

INSIDE THE FLY BY NIGHT

2009

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

Projected Finish

CALIFORNIA DREAMERS

HOTLANTA POSSUMS

YORK TOWN ADMIRALS

FLORIDA SUN

HART STREET HOGS

APEX ALPACAS

Welcome to the 2009 FBN preview. I decided to start with the AL West because it is so pitiful I figure I'd get it out of the way. A little history here: the worst record by a division winner in FBN History was Taxachusetts in 1999. They were 84-78 That record is in danger. Whatever slug that wins the AL West this year will be pummeled by all but three or four teams in the other three divisions. The winner, which will come from the pethetic pool of California, Hotlanta and York Town, will be lucky to win 81 games.

It is laughable that the division favorite has been trading off cards like Chipper Jones, Derrick Lowe and just recently Gregg in an effort to rebuild, but that is the state of the division. Before the Gregg trade I thought California was a slight favorite. Now it really is a toss up between the Dreamers, Possums and Admirals...pick your poison.

I'll go with the Dreamers as they are the defending champs and I think they can take the other smucks in the division simply by outscoring them. The Dreamers pitching is pretty crappy; particularly the rotation. Weaver is ok, but after that it gets ugly. I guess Perkins is your #2. Drafting Wade to be the closer, assuming he's not traded, if what makes them the favorite. The pen is ok for this division. Offensively the Dreamers are pretty good....definitely the class of the division. Pena and Dukes have great numbers against RHP and Kinsler and Figgins will be nice table setters. Defensively not bad, except for Reteria at SS.

Hotlanta is the most likely candidate to unseed the Dreamers. The Possums sport a rotation of Cook, Maholm, Lannan and Blackburn, which sadly is probably the best in the division; slightly better than York Town's. Offensively once you get past Fielder and Lee it's pretty anemic. The bottom of the order in particular is bad.

The pen is not bad with Wood closing and couple of decent setup guys, and the defense is pretty solid. Overall a mediocre team at best. If they don't beat out either California or York Town it'll be because their starting pitching is too left handed in a home park that favors right handed hitting.

Drafting Kuroda improved the Admirals chances immensely, catapulting them from the mucky lower half of the division to the mucky upper half. Kuroda, Wolf and Blanton rival Hotlanta for the division's best rotation. However, the pen stinks, and the offense has very little to offer aside from a bit of on-base; especially against right handed pitchers. Willie Harris is probably their best bet as a #3 hitter. Yikes. Defensively ok, but who really cares.

Florida, Hart Street and Apex all stink. Florida gets the nod for 4th because they have one great reliever in Buchholz. Lohse and Garland are marginally better than any of the bums Hart Street and Apex will trot out there so that further concretes their position atop the scum. Ugglia, Hunter, Theriot and Helton highlight an unimpressive offensive and defensive unit.

The Hogs are in the midst of one of their patented "blow em up" rebuilds. They still have a nice middle of the order in Granderson, Dunn and Hawpe but have no defense, no pitching and no hope for anything other than about 65 wins. Amazingly it looks like the new kids on the block Alpacas have even worse pitching than the Hogs and even less offensive firepower. Neither team can catch the ball. It will be a battle for the ages, but I expect the Hogs to beat out the Alpacas for the coveted #5 spot.

The Alpacas do have a few bright spots like McLouth's "1" in CF and a -3 and -2 at catcher....which will get tested plenty as the bases will be regularly occupied with opposing base runners.

Ok, so what we have here is the worst division in FBN history. Someone has to win it in spite of getting their asses handed to them anytime they venture outside of the comfy confines of the AL West. I suspect someone, most likely California will be able to go 50-30 in division play by beating up on the likes of Hart Street and Apex. That means they need to go 31-51 outside of the division to end up at .500. I think it's a crap shoot whether or not that happens. I'd bet someone ends up with about 85 wins, but it really would not surprise me if the division winner had a losing record. I seriously doubt there will be more than one team in the division with a winning record. Obviously things can change; teams can add players or trade them off. However, based on what I have seen so far it doesn't appear that anyone has an appetite for compromising the future in an effort to win the division and get pounded in round one of the playoffs. So while the rules require that the AL West provide two sacrificial lambs for October slaughter I don't expect any of the lambs to bulk up during the season. Could actually be a good battle between California, Hotlanta and York Town so I'm looking forward to playing the spoiler....a bonus in what will otherwise be a painful season for yours truly.

Next up....a real division...

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2009

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

CALIFORNIA DREAMERS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1B) PENA	539	1e2	VS LHP				VS RHP			
AYBAR	--	4e10	1 RENTERIA-SS	54	69	5	FIGGINS-DH	41	43	W
2B) KINSLER	570	3e24	2 WEEKS-DH	46	56	1	KINSLER-2B	45	65	3
RYAN	--	4e10	3 LOWELL-3B	45	66	8	DUKES-LF	48	65	5
SS) RENTERIA	553	4e20	4 SHOPPACH-C	35	63	8	PENA-1B	49	72	8
RYAN	217	3e7	5 ZOBRIST-RF	38	51	4	CHURCH-RF	36	49	4
3B) LOWELL	461	2e15	6 ROWAND-CF	29	55	8	SHOPPACH-C	34	58	8
FIGGINS	--	3e10	7 AYBAR-1B	37	62	3	LOWELL-3B	30	44	5
C) SHOPPACH	387	3(-1)e2,T-17(pb-3)	8 KINSLER-2B	32	49	2	ROWAND-CF	35	48	W
MOLINA	295	2(-1)e1,T-4(pb-3)	9 KEARNS-RF	29	35	w	RYAN-SS	28	34	w
LF) DUKES	304	2(-3)e13 lf-3e13 cf-3e13		38.3	56.2	4.3		38.4	53.1	3.7
ZOBRIST	218	3(0)e16								
CF) ROWAND	604	2(+1)e5	Key Reserves:				Key Reserves:			
RF) CHURCH	351	2(-2)e2	DUKES	35	48	6	WEEKS	34	46	2
KEARNS	344	3(-1)e8					ZOBRIST	30	61	8
DH) FIGGINS	498						RENTERIA-SS	23	34	w
WEEKS	523									

VS LHH:

VS RHP:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>Hold</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
WEAVER	194	+5	20	34	6	25	39	1
ROGERS*	190	-4	37	53	3	34	52	3
PERKINS*	166	-1	47	56	0	22	38	7
MCGOWAN	122	+4	36	49	4	22	28	0
MARTINEZ	120	+8	35	52	6	34	49	5
LIRIANO*	84	+4	24	34	0	29	39	2
TOMKO	77	0	26	41	6	27	50	5

BULLPEN:

WADE	78	-2	9	18	0	10	19	4
OKAJIMA*	68	-5	10	20	4	25	31	1
BOYER	78	+4	26	45	5	24	43	3
BETANCOURT	78	+9	26	39	3	26	45	7
BANKS	94	+9	29	49	8	31	40	3

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AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

HOTLANTA POSSUMS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1B) FIELDER	647	4e18	VS LHP				VS RHP			
2B) SANCHEZ	626	2e8	1 CAIRO-SS	38	52	W	BLANCO-RF	40	42	W
SS) WILSON	336	1e10	2 BARRETT-C	37	50	4	CRISP-CF	36	40	0
CAIRO	243	4e10	3 BELTRE-3B	44	65	8	C LEE-DH	37	60	8
3B) BELTRE	612	1e17	4 C LEE-DH	35	58	8	FIELDER-1B	40	62	8
C) TORREALALBA	260	2(+1)e3,T-2(pb-2)	5 FIELDER-1B	28	39	6	SCOTT-LF	32	51	6
TREANOR	227	3(+1)e1,T-17(pb-0)	6 HEADLEY-LF	28	42	4	BELTRE-3B	25	37	6
ROSS	156	3(-1)e7,T-4(pb-5)	7 CRISP-CF	32	49	4	WILSON-SS	30	40	W
BARRETT	103	4(+2)e1,T-5(pb-4)	8 CUDDYER-RF	34	41	W	SANCHEZ-2B	26	36	w
LF) SCOTT	523	lf-4(0)e3	9 SANCHEZ-2B	29	43	5	TORRLBA-C	24	36	2
HEADLEY	364	3(-1)e10		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
CF) CRISP	397	2(+2)e3	<u>Key Reserves:</u>	33.9	48.8	4.3	<u>Key Reserves:</u>	32.2	44.9	3.3
BLANCO	--	2(+1)E3	BLANCO	37	48	W	ROSS	41	56	1
RF) BLANCO	473	2(+1)E3	ROSS-C	41	49	w	STAIRS	32	40	4
CUDDYER	274	3(-2)e3								
DH) C LEE	480									

VS LHH:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>Hold</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
COOK	232	-3	28	40	0	26	34	3
MAHOLM*	227	-4	7	15	3	28	39	3
BLACKBURN	202	-3	27	38	1	25	37	0
LANNON*	200	-2	24	44	6	25	30	4
OWINGS	114	-2	29	43	2	23	34	3
HAMPTON*	86	-1	41	68	4	25	42	6

VS RHP:

BULLPEN:

WOOD	73	-3	12	21	0	19	34	0
OLIVER*	79	+1	19	36	1	23	29	1
CRAIN	69	+6	28	38	0	26	43	4
EMBREE*	68	+4	17	32	8	32	46	2
ACOSTA	58	-6	24	39	7	29	38	2

INSIDE THE FLY BY NIGHT

2009

AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

YORKTOWN ADMIRALS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>
1B) BARTON	491	3e17
BAILEY	55	4e18
2B) KENDRICK	374	3e8
HARRIS	--	4e17
SS) DREW	672	2e16
3B) HALL	444	3e28
HARRIS	404	4e37
C) SUZUKI	583	3(-1)e2,T-6(pb-1)
NIEVES		
LF) GUILLEN	658	4(-4)e6
DUNCAN	244	4(+1)e9
CF) BYRD	443	3(0)e9
HARRIS	--	3(+2)e6
RF) FUKUDOME	551	2(-2)e6
GRIFFEY	--	4(0)e8
DH) GRIFFEY	539	
SHEFFIELD	460	

LINEUP

<u>VS LHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 BARTON-1B	43	55	W
2 FUKUDOME-LF	45	54	W
3 BYRD-CF	37	51	5
4 HALL-3B	38	57	5
5 GUILLEN-rf	31	61	8
6 SUZUKI-C	35	42	W
7 SHEFFIELD-DH	28	42	7
8 KENDRICK-2B	33	49	W
9 DREW-SS	26	44	3
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	35	51	3

Key Reserves:

GRIFFEY-RF	29	43	1
HARRIS-LF	30	50	7

LINEUP

<u>VS RHP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
BYRD-CF	49	61	0
SUZUKI-C	40	44	0
HARRIS-3B	35	44	3
GRIFFEY-DH	36	48	4
DUNCAN-LF	38	42	2
FUKUDOME-RF	34	41	1
DREW-SS	33	58	2
BARTON-1B	32	45	0
KENDRICK-2B	36	53	w
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	37	48	1

Key Reserves:

SHEFFIELD	31	41	5
BAILEY	57	59	0

VS LHH:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>HOLD</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
KURODA	201	-1	21	35	2	22	27	0
BLANTON	217	-3	21	33	3	35	48	2
WOLF*	209	0	34	50	4	24	34	2
SILVA,C.	168	0	35	56	6	32	45	0
DAVIES	124	+1	23	35	1	31	39	1
BEDARD,E. *	89	0	36	47	5	19	29	2

VS RHP:

WAECHTER	69	+2	26	43	5	18	28	1
HAWKINS	68	-2	33	43	0	11	12	0
FRANKLIN	87	0	31	43	0	29	51	6
GAUDIN	99	-2	25	30	0	26	43	6
PARK	105	0	34	46	3	18	29	3

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FLORIDA SUN

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1B) HELTON	329	2e6	VS LHP				VS RHP			
SWISHER	--	2e6	1 BURRIS-2B	37	41	W	THERIOT-SS	46	48	W
2B) UGGLA	584	4e15	2 THERIOT-SS	50	55	W	HELTON-1B	41	52	2
BURRISS	264	2e20	3 SWISHER-1B	39	49	3	KUBEL-DH	32	51	8
SS) THERIOT	638	3E+16	4 REYNOLDS-3B	40	72	8	UGGLA-2B	40	70	8
3B) REYNOLDS	593	4e37	5 HUNTER-CF	40	59	2	HUNTER-CF	31	47	6
C) RODRIGUEZ	438	c-3(-2)e1,T-7(pb-1)	6 RODRIGUEZ-C	37	48	W	REYNOLDS-3B	24	37	5
JOHJIMA	417	c-3(0)e2,T-12(pb-2)	7 KUBEL-LF	34	45	4	RODRIGUEZ-C	31	41	1
LF) SWISHER	547	3(+1)e9	8 UGGLA-DH	30	48	W	SWISHER-LF	28	40	5
KUBEL	--	4(0)e12	9 TEAHEN-RF	28	43	3	TEAHEN-RF	27	38	2
CF) HUNTER	606	1(-2)e0		37.2	51.1	2.2		33.3	47.1	4.1
RF) TEAHEN	629	3(-1)e3								
DH) KUBEL	509		Key Reserves:				Key Reserves:			
LIND	359		HELTON	49	55	W	LIND	32	45	3
							BURRIS-2B	39	42	W

ROTATION:

	<u>IP</u>	<u>HOLD</u>
GARLAND,J.	216	-4
LOHSE	220	+2
JIMINEZ	218	+4
OLSEN*	146	+7
MILLER	118	+5
PURCEY	71	-2

VS LHH:

<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
29	44	6
22	34	0
30	40	0
42	51	0
37	45	3
34	49	5

VS RHP:

<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
36	47	1
28	43	3
28	33	0
35	50	3
34	46	0
28	41	3

BULLPEN:

BUCHHOLZ	73	+3
HOFFMAN,T.	50	0
BURTON	65	+1
GUARDADO*	62	+2
SEAY*	62	-1
WUERTZ,M.	50	+4

<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
7	17	2
18	46	8
21	36	2
15	26	5
35	45	0
18	35	5

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AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST

HART STREET HOGS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEFENSE</u>
1B) GARKO	545	4e5
TRACY	---	4e11
2B) IGUCHI	341	3e2
YOUNG	139	4e41
SS) BARTLETT	499	2e21
PENA	244	2e20
3B) HANNAHAN	480	2e13
TRACY	300	4
C) BAKO	328	3(0)e1,T-8(pb-3)
BARD	196	3(+3)e4,T-4(pb-0)
CASH	156	2(+1)e1,T-9(pb-17)
LF) DUNN	569	4(+1)e10
BYRNES	227	3(0)e3
CF) GRANDERSON	604	2(0)e5
BYRNES	227	4(0)e3
RF) HAWPE	537	4(-3)e11
BALDELLI	88	3(0)e25
DH) FLOYD	271	
LAMB	272	

LINEUP

VS LHP

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
1 BARTLETT-CC	42	61	w
2 CASH-C	40	49	W
3 GARKO-1B	44	55	1
4 DUNN-DH	38	52	6
5 HAWPE-RF	37	52	6
6 BYRNES-LF	30	49	5
7 HANNAHAN-3B	29	35	w
8 GRANDERSON-CF	27	53	4
9 IGUCHI-2B	21	26	W
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	34	48	2

Key Reserves:

BALDELLI	41	59	5
YOUNG	35	46	1

LINEUP

VS RHP

	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
GRANDRSN-CF	41	62	4
BARTLETT-CC	32	36	w
DUNN-LF	42	64	8
HAWPE-RF	41	57	6
GARKO-1B	34	41	3
FLOYD-DH	35	50	6
HANNAHAN-3B	26	36	2
IGUCHI-2B	26	36	w
BAKO-C	26	35	w
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	34	46	3

Key Reserves:

TRACY	25	37	1
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VS LHH:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>FBN</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>HOLD</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
HARANG,A.	203		+3	29	45	4	20	43	5
HERNANDEZ	198		-1	35	49	4	39	59	5
MILLWOOD	185		+9	27	44	3	41	50	0
DICKEY	123		0	27	44	6	38	46	1
PENNY	104		+3	42	49	2	31	46	5
CHACON	94		-2	32	49	4	26	46	7
BONDERMAN	78		-2	41	42	0	20	36	7

VS RHP:

<u>BULLPEN:</u>									
LOPEZ	87		0	28	53	0	21	36	4
YATES	81		-1	38	50	0	28	34	2
WEATHERS,D.	76		-1	22	28	0	32	54	3
SPEIER	75		+4	31	72	8	19	34	4
PERALTA	58		0	28	71	8	23	43	8

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APEX ALPACAS

KEY POSITION PLAYERS:

	<u>AB</u>	<u>DEF</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>LINEUP</u>		<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
			<u>VS LHP</u>					<u>VS RHP</u>				
1B) BUTLER	487	5e11		1 POLANCO-2B	42	53	2	POLANCO-2B	38	51	W	
YOUNG	165	5e30		2 AVILES-SS	41	68	3	AVILES-SS	36	44	2	
2B) POLANCO	638	2e10		3 YOUNG-DH	47	70	8	GLAUS-3B	44	61	7	
KENNEDY	373	3e16		4 GLAUS-3B	31	46	7	MCLOUTH-CF	33	58	7	
SS) IZTURIS	455	2e16		5 BUTLER-1B	42	68	8	THAMES-DH	23	44	8	
AVILES	461	3e19		6 MCLOUTH-CF	32	42	0	HART-RF	25	43	3	
3B) GLAUS	598	3e8		7 MURPHY-LF	46	50	2	BUTLER-1B	25	32	W	
C) OLIVO	337	4(-3)e9,T-8(pb-1)		8 HART-RF	27	45	4	GATHRIGHT	25	25	W	
LARUE	180	3(-2)e1,T-11(pb-1)		9 OLIVO-C	22	54	8	OLIVO-C	24	38	2	
QUINTERO	185	c-3(-2)e0,T-5(pb-0)			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
LF) BRUNTLETT	233	3(+1)e14			36.7	55.1	4.7		30.3	44.0	3.2	
GATHRIGHT	307	3(0)e2										
MURPHY	144	4(+1)e12		<u>Key Reserves:</u>				<u>Key Reserves:</u>				
CF) MCLOUTH	657	1(-1)e1		GATHRIGHT	36	36	W	IZTURIS-SS	26	26	w	
VENABLE	121	3(-1)e2		IZTURIS-SS	37	44	W	YOUNG	40	44	W	
RF) HART	673	3(-1)e5		BRUNTLETT	36	53	W	MURPHY	46	70	w	
DH) JENKINS	322			THAMES-DH	24	67	8					
THAMES	348											

VS LHH:

VS RHP:

<u>ROTATION:</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>HOLD</u>	<u>OP</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>OB</u>	<u>TB</u>	<u>HR</u>
DUKE*	204	-4	33	47	0	31	45	3
PADILLA	188	0	38	56	6	18	26	3
PEREZ*	176	+1	16	22	4	29	44	3
ROBERTSON*	185	-1	32	48	5	33	55	4
SUPPAN	195	-2	28	42	5	36	53	5

BULLPEN:

BIEMEL*	54	+5	26	29	0	32	39	0
LOPEZ	65	-4	28	32	1	30	41	1
RIVERA	92	+8	26	26	0	38	42	0
NIPPERT	78	+1	28	43	3	48	67	3