

The Press Box

June 1999

By Lenny Luchtefeld

***Long Island stretches its lead in the East.
Bloomington takes command of the Central.
North Georgia now leads the West
Stanley, Columbus and Ocala battle for Wildcard***

NL East

Long Island (16-12) continues to lead the pack but not exactly tearing it up, playing at a .536 pace. Just 4 games over .500 but still a top the Eastern Division. No other team seems to be able to make a run at the Tigers. They did improve their record with 16 wins this month. At the end of last month they were setting at .500.

Wauwatosa (13-15) did move into 2nd place in the division this month. They did climb up in the divisional standings but fell 3 more games behind Long Island. Can or will they make a deal for another hitter or pitcher, only time will tell.

Racine (9-19) fell back into a tie with Glen Allen for 3rd in the divisional race. David Segui was brought aboard this month to help an offense that didn't have any .300 hitters. It shouldn't be long before Segui takes over the team lead in average, homers and RBI's.

Glen Allen (11-17) made progress this month, winning 11 games. They are in the middle of a rebuilding project. They do have some talented players on the way. Eric Milton and Stan Spencer should help the rotation and Tatis looks to be making a name for himself in the Majors this year. They also have some other talented players locked up in contracts for future years. Nagy, Karros and Visquel will be around for a while to help.

NL Central

Bloomington (21-7) after a slow start out of the gate the Bees are now stinging any opponent that gets in their way. They mowed there way through the AL East this month. In one month, they traveled from 2nd in the division, one game back from Columbus to gain a 7 game lead in the Central. The big 3 in the pitching staff, Martinez, Maddux and Clemens, finally turned it on. If they didn't have enough offense, here comes Jose Canseco with his 46 homers to help the team acquired from Gem City.

Stanley (18-10) had an impressive month. In 3rd place last month with only 11 wins, they jumped over Columbus to get into 2nd place. They also tore up the AL East foes this month. The Sioux are trying to put some heat on the Bees and at the very least make a run at a wildcard spot in the playoffs.

Columbus (12-16) reversed their record from the first month and fell back to the .500 mark. While the other top teams were having good months, the Buckeyes stumbled against the AL East. They will have to correct this direction if they are to stay in the hunt for a division title or a wildcard spot. Maybe a trade lurks ahead in the months to come.

River Bend (11-17) stayed consistent this month winning another 11 games. Along with Glen Allen, they are also playing for next year or the year after. The Blackhawks have taken the course of building for the future. They also has some talented players on the way. Ryan Anderson, Aybar, Abreu and Beltre will soon be making their mark and helping the veterans already in the aboard in River Bend.

NL West

North Georgia (15-13) was the only team in the division to play above .500 for the month. They started a game behind Ocala and ended up trading places with the Ocelots. Jeter leads the team with a .353 batting average and Hitchcock leads in wins with 5 and has a 4.63 ERA. 15 wins was enough to claim first place, as they were the only team to play well against the AL Central.

Ocala (11-17) off to a good start the first month but hit a bump in the road in the second. The division played the AL Central and ran into a buzz saw. They may need to make a move or 2 to stay with and overtake the Yellow Jackets during the course of the whole year. Derek Bell leads the team in average and homers and is 2nd in RBI's.

Metropolis (10-18) had a tough month against a good division. They seem to have given this season up as the have made deals to acquire future for the team. Traded away are the likes of I. Rodriquez, Galarraga and F. Cordova. Into the fold are Bergeron, McGriff, Dunwoody, Gibson, Burrell, Hentgen and some excellent draft picks.

Gem City (12-16) collected the 2nd best record in the division this month. It still wasn't enough to get out of the cellar but they show signs of improvement in the future. Gem City has also written off the season by trading their main power source. Jose Canseco was made expendable to acquire lefty Jim Parque and outfielder Rich Becker. The Wolfpack also solidified their catching position for years to come by adding Ivan Rodriquez from Metropolis.

Trades

- 1) **Santa Barbara** trades its 2000 # 1, Ryan Bradley, and \$300k to **Stanley Sioux** for Greg Vaughn (all contracts paid by former team).
- 2) The **Wauwatosa Wizards** trade Scott Service, Yorkis Perez, and Shane Spencer to **Santa Barbara** for Jose Guillen, \$1M, and Mark Guthrie. All contracts are paid by the former team
- 3) **Metropolis** trades Cordova, Galarraga and Rick White to **Box City** for Pat Hentgen, Fred McGriff, Peter Bergeron, Paul Byrd, 1st and 3rd picks.
- 4) The **Stanley Sioux** have traded Jamie Moyer and Jerry Spradlin the **Monroeville Gary's** for Monroeville's #1, Florie, JM Gold, Orber Moreno, and \$500,000. All contracts prepaid.
- 5) **Box City** trades Brian Bohanon to **Santa Barbara** for John Halama, SBO#4, and \$750k. All contracts paid by former team.
- 6) **Gem City** trades Jose Canseco to **Bloomington** for Jim Parque and Rich Becker. All contracts are paid by original teams.

Contract Signings

Long Island Tigers sign Seth Greisinger to a 3 year contract.

The **Stanley Sioux** call up Freddy Garcia and sign him to a 1 year contract.

Bits and Pieces

- Σ Please take the time to read about the deadlines at the end of the newsletter each month. Owners seem to be confused on what form to send to whom and when. All of the dates, names and the form needed are listed below. The most unpleasant part of my job is to fine owners for tardiness. If you have any questions on any of this please contact Kevin or myself before the deadline occurs.
- Σ Just a friendly reminder, please send the team leaders form and a copy of your primary stats to Tom Taormina each month. I would also 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.

Fines

Columbus and North Georgia are fined 1 Million dollars each for sending a rotation to the NL league director late.

Racine and Wauwatosa are fined 1 Million dollars each for sending the series report late to the National League reporter.

Metropolis and Riverbend are fined 1 Million dollars each for sending stats to the league statistician late.

Upcoming Deadlines

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

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

June 20th... You must submit your starting pitcher rotation to your LD, Lenny Luchtefeld, for July games.

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

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

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

June 25th...Send a completed team leaders form and a hard copy printout of your teams primary stats for June to the leagues statistician, Tom Taormina and League Director, Lenny Luchtefeld. The Team Leaders Form is available on the web site.