

19742024

## **FLY-BY-NIGHT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

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

### **FBN EARLY POWER HOUSES:**

The first power house in the FBN was the Galactic Gladiators managed by Steve Walters. From 1975 to 1988 Steve won 9 League Pennants, 7 in the NL and 2 AL. He won 5 World Series. The second early power house was the Illinois Aces managed by Scott Ellis. Scott won 5 AL Pennants and 4 World Series, 2 as the wild card team. They combined to win 9 World Series between them during the first 13 years that they played in the FBN. Only Jeff Merklin's, West Jeff Jerks 1975, Murray Racers 1976, Carmel Buccaneers 1980 and Jupiter Hellbillies 1986 spoiled their run.

### **NOTE:**

The top 4 teams made the playoffs in 1975. The Wild Card was not a thing yet. Merklin's Jerks finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the NL just 1 game behind Galactic in 1975. Merk beat the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team Carolina Pines 3 games to 1. Galactic won its series 3 games to 1 with Tallahassee Seminoles. In the NL Championship game Merk defeated Galactic 3 games to none. Merk moved to the World Series and defeated the AL team, Montana Warriors 4 games to 1 to in the first FBN Championship. I believe Merk's mom made a championship pennant for Merk. Some how Merk loan it to someone back in 1975 or 1976 and never got it back. Merk will have to tell the story if he remembers it. 😊

### **GOAT-Greatest Of All Time:**

Glen Boucher joined the FBN in 1989 taking over the Munson's Marauders from series 10. The team ended '89 in last place 69-93. In 1990 after Glen put his stamp on the team, it wins the NL West going 94-68. Glen went on to win 5 NL Pennants and 3 World Series before leaving the league after the 2000 season. Glen returned in June 2006 when Tony Childers had to leave the league due to job and family obligations. Glen ended up in the American League on his return. He has won 5 AL Pennants. Glen now has a total of 6 World Series Championships under his belt. He became the all-time league leader in WS Championships in 2020. Glen's closest competition is active member Ed Griffin. Ed has 4 World Series Championships tying him with the old Illinois Aces team managed by Ellis.

### **POST SEASON DUE DATES:**

1. The Wild Card Series: Zanti at Norwich to be finish by Oct. 15.
2. Final Four Series will start after I have the Zanti vs Norwich results.

## The Wild Card Series:

### AL WILD CARD SERIES:

California had homefield advantage for the Wild Card Series over Lake Wobegon. The Dreamers took the series in 5 games. Shohei Ohtani was the MVP of the series as he hit .300 with 3 HR and 6 RBI and went 2-0 with 2.08 ERA.

### NL WILD CARD SERIES:

Norwich and Zanti both had a 600+ winning % at home during the regular season. It sure looked like Norwich would win this series in 7 games. But that did not happen as the Home team lost every game in the series. Zanti won the series in 7 games.

## The Final 4 Series:

The Final four series are schedule for the 16 to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

### THE TWO AL FINAL 4 SERIES:

**California will face Bissel Cove** now move into the AL Final 4 series. They have four days off. The three days off from the WCS results plus the 1 day off before the start of their Final 4 series, 4 days total. They will face Bissel Cove. Glen's Bluefish league the American League in hitting (.284) and was second in the league in ERA (3.31). Frank's Dreamers were in the middle of the AL in hitting (.254) and 4<sup>th</sup> in ERA (3.88).

Bissel Cove will be counting on Tucker (.319, 146 RBI 34HR) and Devers (.310, 137 RBI, 47HR) staying hot. Pitching will be led by Keller (18-3, 3.65) and Gilbert (18-7, 2.71). Closing will be Bednar 3-5-34.

California will counter with Ohtani .303, 121 RBI, 55HR and 11-8 on the mound. They also have Soto with 135RBI 42HR. Helping Ohtani on the mound they have Bibee 11-7, 3.55, Ohtani 11-8, 4.15, Snell 14-10, 4.48. Closing will be Neris 4-4-16.

**Yorktown will host Blue Grass** in the other AL Final 4 series. Yorktown out hit Blue Grass .274 to .268 during the season. While Blue Grass had the advantage in pitching with a league leading 3.17 ERA and Yorktown was 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 3.74 ERA.

Yorktown will be led by Rooker who hit 37 HRS and had 111 RBI. Yorktown has the top AL pitcher in wins, Burnes 21. They also have Kremer (18). Closing games will be Hader 5-5-35 who was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Fireman Award standings.

Blue Grass will be counting on hitting and speed. Bichette who hit .311 and base stealers Kim (39), McCormick (31) and Arozarena (30) need to hit and get on base. Blue Grass top pitchers with wins are Webb (20), Bradish (18) and Verlander (16). Closing will be Fairbanks 5-4-23.

### THE TWO NL FINAL 4 SERIES:

**Zanti with the WCS win travels to Connecticut** to face the Blue Devils. Zanti has one day off going into the series while Connecticut is completely rested.

Connecticut led the league NL with 229 HRS during the season. Led by Wiltt Jr. (37), Freeman and Seager (31) each. They also led the league in hitting with a .269 average. Freeman hit .335 with 62 doubles.

The Blue Devils pitching was third best in the NL at 3.56. Gray led the team in wins with 15. He was

followed by Kelly 14, Eflin 13 and Kershaw 12. Late in the season the traded for Gary Cole who went 3-1, 2.34 in 5 games with Connecticut. Cole was 5-4, 2.93 at mid-season with Grayson (the only stats that I could find or Cole.) Cole will be a force in this series.

Zanti coming of a wild, Wild Card Series beating Norwich in all four away games will try to use the best pitching staff ERA in the NL to beat Connecticut. Zanti ERA was 3.48 during the season. The staff gave up the fewest HRS in the NL. They will be put to the test against the Blue Devils. Zanti had the third best average in the NL hitting .255. They had one of the fewest HRS but they relied on doubles and speed as the hit a league leading 356 doubles and had 110 SB, 4<sup>th</sup> best in the league.

**Taxachusetts and Klee's** will face off in the other F4S. Klee's relies on timely hitting and speed. They only hit .242, 7<sup>th</sup> best but they stole a league best 195 bases. Abrams had 52 SB followed by Lowe with 32. Only 4 Klubbers did not steal a base in 2024. Dubon led the team in hitting .296. Klee's team ERA was 3.80, 5<sup>th</sup> best. They also gave up only 166 HR. Taxachusetts had the 5<sup>th</sup> best average .253. The Chiefs score 5.04 runs a game. This was helped by a league leading 264 HRS. Ozuna led the team with 63 followed by Machado 36. The pitching staff ERA 3.88 was 7<sup>th</sup> in the NL They gave up 216 HR.

## **2025 Draft Order:**

### **Round 1**

1. Atlanta. 2. Grayson. 3. Southboro. 4. Arsenal. 5. Allyn Street. 6. Louisville. 7. US Jarheads  
8. Wall Street. 9. Hazardville. 10. Illinois. 11. Urpaign. 12. Hotlanta. 13. Burlington. 14. Belmont Street  
15. Lake Wobegon. 16. Zanti. 17. Norwich. 18. Taxachusetts 19. Klee's. 20 California. 21 Connecticut  
22. Blue Grass 23. Yorktown 24. Bissel Cove.

### **Even Rounds**

1. Atlanta. 2. Southboro. 3. Arsenal. 4. Allyn Street. 5. Louisville. 6. Wall Street 7. US Jarheads  
8. Hazardville 9. Grayson (-7) 10. Illinois 11. Urpaign. 12. Hotlanta. 13. Burlington. 14. Belmont Street  
15. Lake Wobegon. 16. Zanti. 17. Norwich. 18. Taxachusetts 19. Klee's. 20 California. 21 Connecticut  
22. Blue Grass 23. Yorktown 24. Bissel Cove.

### **Odd Rounds from round 3:**

1. Atlanta 2. Southboro 3. Arsenal 4. Allyn Street 5. Louisville 6. US Jarheads 7. Wall Street  
8. Hazardville 9. Grayson (-7) 10. Illinois 11. Urpaign 12. Hotlanta 13. Burlington 14. Belmont Street  
15. Lake Wobegon. 16. Zanti. 17. Norwich. 18. Taxachusetts 19. Klee's. 20 California. 21 Connecticut  
22. Blue Grass 23. Yorktown 24. Bissel Cove.

## **TRANSACTIONS: ALL TRANSACTIONS ARE PLAYERS TO BE NAMED LATER.**

1. IL trades: BB#1, USJ #3 & Varsho to CT for CT#2, Mlodzinski, McCarthy & Pop. Illinois cuts Soroka.
2. BS trades Joey Meneses, JD Davis, Louis Varland, Andrew Chafin and Austin Hedges to AT for Yuli Gurrier and Jake Cave. AT cuts Jaime Barria, Corey Kluber and Kolten Wong.
3. Atlanta rec'ed Wilmer Flores, Adam Frazier, and Kike Hernandez. Norwich rec'ed AT#8. AT cuts Taylor Clarke, Eduardo Escobar and Colin McHugh.
4. BS trades BS#2, ZM#2, 2026 BS#2 and Anthony Rizzo for Pete Alonso.
5. CT gets: Andrew Heaney (TX), Ryan Thompson (AZ) & Pavin Smith (AZ). SP gets: US #3, CT 2026#3, Thairo Estrada (SF) & Brandon Drury (LAA).
6. UR sends Chris Flexen to Atlanta for AT 2026 #5. Atlanta cuts Brad Hand

**Final Minus Bonus:** GG 7 (6 ½ rounded up to 7)