

1974



2024

FLY-BY-NIGHT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1974 by David Smith. - Commissioner Rob Bruno. Presidents - American League Ed Griffin - National League Bob Figella

American League News:

Bissell Cove put a little space between themselves and the rest of the AL. The Bluefish went 10-2 to go from a tie for first with Blue Grass to a 4-game lead. The Blues did not play any game recently as the team was traveling abroad. Yorktown fell out of 3rd place and landed in 4th as the Admirals struggled at 9-11. That gave California the opportunity to move on up. The Dreamers took advantage and they went 9-1 to move into 3rd place. Urpaign went 15-9 and put themselves solidly in 5th, six games ahead of Lake Wobegon.

Other News:

In May Yorktown traded for outfield help and added Jason Heyward. Still needing defensive help GM Merk went out and added Ramon Laureano. Laureano will join the Ads for Block 5 and should help shore up the Ads outfield defense as he's rf/lf 2 (-4), cf3. He will also be a big help against lefthanded pitching.

AMERICAN LEAGUE									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Bissel Cove Bluefish	59 - 24	.711	----	27 - 13	.675	32 - 11	.744	6/15
2	Blue Grass Blues	53 - 26	.671	4	24 - 12	.667	29 - 14	.674	6/15
3	California Dreamers	52 - 27	.658	5	27 - 13	.675	25 - 14	.641	6/15
4	Yorktown Admirals	51 - 28	.646	6	24 - 16	.600	27 - 12	.692	6/15
5	Urpaign Dragons	47 - 36	.566	12	27 - 13	.675	20 - 23	.465	6/15
6	Lake Wobegon Whippets	39 - 40	.494	18	22 - 14	.611	17 - 26	.395	6/15
7	Louisville River Bandits	39 - 44	.470	20	17 - 23	.425	22 - 21	.512	6/15
8	Belmont Street Boars	35 - 44	.443	22	17 - 19	.472	18 - 25	.419	6/15
9	Hotlanta Possums	35 - 48	.422	24	17 - 23	.425	18 - 25	.419	6/15
10	Grayson Grits	21 - 42	.333	28	13 - 13	.500	8 - 29	.216	6/1
11	Arsenal Gunners	29 - 54	.349	30	13 - 27	.325	16 - 27	.372	7/1
12	Atlanta Senators	21 - 54	.280	34	9 - 31	.225	12 - 23	.343	6/15

National League News:

Connecticut kept on winning going 10-6 this time around and saw their lead over Norwich increase by a game to 9 games. The Blue Devils are playing over .700 ball at home and also on the road. If they keep this up, they are going to be hard to catch. The Navigators did go 5-3 and they remain in 2nd place. They lead Klee's by 3 games as the Klubbers played .500 ball going 2-2. Zanti went 8-4 and remained in 4th place three games ahead of Taxachusetts. The Chiefs also went an 8-4. This allowed them to move past Hazardville for 5th place. The Powderkegs went 4-4 and sit 1 game out of the playoff picture at this time.

DEVIL DOODLES: After going 13-2 vs. the AL, Connecticut cooled off a bit getting back to NL play going 14-6 with one series left vs. Illinois. The Blue Devils now stand at 58-21 on pace for 118 wins which would be the highest amount in franchise history. (116 wins in 1995). But that's a long way to go and probably unrealistic to expect to continue this pace.

Bobby Witt Jr has been smok'in hot recently! In his last 20 games, Witt is batting .382 while blasting 12 HR's, 26 RBI and 20 Runs scored. He now leads the team in HR's with 21.

Freddie Freeman continues an MVP type season batting .352 with 25 doubles, 19 HR's 60 runs scored and 81 RBI. He is on a pace for 166 RBI's which would be a new franchise record eclipsing the 158 by Matt Williams in 1995.

The Blue Devil offense is on pace to score 996 runs which would be the most since 2001 when the team scored 1,079.

The starting pitching so far this season has been pretty amazing. The 6 starters used have combined for a 44-17 record and 3.71 ERA. Zach Eflin is leading the staff at 9-2 2.65.

Jon Gray is surprisingly the team leader in wins with 10. (10-3 3.83)

NATIONAL LEAGUE									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Connecticut Blue Devils	58 - 21	.734	----	29 - 10	.744	29 - 11	.725	6/15
2	Norwich Navigators	51 - 32	.614	9	29 - 14	.674	22 - 18	.550	6/15
3	Klee's Klubbers	46 - 33	.582	12	27 - 16	.628	19 - 17	.528	6/15
4	Zanti Misfits	40 - 31	.563	14	22 - 15	.595	18 - 16	.529	6/15
5	Taxachusetts Chiefs	43 - 40	.518	17	22 - 21	.512	21 - 19	.525	6/15
6	Hazardville Powderkegs	42 - 41	.506	18	19 - 24	.442	23 - 17	.575	6/15
7	Burlington Buccaneers	37 - 46	.446	23	24 - 19	.558	13 - 27	.325	6/15
8	Illinois Prairie Dogs	34 - 43	.442	23	20 - 23	.465	14 - 20	.412	6/15
9	Wall Street Barons	36 - 47	.434	24	18 - 25	.419	18 - 22	.450	6/15
10	US Jarheads	34 - 49	.410	26	15 - 28	.349	19 - 21	.475	6/15
11	FoggyMountain Angels	28 - 51	.354	30	17 - 26	.395	11 - 25	.306	6/15
12	Allyn Street 89ERS	28 - 51	.354	30	18 - 25	.419	10 - 26	.278	6/15

Other News:

GM Decker heard and has answer manager John McGraw's SOS as he went out and traded for closer, AJ Puk. McGraw has wanted a lefty closer to balance out his righty closer, Felix Bautista.

GM and Owner for Life Klee gave his pitching staff an early Christmas present as he went out and traded for short stop, Miguel Rojas. Rojas will tighten up the infield as he's a 1e10. He will be replacing CJ Abrams who is a 3-24.

Zanti didn't stay pact. The Misfits went and added a tough reliever in Chris Stratton. Stratton will work himself into some key games. Zanti also added catching help in Rene Pinto. Pinto should become Contreras' backup replacing Garrett Stubbs.

the Curse of the Prairie Dogs? The bubble gum card that has a remarkable record of forecasting the imminent demise of the designated player. This from Mr. Klee. "The "winner" is Alek Thomas, the former first round draft pick who hasn't been able to gain traction in the Diamondback outfield. He's played only 4 MLB games so far this year due to leg issues, hamstringing his career."



Courting Basement Bertha:

For the FBN #1 draft pick it looks like **Atlanta** at 21-54, .280 is the bridegroom for Bertha's Basement Award. At least for now. We do have a race for the number two pick overall with three maybe four teams. **Grayson** at 21-42, .333 holds the #2 spot. A newcomer is at #3, **Arsenal**. At 29-54, .349 the Gunners have moved into contention. **Allyn Street and FoggyMountain** are tied for 4th at 28-51, .354.

I don't think the Jarheads at 34-49, .410, Hotlanta 35-48, .422 or Wall Street at 36-47, .434 have poor enough teams to catch the five frontrunners. But if these teams make the right trades, they could surprise me and get right into the race.



Still looking back to 1985:

The 1985 team defense & offense had three DHs playing the field. Dave Kingman (1b4e10), Ray Knight (3b4e20) and George Foster (lf4(+2) e8). I did platoon at first with Bill Bucker (1b2e22) and at 3rd with Vance Law (3b3e18).

Up the middle I had Bob Kearney c-3(-2) e7, T1-7 and Bruce Benedict c-2(+1) e3 catching. Wally Backman 2b3e16 and Wayne Tolleson (ss4e8). In center I had Rudy Law cf3(+3) e7.

I had always played the basic game and knew a 4 fielder would kill me at short. Before the season started, I ended up trading away Mike Smithson with 257 MLB innings for a 2e31 shortstop, Houston Jimenez. Not being familiar with e-ratings all I cared about was the 2. I didn't realize how bad the e31 was. Jimenez played in 119 games. He made 10 errors and hit .129. Smithson had 38 starts, was 19-11 with a 3.19 ERA. I'd say that my first trade was a bust!

My other outfielders were Ben Oglive lf3(0)e11 and Ken Griffey Sr. rf3(+1). The team made 108 errors, not bad compared to the other teams that year. So, when we go to the ball, we did ok, the problem was getting to the ball. We gave up a lot of x-chart hits.

The team hit .245 with 223 doubles and 122 HR's. Griffey Sr. led the team batting .284. Kingman had 26HR and Vance Law had 71 RBI. The team liked to steal bases, 147 in 210 attempts, a 70% success rate. Backman had 74 in 102 attempts, a 73% success rate. In '85 we still used the old steal rules. Stealing was easier.

Today's defense I feel is better. I usually only need to play one 4 in the field, Jorge Soler at rf4(+1)e5. At all other positions I have 2's and 3's and even a 1 at short. The team has made 40 errors. That's on pace for about 82. So, what is the problem?

The **team offence**. The team is batting .213. We have scored 261 runs. That's an average of 3.3 a game. It's on pace for 535, the lowest amount of runs since we only scored 552 in 2015 when we finished 65-97.

One thing the 2024 team has in common with the '85 team is that it likes to steal bases. It has 54 steals in 62 attempts, an 87% success rate. We will need to pick up the pace to match the '85 team as we are on pace for only 110 steals. Moving Jose Ramirez to the lead off slot has improved our chances. We've stolen 13 bases in the last 16 games.

OUTLOOK: After getting swept by Taxachusetts by the total score of 28 to 7, we did bounce back to take 4 from Wall Street. We finally put together good pitching and timely hitting. Devon Williams saved both games at the Schoolyard and when the series moved to the Stockyard, he saved both of the road games. His series line was 4IP, 1H, 4K & 1BB. He now has 11 saves on the year. We have been in most of the games this season but HAL has usually found a way for us to blow it.

Who's Hot: JD Martinez now leads the team in HR's with 10 and RBI's with 36. In his 4000th at bat he hit a homerun in game 1 with Wall Street.

Who's Cold: Jose Ramirez was 0 for 16 before he singled in game two with Wall Street. Ramirez average went from .301 to .287 during the slump.

ALL-TIME TEAM RECORDS: Devin Williams with his recent 4 saves this week has tied Matt Mantei for 10th place with 49 career saves.

TRANSACTIONS:

1. Yorktown gets: Ramon Laureano. Foggy Mountain gets: YA #5.
2. Zanti trades ZM #3 & Omar Narvarez to Hotlanta for Chris Martin.
3. Hotlanta trades AJ Puk to Norwich. In return Hotlanta receives NN #4 and JP Feyerisen.
4. FoggyMountain gets Ron Marinaccio, Ryan McKenna & AT#4. Zanti gets Chris Stratton & Rene Pinto.
5. KK gets Miguel Rojas. US gets KK#3 and Andrew Velazquez

Minus Bonus: WS 2 (Roster mistake from Bk. 4.)

YTD Minus Bonus: WS 2