

The Fly-By-Night BA

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Commissioner Rob Bruno. Presidents - American League Ed Griffin - National League Bob Figella

Commissioners note: From earlier emails.

Draft Day 2020 – continued

Roland handed out his annual awards. The Eddie Ballgame Award is for the worst first round pick. It goes back five years to the present day draft. This year it was for the worst pick of the 2015 draft. The award went to Louisville GM, Tony Childers for drafting Dalton Pompey (WHO?) with the 17th pick of the 2015 draft.

(We had to look him up. It states a three year career but it looks more like less than a month. OUCH.) This definitely deserved the Eddie Ballgame Award.

2015 Louisville Pompey, Dalton .000 12 8 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 4 0 0 0 .111 .000

2016 Louisville Pompey, Dalton .350 10 20 5 7 5 0 0 2 2 1 3 1 0 0 .435 .600

2018 New Hampshire Pompey, Dalton .000 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 .000 .000

3 Career Total Pompey, Dalton .250 22 28 5 7 5 0 0 3 3 1 7 1 0 0 .344 .429

The next award was the Willie Sutton Award for the best pick in the draft regardless of which round it was made. For the 2015 draft this award went to Jeff Merklin for selecting Miguel Rojas in the 8th round with the 188 pick, the second to last pick of the draft. Rojas played 4 seasons with the Admirals hitting .244 with 4 homers and 50 RBI. He was traded to Louisville at the end of the 2018 season along with Mark Canha for Billy Hamilton and Preston Tucker. Was Rojas a steal?

As the draft was moving along smoothly, around the 5th or 6th round, talk began on who would be the first to try to draft a player that had already been draft earlier. Laughter could be heard by all present but the loudest roar came for GM Klee. “PLEASEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!!!!” The last three years the “award” went to an American League GM. Well, right after all this was said it was GM Klee’s turn to draft. Yep, sure enough GM Klee’ tried to draft a player that had been draft earlier in round 2 or 3. Everyone in attendance shouted “PLEASEEEEEEEEEEEEE and BRUTAL!!!!” Roland’s two famous sayings. Red beeted Roland said “I was wondering why he had lasted so long”. We all had a good laugh. Roland we love ya.

Sad News:

Jeff Merklins dad is very ill and with other issues that Merk is dealing with, Merk needed to take a leave of absence. While Merk is on the LOA from the Admirals, no team trades will be allowed. Playing the games and keeping the team stats will be Scott Hamel. Scott’s email is sabot71018aol.com. His home address is 140 Bryce Ryan Circle, Kingsland, GA. 31548.

I’ll keep everyone informed as I get more information from Merk. For now, I’m sure everyone in the FBN is wishing Merk and his family the best.

Spring was in the air. Ast. Spring Training News.

On a beautiful morning Allyn Street and US Jarhead put in 4 games. Each game would last one inning. Game 1 ended in a tie 0-0. Both pitching staffs were awesome. “Pitchers ahead of the batters because they come to camp first,” said Casey. “Plus, in the box score their position is #1.”

In game two the bats again had difficulty getting started but once they did it was the Allyn Street bats that “crashed” the World Champs 1-0. The game was won on a Willy Adames homerun. Allyn Street took a 1-0-1 lead in the series.

In game three it was another “crashing” 1-0 win by the 89’ERS as the Jarhead bats were again silenced. Ast. 2-0-1.

Before game three manager Kent sent the entire team to Parris Island. “They have forgotten what is needed to win. One trip to Parris Island should be enough of a reminder.”

USJ got the message and got on the winning side by the slimmest of margin, a 1-0 win.

After the 2-1-1 "great" spring training season Casey and GM Weiss decided on the final Opening Day Roster. "I feel like it's 1962 all over again," said Casey. The battle cry was "Lets go Mets!" and "Break up the Mets!" as the newest team in New York played their first season at the Polo Grounds and went 40-120. They were dead last 60 1/2 behind the team that used to call the Polo Grounds home, the now San Francisco Giants. Will the cry at the School Yard in 2020 season be "Break up the 89'ERS! "We won't be as bad as the '62 Mets but nobody will think we are my second favorite team, the '61 Yankees," said owner Bruno.

FBN Official Opening Day Series

Will the trip to Parris Island carry over to the first series of the year as the World Champion US Jarheads opened the 2020 FBNBBA season on Sunday the 8th at home vs The Burlington Bucs, one of this years projected NL power houses.

Schedule of the events that occur before the start of the series.

8:30 Championship Banner Raised over Kate Elizabeth Park. ("Never saw the park in better shape. The remodeling turned out great.")

8:35 Players receive 2019 Championship Rings. ("Those rings were huge! Did you see all those diamonds?

8:55 Ceremonial First Pitch by Jim "No Hit -No Hit" Bullinger. ("Bullinger threw a perfect strike. Could probably still pitch today.)

9:00 First Pitch of 2020

GAME 1 E Rodriguez vs Mikolas

The Bucs score two in the first off their old teammate Mikolas. "It was like they knew what I was going to throw", said Mikolas after the game. Stealing signs? Nah.

USJ came back with 5 in the bottom of the second and this game started out like it was going to be a softball scoring game. The Bucs did make it 5-5 after 5 innings. The game was won by US with a run in the 9th inning. Grandal ripped a one-base hit. Ronald Acuna came next and he doubled making US victorious to the delight of the home town crowd. Sam Dyson got the win and J.B. Wendelken took the lose.

Game 2 L Castillo vs Lyles

Luis Castillo was shell stocked after this one. USJ with the help of 3 homeruns scored runs in the first 6 innings and opened an 11-0 lead before the Bucs got on the board in the 8th.

USJ catcher Yasmani Grandal hit a three-run homer and had 5 RBI in this laughter. The win went to Jordan Lyles (1-0) who allowed 2 runs in 7 and 1/3 innings. Luis Castillo (0-1) suffered the loss.

Game 3 M Gonzales vs Miley

Burlington fell behind again for the second streak game but this time got good pitching form Marco Gonzales as the Buccaneers beat the Jarheads 8-3.

With the Bucs down 3-2 in the top of the 4th inning they scored 3 runs when they had 4 base hits. The big moment was provided by Cameron Maybin who quieted the home crowd when he smacked a three-run homer. The victory went to Marco Gonzales (1-0) who went 5 and 1/3 innings, allowing just 3runs. Wade Miley (0-1) was the losing pitcher.

Game 4 S Gray vs Porcello

This was a see-saw of a game that baseball fans love to see. Burlington scored first with 1 in the first inning. The lead only lasted until the bottom of the 2nd when USJ tied the score at 1. USJ took the lead in the bottom of the 2nd 2-1. The Bucs tied the score 2-2 in the 5th. USJ scored one in the 7th to take the lead 3-2. The Buc's would not be denied as they tied the game at 3 in the 8th. The Jarheads stormed back with a run in the bottom of the 8th and had a 4-3 lead. It looked bad for the Buc's. Was the ship taking on too much water? In the 9th the Bucs tied the score at 4 and when USJ did not score in the bottom of the 9th the FBN had their first extra-inning game. The Bucs did not score in their half of the 10th. In the bottom of the 10th Yasmani Grandal led off the inning for US when he drew a walk. Paul Goldschmidt dug into the batters box next, but he struck out. Edwin Encarnacion was next to bat, but he was a strikeout victim too. With 2-down Paul Dejong came up and he lifted one out of the park for a two run home run making US the victor and beginning a joyous Opening Day home town celebration. This was the kind of game that many fans love as the lead changed hands 5 times. The victory was credited to Casey Sadler (1-0) who went 1 inning, allowing no runs. J.B. Wendelken (0-2) was tagged with his second loss of the day. He allowed 1 run and 1 hit in 1 and 1/3 innings.

The Official American League Opening Day Series

Today was also opening day for the American League as Hotlanta traveled to California in the FBN's second opening series of the day. Hotlanta had played some spring training games earlier in the week. Hotlanta "went" up against USJ letting HAL manage both teams for 6 games. USJ won 4 games, but the scores were close. The teams combined for 33 HR's (17/16 split). When manager Jalutkewicz was as about his team, his scouting report was that "Our pitching stinks. We blew a 9-0 lead to lose one game." As his team was preparing for today's series with the Dreamers Jalutkewicz was heard saying to his hitting coach, "We will probably get shutout 4 games today. We used up all my HR's vs. USJ."

Game 1:

Dreamers get 2 solo HR from Kendrick and a 3 run double by Blackmon and coast to 6-2 win. Had a glitch where Hader was in game - made defensive replacements and he was gone?? Never faced a batter. Expect a patch any day now.

WP - Morton (1-0) LP - Happ (0-1) HR - Moncada (1) Kendrick 2 (2)

Game 2:

Possums jump out to 5-0 lead against Ryu on 2 run double by Merrifield in 2nd and 2 run triple by Meadows in 6th. Dreamers get 3 back in the 6th and Iglesias ties game with 2-run HR off of Romo in 9th. After 7 1/2 scoreless frames Votto homers for win in 17th.

WP - D. Castillo (1-0) LP - Lopez (0-1) HR - Iglesias (1), Votto (1)

Game 3:

Game is even 1-1 after 9...Merrifield HR in 12th puts Possums up 1 - but Soto leads off 12th with tying HR off Jansen and Pham wins it in 13th with solo shot off Jansen.

WP - N. Ramirez (1-0) LP - Jansen (0-1) HR - Merrifield (1), Ahmed (1), Soto (1), Pham (1)

Game 4:

Possums jump out to 2-0 lead in top of first but Dreamers answer with 5 including McMahon grand slam for 5-2 lead after one. Dreamers coast to 10-4 win with Plutko pitching 7 innings of 4-run ball.

WP - Plutko (1-0) LP - Pannone HR - McMahon (1)

Dreamers had bad luck with injuries (Kendrick for 2, Inciarte for 1, Pollock for 1, Pham in last game) but all the rest of the luck went the Dreamer way.

2020 –FBN CALENDAR of EVENTS

Mar 16 – Official Opening Day of the FBN. The 47th Season of The FBNBBA.

TRANSACTIONS:

1. TX #1 and Dillon Peters to Urpaign for Mike Clevenger.

Minus Bonus Points: none

Year to Date: none