



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

**Commissioners Note:**

Standings and more. Like more of your emails turned into additional stuff for the newsletter.

**THE STRETCH RUN** by Bob Figella

We are past the midpoint of the season in the FBN and for the most part the games have been going smooth. The contenders are starting to distance themselves from the field but there are still many interesting playoff races to be decided. As we move into the dog days of summer I hope everyone enjoys the FBN season and has a nice, safe summer.

**Other League News:**

If there is no MLB in 2020 but Strat puts out a simulated set, this will become a new separate voting issue. We will decide this issue when and if need be, use the simulated set or not? Let's hope all goes well.

**It's time for 2021 Dues.** Alpharetta, Arsenal, California (2021 and 2022), Illinois, Klee's, Louisville, Milford, New England, Taxachusetts, US Jarheads and Wall Street have already paid their dues. Dues are still just \$20 for active members and zero for backup members.

<b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b>									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Milford Dogfish	77 - 18	.811	----	36 - 12	.750	41 - 6	.872	7/2
2	California Dreamers	56 - 31	.644	17	32 - 12	.727	24 - 19	.558	7/1
3	New Hampshire Hogs	55 - 36	.604	20	31 - 17	.646	24 - 19	.558	7/1
4	Louisville River Bandits	54 - 37	.593	21	22 - 18	.550	32 - 19	.627	7/3
5	Hotlanta Possums	53 - 42	.558	24	27 - 17	.614	26 - 25	.510	7/3
6	Lake Wobegon Whippets	43 - 40	.518	28	22 - 18	.550	21 - 22	.488	7/1
7	Yorktown Admirals	40 - 43	.482	31	17 - 23	.425	23 - 20	.535	7/1
8	Alpharetta Aces	40 - 43	.482	31	24 - 16	.600	16 - 27	.372	7/1
9	Urpaign Dragons	32 - 51	.386	39	14 - 26	.350	18 - 25	.419	7/1
10	Baton Rouge Silver Bullets	34 - 57	.374	41	15 - 25	.375	19 - 32	.373	7/1
11	Arsenal Gunners	30 - 53	.361	41	15 - 25	.375	15 - 28	.349	7/1
12	Atlanta Senators	24 - 63	.276	49	15 - 29	.341	9 - 34	.209	7/2

**American League:**

Milford has increased its pace for the best record in the history! After a 7-1, run, the Dogfish are on pace to win 131 games. This pace is unreal. With 97% of their games by Netplay this is exciting stuff. Good luck Glen. California, Louisville and New Hampshire seen to be a lock to make the playoffs. California held onto second place with a 3-1, record. Louisville went 3-5, to fall out of 2<sup>nd</sup> place. New Hampshire with no games schedule

during the holiday week slipped into 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Hotlanta remained in 5<sup>th</sup> place and Lake Wobegon in 6th. Both teams had no games schedule during the holiday week.



**'s Update:** "We started the second half of the season winning 3 of 4 from Silver Bullets at home to go to 56-31, said manager Simonutti. "We're looking for relief innings." "Some of our guys are getting tired arms," said Simonutti.

**TEAM NOTES:** Charlie Morton moved to 15-3 and Juan Soto continues hot streak and has reached 20 hr. Dream On...



's on the move? GM Vic Handel said, "I'm looking to move these guys. My phone is open. If see someone who interests you, let me know." Our needs are many, DP's and young starters with an upside.

**On the block:** Hosmer, Bruce, Marisnick, Bailey, Cashner, Gaviglio, Brewer and Kinley.



"We're off to a bad start to block 5, said manager Tony Childers. "This season, there never is



a good time to face Milford. We came out beaten up and discouraged facing them. We lost 3 of 4. "I pin this one on my own shoulders," Childers said. "The bottom line is we didn't get the job done. Our fans deserve better than this."

The only bright spot in the series for the Bandits was Bieber and Rogers. They combined to strike out 19 D' fish in the game that we won. Glen Boucher was impressed with Bieber and Rogers and their 19 strikeouts. "It's tough to generate runs if you can't make contact with the ball."



**Exasperated in Pigville** "This has been a weird year and not in a good way. No MLB so far which sucks and my team has not performed nearly as good as expected," said GM Griffin. "We're obviously not doing awful but that's not the point. We expect to beat the rebuilding teams with some regularity, said Griffing. But we keep having series like the one tonight." We started this block, with a split with BR I expected the team to do better. Then we played HT who we are tied with and we sweep him. Ok, now the team will start rolling, nope. Tonight was a new low. We start the series against Arsenal by getting shut out twice by guys who had ERA's of 8.27 and 10.84. How is that even possible? The first game we lost 3-0 and missed at least four

ball park HRs with guys in base when the Gunners made great catches on those shots. Ugggg. We of course fished with a series split because that's what we do against the teams with sub .400 records. We still have LW and LV to play this block. These teams have winning records. I'm wondering, what Hog team will show up. I have no freaking idea, said Griffin!

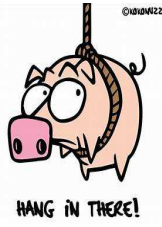
GM Griffin on the guy he got to replace the .157 hitting Kole Calhoun. "Niko Goodrum is 2 for 24 against



primarily left handed pitches who he hit .360 against. (OMG, my poor ears.)

**Other GM comments:**

(Bud)The truer measure of a team is how it performs against the best competition. This seems to bode well for



the Hogs in the playoffs.

HANG IN THERE!

(Don) Concur-you just gotta make the party.



(Ed) I expect to

make the party but was hoping to avoid what is maybe the best FBN team ever until I've had at least one dance. (Bud) It's going to take a team that's been saving up its luck all season to knock off the



at



Goliathfish.



(Frank) I disagree. Ed,



I think you should start re-building immediately.

(Ed) Ha. I was going to but NOPE!



NATIONAL LEAGUE									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	US Jarheads	62 - 29	.681	----	36 - 15	.706	26 - 14	.650	7/3
2	Burlington Buccaneers	61 - 34	.642	3	35 - 16	.686	26 - 18	.591	7/2
3	Taxachusetts Chiefs	57 - 34	.626	5	33 - 14	.702	24 - 20	.545	7/4
4	Connecticut Blue Devils	45 - 42	.517	15	24 - 23	.511	21 - 19	.525	7/1
5	Illinois Prairie Dogs	40 - 43	.482	18	23 - 20	.535	17 - 23	.425	7/1
6	Klee's Klubbers	43 - 48	.473	19	20 - 27	.426	23 - 21	.523	7/1
7	Norwich Navigators	45 - 54	.455	21	24 - 27	.471	21 - 27	.438	7/3
8	Allyn Street 89ERS	43 - 52	.453	21	25 - 26	.490	18 - 26	.409	7/3
9	Hazardville Powderkegs	41 - 54	.432	23	24 - 27	.471	17 - 27	.386	7/4
10	Maine Yaks	35 - 56	.385	27	19 - 24	.442	16 - 32	.333	7/5
11	New England Angels	31 - 52	.373	27	16 - 27	.372	15 - 25	.375	7/1
12	Wall Street Barons	30 - 57	.345	30	16 - 27	.372	14 - 30	.318	7/1

## National League:

A recent 6-2, record improved the US Jarheads hold on first place. Their lead increased to 3 games GM's Bill and Harry went out and added a true closer to the team effective Block 6. The Jarheads will add right hander, Ryan Pressly to the bullpen. "Pressly is lights out against left handed batters," said Harry Nieman. "He'll balance the closer roll with (Ryan) Brasier who is tough on righties." Since the Jarheads had two full time shortstops they were able to satisfy Yorktown's need. US sent Brandon Crawford to the Admirals. Burlington has moved into 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a recent 8-4 record. Last week Taxachusetts was 2d only 2 behind the Jarheads but a 1-3 record dropped the 5 games back. My bet is by the next newsletter that Joe Carter will have turn things around, just wait and see.

Connecticut is still in 4<sup>th</sup> place. They hold a 3 game lead over Illinois. CT went 1-3, while IL did not play any games this week. Norwich was in 5<sup>th</sup> but a 3-13 record has dropped them to 7<sup>th</sup> place. Klee's had no games schedule as the team went on a scouting mission in Pawcatuck, CT this past week. GM and Owner for Life Klee's brilliant move had Klee's move into 6<sup>th</sup> place 1, game behind Illinois.



**Debacle at the DevilDome: Game 1** went as everyone expected as the Blue Devils jumped all over the 89ERS with a 7-1 victory. CT pitcher, Jake Arrieta controlled the game going 8 shutout innings allowing just 2 hits, 1 walk and 4 K's.

But before game two started something strange was going on. The sky got dark and some fans said they could



sense danger. The Devil with Casey

Stengel making a deal before game two?

**Game 2** – Was a pretty good pitchers duel between Mike Minor and CC Sabathia after both give up 2 runs in the first inning. It was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> that things started to get strange. With 1 out and runner on 1<sup>st</sup> for Allyn Street, sure handed Freddie Freeman, 1b1e6, committed a huge 2 base error which lead to a run scoring ground out from Kevin Newman for 3-2 89ER lead. "Really, the ball was there and then it wasn't," said Freeman. "It just seemed to disappear." The 89ERS went on to take a 4-2 lead into the 9<sup>th</sup>. Blue Devils tried to mount a rally in the 9<sup>th</sup> after just 4 hits off Sabathia in 7 innings but nothing seemed to worked. Even with the tying runners on base and only one out it seemed the Blue Devils were doomed. David Freese came in to pinch hit looking for the walk off HR against his old team. In the first series that the teams played Freese had hit .429 with a double, HR and 4 RBI. Freese ripped the ball hard it looked like this one was going to be down the line and it would surely clear the bases. But no, somehow 3b man, Jose Ramirez got to it and turned it into a Lineout double play! Game over for a 4-2 89ER win. Asked how did he get to the liner Ramirez said, "I don't know. I looked into my glove and there was the ball. I just reacted and touched third base for the game ending double play." Wow.

**Game 3** – Apparently something was in the air or in the water because Masahiro Tanaka dominated the Blue Devils in game 3. Tanaka allowed just 3 hits and 1 run in 8 innings. Meanwhile the 89ER offense bedeviled CT opening 7-0 lead after 3 innings and 12-0 lead after 7 innings as 89ERS coasted to a 12-3 win.

**Game 4** – The game was tied 4-4 with Robbie Ray facing Michael Wacha after 4 innings but things did not seem normal. In the 5<sup>th</sup> the 89ERS found their hitting caps again as JD Martinez hits a lead off HR. After a walk and HBP, McCann singled in a run and Jose Ramirez follows up with a 3 run HR (2<sup>nd</sup> of the game 5 RBI) and 89ERS quickly lead 9-4. Jorge Soler hit a 2 run HR in the 7<sup>th</sup> to make it an 11-4. Blue Devils score some meaningless runs in the 9<sup>th</sup> but 89ERS easily win 12-6. Another strange performance by both teams. Did Casey sign a pact with the Devil? Ramirez .176, 2HR 5RBI, McCann .188, HR, 5RBI, Alvarez 10.80, 2GM, 0-0-1 and

Wacha 6.00, 1-0. Strange!! The 89ERS are 6-2 in Bk 5, will they somehow turn things around and make the 5<sup>th</sup> seed in the NL? Only the Shadow knows. What? OK, maybe the Shadow doesn't know, maybe it's just Casey and the Devil that know for sure!

**Team HI-Lites** – In game 4 Jose Ramierz two HR's were his 96<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> of his career. Number 97 tied him with Edgar Martinez for 9<sup>th</sup> place on the ALL-TIME 89ER list.

Wall Street Barons lost 3 of 4 to US, one in bottom of the 9<sup>th</sup>, another in the 13<sup>th</sup> & another in the 15<sup>th</sup>! In the 3



loses the Barons went 2 for 28 with RISP!!!



”At least your team shows up, Joe!”, said Norwich Navigators manager John McGraw. Citing COVID-19 issues, McGraw has said that the Gators have “quit” on the season - (on the field, seemingly). In the series with Burlington the Gators lost all 4 games, 13-4, 18-9 (after blowing a 5 run lead), 7-3 and 17-0. Burling scored 10 runs in an inning in game 2 and in game 4!

“We never had a chance, other than G2, where a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first was a 12-5 drubbing by the middle of the third,” said McGraw. “We couldn't hit the barn door with a truck. When we did hit we couldn't pitch. I think Clemente, Bucs manager, actually felt sorry for us,” said McGraw. The Bucs couldn't miss. The wind was blowing out for them all night. “The off-sided luck made this absolutely worst beating I've EVER had in the FBN.” “We get to play the Jarheads Friday after Wall Street, who will probably sweep us in the am,” said McGraw.

“We are now a contender for a bottom-tier pick, said owner Don Decker. “Of course we have traded our first Clemente did try to take it easy on the Gators but the team did not get the correct message.



Manager McGraw on the disappointing series split with Wall Street, “As usual against the non-contenders, a quick start leads to a meh finish. After taking the first two from WS, WS bounced back to win the last two. “We officially put the team in with the other said non-contenders.” “Funeral arrangements for my pitching staff will be finalized after the series with USJ, the bats died a few weeks ago,” said McGraw.

“We outhit USJ 49-35 for the series; but lose three! At least 3 of the 4 games we were in it,” said McGraw.



After a miserable block Norwich is floundering

a 45-54 record.



The Klubbers recently made a mid-season trip to prepare for the second half of the FBN season. Unbeknownst to the team, camp was located in the heart of the Rob Bruno Historic District on West Broad Street (US Rte. 1) in Pawcatuck, CT only a couple of blocks from the state line and Westerly, RI. Enjoy the brief photo essay.  
Roland



The view from Training Camp at 115 West Broad St.



Training Camp at 115 Broad St. (the house with the flag).



The Dairy Queen where Rob smooth talked local maidens.



West Broad Street School (home of the School Yard).



The iconic School Yard.

(We played hardball down where they now have the playground stuff. The four trees that were on the field have long been cut down. The present grass area was blacktop in my day. When it snowed we would slide down the slope standing up. The teachers would even let us pour water down the slope to make it icy. No way would it be allowed today. Damn insurance companies and lawyers. No offense to my insurance and lawyer FBN friends.)



The Rob Bruno Boyhood Home and Museum, 128 West Broad Street.

## **THE OTHER RACES IN THE FBN:**

### **THE BASEMENT BERTHA AND HER UGLY TWIN SISTERS AWARDS RACES:**

The battle for the first three picks of the 2021 draft is underway. The Atlanta Senators 24-63, .276, hold a solid grip on Bertha's heart. They seem sure to get the 1<sup>st</sup> pick overall. But, how about Bertha's ugly twin sisters? There seems to be five teams "fighting" for those two girls. At this report Wall Street at 30-57, .345, has a slight edge Arsenal 30-53, .361. Right behind is New England 31-52, .371, Maine 35-56, .385, and Baton Rouge 32-51, .386. They're all stumbling under .400. Who will "earn" the first 3 picks of the 2020 draft?

## **TRANSACTIONS:**

Effective Block 6:

1. The Marines and the Navy make a deal.  
The US Jarheads trade Brandon Crawford to the Yorktown Admirals for Ryan Pressly.

**Minus Bonus Points:** UR ½, 1 day late (7/1report).

**Year to Date:** LW 1, WS ½, NE ½, UR ½.

## **FBN CALENDAR of EVENTS**

**During seasonal play:** - Follow the chart at the bottom of your team schedule for due dates.

July 1 - Dues Month. League fee of \$20.00 is due by July 31st to keep member active.

Aug 1 – If MLB is being played, this is the date that 2022 Draft picks can be included in a trade.

Oct. 15 - Playoffs start.

Nov 1 - 1. Send in voting items for review by 8pm on November 15th.

2. Managers can send in All-Star candidates from your team. Please include the position you want to be listed for player on the ballot. List the player as DH or give him a position. For outfielders, just put OF since they can play all three OF positions. Send in Rookie of Year candidates from your team.

Nov 15-20 1. Voting on the issues to be completed by 8pm on November 25th. For 2020 it will include League items and it will include voting for all three League Officers.

Nov 30th – 1. GM's report their winter rosters to Bob Figella by 8pm.

December – Time to relax and look back on 2020 and hope that all family and friends are healthy and we that we have made it past the pandemic!