

NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST

Projected Finish

Klee's
New England
Arizona
Connecticut
Jersey City
Salem

Wow, this ain't the NL West that I remember. Back in the day this was a perennial powerhouse division. Now, the Klubbers are prohibitive favorites. Nuff said.... Actually, not enough said....this division is so lame, out side of the Klubbers it's tough to figure out what other team could make the playoffs. Your guess is as good as mine, but this is how I see it.

Let's start with the Klubbers. Very Good solid team, but certainly no juggernaut. The rotation is ok with Contreres and Millwood at the top, but Lackey, Lawrence and Kazmir are just ok. The bullpen is good with Politte "the freak" closing and big set-up innings in Heilman and Spurling. The acquisition of Berkman was huge as he adds a real nice power compliment to Ramirez. The Klub also has one of the league's best table setting duo in Castillo and Podsednik. The Klubbers are also a pretty good defensive team. Aside from Ramirez at 3B it's 2's and 3's all around. I would guess this is one of G.M Klee's best and most balanced teams. I will really be shocked if even the league's most inept field manager can't take this team to the playoffs :)

The defending NL champs New England Angels have some real issues. The bullpen, which is largely what got them to the dance last year, is not one of the problems. Yikes, what a dominate pen! Wagner, Nathan, Mateo, Wheeler, King and Padilla are all excellent. Then there is Smoltz and Sheets at the top of the rotation. After that it gets really ugly. Wells is ok as a #3 starter...but the rest of the rotation is weak. The offense is just awful. Really terrible years by guys like Finley, Stewart, Koskie and Garcipara. The defense isn't real good either. If I had this team I'd trade all of the relievers and Smoltz...but amazingly I can't rule this team out of the hunt. That's just how bad this division is. Can they ride two starters and a pen to the playoffs? I dunno....

I'm not sure what to make of the Bats. I really can't buy into this all lefty rotation. In general most teams in the league kill lefties. However, not so much in this division so they might be somewhat effective. Pettitte will do great, the rest of the guys are really just middle of the road lefty cards so they should get lit up regularly on the road. The lineup is pretty limited as well, even with likely one year wonders Clark and Dellucci putting up good numbers. This team can contend for a playoff spot in this weak division but will not likely get out of it's doldrums for a few more years. Guys like Pettitte and Glavine don't have that many years left in them. The pen is good enough to make this a competitive team.

Historically the Blue Devils have been an elite franchise. Dave Gineo has the best record of any active manager. I expect the downturn that started in 2005 to continue this year, but to be a short downturn. The Blue Devils are clearly in a rebuild type mode and I like the infusion of young players brought on during the past two drafts. However, this year's squad lacks a go to starter with Weaver and Lowry the best available. That isn't going to get it done. The Devils need guys like Bush and McCarthy to develop. Offensively this team is ok, but sure isn't going to scare you. Hafner is a monster, but the bottom of the order is pretty weak. The rebuilt bullpen of Valverde, Riske, Cabrera and Sturtz is a strength. Mediocre team with good future outlook. I love Sizemore. As good a shot as any for the wildcard.

It seems like Jersey City has been good for ever. It looks like the end may be near. This team just isn't very good. They don't hit right handed pitching particularly well. Guys like Kotsay, Young and Burnitz had bad years. Glaus and Klesko are good but that's about it. They hit lefties pretty well, but so do about 22 other teams. The rotation is utterly mediocre. Normally Schmidt is a stud, but not this year. Bonderman may be a stud someday, but not this year. Gordon is an excellent closer, but the rest of the pen is nothing special. It might finally be time for the G-Men to suck it up and rebuild some. That said, they have a chance at the wild card in this division.

Salem is still obviously in the building stage. Rich has managed to totally gut the team he inherited and has loaded up on prospects. I would say this will be a team to be reckoned with either in 2007 or more likely in 2008. It all really depends upon how the young starters Hernandez, Papelbon, Grienke and Santana develop. I think Odelis Perez will do well if he gets healthy. The offense will surely be good, and isn't bad this year. Howard, Bay and Mauer will be studs for years to come. Other guys like Cantu, Swisher and Murton have great promise. Because the pitching is weak, the Psychics will be looking at a top 5 pick again next year....but I'd be very worried about them down the road if I were in this division. Only team in this division with no chance.

KLEE'S KLUBBERS**KEY POSITION PLAYERS:**

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	BERKMAN	515	3e10
	MNKWICZ	303	2e9
2B)	CASTILLO	483	1e10
	SANCHEZ,F.	--	3e8
SS)	SANCHEZ,F.	498	3e19
	HARDY	409	3e16
3B)	RAMIREZ	509	4e23
	SANCHEZ,F.	--	2e12
C)	POSADA	521	3(0)e3
	SNYDER	359	2(-1)e1
LF)	PODSEDNIK	558	2(+2)e4
	MOHR	--	2(-1)e5
CF)	WINN	679	3(+2)e1
RF)	LANE	569	2(-2)e7
	MOHR	293	2(-1)e5
DH)	SWEENEYM.	243	
	LeCROY	334	
	PALMIERO	406	

**LINEUP
VS LHP**

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Podsednik-LF	47	47	w
2 Berkman-1B	49	58	0
3 Castillo-2B	51	75	5
4 Lecroy-DH	46	78	8
5 Ramirez-3B	39	76	8
6 Posada-C	38	50	4
7 Mohr-RF	27	53	7
8 Sanchez-SS	41	60	w
9 Winn-CF	31	54	w
	41.0	61.2	3.6

Key Reserves:

Lane-RF	22	38	5
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**LINEUP
VS RHP**

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Castillo-2B	45	46	w
Podsednik-LF	37	43	w
Berkman-1B	45	69	8
Ramirez-3B	35	55	7
Sweeney-DH	46	59	6
Winn-CF	41	61	4
Posada-C	35	45	4
Lane-RF	32	55	5
Sanchez-SS	33	46	w
	38.8	53.2	3.8

Key Reserves:

Palmiero-DH	37	53	7
Hardy-SS	32	36	0

VS LHH:

<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
25	32	1
27	38	3
30	34	0
34	52	4
15	15	0

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
20	32	1
17	26	3
26	33	0
24	35	2
33	44	0

ROTATION:	<u>IP</u>
CONTRERAS	224
MILLWOOD	211
LACKEY,J.	230
LAWRENCE	215
KAZMIR,S.	205

BULLPEN:

	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
POLITTE	74	8	18	3	14	23	1
HEIMAN	119	18	19	0	17	21	0
SPURLING	77	16	26	6	15	25	2
BORKOWSKI	51	10	16	1	18	46	8
CARTER	63	27	48	2	26	42	8
FLORES *	45	16	25	2	28	43	4

NEW ENGLAND ANGELS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	KONERKO NIEKRO	633 --	3e8 4e14
2B)	GREEN RODRIGUEZ, L CASTRO	350 193 88	3e8 4e16 3e44
SS)	CLAYTON RODRIGUEZ, L	574 --	3e14 4e21
3B)	KOSKIE GARCIAPARRA	389 253	2e15 4e29
C)	MATHENY	487	2(-3)e4
LF)	STEWART DAVANON	606 --	3(+3)e5 3(0)e4
CF)	FINLEY DAVANON	447 248	2(-1)e7 3(0)e4
RF)	GUILLEN	606	3(-4)e8
DH)	NIEKRO CHOI HOCKING	306 352 66	

**LINEUP
VS LHP**

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Green-2B	46	56	0
2 Clayton-SS	37	48	w
3 Konerko-1B	35	61	8
4 Niekro-DH	29	63	8
5 Guillen-RF	25	39	3
6 Finley-CF	27	45	2
7 Matheny-C	25	41	2
8 Koskie-3B	23	40	0
9 Stewart-LF	27	41	w
	30.4	48.2	2.6

Key Reserves:

Hocking-PH	43	43	w
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**LINEUP
VS RHP**

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Stewart-LF	35	43	0
Garcia-parra-3B	34	52	5
Guillen-RF	38	56	8
Konerko-1B	42	59	6
Choi-DH	34	48	5
Rodriguez-2B	34	51	w
Clayton-SS	28	37	w
Finley-CF	16	25	3
Matheny-C	20	34	3
	31.2	45.0	3.3

Key Reserves:

Davanon-OF	38	45	W
Koskie-3B	37	49	3
Hocking-PH	41	41	w
Castro-2B	41	48	W

VS LHH:

	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	21	32	1
	11	26	3
	30	46	1
	35	46	4
	33	45	2

VS RHP:

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	18	24	1
	13	20	3
	28	42	6
	21	33	2
	35	50	2

ROTATION:

	<u>IP</u>
SMOLTZ,J.	252
SHEETS,B.	172
MOYER,J. *	220
WELLS,D. *	202
MOEHLER	174

BULLPEN:

		<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
WAGNER *	85	0	0	0		8	14	1
NATHAN,J.	77	15	20	1		12	20	0
MATEO,J.	97	10	23	0		18	38	8
WHEELER,D.	80	11	18	3		17	28	1
KING,R. *	44	19	24	1		43	58	2
BALDWIN	62	21	32	0		26	43	8
FOSTER *	37	32	43	2		19	21	0
PADILLA	40	14	14	0		12	20	0

MARGARITAVILLE PAROTHEADS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	TRACY,C. FRANCO	443 256	4e17
2B)	HUDSON SPIVEY	507 274	1e8 2e17
SS)	PUNTO,N. CEDENO	433 88	3e12 4e10
3B)	CASTILLA BRANYAN	543 222	3e14 4e22
C)	ESTRADA MELHUSE RIVERA	393 107 53	4(+1)e1 4(+1)E1 3(+1)e16
LF)	DELLUCCI JOHNSON, K	479 319	3(+3)e10 3(-1)e9
CF)	TAGUCHI,S. NIX,L.	436 252	2(-1)e3 3(0)e5
RF)	NIXON,T. MARRERO	449 152	2(-2)e2 4(0)e12
DH)	CLARK SANCHEZ,A.	384 194	

LINEUP
VS LHP

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Sanchez-DH	41	54	2
2 Castilla-3B	42	58	w
3 Franco-1B	44	54	6
4 Clark-1B	39	57	6
5 Spivey-2B	45	72	8
6 Marrero-RF	17	45	8
7 Melhuse-C	26	26	w
8 Johnson-LF	33	46	2
9 Taguchi-CF	25	34	2
	34.7	49.6	3.8

Key Reserves:

Tracy-1B	29	44	5
Rivera-C	48	61	w
Cedeno-SS	37	41	w

LINEUP
VS RHP

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Dellucci-LF	38	59	6
Nixon-RF	39	55	5
Tracy-1B	37	62	7
Clark-DH	33	79	8
Branyan-3B	39	60	8
Taguchi-CF	35	44	0
Hudson-2B	31	45	1
Estrada-C	30	49	w
Punto-SS	28	42	w
	34.4	55.0	3.9

Key Reserves:

Sanchez-DH	39	53	w
Franco-1B	35	50	3
Cedeno-SS	40	43	1

VS LHH:

	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	12	18	0
	40	46	0
	25	36	0
	19	26	1
	18	26	3

VS RHP:

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	18	27	1
	24	32	0
	27	40	6
	29	38	1
	28	39	4

ROTATION:

	<u>IP</u>
PETTITE,A. *	244
GLAVINE,T. *	232
MAROTH,M. *	230
MULDER,M. *	205
FOSSUM,C. *	179

BULLPEN:

SHIELDS,S.	100	21	24	0	20	21	0
MAJEWSKI	95	28	37	0	24	28	0
SISCO *	83	22	29	2	30	33	1
VIZCAINO,L.	77	40	50	1	25	36	2
GONZALEZ,M. *	55	19	19	0	32	40	0
BOYER	41	43	49	0	20	24	0

CONNECTICUT BLUE DEVILS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	MARTINEZ	333	2e6
	HINSKE	525	4e12
	JOHNSON	413	3e10
2B)	CASTILLO,J.	407	2e21
	PEREZ, A	285	4e23
SS)	REYES	766	2e18
3B)	BETEMIT,W.	271	3e20
	BOONE,A.	562	2e21
C)	LARUE	397	3(0)e3
	MCCANN	198	4(0)e6
LF)	BYRD	252	2(0)e6
	BIGBIE	299	3(-1)e2
	AMBRES	160	3(+1)e4
CF)	SIZEMORE	704	2(0)e3
RF)	RIOS	529	3(-2)e3
	BIGBIE	--	3(-1)e2
DH)	HAFNER	535	
	PIAZZA	438	

**LINEUP
VS LHP**

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Perez-2B	45	50	1
2 Byrd-LF	40	60	w
3 Johnson-1B	51	59	1
4 Hafner-DH	44	67	7
5 Boone-3B	31	47	8
6 McCann-C	31	54	8
7 Sizemore-CF	29	39	1
8 Reyes-SS	29	39	w
9 Rios-RF	23	33	0
	35.9	49.8	2.9

Key Reserves:

Larue-C	39	54	5
Piazza-C	41	52	3
Martinez-1B	37	45	3

**LINEUP
VS RHP**

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Betemit-3B	45	56	0
Sizemore-CF	39	61	6
Johnson-1B	34	50	7
Hafner-DH	49	85	8
Larue-C	35	52	2
Rios-RF	32	42	1
Ambres-LF	37	39	1
Reyes-SS	25	43	w
Castillo-2B	28	39	4
	36.0	51.9	3.2

Key Reserves:

Boone-3B	26	31	2
Piazza-C	27	46	8
Perez	40	52	w
McCann-C	32	35	1
Bigbie-LF	26	35	1
Hinske-1B	37	50	2

VS LHH:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
WEAVER	246	27	45	6
LOWRY,N. *	224	24	30	1
LOPEZ,R.	230	29	43	2
BUSH,D.	150	21	38	5
PAVANO,C.	110	33	53	5
MCCARTHY	74	15	22	0

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
9	20	3
24	34	3
28	48	4
23	44	2
24	40	5
25	47	6

BULLPEN:

VALVERDE,J	66	11	15	0	20	22	1
RISKE	80	15	35	8	10	18	5
CABRERA	33	25	27	0	15	28	0
STURTZE,T.	86	19	30	1	27	42	4
GRABOW,J. *	52	19	32	7	29	35	0
BATISTA,M.	74	24	28	0	28	39	5
SCHOENEWEIS*	63	14	17	0	36	41	0

JERSEY CITY G-MEN

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>	LINEUP VS LHP	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	LINEUP VS RHP	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1B)	YOUNG DURAZO	516 167	4e17 5e25								
2B)	BELLIARD JACKSON	590 303	2e15 3e5	1 Kotsay-CF 2 Jackson-LF	40 41	54 48	1 W	Werth-LF Belliard-2B	36 32	47 46	1 5
SS)	ADAMS JACKSON	529 --	3e34 4e52	3 Thomas-DH 4 Glaus-DH	44 44	95 61	8 8	Glaus-DH Klesko-DH	37 39	57 54	8 8
3B)	GLAUS	592	3e28	5 Greene-C	33	48	6	Young-1B	29	45	7
C)	HALL GREEN	475 139	3(-2)e1 4(+3)e1	6 Belliard-2B 7 Blake-RF	37 24	51 57	3 8	Burnitz-RF Hall-C	34 31	45 40	3 w
LF)	CHURCH WERTH	295 371	3(0)e5 3(-1)e5	8 Durazo-1B 9 Adams-SS	31 32	54 47	5 w	Adams-SS Kotsay-CF	31 25	40 35	0 3
CF)	KOTSAY	640	2(-2)e5		36.2	57.2	4.3		32.7	45.4	3.9
RF)	BURNITZ BLAKE	666 575	3(-2)e5 3(-1)e10	Key Reserves: Hall-C Burnitz-RF Church-LF	34 20 40	37 37 49	1 7 0	Key Reserves: Church-LF Jackson-2B Blake-RF	39 34 31	54 38 43	4 2 4
DH)	THOMAS KLESKO	116 487									

ROTATION:

	<u>IP</u>
SUPPAN	213
BONDERMAN	208
SAARLOOS,K.	175
SCHMIDT	189
HALSEY,B.	176

VS LHH:

	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	24	31	2
	26	45	3
	36	40	0
	30	40	0
	23	36	1

VS RHP:

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
	30	41	3
	23	31	3
	24	34	1
	26	38	3
	29	44	3

BULLPEN:

GORDON	88	15	16	0	14	26
TORRES,S.	103	25	38	0	15	22
CALERO	61	39	55	8	6	6
SMALL	84	27	36	0	20	29
WORRELL	53	26	45	1	29	54

SALEM PYHCHICS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

		<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B)	HOWARD	343	2e7
	YOUKILIS,K.	87	4e25
2B)	CANTU	658	4e19
	HILL	--	3e8
SS)	URIBE	529	2e18
	BARMES	385	3e36
3B)	BURROUGHES	312	2e18
	HILL	397	3e8
C)	MAUER	538	2(-2)e4
	BARD	91	
LF)	BAY	659	3(+1)e4
CF)	Monroe	624	4(0)e6
	GATHRIGHT	223	2(+1)e3
RF)	SWISHER	508	3(+2)e3
DH)	TEAHAN	492	
	MURTON	154	
	DIAZ, M	98	

**LINEUP
VS LHP**

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 Youkilis-1B	57	66	2
2 Hill-2B	46	64	w
3 Bay-LF	53	80	6
4 Monroe-CF	38	61	8
5 Murton-DH	47	60	4
6 Uribe-SS	38	56	3
7 Cantu-3B	24	42	5
8 Swisher-RF	27	33	1
9 Bard-C	20	28	5
	38.9	54.4	3.8

Key Reserves:

Teahan-3B	21	35	1
Diaz-DH	42	51	1

LINEUP

<u>VS R/</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
Burroughs-3B	35	37	w
Mauer-C	46	58	1
Bay-LF	44	67	8
Howard-1B	40	73	8
Cantu-2B	30	51	8
Swisher-RF	29	52	8
Monroe-CF	31	42	3
Uribe-SS	24	34	2
Teahan-DH	30	47	w
	34.3	51.2	4.2

Key Reserves:

Hill-2B	33	46	w
Murton-DH	36	53	7
Gathright-CF	31	37	w
Barnes-SS	33	43	1

VS LHH:

<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
38	59	5
41	58	4
27	40	1
34	46	1
24	35	2
14	16	0
29	35	4

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
25	36	3
27	42	0
29	40	4
30	41	0
23	41	4
18	22	2
31	48	2

ROTATION:

	<u>IP</u>
GREINKE,Z.	201
WRIGHT,Ja.	188
SANTANA	146
JENNINGS,J.	134
PEREZ,O.	119
HERNANDEZ	92
PAPLEBON	37

BULLPEN:

RAY	44	21	36	6
MOTA,G.	74	30	49	3
WALKER,T.	61	30	39	0
VILLONE,R. *	70	24	25	0
SAUERBECK	39	17	25	3