

BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



AMERICAN GOTHIC'S UNSUNG HEROES:
NASHVILLE DOMINATES THE BREWSTER LEAGUE
2064 MEDIA GUIDE



BREWSTER

BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



OFFICE OF THE COMMISH

Governing Board

Commissioner: Matt Rectenwald

Vice Commissioner: Stephen Lane

Recruiting & Development Director: Chad Nason

Division Director (JL Atlantic):
Nathan Garrison

Division Director (JL Frontier):
Ron Collins

Division Director (FL Heartland):
Mike Simon

Division Director (FL Pacific):
James Walker

EXPLORE THE BREWSTER

[An OOTP Baseball Online League](#)

APPLY:

[The Brewster - Application form](#)

General Managers: BBA

Team	GM
Atlantic City Gamblers	John Momberg
Austin Shredders	Chuck Valenches
Bikini Krill	Ron Collins
Boise Spuds	Ben Teague
Brook Park Brownies	Kevin Spencer
Calgary Pioneers	Kevin Dickson
Cape Fear Swamp Foxes	Woody Donahue
Charlotte Flyers	Nathan Garrison
Charm City Jimmies	Joe Lederer
Chicago Black Sox	Renato Umali
Cobble Hill Robins	Doug Olmsted
Des Moines Kernels	Jessie Ramirez
Hawaii Tropics	James Walker
Jacksonville Zombies	Aaron Weiner
Las Vegas Hustlers	Matt Rectenwald
Long Beach Surfers	Stephen Lane
Louisville Sluggers	Brian Pinnell
Madison Wolves	Mike Simon
Mexico City Aztecs	Brandon Tucker
Montreal Blazers	Bob and Erik Breum
Nashville Bluebirds	Chad Nason
New Orleans Crawdads	Jim Roberts
Phoenix Talons	Sean Marko
Portland Lumberjacks	Chris Wilson
Rosenblatt Bombers	Justin Niles
Sacramento Mad Popes	Ben Heuring
San Antonio Outlaws	Tim Meseck
San Fernando Bears	Kurt Imber
Twin Cities River Monsters	Alan Ehlers
Valencia Stars	Gregg Greathouse
Vancouver Mounties	Aaron Wharram
Yellow Springs Nine	Rob McMonigal

General Managers: GBC

Team	GM
Athens Fighting Centaurs	Jeffrey Everroad
Buenos Aires Brisas	Steven Luker
Cairo Pharaohs	Will Dymek
Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers	Sebastian Pruti
Johannesburg Gold	Graham Luna
London Monarchs	Grant Hawthorne
Moscow Thunder Bears	Mike Neugebauer
Sao Paulo Pilots	Ryan Cometa
Sydney Sharks	Scott Watkins
Tokyo Pearls	Boyd Flanagan



CONTENTS NAVIGATION (clickable)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISH	2
General Managers: BBA	3
General Managers: GBC	4
CONTENTS NAVIGATION (clickable)	6
2063 Caleca Award	9
YOUR 2063 CALECA AWARD WINNER	10
2063 Johnson League Final Standings	21
2063 Frick League Final Standings	22
2063 BBA Champs	23
Him; The Villain	24
2063 GBC Final Standings	26
A YEAR TO FORGET	27
2063-64 Hall of Game Inductees	28
MEDIA GUIDE FEATURES!	33
So Much To Say	36
TRIBE CALLED BREWSTER	41
What if the BBA had eight divisions instead of four?	44
Building for Balance: Introducing the Nason Index	49
IFA Frog Had Wings	53
2064 BBA Draft – Top Ten Prospect Preview	57
Rewind That S**t!!!	61
The Coaching Class of 2064	73
Kevin Morales Award!	75
<i>Nuck Fashville!</i>	79
How Many Wins Would It Take For Twin Cities to Win Heartland?	80
BIG LEAGUE CHEW	82
All Modern-Era Team: Jacksonville Zombies	89
An Interview with “Al Royce”	99
THE PROJECTION ROOM	102
Good Cop/Bad Cop	102
The Atlantic Division: 2064	111

Atlantic City Gamblers_____	112
Cape Fear Swamp Foxes_____	113
Charlotte Flyers_____	115
Charm City Jimmies_____	116
Cobble Hill Robins_____	118
Jacksonville Zombies_____	119
Montreal Blazers_____	121
New Orleans Crawdads_____	123
The Frontier Division: 2064_____	125
Austin Shredders_____	126
Boise Spuds_____	128
Calgary Pioneers_____	130
Las Vegas Hustlers_____	132
Mexico City Aztecs_____	134
Phoenix Talons_____	136
Rosenblatt Bombers_____	138
San Antonio Outlaws_____	141
The Heartland Division: 2064_____	144
Brook Park Brownies_____	146
Chicago Black Sox_____	148
Des Moines Kernels_____	150
Louisville Sluggers_____	152
Madison Wolves_____	154
Nashville Bluebirds_____	156
Twin Cities River Monsters_____	158
Yellow Springs Nine_____	160
Pacific Division – 2064_____	164
Hawaii TROPICS_____	165
Bikini KRILL_____	166
Portland LUMBERJACKS_____	167
vancouver MOUNTIES_____	168
san fernando BEARS_____	169
Sacramento MAD POPES_____	170
Valencia STARS_____	171
long beach SURFERS_____	172

YOUR 2064 GBC PREVIEW_____	174
EurAsia Division_____	176
Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers_____	176
Tokyo Pearls_____	177
London Monarchs_____	178
Moscow Thunder Bears_____	179
Athens Fighting Centaurs_____	180
AfSAmOc Division_____	182
Johannesburg Gold_____	182
Sydney Sharks_____	183
Buenos Aires Brisas_____	184
São Paulo Pilots_____	185
Cairo Pharaohs_____	186
CREDITS_____	189

2063 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 2063 nominees for the Caleca Award

Alan's Tribe Called Brewster album, Alan Ehlers

Hawaii - The Reversal, James Walker

Nashville - That Works, Chad Nason

Johannesburg- Hire Power: How a Baseball Nobody Landed the Job of No One's Dreams, Graham Luna

Johannesburg- The Reveal Heard 'Round the World, Graham Luna

Chicago- Game 162 and then a bit about Game 163, Renato Umali

Jacksonville- Holcombe Luckiest Person, None of it Good, Aaron Weiner

Las Vegas- By the Player: Dreams Can Come True, Matt Rectenwald

Madison- Something 'Hot' in Toledo, Mike Simon

Phoenix- Exclusive Special Report: 'A Day in the Life' at the Local Neighborhood Iron Smelter, Sean Marko

YOUR 2063 CALECA AWARD WINNER

[Exclusive]

Special

Report:

'A Day in the Life'

at the Local

Neighborhood

Iron Smelter



//BY: SEAN MARKO//

Toledo, OH--

Hi folks, Rob Powers here with the Phoenix Sun Times Post Dispatch™ (One of Phoenix's Finest Newspapers™). It's been a crazy season for the Talons Reclusive GM™, what with all three of the teams he cares about being in (or tied for) first place. So we wondered, what makes this guy tick? What's up with working two jobs 2000 miles apart? How many frequent flier miles does he have? And, most of all, why is he so bitchy all the time?

To help answer all these questions, and much more, we decided to shadow the GM for a day. Or, 24 hours to be more precise. But we didn't want to do that in Phoenix. No, we've seen enough of this dude in the Talons Front Office on a regular basis, thank you very much. We were much more interested in the GM's *other* job, that being in this mid-sized city on the shores of Lake Erie, running what he claims to be a billion-dollar iron ore processing plant.

So, with trepidation, we followed the GM's movements and thoughts for a full day just to see why this guy is, well, the way he is. Here is our report.

Sunday, 12:00am

The GM sits in a decidedly uncomfortable-looking chair in front of at least 7 computer screens, with many more (and larger) such screens just beyond and above his desk along

the back wall of the control room. He's already been on shift for nearly six hours, and has just finished eating a warmed over Subway Steak and Cheese™ sandwich for his "lunch".

Earlier, on Friday, he had flown in from Phoenix to Detroit and had driven down to Toledo to begin his block of night shifts over the weekend. "Air travel has gotten a lot better nowadays," he tells me. "All the decent airlines fly these new and modern Boeing 797MachX and Airbus A390SST's, so the flight takes like an hour. That's the only way I could do this. Can you imagine being in a plane for like 4 or even 5 hours? Ugh, I can't believe people did that just a few decades ago."

12:07am

Suddenly, the radio crackles to life. An outside operator has found what appears to be a high temperature in a certain part of the furnace, near the top. It's a 450 foot tall structure, with cold iron ore pellets going in at the top and extremely hot gas entering at the bottom. This gas is how the iron ore, fresh from the mines in Minnesota, gets refined into almost pure metallic iron, for use in steel mills. "It's a pretty simple process, at least compared to my old oil refinery job, back when fossil fuels were a big industry," he says. "The thing is, this gas is hot and extremely flammable. So we gotta keep it inside the furnace. If it gets too hot up where the iron ore enters the structure, that means we have a pluggage somewhere."

He manipulates the control station, sending a stream of hot water up to the top of the furnace, clearing the pluggage and allowing the cold iron ore to begin flowing again and cooling the problematic temperatures. All those screens are controlled by at least three mouse input devices. I'm actually having a hard time keeping track of what screen he is even looking at, at any given time. There must be hundreds of parameters on the screens, and that's just what he has displayed right now. There are many more control screens he can select if need be. It's mind boggling.

2:15am

Things have quieted down. It's the dead of night, and the plant's Admin building is nearly deserted. There are no engineers or managers on the night shift, only one or two field supervisors working with the guys outside. Although there are two other control room personnel operating ancillary parts of the process, the Reclusive GM runs the core section of the plant practically on his own.



There is surprisingly little small talk amongst the three control room operators. It not necessarily tense, just quiet, each man doing their own thing. But I do notice one particularity: when the Talons GM gets up to use the restroom or get some food, the other two guys start talking to each other, sometimes boisterously. It's a striking change. Then, as soon as the GM re-enters the room, they quiet down again. Is this what it's like all the time? Or is it just because I am here? Either way, I can't help but think of that old 80's band The Police and a line from their song Demolition Man: *I can kill a conversation as I walk into a room*. This dude really casts a pall on the others when he is here.

Checking his phone, the GM types a two word message to a fellow BBA General Manager in the Frick League, asking a team that is thinking about selling if a particular hitter is available. He sends the message, knowing full well that it will be hours before anyone reads it. "I'll see what he says tomorrow when I wake up," he told me. It's still early in the season, and there is plenty of time to make deals before "shit gets real," as he says. He seems oddly unimpressed about the performance of the Talons, almost as if he scarcely believes that the club's performance thus far is even real.

"If you had told me that [Adrian Tallent](#) would be my *second* best outfielder after a third of a season, I wouldn't have believed you," he tells me. "But [Toro](#) has been doing fine. Probably won't last, though."

4:39am

The latest process sample results come in from the lab. "96 percent! That's pretty damn good!" The GM seems more excited about this than any aspect of the BBA so far tonight. After telling his fellow control room operator to direct the finished material to another part of the yard for special storage, he explains it to me. "It's sort of like what they used to call 'high-octane' gasoline. It's premium stuff that the steel mills will pay more money for. That means a higher bonus for us. We've been waiting all shift for those results to come back good."

Soon after, his attention drifts back to a small laptop on the corner of his desk. On the laptop, he can access web pages that list stats and data for the BBA. He clicks through the pages one by one, checking on the Talons, the Liberty, and the Tokyo Pearls, which he has helped run for over ten seasons. "When I'm not in Phoenix, I can't access all the deep scouting reports and roster information like I can in the front office. So these web reports

are all I have. It's difficult to stay on top of things when all you have is the goddamn 'Baseball News Network' to get your information," he says with disdain.

"Ugh, I was pissed when [Javier Duarte](#) got hurt. I didn't make a big deal of it in the press, but if we don't make the playoffs, that will be one of the reasons why. That and the fact that we can't seem to find a good DH for the first time in forever. And don't get me started about [Rich Fucking Dares!](#)"

5:37am

After about an hour of looking through the stat screens, monitoring the process at the same time, and amiably chatting to me about various players and teams, the sound of jingling keys is heard just outside the control room door. Quickly closing the page on his laptop, the Reclusive GM sighs heavily. He then leans back in his chair, folds his arms, and turns his face to stone. "The supervisor," he says to me in a terse whisper.

Then the door opens. The GM doesn't even turn his chair around to greet the man, he just stares intently at his process screens, as if he has been deeply studying them the whole time. The supervisor asks about the quality numbers from earlier, and is answered with a report of the nights results in a surprisingly gruff and unfriendly tone. The supervisor, acting like this is completely normal, turns and walks out. The GM's demeanor lightens once the door closes.

"Not too fond of those guys," he tells me with a smirk. "They act like they're your friend, then they write people up for the smallest thing. They are always blaming us to cover their own asses. But they usually don't mess with me because they know I'm a Union Officer."

6:15am

The day shift control room operators have arrived. After giving relief and clocking out, the Reclusive GM motions for me to follow him to his car. It's a striking red Cadillac, and I'm surprised the man would drive such a vehicle to a iron ore plant that is quite a dirty and dusty place. "I'll give ya a ride to your hotel on my way home," he says, in a matter-of-fact way that I am not entirely sure is friendly.

First, though, he has to stop at the charging station. After plugging in, he gets back in the car.

"Not like it used to be back in the day," he says. "Can't just stop at the gas station anymore and fill up. It charges quick, but it still takes a while. I love the car, but time is precious when I am between shifts. Every minute I spend charging here is a minute less sleep I get at home."



As we wait for the kilowatts to add up, he watches a couple of short videos on his phone about last night's IndyCar race qualifying results. It seems to relax him and helps the time pass by a little more quickly.

It's kind of awkward for me, sitting here in the passenger seat, saying nothing. But it seems to be normal to him. It's easy to tell he is far more comfortable in silence.

After 20 or so minutes, we unplug and he drops me off at my hotel. "See ya later today," he says, the mid-June sun already blazing in the sky despite it not being even 7am yet. I stand there for a few moments after he drives away... I can't even imagine how he'll sleep, knowing it's a beautiful summer day outside. To say nothing about getting sleep for myself!

* * *

3:00pm

I get a text from the Talons GM. *"Up now. Took me a while to get to sleep. It might be a rough night, only got a few hours worth... {sad emoji}"* Uh oh, I think to myself. What am I in for tonight? I've already seen the Reclusive GM in action. Now, I'll get to see a **tired** Reclusive GM in action!

5:30pm

The red Cadillac arrives in the hotel parking lot. I get in, and after a perfunctory, one word greeting ("Hey."), the ride back to the Iron Smelter proceeds in silence. It is still a gorgeous day outside, but i doubt he has experienced any of it. As we get close and I see the tall, blue Iron Plant structure getting closer, he says the only sentence of the commute. "I woke up, had a coffee, ate a sandwich for 'lunch', and then got ready for work all over again." He speaks with a flat, wearisome tone, as if this is a regular occurrence. I honestly cannot tell if he is wearing the same clothes as last shift, or just a similar looking set. Either way, his eyelids are heavy as we pull into the plant and slowly back into a parking spot. It's gonna be a long night.

Or, maybe every night is a long night. I'm not sure if what I am seeing is typical, or just different merely because I am here witnessing it. Maybe I am getting in his way, or I am annoying the GM simply with my presence. But I'm not certain; maybe it really *is* like this with him all the time. Kind of like the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. You cannot observe something without changing the thing you are observing. Ok, you're right, that's not exactly what the Principle means, and it only applies to electrons... but you get the point.

6:45pm

The GM has taken shift relief, gotten an update on the status of the process, and settled in. Fortunately, from what I can tell, the Iron plant seems to be running normally. There isn't too much activity in the control room and everyone seems calm. Hopefully it's a quiet night. I mention this to him.

"Don't ever say that!" he turns and barks, glaring at me with a steely expression. "We NEVER say shit like that. It's bad, whatever you call it, bad luck, karma, juju, whatever. But here in the plant, just like back at the refinery, you never, ever talk about how 'quiet' it is. You're just asking for trouble."

"If anything fucks up, I'm gonna blame you"

I am reasonably certain that he is not joking.

7:05pm

Presently, the Talons GM gets up and walks toward the shelf where he keeps his lunchbox. Without a hint that anything is out of the ordinary, he takes out a small white plastic

bottle and procures what appear to be three ibuprofen pills and another small tablet that I can't identify. Quickly I realize that the other substance is caffeine. Noticing my gaze, he says with a flat tone: "Just like a bottle of Mountain Dew, but without the calories." He's only been on shift for 35 minutes!

8:07pm

With the first quality samples of the shift in the books, he finally appears to relax slightly. The conversation turns once again to the BBA. Despite the change in posture, he still seems annoyed.

"I was hoping to get the upload of the latest stats and results from the Talons Front Office, but those yahoos back in Phoenix haven't posted them yet. How am I supposed to run this damn team if I don't have the latest results? When I get back there tomorrow night, there's gonna be hell to pay." He folds his arms again and stares at his process screens in taciturn concentration.

8:59pm

The GM's phone makes a noise that sounds like the old Captain Kirk communicator from Star Trek. I smile to myself at the thought of that old show. This Reclusive GM character is a lot like Spock from that TV program, but without the warmth or politeness.

Suddenly, his mood lightens. "Finally!" he says. After looking at his phone for a few minutes, it's back to the laptop and those web pages he was studying so intently last night. His face is expressionless, but I can tell he's frustrated. "Why does it take them so long to upload this crap to the web?" he says, to no one in particular, and through gritted teeth. I wonder if he grits his teeth when he sleeps, too.

"Ok, there," he leans back in his chair and his shoulders relax. "Ok, its all up there. Good," he says, staring at the ceiling. Is he talking to me? I'm not sure, but I am damn sure he's not talking to the other two control room operators.

"Five and two," he says, turning toward me for what seems like the first time this shift. "But why aren't we hitting any damn home runs? And how the hell does [Tony Lopez](#) have a higher WAR than [Choppa](#)?"

"I just don't get this league. Ever since the BBA went to a new scouting service and reset the ratings scale, I just don't know what to make of it. It's still hard for me to see a bunch of sixes and see that as anything but below average. Guys that used to be monsters now look like they suck. There are 45-rated players that are better than 65-rated players, and not by a little bit, either. How am I supposed to make heads or tails of this shit?"

Says the guy with the third best run differential in the BBA.

9:43pm

The Talons GM looks at his phone again. "Heh, that's what I thought. Didn't think he'd give him up yet. Oh well. Gonna have to wait until their record gets worse."

It takes me a minute to realize that he was talking about the Frick League GM whom he had messaged last night, asking about a particular player. Just then, everything changed.

Alarms go off in the control room. All three operators sit bolt upright and look at their screens in a frenzy. "We lost the conveyor!" one of them says, with a tone that is instantly worrisome. The Reclusive GM suddenly looks like an air traffic controller, his head pivoting in short movements, rather like a sparrow, as he looks at all the different data screens. "Get somebody out there!" he barks at one of the other control room guys. "If we don't get back our product discharge, we'll lose the plant!"

The mood is instantly tense in the control room. Radio traffic increases exponentially. I can see temperatures start to turn red on one of the screens. More alarms sound, and every time they are silenced, more follow. As the Talon GM's eyes dart from screen to screen, I slowly roll my chair away so as to not disturb him. Catching this movement, he snaps his head toward me and he locks eyes, staring at me for about three seconds, a time that feels like an eternity. He has a look that I can honestly say I've never quite seen before from another person. It's only then that I came to the realization that I had, hours before, uttered the curse of it being a 'quiet' night.



A chill runs up my spine, my eyes get wide; I can feel my face getting flushed as I realize that he is now blaming me for the catastrophe unfolding before him. Shit, I'm getting stressed out and I don't even work here!

The radio crackles once again. It's so garbled that I can't understand it. "Ok, start it up!," the guy at the other end of the control room yells in response to the man at the other end of the radio. One by one, the alarms go silent. The remaining sounds consist of frantic mouse-clicking as the team begins to restore order to the plant. And, just as quickly as it had begun, the danger appears to pass, and there are less and less red numbers on the screen.

My only clue as to when the hectic chaos had passed was when the three guys turned their attention back to their phones. I was afraid to say anything, and I felt like I needed to take a rather long bathroom break. The GM did not look up when I left the room.

11:07pm

It was just now that he talked to me again, his demeanor back to its previous stoic state. He mentioned the Liberty casually, as if nothing important had just happened. "I knew that we'd never win 124 games again, like ever," he said calmly. "But I didn't think it'd be this bad. I mean, we're only leading our division by 8 games and it's already mid June. I had to send [Israel Perez](#) back down to Toledo because he couldn't hack it as a DH in the bigs, and he's only got 0.3 WAR at Single A. How am I ever gonna call him back up with shit stats like that??" he asked rhetorically.

Another number on one of the screens changed, but it wasn't too big of a deal, apparently. "94.7 percent," the GM told me. "Not too horrible. We must have gotten the plant back in time to save our quality numbers."

11:25pm

It's been quiet for some time now. Just then, the GM gets up and walks toward his lunchbox, procuring an identical set of pills from the bottle: 3 ibuprofens and one caffeine. He sees me looking at them. "The thing about getting tired at my age," he says, "is that it's not just exhausting. It physically *hurts*. And I mean it really hurts. Everywhere."

What was before a field general, whipping his troops to re-form the battle line and save the plant, was now, once again, a weary old soldier who slumped in his chair. He once again returns his thoughts to his beloved Talons, speaking calmly. "I'd like to release that asshole Rich Dares, but that will just trigger his option for 2065 and take away the possibility of an opt-out, too. Guess its a good thing that [Subaru](#) isn't a total disaster at shortstop. Damn, I wish Yellow Springs would trade [Hartman](#)," he says. The GM stares off into the middle distance, his eyes heavy.

Monday, 12:01 am

I get up and pack my things. I tell the GM its been a pleasure, but I am mostly just being polite. His was a world I really didn't want to visit again. My 24 hour assignment was up, and none too soon. I gave a quick goodbye and headed for the door.

"Hey, Rob?"

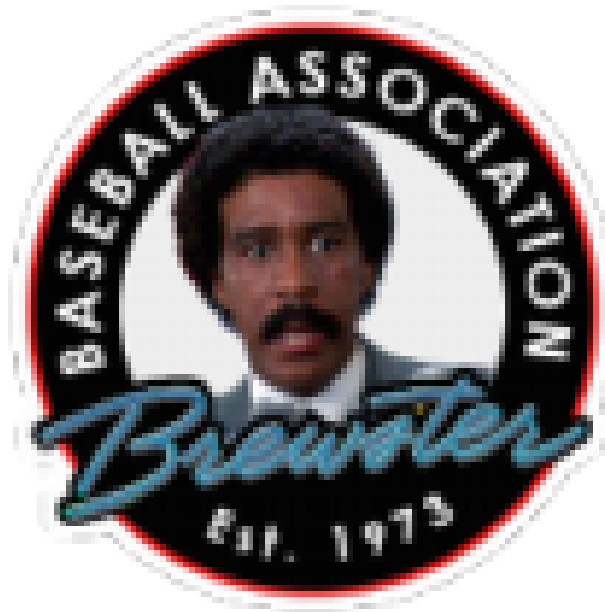
I stopped and turned around slightly.

"Text me when you get back to Phoenix. I'll get ya a luxury box and we can watch my guys kick Vegas' ass!" He half smiled. I'm pretty sure that one was genuine.

I think.

How They Finished:

BBA



2063 Johnson League Final Standings

LEAGUE STANDINGS ATLANTIC DIVISION						
Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Charm City Jimmies</u>	108	54	.667	-	783	547
<u>Charlotte Flyers</u>	91	71	.562	17	818	665
<u>Montreal Blazers</u>	90	72	.556	18	763	628
<u>Atlantic City Gamblers</u>	81	81	.500	27	721	794
<u>Jacksonville Zombies</u>	80	82	.494	28	823	822
<u>Cobble Hill Robins</u>	71	91	.438	37	671	756
<u>Cape Fear Swamp Foxes</u>	70	92	.432	38	686	732
<u>New Orleans Crawdads</u>	64	98	.395	44	688	900

LEAGUE STANDINGS FRONTIER DIVISION						
Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Phoenix Talons</u>	98	64	.605	-	829	676
<u>Calgary Pioneers</u>	90	72	.556	8	792	765
<u>Rosenblatt Bombers</u>	89	73	.549	9	831	701
<u>Las Vegas Hustlers</u>	85	77	.525	13	728	713
<u>Boise Spuds</u>	75	87	.463	23	697	729
<u>San Antonio Outlaws</u>	71	91	.438	27	715	801
<u>Mexico City Aztecs</u>	68	94	.420	30	673	812
<u>Austin Shredders</u>	65	97	.401	33	661	838

2063 JL General Manager of the Year

Sean Marco—Phoenix Talons

2063 Frick League Final Standings

LEAGUE STANDINGS HEARTLAND DIVISION						
Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Nashville Bluebirds</u>	99	63	.611	-	803	632
<u>Twin Cities River Monsters</u>	91	71	.562	8	783	747
<u>Des Moines Kernels</u>	90	72	.556	9	833	734
<u>Chicago Black Sox</u>	89	74	.546	10½	744	699
<u>Louisville Sluggers</u>	81	81	.500	18	797	808
<u>Madison Wolves</u>	71	91	.438	28	662	784
<u>Yellow Springs Nine</u>	71	91	.438	28	680	783
<u>Brook Park Brownies</u>	69	93	.426	30	801	841

LEAGUE STANDINGS PACIFIC DIVISION						
Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Hawaii Tropics</u>	91	71	.562	-	856	754
<u>Bikini Krill</u>	89	73	.549	2	794	698
<u>Portland Lumberjacks</u>	88	75	.540	3½	853	698
<u>Vancouver Mounties</u>	85	77	.525	6	671	637
<u>San Fernando Bears</u>	84	78	.519	7	760	729
<u>Sacramento Mad Popes</u>	81	81	.500	10	708	722
<u>Valencia Stars</u>	63	99	.389	28	766	934
<u>Long Beach Surfers</u>	55	107	.340	36	607	918

2063 FL General Manager of the Year

Renato Umali—Chicago Black Sox

2063 BBA Champs



2063 BREWSTER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPION

Nashville Bluebirds

2063 Monty Brewster Memorial Series Winners

Record: 99-63, .611 PCT

Season Score: 1141 out of 1000

BBA's FIRST FOUR-PEAT!



Him; The Villain

- a shoeless poem

Here; in this place; in this corner; built by you; by me; by
trading cards sprawled over bedroom floors; and newspaper
box scores; and tree stump bases; even here; in this place; in
the Brewster; we hate; and we despise;

him; the villain;

hoisting imaginary trophies; and imaginary pennants; in
imaginary stadiums; before imaginary crowds; trophies meant
for others; for us; our victories sniped; our pennants stolen; by
treachery; by deceit; by him;

him; the villain;

and his barbarous tricks; of raping the weak; and pillaging the
poor; of shadowed boosts; and game-breaking blessings; of
devilish findings; and deceitful deals;

him; the villain;

perched above; where his blue birds don't sing; and his blue
birds don't chirp; but where they only shriek; at you; at me; at
us; far below; furious and frustrated; staring up; at them; at
him;

him; the Nashvillain

HOW THEY FINISHED

GBC



2063 GBC Final Standings

LEAGUE STANDINGS GBC AFSAMOC						
Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Johannesburg Gold</u>	93	69	.574	-	894	770
<u>Sydney Sharks</u>	87	75	.537	6	933	856
<u>Sao Paulo Pilots</u>	83	79	.512	10	892	849
<u>Cairo Pharaohs</u>	72	90	.444	21	827	885
<u>Buenos Aires Brisas</u>	69	93	.426	24	799	922

LEAGUE STANDINGS GBC EURASIA						
Team	W	L	WPct	GB	R	RA
<u>Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers</u>	108	54	.667	-	1020	728
<u>Tokyo Pearls</u>	99	63	.611	9	929	756
<u>London Monarchs</u>	83	79	.512	25	870	868
<u>Moscow Thunder Bears</u>	60	102	.370	48	732	965
<u>Athens Fighting Centaurs</u>	56	106	.346	52	690	987

Grand Slam Cup by Denny's, Marko and Subaru

Tokyo over Johannesburg, 5-1

GBC General Manager of the Year

Graham Luna—Johannesburg Gold

A YEAR TO FORGET

By John Momberg

Look, every player who plays in the majors is there for a reason, and anyone can have a bad year. That said, the players listed here would probably all like to erase 2063 from their memories. I'm sure there are better days ahead for most if not all of these guys, and I'm sure they'll all be good sports about their inclusion here.

—Among players who logged significant time in their lineups, slick-fielding shortstop **Daniel Kenner** of Cobble Hill had the worst slash line: 158/187/189. That's an OPS of .376.

—Phoenix shortstop **Tsu-bahr Hru** had the most plate appearances without a homer: 491.

—**Masayoshi Kokawa** of Chicago logged 43 plate appearances without driving in a run.

—**Felix Alvarez** of Montreal came to the plate 95 times without drawing a base on balls. No other player had more than 28 plate appearances without getting a free pass.

—**Isoruko Takimoto** of Jacksonville was the BBA's least successful base stealer, getting thrown out eight times in twelve attempts.

—Among full-time position players, the worst WAR belonged to **Juan Hernandez** of Cape Fear: negative 1.2.

—**Carlos Marcillas** of Twin Cities came to the plate 28 times and struck out in 16 of them.

Now let's look at the pitchers:

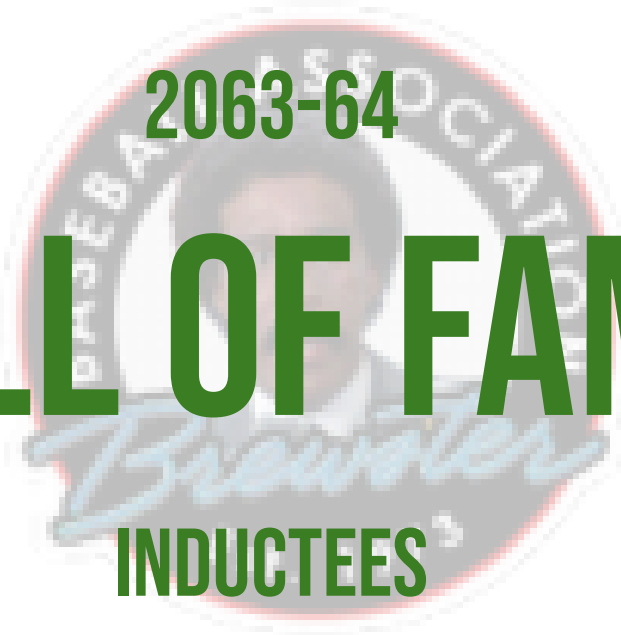
—**Kent Johnson** of Atlantic City surrendered 30 homers in 156 innings. **Edmond Thomas** of Calgary gave up 32, but in 42 more innings than Johnson.

—Opposing batters hit .310 against **Shiro Takahashi** of Valencia, the worst of any pitcher who worked more than 100 innings.

—Among pitchers who threw more than 100 innings, **John Lucas** of San Fernando's 7.01 was the worst earned run average of 2063.

—Several pitchers tied for the BBA lead by hitting ten batters, but Boise's **Buddhapalita Kankipati** did it in the fewest innings: 89. Reliever **Carlos Ramirez** of Las Vegas plunked eight in only 40 innings.

—It's a small sample size, but I have to close by mentioning **Manuel Flores** of Yellow Springs, who worked only 4 1/3 innings in 2063 but gave up four home runs—almost a home run for every innings pitched.



2063-64 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

(Matt Rectenwald)

In a monumental shift from prior years, and after a raucous balloting cycle, the Brewster Baseball Association Hall of Fame will induct what is likely a record eight players this year. You read that right. Eight players.

Thirty-three ballots were cast this year, and though no player received a unanimous pass, this relatively massive number of players crossed the 75% threshold.

It's a Brewster Miracle! One headline ran, referencing previous seasons where inclusion had been considerably skimpier. Most pundits, however, don't consider this wave to be a harbinger of things to come, pointing instead to the talent in this particular class as so overwhelming that even small-Hall voters were filling up a lot of slots.

Players who missed the final line of demarcation include Felipe Vega (69.7%), Lorenzo di Medici (66.7%), Jeffrey Smith (63.6%), Tony Frost (60.6%), and Eduardo Gonzalez (also 60.6%).

With that, let's look at the inductees

JUAN RIVERA (93.9%)



854 HR, 2,349 RBI
Champion (2), Playoff MVP (2)
All-Star (15), Sawyer Silk (4)
Puckett (10), Zimmer Diamond Glove (3)

Rivera's 23-year career saw him as a mainstay with Atlantic City and Nashville. His accolades say everything you need to know he was the consummate professional hitter and all-around player.

Alaric Wullenweber (90%)



310 Wins, 4,545 K
Champion (2)
Nebraska (7), All-Star (14)

Wullenweber won everywhere he went. Well, except for that one year in Phoenix. Only player not named Nebraska to win 300 games.

Ángel González (87.9%)



514 HR, 1,687 RBI, 847 SB
Sawyer Silk, Puckett, Zimmer Diamond Glove (2)
All-Star (8)

A guy who did everything well. Broke in with Vancouver, then after a roundabout with San Fernando and Rockville, had another seven-year stint with the Mounties. Finished his career with Twin Cities, and then one, single at-bat back with San Fernando.

Félix Román (87.9%)



Champion, Playoff MVP (4)
959 HR, 2,690 RBI, 456 SB
Sawyer Silk (4), Puckett (9), Zimmer Diamond Glove (3)
All-Star (14)

Together with Juan Rivera, Roman defined an era. Massive power, blazing speed, slick glove in center field. It's like the gods drew up a baseball player.

Manobu Shimizu (81.8%)



521 HR, 1,936 RBI
Sawyer Silk (2), Puckett (9)
Gertie's Player of a Lifetime
All-Star (11)

Shimizu toiled his whole career in Madison, posting some of the best numbers nobody watches. Nobody but Gertie, anyway. It feels like she should have a little plaque next to his.

Juan Donéstevez (91.8%)



Champion, Playoff MVP (3)
506 HR, 1,664 RBI, 670 SB
Sawyer Silk (2), Puckett (5), Zimmer Diamond Glove (3)
All-Star (11)

Hometown hero who spent his entire career in New Orleans. And what a career it was. He was that combination of power (42 homers in 2049), and speed (69 steals that same year) that can electrify a team.

Carlos Flores (78.8%)



196 Wins, 3,110 K
Nebraska (4), Comeback PotY
All-Star (9)

Steady winner, but a controversial candidate. Despite four Nebraska awards, Flores did not pitch his team to a championship,—though some of that might be because his first decade was in Atlantic City.

Ernest McBride (75.8%)



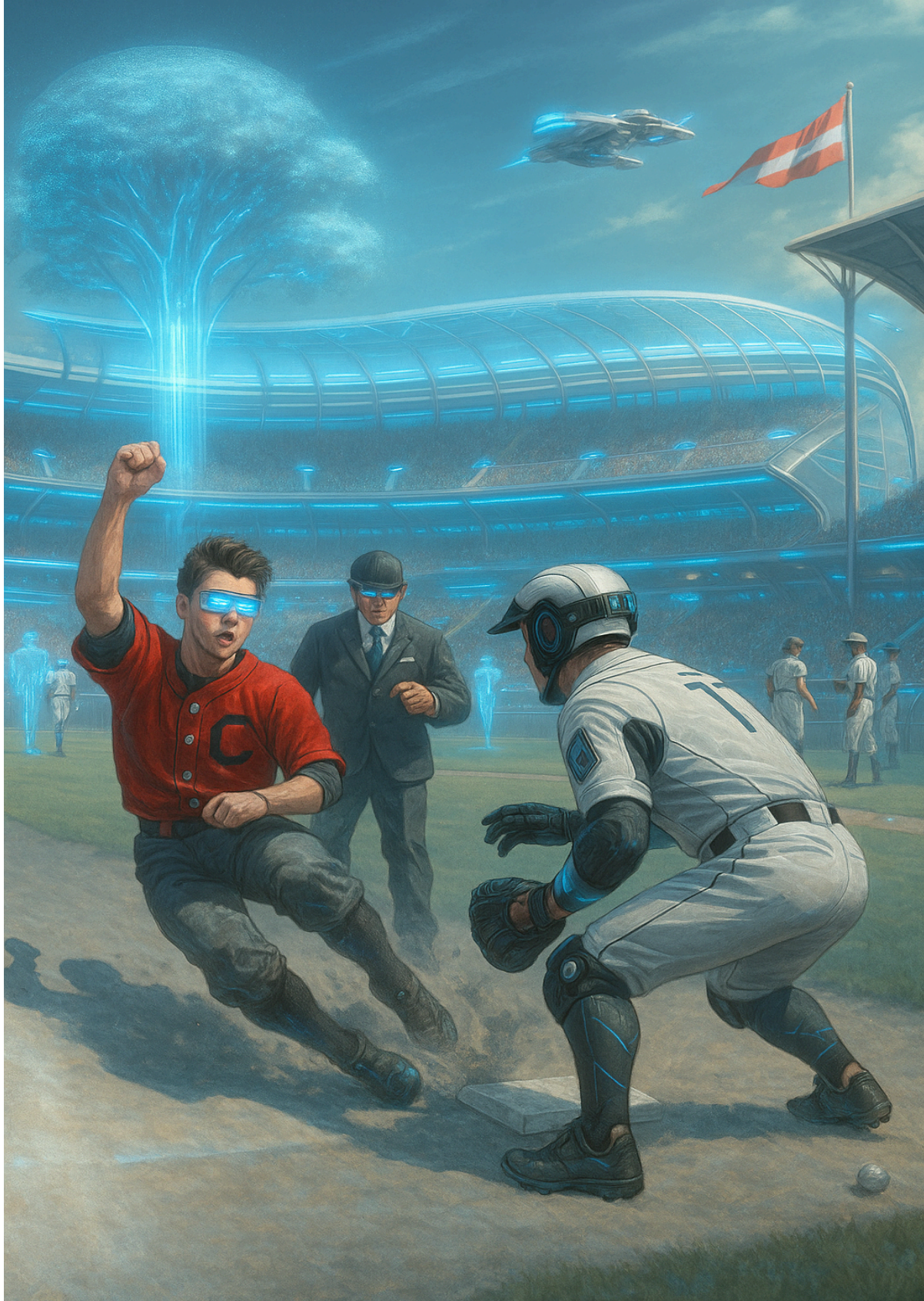
758 HR, 2,149 RBI
Sawyer Silk (2), Puckett (10), ROY
Playoff MVP (2)
All-Star (8)

A rugged thumper with immense power. You'd write him in for 40 home runs. Broke in with Hawaii before moving on to Portland and Phoenix. Spent five years being the main reason to watch games in Brooklyn.

MEDIA GUIDE FEATURES!



BASEBALL IN 2064?!





So Much To Say



“What Would You Say” if Chris Wilson assigned each BBA team a Dave Matthews Band song title. “If Only” we could be “So Damn Lucky”, am I “So Right”? Well “Everybody Wake Up” because “What You Are” about to read might just be “Too Much” to handle. So sit back, relax, and “Dive In”. I’ll try not to “Let You Down”.

Cobble Hill Robins - Dreams of our Fathers

It’s been 18 years since this franchise last made the postseason. They haven’t won a Brewster since 2026 when the team was stationed in Brooklyn. Our fathers tell us stories of this once proud franchise that hasn’t won a title in 37 years.

Jacksonville Zombies - Steady as We Go

The Zombies have been about as steady a franchise as you’ll find of late. They’ve won between 80 and 91 games over the last nine seasons and aside from a four-year blip from 2041-2044 have been either a contender or a team right around the .500 mark dating all the way back to their 2020s Greenville days.

Montreal Blazers - Pantala Naga Pampa - Rapunzel

Much like having Co-GMs, these two songs, on the album and for many decades at live shows, went hand in hand. One is just an instrumental that leads into the other. Perhaps one Breum is the instrumental lead-in that leads to the Rapunzel closer.



Atlantic City Gamblers - It Could Happen

I had a little trouble coming up with a song for John’s Gamblers squad. I felt things in Atlantic City have turned much like the fans of the fictional Cubs or Cowboys. “This is our year” or “There’s always next year” seem to be common mantras for teams on the skid. Atlantic City hasn’t won a divisional title since 2028. Being in the division with Charm City and Charlotte makes things tough. It could happen! It probably won’t.

Cape Fear Swamp Foxes - The Last Stop

A song typically saved for late in the tour as a final encore. This franchise has had some great moments. It just recently moved to Cape Fear from Rockville where the Pikemen and the Carolina Kraken before them had some successes. But can we please, for all that is good, make the last stop of this franchise Hackensack again one day?

New Orleans Crawdads - Louisiana Bayou

This song has very little to do with the Brewster or the Crawdads. But it would definitely be the staple song in New Orleans if they'd adopt it!

Charm City Jimmies - The Best of What's Around

Wait a minute, you might say. How is this not Nashville's song? Well, there's a reason you'll see in a bit. After Nashville, it's hard not to say Charm City isn't the other league's best team. Five trips to the Landis in 10 years including three titles during that run isn't too shabby either. Twelve straight trips to the post-season is pretty good as well.

Charlotte Flyers - You and Me

Since I am making the list, I felt this song was appropriate for Charlotte. The Flyers and Lumberjacks entered the league at the same time as expansion teams in 2040. You and Me will always be linked together. You have more wins. You got those early No. 1 picks via the expansion coin flip. But me... I have the Brewster.



Mexico City Aztecs - JTR

If for no other reason that the rainouts that occur in Mexico City. Or at least that was a thing. This song begins with the lyrics "rain... rain... rain down on me".

San Antonio Outlaws - Let You Down

Eighteen years without a post-season appearance. Eighteen years without a winning record even. The team won the Brewster 19 years ago, but it is safe to say the organization has let the fans down since then.

Calgary Pioneers - Drunken Soldier

I'll be honest here. I had a tough time pinning a song on Calgary. They were one of the last two I attached a song to. They're a hard team to nail down. They're consistent threats at the post-season. If they don't make it, they'll be in contention. Their worst stretch of missing out was six seasons in a row. At least within the last 50 years. But they've not won a title in over 40 years. Their consistency with nothing to show for it though, would make most of us want to drink. Hey, it's a stretch but the best I could do. Have one on me, Pioneers fans!

Las Vegas Hustlers - Ants Marching

The DMB anthem goes to Vegas. "He wakes up in the morning. Does his teeth, bite to eat, and is rolling. Never changes a thing. The week ends, the week begins..." That line summarizes Recte and his Vegas squad. They just keep rolling. Nothing ever seems to change.

Phoenix Talons - Pay For What You Get

The Phoenix Talons have only made eight trips to the postseason in their 35-year history (this version of Phoenix anyway) and are still searching for their first-ever Brewster title. But Toledo, the Talons' Single-A affiliate, has been to the post-season in 32 of its 35 seasons and has won 13 Charlie Pegler titles. So yeah, you pay for what you get!

Austin Shredders - Grace is Gone

When the franchise was in Edmonton, they had a stretch of nine consecutive postseasons that yielded three Brewster titles. The final one being in 2045. Since then, the team has made it to just two post-seasons and has relocated to Austin. In the last 15 years, the organization has had just one winning season. Grace is most definitely gone.

Boise Spuds - Seven

Boise was another tough team to pin down with a song. Really wanted something that would recapture the spirit of the old turd/potato logo. But nothing jumped out to me. So I went with the song "Seven" in honor of their seven trips to the playoffs in 28 years.

Rosenblatt Bombers - Where Are You Going

Rosenblatt's franchise joined the league in 2035. In just 28 seasons, the franchise has moved from Wichita, to El Paso, to Rocky Mountains, and now Rosenblatt. Where are you going next, Bombers franchise?

Nashville Bluebirds - Two Step

On a personal note, the song "Two Step" is likely my second-favorite song by the band. It's a monster live, so if you get it as your final song of the night at a live show you won't be disappointed. To tie this song to Nashville makes me a little sick to my stomach. But there is a line in the chorus that fits the Bluebirds... "Celebrate we will..." And Nashville is definitely doing its fair share of celebrating of late. The full line: "Celebrate we will, cause life is short but sweet for certain."



Louisville Sluggers - Fool to Think

Louisville was my last assignment. Another tough team to peg. Had they had a losing season last year, maybe I could have attached a losing label to them since it would have made nine in a row. But last year's 81-win season, matched with this year's 81-win projection, has them just stuck. So with that as a projection, and considering the division they're in, one would be a fool to think anything better than 81 wins is a possibility.

Madison Wolves - Granny

Gertie would approve. I mean we all know Gertie jams to this song as she cruises around the nation with her travels to various ball parks while chomping on cheese curds.

Yellow Springs Nine - Do You Remember

Do you remember when the Nine made 14 straight post-seasons and 23 out of 24? No, probably not. The last 12 seasons, all losing ones, have made you forget how great this Brewster-less team once was. Perhaps it's the Phoenix curse.

Chicago Black Sox - Hello Again

After a 14-year hiatus, thanks to a stellar pitching staff, the Black Sox returned to the post-season in 2063 and are primed to make a run at contending in the Frick League. And I hate you all the more for it after that marathon Game 163 in 2063.

Des Moines Kernels - Recently

Recall that time where Des Moines went over four decades without a trip to the postseason? Well, they've not been that bad of late. Or "recently." Six trips to the post-season in their last 11 seasons, including back-to-back 90-plus win seasons. The Kernels have been good of late. Or I mean recently.

Brook Park Brownies - Cornbread

Okay, let's get dirty for a second. There are lines in this song to the likes of "makes you wanna run around naked because you know it looks good on you"; "you ain't ever had my cornbread"; and "all I wanna do is go down on you." If that doesn't summarize a team that has won 69 games the last two seasons, nothing does.

Twin City River Monsters - Funny the Way it Is

The River Monsters have won 100-plus games in four of the last seven seasons. They've won 90-plus in four of the last nine seasons. Aside from one hiccup season back in 2061, they've been about as dominant as anyone in the league. During that entire stretch, they've not won a division title, let alone a Brewster. Funny the way it is though, playing in the same division as a juggernaut that is Nashville.

Vancouver Mounties - Don't Drink the Water

Let's be honest... the water smells like urine anyway. Typically a phrase that would get tied with a team south of the border, we're giving it to the Mounties for the bad-smelling water. And if you need another reason, Vancouver was predicted to win the Pacific this season in the preseason projections. We aren't drinking the kool-aid. Or, uh, I mean water.

Sacramento Mad Popes - Out of My Hands

For just the second time in 15 years, the Mad Popes failed to make the postseason. Ben should do what every president in American history does and blame his woes on the previous leadership. So Ben, blame it all on Shoeless!



Hawaii Tropics - Up and Away

It had been 37 years since Hawaii's last division crown, a streak that got snapped last year when Hawaii finally toppled the Pacific Mountaintop. Was the division title the first step to a run towards their first Brewster since 2025? Could be the sky's the limit for Hawaii and its star slugger.

Valencia Stars - When I'm Weary

It's been a run of bleak seasons in Valencia. After a run of four postseasons in five years back in the early-mid 2050s, it's been a lot of losing seasons in Valencia. After a 104-loss season two years ago, they managed to stave off the 100-loss mark last year by losing just 99. It's bleak and wearisome in Valencia right now.

San Fernando Bears - Squirm

San Fernando is a hard team to nail down here. They've been stuck in that no-man's-land the last two seasons, winning 88 and 84 games respectively but missing out on the postseason both times. This season, the projections have them at 86 wins, which would have them in the postseason but barely. Not a comfortable position to be in. Makes you want to squirm.



Long Beach Surfers - Digging a Ditch

Long Beach sold off all its good parts last season in a full-on rebuild effort. They've had 102 and 107 losses in back-to-back seasons and project to be down near the bottom again in 2064. They've bottomed out at the moment.

Bikini Krill - You Might Die Trying

Can a song title be even more fitting for Ron and his efforts at a Brewster title? No one has more postseason appearances without one than Mr. Collins. He's taken Bikini to three postseasons in five years. Are we on the verge of a run like he led in Yellow Springs?

Portland Lumberjacks - So Damn Lucky

Frankly, there are a lot of songs I could tie to my own team, seeing as how I know them the best. "Trouble" would be another one as I think salaries and the cap are going to force the team to be torn down. But nah, let me be honest with myself and give us this song title. Considering the run the Bluebirds are currently on, Portland is so damn lucky to have snuck a Brewster title back in 2059.

Editor: *Love me some Dave Matthews Band. Now for a change of pace!*

REPORT

TRIBE CALLED BREWSTER

Dropping Pins

Rating: 5.0

Hip-hop has always been about taking your world – no matter how small, niche, or unexpected – and turning it into something larger than life. With their debut album *Dropping Pins*, Tribe Called Brewster does just that, taking a baseball simulation league and making it sound like the most important thing on the planet. This is hip-hop that laughs, competes, teaches, and even grieves, all in the same breath. And they do it with bars sharp enough to slice through any doubts about concept rap.

It takes guts to swing for the fences on your debut, but Tribe Called Brewster didn't just step into the box with *Dropping Pins* — they knocked the cover off the ball. This isn't some novelty project about a baseball sim league. It's a masterclass in storytelling, wit, and authenticity that turns inside jokes and stat sheets into hip-hop anthems. Every verse hits like a line drive, every concept sharper than the last.

The tone is set early with "Yo Markus," a direct shot at Out of the Park Baseball creator Markus Heinsohn. What could have been a niche complaint track becomes protest rap at its finest. They spit with fire, calling out broken AI logic with bars like "AI think my backup catcher is my closer / Meanwhile my ace is stuck waiting on that change like a poseur." The message is clear — this isn't about the game, it's about respect for the community that's been



keeping the leagues alive. And when they add, "Look man, I get it, you love your cash cow / But we've been out here running leagues before PT knew how," the frustration lands with the weight of years of dedication.

That same mix of humor and honesty powers "Krill'en Me Softly," a playful diss aimed at long-time GM Ron Collins. Over a bright, almost teasing beat, the bars are merciless but full of love: "Stackin' PP like Monopoly dough / Spending like crazy but got nothing' to show." The verse closes with "Maxed out scouts, maxed out coaches / Farm still filled with fuckin' roaches," which should draw laughs, but also nods from everyone who's been in Ron's shoes. It's a roast only a fellow general manager-in-arms could deliver.

Not every track throws punches, though. "From Corded Phones to Cyclones" slows the tempo, weaving nostalgia into rhyme as Alan Ehlers takes listeners through the history of baseball sims. References to RBI Baseball and Bases Loaded land like

Polaroids from a simpler time: “Nintendo came next / I was swingin’ the stick / RBI, Bases Loaded / That basis was slick.” “Baseball Sim 1000 / Man, that hit different / Turning sliders and stats / Into something magnificent” reminds us that simulation baseball, at its heart, is about more than numbers. It’s about memories, connections, and decades of love for the game.

Just when you think you’ve got the album figured out, “Gerti’s Groove” flips the script. Madison Wolves owner Gertie jumps on the mic, and the octogenarian steals the spotlight with charisma most rappers would kill for: “Gertie don’t care about WAR or stats / She’s trying to win rings and remove slacks.” It’s flirty, audacious, and delivered with the third-person swagger of someone who’s been running the show long before you were even born.

The humor continues with “Your Mom Eats Pancakes,” the underdog anthem for Joseph “Jo’Momma” Mother, a 5’5 fire hydrant of a hitter turned legend by a \$1 trade. The story unfolds with a smile: “Drafted low key / Now he BBA certified / He took that \$1 trade / Made it a joy ride.” With bars like “He bat clean-up / Then clean up the trunk (with leftovers)” cements him as a folk hero. Only TCB could make pancakes hip-hop.

But the group doesn’t shy from calling out the game’s politics. “No PP” takes aim at GMs chasing Participation Points with hollow content. It’s biting, direct, and impossible to argue with. “Sick of the polls, man / They testin’ my soul / ‘Who’s gonna win fourth wild card’ / Bro, what’s your goal.” Then the hammer drops with two lines:

“Enjoy your two points / And your meaningless fluff.” It’s not just a diss, it’s a challenge to do better.

The most hardcore track is “F*ck Nashville,” pure, envious fire aimed at the Bluebirds and their GM Chad Nason. “Fifteen straight years / Five rings on your shelf / We just want to win one / Without hating ourselves” hits heavy. Then comes the money bomb line “Chad drops thirty mil / Like it’s coupons for moms.” And the knockout: “This ain’t a free market / It’s Nason’s economy / Behemothcoin risin’ / Rest of us in poverty.” It’s jealousy, sure, but jealousy delivered with skill sharp enough to make it feel like homage.

“Trade Block” follows with humor that every GM will feel in their bones. Negotiations get described as five-alarm fires and endless scroll sessions: “Yellow Springs / Oh, you know they got a block / I scroll through that thing / Like I’m punching the clock.” The punchline is delivered with a shot across Brooklyn’s bow: “No 7 movement relievers / No Gold Glove d / They ghosted my PM / Like I sent an NFT”. It’s the kind of clever wordplay that proves Tribe Called Brewster knows exactly how to turn league life into art.

And then there’s “Brotherhood.” The closing track strips away the jokes and bravado, leaving only heart. Over a gospel-tinged beat, the group delivers the album’s most powerful moment: “Maybe we said things / That we come to regret / But we are all brothers / Even if we never met.” The chorus ending seals it: “Win or lose / One thing is true / We will never forget about you.” It’s a eulogy, a love letter, and a

reminder that beneath the rivalries and the trash talk, this league is a family.

Dropping Pins is more than a debut, it's a declaration. Funny, fearless, and full of heart, Tribe Called Brewster has given the culture a record that blends parody and poetry, roast and remembrance, envy and

brotherhood. In a year full of big releases, nothing feels this personal, or this alive.

Five Mics. Certified classic.



Hoping for a few more episodes of "A Few Beers In" in 2064...

What if the BBA had eight divisions instead of four?

By Bob Breum

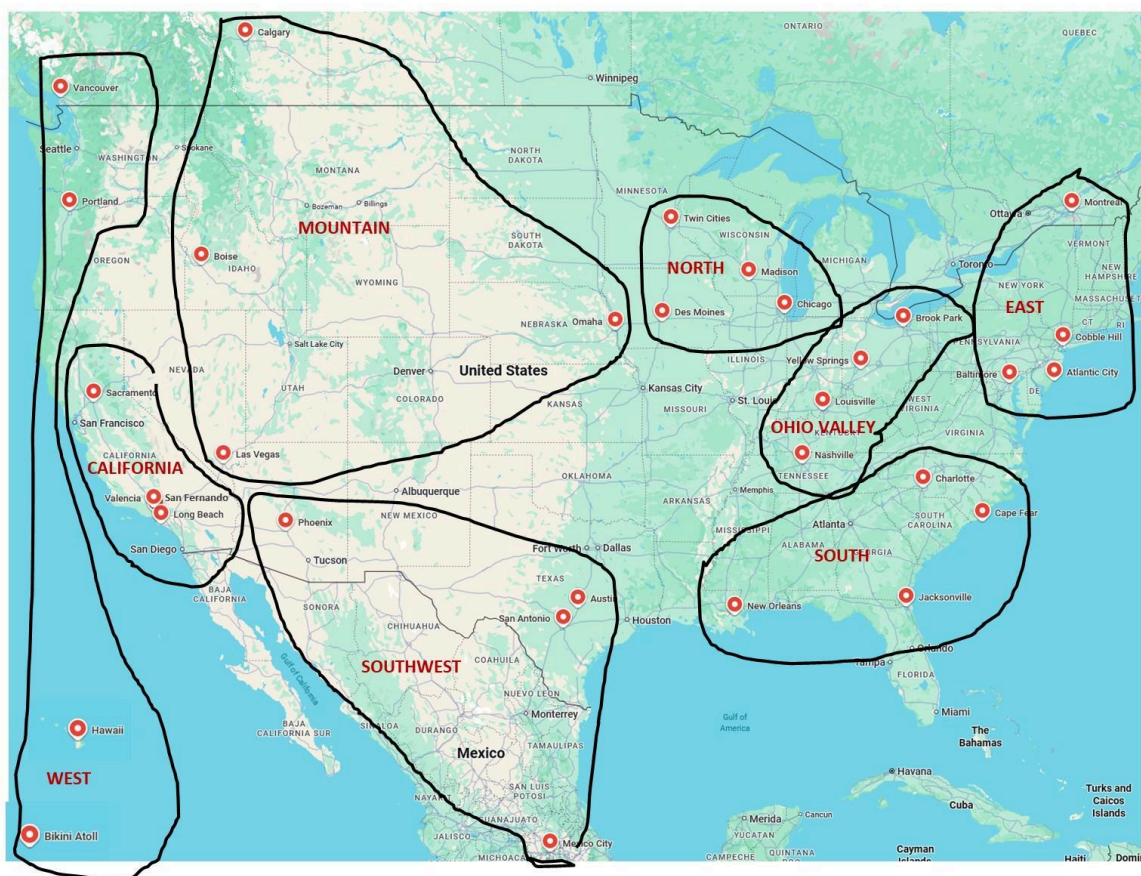
There has been much talk in the popular press about division realignment. What if the BBA had eight divisions instead of four?

Today we have four divisions divided between two leagues:

Johnson League				Frick League			
Atlantic Division				Heartland Division			
		Atlantic City				Brook Park	
		Cape Fear				Chicago	
		Charlotte				Des Moines	
		Charm City				Louisville	
		Cobble Hill				Madison	
		Jacksonville				Nashville	
		Montreal				Twin Cities	
		New Orleans				Yellow Springs	
Frontier Division				Pacific Division			
		Austin				Bikini	
		Boise				Hawaii	
		Calgary				Long Beach	
		Las Vegas				Portland	
		Mexico City				Sacramento	
		Phoenix				San Fernando	
		Roseblatt				Valencia	
		San Antonio				Vancouver	

Eight Divisions Instead of Four

But what if we had eight divisions? How would that work? Here is a map of the league's franchises with groups of four outlined. Apologies to Charm City (Baltimore) and Rosenblatt (Omaha), whom Google Maps did not recognize.



I drew these groupings without paying attention to current division alignments. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that they fit neatly into the existing divisions. Kudos to the powers-that-be. This made my job much easier. There was no need to move teams from one league to another; indeed, there was no need even to move teams between divisions. Each existing division divides neatly into two geographically contiguous groups. Here is a BBA with two leagues, four conferences, and eight divisions:

Eight Divisions Instead of Four

Johnson League				Frick League			
Atlantic Conference				Heartland Conference			
East Division				North Division			
Atlantic City				Chicago			
Charm City				Des Moines			
Cobble Hill				Madison			
Montreal				Twin Cities			
South Division				Ohio Valley Division			
Cape Fear				Brook Park			
Charlotte				Louisville			
Jacksonville				Nashville			
New Orleans				Yellow Springs			
Frontier Conference				Pacific Conference			
Mountain Division				California Division			
Boise				Long Beach			
Calgary				Sacramento			
Las Vegas				San Fernando			
Rosenblatt				Valencia			
Southwest Division				West Division			
Austin				Bikini			
Mexico City				Hawaii			
Phoenix				Portland			
San Antonio				Vancouver			

The Atlantic Conference divides neatly into four teams in the north and four in the south.

The Frontier Conference could split either as shown or with Rosenblatt and Phoenix swapping places; the latter may be more geographically compact, but I don't think Rosenblatt has any cultural affinity with the TexMex franchises.

The Heartland Conference also divides neatly into northwest/southeast franchises that are culturally compatible.

Eight Divisions Instead of Four

In the Pacific Conference, it just makes sense to group the California teams together, leaving Vancouver and Portland with the Pacific island clubs.

Schedules would change. Each team would play 18 games against its division rivals, 13 games against the other four conference foes, and 7 games each versus each team in the other conference.

How would the playoffs work? Currently six teams from each league make the playoffs, with division winners earning byes.

If we move to this new alignment, the total number of playoff teams remains the same: the four division winners in each league would qualify. There would be one wild card team from each conference. The two division winners with the best records would receive byes.

The new alignment would greatly increase intra-division rivalry. Winning a four-team division is easier than winning an eight-team division, but failing to win the division means competing for a single conference wild card berth. Winning the division would be more important than ever.

If this had been in effect last season, the playoffs would have been as follows; first the JL:

WC #4 Rosenblatt at WC #1 Charlotte

WC #3 Calgary at WC #2 Montreal

Winner WC #4/#1 at DW (division winner) #1 Charm City

Winner WC #3/#2 at DW#2 Phoenix

we would've had the exact same matchups:

WC#2 Rosenblatt at DW#3 Charlotte

WC#1 Montreal at DW#4 Calgary

Winner WC#2/DW#3 at DW#2 Phoenix

Winner WC#1/DW#4 at DW#1 Charm City

But in the Frick League, instead of

WC#4 Chicago at WC#1 Twin Cities

WC #3 Bikini at WC#2 Des Moines

Winner WC#4/WC#1 at DW#2 Hawaii

Winner WC#3/WC#2 at DW#1 Nashville

Eight Divisions Instead of Four

we would've seen:

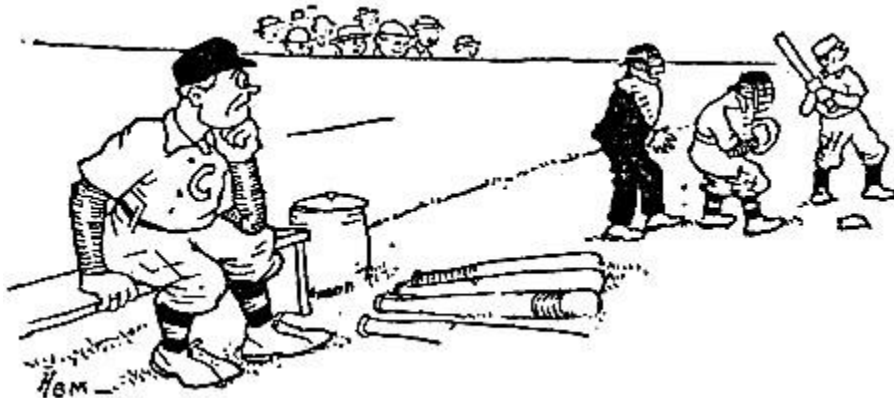
WC#2 Bikini at DW#3 Twin Cities

WC#1 Des Moines at DW#4 San Fernando

Winner WC#2/DW#3 at DW#2 Hawaii

Winner WC#1/DW#4 at DW#1 Nashville

which is completely different. San Fernando earns the California Division playoff berth, displacing Chicago.



Building for Balance: Introducing the Nason Index

by Graham Luna

Baseball has never lacked for new ways to measure success. WAR and wOBA are two examples everyone knows, but another quirky entry in the metrics world is the newly unveiled Nason Index. The metric ranks teams by summing their place in four categories: home runs hit, walks drawn, home runs allowed, and walks allowed. In theory, the lower a team's Nason Index, the better their overall balance. This new metric could very well be dismissed by some as a "junk stat," yet, year after year—including 2063 in the Brewster Baseball Association—it continues to correlate strongly with which teams make the deepest playoff runs.

TEAM	BATTING		PITCHING		NASO N INDE X	Result
	HR HIT	BB DRAW	HR ALLOW	BB ALLOW		
Charm City	11	4	2	2	19	Finals
Nashville	5	3	11	8	27	Champion
Des Moines	1	5	14	18	38	Geoghegan (Wild Card)
Phoenix	12	7	8	12	39	Doubleday (Quarters)
Portland	20	14	3	11	48	
Bikini	22	10	15	1	48	Doubleday (Quarters)
Chicago	6	15	6	22	49	Geoghegan (Wild Card)
Louisville	8	1	31	9	49	
Jacksonville	2	2	29	17	50	
Cape Fear	10	8	13	20	51	
Twin Cities	3	11	10	30	54	Cartwright (Semis)
Rosenblatt	23	9	5	21	58	Geoghegan (Wild Card)
Montreal	17	32	1	15	65	Doubleday (Quarters)
San Antonio	13	27	22	6	68	
Charlotte	16	23	27	3	69	Cartwright (Semis)
Boise	25	12	25	7	69	
Hawaii	7	18	16	29	70	Doubleday (Quarters)
Sacramento	31	28	7	5	71	
Vancouver	27	25	17	4	73	
Yellow Springs	15	6	30	24	75	
San Fernando	9	20	21	26	76	
Calgary	26	17	24	10	77	Geoghegan (Wild Card)
Mexico City	19	24	9	27	79	
Las Vegas	29	22	12	16	79	
Cobble Hill	30	13	4	32	79	
Valencia	4	30	19	31	84	
Atlantic City	14	26	20	25	85	
Long Beach	21	19	32	13	85	
Austin	24	16	23	23	86	
Brook Park	18	21	28	28	95	
New Orleans	28	29	26	14	97	
Madison	32	31	18	19	100	

The 2063 season underscored the power of balance in baseball, as the Nason Index proved to be a strong indicator of team performance. Charm City (19) and Nashville (27) led the pack, riding top-10 finishes across most categories to deep playoff runs, with Nashville – whose General Manager the statistic is named after – ultimately taking home the championship. Their formula was straightforward: limit walks and home runs on the mound while generating steady power and patience at the plate. These results reinforced the Nason Index’s central thesis: excelling in the “four true outcomes”^{1b} is still one of the surest paths to success.

Portland (48) offered one of the year’s most intriguing case studies. Their pitching was formidable, but the offense kept them from climbing higher, potentially the reason why their postseason dance card wasn’t punched in 2063. On the flip side, Louisville (49) and Jacksonville (50) slugged all season, but were ultimately undone by inflated walk and home run rates allowed. The takeaway was clear: a team can’t simply mash its way through October anymore.

Looking ahead to this season, will front offices place renewed emphasis on roster construction that balances power with run suppression? If so, expect more investment in pitchers with above-average command, even if their strikeout stuff isn’t elite, as well as versatile bats who can extend innings with walks. Teams with mid-tier 2063 finishes now know that shoring up their weak link, be it free passes issued or a lack of power at the plate, could be the difference between missing the playoffs and playing for a championship.

Prediction for 2064: Expect a shift toward teams prioritizing command-first pitching staffs paired with disciplined, moderate-power lineups. A club like Cape Fear (51), who already showed glimpses of this balance in 2063, are well-positioned to break through, while an unbalanced team like Sacramento risk plateauing without better offense. The next champion may not be the flashiest power team, but rather the one that ranks quietly in the top 10 across all four Nason Index categories, a modern blueprint for sustainable October success.



^{1b} When it comes to the Nason Index, strikeouts are little more than cosmetic blemishes – overblown by critics who see them as a hitter’s scarlet letter – while the real story, and the true game-changers, are the walks and the home runs exchanged on both sides of the ledger.

APPENDIX

To further strengthen the correlation between late season success and the Nason Index, below are the top five N.I. scores for the past five seasons. Nashville dominates, as their three championships during that time would attest to. It should be noted that when Portland won the Brewster in 2059, their Nason Index ranked them 21st, making them one of the more unlikely champions in recent memory. While their pitching was strong, their offense, in terms of home runs and walks, was at the bottom of the entire league. Their offense was driven by average and steals (both 3rd in the Frick).

2062		2061		2060	
Nashville (14)	Champion	Las Vegas (21)	Doubleday (Quarters)	Nashville (12)	Champion
Jacksonville (29)		Nashville (24)	Champion	San Fernando (26)	Geoghegan (Wild Card)
Charm City (30)	Cartwright (Semis)	San Fernando (24)	Geoghegan (Wild Card)	Charm City (31)	Doubleday (Quarters)
Twin Cities (32)	Cartwright (Semis)	Charm City (33)	Cartwright (Semis)	Bikini (35)	
Chicago (37)		Jacksonville (44)	Doubleday (Quarters)	Twin Cities (38)	Cartwright (Semis)

2059		2058	
Nashville (10)	Cartwright (Semis)	Nashville (19)	Finals
Charm City (33)	Finals	Charm City (20)	Champion
Jacksonville (38)	Cartwright (Semis)	Twin Cities (21)	Doubleday (Quarters)
Twin Cities (40)	Geoghegan (Wild Card)	New Orleans (37)	Doubleday (Quarters)
Long Beach (41)	Geoghegan (Wild Card)	Valencia (41)	



"You lied to me about Santa Claus... You lied to me about the tooth fairy... And now you're telling me there's no such thing as Graham Luna???"



In the annual ritual during the off-season known as International Free Agency, a total of 56 players have been selected by 21 teams spending a total of more than \$136M. While you never know if an IFA signing will give you a frog or a prince, there was plenty of smoochin' to be had in the hopes of finding the latter.

In this BBA era (not ERA, mind you) where several owners have more money available than what this off-season's free agent talent could soak up, there were four players that were paid \$5M+ signing bonuses.

Heading the list of new foreign millionaires is Timoleon Touliatos. The shortstop from Greece received \$18M from the Bikini Krill. Des Moines also chipped in some serious coin by giving an \$8.89M signing bonus to third baseman Hud bin Ala' al din. Rounding out the \$5M+ club was shortstop Ommar Qulaybah (\$6.27M from Calgary) and second baseman Sharma Kriti (\$5.11M from Phoenix).

(continued next page)

Some interesting random facts about this year's IFA include:

- ☑ Team with most IFA signings: 7 Charlotte
- ☑ Team spending the most money: \$18M Bikini (all in one shot)
- ☑ Position most selected: Centerfielder (12)
- ☑ Country with most IFA's signed: Turkey (6)

For those with the inclination, below is a complete list of players selected:

Day	Team	Pos	Name	Signing Bonus	Country
1	Bikini Krill	SS	Timoleon Touliatos	\$18,000,000	Greece
1	Des Moines Kernels	3B	Hud bin Ala' al din	\$8,888,888	Lebanon
1	Calgary Pioneers	SS	Ommar Qutaybah	\$6,270,000	Afghanistan
1	Phoenix Talons	2B	Sharma Kriti	\$5,111,111	India
1	Louisville Sluggers	RP	Ger Asseldonk	\$4,987,499	The Netherlands
2	Long Beach Surfers	SS	Mudawar bin Harith	\$4,752,000	Lebanon
1	Cobble Hill Robins	CF	Akil bin Wakil	\$4,751,100	Iraq
2	Montreal Blazers	3B	Preston Jacobs	\$4,750,000	Israel
2	Montreal Blazers	2B	Sabeerbin Umair	\$4,750,000	Kuwait
1	Chicago Black Sox	3B	Sihâb Hayreddin	\$4,750,000	Turkey
1	Nashville Bluebirds	CF	Gerald Hawke	\$4,600,000	Bahrain
1	Calgary Pioneers	3B	Jesse Scott	\$4,560,000	Israel
1	New Orleans Crawdads	CF	Sayf Azim	\$4,000,000	Lebanon
1	Nashville Bluebirds	SS	Agha Tarkani	\$3,800,000	Pakistan
2	Nashville Bluebirds	CF	Jen-ta Der	\$3,600,000	Taiwan
2	New Orleans Crawdads	2B	Ignacio Morales	\$3,560,000	Chile

2	Cobble Hill Robins	SP	Gadi Rayhan	\$3,001,000	Bahrain
1	Hawaii Tropics	SS	Adilaksmata Nira	\$3,000,000	India
1	Sacramento Mad Popes	2B	Zubair Basim	\$2,950,000	Kuwait
2	Yellow Springs Nine	SS	Abdul-Jalil bin Afif	\$2,500,000	Kuwait
1	San Fernando Bears	CL	Mert Kirac	\$2,225,000	Turkey
2	Cobble Hill Robins	CF	Nawaf bin Jamal	\$2,211,000	Afghanistan
2	Cobble Hill Robins	2B	Leonardo Martinez	\$2,210,000	Chile
2	New Orleans Crawdads	C	Ramón Rangel	\$2,100,000	Chile
2	Nashville Bluebirds	2B	Alfonso Zaki	\$2,050,000	Iraq
2	Valencia Stars	3B	Abu Bakr bin Shadi	\$2,000,000	Kuwait
1	Valencia Stars	SS	John Brown	\$1,800,000	Israel
1	New Orleans Crawdads	C	Chang Chuang	\$1,750,000	China
1	Valencia Stars	C	Juan González	\$1,400,000	Chile
1	San Fernando Bears	SS	Danip Safavi	\$1,350,000	Turkey
1	Cobble Hill Robins	CF	Víctor Rivera	\$1,301,000	Venezuela
1	Valencia Stars	CF	Tansy Tsougarakis	\$1,050,000	Greece
2	Nashville Bluebirds	SS	Jian-gang Yip	\$1,050,000	Taiwan
1	Calgary Pioneers	RP	Ciddhatu Selvi	\$1,000,200	India
1	Cobble Hill Robins	RP	Ángel Valdés	\$950,000	Guatemala
2	Yellow Springs Nine	RF	Dong Hung	\$900,000	Taiwan
1	San Antonio Outlaws	CF	Abdul-Muhaimin Nur al Din	\$750,000	Bahrain
1	New Orleans Crawdads	RP	Zulfikur Sabzvari	\$700,000	Pakistan

1	San Fernando Bears	CF	Ánibal Segura	\$650,000	Chile
1	Portland Lumberjacks	CF	Ron Coleman	\$550,000	Israel
1	Yellow Springs Nine	C	Da'ud Ashraf	\$400,000	Bahrain
1	Mexico City Aztecs	SS	Khaldun bin Fahad	\$395,000	Afghanistan
1	Charlotte Flyers	3B	Zeljko Milkovic	\$395,000	Bulgaria
1	Charlotte Flyers	3B	Cyril Maharis	\$395,000	Greece
1	Charlotte Flyers	2B	Shaheed Khaskheli	\$395,000	Pakistan
1	Austin Shredders	2B	Erdoğan Melen	\$390,000	Turkey
2	Nashville Bluebirds	RF	Zaki bin Muhsin	\$360,000	Afghanistan
1	Yellow Springs Nine	CF	Sabeer bin Kadin	\$350,000	Iraq
1	Charlotte Flyers	RF	Héctor Gonzáles	\$333,000	Chile
1	Austin Shredders	C	Savaş Berkes	\$320,000	Turkey
1	Charlotte Flyers	C	Antar bin Sulaiman	\$315,000	Egypt
1	Charlotte Flyers	SS	Min-zhong Tso	\$310,000	China
1	San Fernando Bears	RP	Dan Sepsi	\$300,000	Romania
2	Yellow Springs Nine	2B	Joaquín Castillo	\$300,000	Venezuela
1	Charlotte Flyers	CF	Mahzun Ozturun	\$270,000	Turkey
2	Yellow Springs Nine	C	Esmail Mir	\$250,000	Pakistan

2064 BBA Draft – Top Ten Prospect Preview

The BBA amateur draft always delivers a mix of promise, projection, and unpredictability, a yearly gamble where front offices weigh present production against future upside. The 2064 class isn't short on intrigue. From college mashers who could be in the majors in a blink, to raw but toolsy high schoolers who might need years of development, the talent pool features every archetype a scouting director could want. This year's group is rich in corner bats, has a handful of high-upside arms, and a couple of middle infielders whose gloves might carry them all the way to All-Star nods.

Here's an inside look at one man's Top Ten, complete with brief scouting reports and three-point comps — modern, historical, and fictional — to paint a clearer picture of who these players might become.



(1) Domingo Miranda, 1B, Chevrolet Chevys

The clear consensus No. 1 pick heading into the 2064 draft, Miranda has been circled on scouting boards since his freshman season and only solidified his status with a jaw-dropping sophomore campaign. A right-handed masher with plus raw power and elite gap-to-gap authority, he combines brute strength with a highly repeatable swing path built for hard contact. Miranda's defensive home is first base, but he's surprisingly agile for his size, showing enough lateral quickness to flash above average glove work and handle emergency duty in left field. Miranda projects as a middle-of-the-order anchor for the next decade.

- **Current Comp:** Tadataka Yoshikawa – Line-drive machine with power who can stick at first base.
- **Historical Comp:** Fernando Cruz – Productive righty slugger with consistent extra-base pop.
- **Fictional Comp:** Andrés Galarraga – "The Big Cat" power profile with a touch of flair in the field.

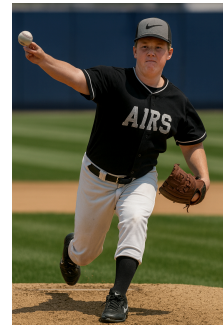
(2) Emmett Ball, 3B, Coca-Cola Splash

Ball brings a well-rounded offensive game built on strong plate discipline and above-average raw power from the right side. His bat speed produces hard line drives to all fields, and his arm strength fits perfectly at third. While not a burner on the bases, his adaptability and defensive instincts should keep him on the left side of the infield for years.

- **Current Comp:** Tim Bartlett – Steady, disciplined third baseman with gap power and leadership traits.
- **Historical Comp:** Armando Rosales – Reliable switch-hitting presence with balanced production across the board.
- **Fictional Comp:** Phil Nevin – Corner infielder with the pop to change games and a knack for big hits.

(3) Bill Summer, RHP, Nike Airs

Summer is a low-slot righty with a true starter's arsenal — five distinct pitches headlined by a biting slider and a late-fading changeup. His fastball sits 94–96 with arm-side run, and he can work both sides of the plate with his command profile trending upward. While his extreme arm slot creates deception, it also leaves him prone to right-on-right hard contact if his slider isn't sharp. With stamina to go deep into games and a competitive edge on the mound, he profiles as a durable rotation anchor.



- **Current Comp:** Shiro Takahashi – Groundball-inducing sidearm with a cerebral approach and deep mix.
- **Historical Comp:** Eru Likiliki – Reliable innings-eater who lived on pitchability and late movement.
- **Fictional Comp:** Jake Peavy – Bulldog competitor with a diverse arsenal and mound presence that plays above his size.

(4) Neal Phillips, RHP, A2O Contracting

At 6'10", Phillips already cuts an imposing figure on the mound, and his four-pitch mix (fastball, slider, sinker, cutter) is unusually deep for a prep arm. While currently projecting as a late-inning reliever, the dream scenario is stretching him out into a starter — his pitch diversity could make him special if the stamina develops. His velocity (96–98 mph) and heavy sinker make him a nightmare for right-handed hitters, though his command still wavers.

- **Current Comp:** If he can handle 5+ innings, Murali Patachli – Starter's repertoire with lower stamina profile. If he tops out as a reliever, Giustino Modica – Groundball-focused reliever with a starter's pitch mix.
- **Historical Comp:** Javier Alomar – Strikeout-heavy closer who could shut the door in big spots.
- **Fictional Comp:** Jonathan Papelbon – Multi-pitch closer once considered as a starter before settling into dominant bullpen work.

(5) Jose Perez, 2B, U.S. Army Black Knights

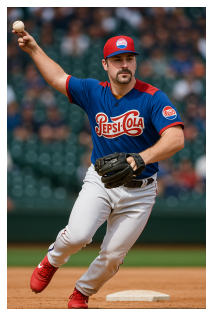
Perez offers a rare mix of contact skills, defensive range, and positional versatility, though his long-term home is likely at second base. A left-handed bat with a smooth, line-drive stroke, he controls the zone well and sprays hits to all fields. The power is modest but plays up due to gap instincts and strong baserunning reads. His athleticism and glove work could make him an everyday table-setter who impacts the game on both sides.

- **Current Comp:** Badr Isam – Contact-oriented middle infielder who's at his best defensively at second base.
- **Historical Comp:** Michael Snyder – Dependable switch-hitting second baseman with steady production.
- **Fictional Comp:** Daniel Murphy – Lefty contact bat with plus doubles power and sneaky defensive value.

(6) Pablo Rodriguez, 1B, STX Soul

A projectable power bat with legitimate athleticism for a first baseman, Rodriguez blends gap-to-gap doubles pop with emerging over-the-fence thump. His above-average speed for the position hints at baserunning value, though his ultimate ceiling will be tied to how much the hit tool develops against higher-caliber pitching. Defensively, he's likely locked in at first, but the bat could make him an anchor in the middle of a lineup.

- **Current Comp:** Majd bin Nawaf – First base power threat with occasional athletic flashes.
- **Historical Comp:** Manuel Martinez – Lefty-mashing slugger who lived on extra-base damage.
- **Fictional Comp:** Paul Goldschmidt – Middle-order mainstay with balanced slugging and patience, with a handful of steals to boot.



(7) Quinlan Catterson, SS, Pepsi Generation

At 6'3" with smooth actions, plus range, and soft hands, Catterson is the best defensive middle infield prospect in the class. While he's playable at shortstop, his ceiling is as a Zimmer-caliber second baseman who could anchor the position for a decade. The bat is more line-drive/gap-oriented than big power, but his doubles production should play at the next level.

- **Modern Comp:** Qutuz Mahdi with more doubles pop – A steady defensive anchor up the middle with a similar offensive approach.
- **Historical Comp:** Alejandro Dominguez – A knack for quietly tallying 3+ WAR seasons without fanfare at 2B.
- **Fictional Comp:** Mike Bordick – Fundamentally sound, slick with the glove, and a player whose defense-first profile kept him in the lineup even when the bat was league-average.

(8) Jesús Molina, LF, Netflix Streamers

Explosive gap power, plus speed, and a line-drive stroke give Molina a dynamic offensive ceiling. While raw power may only play to average, his ability to drive balls into the alleys, take extra bases, and post strong on-base numbers makes him a potential top-of-the-order weapon. Defensively profiles best in left, with enough range and an average arm to be passable in a corner.

- **Modern Comp:** Right-handed Max Shepperson – Gap pop, on-base skills, and enough speed to keep defenses honest.
- **Historical Comp:** Jim Antolin – Steady corner outfielder who grinds out extra-base hits and lengthens the lineup without relying solely on the long ball.
- **Fictional Comp:** Pat Burrell – Decade-long career in LF as extra-power threat with ability to draw walks but prone to strikeouts

(9) Aaron Eyler, RHP, Ford Motors

The wiry 5'11" righty from Palm Bay already lights up radar guns at 96–98 mph with a wipeout slider, and his bulldog mentality screams late-inning weapon. The fastball/slider combo misses bats at an elite rate, but command refinement will determine whether he becomes a high-leverage monster or just another arm with velocity.

- **Modern Comp:** Tony Vasquez – High-90s fastball, two-pitch dominance, fearless against any hitter.
- **Historical Comp:** Juan Cerda – Short, electric BBA reliever with gaudy K/9 and a fastball that never seemed to lose life.
- **Fictional Comp:** Octavio Dotel – Undersized but overpowering, thrives on pure stuff and big-game presence.

(10) Carlos Schoesser, 2B, A20 Contracting

Schoesser's game is built on bat-to-ball skills, gap power, and speed that plays well on the bases. His above-average contact projection and line-drive approach suggest he could be a top-of-the-order table-setter, though his arm/defense profile might push him across the diamond to first base. He's an instinctual baserunner with sneaky pop, but limited defensive flexibility means his bat will need to carry the profile.

- **Modern comp:** A rich man's Tracy Allison – Brings more consistent contact and extra-base threat than Allison while sharing a similar gap-oriented offensive game and stolen base threat.
- **Historical comp:** Edgardo Encarnacion – Tall, contact-first middle infielder with doubles power and above-average speed who made a career on consistency rather than flash.
- **Fictional comp:** A poor man's Luis Arráez - Elite average but lack of defense is banishment to first base/designated hitter.

Rewind That S**t!!!


Revisiting the 2054 Amateur Draft (Round 1 and top bargains)





By Lem Piker Sr., Winter 2063-2064








***Foreword:** A lot of these players were traded or landed with multiple teams. For grading purposes, we're mostly considering the career output of the individual player - not the net reward for the team that drafted the player.*






The 2054 draft was a patchy affair. Teams might have been better off picking near the end of the first round instead of the beginning (just ask Las Vegas or Montreal). The middle of the first round saw a silly run on catchers that didn't live up to its initial hype. There were a number of teams that found players to build around, yet chances are good that no one from the 2054 class will make the Hall of Fame. An oddity was noticed this year: a decent number of players in the first round were later selected in the Rule 5. That illustrates what 2054 was about - solid players, not necessarily good or great talent, had been present in this pool.





Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 1	LF Wilson Prieto: While not reaching the superstar status expected from a first overall pick, Prieto hasn't exactly been a bust either. He quickly became a fixture in the outfield for Brooklyn/Cobble Hill and put up fine numbers. His peak came in 2058, where he piled up 5.0 WAR and received the only All-Star selection of his career. In a BBA flush with outfield talent, he's had a hard time standing out on a national level except for that 2058 campaign. Wilson still has some solid seasons ahead of





Team	Pick	Player
		him, but don't expect much more. He's now playing for Atlantic City following a late 2062 trade. GRADE: C+
	Round 1 Pick 2	RF Michael Buckley: This right-handed RF with lethal power and a cannon arm quickly earned his place with plenty of dingers and putouts. It's been the rest of his game that has been slow to come along. Seattle/Bikini grew tired of his steady stream of injuries and low batting averages and let him leave for Tokyo in the GBC. The move to the international scene did wonders for Buckley, as evidenced by his 4.8 WAR in 2062 and 2063. This has Buckley currently requesting a lot of money in free agency though, and as of this writing there are no takers and he remains unsigned. GRADE: B-
	Round 1 Pick 3	SS Keith Williams: The love withheld from Buckley by Ron Collins and Seattle/Bikini was shown to the man that followed him in the draft. While not exactly the straw that stirs the Krill's drink on offense, he's still been an everyday contributor with his steady all-around play. For the last few years, Bikini continued to bring back this fan-favorite on one-year extensions. We'll see how long this continues with the new BBA environment emphasizing extreme youth. Williams is an old and crusty 26 by current BBA standards. But the switch-hitter shows no sign of slowing down and the team that drafted him has gotten ample mileage out of their high draft pick. GRADE: B+
	Round 1 Pick 4	SP Murugayan Malabanan: Great things were expected of this righty starter, but it never really worked out for Double M in Chicago . He's had some solid minor league seasons, including a few at Class AAA, but BBA hitters had a lot of success figuring out Double M and his inflated major league stat lines prove it. Now already reaching age 30, he is an innings-eater of sorts with the Class Class AAA affiliate for Charlotte . Unless things change quickly or he draws unexpected interest from a GBC team, his time in the majors is likely over. GRADE: D+
	Round 1 Pick 5	SP/RP Aaron Stevens: This fine college pitcher built on his skills in the minors and soon looked like he'd be a solid middle of the rotation starter for Calgary . But Stevens' adaption was noticed by Rocky Mountain/Rosenblatt , who swung a trade for the young righty and soon after added him to their major league staff. He was solid in the rotation for awhile, but an inflated ERA in 2061 gave cause for concern and the team decided he'd work better pitching out of the bullpen. In 2063, the veteran finally





Team	Pick	Player
		saw his metrics improve and he recorded 4 saves. He's now in the last year of his contract with Rosenblatt and we'll see how much longer the team believes in Stevens. GRADE: C+
	Round 1 Pick 6	CF Emilio Reyes: Reyes was drafted to occupy centerfield for Long Beach, and he certainly achieved that, starting an impressive 1201 games for the Surfers. His defensive profile has advanced further than his offense. One big plus is that he's got super-utility versatility across many positions, though it hasn't been used much. This last season, Long Beach opted to trade Reyes to the contending Charm City. Reyes did his part with the Jimmies, hitting .284 and posting 1.2 WAR in a half-season. This season, he'll be making \$8 million and will need to fend off suitors for his starting gig as he is now age 30 and the team has a new GM. This player hasn't piled up any awards, but sheer playing time demonstrates this was a worthwhile selection. GRADE: B
	Round 1 Pick 7	(Unknown pick - player not signed)
	Round 1 Pick 8	LF Jorge Delgado: This righty slugger was coveted by Omaha/Brook Park and their trade-oriented GM Justin Niles soon after his selection by Edmonton/Austin. A solid haul was offered for Delgado following the draft and the two franchises pulled the trigger. Delgado was given ample time to refine his talents in the minors before landing a starting major league gig in 2059, earning a newcomer of the year and all-star selection in his rookie year. He's kept up that quality of performance, compiling 15.4 over 5 seasons with 5-tool ability. Taken out of high school, he's only 26 and has more fine seasons ahead of him, still with Brook Park (though 2064 will be his contract year). This is the best selection we've seen so far in the rewind. GRADE: B+
	Round 1 Pick 9	SP Diego Alvarez: This promising college product was tabbed by Boise, but struggled when he reached the high minors a few years into his development. His confidence shaken, he opted to retire and move onto other ventures in 2060. You can't blame Boise for missing the warning signs. Alvares wasn't doing all that poorly and it seemed like a purely personal decision. GRADE: D





Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 10	CF Lee McIntyre: The retirements keep on coming, and this time it's San Antonio who proved to be the victim. The Outlaws can take some solace in knowing that Lee at least made it to the majors, but the results were unconvincing as he barely hit over .200 and played right around replacement level. He was demoted in 2058 and never returned to the bigs. He decided to retire in 2062 after realizing he was treading water in AA. GRADE: C-
	Round 1 Pick 11	CF Carlos Sanchez: Unlike the first 10 picks, Sanchez piled up the hardware after being drafted by Hawaii . He's earned 2 Yogi Zimmer's and two Frick League all-star nods since starting his foray into the majors in late 2055. He's started plenty of games at both CF and RF. He's never hit over .800 OPS but he's earned substantial playing time with his savory range and rocket arm. He's reached age 30 but has shown solid durability. His defensive assets will keep him employed well into his 30s. GRADE: A-
	Round 1 Pick 12	CF Luis Valles: This lefty outfielder did not get very far in his career and looked very ordinary compared to his minor league peers. He got brief chances to prove himself with Vancouver , and later Atlantic City , but very little came of it and both teams moved onto more convincing options. In 2063, Valles became disillusioned with life in the minors and decided to retire. GRADE: D+
	Round 1 Pick 13	2B Frank Jardine: With their first-round pick, San Fernando opted to go with a versatile IF/OF in Jardine. He's been a solid contributor in the minors (11.8 WAR, 3 all-star selections) but he hasn't looked impressive in the 268 AB's he's recently received in the majors. He's only 26, but has dealt with nagging injuries and a big knee injury in 2061. Nonetheless, his power and versatility will keep him around for a while. After a trade last season to Atlantic City , he's now rejoined the Bears, who employ him in spring training as of this writing. GRADE: C
	Round 1 Pick 14	CF Jose Vazquez: Rockville/Cape Fear selected Vazquez with hopes the talented righty might patrol centerfield for the Pikemen. But plans changed as Omaha/Brook Park swung a deal to obtain Jose in 2055. He looked solid in the majors in 2056, but since then his output has been inconsistent. He was re-obtained by the team that drafted him in 2060, and most recently returned in 2063 to play another season for Brook Park. He's been a solid contributor in most areas and has earned praise for his speed and outfield range in the majors. But he's now a free agent at 30, and as of yet Cape Fear nor Brook Park have elected

Team	Pick	Player
		to reunite with Vazquez a third time. GRADE: B-
	Round 1 Pick 15	2B Felix Abernathy: Drafted for his infield defense, Abernathy had a hot start with Yellow Springs in the majors in 2058 and made the Frick All-Star team as a rookie. Since then, his bat has cooled considerably. He bounced around in the high minors and also saw some playing time for GBC Buenos Aires . He'll continue to remain employed in the high minors for a while thanks to his glove and good-enough bat. GRADE: C
	Round 1 Pick 16	3B Dave McClain: Mission accomplished for Madison . McClain has manned the hot-corner since taking over the job in 2057, garnering Frick All-Star selections in 2059 and 2060. He's one of the better contact hitters in the BBA at his position. The Wolves are fully committed to McClain with a long-term contract that pays him over 9 million per season through 2069. He's not going to be mistaken for a hall-of-fame inductee, but Madison is getting all the mileage possible out of this selection, and there's something to be said for that. GRADE: A-
	Round 1 Pick 17	C Roy O'Donnell: Jacksonville zeroed in on this switch-hitting catcher with commendable defense, and the results were satisfactory. Roy made the big league club in 2058 and had ostensibly been the starting catcher since that time. I'm using past tense because this offseason O'Donnell reached free agency and was lured to GBC Jerusalem with a handsome salary. He should fare well in the GBC and will provide the Hebrew Hammers with talent to build around for the next three seasons. GRADE: A-
	Round 1 Pick 18	(Unknown pick - player not signed)
	Round 1 Pick 19	C Victor Prieto: Unfortunately for Charlotte , this pick proved to be a total waste. Prieto was not all that talented coming out of high school but was delighted to receive 2 million dollars to try out a baseball career. He spent two seasons in rookie ball and barely saw any playing time before being released. He soon retired from baseball thereafter. Hopefully Prieto put that signing bonus to good use. That would be the only silver lining


Team	Pick	Player
		to this story. GRADE: F
	Round 1 Pick 20	C Augusto Annis: We're on a roll here with the third consecutive catcher signed and compensated in the first round. This time it was Rocky Mountain/Rosenblatt doing the honors. Augusto began his development in the minors, but in 2056 was traded to San Fernando in a prospect-laden package deal for star SS Pepe Espinosa. The Bears got some mileage out of this transaction, seeing Annis earn an All-Star selection for his 2061 3.5 WAR output. But life goes on and in 2063 San Fernando clearly had their eyes on another catcher as they traded Annis to Yellow Springs for \$50,000. Augusto has a chip on his shoulder after being traded for such a paltry sum, but it hasn't paid off on the field yet. He's hit and miss offensively, but his top-tier catcher blocking and framing will keep him employed for years to come. GRADE: B
	Round 1 Pick 21	SP/RP Tim Redmon: Originally viewed as a rotation prospect, Tim was transitioned to the bullpen by Louisville once it became clear in Class AAA that relief was the biggest needed. He reached the majors in 2060 and his pitching in the majors has been pedestrian. This lefty with a formidable submarine slider should be in demand for a while longer in the BBA, but he's clearly a role player not a star. GRADE: C+
	Round 1 Pick 22	1B Dan Wilkinson: Montreal hit paydirt with the selection of this prototype first baseman. Since being elevated to play with the Blazers in 2059, Dan has earned two All-Star selections, two Zimmers and a few postseason round medals. He hasn't been a statistical league leader, but he's endeared himself to both his fans and fellow players as a team captain. He's locked into the lineup with a long-term contract through 2069, albeit with two team options at the end. He's only 26 and still could take another step up in his fine career. GRADE: A
	Round 1 Pick 23	RP Cesar Torres: Cesar is one of the few Monty winners in our rewind, having won titles with Nashville in 2060 and 2062. But we're getting ahead of ourselves with that tidbit of info. He was first selected by Phoenix , and saved quite a few games with the esteemed Toledo Liberty A-level team. But in 2056 he was traded to Rocky Mountain/Rosenblatt for veteran closer Josh Dougherty, this before his trade a few years later to the Bluebirds. Currently he's in the second year of a two-year deal with GBC Johannesburg . In 2063 with the Gold, he got into a

Team	Pick	Player
		great rhythm and saved 31 games with a 3.20 ERA. His control may be patchy, but his sinker/slider combo is trustworthy. All in all, not a bad pick. GRADE: B
	Round 1 Pick 24	(Unknown pick - player not signed)
	Round 1 Pick 25	CF Matt Pruitt: Pruitt had the fortune of making his rookie debut with Portland during the 2059 championship run. He earned more playing time from then on, with the Lumberjacks relying on his left-handed hitting and steady outfield play across all three positions. Pruitt is an important man in Portland, as showcased by the offseason events of 2058. He was selected by Atlantic City in the Rule 5 draft, which caught the Lumberjacks off guard. Portland then promptly traded RF Antonio Bonia to re-obtain Pruitt. That's commitment. GRADE: B+
	Round 1 Pick 26	SP Alonso Arroyo: Omaha/Brook Park , who had a knack for acquiring hitters via trade, balanced that approach by drafting this high school pitcher in the first round. Arroyo then moved east to Atlantic City in 2055 via trade. Since then, he advanced to the Class AAA level. But almost a year ago he was released by the Gamblers and subsequently found work with Cobble Hill in the minors. Arroyo is currently 27 and running out of time to break into majors - and he's not trending in the right direction. GRADE: C-
	Round 1 Pick 27	SP Ken Bautista: Bautista has had an interesting journey. After being drafted by Des Moines amid a 2 million dollar bonus, he was released a few weeks later for mysterious reasons. From there, San Fernando wasted little time and signed the young free agent with a 1.8 million bonus of their own. Cha-ching! Bautista's stock promptly soared in the minors as he became a valued contributor. But another wild turn occurred when Yellow Springs acquired Ken via the Rule 5. The young lefty was soon in the majors, yet never fully earned the Nine's trust. In 2060, he was released and since that time he's been a journeyman in the GBC - and even got moved again in the GBC Rule 5. Maybe someday he will retire and become the best manager in BBA history. Who knows?! But for now he's a free agent again looking for a new home.

Team	Pick	Player
		GRADE: C+
	Round 1 Pick 28	<p>CF Julian Cassidy: This high-school centerfielder was coveted by Charm City and they landed their man. He posted solid numbers in the lower minors, but in 2057 he was a casualty of the Jimmies' farm depth and found himself released. Cassidy reportedly took the news quite hard, and decided to retire from baseball a few months later. He probably still wonders what could have been.</p> <p>GRADE: D</p>
	Round 1 Pick 29	<p>SS Carlos Schumann: Carlos was a nice under-the-radar signing by Valencia near the end of the first round. He matured wonderfully over the years in multiple ways. He transformed into an elite base-stealer, a reliable contact hitter and an infield defender with ideal range. Hawaii took notice of Carlos' productivity and in 2062 were able to convince the Stars to deal the shortstop to them for relief pitching help. He's now locked up in Hawaii for multiple seasons and at 26 is at the core of the Tropics' current roster build.</p> <p>GRADE: A-</p>
	Round 1 Pick 30	<p>RF Carlos Allen: Here's another draft pick that has been a happy story for both the player and the team. Drafted out of high school by Atlantic City, Allen has bested the corner outfield competition to claim immense playing time for Atlantic City. He's piled up nice batting averages and home run totals through four and a half big league seasons. He bears the "iron man" label and has never missed time due to injury. He's one of the reasons Atlantic City has been able to pull themselves out of the JL Atlantic basement. While not a star, he's a valued contributor who at age 26 still has a long career ahead of him - especially among GM's who desire elite durability.</p> <p>GRADE: B+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 31	<p>2B Randy Wright: With the selection of Wright, Las Vegas became the clear winner of BBA teams drafting in the 2054 first round. Now with 5 years of major league experience, the talented infielder has contributed an impressive 23.1 WAR, including 6.4 WAR output in 2061 backed by a .313/.373/.491 line. He's a durable 5-tool infielder who has numerous great seasons ahead of him. Las Vegas will continue to build around this Chicago native unless someone makes a godfather offer.</p> <p>GRADE: A+</p>

Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 32	<p>RP Raul Morales: Drafted by Nashville, this two-way talent has had the eyes of many scouts on him. Unfortunately, neither his hitting or his pitching have completely taken off. So to some degree the jury is still out on this 30-year-old. In late 2057, Yellow Springs acquired Morales with the first pick of the Rule 5 as Nashville was unable to protect Raul due to their loaded farm. He's since been traded to Charlotte, then to Valencia. Lately he's been bouncing around at the Class AAA level courtesy of San Fernando and Cobble Hill. This level of player movement demonstrates that there are holes in Morales' game - namely that his pitching is nothing special, and his bat isn't good enough to beat out other 1B/DH types. He'll likely spend his 30's in the high minors, unless a GBC team really wants him.</p> <p>GRADE: C+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 33	<p>SP Richard Graves: Graves spent his entire career with Sacramento, but this is not a feel-good story like Randy Wright or Carlos Allen depicted earlier. Graves developed nicely after being drafted out of college and pitched at a high level for long stretches of time in the Mad Pops' high minor league system. But with other pitching options available, Graves never got his promotion except for one lone chance in 2058. The result? A 12.27 ERA over 3.2 innings of relief work. Ouch. Following the sip of coffee that burned, he continued his successful run of starting pitching in Class AA for a few years until 2061, when he decided to retire at the end of the minor league season.</p> <p>GRADE: D+</p>
	Round 1 Pick 34	<p>(Unknown pick - player not signed)</p>
	Round 1 Pick 35 (suppl pick)	<p>C Scott Wilhoit: Scott sported solid defense behind the plate and nice power hitting, but his poor contact skills proved to be too much to overcome. Drafted by New Orleans, Wilhoit fought for playing time in the Crawdads' farm system, but was ultimately released in December 2059. Valencia and Las Vegas both gave him chances to revive his career in the minors, but neither team stuck with him very long. He retired in November of last season amid a deep free agent catcher pool.</p> <p>GRADE: D+</p>

Team	Pick	Player
	Round 1 Pick 36	SP Yahya Adhoum: Like Wilhoit, Adhoum also retired toward the end of 2063. He was selected by Mexico City and pitched fairly well all across their minor league system. But a promotion to the majors never came his way. He became discouraged after four consecutive seasons of solid pitching at Class AA, and decided to hang it up with things not working out like he'd hoped. GRADE: C-
	Round 1 Pick 37 (suppl pick)	C Matt Buettner: Twin Cities opted to improve their depth at catcher by drafting Matt out of college. He has a great eye and that may be his only true strength. Neither his defense or overall hitting have wowed anyone so far. He has bounced around the minor league systems of Des Moines , Montreal and Phoenix so far. More teams are likely to be added to that list. GRADE: C
	Round 1 Pick 38 (suppl pick)	RP Manny Hernandez: Selected by Portland , Manny is a solid two-pitch reliever with a formidable fastball and the ability to induce groundouts. He started a large number of games in his minor league career, which might have hindered his development as a bullpen arm. He's been lost in the shuffle and has bounced around multiple BBA minor league affiliates. Montreal , Calgary , Valencia , and Des Moines , if you want the list. GRADE: D+
BONUS!		2054 TOP BARGAIN\$!
	Round 2 Pick 42 overall	RF Jose Farias: "Right fielder with a titanium arm and physique." That's how a scout described Farias, who was wisely selected by Calgary near the top of the second round. This 26-year old is still splitting time in the majors with other outfielders, but that soon could change. It's likely Jose will emerge as a regular starter and award candidate within the next few seasons. The minor league pedigree and scouting reports show that it's almost a certainty. GRADE: B+
	Round 6 Pick 196 overall	3B Francisco Calderon: Nashville and their reputable scouting department came away with their annual gem in the form of Calderon. This one has elite speed and great defense at the hot corner. He can also draw walks and hit dingers with the best of them. He won the Gillstrom newcomer of the year award in his inaugural 2060 campaign and he's been a fixture of the Bluebirds infield ever since. He's coming to the end of his arbitration years, so interesting decisions will have to be made soon regarding Francisco.

Team	Pick	Player
		GRADE: A
	Round 14 Pick 433 overall	<p>C Pepe Rodriguez: The sky is the limit for Rodriguez, who could be pushing for his first full-time major campaign after a very gradual development process in the San Fernando minor league system. That's quite a bargain for the 14th round when most other front offices have run out of coffee in their war room. He's a lefty catcher with ideal hitting skills and is well enough above average with his catching. We will see this year or perhaps next what Pepe's true ceiling will be.</p> <p>GRADE: A-</p>



LEM PIKER SR. -

Back in black.

I hit the sack.

I've been too long.

I'm glad to be back.



The Coaching Class of 2064

By Renato Umali

Ten PPT is what—five published Team News? A bunch of us spent 10 PPT to convert retired players into coaches. This was my first season (out of nine, I think) that I spent what meager PPT I had on the conversion. It had been a long time coming and maybe the third or fourth stage of my relationship with Joe “Sloth” Melucci.

While this article considers all 25 retired players turned coaches, I did want to highlight Joe Melucci if only because he became a central figure in my time first in the GBC, and then within the BBA. Melucci was one of the first free agents I signed. Despite being a rather one-dimensional player (power hitter, strikeout-prone, slow as snails, defensive liability), he emerged as an intriguing figure as I got to know the team. It certainly helped that he had a career year with the Pearls, smacking 31 homers.

I got tabbed to manage Chicago and sought to bring Joe Melucci with me. He killed it until he blew out his knee running the bases; he was never really the same. His physical power declined, but his leadership and personality emerged (in my mind, at least, and sometimes in Team News). Joe became a regular guest with The Beef. And he stayed on in Class AAA Rockford, oftentimes riding the pine, just so he could get experience as a *de facto* bench coach. He took a year off (I spaced on sending Melucci to coaching school), and now he’s a hitting coach in the Angela Drake League (Short-A).

Lots of ex-players went to coaching school this offseason, including a couple of Hall of Famers: Dennis French (inducted 2058) and Daniel Pepper (inducted 2060). French landed as the assistant general manager of the Charm City Jimmies, commanding 310k/3 years. Similarly, Pepper is in Cobble Hill as their first base coach. All the other coaches will begin their second careers in the minors.

Only one guy never played at the highest level: Joe Eaton, now the new pitching coach for the Caracas Sting (Short-A). My second conversion, José Elizonda, had only one year, and Tony Horton—now managing the Havana Cigars in Short-A—had only three. The rest of the candidates had upward of nine years in the BBA.

The average salary for these new coaches is \$67.4k (median \$55k). Take away Dennis French’s \$310k and it drops to \$57.3k.

But the real interest to me was in the coaching attributes. As Joe Melucci confessed in a recent Black Sox Team News, it was laughable that he would be considered “Excellent” at teaching running (given his one steal in his professional career—although 1-for-1 may have counted for something, as he reasoned) and stranger still that he would be Excellent at teaching catching defense.

Melucci's results got me thinking a bit more strategically. I only had enough PPT to send one more guy to coaching school. I had a few ex-Black Sox players in mind (for example, Ragheb Burhan), but in looking through some old stats, I came across José Elizonda and his 10-year slog dutifully toiling through the minors just to have 12 games in the majors. I thought he would make a good story and maybe come away with the coveted "Legendary" in teaching catching defense. *He did*. I wanted to see if any other catcher-turned-coach received the same rating and was out of luck: there were no other catchers-turned-coaches in this year's crop. Yet Joe Eaton, now the pitching coach for the Caracas Sting, was deemed Legendary for teaching catching defense. Curious.

At any rate, as a testament to the staff at the coaching school, only one coach received a Poor rating in any attribute: Scotty Beemeup, the new hitting coach for the Traverse City Talons (Spike Nolan League (R)). He did achieve a "Legendary" in teaching outfield defense, so don't feel too bad for him. On the other hand, he received the lowest salary (\$25k, tied with Pancho Costa of the Russellville Rockets (R)).

There were only 15 Legendary coaching traits awarded, 10 of them in teaching infield defense. All of these new coaches were infielders in their playing careers, all but one (Tony Horton) with nine-plus years of experience in the BBA. There were two Legendary in teaching catching defense (as noted above), and two Legendary in teaching outfield defense (ex-center fielder Dan "Pizzaburger" Flores and the aforementioned Scotty Beemeup).

The only other Legendary designation was awarded to Héctor Fuentes, new pitching coach of the Adirondack Beavers (Short-A). He received it for Handling Development.

Just because a coach didn't receive a Legendary will it mean he'll get an Outstanding. While that often happens, and Manobu Shimizu received three Outstanding, there were a few whose only highest rating is Excellent.

Assigning a numeric value or score for each of "Poor," "Fair," ... "Excellent," "Outstanding," "Legendary," one can see there's generally a positive range of outcomes for each coach. A lower-end positive outcome might include 1 Legendary accompanied by 1 OK, 4 Average, 3 Good, 1 Excellent, and 0 Outstanding—such as Héctor Fuentes. Another new coach might have no Legendary designations but 3 Outstanding (one tier below Legendary), 2 Excellent, 2 Good, 2 Average, and 1 OK—such as future HOFer Manobu Shimizu, new hitting coach for the Boulder Crush (A).

With this rudimentary scoring system, the valedictorian of the 2064 class of coaching school is Vasco Fonzarelli, the new hitting coach for the Eau Claire Cavaliers. He was one of only two coaches to earn 1 Legendary and 3 Outstanding. The salutatorian is Eduardo González, who will manage the Sault Ste. Marie Sea Serpents in 2064.

Congratulations! Diplomas are in the mail.



The 2044

Kevin Morales Award!

(Rob McMonigal)

Welcome back to the annual Kevin Morales Award, as we look back at who was 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 had one heck of a career for a man drafted in the 25th(!) round, 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 a professional baseball player.

Success, of course, is extremely relative here. These *are* 20th round picks we're talking about here. At least so far, there hasn't been much of a career for any of these guys. Here's a look at past winners:

Previous Kevin Morales Award Winners:

2040: Catcher Rodrigo Valles (673rd pick overall, no BBA or GBC service time, highest level Class 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)

2042: Outfielder Steve Tucker (675th pick overall, 2 BBA Seasons totaling 66 games, career ZR of 2.55, .244 average, 1.7 WAR, career minor league WAR of 18.11, 17 professional seasons)

2043: Pitcher Jesus Noriega (639th pick overall, 0 BBA Seasons, career minor league WAR of 5.97, 4 professional seasons)

Running Totals:

Number of BBA alumni: 3

Number of GBC alumni: 2

Max Pro Career: 17 seasons (2042)

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: 2042 (A/AA Ball Split)

Best Median Pro Career: 2041 (5 years)
Best Career BBA/GBC WAR: 1.7 (Steve Tucker from 2042)
Best Career Minor League WAR: 22.34 (David Graham from 2042)

The 2044 Kevin Morales Award Fun Facts:

32 of 32 are listed in Stats + - 2nd complete draft record!
19 Position Players and 13 Pitchers
5 Years was longest pro career
0 Players Made the BBA
0 Players Made the GBC
5 Players never even saw a single pro game(!)

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

Mean: 1.8 (Just shy of Short-A, a new low)
Median: 1 (Rookie, a new low)
Mode: 1 (Rookie, which is not all that unusual)

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

Mean: 1.92 Pro Years
Median: 2 Pro Years
Mode: 1,2 Pro Years (8)
Outliers: None, aka everyone sucked

Notable Stats:

- Telling 2043 to "hold my beer" a total of five guys must have gone off to make sandwiches because they never played in any BBA or GBC organization
- This is the first group to never have a BBA/GBC cup of coffee, let alone anything more
- Only two guys made it to Class AAA, which I am pretty sure is also a record
- Seven players drafted had negative WAR in high school
- Six players drafted had negative WAR in college
- One dude managed the double play of negative WAR in high school AND college
- Seven players had negative career minor league WAR
- Best Minor League WAR was 8.17

Other Cool or Interesting Facts:

- No Devil's Draft Curse, as no one got over five professional years of service.

- While there was a better split among position players and pitchers, this might as well have been an all auto-drafted round. These players are absolute dog poo.
- These players who "made it" to Class AAA were basically used as emergency filler, which breaks the stats of the 2043 year a bit.
- As a group, roughly, the entire draft class finished with about ZERO career minor league WAR.

Whelp, I joked last year about not handing out an award. But if I thought that group was bad, this one makes them look like MVP candidates. No one got more than 5 years. No one got past Class AAA. 21 is a great blackjack number, but it's horrible in terms of number of players not even getting to A Ball.

Like I said, dog poo.

But I vowed going into this project that we'd always have a winner. However, I won't be doing runners up because this group is just that bad. Like Yellow Springs Nine since I took over bad.

Let's rip off that band aid.

Your 2044 Kevin Morales Award winner is...

Pitcher Jude MacNeill



Jude MacNeill, drafted 672nd by the Boise Spuds. He was known for being whip smart, but also unwilling to work with his talent and feeling like he was perpetually underpaid. Not a great combo when you're working your way up from the bottom. He also only had one year of high school, which makes his intelligence level all the more impressive.

After being drafted, he split time in 2044, 2045, and 2046 between Short A and A Ball, which is never a sign of confidence from the general manager. He didn't do poorly in the Drake League, going 3-2 with three saves in Short A in 15 games, with a 3.86 ERA, a 96 FIP- and .18 WAR. His work in A was a bit spottier – 0-1 in 13 games, with a 9.19 ERA, 170 FIP- (not a typo) and -0.74 WAR.

Okay, maybe saying "a bit spottier" is like saying there used to be "a few" rainouts in Mexico City.

Inexplicably moved to Class AAA later in 2046, MacNeill pitched 6 games there for 4.2 innings pitched. Now I don't know the circumstances, but damn, was there really no one better? Sheesh.

Our award winner played the entirety of 2047 at Class AA Weymouth, and that's where his story turns around a bit. Used as a starter for the first time in his life, he pitched in 28 games (all starts) and went 11-7 with 144 strike outs, which is anything but gross for a potential cut candidate like MacNeill. His ERA was 3.69, FIP- of 108, and WAR of 1.31, easily his career best.

MacNeill was moved to Salt Lake City after that and he did okay. In 18 games (17 starts) he was 6-9 with a 3.90 ERA, a 104 FIP-, and a WAR of 1.04. Pretty similar to his Class AA. So why didn't he continue after that? My guess is he wanted a shot at the bigs and couldn't get it. He has "minor league free agent that isn't signed" written all over him.

But hey! Now he's among the Morales-es! That has to count for something, right?

Learn more about him here: [Kevin Morales](#).

Whelp, this has taken a real downward trend, hasn't it? Let's hope for better luck in next year's media guide, when we review 2045. Still several seasons away from my joining the league but we're creeping ever closer. See you then!

Nuck Fashville!

A Collection of BBA Spoonerisms

By Leavin' Stain, GM Bong Leach Surfers

2064

ATC – Whian Britford

AUS – Jam Liohnston

BIK – Aay Ryotte

BOI – Sim Ttops

BKP – Decil Curdle

CLG – Kulent Bazaz

CPF – Ashua Jockland

CLT – Strody Bapleton

CCJ – Sobby Bherman

CHI – Rorrest Fokburn

COB – Pob Bark

DSM – Colon Turuturk

HAW – Wob Bestbrooks

JAX – Heve Stolcombe

LV – Flem Jiming

LBC – Lack Jiss

LOU – Ammy Tokers

MAD – Fary Gellers

MEX – O'Kommy Teefe

MON – Spyce Barks

NSH – Tissy Cringle

NO – Rob Bolf

PHX – DARTH Gobbs

POR – Boss Rown

ROS – Herek Derpkins

SAC – Ballum Crowne

SAN – Blando Oortt

SFB – Hammy Tarrison

TWC – Pair Bleyton

VAL – Made Ciller

VAN – Sheller Mid

YS9 – Bony Tunce

How Many Wins Would It Take For Twin Cities to Win Heartland?

By Ben Heuring

Probably the easiest prediction to make for the BBA in recent years is Nashville to win the Heartland. Sure, you could argue about them losing in the playoffs or the merits of divisional strength or a realignment of the league, but those arguments are for a different time and different feature. What is the most pertinent question to this feature is the question of how many games would Twin Cities need to win this year to force Nashville to play as a wild card team. Let's take a look at what that number could be.

2063 Was A Reason For Optimism

The River Monsters are in a great place because Alan is a general manager that knows what he is doing, and his record of building strong teams speaks for itself. But knocking Nashville off their throne in the Heartland would be an impressive accomplishment that I am sure he would cherish. The problem in recent years leading up to 2063 is that Nashville would consistently win around 110 games at minimum. To make matters worse, in 2059 Twin Cities won 103 games. In a lot of years, 103 games wins you the division. The problem was that year Nashville won 126 games. I'm dead serious; a team winning 103 games wasn't even close to winning the Heartland. To use an MLB example, imagine the 2021 Dodgers winning 103 games but seeing the Giants win 126 games. Or the 2001 Mariners winning 116 games but seeing the 2001 A's winning 136. But since 2059 the margin between Nashville and Twin Cities has narrowed. 2063 showed that the teams in the Heartland are getting better. Nashville won under 100 games, and the Heartland featured Twin Cities and Des Moines also breaking that figure. The gap between Nashville and Twin Cities was nine games, and that leads me to the next factor that could be critical.

A Close Race Means Tough Decisions For Nashville

The key to Nashville's success has been the seemingly endless wall of prospects that Chad has. It is no secret that players in the Nashville system have to perform, and the best prospects either make the Bluebirds and keep the contention window open or are traded for prospects to help rebuild the system. But in a tough race, that means if Nashville is buying then they are going to have to give up something. The wall of prospects is going to get weaker if Nashville is in a tight race; and in order to stay ahead of the cap and get younger, teams who trade with Nashville are going to ask for those prospects as a return.

While we don't know what the rankings beyond the top 100 prospects looks like this year as of this writing, it seems that Nashville could have a very good farm system instead of an elite farm system. If Twin Cities can keep things close in the Heartland into the summer, then the question is does that mean some more Bluebird prospects have to leave the nest?

So, How Many Wins Will It Take for Twin Cities?

Twin Cities has proven that winning 100 games with their current core is possible, and Nashville has proven that they can have an offseason relative to their high standards. I would say that assuming that the Bluebirds win somewhere around 104 games given that they are still a little younger than in the past, it would take 107 wins and another fast start. The battle between Chad and Alan is going to be a fun storyline, and one that I am very curious to see what happens. But Chad won't give up his crown without a serious fight, and Alan is prepared to give him one heck of a battle.

BIG LEAGUE CHEW

This year's version of "Big League Chew" features Rob McMonigal, GM of the beloved Yellow Springs Nine. All discussion happened between his young son napping and team owner Bo Jordan calling his cell phone incessantly. The discussion has been edited for brevity.

Tim M: It's great having you take part in this year's Big League Chew, Rob! You have been a super active GM on both the forum and discord, which is something I have patterned my communication after, and I even try to read every team news although that is an impossible task, it seems. You seem to balance discord activity with forum activity better than most. What is your strategy when working in both venues?

Rob M: Discord is for quick and dirty stuff. Reactions. Hot takes. Sarcastic gifs. The forums are where you have actual, meaningful discussions. I wish more people would hang out on the forums. No one is asking you to read every team news. Hell, *I* don't do that, either. Just find some people you like and "hang out" there. I promise you that your BBA experience will be the better for it.

Tim M: You hit on a good point there. This league allows us to build an emotional connection to what is happening with all of the 0's and 1's. How did you start your online sim baseball hobby?

Rob M: So I think I first tried in 2014, and then my computer broke and I couldn't play for several weeks and ended up being replaced. That feels like a lifetime ago! I was so bothered by it that I didn't try again for several years.

Tim M: It is so tough to find a permanent league that will last and that provides the level of realism we all are looking for. What separates the Monty from all of the others in your mind?

Rob M: Two things: immersion and activity. This league is like 90 seasons old. You can get lost in the lore for days and still find more. Unlike anything else out there that I could find and not just stats. Having all that lore in the forums. I've definitely drawn on it for my own stories, so that's a big piece. But I've also never been in a 40 team league where 36 are active on the regular. Hell, getting 16 of 24 was always a challenge I noticed. And I admit sometimes I was unengaged, but here in the BBA? I feel like I do not do enough, especially compared to others

Tim M: You bring up a good point, there are so many great GM's in the league that are experts at various portions of the game and the league. It is such a well-rounded group led by the best Commish we could ask for. Which GM's do you watch closely and are there any items you have picked up from doing so?

Rob M: I took a lot from Dave and will miss him terribly. I also often talk with Kurt about what I'm trying to do. Justin helped last time he was in the League. Alan also has been a big influence. Ron is why the Nine are so profitable despite sucking so badly. Can't thank him enough for his model and some of his inner workings. And while I don't ask him because he's so busy, I look at Matt always. He may not have the Montys that Chad does but I think Matt is the best GM. I wish I could figure out how to rebuild like he does. I expect him to be a division winner again by next season if not sooner.

Tim M: Matt has been a master at roster turnover and has such a great feel for the players in the league and their value relative to others. When he announces a rebuild I sometimes think that just means he has finished his assessment of the new players he is bringing in. Are there any players in the league that you follow on a regular basis?

Rob M: Other than my own, I tend to keep tabs on some of my more notable former players (like Carter Cramer when I want to induce crying) though most of those have retired now. I also have a soft spot for people on the Talllllooonnnns because I profiled their team several years in a row. Plus Jodie is a great story. Also people like Ploid who were amazing but fell off. A lot of times it's players I almost signed too. Oh and your mom. We all follow your mom

Tim M: This offseason is certainly the offseason of "Your Mother." Alan has been trying to find a new spot for him seemingly since the last day of the 2063 season. Heck! maybe even

earlier than that, now that I think about it. “Your Mother” is certainly a league fixture. Who would be on your Mount Rushmore of all-time BBA greats?

Rob M: Man, that's hard for me as I haven't been here long enough. So of players I have gotten to see: Wullenbacher, Thum, Roman, and Rivera.

Tim M: Those are some great names for sure. I remember the earlier group like Michael Strathallan, Bopper Kengos, Charles Puckett, and the like. Obviously Steve Nebraska. You arrived a few years prior to my current stint in the league and have been around for 10-plus years. How has running the Nine been?

Rob M: I do not envy anyone following a legend. I'll be honest: the pressure of taking over for Ron Collins was too much. It made me make bad choices because I felt like I needed to prove I could win, too. Between that and how hard playing in the BBA is, sometimes I feel completely outclassed. We're going into our 12th year and likely losing again. I really made my work harder by not ever doing a full rebuild. We'll see how this season goes. It might be time to just accept losing until the late 2060s and do the full rebuild. Anyway, the short answer is it's a great challenge but I'm giving myself an “F” in terms of how I'm doing.

Tim M: Following a legend is certainly a tough, tough thing to do, but Ron is such a kind and humble individual he really wants competition to flourish. Such a great resource to bounce things off of. What are the team goals going into the mid 2060's?

Rob M: Stop being the laughing stock of the BBA. Get up over .500 and at least some self-respect. And hope that by 2070 the Bluebirds are human.

Tim M: It is certainly Nashville's time to shine it seems. If you were a fan of the Nine what would you think and say about the GM of the team?

Rob M: I would wonder why the GM hadn't been fired yet. That has to really get on the nerves of all BBA fans. I believe I even wrote into a storyline that BBA general managers can't ever be fired because it's such a silly idea, when you think about it. They have some hope because of the minors but no faith in their GM. They also would shiv anyone discussing a team move.

Tim M: Yellow Springs, Ohio is such a great storyline. Small town in Ohio, the history with Eric Ramon. The Yellow Springs Nine were born when the old Phoenix Talons franchise relocated. How does it feel to know your team was the original Talons? I am sure Sean will have an agenda depending on what you say so beware. Lol.

Rob M: I think the greatest achievement of the Nine is not all of Rona wins. Not Thum's greatness, not even being the biggest Small Town in America. It's that their move across the

country means the greatest Denny's tie-in Franchise in the world was born. We should take great pride in that!

Tim M: I am sure that there are plenty of subarus in the parking lot also, lol. What is your favorite part of the BBA season and why do you enjoy it?

Rob M: Hope "yellow springs" eternal in the off season. I love planning my signings, my arbitration, my free agent moves, the Rule 5. Because once season starts we're kinda locked in. I do not love dev lab. I think it's arbitrary and capricious.

Tim M: One of the polls recently was whether people love the offseason or the actual season and I found it awesome that people were split. It just really shows how the league can be different things to the different individuals running teams. I absolutely love what you are doing with the Bo Jordan storyline. Have you enjoyed folding the history into the team? The Bo Jordan responses during the recent TN articles were awesome.

Rob M: I decided that when I took over the Nine I would integrate parts of what had come before, including Bo's long-standing relationship with both the team and Yellow Springs. He's a tragic figure in my eyes. He wants to succeed in the place where he played so well but he's also a businessman and the fact is, if things start going south really badly, he'll lose his shirt. So the idea of him wrestling with this is such great drama. Add on his frustration with his GM, who he cares for like a son in some ways, and it makes it even a better story in my eyes. One that I have an ending for but I just can't bring myself to end his story yet. There's more to explore if I have the time. Bo's ending should not be rushed.

Tim M: Yes! That right there shows the emotional connection that a lot of us have with the history of the league. The storylines have been a huge component season after season, and I love what Leddy is recently doing with the Dennis French storyline. The tie-ins really make the league shine. The Heartland Division has some of the strongest competition and has teams with wonderful histories. What do you enjoy the most about your division?

Rob M: I love that while we may be terrible, the division itself is one of the best around. How many years is the Frick Championship between Nashville and Twin Cities? It's a little boring and predictable, sure, but it shows just how strong it is. If I ever manage to crack that code, it will be something to be proud of, that's for sure.

Tim M: What do you dread about your division?

Rob M: Ironically, its strength. Realistically speaking, no one is catching Nashville for at least another two-three years. Alan has a shot this year, but he had to push all his chips in to do it, and even that might not work. Meanwhile, he's the runner up constantly. That means

realistically speaking, the Nine are fighting to be the third or fourth wild card right now. To get there, they have to effectively beat the top three or four teams in the Pacific *and* the next three best teams in the Heartland. That's a huge hill. And I don't see that changing for a long, long time.

Tim M: There are so many great teams and GMs; it certainly is an uphill climb for the rest of us. How has the adjustment from previous versions of the game been for you and what are your current thoughts about V26?

Rob M: Version 25 was hot garbage. It ruined an entire group of players. And in the course of correcting that, 26 has given us a bit of whiplash. I understand from a recruitment standpoint why the league feels it has to change immediately, but I would prefer if we waited. I'm going to sound old and cranky here, but OOTP isn't what it used to be in terms of quality of initial product. I've been playing since OOTP13. The rush to new features is leaving older ones less loved and the new ones (dev lab, I'm looking at you) not working well and creating imbalances. You have to adjust, but the issue is by the time we know what's "quirky" in a version, we're on to the next one. But to answer the question more fully, I think 26 is better than 25 but is still zapping players too early. Because of this, I think the era of Hall of Fame worthy players may be over. We're going to have a lot of shorter careers. Is that better? I don't know. But it beats 25's "hey, you're 25, time to kill your ratings" thing. My final thought is that I still think that as time goes on, player ratings and player performance don't line up as well as they used to. I know we had that big change recently, but even before that, it seems like prior to version 24, you had a good idea that a blue rating meant the player would be really good at something. Now? Not so much. And there doesn't seem to be a specific reason, at least not one I can find. So I'll keep adjusting, but I'm definitely becoming "old man yells at cloud" here.

Tim M: What wish list updates or changes would you make to OOTP?

Rob M: Oh man. Okay, a few things: a) kill the dev lab feature or make it less random, but also less impactful. b) make associations actually work. c) be better about potential vs actual as a player ages (i.e., you shouldn't be 28 with a 5/8 rating). d) be less harsh about the aging curve for really talented players. e) to keep it a bit varied, tie some of the intangibles to c and d better (so a good work ethic means you keep your ratings longer/have better potential, for example). f) make a pitchers' pitches more of a factor in their performance, and g) worry a lot less about how the historical players react to changes. They're a teeny, tiny minority— even smaller than us fictional player types!

Tim M: The metaverse definitely comes out loud and clear. The "unicorn" cat shirt pic from WorldCon was epic. How was the convention?

Rob M: It was really good! I didn't get to many panels because of having a toddler, but I got to reconnect with old friends and see some really cool things, like a musical stageplay version of the classic B movie *The Brain that Wouldn't Die*, a Dalek created to look like it was from Gilligan's Island, and historical artifacts from prior conventions. I also get to say for the rest of my life that I was not only a World Science Fiction Convention panelist but also a moderator of a panel there! So that's really cool. But seeing old friends I only get to meet maybe once every few years is the biggest part.

Tim M: That sounds so awesome and I am sure that it was a blast to see old friends. It's like the "band is back together" again and what all of us clutch to when reaching back into our mental rolodexes. What hobbies or interests do you have outside of the fake baseball universe?

Rob M: Probably the biggest thing outside of the BBA is my love of board games, which I share with my wife (and hopefully soon, our kiddo). But I also love getting outside and doing day hikes (nothing extreme, LOL), finding weird or unusual things when touring other cities, exploring small towns, stuff like that. The latter is sometimes called urban hiking. Since the boy can't walk yet, we've been doing mostly that—since sidewalks are much easier on a stroller! I also have a comics review/commentary site called Panel Patter (www.panelpatter.com) that is in a bit of hibernation that I am looking at getting back to. We were nominated for an Eisner (comics award) once; I'm super proud of that!

Tim M: The attention to detail and having fun with exploring and playing are intertwined, I think. I'll need to check out the site and fall into the rabbit hole a bit. We both have an AD&D background. Are you still active in that community and how has that helped your enjoyment of our current league?

Rob M: Sadly, the most recent party we were in broke up. But I'm hoping once the boy is older we can find a group again. I love making shit up, so D&D is a natural for me, LOL. I just wish I'd started playing it earlier. I think the idea of immersing yourself in a fictional world, as one does whenever you're in a campaign, naturally lends itself to doing the same here in the BBA. I can tell you so much about my main characters that isn't even in the team news. And same for my players. Anyone who's a regular gets a personality that I have to deal with in my head, even if you don't see that, necessarily.

Tim M: That is exactly what I was thinking when you talked about Bo Jordan and that character. There is so much more in our minds that we just need a storyline or an article to expand upon. Connecting the fictional world of tabletop, play-by-email, or in-person gaming and this league of ours is natural. Obviously the love of baseball is present among

many of the GMs in the league. Who are your sports teams and how long have you been a fan?

Rob M: I grew up in Pittsburgh so I still have ties to Pirates, Pens, and Steelers. But I'm not really a fan like a person who gets intense about how the teams do. I'm happy when they win but it's not devastating when they lose. And I couldn't even tell you who plays for the Pirates outside of like five guys LoL. I guess I should care about the Blazers given I'm in Portland. But I'm just not into basketball.

Tim M: My wife and I took in a Pirates game last month when traveling back from dealing with my Aunt's estate in Jersey. We had a great time and I concur, I couldn't name five Pirates if I tried. *[Ed.: well there's Captain Jack, for one!]* You recently had an addition to your family? How is the little guy doing?

Rob M: The boy is doing great! I'm so proud of him. Not quite talking fully yet but I'm sure I'll get an earful soon. He's strong as an ox too. Much stronger than I was at his age.

Tim M: Speaking of strong animals, the zoo photos are awesome. Who enjoys the days out more, the parents or the kid?

Rob M: I think it's about even. But the edge goes to the boy because he loves being outside. I swear he'd live in a tent if I let him. So far we're taking him places we like too, so hopefully that will become a real tradition.

Tim M: Do we have a mini-Rob assistant GM in the future?

Rob M: Maybe! Right now he just pushes random things on the keyboard. Which might actually be a better strategy than I'm currently using!

Tim M: LOL. What do you anticipate for the next 10 years for the Nine?

Rob M: Within 10 years we need to have been to the playoffs at least once. If not then maybe Bo needs to break that rule about firing the GM!

Tim M: Rob, this has been a great chat! Your connection with the Nine, enjoyment of the league, and personal connection to everyone here really shines through. We're lucky to have you as part of our little made-up world here in the corner of this web. Thanks so much!

All Modern-Era Team: Jacksonville Zombies

The Jacksonville Zombies began the modern era as the Greenville Moonshiners. They moved to Jacksonville and became the Hurricanes before the 2027 season. Then, going into 2059, they rebranded as the Jacksonville Zombies. During the modern era, the



team has a winning percentage of .505, with 28 playoff appearances and three 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 Jacksonville.

CATCHER:

Top Candidates:

1. **Maxwell Weiss, Jr.** (.287/.344/.466, 123 wRC+, 250 2B, 114 HR, 408 RBI, 24.8 WAR in 753 Games from 2020-2024 and 2028-He threw out 35% of attempted base stealers with the team.)
2. **Check Bowers** (.286/.343/.514, 126 wRC+, 75 2B, 96 HR, 292 RBI, 16 WAR in 432 Games from 2014-2016. He threw out 38% of attempted base stealers with the team.)
3. **Eliazar Osorno** (.289/.342/.376, 92 wRC+, 265 2B, 12 3B, 23 HR, 436 RBI, 457 R, 19.2 WAR in 1,170 Games from 1998-2006-He threw out over 36% of attempted base stealers with the team)

Weiss, Jr. was a two-time All-Star and a 2 time Platinum Stick winner.

Bowers was an All-Star and finished second in the Sawyer Silk voting in 2015. He led the league in ISO, SLG, OPS, and WAR that season.

My choice for the top Catcher in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Maxwell Weiss, Jr.** Weiss, Jr. and Bowers were both very good but Weiss, Jr. was good for the team for a longer period of time. That put him over the top for me.

FIRST BASEMAN:

Top Candidates:

1. **Norris Rutledge** (.300/.368/.563), 143 wRC+, 249 2B, 334 HR, 920 R, 950 RBI, 1,223 SB, 49.3 WAR in 1,373 Games from 2027-2036)
2. **Earl Alleyne** (.321/.427/.427, 135 wRC+, 231 2B, 88 HR, 841 R, 588 RBI, 47.1 WAR in 1,340 Games from 1997-2005)
3. **Bruce Wayne** (.284/374/.502, 259 2B, 27 3B, 191 HR, 691 R, 587 RBI, 140 wRC+, 41 WAR in 1,101 Games from 2015-2022.)

Rutledge was a 3 time All-Star and 2 time League Champion.

Alleyne was a 1 time All-Star and a 2 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in OBP twice.

Wayne was the Silk Sawyer winner in 2017 and finished 2nd in voting for the award in 2020. He was a 2 time All-Star and a 1 time Platinum Stick winner. He led the league in doubles, runs scored, extra base hits, average, slugging, and WAR in 2017.

My choice for the top First Baseman in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Bruce Wayne**. These three players were all outstanding but it came down to choosing between Rutledge and Wayne. Rutledge helped the team win two championships but Wayne was recognized as one of the top two position players in the league twice during his time with the team.

SECOND BASEMAN:

Top Candidates:

1. **Reginald Harnois** (.284/.359/.502, 126 2B, 115 HR, 403 R, 391 RBI, 126 wRC+, 21 WAR in 651 Games from 2000-2008)
2. **Luzvimindo Arbizo** (.271/.380/.425, 91 2B, 19 3B, 52 HR, 302 R, 257 RBI, 204 SB, 116 wRC+, 13.5 WAR in 603 Games from 2033-2038)
3. **Melvin Bradshaw** (.291/.378/.447, 96 2B, 46 HR, 238 R, 207 RBI, 121 wRC+, 11.5 WAR in 543 Games from 1999-2004)
4. **Gabriel Manuel** (.249/.365/.504, 37 2B, 87 HR, 205 R, 231 RBI, 128 wRC+, 8.1 WAR in 346 Games from 2061-2063-Currently Active at the time the article was written.)

Harnois was a 1 time All-Star.

Arbizo was a 2 time All-Star

My choice for the top Second Baseman in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Reginald Harnios**. Harnios and Arbizo have similar numbers but Harnois was a little better for a little longer despite Arbizo making one more All-Star team. Manuel is on his way to becoming the best second baseman in team history, but he needs to maintain his level of play for a bit longer before he can claim that title.

THIRD BASEMAN:

Top Candidates:

1. **David Noboru** (.304/.339/.558, 129 wRC+, 365 2B, 68 3B, 427 HR, 1,213 R, 1,173 RBI, 61.1 WAR in 1,662 Games from 2030-2041)
2. **Jake Urban** (.288/.357/.543, 134 wRC+, 106 2B, 25 3B, 144 HR, 430 R, 449 RBI, 25.7 WAR in 614 Games from 1995-2000)

Noboru was the Sawyer Silk winner in 2035 and 2036 and finished 2nd in the voting in 2032 and 2033. He was a 7 time All-Star, 4 time Platinum Stick winner, 3 time League Champion, and 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in hits, runs, and WAR twice, SLG and RBI twice, and total bases 4 times. Noboru was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Urban was a 1 time All-Star and 1 time Diamond Glove winner (at SS). He led the league in home runs in 1998. Urban was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame

My choice for the top third baseman in the modern era for Jacksonville is **David Noboru**. Even though both ended up in the Hall of Fame, Noboru was a dominant force in Jacksonville. Urban was good, but not nearly as good as Noboru.

SHORTSTOP:

Top Candidates:

1. **Doug Glover** (.285/.337/.518, 128 wRC+, 268 2B, 268 HR, 658 R, 843 RBI, 51.7 WAR in 1,198 Games from 2012-2020)
2. **Roman Empire** (.335/.408/.479, 139 wRC+, 131 2B, 21 3B, 72 HR, 472 R, 399 RBI, 60 SB, 30.7 WAR in 680 Games from 1997-2002.)
3. **Pepe Aragon** (.285/.330/.504, 122 wRC+, 183 2B, 37 3B, 164 HR, 528 R, 571 RBI, 74 SB, 23.1 WAR in 870 Games from 2057-2063-Currently Active at time article was written. Has played both SS and 3B)

Glover was a 2 time Silk winner, a 6 time All-Star, and a 2 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in homer runs, total bases, extra base hits, and RBI 3 times. He led the league in SLG once and WAR twice. Glover was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Empire was a 4 time All-Star. He led the league in hits and batting average once each. Empire was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Aragon was a 3 time All-Star. He led the league in triples and home runs once each.

My choice for the top shortstop in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Doug Glover**. There are three excellent Zombies on this list but Glover was outstanding for a long period of time and built an incredible resume that will be tough to top.

LEFT FIELDER:

Top Candidates:

1. **Julio Uribe** (.317/.360/.462, 121 wRC+, 293 2B, 55 3B, 72 HR, 649 R, 380 RBI, 109 SB, 19 WAR in 1,049 Games from 2042-2051)
2. **Brett White** (.269/.334/.540, 118 wRC+, 154 2B, 201 HR, 492 R, 492 RBI, 16.3 WAR in 811 Games from 2037-2041)

Uribe was a 1 time All-Star.

White finished 3rd in the Silk voting in 2038. He was a 2 time All-Star, 1 time Platinum Stick winner, and 1 time League Champion. He led the league in extra base hits in 2038.

My choice for the top left fielder in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Julio Uribe**. The two players listed here are very different types of players. White's best season was better than Uribe's but I feel like Uribe's total body of work was stronger.

CENTER FIELDER:

Top Candidates:

1. **Alfredo Martinez** (.279/.413/.575, 157 wRC+, 43 2B, 96 HR, 296 R, 241 RBI, 136 SB, 15.8 WAR in 355 Games from 2034-2036)
2. **Bill Burkholder** (.258/.330/.490, 112 wRC+, 518 2B, 60 3B, 376 HR, 1,119 R, 1,373 RBI, 88 SB, 46.4 WAR in 2,157 Games from 2000-2014)
3. **Aaron Hayes** (.331/.386/.472, 129 wRC+, 140 2B, 44 3B, 18 HR, 349 R, 222 RBI, 21 WAR in 472 Games from 1995-1997)

Martinez was a 1 time All-Star and 1 time Platinum Stick winner. He led the league in OBP twice and OPS once.

Burkholder was a 5 time All-Star and a 2 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in doubles and extra base hits twice each. He led the league in RBI and home runs once each as well.

Hayes was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 1995. He was a 3 time All-Star and a 1 time Diamond Glove winner.

My choice for the top center fielder in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Bill Burkholder**. He built an impressive resume and was clearly the best center fielder in team history.

RIGHT FIELDER:

Top Candidates:

1. **Martin Felix** (.319/.391/.464, 132 wRC+, 360 2B, 48 3B, 112 HR, 913 R, 602 RBI, 94 SB, 47.8 WAR in 1,389 Games from 2011-2020 Currently active at the time this article was written)
2. **David Simpson** (.274/.391/.514, 143 wRC+, 171 2B, 196 HR, 546 R, 574 RBI, 24.2 WAR in 940 Games from 2046-2051)

Felix was a 2 time Sawyer Silk winner, 3 time All-Star, and a 2 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in hits 3 times, and runs 4 times, doubles, triples, and total bases once.

Simpson finished second in Silk voting in 2047. He was a 3 time All-Star and 2 time Platinum Stick winner. He led the league in SLG and OPS once each. He was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

My choice for the top right fielder in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Martin Felix**. Simpson was also very good but Felix was the obvious choice for me.

DESIGNATED HITTER:

Top Candidates:

1. **Bertram Hahn** (.254/.372/.482, 126 wRC+, 219 2B, 336 HR, 904 R, 914 RBI, 36 WAR in 1,534 Games from 2028-2041)
2. **Jose Zuniga** (.274/.338/.538, 123 wRC+, 321 2B, 393 HR, 861 R, 1,073 RBI, 22.5 WAR in 1,550 Games from 2037-2048)

Hahn finished 2nd in the Silk voting in 2029. He was a 1 time Platinum Stick winner. Hahn was a 2 time League Champion and a 1 time Playoff Series MVP.

Zuniga finished 2nd in the Silk voting in 2040. He was a 6 time All-Star, 1 time Platinum Stick winner, 1 time League Champion, and 2 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in home runs twice, and total bases, RBI, extra base hits, and OPS once each.

My choice for the top designated hitter in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Jose Zuniga**. Both players were very good, but Zuniga was a little more impressive overall.

STARTING PITCHER:

Top Candidates:

1. **Jay Lee** (89-53, 32.66 ERA, 2.48 FIP, 58 FIP-, 54.7 WAR, 48 rWAR in 190 G, 190 GS from 1995-2000)
2. **Mack Milholm** (162-153, 3.90 ERA, 4.06 FIP, 90 FIP-, 51.7 WAR, 56.3 rWAR in 420 G, 402 GS from 2001-2016)
3. **Bob Anderson** (114-90, 4.07 ERA, 3.69 FIP, 83 FIP-, 41.3 WAR, 34.9 rWAR in 296 G, 296 GS from 2053-2062-Currently active at the time this article was written)

Lee was a 2 time Nebraska Pitcher of the Year and a 3 time All-Star. He led the league in Wins, ERA, Complete Games, and rWAR once each, Innings Pitched and Strikeouts twice each, Shutouts 3 times, and WAR 5 times. Lee was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Milholm was a 4 time All-Star and a 2 time Diamond Glove winner. He led the league in Innings Pitched twice.

Anderson was a 2 time Nebraska Pitcher of the Year and finished top 3 in votes for that award on 3 other occasions. He was the Gillstrom Rookie of the Year in 2054. Anderson was a 4 time All-Star. He also won 1 Playoff Series MVP award. Anderson led the league in Wins, Strikeouts, WHIP, and H/9 in 2061. He also led the league in strikeouts in 2058 and WAR in 2054.

My choice for the top starting pitcher in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Jay Lee**. Bob Anderson also has a strong case but Lee had a phenomenal 6 year run in Jacksonville.

RELIEF PITCHER:

Top Candidates:

1. **Brendan Meyer** (20-36, 207 Sv, 2.90 ERA, 2.67 FIP, 60 FIP-, 9.4 WAR, 8.4 rWAR in 374 G, 0 GS from 2004-2009)
2. **Peter Grady** (81-69, 235 Sv, 3.53 ERA, 3.78 FIP, 82 FIP-, 20.4 WAR, 27.1 rWAR in 738 G from 2034-2043)
3. **Alejandro Chavez** (49-42, 287 Sv, 3.24 ERA, 3.36 FIP, 78 FIP-, 16.9 WAR, 20.6.5 rWAR in 703 G, 0 GS from 2047-2058-Currently Active at the time the article was written)

Meyer was a 3 time All-Star and a 1 time Playoff Series MVP. He led the league in saves once while with the team. Meyer was inducted into the BBA Hall of Fame.

Grady was a 6 time All-Star, 1 time League Champion, 4 time Eagan Reliever of the Year, and also finished 2nd in the Eagan one other time. He led the league in games pitched 7 times and Saves once.

Chavez was a 6 time All-Star. He was a 1 time Eagan Reliever of the Year and finished in the top 3 for the award 3 other times. He led the league in saves once, but that was a year in which he was traded away from Jacksonville mid-season. He also led the league in holds once.

My choice for top relief pitcher in the modern era for Jacksonville is **Peter Grady**. All three of these pitchers were outstanding but Grady was the best relief pitcher in the league for a long stretch during his time with the team.

JACKSONVILLE ZOMBIES ALL MODERN-ERA TEAM:



**C: Maxwell
Weiss, Jr
1B: Bruce
Wayne
2B: Reginald
Harnios
3B: David
Noboru
SS: Doug
Glover
LF: Julio
Uribe**

**CF: Bill Burkholder
RF: Martin Felix
DH: Jose Zuniga
SP: Jay Lee
RP: Peter Grady**



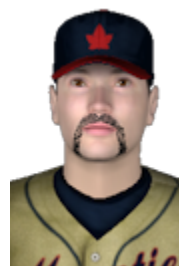
Royce Hinkle: Carrying the Family Torch and Powering up the Mounties' Offense

An Interview with Al Royce

Ron's note: Vancouver GM Aaron Wharram loaded up an AI with tons of Royce Hinkle records, history, and other such neep, and proceeded to interview "him." What resulted is an interesting exercise in where Fake Baseball might be able to go in ... well ... not so many years.

Glad to have you here Royce Hinkle. Just wanted to get started by saying you have had an excellent start to your BBA career. What do you hope to achieve this season?

Thanks for having me! I'm excited to be here and grateful for the way my career's kicked off with Vancouver. For 2064, my big goal is to keep the power rolling—definitely aiming for 40 homers, maybe 120 RBIs, and pushing my batting average above .300. I want to cut down on strikeouts too; I had 110 last year, so I've been working on being more selective at the plate. I know as a team, we're gunning for the Pacific Division title and a deep playoff run. Last year's 85-77 record was solid, but missing the postseason hurt like hell. I think we've got the lineup and pitching to hit 90-95 wins and make some noise in October.



Obviously you play in the least hitter-friendly park in the BBA. What adjustments have you made to help have this strong start for your career?

Yeah, playing in Vancouver's park is no joke—it's a tough place to hit with that pitcher-friendly setup. Early on, even though I crushed seven homers the first week, I realized I couldn't just swing for the fences every time—or I'd start racking up flyouts to deep center. To adjust, I've focused on driving the ball to the gaps, especially to right-center, where I can use my power to still get extra-base hits. Jorge Castellanos (Mounties hitting coach) has been big on refining my approach: staying patient, working counts, and hunting for pitches I can drive. Against righties, I lean on my ability to go oppo; while against lefties, I've worked on staying inside the ball to avoid weak contact. It's about quality swings over trying to muscle everything out of the park. That's helped me put up numbers like .299 with 36 homers last year despite the park.

It doesn't seem too long ago you were selected in the 2061 BBA Rookie Draft. What were the feelings like on draft day?

Man, draft day in 2061 feels like yesterday, but also a lifetime ago. Y'know I'm a 20-year-old kid, just coming off another big year with the Pabst Blue Ribbons where I hit I think around .365 with 19 homers. I remember my agent telling me I was projected to go in the first round. I know Valencia had told me if I made it to them at 16 they were going to pick me. Honestly, I was a nervous wreck that day—sitting with my family at home, refreshing my phone, trying to play it cool, but all the while sweating bullets. When Vancouver called my name at 13th overall, it was pure elation. I mean, getting drafted into the BBA was the dream, and knowing a team like the Mounties *believed in me*? That hit hard. My mom was crying, my dad was shouting, even Uncle Davenport called me saying he was absolutely elated that I was drafted to the Mounties. I was just grinning ear-to-ear, thinking, "This is it, I'm getting my shot." It was a mix of relief, excitement, and pressure, knowing I had to prove myself. Looking back, it's wild to think how fast it's all happened—two years later, I'm batting cleanup for this team; it's incredible.



Speaking of your uncle, Davenport Hinkle, he is no doubt a Vancouver legend. Does having that last name make it harder for you to go out there and try to live up to the name?

Yeah, having Uncle Davenport as a Vancouver legend definitely casts a big shadow— the guy's a Mounties icon with those All-Star nods, a Charles Puckett Golden Bat Award, and all those clutch homers; over 12-plus seasons here. Growing up, I'd hear stories from family and even get to go see him play games. It's inspiring, but yeah, it adds some pressure carrying the Hinkle name, especially in the same city where he built his legacy. Fans sometimes ask about him or compare our power swings and I feel like I gotta prove I'm not just riding his coattails. But honestly, I embrace it: he's given me advice on handling the BBA grind, like staying patient at the plate. I just focus on my game—mashing in the cleanup spot and to carve my own path. It's motivating more than anything. It was awesome to play with him for a few games in 2061 and it's a moment I'll never forget.

Never wanted to be a catcher like him though?

Nah, catching never really called to me, even with Uncle Davenport being a legend behind the plate. Growing up, I loved watching him gun down runners with that arm, but I always saw myself in the outfield, chasing down balls and swinging for the fences. Catching is a grind—squatting for nine innings, taking foul tips, managing pitchers. I respect it, but I'm more at home focusing on hitting bombs. My game's about power and contact, not framing pitches like he did. He used to tease me about it, saying I'd never be able to handle the gear, but he's proud I'm carving my own way. I figure I'll leave the catching to guys like Rhys Atticus and Mitchell Goater and stick to mashing.

After you were drafted you only spent a grand total of about three months with the Class AAA team before getting the call to the majors the next year. Many kids spend years in the minors. How did you keep yourself focused as you were fast tracked?

That's a great question. Getting drafted in '61 and then only spending about three months with Victoria in Triple-A before hitting the majors in '62 was a whirlwind. A lot of guys grind in the minors for years, so I knew I had to stay locked in to make the most of that fast track. Honestly, it was about keeping my head down and focusing on the basics. At Victoria, I was hitting well with 22 homers in ninety-something games, so I leaned hard into my routine—extra batting practice, studying pitchers, and working on my swing to make sure I was ready for any call-up. I knew the major league team was being shaken up the year I got drafted and there were talks of me debuting right away. But I didn't let myself get caught up in the hype or worry about how fast things were moving. My coaches kept me grounded, reminding me to treat every at-bat like it was the majors. Plus, talking to vets like my uncle gave me perspective—he told me to just play my game and not overthink the jump. That kept me focused: one pitch, one swing at a time.

Even then at 23 you're already being hailed as the face of the offense. Tell me, does having that role add to the pressures of being a young major league player?

Yeah, at this age, hearing I'm the face of the Mounties' offense is wild—humbling, but definitely adds some weight. There's pressure in the BBA no matter what, but being counted on to drive in runs and set the tone in the cleanup spot? That cranks it up a notch. You know every at-bat's a chance to change the game, especially in a pitcher's park like ours where every hit counts. I feel it most when we're in tight games, and the fans are roaring, expecting a big swing. But I try to channel that into focus—stick to my approach, trust my bat, and not overthink it. Having guys like Zhi Li and Greg Clover in the lineup helps

spread the load; it's not just on me. Honestly, I thrive on it—it pushes me to work harder, like I did this offseason on my swing. I want to live up to what the team and fans expect.

That's great to hear, and I'm sure the fans and management alike are happy to hear that. Just one more question, how does it feel playing for a Canadian team as an American?

Playing for a Canadian team like the Mounties as an American has been awesome, honestly. Coming from Albuquerque, I wasn't sure what to expect when I got drafted by Vancouver in '61, but the fans here are unreal—passionate, loud, and they live for baseball. It's a bit of a culture shift, you know, with the colder weather and the whole poutine thing, (laughs), but I've loved embracing it. The city's got this energy that pushes you to play hard, and I feel a real connection to the community. I've said we're just as popular as the Vancouver Canucks if not more! On the field, it's all about the game—doesn't matter if I'm American or not, we're all Mounties trying to win. Plus, it's cool to represent Vancouver on an international stage in the BBA. I'm proud to be out here mashing for Canada.

THE PROJECTION ROOM



JRamirez wishes to say something brilliant about the 2064 season. Instead, he'll stick to the **sumptuous** fare available at the... the... well, where the Kernels play their home games. And let all the experts—every last one—voice their thoughts in the following pages.

Good Cop/Bad Cop



ATLANTIC

Cobble Hill:

Good Cop – The rebuild is moving swiftly. Shoeless was wise to dump a quick-aging Jose Torres for four Bluebirds who will help shape the rebuild. This could be a .500 team despite a \$20 million payroll.

Bad Cop – No one wants to see this team win outside of Brooklyn, and no one cares about them inside of Brooklyn (or realizes they still exist). Changing the name to Cobble Hill changed nothing, but, on the plus side, if they gain one fan this year, they'll have doubled their fan interest from a season ago.

Jacksonville:

GC – One of the hardest hitting middle infields in the league will keep the Zombies' playoff hopes alive, but could be a third straight year of 80 wins.

BC – Sometimes a guy just needs to look in the mirror and remind himself that zombies aren't real (and they won't be again in 2064).

Montreal:

GC – Serna and Terovolos had breakout seasons in 2063 and look to repeat that in 2064. They loaded up on arms for their bullpen and they'll be fighting for the top spot in the Atlantic.

BC – Do you know how many Breums it takes to win an Atlantic title? Me either, but we know it's not two.

Atlantic City:

GC – The Gamblers improved by 8 wins last season and finished .500. They are armed with young talent and five top-100 prospects. GM John Momberg must be excited for the second half of the decade.

BC – Currently taking bets on which day in September the Gamblers will be eliminated from the playoffs.

Cape Fear:

GC – The Swamp Foxes shocked the world with a playoff appearance in 2062, but crashed back to earth last season. Senzo Sato, Carlos Berrera, and Antonio Ramirez head to Cape Fear out of free agency in hopes to get them closer to 2062 results.

BC – Sometimes being #2 in North Carolina is the same as being a #2 in any other state.

New Orleans:

GC – Eduardo Jimenez had a season for the ages. He didn't allow a single run in his 27 IP last year. With the Crawdads at the bottom of the cellar, Jimenez may be a trade candidate and New Orleans would welcome more prospects to their already talented farm.

BC – Oh, crap. My bad. I wasn't prepared to write anything on New Orleans. I could have sworn this was a triple A team.

Charm City:

GC – 12 straight playoff appearances including another pennant in 2063. This team is filled with veterans. Surely, nobody could fuck up this roster.

BC – Turns out “nobody” is another of Joe’s personas.

Charlotte:

GC – A Monty appearance in 2062 came at a cost, losing star Flyer, Jacquot Natta to injury for all of 2063. They still won 91 games and Natta returns in 2064.

*BC – What difference does Natta mean to the rest of the Atlantic? Natta f*cking thing.*

FRONTIER

Mexico City:

Poli bueno – You know what I like about Mexico? The chips. And the Aztecs have a lot of blue chips in their farm system.

Poli malo – You know what I like about Mexico? Everything’s cheaper there, including wins for visiting Johnson League teams. Oh, and remove the dome; Rain delays will be the only way this team plays after the last scheduled day of the season.

San Antonio:

GC – Big Papi returns to where it all began, albeit with a lot more money in his pocket this time around. Stickler had a bit of a sophomore slump, but has some protection this year.

BC – This team is like Hector Cano Jr.’s description on the team’s trade block – set them out there and forget about them ... which should be around mid-May.

Calgary:

GC – The Pioneers are fresh off a 90 win season and the top of the lineup had a down year. Look for a deeper playoff run this season when all cylinders are firing.

BC – Unfortunately for Calgary, pioneers rode in covered wagons which, generally, have no cylinders, and this team doesn’t have near enough oxen to make up the difference.

Las Vegas:

GC – The surest bet in Vegas is that the Hustlers will be competitive. Don't be fooled by the "time to tear it down" talk from Recte. It's a hustle and he will use it to propel into the playoffs once again.

BC – Now that it came out that Graham Luna is actually Joe Lederer, maybe it will finally be revealed that Recte is also Al Hoot.

Phoenix:

GC – The Talons went for it last year and made the playoffs for the first time since 2058 and won the division for the first time since 2039. This is the year Adrian Tallent wins his first Silk award.

BC – For Marco, the only thing better than a Brewster is a minor league title, and seeing as Tallent has two remaining option years, expect championships for Class AA Medicine Hat this year and Class AAA Surprise the next.

Austin:

GC – Harry Bransington is the real deal and still just 20 years old! He can probably learn a thing or two from vet Bernie Stuart who comes in to support him in the rotation.

BC – Sadly, Bernie Stuart will have to miss part of July as he's scheduled for a colonoscopy on the 12th. Oh, and is Viagra a controlled substance banned by the BBA in 2064? Asking for a friend (the friend is Bernie Stuart). Haha. He's old.

Boise:

GC – The good news is they no longer have any good players they can trade away for peanuts. They should be able to start stacking top draft picks by the end of the decade.

BC – There's going to be a lot of eyes on Boise this coming season, but sadly all those eyes are sprouting from potatoes.

Rosenblatt:

GC – The turnaround was quick with Niles at the helm. A strong trio of southpaws atop the rotation will be lethal in the playoffs. Plenty of payroll room to add an impact bat, too.

BC – The largest explosions expected in Rosenblatt this summer will come from the tendons of their aforementioned trio of southpaws (who are definitely not getting my vote for the Hall of Fame due to the very strict and detailed guidelines I arbitrarily implemented this offseason).

HEARTLAND

Des Moines

GC – Two straight seasons of 90 or more wins has the Kernels popping for another postseason bid. The addition of Wafid Bishr to an already exciting lineup should have the Nashville's and Twin Cities' fanbases on edge.

BC – if this Kernal's team was a popcorn, it would be caramel. Really annoying when it gets stuck in your teeth, but ultimately, not really dangerous.

Nashville

GC – They added no one in the offseason, but what do they really need other than another shelf built in their trophy display to make room for more hardware. Another season of slaying the hopes of the River Monsters looks imminent.

BC – Lazy offseason – product of trusting the system or frog in boiling water?

Brook Park

GC – Coming off a frustrating 69-win campaign in 2063, the Brownies will unveil several titillating promotions on nearly every homestand in 2064. Promotions means wins, right?

BC – Heh. 69. Titillating. These aren't the Brownies you're looking for, Joe.

Twin Cities

GC – The team is now the Blair Peyton River Monsters, regardless of what the official program states. If the GBC phenom can duplicate his success in the BBA, the Twin Cities faithful will finally watch their hometown team slay the mighty Bluebird Monster living in their nightmares.

BC – What exactly will Alan be rebuilding in five years? A pile of Magnatiles, which, appropriately, are much more attractive than the River Monsters' teams lately.

Madison

GC – Carlos Cruz has miraculously remained healthy throughout the long, lonely Madison winter. With his golden left arm gracing the mound every fifth day, look for the Wolves to win at least as many games as last year, if not a couple more.

BC – Mike's been too busy making logos to manage a baseball team. It shows.

Chicago

GC – After making the playoffs last season for the first time since 2048, the Black Sox look to build upon their newfound success by relying heavily on the sinfully good starting rotation, headlined by Adam Hines and followed by three guys just as good as he is.

BC – About time! Only to blow the near-future with over \$134 million to Adam Hines. Is Vinnie's hitmen gonna whack him to get out of that contract? Or maybe he'll get hit by a distracted caller driving a big rig.

Louisville

GC – Finishing 2063 with a .500 record could be considered quite the achievement for a team who has not won more than 79 games in the previous eight seasons, but the Sluggers hope to build upon the success behind the monster arm of Ricardo Nystrom and the big bat of Jose Jackson.

BC – Literally the red-headed stepchild of the Heartland.

Yellow Springs

GC – With Leslie Hartman covering over 86.8% of the field with his godlike range and defensive prowess, look for the Nine to finally break through in 2064 and win 72 games instead of the 71 games they've won the last two seasons.

BC – Hartman does realize he has to play both ways, right? Alas, he is the shiniest turd in Ohio.

PACIFIC

Sacramento

GC – As Brooklyn Ben becomes more comfortable in his second season as the Popes general manager, the Sacramento faithful will be treated with far more fireworks than they were forced to endure by the previous administration. In the up-for-grabs-Pacific, look for the new-look Popes to find their stride and compete for the division once again.

BC – Lol, let's pull the good cop persona a bit and let us know how you really feel.

Hawaii

GC – Did you know the Tropics sold more than 649 bushels of croutons in 2063? With two straight playoff runs in the books, Hawaii fans are counting on Vicente Martinez and his strong supporting cast to increase crouton sales deep into the postseason in 2064.

BC – Croutons are the only crunch time success stories in Hawaii. Can't perform in October.

Vancouver

GC – The chilly Canadian winters have been good to whatever fragments remain of Dirk Bessi's left arm, resulting in a majority of Mountie fans dreaming of another playoff appearance in 2064. Can Aaron make another 37 trades this season to finally bring a Pacific pennant home?

BC – Can everyone hype this kid up again so he burns all his resources on more snake oil?

Long Beach

GC – Will they take first? Will they take last? Nobody frickin' knows. For a team that has a "There's been (x) days since the last time we ruined a pitcher's arm" sign hanging over their main gate, the Surfers are hoping for some good vibes and bigger waves to help them forget they had the worst record in the entire BBA last season. THE ENTIRE BBA, LANE!

BC – The only waves will be the fans saying goodbye as they walk out in the 4th inning.

San Fernando

GC – The Bears have not lost a game, a trade, or a transaction (on paper) for many seasons. Will this be the year all those wins translate to actual wins and a highly-coveted Pacific title? According to the sheep brain I'm licking to prophesize the future -- maybe.

BC – If it wasn't for a couple of nice arms from Nashville, this team wouldn't be bearing any arms worthy of being in the BBA.

Valencia

GC – The Stars are looking to Ed Bush, great grandnephew of Edgar Bush (no relation to the President Bush's), to harness the power of his massive 6'6" frame in his sophomore season and help Valencia to their second straight season above Long Beach in the standings.

BC – Quite the goal-setting there.

Bikini

GC – The Bikini franchise has not won 90 games since their Pennant winning 2046 season. Is this the season the Come Together Door shimmies and shakes into the Come Together Garage Door, providing GM Ron Collins and his carefully curated Krill with their first Brewster title?

BC – I know it's been a while, Joe, but this also isn't what you're looking for. Wrong Cum Together door. Though, Ron will be in a sticky situation if he can't win a Monty with another franchise.

Portland

GC – The Lumberjacks are far too good a squad to miss the playoffs for a third straight season. With Mynorli Gaajlimitz locked down for the next four to six seasons, Portland looks to take back the Pacific crown and defeat Nashville in the playoffs, restoring order and goodness to the league.

BC – Joe. Just stop looking around. Not the age limits you're looking for, either. How long will Uecker last on those knees?

The Atlantic Division: 2064

Previewed by James Walker

The Charm City Jimmies reclaimed their place atop the Atlantic Division with a dominating 2063 BBA Season. The Jimmies won 108 games against just 54 losses and finished 17 games up on 2nd-place Charlotte Flyers. The Flyers were 91-71 and took a Johnson League Wildcard berth. The Montreal Blazers were 3rd at 90-72 and 18 games back while taking another Johnson League Wildcard. Atlantic City was 81-81 followed by Jacksonville at 80-82 and a new Cobble Hill at 71-91. Cape Fear struggled to a 70-92 record followed by a New Orleans team at 64-98 to round out the Atlantic Division.

Both Atlantic Division Wildcards won their Geoghegan Round 3 games to 1 to move onto the Doubleday Round. The Jimmies faced off against the Blazers in a best of seven series and prevailed 4 games to 2 while the Flyers beat the Phoenix Talons 4 games to 2. This set up an all-Atlantic Division Cartwright Cup with the Jimmies versus the Flyers. Charm City dominated the Cartwright just as they did the division by sweeping the Flyers out of the playoffs.

The Jimmies made their 3rd appearance in the Monty since 2058 and faced an old foe. The Nashville Bluebirds. The Bluebirds were looking for revenge after losing the Monty to the Jimmies in 2058. The Jimmies lost two games at home and were 1-2 in Nashville to drop the series to the Bluebirds 4 games to 3.

Final order of finish in 2063:

Charm City	108	54
Charlotte	91	71
Montreal	90	72
Atlantic City	81	81
Jacksonville	80	82
Cobble Hill	71	91
Cape Fear	70	92
New Orleans	64	98

Atlantic City Gamblers

GM- John Momberg (chicoruiz)
Lifetime Record 1368-1874



2063 Season 81-81 (Predicted 85-77. Close)

Key Losses- SP John Avery FA 1.5 WAR, 10 players at 1.4 WAR

Gains- SP Logan Hill Trade CHA 2.4 WAR, SP Motka Beteev FA 0.7 WAR, 7 players at 3.1 WAR

2064 Season

The Atlantic City Gamblers finished the season as they began it, at .500. Their pitching struggled with the long ball all season and GM John Momberg will be looking to improve that. He signed Motka Beteev in free agency to slot in behind Angel Medina and Brian Whitford. Beteev allowed 17 homers last season in Vancouver in 30 games and 22 starts going 8-8. Logan Hill was brought in via trade with Charlotte, but he gave up 23 homers in 162.2 innings for the Flyers and will be hard pressed to get the job done for the Gamblers. Dewey McKim is the 5th starter in spring training with Bob Johnson and Kent Johnson working out of the 'pen

The bullpen also had some issues with giving up homers but the pitchers they have just need to perform better. Ray Allard and George Vallis were examples with Allard allowing 1.9 HR/9 and Vallis 2.6 per 9. They turn this around and they can get at least 5 more wins. Jesus Martinez is the closer making 69 appearances going 7-9 with 41 saves. He posted a 3.89 ERA and a 110 ERA+. Harry King was solid as his setup man making 59 appearances with a 7-5 record and 5 saves. He has a 3.86 ERA and a 127 ERA+. Kreshnik Bizi pitched 109.2 innings and posted a 3.86 ERA going 6-3 with a save.

The Atlantic City offense is much better season ready with young, quality hitters. The oldest position player is LF Wilson Prieto at 30. These players will all be reaching their peak potentials around the same time. The Gamblers are strong up the middle and had a big season from SS Jafar Seif al Din. Seif al Din hit 18

homers and drove 18 runs while playing solid defense to post his third straight 4+ WAR season. CF Vandika Zadoyan had 24 bombs and 79 RBI while showing small improvement in his defense posting a 3.1 WAR. Calos Allen, Masahiko Harada, Javier Aguilar and Prieto combined for 84 homers while driving in 265 runs. Gamblers GM Jim Momberg stated that they will be doing what they dub the 'Kagwa Slide'. They're moving players to positions better fitted to their defensive ratings. It begins with light hitting center fielder John Kagwa splitting time with Ron Phillips. This will move Zadoyan from center to left resulting in Prieto taking over at first. If that doesn't take Javier Martinez slots back in at first and Prieto will be the 4th man in the outfield which moves Harada to the DH role.

The Gamblers have some young players at AAA Wilmington that are almost ready to play in the majors. Starter Seth Weller should be ready mid-season or at least a September call up. Reliever Abdul-Mu'izz Keys is ready to go right now. Reliever Emmilian Perdziak is close and should also be a mid-season call up. Reliever Tom Brothers could make the team out of spring training while LF Andres Gonzales and RP Lenya Nikushkin have some more growing to do.

2064 Prediction 83-79



Cape Fear Swamp Foxes

GM woods (Woody Donahue)
Lifetime Record 865-1082

2063 Season 70-92 (Predicted 88-74, Disappointing prediction)

Key Losses- SP Nathaniel Davis FA 2.3 WAR, RP Todd Stone FA 0.3 WAR, RF Ziya Turkes FA 0.5 WAR, RP Jose Mendoza Waivers (DM) 0.1 WAR, 2B Justin McLaughlin Waivers (DM) 0.1 WAR, 13 players at 3.5 WAR

Gains- SP Carlos Barrera FA 2.4 WAR, 3B Senzo Sato FA 1.5 WAR, RP Felix Feliz Trade (CBH) 1 WAR, 12 players at 4.7 WAR

2064 Season

The Cape Fear Swamp Foxes fell from 89 wins in 2062 to 70 wins in 2063 to miss the playoffs for the 13th time in the last 15 seasons. The culprit was the offense as the Swamp Foxes scored 132 less runs than 2062. GM Woody Donahue set to fixing that problem with the signing of free agent Senzo Sato to play third for the Swamp Foxes. Sato has a good eye and can draw some walks. The team is set behind the plate with catcher Sam Butler and backup up by Jose Smith. Taniel Bogolyubski, Richard Vernon and Jesus Delgado round out the infield with Sato. In the outfield, Joshua Ackland returns following a 30-homer season joining Jose Montoya in right with 16 bombs, Octavio Martinez with 12, and Antonio Huerta with 26. Natrajan Gargeya and Kevin Thistle will attempt to crack the lineup but will benefit from some more time in AAA.

The starting rotation performed well and brought in Niegloslaw Woywitka late in the season to get a spark. Antonio Ramirez made 31 starts to lead the team and was 10-8 with a 4.03 ERA in 176.1 innings. He gave up less than a homer per 9 innings with a 2.3 K/BB ratio. Jim Hardesty made 29 starts going 12-13 with a 3.99 ERA and a 110 ERA+. The team signed free agent starter Carlos Barrera put up numbers in Las Vegas that were close to what Hardesty put up last season. Harry Stewart is young and will put up some good stats if he makes 30 starts this season. The team will need to add at least one more starter before the season begins to be a threat in the Atlantic. In the bullpen, Dave Ferrell had a resurgence with Cape Fear making 38 saves in 50 games with a 2.04 ERA. He will be joined by returning relievers Jose Mendoza, Kalaila Cobar, Moananni Nana and Waleed Hadad. The rest of the bullpen are young, unproven relievers leaving some questions for the team going into spring training.

The Swamp Foxes have a catcher and a reliever that are ready to contribute to the club this season with Rafael Herrera behind the plate and Mario Vick. Herrera played AA last season, but his ratings appear to be filled out and he should tear up the league. Vick is in the same position but made 9 appearances last season and his ratings are filled out. SP Jose Daigle may be ready to give some innings as a starter in the bigs giving the team a way to move Woywitka to long relief. Cape Fear has more pitching help ascending through the minors and will have cost-controlled pitching soon.

2064 Prediction- 77-85

Charlotte Flyers

GM Nathan Garrison (Krathan)
Lifetime Record 765-696



2063 Season 91-71 Johnson League Wildcard (Predicted 95-67. Close again!)

Key Losses- SP Logan Hill Trade ATC 2.4 WAR, SP Antonio Santiago FA 0.6 WAR, RP Clarence Moore FA 0.1 WAR, C Reynaldo Fernandez Trade YS9 0.7 WAR, 7 players at 3.8 WAR

Gains- 7 players at 0 WAR

2064 Season

The Charlotte Flyers for the 2nd straight season and the 5th time in 6 seasons earning a Johnson League Wildcard. They took out the Rosenthal Bombers in the Geoghegan Round, the Phoenix Talons in the Doubleday but fell to the Charm City Jimmies in the Cartwright Cup. This was done without two-way star Jacquot Natta who was injured in the 2062 playoffs and missed the entire season. They get him back to begin in spring training and will decide whether he will be a reliever/3B or a starter/DH. The injury has left him with diminished ratings, but he can still hit. The starting rotation won't suffer if he doesn't start with guys like Buwono Mainaky, Larry Jensen, Bob Anderson and Arturo Trevino. Felipe Cummings will slot into the rotation and soon be one of the top pitchers in the Johnson. Floyd Turner will provide some depth to the rotation and may get some bullpen duties or make starts in AAA Richmond.

The bullpen is a work in progress during the off season but has a good foundation with Closer Eduardo Moreno. Reliever Wayne Lamber is an interesting piece in the 'pen with his high stuff and non-existent control that puts the fear of Camacho into opposing hitters. Reliever Emilio Carrillo is recovering from a partially torn UCL and will be available toward the end of spring training or a couple of weeks into the regular season. Carrillo has reached his potential ratings and is ready to contribute to the Flyers if he can get on the field.

On the field, the Flyers will have Lawrence Stewart behind the plate with Brody Stapleton his backup. Alfredo Trujillo had a good 1st season in Charlotte after coming from Brooklyn via trade. He hit 30 homers and drove in 106 runs and will return to play first for the Flyers. Young 2B Domingo Chavez had an off year in 2063 after his successful debut in 2062. He'll bounce back this year and put up closer to the 6 WAR in 2062 than the 3 WAR of last season. Tommy Anderson will back him up at second and can play short in a pinch, but you don't want him out there for too much time. Loo Yang has a bag full of gloves but no room for a bat and Charlotte will be searching for an upgrade there. Wani Matos was fantastic at third in place of the injured Natta and could stick there permanently with 'Bandit' at DH. The outfield trio of Jorge Trujillo, Jose Bedreddin and Jose Vargas are solid both at the plate and with the glove. Tony Villa provides power at DH to round out the offense.

The Flyers have some youth on the way in the minors but if they could spend some of that capital on a shortstop, I'm sure GM Nathan Garrison will do it.

2064 Prediction 97-65



Charm City Jimmies

GM Graham Luna (Graham) aka Joe Lederer (jledddy)
Lifetime Record 977-872

2063 Season 108-54 Atlantic Division Champion (Record prediction was 98-64, Kinda close)

Key Losses- RP Patrick Rosales FA 1 WAR, RP Bryce Sparks FA 0.9 WAR, RP Antonio Gonzalez Trade SFB 0.4 WAR, 6 players at 2.3 WAR

Gains- SS Jose Reyes Trade SFB 2 WAR, 2 players at 2 WAR

2064 Season

The Johnson League Champs have made a huge splash in the off-season after Dave Burcicki re-signed his position and the team hired Graham Lu... I mean Joe Lederer as their GM. Lederer returns to the BBA and the Johnson League by proving himself once again in the GBC by guiding the Johannesburg Gold to a 93-69 record and an appearance in the Grand Slam Cup presented by Marko and Suburu™.

Lederer takes over the Jimmies after their loss to the Nashville Bluebirds in the Monty but doesn't have as much work to do. The Jimmies lost some relievers in free agency but pick up Jose Reyes who had played third for San Fernando. Charm City returns an excellent starting rotation anchored by 17-game winner Hector Silva. He's followed by Allen Davidson at 13-10 while pitching 205.2 innings and Ian Tolley going 16-7 in 202.1 innings. Jorge Nava made 32 starts and was 8-6 in 178.1 innings.

The bullpen has no slouches either, led by Evgeny Partyka with 44 saves in 59 appearances. Jason Gomez will get a full season in the 'pen after splitting time in AAA and the bigs. Rannal Seldon is nearing the end of his career but still can get the job done late in games. They'll be joined by Seung-jin Cho, Miguel Reyes, Joe Hulton and Bobby Sherman.

The offense will remain the same starting with Edgardo Reyes behind the plate with either Joselito Hernandez or Max Heregger his backup. Jose Cardoza will be at first, Dave Ackerman will be at second if he is healthy, Lucio Guevara at short and Ayyad Faisal at third. Ramon Rodriguez will patrol left but will have Carlos Rodriguez waiting to take his spot. Emilio Reyes is in center and Kazunari Chikafuji will limp out to right until Matt Bamber is healthy again. Arturo Perez will roll as the DH of the Jimmies and is the big power in the lineup.

The Jimmies have some depth at AAA Annapolis with 3B Matt Labarca waiting for his shit at third for Charm City and Closer Bob LaPointe needing another season before being ready. The Jimmies minor leagues are rated #18 in the BBA.

2064 Prediction 104-58

Cobble Hill Robins

GM Doug Olmstead (shoeless.db)

Lifetime Record 2267-1629



2063 Season 71-91 (Predicted 62-100. Juusst a bit outside)

Key Losses- SP Gabirl Carlos Claimed on Waivers (AUS) 0 WAR, RP Jose Rodriguez Claimed on Waivers (BPK) 1.5 WAR, RP Felix Feliz Trade (CPF) 1 WAR, 6 players at 2.5 WAR

Gains- 5 players at 0 WAR

2064 Season

The Cobble Hill Robins have brought in 14 starters to vie for the big-league team in spring training. The most likely suspects: Dave Labonte, Luis Medina, Ignacio Lewis, Bobby McHone, Jose Betancourt, and Ramon Buettner. The Robins have given 39-year-old Phil Cole a minor league deal, but he has an outside shot of making this team as a rotation piece. Luca Mandrell has a better shot at a spot in the rotation if someone gets hurt during spring training but could end up in the bullpen.

The 'pen is easier to divine with the top three Robins relievers being Julio Madrid, Jose Gonzalez and Beau Broomhall. The rest of the group are pitchers that can keep the ball in the park. MacKenzie Rhoney is the best of them with a HRR of 7. The rest have a 6 rating which includes Bryan Cunningham, Armando Maldonado, Martin Martinez and Felix Vazquez.

Behind the plate will be Gonzalo Perez with Eduardo Medine or Njal Helgestad fighting to be the backup. Perez won't strikeout much and will get on base a lot this season. Robbie Tyre will play first against righties with Santiago Rodriguez facing the lefties. The future at second base is Kutsi Abas but for this season it may be Jose Molina with Enver Kescu as his backup? Daniel Kenner will roam the field at short, and Ismael Delgado has zero competition at third. Juan Hernandez and Jesus Martinez have a leg up to play in left but there are several options right now. Bob Park is the quarterback in center but has a weak bat to go with his great

range and can get you 2 WAR on defense. Onan Ogun will play against righties while playing right but will yield to Nelson Cadiou or Jesus Martinez against lefties.

There are still many question marks for this team after shoeless slashed, burned then exorcised the demons.

2064 Prediction 71-91



Jacksonville Zombies

GM Aaron Weiner (aaronweiner)
Lifetime Record 5168-4716

2063 Season 80-82 (Predicted 74-88. I think I might be getting better.)

Key Losses- SP Mathis Gerard FA 0.6 WAR, SP Juan Marroquin Retired 0.5 WAR, SP Takehide Gertrudes FA 0 WAR, C Roy O'Donnell FA 0.4 WAR, LF Patrick Strolz FA 0.5 WAR, 6 players at 2.1 WAR

Gains- RP Clint Thomas FA 0.6 WAR, RP Patrick Rosales FA 1 WAR, RP Joshua Blenkhorn FA 0.2 WAR, 5 player at 1.7 WAR

2064 Season

The Jacksonville Zombies again posted an 80-82 record in the Johnson League to finish 10 games short of a wildcard berth. The 2063 season began great for the Zombies going 9-4 through 2 sims but then the wheels fell off and Jacksonville was mediocre the rest of the way. The team is in the middle of the pack in team age and have only 6 players over 30 with three geriatrics in Joshua Blenkhorn, Lindsay Baber and Patrick Rosales.

The youth movement takes hold in the starting rotation led by 32-year-old Alexander Swanson. Swanson made 34 starts and ate 206.1 innings on his way to a 9-12 record with a 111 ERA+. Dan Voelzke had another nice season going 13-7 in 28 starts and baffles hitters with below average stuff. He keeps the ball out of the stands and just gets the job done. The rest of the rotation will consist of Mahilai Manaalii, Bartolo Borquez and Tony Gallegos. These guys have just a season under their belts and will suffer the ups and downs of youth. Chi-Cuong Bui is filling in his ratings but may need another season in AAA to get some development of his pitches.

The Zombies have a good bullpen to lean on from the 6th inning on to give their offense a chance to make some comebacks or just hold leads. Closer Victor Baden was 8-4 with 28 saves in his rookie season last year. Clint Thomas was 5-5 with 10 saves for Madison last season and will be a welcome addition to this bullpen. Three young guys did well for Jacksonville with Juan Fernandez, Antonio Sepulveda, and Pedro Fenton having productive rookie seasons.

The everyday players in the lineup are littered with youth that will make or break the Zombies season. At catcher will be Hector Piniero with Juan Flores getting a chance. Flores will be a hitter when he gets his chances at the plate with his high eye and high contact. Paul Long will be at first and probably Javier Huertas, but Ares Xanthos could make the team. Xanthos has an incredible eye and some power but also has a poor makeup. Pepe Aragon and Gabriel Manuel will be the double play combo up the middle and Isoruko Takimoto will be at the hot corner. The outfield will be Steve Holcombe in left, Vladislav Wishenkoff in center and a platoon in right with Benedict Daniel and Randolph Clarke. Majid bin Nawaf will be the DH after an injury plagued 2063.

The Zombies are ranked by OSA as the 27th minor league system with the aforementioned Chi-cong Bui the 64th overall prospect.

2064 Prediction 83-79



Montreal Blazers

GM Bob and Erik Breum (breum, Bob Breum)
Lifetime Record 794-664



2063 Season 90-72 Johnson League Wildcard (Predicted 85-77. Getting better.)

Key Losses- SP Liam Johnston FA 1.8 WAR, RP Ryan Harmon 0.5 WAR, C Luis Gonzales Trade VAN 0 WAR, CF Korey Kapkin Retires 1.7 WAR, 11 players at 4 WAR

Gains- RP David Prigent FA 1 WAR, RP Bryce Sparks FA 0.9 WAR, RP Faqih bin Nasser FA 0.7 WAR, RP Huang Cheng FA 0.1 WAR, 7 players at 2.7 WAR

2064 Season

The Montreal Blazers made the playoffs for the 3rd straight season and eight times in their last 12 seasons. The Blazers haven't had this kind of success since the 2027-2034 playoff runs. The one blemish on this current run is their lack of a Monty after falling to the Nashville Juggernaut in 2057 and 2061. Now the Blazers plan to chase down the Charm City Jimmies and finally slay the Bluebirds for a change.

It starts with the rotation for the Blazers as co-GM Erik Breum tabs 16-game winners Lucio Juarez and Umar Dogar as their 1-2 at the top of the rotation. Then you have innings-eater Luis Gonzalez at 13 wins followed by a big-name pitcher named Samuel Nebraska. Slotting in at #5 with Enzo Bouton after nine starts last season in 50 appearances. If Bouton can match former Blazer Liam Johnston's numbers, then Montreal will be just fine.

The Blazers brain trust focused on improving the bullpen in the Devlabs and free agency. It begins where the game ends with Closer Jorge Trinidad. Trinidad had an improvement with his splitter making his secondary pitch better. He'll be set up by Wlodz Sidelsky and use Adam Bristcoe as a stopper. Former River Monsters/Hustler reliever Alejandro Chavez will work as a middle reliever and a setup man along with former Jimmies reliever Bryce Sparks. Faqih bin Nasser made

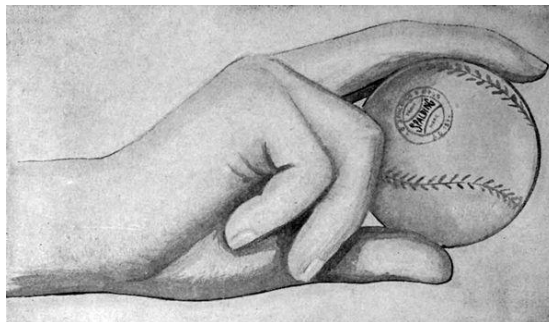
some starts in spring training but will be moved to the bullpen and serve as the long reliever and an emergency starter. The RH Specialist will be David Prigent and LH Specialist will be Luis Manuel. Manuel made huge improvements in the Devlab with a big jump in movement and a point each in stuff and control.

Erik Breum assures his father and co-GM Bob Breum that, "Our bullpen will be much improved."

The catching will be split between Qaseem Kahil vs righties and rookie catcher Luis Campos against lefties. Campos hasn't played above Class A ball, but he has big power from a catcher and one day may be the main catcher behind the plate. Dan Wilkinson will be at first and will bat 5th in the order. Wilkinson will begin the season already banged up with an ankle sprain. Young star Jaime Serna will be at the cornerstone and will team up with Reynaldo Serrano as his double play partner at short against righties and Jeffrey Loring against lefties. Denes Terovolas will be at third for the Blazers full time until Rule 5 pick Matt Stoner recovers from an injury. Stoner then will get his at-bats against lefty pitching. Clancy Lee will patrol left against righties while Manny Burgos will get the job against lefty pitchers. Ed Rooney is the full-time center fielder and will be backed up by Lee due to his inability to stay healthy. Jedidiah Marzuq will be in right but will miss a couple of weeks with a back injury but will return mid-April. Burgos will be the DH against righties and Terovolas will hit the lefties. On the bench will be Pedro Hernandez to play third and some outfield, OF Petru Marinus to play some defense late in games, and Jack Wesman as the utility until Stoner returns from injury.

The Blazers have the 26th rated minor leagues as scouted by the highly inaccurate OSA reports.

2064 Prediction 90-72





New Orleans Crawdads

GM Jim Roberts (JimBob2232)
Lifetime Record 6060-5418

2063 Season 64-98 (Predicted 65-97, Oh, so close)

Key Losses- SP John Lucas FA 1.1 WAR, SP Jayin Ranjani FA 1 WAR, RP Joe Shaw FA 0.2 WAR, 2B Jason Newton FA 2.1 WA, 7 players at 4.4 WAR

Gain- 8 players totaling 0 WAR

2064 Season

The New Orleans Crawdads have been quietly rebuilding a team that aged out and haven't made the playoffs since 2058. Harry Thomas made his debut late last season for the Crawdads making six starts with tragic results. But he's a year older and has solid ratings making him a good bet to bounce back this season. He will labor behind Ed Smith, Juan De La Cruz, Jason Nelson and Tiobradly Sargisson. The bullpen is a bigger work in progress with the only job that is sure is closer. Carlos Miranda wasn't as bad as his stats show because he didn't really have many save opportunities. Some possibles to help him out in the bullpen are Eryx Argyra, Jose Flores, Faddei Popleteev, and Ryzard Dziejulski. It may have Wilbur Carter and Raul Aragon, but New Orleans GM Jim Roberts may make some signings to upgrade his 'pen.

Maximo Baez and Domingo Quintana will share catching duties until Peter Jackson is ready for the bigs (if he develops). At first will be Adib bin Nasser and will be backed up by either Neo Stromberg or Juan Rodriguez. Glenn Garrett has worked his way through the Crawdads system quickly and is ready to be the starter at second. Tom Guenette returns to New Orleans to play third and the shortstop job looks like it will belong to Necdet Ecevit. Eduardo Correa is the likely left fielder, but he has been plagued with back spasms and may sit out for Pete Mitchell. Tony Mercado may not be ready for Prime Time but is close enough for the BBA and will play in center. Callum McKay has had two nice seasons to begin his career in New

Orleans and will play right. Rookie Pedro Salazar will be the DH and will supply this team with some power.

The Crawdads have the 14th rated OSA Minor League System led by the Glenn Garrett at #23 followed by P Harry Thomas at #49, CF Cristian Popa at #51 and 2B Ricky Fults at #89. Patience.

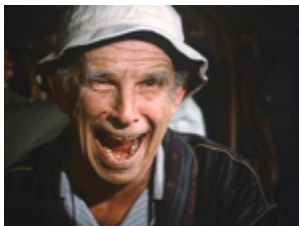
2064 Prediction 66-96

PROJECTED STANDINGS: ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	Wins	Losses
Charm City	104	58
Charlotte	97	65
Montreal	90	72
Jacksonville	85	77
Atlantic City	83	79
Cape Fear	77	85
Cobble Hill	71	91
New Orleans	66	96

The Frontier Division: 2064

PREVIEWED BY **Chuck Valenches**



Last year I griped that the Frontier Division had another year where they faded quickly from the post-season. In fact the Frontier Division has not had an entrant in the Monty Brewster Memorial Cup Series since the Rocky Mountain Oysters (now the Rosenblatt Bombers) won the whole enchilada in 2056. SO, the division needs a little bit of a boost. It may help that the seemingly infinite post season entrants of Charm City have a new GM. I'm not sure who the new GM is. I'm not sure who the new GM was. It's very confusing. But I do know that there is a seasoned bunch of GMs in this division so WTF guys?

Looking at last year's Frontier Division the big news was the emergence of the Phoenix Talons who jumped in front early on and never looked back. Looking at who started the most games you could see a lineup of good young players happy to put Toledo in the rear-view mirror. They went 98-64 and won the division by eight games. Pretty good for a team that went five straight years below .500. The Talons scored almost a whole run (5.1) runs-per-game than they allowed (4.2). It was just good baseball all around and they were the clear division leaders.

Of course, the rest of the top half of the division were the usual suspects. Calgary won 90 games, apparently on the strength of average hitting and pitching. But they put it together and grabbed a wild card. Rosenblatt, formerly the Rocky Mountain Oysters, moved to the beiger fields of the Omaha suburbs to become the Rosenblatt Bombers and they somehow won 89 games while finishing four games below expectations. Las Vegas stayed in the First Division of the Frontier Division, winning 85 games, the fewest wins they have posted since 2055 and the first time they had missed the post-season in five years. And they still won 85 games.

Unfortunately, the bottom half of the division, where I have put down roots, had some of the same old Rogues Gallery. Boise finished in 5th; San Antonio was a bit better with 71 wins but this season will still be the 20th anniversary of the Outlaw's last winning season.

With a weaker than normal free agent class and good defense becoming more of a premium, this may not be the year of the Frontier Division. A back-of-the-envelope calculation of WAR added and lost appears to have seen 8.8 WAR departing from division teams.

Sigh. Let's see where this fossilized hunk of dinosaur crap winds up



Austin Shredders

2063 Record: 65-97, 8th Place, 33 GB.
2064 OOTP Projected Record: 82-80, 2nd Place
Attendance: 2,416,928
Payroll: \$75,820, 989
Farm System Rank: 24th

Additions:

SP Liam Johnston via FA

SP Bernie Stuart via FA

RP Gamal bin Badr

Five players for +4.3 WAR

Losses:

3B Socrates Kazantziakis via FA

RP Faquih bin Nasser via A

SP Jorge Magdalenas via FA

Eight Players for -1.7

Here stands irrefutable proof that the OOTP Preseason predictions are BS. Of course, these predictions are early, but there is no way that the Shredders finish in 2nd place. This is an example of a rebuild gone horribly wrong. The Shredders have good corner outfielders, a decent first baseman, and that's really it. They just have not developed anything up the middle or behind the plate and most of all, the pitching pickings are mighty slim once you get past Harry Bransington.

As I mentioned, the Shredders have good corner outfielders with three first round picks as outfielders. Unfortunately, none of them can play center so what you have are two first round picks in left and right, another first round pick riding the pine and a 4th first round pick, Julio Blanco, off being a big, fragile, disappointment to Louisville where he was dealt last season. The defense is improved after a pair of deals last year brought shortstop Jorge Madrid and center fielder Jerry Woodall. The outfield defense is better now that Komatsu has vacated center and moved to right field and Jorge Herrera is continuing to improve as an outfielder and still mashing the ball. The rest of the team? Ta-Da! [WEAK CLAPPING IS HEARD]

Catcher: This offseason the Shredders had to make some tough decisions. They had sacrificed a bit of offense by moving Komatsu to right and making way for a much better glove in Jerry Woodall. However, that left them with some pretty big holes in the lineup. The casualty in that decision is catcher Haydar Syeda. Syeda is an incredibly good catcher who has led the BBA in Frame Rate the last two years. But, as the pitching staff is a hopeless bunch of never-was and also-rans, Syeda's glove is just not worth the .146 average he posted. Syeda was re-signed, but

he will back up last year's backup, Angel Gutiérrez. While Gutiérrez isn't going to win any batting titles, he did hit 80 points better than Syeda.

Infield: A few changes here this season. Gone are The Philosopher, Socrates Kazanziakas, and I am glad that I don't have to type that name in much anymore. It appears Felix Cabral will start at his third position in three years. He is just an okay fielder and really has a subpar arm for third base, but Cabral will split time at first base, where he is a defensive asset, and third base, where he is a slight liability. Jorge Madris, acquired in a mid-season trade last year for his defense, will be the everyday shortstop. He was a big upgrade both with the glove and the bat. He is only 25 and is considering a five-year extension. Bill Irvine will be back at second base; GM Chuck Valenches is hoping his lead-leading 23 errors at second were an aberration. The newcomer will be rookie Augusto "Cabfare" Pérez. Pérez jumped from Single-A to Class AAA and crushed the pitching he saw with 23 HR and a .293 average. He can handle first and will play there against left-handers while Cabral moves to third. And Felix Hernandez sits down.

Outfield: The outfield was expected to play well and they did. Herrera hit .270 with 34 dingers. Not as good as his rookie season, but a lot of those rookies fell off too. If this is the level he settles at, the Shredders will be happy, though I think he can hit closer to .300 on a regular basis and bash closer to 40 HR. Takanobu Komatsu made the move from center field to right and what a difference it made. He went from a ZR of -24.1 the last two years per year to plus 5.1, an almost 30-point swing. It's no wonder his WAR jumped from 0.8 in 2062 up to 2.7 last year, despite hitting for a higher average and more home runs in 2062. In center, Jerry Woodall will bring his solid glove and expansive range to Austin. Acquired at the same time, but in a different deal than Jorge Madrid, Woodall was a big improvement defensively. However, he is pretty lame with the bat so he is not a permanent solution. Austin will still have to develop a true center fielder.

Rotation: Overall, the pitching stank to high heaven. They were near the bottom in almost every category, but at least last year they had two semi dependable starters. 2062 Austin 1st rounder Harry Bransington put together a solid sophomore season, going 8-8 with a 3.27 ERA. He also ate up more than 200 innings and even garnered some Rookie of the Year Award votes. He remains the ace of the staff and somebody the Shredders need to build around if they want to compete. The surprise last year was Mus'ad Amr, the 30-year-old constant disappointment. Last year something clicked and he went 9-8 with a 3.79 ERA. Time will only tell if this is the new Amr or if his success switch will click off as fast as it clicked on. The rest of the rotation are washed up old farts like 39-year-old Bernie Stuart, 37-year-old Liam Johnson and 35-year-old Antonio Baldez. Valenches may be hoping to set the record for mass retirements or most tubes of Ben-Gay used in a season.

Bullpen: Another obstacle to the Shredders success is the bullpen. Josh Dougherty is a nice signing and Nelson Middlebrooks continues to develop into a fine piece. Hopefully Manny Aguila's back can hold up. He is a talented arm, but missed most of the season with a back

injury. One hope is that Glenn Hargrove, finally booted out of the rotation last year, develops into a good reliever. The rest can make sure the sunflower seed bucket remains full.

Possible Call-Up?: If there is an injury in the outfield, look for Hector Hernandez to get the call. Hernandez handled Class AAA pitching in Odessa with aplomb last year and even hit .300 in a short 12-game call-up at the end of the year. He is stuck behind Komatsu and Herrera, but could be a good bat off the bench or maybe even a trade chit.

Projected record: The defense will be better from the get-go this season, and the offense should hit better than what they produced last year when they were the worst hitting team in the league and scored fewer runs than any other team as well. But the pitching staff is still a trainwreck. The team went 65-97 last year and I am not expecting much better. Call it 67-95 and likely a last place finish in 2064.



Boise Spuds

2063 Record: 75-67, 5th Place, 23 GB. -3 Diff.
2064 OOTP Projected Record: 72-90,
Attendance: 2,644,913
Payroll: \$102,557,598
Farm System Rank: 32nd

Additions:

One player for +0.0

Losses:

3B Zhi-fu Huang via FA -0.2

Three Players For -0.2

Times are hard in Boise right now. The team doesn't win much. You're in a state famous for potatoes. You have the lowest ranked farm system in the BBA, in large part because you have traded your last four 1st round picks. It's hard to say if Boise is into a rebuild or self-flagellation. You only won 75 games last year but have the 7th largest payroll. Last year you finished more than \$19 million in the hole and have nothing to show for it. Your lineup is fairly youthful and has some good pieces, but your staff has six pitchers 35 and over and your best starter is 34. Not a great outlook.

It's not all bad: Boise was one of the few teams that jumped in the deep end of free agency last year and came up looking good. Josh Clark may be 34, but he went 16-7 last year and was a true ace. Also, arguably their best hitter, Bill Kuhn, is only 25 and doesn't look to be slowing down. What else is going right/wrong for Boise? Continue on, *Dear Reader*.

Catcher: Tadanobu Otani is supposed to be a lazy idiot with low work ethic, low IQ and low adaptability. Yet, once again, Otani has turned in a good season. Not his best, but a catcher who hits over .250 and has good skills across Catcher Blocking, Framing, and Arm is nice to have. However, he had a -3.1 frame rate. So, his low IQ did bite him in the end. He is worth keeping and is only 25. Journeyman backstop Ubaid bin Saleh will throw his creaky knees behind the plate once a week or so and soak up some foul balls off the fingertips.

Infield: Boise's infield is pretty solid. Of course you have Bill Kuhn at third base. He can play a decent third and is a star hitter with a career .380 OBP and already has 131 home runs in his career. He is already in the Top Ten for Spuds home run hitters. At shortstop you have a solid glove and little else in Dan Raymond, but you can forgive that because Juan Silva, who you picked up in a deal with the Yellow Springs Nine, can rake a bit and is a decent leadoff, as well as being an excellent defender. First baseman Tracy Allen may be in danger of losing his starting role to 23-year-old William Coleman. In any case, he will still likely be in the lineup every day as first baseman or designated hitter.

Outfield: The Spuds still miss Lou Bayou. Bayou, who went on to lead the Frick in WAR last season, is tearing it up for the Mad Popes and his replacement, Amphibian Johnson (cool name!) is a pale imitation. [Ed: *like a sickly gecko?*] In the corners, Tsutomu Yamauchi is a solid piece and in left field, Cosmo Pan (another cool name!) is solid, if just slightly more opaque than Yamauchi. It's an average outfield and that's it. It won't hurt you much, but won't help you much. This outfield needs a star to bring it to the next level.

Rotation: We have already mentioned Josh Clark. It was a great signing at relatively low cost compared to this off-season's crop of new multimillionaires. Clark was not re-signed by Madison and Boise jumped in and scooped him up. At 34, he may be coming to the end of his prime, but I think he still has another solid season in him. Mahad Einan, at 37, will follow Clark. His numbers last year were not great, not horrible. A lot of second tier teams would have loved them as he went 12-12, threw 200.0 innings and had 20 good quality starts. At 37, he is in danger of tipping over the cliff and Boise may not have a replacement ready. Thomas Turner is even older at 39 and he didn't exactly light the world on fire last year. The hope is that either Dan Boman or Felipe Ledesma can step up to help, or at least not self-immolate every fifth day.

Bullpen: Ben has some good pieces here and a few land mines that will likely bow out before Opening Day. Mario Santos will close games as he has for five of the last six seasons for Boise. He needs to step it up a bit. Last year he fell below 80% in save percentage and his right arm and hand are always in danger of falling off. At 27 I don't see a big falloff. The rest of the bullpen

are hit and miss. Samir Qasim and Yoriyuki Ine can buffer Santos a bit, and it remains to be seen if Tariku Jabiri's last season was a fluke or if the clock will strike midnight and he turns into a pumpkin.

Possible Call-Up?: Boise does have a seriously hurtin' farm system. They have no Top 100 prospects, and what they do have in Class AAA may be overmatched there. Look for Lyonya Ritikov to possibly get a call. Not because he is a future stud, but because he can play a decent outfield and pinch run a bit

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 it's full of 'lapsed' Mormons.



Calgary Pioneers

2063 Record: 90-72, 2nd Place, 8 GB. +6 Diff.

2064 OOTP Projected Record: 77-85,

Attendance: 3,914,624

Payroll: \$97,339,056

Farm System Rank: 10th

Additions:

Seven Players for +0.0

Losses:

SP Nalaney Ahotaein via Trade (HAW) -1.4

SP Rich Tidwell via FA -0.7

Nine Players for -2.1

Let's face it. The Frontier Division has two perennial powerhouses, Las Vegas and Calgary. The Pioneers have been to the playoffs in four of the last six seasons, have two division flags in that time, and also have a rabid fan base that has put Calgary near the top of the BBA in attendance and at the top of the Johnson League. You'd figure in the thin high altitude of Calgary, Alberta and a ballpark that does no favors for pitchers, Calgary must just pound other teams into submission. Well, that's not it, Calgary has finished in the bottom half of the league in homers the last two years, but have made the playoffs both times. The pitching is pretty good, but not top of the league. Where do they stand above the league head and shoulders? Speed. The Calgary Pioneers outrun everybody. They stole 64 more bags than the nearest team. It helps that they can also hit (.278 as a team last year) and are usually in the bottom half of strikeouts

for batters. This surprises me because I have spent time in Calgary and I am gasping for breath after one block. I guess the old saying, “Speed never takes a day off,” still holds true. No matter what the weather is doing in Calgary—and it is usually doing something insane—you can still run; and if the weather is so bad that you can’t run, it’s likely they will call it. So let’s take a look at what Calgary is doing when they are not out spearing sturgeons or throwing looneys at strippers.

Catcher: John Chitwood got the bulk of the time behind the plate and acquitted himself ably, batting .296 and getting on base a lot; and on a team of speedsters, he may actually get passed going from first to second by one of his speedier teammates. He will keep his starting role this season as his backup, Raul Watson, has an excellent glove but can’t hit. I expect these roles to stay the same in 2064.

Infield: At first base, maybe general manager Kevin Dickson rolls the dice one more time on Terry Davis. Davis puts up odd numbers for a first baseman. He is a speed demon at the not-so-hot corner, stealing 37 bases last year and did hit .278, but he is a medical mess at just 26 years old; and at some point, he will have to call timeout after stealing second to go back and pick up a thumb or something. If Davis is laid up, Siu-Chung Lang could get the job. Lang is another speedy first baseman, but he doesn’t really get on base enough to be a permanent replacement. Second base is solid with Bulent Kazaz playing every day, solid hitter, solid defense. At shortstop Calgary will post Jose Cervantes. He carries a good, but not great glove, good enough to post a 6.6 ZR, which will do. Then at third base you have Ollie Long. Long had an off year in ’63, but will look to get his average back above .300 this season.

Outfield: Resurrection Santo is now 31, but still lighting up opposing pitching. He is a solid combination of everything you want in a player. Plays excellent defense, though he may have lost a step, so a move to one of the corner spots was inevitable. He can hit for average, hit for power, draw a walk, and steal a buttload of bases every season. He anchors this outfield and rightfully so. Rusty Harmon will patrol left field and likely hit better than he did last year when his average dropped 65 points and, like the rest of this lineup, steal a bunch of bases. In center field you have Justion Vaive, a slap hitting switch-hitter who can be counted on to steal a base every time he reaches base. Unfortunately, he gets on base at a sub-.300 clip. His numbers should be better: he has the tools, but for some reason he can’t put it together and—despite his speed—cover a lot of ground. I’m okay with giving him another chance.

Rotation: The rotation may run into a spot of trouble this season. Reliable ace Shinsui Hasegawa is 33 and starting to show his age. He still relies on an excellent changeup, but it’s not fooling as many hitters as it used to. He has been replaced as the No. 1 starter by Victor Evans. The 24-year-old had an excellent sophomore season and put up a 13-8 record with a respectable 3.90 ERA. English Bob got his ass kicked by Gene Hackman in *Unforgiven*, and the same might happen this year to Bob English. Edmond Thomas managed to put up decent numbers, going

16-8 with a 4.13 ERA despite allowing a league high 32 homers. He is also 33, but he may have a little more staying power. The flashy new bauble for Calgary could be Jason Bender, a third-round pick in 2056. He has been putting up solid numbers the last two years in Class AAA and is the No. 96 prospect in the league. He looks ready to take the mound every five days.

Bullpen: Martin Viera and Edward Harrison anchor this bullpen. Viera will save a bunch of games, and Harrison will make sure he hands him the ball with Calgary still leading after the 8th. Mitch Bond will fill whatever role he can and do it ably. And as for the rest? Just hope your starter goes at six or seven innings.

Possible Call-Up?: My pick is Christian Herrera, if he doesn't make the club outright on Opening Day. Solid arm, could start or relieve, and has five decent pitches.

Projection: 86-76. This may be a year that Calgary takes a small step back. Players are getting older, not much new talent (none actually) was brought in, but they are still good enough to finish above .500. My guess is that they will likely finish third this year and be out of the running. But I don't expect them to be gone long. Calgary has a good system and some good players on the way.



Las Vegas Hustlers

2063 Record: 85-67, 4th Place, 13 GB., +2 Diff
2064 OOTP Projected Record: 81-81
Attendance: 3,510,118
Payroll: \$87,069,530
Farm System Rank: 17th

Key Additions:

C Ricardo Castillo via Trade (LBC) +0.1

Key Losses:

SP Carlos Berrera via FA -2.3
1B Tadataka Yoshikawa via FA +-.0.7
SP Fernando Rodriguez via FA -0.2
SP John Rasmussen III via FA =0.2
Nine Players for -3.4

Was this Las Vegas' version of a rebuild year? GM Matt Recte finished with his lowest win total since 2056 and also posted his lowest payroll since 2016. Was it a rebuild year? No. I think it was actually just some of the Las Vegas pitchers hitting the end of the productive Yellow Brick Road. Stalwarts like Carlos Rivera, Owen Geddes and Bret Harrel had poor seasons or were injured much of the year, and the Hustlers decided their time was done. Matt dealt Harrell to Louisville, along with a decent, but fragile, prospect for a couple of young solid relievers in Josh Sang and Juan Alonzo. Owen Geddes was dealt for young arm Randy Sheffield, and Carlos Berrera's injuries kept him on and off the IL and his expiring contract was not renewed. The Hustlers did pick up some good pieces and also dealt for Pepe Rivera who had once been a top prospect for Edmonton/Austin in both the pen and rotation and had never posted an ERA below 4.65. Rivera immediately became a solid starter, going 4-3 with a 3.40 ERA in 13 starts because, of course, he did. The price for Rivera was former starting shortstop Jorge Madrid, a solid glove, but expendable. I'm not sure the Hustlers have enough to win the division this year, but they have a deep farm system and could snag a wildcard. Let's look at Las Vegas

Catcher: A down year behind the plate with Claudio Morgan now 31 and showing his age. It looks as though Las Vegas tried a platoon with Adam Rumbold and it was kind've meh. Neither catcher hit particularly well, and both catchers combined for a Frame Rate of -16.7, which is pretty awful. The Hustlers did trade for Ricardo Castillo. While Castillo has never been a starting catcher, he does call a better game and hits a bite better too, though it's a small sample size.

Infield: Alonso Finn is another trade that Matt made that will probably work out for him: after 37-year-old Tadataka Yoshikawa started playing like he would rather be at the Golden Corral than on the field, the Hustler's dealt for Finn in exchange for center fielder Chandler Lackman in what appears to be a straight up steal. Randy Wright provides excellent defense at second base and can hit a little, so he'll be back. At third base could be a mish mash. Armando Diaz may be the best option and Antonio Edison is getting some time this spring, but Edison is not ready yet and Diaz is still only 24. They could both start at either position with a little Don Dulaney thrown in when he is not playing first. At shortstop you have the hot hand of either Diaz or Edison.

Outfield: For the last few years Las Vegas has run out the same trio of Roberto Hampton, who covers a ton of ground (14.0 ZR); Tankut Saltik, also an excellent fielder and the Hustlers' one true home run threat; and Angel Trejo, who can just flat-out rake. The only switch this year may be the addition of Sloan Ritchie to the mix. He is a slightly better fielder than Trejo and may force Trejo to the designated hitter slot, but all four will get plenty of playing time. It's an outfield with no major weaknesses and some good upside while still being young.

Rotation: This preview is starting to get boring as Las Vegas has made few changes to their staff that they hadn't already made in the middle of last season. It's not a slam dunk dominating staff, but one with average to above average arms. Jim Fleming and Claudio Rodriguez will be solid. Pepe Rivera may or may not continue the stellar performance he displayed when he

arrived from Austin last year (unless, of course, I Tonya Harding his ass). The interesting thing to watch will be Afzul Chishti, no relation to Zuul, the Gatekeeper of Gozar in *Ghostbusters*. Vegas signed him to a big five-year, \$69 million dollar deal out of the GBC where he pitched for Tokyo. GBC players are always a risk. My guess is the fifth starter will be Jita Khadri, who I believe is a better pitcher than his numbers have shown. Khadri can't go long, but he may get the nod.

Bullpen: This is a pretty solid bullpen and has some backup on the way in the minors. Rafael Gonzalez is a top closer. Add in arms such as Augusto Dominguez, Ricardo Martinwez, and Mauro Rojas, and you better hope you have the lead after the 5th or 6th inning. Add Josh Sang and Juan Alonzo and this may be the best pen in the division.

Possible Call-Up? Las Vegas has the bandwidth to allow Juan Alonzo to continue to develop in Class AA, but he is very close to being ready and will be another solid arm for the bullpen.

Projection: Vegas probably needs a more consistent rotation (who doesn't?) and could use another impact bat. I am picking Las Vegas for third place with the same record as last year, 85-67.



Mexico City Aztecs

2063 Record: 68-94, 7th Place, 30 GB. +1 Diff.
2064 OOTP Projected Record: 64-98
Attendance: 2,276,011
Payroll: \$88,863,477
Farm System Rank: 4th

Key Additions:

CL Ji-e Woo via FA +3.4
SP Owen Geddes via FA +1.1
3B Erik Vaine via FA +0.9
Four players for 5.3

Key Losses:

1B Wafid Bishr via FA 4.0
SP Johnny Nicholson via FA 2.5
RF Charles Barling via FA 0.8
SP Vassillis Zorba via FA 0.3
Eight players 7.9

PEBA's early prediction for Mexico City in 2064 is 64-98 and while I hate to say it, it's probably right. This team appears to be in the beginnings of a rebuild that might take a couple of years. At the BBA level, they have an excellent defense, but aside from catcher Ross Deville, they can't

really hit, the starters are old, and the bullpen is ... Well, the bullpen isn't bad and is somewhat younger as well. This is still going to stink on ice for Brandon this year.

The good news is that the Aztecs have the No. 4 farm system with plenty of prospects on the way, and they have also dropped around \$25 million from their payroll.

The Aztecs will have to be judicious in their development and try and build through that route. Last year's pick Jorge Roman looks solid, but already has developed injury issues. Again, the farm is pretty well stocked, but they are still a season or two away from having an impact.

Will the ancient arms hold up? Will the prospects become suspects? Who will wind up with Cryptosporidium, aka Montezuma's Revenge, after drinking from the fountain in the dugout? Read on to find out.

Catcher: In this area, the Aztecs are set. Ross Deville is an excellent hitting catcher and may be the best hitter on the team. As a catcher he may be a little lacking, but not enough to kill you. 2063 was the first year Deville was the everyday catcher; it will not be his last. Ernesto Gray can't hit a lick, but makes for a very solid defensive back up.

Infield: The Wafid Bashir era, or as I like to call it, the "WAFBIS" era (OK I don't call it that), is over. In the offseason Brandon looked around and said, we could have lost this many games without Wafid and his massive salary; so they let him go off to free agency and he signed a four-year \$51.8 million dollar deal. Good for Bashir, though as the last two years are team options and he will be 38 then, it's really just a nice \$2.2 million going-away present (the buyout) after two seasons. At second base Zero Dimotsios will slap the ball around a bit, draw a few walks, and play a solid second base. Hey, he even made the All-Star team last year, which just shows you we need more second baseman in the league. Eric Vatne is a possible gold glove at third base, but he has very average hitting talents and is not helped by no longer being buried in the Nashville Bluebirds lineup. Finally at short you have Edmond Spits. Excellent glove, wiffle bat. But boy, that glove is pretty good. In a few years Luis Zavala and Luis Encarnacion might be ready and they could develop into rotation destroyers if all goes well.

Outfield: The Aztecs have four excellent gloves in the outfield. Too bad none of them can hit! All four hit below .260 and none hit 20 homers. Nestor Saatsakis came the closest with 18, but he really is more of a gap hitter than a home run hitter. He might hit 20 like he did when he hit 24 two years ago, but I doubt it. In center field, Julio Martinez covers a ton of ground and put up a respectable 8.5 zone range, but he can't hit or draw a walk. This will need to be corrected at some point because Martinez is 36 and the injuries are starting to pile up. The rest of the rotation is a bunch of spare pieces held together with old gum and paper clips. Owen Geddes was the only one who had a decent season last year and even he is 38. Brendan was wise to sign him to a one-year deal and hope he still has something left.

Rotation: Last year Father Time finally tapped his watch at Dave Corfield and said, "You're done." Corfield is a five-time Steve Nebraska winner and a first ballot shoo-in for the Hall of

Fame. But that vote is going to come pretty soon. Corfield is 39 and his fastball can be timed by counting “One Mississippi, two Mississippi.” It has an arc. It was a great run, but the “Burner” is out of fuel. I hope he gets a lot of tributes in what should be his final time around the league.

Bullpen: Mexico City has a few good arms here and is desperately seeking more. The Aztecs have 16 pitchers in camp for Spring Training and they are all 25 or younger. If you are still in college, check your mail, you might have gotten an invite as well. Jonathan Sobers has turned into a reliable closer and saved 92% of the save opportunities he had last year. The Aztecs should consider trading him for more prospects. Sobers is already making \$4 million through arbitration, and having a top notch closer for a team that will not hand you many leads doesn’t make much sense. In fact, last season Sobers had only 24 save opportunities. Hidehira Suzuki and César Cantú will help minimize the damage. Jorge Guzmán might be ready for the big leagues this season; but he frankly got his [Ed: *insert word*] knocked off last year in Class AA, so maybe he needs a few more innings down there.

Possible Call-Ups: I don’t think Brandon is in any rush to start the clock on any young prospects, but if Jorge Guzmán gets off to a good start this year you should see him in the red and gold fairly soon.

Projection: Mexico City won’t be in the cellar (that’s Austin’s home for now), but they’ll be at the top of the slippery basement steps—in heels. 68-94.



Phoenix Talons

2063 Record: 98-64, 1st Place, ----. +2 Diff.

2064 OOTP Projected Record: 82-80

Attendance: 2,470,643

Payroll: \$92,829,009

Farm System Rank: 11th

Key Additions:

LF Max Shepperson via FA 0.4

Six Players

Key Losses:

SP Nick Rivers via FA 3.7

2B Miguel Martinez via FA 2.7

SP Owen Geddes via FA 1.1

LF Billy Bonner R5 Draft (VAL) 0.7

RP Edgar Chavez via Trade (SFB)

Seven Players 8.8

The Phoenix Talons have arrived. After five seasons of losing baseball, the Phoenix Talons stormed to the top of the division with a 98-64 record, a 30-game improvement from 2063. It is no surprise that OOTP has projected they will accomplish the same feat with the same record in 2064. So how did they do it? Give Sean Paul credit. He made a couple of nice deals to bring over Garth Dobbs and Mark Lolololo. I'm not sure why Des Moines did that deal, but the Talons got Dobbs, who went 15-5 as well as Julio Perez, who bashed 32 homers while hitting just shy of .300. Both of these studs were acquired for the wrecked bodies of Rich Dares and Bane McCoy as well as the Fragile body of pitcher Javier Duarte, who missed the entire season with a torn elbow. What am I missing here? Sean also has been building up minor league talent such as Adrian Tallent, Pedro Torro, G'tuda Choppa, and Tony Lopez. Add in the signing of Mas'ud bin Salah al Din as a prospect out of the GBC and you have the makings of a very solid lineup and all of them under the age of 30. Who knows, maybe Sean's incessant trumpeting of the Toledo Liberty has something to it? In any case the division is theirs to defend. Can they do it or are they the BBA version of the Bay City Rollers? Let's take a look.

Catcher: Tony Lopez gets most of the time behind the plate as well he should. He is a better hitter than most catchers and can also draw a walk as evidenced by his .357 OBP, but Lopez is also a solid catcher with a 25% RTO last year and a 5.3 Frame Rate. He will make \$2.4 million in 2064, 4.6 million in 2065, and is estimated to make 8.6 through arbitration in 2066. Depending on the market and his continued solid performance, he may be worth a long-term deal. No backup named yet, but look for Diego Montoya to get first look.

Infield: First base and third base are taken care of with Salah al Din at third and Choppa at first. Both can hit, hit for power, and field their position adequately. The Talons are a little bit weaker up the middle. Tsu-Bahr Hru was the starter at short last year and a disappointment. His body is wrecked, he hit just .235 and posted a ZR of -9.6. A lot of ground balls went up the middle that he couldn't reach. Felix Vasquez is a slightly better shortstop, but he can't hit either (.238 AVG) and isn't much with the glove (-5.9 ZR). Colby Triska is getting the nod in Spring Training, a free agent signing out of Des Moines, but he was a back up there, didn't hit well and didn't stand out defensively. Phoenix needs to plug this hole now that Miguel Martinez has left for the Hawaii Tropics.

Outfield: This is where the Talons shine. Led by left fielder Adrian Tallent who does seemingly everything well and is still only 24, Tallent hits for average (.320), gets on base (.378), hits for power (23 HR), and can steal a few bases (61 last year). It's hard to find a fault with the guy and he is the centerpiece of this club. In right, you have slugger Julio Perez (I still don't get that trade). He has hit .300 before, and can again, and he plays a decent right field. Then in center you have a rarity: a center fielder you can count on to catch, throw, and hit. Pedro Toro is not a defensive whiz, but did put up a positive zone range as well as hit .288 with 16 home runs. And he is only 21. That is a talented outfield.

Rotation: A lot of general managers, myself included, bitch and moan about guys trading their best prospects to Nashville for their has-beens and soon-to-be well paid expendables. Phoenix

traded a top pitching prospect in Daniel Grasia, who will likely flourish in Nashville and make the rest of the Heartland Division grind their teeth in a couple of years. Sean dealt for the Now, getting SP Mark Lolololo in exchange. Lolololo is 28, has an injury history, and came with a \$91 million extension attached. BUT, and BUT, he did go 13-6 with a 3.47 ERA, giving Phoenix a strong 1-2-3 with Dobbs, Lolololo, and home-grown pitching stud Francisco Moreno. The Talons don't have good answers at 4-5 in the rotation, but in a short series they may have the advantage.

Relievers: Anchored by another home-grown stud in Javier Orduno, the bullpen is pretty solid. The closer is pretty much by committee with Orduno getting the bulk of the opportunities and 18 saves; but Ernesto Juarez got some opportunities, as well as being a workhouse [**Ed:** I assume Chuck means workhorse but can't be sure!], throwing 136.1 innings out of the pen. Throw in solid arms such as Manuel Parra, Augusto Ramirez and others, and you have the makings of a bullpen that can take the ball in the 7th or 8th and usually keep the lead.

Possible Call-Up? As the Talons tend to draw straight from Single-A Toledo, my guess is that Eduardo Brawner gets the call if he doesn't make the squad out of spring training

Projection: Phoenix has few weaknesses out of their defense up the middle. The team is young, talented, and the rotation and pen are well stocked with good arms. The only issue is that they play in a horrible, horrible city. I think the reason they keep players so long in Toledo is to make them appreciate Phoenix more. It's a choice between a city with no water (Phoenix) and a city with toxic algae in the water (Toledo). Tough choice, yet the Talons will hold on to their division title. Sean has built a championship team, and they are getting closer to the title. I say 98-64.



Rosenblatt Bombers

2063 Record: 83-73, 3rd Place, 9 GB. -5 Diff.

2064 OOTP Projected Record: 81-81

Attendance: 3,652,898

Payroll: \$98,065,064

Farm System Rank: 9th

Key Additions:

SP Joe King via FA 3.8

SP Rich Tidwell 0.7

Four Players 3.8

Key Losses:

ZeroPlayers

So, the beautiful Rocky Mountains no longer have a team. Instead Rosenblatt, a town that doesn't exist, but was instead a baseball stadium that hosted the Omaha Class AAA team as well as the College World Series and is also no longer existent having been torn down to make way for a parking lot for the local zoo (The zoo is pretty nice by the way). They got named the Bombers because a lot of teams do and it's a cool name and I love that their Class AA team is named the Patriot Pandas so the team name is not a problem. Justin inherited a team that had a history of winning and...kept the tradition alive. Rocky Mountain had seen their first sub-.500 team since 2052 in 2062 and Justin promptly returned them to well above .500. The Bombers finished 89-73, just one game back of Calgary and nine out of the lead. However, they did get left out of the Wild Card, something I am sure Justin will address. How will he address it? Take a look.

Catcher: Catcher Ed Hernderson has held this role for the last two years and is still only 23. While not a great catcher and not a great handler of pitchers (-6.1 FRM) Henderson does contribute at the plate, hitting a respectable .290 with 17 HR. I suppose if you found outstanding hitters at shortstop and center field who could also field you may look at getting a better pitch caller, but there is really nothing wrong with Henderson: he's young, he's cheap, and he can always work on his defense in the Development Lab. Maybe find a good glove to back him up.

Infield: Most of the infield gets the at-bats because they know what to do with the bat. Defensively they are lacking at short, but maybe you can overlook that because Isam Badr Isam can hit over .300 almost every year. However, he is also 37 years old and has about as much range as the birdbath in my backyard. If a bird lands on it, it can do its job. Same thing applies to Badr. If they hit it right at him he can make the play. The rest he can just wave at as they roll by. At second base, Derek Hopkins is the one true defensive whiz—a 9.3 ZR helps make up for the ground Badr can't cover a bit—and Hopkins is also a solid hitter and only 24. Jesus Lado made his debut at third base last year and he *also* hit 17 home runs with a decent average. As a corner infielder he does just fine and is still only 23. The only one close to being an AARP member is first baseman Malik bin Mazin, and he is still destroying opposing pitching. Some of those home runs that used to clear the wall now bounce off the top of it—though he has always been a doubles machine, having led the league in two baggers for six straight years and 10 of the last 12. He is a three-time Silver Slugger Award winner and a sure-fire Hall of Famer.

Outfield: Sonny Bigalow is 32 and can't hit a lick. He has not hit above .230 since he did so for Des Moines in 2056. He hit .194 last season between San Fernando and Rosenblatt. The power which he used to have has gone, so now he has gone from being 3TO (3 True outcomes, homer, walk, strikeout (think Russel Branyan) to 1TO and that is whiffing. He still has the range to cover some ground, and I think his true ZR is closer to the 10.5 he put up two years ago than the 2.2 he did last year. When you have as solid a lineup as the Bombers do, you can afford one hole. In the corners you have more solid production. Mark Busse doesn't hit for a high average in left (.245), but he has a good eye and can draw a walk (.358 OBP), and also plays a very good left

field. In the other corner, Chris Walker also has a good glove and good arm (though I think he and Busse should switch), but Walker is also an excellent hitter with some power. He was a rookie last year. Rosenblatt had three rookies get votes for the Joe Gilstrom Newcomer Award, and Walker finished right behind the winner: Bomber's second baseman Derek Hopkins.

Rotation: Justin took a bit of a gamble last season, signing perennial Frick League *Reliever* of the Year David Molina and putting him in the rotation. The gamble paid off as Molina posted a league-leading 17 wins to just six losses and a 3.04 ERA. And despite his fragile status, he threw 195 2/3 Innings and made 36 starts. Behind him, Jim Ploughman made just 26 starts between Rosenblatt and Nashville, where he started the season before his trade last August. Ploughman is another risk. He won 19 games just two years ago, but went just 9-9 with a 5.61 ERA. Justin is hoping he returns to form this year. Joe King was signed late in the spring and the 35-year-old is trying to wring another solid season or two out of his 35-year-old arm. Behind them are Jerry Raymond, who really needs more innings in Class AAA; and Esteban Sanchez, who has marginal stuff and missed significant time last year with an elbow injury.

Bullpen: The bullpen will suffice, but with the risk factor in the rotation due to age and injury, the Bombers need a deeper bullpen than this. There is nothing wrong with Candrata Palmer as the closer, he did notch 37 saves in 40 opportunities, which is outstanding; and last year's 1st-round pick, Kirk Redding, is getting some save opportunities this spring. Aaron Stevens and Ed Jaynes will suffice, but the rest of the bullpen is untried or a little flaky.

Possible Call-Up: The Bombers are pretty set everywhere; it's the bullpen that may have some turnover. Ernesto Morales did fine in seven appearances at the end of last year, but he still needs development time down on the farm. He may be the first to get called up if things don't gel in what is a marginal bullpen.

Projection: 84-78. I think the Bombers have as solid a lineup as you can hope for, but the pitching worries me. Between an aging or easily aching rotation to a shallow bullpen to a hole at short defensively, this could be a tough year for Rosenblatt. I think they fall behind Las Vegas.



San Antonio Outlaws

2063 Record: 71-91, 6th Place, 27 GB. – 2 Diff.
2064 Projected Record: 70-92
Attendance: 1,529,079
Payroll: \$52,156,972
Farm System Rank: 21st

Key Additions:

SS Jose Reyes via FA 2.0

1B Austin Nolan via FA 0.6

1B Majid bin Husam via FA 0.4

RF Marty Barrett via R5 Draft (CCJ) 0.1

Six Players 3.0

Key Losses:

RP Yeow-why Chao via FA 1.2

LF Shoin Yoshida via FA 0.9

SP Troy Andrews via FA 0.2

Five Players 2.3

San Antonio is a little hard to figure out. They have developed some good offensive pieces but haven't been able yet to develop their staff. Which really just puts them in the same boat as 80% of the league. General Manager Tim Meseck has some good young pieces in the lineup, such as George Stickler, who won every award possible in 2062 except an Oscar. Second baseman/third baseman Edgar Thomas went pretty much straight from the draft to San Antonio after getting 300 AB in Class AAA Austin (Yes, the Rattlers and the Shredders both often resemble Class AAA teams, but the Rattlers do it on purpose). In fact six of the Outlaws last seven 1st-round picks are in San Antonio, the lone exception being center fielder Anthony Corfield, who battled the injury bug last year and could wind up in San Antonio out of Spring Training. Yet this team has not hit .500 in the last 16 seasons, and I'm not sure they have the horses to do it this year. It is obvious they are still in rebuild mode. The hope is that they can develop pitching or afford to go out and get it before the hitters age into arbitration and free agency. San Antonio only has a \$64.9 million payroll and they are the worst draw in the league. They didn't get any starters in free agency, which would have been a fool's errand this year anyways. This is a team trying to build in a fox hole and dodge financial artillery shells. Best of luck to them.

Catcher: Bradford McBearett is an underappreciated catcher. He calls a decent game, had a decent season at the plate, and posted a 2.7 WAR. Not top of the league, but not near the bottom either. He might hit free agency next year as he is 32 and has Ralph Green breathing down his neck. Green doesn't call nearly as good of a game as McBearett, but he has hit .300

the last two years at Class AAA. If he can translate that to the BBA, the starting job is his next year, and McBearett should actually fetch a nice contract in the free agent market.

Infield: Spring is where you try some new things and hope nobody pokes an eye out. So Tim has been playing Jose Reyes at shortstop, where he is a detriment, instead of third, where he is a benefit. Reyes can hit, no doubt, but he doesn't have the range to play short. Julius Lewis can't hit, but he is a better shortstop than Reyes; even then his range is marginal. One of them will make an excellent second baseman and the other will make a lousy shortstop. Take your pick. At third base the Outlaws have their man: Husnan Baloch plays an excellent hot corner as well as having power pole to pole. He could do a better job of drawing a walk, but he can have the job for now, and the Outlaws don't have to stress about it. Finally, at first base you have free agent signing Austin Nolan, a 32-year-old that hits in the mid-.200s and belts 20-plus home runs.

Outfield: The outfield in San Antonio: the Outlaws, in general, begin and end with George Stickler. Rookie of the Year, Sawyer Silk Silver Slugger Award, Gold Glove in right, Stickler swept them all. His numbers were not as gaudy last season, but that whole crop of rookies who tore up the league in 2022 had their star shine a little dimmer in 2063. That is not to say that Stickler had a bad year. He hit .280 with 26 home runs and did a great job in right. It will always be hard to match his 2062 numbers though. Orlando Bott made his debut last year and did well. He is a solid good, but not great player who will likely get a couple of All Star nods and possibly a Gold Glove or two with that cannon he calls an arm. In center is Hector "Junior" Cano. His Hall of Fame career is nearing its close and the three time MVP is destined for the Hall. The nickname "Junior" no longer applies, as he is now 37 and he has lost a step or two in the outfield as his ZR has gone from 12.1 to -7.7 in just the last two seasons.

Rotation: This where a GM pulls their hair out. The middle three of your rotation are all 1st-round picks in Cesar Franco, Jesus Perez, and Jorge Casillas. However none of them ever became the ace San Antonio hoped when they were picked. George White, a second-round pick in 2059 has managed to put together a good season in 2063, going an astounding 16-11. It remains to be seen if White can maintain that level of pitching or if he reverts to what he was his first two seasons. We've discussed the No. 2, 3, 4 starters and—who knows?—maybe they break out like George White did. But, I doubt it. Dave Horton may have the talent to be in the rotation, but the numbers have not shown that yet. He should get the last spot.

Bullpen: Believe it or not, I kind of like this bullpen. Steve McFarland has held the closer's role for four of the last five years (I don't know why he was taken out of that role in 2061). And he has thrived: he notched 36 saves last year, an 88% save rate, which is more than acceptable. Jesus Rodriguez is a solid arm and only 23, and Wilson Perez makes the most out of his limited talents. That's a solid bullpen core right there. Unfortunately it's pretty thin, and the Outlaws better hope for as few extra-inning games as possible

Possible Call-Ups: With Bradford McBearett's time in San Antonio possibly coming to a close, I think they take a long look at Ralph Green this season

Projection: San Antonio is in rebuild mode and still has as many holes in the defense. With the rotation and bullpen that they do have, this team is going to be relegated to the second half. I don't think Tim is doing the wrong thing, and I think that he had a pretty good draft strategy for the last few years; unfortunately some of those pitchers did not develop the way they should have (Note: Get better coaches in the minors. Only one of your minor league managers is any good at player development). I think this team will wind up with 68 wins and 94 losses.

PROJECTED STANDINGS: FRONTIER DIVISION

Team	Wins	Losses
Phoenix Talons	98	64
Calgary	86	76
Las Vegas	85	67
Rosenblatt	84	78
Boise	79	83
Mexico City	68	94
San Antonio	68	94
Austin	67	95

The Heartland Division: 2064

PREVIEWED BY **Ron Collins**

The Heartland made its push to be considered as the best division in baseball last year, and thanks to the soft bottom rungs of the Pacific Division made it stick. The Heartland was +26 against the Pacific, whereas the Atlantic ruled the Frontier by only 14 games. Nashville drove the final nail into the argument by delivering a hard-fought championship over Atlantic Division rival Charm City.

Take that, everyone else.

Several observers have noted that the off-season has felt a bit stagnant due to the lack of impact free agents available to move around. I suppose that's true enough, but the Heartland is the new home of Blair Peyton, one of the bigger fish to swim in from the GBC. How will that change things?

Some at least, right?

But on the whole I'm thinking that this year will be an interesting one for the Heartland specifically because the raw magnitude of roster churn from outside influences has not been high. The main source of new players on these rosters are coming from the minors, which will make for a fun little natural experiment, maybe. Will, for example, the majority of movement in the final standings reflect mostly new players, or will it reflect regression to mean?

The Bluebirds, for example, were one game better than their numbers projected them to be. Louisville, also. Chicago finished three games better than their projections.

In fact, other than Brook Park, EVERY Heartland team was at or better than their projections—except Brook Park, which finished a league worst eight games under. Even with that Brownie performance, the division was 6 games above expectation. Does this mean the entire division is going to regress? I guess it's possible. But maybe not, too. I'm obviously thinking about that a lot because as the guy doing the

previews it's kind of my job to make the projections, and if I'm honest, I've been fiddling with numbers the whole time I've been working on this.

How much of this year is going to be "random?"

With limited roster churn, how close will the results be this year from last?

Will Brook Park gain eight games simply because they were better than last year's numbers say they were? I don't think so. But a cold-hearted mathematician might well laugh at my reticence to see that happen.

Part of the story from last year, though, was the surge of Chicago, Louisville, and Des Moines as power players. Add the fact that Yellow Springs was expected to make a splash, too, but didn't really pull it off, and you've got a fully vibrant division of teams and general managers working frantically to get a stronger position going forward. That, too, is a reason for less roster churn, I suppose. Plans are in the works. Don't mess too much with the plan.

Bottom line: regression or not, I expect 2064 to see come cutthroat competition.

Nashville is always going to be Nashville, but clearly Twin Cities was willing to pay what it needed to pay, and Chicago's pitching is perhaps even more elite than it was last year. Des Moines can easily make ground. Yellow Springs may well see their surge come along this year, though the jury is out. Louisville's future could go sky-high, as we'll see. And Madison and Brook Park are going to have something to say in the final frames.

So look out, I say.

It's possible the Heartland's story has just begun.

Brook Park Brownies

GM: Kevin Spencer



The Brownies celebrated their move from Omaha to Cleveland with a 69-win season, which I'm pretty sure wasn't really the plan. Arguably they should have done better. With 801 runs scored the offense was third best in the division. Life is what it is, though. The pitching was not good.

The story of the Brook Park offseason is similar to a few others; without much out there in free agency, and with limited motivation to trade away future for other players, the Brownies are left waiting for some kids to develop. Shawn Denning, in particular, would be nice. He's 23, and looks like he could wind up growing to become a star, but he's a bit away, and last year struggled in his big-league debut. The full emergence of 21-year-old Jesus Cruz would be helpful. If nothing else, Cruz looks like he's fully ready to pitch now. Antonio Fox and Jose Martinez are workaday young arms who should keep the team in games. A guy like veteran Steven Flannery probably rounds out the rotation. Flannery can still pitch a little, but his glory days are long gone.

To add to the problem pile, righthander Mokichi Taguchi is the main guy Brownie fans can rely on in the pen. In a division where other teams are rising, this bodes poorly.

So long as I don't look at things too closely, I like the Brook Park offense more than I like their pitching. It's another roster without superstars, but with a collection of guys who can make things happen down in the blue-collar zones of the trenches. Left fielder Jorge Delgado and catcher Roberto Martinez are real baseball players. I assume Ivan Alvarado will play third while Thurman Dostie will handle first most of the time. Beyond that there's a handful or two of guys that fit the profile that says they are capable of going off for a few weeks, but not likely to maintain that all year.

Looking more closely, though...um...well...

Who is going to play shortstop?

Or center field, for that matter?

Joe Roy is probably the best option at "short," but his range portends exasperation in the watching of him. If not Roy, Millard Niesson probably gets the nod. Ditto. Hector Garcia is likely the best option the team has right now. He registered -2 WAR in 20 games last year. If he gets 100+ this year, it could get bloody.

It may be of note, too, that the best of Brook Park's hitters ring in at 26 or so years old. This shouldn't seem bad, but most "young" teams these days are rolling out rosters full of 22 and 23-year-olds.

The whole vibe thing doesn't bode well for me.

It's hard for me to see the team crawling out of the cellar this year, so the real question is whether they will manage to duplicate last year's 69 wins. It might happen, especially if the kid pitchers turn out to be ready. But I'm not banking on it.

Chicago Black Sox

GM: Renato Umali



The Black Sox won 71 games in 2061, 83 games in '62, and 89 in '63 (pushing their way into the postseason by winning a tough game 163).

In other words, they are on a major upswing.

And what's not to like? The front three of their rotation (Adam Hines, Carlos Moya, and Stevie Bodine) would be happily accepted into most rotations around the league, and 2062 No. 1 pick Forrest Rockburn showed up late last year and proved he belongs. Throw in swingman Orlando Rubio and you've got a five-man cycle that's hard to beat.

The bullpen isn't as strong, but as some GMs are wont to note, building a pen across the season isn't as hard as other issues.

On the other side of the plate, the Sox have grown into All-Star outfielder Dave Matthes' team. The 25-year-old has averaged 30 homers and 5 WAR a year in his first two. Expect the same this year. Shortstop Angel De la Cruz draws criticism for a noodle arm of sorts, but you can pencil him in at 3 WAR, and that's pretty good. Free swinging first baseman Timofei Gadomsky is one of those solid fillers you like to have around. If he could take a walk, TG would be a star. Alas, he's more a 2.5-3.0 WAR you like to see hanging around. Fellow first baseman-designated hitter Lysander Ruvelas may be another.

Marcos Echevarria and Dale Olds are a workable, workmanlike catching combo.

Dan Morris (acquired from Des Moines late last season) can handle the role in center while at least getting on base a bit.

So, on the whole the offense does not look to be horrible. I mean, it can score enough runs to make that elite rotation awfully hard to beat. Still, this is a hard team to project. Why? Well, let me tell you why. I propose here that the eventual outcome of the Chicago season may well rest on the fates of two players.

First is rookie outfielder Masayoshi Kokawa, who at 23 wowed the Class AAA scouts but had a monstrously rough cup of coffee. Kokawa hit 22 homers and made 3.5 WAR in Rockford. If he can get upward of three in Chicago, things look better.

Second is the enigmatic, one-time top draft pick (No. 4 overall) phenomena that is Tony Cochrane, who at 24, has muddled his way through the minors and so far proven that he cannot hit BBA level pitching. At all. His career batting average is .184, albeit in 130 At Bats. Cochrane has the kind of prodigious power that can change a game on a dime, so if he can unleash that achievement, the Black Sox offense might find another gear that has been to date dormant.

If you think Kokawa and Cochrane will hit their strides, I'd guess you're bearish on the Sox. Otherwise, you might note that Chicago played three games better than their projections. It's a tough world out there, after all.

If forced to bet, though, my money would be a plus sign for Kokawa, and at least an OK yellow light for Cochrane.

So count me as bearish.

Or given the Chicago media scene, maybe I should say Beefish?

Des Moines Kernels

GM: Jessie Ramirez



In a fair and just world dominated by numbers, Kernel fans can take solace that their ballclub “should” have come second to the Bluebirds last year rather than third behind Twin Cities. If that had happened, maybe they would have slipped past Chicago in the playoffs (as the River Monsters did) rather than getting swept by Bikini.

This offseason, general manager Jessie Ramirez went out and dropped a not-insignificant contract on an aging star in first baseman-designated hitter Wafid Bishr. Bishr saw his performance cut almost in third last year (from 5.8 WAR to 3.9), but his 26 homers said he still may have something left in the tank. If he does, that’s good news because the Kernels offence popped pretty well last year (833 runs were only 23 off the league’s best), and a fully operational Bishr would bode well for hitting the top rung.

That said, this is an interesting team.

Its lineup is one wherein the output would appear to be much better than the sum of its parts.

Top Kernel position players returning include outfielders Ricardo Magana (3.9 WAR) and Ken’chi Okubo (3.4 WAR), and shortstop Pedro Gongora (3.2 WAR). Catcher Terry Pitzer turned 3.5 WAR. These are obviously solid players, but not the kinds of guys you expect to see headlining the best offense in the league.

So, is that real?

I dunno. There is an age-old question of whether a team where everyone is simply “good” (meaning better than average), will beat a team filled with average players who surround a couple superstars. I’m figuring Des Moines is the latter.

And the issue is that there still seem to be holes filled by average guys rather than good.

On the hill it’s more of the same, but less rosy.

Even if Des Moines’s presumptive No. 1 Denny Tabb (13-8, 4.62) remains the same Steady-Denny, the rotation does not thrill. Jose Barron (he of the many teams) and Steven Clayton are 38 and 35, and have been basically your back-end No. 2 and No. 3 for a year or two. I’m not betting they’ll have a late-stage resurgence. It would be great if 21-year-old Jose Gonzales was ready, but, alas, he does not appear to be.

Like most contenders, the bullpen looks capable enough on the top end at least, but to be honest, I’m not sure it will matter as much for the Kernels. You gotta get the game to them, right? If they can, Scott Everard and Bob Butler can bring it home well enough. Tulon Koruturk is also an under-heralded bullpen piece. Young lefty Victor Trevino (19), might be a solid addition.

At question is depth.

That’s the thing with a team built on almost-stars and other no-names; there has to be depth there. The plan has to be to swarm teams with guys who can do stuff rather than overpower opponents with ultimate might. I’m not sure I’m seeing that for Des Moines this year.

The staff was 8th best in the Frick League last year. If magic happens, maybe they climb up the ranks, but I’d have a hard time making that prediction.

Instead, I’d say the Kernels have better chance of growing into stale movie treats than they do of popping up into contention.

But as we all know, stale movie treats are often quite good.

Louisville Sluggers

GM: Brian Pinnell



The Sluggers won 81 games last year, and to a degree I suppose you could say that was a good thing. It was a nine-game improvement over 2062, after all. Alas, after the mega-hype they'd gotten from the addition of two real live pitchers in the off-season, another year without postseason afterglow felt like a pretty big letdown.

Reasonably so.

The highly touted young offense struggled to make it to number six in runs scored (only three runs more than Bikini's), and the pitching staff, well, it was bad.

That 81 wins was one more than the numbers would have projected, and about ten less than fans had hoped. And, as the Dalai Lama says, the source of depression is unfulfilled desire. Or something like that.

Maybe there is good news coming, though. Preseason projections have the team climbing three more games to 83, with young hitters John Coxtolstoy and Jose Jackson being among the top ten hitters in the league. That's got to be good. Add in the likely emergence of second baseman Roger Watts as a solid glove who can hit with a little authority in the middle infield, and you've got a thing going on. The goal seems to be to have Watts at shortstop, which makes some sense as a dream, anyway. He played a few games there last year, though. It was not pretty. If he can't cut it there, the team's front office will have to make a decision on fellow second sacker kiddo Aristo Andreadis, who had a nice 22-game stint in Louisville last year.

At first base, José Barrera should bounce back from a gently sub-par tilt last year, and catcher Dave Armstorng has sneaky value in an OBP that really should end up north of .350. Team insiders have to be hoping the outfielder Justin Weatherford's

fade to 2.1 WAR was just an adjustment season. If fellow outfielders Ricardo Caples and Gustavo Canales can get on base enough to let their speed unravel opposing batteries, that would be good.

What I'm saying is that all signs point toward a healthy offense.

So much, then, depends on a little red wagon on the pitching mound.

Brown and Akers were clearly not the saviors they were touted to be, though both can still pitch a bit. That's good because the dice are a little bit loaded in the Sluggers' favor in the form of last year's rookie development of 21-year-old Ricardo Nystrom, and late season call-up Ernesto Marrero, 22. Both could well be stars in due time. The question is whether their arms can handle a big-league load, and their heads can handle the BBA pressure. If so, things could get fun as Loserville turns the tables on that name, because 31-year-old Rodrigo Rodriguez should join Akers and Brown to fill the role of "stable veteran."

The bullpen is another story, though.

Or the same story, pared down to its basics, I guess.

Once a star, Brett Harrell is a workaday presence, and Ford Prefect is due for a great season in a career that has yo-yo'ed wildly. [Editor's note: Prefect suffered an injury in mid-March and may be sidelined through the All-Star break, at least.] Ethan Bricknell, too, can throw some big-league innings. Kind of. But the future of the pen lies in the arms of rookies Ruben Hernandez (21) and Estaban Costello (22). If those two are prime hurlers, they push the roles of those older guys down a notch and make everything look better. If they take a while to adapt, it puts those older guys into realms I'm not sure they can handle.

Taking a deep breath, I guess I'm with OOTP on this one.

I figure enough will go right that the team crosses over the .500 line, but not enough that the team will manage to compete for the division crown.

Madison Wolves

GM: Mike Simon



When Carlos Cruz went down last year, Madison fans lived through the most anticlimactic moment of the 2063 season. Talk about your buzzkill.

As with all things, though, what goes around comes around and Cruz is healthy again.

The source of some conversation is how far the Wolves' front brass will unleash their 21-year-old lefty. Between college and his stint with the BBA club, Cruz threw 93 innings. This is, by far, the most he's thrown in his competitive life, and while scouts say his stamina should support bigger innings, one has to ponder the situation a bit. That said, Carlos Cruz is a star in the making. Can Madison afford to sit him down at times.

Such are the vagaries of life.

That the club is filled with questions like this are what makes me think that this year's Madison Wolves are going to be fun to watch but horrible to root for. Regardless of how long or often Cruz pitches, he's a lock to do something amazing sometime. Same for bullpen arms Alejandro Ramiraze (who debuted last year) and Frank Zerate (another big armed draft pick who will almost certainly make a jump from A-ball to the bigs this season. These guys are bona fide livewire arms, and if their precocious presences can mesh with a few veterans (like Jesus Gil, Chris Stout, Jaime Canales), the Wolves' staff could get some guys out. The staff is not deep, but has guys you'd like to watch play (the full emergence of someone like last year's Rule 5 pick Heath Brown wouldn't hurt things).

Similarly, third baseman Curt Holter (1.3 WAR, with more expected this season) and right fielder Gary Fellers (4.3 WAR) are big-league players on both sides of the game. Boyd Fitzgerald is an interesting shortstop who adds a little pop from the left side of the plate. He's going to start his second season in the league on the IL with an elbow strain, though, which has to be a little concerning. 26-year-old Gary Keller can handle the defensive end of the game in center, you'd figure.

These are all guys you'd like to watch play ball.

They'll be at least entertaining, I'd think.

The problem here is that there's only three of them (or three and a half with Keller's glove side).

The rest of the hitters (and pitchers, for that matter), are all guys you figure might do something good or might not. Not guys you'd want to absolutely rely on. And we all know that a baseball season is a Very Long Thing. Depth is mandatory, and depth is not something I see on down the Madison organization right now. A secondary problem is that there's not even a lot of power around to give the team an occasional puncher's chance. The Wolves rang in at next to last in the league in runs scored last year (above only the desolate Long Beach squad). I don't see it getting any better right now.

Worse, I'm not sure I see it coming along in the minors.

So, yeah. Fun to watch. Difficult to root for.

Rebuilding can be a pain, you see. All that said, OOTP's final pre-season predictions seem to like the team Gertie's put together better than I do.

It'll be interesting to see where Madison's stakes are sitting this time next year.

Nashville Bluebirds

GM: Chad Nason



With an unprecedented four straight Monties, and five of the last seven, it's hard to envision anyone but the Nashville Bluebirds walking away with the BBA championship again. There were chinks in the armor last year, though. They won the Heartland by only 9 games, and outside of a simple sweep of the Krill in the Doubleday, it took the Bluebirds seven games to dispense with both Twin Cities and Charm City.

The offseason hasn't been particularly productive, either.

The club has lost more than they've gained, including the release of last year's cash sink Max Sheppereson.

Is this the year the house falls completely?

Well...maybe, but maybe not.

I mean, the organization has eighteen pitchers with 50-65 Potential ratings, including a rotation that includes some collection of Eric Stevens (Nebraska winner), Bin-Ying Yen, Daniel Grasia, Javier Basanta, Juan Ramirez, and Armando Ortiz. This will arguably be, once again, the best rotation in the Frick League. Of course, if a team gets to the bullpen, they'll hit another wall of elite arms anchored now by 20-year-old phenom Carlos Williams, the electric armed Jose Torres, 22-year-old lefty Carlos Gomez, and the team "grandpa" Giustino Modica.

The Bluebird staff held opponents to only 3.9 runs/game last year, and I can't see them being any worse this year.

Offensively, maybe it's a different story, though.

Nashville scored 803 runs last year, which was only fourth best in the Frick, and was second to Des Moines (and only two runs better than Brook Park) in the Heartland.

Let's not cry for Nashville, though.

They'll have the full season of Carter Cramer in 2064. He had 2.5 WAR in 68 games, so while I'm not sure you can put a 9 WAR tag beside him (as his rookie year created), but a solid 5-6 seems reasonable to expect. Add in the apparently standard 6.9 from Alfonso Gonzales in right field and a combined 4 WAR from Fernando Hawkins and Akeem Joffer in left, and you've got to figure that's among the top of the league again. The middle infield is probably Lucas McNeill, Jr. and, of course, Brooks Eliot. At 31, though, we're wondering if Eliot's fade to 2.4 WAR is a sign of something. Fernando Sanchez at first and Francisco Calderon at 3B averaged a touch over 3 WAR a piece. One suggests that should happen again.

As long as Michael Cantu (23) can catch most of the year, things should work out.

So, yeah, we know about Twin Cities and Blair Peyton.

We know Des Moines is a powder keg, and that Chicago is back hitting on all cylinders, and Louisville might be better than they look if those pitchers they bought last year do what they were supposed to be when they were bought.

But I bought into that last year, and got burnt.

This year I figure it should go like this: you have to knock out the champ.

And I'm not betting on someone to do that.

Twin Cities River Monsters

GM: Alan Ehlers



Welcome to the Year of Blair Peyton!

For posterity's sake I'll note that River Monster GM Alan Ehlers is paying the 31-year-old center fielder \$16M now, and \$22M the following four years before hitting that \$50M wall that everyone in the organization hopes is far enough away that Peyton will forget about it and opt out after the first two years.

One assumes he will not be that dumb, but then, who knows? This *is* OOTP we're talking about.

Besides, this preview is about 2064, not 2069.

Does Blair Peyton make Twin Cities a favorite to take down Nashville?

While hope breeds eternal, the answer, I think, is no. And I'm not sure it's even that close.

Stalwart starters Jerry Stone and Erik Brooks are back to anchor the rotation. They are good pitchers. Solid enough #1s, kind of. Approaching their mid-30s, though, they are becoming the kinds of guys you think of when you're asked to describe the difference between an Ace and a #1. Nashville has aces. Twin Cities has #1s. And after Stone and Brooks comes 24 year-old Henry Wemp and 37-year-old Yoshii Takuda. Wemp is promising but uncertain. Takuda has been capable, but is ... well ... he's 37. If there's a 5th starter here, it's probably Angelo Rodriguez, who is 31, set in his ways, and walked over five guys per nine innings last year.

Bottom line: Ehlers will once again be called on to do some of his magic wheeling and churning around the rotation. One guesses he'll be leaning heavily on the bullpen, which with fireballers Luis Gonzales and Jose Lopez around, looks like it might be able to compete on something close to even footing with the best. Kid lefty reliever Rich Ash (21, with a 63 FIP- in A ball last year) was my dark horse favorite to make a splash by jumping straight to the bigs, but a ruptured UCL puts that dream on hold. Unless he's pulled into the rotation, Arnold Cantrell will provide veteran leadership.

My concern here is that while the TWC bullpen could lead the league in strikeouts, it seems a bit subject to the free pass and the longball, a combination that gives most managers the heebie-jeebies.

So, for me, it all adds up to this: will the River Monster offense be so much better this year that it overcomes instability in the staff. Because I'm not asking myself "is this a good team?" because the answer to that is obvious. This is a very good team. But the pertinent question is whether this is a team that can beat Nashville.

If I look at the daily starters I come up with a solid maybe.

The River Monster regulars are quite good and quite young, so putting Peyton (who is arguably a Lou Bayou clone) on top of them brightens all expectations. Randal Gray is one of the better shortstops in the league, and Octavio Sanchez (23) may turn out to be one of the better second basemen. Options behind the plate are meh. I'd guess Mathew Malone will get the majority of the reps for his bat, but won't be surprised if there isn't a move coming soon.

And, look, I've gone a whole preview and not once mentioned Raul Gallehose.

He hit 50 and 48 homers in his first two seasons. No reason he won't do it again.

So why am I bullish on the River Monster's chances?

It's this: In 2063 Twin Cities won 91 games, but their bats created only the 9th most runs in the Frick League while their staff allowed only the 8th fewest. It adds up to a projection of 84 wins. That's seven games that one would expect them to regress

back towards. And that's a lot of regression. Even if you give Blair Peyton 7 WAR (Bayou numbers), that just gets them back to the 91 they started with.

I don't see them adding the eight more it would take to have caught Nashville.

So, the answer to the Larry Bird question of "all right, who's coming in second?" may well be the River Monsters, but I'm not putting my Brewster Bucks on them taking the Heartland crown.

We'll see.

Yellow Springs Nine

GM: Rob McMonigal



The Nine finished 11th in both runs scores and runs allowed last year, which is a golden number on the craps table, but more like the brown stuff the game is named for when you're on a baseball field. They finished at 71 wins, which is smack-dab where projections would say they belonged.

They've had a middling offseason, signing SP Antonio Santiago off the free agent market, trading for Charlotte catcher Reynaldo Fernandez, and buying veteran lefty John Hurry from Bikini. Those are all fine enough players. They have their uses. But they clearly aren't the kinds of guys to give a team wings they never had before.

So, what gives this year?

Alas, I am anxious.

The core of the team is still young and still good. Shortstop Leslie Hartman is probably considered a franchise player. He debuted to no little fanfare and 3.7 WAR. That's good, but not 5-7 WAR good. The outfield is another collection of stellar young guys anchored in center by Don Anderson, and filled in by Roberto Gabriel (who project as one of the better hitters in the league), Carlos Morales, and Rodrigo Keeter. Tony Bunce feels like he should be better than he's posted at third, and Grandpa at 26, Emilio Navarro is a steady hand that you should be able to pencil in at 2 WAR.

Prospect Alberto Hernandez is getting reps at second base this spring, but I'm not sure he's quite ready for prime time. Maybe this fall? I'd guess that means we'll see Dennis Rollins and aging vet Qutuz Mahdi at the pivot for most of the year. Mahdi seems to me to be done, but if the Nine can squeeze an extra mile out of him, that would be good. There's an offensive hole behind the plate, but Augusto Annis can still flash the glove behind the plate. If the pitching was better, maybe that would matter.

Alas, the pitching.

GM Rob McMonigal has been facing this issue for a pair of seasons now, and not been able to hit on a process that works.

At 22, second round draft pick Aurilio Garcia looked better than solid this spring. If he were the missing piece, I'd guess the team might jump him to the bigs early. Same for 21-year-old Kevin Copley, who doesn't have the upside of Garcia, but looks more than workable in the middle of the rotation. It's going to be tempting to push them now because if those two aren't in the Nine roster come April, the rotation will be anchored by Javier Martinez and Hector Delgado. Though Delgado is a little dinged up to start the year, they comprise a pair of fair enough pitchers. Of course, neither are pitchers you want to plan on winning games out of the #1 and #2 slots.

If the executive suite plays it close to the vest, I'd expect guys like Pete Hulett and Ted Neill will step in. Both had moments last year. They're young. They should get better.

Shrug.

If they can get to the bullpen things could get brighter.

Cornelio Martinez debuted last year, and was lights-out. Alas, he's down for most, if not all year now. Luckily, there sits a phalanx of maybe six other guys who can get the job done, including another kid arm in Carlos Torres who may or may not be considered ready quite yet, but for whom the horizon is brightening.

It's an interesting team. I'd like its odds better if Martinez was healthy, but Yellow Springs has the talent to be able to win any particular game, and enough holes to make you figure they'll go on dry streaks, too. In that sense, if there's a squad who needed a solid free agent pool this year, it was probably the Nine.

It was not to be, though.

So we'll see what the Nine do.

I'm hoping for the best but thinking the youth of what pitching they have is not going to bode as well as fans would like.

PROJECTED STANDINGS: HEARTLAND DIVISION

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
Nashville	102	60	-
Twin Cities	94	68	8
Chicago	88	74	14
Louisville	84	78	18
Des Moines	81	81	21
Yellow Springs	72	90	30
Madison	70	92	32
Brook Park	61	101	61

Pacific Division – 2064

PREVIEWED BY **Kurt Imber**

The Pacific division sent only two teams (Hawaii and Bikini) to the 2063 BBA playoffs after Portland lost a play-in game 163 against Chicago. It was the fourth straight year the division failed to send a team to the Monty Brewster Memorial Series, dating back to 2059 when the Portland Lumberjacks won the championship. The Pacific struggled in its matchups with the Heartland during

2063 Final Standings	
Hawaii Tropics	91-71
Bikini Krill	89-73
Portland Lumberjacks	88-75
Vancouver Mounties	85-77
San Fernando Bears	84-78
Sacramento Mad Popes	81-81
Valencia Stars	63-99
Long Beach Surfers	55-107

interdivision play and the Nashville Bluebirds cast a rather long shadow.

Pacific GMs did not panic.

Collectively, their teams were relatively inactive in free agency with the largest contracts given out being two-year, \$30M pacts with 32 year-old second baseman Miguel Martínez and middling starting pitcher Nick Rivers. Vancouver only made four minor trades. Valencia claims the second smallest payroll in the league, while Long Beach's is 29th. Instead, these teams will be built up internally from their farms as evidenced by Bikini, San Fernando, and Portland owning the 1st, 3rd, and 6th ranked minor league systems.

For a division known for pitcher's parks, defense, and a behemoth team playing in the state capital of California, many of those norms got turned on their head in

2063. Hawaii and Portland owned the two best offenses in the entire BBA. Meanwhile, Sacramento not only failed to win the division for only the third time in eleven years but missed the postseason for only the second time since 2047.

Sports teams and leagues are often defined by their star players and the Pacific division is no different. The Tropics' Vicente Martínez took home the Frick's Sawyer Silk trophy after blasting a staggering 102 XBHs. Portland's Murali Patachli and John O'Leary finished 1-2 in FL Nebraska voting. On the other side of the ball for the Lumberjacks, Mynorli Gaajlimitz won his third batting title in four years. Sacramento center fielder Lou Bayou led the Frick in position player WAR, and Bikini Krill starting pitcher Arturo Meza led it in pitching WAR.

Thus the 2064 Pacific is shaping up to look a lot like the 2063 version of itself. Hawaii, Bikini, and Portland make up the top tier of teams. Hawaii and Portland have the explosive offenses. Bikini and Portland have two of the best starting rotations in the league. Hawaii and Bikini each have elite bullpens. If any of those three teams solve their weakest unit they'll be the division favorite.

Look for Vancouver, San Fernando, and Sacramento to stay in the playoff hunt and if things go right those teams have enough talent to win the division.

Meanwhile, Valencia and Long Beach, the two worst run prevention teams in the entire BBA in 2063, hope enough developmental breaks go their way that they sneak up to 6th place and put themselves in a position to compete in 2065.

Hawaii TROPICS



The offseason acquisitions of Nalany Ahotaein, Johnny Nicholson, and John Avery lay to rest any notion that Tropics GM James Walker doesn't believe in the concept of starting pitching, but it remains the team's

2063 W/L	91-71
2063 xW/xL	94-68
R/G	5.28
BBA Rank	1st
RA/G	4.65
BBA Rank	18th

kryptonite heading into 2064. Hawaii's hopes of staying

middle-of-the-pack in run prevention hinges on its bullpen, where the organization is flush with high stuff arms. The breakout candidate is lefty Gheorghe Sollomovici. Utkan Göçek and his 3.26 career ERA is the old reliable. With an unfathomable 3.7 WAR last year, Bob Westbrook is the guy trying to catch lightning in a bottle twice. There's plenty more where that came from in the 'pen, but pegging the team's fifth starter is less reassuring. Lefty (yes, note much of this staff is made up of southpaws) Héctor Estrada has the inside track but it's anybody's spot to win.

Outslugging opponents is something the Tropics are familiar with. Not only does reigning Silk winner 'Yogi' Martínez possess the most feared bat in the league, but this is a team that can attack you from multiple angles with a deep lineup of hitters. Third baseman Jorge Dodd backed up Martínez with 30 home runs as a 24 year-old. Free agent signing Miguel 'Thrillseeker' Martínez has always been

good for at least 25 homers while playing solid defense at the keystone. Gold glove center fielder Carlos Sánchez added 23 long balls. Another player primarily known for his defense, shortstop Carlos Schumann slashed .299/.324/.458 with 40 steals. In fact, right fielder Vincente Méndez stole 46 bags and the team as a whole stole bases at an 89% success rate.

The Tropics got surprising impact from their catcher tandem made up of the powerful Armando Medina and the defensive specialist Jeff Appleton. If either falter, the best talent at the position in the org is 21 year-old Bob Webb who looks ready to contribute.

The front office seems to be toying with the idea of Yogi playing first base this spring which opens additional doors. Young Lorenzo Holloway is capable at first, but if the opportunity arose for Eric Owens to replicate his 2062 production (39 HRs, 133 RBIs) the offense gets that much better.

There's ample depth in the bullpen and amongst the position players to navigate some injury scares (we haven't even scratched the Harry Surface), but if this team is to struggle in 2064 it will probably be due to too many starting pitchers having ERAs that start with a "5". Hawaii can downplay their impact by limiting them to five innings per start, but a run allowed early in the game is still worth the same as a run allowed late in the game.

Bikini KRILL



2063 W/L	89-73
2063 W/L	89-73
2063 xW/xL	87.905
BBA Rank	4.196
BBA Rank	4.131
BBA Rank	4.881
BBA Rank	8th

The scary thing about the Bikini Krill is that it doesn't feel like they've truly hit their stride yet. Even in a

after accumulating 3.2 WAR in his rookie campaign.

Lightning rod movement and control specialist Paul Glass pitches fifth and got better as the 2063 season progressed, as you'd expect for a player making the jump directly from the draft.

playoff year, their excellent pitching was held back by subpar defense while the lineup, deep with capable hitters, lacked anyone who hit more than 21 home runs.

Part of that story is finances, and although reports show the club finally exhibiting healthy cash flows, GM Ron Collins did not make any major offseason moves. It's an understandable approach for the organization many consider to have the best farm system in baseball. The immediate names to concern yourself with are a pair of first basemen, Mauro Oksuzian and Ant3nio Hern3ndez, who are ready to add some thump to the offense. On the pitching side, there may not be a better starting pitching prospect tandem than Jos3 Guevara and Jacky Lavergne.

The two names who get all the attention in the bullpen, understandably, are Enrique Villareal and Winston Morris. The lefty/righty duo amassed a combined 5.4 WAR, besting most BBA bullpens. It doesn't let up from there, with more pitchers than can be named. Let's just say it's best to take advantage of Bikini before their bullpen gets involved.

Guevara and Lavergne could step into most BBA rotations and immediately contribute, but Bikini has the luxury of letting them polish off their development thanks to the five pitchers already established in the rotation. There's veterans Arturo Meza and Takashi Nakamura who each pitched their best seasons with the Krill in 2063. 23 year-old Paul Worboys was perhaps hurt by the Krill defense more than any other starter, but don't let his 4.07 ERA deceive you—this is one of the best young starting pitchers in the league. Another 23 year-old, lefty Nelson Williams follows him

Outscoring the Krill is the best chance of defeating them. 25 year-old right fielder J3lio L3pez was their finest hitter with a 133 OPS+ but his scouting report indicates that may have been an aberration. Which is no problem, with 23 year-old F3lix Moreno having posted a 122 OPS+, 25 year-old Juan Ramos a 119 OPS+, and 22 year-old Abhijana Swamy ready to do the same after an off 2063.

If Bikini is susceptible to missing the playoffs, and that seems like a longshot with all this depth, it will likely involve injuries up-the-middle. Perennial underachiever Keith Williams remains leagues better than their second best shortstop. Center fielder Amin Abdul-Halim must return from serious injury. Catcher Pedro Jim3nez is on the other side of 30. But with all their prospect capital the Krill are just a few phone calls from plugging any holes that may arise.

Portland LUMBERJACKS



You could slap the “stars and scrubs” moniker on Portland and it wouldn’t be completely off base, but that’s more a product of the excellence of their star players than a flawed approach to team building. This is a squad that Base Runs estimates should have won 96 games. The club’s heart and soul is catcher Allan Uecker, the best defensive catcher in the league whose bat awoke in 2062 and it carried forward into 2063. Entering his age

2063 W/L	88-75	28 season, a
2063 xW/xL	96-66	minimum 5
R/G	5.23	WAR
BBA Rank	2nd	projection is
RA/G	4.28	reasonable.
BBA Rank	7th	Designated
		hitter Mynorli
		Gaajlimitz

raises the question whether this is the year he’ll bat .400. Starting pitchers Murali Patachli and John O’Leary are solidly in their prime and were the top vote getters in last year’s FL Nebraska vote.

The BBA’s second highest scoring offense offers plenty of other talent. Tim Heywood went for 3.1 WAR in left field thanks to his .303/.352/.477 slash line as a 21 year-old rookie. Greg Squires feels like he’s been around forever but is still only 25 and is a slightly better than league average bat at second. Matt Pruitt’s 91 wRC+ in center field combined with excellent defense to yield 2.7 WAR. Soon-to-be 37 year-old shortstop Stevie Morris had the second best offensive campaign of his career on his way to 5.0 WAR.

The starting pitching is less easy to forecast thanks to the Lumberjacks’ mix and

match approach in 2063. Expect promising youngster Victor King to be their third most productive starting pitcher—he had a 2.71 ERA between the rotation and bullpen as a rookie. Mauro Esperanda will give King (and really all the team’s starters) a run for their money now that he’s settled back into the rotation where he accrued 3.8 WAR in only 27 starts in 2062. A few candidates compete for the final rotation role but the team would like to see talented 24 year-old Sameer Abdul-Malik take it and run with it. If he falters, lefty prospect Lee Howard is ready to debut.

The bullpen was the team’s Achilles heel so GM Chris Wilson tried to address it over the offseason by signing a few AARP eligible pitchers. Todd Stone and Ryan Harmon will join fellow retirement age hurlers Steve Warren and Ross Brown to protect leads, although one ponders whether this is where the loser of the Abdul-Malik/Howard competition lands. Maybe young Mariano Garza is ready to breakout. The age of this unit gives it an additional layer of risk, but Wilson has won a lot of games with this approach.

There should be just enough depth for the Lumberjacks to avoid putting too many scrubs on the field and hold off their Pacific competition. The front office must monitor the aforementioned Morris’s ability to play the field as well as third sacker Sammy McNeill. This team projects to be the best team in the division in 2064 thanks to the star players they’ve developed.

vancouver MOUNTIES



The ballpark in Vancouver draws a lot of chatter, and for good reason. It is the most extreme pitcher's park in the Brewster, and the result is a coddled pitching staff and an oft-maligned offense.

These effects are further reinforced by GM Aaron Wharram's emphasis on team defense, and the 2063 vintage of the Mounties was no different. They were as good at preventing runs as they were bad at scoring them and the result was a slightly above .500 squad that failed to miss the playoffs.

Despite a reputation as a trade fiend, Wharram was restrained during the 63-64 offseason. Other than four minor trades, he brings back a roster largely unchanged from 2063. The esteemed pitching rotation will once again be led by Dirk Bessi, the \$17M man who maintained a 2.81 ERA but saw a troubling rise in his home runs surrendered. Qing-lai Ou-yang was Vancouver's best pitcher on paper last year and got rewarded with a modest contract extension that could be a deal for the team. After a tremendously productive run through the development lab it wouldn't surprise if Chris Parker is the team's ace by the fall. Micah Harrington and Juan Garcia give the Mounties a pair of solid, if well-traveled, veteran starting pitchers to round out the rotation.

Standing between a lead and their Pacific competition will be one of the better late game pairings in the division, Serge Elovsky and Jesús García. They're supplemented by a stable of capable if unexciting veterans, with the 2063 standout being 38 year-old veteran Adamnan Maryadi and his 1.94 ERA.

2063 W/L	85-77
2063 xW/xL	86-76
R/G	4.14
BBA Rank	28th
RA/G	3.93
BBA Rank	4th

That leaves the position player side, which derived much of its 2063 WAR from their glove work and ballpark adjustment. However, designated hitter

Royce Hinkle doesn't use a glove or require a park adjustment to appreciate his 36 homer, 112 RBI campaign. The next best player on the roster is middle infielder Oskar Lojdahl, whose numbers don't jump off the page at you but managed 3.7 WAR in limited time. Three other hitters managed above average offensive metrics: 26 year-old right fielder Zhi Li, 23 year-old third baseman Sergio Mendoza, and 28 year-old left field stalwart Greg Clover with his 50 stolen bases. 23 year-old first baseman Sam Corkum can hit a bit too but was passed in camp by 24 year-old rookie Carlos Colón. The rest of the position players are defensive oriented, although keep an eye on 23 year-old Héctor Ruíz who swatted 23 home runs and has the ceiling for more per the scouting reports.

If Vancouver maintains its run prevention then the only way to squeeze more wins out of this young group is improved offense. Colón could step up, but he looks more like a solid supporting player than a main attraction. Perhaps Mendoza, who fell off in 2063 compared to 2062, or a significant leap forward for Ruíz. The Mounties can't rely on support coming internally from their anemic farm system but rest assured Wharram will do whatever it takes to round out the team if they catch the scent of the postseason.

san fernando BEARS



San Fernando got off to a show start in 2063 that lead GM Kurt Imber to view the team as ready to sell by midseason, but after a hot September they finished just a game behind Vancouver. The Bears don't excel in any particular aspect of the game, instead relying on depth and the hope that graduations from the third best minor league system will propel them to contention. The opposite of the Mounties, San Fernando's home ballpark aids hitters to such a degree that they actually had pretty good run prevention in 2063 but need to boost their offense to win more games.

Coming off a career year with the Talons, 35 year-old Nick Rivers will take the ball on Opening Day for the Bears. He'll be followed in the rotation by Rick Marriott, who managed a 3.21 ERA in his comeback season after missing most of 2062 with an injury. 20 game loser Leland Rogers and upstart 23 year-old Augusto González round out the part of the rotation well understood at this time. Others are expected to make starts in April, but eventually the Bears will turn the ball over to a pair of former Nashville Bluebird phenoms, 23 year-old Enrique Pérez and 22 year-old Brent Chappel.

The Bears sacrificed quality in their bullpen when they traded the uber-talented Carlos Williams to land those two phenoms. Left in the 'pen are the underrated lefty/righty pair of Steve Fuller and Ben Weaver, as well as converted starter Edgar Chávez who will get first crack at closing out games. The most talented arm is Augusto González (no, not that one, this one) but he'll be eased into a setup role after

debuting down the stretch for Charm City in 2063.

2063 W/L	84-78
2063 xW/xL	83-79
R/G	4.69
BBA Rank	17th
RA/G	4.50
BBA Rank	13th

The offense should improve with full seasons from catcher Masakado Matsunaga

(career .823 OPS) and 24 year-old center fielder Jim Sitton (7 home runs in spring training compared to 5 home runs all of 2063). It will rely once again on superstar Yuu Suzuki to drive in runs out of the cleanup spot, who has seen his OPS decrease two years running and the front office hopes is rejuvenated by a full-time shift to the hot corner. Tommy Harrison gave the team 3 WAR in right field, and Keith Tims smashed 37 home runs between DH and first base. Jason Steward won a gold glove at shortstop but bats ninth in the batting order for a reason.

If at least one of Pérez or Chappel can come up and pitch like a TOR starter for the Bears they could find themselves in the wild card mix. Another X-factor is rookie left fielder Harrison Dundon who will make his BBA debut on Opening Day and offers the team their best hope of a year-over-year offensive increase from any position in the lineup.

Sacramento MAD POPES



Once the feared behemoth of the Pacific, Sacramento fully embodied their M'Ope form in 2063 by finishing with a disappointing .500 record. The org still flexes the second strongest cash flow in the Brewster, but the prospect cupboard remains

2063 W/L	81-81
2063 xW/xL	86-76
R/G	4.37
BBA Rank	22nd
RA/G	4.46
BBA Rank	12th

just as bare as when former GM Doug Olmstead left. To make matters worse, team payroll is up against the cap, leaving GM Ben Heuring's hands tied to make any improvements over the winter. So, the team will roll the dice again in 2064 with a roster that admittedly underachieved by some metrics.

Perhaps no unit underperformed worse for the Mad Popes than the starting rotation, ageless ace Sakutaro Kawano notwithstanding. Former ace Michihiro Tanaka posted his worst ERA since joining Sacramento by more than a run, which is not a good sign for a diminutive pitcher entering his 30s. Mario Reyes' ERA doubled from 2062 to 2063. 37 year-old Jamie Barber will be relied on to rediscover his past spark. The last spot in the rotation is difficult to project, possibly filled by Bob Red when he makes his big league debut. This underscores the lack of depth.

One common theme with the starting pitchers was an ERA much higher than their FIP. Some of that is bad luck, but some of that can be blamed on team defense the home crowd at the Basilica wouldn't have recognized. Shortstop is a black hole without anyone in camp who can field the position adequately, let alone also able to

swing the bat.

Catcher John Kinsella is still

good defensively

for now, but at 37 years old who knows for how much longer it will hold. Second baseman Yoshitaro Goto is a slick fielder who can hit but struggles to stay on the field.

Offensively, Lou Bayou is the straw that stirs the Popes' non-alcoholic drink. 7 WAR looks like his floor after setting a career best in OPS, stealing 75 bases, and playing gold glove defense in center. Third sacker Mohammed bin Mus'ad chipped in 100 RBIs and 4.3 WAR. 22 year-old right fielder Pedro Álvarez covers ground with a strong arm and smashed 26 homers in just 119 games. Based on scouting reports, left fielder Craig Williams is one of the better bounce back candidates in the league. From there, the rest of the position player group looks closer to 1-2 WAR placeholders than solid everyday players.

All this negativity might be spared by what is still an excellent bullpen, anchored by four lefties that will keep opposing left-handed hitters at bay in the later innings. Veteran Jeff Locke is nearing the end, but young upstarts Bill Fitzpatrick, Claudio Torres, and Don Jordan all bring back memories of the Mad Pope golden age.

With limited cap space and farm resources one wonders how Sacramento will fill holes as they arise. It might take a near perfect bill of health or some surprise positive development to move them up enough places on the Pacific ladder to reach the postseason.

Valencia STARS



Valencia enters 2064 after two years of a deep rebuild that saw them average 100 losses per season. The Stars haven't had a winning record since 2056 or reached the playoffs since 2053, a drought that must be making the Valencia faithful restless. This coming season looks to be a continuation of the upward trend started last year when they won five more games than 2062, but its dubious this is a team that will contend.

Most of Valencia's best young talent plays the corner outfield or catcher. 22 year-old Santiago Diéguez hit 32 home runs patrolling center field, although his lack of range will push him to a corner in 2064. Ed Bush, 23 years old, played right field and hit 24 homers, while scouts believe he should hit 30+ as he matures. Another 23 year-old power hitting corner outfield, Júlio Sánchez is expected to make his debut. These three lefties are balanced by a right-handed power hitting corner outfielder also set to debut, Luis Vela. The four will share playing time across the corners and DH. The Stars have a cadre of young catchers all breaking through at the same time. Last year Bernd Helwich and Bradley Russel combined for 4.0 WAR thanks to each having a low .800s OPS.

The infield corners offer offensive production too. Switch-hitting first baseman Gabriel Bacaloglu hit 30 bombs, while Jorge García hit .299 and added 2.2 WAR from third.

GM Gregg Greathouse has admirably found plugs for the up-the-middle positions that lack impactful talents on the immediate horizon. An offseason trade brought in Bob Hills. Hills hasn't always been given an everyday role but was worth

2063 W/L	63-99
2063 xW/xL	64-98
R/G	4.73
BBA Rank	15th
RA/G	5.77
BBA Rank	32nd

1.9 WAR in less than a season's worth of PAs. Jesús Romero recovered from one of the worst seasons in

memory in 2062 (-2.5 WAR) to be a steady shortstop. Another 20 homer play was second baseman Shu-de Sa. Sa is a tweener who doesn't quite hit enough to play first base but lacks the defensive tools to play anywhere else. It makes sense to keep running him out there in case either end of his game improves, but Valencia might turn to slightly better defender Sumiteru Okubo before the campaign ends.

The starting rotation is mostly made up of veteran journeyman brought in on bargain contracts and is the obvious weakness for the club. The exception is 23 year-old Bhadrasila Chetlapalli who will make his BBA debut on Opening Day and looks to have the floor of MOR starter. Shiro Takahashi is still just 24 years old and scouts think he has untapped potential, even if he didn't show much progress last year. Beyond that, Greathouse might look to leverage his depth on the offensive side in exchange for some help in the rotation.

The bullpen is the most interesting aspect of the team. Sure, top flight talents like Dave Furman and Juan Evans should be dynamite in their roles protecting leads, but it will be more interesting to see how the club's collection of experimental high velocity relievers with warts fare. They make for a fitting metaphor for the 2064 Valencia Stars as a whole.

long beach SURFERS



Then there's poor Long Beach. At the end of the 2061 season, the Surfers had made the playoffs five times in six years. Today, the Surfers are on the heels of back-to-back 100 loss seasons and only a couple of players from 2061 remain. The organization doesn't claim a particularly strong farm system and there are no clearly evident cornerstone building blocks on the active roster. You can take a pessimistic view of this situation and despair that there are years of rebuilding left ahead of them. That might be true, but from the optimistic perspective it should be fun to see so many new faces given a chance. Anything can happen at any position.

By prior year WAR, as well as league reputation, the best player on the offensive side is first baseman Tadataka Yoshikawa. Yoshikawa comes over as a \$12M free agent after being plagued by injury. The 38 year-old still looks like a feared slugger when he takes batting practice. Other notable offseason veteran acquisitions include Rich Dares, who everybody hates but can still be useful as a reserve infielder. 38 year-old former BBA star Jamie Angwin was brought in from the GBC to sell tickets... err hit lefties as a short side platoon outfielder.

If there's a team identify for the 2064 Surfers its power above all else. They'll rely on the slow-to-develop Vicente López to strike fear in opposing teams' pitching. He might not make a lot of contact but when he does the ball should go far. First baseman Ricardo Antúnez offers a similar profile after hitting 19 homers in 107 games. 23 year-old first baseman José Rínlón might

start the year in the

2063 W/L	55-107
2063 xW/xL	55-107
R/G	3.75
BBA Rank	32nd
RA/G	5.67
BBA Rank	31st

minor leagues but is the best prospect the team has ready to contribute. Second baseman Jerry Nair also offers surprising pop for a middle infielder

and might be the favorite to top the team in offensive WAR.

In the rotation, GM Stephen Lane nabbed Bill Beals. Beals had a string of three consecutive years with an ERA under 4.00 in Portland and is expected to take the ball on Opening Day. 39 year-old Michael Dixon is well past his prime but brings over more than 700 games of BBA experience to the table. Three young pitchers figure to draw starts eventually: Pedro Pimentel, Toby Barham, and Héctor Herrera. Of the three, only Pimentel has the kind of scouting report that would draw serious attention from other clubs.

The bullpen will be a motley crew but there are some upside arms. Lefty José Owens and righty Eugene Arnold make the loudest impression.

What the Surfers are lacking is a clear identity. This isn't a team dedicated to defense (far from it) and it will hurt the development of their pitching. There are some high stuff relievers but in general the pitching philosophy seems all over the place. Long Beach looks destined to learn a lot about their team this season, most of which the fans won't enjoy, but it could land them the top pick in the 2065 amateur draft.

PROJECTED STANDINGS: PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	Wins	Losses	GB
Portland Lumberjacks	91	71	-
Bikini Krill	90	72	1
Hawaii Tropics	88	74	3
Vancouver Mounties	85	77	6
San Fernando Bears	85	77	6
Sacramento M Popes	80	82	11
Valencia Stars	73	89	18
Long Beach Surfers	56	106	35

YOUR 2064 GBC PREVIEW

By Woody Donahue!

"The GBC is tired," says the casual fan. "It's always just **Blair Peyton**

dominating the league, counting down the days until his BBA payday, and probably Jerusalem or someone winning every year."

"What's that? Peyton's in the BBA now? Jerusalem hasn't actually won in almost a decade? Today's GBC stars include flame-throwing closers, slick-fielding shortstops, and just the right amount of ex-Nashville players to give us someone to root against?"

If this is you, then maybe it's time to dust off your old copy of *Baden Dutton's Historical GBC Abstract* and dig into a different brand of baseball this season. Because unlike the Brewster, the GBC has competitive balance, a global talent base, and reeeeeeally long player names that don't even fit on the back of the jerseys.

Last season, the Tokyo Pearls finally brought home the Grand Slam Cup, after many years of falling just short. The curse of success, however, is that many of their top players such as Michael Buckley and Afzul Chishti cashed in on their newfound fame with lucrative BBA contracts, leaving Tokyo to figure out how to rebuild and repeat.

Jerusalem, meanwhile, has a thorn in their side after winning 108 games and being swept in the Wild Round by their rivals in Japan. With largely the same squad suiting up in 2064, can they overcome their nemesis and make it to the promised land?

Just on the other side of the Sinai are the Cairo Pharaohs, who dove into rebuilding mode after parting ways with Blair Peyton, the longtime face of the franchise. They probably don't have any designs on winning this year, but I've seen teams turn it around in the fast-paced GBC quicker than you can say "Tutankhamun," so don't count them out.

Another team whose outlook has declined recently is Moscow, who fell from their 2062 championship further than anyone would've thought possible, sinking to a low of 102 losses in 2063. With some new signings from the BBA, and a hopefully resurgent season from their rockstar closer, they hope to put the travesty of last season far behind them.

And never count out the upstart Johannesburg Gold. Their unorthodox data-driven style of roster management somehow managed to gather enough of the correct pieces to make it all the way to the Grand Slam Cup last season. Now with the emergence of young pitcher Kiminobu Seki, can they take it all the way?

Sydney is another team with a promising young core. Ilia Arakchaa is already established as the team's star shortstop, while native Perthian Norman Durney should be arriving in the big leagues soon. Could this be their window?

Meanwhile, Buenos Aires continues to ship in BBA talent, adding third baseman Tim Bartlett to a lineup that already includes \$18 million man Ira Patterson. Will their new import provide the Brisas with enough firepower?

Then there's São Paulo, who are likely looking at the last year of star first baseman Katsunan Hashimoto in Pilot blue. Can they win one for him before he goes off in search of a BBA payday?

Athens' continued ineptitude will lead to many snarky remarks from fans about how they'd take [Discobolus](#) any day over Pat Rhodes in the rotation, despite his weird throwing motion.

Meanwhile, the British Empire continues to stand guard and observe, like the awkward wallflower at a party. The London Monarchs are counting mostly on their in-house talent and up-and-coming prospects, but have they done enough to be competitive?

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..

EurAsia Division

Jerusalem Hebrew Hammers



2063 record: 108-54, 1st place in EurAsia

Notable additions: RF Hasheem bin Nazih, 1B Mike McClure, C Roy O'Donnell

Losses (and 2063 WAR): SP Wilson López (4.5), SP Ed Noble (1.5), SP Tommy Baird (1.3), SP José Castro (4.1), RF George McCoy (3.9)

Star power: The Hammers were rolling on all cylinders last season until they met the Pearls in the Wild Round, and we don't need to talk about how that went. The team was stacked — and I mean *stacked* — but the biggest names are all gone now, from José Castro (2nd in Pitcher of the Year voting) to Wilson López (3rd), to George McCoy (3rd in Position Player of the Year). The new guy meant to replace some of that production is catcher **Roy O'Donnell**, who Jerusalem signed this winter to a bountiful three-year contract. He's the latest prize to come over from the BBA, and his skills should translate well, with little risk of decline since he's still only 26 years old. He'll bat squarely in the middle of Jerusalem's lineup, with ample protection from power hitters Han-wu Ku (35 home runs last season) and Ted Benson (50 home runs last season).

Sneaky-good player: We know the Hammers are good, but you only ever hear about how Ted Benson once hit a bomb so far it landed over the Western Wall (he did), or how closer Davida Keeaola can throw a slider so nasty it'll make your girlfriend convert to Judaism (he can). But those points aside, center fielder **Kevin Lambert** deserves a lot more credit. He's a complete, well-rounded player who can hit, play great defense, and he's one of the best base-stealers in the Consortium. He's the cog that makes this offense churn, and probably the most indispensable player on the team.

Weakness: The starting pitching is not necessarily weak, but it's untested. Jerusalem lost three-fifths of its rotation since last year, which thrusts the unreliable Leonard Squillari into the role of "ace". Beyond him and veteran journeyman Luke Seddon, they're counting on a group of guys who haven't pitched more than a handful of games at the big-league level. The talent is there to get the job done, but there might be some rough patches.

2063 prediction: 92-70. This offseason presented Jerusalem with a lot of tough decisions on how to re-tool, and I don't envy the GM who had to make those decisions. It's still a squad brimming with talent, and we'll see if they managed to patch enough holes to return the Hammers to the playoff picture.

Tokyo Pearls



2063 record: 99-63, 2nd place in EurAsia; Grand Slam Cup Champions

Notable additions: SP Rick Patrick, RF Graham Aubry, 2B Félix Abernathy, SS Chance Wilson, SP Ty Vannatta, 3B Pat Phillips, C Will Bennett, SP Jaime Mendoza, RP Viktor Gorbikov, 1B Callum Montgomerie, RP Gunner Patterson, SP Mike Johnson, LF Taylor Barfoot, RP Hughie Dunstone, SS Naruhiko Okada, CF Huo-tu Shaw, 1B Rich Linker, SP Fei-hsien Hang, RP Sokollu Karpát, RP Juan Blanco, SP Hai-liang Jianbua, 1B Lloyd Fitzpatrick, SP Juan Morales, RP Spencer Sharrock, RP Daniel González, SP Abdul-Muhaimin Saleem, SP Hud Bannon, SP Jacome Kretzchner, SP John Schmitt, SP Alex León, RP Edward Johnson, LF Greg Godwin, 2B Juan Gallardo, RP Marcos Amaya, RF James Belinda, RP Bryan Hall, SP Hassan bin Zuhair

Losses (and 2063 WAR): 1B Javier Mateo (-0.1), 2B John McCutcheon (-0.2), SP Juan Guerrero (-0.2), RF Michael Buckley (4.7), 1B Jules Le Gal (3.7), RF Nelson Dyer (0.4), RP Dane Colclough (0.1), RP Feheen MacKenrick (0.3), LF Malmoud Omoruyi (-0.1), LF Jamie Angwin (4.1), SP Billy Kelly (3.4), RP Steven Anderton (1.4), SP Afzul Chishti (3.4), 3B Vicente Sepulvéda (0.0), SP Jonathan Bryant (3.3), RP Michael Kalil (-0.2), LF Nam-cheol U (1.4), SP Barry Short (3.0)

Star power: The Grand Slam Champion Pearls lost a lot of pieces from their loaded roster, including Position Player of the Year winner Michael Buckley, along with runner-up Jamie Angwin. Who does that leave as the face of the team? That would be last year's Pitcher of the Year, 22-year-old wonder boy **Yue-jiu Lai**, who has quietly stepped into the role of the ace of Tokyo's rotation. With five plus pitches and a knack at limiting home runs, he's a perfect fit for the Pearls, who will need him to step up and maybe increase his innings load in what will be his second full season as a starter.

Sneaky-good player: Last year's bullpen stud, **Asir Suoud**, is being tried out in the rotation this spring, and the early results have been stellar, with a 0.77 ERA in six spring starts. It's the correct move for the Pearls, who had the luxury of a deep bullpen, with closer Eugênio Velosa and newly-acquired setup man Seth Nagaswamy already penciled into the late innings.

Weakness: Corner outfield, which is expected after losing 8.8 WAR worth of corner outfielders in Buckley and Angwin (even more if you count Nam-cheol U). It'll be hard to replace that production, but Tokyo will try to do so with rookie Manuel Flores and free agent signing Graham Aubry. They're also really hoping Johannesburg returns Rule 5 pick Masinisan Sumait, who got snatched away after signing a cheap Major League-option contract. A lesson to always protect your Pearls!

2063 prediction: 89-73. The lost offense will be a problem, and anything short of a couple of their youngsters catching lightning in a bottle will likely leave them out of the playoff picture.

London Monarchs

2063 record: 83-79, 3rd place in EurAsia

Notable additions: SP Samuel Vankrimpen, SP Jim Achbar

Losses (and 2063 WAR): 3B Pat Phillips (1.3), SP Mustafa Derbil (0.5), RP Spencer Sharrock (0.4), CF Blair Peyton (2.3), SP Cristo Muñoz (0.8), LF Justin Limer (-0.2)



Star power: Now that the Blair Peyton era has come and gone in London quicker than the acid house craze, we turn our attention to who's left, and the star of the show is shortstop **Mika Taine**. He gets it done more with his bat than his glove, but he plays an adequate enough shortstop to warrant putting him there. Taine will be a serious on-base threat atop the lineup, where he'll give way to other on-base threats such as first baseman Lee Bundy (.392 on-base percentage last season) and second-year catcher Howard Tanner (.373). One thing's for sure with the Monarchs offense — they'll keep the line moving.

Sneaky-good player: Below the higher-paid "aces" in the Monarchs' rotation sits **Germán Martínez**, a 23-year-old making league minimum. But Martínez shows a lot of promise, and has all the makings for a breakout year. Last season, he overcame some early-season struggles in the bullpen and found his groove when he was inserted into the rotation in August. In August and September, he posted a 1.41 ERA in seven starts. Opening Day will likely belong to one of the veterans, Samuel Vankrimpen or Rick Clarijs, but don't be surprised if it's Martínez getting Pitcher of the Year votes by season's end.

Weakness: In general, it's depth. London has its nine positions filled adequately, but the lack of major-league caliber backups may come to be an issue as the season wears on.

2063 prediction: 82-80. London gets a passing grade across the board, and admittedly their starting pitching is better than they get credit for. But without some additional support pieces to complement the big names, their margin for error will be very thin.

Moscow Thunder Bears



2063 record: 60-102, 4th place in EurAsia

Notable additions: SS Nicolai Pletnikov, 2B Ari Ernalina, 2B Pat Currie, C Afif bin Ridha, 3B Sokol Maniani, RF Archie Jones, 1B António Durán, SP Feheen MacKenrick, C Jaime Sousa, SP Santiago Chávez, RF Héctor Porrett, SP Sam Landry, C Jesse Holman, SS Rich Moore, RP Kent Jones, CF Pablo Padilla, RP Joe Burton, 3B Ralph Simpson

Losses (and 2063 WAR): LF Adil bin Lahab (-1.0), CF Shafiq Zahir (-0.2), RP Hani Goddard (-0.1), SP Samuel Vankrimpen (4.0), SP Ubbe Bakboord (0.6), RP Leo Hill (0.1), RP Juan Garza (-0.1), 2B Doug Kindle (-0.6), C Ben Wilkins (-0.3), LF Rajko Lovre (-0.2), SS Frank Lee (-2.6), LF Dane Licht (0.7), C Justin Bonfield (0.9), SP Brick Pollitt (2.1), RP Kam Fiscus (0.3), RP Stanley Moore (0.9), RP Marcos Amaya (0.0)

Star power: It *should* be closer Riyadi Subandrio, who possesses more raw stuff than the annual GDP of some small countries, but he hit a weird string of luck last year and became quite hittable. So until he finds his stuff again, let's go with right fielder **Isaaco Aglietti**. Winner of last year's EurAsia batting title, he's the man who fuels the Thunder Bears' patented "who needs walks anyway" hit-parade offense. Along with young free agent pickup Héctor Porrett, he gives the Bears' offense a Murderer's Row of tough lefty hitters atop their lineup, which is especially dangerous in a league where 90% of the starting pitchers throw right-handed.

Sneaky-good player: The guy to keep an eye on is touted reliever prospect **Mataio Hanale**, a former fourth-round draft pick who will soon be breaking into the big leagues. He missed a few months due to injury last year, and Moscow saw no need to rush his call-up in the midst of a 100-loss season. But he posted a 1.20 ERA in Triple-A prior to that, and he's gained a few ticks in velocity since. One hopes that Subandrio can find his form again, which would make Hanale a great setup option for the Bears.

Weakness: Outfield defense. As good as Aglietti is on offense, his limited range in the outfield certainly costs the Bears their fair share of runs. Not to mention their lack of a true center fielder, which Moscow tried to remedy by trading for Pablo Padilla. But he was also worth negative runs in Triple-A last year, so he doesn't feel like the long-term solution. In any case, the Bears Den is a bandbox, so maybe they're just hoping all the fly balls go over the fence?

2063 prediction: 77-85. Sam Landry should help stabilize a rotation that pitched to a nearly-6.00 ERA last season, so expect to see some improvement there. And if the bullpen pitches to its potential, a 15-game improvement certainly isn't out of the question.

Athens Fighting Centaurs



2063 record: 56-106, 5th place in EurAsia

Notable additions: 3B Mamdouh bin Akram, RP Ánibal Arredondo

Losses (and 2063 WAR): SP Abdul-Muhaimin Saleem (4.2), CF Huo-tu Shaw (-0.3), RP Hughie Dunstone (2.2), SP Ken Bautista (-0.3), SP Travis Wearne (3.9), 3B Jack Acheson (0.2), RP Don Jones (0.8)

Star power: Matthew Woods is making over ten times the salary as the next-best paid Centaur, so it's him. Once a highly-touted power-hitting outfielder, he has since been partly relegated to designated hitter duties, while Athens prays during his at-bats for one of the better of the Three True Outcomes. He's about the best hitter they've got, so he'll bat cleanup, and probably hit his fair share of cheap homers at Athens' notoriously left-handed-friendly Piraeus Park (also known as "The House That Quinn Greene Built").

Sneaky-good player: We'll probably see **Jason Caldwell** in a Centaurs uniform this season, the player Athens famously drafted first overall in the 2061 draft in a move that some called "a head scratcher." But Caldwell's debut in the big leagues could prove that Athens was playing 4-D Chess the whole time. He has developed nicely for Athens, with good bat-to-ball skills, a bit of power, and a charm that should put some much-needed fans in the stands in Athens. The left fielder has torn the cover off the ball this spring, to the tune of a 1.167 OPS, so if he's not breaking camp with the team, they can't keep him down for long.

Weakness: I should probably be more specific than "everything," so let's go with the bullpen. The way it appears, they could be even worse this year than last year, when they collectively owned a 6.17 ERA. Their best reliever, Zafar bin Hamzah, had an ERA over 9.00 last season, and the only pitcher they added in the off-season has pitched a total of 1 career inning above Double-A.

2063 prediction: 46-116. Athens is a dumpster fire on a rudderless ship which for some reason had a dumpster on board. One could at least say that with a payroll barely above \$15M, there's still some budget left to improve the team, but they'd better do so quickly.

EurAsia Projected Standings

	W	L
Jerusalem Hammers	92	70
Tokyo Pearls	89	73
London Monarchs	82	80
Moscow Thunder Bears	77	85
Athens Fighting Centaurs	46	116

Johannesburg Gold

2063 record: 93-69, 1st place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: 3B Rubén Alvarado, 2B Munoto Kono, SP José Montañez, SS Diwan bin Jawhar, RF Mei Hoong, RF Brian Cobb, RP Min-gook Chon, CF Gabriel Torrez, 3B Jack Acheson, RP Ishtaq Dar*, CF Masinisan Sumait*, 2B Júlío González*, 3B Guang Li, RP Firhun Jibade, SP Pedro Martínez, 3B Nelson Ingalls, RP Bill Wallace, RP Na'il Mu'ayyad, RP Gerald Rogers, SP Barry Short, SP Billy Kelly, CF Ramón Trujillo



Losses (and 2063 WAR): RP Ramón Ayala (-0.7), 3B Fred Mailing (-0.3), 2B Jesús Álvarez (-0.5), RP Jim Thompson (0.0), C Will Bennett (0.0), RP Gunner Patterson (0.0), RF James Belinda (3.6), DH António Román (0.3), 1B Callum Montgomerie (1.3), RP Edward Johnson (0.4), SP Claudio García (1.1), RP Edward Crutcher (0.0), SP Jay Chapman (0.1), RP Larry Soukup (0.2), 2B Prabhu Vogelsang (0.6), 3B Juan Anaya (0.7), C Jesse Holman (-0.3), SS Rich Moore (0.5)

Star power: Catcher **Simão Hayagawa** is the captain and engine that moves the offense. He hit 42 home runs last year, and might be as indispensable to this team as any single player in the whole Consortium. The Gold won't be as big of a power team this year, going for more of a well-rounded offensive approach, but all you need is one big bopper in the middle of the lineup to do damage, and that's Hayagawa.

Sneaky-good player: It may not be so sneaky after he finished 2nd in Pitcher of the Year voting last season, but starting pitcher **Kiminobu Seki**'s work has been eye-popping, to say the least. He led AfSAmOc pitchers in three important departments last year: ERA (3.55), HR/9 (0.8) and K/9 (9.1). That shows he's getting it done on all fronts: keeping runs off the board, balls in the yard and batters looking frustrated on their walks back to the dugout. Seki and rotation mate Max Dawe are about a good of a one-two punch you'll find, and promising rookie hurler Thiago Cana will be an intriguing option in the rotation as well.

Weakness: Durability. The Gold look great on paper, with solid defense at every position and a splendorous depth of pitching, but the question is, what happens if/when "wrecked" shortstop Dima Rozinov gets injured? Or if Seki has a setback coming back from the torn labrum he suffered in last year's Grand Slam Cup? So many of their key players having such concerning injury histories doesn't bode well for a smooth season.

2064 prediction: 91-71. Johannesburg saw top-flight performances from so many of its role players last season that you almost have to expect some regression. But even still, they're a complete team with no real holes, and a lot of promise in their top three starters. And having three good starters in the playoffs can take you pretty far.

Sydney Sharks



2063 record: 87-75, 2nd place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: 2B José Ramos, RP Stanley Moore, 1B Aurelio García*, 1B Leonardo Arévalo*, RP Baz Badr, SP Rashid Syed, 3B Zeke Jewers, SP Tommy Baird, 3B Brock Ramsey

Losses (and 2063 WAR): RP Derry Vacher (0.0), RP Ryan Cline (0.4), RP Slawomir Trzcinski (0.5), CF Masinisan Sumait (0.2), LF Greg Godwin (1.9), RP Jaime Mendoza (1.4), RP Mike Baker (-0.3), 3B Howard Walsh (1.7), 1B Roger Kidd (1.1), RP Yoshido Endo (0.0), RP Daniel González (0.1), 2B Ari Ernalía (2.4), SP John Cochrane (0.2)

Star power: You don't get much more star power than going out and signing a guy with five BBA championship rings, and that's exactly who the Sharks got in second baseman **José Ramos**. He'll provide a valuable left-handed bat in the lineup, and be a shoo-in for Gold Glove at second base. The Sharks now have an airtight infield defense, with Ramos suiting up alongside shortstop Ilia Arakchaa and third baseman Wattas Hondo, and the icing on the cake is that all these guys can hit pretty well, too.

Sneaky-good player: The best complement to a defensive infield is a top-tier groundball pitcher, and Sydney also picked up one of those this winter: new closer **Baz Badr**. He's been on the fringes of the BBA for several years, but still possesses the same four plus pitches and 100+ mph gas that fast-tracked him to the big leagues early in his career. Let's see if the move to Australia is what he needs to get his career back on track. He'll be highlighting a nice motley crew of groundballers in the Sharks' revamped bullpen, including veteran Stanley Moore and exciting young reliever Edgardo Reyes.

Weakness: Starting rotation. Sharks' starters pitched to a 5.32 ERA last season, the second-worst mark in their division. They've made virtually no moves to fix that, instead praying that 22-year-old Ming Zhang can shake off the jitters, and that 19-year-old prospect Norman Durney is GBC ready.

2063 prediction: 90-72. Give the Sharks credit for building around their stud infielders with a groundballer-heavy pitching staff. And knowing that they'll want to win while Arakchaa and Hondo are still cheap, I wouldn't be surprised to see them add more, push all their chips in and really go for it. Could this be the year they finally bring a championship to the Land Down Under?

Buenos Aires Brisas

2063 record: 69-93, 5th place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: SP Calvin MacConacher, C Cecil Clarke, 3B Tim Bartlett, SP Mathis Gérard, RP Ommar bin Ayyub, RP Paul Carson



Losses (and 2063 WAR): 1B Frank Fillinger (-0.2), 3B Ralph Simpson (-0.7), RP José Acuña (-0.1), RF Davey McDonald (0.6), 2B Félix Abernathy (0.3), SP Hai-liang Jianbua (3.5), SP Gonzalo Ruíz (0.8), SP Glenn Hawkins (2.9), RP Azhar Abu al Khayr (-1.4), RF Leonard Jackson (-0.7)

Star power: 21-year-old starting pitcher **Alapai Nalani** has quickly become the face of the franchise after bringing home the Pitcher of the Year award last year. He led the league in wins, strikeouts, WAR, and BB/9 en route to a dominant sophomore season. What's more, his velocity and secondary pitches are still improving, so it's a pretty good bet that he'll have even better numbers this year. Still, he can only go every five days, so the Brisas would love to find some more production from other players... but Nalani is a great start.

Sneaky-good player: "Sneaky" might not be totally accurate, but the casual fan probably won't have heard of Brisas' second baseman, **Yeong-suk Yun**. He came onto the scene in 2062 as one of those scrappy players that seemed to do everything well, but didn't excel in any one area. He'll be good for about 20 homers, a .280 average, and pretty good defense at the keystone position. With Yun as a consistent force atop the lineup and the big bats of Ira Patterson and Nick Bywaters driving him in, it's a pretty good formula for runs.

Weakness: Outfield. The Brisas are pretty well situated at every infield position, but it's their outfield that leaves a lot to be desired. And center field deserves a special mention, where starter Satishkuma Sampath, who is actually a pretty decent player, racked up -1.9 WAR last season because of his awful defense.

2063 prediction: 83-79. The lineup has some pop, and the pitching staff is pretty deep. I expect Nalani to reach another level of stardom as he continues to develop, which should win Buenos Aires a decent amount of games. You could almost squint and see a playoff run in the cards, if everything falls right.

São Paulo Pilots



2063 record: 83-79, 3rd place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: SP Rob Shelton, 3B Félix Ramos

Losses (and 2063 WAR): SP Luca Maundrell (2.3), 2B Boyd Blain (0.0), CF Hsin Cui (-0.1), 2B Pang Zou (0.1), SS Pedro Rocha (-1.2), SP Bryan Hall (2.8), SP Juan Morales (1.9), LF Amin Asim (2.1), RP Stanley Kowalski (1.2), 3B Biao Li (-0.3), RP Hud Bannon (-0.1), SP Kent Pickford (0.0), C Sulayman Sami (2.1)

Star power: This might be **Katsunan Hashimoto's** last year in São Paulo, and he'll want to finish his tenure with a career-defining year, after yet another second-place finish in last season's Player of the Year voting. (Coincidentally, *Runner-up to Peyton* is the working title of his upcoming memoir.) He is still in peak form, reaching career bests last year in home runs (45), walks (98), and steals (42). Did you know Hashimoto achieved the first 40-40 season in GBC history last year? Now you do.

São Paulo also shelled out a big contract to get the perfect guy to complement him, namely new third baseman **Félix Ramos**. What Hashimoto brings in power, Ramos brings in a great eye at the plate and smart baserunning instincts. Seeing the two in action together will be exciting.

Sneaky-good player: Pitcher **Ichiro Aoyama** is still relatively unknown, but that will change this year. The second-year lefty hurler has an arsenal of five quality pitches, and gets strikeouts with all of them, with a 9.1 K/9 rate in his rookie season. Aoyama will back up trusted veterans Fassil Maundu and Jordan Knowles in the Pilots' rotation.

Weakness: Bullpen. Brian Chappell had his struggles as the closer last year, with a 5.62 ERA for the season. But São Paulo will be trotting him out there in the ninth again, with 37-year-old Vic Ayliffe as his backup. Perhaps they'll eventually cede their roles to the up-and-coming Wene Amosa, who pitched well in limited time last year, but for now, it's the old guys running the show.

2063 prediction: 74-88. The lineup around the two big hitters is good enough, but the pitching just lacks the "X" factor.

Cairo Pharaohs

2063 record: 72-90, 4th place in AFSAMOC

Notable additions: SP Steven Quinn*, SP Carl Vincent*, SP John Rasmussen III, RP Israel Garza

Losses (and 2063 WAR): 3B Joseph Alexander (-0.5), 1B Michael Pedarzolli (0.0), RP Na'il Mu'ayyad (-0.6), SP Willard Labonte (-0.3), 2B Khoi Dai (-0.1), SP Tim Adams (1.2), CF Joo-il Paek (1.8), SP Enrique Serrano (0.8)



Star power: The great rebuild of Cairo is underway, and in the post-Blair Peyton era, the pitching staff is loaded up with veterans whose only job is to carry the team through until the next youth movement arrives, and not turn it into a total embarrassment in the process. The face of this group is starting pitcher **Khaleel bin Zubair**, a 33-year-old late bloomer who has gotten better every year for Cairo, leading the AfSAMOC in innings, WHIP, and BABIP last season. A 200-plus-inning pitcher is about the best thing you can have in a rebuilding year, and the Pharaohs might have two of them, between bin Zubair and newly-signed veteran John Rasmussen III. That means 400 innings they don't have to worry about.

Sneaky-good player: Cairo has the incumbent Rookie of the Year in outfielder Zhao-hui Mei, but I'd rather turn your attention to young shortstop **Reece Biddick** as someone who might put the world on notice this season. He bounced back and forth between the majors and minors last year, but he's always had a good eye at the plate, and word is he spent a lot of time in the Development Lab this winter working on his power stroke. If he can manage any reasonable amount of offensive production, he could prove to be a very valuable asset for a team that's been looking for an answer at shortstop since trading Dima Rozinov.

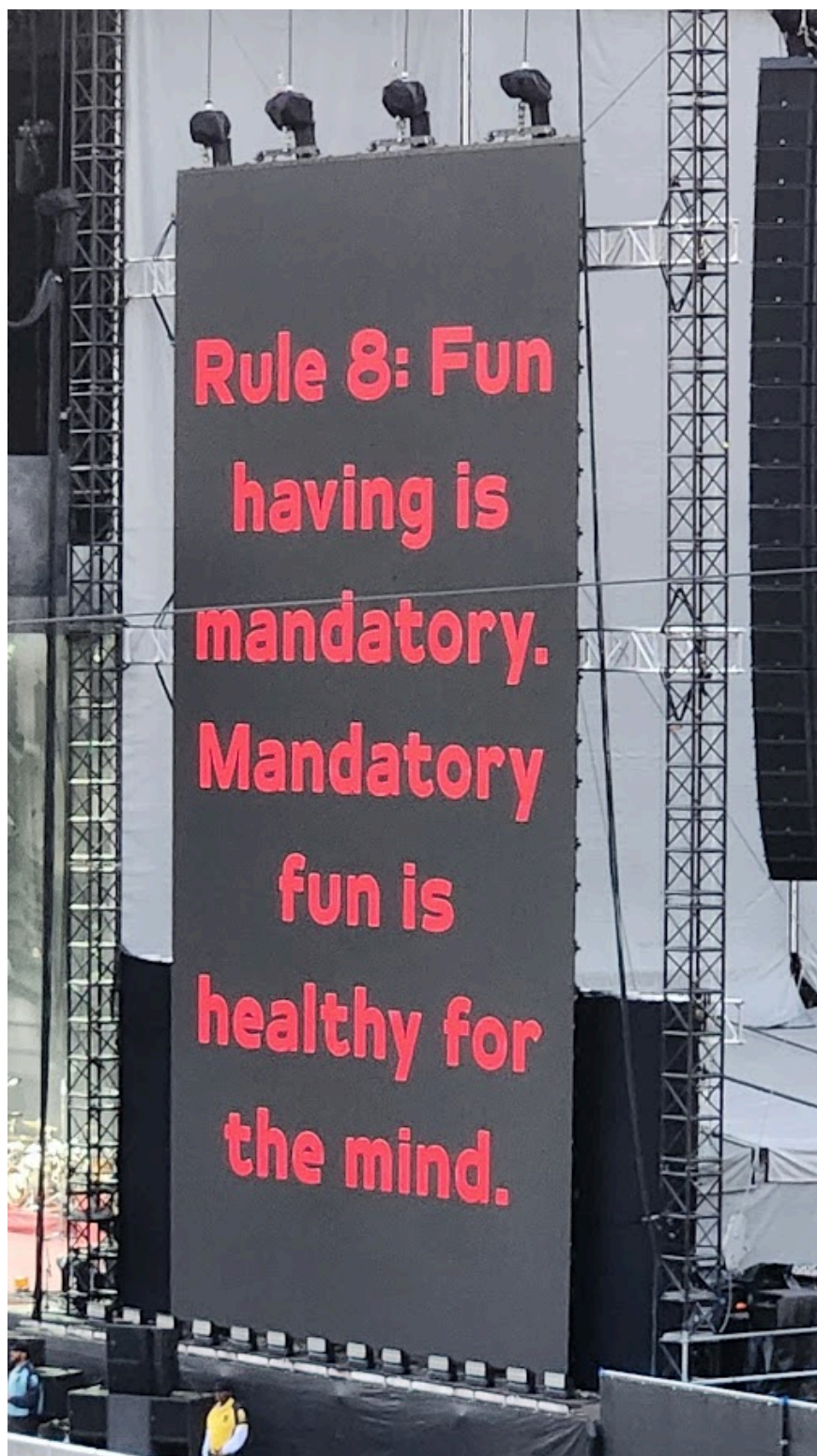
Weakness: Bullpen. Closer Tashfin Gitonga has electric stuff, but he can get a bit wild at times, and the Pharaohs don't have many dependable arms outside of him. Expect to see more than a few leads slip away in the mid- to late innings.

2063 prediction: 72-90. Cairo has a few nice young hitters, but don't get too attached to them. Boulus bin Altair, Kang-xi Kong and others will be gone by the time Cairo's next championship window opens, and I wouldn't be surprised if some of them get traded this year. For now, we wait for the arrival of Harun al Rachid bin Na'il and Cairo's other top prospects.

AFSAMOC Projected Standings

	W	L
Johannesburg Gold	91	71
Sydney Sharks	90	72
Buenos Aires Brisas	83	79
São Paulo Pilots	74	88
Cairo Pharaohs	72	90

Remember:

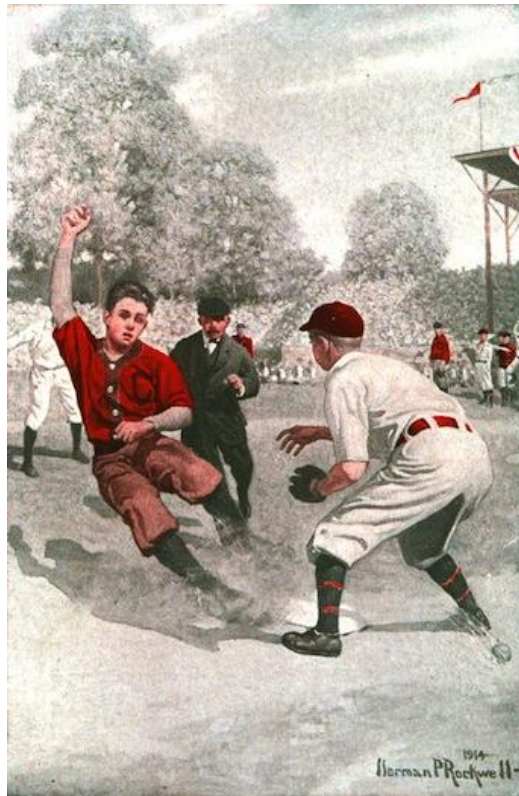


CREDITS

Cover Design: Mike Simon

Publishing: Jessie Ramirez

The image **Baseball in 2064?! (page 34)** is an AI-rendering of a Norman P. Rockwell illustration published in *The Lucky Seventh* by Ralph Henry Barbour (1915) and shown here.



The image *Yer Out!* is taken from a young adult book of the same era.

John Momberg contributed the images on page 42 and page 51.

THANKS TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S CONTRIBUTORS

JRamirez has tried to proofread this document using the [Style Guide of the Society for American Baseball Research](#), (which he highly recommends you consult for your team news and other writings), but time may have prevented him from proofreading later submissions.

Typical edits have included changing AAA to Class AAA, 1B to first baseman, at bats to at-bats, pre-season to preseason, and deleting all double spaces after periods (except in Chris's feature). As far as normalizing font styles and sizes across all submissions, well... that's been a hit-or-miss affair. Like the batting of Jon Scaife.