

The Pressbox

By Lenny Luchtefeld

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Parcelmen Deliver the Title

We have had some great champions over the past 5 years. In Brassball's first year, 1995, Box City won on the road in 7 games over Long Island. In 1996, St. Lucie tamed the Tigers from Long Island. '97 brought us our first champion from the NL, Bloomington, as they defeated St. Lucie. 1998 saw the Cook County Maulers take the crown back for the AL by outlasting the runner-up Tiger's again. At this point, we wondered if Tom was always going to be bridesmaid and never a bride. Three shots in four years at the title and still no hardware. You do have to admire him for getting to the big show that many times.

Last weekend we were down to 3 teams left in the hunt for this year's title. Bloomington was already in the main event as the NL champion. Cook County and Box City would have to determine the AL title and who would next be swatting at those pesky Bees.

All three teams met face to face on Saturday the 20th in the afternoon. This year would be the first time in league history that we crowned a two-time champion. All three of the final teams had won before. Box City managed to hold off Cook County in 7 games after being up 3 games to 1. The Brassball title stays in the AL again this year. Box City hammered out a 6 game

Box City @ Cook County

Game 1...Box City jumped off to a 7-0 lead before the Maulers knew what hit'em. All against Kevin Brown no less. The Maulers didn't quit. They chipped away and finally tied the game at 8 a piece. The Parcelmans' Galarraga put the game away in the 9th with a 3 run homer and Box City went on the win 12-8.

Game 2...The Mauler's fell behind again 2-0 but bounced back in a big way, with a 6 spot in the 2nd inning. Smoltz held on the lead and Wetteland saved the game 7-5 and a win to tie the series a 1.

Game 3...The Parcelman again jumped out ahead with 5-0 lead after 4 innings. The Maulers came back with 2 in the 5th, 1 in the 7th and 2 in the 8th to tie it up. Galarraga homered in the bottom of the 9th off Jackson to give the Parcelmen the win 6-5.

Game 4...Was a run away. Box City again got to Kevin Brown and made him go tired after 1 inning as they scored 5. The Parcelmen went on to win 6-1 and take a 3-1 series lead.

Game 5...Box City looked like the title might be there's after 2 innings with a 2-0 lead. The Maulers plated one run in the 3rd and Delgado hit his 3rd homer in the 7th to give Cook County the lead for good and they held on for a 3-2 win.

Game 6...The Parcelmen struck first with a run in the 1st but Cook County plugged away and scored 2 in the 4th, 1 in the 6th and 2 in the 7th. That was all they would need, as Box City could not muster any more offense. Cook County

wins 5-2 to set up a game 7 at Cook County.

Game 7...After 6 games and being tied this one went 6 innings and was tied at zero. Cordova and Brown had hooked up a good pitchers duel. Cordova continued throwing zeros' at the Maulers but Brown got hit. Belle and Hill both homered and gave the Parcelmen the game 7 victory 3-0. Cordova went on to pitch a 3 hitter.

MVP- Albert Belle. He hit .346 with 4 homers and 8 RBI's for the series.

Box City @ Bloomington

Game 1...Maddux pitched the Bees to a victory and McGwire added all the offense they would need with 2 homers. Box City was really never in this one from the 3rd inning on as the Bees win 7-2.

Game 2...The Parcelmen held a 5-1 lead going into the bottom of the 9th.

Bloomington wouldn't quit. They scored 2 runs and had the tying run on with one out when Biggio hit into a rare double play off an Urbina pitch to end the game.

Game 3...All Bees in this one. Martinez pitched a terrific 1 hitter. Canseco homered off Ashby and Bloomington stung the Parcelmen 8-0. The Bees now lead the series 2-1.

Game 4... The Bees held a 2-0 lead into the bottom of the 7th behind Maddux. Box City cut the lead in half in the 7th with a pinch homer from Eddie Perez. Still in the 7th, they loaded the bases and Jeff Shaw walked in the tying run. With 1 out Belle drove a ball deep to left but it was caught but it was still good enough to bring in the go ahead run on a sacrifice fly. Box City added another run and Urbina came in with 1 out in the 8th to close the door and preserve the 3-2 win. Series tied at 2-2.

Game 5...Box City pounded Roger Clemens with 7 runs in the 2nd and held on to win 8-5. Clemens lost his 2nd game of the series and Belle homered again. Were going back to Bloomington with the Parcelmen holding a 3-2 edge just one win away.

Game 6...Unlike his game 3 performance, Martinez was hit early and often as this one was over early. The Parcelmen scored 2 in the 2nd, 6 in the 3rd and 3 in the 4th to take an 11-0 lead. Cordova scattered 9 hits on his way to a 17-0 shutout. Belle homered twice and an unlikely hero, Scott Hatteberg, also homered twice and drove in 7 runs.

MVP- Albert Belle. He batted .381 with 4 homers and 8 RBI's. For the 2 face to face series', 13 games, he batted .361 with 8 homers and 16 RBI's.

Looking for that Christmas present that be will just right for your team? That cleanup hitter, that number one starter or that one piece to the puzzle that is missing? This could be your year. All free agent bids are in and Mark is working on them this weekend while he is away for the holidays. Man, is he dedicated. Mark will be returning Monday and beginning the free agency process. **Remember that during this**

Free Agency

time there is a trading freeze until all free agents are signed.

Mark has reported that he is having trouble with his current e-mail account. Anytime you need to communicate with him I would send him an e-mail message to his regular account and you should also need to use mudcatgm@yahoo.com. As always, he asks that you try to be available and check your e-mail often. He will be starting with the larger contracts and work his way down to the smallest. Happy hunting to all.

Trades

- 1) **Minnesota** sent Jefferies to **Metropolis** for \$50,000. Mudcats pay Jefferies contract.
- 2) **Gem City** receives Barry Larkin and \$750,000 from **Box City**. The Parcelmen receive Reggie Sanders and the Wolfpack's #3 pick in the upcoming 2000 draft.
- 3) **Columbus** trades Speizio, Beck, Pittsley, DeJean, Ogea, Fassero and 4th round '01 to **Metropolis** for \$2.0M cash (all contracts may be considered paid).
- 4) **Box City** traded Tony Batista to **Bloomington** for Mike Sweeney.
- 5) **Metropolis** trades \$150,000 and their 2000 4th Round Pick (Riverbend) to **Florida** for John Burkett.
- 6) **Metropolis** acquires Craig Counsell, Scott Sanders, Paul Sorrento from **Glen Allen** for \$500,000 (contracts paid).
- 7) **Metropolis** acquires Jeff King, Larry Sutton from **North Georgia** for 2000 7th Round Draft Pick. All Contracts are paid by North Georgia.
- 8) **Ocala** sent Paul Konerko to **River Bend** for Adrian Beltre.
- 9) **Metropolis** acquires Vernon Wells, Todd Hollandsworth, Dave Martinez, Tim Belcher, Plaza 1st and 5th round picks in 2001, Conditional 6th round pick in 2001. (*details below) from **Plaza** for Steve Finley, Travis Fryman, Ron Gant, \$125,000, 2000 2nd round compensation pick, 2000 5th round pick. Remaining contracts are considered paid. *details on conditional pick. If Plaza either signs Ron Gant, or receives a draft pick as compensation for his loss, Metropolis will receive Plaza's 2001 6th round pick. If he leaves via free agency with no compensation, then the 6th round pick is voided.
- 10) **Wauwatosa** acquires the rights to Fred McGriff from **Metropolis** for a 2001 draft pick, contingent on what happens with McGriff in free agency. If Wauwatosa either signs him, or receives a draft pick as compensation, Metropolis will receive Wauwatosa's 2001 4th round pick. If Wauwatosa does not sign him or receive compensation, Metropolis receives the Wauwatosa 2001 6th round pick.
- 11) **Metropolis** acquires River Bend 2000 #1, River Bend 2001 #1, Mike Lowell, Jose Valentin, \$900,000 from **Fleetwood** (Riverbend) for Royce Clayton Box City 2000 #1. The remainder of all contracts are considered paid.
- 12) **Plaza** acquires the rights to Paul Byrd, Box City #3 in 2000 from **Metropolis** for Plaza #5 in 2000, Plaza #3 in 2001.
- 13) **Cook County** trades Erickson to **Glen Allen** for Jaha, Christian Guzman, and 300k.
- 14) **Cook County** trades Jacob Cruz, Wes Anderson, and Derrek Lee to

Florida for Kent (and the 2 million to pay his deal this year).

15) **North Georgia** trades Cal Ripken and Armando Benitez to **Cook County** for Vinnie Castilla and Rob Nen. All contracts paid.

Bits and Pieces

Joal, who has taken over the Riverbend team, has made a team name change. He wanted to let us know that he has officially determined a new name for his team. From this point on, Riverbend will be known as the Fleetwood Walkers in tribute to a long gone (but not forgotten) major league player. Now Joal needs to determine the new dimensions and name of his ballpark. Detail to be announced.

Upcoming Deadlines

November 25th... Sealed bids for free agents due to Free Agency Conductor.

November 25th... Trade freeze until all free agents are signed.

December 15th... Free agent signing report sent out by Free Agency Conductor.