

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

Projected Finish

BATON ROUGE SILVER BULLETS
 LAKE WOBEGON WHIPPETS
 LOUISVILLE RIVER BANDITS
 URPAIGN DRAGONS
 MAINE YAKS
 ILLINOIS PRAIRIE DOGS

BATON ROUGE SILVER BULLETS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	Thome	559	4E9
	Gload	257	3E11
2B)	Loretta	682	3E11
SS)	Guillen	574	3E21
3B)	Feliz	553	3E13
C)	Zaun	372	3E2(+2)
	Torrealba	199	2E1(0)
LF)	Hairston	316	4E4
	Marrero	275	4E3
CF)	Lofton	304	4E5
	Bocachica	99	2E8
	Logan	146	2E8
RF)	Sheffield	630	4E6
DH)	Nevin	602	

LINEUP VS LHP

		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1	BOCACHICA-CF	54	37	2
2	SHEFFIELD-RF	50	41	7
3	LORETTA-2B	56	49	2
4	MARRERO-LF	58	77	6
5	NEVIN-DH	51	53	8
6	GUILLEN-SS	26	38	3
7	GLOAD-1B	38	56	6
8	FELIZ-3B	28	47	6
9	TORREALBA-C	29	50	8
		43	50	5

LINEUP VS RHP

		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	LOFTON-CF	38	44	w
	HAIRSTON-LF	45	42	w
	LORRETTA-2B	46	52	2
	THOME-1B	43	51	8
	SHEFFIELD-RF	42	38	8
	GUILLEN-SS	47	59	5
	NEVIN-DH	36	38	6
	FELIZ-3B	26	44	8
	ZAUN-C	41	30	0
		41	44	4

Key Reserves:

	LOGAN-CF	37	40	w
	LOFTON-I	32	21	w
	ZAUN-C	31	32	w
	HAIRSTON-LF	47	37	w

Key Reserves:

	GLOAD-1B	40	43	1
	LOGAN-CF	37	27	w

VS LHH:

	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
<u>ROTATION:</u>							
SCHILLING	250	13	22	0	11	28	6
ZAMBRANO	231	22	26	0	19	24	0
PEREZ*	216	11	21	1	22	32	3
MUSSINA	182	20	32	1	29	44	6
HERNANDEZ	92	27	38	2	20	27	1
REYES, D*	119	37	40	4	26	23	3

VS RHP:

BULLPEN:

PERCIVAL	54	18	27	7	18	26	1
AYALA	99	16	24	1	26	34	0
STANTON*	85	34	45	3	14	18	0
BRADFORD	65	41	46	3	12	14	0
CHOATE*	56	29	35	0	24	20	0

EVALUATION

Fellow American Leagues must be counting off the days til Schilling and Mussina retire....but unfortunately for them, Zambrano and Perez appear ready to continue the tradition. In the meanwhile the Bullets have all these guys and that adds up to one tough rotation.

In my opinion the Bullets primary weakness last season remains a serious weakness this season...and that is their bullpen. The pen is just not real good or real deep. It's adequate but probably not good enough to go all the way. Once you get to the playoffs.....as good as the starters are, they don't match up against other teams relief pitchers.

Defensively the Bullet's outfield is awful. I generally think it is impossible to be a serious championship contender if you have a "4" in center....and the Bullets will have "4"s all around in the OF much of the time. That is really going to cost the Bullets pitchers a lot of runs.

One of the best offensive teams in the league. I guess it helps the offense when you have DH's playing every position :) Check out all those 50+ on-base guys vs. left handed pitching. Yikes.

BOTTOM LINE

Mediocre pen and bad defense in OF, but excellent rotation and powerful offense will rule the day and Bullets will win the AL East.

LOUISVILLE RIVER BANDITS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	HELTON	602	1E4
2B)	DURHAM	518	3e23
SS)	INFANTE	553	3e31
	ADAMS	79	4E44
3B)	BATISTA	667	4E21
	HELMS	301	4e44
C)	KENDALL	631	3(0)E6
LF)	CRISP	540	2(+1)e5
	MACKOWIAK	540	4(-1)E8
CF)	GRISSOM	618	3(+1)e2
RF)	SUZUKI	774	1(-5)e3
	ESCABAR	167	3e4
DH)	PUJOLS	651	3e11(1b)

<u>LINEUP</u>				
<u>VS LHP</u>		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1	SUZUKI-RF	57	65	2
2	DURHAM-2B	44	62	3
3	HELTON-1B	47	61	3
4	PUJOLS-DH	60	102	8
5	HELMS-3B	47	66	W
6	KENDALL-C	47	50	W
7	GRISSOM-CF	36	65	8
8	CRISP-LF	35	52	7
9	INFANTE-SS	30	45	2
		44.8	63.1	3.7
<u>Key Reserves:</u>				
	ESCABAR-RF	37	42	0

LINEUP VS RHP

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	
KENDALL-C	50	58	W	
SUZUKI-RF	46	53	W	
HELTON-1B	60	87	5	
PUJOLS-DH	47	83	8	
GRISSOM-CF	28	37	3	
DURHAM-2B	34	51	5	
CRISP-LF	33	39	1	
BATISTA-3B	22	39	5	
INFANTE-SS	29	46	4	
		38.8	54.8	3.4
<u>Key Reserves:</u>				
	MACKOWIAK-LF	32	46	4

VS LHH:

VS RHP:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	
PONSON	238	40	51	1	28	38	2	och
ESCABAR	229	27	33	0	19	35	5	
BENSON	220	28	41	1	23	35	0	
CARPENTER	200	19	35	7	16	22	1	
LEE*	197	29	37	0	30	49	8	
PATTERSON	107	27	29	0	29	60	8	

BULLPEN:

	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
FOULKE	91	4	8	0	9	25	4
RYAN*	96	4	4	0	24	27	0
CORDERO	78	22	28	0	22	23	0
EMBREE*	57	13	24	6	20	39	2
WILLIAMSON	31	29	29	0	18	18	0

EVALUATION

Some similarity to last year's playoff team, but one glaring deference.....Ponson sucks. We'll assume he'll be used as sparingly as possible. The rest of the rotation is ok, but nothing to get excited about. Carpenter peeked his head of the disabled list to have an excellent year. My guess is he'll go back to being injured next season. If they can get to the 6th or 7th inning and stay close....watch out.....cause the pen is mighty fine. Get em early or don't get them at all.

One obvious similarity to last year's squad is that this one will kill left handed pitchers unmercifully. Not so bad vs. righties either but if you can somehow get past Kendall, Suzuki, Pujols and Helton you're good to go. The bottom of the order won't scare anyone.

Defense is pretty bad outside of Helton and Suzuki. The infield D is particularly weak.

BOTTOM LINE

Unless a good starting pitcher is acquired to replace Ponson the great offense and bullpen will be wasted and the defending AL Champs will be edged out for a post season birth.

LAKE WOBEGON WHIPPETS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	NEWHAN	410	4E25
	GIAMBI	290	4E15
2B)	LUGO	639	3e21
	UTLEY	294	3E14
	CAIRO	396	3E10
SS)	GONZALEZ	314	2E24
	LUGO		3e29
3B)	MCLEMORE	275	4E8
	MEMECHINO	296	4e21
C)	ALOMAR	161	4(+1)e6
	MOLINA	149	3(0)e1
	BURKE	132	3(0)e13
	STINNETT	65	4(+1)e14
LF)	MATSUI	642	3(+2)E7
CF)	MENCH	482	3(0)e2
	PENA	370	4(-1)e14
RF)	GILES	670	3(+1)e7
DH)	BELLHORN	575	2B - 4E14

LINEUP

	<u>VS LHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1	CAIRO-2B	46	61	W
2	MENECHINO-3B	44	65	6
3	GIAMBI-1B	41	66	8
4	PENA-DH	42	79	8
5	MATSUI-LF	39	50	3
6	MENCH-CF	38	70	8
7	GILES-RF	25	31	2
8	LUGO-SS	41	48	W
9	BURKE-C	44	56	W
		40.0	58.4	3.9

LINEUP

	<u>VS RHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	NEWHAN-1B	40	52	1
	BELLHORN-DH	40	49	2
	GILES-RF	47	66	6
	MATSUI-LF	45	66	8
	MENCH-CF	27	45	6
	ALOMAR-C	31	39	W
	LUGO-SS	34	45	0
	MCLEMORE-3B	37	48	W
	GONZALEZ-SS	21	31	1
		35.8	49.0	2.7

Key Reserves:

NEWHAN-DH	34	50	W
BELLHORN-3B	39	60	4

Key Reserves:

MENECHINO-3B	39	48	0
GIAMBI-1B	36	36	2
PENA-CF	24	42	8
STINNETT-C	45	71	8
MOLINA-C	34	39	0
UTLEY-2B	26	44	6

VS LHH:

VS RHP:

ROTATION:

	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	
SANTANA*	251	9	17	3	9	14	3	Ace delux
WESTBROOK	238	28	41	2	18	23	1	
D DAVIS*	228	26	33	0	27	36	0	
LOWE	201	34	41	0	32	43	1	
TODANO	55	20	37	3	37	48	3	
HUDSON	53	14	14	0*	34	47	0*	
CHEN*	53	17	26	5	17	30	3	

BULLPEN:

ISRINGHSN	83	9	17	0	18	26	0	Closer
GUARDADO*	50	0	0	0	21	41	8	That's a lefty killer!
LEDEZMA*	58	15	26	0	33	37	0	
MECIR	52	21	34	3	25	27	0	
DOHMAN	51	17	31	2*	30	53	4*	

EVALUATION

Much improved team and busy in the off season picking up Westbrook, Isringhausen and Guardado. Davis pretty much came out of no where, so in spite of Lowe sliding the rotation is pretty good. I assume Chen will get some starts but he could also be used out of the pen. They could use another righty killer out of the pen.

Offensively pretty good team but definitely missing Giambi in the middle. If you added him in the mix with Matsui and Giles you'd really have something. Definitely a little light offensively vs. right handed pitching.

Defensively not a very good team, particularly on the infield. 3B and Catcher will be a series of unfortunate events (had to say that at some point....even if it's not quite appropriate).

BOTTOM LINE

Santana and Isringhausen come up big, making up for lack of bullpen depth, defensive shortcomings and so-so offense....lead the Whippets to a wild card birth.....nah, I change my mind.....Derick Lowe sucks and they come in 3rd.

URPAINE DRAGONS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	HATTEBERG	605	4e11
2B)	ROBERTS	705	2e10
SS)	VALENTIN	495	3e28
	R MARTINEZ	286	3e14
3B)	ENSBERG	452	3e20
	GINTER	425	4e11
	CARROLL	240	3E37
C)	HERNANDEZ	428	2(0)e5
	BUCK	262	3(0)e7
LF)	SURHOFF	377	3(+2)e5
CF)	EDMONDS	548	1(-2)E5
RF)	ROWAND	536	2(0)e11
DH)	IBANEZ	529	LF 4(-1)e6
	LAMB	306	

	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	<u>VS LHP</u>			
1	GINTER-3B	45	68	8
2	HERNANDEZ-C	50	84	8
3	EDMONDS-CF	44	76	6
4	ROWAND-RF	39	64	5
5	HATTEBERG-1B	37	43	1
6	IBANEZ-LF	38	50	2
7	R MARTINEZ-SS	34	45	W
8	ENSBERG-DH	35	53	W
9	ROBERTS-2B	27	38	W
		38.8	57.9	3.3

Key Reserves:

CARROLL-3B	39	50	W
LAMB-DH	35	59	7

	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	<u>VS RHP</u>			
	CARROLL-3B	51	58	W
	ROBERTS-2B	40	54	W
	HATTEBERG-1B	41	51	2
	EDMONDS-CF	48	84	8
	ROWAND-RF	39	59	3
	HERNANDEZ-C	32	45	6
	SURHOFF-LF	38	43	2
	IBANEZ-DH	37	52	3
	VALENTIN-SS	20	44	8
		38.4	54.4	3.6

Key Reserves:

BUCK-C	25	42	8
LAMB-DH	34	53	7
GINTER-3B	31	48	5

VS LHH:

<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
16	28	4
30	47	4
26	48	7
21	25	0
20	36	3
16	18	0

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
19	33	3
32	45	4
26	35	2
26	35	2
26	36	1
30	38	0

still the ace

ROTATION:

	<u>IP</u>
MARTINEZ	239
REDMAN*	210
SABATHIA*	207
LEITER*	191
BROWN	145
WISE	58

BULLPEN:

MEADOWS	86
KLINE*	55
KIESCHNICK	47
WITASICK	67
BAUER	58
MILLER, T	54
RINCON*	48
FIELD	48
WILLIAMS, D*	41

10	21	3
8	8	0
20	36	4
38	61	8
39	48	0
17	25	0
12	16	0
16	30	6
24	53	2

23	34	0
26	34	1
22	35	3
14	21	2
12	14	0
29	43	0
45	48	0
30	41	1
14	23	2

closer?

EVALUATION

Another team, like Illinois with a million relievers. No wonder there were none left for me in the draft. I like Illinois group better, but with some work this group will be someone effective. The rotation is ok, but certainly gets iffy after Whine Bag... ..err I mean Martinez. I assume Redman, who is awful, will be used only as necessary. Sabathia and Leiter are ok, but as lefties that are not studdly, they will take their lumps.

Solid offense composed of mostly no-names outside of Edmunds. Rowand had a nice, and from my perch, surprising year. The defense is ok, Valentin at SS is not the best but having a "1" in center is nice.

BOTTOM LINE

Too many lefties in the rotation not named Santana. Bullets and Bandits will chew them up and spit them out. Decent team but not quite there.

MAINE YAKS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	LEE	666	1e6
2B)	CORA	446	2e11
	WILSON	264	3E18
SS)	CLAYTON	631	2E12
3B)	RODRIGUEZ	661	1E14
	YOUKILIS	229	4E14
C)	PIERZNSKI	518	2(0)E1
	BLANCO	347	2(-2)e6
LF)	MATTHEWS	308	2(-1)e4
	LONG	317	3(-1)e5
	HAMMONDS	104	3(+1)e2
CF)	CAMERON	542	2(0)e10
RF)	GERUT	529	2(0)e5
	JORDAN	233	2(-2)e4
DH)	SWEENEY	452	

<u>LINEUP</u>			
<u>VS LHP</u>			
	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1	42	53	W
2	43	54	4
3	50	86	8
4	41	59	7
5	38	52	7
6	32	55	2
7	28	41	6
8	29	42	7
9	22	44	W
	36.1	54.0	4.6

Key Reserves:

CORA-2B	34	39	1
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<u>LINEUP</u>			
<u>VS RHP</u>			
	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
CLAYTON-SS	35	44	0
CORA-2B	38	43	1
RODRIGUEZ-3B	40	52	6
SWEENEY-DH	37	63	8
LEE-1B	38	56	4
GERUT-RF	34	49	2
MATTHEWS-LF	37	53	3
CAMERON-CF	32	58	8
PIERZNSKI-C	33	43	2
	36.0	51.2	3.8

Key Reserves:

LONG	36	54	W
YOUKILIS	38	46	2

VS LHH:

VS RHP:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
RADKE	241	18	26	3	25	33	1
HARDEN	209	29	37	0	23	31	1
WAKEFIELD	207	16	25	3	30	50	7
CLEMENT	199	25	34	4	18	28	1
OHKA	92	34	30	2	27	43	3
BURNETT*	79	42	45	0	30	39	4

BULLPEN:

MADSON	85	20	25	0	14	20	2	closer
TAVAREZ	70	30	38	0	18	23	0	
EYRE*	57	8	23	6	35	47	5	
FRASOR	75	24	29	0	35	42	0	
FASSERO*	123	37	52	0	32	41	0	

EVALUATION

Defense is the strength of this team...."1"s and "2"s everywhere.

The starting rotation is solid but no one really scares you. The pen isn't very good. Madson would be ok as a setup guy, but he's not good enough to be a closer. Plus, there isn't much depth in the pen.

Offensively adequate. However, I think being so right handed is a disadvantage. They could definitely use a little left handed pop in the middle of the order. I can see teams bringing in righty killers out of the pen late in games and mowing these guys down....while their pen is giving it up.

BOTTOM LINE

Not a bad team, but a little inferior offensively to the rest of the division. In addition the bullpen is not that good. Will struggle to win more than 80 games in this tough division.

ILLINOIS PRAIRIE DOGS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	ERSTAD	545	1e5
2B)	WALKER	409	4e14
	GRAFFANINO	306	3E11
SS)	ECKSTEIN	623	3e7
	CROSBY	600	2e21
3B)	ALFONZO	571	3e16
	GLAUS	228	3e18
C)	WILSON	351	3(0)e2
	BENNETT	241	2(0)e4
LF)	CONINE	573	3(+1)E2
CF)	CRAWFORD	689	2(-1)e2
	REDMAN	601	3(+1)e6
RF)	GUERERRO	673	3(-4)e11
DH)	ORTIZ	640	

LINEUP

VS LHP

		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1	CRAWFORD-LF	38	56	W
2	ECKSTEIN-SS	38	46	W
3	ALFONZO-3B	49	58	3
4	GUERERRO-RF	48	93	8
5	GLAUS-DH	33	65	8
6	CONINE-1B	39	58	6
7	BENNETT-C	34	52	1
8	GRAFFANINO-2B	38	38	W
9	REDMAN-CF	28	38	W
		38.3	56	2.9

LINEUP

VS RHP

		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	CRAWFORD-CF	31	47	1
	ERSTAD-1B	40	55	W
	ORTIZ-DH	45	85	8
	GUERERRO-RF	41	60	8
	CONINE-LF	35	44	1
	CROSBY-SS	33	47	4
	WALKER-2B	33	50	5
	ALFONZO-2B	32	37	0
	WILSON-C	33	37	1
		35.9	51.3	3.1

Key Reserves:

	ORTIZ-DH	26	48	8
	WALKER-2B	32	40	W
	CROSBY-SS	27	38	4

Key Reserves:

	GLAUS	39	75	8
	BENNETT	26	38	W
	REDMAN	30	43	W
	ECKSTEIN-SS	37	41	W

VS LHH:

VS RHP:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	
PEREZ*	216	24	43	7	20	31	3	ace
MILTON*	221	29	59	5	22	43	6	
HARANG	177	24	41	3	28	47	4	
FRANKLIN	220	30	41	1	27	55	8	
BURNETT	132	25	32	0	23	34	3	
BYRD	125	33	51	3	11	23	6	

BULLPEN:

OTSUKA	85	14	22	0	11	17	4	closer
TIMLIN	85	20	33	1	21	40	3	
MICELLI	85	26	42	7	10	15	0	
BOTTALICO	76	25	29	0*	19	25	0	
GRAVES	75	16	34	4	22	42	5	
REED	73	22	29	0	22	35	2	
F RODRIGUEZ	72	16	18	0	27	49	6	
HARIKKULA	69	21	44	6*	15	28	0	
HORGAN*	44	26	39	1	26	40	4*	

EVALUATION

Do you think the Dogs have enough relief pitchers? Yikes. Looking at the rotation they will probably need most of those innings. Once you get past Perez, the rotation is pretty weak. Surprisingly, most of the relievers once you get past Otsuka are kind of interchangeable. They can hit left handed pitching, as most teams can. However, once you get past Ortiz and Guerrero the lineup vs right handed pitching is pretty weak.

Pretty good defensive team.

BOTTOM LINE

Again, not a bad team, but a step below every other team in the division. Could easily creep up to 4th but I don't see it happening.