

THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld
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NL News

Two more months or 50 games remain to see who will be playoff bound. Glen Allen extended its lead in the East to 14 games ahead of Racine and Long Island. Ocala continues to lead in the West by 9 games over Gem City. Ocala is setting the pace in the NL with 73 wins. Stanley stretched their lead from 2 games to 7 over Bloomington this month. Gem City now leads the Wilcard race over Bloomington by 1 game.

NL EAST

GLEN ALLEN METS 14-14

The Mets continue to lead the pack in the East. The Mets extended their lead to 14 games over Racine and Long Island this month. Even a 14-win month didn't keep them from the lead. Glen Allen's, Todd Ritchie was NL's starter for the All-Star game. Tatis was also voted a starter at 3rd and R. Hernandez made the roster for the pitchers.

RACINE HEAT 10-18

Racine continues to slip out of the divisional race. A bump in the road this month with only 10 wins now has them in a tie with Long Island for 2nd. Racine had no one voted as starters on the All-Star game but were represented by outfielders, Lofton and Singleton.

LONG ISLAND TIGERS 17-11

Long Island had a very productive month in July. A 17-win month moved them into a tie with Racine for 2nd. Deciding now might be the time to unload some of the talented pitching and play for the future, the Tigers traded All-Star Hoffman to Box City for 2 young pitchers and a closer.

WAUWATOSA WIZARDS 14-14

Wauwatosa kept pace with Glen Allen this month with 14 wins. It seems like 4th place is where they are to stay as Long Island had a good month and pulled away from them.

Biggio was voted in as a starter at 2nd base for the NL team and Charles Johnson was added as a reserve at catcher.

NL CENTRAL

STANLEY SIOUX 20-8

The Sioux got a big boost with 20 wins and extended their lead to 7 games over Bloomington this month. Fleetwood dropped well out of the race and is now 12 games back. Stanley had the two top vote getters in the outfield in Williams and Gonzalez. Randy Johnson also made the squad as a pitcher.

BLOOMINGTON BEES 15-13

The Bees lost ground to the front running Sioux and now stand 7 games out. The Bees are 1 game from the lead in the Wildcard race. Another couple solid months will help them to solidify their position. The Bees were represented in the All-Star game by first base starter Palmiero and reserves Ventura and P. Martinez.

Fleetwood Walkers 10-18

The Walker's traded Carl Everett last month and do you think they miss him, you bet. After a productive 19 win with him they fall to just 10 wins this month. There were rumors that Joal was trying to replace Everett by inquiring about Henry Rodriquez and Reggie Sanders but nothing came of it. Fleetwood sent Chipper Jones and D. Lowe to the All-Star game this year as reserves.

COLUMBUS BUCKEYES 14-14

Columbus comes in at 14 wins this month. If Columbus can make a big charge the final 2 months they could make run at a Wildcard spot. They are 9 games back of Bloomington at this point. The Buckeyes had 3 representatives to the All-star game, Belliard, Jordan and Lima.

NL WEST

OCALA OCELOTS 19-9

Ocala came back strong this month with 19 wins after only getting 15 last month. They extended their lead to 9 games over Gem City. The Ocelots seem destined to have the best record in the league at the end of the year and home field advantage throughout the playoffs. Edgar Martinez, Nillson and Percival were the representatives to the All-Star game this year.

GEM CITY WOLFPACK 18-10

The Wolfpack made a good recovery this month notching 18 wins. They are now 9 games behind Ocala but are leading the pack for the Wildcard race. The Wolfpack had the top vote getter at the All-Star game at catcher in I. Rodriquez. Also going the All-Star game were reserves Rivera, Bagwell and Larkin.

NORTH GEORGIA YELLOW JACKETS 15-13

The Yellow Jackets continue to hang around the .500 mark but are now 19 games behind the leader. The Jackets sensing the end is near moved Vinnie Castilla to Box City for amateur, Pat Strange and Wade Boggs. North Georgia had 2 starters to the All-Star game in Jeter and Glanville. Also attending was pitcher Shane Reynolds.

METROPOLIS AVENGERS 11-17

Metropolis had their best month yet with 11 wins. The Avengers continue to sell off assets. Fan favorite, Will Clark, was dealt with Mieske to Box City this month. Metropolis did pick up another 1st round draft pick in the deal. A couple more trades and they will have all of the first round selections for the next 2 years. Chad Ogea was lone Avenger selected as a reserve to the All-Star game.

2000 All-Star Game

American League Rallies from 4-0 Deficit to Win 8-4

Plaza - After falling behind 4-0 in the first inning on two 2 run home runs by Rafeal Palmeiro and Ivan Rodriguez off of starter Kevin Millwood, the American League All-stars score 8 unanswered runs for win.

After being shutdown by NL starter Todd Ritchie and Pedro Martinez in the first 3 innings, the AL bats finally came alive off of pitcher Jose Lima in the 4th inning. The rally started with a single by Vladimar Guerrero followed by a double by Mike Piazza. Lima then hit Shawn Green and followed that with a bases loaded walk to Jason Giambi. Roberto Hernandez then relieved Lima and gave up a RBI single to hometown hero Matt Williams and a sacrifice fly to Alex Rodriguez.

In the 5th inning, the AL tied the game at 4-4 with a solo home run by Larry Walker off of NL pitcher Derek Lowe.

The AL broke the game open in the 6th inning by scoring 4 runs to go ahead 8-4. The runs came off of losing pitcher Trevor Hoffman and Shane Reynolds. Jason Giambi led off the rally with a lead off single. Plaza's own Louis Gonzalez followed with a pinch hit double. Nomar Garciaparra hit a 2 run double to put the AL ahead for good. Garciaparra who ended 2-2 with 2 RBI's was later selected as the MVP of the All-star game. Later in the inning Manny Ramirez banged a 2 run homer off of Reynolds to put the AL ahead 8-4 and end the scoring.

After giving up four 1st inning runs the AL pitchers were awesome the rest of the way. They shut out the NL on only 3 hits over the last 8 innings. Kevin Brown picked up the win for the AL by pitching a perfect 6th inning.

The AL avenged their 4-2 loss to the NL last year in Metropolis.

Futures Games

PLAZA -- In a matchup of the next generation of Brassball superstars, the National Leaguers outslugged their American League counterparts 8-3. Supported by long home runs from future Metropolis Avengers **Josh Hamilton** and **Jack Cust**, Fleetwood's **Brad Penny** got the win. **Jon Garland**, from Morris' minor league system, was stuck with the loss.

Hamilton was named MVP of the Futures Game for his opposite field grand slam off of Cook County's **Wes Anderson**. He finished the day 2-for-4 with a pair of runs and four runs batted in.

"It was a lot of fun," said Hamilton after the game. "I was just looking for a pitch to drive, and he left a changeup up over the plate. He sure wasn't trying to leave it up there."

Anderson agreed, "It just kind of floated up there, and he crushed it. No way can I get away with that pitch to these guys."

Cust got the scoring started with a second inning blast off of AL starter **Bobby Bradley** of St. Croix. Cust's blast was listed at 435 feet and left more than one of his teammates in awe. "That guy's got a big stick. He doesn't get cheated up

there," commented Ocala slugger **Nick Johnson**.

In his next at-bat, a second Cust blast was caught on the warning track by a streaking **Terrance Long**. His third time up Cust hit a long foul ball into the upper deck before Garland took things into his own hands. After pretending to get upset at Cust, he threw a soft changeup inside that hit Cust in the thigh. Cust had a good laugh at the obvious "purpose pitch" and took his base.

"When I hit that foul ball, he said he was going to come after me, and he did. I thought it was pretty funny. We were just trying to have a good time," said Cust about the beanball.

The American League did take a brief 3-1 lead on a long home run off the bat of **JJ Davis**. The Box City slugger hammered a **Ryan Anderson** fastball deep into the left-field bleachers. "He was throwing hard and I was swinging hard. I was either hitting a bomb or striking out. I guess I won that one," said a smiling Davis after the game.

The NL avenged their 8-6 loss in last year's inaugural Futures Game held in Metropolis.

Homerun Derby

The results are in from the Home run Derby at Jacob's Field. Some of the biggest names in Brassball competed to see who the top power hitter is in 2000. As big of news as to was in the

competition, was those that were left off the All-Star teams and therefore the home run competition. Players like Griffey Jr., Sosa and McGwire received

some extra time off since they weren't invited to Jacob's Field in Plaza.

The format for this year's derby had 9 members from each of the National and American League competing in the 1st round. In the 1st round, each player hit until they made 5 "outs". An "out" was anything that wasn't a home run. The following players competed for the National League: Chipper Jones, Rafeal Palmeiro, Ivan Rodriguez, Jeff Bagwell, Juan Gonzalez, Fernando Tatis, Brian Jordan, Robin Ventura, and Bernie Williams. Representing the American League were: Albert Belle, Brian Giles, Shawn Green, Dean Palmer, Alex Rodriguez, Manny Ramirez, Mike Piazza, Vladimar Guerrero, and Jay Bell. The top 5 from each league advanced on to the 2nd round.

Chipper Jones and Jay Bell led all hitters with 6 dingers in the 1st round. Also advancing into the 2nd round were: I.Rodriguez, Bagwell, Jordan and Ventura from the National League; and

Green, A.Rodriguez, Ramirez and Guerrero from the American League. In the 2nd round, each player hit until they recorded 10 "outs" and the top 2 from each League advanced.

In the 2nd round, Vladimar Guerrero and Brian Jordan led all hitters with 4 blasts each. Also, advancing to the 3rd round were Chipper Jones and Jay Bell who were the 1st round leaders.

The top 2 hitters in the 3rd round advanced to the finals regardless of which league they were from. First up was Brian Jordan who recorded 10 outs without ever hitting a big fly. Next was Chipper Jones who was only able to hit 1 out of the park. Vladimar Guerrero hit 8 dingers to advance, and his Cook County teammate, Jay Bell, hit 4 to also advance to the finals.

In the finals, Vladimar was up first and powered out 6 longballs. Then the surprise of the derby, Jay Bell, stepped up and banged out 7 home runs to win the competition.

Trades

- 1) **Columbus** trades Henry Rodriguez to **Florida** for Jeff Nelson.
- 2) **Metropolis** trades Will Clark, Matt Mieske and Metropolis's 2001 3rd Round Pick to **Box City** for Dave Roberts, Jeff King and Box City's 2002 1st Round Pick.
- 3) **Glen Allen** trades Cal Eldred to **Columbus** for Columbus' 5th round pick.
- 4) **Box City** trades Wade Boggs and Pat Strange to **North Georgia** for Vinnie Castilla.
- 5) **Stanley** sends \$60,000 to **Columbus** for Craig Paquette .
- 6) **Box City** trades Brian Rose, Clayton Andrews (AM) and Billy Taylor to **Long Island** for Trevor Hoffman.
- 7) **Columbus** sends Bob Wickman (contract prepaid) to **Stanley** for 175,000.
- 8) **Cook County** trades Cliff Floyd, Cristian Guzman, Todd Hundley, CC#1 pick, and John Patterson to **Iowa** for Nomar Garciaparra.
- 9) **Cook County** trades Mike Munoz and CC#4 to **Glen Allen** for JD Smart and Brian Williams.

Contract Signings

- 1) **Ocala** calls up Joe Nathan to his 2nd call-up MO-2.
- 2) **Bloomington** signs Dan Wheeler and Creighton Gubanich to their first call-up contracts MO-1.
- 3) **Minnesota** signs Jose Cabrera to a 1 year contract and calls-up Jason Johnson to an MO-2 contract.
- 4) **Long Island** signs Rick Ankiel to his first call-up MO-1.
- 5) **Metropolis** signs Abraham Nunez to a MO-1 contract and Willie Blair to an MO-2.
- 6) **Columbus** signs Trace Coquillett to his first major league option month (MO-1), Randall Simon has been signed to his 3rd active month on his MTM deal and Carl Eldred has been signed to his 1st active month on his MTM deal.
- 7) **North Georgia** signs Banks to a 1-yr contract.
- 8) **Wauwatosa** signs Elarton to an MO-1, Karsay to a 1B,3, Howry to an MO-3 and Looper to an MO-3.

Fines

Metropolis is fined \$1,000,000 dollars for not sending a pitching rotation for July to the LD.

Upcoming Deadlines

Aug 15th...Series results are due out to your August 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.

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

Aug 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.

Aug 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.

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