

THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld
June 2000

NL News



We are at the halfway point of the season and all of the same teams as last month are still on top of their divisions. Glen Allen stretched its lead in the East to 10 games ahead of Racine. Ocala doubled their lead in the West to 8 games over Gem City. Ocala still has the best record in the NL with a .643 winning percentage and 54 victories followed very closely by Glen Allen with 53 wins. Stanley maintains their lead in the Central by 2 games over Bloomington and Fleetwood. Fleetwood had a big month and jumped right back into the divisional race with a 19-win month. Bloomington and Fleetwood are also tied for the lead in the Wildcard race. If the playoffs started today, Ocala, Glen Allen, Stanley, Bloomington and Fleetwood would be the participants. We will see how this changes in the second half of the season.

National League Standings

East

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Glen Allen	53	31	‘.631	
Racine	43	41	‘.512	10
Long Island	36	48	‘.429	17
Wauwatosa	33	51	‘.393	20

Central

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Stanley	50	34	‘.595	
Bloomington	48	36	‘.571	2
Fleetwood	48	36	.571	2
Columbus	40	44	‘.476	10

West

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Ocala	54	30	.643	
Gem City	46	38	‘.548	8
North Georgia	39	45	.464	15
Metropolis	19	65	.226	35

Wildcard

<u>Team</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>GB</u>
Bloomington	48	36	‘.571	
Fleetwood	48	36	.571	
Gem City	46	38	‘.548	2
Racine	43	41	‘.512	5

NL EAST

GLEN ALLEN METS 17-11

The Mets stayed out in front in the division and increased their lead to 10 games. Glen Allen has the second best record the NL with 53 wins. Only Fleetwood posted more wins than Glen Allen this month. The Mets continue to pull away from the rest of the division each month. Tatis, an All Star candidate, has led the team offensively by batting .320 with 20 homers and 75 RBI's. The pitching leader has been Todd Ritchie. He should also get some votes for the All-Star team as he leads the league in ERA at 3.00 and is tied for the lead in wins with 10.

RACINE HEAT 13-15

Racine continues to slip out of the divisional race. They do remain very competitive in the Wildcard race as the only trail by 5 games. The heat must climb over Gem City, Fleetwood and Bloomington to get there. Rookie, Chris Singleton, continues to impress as he is hitting .338 with 12 homers and 54 RBI's. Mussina and Guzman lead the team with 8 wins each. The heat must improve on their win total. Playing below .500 ball will not enable them to catch their opponents and end up in the playoffs.

LONG ISLAND TIGERS 12-16

Long Island had a productive month in May lost ground in June. A 12-win month anchored them into 3rd place in the division and maybe for the year. The Tigers new manager, Jeff Juenger, has decided that this may not be the year for the team and has put up a trade wire out to all other GM's that all players are available. Jeff has taken the first step to reshaping the team the way he would like it to look.

WAUWATOSA WIZARDS 11-17

Wauwatosa dropped further behind with 11 wins this month. The Wizards fell to 7th in the league in ERA at 4.92. They are also second last in team hitting at .250. Craig Biggio is having a fine season posting a .312 batting average with 31 steals. Biggio will definitely be getting some votes in the upcoming All-Star game. Hermanson leads the pitching staff with an impressive 4.00 ERA and 7 wins.

NL CENTRAL

STANLEY SIOUX 16-12

The Sioux maintain their 2 game ahead after June's contests. Another solid 16-win month held the lead over Bloomington but Fleetwood made a big charge. Fleetwood gained 3 games with 19 wins this month. Juan Gonzalez stayed hot again this month and raised his average from .314 to .330. He also has 31 homers (2nd) and 89 RBI's (2nd). Gonzalez is climbing into the MVP race as he single handedly is carrying the team.

BLOOMINGTON BEES 16-12

The Bees maintained pace with front running Sioux but lost ground to Fleetwood this month. The Bees fall into a tie for second place in the division. McGwire has been underachieving so far at 27 homers, 62 RBI's and a slugging percentage of .575. These are great numbers for anyone else but we have come to expect so much more from him the last couple of years. Palmeiro has been the star of the team, batting .335 (8th) with 32 homers (1st) and 95 RBI's (1st). He is a definite MVP candidate and is on a pace to knock in 185 runs.

Fleetwood Walkers 19-9

The Walkers are the talk of the league this month. They moved from 3rd place in the division to a tie with Bloomington for 2nd place. Chipper Jones homered 9 times and batted in 23 this month. Rookie of the year candidate, Konerko, has been great. He has a .320 BA with 11 homers and 51 RBI's. The Walker's traded Carl Everett this month for future help but may have made a mistake now that they have jumped in the divisional and Wildcard races. We'll have to see how they perform next month without him.

COLUMBUS BUCKEYES 15-13

Another solid month for the Buckeyes as the post 15 wins this month. This may be the toughest division in the NL or in the entire Brassball league from top to bottom. With that said, it will be hard for Columbus to gain ground and overtake anyone in the division. Another fine rookie, Ron Belliard, continues to be a leader of the team as he is batting .335. Jose Lima is gone, as he was trade to Gem City this month. A good trade for both teams, as Columbus got Parque and a 2nd round pick and Gem City added a very good arm to their rotation for the stretch run.

NL WEST

OCALA OCELOTS 15-13

Ocala put 15 more wins on the board this month and lengthened their lead to 8 games over Gem City. What was suppose to be a close race all year with Gem City has opened up a little. The Ocelots have the best record in the NL with 54 wins but Glen Allen is right behind with 53. Edgar Martinez raised his average to .360 (2nd) and leagues the league in OBP with a .462 mark. The 1-2 punch of Gardner and Stottlemyer are ranked 5 and 6 in ERA. Percival is off to a great start at 2-0 and leads the league with 24 saves.

GEM CITY WOLFPACK 11-17

The Wolfpack hit a bump in the road this month. Gem City lost 4 more games in the standings to Ocala. With a good month they could have taken advantage that the Ocelots only won 15 games. The Wolfpack struggled mightily with the NL Central this month, as did everyone else in the division. Gem City will have the services of Jose Lima this month as they hope he can right the ship. They gave up Jim Parque and a 2nd round pick to stay in the race and make the playoffs.

NORTH GEORGIA YELLOW JACKETS 13-15

The Jackets registered another 13-win month. Ocala and Gem City continue to set a fast pace and Jackets are slipping further behind. The Yellow Jackets continue to hang around the .500 mark but are now 15 games behind the leader. Jeter was 6th in hitting in May at .346 and he raised his average to .375 this month and took over the lead. Reynolds has 9 wins and 3.44 ERA. Garces leads the team with 11 saves and has added 3 wins.

METROPOLIS AVENGERS 7-21

Metropolis continues to struggle with 6 or 7 wins a month through the first half. They are looking at 37 wins projected over the coarse of the season and 125 losses. Who will the Avengers be taking with next year's first pick. They also have 3 other 1st round picks next year and 2 for 2002. A lot of great talent should be coming their way in the very near future.

2000 All-Star Game

BRASSball's 2000 All-Star Game will be played by John Zenz of Plaza. John has graciously agreed to host the All-Star game this year. The game will be played in Plaza's home park, which is Jacob's Field. John will be playing the games as soon as we get the ballots returned or around the middle of July.

I have attached in this mailing an All-Star ballot for the National Leaguers to fill out and return to me by the 8th of July. Last year I placed names, trying to select one player from every team at every position, on the ballot to help you select the starters. This year I will leave it blank and you can look at the stats and select the players on your own,

since we all have the stats on our computers for all teams. After I receive all of the NL ballots, I will then tally the votes and inform John of who is to start at each position. John will then be in charge of everything else concerning the game from selecting the line-ups to when to change pitchers. I will also send all of you an e-mail to let you know the results of the voting.

Voting for the All-Star game is mandatory by all teams. Kevin will be sending out an American League All-Star ballot also this month. The results of the game will be posted and discussed in next month's newsletter. **Go NL!**

Trades



- 1) **Fleetwood** trades Carl Everett (and pays the remaining \$1.8 million on his contract for this season) to **Florida** for D'Angelo Jimenez, Raul Ibanez and \$500,000.
- 2) **Gem City** trades Jim Parque and the Wolfpack's #2 pick in 2001 draft to **Columbus** for Jose Lima and \$3 million.
- 3) **Plaza** sends Chuck McElroy to **Metropolis** for \$50,000.
- 4) **Metropolis** pays 150,000 to **Fleetwood** for Gregg Jefferies and Jim Pittsley both paid by Fleetwood.
- 5) **Fleetwood** trades Sorrento and Reboulet to **Metropolis** for \$100,000.
- 6) **Brooklyn** trades Alex Fernandez (paid) to **Box City** for B. Boone (paid) and Box City's 6th pick.

Contract Signings

Metropolis signs Jeff Reboulet to a 1year contract, Willie Blair to a MTM contract and Wiki Gonzalez, Mike Lowell and Jeremy Giambi to MO-1 contracts.

Minnesota signs Jose Cabrera to a MO-2 contract.

Florida signs Tim Hudson to a 3-yr contract.

Ocala signs Jim Corsi and Joe Nathan to MO-1 contracts.

Glen Allen signs Davey and Venafro to MO-2 contracts.

Columbus signs R. Wolf to an (MO-2) contract and R. Simon to a MTM contract for July.

Morris signs Arnold MO-2, Ayala 1 year, Brock MO-1, Carlyle MO-2, Serafini MO-1, Agbayani MO-2, Doster MO-1, Jones Terry MO-1, Lamb David MO-1 and Gipson MTM for July.

Box City signs D. Kolb to a MO-1 contract.

Stanley signs Carlos Febles to a MO-1 contract.

Wauwatosa signs J.Washburn (MO-2), B.Howry (MO-2) and R.Ortiz (MO-2) contracts.

Fleetwood signs A.J. Burnett to an MO-1 contract, Raul Ibanez to an MO-1 contract and Danny Patterson to a MTM contract.

Around the Horn

- Σ Jack Howard has left the league due to time restraints. Lenny Luchtefeld will handle the Morris Monarch's until a new owner can be found. If Morris is on your schedule for the rest of the year please send instructions and results to Lenny. If anyone has a potential new owner that might want to join the league, please let Kevin or me know. We now have 2 openings, Milwaukee and Morris.
- Σ Rumor has it that after a few late night sessions, the top management for the North Georgia Yellow Jackets has decided to put Vinnie Castilla on the trading block. Castilla, acquired in a trade w/ Cook County this past off-season has not adjusted to playing in Turner Field, putting up very disappointing numbers, .238 with only 7 HR's and 45 RBI's. He is in the last year of an unrestricted contract and will be a free agent after this season. Tony says that if you're looking for that power hitter to assist your lineup, here he is.

Fines

Wauwatosa is fined 1 million dollars for not sending stats to their opponents and the league's statistician on time.

Upcoming Deadlines



July 8th... All-Star ballots are to be completed returned to the NL LD, Lenny Luchtefeld.

July 15th...Series results are due out to your July opponents. You must send box scores, play by play and subset stats by e-mail to your opponents. Send only the subsets files in one zip file to Dave Little and Lenny Luchtefeld.

July 15th...If you make a trade during the month of July, you must e-mail the trade to your LD for it to take effect for the next months play. July 15th is also the trading deadline between the American and National leagues. Any trade made by an American and National league team after this date will take effect for next season.

July 20th...If you wish to submit a trade wire listing, you must submit the listing to your LD by e-mail by the 20th of the month for it to be included in the following newsletter.

July 20th...If you wish to submit an article for the newsletter, you must submit the article by e-mail in a Word format to your LD by the 20th of the month for it to be posted on the web site.

July 25th...Instructions due to August opponents. Pitching rotation for August due to your LD and any players you wish to sign to contracts for next month's play.