

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*

**July is dues month.**

AL Teams that owe: AG, AT, BG, CD, GG, HT, LW and LV.

NL Teams that owe: BB, IL, NN, US, and ZM.

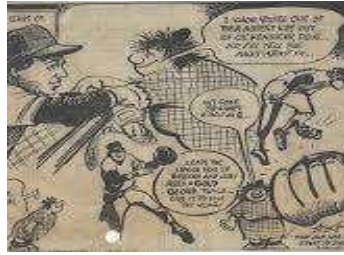
Please submit your **\$20 dues** before the end of the month. Thank you.

**American League Pennant Race:**

Bissell Cove keeps on winning going 5-3 to remain in first place. But they saw their lead of 4 games disappear as Yorktown went 12-2 to virtually tie the Bluefish for first place. "Everything seems to clicking on all cylinders," Yorktown manager Merklin said "if it could only be this easy all the time!" California went 9-5 and did reduce Bissell Cove's lead down a game but the Dreamers fell to 4<sup>th</sup> place. Blue Grass was on fire as they went 15-5 to move up a spot to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. "Fundamentals, fundamentals, fundamentals" said Mike Holbrook after the team returned from their days off. "We winning because we are following the instructions every Little Leaguer hears every day." Urapaign remained in fifth even with a 7-9 recent record. The Boars went 8-4 to pass Lake Wobegon and to put themselves just 4 games out of the playoff picture. Will the Ed be a buyer or seller going into the last two blocks when players to be named later can stay on their present teams until after the season or playoffs?

<b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b>									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Bissel Cove Bluefish	71 - 32	.689	----	34 - 18	.654	37 - 14	.725	7/15
2	Yorktown Admirals	72 - 33	.686	----	32 - 16	.667	40 - 17	.702	7/15
3	Blue Grass Blues	70 - 33	.680	1	34 - 14	.708	36 - 19	.655	7/15
4	California Dreamers	69 - 36	.657	3	36 - 16	.692	33 - 20	.623	7/15
5	Urapaign Dragons	54 - 49	.524	17	29 - 19	.604	25 - 30	.455	7/15
6	Belmont Street Boars	50 - 53	.485	21	27 - 25	.519	23 - 28	.451	7/15
7	Lake Wobegon Whippets	49 - 54	.476	22	29 - 23	.558	20 - 31	.392	7/15
8	Louisville River Bandits	46 - 55	.455	24	18 - 26	.409	28 - 29	.491	7/15
9	Hotlanta Possums	45 - 58	.437	26	22 - 30	.423	23 - 28	.451	7/15
10	Grayson Grits	27 - 56	.325	34	18 - 22	.450	9 - 34	.209	7/1
11	Arsenal Gunners	36 - 67	.350	35	18 - 34	.346	18 - 33	.353	7/15
12	Atlanta Senators	27 - 76	.262	44	11 - 37	.229	16 - 39	.291	7/15

**Other American League News:** None reported



**Basement Bertha Award Race:**

The race for Bertha’s heart and the #1 pick in the 2025 Draft I believe is down to two teams. **Atlanta** at .262 and **FoggyMountain** at .311. Grayson at .325 may have an outside chance but that’s it.

**Allyn Street** went 6-6 and officially said they are out of the running for the Basement Bertha Award.

**National League Pennant Race:**

Don Mattingly had his Connecticut Blue Devils back in fine form going 11-5 after their bump in the road reported in the last newsletter. “We’re back on the winning side because we doing the little things right,” said Mattingly. Connecticut increased its lead to 11 games over the second-place team.

The battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> place between Klees and Norwich saw another change as Klees struggled this time going 4-4 while Norwich went 10-6. This gave the Navigators a 1 game lead over the Klubbers.

Zanti remained close in 4<sup>th</sup> place with a 11-9 record. The Misfits are just 2 back of Klees. Joe Carter and the Chiefs went 5-7 and are in 5<sup>th</sup> place but Bob Figella and his Powderkegs went 4-4 and cut a game off of the Chiefs lead and are in 6<sup>th</sup> place just 2 games out of the playoff picture.

Going into the final 59 games Connecticut looks like a lock for the number 1 seed in the playoff picture. That would give the Blue Devils a first-round bye. What is very import next is second place. The second-place team gets home field advantage over the third-place team. Both Norwich and Klees do have good away records but they are much better at home. I see this see-saw battle going right down to the wire. They meet each other in series 39 at Norwich. That’s going to be big.

<b>NATIONAL LEAGUE</b>									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Connecticut Blue Devils	73 - 30	.709	----	39 - 16	.709	34 - 14	.708	7/15
2	Norwich Navigators	62 - 41	.602	11	34 - 17	.667	28 - 24	.538	7/15
3	Klee's Klubbers	61 - 44	.581	13	32 - 21	.604	29 - 23	.558	7/15
4	Zanti Misfits	59 - 44	.573	14	32 - 19	.627	27 - 25	.519	7/15
5	Taxachusetts Chiefs	54 - 49	.524	19	30 - 25	.545	24 - 24	.500	7/15
6	Hazardville Powderkegs	53 - 52	.505	21	24 - 29	.453	29 - 23	.558	7/15
7	Illinois Prairie Dogs	48 - 55	.466	25	27 - 28	.491	21 - 27	.438	7/15
8	Burlington Buccaneers	47 - 58	.448	27	28 - 25	.528	19 - 33	.365	7/15
9	US Jarheads	44 - 59	.427	29	22 - 33	.400	22 - 26	.458	7/15
10	Wall Street Barons	44 - 59	.427	29	22 - 29	.431	22 - 30	.423	7/15
11	Allyn Street 89ERS	41 - 64	.390	33	24 - 33	.421	17 - 31	.354	7/15
12	FoggyMountain Angels	32 - 71	.311	41	19 - 32	.373	13 - 39	.250	7/15

Zanti has the most to gain by moving up to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. If the Misfits can do that, they would avoid the Wild Card Series with either Taxachusetts or Hazardville.

Is the rest of the NL is out of the post-season run? Could Illinois catch lightning in a bottle and move into 5<sup>th</sup> place? The Prairie Dogs are 6 games out. Will GM Huck be buying and helping manager Al Lopez or selling to improve 2025?

### Other National League News:

Improved Report Card from the Schoolyard: After a 6-6 run the team has received a passing grade. Casey Stengel has been in a great frame of mind lately in the clubhouse, "Everybody's contributing now. Timely hitting, some slick fielding plays and good pitching when we need it. Man, what a great ride we've been on!"

We are moving into inter-league play and we will be facing 5 teams with better records than ours. The only team with a worst record is Grayson and we have to play them at Tator Field where we are 12-14. It will be the team that hits the most BPHRs that will take this series so we'll be sending Kevin Gausman<4-0>, Michael Wacha <1-3> and Martin Perez <3-3> against the Gritts. These three give up the least BPHRs on our starting staff and should give us a fair chance at Tator Field.

We also have Yorktown and Louisville on the road. Yorktown is 1 game out of first in the AL. We hope to catch them while they are in port for some R & R. At Louisville we have been fortunate over the years going 12-5. This year we started out very poorly on the road but recently we've been playing better. Can it continue?

At the Schoolyard we will be playing California, Belmont Street and Hotlanta. The Dreamers are just 3 games out of 1<sup>st</sup>. We are 39-41 against them but at home we do have a slight edge at 23-20. We'll hope that we can still hold that edge this year. The Boars are slumping this year but they are still better than us. We are 57-57 against Ed Griffin's teams over the years and at the Schoolyard we do hold a 35-22 advantage. The final team, the Possums have not enjoyed playing at the Schoolyard in the past as they are 56-70 here. They just don't understand that they must ask permission from the recess teachers to go after the ball when it goes on the girls side of the playground. If they don't ask they lose the rest of the recess time for the day. ( Real schoolyard rules of the 50's and 60's lol.)

With 59 games remaining the team needs 24 more wins to reach its goal of 63. We need to play over .400 ball to do it. I'm encouraged because we have played .455 ball during the last 44 games. HAL has been showing us some mercy on the road as our road record was 7-20 over the first three blocks. During the last two blocks we went 10-12. Of the last 59 games 33 are on the road. Will HAL continue to be nice to us? We'll have to play the games to final out.

### ALL-TIME TEAM RECORDS:

Jose Ramirez the 2<sup>nd</sup> game with FoggyMountain was his 1458<sup>th</sup> game. That allowed him to pass Jose Vizcaino for 6<sup>th</sup> All-Time. Ramirez also passed Alfonso Soriano with his 357<sup>th</sup> double placing him 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Who's Hot:

Devon Williams two more saves giving him 56 for his career. He is just 1 behind Todd Jones(7<sup>th</sup>) and 2 behind Kazuhiro Sasaki (6<sup>th</sup>) on the team's All-Time list.

### Who's Cold:

Tanner Banks 4IP, 8H, 5ER,2HR, 11.25ER.

## **TRANSACTIONS:**

1. Louisville Receives: H. Davis, Josiah Gray. Bissel Cove Receives: M. Vargas, E. Pagan.
2. Possums trade Trent Grisham to the Chiefs for BG #4 and Kyle Nelson.
3. Zanti receives Adam Duvall. Louisville Receives Elehuris Montero.

**Minus Bonus:** GG 3 (missed 7/15 leaders report.)

**YTD Minus Bonus:** GG 6, WS 2.