

The Press Box

August 1999

By Lenny Luchtefeld

Long Island opens up a 14 game lead in the East.

Bloomington extends streak to 25 straight wins on the road.

Ocala leads by 5 games in the West.

Columbus takes over Wildcard lead.

National League Standings

East

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Long Island	58	54	.518	
Glen Allen	44	68	.393	14
Wauwatosa	42	70	.375	16
Racine	42	70	.375	16

Central

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Bloomington	76	36	.677	
Columbus	60	57	.513	17.5
Stanley	56	56	.500	20
River Bend	49	63	.393	27

West

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Ocala	62	50	.554	
North Georgia	57	55	.509	5
Gem City	50	61	.446	11.5
Metropolis	41	71	.366	19

Wildcard

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Columbus	60	57	.513	
North Georgia	57	55	.509	0.5
Stanley	56	56	.500	1.5

NL East

Long Island (16-12) continues to lead in the Eastern Division and picked up several games in the standings this month. The Tigers moved from a 7 game lead, to more than doubling it, to 15. The 2nd place Wizards helped out the Tigers as they only won 7 games in July. Looks like Long Island can coast into the post season from here. No other manager has made any deals to make a run at the Tigers and they seem to have a commanding lead for the last 2 months.

Glen Allen (13-15) still playing at a below .500 pace each month but improving. They are steadily gaining on that mark and maintaining their progress towards finishing 2nd in the division. The Mets jumped over Racine and Wauwatosa to get into 2nd place in July.

Nagy leads the pitching staff, with 10 wins and a 4.04 ERA. Vizquel will be the backup shortstop in the All-Star game with his .309 average.

Wauwatosa (7-21) dropped in to a tie for last place after a bad month. Winning only 7 games cost them any chance to get into the playoffs as a Wildcard participant this year. Not enough resources and not enough guns already aboard are the reasons the Wizards have dropped out of the Wildcard race. Realizing this, they traded O'Leary to Monroeville for some future help. Todd Walker leads the team in hitting with a .286 average. Dennis Martinez, in his final BRASSball season, has been the Wizards top winner with 7 victories. Burnitz will be the representing the Wizards at this year's All-Star game with his 35 homers.

Racine (12-16) remained in 4th place this month but are now in a tie with Wauwatosa. They gained 5 games in one month on the Wizards. Segui has preformed well since coming over in a trade with Box City as he has hit .319 for the Heat since the trade. Kenny Lofton will be the lone player from the Heat on the All-Star team. Lofton brings in a .253 average with 24 steals.

NL Central

Bloomington (15-13) went undefeated on the road last month and continued the streak to 25 wins before finally losing a road game. Despite their success, the Bees, have been just a little inconsistent in the wins department. Some months they capture 25 wins and others they are just above .500. Still, 76 wins at this point, is best in the league and they have several players going to the All-Star game. The Bees big 3 starters, Maddux, Clemens and Martinez, were voted 1-2 and 3 by all the managers. McGwire, Bichette, Biggio and Shaw will also be there.

Columbus (16-12) stepped into 2nd place in the division after a good month. They had the most wins in the division this month. No one in the division has a chance to over take Bloomington but the Buckeyes are moving up in the standings and in the Wildcard race. All 3 Wildcard hopefuls are hovering around the .500 mark. A major deal for one of them could make the difference in getting there or watching on TV.

Stanley (10-18) hit a bump in the road this month. With only 10 wins they went from leader in the Wildcard race to 3rd. No need to panic yet, as they are still only a game and half behind the leader, Columbus. Dipping to .500 mark has aloud Columbus and North Georgia to go by them. Helling leads the staff with 9 wins but has a high ERA of 5.10. Ken Caminiti will be the backup 3rd baseman in this year's All-Star game.

River Bend (15-13) The Blackhawks won 15 games despite being without a manager. The team is for now being played by their opponents each month using Hal. The Blackhawks will have Rivera and Easley in the All-Star game.

NL West

Ocala (16-12) The Ocelots maintained first place in the division. Only Gem City gained any ground on them. They have opened up a 5 game lead and it doesn't look like anyone can catch them. No one made a deal in July to help themselves and time is running out to do so. Ocala is hitting a solid .286 as a team and has a 4.25 ERA after 2/3 of the season. With 62 they have 3 pitchers already who have 10 or more victories. Rogers with 11, Stottlemyre with 12 and C. Perez also has 11.

North Georgia (14-14) again played .500 ball for another month. They now find themselves entrenched in 2nd place in the division and in 2nd place in the Wildcard race. They have a very solid team, but like most, could use more power. The Yellow Jacket's leader in homeruns is King with 20 and only have 4 guys with double digits. Derek Jeter's average dropped from .329 to .310 after this month's play. Like Ocala, they also have three 10 game winners so far. Reynolds has 11, Valdes and Lieber both have 10. **Gem City (17-11)** had the best record in the division this month with 17 wins. 11 games back of Ocala may still be a little too much to overcome in the final 2 months. Their team ERA did improve to 5.80, down from 6.26 at the end of July. Bagwell, Rodriguez and Cone will all be representing the Wolfpack in the upcoming All-Star game. **Metropolis (9-19)** The Avengers continued the fire sale this month. They are dealing players away and looking towards the future and improving their bank account. The Avengers traded David Wells to the Plaza for Jason Bere, Justin Thomson, a 2000 4th Round draft pick, and 3 Million dollars. They also traded Kerry Ligtenberg and Scott Radinsky to Long Island in exchange for their 1st and 4th round picks in the 2001 draft. Their lone participant in the All-Star game is Will Clark.

National League All-Star Starters

The All-Star Game will be played in Metropolis this year. Thanks go out to Andy and Joal for accepting this assignment. They are reporting that there will be attempting the 1st ever Homerun Derby contest this year. They will be playing the game sometime around the 10th of August. I will have details of the game and the results of the Homerun hitting contest in next month's newsletter.

26 players will be selected this year and below are the National League starters for this year game. Each team will have atleast one representative. Bloomington's, Craig Biggio, was the only unanimous selection in this year's voting.. Yes, 2 people didn't vote for McGwire at first base as their 1st choice even with a 70-homer card. Bloomington had the most players selected at 7 with Ocala next at 4.

Here are your starters for this year's game.

Catcher-I. Rodriguez	Outfield-Bichette
1st Base-McGwire	Outfield-De. Bell
2nd Base-Biggio	DH-Bagwell
3rd Base-Brosius	Starter-Maddux
Shortstop-Jeter	Reliever-Hoffman
Outfield-B. Jordan	

Other players are: W. Clark, Easley, Vizquel, Caminiti, Kendall, Burnitz, Lofton, Clemens, P. Martinez, Rogers, Cone, Reynolds, Wood, Rivera and Shaw.

Here is a team by team breakdown of who made it to the All-Star game.
(7) Bloomington-McGwire, Biggio, Bichette, Maddux, Clemens, Martinez and Shaw.
(1) Columbus-Jordan.
(3) Gem City-Bagwell, Rodriguez and Cone.

- (1) Glen Allen-Vizquel.
- (2) Long Island-Wood and Hoffman.
- (1) Metropolis-Clark
- (2) North Georgia-Jeter and Reynolds.
- (4) Ocala-Brosius, Kendall, Bell and Rogers.
- (1) Racine-Lofton.
- (2) Riverbend-Easley and Rivera.
- (1) Stanley-Caminiti.
- (1) Wauwatosa-Burnitz.

Trades

Metropolis trades David Wells to the **Plaza** for Jason Bere, Justin Thomson, a 2000 4th Round draft pick, and 3 Million dollars. All contracts are considered paid.

Metropolis trades Kerry Ligtenberg and Scott Radinsky to **Long Island** in exchange for their 1st and 4th round picks in the 2001 draft.

Wauwatosa traded Troy O'Leary and their #1 draft pick (2000) to **Monroeville** for Keith Osik and Corey Koskie. (All contracts paid).

Trading Deadline Approaching

The in-season trade deadline for trading **within** each League is 10:00 p.m. Central time, August 20. After that deadline, trades between teams will take effect after the season.

Contract Signings

Wauwatosa signs Shipley and Levine from MO to 1-year major league contracts. North Georgia signs Cliff Politte to a 1 yr deal, R. Machado to a one-year deal, and Richie Sexson to a 3 yr deal.

New Address

The owner of the Columbus Buckeyes is actually moving to Columbus. John Winters as of Aug 2nd will be moving from Erie Pa. to Columbus Ohio. His new address is 1708 Roseview Dr. Columbus, OH 43209. His new phone number is (614) 231-5716. His new e-mail address is johnwinters@world.oberlin.edu.

Upcoming Deadlines

August 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.

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

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

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

August 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.

August 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.

August 20th... The in-season trade deadline, for trading within the two Leagues is 10:00 p.m. Central time.

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