

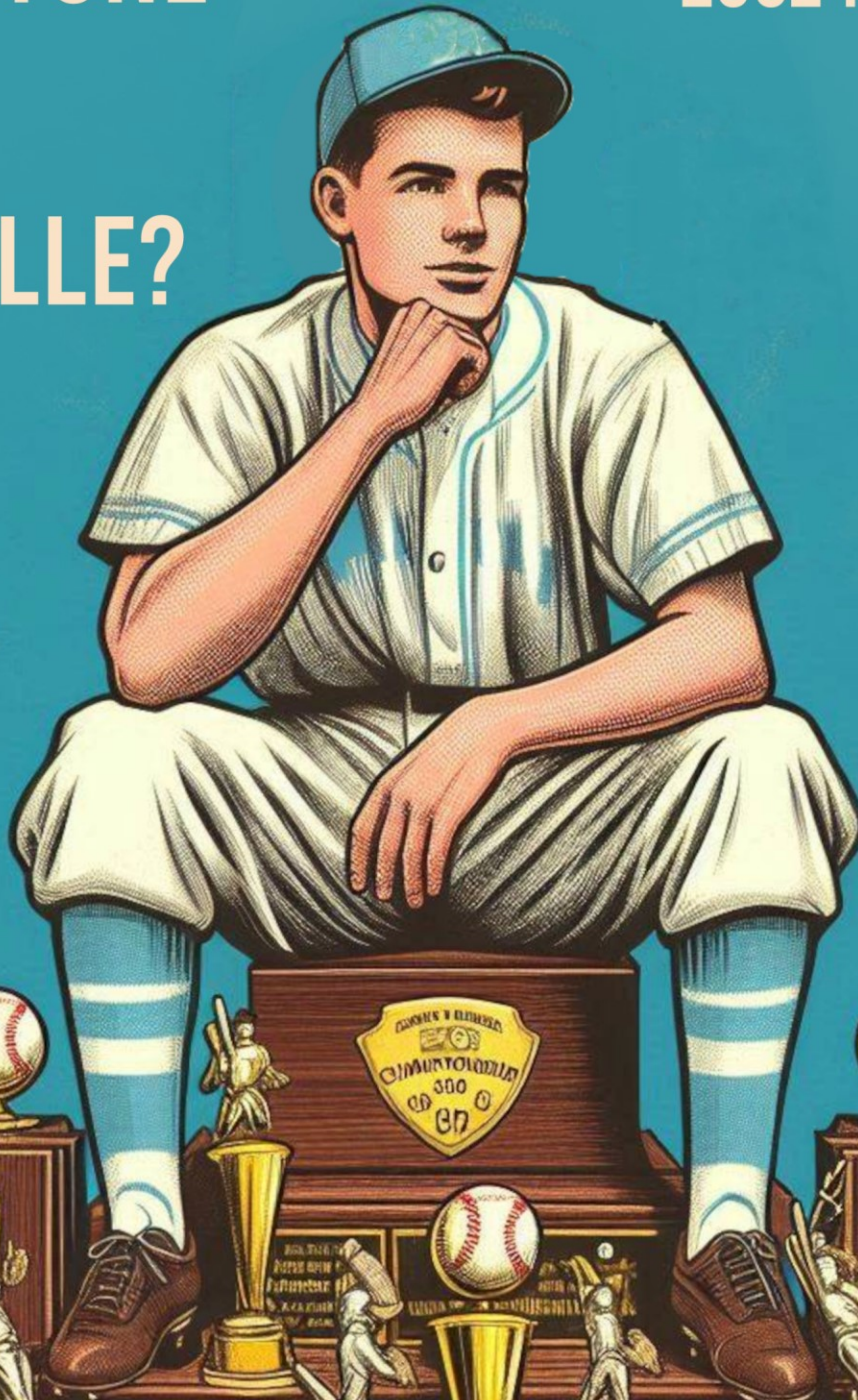
BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

CAN ANYONE
STOP
NASHVILLE?

2062 MEDIA GUIDE



CELEBRATING
90 SEASONS



BREWSTER

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

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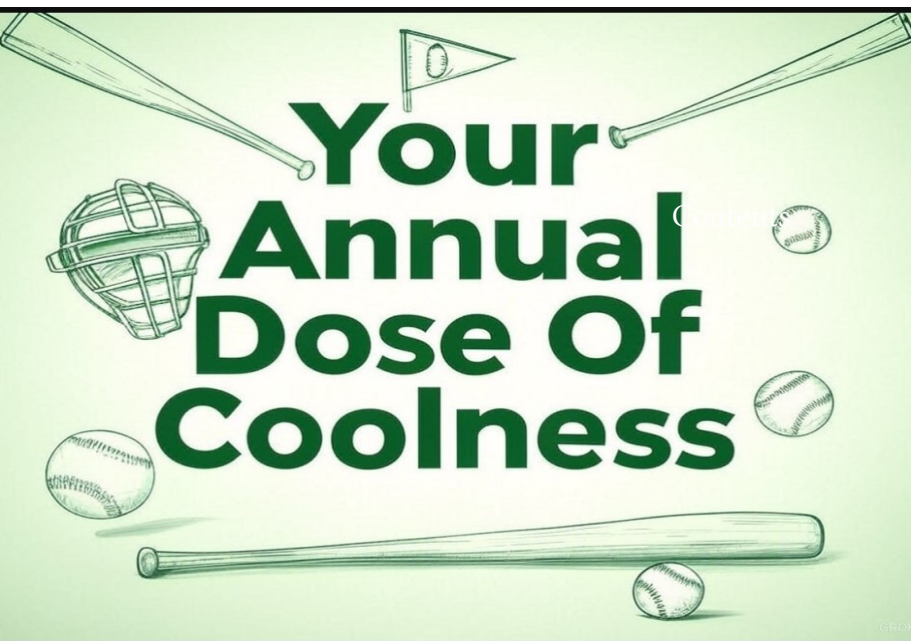
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2061

THE YEAR THAT WAS

Caleca Award
Year in Review, with Haiku (*Nathan Garrison*),
BBA Playoffs
GBC Standings & Playoffs
Hall of Fame (*Matt Rectenwald*)

FEATURES

Ode To A Favorite Song... (*Jessie Ramirez*)
Of Minor Importance (*John Momberg*)
2061 Nuggets (*John Momberg*)
The Morales Awards - 2042 (*Rob McMonigal*)
A Spouse's Take On Fictional Baseball (*Chris Wilson*)
From the Pen of Carson Stauffer (*Justin Belote*)
Draft Day in Brewster Hold 'em (*Renato Umali*)
Good Cop/Bad Cop (*Sean Marko/Chad Nason*)
All Modern-Era Team: Atlantic City (*Nathan Garrison*)
All Modern-Era Team: Cape Fear (*Nathan Garrison*)
All Modern-Era Team: Charlotte (*Nathan Garrison*)
All Modern-Era Team: Brooklyn (*Nathan Garrison*)

2062

THE PROJECTION ROOM

2061 Preamble (*Ron Collins*)
JL Atlantic (*James Walker*)
JL Frontier (*Chuck Valenches*)
FL Heartland (*Brian Pinnell*)
FL Pacific (*Ron Collins*)
GBC (*Woody Donahue*)

Cover Design (Mike Simon) - Publishing (Ron Collins) - Fancy Comics (John Momberg)

YOUR OPENING DAY PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



THE YEAR

THAT WAS



2061 Caleca Award



Our writing and other contributions are what make the Brewster the community it is. Each season the BBA Community Awards the finest (meaning most fun!?) writing on the Brewster Forums with the Caleca Award. Vic Caleca was a fine writer, a great competitor, and one of the bright beacons of joy we were lucky enough to have in our league. When in doubt, be a Vic.

Your 2061 nominees for the Caleca Award

A Horse is a Horse...	John Momberg
The Sins of the Right-eous	Doug Olmstead
Asleep at the Switch	Rob McMonigal
Rusty the Hero	Aaron Wharram
A little talk with Jesus	John Momberg
The Christmas Party	Brandon Tucker
Year of the Zurdo	Doug Olmstead

Find Our Forum At: <http://montybrewster.net/forums/index.php>

YOUR 2061 CALECA AWARD WINNER

Brandon Tucker

The Christmas Party

Editor's Note: In the Brewster, sometimes Christmas comes around at the most unusual times, am I right? Celebrate 'em while you got 'em.



August 22, 2061: Quetzalcoatl Dome - Staff meeting

Owner Meat Poplowski Jr. Jr.: Guys I'd like to get a jump on Holiday plans around here, so I was tossing around the idea of the staff all participating in a White Elephant gift exchange.

Roberto Vasquez: White elephant? What is white elephant?

Meat Poplowski Jr. Jr.: You know, it's where we all buy a secret gift and then draw numbers out of a hat. Whoever is number 1 gets to pick the first present. #2 can either pick a present or steal the present that #1 chose, so on and so forth.

Roberto Vasquez: But, why is it called white elephant?

Meat Poplowski Jr. Jr.: Well..uh...ok....uh...the term "white elephant" comes from a legend about the King of Siam (now Thailand) giving white elephants to people who had displeased him.

The elephants were rare, expensive, and sacred in Thai culture. The

recipient would have to take care of the elephant, even though they didn't have a use for it.

The recipient would be unable to get rid of the elephant, so the upkeep could ruin them financially and...look it's not important!

What's important is I am trying to spread some holiday cheer around here, unlike last year where everyone just exchanged banana bread and fruit cakes.

Wolde Azizi: I rode an elephant once. I dated a girl from India and we rode elephants that belonged to her Uncle. We broke up soon after but later her uncle was tragically killed when he was trampled by one of his own elephants.

Meat Poplowski Jr. Jr.: That's just awful Wolde, thanks for uh sharing I guess. Can we return our focus on the staff gift exchange that I am trying to plan here?

Ray Whitney: When I'm at holiday parties, I like to have a glass or two of Windsor.

Markus O'Byrne: Good lord Ray! nobody drinks that shit, it's complete swill.

David Clark: Hey I actually wrote a song for the Frontier Division in the theme of "The 12 days of Christmas". Except it's the 8 days of Christmas because there are only 8 teams and all. If anyone wants to hear it?

GM Brandon Tucker [whispers to first base coach Matt Reeves] "Don't look now but Dave's drunk again..."

David Clark:

"On the first day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: A Hustler winning MVP.

On the second day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: Two Aztec pitchers, And a Hustler winning MVP.

On the third day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: Three Oysters sliding, Two Aztec pitchers, And a Hustler winning MVP.

On the fourth day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: Four Spuds a-smashing, Three Oysters sliding, Two Aztec pitchers, And a Hustler winning MVP.

On the fifth day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: Five Talons flying, Four Spuds a-smashing, Three Oysters sliding, Two Aztec pitchers, And a Hustler winning MVP.

On the sixth day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: Six Pioneers pinch hitting, Five Talons flying, Four Spuds a-smashing, Three Oysters sliding, Two Aztec pitchers, And a Hustler winning MVP.

On the seventh day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: Seven Outlaws stealing, Six Pioneers pinch hitting, Five Talons flying, Four Spuds a-smashing, Three Oysters sliding, Two Aztec pitchers, And a Hustler winning MVP.

On the eighth day of baseball, The Brewster gave to me: Eight Shredders shredding, Seven Outlaws stealing, Six Pioneers pinch hitting, Five Talons flying, Four Spuds a-smashing, Three Oysters sliding, Two Aztec pitchers, And....a.....Hustler....winning....MVP!"

Meat Poplowski Jr. Jr.: Ah just forget the god damn party. Get back to work!



REVIEW IN

HAIKU

HOW THEY FINISHED

LEAGUE STANDINGS ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Charm City Jimmies	104	58	.642	-	909	683
Atlantic City Gamblers	87	75	.537	17	816	696
Jacksonville Zombies	86	76	.531	18	854	772
Montreal Blazers	84	78	.519	20	675	738
Charlotte Flyers	77	85	.475	27	766	847
New Orleans Crawdads	77	85	.475	27	750	850
Brooklyn Robins	72	90	.444	32	830	928
Rockville Pikemen	69	93	.426	35	753	799

Review in Haiku – Nathan Garrison

CHARM CITY JIMMIES

*Who is in first place
Why it's the Jimmies of course
Playoffs can be tough*

ATLANTIC CITY GAMBLERS

*Postseason return
Drunken wheelbarrow show tunes
Great year rough finish*

JACKSONVILLE ZOMBIES

*bin Nawaf revived
Playoffs have become the norm
Charm City again*

MONTREAL BLAZERS

*All arms and no bats
Still the Blazers found a way
Bluebirds crushed their dreams*

CHARLOTTE FLYERS

*Johnson League Pennant
Then surprise manager change
No playoffs this year*

NEW ORLEANS CRAWDADS

*Spending on the farm
Not quite enough for playoffs
Kwok a nice surprise*

BROOKLYN ROBINS

*Collecting Aces
Something to build around
Hope for the future*

ROCKVILLE PIKEMEN

*Last year in Rockville
Last place in the Atlantic
Off to Cape Fear now*

LEAGUE STANDINGS FRONTIER DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Las Vegas Hustlers	101	61	.623	-	907	678
Mexico City Aztecs	87	75	.537	14	737	743
Rocky Mountain Oysters	83	79	.512	18	820	756
Boise Spuds	82	80	.506	19	768	802
Calgary Pioneers	74	88	.457	27	841	916
Phoenix Talons	73	89	.451	28	802	877
Austin Shredders	70	92	.432	31	778	869
San Antonio Outlaws	70	92	.432	31	749	801

Review in Haiku – Nathan Garrison

LAS VEGAS HUSTLERS

*Most wins since fifty
Ran away with the Frontier
Playoff pain again*

MEXICO CITY AZTECS

*No more rained out games
White elephant gift exchange
Back to winning ways*

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTERS

*So close to dancing
bin Mazin was amazing
But threw a dumb punch*

BOISE SPUDS

*Bye bye to Bayou
Bill Kuhn a revelation
Strong end not enough*

CALGARY PIONEERS

*The season of doom
Salary cap changes hurt
A new path forward*

PHOENIX TALONS

*Top 10 pick again
The Liberty fell just short
Pedro Toro time*

AUSTIN SHREDDERS

*Look to Socrates
Just for his philosophies
Chuck says retire please*

SAN ANTONIO

*October at home
Seventeen years in a row
Cano a bright spot*

LEAGUE STANDINGS HEARTLAND DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Nashville Bluebirds	110	52	.679	-	889	609
Omaha Cyclones	84	78	.519	26	760	756
Des Moines Kernels	76	86	.469	34	786	735
Twin Cities River Monsters	76	86	.469	34	649	664
Chicago Black Sox	71	91	.438	39	655	715
Madison Wolves	70	92	.432	40	592	758
Louisville Sluggers	69	93	.426	41	721	871
Yellow Springs Nine	59	103	.364	51	701	895

Review in Haiku – Nathan Garrison

NASHVILLE BLUEBIRDS

*Nashville losing vets
Most top rookies are Bluebirds
Guess the run's not done*

OMAHA CYCLONES

*Second in Heartland
Not enough to reach playoffs
Life in the Frick League*

DES MOINES KERNELS

*Huckleberry Flinn
Will Lee Weekend was great fun
Next year Kum & Go*

TWIN CITIES RIVER MONSTERS

*Taking a Nashville
Nashville's my daddy onesie
Time to rebuild?*

CHICAGO BLACK SOX

*The Beef takes some calls
Tarp Monster Claims Another
Mathes tries third base*

MADISON WOLVES

*Gertie wins Bingo
Ballpark Predator Goes Rogue
Gil's the real Jesus*

LOUISVILLE SLUGGERS 2060

*Not the last place team
Amphibian trade review
Jose Jackson hype*

YELLOW SPRINGS NINE 2060

*Hey, where did Rob go
Russell doesn't have any fans
Spirited Toilet*

LEAGUE STANDINGS PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Sacramento Mad Popes	106	56	.654	-	734	540
Portland Lumberjacks	91	71	.562	15	778	664
San Fernando Bears	91	71	.562	15	820	659
Bikini Krill	89	73	.549	17	742	727
Long Beach Surfers	88	74	.543	18	796	766
Valencia Stars	74	88	.457	32	657	734
Hawaii Tropics	72	90	.444	34	684	773
Vancouver Mounties	70	92	.432	36	601	699

Review in Haiku – Nathan Garrison

[SACRAMENTO MAD POPES](#)

*Year of the zurdo
Dubbed the mini behemoth
Buttercup gets kicked*

[PORTLAND LUMBERJACKS](#)

*Gaajlimitz just hits
Alaric gets three hundred
Rough Wilson ending*

[SAN FERNANDO BEARS](#)

*Rookies playing well
Suzuki and Kawano
Foiled by Bikini*

[BIKINI KRILL](#)

*Silly Postseason
Exhibition Tournament
Clone gets same result*

[LONG BEACH SURFERS](#)

*The pipes reveal truth
A new future lies ahead
First round playoff loss*

[VALENCIA STARS](#)

*ABCON Level One
Team's high hopes came crashing down
Farewell bin Ameen*

[HAWAII TROPICS](#)









*Early promise fades
What could go wrong did go wrong
No more Lucchesi*

[VANCOUVER MOUNTIES](#)

*Stanford Carter gone
Rusty punches a dik dik
Payroll takes a dive*

2061 BBA Playoffs


Geoghegan Round

 	 	 	 
JAX def MEX 3-1	MTL def. ATL 3-1	BIK def. SFB 3-2	POR def. LBC 3-2

Doubleday Round

 	 	 	 
CCJ def. JAX 4-2	MTL def. LV 4-2	NSH def. BIK 4-0	SAC def. POR 4-3

Cartwright Round

 	 
MTL def. CCJ 4-3	NSH def. SAC 4-1

Monty Brewster Memorial Series

 
NSH def. MTL
4-0



2061 BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPION



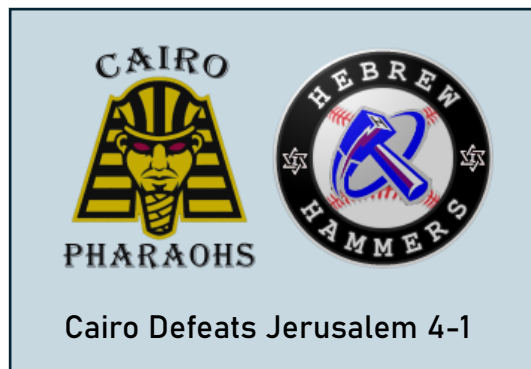
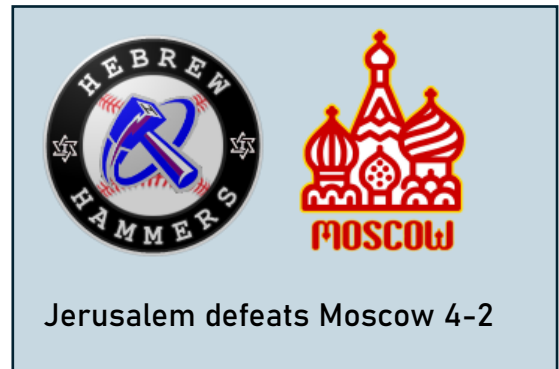
LEAGUE STANDINGS EURASIA DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Moscow Thunder Bears	94	68	.580	-	731	647
Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers	88	74	.543	6	732	662
Tokyo Pearls	77	85	.475	17	702	782
Athens Fighting Centaurs	71	91	.438	23	621	748
London Monarchs	68	94	.420	26	704	756


LEAGUE STANDINGS AFSAMOC DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Cairo Pharaohs	95	67	.586	-	763	593
Buenos Aires Brisas	83	79	.512	12	731	699
Sao Paulo Pilots	82	80	.506	13	737	746
Sydney Sharks	78	84	.481	17	704	730
Johannesburg Gold	74	88	.457	21	651	713

GBC Playoffs



2011 GLOBAL BASEBALL CONSORTIUM CHAMPION



2061-62

HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES



During his tenure in the Brewster Baseball Association Luis Mendoza was nothing but class, on the field and off the field. Now he is part of the Hall of Fame class of 2062, having been elected by 89.5% of eligible voters.

Lifetime, Mendoza hit for a .256 average and totaled 2353 hits, 595 home runs and 1671 RBIs.

The fine third baseman was officially inducted today and took his place among baseball's best. He retired in 2060 at the age of 38.

One of his friends and former teammates told the audience, "The greatest thing he taught me was on my first day in the big leagues -- it was the hustle. He hit two one-hoppers to the pitcher and ran as hard as he could to first base. Luis set a great example for me to model my career. His hustle and desire -- those were the little things that stood out for me. Plus he's one of the best hitters I've ever played with."

In his speech Mendoza expressed his thanks and gratitude to the many people who helped make this wonderful day possible. "I have been truly blessed. I have been able to do something I love and get paid very well for it. There was no place that I ever wanted to be but on the baseball diamond every day doing what I love."

It's not easy to get elected to the Hall of Fame, especially when you have an average of just .256. Mendoza overcame all of the odds and now will join the ranks of the legends in the Brewster Hall of Fame.



How do you get to the Brewster Baseball Association Hall of Fame?

Just hit 500 homers, get 3000 hits, win 300 games or perhaps just save 300 games. Not an easy task, is it? But occasionally it does happen -- it happened to the gifted second baseman Ángel Zalapa, who retired at the age of 45.

Ángel Zalapa was recently inducted into the coveted shrine of hardball heroes by the Baseball Writers Association with 84.2% of the vote. Zalapa was always a favorite of the beat writers -- always quick with a quip and always willing to talk about the game -- but that's not why he got elected to the Hall of Fame. Zalapa played a good brand of baseball, too. He played in 3520 games, had 3464 hits, 724 home runs, 2118 RBIs and scored 1841 runs while batting .268 in his career.

Reminiscing about his life in baseball, Zalapa said it all began by hitting grand slam homers in the last of the ninth in his backyard and ended up in the Hall of Fame. "It was quite a trip. I can't believe they pay us money to play a kid's game. Thank goodness I was good at it. I only got a high school education and I had to cheat to get that. Who knows what I would have done without baseball. I was just a poor old country boy. For the longest time I even thought the last words of the national anthem were 'play ball'."

Amazingly, Zalapa has been around so long that he was drafted by the Valencia Stars when Lee Honigsfeld was still their General Manager. His election is a nice tip of the cap to a choice that Honigsfeld made many moons ago.



THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD

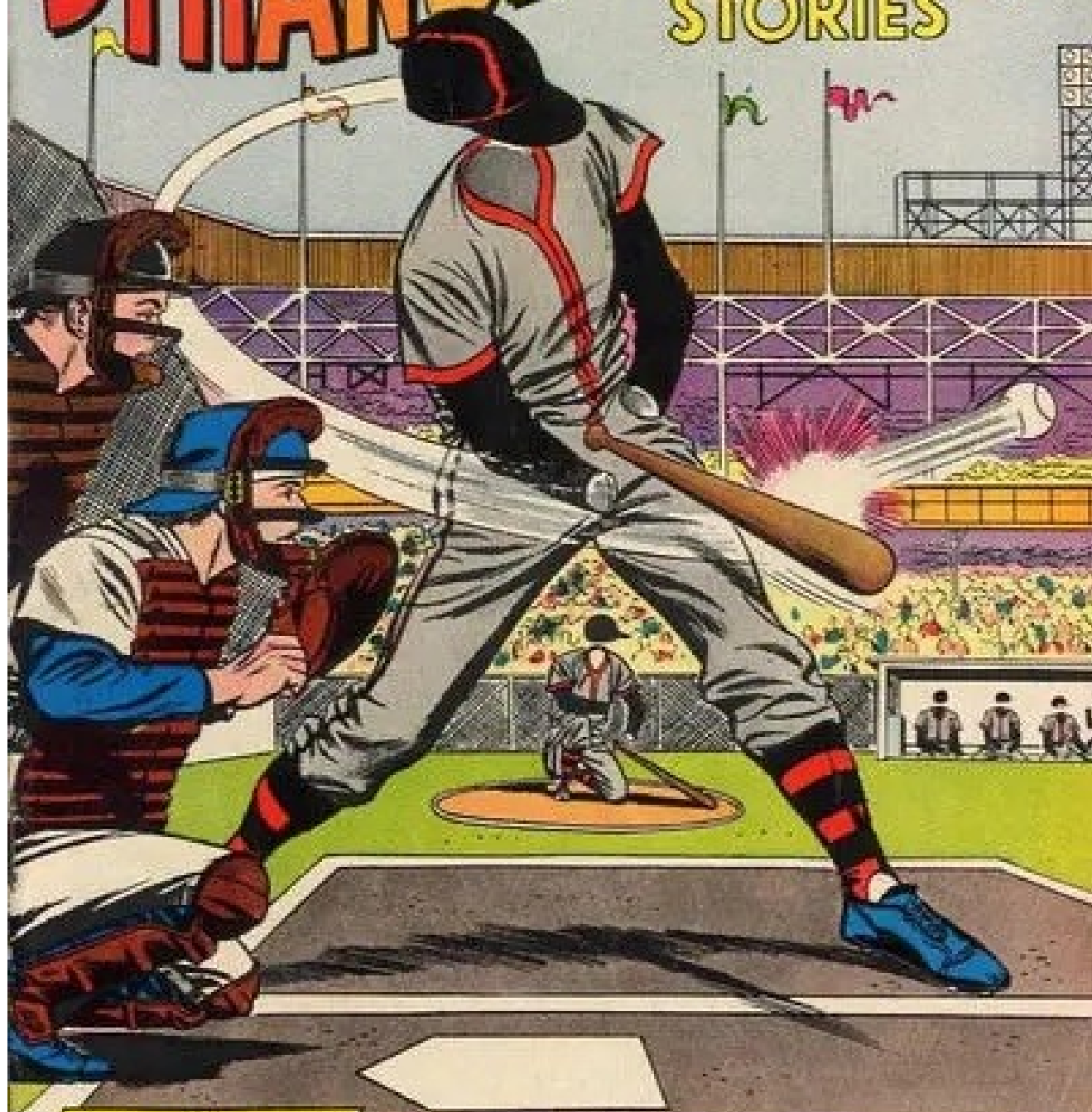
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ODE TO A FAVORITE SONG

Starring Tim Meseck

by JRamirez, using a lot of borrowed lyrics, arranged randomly

Editor's Note: Okay, this one's on me, maybe? I mean, when I made the call for material, I did my normal "go out there and stretch yourself to do something fun, anything fun!" And then I sat back and waited for the fun stuff, which did come in. And then this showed up...and...well.

You just gotta read it for yourself.

I mean, David Lynch no longer walks the planet, but if he did, I think this might well be his next film. Hell, man, maybe it is anyway. It's weird. It's cool. It's funny. It's just flat-out strange and maddening.

Bottom line: have at it. I'm pretty sure you'll never forget it.

Location: Tim Meseck's new house in San Antonio

Occasion: dinner party to celebrate aforesaid house

Parties present:

Tim Meseck, GM San Antonio Outlaws

Tammy Meseck, a fictional character

Chuckles, a family friend, visiting from Austin (no relation to the BBA Chuck)

Sandrine, Chuckles' sister

Hector Cano, Jr, centerfielder

Hector's agent (unnamed)

JRamirez, GM, Des Moines Kernels

JR's s.o., who is silent throughout (no habla inglés)

Opening scene, Tammy greets JR at the door:

TAMMY

—Oh, so good to see you, JR. I've heard you've been somewhat of a recluse.

JR

It's your good cooking that brings me out.

TAMMY

I hope you brought your appetite. It's a meatloaf special tonight.

JR

Meatloaf? Oh, OK, great, I mean, yum...

[JR hands Tammy a bottle of wine]:

Oh, and here's some sparkling cider, too.

JR

I know Tim doesn't drink, since his accident and all.

TAMMY

(chortles)

Thank God for that! He's out of control sober. He's going on 87 you know.¹

JR

Say, where is he?

TAMMY

Oh, being his normal self. An annoyance. He's back in his "man cave" watching YouTube. I think he's got a ballgame or something on, a replay, that is...

[she takes the wine and sparkling cider and heads for the kitchen, shaking her head as she goes]

HECTOR

Buenas tardes, Jessie!

JR

Buenas tardes, Hector, or is it Don Hector

Hector looks quizzical.

JR

Nada, no te preocupes [don't worry about it]

CHUCKLES

Hi, I'm Chuckles

¹ in the game

SANDRINE

...the clown! [she laughs] I'm his sister

JR

OK, está bien, good to see you, Chuckles. How's it shredding?

Loud voice explodes from the back room.

TIM

I started swearing to my God, and to my mother's grave too!

Everyone out front hesitates.

TAMMY

That's Tim. Watching that replay. Sometimes I think, Lord, he's crazed.

JR

He's got it on so loud! The TV.

Tammy: It's his hearing. You know, he was at that air show.

VOICE ON TV

...and it's bunted, bunted down the third base line, the suicide squeeze is on!

CHUCKLES

Holy Cow! Sounds like a good game. [he heads for the back]

SANDRINE

(takes a call on her cell from an admirer)

You gotta do what you can.

HECTOR

(still looks quizzical)

Don Hector?

TAMMY

(to JR)

It never felt so right.

JR

What's that?

TAMMY

Tim and I getting married when we did.

VOICE ON TV

Here he comes, he's out! No, wait, safe - safe at second base

SANDRINE

(on cell):

And we were glowing...

TV

He's rounding first and really turning it on now

TAMMY

He swore that he would love me to the end of time. But nowadays all he does is watch baseball, or videos about baseball, or videos that mention baseball. This one he's got on now, watches it over and over and over. I've tried to explain to him that the outcome's not goin' to change.

TV

The pitcher glances over, winds up...

SANDRINE

(on cell phone)

'Cause we were barely seventeen and we were barely-

TV

it's gonna be close, here's the throw, here's the play at the plate...

HECTOR'S AGENT

(to Hector)

Will you never leave me?

JR

(to himself)

This all seems familiar.

TAMMY

(continues)

He swore that he would love me to the end of time... But God only knows.

TV

it's gonna be close, here's the throw, here's the play at the plate...

TAMMY

Omg, he's got it on loop. Again!

SANDRINE
(on cell):
what were we doing? we were parking by the lake...

HECTOR
(loudly, to agent):
I gotta know right now, before we go any further.

CHUCKLES
(from the back):
And what a jump he's got!

TAMMY
(glances over)
I should check the meatloaf.

TIM
(from the back)
He's taking a pretty big lead out there!

HECTOR
It never felt so good-- Getting traded to San Antonio.

TV
it's gonna be close, here's the throw, here's the play at the plate...

JR
(responding to Hector)
Ain't no doubt about it.

SANDRINE
(on cell):
We were doubly blessed...

TV
There's the windup, and there it is, a line shot up the middle

TAMMY
It never felt so right. The meatloaf.

HECTOR
(to agent):
Meseck? He's not letting up. Guy's relentless!

SANDRINE
(on cell):
He swore that he would love me to the end of time.

TAMMY
OK, here we go! Dinner's served!

TAMMY
(to JR)
JR, would you go get the boys back there?

TV
And what a jump he's got. He's trying for third, here's the throw...

JR
(to Tim and Chuckles)
OK, here we go!

SANDRINE
(on cell)
Lord, I was crazed!

HECTO'S AGENT
What's it gonna be, boy? Yes or no?

Tim enters the room, belting a tune:

TIM
Though it's cold and lonely in the Dee- troit night!

TV
It's in the dirt - safe at third!

JR turns the TV off

TAMMY
Tim, love, it's not "De- troit night," it's "deep dark night."

TIM
Are you sure, Tam?

JR
Ain't no doubt about it!

SANDRINE
(on cell):
And it was so much better than it is today.

TIM
(as if mindless, repeating lines from the video)
He's trying for third, here's the throw...

CHUCKLES
(chips in)

The suicide squeeze is on!

SANDRINE
(on cell)

It was long ago and it was far away

TIM
(as if in a trance)

Here he comes, squeeze play!

TAMMY

Tim, dear. You must stop watching that game! And it's not a game, it's a music video. You remember that {whisper} intervention {/whisper} we had last month?

HECTOR
(to agent)

And I gotta let you know, no, you never gonna regret it

TIM
(singing)

Glowing like the metal on the edge of a night!

JR
(to Tammy)

Hey, isn't it supposed to be "knife," not "night?"

TAMMY
(softly)

We try to hide the knives... ever since his- his- (she holds back tears)

SANDRINE
(on cell)

I'll never break my promise. [she ends the phone call]

TIM
(singing loudly)

Though it's cold and lonely in the Dee- troit night!

CHUCKLES
(joins in, singing)

Ain't no doubt about it, baby got to go and shout it!

TAMMY
Don't encourage him, Chuck, please!

HECTOR
(to agent)
Injury? It was long ago and it was far away!

TIM
(singing quickly and staccato)
We're gonna go all the way tonight, gonna go all the way to-

Tammy takes Tim by the elbow

TAMMY
Yes, dear, all the way to the table. Here we are! Here's your place.

CHUCKLES
"Batter steps up to the plate..."

SANDRINE
(cuts Chuckles off)
shhhh, Chuck. Don't encourage him, Ohh, you're such a bad friend. Don't you remember the {whisper} interven-

TIM
(singing loudly)
Though it's cold and lonely in the Dee-troit night!

JR
Deep dark night.

HECTOR
(to his agent)
And all the kids at school, they were wishing they were me that night.

General silence replaces the cacophony. Candles are lit. The vino and cider are poured. Tim sits down at the head of the table, rightly so; Tammy sits to his right, a pile of napkins before her. Sandrine, Chuckles, Hector, his agent, JR, his s.o., all sit. Hector says grace. The meatloaf and other items are passed around. Tim sings, softly: *And it was paradise by the candle-light.*



Many of the lines of this story, including the baseball play-by-play, were borrowed from the Meatloaf song “Paradise by the Dashboard Light.” They were pulled randomly, which is why it is somewhat of a cacophony. It helps if you’ve heard the song. If you haven’t, I recommend it; but don’t blame me if you watch it on repeat.

OF MINOR IMPORTANCE- 2061

Editor's Note:

On a lark, I did a quick “Crossword Puzzle” Google on the phrase “Of Minor Importance.” Here’s a fun list of what it came up with:

- *Petty*
- *Marginal*
- *Peripheral*
- *Little*
- *Nickle and Dime*
- *Small Time*
- *Trivial*
- *Sleight*
- *Trifle*
- *Slight*
- *Small Change*
- *Leastways*
- *AAA*
- *El Paso, home of the Chihuahuas*



That last I thought would make James happy!



Anyway, while everyone else focuses on prospects and development, I always look forward to John Momberg’s take on events that happen in the minor leagues. Always much fun, right?



RUPERT HORN MEMORIAL LEAGUE (AAA)

THE BIG ONE: Orlando over Missouri (3-1)

GRANVILLE-ROUNDFIELD DECISION: Missouri over Victoria (2-0), Orlando over St. Paul (2-0)

OTHER PLAYOFF TEAMS: Brooks, Black Hills, Milwaukee, Annapolis

The Big One MVP: Lenya Adlerov, Orlando

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES:

Second baseman **Tariel Bogolyubski** was as hard to retire as his name was to pronounce, hitting .379 to win the league batting title, and also pacing the league in WAR, OPS and OBP. He's 25 now, and has spent three years in AAA; Nashville will have to make room or deal him.

Murad Abdul-Alim of Los Cabos (MEX) led the league with 40 homers and added 106 RBIs. He's 33 with a career average of .212, so this may be the glory year he tells his kids about.

Francisco Ortiz, another of the many Orlando stars, won the RBI crown with 119 to go with a .330 batting average.

Callum Browne, a first baseman for Black Hills, batted .360 and won the slugging title at .637. It will be interesting to see what Sacramento does, given their disdain for power hitters.

Havana Pelicans outfielder **Esteban Perez** clocked in at 364/376/546 with a league-leading 208 hits before earning a callup to New Orleans. He needs to learn some patience at the plate, and scouting reports aren't that gushing, but he's only 21 so there could be more there to develop.

Mark Benjamin, a first baseman for Death Valley (HAW) had a streak in which he reached base in 63 consecutive games.

Just as Orlando had two hitters among the league's best so also did they have a pair of ace pitchers. **Dan Boman** went 14-3 with a league-leading 2.43 ERA. He reeled off 11 quality starts in a row. His teammate **Ivan Ruiz** led the league with 18 wins. The difference is that Boman is still young, while Ruiz is staring down the barrel of his 40th birthday, having been in pro ball since 2039.

Mu-tazz bin Akram of Duluth (TWC) was used as a reliever in 2060, but in 2061 he transitioned back into a starting role, and it paid off to the tune of 185 innings, a 3.45 ERA and a league-leading 4.6 pitcher WAR.

Yet another Orlando pitcher, **Keith Fitter** needs to be mentioned as well, going 10-6 with a 2.64 ERA. Like Ruiz, he's more suspect than prospect at his age (27).

Douglas Simmons of Gotham (JAX) led the league in strikeouts with 171, but when batters did make contact, they made it count, as witness his 6-14 won-loss record and his 5.57 ERA.



WARREN COX LEAGUE (AA)

FINAL JUDGEMENT: High Point over Trenton, (3-1)

SERIES OF ACCOUNTABILITY: High Point over Reno (2-0),
Trenton over Edmonton (2-0)

OTHER PLAYOFF TEAMS: Bismarck, Trois-Rivieres, Providence,
Anderson

FINAL JUDGEMENT MVP: Carter Cramer (High Point)

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES:

Felix Alvarez of Saint Joseph, a Twin Cities farm club, won the batting title, hitting .380. He's a first baseman who could get by at 2b, and he's already 25. He could skip AAA.

Another first baseman, **Enrique Caballero** of Peoria, paced the league in both on base percentage (.462) and homers (27); a nice combo. He earned a late promotion to AAA; Chicago management will have to decide where he spends 2062, but he seems ready for the big stage.

Surprisingly, despite leading the league in those categories, Caballero didn't win the league OPS crown. That went to Saint Joseph's **Leonardo Arevalo**, who slashed 366/428/630. His future would seem to be as a DH at some level.

Trenton made the final series behind the work of CF **Nestor Saatsakis**, who accumulated 6.1 WAR by batting .311, driving in a league-leading 110 runs and stealing 20 bases. He's never going to be a great CF, but he can do enough to get by if he keeps hitting like that.

Another CF, **Justin Vaive** of Edmonton, OPSed .852 and stole an amazing 127 bases in 135 attempts. The result of that performance was a league-leading 8.7 WAR. He's only 21, so the future looks pretty bright for him.

Juan Ramirez was the ace of the championship High Point staff, going 15-5, 2.18, with a WHIP of 1.05. His teammate Joseph James went 12-5-2.86 and earned 6.3 WAR. Did I mention that High Point is another Nashville affiliate? Disgusting...

The Cox league had a 20-game winner in 2061: **Pedro Gonzalez** of Santa Cruz. He went 20-5 with a 2.73 ERA. Pedro made it too the bigs briefly in 2059, and since then has been working his way back down the ladder, but his stellar 2061 may have stopped his descent.

The 2061 saves crown went to Trenton's **Lenya Nikushkin** with 41. He might have had one or two more if it were not for a late-season call-up to AAA Wilmington.

The Louisville Fire's **Glen Parker** started a string of quality starts in 2060 and kept going into 2061, reaching 19 in a row before being called up to AAA and then briefly to the majors.

Catcher **Anastasio Simancas** of Trenton was by far the best pitch framer in AA. He's one of those guys that scouts pooh-pooh, but he keeps producing. He'll try AAA in 2062.



CHARLEY PEGLER LEAGUE (A)

PEGLER SERIES: Billings over Toledo, (3-1)

GARDEN CUP: Toledo over Portsmouth, (2-0), Billings over Hollywood, (2-0)

OTHER PLAYOFF TEAMS: Quebec, Silver Springs, Hunstville, Springdale

PEGLER SERIES MVP: Jorge Reyes, Billings

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES:

Any discussion of outstanding hitters at this level has to start with **Kusuma Prawiranega** of Lake City. He led the league in OBP (.473), Slugging (.564) and of course OPS, and his .366 batting average was second only to...

Taisuke Kamimura of Toledo. Taisuke batted .370 and for the second straight year earned a brief promotion to Phoenix. He's spent three years in Toledo now, and is probably getting a little impatient to get his career in gear.

His Toledo teammate, **G'Tuda Choppa** is much more highly rated than Kamimura, and showed it in 2061 by hitting 27 homers and driving in a league-leading 101 runs. He's limited to first base, but should be a fine glove there, and that power will play anywhere.

Jorge Nunez of Prince George slashed 308/418/490 and added 37 steals to end up with a WAR of 6.6. He's currently a third baseman, but could conceivably play shortstop, especially if he can add a little range somewhere along the way.

Ignacio Franco of the Folsom Foxhounds topped all of the above in the category of WAR; his slash line of 344/466/497 helped him accumulate 7.2 points.

Juan Soliz of Charlesbourg only batted .236. but drew 99 walks and stole 75 bases while being caught only nine times. If he can hit even a little bit in AA he could have a future.

Turning to pitching, **Manny Ortega** of the Parker Pilots led A ball with a 1.76 ERA. He also pitched in AA where he worked in relief without similar success.

Toledo's **Lawrence Forest** led the league in wins (19 against only four losses), pitcher WAR (6.2), and strikeout-to-walk ratio (157 Ks, only 21 walks), The low walk total is not a mirage; he has pinpoint control.

Javier Duarte, yet another Toledo hurler, went 17-5 with a 2.61 ERA. Opposing hitters batted a league-low .212 against his assortment of three plus pitches.

The outstanding closer in A ball in 2061 came from- stop me if you've heard this- the Toledo Liberty. **Ernesto Suarez** saved 48 thanks to two plus-plus pitches and excellent control.



ANGELA DRAKE LEAGUE (SA)

SUPREMACY SERIES: Daytona Beach over Adirondack (3-0)

THE SHOWDOWN: Daytona Beach over All Saints (2-0),
Adirondack over Kingston (2-1)

OTHER PLAYOFF TEAMS: Coxen Hole, La Paz, Coco Cay, Saturn

SUPREMACY SERIES MVP: Alfredo Sloan, Daytona Beach

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES:

There was no .400 hitter in SA in 2061, but **Reynaldo Marroquin** of Daytona Beach came as close as you can, batting .399. The former waiver claim also led all SA players in base hits and OBP (.463). He's now spent six seasons in SA, hitting over .320 every year.

Shortstop **Mart Visser** of Coxen Hole hit 20 homers, five more than anyone else could manage. His 70 RBIs and 182 total bases also led the league. His 2061 represented a giant step forward for Visser, who had never showed anything like this before.

Glenn Long, a second baseman from All Saints, won the level's WAR crown with a 5.5 mark. Long's .884 OPS and 33 steals, combined with playing a middle infield position very well, all added up to the WAR title.

It's rare for a player to jump from short-season A ball directly to the majors, but **Juan Rodriguez**, another All Saints batter, slashed 359/440/594, earning him a curtain call in New Orleans, where he tallied his first major league hit.

Kingston Legends center fielder **Ridha bin Suhail** stole 48 bases in 65 games played, ten more than anyone else in short-A could manage. In 2060 he hit only .241 in rookie ball, but something clicked in SA, and his BA jumped to .307, leading to more steal opportunities.

Tortuga's **Dave Spencer** wins the consistency award; in 2060 he batted .344 with a .393 OBP, and in 2061 with the same team he batted .344 again with a .394 OBP!

Pitching-wise, it's hard to find fault with the season Daytona's **Rafael Alvarez** had: 14-0 with a league-leading 1.10 ERA. He also contributed five shutouts.

Tolya Shiller of San Pedro de Macoris didn't blow anybody away with his conventional numbers (7-7, 3.00 ERA), but when you dig a bit deeper you find seven complete games, 4.9 WAR and a league-leading 112 strikeouts in 126 innings.

Bill Frost of the All Saints Blue Claws was probably the preeminent reliever in the SA level. He saved 26 games, tied for the lead with Orlando Pena of San Pedro de Macoris, added two wins, and completed a string of 34 consecutive saves in pro ball.

Lefty **Alfonso Rivera** of Kingston pitched 96 2/3 innings without yielding a home run.



SPIKE NOLAN LEAGUE (Rookie)

ROUND 3: Traverse City over Monclava (4-2)

ROUND 2: Traverse City over Charlottesville (4-2), Monclava over Roswell (4-0)

OTHER PLAYOFF TEAMS: Russelville, Albany, Alamagordo, Castroville

ROUND 3 MVP: Juan Oliva (Traverse City)

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES:

2061 was pretty much the year of **Jose Romero**. The second baseman for the Saint John's Water Wolves (a Madison club) hit .401 and led rookie ball with a .479 OBP, a .791 SLG, and 60 RBIs.

Another Jose, **Jose Medrano** of Cheyenne actually edged out Romero for the batting crown, hitting .415. His 114 base hits and 51 doubles led rookie ball in both categories. His was Romero's fourth season in rookie ball, and I'm guessing it will be the last.

Jesus Morales of Bend hit 20 homers to lead all rookie leaguers. Unlike the two Joses. Jesus was in his first year of pro ball- he just turned 18- so it will be interesting to follow his development, He's a switch-hitter who should be able to stick at 2B.

The WAR title almost always goes to a player at an up-the-middle position, and this year was no exception: **Pedro Toro** of Traverse city, a center fielder, won with a 7.2 mark. Pedro hit.391, slugged .709 and stole 28 bases to lead all Spike Nolan players.

Another Traverse City player, third baseman **Phillip Warner**, slashed 371/477/728, He's also a fine defensive third baseman and has good intangibles, so expect him to move quickly, even though he's in a loaded farm system.

Ricardo Magana of Saylorville played only a partial season in the Nolan before being promoted to SA but managed to homer in seven consecutive games before heading to Coco Cay to finish his season.

Two pitchers in the Spike Nolan managed ERAs of a nice, even 1.00: **Fred Baker** of Traverse City and **Jose Valencia** of Roswell. Baker ent 9-1 and led the level in FIP, and Valencia went 5-0 and posted a league-leading 0.65 WHIP and a .157 opponent bating average.

Raza Zardari of Traverse City went 12-0 with an ERA of 1.73. His twelve wins were enough to lead the league, and he added a 0.82 WHIP.

Jose Arredondo of Alamagordo went 9-2, 1.87 and led the league in both quality starts (13) and shutouts (3).

The battle for the saves championship came down to a three way fight between **Vince Dyess** of Monclova (22), **Klaas Renders** of Port Arthur (22), and **Ernesto Rios** of Mississauga (21).

2061 • NUGGETS



- Hawaii issued only seven intentional walks all year.
- The Portland Lumberjack pitching staff committed only one balk all year; Charlotte led the BBA with 14.*
- New Orleans hit an insane 61 triple in 2061; 16 more than second-place Omaha.
- Charm City was the premier home run team with 276; to no one's surprise Sacramento was last with an even hundred.*
- On the other hand, Charm City had the fewest steals (70), and turned the most double plays (181).
- There were no 20-game winners in the 2061 BBA; Bob Anderson of Jacksonville led the league with 19. There was one 20-game loser; Alfredo Anaya of Yellow Springs. Anaya also yielded a league-leading 48 homers.*
- Oscar O'Halloran of Omaha walked 98 batters in 2061, leading in that dubious category by ten.
- Masud bin Salah al Din of Phoenix reached base in 51 consecutive games in 2061.*
- Mark Lolololo of Nashville had a hitless streak of 14.2 innings.
- Closer Eduardo Moreno of Valencia struck out ten consecutive batters at one point.*
- Khayyat Isa of Atlantic City continued a string started in 2060 by stealing 51 consecutive bases without being caught.
- Catcher Davenport Hinkle of Vancouver handled 601 total chances without committing an error.*
- Sacramento has now won 27 division championships, trailing leader Las Vegas by only one. But Vegas has won ten league championships, six more than the Mad Popes, and they've been to the postseason 46 times in 67 seasons.
- Ramon Rodriguez of Charm City was the best bargain among BBA hitters, generating 7.7 WAR for the minimum 500K salary. On the other hand, Carlos Sanchez of Hawaii pocketed 15.5 million for contributing 1.1 WAR.*
- Pitching-wise, Cesar Franco of San Antonio clocked in at 4.4 WAR for his minimum salary, while San Fernando' paid Ielemia Faletose \$13 million and got exactly zero WAR.



The 2042

Kevin Morales Award!

In last season's media guide, I introduced the Kevin Morales award, a way to commemorate the best 20th round draft pick of each year. Inspired by the Fictional National Football League's concept of Mr. Irrelevant, aka the last pick of the draft, it's named for arguably the most successful late round draft pick of all time. Mr. Morales didn't let being drafted 25th stop him from winning 204 games, three championships, and a Nebraska award. In honor of his achievements, the Kevin Morales award is given to the player drafted in the 20th round of a given year who had the most success as professional baseball player.

How much success is that? Well if our first two awards were any indication, not a lot. Before we dig into what the 2042 draft's last round had to offer, let's review our winners from 2040 and 2041 and some other fun facts:

Running Totals:

Number of BBA alumni: 1
Number of GBC alumni: 1
Max Pro Career: 14 seasons (Theron Fairchild)
Best Year So Far: 2041 (1 BBA and 1 GBC alumni, median pro career of 5 seasons)
Worst Year So Far: 2040 (8 players with negative WAR for their pro career)
Best Median Pro Level: 2041 (A Ball)
Best Median Pro Career: 2041 (5 years)

The 2042 Kevin Morales Award Fun Facts:

28 of 32 are listed in Stats + or 87.5%
23 Position Players and only 5 Pitchers
17 Years was longest pro career(!)
2 Players Made the BBA
0 Players Made the GBC

Previous Award Winners:

2040: Catcher Rodrigo Valles

673rd pick overall
no BBA or GBC service time
highest level AAA
career minor league WAR of 12.61

2041: Outfielder Theron Fairchild

685th pick overall
40 career BBA games
.202 average, -.54 WAR
career minor league WAR of 10.85
14 professional seasons

Mean Median and Mode Fun Part 1: Leveling Up (or not!) – BBA Level Data

Mean: 3.29 (A little above A Ball)

Median: 3.5 (Squarely between A and AA)

Mode: 4 (AA, with 9 players)

Mean Median and Mode Fun Part 2: Hiding from the GM (for a bit, anyway) – Career Length Data

Mean: 4.93 Pro Years

Median: 4 Pro Years

Mode: 2 Pro Years (6)

Outliers: 2 (15 and 17 Pro Years)

Notable Stats:

- 6 "two-way" players, none of whom pitched well or often
- 2 HS players were drafted despite having negative WAR in HS
- 3 College players were drafted despite having negative WAR in College
- 4 players tried and failed to catch on in GBC organizations

Other Cool or Interesting Facts:

- The Devil's Draft curse is lifted, as 5 players had 6 pro years
- This set of Mr. Irrelevants swung wildly, with 6 players getting only 2 pro years, but two of them having careers that stretched well into the 2050s.
- I suspect but can't prove the large number of 2-way players was likely due to their teams not properly monitoring minor league rosters so "bad" players got sent out to do mop up duty.

Being quite honest, other than the two players who made it to the big leagues and will battle it out for the Morales Award, this was kind of a dull set of players who were clearly used primarily to fill holes and then were quickly discarded. I think the truest proof of that is only 5 players made it to AAA, where most teams feature either nearly-ready rookies or players they think can be called upon in a pinch. If you aren't making it to AAA, then you really don't have a future.

But our two BBA players are fascinating. We'll start with our runner up, David "Mad Hatter" Graham. Now first of all, I want you to know I almost gave it to him because he's got the best nickname. He also, funny enough, was one of the two-way players, getting into 4 games but pitching to an 11.37 ERA. So not a threat to even Raul Morales, let alone anyone good at being on the mound and behind the plate. His minor league career was 15 seasons, so naturally he has a stronger WAR than the typical 20th rounder, finishing with 23.44. He amassed 1041 hits and 204 homers – over half of which in both cases occurred at AA, where he spent up to part of 8 total seasons. Graham also tried to make it in the GBC, but he never got above the ABA there, so AAA level. While not quite an AAAA player, he really scratches at the surface of that group of

players. A very respectable career. Would have blown away either of the 2040 or 2041 winners, but he had the misfortune of being drafted in 2042. That means he loses to...

Your 2042 Kevin Morales Award-Winner is...

Outfielder Steve Tucker!



Mr. Tucker was drafted 675th overall by the Edmonton Jackrabbits but little did he know back in 2042 that after leaving his Nintendo Brothers teammates behind in 2041 at the age of 17 that he would end up in a Boise Spuds uniform in 2054 at age thirty, long past the time many other players would have given up.

Tucker's path to the BBA and the Spuds is fascinating. Edmonton released him in 2044. Twin Cities snatched him up with a \$45,000 bonus check. By 2046, he was an All-Star futures player but after the 2048 season, the River Monsters let him walk. He then becomes a Mountie, as it seems everyone must do at least once in their career, who release him mid season. Now Shoeless gets involved, signing him in mid-2049 with an \$80,000 bonus. (At this point it's clearly more profitable for Tucker to be released than for him to stay with an organization!) Now he really starts to take off, getting named to the A All-Star squad and winning the Championship with the Hollywood Stars. How do the Popes reward such success? By letting him go! (Rumor has it that it's because he hit 5 home runs in back to back years and that angered Shoeless.) Now he's starting over in 2052 with Boise, but by the end of 2052, the Popes want him back and make him their first pick in the Rule 5 draft. The reunion wasn't meant to me, because Sacramento sent him back and so his history was made in Idaho instead of California.

Whew! What a ride!

For Tucker, it was not a dream come true cup of coffee, either. He played 33 games in 2054, then another 33 games in 2054. While he scuffled a bit initially, batting just .207 in his rookie season, he bounced back to bat .272 in 2055 with 4 home runs and an OPS of .841. Used primarily as a left fielder, his ZR in left was 2.55 for his time in the bigs. It seemed like he might have carved out a path as a 5th outfielder type, but instead the Spuds released him after 2055 and despite getting another \$100,000 bonus for signing from Montreal, wasn't able to crack the roster there or in a final stint with the Mad Popes, who released him for good in 2058.

Tucker's career BBA WAR was 1.7 and career minor-league WAR of 19.13. He's a study in persistence and also that if you have potential, you're likely to stick around as BBA GMs hunt for a player who just needs a chance to break out. Sometimes a GM might even try more than once! (Hi Shoeless!)

Learn more about Steve Tucker here: <https://statsplus.net/brewster/player/49065?page=profile>

Mr. Tucker was a great find and part of why I'm enjoying this feature so much. I hope you're enjoying it, too. Can't wait to see what 2043 brings!

A Spouse's Take on Fictional Baseball

Mrs. 7teen interviewed by Chris Wilson

7teen - Thanks for agreeing to the interview. I'm sure you are thrilled to discuss fictional, online baseball with me.

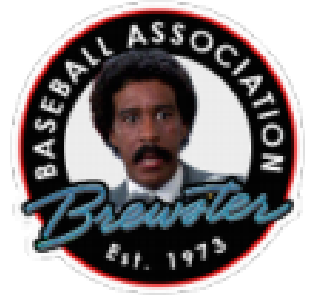
Mrs. 7teen - Oh yeah, thrilled. I can't wait. (insert sarcasm font)

7teen - So first things first, what is your overall opinion of this hobby of ours?

Mrs. 7teen - Well there are definitely worse things you could be addicted to!

7teen - I said hobby, not addiction.

Mrs. 7teen - Potato. Po-tah-to. You sat up all night one night doing a fake podcast. I don't retract my comment. But seriously, I know it's a big thing you do. You guys enjoy it. Truth be told, I have this lady on social media who we used to discuss Street Parking workouts together. Turns out her husband, who was a pitcher in the major leagues with the Phillies, played in some OOTP league. So I know it's a big thing.



7teen - You know OOTP?

Mrs. 7teen - OOTP? It stands for Out of the Park, right? That's the game or something you play the leagues on, right? That's the game you ask me to go into from time to time and download or upload some file I think.

7teen - Yep, that's it. That's the game. So since you know the game we play, what is the name of the league I'm in?

Mrs. 7teen - Oh the current league.... Shew I don't remember. The last one I remember you being in was called something like the Monty Brewster Baseball Association or something like that. Was that one of them?

7teen - Yep, that's still the same one. It was called that originally. We've changed the name some since then. It went from that to the Monty Brewster World Baseball Association now down to just the Brewster Baseball Association. But yeah, you're close enough. Any idea where the name of the league originated?

Mrs. 7teen - I really have no idea.

7teen - It's from a movie called Brewsters Millions.

Mrs. 7teen - Have we ever watched that one?

7teen - No. In fact, and I hate to admit this in the interview for the media guide, but I've never actually seen the movie.

Mrs. 7teen - Yeah, it didn't ring a bell.

7teen - So how long have I played in fictional baseball leagues?

Mrs. 7teen - Uh, yeah so we've been married now for 22 years. You were doing this before we got married. So I'm going to say something like 25. I remember you playing this stuff when we were dating. I remembered how you used to cover the computer screen with your hand to scroll boxscores on the screen to slowly let the game unfold to see if you won or not. I thought that was weird. But whatever. I still married you.

7teen - Yeah that was in a league called the GBC. It used a different game other than OOTP.

Mrs. 7teen - Yeah. Ok.

7teen - So if you remember that, how many leagues do you think I've played in over all these years?

Mrs. 7teen - I'll guess 4.

7teen - Close. Just 3. The GBC, another one called the ORB2, short for Other Reality Baseball where we had real players but on different teams, and now this one. When did you know this little hobby wasn't going away?

Mrs. 7teen - Not sure I ever thought of that. Honestly I knew early on you loved baseball. You were doing that one league with your hand and boxscore thing. You took me to a Reds game while we were dating. Remember? I hated that game at old Riverfront. Was bored to death. Yet here we are. A million games later. I've lost count on the number of ballparks we've seen games at. Have sons that play baseball. I mean really at this point, I'm not sure what you'd do with your free time without these leagues and golf. I mean what would you do in the mornings while your family sleeps in if you aren't drinking coffee and messing with your fake baseball stuff.

7teen - Fictional! While we're on the topic. Who runs these leagues?

Mrs. 7teen - I do know this one. Matt Rectenwald. Or as you call him, Recte. I feel like I know the guy but have no idea who he is. He just runs your fake baseball stuff.

7teen - Fictional baseball

Mrs. 7teen - Fake, Fictional. Potato, Po-tah-to.

7teen - So what is my current team in the league?

Mrs. 7teen - Shoot. I can't remember. Is it the Portland Lumberjacks? Is that right?

7teen - Yes it is. Did I ever have a different team?

Mrs. 7teen - Yes! In the grand scheme of things, you're relatively new with Portland. Right? They're a new team for you.

7teen - Yes. We expanded and I took an expansion team. Do you remember what team I was before?

Mrs. 7teen - I can't remember. Was you somebody in Atlantic City once?

7teen - Well sort of. I was the Atlantic City Mobsters in that GBC league when we first got married. They were the first team I ever ran. In this league, I was the Madison Wolves for a long time.

Mrs. 7teen - Yeah, that's right. I forgot about the Madison Wolves.

7teen - Well you shouldn't have. They were dominant for over a decade.

Mrs. 7teen - Are we done now?

7teen - Not quite. So who is your favorite player in the BBA? Or can you name a player?

Mrs. 7teen - You had someone named after Dave Matthews Band, right? Or something like that. Or there were some Dave Matthews Band guys you made I think. And wasn't there a player named Steve Offenbaker.

7teen - Yes, I do create guys after DMB themes for players. Not sure if I had many on my team but I do create those. And Steve Offenbaker was a former owner of a team in the GBC a long time ago. You probably still hear me mention his name because I follow him on twitter. He's a big Reds fan and lives in Hawaii. Pretty cool.

Mrs. 7teen - Especially if he lives in Hawaii.

7teen - So as I said, we create fake names for players. Can you pronounce these guys names and pick out the one I created?

Shows her Mynorli Gaajlimitz's HTML Page

Mrs. 7teen - Not a clue.

Shows her Unem Ploid's HTML Page



Mrs. 7teen - Unemployed. That one is easier than that other one. What was that other one.

7teen - It means Minor League Age Limits. Long story.

Mrs. 7teen - Don't tell it, please.

7teen - I won't. What about this name?

Shows her Miller "Cornbread" Shed

Mrs. 7teen - Miller "Cornbread" Shed. And that's your DMB creation. That's easy.

7teen - Ok, just a few more. What do you think should be the end result of Shoeless?

Mrs. 7teen -What does that mean? You mean the guy from Field of Dreams? I think they should let him play on the Field of Dreams if that's what you're asking.

7teen - Good answer, but no. Shoeless is a GM in the league and he should be fired.

Mrs. 7teen - Why should he be fired?

7teen - Long story

Mrs. 7teen - Yeah, I don't care. Next question.

7teen - You can't say Portland. But looking at the list of teams in the league, who do you think you'd be a fan of in real life and why?

Mrs. 7teen - I'll go with the Las Vegas Hustlers. And mainly just because I like Las Vegas and we just booked another trip in June. So I'll say them.

7teen - Bandwagon. That's like picking the New York Yankees as your favorite team.

Mrs. 7teen - Well you asked!

7teen - So if you were to be the first female GM of the league, where would you locate a team and what would they be called?

Mrs. 7teen - I'd probably say Cincinnati. Or Seattle. Cincinnati just because that's our team. And Seattle because I've enjoyed our trips there.

7teen - We actually used to have a team in Seattle. The GM moved them to Bikini and named them the Krill.

Mrs. 7teen - Where is Bikini?

7teen - Honestly, I'm not sure anyone knows. I think somewhere in the Pacific ocean. You know, you'd probably be a popular GM if you located a team in Guam and called them the Fantomhorseflies

Mrs. 7teen - I don't want to know, do I?

7teen - Probably not. So a couple more questions. Is Lorenzo de' Medici a hall of famer?

Mrs. 7teen - I am assuming this is controversial in your league. But I'm going to say yes. Yes he should be in the hall of fame.

7teen - Thoughts on Rich Dares?

Mrs. 7teen - I don't know who that is.

7teen - Let me make it multiple choice. Is Rich Dares: A. A good player. B. A player who often gets injured. C. A pivotal cog in the Portland Lumberjacks 2059 Brewster Championship team and a beloved player by yours truly. D. Fuck Rich Dares.

Mrs. 7teen - D. Fuck Rich Dares.

7teen - Ok, that was the wrong answer. *[Editor's Note: It was not the wrong answer]* Fine, last question. And possibly the most important question of them all? Who is Al-Hoot?

Mrs. 7teen - Al Who?

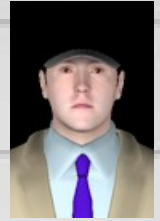
7teen - No. Al-Hoot?

Mrs. 7teen - I don't have any idea!

7teen - Well, do you think he's a good guy? Bad guy? Got an opinion?

Mrs. 7teen - He's probably a bad guy. I don't know why. He just sounds like a bad guy.

So there you have it. What my wife thinks, knows, and has opinions about in our "Fictional" baseball world. Maybe one day she'll be in the mood for me to tell her why Shoeless should be fired. Perhaps over a glass of wine.



From the Pen of GBC-er Carson Stauffer

11/2/61

BLOODY HELL, BEOWULF. THAT'S WHAT I WALKED INTO THE CLUBHOUSE AND FOUND IN MY LOCKER TODAY. WITH A NOTE FROM THE NEW GM, NO LESS, LETTING US KNOW THAT TO THE LONG LIST OF OUR ROUTINE DAILY BASEBALL DUTIES WE MUST ADD THIS THING... A TOME IS WHAT HE CALLED IT. THINKS IN IT WE'LL FIND AN ANCIENT KIND OF FIGHTING SPIRIT THAT WILL SOMEHOW THEN FIND ITS WAY ONTO THE BASEBALL FIELD. SAYS WE OUGHT TO KNOW SOME OF WHAT THIS LAND HAS SEEN TOO. SOME OF WHAT HAS FALLEN DOWN UPON IT. THAT WE MIGHT ADD OUR OPPONENTS TO THAT NUMBER IN THE FUTURE. BLOODY, BLOODY HELL.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO READ THE FIRST FEW PAGES TONIGHT. EVEN HAVE TO MEMORIZE A PASSAGE. WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS? WHO DOES HE THINK WE ARE? WE AINT NO FOPS OR BOFFINS HERE. WE PREFER, I ASSURE YEH, A PINT OR TWO OVER POETRY. WHAT THIS HAS TO DO WITH THROWING A BALL I DON'T KNOW. YI-DA SAYS ANYTHING IS WORTH A SHOT AFTER THE YEAR WE'VE HAD, BUT, I MEAN, THIS SEEMS LIKE A REAL STRETCH. HOW ABOUT SOME EXTRA TEE-WORK OR SOMETHING, MAYBE A NEW WORKOUT REGIMEN. HOW ABOUT A BIT OF LONG TOSS. WHOSE EVER HEARD OF SUCH A CRAZY THING?

I DON'T CARE IF FOLKS ON THE RADIO SEEM GENERALLY HOPEFUL ABOUT HIM. IT'S A RIGHT ODD THING, AND I CAN THINK THAT IF I WANT TO.



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

"Remember... No home runs! They make Shoeless awfully mad!"

IT'S DRAFT DAY IN Brewster Hold 'Em!



Murnster,

I hope your drafts went well. Here's what I got for the free Hold 'Em League. You ever play one of those? New format to me. You draft a team and the roster locks and every player is active. There's no shuffling in and out players and no scouring the waiver wire. No dealing with low-ball offers and backyard trade discussions. It's a good complement to the seven others league I'm doing, including the Interstate Fantasy Beatdown.

The payout is amazing in this one. It's a 5-to-1 with a midyear kick, and a bunch of optional bonuses tacked on depending on your ante, bunch of specials and sides, including a "survival total", which I never ever heard about it and is kind of morbid to say the least. Lots of cats tracked including the usual, but the main tracks from the 6x6 with holds and OBP. So there you go. The kicker is this: You can't change your team one bit. The players you draft at the beginning of the year are those that keep and play. No benches. But there's an option at the All-Star Game to adjust your pay in, up or down.

I know the commish' sister, Dee Dee, and she's like, "give it a go, we need one more, we're drafting at Tomo's" so I ponied up. Why not? Esp. since I already made the friggin' spreadsheets, and I already went through the rigamarole with the Interstate and VizChamp. I wanted something nice and easy. The beauty for this league is that it's a set it and forget it.

The commish is cool. She goes by Joey. Dee Dee and her look like twins but Joey's a total numbers nerd. Total sports nerd more like. Premiere League obsessed (Nottingham). You'd like her. She's into all the weird sports. She was holding forth on the cricket talk and said she's going to one of the Pickle Feds Satellite finals in Sarasota. She's some kind of backend techie for this glow-up downtown so she has a lot of time on her hands. And money, apparently. She paid for the entire "draft night" special, including drinks, which was hot and cold sake. Which I've never drank before but damn that hot sake!

So, that was the issue. Aside from my first pick - I was first pick overall somehow it was decided based on my Viz History - I kind of like effed up the whole thing because I forgot the format, the whole friggin' reason I joined. I wrote on a napkin my don't picks list. Tops on that list was Tatlock and of course, come the 13th round I don't have a catcher and we're umpteen

bottles of sake in and lady next to me is pouring me cup after cup - and I'm doing the same, mind you - that's the tradition - and the timer is counting down and I'm like "Give me TNT." At that point, though, it was a joke.

I was drafting guys like I was drafting off the ProgMan's Injury Risk table.

Yes I had the first pick. Yes I went with Dave Ackerman. Yes he's the best real 5 category bat. But ProgMan's got him high on the IR table. But another side of me kept remembering that Outright Insights feature about the then new Dev Labs. It listed all the MIF who underwent strength and conditioning. Remember? Of those that succeed in the program, "expect an increase of 10% to 25%" in plate appearances. I thought that was nuts but when it hits it hits. Besides, the Jimmies just gave him that huge contract so you know their in-house people know something.

Ramon Rodriguez went 2nd and I was like "yup." The table felt like he's going to go beyond the 60 HR he hit last year. All this yada. My secret model (I updated it so we are at Mach 3) has him hitting 40 HR, with a .293 avg, 90 R, 99 RBI. Big-time regression but yeah, still amazing. I considered him but the year to get him is next year.

Two Charm Cities boys going 1-2, how's that!?

Yuu Suzuki went 3rd to the Young Guns, this little punk 15 year old kid who had on his Viz Optics all night with the antenna pointed in front of him. That kid was the worst. He was playing Jokey Ride (I can tell by his hand movements) almost the entire night and he was scarfing down all the shoyu chicken wings. He was chatting to the game off the side of his mouth and then practically yelling when it was his time to draft. I think he was one of the other's kid or something.

Anyway, Punk kid picks Yuu and then it's like all the third basemen go. Malik, Pepe, Mas'ud, Ollie Long. Was Bill Kuhn or Francisco Calderòn going to fall to me? Nah, they both went in the 2nd round.

Here's the first round:

1. Dave Ackerman
2. Ramòn Rodríguez
3. Yuu Suzuki
4. Malik bin Mazin
5. Pepe Aragón
6. Mas'ud bin Salah al Din
7. Randy Wright
8. Ollie Long
9. Alfonso González
10. Brooks Eliot
11. Gustavo Espinoza
12. Bill Kuhn

Snake draft so, even with the timer, I had to wait. I was sitting next to this older lady, Dasha, who thought I was the bee's knees. She might've been making moves but it was most likely the sake talking. Her's team's called The Balking Dead. We bonded over Battlestar and we keep saying "So say we all" whenever somebody said "snipe" or was like "good pick." She's the team that took Mas'ud bin Salah al Din so she was clearly drinking from the same well I was at least in the first round. And she took the other TNT, Eduardo Moreno. Gonna get her innings. Nice mix of saves and holds that guy. (Actually, now that I had a chance to look, her team's quite good and I'd have to say that Mas'ud is the only real risk injury-wise.)

I took Okyay and then Juan Serna at the 2/3 turn, couple of OF. I wasn't going to make the same mistake I did last year (instead: insert a whole bunch of new mistakes). Okyay's another 5-cat guy. My model has Serna taking another step forward and hitting .289 with 27 HR, 12 SB. 30 HR if you squint. But really it was around this time that I started to lose it. Hot sake, man. I almost named my team that.

4/5 I took Mike Little. I had been debating getting either Czar Mamatulin or Little and then I got sniped by a team called The Bat-tle Axes (who later took your boy Resurrection Santos the 3rd so there he went). Little had oblique and shoulder injuries last year, so I'm worried more about him than Ackerman. But when he's on, he's a 7 WAR guy. It's like: this sake makes me see everything with rose-colored glasses. Terrible thing in a draft. Rookie mistake. But fun. I'm going to get me a set of sake service bottles. It's my new thing.

The first pitcher off the board was Eric Stevens, taken in the 2nd round by The War Machines, pretty cool guy from South Africa. Malcolm. I think he was the only other guy not in tech. I took Owen Geddes in the 5th. 9th pitcher off the board. To be fair, I didn't even know the guy was 36. I was thinking: wasn't he a rookie last year? Anyway, he should get me wins. You know I suck at pitchers.

The rest of my rotation. In fact, all my pitchers.

Owen Geddes
Dave Corfield
Adam Hines
Buwono Mainaky
Alexander Swanson
Josh Clark
Cheslav Evgrafov
Steven Flannery
Sam Landry

Sad state of affairs even for somebody who punted saves and holds, though I should compete in the counting stats. I believe IP is a side bet and Corfield, Hines, Mainaky got me covered there.

My batters:

C Todd Tatlock

1B Michael Little

2B Dave Ackerman

3B Daniel Frampton

SS Izz al Din bin Riyad (he is somehow eligible at SS)

OF Okyay Nisanci

OF Juan Serna

OF Norio Yoshida

UTIL Zenobius Kazantziakis (also eligible at SS - also one triple from being wrecked - guy is so fast it hurts him, it literally hurts him - "so say we all")

I don't know who drafted that team but there they are. I dub them: Grand Slamwiches. I thought of "The Walking Wounded" but Dasha already had the Balking Dead. Then I thought of rhyming something with "Okyay" but all I could think of was "OK Boomer" which doesn't even rhyme and would people even get the reference. So: Grand Slamwiches it is.

Terrible team but best night of drafting in years. I'll keep you updated on the forums. Did you re-up? How are your teams?

Djeidi





Imagine you get pulled over by a cop, and he gets out of the car. As he saunters over to your door, you think “hey, that guy looks familiar. Then he asks for the license to your best prospects, and it locks in. “You’re Chad Nasson!” you say, then you blanch—understanding right off that you’ve got the Bad Cop part of the team. Still, you reply that you’d really rather not give away the license to your best prospects, and things get rough. Until eventually, after Chad drags you back to the cruiser your brain starts to consider pleading to the Good Cop part of the team, only to be greeted with the smiling face of Sean Marko.

“Oh, shit,” you think.

Then you say out loud: “Which one is Good Cop?”

And they just smile.



JL ATLANTIC

Brooklyn:

GC – The Robins finally have a good pitching core. Torres, Dogar, and Jensen are arguably the best trio in the JL and look like they should carry Brooklyn to their first playoff appearance since 2045. They also ponied up to bring back Wilson Prieto through 2065.

BC – Hmm. Brooklyn. What is it about Brooklyn and Cops? Oh! That’s right. Brooklyn 9-9. As in, I can think of about 99 reasons why the Robins won’t make the playoffs this year. Mainly because they think that some GBC reject can be their ace. And also because their field manager came from the Tall0ns farm system and they’re paying him \$2 mil a year. Now go grab me a donut, rookie.

Jacksonville:

GC – The Zombies have made the playoffs six of the past seven years and Bon Anderson just won his second Nebraska award. On offense, Pepe Aragon has emerged as a star and is one of the league’s best 3B. Looks like another WB berth for Jacksonville.

BC – Sure, the Zombies have made the playoffs the last three seasons. But everyone knows that OOTP predictions are spot-on and they will finish under .500. Don’t worry, Zombies fans, I’m sure that the club can count on its farm system to help out, especially since it is rated literally last in the BBA with literally zero prospects. Maybe someone should feed Aaron Weiner some.... braaaaainnnns????

Montreal:

GC – Fresh off a pennant win, the Breum Boys will be looking to repeat. Todd Stone joins the Blazers already brilliant bullpen, but will lightning strike twice?

BC – Wow what happened to good old Sammy Nebraska? Rough spring from the 70 million dollar man. Maybe it’s all of those red words in his personality profile?

Atlantic City:

GC – Okyay Nisanci is proving he can still play after posting 4.9 WAR in 2061 and leading the Gamblers to the playoffs for the first time since 2053. The old man is still injury prone, but AC has plenty of youngsters on deck.

BC – Let’s see. \$20,000,000 a year for a corner outfielder with 4-rated power. Doesn’t sound very “Okyay” to me. And those youngsters aren’t exactly on deck, more like

in-the-hole. Look for the Gamblers to stumble out of the casino after coming up snake eyes, grab an unlicensed Uber back to Circus Circus, and drunkenly call an escort who will show up and steal their wallet.

Cape Fear:

GC – Woody Donahue is back in the GM role and his first order of business was moving the Rockville Pikeman to Cape Fear and rebranding themselves the Swamp Foxes. A+ for branding, but the rebuild is still in progress.

BC – Oh, wait, the “Cape Fear Swamp Foxes” is a real team? I thought the name was an AI hallucination! But seriously folks, the only one hallucinating is the guy who signed a minor league free agent 1B to a 6 year contract. What could go wrong?

New Orleans:

GC – The Crawdads have missed the playoffs three years in a row, but GM Jim Roberts doesn't miss October baseball four years in a row. Armed with the BBA's top farm system, the Crawdads are ready to make another decade long run of success.

BC – 104 losses in the books for this season. OOTP is never wrong. And, the 'Dads blew all of their FA budget on some GBC guy and now have a \$105 million payroll. Hey, guys, ya gotta wait until the iron is hot before you strike!

Charm City:

GC – A decade straight without missing the postseason and the Jimmies are as lethal as ever. 104 wins last season proves they can still win despite some of the stars of yesteryear departing elsewhere. Hector Silva is hoping to collect his fifth Nebraska award.

BC – Yeah, spending the offseason making approximately zero significant moves is a great way to stay in contention, fellas. That overconfidence is baaaad karma, maaaannn. This is the year Hector Silva gets hurt, that guy is DUE. I'll bet my 1996 Crown Victoria cop car on it!

Charlotte:

GC – Two-way star, Jacquot Natta, and Dallas Dixon look to return healthy in 2062. Would the Flyers have made the playoffs last year if they were healthy? Probably. They should be contending for a WC spot in a tough Atlantic Division.

BC – Lost the Brewster in 2060 and its allllll downhill from there. Look for our old friend RNG to wreak havoc on the Flyers yet again, particularly on their ace pitcher- wait, what? They don't have an ace pitcher? Oh, my bad, sure they do, he's right there. Some guy named Buwono with a 5 ERA last season. Yup, that's gotta be right. I think. Go Flyers!

JL FRONTIER

Mexico City:

GC – 37 year old Dave Corfield led the league in IP and had the worst season of his career (3.7 WAR). Not bad for an old timer. Wafid Bishr was worth every penny as the former Bluebird proved he was still more than capable with a 5.0 WAR season. Even when the stars age out, Luis Zavala is the #1 ranked prospect according to OSA.

*BC – So basically their entire pitching staff is a bunch of rag-armed bums with 5 Stuff, led by ace Dave Corfield, who has *checks notes* 5 Stuff. You know that advertising jingle “Avocados from Mexico”? (It's in your head now, admit it...) – I'm thinking about a new slogan: “Disappointment in Mexico”*

San Antonio:

GC – Speaking of top prospects, George Stickler is #2 and hopes to be the future of the Outlaws for years to come. Herkermer Homolka should come up shortly after Stickler and form a dynamic duo in the heart of the lineup.

BC – Hector “Wrecked” Cano Jr. hasn't played a full season since 2056. No, really, you can look it up. And George Stickler is a bum with about 5 red words in his personality report. He couldn't even make the Liberty. Put him back in the oven, boys, he's not done!

Calgary:

GC – The Pioneers still have one of the most lethal offenses in baseball thanks to Santos, Long, and Little, however, they haven't been able to put it all together yet. Is this the year where the Pioneers finally win the pennant?

BC – Any time my buddy Good Cop (bless his heart!) over there has to ask a question, it's always a bad sign. So I'll answer it for him: No.

Las Vegas:

GC – Robert Menzies is on the verge of 41 years old and looking for his first Monty. If anyone can help get him there, it's GM Matt Rectenwald. The Hustlers should be a top contender to win the Frontier.

BC – The Hustlers “should” be a top contender. I mean, if they aren't, then why even be the League Commissioner? But I digress. Don't worry about Menzies, I'm sure he'll make a very adequate first baseman down in Milwaukee. They'll probably call him up for three games over the All-Star break so he's playoff eligible, then he can ride the bench while the Hustlers get bounced in the first round. Cool story!

Phoenix:

GC – Looks like the gamble on Mas'ud bin Salah al Din is paying off. Now Rich Dares joins him in the infield and the Talons have a mighty lineup with rising star Adrian Tallent at the top.

BC – Your Mom is fat, ugly, had all of 1.5 WAR last year, and now will make \$60,000,000 over the next six seasons. What the hell were these guys thinking? Oh, wait, I'm sorry... I used the word 'thinking' in reference to the Talons. My bad.

Austin:

GC – The Shredders are loaded with prospects (#2 system) to reinforce Luis Rubio and Brent Gilbert. This team might still be a year or two away, but expect them to riff their way to the top soon.

BC – Austin is one of four teams projected to finish around .500 in the Frontier, but I don't see it. Besides Gilbert and Komatsu, their offense is nowhere and their starting pitching is AAA level. At least they aren't overpaying a mediocre first baseman like a lot of other tea—oh wait.

Boise:

GC – Time to see if the haul from the Lou Bayou trade yielded any fruit. Tsutomu Yamauchi looks like a solid piece, but the Spuds will need some of the other players involved to become BBA-caliber players in order for this trade to be called a success.

BC – Apparently Boise is so generous that they are paying a guy 10 million whose career ended back in December. What a bunch of Nice Guys, taking care of him like that. And you know what they say about Nice Guys! (hint: they finish last!)

Pro Tip, boys: How 'bout if you take him off the 60-day injured list, maybe he'll go away!

Rocky Mountain:

GC – 2060 Silk winner, Max Shepperson, regressed to a meager .941 OPS last season hitting behind Malik bin Mazin. Expect the duo to continue being one of the game's best 1-2 punches as the Oysters look to return to the postseason.

BC – Shepperson, bin Mazin, blah blah blah. Meanwhile someone has castrated the RMO pitching staff, and they're paying about \$8.5 mil per WAR to their soft-tossing 35 year old "ace". The Oysters better open wide and swallow this bull gonad of truth: They aren't returning to the post-season.

FL Heartland

Des Moines

GC – The Kernels spent big on Wan-ling Koo, who brings power, speed, and defense to Left Field. He'll join up with Julio Perez in right, who was an All Star and won a Puckett in 2061, his sophomore season. The staff is led by Garth Dobbs, the former reliever turned frontline starter. They'll love to see what he can do with a full season in the rotation.

BC – Des Moines tragically sold out and changed their stadium name to Kum and Go. Kinda like how the rest of the Frick League is gonna treat this team.

Nashville

GC – Ok, guys, they're called The Behemoth for a reason. A 7th straight Heartland division championship and 8th straight 100 win season are all but a given. They can do no wrong. They make a shit-ton of money. They still have a top-ten farm system. Let's be real: Chad Nason has built a beast and it shows no sign of slowing down. It's fun to hate on the Evil Empire, I know. But this franchise is truly a work of art.

BC – Yeah, but they didn't land ANY IFA this season. And Alfonso Gonzales led the league in strikeouts for the third straight year. Here comes the downfall!

Omaha

GC – The Cyclones have some work to do, but they’ve made some bold signings, spending the big bucks for pitchers like Felipe Mendez, and a potential coup in Hall of Famer Juan Rivera who, incredibly, was 4th in the FL last year with 10 triples. They’ll join a relatively young team, who have a lot to prove. Is this the right time to strike big and go for it? We’ll see!

BC – Good thing Nebraska is nice and flat. Should make getting around in his walker a lot easier for Rivera. Word on the street is he signed in Omaha just to get to visit Nashville again.

Twin Cities

GC – TC was eliminated late last September, but the predictions are more kind to them this year with a possible 90 win season on tap. They made one big FA signing in Parker Klontz, hoping he can finish developing into a plus hitter. In the meantime, potential ROY contender Raul Gallehos will bring his 9-rated power to the bigs, while Eric Brooks and Jerry Stone bring a solid 1-2 punch to the rotation.

BC – Let’s rename these guys the Tloser City River Monsters. Always playing second fiddle at best. Best case scenario they secure a wild card spot, but that’s assuming they find someone to hit the ball.

Madison

GC – The Wolves have had a rough go of it lately, but GM Mike Simon has improved the rotation, signing FA Mark Moore to join rookie Jesus Gil (#36 prospect) and ace Josh Clark in the revamped rotation. It remains to be seen who will step up to lead the offense, but a young hitter like Curt Holter could make the jump and have a big impact.

BC – Which number is higher? Madison losses or Gertie’s age?

Chicago

GC – The OSA Preseason Predictions are super excited about the Black Sox pitching staff, with *four* starters listed among the top ten in the Frick, led by ace Adam Hines. They also have plenty of cap room and the BBA’s 8th ranked farm system to help keep pace with Sacramento and Nashville in the Frick playoff picture.

BC – Lol. Chicago and playoffs go together like Ron and Montys. They just don't happen. At least since 2048.

Louisville

GC – The Sluggers are on the way up, from 100 loss seasons a while back to a potential .500 campaign this year. They have some good young hitters like Jose Barrera and Dave Armstrong, soon to be joined by 22 year old LF Jose Jackson. Is this the year that former Phoenix castoff Ricardo Capeles makes an impact with his plus-plus contact and speed?

BC – Loserville should keep trading away their best pitchers for low minor gold glove winners. Fantastic strategy! Stick to making baseball bats for other teams, because the bats in the Loserville lineup are worthless.

Yellow Springs

GC – The erstwhile Rob McMonigal is hoping that potential ROY candidate Roberto Gabriel can help lead the team back above .500, helped by fellow 24 year old power hitter Emilio Navarro. In addition, look for 2060 first round pick Leslie Hartman to make a splash with his Zimmer-caliber glove at short. Surely some of that ample cap room can be used to acquire excess payroll from salary-heavy teams.

BC – Expect the Nine to be at the bottom of the Heartland sitting in a puddle of Yellow Springs. The team is cursed and moving cities isn't the answer. Can Jesus even save this franchise?

FL Pacific

Sacramento

GC – Shoeless is as Shoeless does, and all Shoeless does is build good baseball teams, making the playoffs every year save one since 2047. I mean, what other team has not one, but *two* 11-rated center fielders, not to mention three players ranked #1 in the BBA at their position? They even traded for Mohammed bin Mus'ad, a *gasp* power hitter!!

BC – Shoeless thinks it’s all about small ball. Too bad chicks dig big balls and championships. Bin Mus’ad is a start, but even he will feel emasculated at the Basilica.

Hawaii

GC – Is Hawaii a .500 team like the predictions say? They should be close, but no matter what happens, they have built a good core of young hitting prospects that should be arriving in the next season or two, like Vicente Martinez and Jorge Dodd. 23 year old Jose Ordonez leads the staff, backed up by veteran FA signing Kinzo Iwamoto.

BC – BBA players love playing in Hawaii. It’s like the NFL playing the Pro Bowl there. The opponents don’t even try and leads to a score fest. You thought Diddy had a lot of baby oil? Check out James Walker’s closets to find the global supply of tanning lotion.

Vancouver

GC – The Mounties’ greatest asset is the absolute moneybin full of cash and cap room to take that next step. They are poised to scoop up players from other teams with looming cap and budget problems. It’s up to GM Aaron Wharram to decide whether to wait for the power hitting prospects to arrive, or trade them for other franchises’ cap casualties. Oh, and don’t look now, but Geoffrey Greening has become one of the better relievers in the Pacific seemingly overnight.

BC – To the tune of O Canada!

*Oh, Baseball Team!
You always let us down!
You swing and miss, drop every pitch,
Your fielding is a clown!*

*The bullpen’s toast, the lineup’s weak,
Our best hitter bats .265!
We pray for rain, but games remain—
It’s pain to be alive!*

*Ohhh, why are we... still watching this?
We scream but still return!
Next season’s hope will surely fade,
As all our dreams still burn!*

*Oh, Baseball Team!
Please win a game or two...
Or we'll just drink and boo!*

Long Beach

GC – The Surfers have a ton of power bats coming up through the system, now it's just a matter of keeping things interesting until they make the show. In the meantime, the club is making bold moves like trading for Dirk Bessi and extending defensive whiz Rhys Atticus for 6 years.

BC – Why did the Long Beach baseball team ask Snoop Dogg to be a fielding coach? Because they needed someone to drop it like it's hot

San Fernando

GC – Daaa Bears.... are projected to return to the playoffs once again behind superstar and reigning FL Frick winner Yuu Suzuki. Most of the staff is above average, and led by Morgan Tomsett: the ace whom SF has developed all the way from a minor league FA in 2052, and looks to have another 4+ WAR season.

BC – In other news, famed pornstar, Yuu Sucky, just moved to the San Fernando Valley with Jimi Sittonmyface. Ironically, they have fewer diseases than this Bears team. Probably a wild card berth with a premature exit.

Valencia

GC – Predictions be damned, any team with an 80-rated relief ace like Eduardo Moreno has a bright future, especially since they developed this guy from a GBC castoff in 2059. What a coup! As for the rest of the squad, it's up to guys like Miller Shed and possible midseason call up Gabriel Bacaloglu to help this club out of the second division. The robust farm system will help, and at #12 overall is criminally underrated.

BC – I project Moreno to save 46 games. Unfortunately, the Stars will only win 46 games. The retool didn't work last year and now it's time to cut bait and start over again.

Bikini

GC – The Atoll is buzzing as Paul Worboys begins his possible ROY campaign after only giving up 2 ER all Spring. He's backed by veterans like Takahashi Nakamura and Brody Picot, with perhaps the Frick's best closer in Winston

Morris. How will they hit? Will they return to the playoffs? In the words of a famous author: “dunno”...but look for the Krill to make creative moves as always, among a flurry of Team News to keep things entertaining.

BC – I think we’ve reached the moment everyone has been afraid of. Ron has created a machine in Bikini and will win division titles for the next 20 years. Because that’s all that matters. 😊

Portland

GC – Is Portland still able to challenge the Mopes and Bears in the Pacific? Duh, of course they are, having won the Monty in ’59 and making the playoffs the two seasons after that. Old Man Mynorli is possibly the pure best hitter in ages, and Buddy Uecker is the best defensive C in baseball. Meanwhile, former star Mons Raider is quickly becoming one of the most brilliant sabermetric managers in the league.

BC – Oh, Portland is challenged alright. Bumper McNeill doing what he does best. Sitting on the IL. They might grab one of the final wildcard spots, but you’re not gonna see this team winning another championship any time soon.





ALL MODERN ERA TEAMS

Who are the best players who ever played the game for your favorite teams? It's a fun game, right? Go back in time and put the names of the past together with the stars of the current.

Well...

Join Nathan Garrison as he embarks on a massive project to do just that with every team in the league—the first four of which (Atlantic City, Brooklyn, Cape Fear, and his own Charlotte club) appear right here!

ALL MODERN ERA TEAM ATLANTIC CITY



Since the beginning of the modern era, The Atlantic City Gamblers have a .486 winning percentage, with 21 playoff appearances and 1 league championship. In this article, I am going to determine the franchise's best player at each position during that time. All statistics and accomplishments used in this article are from the players' time with Atlantic City.

CATCHER

Top Candidates:

- Joaquin Camacho (.317/.354/.462, 115 wRC+, 212 2B, 49 HR, 310 RBI, 17.9 WAR in 658 Games from 2030-2034 and 2040. Camacho threw out 30.1% of attempted base stealers in his career.)
- Octavio Moreno (.277/.338/.465, 114 wRC+, 215 2B, 159 HR, 566 RBI, 26.1 WAR in 1061 Games from 2047-2054. Moreno threw out 29.4% of attempted base stealers in his career.)
- Nathan Blakely (.272/.332/.458, 106 wRC+, 133 2B, 110 RBI, 15.3 WAR in 722 Games from 1996-2001 Blakely threw out 32.9% of attempted base stealers in his career.)

While with Atlantic City, Camacho led the league with 44 doubles in 2032. He finished 2nd in doubles in 2033 with 49 and 4th in

While with Atlantic City, Moreno made 2 All-Star teams and won 1 Platinum Stick Award.

My choice for the top Catcher in the modern era for Atlantic City is Octavio Moreno. Camacho and Moreno have similar resumes but Moreno's longevity, home runs and RBIs put him in front for me.

FIRST BASE

Top Candidates:

- Rafael Bido (.262/.367/.510, 137 wRC+, 308 2B, 493 HR, 1,376 RBI, 362 SB, 51.3 WAR in 2,088 Games from 2020-2033)
- Adrian Salazar (.287/.345/.537, 124 wRC+, 287 2B, 334 HR, 948 RBI, 17.5 WAR in 1,445 Games from 2033-2044)
- Antonio Martinez (.289/.340/.529, 122 wRC+, 215 2B, 223 HR, 636 RBI, 14.1 WAR in 998 Games from 2041-2046 and 2054)

Bido finished 2nd in the Sawyer Silk Award voting in 2026. He was a 3 time All-Star. He won the Platinum Stick Award in 2024. He was the MVP of three playoff series in his career. He won one league championship. Bido led the league in home runs once, runs 4 times, and walks 3 times.

Salazar finished 2nd in the Sawyer Silk Award voting in 2038. He was a 3 time All-Star. He won the Platinum Stick Award in 2038.

Martinez finished 3rd in the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year Award in 2041. He also won the Platinum Stick at DH that season. Martinez was named to 1 All-Star team.

My choice for the top First Baseman in the modern era for Atlantic City is Rafael Bido. There are three really good players here. The fact that Bido was that good for that long makes him my choice.

SECOND BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Eric Martin (.299/.386/.387, 112 wRC+, 416 2B, 74 3B, 1,109 R, 364 SB, 56.8 WAR in 1,875 Games from 2006-2018.)
- Valeri Kharlamov (.292/.366/.449, 123 wRC+, 77 2B, 45 HR, 158 RBI, 11.6 WAR in 370 Games from 2029-2030 and 2040.)

- Tony Nalley (.291/.358/.498, 125 wRC+, 168 2B, 117 HR, 364 RBI, 141 SB, 17.6 WAR in 826 Games from 1997-2003.)

Martin was a 5 time All-Star and a 7 time Diamond Glove Award Winner. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Kharlamov was named to 2 All-Star teams and won 2 Platinum Sticks at 2B in his 3 seasons in Atlantic City. He also won 2 Playoff MVP Awards. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Nalley was a 2 time All-Star. He led the league in Hits, Triples, Total Bases, and Runs in 1998. He posted 12.3 WAR combined in 1998 and 1999. His next highest total was 2.4 in 2000. If he had maintained his pace from 98-99 for a few more years, he would have likely been my choice.

My choice for the top Second Baseman in the modern era for Atlantic City is Eric Martin. Two Hall of Famers. If Kharlamov had played in Atlantic City longer this might have been a tougher choice.

THIRD BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson (.286/.350/.508, 124 wRC+, 258 2B, 280 HR, 890 RBI, 34.8 WAR in 1,418 Games from 1992-2001)
- Ernesto Gonzalez (.296/.322/.466, 102 wRC+, 787 2B, 195 HR, 1,131 RBI, 442 SB, 40 WAR in 2,618 Games from 2041-2058)
- Bucky Dornster (.261/.356/.424, 106 wRC+, 191 2B, 154 HR, 568 RBI, 25.5 WAR in 1,251 Games from 2032-2041)

Johnson was a 2 time All-Star and won the Zimmer Diamond Glove in 2001. Johnson was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Gonzalez was an All-Star in 2048. He was named playoff series MVP twice in his career.

Dornster was named to 1 All-Star team. He won 6 Diamond Glove Awards.

My choice for the top Third Baseman in the modern era for Atlantic City is Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson. I feel like this was an obvious choice.

SHORTSTOP

Top Candidates:

- Ossian Fallon (.292/.342/.492, 120 wRC+, 153 2B, 158 HR, 527 RBI, 28.6 WAR in 894 Games from 1995-2000)
- Raulo Mora (.298/.334/.422, 100 wRC+, 95 2B, 208 RBI, 7.7 WAR in 483 Games from 2002-2005)
- Melvin Lopez (.269/.333/.411, 95 wRC+, 245 2B, 111 HR, 557 RBI, 140 SB, 23.3 WAR in 1,441 Games from 2001-2012)

Fallon split time between 3B and SS during his time with Atlantic City. He was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 1995. He was a 2 time All-Star and won the Diamond Glove at 3B in 1995.

My choice for the top Shortstop in the modern era for Atlantic City is Ossian Fallon. I don't think this one was particularly close either.

LEFT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Juan Rivera (.314/.395/.630, 166 wRC+, 458 2B, 641 HR, 1,665 RBI, 393 SB, 101.3 WAR in 2,165 Games from 2040-2054-Currently a 43 year old free agent as the article was written)
- Bob Goodwin (.279/.360/.515, 124 wRC+, 242 2B, 204 HR, 713 RBI, 107 SB, 22.4 WAR in 1,134 Games from 2005-2012)

Rivera won 3 Sawyer Silk MVP Awards and finished top 3 in voting 4 more times. He finished 2nd in the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year voting in 2040. Rivera was selected to the All-Star team 12 times. He won 3 Diamond Gloves and 8 Platinum Sticks. He was named Playoff Series MVP in 2050. He led the league in Home Runs 3 times, Runs twice, OBP 4 times, SLG 6 times, OPS 7 times, and WAR 2 times.

Goodwin was a 4 time All-Star and won a Diamond Glove in 2008.

My choice for the top Left Fielder in the modern era for Atlantic City is Juan Rivera. Goodwin was a very good player. Rivera is one of the best ever.

CENTER FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Ross White (.337/.407/.593, 162 wRC+, 217 2B, 212 HR, 634 RBI, 106 SB, 46.8 WAR in 906 Games from 1997-2003)
- Milt Linares Jr. (.295/.350/.447, 111 wRC+, 482 2B, 171 3B, 1,195 Runs Scored, 781 RBI, 721 SB, 57.4 WAR in 1,743 Games from 2008-2021)
- Ricardo Hernandez (.231/.357/.453, 113 wRC+, 1168 2B, 273 HR, 687 RBI, 491 SB, 31.1 WAR in 1,378 Games from 2030-2042)

White was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 1997 and the Sawyer Silk MVP in 1997, 1998, and 2000. He was a 3 time All-Star and won the Diamond Glove in 1997. He led the league in Hits once, Total Bases twice, Home Runs once, Batting Average three times, Extra Base Hits twice, Slugging Percentage three times, On Base Percentage twice, OPS twice, and WAR three times while with Atlantic City. White was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Linares was a 4 time All-Star and a 7 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in Hits once, Doubles twice, Triples 5 times, Stolen Bases 38 times Runs once, and WAR once while with Atlantic City.

Hernandez won a Diamond Glove Award in 2038 and a Platinum Stick Award in 2033.

My choice for the top Center Fielder in the modern era for Atlantic City is Ross White. Linares was good but not in the same level as White.

RIGHT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Jose Romero (.275/.341/.528, 129 wRC+, 327 2B, 331 HR, 974 RBI, 30.5 WAR in 1,466 Games from 2044-2053)
- Cinema Jones (.298/.358/.503, 131 wRC+, 288 2B, 174 HR, 719 RBI, 241 SB, 28.5 WAR, 1,092 Games from 2044-2052)
- Allen Hall (.301/.368/.481, 125 wRC+, 321 2B, 121 HR, 670 RBI, 158 SB, 24.9 WAR in 1,156 Games from 2012-2021 and 2026)

Romero was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2044. He was a 2 time All-Star and won the 2052 Platinum Stick.

Jones was an All-Star and a Playoff Series MVP in 2050.

Hall was a 2 time All-Star and led the league in RBI once while with Atlantic City.

My choice for the top Right Fielder in the modern era for Atlantic City is Jose Romero. These are three excellent and similarly successful players. Romero won more league wide awards, so I give him the slight edge.

DESIGNATED HITTER

Top Candidates:

- Antonio Sanchez (.269/.379/.502, 140 wRC+, 398 2B, 523 HR, 1,604 RBI, 52.6 WAR in 2,339 Games from 2018-2032)
- Valentin Lugo (.311/.355/.454, 112 wRC+, 273 2B, 111 HR, 643 RBI, 230 SB, 12.4 WAR in 1,291 Games from 2005-2013)
- Sanchez won the Sawyer Silk MVP in 2024. He was a 5 time All-Star and a 3 time Platinum Stick Winner. He won a championship in Atlantic City and was named a Playoff Series MVP 3 times. He led the league in Home Runs, Total Bases, and OPS in 2024 and RBI in 2028. Sanchez was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Lugo was a 2 time All-Star.

My choice for the top Designated Hitter in the modern era for Atlantic City is Antonio Sanchez. This wasn't particularly close.

STARTING PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- David Crocker (166-101, 3.22 ERA, 3.54 FIP, 79 FIP-, 63.4 WAR, 73.9 rWAR, 370 G, 368 GS, from 2003-2014)
- Mingo Boone (156-95, 3.59 ERA, 3.50 FIP, 86 FIP-, 48.6 WAR, 47.9 rWAR, 316 G, 316 GS, from 2021-2034)
- Carlos Flores (153-82, 3.29 ERA, 3.10 FIP, 3.10, 72 FIP-, 58.4 WAR, 55 rWAR, 419 G, 301 GS, 65 Sv, from 2043-2054)

Crocker is the franchise leader in wins, games started, innings pitched, and rWAR. He was an 8 time All-Star and won a Diamond Glove in 2008. He led the league in ERA and rWAR in 2012.

Boone holds the franchise record with 24 wins in a season. He is near the top of most AC career pitching leaderboards, won a Nebraska and finished 3rd in the voting for another while in Atlantic City. He finished 2nd in the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year voting in 2016. He represented Atlantic City in the All-Star game 4 times, won a league championship with the Gamblers, and was once named a Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in Wins, Win%, ERA, Complete Games, and rWAR once each. He was inducted to the BBA Hall of Fame.

Flores holds the franchise record for career strikeouts and winning percentage. His 1.78 ERA in 2048 is the best single season mark in franchise history. He was a 7 time All-Star and won two Nebraskas while finishing in the top 3 in voting for 3 others during his time in Atlantic City. He led the league in Wins in 2048, Win % twice, Strikeouts 3 times, ERA twice, and WAR and rWAR once in Atlantic City. Before being transitioned to a starter in 2045, Flores went 17-9 with 65 saves in 118 relief appearances in 2043-2044. He is not yet eligible for the BBA Hall of Fame, but his metrics are all better than Boone's and I believe he will likely get there.

My choice for the top starting pitcher in the modern era for Atlantic City is Carlos Flores. These are all three outstanding pitchers. Flores has the best FiP and FIP- of the group and his list of accomplishments stood out to me.

RELIEF PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- Hani Tinsley (67-67, 367 saves, 3.07 ERA, 3.17 FIP, 76 FIP-, 15.0 WAR, 16.1 rWAR, in 918 games from 2013-2026)
- Pat Waites (223-26, 141 saves, 3.02 ERA, 3.45 FIP, 83 FIP-, 6.1 WAR, 9.4 rWAR, in 369 games from 2046-2051)
- Augusto Ayala (13-29, 118 saves, 3.64 ERA, 3.68 FIP, 84 FIP-, 4.8 WAR, 2.9 rWAR, in 219 games from 2057-2060)
- Art Messer (48-59, 267 saves, 3.82 ERA, 3.70 FIP, 83 FIP-, 7.8 WAR, 7.4 rWAR, in 660 games from 1997-2003)

Tinsley leads the franchise in games pitched and holds the record for most single season saves in AC with 50. He leads all qualified modern era Gamblers in saves and ERA. He was a 5 time All-

Star. He won the Jason Egan Reliever Award in 2025. He led the league in Saves in 2025. He won postseason series MVP awards 4 times and won a league championship.

Waites had four very good seasons to start his career and then faded a bit for his last two years in AC. His ERA with AC was lower than Tinsley's but he didn't have enough innings to qualify for the team leaderboard.

Ayala was an All-Star in 2058.

Messer was a two time All-Star with AC. He led the league in saves twice with the Gamblers.

My choice for the top relief pitcher in the modern era for Atlantic City is Hani Tinsley. There are some good pitchers in this list but I feel like Tinsley was clearly the best of them.

ATLANTIC CITY ALL MODERN ERA TEAM:

C: Octavio Moreno

1B: Rafael Bido

2B: Eric Martin

3B: Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

SS: Ossian Fallon

LF: Juan Rivera

CF: Ross White

RF: Jose Romero

DH: Antonio Sanchez

SP: Carlos Flores

RP: Hani Tinsley

ALL MODERN ERA TEAM BROOKLYN ROBINS



Since the beginning of the modern era, The Brooklyn Robins have a .475 winning percentage, with 26 playoff appearances and 2 league championship. The team was known as the Baltimore Monarchs prior to moving to Brooklyn for the 2017 season. In this article, I am going to determine the franchise's best player at each position during that time. All statistics and accomplishments used in this article are from the players' time with the Brooklyn franchise.

CATCHER

Top Candidates:

- Ralph Butt (.295/.383/.444, 122 wRC+, 191 2B, 83 HR, 463 RBI, 26.8 WAR in 859 Games from 2002-2009)
- Sam Adams (.254/.302/.486, 112 wRC+, 111 2B, 169 HR, 449 RBI, 20.8 WAR in 730 Games from 2024-2029)

Butt was a 1 time All-Star.

Adams finished 2nd in the voting for MVP in 2027. He was a 2 time Diamond Glove winner and a 1 time League Champion. He led the league in HR in 2029 and slugging percentage in 2027.

My choice for the top catcher in the modern era for Brooklyn is Ralph Butt. Adams had more power and was a little better defender but Butt was a more complete hitter and also played good defense overall. This was a close one for me.

FIRST BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Sirius Black (.289/.334/.513/, 120 wRC+, 259 2B, 335 HR, 925 R, 1,146 RBI, 70 SB, 39.6 WAR in 1,160 Games from 1993-2005)
- Rob Childers (.286/.326/.533, 132 wRC+, 312 2B, 260 HR, 613 R, 789 RBI, 28.6 WAR in 1,194 Games from 2019-2024 and 2027-2028)
- Stephen Lubin (.302/.351/.563, 137 wRC+, 152 2B, 239 HR, 584 R, 747 RBI, 20.8 WAR in 955 Games from 2004-2012)

Black was a 4 time All-Star and a 2 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in home runs once and RBI twice.

Childers was a 3 time All-Star, 2 time Platinum Stick winner, 1 time Playoff Series MVP, and finished 3rd in the Sawyer Silk MVP voting in 2022. He led the league in total bases and home runs once and doubles and extra base hits twice.

Lubin was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2005. He was also a 3 time All-Star. Lubin led the league in slugging percentage twice.

My choice for the best first baseman in the modern era for Brooklyn is Sirius Black. This was a really tough call between Black and Childers for me. Childers was a little better hitter but Black was easily the best defender of the group. He also added value with his ability to steal a few bases. I went with Black because he was a little more well rounded while still mashing the ball and driving in a ton of runs.

SECOND BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Mark Bruner (.307/.392/.472, 132 wRC+, 324 2B, 240 HR, 1,221 R, 957 RBI, 92 SB, 56.1 WAR in 1,752 Games from 1995-2008)
- Albert Shoemaker (.268/.326/.463, 117 wRC+, 172 2B, 190 HR, 596 R, 615 RBI, 122 SB, 24 WAR in 1,108 Games from 2020-2027)
- Alfredo Trujillo (.316/.371/.560, 133 wRC+, 87 2B, 93 HR, 254 R, 242 RBI, 10 WAR in 402 Games from 2059-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Bruner was a 2 time All-Star.

Shoemaker was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2020. He was a 4 time All-Star, a one time Diamond Glove winner, and a 1 time league champion.

Trujillo was an All-Star in 2059.

My choice for the best second baseman in the modern era for Brooklyn is Mark Bruner. Trujillo might end up being the best hitter. Shoemaker was definitely the best defender. Bruner is the best all around player. Shoemaker was a solid hitter but was quite a bit behind Bruner in offensive production. Bruner wasn't a great defender but Trujillo has put up defensive numbers that could possibly be matched by a mannequin wearing a concrete baseball glove.

THIRD BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Dale Bunker (.324/.368/.563, 141 wRC+, 281 2B, 252 HR, 774 R, 928 RBI, 51 WAR in 1,183 Games from 2005-2014)
- Holden Blackwell (.322/.357/.406, 107 wRC+, 158 2B, 599 R, 386 RBI, 462 SB, 24.4 WAR in 1,067 Games from 2026-2033 and 2037)
- Davis Locke (.301/.349/.407, 110 wRC+, 173 2B, 562 R, 391 RBI, 206 SB, 29.1 WAR in 1,138 Games from 2020-2028)

Bunker was the Sawyer Silk MVP winner in 2009. He was a 7 time All-Star and a 3 time Diamond Glove winner. Bunker led the league in triples, batting average, slugging percentage, OPS, and WAR once each. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Blackwell was a 3 time All-Star, 1 time league champion, 1 time Platinum Stick winner (1B), and 1 time Diamond Glove winner (1B). He did play more 3B than 1B but excelled as a 1B in 2029. He led the league in hits and triples once, batting average twice, and stolen bases 3 times.

Locke was a 2 time All-Star and 1 time league champion.

My choice for the best third baseman in the modern era for Brooklyn is Dale Bunker. The other two players on this list were good players, but Bunker was easily the best of the group.

SHORTSTOP

Top Candidates:

- Dirk Spencer (.254/.340/.392, 94 wRC+, 292 2B, 93 HR, 525 R, 643 RBI, 51 SB, 30.9 WAR in 1,468 Games from 1999-2012)
- Orlando Medrano (.282/.361/.359, 104 wRC+, 241 2B, 59 3B, 40 HR, 864 R, 549 RBI, 257 SB, 39.3 WAR in 1,683 Games from 2019-2030 plus 2034 and 2036)
- Steve Kava (.290/.322/.434, 97 wRC+, 178 2B, 55 HR, 343 R, 345 RBI, 14.3 WAR in 890 Games from 1993-2001)

Spencer won 1 Diamond Glove award.

Medrano was a 1 time All-Star, 1 time league champion, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP.

My choice for the best shortstop in the modern era for Brooklyn is Dirk Spencer. Medrano was a better hitter overall, but Spencer was a far superior defender and was a more powerful hitter than Medrano.

LEFT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Daniel Labrie (.337/.440/.504, 157 wRC+, 380 2B, 374 HR, 1,830 R, 1,382 RBI, 84.6 WAR in 2,495 Games from 1995-2012)
- Felipe Vega (.307/.384/.568, 149 wRC+, 420 2B, 434 HR, 1,110 R, 1,184 RBI, 57.3 WAR in 1,773 Games from 2039-2049)
- Brian Whitten (.309/.364/.489, 136 wRC+, 121 2B, 46 3B, 155 HR, 592 R, 560 RBI, 164 SB, 19.1 WAR in 982 Games from 2020-2026)

Labrie was a 13 time All-Star. He led the league in hits once, runs and OPS twice, batting average 3 times, and on base percentage 7 times. Labrie was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Vega finished in the top 3 voting for the Sawyer Silk MVP award twice. He was third in the voting for the 2040 Gillstrom Rookie of the Year Award. Vega was a 5 time All-Star, 1 time Diamond Glove winner, 5 time Platinum Stick winner, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in on base percentage and OPS once each.

Whitten finished second in the voting for Sawyer Silk MVP voting in 2023. He was a 3 time All-Star and 2 time Platinum Stick winner. He led the league in hits three times, on base percentage and batting average twice, and triples and RBI once.

My choice for the best left fielder in the modern era for Brooklyn is Daniel Labrie. These three were all excellent players but Labrie was outstanding for a very long time for Brooklyn.

CENTER FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Brett Caves (.299/.376/.552, 144 wRC+, 213 2B, 335 HR, 1,041 R, 1,009 RBI, 90 SB, 58.9 WAR in 1,444 Games from 1996-2007)
- Sawyer Slizz (.290/.346/.552, 132 wRC+, 243 2B, 64 3B, 233 HR, 736 R, 668 RBI, 208 SB, 40.5 WAR in 1,057 Games from 2041-2047)
- Rod Roberts (.272/.348/.448, 110 wRC+, 245 2B, 42 3B, 112 HR, 618 R, 572 RBI, 27.8 WAR in 1,053 Games from 2005-2013)

Wilson Prieto (.289/.341/.489, 123 wRC+, 212 2B, 33 3B, 127 HR, 517 R, 457 RBI, 83 SB, 15.3 WAR in 883 Games from 2056-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Caves was a 5 time All-Star.

Slizz finished in the top 3 voting for the Sawyer Silk MVP award twice. He was a 3 time All-Star and won the 2046 Diamond Glove. He led the league in runs twice and triples and WAR once each.

Roberts won the Diamond Glove in 2008.

Prieto was an All-Star in 2058.

My choice for the best center fielder in the modern era for Brooklyn is Brett Caves. Slizz was an outstanding player but Caves was the better overall player. Caves was a better hitter as shown by his considerably higher wRC+. He was also a better defender than the other players on this list.

RIGHT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Mike Clarke (.340/.423/.526, 156 wRC+, 270 2B, 191 HR, 835 R, 766 RBI, 51.1 WAR in 1,318 Games from 1992-2002)
- Jose Escarceja (.257/.322/.469, 115 wRC+, 139 2B, 142 HR, 357 R, 369 RBI, 18.3 WAR in 808 Games from 2020-2026)
- Enrique Salazar (.272/.330/.520, 125 wRC+, 154 2B, 257 HR, 582 R, 682 RBI, 74 RBI, 15.6 WAR in 1,057 Games from 2026-2034)

Clarke won the Sawyer Silk MVP in 1995. He was a 3 time All-Star. He led the league in hits, slugging percentage and OPS once, on base percentage 3 times, and batting average 4 times. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Escarceja was a 1 time All-Star and a 1 time Platinum Stick winner.

Salazar was a 1 time All-Star, 3 time Platinum Stick winner, and 1 time league champion. He led the league in HR in 2027.

My choice for the best right fielder in the modern era for Brooklyn is Mike Clarke. While Escarceja and Salazar were good players, Clarke was clearly the best of this group.

DESIGNATED HITTER

Top Candidates:

- Ernest McBride (.294/.356/.564, 143 wRC+, 173 2B, 210 HR, 521, 586 RBI, 23 SB, 18.8 WAR in 784 Games from 2054-2048-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Fernando Cruz (.285/.364/.522, 130 wRC+, 106 2B, 140 HR, 379 R, 461 RBI, 11.6 WAR in 629 Games from 2035-2037 and 2042-2044)

McBride finished second in the Sawyer Silk MVP voting in 2055. He was a 2 time all star and 1 time Platinum Stick winner. He led the league in HR once while with Brooklyn.

Cruz was named a Playoff Series MVP once.

My choice for the best designated hitter in the modern era for Brooklyn is Ernest McBride. Cruz was good but McBride was just better. I think the choice is pretty clear here.

STARTING PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- Larry Lasalle (192-104, 3.31 ERA, 3.16 FIP, 73 FIP-, 80.8 WAR, 72.9 rWAR in 391 G, 377 GS from 1994-2006)
- Rick Ward (73-69, 2 Sv, 3.84 ERA, 3.49 FIP, 84 FIP-, 26.3 WAR, 21.3 rWAR in 207 G, 193 GS, from 2023-2030)
- Pierre Legrand (72-69, 3.85 ERA, 3.72 FIP, 88 FIP-, 22.7 WAR, 21.6 rWAR in 181 G, 181 GS from 2043-2048)

Lasalle was a 3 time Pitcher of the Year and 4 time All-Star. He led the league in wins and WAR once each. He led the league in ERA, shutouts, and rWAR twice each. Lasalle was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Ward was a 1 time All-Star, 1 time league champion, and 2 time Playoff Series MVP.

Legrand finished second in the voting for Pitcher of the Year in 2044. He was a 2 time All-Star and a 1 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in wins and rWAR once and complete games twice,

My choice for the best starting pitcher in the modern era for Brooklyn is Larry Lasalle. He was a dominant force at the top of the team's rotation for more than a decade. The other players on this list were all good. Lasalle was great.

RELIEF PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- Ryosei Akiyama (29-22, 73 Sv, 3.14 ERA, 3.36 FIP, 73 FIP-, 9 WAR, 10 rWAR in 308 G, 7 GS from 2035-2041)
- Enrique Reyna (35-61, 327 Sv, 3.76 ERA, 3.67 FIP, 82 FIP-, 8.7 WAR, 7.1 rWAR in 648 G, 0 GS from 2000-2011)
- Bernard Keller (26-15, 43 Sv, 3.21 ERA, 3.95 FIP, 88 FIP-, 3.1 WAR, 6.1 rWAR in 215 G, 0 GS from 2034-2038)
- Pedro Espin (19-8, 96 Sv, 2.73 ERA, 2.65 FIP, 67 FIP-, 3.9 WAR, 3.9 rWAR in 179 G, 0 GS from 2021-2023)

Akiyama was a 2 time All-Star.

Reyna was a 2 time All-Star.

Espin was a 2 time All-Star. He led the league in saves in 2022.

My choice for the best relief pitcher in the modern era for Brooklyn is Ryosei Akiyama. If Espin had even one more season in Brooklyn it probably would have been him but Akiyama was very good for Brooklyn for a long time. That longevity helped him provide more value to the club than Espin did.

BROOKLYN ALL MODERN ERA TEAM

C: Ralph Butt
1B: Sirius Black
2B: Mark Bruner
3B: Dale Bunker
SS: Dirk Spencer
LF: Daniel Labrie
CF: Brett Caves
RF: Mike Clarke.
DH: Ernest McBride
SP: Larry Lasalle
RP: Ryosei Akiyama

ALL MODERN ERA TEAM CAPE FEAR SWAMP FOXES



This article is being written prior to the 2062 season as the next team is being relocated to Wilmington, North Carolina. I will refer to the team by their new name in the article. Since the beginning of the modern era, The Cape Fear Swamp Foxes have moved from Hackensack, to Charlotte, to Rockville, and now to Wilmington. During that time, they have a .509 winning percentage, with 29 playoff appearances and 4 league championships. In this article, I am going to determine the franchise's best player at each position during the modern era. All statistics and accomplishments used in this article are from the players' time with the Cape Fear franchise

CATCHER

Top Candidates:

- Juan Castillo (258/.328/.485, 121 wRC+, 389 2B, 281 HR, 868 RBI, 43.8 WAR in 1,485 Games from 2019-2029)
- Francisco Flores (.324/.360/.499, 122 wRC+, 347 2B, 160 HR, 761 RBI, 38.2 WAR in 1,272 Games from 2033-2041 and 2047)
- Castillo was a 5 time All-Star, 4 time Platinum Stick winner, and 1 time Diamond Glove recipient. He led the league in doubles in 2028.

Flores was the Sawyer Silk MVP in 2038. He was a 4 time All-Star, 3 time Platinum Stick winner, and 2 time Diamond Glove recipient. Flores won 2 league championships with the team. He was named Playoff Series MVP once as well. He led the league in batting average and WAR in his MVP season.

My choice for the top Catcher in the modern era for Cape Fear is Francisco Flores. I believe this choice is quite clear.

FIRST BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Manuel Marino (.297/.398/.547, 145 wRC+, 218 2B, 178 HR, 556 RBI, 22.7 WAR in 865 Games from 2033-2040)
- Stu “Da” Baker (.300/.360/.434, 120 wRC+, 193 2B, 208 HR, 859 RBI, 23.3 WAR in 1,618 Games from 2017-2027)
- Can Whitten (.261/.327/.456, 109 wRC+, 223 2B, 187 HR, 650 RBI, 9.8 WAR in 1,129 Games from 2052-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Marino was 3rd in the voting for the 2035 Gillstrom Rookie of the Year award. He was a 2 time All-Star, 1 time Platinum Stick winner, 2 time league champion, and 2 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in OBP in 2038 and 2039.

Baker was an All-Star in 2019.

My choice for the top First Baseman in the modern era for Cape Fear is Manuel Marino. Marino has almost as much WAR as Baker is just over half as many games.

SECOND BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Daniel Pepper (.324/.379/.532, 141 wRC+, 366 2B, 229 HR, 839 RBI, 95 SB, 51.4 WAR in 1,316 Games from 2041-2049)
- Bing-de Zhao (.299/.404/.517, 144 wRC+, 254 2B, 209 HR, 738 RBI, 38.2 WAR in 1,159 Games from 2040-2049)
- Richard Vernon (.326/.365/405, 111wRC+, 177 2B, 449 Runs, 273 RBI, 135 SB, 17.2 WAR in 791 Games from 2056-2061-Currently Active at the time the article was written.)

Pepper finished 2nd in both the 2041 Gillstrom Rookie of the Year and 2048 Sawyer Silk MVP voting. He was a 6 time All-Star, 2 time Diamond Glove winner, 5 time Platinum Stick Winner, and 2 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in Runs scored in 2046 and WAR in 2048. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Zhao was a 2 time All-Star, 4 time Platinum Stick winner, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in walks once and OBP 3 times.

Vernon has played in 2 All-Star games and earned a Platinum Stick in 2059.

My choice for the top Second Baseman in the modern era for Cape Fear is Daniel Pepper. Zhao was an excellent player and Vernon has had a great start to his career but Pepper is a Hall of Famer for a reason.

THIRD BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Sergio Valentin (.276/.349/.453, 110 wRC+, 145 2B, 342 RBI, 11.1 WAR in 623 Games from 2042-2046)
- Ron Holmes (.256/.316/.349, 83 wRC+, 156 2B, 358 RBI, 13.8 WAR in 1,077 Games from 2018-2205 and 2029)
- Larry Sunderland (.306/.376/.526, 137 wRC+, 181 2B, 172 HR, 592 RBI, 26.0 WAR in 870 Games from 1998-2004)

Sunderland was a 2 time All-Star.

My choice for the top Third Baseman in the modern era for Cape Fear is Larry Sunderland. I originally included Sunderland in the list of 1B candidates but he played more games at 3B for this franchise. He was also the clear choice out of this group.

SHORTSTOP

Top Candidates:

- Rafael Rodriguez (.331/.413/.529, 152 wRC+, 355 2B, 170 HR, 787 RBI, 62.9 WAR in 1,294 Games from 1992-2000)
- Chip Puckett (.292/.351/.393, 100 wRC+, 264 2B, 900 Runs, 559 RBI, 560 SB, 40.2 WAR in 1,472 Games from 2034-2039 and 2047-2052)
- J.T. Revelator (.245/.327/.372, 94 wRC+, 276 2B, 117 HR, 720 Runs, 564 RBI, 26.7 WAR in 1,673 Games from 2017-2030)

Rodriguez won the Sawyer Silk MVP in 1996. He was a 3 time All-Star, and a 1 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in Batting Average, OBP, and WAR twice each. Rodriguez was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Puckett was a 5 time All-Star, 3 time Diamond Glove winner, 2 time League Champs, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP.

Revelator was a 3 time All-Star.

My choice for the top Shortstop in the modern era for Cape Fear is Rafael Rodriguez. There are some really good players here but Rodriguez was an MVP and a Hall of Famer. Easy choice.

LEFT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Lorenzo Palacios (.310/.392/.558, 145 wRC+, 395 2B, 288 HR, 942 RBI, 40.9 WAR in 1,383 Games from 2034-2043 and 2049)
- Harry Dunn(.304/.380/.454, 131 wRC+, 203 2B, 115 HR, 575 RBI, 91 SB, 22.8 WAR in 1,104 Games from 2016-2023)
- Wilson Alomar (.311/.375/.503, 130 wRC+, 210 2B, 152 HR, 574 RBI, 19.5 WAR in 908 Games from 2040-2046)

Palacios was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2035. He was a 3 time All-Star, 5 time Platinum Stick winner, 2 time league champion, and 3 time Playoff Series MVP. Palacios finished the top 3 in the voting for the Sawyer Silk MVP 3 times.

Dunn was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2016. He was also a 2 time All-Star.

Alomar was a 2 time All-Star and was once named a Playoff Series MVP.

My choice for the top Left Fielder in the modern era for Cape Fear is Lorenzo Palacios. This would be a much tougher choice if it was just between Dunn and Alomar but Palacios is easily the best player on this list.

CENTER FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Edward Framaggio (.268/.342/.429, 103 wRC+, 355 2B, 101 3B, 98 HR, 823 R, 634 RBI, 400 SB, 25.9 WAR in 1,361 Games from 1992-2001)
- Manuel Rivera (.267/.342/.453, 105 wRC+, 154 2B, 130 HR, 469 RBI, 10.4 WAR in 921 Games from 2039-2045)
- Yi-Ke Zang (.293/.333/.406, 93 wRC+, 196 2B, 583 R, 455 RBI, 325 SB, 14.1 WAR in 975 Games in 2032-2039)

Framaggio won the Diamond Glove in 1996. He led the league in triples 3 times and walks once.

Zang was a 2 time All-Star, a 2 time league champion, and was once named Playoff Series MVP.

My choice for the top Center Fielder in the modern era for Cape Fear is Edward Framaggio. Rivera was a marginally better offensive player but Framaggio's defense put him on top for me.

RIGHT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Julio Barajas (.326/.377/.546, 143 wRC+, 744 2B, 504 HR, 1,923 RBI, 69.1 WAR in 2,745 Games from 2039-2057)
- Tom Mohler (.341/.391/.461, 129 wRC+, 295 2B, 118 HR, 964 Runs, 793 RBI, 327 SB, 42.6 WAR in 1,528 Games from 1992-2004)
- Octavio Martinez (.301/.323/.494, 117 wRC+, 115 2B, 241 Runs, 228 RBI, 17 SB, 8.7 WAR in 420 Games from 2059-2061-Currently active at the time the article was written)

Barajas was a 5 time All-Star, 1 time Diamond Glove winner, 4 time Platinum Stick winner, and 3 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in hits twice, runs once, and batting average three times. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Mohler was a 4 time All-Star and 1 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in hits 3 times, and AVG, OBP, and WAR once each.

Martinez has been an All-Star once.

My choice for the top Right Fielder in the modern era for Cape Fear is Julio Barajas. Mohler and Barajas were both excellent but Barajas was so good for so long that he earned this award in my eyes.

DESIGNATED HITTER

Top Candidates:

- Frank Thomas III (.329/.405/.534, 157 wRC+, 632 2B, 439 HR, 1,620 RBI, 82.4 WAR in 2,511 Games from 2016-2033)
- Mario Guerrer (.328/.388/.572, 149 wRC+, 246 2B, 215 HR, 777 RBI, 23.1 WAR in 958 Games from 2032-2038)
- Matthew Reilly (.306/.340/.504, 124 wRC+, 354 2B, 208 HR, 858 R, 769 RBI, 173 SB, 18.7 WAR in 1,343 Games from 2042-2052)

Thomas was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2017. He won the Sawyer Silk MVP twice and finished second in the voting two more times. He was a 12 time All-Star and a 6 time Platinum Stick winner. He led the league in hits and doubles four times, total bases and RBI twice, batting average five times, and OBP and OPS three times. Thomas was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Guerrer was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2033. He was a 2 time All-Star, 2 time Platinum Stick, 2 time league champion, and 2 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in hits and batting average twice and doubles, total bases, extra base hits, OPS, and WAR once each

Reilly was a 2 time All-Star, 1 time Platinum Stick Winner, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in batting average and doubles in 2051.

My choice for the top Designated Hitter in the modern era for Cape Fear is Frank Thomas III. Reilly was good. Guerrer was better. Thomas was the best.

STARTING PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- Arthur Dempster (235-137, 3.86 ERA, 3.63 FIP, 80 FIP-, 80.3 WAR, 77.0 rWAR in 514 G, 514 GS from 2031-2046)
- Billy Chapel Jr. (205-102, 3.15 ERA, 2.77 FIP, 68 FIP-, 87.7 WAR, 73.9 rWAR in 436 G, 434 GS from 2017-2030)
- Dan Cannon (151-80, 3.35 ERA, 3.45 FIP, 76 FIP-, 54.8 WAR, 58.8 rWAR in 321 G, 321 GS from 2035-2044)

Dempster won 3 Nebraska Pitcher of the Year awards and finished in the top 3 voting for that award 4 more times. He was an 8 time All-Star and a 2 time league champion. He led the league in wins twice, ERA and rWAR once each, shutouts 3 times, and WAR 5 times. Dempster was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Chapel won 3 Nebraska Pitcher of the Year awards and finished in the top 3 in the voting two other times. He was a 9 time All-Star and 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in wins and ERA once, WAR and rWAR twice, innings pitched 3 times, and strikeouts 4 times. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Cannon won 3 Nebraska Pitcher of the Year awards and finished in the top three in voting for that award one other time. He was a 10 time All-Star and 2 time league champion. He led the league in wins, ERA, and innings pitched once, shutouts twice, and WAR and rWAR three times.

My choice for the top Starting Pitcher in the modern era for Cape Fear is Billy Chapel Jr. Wow! What a phenomenal group. Chapel was better across the board statistically, which is really saying something.

RELIEF PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- Fernando Marquez (30-32, 241 Sv, 3.00 ERA, 3.27 FIP, 74 FIP-, 11.7 WAR, 13.6 rWAR, in 431 Games from 2032-2038)
- Edward Johnson (17-18, 127 Sv, 2.16 ERA, 3.32 FIP, 79 FIP-, 5.5 WAR, 11.0 WAR in 236 Games from 2048-2052-Currently active in the GBC at the time the article was written)
- Christian Walker (33-25, 32 Sv, 3.33 ERA, 3.79 FIP, 86 FIP-, 6.7 WAR, 10.3 WAR in 414 Games from 2052-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Marquez was a 3 time All-Star, 2 time league champions, and finished 2nd in the Reliever of the Year award in 2033. He led the league in saves twice.

Johnson was an All-Star in 2050.

Walker led the league in holds in 2059.

My choice for the top Starting Pitcher in the modern era for Cape Fear is Fernando Marquez. Johnson was very good but I believe Marquez has a resume that stands out above the rest.

CAPE FEAR ALL MODERN ERA TEAM:

C: Francisco Flores
1B: Manuel Marino
2B: Daniel Pepper
3B: Larry Sunderland
SS: Rafael Rodriguez
LF: Lorenzo Palacios
CF: Edward Framaggio
RF: Julio Barajas
DH: Frank Thomas III
SP: Billy Chapel Jr
RP: Fernando Marquez

ALL MODERN ERA TEAM

CHARLOTTE FLYERS



The Charlotte Flyers were an expansion team, added to the league in 2040. Originally named the Charlotte Cougars, the team name was changed to Flyers prior to the 2056 season. The team has a winning percentage of .477, with 8 playoff appearances and no championships. In this article, I am going to determine the franchise's best player at each position during that time. All statistics and accomplishments used in this article are from the players' time with Charlotte.

CATCHER

Top Candidates:

- Roelof Klooster (.294/.358/.477, 124 wRC+, 152 2B, 45 HR, 237 RBI, 12.4 WAR in 451 Games from 2046-2051-He threw out over 30% of attempted base stealers in Charlotte.)
- Lawrence Stewart (.297/.335/.423, 105 wRC+, 112 2B, 20 HR, 160 RBI, 10.1 WAR in 389 Games from 2059-2061-He has thrown out less than 20% of attempted base stealers in Charlotte-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Aaron Stone (.235/.317/.435, 96 wRC+, 39 2B, 40 HR, 113 RBI, 4.3 WAR in 231 Games from 2042-2044-He threw out over 30% of attempted base stealers in Charlotte)

Klooster was a 1 time All-Star, 1 time Platinum Stick winner, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP.

Stewart won the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year Award and was an All-Star in 2059.

My choice for the top Catcher in the modern era for Charlotte is Roeloff Klooster. It's possible that Stewart will overtake him at some point, but Klooster has a little better offensive numbers and was overall a stronger defender behind the plate.

FIRST BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Bob Irwin (.316/.339/.430, 104 wRC+, 332 2B, 590 R, 465 RBI, 127 SB, 11.21 WAR in 1,153 Games from 2044-2048 and 2052-2055)
- Dallas Dixon: (.341/.390/.466, 135 wRC+, 653 2B, 112 3B, 342 R, 176 SB, 14.0 WAR in 468 Games from 2058-2061-Currently Active at the time this article was written.)
- Manny Toledo (.263/.340/.515, 127 wRC+, 60 2B, 71 HR, 218 RBI, 5.4 WAR in 300 Games from 2056-2058.

Irwin was a 2 time Diamond Glove winner.

Dixon is a 1 time All-Star, 1 time Diamond Glove winner at 1B, 1 time Platinum Stick winner at 2B, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in batting average and on base percentage in 2058.

Toledo hit 42 home runs in 2057, setting the Charlotte franchise record.

My choice for the top First Baseman in the modern era for Charlotte is Dallas Dixon. Bob Irwin is the only man who has played more than 304 games at 1B in Charlotte History. He also played several games at 2B. Dixon also played quite a few games at 2B but has played more at 1B.

SECOND BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Roberto Viramontas (.275/.365/.393, 107 wRC+, 153 2B, 314 R, 218 RBI, 174 SB, 13.6 WAR in 647 Games from 2043-2047)
- Carlos Gutierrez (.295/.335/.389, 96 wRC+, 171 2B, 391 R, 319 RBI, 120 SB, 9 WAR in 823 Games from 2048-2053 and 2061-Currently Active at the time this article was written.)

Gutierrez won a Diamond Glove at 3B.

My choice for the top Second Baseman in the modern era for Charlotte is Roberto Viramontas. If I had put Dallas Dixon in this spot, he would have been the clear winner. However, he was not really a second baseman defensively most of the time in Charlotte, even if he played the position. Irwin would have made this a closer decision but I would have still chosen Viramontas over his. He ended up with more WAR than Irwin in a little over half of the games played.

THIRD BASEMAN

Top Candidates:

- Jacquot Natta (.293/.355/.513, 132 wRC+, 98 2B, 69 HR, 237 RBI, 8.8 WAR in 370 Games from 2059-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Rafael Gutierrez (.316/.349/.410, 102 wRC+, 110 2B, 221 R, 169 RBI, 115 SB, 6.4 WAR in 481 Games from 2044-2049)
- Brian Dixon (.289/.313/.475, 109 wRC+, 107 2B, 74 HR, 307 RBI, 5.3 WAR in 464 Games from 2050-2053)

Natta was an All-Star and a Platinum Stick winner in 2060.

My choice for the top third baseman in the modern era for Charlotte is Jacquot Natta. I don't think it's close now and Natta is just getting started. This doesn't even take into account the fact that he has provided value as a pitcher as well. There is a very good chance that Natta tops the list of best all-time player for Charlotte when all is said and done if he continues on his current trajectory and sticks with the club for several more years.

SHORTSTOP

Top Candidates:

- Robert Menzies (.300/.386/.427, 123 wRC+, 2,309 H, 388 2B, 190 HR, 1,389 R, 1,035 RBI, 432 SB, 67.4 WAR in 2,309 Games from 2045-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Menzies was a 9 time All-Star, 7 time Platinum Stick winner, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in on base percentage in 2055. He was the first player in Charlotte history to have his number retired and the first to be inducted into the team hall of fame.

My choice for the top shortstop in the modern era for Charlotte is Robert Menzies. There wasn't really another candidate. He has been with the team for 85% of the history of the franchise and played short for most of that time.

LEFT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Ricardo Ruiz (.320/.359/.527, 140 wRC+, 179 2B, 88 HR, 398 R, 388 RBI, 130 SB, 17.9 WAR in 625 Games from 2046-2050)
- Ramon Pagan (.273/.343/.504, 123 wRC+, 122 2B, 121 HR, 386 RBI, 11.2 WAR in 570 Games from 2043-2047)

- Tadataka Yoshikawa (.283/.366/.525, 139 wRC+, 110 2B, 84 HR, 298 RBI, 9.6 WAR in 453 Games from 2057-2060-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Ruiz was an All-Star in 2048. He led the league in doubles and extra base hits in 2050.

Yoshikawa was a 1 time All-Star and a 1 time Platinum Stick winner with Charlotte.

My choice for the top left fielder in the modern era for Charlotte is Ricardo Ruiz. Yoshikawa was a close second who might have been the choice had he stayed healthy during his time in Charlotte.

CENTER FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Lorenzo Bueno (.293/.319/.381, 85 wRC+, 232 2B, 480 R, 473 RBI, 175 SB, 9.4 WAR in 1,281 Games from 2044-2054)
- Jose Bedreddin (.286/.356/.544, 139 wRC+, 58 2B, 46 HR, 152 R, 158 RBI, 24 SB, 6.4 WAR in 224 Games from 2060-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Victor Frazier (.235/.288/.384, 79 wRC+, 95 2B, 50 HR, 255 R, 251 RBI, 64 SB, 4.9 WAR in 595 games from 2056-2060-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Bueno won a Diamond Glove in LF in 2053.

Bedreddin was an All-Star, All-Star Game MVP, and Platinum Stick winner in 2061.

Frazier was a 2 time Diamond Glove winner.

My choice for the top center fielder in the modern era for Charlotte is Jose Bedreddin. He has only played one and a half seasons, but he has been consistently excellent over that period. He is expected to be in center field for the Flyers for several more seasons.

RIGHT FIELDER

Top Candidates:

- Aaron Haney (.306/.370/.569, 144 wRC+, 67 2B, 73 HR, 231 RBI, 33 SB, 9.1 WAR in 309 Games from 2051-2052)
- Bret Powers (.295/.328/.528, 123 wRC+, 139 2B, 101 HR, 355 RBI, 5.3 WAR in 480 Games from 2051-2052 and 2054-2055)
- Pedro Huerta (.300/.342/.535, 135 wRC+, 87 2B, 50 HR, 198 RBI, 58 SB, 5.1 WAR in 293 Games from 2049-2051)

Haney was a 2 time All-Star while in Charlotte. He holds the single season franchise records for runs scored, total bases, and RBI. Haney seems likely to be inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Powers was a 1 time All-Star with Charlotte.

Huerta was a 1 time All-Star and 1 time Platinum Stick winner with Charlotte. He led the league in total bases, runs, RBI, and extra base hits in 2049. He holds the single season franchise records for slugging percentage and OPS.

My choice for the top right fielder in the modern era for Charlotte is Aaron Haney. Huerta was also good but Haney was better. There hasn't yet been a great right fielder who played in Charlotte for a long period of time.

DESIGNATED HITTER

Top Candidate:

- Fawwaz Amin (.277/.341/.515, 127 wRC+, 39 2B, 30 HR, 114 RBI, 1.8 WAR in 176 Games from 2057-2058)

My choice for the top designated hitter in the modern era for Charlotte is Fawwaz Amin. This position has been a barren wasteland for Charlotte. Amin is the only player who was primarily a DH who produced at least 1 WAR.

STARTING PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- Kyle Smallwood (47-31, 3.64 ERA, 3.27 FIP, 81 FIP-, 16.1 WAR, 14.4 rWAR in 144 G, 125 GS from 2046-2050)
- Jim Fleming (36-28, 3.81 ERA, 3.81 FIP, 87 FIP-, 12.7 WAR, 13.3 rWAR in 97 G, 97 GS from 2058-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Buwono Mainaky (53-49, 4.26 ERA, 4.05 FIP, 92 FIP-, 16.9 WAR, 14.9 rWAR in 177 G, 140 GS from 2057-2061-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Ruben bin Majid al Din (74-89, 4.66 ERA, 4.28 FIP, 98 FIP-, 25.9 WAR, 21.7 rWAR in 251 G, 251 GS from 2050-2057-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Smallwood was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year and finished 2nd in the Pitcher of the Year voting in 2047. He was a 2 time All-Star.

Fleming led the league in WAR in 2061, a season in which he only started 26 games for Charlotte because he was traded away at the deadline.

Mainaky was an All-Star in 2057.

Bin Majid al Din led the league in innings pitched 2054.

My choice for the top starting pitcher in the modern era for Charlotte is Kyle Smallwood. If Fleming had stayed in Charlotte longer he might have overtaken Smallwood, but Smallwood was outstanding prior to 2050. Is love to see what he could have done if he hadn't fallen off a cliff that year.

RELIEF PITCHER

Top Candidates:

- Keijo Reini (38-44, 3.47 ERA, 61 Sv 3.03 FIP, 68 FIP-, 22.2 WAR, 18.1 rWAR in 415 G, 59 GS from 2041-2047)
- Alejandro Chavez (11-18, 94 Sv, 3.67 ERA, 3.29 FIP, 75 FIP-, 4.7 WAR, 3.5 rWAR in 158 G from 2058-2060-Currently active at the time this article was written)
- Ashton Brooks (30-28, 58 Sv, 3.18 ERA, 3.14 FIP, 73 FIP-, 16.4 WAR, 17.2 rWAR in 272 G, 72 GS from 2043-2049)

Reini was a 4 time All-Star. He won the Reliever of the Year award once and finished in the top 3 voting for that award three other times. He led the league in games pitched in 2046 and strikeouts twice while in Charlotte.

Chavez was a 1 time All-Star and 1 time Reliever of the Year while in Charlotte. He led the league in saves in 2058.

Brooks was a 2 time All-Star and won the Reliever of the Year award in 2048.

My choice for top relief pitcher in the modern era for Charlotte is Keiji Reini. Chavez and Brooks were both very good for Charlotte but Reini was dominant, and was consistently in the discussion when the league was picking the top reliever in the league.

CHARLOTTE ALL MODERN ERA TEAM:

C: Roeloff Klooster
1B: Dallas Dixon
2B: Roberto Viramontas
3B: Jacquot Natta
SS: Robert Menzies
LF: Ricardo Ruiz
CF: Jose Bedreddin
RF: Aaron Haney
DH: Fawwaz Amin
SP: Kyle Smallwood
RP: Keiji Reini



THE PROJECTION ROOM

It's that time, of course.

Everyone, of course, knows the drill by now.

A set of BBA junkies all go off and do their finger counting and teeth gnashing and wild explorations of whatever inner space exists in the brain of a BBA pundit. And when the smoke clears (or maybe when it's at its thickest), they step out of their laboratories and scholarly halls to present the answers to all the biggest questions in life.

In other words, we have a bunch of fun talking Brewster as if we know anything at all about it.

In, in other words, welcome once again to *Who's Brewster Is It, Anyway!* The previews where everything is real and the points matter more than the world around us can ever know.

The Atlantic

2062

The Charm City Jimmies have now won 9 consecutive Atlantic Division titles and finished with a record of 104-58. They were 17 games up on 2nd place Atlantic City. The Jacksonville Zombies finished a game back of the Gamblers and Montreal two games back of the Zombies. The Atlantic Division took three of the four wildcard spots with the Blazers battling their way to the Monty Series against the Nashville Bluebirds.

The Charlotte Flyers crashed on take-off and finished tied with the New Orleans Crawdad at 77-85 in 5th place. The Brooklyn Robins have put out the fire and are climbing out of the dumpster finishing at 72-90. The Rockville Pikemen finished in last 35 games back of the Jimmies while falling into the dumpster and lighting it on fire. That was the gift the Pikemen owner Cisco Ramirez left the fans as he packed up the moving vans and took the team to Wilmington, North Carolina. He rebranded the team as the Cape Fear Swamp Foxes and hired BBA veteran GM Woody Donahue to steer the team.

Final order of finish in 2061:

Team	Wins	Losses
Charm City	104	58
Atlantic City	87	75
Jacksonville	86	76
Montreal	84	78
Charlotte	77	85
New Orleans	77	85
Brooklyn	72	90
Rockville	69	93



Atlantic City Gamblers

2062 Season

The Atlantic City Gamblers broke their 7-year playoff drought in 2061 with a Wildcard berth in the Johnson League. They dropped their Geohegan Round series to Atlantic Division rival Montreal 3-1. GM John Momberg set

about putting together the 2062 version after the losses of 1B Tyler Ober to free agency and the retirement of veteran catcher Hollis O'Hara. Momberg signed RP Bob Coutts was signed in free agency to replace Gamal bin Badr in the bullpen.

The Gamblers starting rotation returns intact led by Brian Whitford and John Avery. They will be joined by Dewey McKim, Harry King and most likely Daniel Thornton. Thornton was acquired late last season from Calgary and is known for keeping the ball in the park.

Kent Johnson may move to the bullpen to join Jimmy Fisher. The bullpen needs some work to possibly get deeper into the playoffs. Jesus Martinez was called up late in the season and he was lights out for the Gamblers. Bob Coutts will replace the output of bin Badr, while more will be expected from Tommy Anderson, Arapeta Ebena and Antonio Terrones.

The Gamblers have a need at catcher with the retirement of O'Hara. They have Arturo Fresneda and Luo-lang Bi on the roster with Jesu Durango still a couple of seasons out. 1B is open for either a free agent to come in and take over or a time share between Fernando Alicea and Jim Redmon. Or there are plenty of cheap but low-grade options in AAA. The middle of the infield is solid with 2B Javier Aguilar and SS Jafar Seif al Din. Don't expect to get many hits through the middle of this infield. 3B Mauro Diaz had a solid rookie season for the Gamblers but finished the season slumping. The outfield remains the same with Okyay Nisanci in left, Khayyat Isa in center and Carlos Allen in right. Allen and Nisanci

GM- John Momberg (chicoruiz)

Lifetime Record 1214-1704

2061 Season 87-75 Johnson League Wildcard (Predicted 68-94. That was waaaaaay off!)

Key Losses- 1B Tyler Ober FA 2.6 WAR, SP You-de Szema FA 0.5 WAR, SP Gamal bin Badr FA 0.5 WAR, C Hollis O'Hara Retired 0.1 WAR, 8 players totaling 3.7 WAR

Gains- RP Bob Coutts FA 0.8 WAR, 2 players totaling 0.8 WAR

provided solid offense and defense while Isa had a weak bat but good defense. Michael Pedarzolli is a nice contributor as a DH but doesn't have the power for that spot in the lineup.

The Gamblers have some pitchers, a catcher, Johnny Lazar at short and some decent outfielders working their way through the system. Center fielders Vandika Zadoyan and Nestor Saatsakis appear ready to play in a backup role in the majors to improve the team during injury or just giving the starters a rest.

2062 Prediction 93-69



2062 Season

The Brooklyn Robins have their 2nd straight 70+ win season leaving the team on the cusp of a playoff berth. The Robins will need to shore up their outfield defense to help a young and talented group of pitchers. CF Wilson Prieto hits well but doesn't have the range to cover the ground in center.

The same can be said for RF Chao Yuan as his range has been inconsistent in right. If Brooklyn could sign a true CF with range and move Prieto to left it would solve this issue. In the infield the Robins have a fielding SS Francisco Garcia and have signed veteran 2B Carlos Gutierrez to possibly be his double play partner. Gutierrez is decrepit but is still a glove upgrade over Alfredo Trujillo. Trujillo provides Brooklyn with power and will better suited as the DH.

Brooklyn Robins

GM Ben Heuring (lordtoffee)
Lifetime Record 1403-2084

2061 Season 72-90 (Predicted 88-74. The Robins were a letdown.)

Key Losses- RP Frank Benitez FA 1.6 WAR, LF Pablo Lara FA 0.7 WAR, SP Bill Mills FA 1.2 WAR, RP Stewart Angrove Retired 0.3 WAR, RP You-cheng Hang FA 0.4 WAR, 11 players totaling 4.2 WAR

Gains- 2B Carlos Gutierrez FA 0.6 WAR, 5 players totaling 0.6 WAR

The Robins hit 199 homers last season and have some positions to upgrade with openings at catcher and in the outfield left to fill. They could very well add some pop and defense to take this team to the next level.

On the mound, the Robins return two young starters to pair with sophomore right-hander Umar Dogar. Jose Torres had a nice rookie season for Brooklyn in 2061 but tore his meniscus to end his campaign after 24 starts. He was 10-5 with a 3.93 ERA and a 68 FIP-. Larry Jensen was the #2 overall pick in the BBA Draft last season and played at A level Twin Falls and AAASan Francisco with good results. He should be ready to make the team right out of spring training and give Brooklyn a tough 1-2-3 that will give Johnson League teams fits in 2062.

The bullpen returns Case Miller, Ryan Harmon, Mark Green and Dave Woolford that combined for 197 appearances for over 240+ innings. There are six starters that can also work out of the bullpen or may be minor league depth if the Robins make some reliever signings.

2062 Prediction 80-82



Cape Fear Swamp Foxes

2062 Season

The former Rockville Pikemen finished the 2061 season 69-93 and last in the Atlantic Division missing the playoffs for the 11th consecutive season. The team picked up stakes and returned the team to North Carolina to play in a beautiful, new diamond in Wilmington.

Now the team re-branded as the Cape Fear Swamp Foxes, GM Woody

GM woods (Woody Donahue)

Lifetime Record 706-917

2061 Season 69-93 (Predicted 68-94, Oh, so close!)

Key Losses- C Celik Lufi Trade (CLG) 2.3 WAR, 1B Cam Whitten FA 1 WAR, SP Jon Keys FA 1.3 WAR, 3B Cesar Rodriguez FA 0.1 WAR, SP Aaron Bridges FA 0.3 WAR, 14 players totaling 5 WAR

Gains- C Sam Butler Trade (CLG) 5.9 WAR, SP Liam Johnston FA 1.4 WAR, C Guillermo Chapa Trade (NSH) 0.8 WAR, SP Kazuma Yoshida FA 0.2 WAR, 2B Herkki Siilasvuo Waiver Claim (CLG) 0 WAR, 15 players totaling 8.2 WAR

Donahue, known as Woods, set to re-making the team over. He traded catcher Celik Lufi to Calgary for C Sam Butler to get his guy behind the plate. He pulls off another trade with Nashville to acquire Butler's backup in Guillermo Chapa. He then claimed 2B Herkko Siilasvuo off waivers from Calgary and signed two pitchers in free agency. Liam Johnson to fill a spot in the rotation and Kazuma Yoshida in the bullpen.

The rotation looks set with Alex Payne, Nathaniel Davis and Logan Hill the top three starters. Jorge Ramirez and Liam Johnston are good back of the rotation options as both keep the ball in the park, especially in Blackwater Field. Blackwater Field is where homers go to die.

The bullpen looks deep with closer David Wade joined by a talented group that will get great results in the spacious park. An interesting player in the bullpen is Raul Castaneda with is incredibly high stuff, good control and a 4-pitch mix. He will give up some homers, but we'll see the park will affect him.

On offense, the acquisition of Butler gives the team some pop at the plate and team control through the 2063 season. DH Masahiko Harada will be the recipient of having Butler hitting behind him, but this will benefit the team more on the road than at home. Defensively, the team should be solid up the middle with Richard Vernon at second and likely Javier Cardona. Vernon is the leadoff hitter, but Cardona struggles with the bat and will bat 9th. In the outfield, Jose Vazquez can play a positive ZR center with an 8-range rating but is an average hitter. Joshua Ackland and Octavio Martinez cover the corners well and both can hit.

The Swamp Foxes have some depth in AAA in case of injury but nothing for the long term. The better players are still working their way up from AA and lower.

2062 Prediction 84-78



Charlotte Flyers

2062 Season

The Charlotte Flyers miss the playoffs after three straight appearances which culminated in a 2060 Monty Series loss. The window closed quickly as the Flyers fell to 5th in the Atlantic tied with New Orleans. They lost 7 players over the winter but just a combined 2.3 WAR while signing

a couple of relievers. The Flyers go into spring training with battles for spots in the pitching staff but there may be some batters getting a shot at a bench spot.

The starters going into the spring are Lawrence Stewart behind the plate. Ben Graybill or Dallas Dixon at first/DH. Domingo Chavez will be making his debut at 2B for the Flyers and should get better as he ages. Two-way star Jacquot Natta will play the hot corner and be a starter but will need to stay healthy. At short, Loo Yang is the early option and can hold his own with the glove but is a bottom of the lineup hitter. In the outfield, Jorge Trujillo will be in left, Jose Bedreddin in center and Jose Vargas in right. Trujillo will need to post his 2060 numbers after a down year in '61.

The bench will consist of backup catcher Manuel Aguilar (not that Aguilar), 1B/3B Jorge Garcia, IF John Lowers, IF Leonardo Campos, OF Miguel Lussier and OF Raul Morales.

Aguilar will have to fight off Reynaldo Fernandez for backup duties in spring training. IF Tristan Colenutt will battle with Lowers and Campos for the utility roles but has options and may begin in AAA.

GM Nathan Garrison (Krathan)

Lifetime Record 577-560

2061 Season 77-85 (Predicted 90-72. Way off. Too many losses to overcome.)

Key Losses- 2B Robert Menzies FA 1.2 WAR, 2B Carlos Gutierrez FA 0.6 WAR, RP Jim Thompson FA 0.4 WAR, C Jesus Rodriguez Retired 0 WAR, SP Toshikuni Kubo 0 WAR, 7 players totaling 2.3 WAR

Gains- RP Josh Dougherty FA 0.5 WAR, RP Raul Morales Trade (YS9) 0.3 WAR, 8 players totaling 0.8 WAR

The top of the rotation is set with Buwono Mainaky, John Rasmussen III and Jacquot Natta in the spots 1-3. The favorites for the last two spots will fight it out with yet another two-way player in Charlotte in CF Ignacio Lewis. Flyers GM Nathan Garrison reported that, "His pitching will likely determine where he starts the year."

Antonio Santiago and Qing-lai Ou-yang, say that three times fast, will either start or be moved to the 'pen where they would join Josh Dougherty, Cliff Crudge and Raul Morales there. The rest of the spots in the bullpen will be a scrum with former prospects, Rule 5 picks, RP conversions and intriguing players with long shots to make the team.

2062 Prediction 79-83



Charm City Jimmies

2062 Season

The Charm City Jimmies unexpectedly ran away with the Atlantic Division again as they have cemented their dominance. The Jimmies again have lost many players in the off season and there are still questions if they can overcome those losses.

The Jimmies have some question marks in the rotation with Jose Flores returning after missing almost the entire 2061 season with a torn flexor tendon. He joins Allen Davidson, Hector Silva, John Mellon and Rannal Seldon as the starters. The bullpen is strong with 39-year-old Manel Barrera for possibly his last ride as the closer for the Jimmies. His

GM Dave Burcicki (DaveB)
Lifetime Record 1529-1031

2061 Season 104-58 Atlantic Division Champ (Record prediction was 91-71. Jimmies re-loaded quick!)

Key Losses- SP Troy Andrews FA 3.4 WAR, LF Quinn Greene FA 0.7 WAR, C John Payne Released 0.3 WAR, SP Antonio Michels Waiver Claim 0. 2 WAR, SP Jose Castro FA 0 WAR, 15 players totaling 4.6 WAR

Gains- RP Alphonse Lease Trade 1.1 WAR

replacement is Seung-jin Cho in the stopper role where he put up incredible numbers last season making 87 appearances and pitching 152.1 innings going 11-6 with 13 saves.

2B Dave Ackerman and LF Ramon Rodriguez are a two-man wrecking crew for the Jimmies hitting a combined 116 homers and driving in 279 runs. They make the game 2-0 before it even starts. There are few weaknesses in their lineup and even ones like SS Ayad Faisal make up for it with their defense.

In the minors, SP Ian Tolley look ready for the majors but may spend some time in AAA Annanplolis. The Sailors also have RF Matt Bamber, LF Arturo Perez, 1B Francisco Foa, LF Ricardo Gomez and C Edgardo Reyes waiting in the wings.

2062 Prediction 105-57



Jacksonville Zombies

2062 Season

The Jacksonville Zombies have made the playoffs 6 times in the last 7 seasons and making it the Cartwright Cup just once. The Zombies return mostly intact to make another run that will hopefully end in a Monty. The rotation leans on Bob Anderson and

Takehide Gertrudes but will be without Gertrudes for 7 weeks after an injury this spring. They will be joined by Ruben bin Majid al Din but from there it gets a bit murky. The team has used Dan Voelzke as a starter the last few seasons but would rather use him as a back-end reliever. The same with Cheslav Evgrafov but he his injury rating is wrecked and can't be depended on to eat innings.

GM Aaron Weiner (aaronweiner)

Lifetime Record 4998-4552

2061 Season 86-76 Johnson League Wildcard (Predicted 92-70. In range at least.)

Key Losses- RP Bob Coutts FA 0.8 WAR, SP Luke Seddon FA 0.5 WAR, 6 players totaling 1.3 WAR

Gains- RP Pedro Guzman FA 0.1 WAR, C Ziad Abdul Samad FA 0.9 WAR, 4 players totaling 1 WAR

Gavrilovich Mastinsky is in the same boat with being ‘Italian’ and is coming off elbow surgery.

The bullpen is solid with guys like Hayden Bennion, Clarence Moore, Pedro German and Ragnvard Lamm. These pitchers are all well above 30 years old, but they put up big innings year after year.

Opposing pitchers must navigate four hitters in the Jacksonville lineup led by Pepe Aragon. He hit 35 homers last season and drove in 121 RBI. He is joined by Majid bin Nawaf, Majid bin Husam and Benedict Daniel. Defensively, the Zombies play multiple players at multiple positions.

Aaron Weiner uses his entire team in positions that he needs them to play at in any given game. He needs a starter, but you are a closer. Doesn’t matter, you are going to start. You’re a second basemen but we need you at short for this game? You in at short. He does this effectively as evidenced by his record. He is always making moves and bettering his team, but it seems like it being done quietly but then the Zombie Horde is on you. Beware!

2062 Prediction 91-71



Montreal Blazers

2062 Season

The Montreal Blazers made the playoffs last season with one of the wildcard berths nabbed by Atlantic League teams then fashioned a glorious run through the Johnson League to make The Monty. Though they fell to the Nashville Bluebird ‘Big Blue Machine’ they proved they are a team to fear.

GM Bob and Erik Breum (breum, Bob Breum)
Lifetime Record 609-525

2061 Season 84-78 (Predicted 84-78. Five Ring!)

Key Losses- C Calvin Johnson FA 1.7 WAR, RF Roosevelt Davis FA 0.2 WAR, RF Ziya Turkes FA 0.2 WAR, SP Ricardo Negrete FA 0.4 WAR, RP Gerald Rogers FA 0.2 WAR, 17 player totaling 2.6 WAR

Gains- RP Todd Stone FA 0.6 WAR, 4 players totaling 0.6 WAR

The Blazers lost a total of 17 players, but they were mostly low WAR role players in the bug picture. The signed longtime Wolves and Hustler's reliever Todd Stone in free agency but will fill in their losses from within. They lost 5 players in Rule 5 but took a SP themselves from Mexico City.

The Blazers return four starters from last season's staff led by Samuel Nebraska. Nebraska will be joined by Jose Barron, Peter Ramsey, and Lucio Juarez. The 5th spot will come down to Harry Stewart and Rule 5 pick Ron Tighe after spring training. Both have fared well, and it will be a tough decision on Erik Breum on who he want to take north. The bullpen has a good core with Augusto Ayala, Joshua Blankhorn, and Adam Bristcoe. Sprinkle in some Todd Stone, Moananani Nana and Luis Manuel makes this team tough to score on late in games.

The catching situation is a bit of a question mark with Jamie Burke having the most experience at the big-league level. Enter Qaseem Kahil who they received in a trade with San Fernando. A ball is the highest level he's played in his career but could hold his own on the majors. It looks like Kahil will play against righties with Burke facing lefties. 1B Dan Wilkinson is the run producer as he hit 26 homers and drove in 100 runs last season. 3B Tom Allen and Clancy Lee are his protection in the lineup with Allen hitting 18 homers and Lee 14. Denes Terovolvas is poised to be the guy that will team with Wilkinson to drive in runs. He is playing 1B in spring training, but he can play third. LF Manny Burgos will play against righties with Teddy Bullock getting the lefties and any pinch-hit opportunities. There is a lot of young talent this team that will keep the Blazers in contention for years to come.

2062 Prediction 89-73



New Orleans Crawdads

2062 Season

The New Orleans Crawdads are in a playoff drought. They've missed three in a row for the 2nd time since 2053-55. This doesn't happen often, and GM Jim Roberts will make every effort to end it.

It's an uphill battle though with the starting rotation. Teams only need worry about Micah Harrington and John Lucas before the talent level drops off. Leland Rogers, Juan De La Cruz and Jayin Ranjani round out the rotation. As every season, Jim Roberts works his magic in free agency and trades and upgrades on the fly. The team will lean heavily on relievers Carlos Miranda, Ed Smith, and Gilberto Cordero to hold late leads. RP Bob Rolf has incredible stuff and can dominate left-handed hitters with his plus-plus slider and cutter.

Is Juan Donestevez finally done? The career Crawdad fell short of his 500th homer as he hit just 8 in 2061 and now sits at 492. He is the team All-Time HR leader along with WAR, Walks, Games, ABs, Runs, Hits, Total Bases, Singles, Doubles, Triples, RBI and SB. He is a Hall of Famer and should be on the Crawdads Mount Rushmore.

The youth movement is well underway in New Orleans with just a few aging players remaining. RF Jaime Angwin led the team last season with 24 homers, but his production has fallen the last three seasons. LF Adib bin Nasser is on the rise slashing .313/.405/.492 in his 1st full season in the Bigs. He hit 22 bombs and drove in 90 runs. 3B Tom Guenette produced 21 homers and drove in 86 runs and is just 27. The veteran presence in the infield is Jason Newton with a low strikeout rate though he isn't going to walk much either, just make contact.

GM Jim Roberts (JimBob2232)

Lifetime Record 5922-5232

2061 Season 77-85 (Predicted 82-80, Another close one, again.)

Key Losses- LF Juan Rivera FA 2.9 WAR, SP Kinzo Iwamoto FA 2.8 WAR, SP Arturo Trevino FA 2.3 WAR, 4 players totaling 8 WAR

Gain- SS Artus Kihlstedt FA 0.2 WAR, SP Leland Rogers FA 1.2 WAR, RP Gilberto Cordero FA 1.4 WAR, 5 players totaling 2.7 WAR

2062 Prediction 74-88

PROJECTED RECORDS: ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
Charm City	105	57	-
Atlantic City	93	69	12
Jacksonville	91	71	14
Montreal	89	73	16
Cape Fear	84	78	21
Brooklyn	80	82	25
Charlotte	79	83	27
New Orleans	74	88	32

The Frontier Division

2062

In 1970, Jim Bouton published “Ball Four”. An inside look at the not so role model enhancing behavior players got up to on and off the field. That spring, Bouton was pitching in a spring training game against the Cincinnati Reds. As Bouton was warming up to throw the first pitch, Pete Rose stepped to the top of the dugout steps and yelled, “Fuck you Shakespeare!” Sometimes I feel like that is the reaction these division previews deserve. They are rarely correct and in my case I keep predicting the Shredders are going to do better than they actually will. But, if you don’t like it, write your own. Heavens knows we need the content and they are always amusing to read. It’s not as if we reveal personal secrets of the players or GMs, unless it is to spill the shocking secret that Ron makes up all of his date by pounding his head on the calculator or that Phoenix is still a shitty place (One is a lie and the other is Phoenix).

Okay, now that I have that off of my chest, lets look at last years Frontier Division. Let’s see. Yep, not many post season teams. Of the ten teams that make the post season each year, only two came from the Frontier Division. Las Vegas had a bye but lost in the Doubleday Round and Mexico City lost in the opening Geoghan Round.

It’s hard to point to a real culprit. Las Vegas may have had the best team on paper with lowest staff ERA, the third highest average and second most home runs. I think last year, Las Vegas had the best shot at winning it all of any team in the last few years to come out of the Frontier Division. They just hit a Montreal Blazers team who got hot and the baseball gods smiled on them. The bastards.

A few teams managed to exceed expectations; Mexico City, who many had left for dead including myself, beat expectation by seven games and made the playoffs. Pretty good work by newcomer Brandon Tucker. Las Vegas actually

came a win shy of the 102 wins they were expected to have and yet still had a great season. Boise did manage to beat expectations, but still finished six games under. All in all, this became a rebuilding year for many teams.

Have those efforts borne fruit in 2062? As most of us can't find our butts with both hands and a flashlight, I doubt it. But, it's fun to dream.



Austin Shredders

For all the bells and whistles the Shredders may possess, the #2 farm system. Young talented outfielders making the minimum, an owner with Tom Cruise-like good looks and Paul Newman-like charm. This team is still a three-legged table. The hitters are there. The team was fairly competent with the bat and the rookies more than held their own. But as usual

this team had among the worst pitching staffs in the league. Austin has yet been able to address a lack of quality in the rotation and the pen. Glenn Hargrove and Mus'ad Amr continue to be among the most frustrating pitchers in the league and have not shown much improvement despite pretty solid ratings. Pitching wins championships, Austin doesn't have it and until they develop some of their own, they will dwell near the bottom of the cellar. A perennial never-was.

It wasn't all doom and gloom. Those shiny objects I mentioned make up the core of a dangerous lineup. Led by Brent Gilbert who keeps hitting better every year. Gilbert set career highs in hits (he led the league), average, homers, doubles and RBI. He was also the lone All-Star for Austin this past season. He is a dangerous hitter, still only 29 and also set a career high in games played, missing only two starts. He is etched into the 3-spot for now and just beginning a five-year contract worth just north of 65 million. Let's look at the rest of these losers.

Catcher: Enrique Mendoza got the bulk of the starts last year and managed to at least stop the ball with his chest protector. He had no interest in re-signing with Austin (I can hardly blame him) and moved on to Hawaii, where he will back up a catcher who can hit and catch better than he can. Instead, Austin will give up on this lineup spot and insert Haydar Syeda, the Mad Popes long time

2061 Record: 70-92, Tie 7th Place, 31 GB.

2062 OOTP Projected Record: 63-99, 8th Place

Attendance: 2,222,082

Payroll: \$64,474,583

Farm System Rank: 2nd

Additions:

A bunch of Minor League FA with no business playing in the BBA

Losses:

C Enrique Mendoza via Free Agency

RP Fernando Villareal via Free Agency

backup. If he hits above the Mendoza line, Austin will be happy. He does carry a good glove and calls a good game.

Infield: Not surprisingly, Socrates Kazantziakis stuck with the Shredders and the 12-million-dollar option he had and will be back at the hot corner underwhelming pretty much everybody but his financial advisor. He does still have a good glove and adequate range at the hot corner. At short, who knows. It looks as if Jack Wessman will get the Opening Day nod over Arturo Lopez. Wessman is untested in the big leagues but has outstanding range and might be able to hold his own at the plate. Second base will belong to last year's 7th round pick Felix Cabral. Cabral was a revelation from the jump last year batting over .320 at four levels, including the BBA. His range and glove are suspect, but his bat may keep him in the lineup and nobody else is much better defensively. Ray Hoskins will man 1B for the third straight year with occasional spells at 3B. Hoskins is a satisfactory hitter with a good glove, but time may be catching up to him and Stephen Colouris and Rida bin Kasseb are nipping at his heels.

Outfield: This is where the future lies. Last season, Luis Rubio, Bert Densmore and Takanobu Kamatsu formed a solid core of young, talented outfielders. Both Komatsu and Densmore hit over .300 with good power and Rubio continued to develop in his sophomore season with excellent patience at the plate and solid defense, winning the Gold Glove in Left Field. However, one of them, likely Densmore, will lose their starting job this year to phenom Jose Herrera who should begin the year in the BBA. Herrera has excellent power to all fields and is an excellent hitter. While no gold glover, he can hold his own in RF and that is where I expect to see him.

Rotation: The thorn in the Shredders side. The talentless, luckless, feckless and dickless rotation of the Austin Club. The team had the third worst ERA last year and there is no savior on the horizon. The Preseason prediction is for them to post an ERA of 5.93 earned runs next season and that may be a kind estimate. GM Chuck Valenches has all but given up hope that the ulcer inducing duo of Musad' Amr and Glenn Hargrove will do anything but post lofty five plus ERAs and get the brakes beat off of them three of every five starts. Wilson Lopez and Jorge Marin will fill out the rotation and the #5 spot will be reserved for Pablo Guerrero when and if he develops.

Bullpen: A sad collection of cast-offs who might get a decent outing now and again and there is hope that Nelson Middlebrooks develops into a nice piece, but

for the most part they are a collection of waiver claims with low salaries and the expectations are in line with that.

Possible Call-Up?: SP, Pablo Guerrero still has a lot of development left. He throws six pitches, none of them particularly well, but has good movement and control.

Projected record: 62-100 This team is in full rebuild mode and likely willing to shed top pieces for future talent. The farm system may look better by the end of the year at the cost of a depleted major league club.



Boise Spuds

Boise played better than expected by finishing above .500 last season when they were expected to finish below that mark. That is a testament to some shrewd moves by GM Ben Teague. He added a couple of relievers, with one panning out, and made a deal for Bill Kuhn that right now he seems to have won handily. Kuhn became the best player on the Spuds in his first season and is still only 23. I'm not sure they will improve and very well may regress, but don't completely count them out.

Catcher: The clock finally ran out on Sergei Bobrovsky at the ripe old age of 35. The bulk of the starts went to Tadanobu Otani and I guess he held his own. The pitching staff did not reach the heights of 2060, but that can't be laid at the feet of Otani. There is another similar catcher in Roberto Martinez, but Otani should get the bulk of the starts and is more than serviceable.

Infield: This is where the Boise Spuds made their biggest improvement, securing 23-year-old Bill Kuhn in a trade for reliever Harry King. I still don't get that trade. Kuhn proceeded to hit .301 with a .420 OBP, which led the league, and banged 40 HR. He is the new franchise player for the Spuds with the departure of Lou Bayou. This a pretty good defensive team up the middle with Dan Raymond

2061 Record: 82-80, 4th Place, 19 GB. +4 Diff.

2062 Projected Record: 76-86,

Attendance: 2,448,608

Payroll: \$104,900,000

Farm System Rank: 19th

Additions:

RP Abban Layar via Free Agency

RP Gerald Rogers via Free Agency

Losses:

None

making up for his complete lack of hitting ability, and possibly a platoon of Fernando Segura and either Ryan Geauxinue and Damodaragoun Neela, depending on which one of those two senior citizens is not in for a prostate exam. First base will be a mish mash of decent players holding the spot until William Coleman develops.

Outfield: It's hard to justify trading away CF, Lou Bayou. He was arguably the best CF in the league and has a lifetime .321 average. However, Boise pulled off a haul by trading Bayou and SP Mario Reyes in exchange for Sacramento prospect, past present and future. Actually it just seems that way. But they did get quite the haul. Boise netted ten players in all and all but one can be considered marginal to promising prospects. The key for Boise was Tsutomu Yamauchi, a left fielder with power and skills in the corner OF spots. He hit .312 in his short time with Boise after the trade and will be a star. Of course, he is a lazy dumbass so he may fall off a cliff, but not for a few more years. The ageless Martin Hemming will continue to play RF and CF will likely be patrolled by Bob Hills.

Rotation: Boise's downfall looks like it will be the same thing that was their biggest strength just two years ago. The rotation suffered last year and gave up an extra half run per game and their #1 starter, Robert Hanson injured his shoulder early on in 2061. An injury that proved career ending after setbacks in December. Mahad Einan will be asked to step into the ace role, but at 35 he may be a torn ligament away from retirement himself. The rest of the rotation are serviceable and could put together decent years. Felipe Ledesma looks like a keeper, but he is not ready for the big leagues yet.

Bullpen: Ben made a good acquisition last year signing Brian Groves. He supplied plenty of valuable innings out of the pen and maintained a sub 3.00 ERA, which is all you can ask. Abban Layar was added as a free agent this offseason and I expect him to continue to excel. Mario Santos will keep closing games, but his attitude is beginning to wear thin, especially for a guy with an ERA north of 4.00 usually just asked to get three guys out.

Possible Call-Up?: I'm not sure if DH, Perry Taylor starts the year in Boise, but I think he will get the first call if there is an opening on the field. He can't actually field, but he can pinch hit and somebody who can actually catch will take the field. Taylor can hit and managed 25 homers between AA, AAA and Boise..

Projection: 79-83. Boise has committed to loading up again and trading Lou Bayou is ultimate proof of that. This year they will closely watch the haul that they secured from Sacramento and will be keeping a closer eye on Salt Lake City than on Boise. Which isn't that bad because Salt Lake City is nicer and its full of 'lapsed' Mormons.



Calgary Pioneers

What happened to Calgary? Two seasons ago they won 100 games and a year later finished 26 games worse. They even hit for a higher average in 2061 than they did in 2060. So what happened? Their pitching staff is what happened. Rock steady starters like Shinsui Hasegawa fell off a cliff (or returned back to Earth depending on how you want to look at it. Hasegawa went 19-8 with a 3.83 in '60 and 12-17 in '61 with a 4.79 ERA. To be fair, Hasegawa's 19-win season followed a 12-14 season and 5.02 ERA

in 2059, so maybe he did just come back to the ground. Other pitchers hit the skids last season as well resulting in a staff ERA of 5.09. Combine that with the staff's propensity for home runs last year (69 more home runs allowed) and you have the relative disaster that were the Pioneers last season. Will they rebound this year? Not very likely. This offseason Calgary has picked up 3.5 points of WAR while losing 10.5 WAR via trade, most of that coming by way of dealing star catcher Sam Butler to the Cape Fear Crocs (formerly the Rockville Pikemen. I'm not sure if I like the Cape Fear Crocs name, but at least I know where it is, unlike Rockville). While he is a long way from the big leagues, GM Kevin Dickson did possibly get a total stud in return with Alejandro Giovanelli still just 18 years old.

Let's take a look and see what this city of Happy Canucks will be doing this year when they are not out spearing a sturgeon or whatever it is Calgary natives do.

Catcher: So, Sam Butler is off to the swampy confines of Cape Fear (I've made up my mind. I hate the name). So, who do the Pioneers turn to? Well, one component of that trade was catcher Celik Lufi. For a catcher he is not a bad hitter, slugging 19 homers last year with a .240 average in his first year as an

2061 Record: 74-88, 5th Place, 27 GB. -1 Diff.

2062 Projected Record: 73-89,

Attendance: 3,247,827

Payroll: \$109,553,869

Farm System Rank: 24th

Additions:

C Celik Lufi via Trade (CPF)

SP Edmund via Thomas (FA Signing)

Losses:

C Sam Butler via Trade (CPF)

2B Bill Irvine via Trade (SFB)

RF Mario Kurth via Release

RF Zhi Li via Trade (VAN)

RP Jian-cheng Shi via Free Agency

everyday catcher. He does have a good glove and calls a very good game and his arm is better than Butler's, but that was not a high bar. My guess is Pedro Flores gets the backup job as he has the best arm of any backstop on the roster.

Infield: Calgary has a very strong infield and has had this strength for a number of years. With slugger Ollie Long playing solid defense and knocking the cover off the ball at 3B. Cracks may be beginning to show as stalwart 1B Carlomaria Donadoni is now 41 and slowing down. First base may be handled by Jeff Sawyers this season. He is no great shakes defensively, but did hit well in limited action. First base also could be a rotating bevy of excellent field medium bats on the roster. Second base is a toss up between Jose German, currently on the IL until early April, and Bulent Kazaz. Both have great range, but I think Kazaz will bring more to the plate. Still cant tell if defensive whiz Jose Cervantes will get more starts at short or Kurt Oakes. My money is on Oakes. He is almost fully developed provides excellent defense and is a better hitter than Cervantes.

Outfield: Resurrection Santos, the last man standing in the outfield still provides excellent defense and can be counted on to hit .300. But, while still lofty, his numbers are fading just a bit. He is still a star player and will likely head to another All Star game this year, but he hit fewer than 20 home runs for the first time in four seasons. Tryouts are being held for the other two outfield slots with speedster Justin Vaive in center and likely Jose Farias in right. There won't be much power coming out of this outfield, but there also will not be many flyballs in the gap that get by them. This is an excellent defensive outfield and all three can get on base.

Rotation: We talked about Hasegawa already. He could continue a downward spiral or he could put up 2060-like numbers and return to ace form. Edmond Thomas was a good signing and lends some more stability to the top of the rotation. While he only spent half the season in the rotation at San Fernando last season, he has three solid pitches and did post a 3.29 ERA, better than any Calgary starter did last year. Cristian Herrera is a player to watch. He may snag a spot in the starting-5 or he could get a few more starts in AAA. Herrera came over in the Sam Butler trade and let's face it, he has dominated at every level. I think he's got a good chance to make the rotation out of spring training. Nalany Ahotaein and one other will fill out the rotation with Ahotaein coming off a solid season. While the rotation imploded last year, Kevin has found some pretty good band-aids.

Bullpen: While this team really lacks a true closer and this year may be closer by committee, the pen will hold its own. Or it won't. A lot of these guys had horseshit years last year and the best talent may be too young to really match up with big league hitting. Rule 54 pick Frazer Iddon probably has the best stuff and pitches, but it is not yet developed. I expect with four such ++ pitches I think

Kevin will either try to build him up as a starter or eventually convert him to full time reliever.

Calgary may not have the wall bangers they have had in the past, but they will still smack more homers than they should in the dry windy air of Calgary. The rotation will likely be better with some of the new arms. The pen is still a year or two away and there are some halfway decent prospects on the way. Unfortunately, most of them are only 18 years old.

Possible Call-Up?: There are a few fragile frames in the clubhouse, especially in the outfield, which leads me to believe OF Terry Davis gets the call when somebody winds up on the trainer's table.

Projection: 77-85. This pitching staff, the boogeyman last year is better and that will help. They won't be in the playoffs, but there is hope for the future.



Las Vegas Hustlers

Despite their loss to Montreal in the Doubleday Series, this was a good year for the Hustlers. They had a top three offensive team, arguably the best pitching staff in the Johnson League. This year they bring most of those pieces back and add a little defense as well. Sucks to be you Frontier Division! May as well book your end of season spa days now while the prices are still good.

The Hustlers pretty much ran away with the division from start to finish and did a lot of it with excellent pitching. Jim Fleming led a staff that was a model of consistency. 1-4 all had between 12 and 16 Wins. All had ERAs between 3.75 and 4.15 and they all carried WHIPS between 1.24 and 1.27. I didn't think a team this good could be this dull. They all have positive characteristics and probably help little old ladies across the street and call their mothers often. The only one with a negative trait is that degenerate Bret Harrell who has low leadership skills. No

2061 Record: 101-61, 1st Place, - GB., -1 Diff
 2062 Projected Record: 94-68,
 Attendance: 3,624,355
 Payroll: \$92,534,257
 Farm System Rank: 26th

Key Additions:

RP Ross Brown via Free Agency

Key Losses:

C Justin Bonfield via Free Agency

RP Todd Stone via Free Agency

RP Adrian Fox via Free Agency

worries. These puritanical goody-goodys will surely burn him at the stake. But only if they can recycle the matches.

Unfortunately for hell-raisers everywhere, the Altar Boys of Las Vegas will probably win the division again, probably while blushing because Cindy Lou bared her ankles. Fine! Fine! Let's see how these namby-pambys will win the division this year. Grab your milk and cookies and let's get this over with.

Catcher: Claudio Morgan rebounded from a rare off-year to bat .324 for the Hustlers, the third time in his career he has done that. Though he has never put together back-to-back .300 seasons in six years so we might see a slight drop. He is still just 29, actually has room to improve and has a hose behind the plate. There are better pitch callers in the league, Morgan does just fine with this staff and after all, they did lead the league in ERA. Morgan's backup is yet to be decided and this may be a case of Matt Rectenwald waiting for the end of spring training to see who he can pick up on waivers.

Infield: The defense is flat out scary. Good range, good gloves and good arms all around. This defense helped the pitchers excel last year and unless the staff develops a sudden allergic reaction to ground balls, they will do so again. 1B Luigi Canavan led the team with 37 home runs with a .293 average and a hefty .890 OPS. He also played in 159 of 162 games and he is only 25. You can engrave his name on the lineup card. The Hustlers have an outstanding double play combo in 2B, Randy Wright and SS Jorge Madrid. Madrid should be watched this year. Not only is he an excellent SS, he is coming into his own with the bat and should not be a liability at the plate like he was last year. If Las Vegas sticks with a solid glove and arm at 3B, Armando Diaz may make his debut at 3B, but I think the bulk of the starts will go back to Eduard Faktorovich., but he will be on the hot seat.

Outfield: While not as strong as the infield, the Vegas outfield is nothing to shake your finger at. From left to right you should see Angel Trejo, Roberto Hampton and Tankut Saltik. None are over 28, all can play excellent defense and Saltik can rake at the plate, hitting 29 homers last year with 101 RBI. If Hampton can reach his potential drawing walks, he will vault to among the elite leadoff men right away.

Rotation: Same rotation as last year. Dull, boring, lackluster, vanilla rotation that just keeps getting hitters out. Maybe they talk to opposing batters in the box and tell them about recycling ideas for the home. They are all fine people with good traits, solid pitches and excellent results. They will do the same thing this year. Especially with an arguably better defense than last year behind them.

Bullpen: This is about the only part of the team that may have a question mark. They have a good track record and the only real free agent addition, Ross Brown, has had a solid career. BUT. But, their closer is 36 and so is Ross Brown. A

few other arms might not make it out of spring training do the poor seasons they had last year. But, lets face it. They have enough good arms here to hold it together. If closer Alejandro Chavez and Ross Brown both falter, they may have some problems holding leads.

Possible Call-Up? 2B Armando Diaz had a solid season in AA last year but could use a few more at bats. He will likely start the year at AA and may be the first called up if any of the 3B falter.

Projection: This team may be slightly better than last year and I think they are facing a weaker division. 104-58 is my guess. If they come up short, it's on Matt.



Mexico City Aztecs

In his first season steering the Mexico City Aztecs, Brandon acquitted himself well. Getting his team to the playoffs, defying expectations of a sub-.500 season and generally keeping an aging group of geezers from falling apart. This year? Well, OOTP seems to think Brandon will have to stock up on Ensure and Ban-Gay.

While the lineup may be younger, the rotation is closer to suspect rather than prospect status. All of the starters are over 30 with ace Dave Corfield now 37 years old. Corfield seems ageless, but Father Time is undefeated.

What will happen to the Aztecs this year? Brandon will likely clasp his hands in prayer and hope the pitching doesn't develop rickets or liver spots and also hope that the young up and comers (and there are a few of them) prove worthy of their major league uniform.

Catcher: The rumor is that Abid Kakakhel is so dumb (*"how dumb is he?"*) that he couldn't tell his left from right so to cover his bases he became a switch hitter. I guess its worked for him because this will be his sixth straight year as the

2061 Record: 87-75, 2nd Place, 14 GB. +7 Diff.

2062 Projected Record: 72-90

Attendance: 2,916,712

Payroll: \$116,490,164

Farm System Rank: 13th

Key Additions:

SP Felix Camarco via Free Agency

Key Losses:

SP Juan Cruz via Free Agency

C Ernesto Gray via Rule 5 Draft (SAC)

starter behind the plate for the Aztecs. KakaKhel had a subpar season last year but is still only 26. He is excellent behind the plate and awhile he isn't the most dangerous hitter, don't be surprised if he climbs back up to near or above .300. Ross DeVille is a better hitter at just 20 years old but hopeless with the glove. He will get the occasional start and maybe some DH duty as well.

Infield: The Aztecs took a big gamble last year, handing Wafid Bishr a 4 year 79.5-million-dollar contract at the age of 33. The risk paid off. While they may regret it in a year or two, Bashir was as good as advertised in 2061 hitting .310 with 27 home runs and 107 RBI. At second base, Zero Dimotsios will get another go. He has a solid glove, good range and he wont hit less than .200, though not much above it either. At 3B Zhi-Fu Huang will remain with his balky right knee. He needs to be replaced as he is 35 and fading. If the team gets off to a slow start, don't be surprised to see him on the bench. He can field, and he could run. If he could hit he's be the total package. But...he can't. He looks like he stepped on a rake with every swing he takes and it shows in his numbers. He is still only 23 and has room to grow, but...he won't. Slick fielder, lousy bat. That is what he is and Mexico City can't afford another absent bat in the lineup.

Outfield: This part of the roster is due to change as the Aztecs only have four outfielders in Spring training and only three of them are really ready for the majors. RF Cjarlie Barfield is set and should hold down that position for many years to come after belting .300/32/99. He also has a cannon for an arm. Julio Martinez can cover a ton of territory in center and that is what he will be there for because his bat lacks power or really any oomph at all. Tian-Yun Yeh will be a stud left fielder. Probably in three years. I'd like to see him develop at AAA and not have his MLB service time clock running on half empty. He will hit. Hit for power and be a big contributor. Again, in a year or two.

Rotation: *"I ain't as good as I once was, but I'm as good once as I ever was"* And that's the cold hard truth. The staff is creaky. Some may need dentures. Some may need to replace a colostomy bag. Even at 37, Dave Corfield still has a few good starts in him and Ji-e Wood and Johnny Nicholson will hold their own. But this is a lower half of the division rotation now. Tom Brothers and Manny Ortega in AAA might offer some help in the future, especially Ortega in the short-term, but this rotation will hurt more than it helps this season.

Bullpen: Sergio Tormes may actually be immortal. Even at 35 he pitched in 64 games and saved 39 games, leading the way. He's having a rough spring but I think he still has another season left. If not, the Aztecs are well and truly screwed, A few rookies might get a shot such as Octavio Gallardo, but this will be an average bullpen at best unless Tormed returns to form.

Possible Call-Ups: My money is on Jonathan Sobers. He is still only 21 and his first two cups of coffee he spit up all over himself, but he has the talent and

the arm to succeed. One of these elderly seniors will slip a disc and Sobers will be the first call.

Projection: While OOTP is projecting a complete collapse this season I don't think they will fall that far. But they will fall. 77-85.



Phoenix Talons

While I like to make fun of Phoenix as a soulless desert of strip malls, Blimpies and nail salons for Snow Birds who think being able to grill an egg on the sidewalk is haute cuisine because it IS a soulless desert of strip malls, Blimpies and nail salons for Snow Birds who think being able to grill an egg on the sidewalk is haute cuisine, I have to admit Phoenix had a pretty good offseason and a move that garnered little attention last year is about to pay off big for him. Last year the Talons took advantage of the Sydney Sharks of the GBC's inability to sign their second-round pick, CL

Ernesto Juarez. Juarez is an almost fully developed elite talent who could anchor the pen for the next decade. It was a shrewd move by Sean Marko, the GM and along with a few other possible, but risky signings, Phoenix could break .500 and, if the chips fall right, maybe even secure a wild card. So, lets see if Phoenix has indoor plumbing yet and take a look at this roster.

Catcher The Frontier division is pretty loaded with top tier catchers who know how to handle a pitching staff. Tony Lopez is not among them, but he is good enough to start most every day and does bring a better bat than some of the other

2061 Record: 73-89, 6th Place, 28 GB. -1 Diff.

2062 Projected Record: 82-80

Attendance: 2,470,643

Payroll: \$92,829,009

Farm System Rank: 11th

Key Additions:

RF Eric Wagner via Free Agency

2B Rich Dares via Free Agency

DH Jim Fennell via Free Agency

SP Fillipio Ioriatti via Free Agency

SP, Richard Balgera via Free Agency

Key Losses:

3B Kenny Blackwell via Free Agency

SS Yazeed bin Saleem via Free Agency

LF Winston Carreon via Free Agency

CF Aaron Haney via Retirement

SP Billy Kelly via Free Agency

starters in the league. I think he will also be working with a more talented pitching staff, which should help.

Infield: Since his debut in 2060, 3B Mas'ud bin Salah al Din has been as good as advertised. Last year he put it all together, batting .315 with 41 HR, competing for the MVP award and securing the Joe Gilstrom Rookie Award. While his long-term health is questionable with almost yearly back injuries, he will terrorize opposing pitching for as long as he can get to the plate. At SS you have one of those risky signings. Rich Dare missed time in 2061 with 12 different injuries of various sorts which caused him to miss just over 15 weeks. I'm not sure signing a 33-year-old with one foot in the grave, not to mention both elbows, his back, right knee, left knee and others to a 4 year deal worth 37.2 million is a wise move. Manuel Ortega will get the most at bats at 2B, though he is also a frequent flyer on the ambulance, and Taisuke Kamimura will play solid, if unspectacularly at 1B.

Outfield: One of the few questions remaining in regards to Adrian Tallent is whether to bat him leadoff or third in the order. The guy is a stud and still only 22. He hit .307 last year and stole 36 bases and could bat leadoff when Rich Dares isn't on the IL. Actually, I would love to see Dares bat second and see the Talons pull off a few hit and runs as They can both hit, but Dares almost always makes contact. Thomas Blanchard is another young player getting his first taste as a strter in the big leagues and he should be a nice piece in the 5-hole and will also throw out a lot of first to third baserunners with that cannon attached to his shoulder. Juan Cabrera will fill the bottom of the order and play solid CF which is all that is being asked of him.

Starters: While not having a true ace, the Talons do have a pitcher with a history as an ace in the GBC with Richard Balgera. He may not get the Opening Day nod, that may go to Arthur Dunn, Balgera may prove to be a good investment. The rest of the rotation could be a bit above or below the mean this season. I don't see any breakout pitchers except Ernesto Juarez as the closer. A couple of these guys have injury issues so they better hope they can pick up somebody on waivers or somebody at AAA grows a pair.

Relievers: This part of the club was pretty hopeless. Huang Cheng was the closest thing to a closer and even he only had 13 saves and he took those save with him to Nashville. Luckily, really not luck, Sean was prepared, Ernesto Juarez is here. The 24-year-old signed in 2060 will anchor the pen. Actually, pair him

with solid middle reliever Noori bin Mu'awiyah and they could pretty much shut down the 7th 8th and 9th innings. The rest of the pen will have some rookies making their debut and some others who need to be covered in flame retardant.

Possible Call-Up? Keep an eye on Trenton Riddell. The RF is ready for a shot and could even claim a starting spot in the OF at some point. He will be on Sean Marko's speed dial.

Projection: OOTP has four teams at 82-80, including this one. I think the Talons will be a couple of games better at 84-78.



Rocky Mountain Oysters

The Rocky Mountain Oysters have gone about a decade without ever having fallen under .500, but that time may be drawing near and GM Brandon Slouck appears to know it. Shortly into the offseason the Oysters dealt top player, 3B, Mohammed bin Mus'Ad and solid starter Jamie Barber for a wagon load of younger players, some are prospects. Some are suspects. I theorize that he wanted some cheap young talent and he got some. However, this came at a dreadful cost to the major league club. The farm system is only ranked 29th so there is not a ton of talent down

2061 Record: 83-79, 3rd Place, 18 GB. -4 Diff.

2062 Projected Record: 83-79

Attendance: 3,084,717

Payroll: \$101,432,825

Farm System Rank: 29th

Key Additions:

CF Jameel bin Ala' via Rule 5 Draft (TWC)

Key Losses:

1B Burhan Tair via Free Agency

CL Josh Dougherty via Free Agency

SP Jamie Barber via Trade (SAC)

3B Mohammed bin Mus'ad via Trade (SAC)

C Michael Smith via Free Agency

SP Brandon Nevins via Free Agency

C Tynan Potter via Free Agency

there though I suspect that at least one of the bevy of young players in Rokie Ball Anchorage will eventually break out. My money is on Juan Carmona.

The Oysters still have some pieces and some of their p[itchers are still in their prime. I can't tell yet if Brandon will attempt to get maximum return for them down the stretch or use them to try and keep the team in contention. In a division where Las Vegas is perennially flirting with 100 wins, that dream gets further and further away. Here is a best guess for their roster this season.

Catcher: I never thought I would see a team miss a guy name Sloth, but the Oysters do. Jack Cashman is a solid, if not elite backstop and he will get most of the starts. He's not the worst hitter, but you wouldn't want to bet the farm on him having a productive season at the plate. Ed Henderson has been getting some time behind the plate this spring and while he has a better bat his best defensive skill is waiting until the ball stops rolling and then picking it up, Even at 21, he may stick with the big league team and see a little time behind the plate and maybe a few games at DH.

Infield: The infield starts and stops with Malik bin Mazin and why shouldn't it?. He belted .345 last year with 44 home runs and 126 RBI and posted a staggering 1.069 OPS. The eight-time All-Star doesn't appear to be slowing down even at 34 and he very well could bring home another Silver Slugger award. Oh and he also plays a solid 3B and an even better 1B. Lucio Guevara should return at SS. It was disconcerting to see Guevara drop from 25 HR in 2060 to 9 in 2061. He will have to be watched. But unless he has leprosy or something even more contagious, he is your starting SS. Sergio Castro got the bulk of the starts in 2061, but he may be getting kicked to the bench with the arrival of Agatone Louganis (Good Irish name!). A nice return from the big trade with Sactown. He can play every position except CF and C, and plays most of them competently. He can hit a little bit too and unlike Castro, he is not afraid to draw a walk. First base is a mystery with a bevy of middling prospects vying for the spot. My money is on Jorge Gomez.

Outfield: The Oysters outfield is pretty solid with star in the making. Max Shepperson is a power hitting monster who belted 57 homers just two years ago. While Shepperson won't win any batting titles, he could win a few more HR titles and has an excellent eye at the plate. There are four starters for three spots here, a good problem to have. Fareeq bin Su'ud will hold down RF and at just 25 could still improve. Fareeq bin Su'ud will man left field. He is a plus hitter and

defender and is just 25 so he will be fine, and then in CF you have Luis Morales who is not not helpless at the plate, but damn near.

Rotation: If the Oysters finish above .500 yet again, it will be in large part to the rotation. They could just as easily implode. Steven Flannery will be the #1 starter, but at 35 years of age he is really the best of a bevy of #3 starters, talent-wise. Denny Tabb and Ken Steele had monster seasons last year with ERAs below 4.00 and at least 15 wins each and should be a solid middle of the rotation for a few more years. Slobodan Omeragic and Aaron Stevens round out the rotation. They pitched well enough last year that they should not have to move back and forth from the pen, especially Omeragic.

Bullpen: Maybe its Pitching Coach Alejandro Hernandez or maybe it's the enormous amount of shrooms available in the granola capital of the world, but this bullpen plays out over their skis and have yet to come down. This may be the best pen in the division, led by closer Sergej Gijssberts. He nailed down 36 saves in 42 opportunities and will likely get the nod again this year. Other talented relievers will help Rocky Mountain own the 7th, 8th and 9th innings with pitchers like Joe Shaw, Aelberhrt Schlondorff and Ichizo Taguchi to help.

Possible Call-Up: RF Shane Holmes was another prospect picked up from Sacramento and he is close to being ready. He brings a powerful bat and a good eye to the lineup, mostly to make up for his paltry average. He is also an excellent 3B if needed as well. I think he still needs some AB in AAA, but he should see an Oysters uni soon.

Projection: 81-81. I think some of the pieces overperformed last year, especially in the rotation. I think they sink to .500.



San Antonio Outlaws

For three straight years San Antonio has had high hopes, or at least higher hopes than the previous season, and for three straight years they have disappointed. Maybe this year will be different. I mean OOTP is only expecting them to improve by 13 games this year. That's all. They have some good minor leaguers coming up, especially phenom George Stickler. Tim Meseck has been steadily building up his team and those efforts are baring some fruit.

A couple of high risk high reward FA signings could send him over the top or blow up in his face. Since I am a bitter old man with a consistently losing team myself, I am hoping it blows up real good!

The Outlaws may not improve by 13 games, but they will improve, by how much is anybody's guess. Who knows. Their entire season may rest on the rickety knees of Hector Cano Jr. The prospects do look good, though San Antonio will definitely need to win soon to have any hope of keeping them and they will not be cheap. If everything goes to plan, however, some of these prospects who are now down in A Ball and below will need to develop. I've harped on this before, but the Outlaws really need to hire better minor league managers and coaches. This team does a good job drafting. You need to do everything you can to put them in a position to succeed.

Let's take a look at this

Catcher: Bradford McBearett is a perfectly average hitting catcher with superior defensive skills all around. Calls a good game, excellent arm, good glove. He will steal his pitchers a few strike calls with his framing ability. Sonny Wadden is not far behind McBearett defensively, possessing just an average arm

2061 Record: 70-92, 7th (T) Place, 31 GB. - 6 Diff.

2062 Projected Record: 86-76

Attendance: 1,794,560

Payroll: \$64,495,385

Farm System Rank: 7th

Key Additions:

SP Greg Shaw via Free Agency

SS Yazeed bin Saleem via Free Agency

RP Adrian Fox via Free Agency

2B Lou Tinter via Free Agency

Key Losses:

1B Patrick Stolz via Free Agency

RP Chung Chan via Free Agency

RP Felix Camarco via Free Agency

3B Jack Acheson via Free Agency

compared to McBearett's cannon, but he can spell the starter a few times a year and it will not be that much of a drop-off. A solid catching corp.

Infield: Michael Schultz can hit the ball over the wall quite often, but that is about it. He is a liability in the infield, hits around .240 each year and has a bunch of ground balls that skip past him to the frustration of his pitchers. Lou Tinter will ply his wares at 2B in what could likely be his last productive season at age 36. But he is an Iron Man so maybe he keeps producing till he is 39, when this three year, 25 million dollar contract ends. Mayim bin Tayyib will hope to perform to last year's level when he belted 37 homers and held his own at 3B. First base will likely go to Yazeed bin Saleem, who signed a one year 1.5 mil deal this offseason. He's really more of a super sub or utility player and he can also steal some bases. Julius Lewis makes a lot of contact, but the ball rarely gets past the mound and he is not here to hit anyways. He is a defensive whiz on an Ozzie Smith level.

Outfield: The arrival of George Stickler is possibly nigh. He still has some development to go, and there is no rush to start his ML service clock, but he is ready to mash. The 12th pick in the 2059 draft, Stickler can hit for average, has power to all fields, draws the occasional walk and can play a solid RF. San Antonio fans have been waiting two years for Stickler to get here, even if they just want to yell "I boned your mom Stiffler!" from the seats. Hector Cano and his aching back could surprise some people. Cano used to be good for 150 plus games a year when he was mashing for Des Moines/El Paso, but since 2056 he has not played more than 120 games in a season and is wrecked. He still has power and outstanding defensive skills in center field. It's just a question of how often he can tackle field. Chester Lawrence will likely move across the diamond to left field and he will be fine there. He doesn't have top skills anywhere but he does have a good eye at the plate and can get on base with ease.

Rotation: Nobody on the pitching staff in 2061 performed well. I think this may be why San Antonio tends to underperform the preseason predictions. Pitchers like George White have the talent and the skill. They just haven't been able to put it all together. It didn't help White that he missed four weeks on the IL last season. Because of the skill, the expectations will be there again, the Outlaws just hope White can meet them. Another underperforming starter was Cesar Franco who saw his ERA jump from 3.90 to 4.33 in one season. He did manage to increase his workload, which helps. GM Tim Meseck signed 37 year old and two time Steve Nebraska winner to a two-year 20.5 million dollar contract in hopes he would be able to reclaim some of the old magic...He won't. He's 37 for Christ's sake and he's going to need a helicopter to get back up the cliff he fell off of two seasons ago. Greg Shaw and Jorge Casillas will fill out the rotation and hold their own.

Bullpen: This bullpen is a surprising strength of this team. All of these pitchers performed to or above expectations last year with most wearing ERAs below 4.00, except nominal closer Steve McFarland who was tagged for 19 homers in 90.1 innings and also blew half of his 16 save opportunities. Adrian Fox will likely get the spot this season. The rest will mix and match and manager Johnnie Oh may just go with the hot hand.

Possible Call-Ups” As I think George Sticklwer will make the team out of Spring Training, I expect that the best odds of a call-up belong to Husnan Baloch who could fill in at 3B and as a PH/DH when he is not battling Gandalf in the Mines of Moria.

Projection: I would agree with OOTP that the Outlaws could actually go 86-76 and make the playoffs. But, since Tim refuses to move the Austin Rattlers, his AAA team, out of my city, I’m taking two wins away, 84-78. And get off my lawn.

PROJECTED RECORDS: FRONTIER DIVISION

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
LAS VEGAS	104	58	-
SAN ANTONIO	84	78	20
PHOENIX	84	78	20
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	81	81	23
BOISE	79	83	25
CALGARY	77	85	27
MEXICO CITY	77	85	27
AUSTIN	62	100	42

The Heartland

2062

The Heartland is the greatest division. One need only look at the sole member of the Heartland that made the playoffs last season. They didn't just make the playoffs, they had the best record in the BBA and lost only one game on its way to a repeat championship, its third in five years. The team of course is Nashville, the behemoth of all behemoths who eats semi-behemoths like Sacramento for breakfast. There's no need to look at the rest of the Heartland since Nashville carries the load. That would reveal an ugly truth for Heartland lovers around the globe.

The Heartland used to be able to rely on the dynamic duo of Nashville and Twin Cities. Last season saw a seismic shift with Twin Cities faltering mightily. It was unlikely Omaha who surprised many with a heroic displacement of Twin Cities in its usual second-place spot. But even though Omaha's stretch was successful, its 84 wins and second-place finish weren't good enough to make the playoffs. The shifting balance of power from the Heartland to the Pacific that had been in progress was finally complete. Just one look at the final 2061 standings below show how much work the remaining teams in the Heartland have ahead of them if they want to rebalance the Frick.

LEAGUE STANDINGS HEARTLAND DIVISION

Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
Nashville Bluebirds	110	52	.679	-	889	609
Omaha Cyclones	84	78	.519	26	760	756
Des Moines Kernels	76	86	.469	34	786	735
Twin Cities River Monsters	76	86	.469	34	649	664
Chicago Black Sox	71	91	.438	39	655	715
Madison Wolves	70	92	.432	40	592	758
Louisville Sluggers	69	93	.426	41	721	871
Yellow Springs Nine	59	103	.364	51	701	895



Chicago Black Sox

Chicago has certainly been consistent. It had its fourth season in a row in the middle of the Heartland with another 70+ win campaign. The team has been hemorrhaging fans and money (21M loss in 2061), and was not able to make many material changes. But it does have a solid core with a bright crop of young prospects. Will the small tweaks done by GM Renato Umali simply cause more of the same in Chicago? Fans are hoping there is more of a reason to come back to the park.

Pitching

When you have Adam Hines, Stevie Bodine, and Carlos Moya at the top of your rotation, you can rest easier knowing they will produce. Hines did very well again last season and appears to be justifying his big 6-year/119M contract a couple years ago. Bodine and Moya did not pitch to their potential, so expect both to turn things around this season. If all three bring it, it will make a huge difference in the team's success. Fans hope that the loss of Randolph Marable and his 11 wins to free agency won't hurt too badly. The bullpen is still a weak link, but similar to last season the team has tried to shore it up using Rule 5 and even fishing in the GBC (feel-good story Gary Powers returns to the BBA after spending five years in the GBC with a fat 3.1M one-year contract with Chicago).

Batting

Centerfielder Angelo Lucchesi picked a good time to have his first all-star caliber season at age 34. He parlayed that into a sweet three-year/32.1M free agent deal with Chicago over the offseason, the team's biggest such addition. Will he move the needle at all? Maybe he won't have to on paper. But where he will be invaluable is teaching the young corner outfielder prospects how things work in the BBA. The more certain to make the team of the bunch is Dave Matthes, picked 8th overall in the 2061 draft and the #33 prospect in the BBA. He will

likely start in left. In right, the 4th overall pick in the 2057 draft and #11 BBA prospect Tony Cochran is likely another year away, but it might be tempting for Chicago to speed his ascent. At short, it looks like Angel De La Cruz is the real deal and will only get better. Also look for an explosive sophomore campaign by first baseman Timofei Gadomsky. Overall, this team will score a decent amount of runs.

Outlook

Interestingly, BBA pundits are again rather bullish about this team with a prediction of 86 wins. I just don't see that amount of improvement from the 71 wins of last year. I do think the team will get quality starting pitching and some breakout seasons from young players, leading to a respectable 78 wins.



Des Moines KERNELS

For the 2060 season, GM Jesse Ramirez made some bold moves that helped the team gain wins and make the playoffs. In 2061, the team was more conservative and I questioned whether it would hurt or help, but ultimately thought it was still setup for success. It is true that other teams in the Frick got better at Des Moines' expense, but certain injuries did not help the KERNELS' fortunes. That confluence of events led the team to regress 11 games down to 76 wins. This season, there is similarly a lack of major changes to the team. Some small adjustments while the team looks to bolster its anemic farm system with shrewd IFA pickups and solid finds in the draft. Can we expect the same strategy to produce the same results in 2062?

Pitching

There is no doubt about it. Losing Steven Clayton for most of the season was a big blow to the team. He was only in the second year of his massive 6-year/96M contract when he lost four months with a bum shoulder. His health will dictate much of the team's success this season. Although Greg Shaw was a big reason for Des Moines' playoff entry in 2060, he also had the injury bug and simply wasn't the same pitcher. He was unceremoniously released at the end of the season. But luckily for Kernels' fans, the starting rotation will still have some reliable options, including Garth Dobbs (who recently inked a 6-year/63.7M extension), Tommy Akers, and Arnold Cantrell. Another big extension was given to stud reliever Scott Everard, who returns to the team with a three-year/22.5M extension. Everard is starting to be a question mark health-wise, but if he and the rest of the pitching staff can remain healthy, they should be decent. Not great, but decent enough to help the team flirt with .500.

Batting

This team will be able to score some runs, no doubt about it. It will return an impressive young cast of characters headlined by all-star right-fielder Julio Perez, who broke out in his third season with an impressive .314 BA, 38 HR, and 99 RBI. Fans are hoping left-fielder Kevin Thistle will find his former all-star and Golden Bat form after a somewhat disappointing season. Speaking of Golden Bat, it appears that Golden Bat winner at catcher last season, Masakado Matsunaga, will move permanently to a DH role, where he may improve even more over his 37 HR and 108 RBI. And for those that thought third baseman Felix Parreno was slowing down, he seems to be earning his six-year/61M contract with another all-star season last year.

Outlook

The regression last season was indeed due to injuries, but also due to other events outside of Des Moines' control. They have done a good job maintaining competitiveness in the Heartland, and they have the pieces to potentially challenge for a playoff spot if everything goes their way. I don't think that will happen this season, but I predict they will finish with a respectable 80 wins, better than the 79 wins predicted by BBA pundits.



Louisville Sluggers

The champagne corks popping on the top floor of the team's executive offices could be heard throughout the state of Kentucky. The Sluggers were no longer the worst of the worst! That honor was now being enjoyed by Yellow Springs. Louisville had won 69 games, a huge 17-win improvement over the 52 wins in 2060. And aside from a disastrously stupid trade that almost saw GM Brian Pinnell run out of town, the team seemed to be on plan in its long rebuild. The team in 2062 will literally be the face of the rebuild, with five rookies set to start and three second-year players returning to start. And these young players are going to excite the fans.

Pitching

Wait, there was a disastrously stupid trade? Indeed. GM BP ignored the pleas of his assistant GM and scouts, and traded promising rookie Jim Ploughman to Nashville for some possible future infield depth. Rumors circulated that perhaps Ploughman had done something to disgrace himself, but nothing has yet been verified. Even though the team ERA did improve from 5.55 to 5.04, the team could surely use a young pitcher of Ploughman's caliber. Instead, it will continue to rely upon youngsters Ethan Bricknell and Seiichi Suzuki who came to town via the Amphibian Johnson trade. They will not be the pitchers they were earlier forecasted to be, but the team hopes they will at least be respectable. Roberto Rodriguez and Garrett Skiffington will return after eating valuable innings last season. After getting 12 games last season, it appears rookie Glen Parker has won the #5 spot and might be a nice surprise for the team. The bullpen was not exactly a bright spot for the team in the latter half of 2061, so the Sluggers made some bold changes. Gone via trade was their closer and best reliever Cade Miller, and in are two Rule 5 pickups Juan Alonzo and Jorge Magdalena, and free agent

Jae-Ho Chang. Not a huge improvement, but the pitching should be better overall.

Batting

Finally, the team is out from under Kaim Khay'ri's over-sized contract, which, aside from the 11M final year for Scott Torres, is the last of the pre-rebuild contracts. In its place is a new era. Heralded rookie outfielders Jose Jackson, Ricardo Capeles, and Justin Weatherford will start along with promising second-year players 3B Don Hale and C Dave Armstrong (who will split time with TNT Tatlock's moustache as the veteran catcher tries to play for every team in the league before retirement). Two-time Diamond Glove winner and all-star Gustavo Canales will switch from left to rightfield and first baseman Jose Barrera has the potential for an all-star caliber season. This team will score some runs for sure.

Outlook

This team will bring life back to the Truck Plant. It should at least be a little bit better offensively. But it is a young team that simply doesn't have the pitching to get to the next level. BBA pundits have predicted the team to improve to 73 wins. Surprisingly, I think those pundits may be on to something – I will go one better and predict 74 wins.



Madison Wolves

I will just say upfront that the only bright spot in Madison's season was their impressive over-performance. They were supposed to win only 63 games, yet despite a BBA worst 592 runs scored and higher team ERA than last season's 64-win campaign, they were able to stretch to 70 wins. Otherwise, they would have flirted with the worst record in the BBA. For GM Mike Simon,

those 70 wins cover up a more uglier picture underneath. The team has not made the playoffs since 2049, and doesn't seem to be able to translate their relatively high payroll into success. Indeed, the Wolves just shed more and more fans and money. Is this the year that fortunes start to change for the beleaguered team?

Pitching

Ace Josh Clark will return to anchor the rotation after a stellar all-star season. Imagine going to the all-star game with a 2-9 record! That is what happens when you have no run support. Clark is possibly an injury risk as he gets into his 30's, so the team made a deft move bringing in free agent Mark Moore on a five-year/52.1M deal. Moore was also an all-star last season for Sacramento where he went 16-5. Those two will provide the team with a solid 1-2 punch for the next few years assuming Clark doesn't opt out after this season. Also returning are solid starters Harry Dunbar and Tyler Murray, with Chris Stout perhaps transitioning from the bullpen to be the fifth starter. It is certainly a decent rotation. Last year's free agent acquisition of closer Clint Thomas paid dividends as he racked up an impressive 27 saves. He will return to headline a decent bullpen.

Batting

Team legend Manobu Shimizu is no longer with the team after 21 seasons. On paper it will not matter given Shimizu was already well on the path of decline. But psychologically there will undoubtedly be a segment of the fan base that needs time to mourn. Former first-round pick Dave McClain wasn't quite able to replicate his past two all-star seasons and will likely move to DH given the team's free-agent pickup of first baseman Ricardo Norman. Norman, already a Newcomer of the Year and All-Star in his young career, signed a six-year/64.3M contract. He should be a rock at first for the team and provide much needed leadership. Outfielder Gary Keller, with his solid bat with elite defense and speed, will be another bright spot for the team. Overall, though, the rest of the team is just okay offensively, and will continue to struggle scoring runs.

Outlook

BBA pundits seem to be on to this team now. No more 76-win predictions like last year. This year they think the team will regress slightly to 68 wins. With the addition of Norman and Moore, I do think the team will be slightly better, but it will not translate into more wins. I predict a slide down to 66 wins and the title of worst in the Heartland.



Nashville Bluebirds

Is it fair? Is it legal? Is it luck (as Les Claypool likes to ask)? Does it really matter? We are officially playing in Nashville's league, and GM Chad Nason graciously allows it for the sole purpose of humiliating the rest of us. Nashville lost only one game on its way to a repeat win in the Monty Brewster Memorial Series, sweeping a scrappy Montreal club. It was the team's third championship in five years, and 14th straight playoff appearance. And despite a reduced league salary cap, Nashville is largely the same team as last season, which is great for them but trouble for the rest of the league including the teams that will have the misfortune of facing them in the playoffs.

Pitching

The best rotation in the league will remain the best. Mark Lolololo will return after winning a league-best 18 games. Eric Stevens went 16-4 and again led the league in strikeouts and WHIP and also led the league with 5.6 WAR. And, while most teams would have been disadvantaged having two rookies in their starting rotation, Nashville doesn't have to worry about that. Last year they rolled out two rookies Bin-Ying Yen and Jim Ploughman who showed they not only belong, but also that they would be aces on many other teams, including Louisville (sigh). And let's not forget Mr. Phil Cole, who despite rumors of being shopped around, is still on the roster in the last year of his five-year/62.5M contract. I expect Cole to step it up after an injury-riddled 2061. In the bullpen, David Molina will return

though there is a chance he gets shipped out. Even if he leaves, the bullpen is still strong overall.

Batting

Okay, so this team only scored 889 runs, a far cry from the 2059 team that scored over 1000 runs. But when you give up a league lowest 609 runs, it doesn't matter. Similar to the pitching staff, the Bluebirds can take comfort in every single starter apparently returning for duty this season. Many are surprised to discover that this is a young team with many of these players in their prime or entering their prime. And with one of the best farm systems in the league, they are undoubtedly set up for years of future success, even when the salary cap gets in the way. They will again have one of the best outfielders in the game with Joffer, Tingle, and Gonzales, plus an infield that has Brooks Eliot and former newcomer of the year Francisco Calderon. It also looks like the team has a solid catcher in David Lopez.

Outlook

This is the easiest prediction to make. Nashville is basically the same team that dominated the league. It will do so again. Last season I predicted 112 wins and they ended up with 110. BBA pundits are predicting a drop to 107 wins, but ultimately it doesn't matter. This team will succeed in the playoffs either way. But, just for the fun of it, I predict another 110-win season.



Omaha Cyclones

Kudos to GM Kevin Spencer. He did better than expected in 2060 with 73 wins as the team was mid-rebuild with less payroll. In 2061, he did even better by jumping up to 84 wins and a second-place finish in the Heartland

with an even lower payroll. And he got the team back to profitability. It wasn't good enough to make the playoffs given the balance of power shift to the Pacific, but you can't have everything I guess. This season, Omaha does not appear to be sitting still, being one of the most active players in the offseason free agent market. Was last season just a fluke or will Omaha be poised to finally get back to playoff caliber?

Pitching

Omaha fans will need to face the inevitable – this pitching staff will give up some runs. The starting rotation still has serviceable folks like Sam Landry, Mathis Gerard, and Felipe Mendez. And the team did splurge in the free agent market to bring limping veterans Troy Andrews and Peter Dean into the fold. But overall this rotation is only going to be fine, and only if it stays fully healthy, and that is a big if. In the bullpen, shut-down closer Dave Ferrell is counting his money after signing a three-year/18M contract extension following a fantastic all-star season. The rest of the bullpen is decent, and the team can't afford to have Ferrell get too distracted by the money-counting this season.

Batting

Is it possible that the loss of Sloth will actually produce more sloth on the part of the remaining players? Superman catcher Sloth Fratelli returned to Omaha last year after an all-star worthy season with the Oysters. Unfortunately, his aging body let him down and let down the fans, as he spent a lot of time injured. His contract demands were simply too high for a return to Omaha, or too high for any team since he remains unemployed. But never fear, as 41-year-old Calvin Johnson was signed via free agency to step behind the plate. In keeping with the same theme, the team also signed 43-year-old Juan Rivera to a one-year/10.6M deal. Rivera still has his bat and legs, just don't ask him to field. Left Fielder/DH Jorge Delgado had what fans hope is an off year. The team needs him to get his Newcomer of the Year groove back. Overall, the team will not be that exciting offensively.

Outlook

Despite the multiple free agent signings in the offseason, there appears to be too many headwinds awaiting Omaha this season. It simply does not have the class needed to replicate the 84 wins of last season. BBA pundits are pulling no punches and predicted this team to be the worst in the BBA with 62 wins. I think that is rather harsh, but I do predict a big slide down to 70 wins.



Twin Cities River Monsters

All good things must come to an end, and that is what happened in Minnesota in 2061. GM Alan Ehlers had kept the machine going at Twin Cities with methodical and consistent precision, making the playoffs eight times in nine seasons and winning over 100 games in each of the last two years. But, perhaps the frustration of being in the Heartland with Nashville, and failing again to capture its first division title or BBA title despite its prowess, proved too much, as the team nosedived in 2061 to 76 wins, a 31 win difference from the 107 wins in 2060. Of course, a lot of decline was accelerated by the purposeful unloading of pricier veterans as the team attempts a soft rebuild. Will it stabilize or perhaps even improve?

Pitching

The team definitely felt the loss of Bernie Stuart, Takahashi Nakamura, and Luis Gonzalez. But they were able to maintain respectability on the mound using a combination of the expected and surprise. In 2060, Erik Brooks got his second all-star nod. In 2061, it was Jerry Stone's turn, finally getting the recognition he deserves. Those two are a great top of the rotation and they pitched well. They will do so again. Somewhat of a surprise was the performance of GBC-to-BBA success story Antonio Ramirez and late bloomer Will Ritter (who at age 37 led the league in BABIP). The team will need them to keep the magic going. With veterans David Prigent and Patrick Rosales being among those traded away mid-

season, the bullpen is in flux. But it is still decent with newcomer Andres Gonzales and possible rookie Jorge Duran.

Batting

It is not easy to replace players like Majid bin Husam, Ed Rooney, and Felix Ramos, who were part of the mid-season sell-off. But luckily for Twin Cities, they have some promising young bats. Left-fielder Juan Serna was an all-star and Golden Bat winner in just his second full season. And while 2B/SS Randall Gray didn't repeat his all-star 2060 season, the fan favorite is entering his prime and may be in for his best season yet. Rookie first baseman Mathew Malone performed well and should be even better this year, though he potentially may play more as a DH given the expected call-up of heralded prospect Raul Gallehos. The #6 prospect in the BBA, Gallehos came over from Montreal in the Ed Rooney trade. Look for Gallehos to be a game-changer.

Outlook

A lot has changed in the last year, but Twin Cities is still a solid team across the board. The starting rotation is exemplary and will keep the team respectable. Despite the loss of some big names, the team was able to get some return for the future and scabble together something the fans hope will be greater than the sum of its parts. BBA pundits are rather bullish on the team, predicting 88 wins. I am not quite as optimistic but I do predict a modest improvement to 80 wins.



Yellow Springs Nine

It was a season that neither GM Rob McMonigal nor anyone else fully expected. The reset button hit the season before was not fully pressed in when first hit, but it was sure pressed in all the way the second time. The team only managed a disappointing 59 wins but fans that attended the games (a

healthy 2.6M of them) saw a lot to look forward to in years to come. This will not be a playoff team, but it will be on the rise. How bumpy the ride will be is the million-dollar question.

Pitching

I'll take Sakutaro Kawano for \$1 please. In a trade that sent reverberations throughout the Heartland, Yellow Springs agreed to take on the 14.6M final contract year of one of the best pitchers in the league. He instantly brings class to an already decent rotation, and he will bring fans to the park. Look for Kawano to be in fine form as he looks to position himself well for what might be his last long-term contract. The presence of Kawano will take the pressure off the upcoming debut of former 2nd round pick Dewey Harris. The southpaw Harris is going to be a possible Newcomer of the Year. Also returning are solid youngsters Hannes Schwarzacher and Corey McGuire. The team hopes not to have to start Alfredo Anaya who busted gloriously in his first full season, leading the league in losses (20) and home runs allowed (48). The bullpen will be ho-hum, but it appears the team might be willing to bring up prospect Javier Diaz after a solid season in AA.

Batting

The Yellow Springs village council recently enacted a prohibition on the utterance of Majd bin Nawaf's name anywhere within the village. He and his bad mojo were sent to Jacksonville in a mid-season trade, after which he of course started to somewhat resemble his pre-YS9 self. Perhaps it is the increased humidity. Instead of looking backwards, fans are looking forward, and having a young player like Roberto Gabriel start his first full season is a big reason for that. Gabriel, the #23 prospect in the BBA, is likely going to be a star. Another star is second baseman Juan Silva, who, after a somewhat disappointing 2060 season, had his best year to date in 2061 with 4.4 WAR. Look for him to further break out. And young first baseman Emilio Navarro is also poised to have a standout year.

Outlook

Normally one would ask, how can this team survive the loss of a player like bin Nawaf? But that wasn't bin Nawaf. It was Bizarro bin Nawaf. With him gone, and Kawano in, plus the multiple young stars in the making the team has, the team is on the right path. And that path is up. BBA pundits predict an impressive 76 wins, but that would be quite a quick turnaround. I predict a respectable 68 wins.

PROJECTED RECORDS: HEARTLAND DIVISION

Will that rebalancing happen this season?

In short, I see Nashville being Nashville with another dominating season as the best team in the BBA. After that, I see the rest of the division bunching up. Despite some of those teams improving and some slightly regressing, overall I see the power of the Pacific again keeping them all out of playoff contention. For them, this season will not be about present success but about setting up for success in the future. Here are my predicted 2062 standings:

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
Nashville	110	52	-
Twin Cities	80	82	30
Des Moines	80	82	30
Chicago	78	84	32
Louisville	74	88	36
Omaha	70	92	40
Yellow Springs	68	94	42
Madison	66	96	44

The Pacific

2062

For the past few seasons, fans and pundits aligned with the Pacific Division have taken considerable joy in touting their collection of teams as The Best In Baseball. As a collective, that's been mostly true—or at least true enough that the arguments against the idea were somewhat hollow unless maybe they came from the ocean on the other side of North America. Sure there's that division that sounds more like a pop band (Nashville and the 7 Heartlands), and there's the Wild West of the Frontier where the Hustlers hustled everyone so quickly that it didn't matter how good they were. (But, really how much of an argument can you make for a division in which the most famous of their teams is a Single-A Club?)

The world changes, though, and the arrow of time goes only one direction.

We think, anyway. Though Bikini owner P. Moreau Westmoreland seems to be working on that. That said, no one today gets younger as time charges on. Until that changes, we'll grant it as true that entropy is a bitch.

Valencia, in particular, is going to live that truth this year. The money stream has run out. We'll wait to see what that means for the team's performance.

Vancouver lived that last year—though the Mounties issues were as much that the siren call of April crashed their boat early as it was that their players were under-gunned to win.

At the end of the analysis, though, the Pacific Division is still riding a crest.

Each of these teams are dangerous (I said last year that the struggling Vancouver team would have finished 4th in the Heartland, and I'll stick to that). The division has a behemoth in Sacramento (mini, or not), and still we're not 100% sure that this behemoth will win the division (though, spoiler, I'm still predicting it). Portland is on a run. If you squint into the future real hard, you can

see San Fernando edging into Behemoth territory, too, simply because they seem adroit at building long term infrastructure. Long Beach is classic Long Beach. It's a franchise that just seems to always be in the mix thanks to a front office who mixes and matches parts in ways that (while sometimes I don't understand) just seems to work.

Hawaii is gearing up.

Maybe this is the year for them. Maybe next?

Then there we are with me in Bikini—which is a very different kind of franchise than I had when I was in Yellow Springs. We're trying a slow-boil up to behemothdom.

Will It work?

Entropy will tell.

All total, the division is just a lot of fun to play in, and we assume our fans are enjoying it, too.

The collection of GMs that lead the eight teams here are all uniquely skilled, are all building on a solid base of experience, and all focused on their teams right now—which makes a difference, right? Leagues like the Brewster are as amazing and as fun and as competitive as they are because the GM collective in them cares deeply about them—but, at the end of the day, even for the most diligent and skilled of GMs, life outside will sometimes take a toll. Right now all eight Pacific GMs seem quite focused.

What this means is that the Pacific Division is wide open in 2062.

If a time traveler came into my office this afternoon to let me know who actually wins the division, I would not be absolutely shocked to hear any one of five teams, with Hawaii as a super-dark-horse sixth team (it's not going to happen, but if the kids grow up in a hurry, the Trops could be quite pesky).

So, where does that leave us.

Does that make the Pacific the Best Division in Baseball?

Well?

You probably know the truth without me actually saying it.



Bikini Krill

OOTP pre-season predictions say the Krill will win 69 games. I think it's fair to say that this is too few. Just how many too few is another question. Bikini won 89 games last year and arguably could have won more—though I think more pundits would say the team over-performed than not.

Ultimately, this team will be returning pretty much in total, minus the invisible slugger Michael Buckley and a couple of no-issue bullpen guys. Do this portend 89 wins again? Maybe. Maybe not.

After missing the last part of the year with a labrum problem, Jon Brown should be back at the top of the rotation, with Takahashi Nakamura, Arturo Meza, and Brody Picot in some order behind him. Rookie Paul Worboys will be in mix someplace, too, though the front office was hoping he'd fill in the rest of his ratings in the development lab—which went well for Worboys. Felix Vidaca, though converted to the pen in the off-season, could still start a game here or there, as the team has been known to use two-pitch starters on occasion. But one suspects he'll be in the bullpen most of the time.

And speaking of the pen, Winson Morris and Enrique Villarreal are back for a reprise on their rookie years. Both are still growing young boys, but both are awfully good. Enrique Aguilera and John Hurry sit behind them, though there's some worry Hurry might have gotten a bit fat after signing a three-season extension. At question is when AAA relievers Brain Caps and Antonio Salazar will be called up. Best guess is mid-year unless injuries hit earlier. Both can use a little finishing.

Offensively, the team will return a crew that can score but can also struggle.

The defense improved last year and looks like it could take another step up—or at least not fall back, but the yin and the yang of this team is that it can field or it can power. There's not a lot in between. When Graham Aubry inevitably gets hurt, the club's left-handed bats are a little sparse. Kid corner Abhijana Swammy is going to be much better served in the DH role. We'll see. If you're looking for a wildcard in the mix, buzz is that the team would like 23-year-old Juan Ramos to get a trial sometime. He's got the Power/OBP combo that everyone likes. If he ever gains real contact potential, he could be something special. Let's not hold our breath, shall we. I mean, I've seen that show before.

The up the middle defense should be okay, at least. Keith Williams is back at short and looks healthy. Napoleon Mellot has become serviceable at second. Pedro Jimenez is a solid backstop, and Mike Cox had a solid year in the field last year, at least. If he can duplicate that, the team would be happy.

At question are finances, but that seems to be the story of the team's entire existence. If the front office can play three-card Monty again ... well ...

Don't look for a lot of moves, though, unless money is involved.

And that would probably mean bad news.

Last year GM Ron Collins boldly predicted the club would win the Division. They came in just a bit outside that. We don't see a title in the team's near-term future, though technically anything is possible in baseball.

Instead, we'll say the club gets a little regression to mean.

84-78



Hawaii Tropics

The off-season has been a busy one for Tropic GM James Walker, consisting among other things of the signing of free agent starter Kinzo Iwamoto (for 1-year, \$11M) and catcher Enrique Mendoza (1 year, \$2.6M). At 37 years old, Iwamoto may or may not be the pitcher he was in Montreal, but he can still chuck it pretty good. Mendoza still catches a pretty fair game and with a .329 OBP, is arguably coming off one of his more productive years with the bat for some time.

The good news is that, together, they made 4.7 WAR last year.

The bad news is that the club lost something over 8 WAR to free agency, most of it in starter Barney Lindsay and center fielder Angelo Lucchesi.

The team also made a springtime deal to bring 2B Carlos Schuman to the club, which should lock down the infield defense, if nothing else.

Fans suffered through a season that saw the Trops win only 72 games (good enough to stay barely out of a competitive Pacific division's cellar). If they are going to tread water one figures the difference has to come from somewhere, and at present I'm not sure it's going to happen.

At least not as of Opening Day.

There are bones in place, and the front office has built a pretty productive minor league system that is wide if not deep. The first arrival, outfielder Eric Owens (23) made his debut last year, and it was a pretty good one—20 homers to go with a .311/.357/.711 slash. 24-year-old first baseman John Harris played his third season and finally seemed to get comfortable, posting a solid .289/.327/.472 slash to go with 22 homers and 42 doubles. Tropic fans could see a dozen or more new kids wearing Hawaii green in the near future—but it seems to me that the word “future” is the key one there. 3B James Dodd (23) and Catcher Armando Medina (22) will probably be the first to arrive, but it appears the team expects those arrivals to be middle of the year rather than early on.

The team—and all of baseball, really—clearly hopes that 22-year-old slugger Vincente Martinez can finish developing. He’s very raw—and struggled a bit in his first AAA rodeo, but he has superstar painted all over him. Results in spring camp have been hot and cold.

The point here is that, while I could go through and try to list out the guys who will be in the Opening Day lineup and discuss the ins and outs of them all. I could point to aging Ace Semih Gurani (8-10, 4.82) and note how much weight is on his shoulders to bounce back from what was certainly a disappointing year. How historically lock-down closer Utkan Gocek, too, carries the stigma of coming off a particularly a tough season. But none of that matters, really, because this is a team in the earliest stages of transformation.

I fully expect the team the Tropics finish with this year will look dramatically different from the one that it starts with, and I fully think that’s a good thing.

2062, I believe, is a new day in Hawaii.

A turning of the page.

For the past almost decade, the team has been trying to double-clutch their way through seasons as injuries and other unfortunate events have hobbled rosters that have looked good on paper but failed to truly deliver on the field.

The Pacific division is going to be something close to as strong as it was last year, and that means I don’t expect the win total to fare well in 2062. But make no arguments and cry not for the Hawaii Tropics. The future is fast coming. And it’s going to look quite nice.

72-90



Long Beach Surfers

There have been rumors across the league suggesting that the Long Beach Surfers General Manager Stephen Lane might be pulling up their surfboards and hanging ten in some new digs. They are, however, back in the same place.

That doesn't mean the team will be the same, however.

Lane pulled the trigger on a pair of inter-divisional deals with Vancouver that added Dirk Bessi to the rotation and left-handed, power hitting first baseman Leonardo Rodriguez to the club. The team also signed 30-year-old starter Arturo Trevino from New Orleans. Trevino isn't a top-end guy, but at \$6M a year, he can eat innings and keep teams in games—which, with the Surfer offense, seems to be about perfect.

By this I mean that the Surfer bats should still be capable of making their own waves.

Infielder Steveland Morris (4.1 WAR) seems to be weathering Father Time just fine, thank you very much. The glove is still stellar and his 77 steals in 84 attempts led the league in pilfering. Austin Nolan, Morris's double play mate, posted a solid 3.3 WAR beside him. Young bomber Gustavo Espinosa blasted 40 homers and finished with a .931 OPS, good for 5.7 WAR. (Expect Espinosa and newly acquired Rodriguez to tag team duties at first base and DH. With Rhys Atticus also back after fracturing his finger at the end of last year, the gang is all here.

Except, of course, "third baseman" Unem Ploid, who as of this writing is still looking for a deal.

The team certainly hopes that 21-year-old outfielder Vicente Lopez, who already shows major league power in the batting cage, can translate some of it to the field soon. And, if that soon is this year, he could be a major boost in mid-season. I'm not betting the ranch here, but its springtime. Dreams are wild.

With Bessi and Trevino at the top of the rotation, that allows some of the other guys to slot more naturally, something made "better" by the fact that the Surfers are notorious for relying on their bullpen, which, as always, will again be filled with a solid plethora of guys who can go often. The Surfers had ten different pitchers start games last year, more than anyone in the division but trade-happy Vancouver (and Sacramento—though the Mad Popes had four guys start only one game).

Aside: I have always enjoyed watching Lane work his bullpen.

Travis Wilson (29) for example, started 31 games last year, but through only 120 innings. He started 31 games in 2060, also, throwing only 109 innings. He's been league average, basically, but mostly serves to get through the order once, and then sits down. As a result, his W/L record for the past two seasons is a super-fun 1-19, despite being valuable.

Fun, right?

Bottom line: Tulon Loruturk is back again. He's good (3.29 ERA), and he'll get at least 90 innings again. As is Frank Geddes (3.38). He'll get 90 innings+, too. Lefties Salvador Cruz (21), and Jose Ownes (24) made their debuts last season, and looked solid enough. They should get more work. If Seth Nagawamy (26) – who was acquired from Montreal last season—can keep the ball over the plate, he'll be a force. Now is the time to find out, we suppose.

At the end of the day, the Long Beach of 2062 looks to me to be a classic Stephen Lane team. Solid, though not filled with superstars. Easy to overlook, but quite a bit more dangerous than they appear.

87-75



Portland Lumberjacks

The Jacks won 91 games last year (two less than projections say they should have) and were an inning or so away from playing for the Frick League pennant. Their roster carries the only 300-game winner in modern-day BBA history, and that guy will probably be #5 in the rotation. #1 will probably be Murali Patachli, who is coming off a 11-5, 2.71 season that could have seen him win the Nebraska, and #2 will likely be Mauro Esperanda, a 21-year-old sensation, how debuted with a 7-4, 2.54 tilt that saw him start 9 games and relieve in 44. Esperanda is a multi-talented enigma of a pitcher. He throws 98-MPH hard, but barely nudges the strikeout-o-meter (4.6 K/9). Go figure.

Oh, yeah, I forgot to mention Bernie Stuart, he of 37 circles about the sun and 222 career victories. He's back, too.

The bullpen doesn't take your breath away but will return five guys who each threw more than 50 innings in that 91-win (shoulda been 93) season. Frank

Williams' 78 FIP- was good enough to rack up 36 saves. To this add free agent Jim Thompson, who saved 35 for Charlotte.

Bottom line, Portland is going to be good again.

Newsflash, I know.

And we haven't even talked about Mynorli Gaajlimitz, the guy you pencil in for the batting title. Or Allan Uecker, who at 26 is one of the standout catchers in the league. Or Sammy McNeill, who has avoided the injury bug well enough to average 5.1 WAR a year for the past three (editor note—Sammy has a herniated disc right now and will miss all of spring training and maybe the first two weeks of the season).

If you're paying attention, though, you'll note there isn't a ton of power on the roster.

It's not a problem so much as it's a problem.

Right?

The Jacks will score runs again—they were 5th in the Frick League last year despite filling the #12 slot in homers. But scoring would come a little more reliably if manager Mons Raider could pencil in a bopper or two. As it is, under-the-radar 3B Daniel Frampton led the team with 21 dingers. 23-year-old Greg Squires added 18. It might help if LHB Edward Roundfield IV could overcome the limitations that limit his plate appearances.

Alas.

The defense is also a bit suspect. Uecker and McNeill are elite behind the plate and at short, but it appears the Jacks will need Squires to handle center again, which does not project well. And it appears Portland might use second base as a place to try to hide a bat. Someone like Roundfield or Izz al Din Abdul-Sami, who has done some damage at AAA, but maybe needs a shot at big league pitching. Will the Jacks try to sacrifice leather for wood? Don't put it past Wilson to give it a go.

94-68



Sacramento Mad Popes

If the Sacramento Mad Pope front office was an old pop song, they would be "Oops! I Did It Again."

Last year, GM shoeless made a big deal, sending triple crown candidate Yuu Suzuki to division rival San Fernando in exchange for Edmund Thomas (now in Calgary, Felipe Ledesma (now in Boise), 23 year-old first baseman Pedro Carmona, and 19-year-old SP Juan Silva. Carmona made his debut at 23. He was okay. The team also pulled off a mega-deal for elite Boise centerfielder Lou Bayou.

Come this off-season, shoeless did it again, this time sending nine (count 'em) prospects to Rocky Mountain in return for SP Jamie Barber (with some payroll relief) and 3B Mohammed bin Mus'ad.

Barber (35) was hot (2060) and cold (2061) in the mountain altitude, but should carry on the long history of solid rotation fillers at the top of the Mad Pope rotation. Bin Mus'ad, who came out of the GBC and made 3.2 WAR with the Oysters, is a true enigma. 21 homers and 102 RBI are cool breeze, after all. As was his 114 wRC+. But at 28, scouts STILL drool over his untapped potential. If a trigger triggers and he ever reaches that full potential, pitchers will not want to face him—ever.

Bottom line: never say shoeless and the Mad Popes aren't willing to go the extra kilometer to entertain.

At question, though, is how this deal will influence the standings in 2062.

Sacramento won what was arguably the most competitive division in baseball last year before a postseason flameout. Can the mini-behemoth go that one better?

I don't know about that one-better part, but the winning the division part seems like a reasonable bet. The competition might be a little better in Portland and just as good in San Fernando. Vancouver, too, should be better. And while Valencia might fall off, Hawaii is on the uptick. Long Beach is still solid, and Bikini seems to have their same puncher's chance. But Sacramento, with likely Hall of Famers John Kinsella and Badr Isam still in playing shape, and a full season of Bayou in center, and the full development of 21-year-old corner outfielder Craig Williams coming to bear—with a still-top-flight rotation that includes 33-year-old Joe King and Michihiro Tanaka to go with Barber and maybe 20-year-old phenom Claudio Torres (and despite a bullpen that looks a little leaky), is hard to bet against.

At least to take the division.

Winning the whole thing is a crap-shoot, though. And (in my humble opinion) winning with a team made mostly of guys who put the ball in play and run is a tough gig.

It can happen, though.

Of course it can. With a little shoeless magic and the application in just the right places of probes from the Green-Eyed Woman's lab, the Mad Popes could well celebrate their first Monty in a decade.

I say that because—just to make myself feel better—I note that the Mad Popes have been to the post season nineteen times since 2036. They's won their division

19 times in that span. Come in second five more times. They've won exactly one Monty. Not quite YS9 territory, but enough that I'm not above predicting another postseason whiff.

99-63



San Fernando Bears

One can make the argument that the San Fernando Bears were the best team in the Frick League last year. Their offense created 820 runs, second best in the league. Their pitching allowed 659 runs, third fewest. The problem with that argument is that the Bluebirds were first and second in those categories—but their numbers warp, having been created in the Heartland, which was honestly, quite down.

Offensively, the club has brought in solid 2B Bill Irvine. He's 27 and has averaged over 3 WAR a season for half a decade. Yuu Suzuki (7.1 WAR) is fresh off a Silk Award, and Sonny Bigelow, at 30, is capable of being the best defensive centerfielder in the league. Shortstop Qutuz Mahdi is 35 now, but he did 5 WAR last year and doesn't look like he's letting up. Add in the expectation that Felix Ramos really should have a bounce-back season at first base (he's only 31, right? That 2.1 total WAR is a drop-off from the 4+ he'd been popping when that OBP hist .400).

Defensive-minded Augusto Annis pulled a 107 wRC+ season with the bat. I'm not sure he's going to duplicate that, but he should be at least respectable in Chico Bail Bonds park.

At present, it all adds up to say the runs, well, they should still be up there.

The question of the moment is in the rotation, where finances mandated the shipping of Sakutarō Kawano and his 15-7, 3.22 numbers off to Yellow Springs.

You don't replace that kind of pitcher easily, and the bottom line is that the Bears haven't been able to quite pull it off. With Rick Marriott still out with last year's injury, that puts a lot of pressure on Morgan Tomsett and the bullpen (which is probably the Bear's primary Rock Band name). The pen should be quite good, but I don't think they'll be quite that good.

Dhrtatman Seshadri (25), acquired from Chicago mid-season, is a tough lefty who can take on innings, and Bob Butler (29) and Steve Fuller (33) were solid last year, and should be similarly serviceable now – though I’m not seeing Fuller duplicate a 68 FIP-. At 31, I’d guess Ben Weaver will get a third shot at sticking. I’m rooting for him. And, of course, after registering 42 saves, the story of 38-year-old Bryan Longstaff continues to grow.

At the end of the story, I think how the bullpen goes will say a lot for the Bears. If the pen is made of stout stuff, they’ll hold the fort for the bats.

If not, we might see a regression.

The wildcard on both sides of the card (pitching and hitting) is how the club’s minors do over the first month or two of the season. 21-year-old Jose Diaz finding his stuff would be like free gold. Same for precocious outfielders Jim Sitton and Harrison Dunden. Despite being only 19, Dunden might get to the valley earlier.

This adds up to make predictions tough.

With 91 wins last year, the Bears wound up in a tie with Portland in the number 2 slot.

They could easily duplicate that. I’m worried about those arms, though. And I’m not certain the team will have the resource flexibility to make that shortfall up.

So I’m seeing very good, not great.

I’ll do it this way. If the Bears were a fictional character, I’d say they are Rocky Balboa in the first *Rocky*. Well-trained, doggedly determined, and with fists of thunder. But you have to knock Apollo Creed out, you know?

87-75



Valencia Stars

All right, then.

Valencia’s management faced a moment of consequence last off-season, in which they decided to go ahead and shoot for a postseason bid again. The year before had not gone as well as they hoped, but if they could pull down a playoff check, things would surely get better.

Alas.

“If a frog had wings...” as my uncle used to say.

Now GM Gregg Greathouse finds himself in hot kimchee.

The club has players. Some really good players. If one-time ace Thomas Turner, who Greathouse gave \$59M last year, can bounce back at age 37, the rotation could be Bonafide good. Luis Gonzalez and Juan Garcia have been good before, and the urge to rush dazzling prospect Shiro Takahshi into the bigs has to be pulling at the Stars front office.

The bullpen, too, has guys.

Edward Moreno struck out 15.7 batters per nine innings. That's pretty bold, right there. And Luis Perez isn't bad. At 37, Lindsay Barber looks like he should still be able to pitch, though his numbers suggest the team is happy he's in the last year of a contract that looked better when he signed it than it does now.

The offense, too, has nice pieces—not the least is still Miller Shed, who has been on the trade block for some time now, simply because the finances are 100% in the drink. That's what happens when you go all-in for a postseason bid and take a whiff. The club just now traded infielder Carlos Schuman, which was probably a necessary thing. Shed and SS Tyler Conklin still make a slick defensive pairing, though Conklin's offensive contribution is Not Good. Vincente Romero and Zenobius Kazantziakis will probably be the first basemen, but who can tell for sure? Valencia invited eighteen of them to camp.

Yes. Eighteen.

Take that Montreal.

Luis Gonzalez is an elite defensive catcher. That'll help the pitchers, too, you'd think.

Greathouse has a few interesting kid outfielders who are ready, too.

So, really, they could win.

But that's been fools' gold so far. Maybe the problem is that the bats have had the same problem as Sacramento's, but without their upside—meaning that the bats aren't going to create a lot of homers (a few guys have some power, but not a lot), but they also don't hit for average.

It's a quandary.

And with a bankroll in the deep red, I'm guessing that there will be pain until the beating stop. When that will be is anyone's guess.

If the pitching holds—I mean, really holds—it literally could be now. I'm not betting on it, though, because the risk factors are just too high. But it could happen. The arms could shut opponents down and the scrappy set of bats could scrounge enough grub to make a Valencia fan cry tears of joy.

If it does, the heavens will open up and the Stars will be a sight to behold.



Vancouver Mounties

On Discord, Vancouver GM Aaron Wharram offered up a lineup card with the comment, “barring trades, here’s what our team will be in 2062.”

Of course, trades ensued.

That’s life for a Mountie fan.

Buy that jersey now because they may not be available soon.

Except, of course, that’s what “throwback uniforms” mean to Vancouver fans. Phil Cole jersey night gets everyone in a Cole outfit free Cotton Candy, am I right? The hot-dog race in the middle of the fifth is between guys wearing Reynaldo Serrano outfits. The GBC’s Tyler Fioritto only wishes he could be like Aaron.

In this case it was the selling-off of Leonardo Rodriguez, who got on a rail to Long Beach.

It’s going to be interesting to watch these Mounties play this year, though.

For the first time (I think) they don’t have an offensive player older than 29. That’s center fielder Miguel Montero, who made 3.4 WAR this past year after being acquired (natch) through a trade with Charlotte. After Montero, the next oldest hitters are shortstop Oskar Lojdahl and backup infielder Vance Cooper, who are both 27. Greg Clover, maybe the face of the franchise now, is 26. His 23 homers and 3.0 WAR last year make him a mover and shaker in this offense—along with 22-year-old Sam Corkum at first base. Corkum has spent the past two seasons in Vancouver, and neither have been productive. This year will show us if that’s just a gap in his natural development or not. The eyeball test says he should hit. If he does, maybe there will be a few runs for the pitchers to work with.

And really, I think the offense really should create a bit of grub this year.

I don’t see real stars, but a lot of the guys can hit a little, and over time that adds up. Kids are hard to project, but I’d guess the bats will be sporadic...scoring a bunch for a week, then going dormant. Frustrating, I know. But that’s the fun of watching a young team try to figure out their identity.

The pitching will be a bit of an adventure, too.

Wharram gave GBC stalwart Motka Beteev a wad of cash to try his wares in the BBA. He’ll join Gamal bin Badr, Tom Miller, Stephen Clulow, Jr., and Rusty Miller to make an interesting rotation. Of these guys, Miller carries the most

intrigue for me. Scouts say his stuff is better but have dropped his overall assessment. What the hell does that mean? I guess we'll find out.

On paper the rotation is not as strong as I'd like to see, but the proof will be in the pudding. If the bullpen can get the game to Jesus Garcia things should work out more often than not. A scan down their FIP- stats from last year, however, suggest that wise money probably doesn't put much stake in that happening.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance, of course.

But it's something.

For me, I'd say this all means that 2062 is your basic "let's wait and see" season.

76-86

PROJECTED RECORDS: PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
Sacramento	99	63	-
Portland	94	68	5
San Fernando	87	75	12
Long Beach	87	75	12
Bikini	84	78	15
Vancouver	76	86	23
Valencia	74	88	25
Hawaii	72	90	27

THE GLOBAL CASEBALL CONSORTIUM

No one watches the GBC, they say. It's the same story every year. Cairo wins the Grand Slam Cup, São Paulo trades for every player in the known universe, and Athens is the perennial doormat.

Not so fast, dear casual fan. The GBC is the most exciting, dynamic league in the Brewsterverse, and this season might be the year we see why. The advent of several peaking superstars, along with some ultra-competitive GMs, make 2062 a win-now season for more than a few teams in the Consortium.

Last season, the Cairo Pharaohs took home the Subaru Cup and completed their three-peat. And sure, they may be a dynasty, but so was Mumbai in the '40s, when they won three championships in a row. But no team has ever won four — and that's what Cairo is set out to do. They have one of the brightest stars we've ever seen, Blair Peyton, and he's not just content with being the best in the league — he wants to build a legacy.

Jerusalem gave them a run for their money last year, nearly stealing the Cup as the Hebrew Hammers pushed the Pharaohs to seven games in the finals. The Hammers are a different squad this year, but with a few new BBA veterans in the fold, they're ready to show that they can evolve, while maintaining the same level of competition.

And of course, there's Moscow, who was upset in the Round of Four in last year's playoffs. Have you seen their 19-year-old closer, Riyadi Subandrio, and how he's been lighting up the radar gun this spring? If he's not a household name yet in your house, he's about to be. You know, because of all those times you'll be saying, "Honey, the Monarchs might still come back in the ninth— nope, never mind, Subandrio's coming in."

What about those Monarchs? Their last-place finish last season led to a full rebuild, the fruits of which may already start showing up in the majors this year. The Johannesburg Gold, another last-place team in 2061, are in the same boat.

Meanwhile, Tokyo has built up an impressive squad, with BBA exports such as Michael Buckley and Billy Kelly looking for a second wind in their careers.

And Buenos Aires is infusing its team with graduates of the GBC's top minor league system, as prospects like Alapai Nalani and Nick Bywaters are poised to join the big league roster of the already perennial playoff contender.

Sydney made some splashes to bring in some big-name free agents, as Jules Le Gal and Slawomir Trzcinski give some new star power to the team Down Under.

Athens' continued existence will almost certainly have you wishing that another UMEBA team was saved in the dissolution. I mean, the Riyadh Red Crescents were so cool.

And finally, there's São Paulo, who came close to the playoffs last year, and really want to make it there before their young star first baseman, Katsunan Hashimoto, flees for BBA money. They also make more trades than any team in the BBA universe, so if they find themselves in need of a piece or two, they'll go out and get it.

All this is to say the scrum that is the GBC this season is certain to delight, surprise, and possibly have you shutting off your TV in disgust.

Let's get into the previews.

GBC EurAsia Division

	W	L
Tokyo	92	70
Moscow	89	73
London	75	87
Jerusalem	70	92
Athens	63	99



Athens Fighting Centaurs

2061 record: 71-91, 4th place in EurAsia

Notable additions: SP Aaron Anderson, SS Bryce Lidstone, 1B Mun-wah Hsu, 2B Riyadh bin Hakeem, SP Jim Achbar, 3B Aidan Reijnen, LF Du Wu

Losses (and 2061 WAR): RF Jeffrey Smith (-0.8), LF Pablo Martínez (-0.7), SP Teinosuke Komatsu (0.4), RP Iván Martínez (0.2), 2B Francisco Sánchez (-0.1), 2B Choon-mo Im (0.3)

Star power: Right fielder **Haydar Ihsanoglu** is quickly becoming a really mature hitter, and one of the bright spots on his team. His eye at the plate is unmatched, and he's making better contact every year. The only thing is, he should be restricted to DH duty only. Nearly all the value he's been bringing Athens with his bat, he's been giving away with his glove.

Sneaky-good player: Closer **Brian Chappell** is one of the few good relievers in the Centaurs' bullpen. He keeps guys off the bases, and has the stamina to throw multiple innings. He'll also get plenty of rest, because the save opportunities for Athens will be few and far between.

Weakness: Athens' offense ranked last in the GBC in nearly every statistical category last year, and they haven't taken much initiative to improve it. There are a few young hitters on the roster (third baseman Ismael Comesana, first baseman Michael Bayer) who might grow into everyday players, but they aren't sure-fire prospects or anything.

2062 prediction: 63-99. It seems like Athens is once again playing the waiting game, not making any bids to field a competitive team until the time is

right. Maybe it'll all come together when 1st-overall-pick Jason Caldwell arrives in the majors, but I'm skeptical.



Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers

2061 record: 88-74, 2nd place in EurAsia

Notable additions: RP Carlos Rodda, CF Jamal bin Majd, RP Damian Moraitopoulos, CF Hsin Cui, RF Bob Pope, SP Paul Cherry, RP Rowan Tucker, 1B Na'il Hisham, LF Kevin Lambert, SP Sabeer Adnan, 1B Javier Manuel*, RP

Masafumi Yokota, RP Arturo Damasco, 3B Stephen Lockwood, RF Ted Benson, SS Mario Gonzáles, SP José Castro

Losses (and 2061 WAR): 3B Aidan Reijnen (0.5), 2B Prabhu Vogelsang (1.5), SP Juan Rivas (0.4), SP Stanley Kowalski (1.5), OF Wan-ling Koo (5.3), 2B Kwan-uk Chong (1.8), 1B Ira Patterson (2.2), RP Kent Jones (1.2), 2B Kirby Adams (-0.4), SS Graham McFadyen (0.0), 3B Danny Castillo (-0.9), RP Ostoja Omeragic (-0.5), 1B Clyde Hughes (-0.2), RP Mark Hancock (0.6)

Star power: The Hammers were missing some home run power following the departure of Wan-ling Koo, so they replaced him with last year's home run leader in the GBC: **Ted Benson**. His downside, however, is that he was also last year's leader in strikeouts, as well as the leader in weird random injuries. Let's hope those things don't come back to bite them, as Jerusalem is really counting on him to carry a lot of the offense.

Sneaky-good player: It's not *that* sneaky to pick the team's closer, but **Fernando Camacho** was damn near automatic at the end of games last year, notching 37 saves with a 2.76 ERA. The groundballer with a five-pitch arsenal was a huge part of Jerusalem's excellent record in one-run games last year, and getting them into the playoffs. He needs to reprise that role, and once again be that shutdown force for the Hammers.

Weakness: Infield. Specifically the offense at the second base, shortstop and third base positions. Looking around the diamond, their expected second baseman (Carl McIndoe) is a converted outfielder who can't hit, the shortstop (Mario Gonzáles) is 28 and has never played in the big leagues, and the third baseman (Pedro Rocha) has a good eye, but not much pop at a position where you normally want some.

2062 prediction: 70-92. This is still the same team that took Cairo to seven games in last year's Grand Slam Cup, but they lost their best player, and their roster makes me seriously doubt whether these guys can get lightning to strike a

second time. One injury to Benson, and he becomes an overpaid albatross sitting on the IL. It could be a rough year for Jerusalem.



London Monarchs

2061 record: 68-94, 5th place in EurAsia

Notable additions: SP Román Rodríguez, CL Fassil Maundu, LF Taylor Barfoot, RP Ty Vannatta*, RF Roosevelt Davis

Losses (and 2061 WAR): LF Felipe Vega (-0.2), 2B Carson Stauffer (0.7), SP Rahman Benzai (1.3), RP Brodie Diprose (-0.3), RP Leonard Thompson (0.2), C Paul Hovis (-0.4), 3B Stan Moten (-0.1), SP Pablo Muñoz (0.3), 1B Brian Flint (0.6), C Ed Shoup (0.1), LF Kakapa Holakio (0.1), RP Cisco Medrano (0.4), SP John Schmitt (-0.2), 1B Carlos Dormane (1.2)

Star power: London's lineup gets some extra thump this year with the addition of right fielder **Roosevelt Davis**. The 27-year-old is coming off of a 27-home run season in the BBA, which should translate to at least 30 in the GBC. His presence will certainly improve the team's .395 slugging percentage, third-worst in the Consortium last year.

Sneaky-good player: 30-year-old starting pitcher **Abdul-Muhaimin Saleem** battled injuries last year, and never really got a chance to find his groove. Now he's the ace of the staff, and looking sharp this spring, pitching to a 2.95 ERA in five spring outings. Between him and Luca Maundrell, the Monarchs have two starters with workhorse-type stamina who will rack up a ton of quality innings.

Weakness: Infield, both offensively and defensively. The three guys currently slated to start at second, third, and shortstop for the Monarchs (Naruhiko Okada, Conrad Millot, and Stephen Carpenter) combined to hit .228 last year, and all of them except Okada had a negative zone rating at their positions. Normally in the GBC, infielders are signed under a "pick your struggle" system where they either suck at offense or defense. But London is challenging the norm, and fielding guys who suck at both.

2062 prediction: 75-87. It'll be another rough year for London, but the pitching should fare slightly better, as long as they can avoid injuries. But I don't see the guard changing until reinforcements come up from the minors, in the form of Félix Vallés, Mika Taine, and Aleks Rakowski. Mark your calendars for 2063.



Moscow Thunder Bears

2061 record: 94-68, 1st place in EurAsia

Notable additions: RP Pete Thomas, RP Brick Pollitt, C Justin Bonfield, RF Rajko Lovre

Losses (and 2061 WAR): RP Edward Crutcher (0.6), CF Lao Kum (-0.1), RP Eric Buckson (0.1), 1B Biao Li (2.2), SP Deron Alexander (1.2), SS Miguel De La Cruz (1.2), RP Pablo Alcantara (-0.3), RP Blair Gallacher (-0.3), 2B Benjamin Chapman (-0.6)

Star power: Moscow's closer, **Riyadi Subandrio**, got his first taste of the big leagues last September, when he was called up at the age of eighteen and asked to close games in the playoffs. He didn't fare well, but that brief exposure to the big stage must have sent a shock to his development curve, because he's coming back this season as a whole new pitcher. Since last year, he's gained about 6 mph on his fastball, and really improved his control in the process. The results have been on display this spring, where Subandrio has struck out 30 batters through 19 innings while only walking 4.

Sneaky-good player: Right fielder **Isacco Aglietti**, along with his counterpart in left field, **Godofredo Chucha**, are the keys to Moscow's success. They amassed 12 WAR between them last season. Chucha stole 48 bases. Aglietti was a force on defense, with 16 outfield assists. They hardly ever take a day off. You won't ever see them at the top of home run leaderboards, or winning batting titles, but their true value for Moscow is in their consistency.

Weakness: The aging curve. Moscow is putting a lot of stock into players over the age of thirty, including their entire starting rotation. 38-year-old Yoshido Endo won twenty games last year, but how much longer can his stuff hold up? First baseman Tsuyoshi Kobayashi has been as automatic as they come, hitting 30 home runs in each of the last three seasons, but he's 36 now. Even new signee Brick Pollitt relies on his 101-mph fastball for his success. What will happen when the 34-year-old loses a few ticks on it? The aging cliff can sneak up quickly, and Moscow just hopes to get as much production out of its roster before it comes.

2062 prediction: 89-73. Subandrio will be lights-out, but the rational thing to expect from Moscow's aging roster is that some of them will regress. The outcome of the season will depend on Moscow's ability to build up some depth with new, young talent.



Tokyo Pearls

2061 record: 77-85, 3rd place in EurAsia

Notable additions: RP Tye Whitford, SP Dani Colomo, RF Nelson Dyer, RP John Schmitt, 3B Félix Ladaga, RP Pablo Alcantara, RP Max Birstall, RP Joe Jackson, SS Juan Solíz, LF Orlando Guerra, RP Héctor Espinoza, 1B Jonathan Jenkins, SP José Bray*, RP Brian Ioneki*, 1B Tony Horton*, SP Peter Roop*, SS Ricardo Muñoz, RF Michael Buckley, RP Rodney Keeley, SP Adam Barber, SP Billy Kelly, 1B Helmut Grün, SP Adam Barber

Losses (and 2061 WAR): LF Taylor Barfoot (2.2), SP Richard Balgera (2.9), RP Derrick Chaney (-0.6), RP Ommar bin Ayyub (0.9), RP Fassil Maundu (0.6), RP Paul Berry (-0.2), RP Keith Mays (-0.6), SS Quentin Favre (-0.7), RF Wesley Johnson (0.0), RP Gotz Merstorff (0.3), RF Callum McKay (5.4), 2B Chance Wilson (2.5), RP Garry Bryan (0.2), 2B Jimmy Rigg (-0.6), 1B Najib bin Haroun (-0.4)

Star power: New right fielder **Michael Buckley** is tasked with the tall order of replacing the production of the departed Callum McKay, the Pearls' leader in WAR last year. Although he's somewhat lost his swing in the BBA, I expect he'll find a career resurgence with Tokyo. His power will play very well at the homer-friendly Manama Fields, where he'll serve as the right-handed complement to lefty slugger Matthew Woods. The pair might hit 80 homers between them — mark it.

Sneaky-good player: Tokyo made the bold choice of promoting the 23-year-old **Feheen MacKenrick** directly from A-ball to the bigs last year, and it paid off, as he was one of the Pearls' most consistent starters. He has good control, and features a plus slider with enough movement to notch plenty of strikeouts. He doesn't go too deep into games, but he can be counted on for a solid 5-6 innings every time he takes the bump.

Weakness: Bullpen. Tokyo's bullpen ERA was a worst-in-the-GBC 4.65 last season, and admittedly, a lot of that is because they play in a bandbox. They made some attempts to bolster their staff in the off-season, signing ex-BBA closer Rodney Keeley, which means the 9th should be in good hands. But I'm less sure about other new arrivals, like Pablo Alcantara and Joe Jackson, both flyball pitchers with troubling HR/9 rates. We'll see how it goes, but it seems like the Pearls will be vulnerable in the mid-to-late innings.

2062 prediction: 92-70. Tokyo's strategy this year is to not overthink it — home runs seem to work, so let's hit more home runs. Meanwhile, a strengthened rotation that just added Billy Kelly, owner of three Brewster rings, should have the depth and discipline to win over the long haul. I'm predicting a return to the playoffs for Tokyo.

GBC AFSAMOC Division

	W	L
Cairo Pharaohs	96	66
Sao Paulo Pilots	84	78
Sydney Sharks	82	80
Buenos Aires Brisas	76	86
Johannesburg Gold	72	90



Buenos Aires Brisas

2061 record: 83-79, 2nd place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: None

Losses (and 2061 WAR): 1B Irfan Umayr (0.9), SS Carlos Correa (1.0), C Muhittin Tagmaç (0.3), 3B Anthony Moretti (0.5), LF Enrique Rodríguez (0.3), SP Javier de Jesús (-0.1), RF Jesús León (1.4), SP Motka Beteev (1.1), SP Kaden Umair (0.4), SP Bruno Bugbie (0.6), RP Siu-chung Zhan (1.7), SP Troy Torres (3.9), SP Manuel García (2.5), SP Hsuang-Tsung Xú (-0.2), SP Jayden Nicholls (0.4), RP Jacob Cruz (0.0), SP Maurice Jeffes (0.5), SP Carlton Hurt (-0.1), RP Don Fobin (0.2), SP Shusui Fujii (-0.1)

Star power: First baseman **Ralph Simpson** represents the youth movement for the Brisas, and he started his career with a bang last year, finishing second in Rookie of the Year voting, and winning a Great Glove in the process.

Sneaky-good player: Reliever **Fatin Asad** has been nothing but dominant while Buenos Aires has shuttled him between Triple-A and the big leagues. But a 1.09 ERA last year deserves a permanent bullpen role (and it looks like he'll get one – there are only six pitchers on Buenos Aires' roster, so it's either him or a ball boy).

Weakness: Besides being detrimentally short on manpower, Buenos Aires' starting rotation seems held together with scotch tape and crazy glue. They have only one serviceable starting pitcher, Hai-liang Jianbua, and he's a 3rd or 4th starter at best. One hopes they don't resort to rushing top prospect Alapai Nalani

to the big leagues, but they might have to, because they have literally nobody else.

2062 prediction: It's difficult to estimate, because Buenos Aires' roster is so empty now, but they have budget to spare. Once they sign a few free agents to fill the holes in the pitching staff, they'll probably get back up to 75-80 win territory. So, I'll make a conservative estimate of 76-86.



Cairo Pharaohs

2061 record: 95-67, 1st place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: RP Glenn Dennis, SP Dana Pualani, C John Payne, 1B Curt Williams

Losses (and 2061 WAR): 3B Bodil Sellevold (-0.6), C Yoriie Daisen (0.0), SP Bani Marita (2.3), RP Gary Powers (0.5), 1B Jorge Carmona (0.2), RF Manchu Li (3.6), RP Harold Newbold (0.8), RF Bannon McThomas (-0.1),

Star power: Blair Peyton finally won his long-deserved MVP award last season (although he was almost beaten by his own teammate, Boulus bin Altair). Now it seems like the sky is the limit for him. What's next for him to achieve? 100 steals in a season? 10 WAR? 6 home runs? The way his career trajectory is going, he could accomplish all that and more before this season's over.

Sneaky-good player: One of Cairo's few free agent acquisitions, starting pitcher **Dana Pualani**, is just what they needed. The ground-ball specialist is one of the best in the business at inducing grounders, with 61% of his outs last season coming via the ground. And Cairo's defense is one of the best at fielding those ground balls, with shortstop Dima Rozinov scooping up everything this side of Giza, and Shane Smith holding his own at second.

Weakness: The Pharaohs' bullpen has a big void in the wake of ex-closer Gary Powers leaving for the BBA. When you lose a reliever who typically throws 150 innings a year, it's really like losing two relievers. Meanwhile, the ever-dominant Jay Chapman is 37, and there aren't many reinforcements coming up through the minors. One has to wonder whether they have enough firepower to survive the long season.

2062 prediction: 96-66. The Pharaohs are the defending champions of the Grand Slam Cup by Denny's, Marko and Subaru, and are the likely favorites to repeat. The formula of "Blair Peyton and a bunch of other guys" is enough to

make a run, but the Pharaohs' relatively weak rotation and bullpen might be exposed.



Johannesburg Gold

2061 record: 74-88, 5th place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: CF Lao Kum, SP António

Hernández, SP Aaron Bridges, SS Miguel de la Cruz, RP Cisco Medrano*, RF Adam MacDonald*, SP Ken Bautista*, SP Antoine Brault*, SP Larry Soukup*, CF Buddy Uytendale, C Simão Hayagawa, SS Aniruddha Meenakshisundaram, RF James Belinda, 2B Nick Ashwell, RP Rob Anthony, 2B Prabhu Vogelsang

Losses (and 2061 WAR): SP Matt McCartney (0.0), RF Stewart Illingworth (0.4), LF Zephyr Orphanides (2.7), SP Grigore Balas (1.6), RP Ferede Keohi (1.3), C Ethan Gahan (2.3), SP Rowan Tucker (0.7), CF Jamal bin Majd (0.9), 1B Helmut Grün (0.1), RP Abdul-Qahhar Mash'al (1.1), CF Ismael Zumaya (1.0), 2B Nick Ashwell (2.0), 3B Kozma Gizikis (0.5), RP Juan Oliver (0.8), SP António Rivera (2.6)

Star power: The Gold's highest-paid player is **James Belinda**, so he'll have to do. It looks like he'll be the starting right fielder, and he plays his position well, with 13 outfield assists in Surprise last year in just 58 games. He brings plenty of power at the plate, too, but Johannesburg's cavernous ballpark may not be as accommodating as Surprise's. I'd expect between 15-20 homers from "Jimmie Jack".

Sneaky-good player: New catcher **Simão Hayagawa** was a sneaky free agent signing, and he'll take over the main catching duties from the departed Ethan Gahan. He's never played in the big leagues, but he's a natural leader, and excels on both offense and defense. His blocking and framing skills should help the Gold's pitching staff improve, while he should hit at least above replacement level (he even won a Platinum Stick award in the minors last year).

Weakness: The pitching rotation leaves a lot to be desired. The clear ace is Kiminobu Seki, but after him, it's a rotation of question marks. Give them credit for trying to add some depth by signing Aaron Bridges and António Hernández (who immediately tore his elbow), but neither of those guys are real difference-makers. Not to mention they're putting a lot on the shoulders of two Rule 5 picks, Larry Soukup and Antoine Brault, which is always a risky proposition.

2062 prediction: 72-90. They have the budget room to improve their team, and maybe will still add a few players, now that prices have gone down on free

agents. But for the time being, it looks like another long, disappointing season for the Gold.



Sao Paulo Pilots

2061 record: 80-82, 3rd place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: LF Zephyr Orphanides, 1B Najib bin Haroun, 1B Ju-long Ma, 1B Callum Montgomerie, 3B Kenny Blackwell

Losses (and 2061 WAR): 2B Scott Bell (-0.1), SP Chris Boyer (0.4), 2B John Hill (0.0), RF Ted Benson (4.2), SP Todd Schroeder (-0.1), RP Max Birstall (0.3), SP Adel bin Husam al Din (0.3), C Izz al Din bin Najeeb (0.0), SP Eddie Armstrong (0.1), RP Juan Santana (0.4), SP Travis Wearne (-0.1), LF Ant3nio Rom3n (2.2), RP Dani Mart3nez (0.5), SP Jim Achbar (-0.1), RP 3lex Le3n (0.0), RF Jes3s P3rez (0.1), SP Hud Bannon (-0.1), SP Ant3nio Hern3ndez (0.5)

Star power: For as much wheeling and dealing as S3o Paulo have done, one man has remained the face of the Pilots, and that's first baseman **Katsunan Hashimoto**. You can pretty much write in 30 homers, 90 RBI, and a .300 average for him every year. But as consistent as he is, S3o Paulo has not been able to build a winning team around him.

Sneaky-good player: Manny Castello, maybe the Pilots' best reliever, should be in line for a high-leverage role after a standout rookie season last year. He's a converted starter, with a three-pitch mix that could play well as a multi-inning super-reliever. At the very least, he'll help set up for the closer, veteran Derry Vacher, who can still shut 'em down when he needs to.

Weakness: Outfield. In a world where good corner outfielders are abundant and essentially free, somehow the Pilots are settling for an outfield of Ulvi Basgil (old and overpaid), Joo-il Paek (all-glove, no-bat center fielder), and Duane Sarazin (8 total plate appearances in the big leagues). Maybe GBC Veteran Zephyr Orphanides, signed to a minor league contract, will get a shot to extend his career.

2062 prediction: 84-78. It seems like S3o Paulo went to great lengths to acquire every replacement-level player in the BBA Universe, but the thing about replacement-level players is that they're exactly that: replaceable. S3o Paulo has a couple good starting pitchers, and Hashimoto, but no true standout talent outside of those few guys. They'll probably end up with a similar result to last year's mediocre showing.



Sydney Sharks

2061 record: 78-84, 4th place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: RP Ferede Keohi, SP Ron Fay*, SP Tommy Baird*, RP Kent Jones, C Frank McMillan, RP Slawomir Trzcinski, 1B Jules Le Gal

Losses (and 2061 WAR): 1B Ju-long Ma (-0.1), C Taylor Michaels (-0.4), RF Kratvanga Thirunavu (-0.2), C Andy Elmer (0.6), RP Carlos Rodda (0.7), RP Cristóbal Águila (0.7), SP Jerry Bourque (1.3), 1B Wilson Alomar (1.8), RP David Petit (0.4), RF Bob Pope (-0.3), 1B Callum Montgomerie (0.0)

Star power: First baseman **Jules Le Gal** becomes Sydney's best player, and unlike most GBC free agents who come over because they can't hack it in the BBA, Le Gal came over while still raking. He posted a .404 on-base percentage with San Fernando last season, so I'd expect at least that in the GBC, with more home runs, as a byproduct of Sydney's short left field porch.

Sneaky-good player: The dynamic **Wattas Hondo** plays shortstop, third base and second base, while batting leadoff for the Sharks. He hit 20 homers last year, while being a nuisance on the basepaths. He really is the spark in the Sharks' lineup. The 24-year-old is only entering his second full season at the major league level, so I'd expect as he gains experience to also gain a more refined approach at the plate, increasing his walks and becoming a more well-rounded player. He should be exciting to watch this season.

Weakness: The starting rotation is led by Hassan bin Zuhair, who is good but injury-prone, and it drops off pretty quickly after him. While Sydney's front office did well to fortify the bullpen through free agent signings of Slawomir Trzcinski and Kent Jones, the rotation was basically left untouched, and now lacks the depth to be a real contending team.

2062 prediction: 82-80. The offense will hit plenty of home runs, but the holes in the pitching rotation will show, and fail to hand enough leads to the shutdown arms in the bullpen. My bold prediction is that Sydney will lead the league in games with a final score of 13-12.

Let's Have Some Fun This Year!

