



## League News September 2003

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### Matchup of the Month



versus



Springfield	Tale of the Tape 2003 Stats	Glen Allen
+103	Run Differential	+103
.761	OPS	.794
3.90	ERA	3.85
109	Stolen Bases	67
86-54	2003 Record	81-59

The closest division race is the focus of the final *Matchup*. Springfield has a solid lead so they would need a big flop to give away the lead. If nothing else this series should be a good primer for both on forthcoming playoff action

**Game 1:** Barry Zito (GA) versus Mark Redman (SPR)

The Mets struck for a run in the third to start the scoring. Jose Vizcaino was responsible for the first run as he plated Damian Jackson after he had doubled. In the bottom of the fifth the 'Topes took a dramatic lead from Zito. Zito had put the first two hitters down. But then Angel Berroa singled and Marquis Grissom followed with a long two-run homer. In the top of the sixth the Mets got back to square after Redman's throwing error kept the inning alive and allowed Mel Mora to single in the tying run. In the top of the seventh the Mets would benefit yet again from poor Springfield defense. This time Roberto Alomar kicked away a routine grounder that loaded the bases with two outs. Reliever Steve Karsay then lost pinch-hitter Trot Nixon on balls to allow the go-ahead run to trot in from third. In the bottom of the eighth the 'Topes showed they would not go way- well Marquis Grissom wouldn't. For the second time in the game Gris would smack a homer, this time a solo shot that tied the game at three. In the top of the ninth the Mets got the rally started when Greg Colbrunn doubled with one out. Nixon followed and he sacrificed to put the go-ahead run ninety feet away. Up next was the

Mets' best- Albert Pujols. With a base open reliever Alan Embree knew he did not have to give in to the slugger. But Embree and his 95 plus fastball felt they could take the big guy out. Embree went after Albert and got him to fly deep to center. But Grissom, the heretofore Tope hero, took his eye off of the ball and dropped it. In from third came the winning run for the Mets. Three of the four Met runs were unearned.

**Game 2:** Andy Ashby (GA) versus Mark Mulder (SPR)

In the third inning the Topes scored twice to take an early 2-0 lead. In the top of the fifth the Mets squared the contest at two when young callup Jason Lane smacked a two-run homer. In the top of the sixth the Mets would take the lead for good off of Mulder. The first two batters reached on base hits. The third hitter, Mora, put them ahead when his double brought around Danny Bautista. A fourth Met run would come in on a ground out. When it was all said and done the Mets would have wins in the first two games after winning 5-2 in game two. Lane, Pujols and Mora all had three hits for the Mets on the day.

**Game 3:** Orlando Hernandez (GA) versus Jarrod Washburn (SPR)

After batting in the third the Mets appeared well on their way to their third straight victory. They were up 4-0 with Jason Lane's two-run homer the big blast for the club. In the bottom of the fourth Hank Blalock singled in a run to inch the Topes closer. In the bottom of the sixth Jeff Bagwell closed the gap a tad more with his solo homer. In the bottom of the seventh Springfield put its first three batters on base. The Mets were now in big trouble. Brendan Donnelly came in from the pen and he was able to retire Bagwell quickly with a lineout. Larry Walker was next and he bounced weakly to Colbrunn at third. Colbrunn rushed his throw, though, and pulled Pujols off the bag to allow a run to score and keep the bases loaded. Matt Stairs followed and he delivered the knockout blow to the Mets when he yanked a double into the right field corner and scored two runs. Up 5-4 now the Topes would go on to win 6-4. After a rough first couple of innings Washburn settled and allowed only two more hits before exiting after seven innings of work.

**Game 4:** Roger Clemens (GA) versus Russ Ortiz (SPR)

In game four Larry Walker doubled in the first inning to plate Rickey Henderson with the first run. Through six innings the game would remain 1-0 in the Topes favor. The pitchers were on their game as they went through the lineups with little difficulty. So in the top of the seventh Ortiz appeared to still be on cruise control as he retired the first two batters on groundouts. Pesky Ramon Vazquez was able to draw a walk to get a runner on. Up next was the unheralded Vance Wilson. Well, this was Vance's moment to shine as he reversed an Ortiz offering and sent it over the fence to give the Mets a late 2-1 lead. But the Topes wasted no time getting the run back. No sooner were the guys settled in the dugout did Luis Gonzalez lead off the bottom of the seventh with a dramatic solo homer. The Springfield fans were quite raucous as Luis circled the bags. To the top of the ninth the game went squared at two. Steve Karsay was on the mound for the Topes. The first two batters went down quickly. Hero Vance Wilson came up again. While he didn't homer this time he did double to the gap to start a rally. Number nine hitter Mora walked. The Mets called on David Segui to pinch-hit so Embree was called in to counter the move. Weaker against lefties this appeared to be an excellent matchup for the Topes. But Segui is a professional hitter and he simply waited on a pitch that he could drive the opposite way. Embree obliged and Segui smacked a single to give the Mets a 3-2 lead. Luis Vizcaino pitched the ninth for the Mets to preserve the win. The Mets had three impressive road wins after four games of play.

### **Game 5:** Kyle Lohse (SPR) versus Runelvys Hernandez (GA)

Two young hurlers faced off in game five. A potential existed for these two to crack under the playoff heightening pressure but they were up to the challenge and then some. Both pitchers brought their 'A' game to the park and the result was a 1-0 victory in Springfield's favor. The only run came across in the fifth when Corey Koskie's double scored a hustling Larry Walker from first. Lohse went only six innings as he was "effectively wild" on the hill walking six batters. Runelvys couldn't make it through the sixth, but was impressive in his own right.

### **Game 6:** Mark Redman (SPR) versus Colby Lewis (GA)

The first run was generated the old fashion way in the third inning. Mel Mora doubled to lead off the frame. Ben Molina followed and he dutifully put the ball on the right side of the infield to move Mel up ninety feet. Damian Jackson was third to hit and he noticed the Tope infield was back. All he needed to do was make some contact and an easy ribbie would be his. So with that he too grounded to second for a manufactured run. In the top of the fifth a two-out single from Larry Walker drew the Topes level at one. But in the bottom of the sixth the Mets plated the "stay ahead for good run" with back-to-back doubles from Morgan Ensberg and Eric Karros. In the bottom of the eighth the Springfield pen imploded for five runs to hand the home team an easy 7-1 victory. During that five-run uprising Jason Lane's two-run tater was the biggest blast.

### **Game 7:** Mark Mulder (SPR) versus Juan Rincon (GA)

Single runs were scored by both teams in the second inning with Grissom's solo-homer the more impressive for the Topes. The Mets went ahead briefly 2-1 in the third on a solo Greg Colbrunn blast only to see the Topes come right back in the fourth with a run off the stick of Larry Walker. Tied 2-2 now this looked like yet another close affair between these two. In the bottom of the fifth Mulder retired the first two hitters on routine groundouts. Karros then walked and was followed by a Colbrunn single that put runners on the corners. In to the box stepped the Bambino-esque Jason Lane. It's hard to explain Mulder getting rattled on the mound or concerned with the pokey Colbrunn at first but in any event he uncharacteristically balked in the go-ahead run. Lane took further liberties with Mulder when he singled up the gut on him to make it 4-2 Mets. That would be all the Mets would need to decisively finish this series. A solo run in the eighth from the Topes would draw them to a 4-3 deficit but the Mets responded with two of their own to win comfortably by the final of 6-3.

A solid statement was made by the Mets that they intend to compete come playoff time. They won five games from the team that bettered them for their division crown. For their part the Topes were not pushovers as they hung in there in pretty much every game. Maybe a matchup of these two is in the offing come October.

## **AL Notes**

<b>AL EAST Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs AL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Bakersfield Rattlers	102-60	---	49-32	53-28	54-24	26-21	28-21	.796	3.55
Minnesota Mudcats	97-65	5	46-35	51-30	53-25	17-26	16-24	.808	3.84
Moline Cutters	77-85	25	36-45	41-40	39-39	18-27	22-30	.754	4.12
Hessville Everreadys	48-114	54	23-58	25-56	25-53	17-30	18-30	.665	5.78

A solid 14-8 final month from the Rattlers secured the franchise's first divisional crown. For the year Jose Hernandez proved to be quite a revelation to the club as he led the club in hitting

(.314 BA), homers (39) and rbi (120). Derrek Lee is still the main cog of this team as evidenced by his robust .968 OPS. A.J. Pierzynski has become one of the better catchers in the AL now as he finished the season hitting .307. David Bell had a very nice season at the hot corner as he hit .275 with 24 dingers. He finished two ribbies shy of 100. Mike Cameron hit only .233 for the season but he did manage to pound out 31 homers while swiping 31 bases. The team's 3.55 ERA was good for third in the AL. Wade Miller posted the lowest starter ERA at 3.34. Russ Ortiz (18-9, 3.49) and Tim Hudson (19-6, 3.63) had very nice seasons. Freddy Garcia won 17 games despite a 5.00 ERA. Darren Holmes was 8-1 with a 0.80 ERA. He walked only four batters in 56 innings of relief work. Keith Foulke finished with 28 saves.

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**AL WHIFFS: CAMERON, BAK...191 HERNANDEZ, BAK...180 Soriano, CC...168**

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The Mudcats finished strong with a 15-7 September. On the season A-Rod was the unquestioned offensive force of this club. He finished with 57 homers and 175 rbi. He also scored 131 runs and just missed 200 hits (198). All the while he only committed seven errors at short. Scott Hatteberg was a pleasant offensive addition to the Mudcats as he hit .277 with 24 homers and a .374 OBP. Mike Lowell smacked 47 doubles. Gary Sheffield rebounded from a dreadful first half of the season to hit .270. Mark Kotsay slumped the entire second half and finished with a .227 BA. On the mound Kirk Rueter was the surprise ace by year's end as he went 18-6 with a 3.29 earnie. Matt Morris finished 13-10 with 10 CG's and a league leading 4 shutouts. A solid effort was put forth by the Mudcat pen as no reliever posted worse than a 3.42 ERA. Scott Williamson's 1.75 ERA with 92 whiffs in 77 innings the best effort.

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**AL RBI: RODRIGUEZ, MIN...175 Guerrero, CC...152 Tejada, BOX...132**

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Moline finished the season going 7-15 in the final month. Mr. Bonds had another fine season for the club. This year he hit .379 and posted a dizzying .570 OBP. His 43 homers were also impressive. Torii Hunter was a solid compliment to Barry as he hit .300 with 40 homers and 127 rbi. Bret Boone led the club in doubles (40) and also contributed 32 homers and 123 rbi. Omar Vizquel stole 25 bases and committed only 5 errors in the field. Greg Maddux went 14-9 with a 3.24 ERA. Elmer Dessens surprised many by going 16-8 with a 3.87 ERA. Miguel Batista pitched better than his 12-13 record. He posted a 3.44 ERA and completed 11 of his starts. Youngster Mark Prior gave a tantalizing glimpse of the future as he went 11-2 with a 2.72 when he came up to the big club. Ismael Valdes had a down year (8-13, 5.10).

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**AL OBP: BONDS, MOL....570 Giambi, CC....434 Thome, CC....412 Ramirez, LAC...407**

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Hessville went 8-14 in September to put a cap on a "reversal of fortune" season. Offensively this was not a strong club as Jeff Cirillo led it in hitting with a .269 BA. Terrence Long led the club in homers (21) and rbi (72). Rookie Jack Wilson finished with a .266 BA. Milton Bradley with 300+ PA's gained some invaluable experience for the future. Shawn Estes was the best starter with a 4.58 ERA. Three pitchers (Sele, Sparks and Anderson) tied for the club lead in wins. Antonio Alfonseca finished with 22 saves. Many of these pitchers will not be invited back to Hessville in 2004 ☺

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**AL SAC's: WILSON, HES...36 Erstad, SB...33 Boone, SB...27 Vizquel, MOL...23**

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<b>AL CENTRAL Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs AL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Cook County Maulers	115-47	---	59-22	56-25	56-22	30-17	30-19	.905	3.35
Iowa Rubes	85-77	30	46-35	39-41	37-41	21-24	22-27	.796	4.23
Box City Parcelmen	60-102	55	30-51	30-51	27-51	14-37	13-27	.757	5.84

Plaza Lions	44-118	71	21-60	23-58	19-59	19-27	19-23	.676	6.02
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A 17-5 month of September has the Maulers primed for a title run. Seven Maulers clubbed 30 or more homers. Vlad Guerrero's 57 paced the club (and tied for the lead league) while Jim Thome fell one short of making it a pair of 50 homer Maulers. Vlad was also a 40-40 player in 2003 and missed out on becoming a historic 50-50 player by just four steals. Mike Piazza continues to be the best catcher in BRASSball history with his .328 batting performance this year. Nomar collected 56 doubles and had a total of 97 extra base hits. Jason Giambi rang up a .434 OBP to help him lead the club with 140 runs scored. Rookie Alfonso Soriano actually made it two 40-40 players on the same club as he smacked 43 homers and tallied 48 swipes. The AL's best pitching staff was paced by two 20 game winners: Pedro (23 wins) and Tom Glavine (22). Pedro also racked up 252 punchouts. Mariano Rivera had 38 saves.

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**AL HR'S: GUERRERO, CC...57** Rodriguez, MIN...57 **THOME, CC...49** **GIAMBI, CC...46**

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It wasn't an impressive way to finish 2003, but their 9-13 mark was enough to secure the club's first playoff spot. Cliff Floyd posted a solid .588 slugging for the Rubes. His 34 homers and 115 ribbies led the club. Cliff also doubled 54 times, bested on the club only by Mags who had 55. Craig Biggio hit .293 for the season and showed solid pop with 38 doubles and 19 dingers. Jose Cruz Jr. checked in with a disappointing .228 average in 2003. Odalis Perez was an impressive rookie ace of the Rube staff as he went 18-6 with a 3.04 ERA. No other starter could get below four for and ERA. Damaso Marte (1.54) and Buddy Groom (2.27) were dominating lefties out of the pen all year long. Hideo Nomo collected 9 complete games.

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**AL BB/9 IP: PEREZ, IOWA...1.54** Madduz, MOL...1.98 Lidle, BOX...2.08 Sele, HES...2.11

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Box City finishe on a promising note for the future as they went 12-10 in September. Miggy was the offensive catalyst all year long as he hit .299 with 38 homers and 132 runs knocked in. Tim Salmon also had a fine campaigns he hit .300 with 40 doubles and 30 taters. Young Rob Fick collected 37 doubles. Kenny Lofton swiped 27 bases. Mike Young (.232) and Steve Cox (.229) struggled a bit in 2003. Cory Lidle was the best on the staff as he went 9-12 with a 3.98 ERA. No reliever could notch 10 saves for this club. Mike Hampton suffered the most out on the hill (5-16, 8.20 ERA).

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**AL HITS: Guerrero, CC...213** Garciparra, CC...205 **TEJADA, BOX...202**

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A rebuilding year comes to close for the Lions with a 6-16 finish. Mike Lieberthal did his best to lead the youngsters as he hit .296 for the season. Kevin Young's 21 homers led the club. J.T. Snow posted a respectable .358 OBP. Eric Hinske's 29 doubles led the club. Scott Erickson went 1-18 in his starts. Ouch! Masato Yoshii's seven victories led the club. Hideki Irabu notched 21 saves. Brian Boehringer picked up six wins out of the pen.

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**AL BA VS LHP: Bonds, MOL....412** **LIEBERTHAL, PLZ....400** Wilson, MIN....390

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<b>AL WEST Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs AL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Santa Barbara Outlaws	92-70	---	47-34	45-36	48-30	25-22	21-26	.777	3.50
La Crosse Lagers	81-81	11	40-41	41-40	36-42	22-21	25-21	.765	4.45
Toledo Mudhens	78-84	14	44-37	34-47	39-39	18-22	20-29	.740	4.60
Brooklyn Bulldogs	65-97	27	38-43	27-54	35-43	17-27	21-29	.713	4.70

A 13-9 month from Outlaws completed their return to the top of the West. "Mr. Outlaw," Garrett Anderson, was the consistent cog of the Outlaw offense in 2003. He hit .287 with 52 doubles and 99 rbi. Adam Kennedy hit .327 in a platoon role at second. Jacque Jones busted through with a season that saw him hit .288 with 17 homers. Eli Marrero led the club with 27 homers. Aaron Boone knocked 24 out of the park himself while also stealing 39 bases. Off-season pickup Rich Aurilia hit a disappointing .208 for the Outlaws. Pitching was superb for the Outlaws as they finished with the second best ERA in the AL. Tomo Ohka led the staff with a 2.89 ERA. Roy Halladay won 18 games in his debut along with a sparkling 3.29 ERA. Top draftee Rodrigo Lopez went 14-7 with a 3.36 ERA. Reliable Bartolo Colon was 16-12. Robb Nen notched 41 saves.

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**AL SAVES: NEN, SB...41** Percival, LAC...38 Rivera, CC...38 Foulke, BAK...28

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LaCrosse's 11-11 final month kept them at a respectable .500 for the season. Three big thumpers and an unexpected diminutive one powered the offense. Manny was once again the Lager leader as he hit .315 and slugged .606. Mike Sweeney had a down year average-wise (.283) but he still delivered 20 homers and 75 rbi. Rookie Aubrey Huff could be a force to come in BRASSball after his initial 26 homers. Little Johnny Damon popped 28 homers in 2003. Somewhat surprisingly no one in this offense could muster 90 ribbies. Mark Grudzielanek hit only .230 on the year. Kevin Millwood (13-13, 3.56) and Kip Wells (14-11, 3.62) led the starters. Troy Percival saved 38 games for the Lagers. Octavio Dotel is one of the best relievers in BRASSball (8-8, 2.07 ERA, 101K's, 91 IP).

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**AL APPS: DOTEL, LAC...73** Worrell, MIN...69 Williamson, MIN...67 Romero, MIN...66

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The Mudhens went 9-13 in September to finish the season slightly below .500. Randall Simon was the unexpected offensive leader in 2003 as he hit .336 with 22 dingers and 97 rbi. Luis Castillo was probably the team MVP however as he hit .313, scored 112 runs and stole 93 bases. Vince Coleman lives! The Mudhens were actually the fastest team in BRASSball as they stole 261 bases. Dave Roberts contributed 41 and Alex Sanchez 37. Orlando Cabrera's even 30 gave the club four players with 30 or more steals. Ah, if only it were 1908 ☺ Cabrera also smacked 45 doubles to pace the club. Mike Mussina went 12-13 despite a solid 3.40 ERA. With a 14-13 mark Bret Tomko was the winningest Mudhen. Ryan Franklin struggled mightily in whatever role he was placed: 4-11, 7.09 ERA.

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**AL STEALS: CASTILLO, TOL...93** Pierre, BRO...51 Soriano, CC...48 Guerrero, CC...46

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The Bulldogs finished off a year of rebuilding with an 11-11 record in September play. Brian Duabach and Alex Gonzalez both slugged 31 homers to lead the club. Daubach's .305 BA was also the best on the club while Gonzalez led in rbi with 91. Sophomore Juan Pierre hit .272 with 51 steals. When he was up Austin Kearns was lights out fantastic as his .981 OPS can attest. Newcomer Jose Macias struggled to a .197 batting mark in 2003. Kerry Wood pitched better than his 12-15 record would indicate. Ryan Dempster's 15 complete games led the AL.

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**AL OPP BA: Clement, SB...202** Martinez, CC...210 **WOOD, BRO...214**

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## NL Notes

NL EAST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Springfield Isotopes	100-62	---	51-30	49-32	49-29	23-16	25-19	.765	3.85

Glen Allen Mets	94-68	6	48-33	46-35	42-36	28-15	27-25	.793	3.95
Port Richey Everglades	62-100	38	25-56	37-44	26-52	15-29	19-19	.723	5.50
Charlevoix Tigers	55-107	45	31-50	24-57	24-54	17-31	19-21	.778	6.98

Springfield wrapped up the division with a 14-8 September. The team was fueled all year long by its two free agent signees: Larry Walker and Jeff Bagwell. Walker led the NL in hitting with a .365 average and also posted a .450 OBP. Bagwell hit .286, and led the club in runs (104) homers (37) and walks (95). Marquis Grissom hit .304 with 13 dingers off the bench for the Topes. Michael Tucker had a nice season hitting .270 with 39 steals. Corey Koskie hit a woeful .216. The pitching corps was quite solid for the Topes and it was led by its youthful lefties Mark Mulder (18-7, 3.14 ERA) and Jarrod Washburn (19-8, 3.44). Both should receive Cy Young considerations. Billy Wagner sparkled all year as he closed out 35 wins for the club and registered a 1.47 ERA. Kyle Lohse enjoyed the nice run support has he won 15 games despite a hefty 4.82 ERA.

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**NL HR/9 IP: REDMAN, SPR...0.20** Armas Jr., MET...0.65 **WASHBURN, SPR...0.68**

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Glen Allen went 13-9 in the final month to return to the playoffs once again- this time as a wild card entrant. Albert Pujols was the steady rock of the Met offense all year with his .508 slugging and 110 rbi. Trot Nixon actually bested Albert by one homer (31-30) for the team homer title. Jose Vizcaino quietly hit .317 for the Mets. Greg Colbrunn is arguably the most dangerous late inning player in BRASSball. In only 182 at bats he smacked 25 doubles and 15 homers. That works out to a .736 slugging. Mel Mora hit only .227 during the regular season but did hit 26 homers. Barry Zito was the ace of the staff as he won 19 times with a 3.68 earnie. Orlando Hernandez was 13-5 in his starts. Luis Vizcaino was excellent out of the pen: 24 saves, 1.99 ERA. Andy Ashby was second on the staff in wins with 16.

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**NL TRIPLES:** Abreu, FLE...12 Catalanotto, FLE...11 **McCRACKEN, GA...10** **NIXON, GA...9** **VAZQUEZ, GA ..9**

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Port Richey finished out the season by winning eight times in September. Jay Payton was the most impressive hitter on the team as he led the club in average (.337), homers (23) and rbi (79). Herb Perry slugged 22 homers to help Payton out. Fernando Vina's 31 doubles were tops on the club. Doug Mientkiewicz had a down season (.241 BA). David Eckstein stole 26 bases and was also plunked 26 times. Damian Moss may have won 20 games in 2003 on another team. Instead he went 11-9 with a 3.64 ERA. He allowed only 141 hits in 185 innings. Pete Walker was second on the club with nine victories.

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**NL HBP: ECKSTEIN, PRE...26** **VINA, PRE...22** Fullmer, CHA...19 Mora, GA...19

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Charlevoix finished another rebuilding year with a 9-13 September. Frank Thomas hit .284 with 34 homers and 109 rbi. Brad Fullmer hit .321 and led the club with 41 doubles. Rookie Russ Branyan powered out 27 homers. Mark Loretta had a nice season hitting .329 in part-time duty. Not much to note on BRASSball's worst pitching staff (6.98 ERA). Jeff Suppan led the staff with 11 wins. James Baldwin started 24 times in 2003 and ended up with a 9.53 ERA. Getting him off the team may be good for a drop in the team ERA by 1.50 alone ☺ This staff yielded an incredible 265 gopher balls. Every night was souvenir night in Charlevoix!

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**NL EARNED RUNS:** Tavarez, PRE...150 **SUPPAN, CHA...134** Hernandez, COL...133

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<b>NL CENTRAL Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs NL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Stanley Sioux	111-51	---	55-26	56-25	56-22	24-14	34-18	.828	3.75

Fleetwood Walkers	91-71	20	51-30	40-41	43-35	20-21	19-24	.829	4.03
Columbus Buckeyes	77-85	34	40-41	37-44	38-40	20-20	25-21	.763	5.13
Bloomington Bees	75-87	36	39-42	36-45	33-45	15-23	27-26	.749	4.69

Stanley routed their Central brethren in September, winning 17 times. Jeff Kent was rock solid all season long as he hit .323 with 47 doubles, 38 homers and 120 rbi. He should definitely see MVP votes cast in his favor. Bernie Williams had a super year as he hit .349 and posted a .418 OBP. Ryan Klesko's 31 homers enabled him to slug a hearty .548 on the season. Randy Winn proved to one of those "unnoticed stars" in BRASSball. He hit .293, swiped 39 bags, doubled 44 times and scored 111 runs. That's some nice production. Jermaine Dye hit only .236 for the season but did pop 33 long balls. The Cy Young may land in Stanley this offseason. However, who receives it is up in the air as both Curt Schilling (23-9, 3.23 ERA) and the Big Unit (22-7, 3.33) are more than worthy of the hardware. Chris Hammond was excellent out of the Sioux pen as he posted a 1.97 ERA. Joe Table picked up 34 saves for the Sioux.

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**NL HITS: WILLIAMS, STA...224 KENT, STA...211** Helton, OCA...200 Jeter, OCA...197

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Fleetwood went 10-12 in September, but that was enough for them to secure the final NL playoff spot. Bob Abreu is the heart of this club. His .951 OPS was best among the regulars. He led the club with 121 runs scored and also doubled 55 times. Paul Konerko hit .315 and led the club with 119 rbi. Chipper hit .312 with 44 doubles and 107 rbi. Jorge Posada is one of the best catchers in BRASSball. He finished with 42 doubles, 23 homers and 93 rbi. No hitter is really struggling on this club at the moment although Jim Edmonds homered only 18 times. On the mound Chuck Finley went 20-7. Al Leiter posted a fine 2.81 ERA but could only go 13-11 in his starts. Derek Lowe was 15-11 with a 3.25 ERA.

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**NL DOUBLES: ABREU, FLE...55** Giles, OCA...52 Kent, STA...47, Beltran, COL...46

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Columbus went 11-11 to finish out the season. Carlos Beltran hit .286 and led the Buckeyes with 46 doubles, 39 steals, 101 runs and 105 rbi. Not a bad season ☺ Bobby Higginson led the club with a .310 batting average. John Olerud had a .412 OBP for the year. Edgar Martinez had a down year as he only hit .250. Scotty Rolen (.239) and Jimmy Rollins (.230) also suffered through a tough year. Randy Wolf's 4.57 ERA was the best among the starters while Livan Hernandez' 14 wins topped the club. Roberto Hernandez had a solid year closing ballgames as he picked up 27 saves and had a 2.75 ERA.

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**NL STEALS: BELTRAN, COL...39** Winn, STA...39 Tucker, SPR...39 **DURHAM, COL...34 ROLLINS, COL...34**

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A 6-16 month of September sent the Bees to fourth in the Central. Ichiro hit .302 with 32 steals. In a platoon role David Ortiz was quite effective as he finished the year with a .925 OPS. Preston Wilson with 28 homers and Tony Batista with 25 supplied the punch. When he was up, young Joe Crede was fantastic as he hit .314 and slugged .589. C.C. Sabathia went 11-16 despite a solid 3.82 ERA. Mark Buehrle led the staff with 15 wins. Joe Borwoski won nine times out of the pen. Armando Benitez notched 34 saves. Paul Wilson had a tough year (9-16, 6.23 ERA).

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**NL SAVES: Wagner, SPR...35 BENITEZ, BLO...34** Mesa, STA...34 Gagne, NG...30

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<b>NL WEST Expanded Standings</b>									
	<b>W-L</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>ROAD</b>	<b>Vs NL</b>	<b>Vs LH</b>	<b>1-RUN</b>	<b>OPS</b>	<b>ERA</b>
Ocala Ocelots	115-47	---	61-20	54-27	53-25	28-12	27-17	.870	3.69



Gem City Wolfpack	86-76	29	47-34	39-42	38-40	26-18	34-22	.753	4.41
North Georgia Yellowjackets	76-86	39	37-44	39-42	34-44	20-15	31-19	.723	4.61
Metropolis Avengers	58-104	57	29-52	29-52	32-46	12-31	15-20	.697	5.44

The Ocelots had their playoff ticket punched before September started so their 15-7 month was simply icing on the cake. Shawn Green will be making a serious post-season run at becoming the third different Ocelot to win the MVP award in as many years. He hit .298, poned out 56 homers and drove in 162. Pretty unbelievable to describe a .298-45-140 year as a “down” year but that can be said of Sammy Sosa. He is still one of BRASSball’s elite. Brian Giles quietly racked up another huge year, notably finishing with a .450 OBP. Derek Jeter hit .294 and scored a whopping 145 times. On the basepaths he pilfered 32 bags while being nabbed only once. J.D Drew at .227 was the only Ocelot to struggle for the year. Glendon Rusch took advantage of the ample run support in Ocala to go 24-4 on the season despite a 4.68 ERA. Kenny Rogers, Roy Oswalt and Javier Vazquez all won 19 games- all of them one shy of a historic BRASSball rotation. Mike Remlinger (1.17 ERA) and Steve Reed (1.40) were lights out out of the pen.

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**NL HOMERS: GREEN, OCA...56 SOSA, OCA...45** Berkman, MET...42 Kent, STA...38

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Gem City put a cap on a nice season with a 12-10 finish. The club was able to hang around the playoffs all year long. The club’s leading hitter in 2003 was pickup Todd Walker who hit .291 with 42 two-baggers. Carlos Delgado posted his usual healthy OBP (.391) while also leading the club in dingers (34) and rbi (90). Rookie Mark Bellhorn supplied pop (28 homers) but only hit .229. Rick Reed and Jason Jennings both won 13 ballgames in 2003. Lefty Scott Steart impressively won 10 games in relief for the Wolfpack. Jason Istringhausen recorded 30 saves. Jason Johnson (5.88 ERA) and Chan Ho Park (6.85) will be looking to rebound in 2004.

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**NL IBB: DELGADO, GEM...14** Pujols, GA...13 Walker, SPR...11 Green, OCA...8

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North Georgia came in with an 8-14 September. Fred McGriff once again is the offensive leader of the ‘Jackets. He hit .301 and popped 31 homers to go along with 93 rbi. Edgar Renteria was equally productive in 2003 as he hit .299 and led the club in doubles (43), runs (93) and steals (28). Shea Hillenbrand hit a fine .287 with 24 homers of his own but something must be done to correct hit 18-118 BB-K ratio. Contacts! New hitting coach! Something ☺ Then again Corey Patterson at a 22-149 ratio isn’t too good either... David Wells won 14 times to pace the staff but his ERA was, ahem, a bit hefty at 4.56. Andy Pettitte had some of the best numbers on the staff and it resulted in a solid 3.12 ERA. But he only could go 5-6 in his 20 starts. That’s some bad luck for a quality pitcher. Eric Gagne (30 saves) and John Smoltz (10) were a frightful monster at the end of games.

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**NL HR ALLOWED: Ortiz, SPR...40 BYRD, NG...36** Helling, STA...34 Schilling, STA...34

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Metropolis went 9-13 in September with their dugout bulging at the seams ☺ Lance Berkman led the club with 42 round-trippers. Eric Chavez hit a slightly disappointing .268 in 2003 but he is definitely a star of the future for the Avengers. Jose Vidro’s .284 paced the club and he also picked up 39 doubles. Lee Stevens supplied pop (23 homers), but little else (.222 BA). One would have thought Aramis Ramirez would have hit a bit better as a full time DH in 2003 (.232 BA). Tony Armas Jr. had a nice season (3.82 ERA) and just missed out on 10 wins as he finished with nine. Jorge Sosa also won nine games for the Avengers.

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**NL GDP: Green, OCA...29 RAMIREZ, MET...23** Rolen, COL...22 Jones, FLE...22

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## Raw Draft Order

1. Plaza	7. Brooklyn	13. La Crosse	19. TBD
2. Hessville	8. Bloomington	14. Gem City	20. TBD
3. Charlevoix	9. North Georgia	15. Iowa	21. TBD
4. Metropolis	10. Moline-*	16. TBD	22. TBD
5. Box City	11. Columbus-*	17. TBD	23. TBD
6. Port Richey	12. Toledo	18. TBD	24. BRASSball champ

\* indicates these two teams tied and will alternate their positions in each round

## In Season Standings Rewards

The following teams received the maximum \$300,000 award: Bakersfield, Moline, Cook County, Box City, Plaza, Santa Barbara, La Crosse, Port Richey, Springfield, Glen Allen, Stanley and Fleetwood.

The following teams received differing amounts based upon the amount of series' reported:

Hessville: \$190,000

Iowa: \$200,000

Toledo: \$190,000

Brooklyn: \$220,000

Charlevoix: \$190,000

Columbus: \$190,000

Bloomington: \$120,000

North Georgia: \$110,000

According to the guidelines of the program the following teams did not receive awards because they were already maxed out as to what they could receive: Ocala, Minnesota, Gem City and Metropolis.

## Home/Road Discrepancy Program

The league average in 2003 was 1.75 games better at home than on the road. The rewards given were:

Award #1: Port Richey (-12) (\$3,000,000)

Award #2: None

Award #3: Moline (-5), Minnesota (-5) and Bakersfield (-4) (\$2,000,000)

Award #4: Hessville (-2), Plaza (-2), and North Georgia (-2) (\$1,500,000)

Award #5: Box City (0), Metropolis (0), Stanley (-1) and La Crosse (-1) (\$1,000,000)

## Awards Ballot

Enclosed in the ZIP archive you will find separate AL and NL nominee files. You will also find a separate ballot. Please vote only for players in your league. The nominees are only a culling of the field. It is possible that I may have missed someone. You may vote for whomever you choose. Your ballots are due returned to the LD by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Proposals Ballot

Enclosed in the ZIP archive you will find a ballot for proposed changes to BRASSball. Please fill it out and return to Corey by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Trades

1. Ocala trades Xavier Nady to Minnesota for Gary Sheffield.
2. Toledo trades Garrett Atkins, Jason Young, John Halama, Jason Tyner, Brian Meadows and Scott Strickland to Charlevoix for Travis Harper, Kevin Gryboski and Gabe Kapler.
3. Cook County trades Vladimir Guerrero, Josh Hancock and Jeremy Hill to Cook County for Charlevoix's 2004 1st round draft choice, Michael Cuddyer and Juan Rivera.
4. Plaza trades Mike Lieberthal to Toledo for Jose Valverde, Armando Almanza, Toledo's 2004 2nd round draft choice and Toledo's 2004 3rd round draft choice.
5. Hessville trades Jose Guillen to Metropolis for Metropolis' 2004 4<sup>th</sup> round draft choice and \$2,000,000.
6. Metropolis trades Hideki Matsui and Sean Burnett to Toledo for Richie Sexson.
7. Glen Alen trades Orlando Hudson and Glen Allen's 2005 4th round draft choice to Toledo for Sean Casey and Glen Allen's 2004 5th round draft choice.
8. Brooklyn trades Javy Lopez to Stanley for Zach Day, Paul LoDuca and \$500,000.
9. Fleetwood trades Jorge Posada to Metropolis for Luis Matos, Corky Miller, Ramon Castro and Metropolis' 2004 2nd round draft choice.
10. Ocala sends Luis Rivas, Javier Valentin, Blaine Neal and Brandon Villafuerte to Moline for Bret Boone.
11. Fleetwood trades Raul Ibanez to Toledo for Hessville's 2004 3rd round draft choice.

## Upcoming League Deadlines

October 25<sup>th</sup> Award and Proposal ballots must be returned to LD by this date  
October 25<sup>th</sup> Deadline to resign or cut your AMs

## Articles

Jim Clark has penned another article for us. Paul Wertz also dives into the article business ☺

## Mets Watch September 2003

... And the player of the Month is...

You have to admire a guy who is true to his word. Last month, in this newsletter he told this reporter he wanted to improve his statistics and carry his team toward the playoffs and that is what he is doing. If you read the article last month you know that we are talking about the Mets star: Albert Pujols. He was disappointed that he did not make the All-Star team due to his slow start. Last month he raised his average eleven points to .297, scored 18 runs, drove home 24, hit 5 doubles and ten home runs. He now leads the team with 30 homers and 104 RBI, 162 hits and 26 doubles. He has played every game, committed only 6 errors while playing three different positions.

Hitting coach Eddie Kranepool, "He is a joy to have on the team! Al always wants to improve as a ball player, not just by taking extra BP, but extra fielding at all his positions. He is so professional for such a young player. Other second year players often joke and fool around after that rookie year but not Al. He concentrates on his trade more than any 22 year old that I have ever seen.

...And the pitcher of the Month...

A tired shoulder caused him to be on the disabled list for August, but he returned to lead the staff with a 4-1 record. Orlando "El Duke" Hernandez lowered his ERA from 3.71 to 3.44 by allowing only 31 hits in 33 innings with 34 K and 19 BB. On the stats page he even stepped ahead of ace Barry Zito due to his lower ERA.

Jimmy Key, the pitching coach "El Duke was superb last month! That month off allowed him to rest and regain some strength. We sure needed that for the heat of August. We need him to continue into next month for our run toward the playoffs."

### September Call Ups

The Mets will add pitchers: Colby Lewis, Juan Rincon, Runelvys Hernandez, & Esteban Yan. Hitters will include: Vance Wilson for catcher Chad Kreuter, Jason Lane, Morgan Ensberg, David Segui, Brian Roberts and Orlando Hudson.

Glen Allen will have lots of bodies on the bench and in the bullpen. Manager Clark "It will be a juggling act, to get a few guys a taste of the Majors while trying to win games for our play off run. I've explained to a few guys that they will have limited roles but we wanted to give them that cup of coffee."



## STANLEY SIOUX 2003 REVIEW

Record: 111-51, .685 winning percentage

Highlights 7-0 versus Bloomington (we know this won't last forever), 4-3 versus Ocala (Sioux hoping that winning percentage can repeat in the playoffs if there is a rematch).

Offensive Co-MVP's:

Bernie Williams .349 Avg., league high 224 hits, 115 runs, 100 RBI's from leadoff spot.

Jeff Kent .323 Avg., 47 doubles, 38 HRs, 120 RBI's

Pitching Co-MVP's

Curt Schilling 23-9, 3.23 ERA, 6 CG, 1 shutout, 302 K's

Randy Johnson 22-7, 3.33 ERA, 9 CG, 2 shutouts, 324 K's (league high)

Other notes of interest:

All 5 regular starters win 10 games or more:

Schilling 23-9, 3.23 ERA

Johnson 22-7, 3.33 ERA

Woody Williams 11-5, 3.27 ERA

Rick Helling 13-7, 4.56 ERA

Joel Pineiro 14-10, 5.16 ERA

Potentially the most expensive mop-up pitcher –

Kevin Brown, 44 IP, 5.93 ERA, 2.9 million salary

Best team contract bargain:

Randy Winn, .293 Avg., 111 runs, 87 RBI, 16 HR's, 39 SB, 700,000 salary

MO's on the horizon:

Lance Carter, Zach Day, Gil Meche, Chone Figgins, Omar Infante

Free agents on the way out:

Rafael Palmeiro, Bernie Williams, Tony Womack, Randy Johnson

Next year's potential surprises and comeback players:

Shigetoshi Hasegawa, Kevin Brown