

THE PRESSBOX

By Lenny Luchtefeld
Aug 2001

Upcoming Administrative Changes

I have been a member of this league since it's initial draft in 1995. In November 1998 I took over as Co-League Director with Kevin to help out with the administrative duties of the league. I must say, my time as an LD has been a time of learning. I have also had a lot of fun and excitement during my time. One of the benefits to the LD job is, I get a chance to communicate with all of you more often. I want to thank all of you for helping me when I asked for information and setting me straight when I made a mistake. I hope I haven't made too many. As you have already heard, there will be 2 new LD's in Brassball starting September 25th. Corey and Mark will assume the reigns of this fine league at the end of the season.

When I was in the process of talking to Kevin about the undertaking of becoming an LD, I had lots of ideas about our league converting over from paper mailings to using the web site for information and for accessing forms. Brian Budzyn, who runs the web site, and I spent many hours trying to think of ways we could make the web site work for us, make the league less expensive to run and get the information out to you sooner. I think we accomplished all of those objectives. We also made the conversion from sending paper stats through the mail to using centralized stats. Now we e-mail the information to each other and the new stats and rosters are ready for our use shortly after the 15th of each month during the season. I think the transition overall has went very smoothly. I know there were bumps along the way but we seemed to get through all of them very well.

I never realized what an undertaking it was to get all this information at the end of each month and put it into a newsletter. I have to applaud Kevin for all of his efforts to make this league run so well. I have a tough enough time just doing half of the league reports and he did them all for years by himself. Kevin has been tireless in his efforts to make this one of the best PBM leagues anywhere to be found. I believe Kevin and I have worked very well together over the past couple of years. Even though we are division rivals and it seems like one of us is in contention each year, we managed to put the league ahead of our own agenda's. I want to thank Kevin for all he has taught me and I consider it an honor to have worked with him over the past few years.

I also want to thank Mark Lentz, Corey Weisser, Dave Little, and Vaughn Nuest for all of their efforts. These guys are part of the administrative team and help make the league run smooth. Every undertaking they have been involved in has been done perfectly. Gentlemen it has been a privilege to work with you over the last few years.

I expect the transition from Kevin and me to Corey and Mark to be smooth and seamless. I look for next year and the seasons beyond to be even better. Mark and Corey

have new ideas and new energy to bring to the league. We have a solid constitution from which to work from and the league can build on it with Mark and Corey's direction. I believe that Corey and Mark already are working to streamline some of the current processes to benefit everyone.

In recent months, I have found myself with less and less time to devote to the league administrative duties. The effort I have put out lately is not what I would like it to be. I have 4 children, I work a job that takes at least 60 hours a week, drive 70 miles to and from work a day and then I have to find time to relax and enjoy this hobby that I love so much. The opportunity to make a double LD transition presented itself and I believe it is time for the league to make a complete change at the top. I know that all of you will give Corey and Mark the same respect and courtesy that you gave Kevin and me. It is time for a change. "Without change, we would never have progress".

NL Notes

Coming into the final month of the season, the teams seem to be set for the playoffs. Only the NL Central division title and which Wildcard team, Fleetwood or Columbus, will finish with a better record seems to be the only unanswered questions.

Ocala is sailing along with a 43 game lead and the best record in the NL. Ocala made a big surge this month with 25 wins. The Ocelots appear to be peaking at the right time.

Stanley stays in control of the Central and extends their lead to 5 game lead over Fleetwood. The Walkers moved back into 2nd place all alone after last month falling to 3rd. Columbus had a tough month and now find themselves looking up at 2 teams in the division. The Buckeyes and Walkers are in the playoffs at least as the Wildcard participants. It should be an interesting month in the Central division.

Glen Allen gained 4 games in the standings and now has a 7 game lead over Long Island. The Tigers moved ahead of Wauwatosa by 1 game this month. Wauwatosa falls to 8 games back and could make some noise but they have 2 teams to jump over to get there.

Trades

Ocala sells TJ Mathews to Wauwatosa for \$15,000.

Bloomington sells Alan Mills and Dan Wheeler to Wauwatosa for \$35,000

Fleetwood sells OF Raul Ibanez to Wauwatosa for \$500,000.

Box City sells Brant Brown to Wauwatosa for 10,000.

Stanley sends Kevin Barker to Racine for 20k.

Contract Signings

Bloomington signs Travis Miller (M0-2), Paul Wilson (M0-2), Geraldo Guzman (M0-1), Vicente Padilla (M0-1) and John Frascatore (M0-1) contracts.

Stanley signs Gil Meche MO-2, Julio Zuleta MO-1 and Frank Menechino MO-2

contracts.

North Georgia signs Gagne MO-3, Spencer MO-2, Stull MO-1, Canizaro MO-3, Maxwell MO-1 Josh Paul MO-1 and Valdes MO-3 to call-ups.

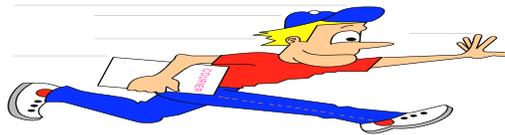
Wauwatosa signs Jarrod Wasburn, Ramon Ortiz, Chris Richard and Scott Sheldon to MO-3, Raul Ibanez MO-2 Mathews MO-1 and Brant Brown MO-1.

Long Island signs Anderson MO-1, Nicholson MO-1, Meyers MO-1 and Dehaan MO-1 contracts.

Columbus signs C. Moeller MO-1, J. Rollins MO-1, B. McMillon MO-2 and P. Valdes MO-1 contracts.

Metropolis signs Belinda, Sikorski, Branyan and Franco to MO-1 contracts and Bragg, Hubbard, Hunter and Reboulet to MTM contracts.

Upcoming Deadlines



SEPT 15:

Σ Mailing deadline for Sept. home games results to opponents, Statistician, **and BACKUP Statistician.** (Lenny)

SEPT 25:

- Σ New contracts for players with (M0)&(MM) deals due to your LD - any post-season roster cuts you wish to make due to LD - dues payment for next year due to LD - contract extensions due to LD
- Σ NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS due to your LD

Stanley Stationary August recap, amazing highlights

Stanley ND, AP

Edited version compliments of the Stanley USA Today.
Stanley, ND:

After going 20-8 against the N.L. East in July, the August schedule brought the challenge of the A.L. Central to town. The Sioux would need to play decent baseball during the month to maintain a slim division lead over Columbus and Fleetwood. About the only consolation was to know that Columbus and Fleetwood would be facing these same A.L. Central foes.

Cook County

First series on the calendar was the big challenge. Cook County came to Stanley sporting an 85-27 record. Whoa. Game 1 featured Robert Person (12-1) versus Cal Eldred. Kevin Young received a rare DH start and provided the Sioux with an early 2-0 lead with a first inning Double scoring Menechino and McGwire, with Bubba Trammell being thrown out at the plate. After a Mark McGwire home run in the 3rd made it 3-0, the Maulers pulled to within 3-2 with single runs in the 4th and 5th. Trammell redeemed his lack of speed with a 2 run HR in a 4 run 5th, giving the Sioux a 7-2 lead and helping lead to a knock out of Person. Maulers fought back with a 3 run 6th against a tiring Eldred. Tim Crabtree came in and shut down the Maulers for 3 1/3 innings earning himself a save in the Sioux 9-5 victory, and handing Person only his 2nd loss of the year.

August 2nd match-up figured to be somewhat of a pitchers duel with Kevin Brown of the Maulers going against strikeout king Randy Johnson from Stanley. The Sioux struck for 3 unearned runs in the first thanks to a Nomar Garciaparra error. Vlad Guerrero and Mike Piazza launched solo HR's in the 2nd to cut the Sioux lead to 3-2. Brown shook off a Troy Glaus error in the 2nd and escaped unscathed, but his defense just seemed to leave him shook up a bit. Moises Alou led off the Sioux 3rd to give Stanley a 4-2 lead, and then came up with the bases loaded in the 4th and WHAM, it was grand slam time for Moises. A 9-2 lead was more than enough for the Big Unit and the Sioux went on to win 9-3.

August 3rd came and the Sioux fans brought the brooms to the Tee-Pee Tomb hoping to keep the momentum going against 19-1 Pedro Martinez. Kevin Appier went to the mound for Stanley. Cook County pounced for 2 in the top of the first for their first lead of the series. Stanley suffered a blow in the bottom of the first when Mark McGwire injured himself on a check swing strikeout. The day wouldn't get any brighter for the Sioux, leaving fans to use their brooms only to clean out the stands after the game. Edgar Martinez and Carlos Delgado provided the HR pop, while Pedro pitched 7 shutout innings en route to win #20 in an 11-0 thrashing of the Sioux.

With little time for travel, the teams headed to Cook County for a 4 game set beginning on August 4th. 16 game winner Rick Helling appeared to bring about the best Sioux matchup in the series against struggling Scott Williamson. Helling was shaky in the early going, and the Maulers built a 3-1 lead after two innings. The Sioux scored 3 runs in the top of the 3rd when Williamson walked the bases loaded, and then gave up back to back singles to Bubba Trammell and Frank Menechino. Stanley had its first lead at 4-2. Helling worked around potential trouble to get the Maulers in the 3rd and 4th keeping the score 4-2. His patience was rewarded by a Bernie Williams grand slam in the top of the 5th that capped a 5 run uprising in the 5th. The Maulers couldn't recover this game and Helling was credited with his 17th win by giving up 3 ER in a 10-3 Sioux victory.

August 5th matchup featured Pat Hentgen against Chan Ho Park. Hentgen did his job and limited the Maulers to 2 runs in 5 innings, and left with a 3-2 lead. Unfortunately for him the Sioux bullpen failed in the tight contest with Felix Rodriguez giving up key hits in the 8th with two outs. With the score tied Armando Almanza came in to plunk

Griffey and give comrade Jay Buhner a shot with the bases loaded. Sioux brought in closer Alfonseca to face Buhner. Turnabout is fair play in the series when BOOM, it was grand slam time for the Maulers. Cook County wins 7-3.

August 6th would bring together the same starters from game 1, Eldred versus Person. Person seemed stunned from his 2nd loss from the previous 5 days, and allowed an early HR to McGwire to give the Sioux a 1-0 lead. 4 walks and an error later, the Maulers found themselves down 3-0 before getting to bat. Eldred brought the "A" game, and limited to Mauler offense to 1 run on 3 hits and 5 walks over 6 innings. Meanwhile Robert Person struggled with control all day, giving up 8 runs (6 earned) on 6 hits and 9 walks in 5 1/3 innings. Sioux bullpen gave up late runs but coast in to win 9-4.

August 7th brought together Randy Johnson and Kevin Brown for the 2nd time this month. Unlike Person in game 6, Brown was unfazed by his previous tough outing. The Unit brought his K's with him, but a 3 run HR by Griffey in the bottom of the 2nd put the Maulers ahead 4-0. Brown pitched shut-out ball for 7+ innings, and the Maulers cruised to a 10-1 victory on 4 HRs, including two by Griffey.

The 4-3 series win by the Sioux was a great start to the month and provided a lift for most of the month.

Iowa

A four game homestand against Iowa proved to be the low point of the home schedule in August. Iowa took the first 3 at Stanley, with the Sioux bullpen suffering defeats in game 2 & 3. A Cal Eldred shutout in game 4 prevented a Rube 4 game sweep.

The travel to Iowa proved to be what the doctor ordered. Sioux teamwork came to life with wins of 9-3, 3-1, and 6-5 in 11 innings. Mark McGwire and Bernie Williams each had two HR's in the series, with Bernie's 2nd HR coming in the top of the 11th in game 3 proving to be the deciding factor.

Sioux series win of 4-3 was hard earned against a feisty Rube squad.

Plaza

2nd place Plaza came to Stanley with the Sioux riding a 4 game winning streak. The Sioux winning wouldn't stop while the Lions were in town. Frank Menechino homered against his former teammates, Moises Alou drove in 5, but all of that wasn't enough until Rafael Palmeiro homered in the bottom of the 9th against Eddie Guardado to give Stanley a 10-9 win and a 5 game winning streak.

Lion starter David Wells and Cal Eldred faced off in game 2 at Stanley. Runs came early, but not often and not later. Steve Finley drew a bases loaded walk in top of the first to give Plaza a 1-0 lead. That lead wouldn't survive the inning as Palmeiro homered in the bottom of the first to make it 1-1. After a scoreless second, the Sioux scored their last runs of the game on a McGwire sacrifice fly and a Palmeiro single. That would prove to be it for the scoring. Stanley won 3-1 to extend its winning streak to 6.

Game 3 of the series brought a near capacity crowd of 46,400 out to Stanley (population 1,900), to see Woody Williams of Plaza square off against Randy Johnson and the red hot Sioux. Mark McGwire has been becoming a fan favorite and he didn't disappoint. He homered in the bottom of the first to give Stanley a 2-0 lead. Plaza rallied with 1 in the 2nd, and 2 unearned in the 4th to give the Lions a brief 3-2 lead. Woody Williams and the Lion bullpen would give up at least one run in each of the next 5 innings. The Sioux bullpen gave up 4 in the 9th, but it would still be a win for the home team by a score of 12-7.

The bus trip to Plaza (population 200) brought the crowds with, but the Sioux arms finally tired a bit. Plaza took game 4 by a score of 5-3. The Lions knocked out Helling with 8 runs in the first two innings and went on to cruise 18-7 in game 5. Game 6 went to Plaza 7-5, with Felix Rodriguez blowing a Pat Hentgen win for the 2nd time of the month. Said Hentgen "Mistakes will happen, but really I do like Felix's card better than mine".

With the season series now tied 3-3, Randy Johnson worked on 3 days rest to see if he could avoid a road sweep. And avoid it he did. 7 shutout innings of 4 hit ball allowed Stanley to build a 6-0 lead before the bullpen gave up 2 late in the game. The 6-2 victory came at the expense of Tom Glavine. Glavine gave up 11 hits (10 singles, 1 double) in 4 1/3 innings to take the loss. Stanley's A.L. Central series victories continued with the 4-3 series over the Lions.

Box City

The Sioux returned home to face the last place, yet feisty Parcelmen. Game 1 was a tight 6-5 affair with the Sioux winning off the Parcelmen bullpen. Tim Crabtree won in relief, while Lou Pote picked up the loss. Jermaine Dye was the offensive star going 4 for 4 with a HR and 2 RBI.

Game 2 brought deja vu all over again. Sioux win 6-5, this time in the bottom of the 9th. Tim Crabtree wins, Lou Pote loses, Dye goes 3 for 5 but the key hit was a bases loaded single by Darrin Lewis in the 9th.

Game 3 featured a pair of favorite pitchers in Sioux country. John Halama versus Rick Helling. Halama appeared nervous early on, allowing consecutive doubles to Neifi Perez and Darrin Lewis prior to a Mark McGwire 2 run HR. At the end of the first it was 4-0 Sioux. Rick Helling brought his good stuff to the park, allowing only 1 run on two hits over 7 innings for the win by a score of 4-2.

Game 4 featured tough luck of the month pitcher Pat Hentgen. Hentgen allowed 0 runs in 5 1/3 innings and left with a scant 1-0 lead. Sioux bullpen failed (Felix Rodriguez with at least his 3rd blown save of the month) in the 8th giving up a walk, HPB, and then 3 singles with 2 outs in the top of the 8th. Ricky Bones picked up the win in relief for the Parcelmen.

After returning to Box City, Lou Pote vowed not to lose again this month. Pote pitched 3 1/3 shutout relief innings to pick up the win against Sioux ace Randy Johnson by a score of 4-2. Parcelmen led by Chad Kreuter 2 for 4 with a 2 run HR.

Sioux bats woke up in game 6, pounding out 20 hits for a 13-4 win. Cal Eldred was the winning pitcher, with Omar Oliveras suffering the loss. Neifi Perez provided strong support from the 8 hole, going 5-5 with 6 RBI's (missing the cycle without the HR).

The road bats continued strong into the last day and game of August. Kevin Appier spotted the Parcelmen to a 5-1 lead, but Terry Mulholland couldn't hold it as Stanley erupted for 14 more runs in the series finale. Final score 14-5. Jermaine Dye homered in a 4 for 6, 4 RBI effort.

Sioux finished the month with a 5-2 series win against Box City.

Recap of the month provides hope for optimistic Sioux fans.

4-3 versus Cook County

4-3 versus Iowa

4-3 versus Plaza

5-2 versus Box City

METS WIN ON THE ROAD!

The Glen Allen Mets finally had a successful month away from The Yard. They lost all three in Ocala against the division leading Ocelots at 95-45 the best team in the National League, but won ten of eleven from the rest of the N.L. Central. At home the results were not as favorable only 6-8 and they only could beat the Avengers one time. Manager Jim Clark explained, "I had to be careful and rest guys like Colbrunn and Bautista which allowed for their success on the road. Our catchers continue to play great, Fordyce and Flaherty have been the dynamic duo! They have combined for .299, 75 R, 18 2B, 21 Hr 86 RBI, and only 2 errors, sounds like an All-Star if it came out of one man. I kind of hoped for the same thing from third base, but Tatis and Ripken have been riddled with nagging injuries and streakiness so they have not combined for the production we had expected. It is nice to see Eric Karros almost as hot as the weather, forcing Ryan (Klesko) to play some outfield, or rest Greg (Colbrunn) to play DH. Eric now is the team's homerun leader, second in RBI and batting .293; very nice stats after a slow start this spring. Omar Vizquel's hitting stats are way down, but only 3 errors in 140 games, playing every inning of each game are remarkable. I can not count how many highlight plays he has showed us, and those double plays certainly help the guys on the hill. His partners at second base Velarde and Jackson also have disappointing stats compared to last season. On a brighter note Matt Lawton remains our rock in the outfield! He is the team leader in hits with 154, 47 2B, 94 runs, Stolen bases 27/32, only 1 error, 95 walks and .426 OBP has been superb at the top of our order. Trot Nixon and Melvin Mora were not the answer in centerfield so last month I let Danny Bautista play and he raised his average to .295 scored 14 runs, had 23 hits, 8 2B, 1 3B, 4 Hr 14 RBI in 20 games. Marquis Grissom has been solid against LHP but not RHP so this month Daryl Hamilton will come up to help out Vs RHP. We have 22 games in the regular season and a lead in first place, so we need to keep everyone healthy and happy as we head toward the playoffs."

Pitching Coach Jimmy Key was asked about the final month for his staff. With a broad smile he responded, "So glad it's September and the rosters are expanded! Our starters are showing

signs of fatigue from the long season and since we are seven games up in our division we can only hope that there will be no rest for a while. Zito did a fine job and would have been incredible if his control were better. We will see Barry for a full season next year, but for now with the pennant race we are going to the veterans. Chuck Nagy, Scott Erickson and Mark Gardner will rejoin Eric Milton, Todd Ritchie and Steve Trachsel in the rotation. The bullpen will be loaded for Coach John Stearns to juggle to keep everybody ready yet fresh. Last month was a headache trying to win, but not wearing out guys, so we have a little room to breath this month and tune up for the playoffs. Bob Wickman the closer with 31 saves, primary set up men Wayne Gomes and Felix Heredia have done a fine job. Lance Painter has been surprising and is trying to make the post season roster after spending most of the year in the minors. We may not have the big names that some other teams posses but anything is possible in a shot series."

This Mets team does not have the numbers of the team that went to the World Series last season, but they expect to win their second National League East Title and 'roll the dice' for the playoffs.