

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*

**Results of the IN-SEASON FA DRAFT:** A record 51 free agents were picked during the In-Season FA draft. The results are shown at the end of this newsletter.

### **History made in Burlington!**

Buccaneers pitchers, E. Rodriguez, R. Suarez, J. Leclerc and H. Harvey combined to pitch the third no-hitter in team history only to lose 1-0 on a sacrifice fly. Manager Roberto Clemente after the game "It must be a first in FBN history where you toss a no-hitter and lose the game!!!" (Yup, but not in MLB history. See\*\*\*)

Chiefs.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-	1	0	0
Buccaneers.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	2	0

\*\*\*How ironic is it that I'm reading "Play Ball" by John Feinstein when we have a no-hitter in the FBN by the losing team. This morning, I just read that in 1992 Cleveland pitcher Matt Young pitched a no hitter and lost 2-1 to Boston. It is not listed as a no-hitter because in 1991 MLB made a rule change – for a pitcher to be credited with a no-hitter his team must win the game. Young pitched the first non-no-hitter in MLB history. Lucky for the Burlington ball club the FBN does not have that rule. This no-hitter will be listed in our record books.

### **American League Pennant Race:**

Bissel Cove is unstoppable as the Bluefish went 11-5 to close up block 7. At 101-41 they have increased their lead over Yorktown to 3 games. The Admirals 98-44, kept winning to going 11-7 recently. "It's been a lot of fun out there", said Merk. "It's been a great pennant race."

Blue Grass went 6-6 and remained in 3<sup>rd</sup> place 5 games back of Yorktown. California slipped to 1-7 but stayed in 4<sup>th</sup> place. They are 5 games behind Blue Grass. Lake Wobegon turned the Whippets loose going 9-3 to move from 6<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> passing Belmont Street on the way. Belmont Street fell to 2-10 in their recent games.

### **THE PLAYOFF RACE, DOWN TO THE WIRE!**

Battling for the last playoff spot with the best chances are Lake Wobegon and Belmont Street. Lake Wobegon will only face two winning teams in their last 20 games California and Belmont Street. They also have Hotlanta, Arsenal and Atlanta. They seem to have the easiest remaining schedule. Belmont Street has the toughest remaining schedule to the playoffs as they must face Yorktown, California, Blue Grass and Lake Wobegon. The only sub .500 team they will play is Arsenal.

Now for the teams that have the most ground to make up Urpaign and Hotlanta. Urpaign has Yorktown and Bissel Cove to deal with. The 2<sup>nd</sup> division teams are Hotlanta, Grayson and Atlanta. Hotlanta does get to play three of the teams that they are chasing, California, Lake Wobegon and Urpaign. They will have to deal with Bissel Cove too. The only subpar team that they will face is Arsenal.

## Basement Bertha Award Race:

Can **FoggyMountain** catch **Atlanta**? With only 20 games remaining can FM make up the gap? The Senators have already lost 106 games. FM has dropped 99. Which team will end up with the Basement Bertha Award? Atlanta.

<b>AMERICAN LEAGUE</b>									
place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Bissel Cove Bluefish	101 - 41	.711	----	52 - 21	.712	49 - 20	.710	9/1
2	Yorktown Admirals	98 - 44	.690	3	45 - 24	.652	53 - 20	.726	9/1
3	Blue Grass Blues	93 - 49	.655	8	47 - 22	.681	46 - 27	.630	9/1
4	California Dreamers	88 - 54	.620	13	45 - 28	.616	43 - 26	.623	9/1
5	Lake Wobegon Whippets	74 - 68	.521	27	41 - 32	.562	33 - 36	.478	9/1
6	Belmont Street Boars	71 - 71	.500	30	38 - 35	.521	33 - 36	.478	9/1
7	Urpaign Dragons	68 - 74	.479	33	38 - 31	.551	30 - 43	.411	9/1
8	Hotlanta Possums	67 - 75	.472	34	34 - 39	.466	33 - 36	.478	9/1
9	Louisville River Bandits	57 - 85	.401	44	26 - 43	.377	31 - 42	.425	9/1
10	Arsenal Gunners	54 - 88	.380	47	30 - 43	.411	24 - 45	.348	9/1
11	Grayson Grits	44 - 98	.310	57	24 - 45	.348	20 - 53	.274	9/1
12	Atlanta Senators	36 - 106	.254	65	14 - 55	.200	22 - 51	.304	9/1

## National League Pennant Race:

Connecticut with a 10-6 run kept it's 12 game lead over Norwich. Norwich went 16-12 and stayed two games in front of Klee's and Zanti.

Klee's went 13-7 to tie Zanti for 3<sup>rd</sup> place as Zanti went 10-6. Both teams are just 2 back of Norwich. Klee's GM and Owner for Life went out and got a lefty reliever, Tom Cosgrove. Cosgrove has a 1.75ERA and only allowed 3 HR's in 51 innings. "We got a lights out lefty in Cosgrove", said Klee. Will that be enough?

GM Scott Hamill went out before the trade deadline and add some help to the Misfits too. He added lefthanded hitting, Pavin Smith and speedy Andrew Velazquez to help the bench. Speedy Velazquez is a 2-9/ (19-16) base stealer and a whiz at 2<sup>nd</sup> and short. He also added lefty reliever, Hoby Miner. Miner has a 1.82 ERA and 59K in 64IP.

Taxachusetts went 7-5 and leads 6<sup>th</sup> place Burlington by 7 games for the last playoff spot. Burlington went 5-7.

## THE FINAL PUSH TO THE PLAYOFFS:

Going into the last 20 games Klee's has the easiest schedule. They will face only 1 team with a winning record, Connecticut. The other 4 teams are all under .500 with the best being Illinois. Burlington is next facing two winning teams in Norwich and Zanti. The other three are under .500 with the best being USJ.

Norwich and Zanti are next as they will face 3 winning teams including each other. Norwich will see Hazardville and Allyn Street as the teams under .500 while Zanti will face Wall Street and FoggyMountain. Taxachusetts has the toughest final 20 games as the Chiefs will face both Norwich and Zanti and finish the season with Connecticut. The only teams under .500 that they will see are Hazardville and Allyn Street.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

place	Team	W - L	pct	gb	home	home pct	away	away pct	last update
1	Connecticut Blue Devils	95 - 47	.669	----	51 - 22	.699	44 - 25	.638	9/1
2	Norwich Navigators	85 - 61	.582	12	46 - 23	.667	39 - 38	.506	9/1
3	Klee's Klubbers	81 - 61	.570	14	40 - 29	.580	41 - 32	.562	9/1
4	Zanti Misfits	81 - 61	.570	14	44 - 25	.638	37 - 36	.507	9/1
5	Taxachusetts Chiefs	79 - 63	.556	16	41 - 32	.562	38 - 31	.551	9/1
6	Burlington Buccaneers	72 - 70	.507	23	37 - 32	.536	35 - 38	.479	9/1
7	Hazardville Powderkegs	69 - 73	.486	26	34 - 39	.466	35 - 34	.507	9/1
8	Illinois Prairie Dogs	68 - 74	.479	27	33 - 40	.452	35 - 34	.507	9/1
9	US Jarheads	64 - 78	.451	31	32 - 41	.438	32 - 37	.464	9/1
10	Wall Street Barons	61 - 81	.430	34	28 - 41	.406	33 - 40	.452	9/1
11	Allyn Street 89ERS	58 - 88	.397	39	31 - 46	.403	27 - 42	.391	9/1
12	FoggyMountain Angels	43 - 99	.303	52	26 - 43	.377	17 - 56	.233	9/1

**SCHOOL YARD NEWS:** After going 9-6 during inter league play and starting 2-2 in Block 7 against USJ things looked good to getting to our goal of 63 wins. "Everything seemed to click lately," Stengel said "if it could only be this easy all the time!" Well things are not that easy all the time. We fell apart going 4-12 over the next 4 series. "This was a tough stretch," said Casey Stengel, "the kind that sticks with you for a while." We did finish the block with a 2-2 split at Wall Street to end with 55 wins.

With 20 games remaining we need 8 more wins. We have Klee's (2-6), Norwich (4-4), Hazardville (2-6), Taxachusetts (2-4) and Illinois (4-4). That's a .350 winning percentage. That would give us 7 on 7 wins. The team will have to pick up the pace to get to 63 wins.

### Shocking News from the School Yard:



89ER GM George Weiss made a shocking announcement over the weekend before the in-season draft, he announced his retirement. "This came as a complete surprise to me", said Rob Bruno. "George had done a very good job for us. He built teams that won the FBN Championship in



2018 and 2021." The only other 89ER championship came in 1995 under Branch Rickey.

With the free agent draft only days away Casey and I didn't know what to do. We just were not prepared for the erupt retirement of Weiss.

## **The Hunt for a new GM:**

I decided we needed a younger man to take over the reins. Someone born in at least the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Luckily for me, when the Illinois franchise renewed its league fee it sent the payment in along with a number of 89ER players to ensure its safe arrival. Mr. Huck also sent along Gene “Stick” Michael to “keep the peace”. When Stick arrived, we started talking baseball before the news that GM Weiss was retiring. I liked what Stick had to say about our team and what he thought it would need to get back into championship shape. I talked with Casey and we agreed to ask Stick if he would take the job as interim GM.



Stick Michael agreed to be our Interim GM just before the in-season FA draft. Stick reviewed our players and the players available in the draft. His recommendations, “Stay with what you have. You have enough to finish the season and let them show you if you should re-sign them for 2025 or to cut them loose,” said Stick.

## **ALL-TIME TEAM RECORDS:**

Jose Ramirez: Hit homerun #200. It came in game 2 at WS in a 9-8 10 inning team win.

JD Martinez: Passed Albert Pujols with his 1256 hit. That moved JD to 7<sup>th</sup> on the AS All-Time list.

**Who's Hot:** Jorge Soler .341, 10R, 6D, 4HR and 10RBI.

**Who's Cold:** Rest of the team!



**89ER BREAKING NEWS:** 89ERS removed the “Interim” from Gene “Stick” Michael’s GM title. “Stick and Casey talked things over before the In-Season FA draft and they both had the same ideas for the future of the team. Play your existing players so you can evaluate them for 2025! In the teams first series with Stick watching and evaluating the players the team went out and took 3 of 4 from Norwich. “They know that they are playing for their future with the team”, said Stick. “They looked good today.”

## **TRANSACTIONS:**

1. Zanti trades it 2026 #5 & Pavin Smith to Foggy Mountain for Ryan Noda.
2. The Klubbers acquired Tom Cosgrove from Urpaign for KK#5.
3. LW gets UR #1. UR gets LW #2, LW #3, BS #5, and AT #6
4. ZM Rec. Andrew Velasquez and USJ #6. USJ Rec. GG #5 and Zack Short.
5. Zanti trades Edwin Diaz (No Card) NYM to Hotlanta for Hoby Milner

**Minus Bonus:**

**YTD Minus Bonus:** GG 6 ½, WS 2.

# 2024 TEMPORARY PLAYER DRAFT

		Round 1		Round 2				Round 3		Round 4	
		<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>	<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>			<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>	<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>
1	AT	Zavala, Seby	Kopech, Michael	Frazier, Clint J	Perez, Eury	AT		Pollock, A.J.	Carrasco, Carlos	pass	
2	FM	Duffy, Matt	Jonathan Loaisiga	Alu, Jake	Hernandez, Jonathan	FM		pass			
3	GG	Grove, Michael	Blach, Ty	Ramirez, Erasmo	Canning, Griffin	GG		Woodford, Jake	Hoeing, Bryan	Keller, Brad	Blanco, Ronel
4	AG	Marcano, Tucupita	Rocchio, Braylan	pass		AG					
5	AS	pass				AS					
6	LV	Trejo, Alan	Maurinco, Ronny	pass		LV					
7	WS	Adon, Joan	Uribe, Abner	Garcia, Luis A.	Pereira, Everson	WS		pass			
8	US	Feltner, Ryan	Chavez, Jesse	pass		US					
9	UR	Singleton, Jon	Williams, Trevor	Beaty, Matt	Houck, Tanner	UR		McKinney, Billy	Cortes, Nestor	Nevin, Tyler	Kieboom, Carter
10	HT	Mantiply, Joe	Saalfrank, Andrew	Llovera, Mauricio	Lynch, Daniel	HT		Bruihl, Justin	Winn, Keaton	Edwards Jr., Carl	Narvaez, Omar
11	HZ	pass				HZ					
12	IL	pass				IL					
13	LW	pass				LW					
14	BB	pass				BB					
15	BS	Hatch, Thomas	Hedges, Austin	Herget, Jimmy	Daza, Yonathan	BS		Hartwig, Grant	Erceg, Lucas	Schoop, Jonathan	Plesac, Zach
16	TX	pass				TX					
17	ZM	pass				ZM					
18	KK	pass				KK					
19	NN	Waldron, Matt	Manoah, Alek	Kerr, Ray	Wright, Kyle	NN		pass			
20	CD	Casali, Curt	Erik Lauer	pass		CD					
21	BG	pass				BG					
22	CT	pass				CT					
23	YA	pass				YA					
24	BC	Wynns, Austin	Grissom, Vaughn	Brazoban, Huascar	Mead, Curtis	BC		pass			

		Round 5		Round 6				Round 7		Round 8 thru 19	
		<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>	<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>			<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>	<i>picked</i>	<i>deactivated</i>
1	AT					AT					
2	FM					FM				<b>all these rounds are GG only</b>	
3	GG	Garcia, Avisail	Winker, Jesse	Peralta, David	Marte, Starling	GG		Sheets, Gavin	Gallo, Joey	Barnes, Austin	Zunino, Mike
4	AG					AG				Abreu, Albert	Stanek, Ryne
5	AS					AS				Cuas, Jose	VerHagen, Drew
6	LV					LV				Gott, Trevor	Dominguez, Seranthonny
7	WS					WS				Thompson, Mason	Schreiber, John
8	US					US				Mancini, Trey	Mendick, Danny
9	UR	Bradley Jr., Jackie	Villar, David	Ramos, Henry	Thompson, Bubba	UR		pass		Julks, Corey	Luplow, Jordan
10	HT	Underwood Jr., Duane	Wisely, Brett	pass		HT				Gonzalez, Oscar	Bauers, Jake
11	HZ					HZ				Nola, Austin	Wallach, Chad
12	IL					IL				Urena, Jose	Cueto, Johnny
13	LW					LW				Keuchel, Dallas	Carpenter, Matt
14	BB					BB				Leone, Dominic	Vientos, Mark
15	BS	Bride, Jonah	Lively, Ben	Remillard, Zach	Chafin, Andrew	BS		pass		<b>all these rounds are GG only</b>	
16	TX					TX					
17	ZM					ZM					
18	KK					KK					
19	NN					NN					
20	CD					CD					
21	BG					BG					
22	CT					CT					
23	YA					YA					
24	BC					BC					

Rnd 8  
 Rnd 9  
 Rnd 10  
 Rnd 11  
 Rnd 12  
 Rnd 13  
 Rnd 14  
 Rnd 15  
 Rnd 16  
 Rnd 17  
 Rnd 18  
 Rnd 19