

The Press Box

A Publication of the BRASSball Strat-O-Matic Baseball League

May, '99

By Lenny Luchtefeld

**BRASSball's National League is off and running.
The first month's play is in the books.**

N. L. Standings

East

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Long Island	14	14	.500	
Racine	11	17	.393	3
Wauwatosa	10	18	.357	4
Glen Allen	9	19	.321	5

Central

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Columbus	16	12	.571	
Bloomington	15	13	.536	1
Stanley	11	17	.393	5
River Bend	11	17	.393	5

West

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Ocala	17	11	.607	
North Georgia	14	11	.560	1.5
Metropolis	12	16	.429	5
Gem City	9	19	.321	8

I wanted to take a look back and see how we stood after April's play and compare it to Tony Galietta's preseason preview. As Tony has predicted, things are shaping up almost exactly as he has said they would. If he was off in any area it was the surprise of the Columbus Buckeyes being in first place in the Central division. I have posted Tony's preseason predictions and the first months actuals next to them to see how they compare.

All divisional races are tight so far this year. No one in the NL jumped out to a big start. Ocala turns in the best NL record with a 17-11 mark. Long Island leads the East division with only a .500 record. The biggest eye opener is the Columbus Buckeyes taking charge of the Central division. Bloomington, still with a strong team, figured to be the favorite. They still could be but it may take longer for them to rise to the top.

NL EAST

Predicted Order of Finish:	1- Long Island Tigers	Actual: 1) Long Island 17-11
	2- Wauwatosa Wizards	2) Racine 11-17
	3- Racine Heat	3) Wauwatosa 10-18
	4- Glen Allen Mets	4) Glen Allen 9-19

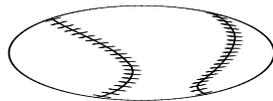
NL CENTRAL

Predicted Order of Finish:	1- Bloomington Bees	Actual 1) Columbus 16-12
	2- Stanley Sioux	2) Bloomington 15-13
	3- River Bend Blackhawks	3) Riverbend 11-17
	4- Columbus Buckeyes	4) Stanley 11-17

NL WEST

Predicted Order of Finish:	1- Metropolis Avengers	Actual 1) Ocala 17-11
	2- North Georgia Yellow Jackets	2) N. Georgia 14-11
	3- Ocala Ocelots	3) Metropolis 12-16
	4- Gem City Wolfpack	4) Gem City 9-19

NL East



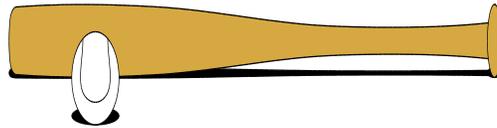
Long Island continues their dominance in the division this year as they have in the past. The only difference is, this year they may have to struggle with other divisional foes in a close pennant race this year. Long Island was saved by their pitching this month. Their pitchers lead the league in ERA, coming in at 3.68. No one in the division is at or above .500 except the Tigers. If it hadn't have been for a poor road month, Racine and Wauwatosa would be even closer to the Tigers. Both limped in at 4-10 in April on the road. Glen Allen, in the rebuilding phase, posted a 9-19 mark for the first month. They do feature the league's leading hitter in Visquel at .412.



NL Central

Bloomington, not in first place, what's going on? Columbus has started this campaign out in front. The Buckeye's have a 1 game lead over the Bees. Is this a fluke or will this pattern hold up all year? Columbus is hitting .310 as a team and Brian Jordan turned in a great month. He hit .367 with a whopping 37 RBI's. The Bees have also been hitting a ton. The bees are lead by McGwire, 11 homers, 31 RBI's and a .492 OBP. A team batting average of .295 has managed to carry the shaky pitching. Clemens, Martinez and Maddux and a team ERA of 5.18, how can this be? They will need to correct this if they are to take the division lead. Bringing up the rear, River Bend and Stanley both post 11-17 records in April. Both had identical home records of (6-8) and road records of (5-9). River Bend and Stanley look like they may have to focus on next year.

NL West



Ocala predicted to finish last in the preseason has made believers out of it's doubters. The Ocelots are 2nd in hitting and pitching in the league. They are stealing bases like its nobodies business. Ocala has the top 2 stealers in Stewart (18) and Renteria (16). They posted the leagues best road record at 9-5 this month. North Georgia is right behind them though. The Yellow Jackets are 3rd in pitching and 5th in hitting and only a game and a half back in the standings. Jeter has been the star as he is batting .376 (3rd), 38 hits (7th) and slugging at .624 (6th). Metropolis has struggled early with identical 6-8 home and road records. Their pitching has held them in most games turning in a 4.13 ERA but the bats seem to be mostly silent. A team BA of .245 won't allow you to compete for many titles. Gem City has played better on the road than at home. The Wolfpack has a respectable batting average at .286 (3rd) and lead the league in homers with 42. The pitching staff has done them in. They are last in the league in pitching with an ERA of 7.43. I'm afraid they have been on the short side of those 9-8 games.

Trades

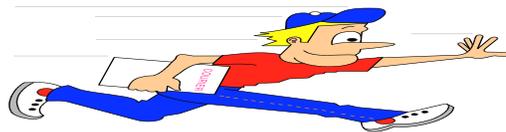


1. **Racine** traded Brian Rose & a 6th round pick in 2000 to **Box City** for David Segui and John Marzano. (**Box City** pays the contracts).

Bits and Pieces

- Σ No contract signings this month.
- Σ Please send the team leaders form and a copy of your primary stats to Tom Taormina each month. I would like to continue getting the team leaders form and a copy of the primary stats for your team from only the NL guys. This helps me write the newsletter by giving me more information about your team each month.

Upcoming Deadlines



May 15th...League report form due to your leagues reporter. Jeff Howe for the AL and Tony Galietta for the NL. The report form is available on the web site.

May 15th...Series results are due out to your May opponents. You must send box scores, play by play and subset stats.

May 20th...You must submit your starting pitcher rotation to your LD for June games.

May 20th...If you make a trade during the of May, you must report the trade in writing to your LD for it to take effect.

May 20th...If you wish to submit a trade wire listing, you must submit the listing to your LD by the 20th of the month for it to be included in the following newsletter.

May 20th...If you wish to submit an article for the newsletter, you must submit the article to your LD by the 20th of the month for it to be included in the following newsletter.

May 25th...Send a completed team leaders form and a hard copy printout of your teams primary stats for May to the leagues statistician, Tom Taormina and LD, Lenny Luchtefeld.