

The Fly-By-Night BA

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1974 - 2020

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

Commissioners notes: Standings, more stuff added onto your stuff, minor league news and looking for your baseball or sport stories. I'll start with my days playing baseball minus Little League. I hope you'll send in your stories too, to be included in a newsletter.

AMERICAN LEAGUE									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Milford Dogfish	38 - 6	.864	----	18 - 6	.750	20 - 0	1.000	4/17
2	Hotlanta Possums	26 - 14	.650	10	14 - 6	.700	12 - 8	.600	4/17
3	California Dreamers	28 - 16	.636	10	16 - 4	.800	12 - 12	.500	4/16
4	New Hampshire Hogs	26 - 18	.591	12	15 - 9	.625	11 - 9	.550	4/16
5	Louisville River Bandits	23 - 21	.523	15	9 - 11	.450	14 - 10	.583	4/17
6	Alpharetta Aces	23 - 21	.523	15	16 - 8	.667	7 - 13	.350	4/16
7	Lake Wobegon Whippets	20 - 24	.455	18	11 - 13	.458	9 - 11	.450	4/21
8	Yorktown Admirals	17 - 23	.425	19	10 - 10	.500	7 - 13	.350	4/15
9	Baton Rouge Silver Bullets	18 - 26	.409	20	8 - 12	.400	10 - 14	.417	4/18
10	Urpaigh Dragons	15 - 29	.341	23	9 - 15	.375	6 - 14	.300	4/15
11	Arsenal Gunners	13 - 27	.325	23	6 - 14	.300	7 - 13	.350	4/15
12	Atlanta Senators	10 - 34	.227	28	7 - 17	.292	3 - 17	.150	4/19

Ills in Illinois:

Pitching Coach Gary Peters said after a recent series with Burlington. "It was another typical pitching performance by the Dogs staff. 34 hits, 19 runs, 50 K's and NINE HR's." "I've had it," said Peters. I'm moving The Ignitor Iglesias to mop-up or to the barbecue where a fire won't hurt us. We going with Closer by Committee, said Peters. When we asked GM Huck about the pitching staff he said, "If the changes should fail a call to famous pitching coach of the 1950's and 60's for the Chicago White Sox, Ray Berres is on the table. After that I could always start shopping."

School Yard Report Card:

JD Martinez past Edgar Martinez for 10th All-Time on the 89ERS run scored list with number 478. Fred McGriff is number 1 with 1,366. JD tied Shane Victorino with his 465th RBI. McGriff is number 1 with 1,520. JD also past the 3000 at bat total. McGriff is number 1 with 8,641.

Trevor Bauer in his victory at Taxachusetts past Josh Johnson in team wins at 77 for 7th All-Time. Bauer is 2 behind Doc Gooden for 6th All-Time. Roy Halladay is number 1 with 226.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	US Jarheads	30 - 10	.750	----	21 - 3	.875	9 - 7	.563	4/15
2	Taxachusetts Chiefs	26 - 14	.650	4	16 - 8	.667	10 - 6	.625	4/21
3	Connecticut Blue Devils	24 - 16	.600	6	10 - 10	.500	14 - 6	.700	4/21
4	Burlington Buccaneers	24 - 16	.600	6	13 - 7	.650	11 - 9	.550	4/21
5	Norwich Navigators	26 - 18	.591	6	10 - 10	.500	16 - 8	.667	4/15
6	New England Angels	20 - 24	.455	12	11 - 13	.458	9 - 11	.450	4/15
7	Allyn Street 89ERS	18 - 22	.450	12	8 - 8	.500	10 - 14	.417	4/21
8	Illinois Prairie Dogs	19 - 25	.432	13	12 - 12	.500	7 - 13	.350	4/18
9	Klee's Klubbers	17 - 23	.425	13	8 - 8	.500	9 - 15	.375	4/15
10	Hazardville Powderkegs	16 - 24	.400	14	13 - 11	.542	3 - 13	.188	4/15
11	Maine Yaks	16 - 28	.364	16	9 - 11	.450	7 - 17	.292	4/15
12	Wall Street Barons	14 - 30	.318	18	7 - 13	.350	7 - 17	.292	4/16

TRANSACTIONS:

1. Norwich trades Ryan Braun to New Hampshire for Wilmer Flores.

Mgr John McGraw nearly had a heart attack when his request for a 1B to compliment M. Olson was approved. He was NOT happy with the price, that being the "Hebrew Hammer" Ryan Braun.

GM Decker statement, "It's a "now" deal involving players who might not have a "later" did not endear himself to fans who were enjoying Braun tear the cover off the ball over the first two blocks at the Swamp, also known as Garmin Park. The fans said, "We loved it when someone would try to retrieve the ball and the gator's got them." Tough fans! Is Yasiel Puig next to go?

War Memorial Coliseum saw some exciting action:

Chiefs scalp the 89ERS as they score 17 runs on 22 hits as Lynn improves to 6-1. TX takes 3 of 4. Anthony Rizzo went 8 for 16 (2 DO, 1 TR, 3 HR) with 11 RBI. The Chiefs hit .352 for the series. Pedro "The Vulture" Baez (7-1) now leads the NL in wins.

Earl Weaver Ball?

"In a game dominated by the HR, Barons have a line up with 7 players who should bat 8th or 9th", said Weaver. "I'd even take the Orioles of today over these hitters. If you can call them hitters." Tough words from a frustrated manager.

Sunny in Taxachusetts?

Before a series started with Burlington Joe Carter was asked about the series. "It's a sunny spring day. A great day for baseball. After the series Carter said "Yes things turned gray quickly didn't they." As the oxymoronic Sonny Gray stuck the Chief bats where the sun doesn't shine winning game one and Burlington went on to take 3 of 4 from the Chiefs.

My baseball story and the Summer of '69.

COMO LEAGUE: After a number of practices I made the team. I guess the coach didn't see much in me. On opening day, the coach had me batting 9th. I'm assuming all he saw during practices was a chubby kid who couldn't run very fast. I thought I hit well. In pickup games and in Little League I never batted below 5th. I'm now playing with and against my school buddies. Yeah, it hurt my pride that I was batting 9th but I kept saying to myself at least I'm playing. We had 11 kids on our roster. So I'm batting 9th and playing first base in my first game at Stonington Bough field. My first at bat came with the bases load. All I wanted to do was get a hit. Left field and right field in the Como field would be considered Death Valley. Center field was the shortest distance from home plate. How you ask? A road that went from right field to left field and curved in towards center field and back out away from left field. The field was built between three streets.

I had never in organized ball hit a homerun out of a park so I wasn't thinking homerun. Well, I hit a ball to dead center. A close friend of mine was in center. We both had been on VFW in Little League. He knew that I had never hit a homerun in Little League. I was a line drive hitter. The one time I almost hit a homerun in LL I was almost thrown out at first base. I barely was moving as I was watching the ball thinking I finally had a homerun. The ball hit off the top of the fence and the right field almost threw me out at first. From that point on I ran out everything. Back at the Como field. My friend told me after the game that all he was thinking about when he saw the ball coming out towards him was what if he robbed me of this one I'd probably would kill him. Thank goodness he had no chance at it. The ball went over his head and landed in the road. My first and only homerun that I hit out of a park and a grand slam to boot. We ended up losing the game 9-8. The only score that I remember of all my games. At the next game and from then on the coach had me batting 4th. We lost our next four games badly. Our coach decided he had seen enough. He gave me the equipment bag and from then on my best friend, John and I ran the team. We also lost the coaches two sons and another kid quit. That gave us only 8 players on our roster. We started to show up for our games with the 8 players. The umpires would want us to forfeit the games. We would talk with the other teams and they wanted to play the games. We convinced the umpires to let us play shorthanded. Why not? The other teams didn't want a forfeit. They wanted to play, we all wanted to play. That's how life was when you're a kid, let's play the damn games. We may have been the first team in baseball that used a shift, lol, we did because we had no choice. We'd play with one less infielder, usually, putting a fielder behind second base as a short fielder.

We played five games at the Pawcatuck Junior High School field. It was worse than the Como Field. Right field wasn't even 180 feet to the woods. In the five games I played there I hit 8 homeruns into the woods. It really inflated my numbers. When I was a student at PJHS my Phys. Edu. teacher, Mr. Worchester would make me run out any ball that I hit into the right field woods. Also, if the ball hit a tree and it bounce back onto the field it was a live ball.

Late into our season we picked up two Little Leaguers. This was also against the rules. They were too young but since it gave us a full team the other teams in the league allowed it. Gus Brooker and Neil Riley joined the Pirates. You'll hear about them again at a later date. We turned things around and did very well. It was a good summer. I hit .360, 4D, 9HR in 62 at bats. My splits tell how small the field was at PJHS. At PJHS I hit .426 with 8 homers while only hitting .293 with 1 homer at Como Field. (I didn't keep records for runs scored or RBI.)

HIGH SCHOOL: I finally made the team in my junior year. Yeah, remember those were the days that everyone didn't make the team. We all still lived and life went on. I started out as a pinch hitter and late inning replacement. I went 1 for 3. Every time Morris "Moose" Febicant had a player in the dog house I'd be practicing with the starting team. I'd get all excited waiting for game day. When game day came I was back on the bench and the kid that was in Moose's dog house was back in the starting lineup. So you guessed, I did the stupid thing. I quit the team. Bad move on my part I know, but try telling that to a 17, year old kid.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE: Spring of 1969 and my second semester at ECSC. It was Bill Holowaty's first year as head coach. I made the team on the final cut. Years later reading Jim Bouton's book, BALL FOUR, I remember reading how players would not look at each other when it was cut down time.

It reminded me of that day at Eastern, it is so true. The final position on the roster in '69 was between Harry Brown and me. We both were from Pawcatuck and we played against each other in Little League. During try outs Harry was a middle infielder. I played first and the outfield. He batted right handed and I was a lefty. It was final cut down day. We knew whoever was called into Holowaty's office was going to be cut. After practice we were in the shower when the assistant coach came in and called for Harry. I couldn't look at him. All I did was look down at my feet. As soon as he left the shower I started to celebrate. I had made the team. Bouton was so right. I probably made the team because I threw right handed but I hit left handed. That's not as rare as someone that throws left handed and bats right handed like someone in the FBN. Can you guess who he is? I bet he has some good baseball stories to tell us.

On the Twenty-five Anniversary of that team, which was Holowaty's first team as head coach, Eastern (now University) invited all the players back to help honor Holowaty. It was a heck of a banquet at the Willimantic Country Club. As we all lined up with Holowaty for a team photo, he came up to me and said, "Nice to see you. I remember you almost won the batting title. I had hit .333. My roommate from the YMCA (no male dorms at ECSC in 1969) and best player on the team, Gary Kinel had hit .338. I laughed and said, "Coach, I think you have to bat more than three times to qualify for the batting title." He laughed. I was again a bench warmer and pinch hitter like in high school but this time I didn't quit the team. This time I really had enjoyed the experience.

WESTERLY TWILIGHT LEAGUE: So in 1969 I had the bug to play more baseball. A high school friend told me he was playing in the Westerly Twilight League and the team he was on was looking for players. I tried out and I made the team, the Westerly Sun. It was a bad team. It reminded me of the '62 Mets, a bounce of nice guy's but not much good at playing baseball. We did have two very good players but that's not enough. I was a pinch hitter and late inning replacement. I got off to a really bad start. I went 0 for 9. I guess I was lucky to still be on the team but, being in dead last and only having 11 guys on the roster I guess our player/manager, Tommy Sullivan, didn't have much of a choice. Then it happened, the break I needed. Our two best players decided to jump ship and quit the team Our starting catcher and third baseman were gone. They both join up with the first place team, Caps Restaurant. I guess there were no rules on stealing players in the WTL. I went from a bench warmer to starter. With nine players on the team now I had to start. Tommy tried to recruit players but couldn't find anyone else to play for us. Thank god we were bad. Tommy had been our regular first baseman, backup catcher and pitcher. Tommy move behind the plate. I got to play first and sometimes third. I had a good infielders arm. We no longer had a backup catcher. Everyone but me became a pitcher.

After a game when I was still slumping my girlfriend asked me why I was not wearing my glasses during the game? I just started to wear glasses that spring of '69. I'd wear them to the field and then I'd take them off. I'd put them in their case to keep them safe. I had no answer. I started to wear my glasses and from my 0 for 9 start without them to 9 for 28 with them. I finished with a .243 average. 2D, 1T and 1SB. I was lucky that my bat finally got hot when it did because as soon as the high school kids finished their season I had recommended two from Stonington High to Tommy. Yup, Gus Brooker and Neil Riley, the youngsters that help the Como team. Gus was a pitcher/infielder and Neil was a catcher/pitcher. He needed pitching and another catcher desperately and they supplied that. They had also matured into good ball players. All I know is if I had not gotten hot when I did, I could have been replaced by one of those kids in the starting lineup. I would have been embarrassed that they had by past me. Hey, I'm only human. It would have hurt to be a has-been at 20.

Tommy went back to first and could pitch again. Neil did most of the catching. When Neil would pitch, Tommy caught. Gus pitched and played mostly third. I was moved to center field but once Tommy saw my throws from center he moved me to right field. Just like Little League, there were more right handed batters than left handed batters so Tommy figured I'd have less chances throwing the ball back to the infield from right field. It was a smart move.

I'd rate myself as rf/cf4(+3). I had no arm, maybe +5? My throws from the outfield would bounce all the way into second. Forget a throw from the outfield to third or home. I think Roland would have drafted me. You

know how he loves “banjo” hitters and I was basically a singles hitter with “W” power everywhere except at Pawcatuck Junior High field. I hate to say it but I was a Klubber type player. Sad.

I must explain my one stolen base. I stepped off the bag taking my lead. I started to look at the girls in the stands rather than at the pitcher. I finally looked at the pitcher as he was throwing to first. I knew if I tried to get back to first, I was a dead duck. I have no idea what happened to that throw. I always expected that he must have been laughing so hard at my lead that he may have thrown high. I think I was a foot off the bag but at the time I only had the girls in the stands on my mind. I don’t remember anything except that I knew I’d rather have a caught stealing on my resume rather than a picked off the base. So, I just took off towards second. But, surprise, surprise, I slid in and was safe! That’s all that mattered was the end result. I remember my team mates all laughing. I don’t know if it was with or at me but they all were enjoying it. Being 20, playing ball, it was a great time to be alive!

We ended the season by moving out of last place. That was better than what my ’62 Mets could do. We ended up in 5th in a six team league. The top four teams made the playoffs. One of the best parts of the season was that the final two times that we played Caps, we beat them. The last time we beat them was in the last game of the season. That defeat knocked them out of first. I don’t remember his name, but the guy who had quit on us and who had been our regular third baseman was a good sport after all. I remember him coming over to our side of the field after the game and congratulating us on how well we had done over the last half of the season. Looking back, I should have thanked him for moving on. It was only because he and the other player left us that I got a chance to be in the starting lineup for the Westerly Sun that summer of ’69.

My combined baseball stats: 105 At Bats. .314 Ave., 6D, 1T 9HR. I didn’t have anything saved from my Little League days.

Como Field - 41 ab’s, 12hits, .293ave. 4D, 1HR.

PJHS Field – 21 ab’s, 10hits .476ave, 8HR.

SHS 3ab’s 1hit. .333 ave.

ECSC 3 ab’s 1 hit. .333

WTL 37ab’s, 9 hits, .243ave, 2D, 1T.

Take out PJHS stats and in 84ab’s I had 23hits, a .274 hitter with 6D, 1T and 1HR. I put these numbers into my strat card with these positions: 1b3e17, 3b4e26, rf/cf4(+3) e9

I used my combined stats minus the ones from PJHS field and I made a strat card. I put myself on the West Broad Street Insurancemen.

FBN MINOR LEAGUE STATS:

Primary Player Statistics For 2020 West Broad St. Insurancemen Totals After 32 Games

NAME	BAVG	GM	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	HB	SH	DP	SB	CS	E
R. Bruno	.190	24	84	6	16	4	0	0	9	5	10	1	3	1	0	0	1

I better start hitting soon. As Yogi would say, “It’s like deja vu all over again!” I’m still in the lineup most days but HAL has moved me from batting 2nd to batting 8th. With limited rosters, at bats and innings pitched are unlimited in the FBN ML. I’ll have additional at bats. I hope ;-)

If you have a baseball story or any sports story send it to me and I’ll include it in a newsletter.

Thanks,

Rob

PS My wife wonders how I can remember stuff from the ‘60’s but I can’t remember to take out the mulch. ☺

LEAGUE STANDINGS FOR 2020 FBN Minor League

National	WON	LOST	PCT	GB	MAGIC#
2020 Dayton DAY	23	14	.622	----	125
2020 New England NES	24	15	.615	----	
2020 Shewville SHV	23	16	.590	1.0	
2020 Connecticut CBD	24	17	.585	1.0	
2020 Maine MYT	22	18	.550	2.5	
2020 Taxachusetts TXB	21	18	.538	3.0	
2020 Wall St. WSB	18	20	.474	5.5	
2020 Parris Island PIM	18	20	.474	5.5	
2020 Willimantic WIL	18	20	.474	5.5	
2020 Illinois IMC	17	19	.472	5.5	
2020 Hazardville HPD	18	21	.462	6.0	
2020 West Broad St. INS	16	22	.421	7.5	

American	WON	LOST	PCT	GB	MAGIC#
2020 Hotlanta HOT	23	16	.590	----	124
2020 Alpharetta ALA	23	16	.590	----	
2020 Louisville LOU	24	17	.585	----	
2020 California CAL	19	17	.528	2.5	
2020 Milford MCF	20	21	.488	4.0	
2020 Yorktown YKN	17	19	.472	4.5	
2020 New Hampshire NHP	18	21	.462	5.0	
2020 Baton Rouge BRS	15	21	.417	6.5	
2020 Urpaign URP	14	21	.400	7.0	
2020 Lake Wobegon LWR	14	21	.400	7.0	
2020 Atlanta ATL	14	22	.389	7.5	
2020 Arsenal ARC	14	25	.359	9.0	

Full leader and team stats will be sent out at mid-season

BATTING AVERAGE		HOME RUNS		RUNS BATTED IN	
Y.Moncada	YKN .369	I.Happ	NES 17	I.Happ	NES 54
K.Wong	DAY .368	K.Bryant	TXB 17	K.Bryant	TXB 48
W.Contrer	MYT .366	S.Hilliar	HOT 16	N.Cruz	CBD 44
M.Rojas	IMC .363	N.Cruz	CBD 15	M.Canha	LOU 39
I.Happ	NES .361	Y.Alvarez	MCF 15	OTHERS TIED	W 37

WINS		SAVES		ERA	
B.Peacock	CBD 5	M.Morin	IMC 8	G.Ynoa	ALA 1.74
D.Floro	CBD 5	J.Urias	WSB 7	C.Quantri	YKN 2.17
T.Milone	DAY 5	J.Soria	CAL 6	T.Milone	DAY 2.35
T.Wingent	MYT 5	P.Fry	CBD 6	J.Lester	TXB 2.40
E.Hernand	NES 5	S.Barlow	TXB 6	B.Peacock	CBD 2.62

CUR HIT STREAK		STOLEN BASES		STRIKEOUTS	
V.Reyes	SHV 16	J.Peteroso	WIL 11	B.Peacock	CBD 74
G.Allen	DAY 12	M.Straw	NES 10	J.Quintan	MYT 71
W.Flores	NHP 11	J.Dyson	DAY 9	D.German	WSB 70
J.Dyson	DAY 10	G.Allen	DAY 9	C.Sale	IMC 69
C.Mullins	PIM 10	OTHERS TIED	W 8	OTHERS TIED	W 66

YESTERDAY'S GAMES			TODAY'S SCHEDULE AND PROBABLE STARTERS		
SHV	4	at PIM 9	HPD-Brault(1-3, 4.85)	at	BRS-Canning(2-3, 4.21)
LOU	6	at NHP 8	ARC-Brebbia(1-5, 4.23)	at	CBD-Wood(0-2, 4.18)
ATL	3	at MCF 10	INS-Sheffie(0-0, 3.32)	at	HOT-Not announced
CAL	13	at BRS 4	IMC-Dugger(2-1, 3.60)	at	MCF-Burnes(2-2, 8.49)
IMC	6	at CBD 1	NHP-Stanek(0-3, 6.43)	at	MYT-Hoffman(0-3, 6.89)
WIL	4	at WSB 4	WSB-Lamet(1-5, 4.57)	at	ATL-Pomeran(0-2, 5.92)
URP	0	at ALA 8	NES-Heaney(4-0, 2.63)	at	CAL-Buchhol(1-1, 4.62)
HPD	4	at DAY 6	YKN-Leblanc(4-2, 5.13)	at	SHV-Zimmerm(1-2, 9.09)
HOT	4	at LWR 2	PIM-McHugh(2-4, 5.87)	at	ALA-Cashner(4-3, 5.30)
TXB	10	at NES 8	LWR-Strahm(2-4, 6.93)	at	DAY-Bassitt(4-3, 3.63)
ARC	3	at YKN 7	TXB-Wojciec(1-3, 6.56)	at	URP-Pivetta(1-3, 4.60)

YESTERDAY'S BEST PERFORMANCES

BATTER	TM	OPP	AB	R	H	RB	BB	Ks	HR	SB
S.Vogt	YKN	ARC	4	4	3	4	1	0	2	0
V.Robles	MCF	ATL	4	2	2	5	0	0	2	1
A.Russell	YKN	ARC	5	2	4	4	0	1	2	0
M.Sano	MCF	ATL	4	2	3	3	0	1	2	0
A.Santander	LOU	NHP	5	2	2	3	1	2	2	0

PITCHER	TM	OPP	INN	H	R	ER	BB	Ks	HR	WLS
C.Bassitt	DAY	HPD	8.0	1	0	0	1	3	0	W
W.LebLANc	YKN	ARC	7.0	4	0	0	3	9	0	W
T.Cahill	CAL	BRS	5.0	2	0	0	2	5	0	W
J.Means	LOU	NHP	7.0	6	2	2	0	8	0	W
P.Strop	MCF	ATL	2.1	0	0	0	1	5	0	S

WHO'S HOT - BEST IN LAST 10 DAYS

BATTER	TM	AVG	AB	H	RB	BB	HR	PITCHER	TM	IP	H	ER	BB	Ks	HR	WLS
R.McMahon	CAL	.368	19	7	8	6	4	M.Minor	CBD	8	2	0	1	8	0	000
O.Narvaez	LOU	.417	24	10	9	4	3	T.Richards	BRS	6	1	0	2	8	0	000
K.Davis	LOU	.409	22	9	8	3	3	C.Hamels	DAY	6	3	0	0	8	0	000
T.Anderson	LOU	.500	30	15	8	0	3	E.Hernandez	NES	7	2	0	1	7	0	100
M.Canha	LOU	.478	23	11	6	5	1	C.Bassitt	DAY	8	1	0	1	3	0	100

WHO'S NOT - WORST IN LAST 10 DAYS

BATTER	TM	AVG	AB	H	RB	BB	HR	PITCHER	TM	IP	H	ER	BB	Ks	HR	WLS
T.Austin	LOU	.182	22	4	9	4	3	Y.Kikuchi	ATL	11	18	12	2	11	4	020
		----	0	0	0	0	0	H.Bailey	ALA	5	7	7	2	4	3	010
		----	0	0	0	0	0	C.Sale	IMC	7	9	9	3	11	3	010
		----	0	0	0	0	0	V.Velasquez	LOU	7	12	7	6	9	2	010
		----	0	0	0	0	0	S.Turnbull	URP	6	11	6	3	5	1	010

INJURY REPORT

R.Cano, West Broad St. - 3 more games
R.Zimmerman, Maine - 3 more games
R.McGuire, New England - 3 more games
E.Encarnacion, Parris Island - 7 more games

2020 -FBN CALENDAR of EVENTS

1. Follow the chart at the bottom of your team schedule.
2. Dues month July.

Minus Bonus Points: none

Year to Date: none