



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

**Commissioners Note:**

In this newsletter, Final Four Series calendar, Draft Day 2021, 2021 Draft Order and game results.

All teams on time with team schedules. The playoffs have begun! SOMW listing rookie pitchers and hitters on line. Lamanna working on his projections. Can off season trading be right around the corner?

**American League Wild Card Series – Lake Wobegon vs. Louisville.**

Game 1 at Louisville. Starters: S.Strasburg(LW) and S.Bieber(LV)

In a battle of the two clubs' undoubted aces, Stephen Strasburg outduels Shane Bieber to lead the Whippets to the game one victory. Lake Wobegon's offense centered on Christian Yelich, who stroked a 2-run homer in the 1st inning, and scored the team's 3rd run after a base hit, SB, and RBI double by Nomar Mazara. Matt Chapman's HR provided the only blemish on Strasburg's 8-inning, 0 walks, 11 strikeout performance.

Whippets..... 2 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 - 3 4 1  
River Bandits... 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 - 1 7 0

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Game 2 at Louisville. Starters: K.Hendricks(LW) and N.Syndergaard(LV)

The Whippets struck early again, putting up 3 runs in the 1st and two more in the 3rd, on homers by Mazara and Francisco Lindor, intertwined with 2 stolen bases by Yelich and followup RBI singles by George Springer. Kyle Hendricks's shutout was broken up by a 2-run HR by Trey Mancini of the River Bandits the 7th, so three relievers helped finish out the game unscathed.

Whippets..... 3 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 - 7 10 1  
River Bandits... 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 - 2 4 0

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Game 3 at Lake Wobegon. Starters: J.Odorizzi(LV) and C.Green(LW)

The River Bandits offense came out roaring, knocking out Whippets Opener Chad Green and scoring six runs in the first two innings. Louisville added four more runs in the 6th to make it a laugher. Jose Altuve cranked two homers and Joc Pederson added another. Odorizzi was pulled in the 5th when the Whippets mounted a fake rally, so Reyes Moronta collected the Win for 2.1 innings of hitless relief.

River Bandits... 3 3 0 0 0 4 0 0 0 - 10 15 1  
Whippets..... 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 - 2 8 0

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Game 4 at Lake Wobegon Starters: S.Bieber(LV) and S.Strasburg(LW)

In the second matchup of staff aces, Strasburg out-dueled Bieber, but mainly because Bieber pitched into the 8th inning, where he allowed the winning run. Both aces struck out 10 opponents, but Lake Wobegon put double the number runners on base (and left double the amount of Louisville on base too). Christian Vasquez homered for Louisville, and Yelich crushed another to tie the game in the 7th.

River Bandits... 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 - 2 5 0  
Whippets..... 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 - 3 11 0

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Game 5 at Lake Wobegon Starters: N.Syndergaard(LV) and C.Green(LW)

After an unsuccessful outing to open game 3, Chad Green went out again in game 5 to try to secure a good start for a possible series-clinching game. It did not go well, as Narvaez pounded a 2-out, 2-run homer in the 1st, sending Green to another quick shower. That would be all the runs scored for the River Bandits, as five relievers shut down their usually productive lineup. The Whippets could only tally 2 runs against a quickly-pulled Syndergaard and four Louisville relievers. Yusmeiro Petit was credited with the Win after throwing 3 perfect relief innings.

River Bandits... 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 - 3 7 0

Whippets..... 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 - 2 6 0

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Game 6 at Louisville Starters: K.Hendricks(LW) and Z.Wheeler(LV)

The teams returned to the home of the River Bandits with Lake Wobegon again looking for the series clincher. The teams embarked on an Epic 12-inning affair with the game seeming in the balance on every pitch from the 7th inning onward. Louisville struck first, in the 1st inning again, with yet another 2-out, 3-run homerun -- this one by Christian Vasquez. Louisville would not score again for another 11 innings as Hendricks, Liam Hendriks, Jarlin Garcia, and Archie Bradley almost completely shut them down. Similarly, the Whippets were mostly shut down by Wheeler, Taylor Rogers, Petit, Yonny Chirinos, Moronta, John Means, and Emilio Pagan, who eventually got credited with a Win. The Whippets did manage 3 runs, but 2 were unearned after an outfield error. In the bottom of the 12th, the River Bandits pushed the winner across on a single, sacrifice, a groundout, an intentional walk, and finally a double by Danny Santana. Game 7 was upon them.

Whippets..... 0 0 0 0 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 - 3 10 0

River Bandits... 3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 - 4 8 1

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Game 7 at Louisville Starters: S.Strasburg(LW) and S.Bieber(LV)

The Staff Aces took the hill for a third time, which ensured (among other things) that the winner of the series would not have their Staff Ace until game 3 of the looming series against Milford.

Stephen Strasburg dominated for the 6 innings he had left in the tank, allowing 1 hit, no walks, and striking out six. Bieber pitched well, but not as well as his opposite number. He allowed Whippet single runs and a DP grounder and a fielder's choice while working out of jams. Mazara hit a solo shot in the 8th off of Odorizzi, and LW closed out their scoring with an unearned run in the 9th on a Mondesi error. Jarlin Garcia and Liam Hendriks closed out the 7th-9th innings, the latter allowing a hope of a 9th inning rally before striking out Canha and Santana to end it.

Whippets..... 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 - 4 8 0

River Bandits... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 - 1 3 1

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In the 4-3 Series win for Lake Wobegon, Francisco Lindor hit .438 (14 for 32) with a HR and a couple of steals, and Christian Yelich batted .360 with three homers and 4 stolen bases. But the runaway MVP of the series has to be Stephen Strasburg. The Whippets won all three of his starts, where he allowed just 13 hits and 1 walk in 21 innings, striking out 27. Trey Mancini hit .346 (9 for 26) for Louisville including 5 doubles and a homer.

“Yeah, each game was hard fought! Again, my team cannot win at home 1 -3 at home and 2 -1 on the road, said Tony Childers.

Bandits .203 BA 8 HR's 2.77 ERA Bieber 3.72 0 - 3 19.1 IP 23K's my 6 relivers allowed a run they were 3 - 0 24.2 IP 11 Hit's 1 earned run.

Whippets .230 BA 8 HR's 3.15 ERA Strasburg 1.29 21 IP 27 K's

“Congrats Jim well played and fought series,” Tony

“Tony's team fought well, nail-biting time almost every game. Whippets outscored the Bandits by 1 run total in the series, said Jim Ferguson.

Not sure about your home record Tony, but it could be since your team plays in the Oakland Coliseum, <insert sewage in the clubhouses joke here>. It just makes the visiting teams mad when you flood their dugout with poop. :)

Jim

## National League Wild Card Series – Norwich vs. Connecticut

Norwich battled Connecticut to earn the right to face the powerful Chiefs in the NLDS . . .

### Game 1 - Clayton Kershaw vs. Mike Minor

Looked to be a battle of aces for each team but Kershaw, who has historically struggled vs. CT, was knocked around again as Blue Devils opened an 8-1 lead after 3 innings led by a Freddie Freeman 3 run HR and Leury Garcia solo HR. Kershaw stayed in the game to “take one for the team” and save the bullpen innings. Navigators battled back closing the lead down to 9-6 in the 8<sup>th</sup> inning actually bringing the tying run to the plate with 2 outs with JD Davis but Ty Buttrey struck him out. Blue Devils responded with 5 runs against a very tired Kershaw in the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup> led by Brett Gardner’s Grand Slam and CT wins the opener 14-7. Minor went 6 1/3 innings for the win.

### Game 2 – Jeff Samardzja vs. Merrill Kelly

Pretty solid pitcher’s duel through 6 innings tied 3-3. Matt Olson and JD Davis hit HR’s for Norwich while Trevor Story hit one for CT. In the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Blue Devils had a runner at 2<sup>nd</sup> with 2 outs and Freeman up against Samardzja. Navigators chose to intentionally walk the high clutch Freeman to face David Freese who blasted a 3 run HR to give the Blue Devils a 6-3 lead. Logan Forsythe hit a 2 run HR in the 8<sup>th</sup> and CT finished out an 8-4 win holding serve at home. On to Norwich . . .

### Game 3 – Robbie Ray vs. Chris Paddack

Navigators were very frustrated and took it out on Robbie Ray in a game similar to Game 1. This time, Norwich pounded the ball opening a 9-0 lead after just 2 innings. Yaseil Puig and Wilmer Flores both hit 3 run HR’s and CT chained Ray to the mound to preserve the bullpen arms. Navigator bats didn’t let up as Puig hit another 2 run HR, Yan Gomes a solo HR and Franmil Reyes a 2 run single as Norwich crushed the Blue Devils 15-4. Paddack went 7 strong innings allowing just 2 earned run with 8 K’s.

### Game 4 – Mike Minor vs. Max Fried

With their ace on the mound, Blue Devils felt confident and started strong opening a 4-1 lead after 3 innings behind a 2 run HR from Nelson Cruz and RBI double from Guillermo Heredia. Minor was cruising along allowing just 2 runs heading into the 6<sup>th</sup>. Navigator bats then woke up as Yan Gomes and Brian Dozier hit solo HR’s to tie the game at 4-4. Then, with 2 outs, Byron Buxton doubles, Adam Eaton triples him in and Franmil Reyes doubles in Eaton and suddenly Norwich leads 6-4 as Minor is sent to the showers. Brian Dozier goes yard again in the 7<sup>th</sup> – a 2 run shot giving Norwich the 8-4 lead and the Navigator bullpen pitches 3 shutout, no hit innings to seal the 8-4 win and tie the series. Fried struggled a bit but picked up the win.

### Game 5 – Zach Eflin vs. Clayton Kershaw

The Blue Devil offense was drooling for another dose of Kershaw but this time, the “real” Kershaw showed up dominating the Blue Devils for 8 innings allowing just 6 hits and 1 run while striking out 8 – his only blemish a solo HR from Yadier Molina. Eflin was pretty good himself as the game was tied 1-1 heading into the 5<sup>th</sup>. But Adam Eaton touched him up for a 2 run HR in the 5<sup>th</sup> while Franmil Reyes hits a 2 run HR in the 7<sup>th</sup> off Tommy Kahnle and that is plenty as Norwich wins 5-1 and continues the trend of the home team winning every game. Back to Connecticut and the Devil Dome . . .

### Game 6 – Jeff Samardzja vs. Merrill Kelly

Rematch of Game 2 – Kelly, who had pitched well against Norwich this year, looked to save the Blue Devil season. The Blue Devil bats helped him quite a bit as they hammered out 7 hits in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning along with a huge 2 out error by Yasiel Puig and CT opened a 7-0 lead. A 2 run HR from Nelson Cruz and 2 run double from Freddie Freeman led the way. Blue Devils later get solo HR’s from Story and Cave and eventually took a 9-3 lead into the 9<sup>th</sup> inning. With 1 out, the CT bullpen walked two men in a row and Adam Frazier pinch hit a 3 run HR off Steve Cishek. Tommy Kahnle came in and promptly gave up a solo HR to Aaron Hicks and suddenly Navigators were within 2 runs at 9-7. Kahnle then induced a flyout by Amed Rosario and Adam Eaton grounded out to end the game as the Blue Devils hold on for the 9-7 win and force a game 7 as home team continues winning every game.

### Game 7 – Chris Paddack vs. Mike Minor

Minor, making his 2<sup>nd</sup> start on short rest, was solid to start allowing a solo HR to Brian Dozier in 4 innings. Paddack meanwhile retired the first 9 hitters he faced before allowing a couple baserunners in the 4<sup>th</sup> and a 2 out RBI single from

Jake Cave tied the game 1-1. Blue Devils then went to the bullpen as Minor gave them as much as he could. Rookie Stefan Crichton pitched no hit ball into the 7<sup>th</sup> inning while the Blue Devils took a 2-1 lead on a David Freese solo HR in the 6<sup>th</sup> off Paddock. In the 7<sup>th</sup>, after 2 outs, Paddock gave up a walk and a single. Aaron Bummer was brought in to face Brett Gardner. CT counters with pinch hitter Stephen Piscotty who rips a 2 run double to increase the lead to 4-1. In the 8<sup>th</sup> after 2 outs, Kahnle walks Byron Buxton and Adam Eaton follows with a 2 run HR and just like that – Navigators back within one run at 4-3. Same score into the top of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Ty Buttrey is brought in and faces pinch hitter JD Davis who grounds out in front of the plate. Steve Cishek is brought in to face Yasiel Puig but Aaron Hicks is sent up to pinch hit and flies out to RF. Rookie Jacob Webb is then brought in for the last out facing Adam Frazier who grounds out to 2<sup>nd</sup> base and the Blue Devils hold on for the 4-3 win and squeak out a Wild Card Series win as the home team wins all 7 games in the series.

Blue Devils will head on to face the long-time rival Taxachusetts Chiefs in the NLDS!

The first 6 games of the series really weren't all that interesting as most games ended with pretty big winning margins. But Game 7 was a close, exciting finish to the series.

Some stats for the series NN hit .282 CT .262 NN 5.80 ERA CT 7.20 NN out-homered CT 21-14 and outscored them 49-44

Franmil Reyes and Nelson Cruz both hit 4 HR's for the series but Reyes had the best overall numbers batting .357 with 4 HR'S and 10 RBI, so how did the Blue Devils win? Luck with the split dice. CT hit 6 of 8 ballpark HR's NN only 6 of 14 and for ball park singles CT was 4-4 while NN was 4-20.

Congratulations to Don for a heck of a finish to the year. He was pretty far out of a playoff spot well into the season but made a great run in the last block and clearly could have easily won this series as well with a roll or two.

Blue Devils were 7-5 vs. the Chiefs during the regular season . . . does that give us a glimmer of hope to possibly win the series?

### **American League Final Four Teams:**

In the American League, Jim Ferguson and his Lake Wobegon Whippets defeated the Louisville River Bandits and will now travel to the state of Connecticut to open up the ALFFS with Glen Boucher and his AL Regular Season Champions, Milford Dogfish.

\*Whippets ALWCS rotation: Strasburg-Hendricks-C.Green(opener)-Strasbury-C.Green(opener)-Hendricks-Strasburg.

**ALFFS** - Ed Griffin and his New Hampshire Hogs went to California to play Frank Simoutti and his California Dreamers.

Dreamers and Hogs played League Final 4 Series. It played out kind of like the 1960 World Series.

### **Game 1:**

Hogs..... 0 0 0 2 2 0 2 0 2 - 8 12 0

Dreamers..... 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 - 2 5 0

WP-Verlander (1-0) LP-Morton (0-1)

HR-NH, Brantley (1), CD-Votto (1), Blackmon (1)

Hogs rough up Morton for 6 runs in 6 2/3. Verlander K's 12 in 8 innings for the easy win.

### **Game 2:**

Hogs..... 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0 - 2 7 0

Dreamers..... 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 - 3 7 0

WP-Ryu (1-0) LP-Flaherty (0-1) SV-Hader(1)

HR-NH, Rendon(1), CD, Votto(2)

Dreamers get single runs on Kendrick RBI 2B (1st), a PB to score Blackmon in 3rd and a Votto HR in 5th. Hogs pull within 1 on Braun RBI 1B in 8th but Hader gets the final 4 outs for the save.

### **Game 3:**

Dreamers..... 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 - 3 10 2

Hogs..... 0 0 0 3 5 1 3 3 - 15 12 0

WP-Grienke (1-0) LP-Maeda (0-1) SV-Robles(1)

HR-CD, Blackmon(2) NH, Brantley(2), Rendon(2), Martin(1), W. Smith (1), Choo(1)  
Hogs go wild with 15 runs in innings 4-8...Choo with 5 RBI, W. Smith with 4. Greinke gives up 2 runs in 5 2/3 for the win and Robles pitches 3 innings of 1 run (unearned) for the save.

#### **Game 4:**

Dreamers..... 3 1 0 0 0 0 2 0 - 6 11 0

Hogs..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 - 1 5 1

WP-Morton (1-1) LP-Verlander(1-1) SV-Hader(2)

HR-CD, Thames(1), Iglesias(1)

Thames hits a 3-run HR off of Verlander in the 1st, and Morton pitches 7 1/3 innings of 5-hit ball for a Dreamers win.

Verlander gives up 4 runs (2 HR) in 6 innings for the loss. Hader gets last 5 outs for the save.

#### **Game 5:**

Dreamers..... 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 2 - 3 11 0

Hogs..... 0 2 8 0 0 0 0 0 - 10 11 2

WP-Flaherty(1-1) LP-B.Anderson(0-1)

HR-CD, Votto(3)

Hogs pummel Anderson for 10 runs on 8 hits in 3 innings. Flaherty goes 8 1/3 innings (3 runs 11 hits) for the win to give

Hogs a 3-2 series lead.

#### **Game 6:**

Hogs..... 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 - 1 7 1

Dreamers..... 0 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 - 3 4 0

WP-Ryu (2-0) LP-Grienke(1-1) SV-Hader(3)

HR-NH, Sogard(1), CD, Iglesias(2)

Series changes direction on 3 unearned runs in the 5th for California...Error by Goodram, RBI 2B by Albies and a 2-run

BP home run (1-2 split) by Iglesias. Greinke hard luck loser giving up only 4 hits in 8 innings. Ryu pitches 8 innings

giving up only a HR to Sogard and Hader pitches scoreless 9th for 3rd save of series.

#### **Game 7:**

Hogs..... 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 - 1 2 0

Dreamers..... 0 0 0 3 1 0 0 0 - 4 10 2

WP-Morton(2-1) LP-Verlander(1-2) SV-Hader(4)

HR-CD, Soto(1)

Charlie Morton pitches 6 1-hit innings and Dreamers get solo HR by Soto and 2-run 2B by Albies in 4th and cruise to 4-1

win to take series. Only blemish on Morton was a run resulting from a 2-base error on Inciarte and RBI 2B from Choo.

Maeda pitches 7th and 8th and Hader closes it out for 4th save.

Hogs had the better of the offense (outscored Dreamers 38-24) but Dreamers managed to win the low scoring games. The series was basically decided by 1-2 split HR draw for Iglesias in Game 6. Dreamers were lucky all season and continued into playoffs. Co-MVPs - Hyun-Jin Ryu (2-0 1.72) and Josh Hader (4 saves, 5IP, 3H, 7K).

Thanks to Ed for a great series and Dreamers now in pitching hell waiting for winner of LW and MD.

#### **National League Final Four Teams:**

In the National League, Dave Gineo and his Connecticut Blue Devils managed by Don Mattingly defeat Don Decker's Norwich Navigators and his manager, John McGraw in the NLWCS. Connecticut moves to the NLFFS and will play Bud Drapeau and his NL Regular Season Champions, Taxachusetts Chiefs, managed by Joe Carter.

In the other NLFFS Bill and Harry Nieman and the US Jarheads managed by Jeff Kent will play Bob Mendez and his Burlington Buccaneers, managed by Roberto Clemente.

#### **Final Four Series Calendar:**

The FFS rosters and rotations are due by October 18th at 8pm. With your FFS roster remember to include the MLB AB's and IP for your players. By you listing the MLB numbers it makes it easier for me and your opponent to check the FFS limits. From the MLB numbers please list the AB's and IP limits available for each of your players for the FFS.

I'll email these rosters to the opponents. At this point, no change can be made to these rosters until the next series. The series must be completed and results emailed to me by midnight 11 days from the announcement (10/29). The winning teams must email series results and the winning teams actual pitching rotation used to me by the deadline.

To the winning manager's, if you want to add some suspense, email your write up to me and I'll email it out to the league.

## **DRAFT DAY 2021 – February 21<sup>st</sup>.**

### **2021 Draft Positions:**

#### **Round One:**

1.-Atlanta 2.-Arsenal 3.-Baton Rouge (32-49), 4.-Wall Street (27-54) 5.-New England (29-52) 6.-Maine (28-53), 7.-Urpaign (38-43) 8.-Hazardville (32-49) 9.-Alpharetta 10.-Allyn Street 11.-Klee's 12-Illinois 13.-Norwich 14.-Yorktown 15.-Hotlanta 16.-Connecticut 17.-Lake Wobegon 18.-Louisville 19.-US Jarheads 20.-New Hampshire 21.-California 22.-Burlington 23.-Taxachusetts 24.-Milford.

#### **Round Two:**

1.-Atlanta 2.-Arsenal 3.-Wall Street 4.-Baton Rouge 5.-Maine 6.-New England 7.-Hazardville 8.-Urpaign 9.-Alpharetta 10.-Allyn Street 11.-Klee's 12-Illinois 13.-Norwich 14.-Yorktown 15.-Hotlanta 16.-Connecticut 17.-Lake Wobegon 18.-Louisville 19.-US Jarheads 20.-New Hampshire 21.-Burlington 22.-California 23.-Taxachusetts 24.-Milford.

**Minus Bonus Points:** None

**Year to Date:** AG 6, LW 1 ½, YA 1 ½, CT 1 ½, WS 1 ½, AA 1, AS 1, UR ½, AA ½, BR ½,

### **TRANSACTIONS:**

1. Allyn Street trades AL 2021#6 to Burlington for AS 2021#6.

## **FBN CALENDAR of EVENTS**

Oct. 15 - Playoffs are under way.

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. Hopefully, all family and friends are healthy and we that we have made it past the pandemic! (Doesn't look like we'll be past the pandemic.)