 6-1, Richmond was heading back to Cook County needing only one win to advance.

*Game Six* was a massacre. Alex Fernandez was torched, as was the rest of Richmond's staff. Mike Piazza and Juan Gonzalez EACH hit grand slams,

and the Maulers built an amazing 17-3 lead. Richmond didn't quit, and likely gained some momentum late, as the final score of 20-14 would indicate. One game left....

**Game 7:** The fans in Cook County were in a frenzy! After 2 losing seasons, the Maulers were one game away from winning their first playoff series. Roger Clemens vs Pedro Martinez. 3-3 was the score after 6 innings. In the 7<sup>th</sup>, Barry Larkin hit a 2-run HR to make it 5-3. Gary Sheffield tied it off Percival in the 8<sup>th</sup>, with a dramatic shot off Troy Percival. In the top of the 10<sup>th</sup>, Bernard Gilkey sealed the Mauler's fate, with a 3-run HR. Final score: 9-5.

**Series MVP:** Reggie Jefferson. *Reggie, Reggie, Reggie!!!* Jefferson went 11 for 25 in the series, with 3 HRs and 12 RBI.

### SNOOK VS HATTERS

No details available. Snook win series 4-0.

NLCS AND WORLD SERIES SUMMARIES TO FOLLOW.

### FREE AGENCY BEGINS

Most of you should already have the complete list of free agents. You have until the 25<sup>th</sup> to complete and send off your sealed bids to Rob Workman. Good luck to all. Let the feeding frenzy begin!

### New Teams

This past month there was a re-draft involving the teams formerly known as Midwest, McGraw, Ann Arbor, Crown Point, and Canyon Country. To no one's surprise, Ken Griffey Jr. was the first player selected, followed by Chipper Jones, Derek Jeter, Jim Thome, and Ben Grieve. All five teams did a good job of positioning themselves to compete in the near future. With each "new" team having over 30 million (after noting that each club was significantly short on innings and PAs, through NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN—previous owners left little in the cupboard to draft from— I decided to give each team an additional 5 million to ensure these new teams do not blow their bankroll simply trying

to field a team) and a supply of draft picks, there is no reason to believe each of these clubs cannot compete for the post-season within a couple years. Among the new teams are the **Florida Hurricanes**, owned by Eric Spitz. The Hurricanes will play in the AL East, along with fellow Floridians St. Lucie and Hessville, as well as Minnesota. Florida was the luckiest franchise, winning the right to draft Griffey Jr. In addition, the 'Canes added players such as Jeff Kent and Marquis Grissom, as well as fireballing relievers Rick Bottalico and Billy Wagner. Denny Neagle will provide the 'Canes some needed leadership in the rotation, while joined by steady Tim Wakefield and 1997 Rookie of the Year contender Omar Olivares. Youngsters Pokey Reese, Dmitri Young, and Yamil Benitez give Florida some hope for the future, as does five open slots for amateurs in the upcoming rookie draft.

The **Milwaukee Tailgaters**, owned by Tony Cieszynski, sport a bevy of sluggers (Thome, Greer, Huskey), some nice young arms (Loaiza, D'Amico, Mendoza, Person, Coppinger), and some veteran talent (Offerman, Beck, Burba, Molitor) as well. The Tailgaters, to compete in the NL WEST, will play ball in Arlington Stadium.

Don Leigers, owner of the **Hanover Hangmen**, will also make his team's home in the NL WEST. The Hangmen sport an impressive infield, with Jeter, Eric Young, and Cal Ripken around the horn. Youngsters like Armando Benitez, Doug Glanville, Rich Hidalgo, and Russ Branyan give much hope for the future, as do current stars like Tony Gwynn (RFA), BJ Surhoff, and Ismael Valdes.

Mike Thomas, (team unnamed), is one of our new owners in the AL WEST. Thomas went young in the re-draft, grabbing young Manny Ramirez, Johnny Damon, and Ben Grieve as his outfield of the future. James Baldwin, Andy Ashby, and Jason Istringhausen could be a major part of a solid rotation in the near future. Veterans Brad Ausmus, Carlos Baerga, Chili Davis, and Joe Carter give Thomas something to work with in the short term.

**Team X** consists of a terrific infield of Chipper Jones, Jay Bell, Quilvio Veras, and young Travis

Lee. The outfield could consist of a Wil Cordero, Matt Stairs, and Devon White. Ace Brad Radke will be helped by Ben McDonald, Kevin Tapani, Jeff Juden (RFA), and Terry Mulholland (RFA), to form a solid, if unspectacular pitching staff.

Good luck to all of you newcomers. Welcome!

## **RULE CHANGES**

Here are the final results:

- 1) Contract extension: Passed (12-7)-To begin in 1998.
- 2) We voted to keep using plate appearances rather than at bats to determine player usage. (13-6)
- 3) We rejected (10-9) the proposal to extend the amateur limit from 5 to 7.
- 4) We voted to align the playoff matchups based on a seeding system--#1 vs #4, #2 vs #3. (12-7)
- 5) We will continue to use 105% usage (10-9 against 110%)
- 6) We voted to adopt the use of the ONE computer card rather than using the "two cards" for players who played on two teams. (15-4)

The most significant change is obviously the contract extension feature. **This new proposal will make it neither easy or cheap** to extend a player's contract. However, it will allow a team the flexibility to do so in some circumstances. The policy was designed so that it would NOT take too many players out of the free agency pool, while still allowing for the occasional extension. Those of you who dissented seemed to be most concerned about the high price to extend a contract. Please note that you DO NOT have to extend a player's deal. You have the option of matching a player's offer after the bids are in. This new rule simply provides another alternative for us, and frankly, I believe it shortchanges the TRUE superstar free agent.

It is important to note that the extension of a player's deal must be done by September 25<sup>th</sup> of a given year. This date falls prior to the date each team receives its 17 million in "revenue sharing". So, if you want to extend a player's deal, you need to have enough money to do so BEFORE you receive your annual payout.

(As our Constitution is somewhat out-dated at this point, I will be revising it and sending each of you a new edition prior to the beginning of the 1998 season.)

## **PLAYER AWARDS**

### **National League**

#### **MVP:**

What a season for Bobby Higginson! In his 1<sup>st</sup> full season, Higgy put together a season most players dream of: .351-36-133. He also won a World Series. To top it off, he has been voted the winner of TWO post-season awards, first and foremost, the NL MVP.

- 1) Higginson, Bloomington: 32 points
- 2) F. Thomas, Long Island: 23 points
- 3) Burks, Motor City: 22 points

### **CY YOUNG**

A Bloomington Bee wins this one too. Kevin Brown topped off his World Series MVP performance by also winning the NL Cy Young award. With his amazing 29-5, 2.65 mark, Brownie breezed to an easy victory over 2-time winner and teammate, Greg Maddux.

- 1) Brown, Bloomington: 42 points
- 2) Maddux, Bloomington: 31 points
- 3) Smoltz, Bloomington: 28 points

Hey, wait. These are all Bloomington pitchers! Oh yes---maybe that explains why they won 128 games!!

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:**

So who finished second to Higginson? Who else?  
A Bee! Take a look...

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1) Higginson, Bloomington:                    | 34 points |
| 2) Rivera, Bloomington:                       | 26 points |
| 3) Hollandsworth, Portland<br>Baldwin, McGraw | 16 points |

**American League:****MVP:**

There was some questioning of last year's BLOCKBUSTER deal which sent Albert Belle and the free agent rights to Vinny Castilla from St. Lucie to Box City for Barry Bonds. No one questioned Bonds's ability. The question was whether he was worth such a high price? Seems so.

- |                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1) B. Bonds, St. Lucie:  | 34 points |
| 2) G. Sheffield, Cook Co | 28 points |
| 3) M. Piazza, Cook Co    | 20 points |

**CY YOUNG:**

- |                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1) Roger Clemens, Cook Co.     | 38 points |
| 2) Pedro Martinez, Richmond    | 28 points |
| 3) John Burkett, Santa Barbara | 22 points |

**Rookie of the Year:**

No surprise here....

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1) A. Rodriguez, Minnesota:                               | 35 points |
| 2) Carlos Delgado, Cook Co:                               | 23 points |
| 3) Johnny Damon, Crown Point<br>Butch Huskey, Crown Point | 14 points |

**TRADES**

98. Ocala trades Jorge Fabregas to Minnesota for Scott Brosius, Bill Haselman, and \$875,000.

99. Minnesota trades Tino Martinez to Cook County for Brian Giles.

**LEAGUE DIRECTORY**

Enclosed you will find a league directory, which includes a new address for Corey Weisser.

**AMATEURS**

For those of you who do not know, the signing period for amateurs is soon after the cards come out--or more accurately, the list of which players ARE carded. Until then, amateurs remain in their amateur status. When the card information is released, each team is then required to either re-sign its amateur, release him, or sign him to a (MO) or major league deal. I believe this information on who is carded comes out at year's end. Stay tuned.

**On-Time Bonus Winners**

The following teams earned a bonus draft selection between the third and fourth rounds of this year's upcoming rookie draft for perfect mailing records....

....Santa Barbara, Albany, Iowa, Box, Cook Co, Richmond, Minnesota, St. Lucie, Ocala, Channel, Naptown, Bloomington, Portland, Long Isl, Motor, Wauwatosa.

Congratulations to all of you!! In all, it was a pretty good year as relates to the dearth of late mailings. Those of you not listed, I'm sure you will earn the pick in next year's draft.

**UPCOMING DEADLINES**

NOV 25<sup>th</sup>: Free agency bids due to conductor.

***That's all for now!!***

***NEXT MONTH: FREE AGENCY RESULTS!!***

Subj: NLCS results (fwd)  
Date: 97-11-05 08:44:28 EST  
From: vnuest@indiana.edu (Vaughn Nuest, Library Customer Services Department (855-5386))  
To: kkolb3569@aol.com (Kevin Kolb)

Would you print out this message and add it to the next newsletter, please?  
I want it to be an article from me reporting on the NLCS. Thanks. -V.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kevin, The Bees have won the National League Championship 4 games to 1.

Here are some specifics:

Game 1: Bloomington 5, Motor City 3

W: Rivera L: Hoffman

Bees get three in the bottom of the 9th. A homer by McGwire (off Hoffman) ties it. A two-run shot by Ventura (off Hoffman) wins it!

BLOOMINGTON LEADS SERIES 1-0.

Game 2: Bloomington 9, Motor City 8

W: Brown L: Hoffman SV: Rivera

Hoffman blows 3-run lead again, this time in the 6th and 7th. Ventura homered off him again. Deciding hit is a 2-run single by Becker in the 7th. Higginson is 3 for 5 with a double, 3B, HR, and 3 RBI. Burks belts 2 HR's off Kevin Brown in defeat

BLOOMINGTON LEADS SERIES 2-0.

Game 3: Motor City 8, Bloomington 1

W: Sanders L: Smoltz

Caminiti homers twice, drives in 4 runs and goes 3 for 5 off an inept John Smoltz to lead the Madmen back into the series. Burks homered again too and had 3 hits. Smoltz allowed 13 hits, 4 homers and all 8 runs. Scott Sanders tossed five 2-hit relief innings for the win.

BLOOMINGTON LEADS SERIES 2-1.

Game 4: Bloomington 10, Motor City 1

W: Maddux L: Nagy

Greg Maddux was masterful in Game 4, tossing a 4-hitter in a complete game effort. He struck out 6 and walked no one. Vizquel's third inning sacrifice fly was the only Madmen score. McGwire, Hundley and Ventura homered for

the Bees, who broke the game open off reliever Scott Sanders who allowed 6 runs in 2/3 of an inning in relief.

**BLOOMINGTON LEADS SERIES 3-1.**

**Game 5: Bloomington 9, Motor City 2**

**W: Brown L: Key**

Bees explode for 4 more homers (Palmeiro, Higginson, Ventura, Hundley) and Brown tosses 8 excellent innings in the clincher. Bees put the game away early. Vizquel has 4 of the 7 hits Brown allowed for Motor City.

**BLOOMINGTON WINS SERIES 4-1.**

**SERIES MVP: Robin Ventura, clutch game-winning HR in Game 1, team-high 4 HR's and 7 RBI in the series.**

**Other notables:**

**Bloomington:**

McGwire: 7 for 17 (.412) 2 HR, 4 RBI  
Palmeiro: 8 for 20 (.400) 1 HR 3 RBI  
Hundley: 7 for 19 (.368) 2 HR, 5 RBI  
Biggio: 7 for 19 (.368) 2 2B, 3B, 7 BB, 2 SB  
Higginson: 6 for 19 (.316) 2B, 3B, 2 HR, 7 RBI  
Rivera: 1-0, 0.00 ERA, 1 SV, 4 IP, 2 H, 1 BB, 5 SO  
Maddux: 1-0, 2.25 ERA, 2 GS, 1 CG, 16 IP, 13 H, 4 R, 2 BB, 12 SO

**Motor City:**

Lopez: 8 for 17 (.471) 1 HR  
Klesko: 10 for 22 (.455) 1 HR, 4 RBI  
Vizquel: 7 for 17 (.412)  
Burks: 7 for 22 (.318) 3 HR, 6 RBI  
Caminiti: 2 HR, 5 RBI

**Low-lights:**

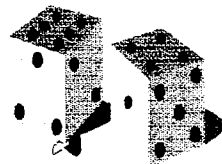
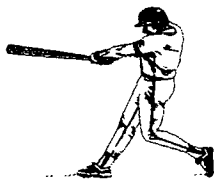
Regular season Home Run champ Eric Karros goes 2 for 18 (both singles) with no RBI.

Trevor Hoffman loses twice and allows 30 baserunners in his 16 2/3 innings of work. 20 hits, 11 ER, \*\*6\*\* HR, and 10 BB's. ERA: 5.94.

The ace reliever "H" squad (Honeycutt, Hoffman, Hernandez, R.) becomes the "HR" squad in the series. Combined ERA of 6.00, 8 HR and 51 base runners in 27 IP.

# THE PARCELMEN PAGE

BY LENNY LUCHTEFELD



## '97 Parcelmen review

After the initial startup season of the Brassball league, the Box City Parcelmen stood on top with a World Series trophy in their clubhouse. Following a game seven win defeating Long Island Tigers for the first ever Brassball World Series championship the team and organization was on a high. The last two years have been hard to accept after the teams early success. In '96 the parcelmen finished 64-98 and third in their division. Box City new coming into that season they were not the same team as the year before. They weren't without their offensive stars. Players like Bonds and Buhner were still around and the team slugged 205 homers. The pitching although, was a far cry from what it had been. The team ERA had gone from 4.31 to 5.67

When the '97 season started it was known by the general manager that this would not be a successful campaign either. The Parcelmen had already decided that the best direction for the team would be to regroup for another year or two. The decision was made even easier by the strength of the Maulers and the Madmen both looking very powerful and getting better all the time through trades. Top draft picks selecting good young talent along with smart trading would be the key to the teams future goals.

Under the teams new rebuilding process the 1997 version of the Box City Parcelmen finished at 50-112 and last in the division. This would be another year of going in a reverse direction. The bright spot of such a poor season is that management has the 2<sup>nd</sup> overall pick in next years rookie draft to work with. The team will also be looking to retain some of its free agents. Cora, Sorrento, Burkett and Drabek will be the top priority players to keep around. The team has the money to keep them and maybe add another key pitcher or position player.

The Parcelmen also handed out their team awards at a banquet earlier this month. All players and coached voted on the most valuable player and for pitcher for the year. Albert Belle took the team MVP award. Belle batted .280 with 37 homers and 126 rbi's. Belle also scored a 100 runs in his first year as a Parcelman. Ken Hill was the unanimous choice as pitcher of the year. Hill finished with a 15-13 record and an ERA of 3.51 with 11 complete games.

The team is now looking forward to a busy off season filled with free agency, trading and next years rookie draft. Box City is optimistic about having a better '98 season, feeling they have turned the corner.

BRASSBALL DIRECTORY

	team name	owner	address	city	st	zip	phone	job/articles	e-mail
1	?	Mike Thomas		Hudson					
2	Santa Barbara Outlaws	Brian Budzyn		Thousand Oaks				Website	
3	TEAM X								
4	Albany Anchoemen	Patrick Goss		Albany					
5	Iowa Rubes	Tom Hughes		Iowa City					
6	Box City Parcelmen	Lenny Luchtefeld		Marion					
7	Cook County Maulers	Kevin Kolb		Buffalo Grove				AL Reporter	
8	Richmond Madhatters	David Caddell		Richmond				Commish	
9	Florida Hurricanes	Eric Spitz		Deerfield Beach					
10	Hessville Evereadys	Jim Liesenfelt		W. Melbourne					
11	Minnesota Mudcats	Mark Lentz		St. Louis Park					
12	St. Lucie Snook	Charles Kirkwood		Stuart					
13	Ocala Ocelots	Corey Weisser		Barron					
14	Milwaukee Tailgaters	Tony Cieszynski		Milwaukee					
15	Channel Islands Surferdudes	Raul Carnacho		Oxnard					
16	Hanover Hangmen	Don Leigers		Ashland					
17	Naptown Blind Lemons	Doug Kehmeier		Fishers					
18	Bloomington Bees	Vaughn Nuest		Bloomington					
19	Portland Steelheads	Andrew Bolsinger		Carby				NL REPORTER	
20	East Indy Tigers	Chris Jewel		Fishers					
21	Long Island Tigers	Tom Taormina		Coram				STATS	
22	Racine Heat	Fred Lambrecht		Racine					
23	Motor City Madmen	Rob Workman		Lake Orion					
24	Wauwatosa Wizards	Bob Gale		Wauwatosa				FREE AGENCY	