



## League News September 2002

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### Matchup of the Month



VERSUS



Georgia	Tale of the Tape 2002 Stats	Hessville
.295	Batting Average	.289
.835	OPS	.840
3.85	ERA	4.41
25-13	Record in One Run Games	26-18
86-76	Record	87-75

Our *Matchup* feature ends with two very fine teams, Georgia and Hessville. Hitting wise these teams are quite close. The Braves sport the second best ERA in the AL and that may be the advantage they need to take this critical series. Of note also are the two teams' record in contests decided by one run. Hessville has the second most wins in all of BRASSball in this category while Georgia is third. With the teams so close and fighting to secure their playoff position this may be an important factor as well.

The series started off in Georgia with Shane Reynolds of Hessville opposing Freddy Garcia. For the season Reynolds has been the 'Ready ace while Freddy has struggled for the Braves. In the first inning Hessville got off to a good start. Jay Bell led off and reached when Jose Hernandez kicked one away. Garcia then whiffed the next two batters to settle down. Batting fourth was slugger Larry Walker. Walker, fooled by a pitch, nubbed one down to Fryman at third who charging in to make the play. Fryman fielded the ball cleanly, but threw wide to first and pulled Derrek Lee off the bag. Runners stood at first and second. Terrence Long followed with a long double to center. This time Andruw Jones fumbled the ball and allowed both runners to score easily. Three errors had the Braves down 2-0 already. In the second a two-out single from Fryman got back one of the runs he had errantly put on in the first. But in the top of the third Terrence Long doubled again to get the run back for Hessville. In the bottom of the fourth the Braves fought back and tied the game at three with a run scoring single from Jeff Liefer and a sac fly from Andruw. In the bottom of the fourth the Braves rolled out the offense.

With none on and two out the Braves stroked four consecutive hits to score three runs and take a 6-3 lead in game one. Vina's two-run double was the big knock. Garcia now had a comfortable lead to work with. It would not last. In the top of the sixth the Everreadys rang up five runs to drive Garcia from the game and give them the victory. Six of the first seven batters recorded a hit. Garcia was chased after the third hit of the inning. Jason Giambi's single scored the seventh run to give Hessville the lead for good.

In game two the Everreadys sent out wily veteran Paul Byrd. Cy Young candidate Tim Hudson took the ball for the Braves. This one was not much of a contest. Hudson would not get past the second inning in this one. Larry Walker reached Hudson first when he rocked a three-run homer off the Brave starter in the first. Jay Bell's two-run blast in the second sent Huddy to the showers early and left his teammates down 6-0. The Braves would score twice to make the final score 6-2.

Game four was a fine scheduled matchup between Aaron Sele and Russ Ortiz. Both pitchers have had solid 2002 seasons. For the first four innings pitching was supreme as neither team could muster a run. In the top of the fifth Ortiz got the first two batters quickly. Jay Bell stepped in and worked a walk. Jose Vidro followed with a single to put runners on the corners. Jason Giambi then walked to load the bases for Larry Walker. Clearly feeling he was getting squeezed, Ortiz glared in at the home plate umpire. This did not help Ortiz' cause as he then saw himself miss a couple more close calls. Walker gladly took the walk and easy rbi. Now fuming Russ Ortiz fired his first pitch to new batter Edgar Martinez. A.J. Pierzynski was unable to stop the fifty eight footer from bounding away from him. A.J. caught up with the pitch at the on deck circle, but it was too late- the runners moved up 90 feet and the 'Readys had their second easy run of the inning. Edgar then proceeded to rap a base hit over the outstretched glove of Fernando Vina to get the third run of the inning in. Terrence Long followed with a ground out and with that Russ Ortiz stomped to the dugout to toss his glove in disgust at a water cooler. In the bottom of inning seven the Braves mounted a rally. The first three hitters reached via singles. That was enough for Sele who yielded to Mike Buddie. Buddie's first batter was Fernando Vina and he drilled him to load the bases. Rondell White then coaxed a walk from Buddie to bring in run number two for the Braves. Buddie finally settled in to whiff Dmitri Young. Derrek Lee screamed a liner to Alex Gonzalez to short that almost was a double play. Andruw Jones then rolled out and the Braves' rally was snuffed. An insurance run in the ninth gave Hessville a 5-2 lead and its third win in the series.

Game four had Tom Glavine opposing Wade Miller in another intriguing mound matchup. On paper, this figured to be a pitcher's duel, but as we all know, baseball is a funny game. Wade Miller was rocked like Tim Hudson was in his start. This time Miller wouldn't get past the third. Jay Bell led off the contest with a homer. Then in the second Bell delivered some more runs with a two-run single. Edgar Martinez had a two run blast of his own in the third inning. After batting in the third the 'Readys were up 7-0 and looking for the sweep in Georgia! Little Pokey Reese did bring two runs back for the Braves with a fence clearing blast. But in the top of the fourth Courtney Duncan was no better for Georgia. He walked in a run and then yielded a two-run single to Charles Johnson. After the top of the fourth Hessville was now up 10-2. In the bottom of the frame the stubborn Braves got two back again with a hit batter and a sac fly of all things driving in the runs. It was now 10-4. In the top of the sixth the Everreadys put this one to bed when catcher Johnson drove in some more runs, this time with a long three-run homer. The final score would end up 13-9, but Hessville wasn't really threatened in the end. A sweep in Georgia had Hessville all but secured of home field for the wild card game.

The first game in Hessville was not a glamour matchup but it would be the best pitching so far in the series. Frank Castillo was off to start for the good guys while Sidney Ponson took the ball for the visitors. An early 1-0 lead was established with Andruw Jones' two out, first inning double that plated Mike Cameron. Ponson experienced his first rough spot in the fourth. Larry Walker rapped a one out single and promptly stole second. Jason Giambi followed and delivered an rbi single to tie the game at 1-1. Castillo settled down on the mound and he kept the Braves at bay through five innings. In the top

of the sixth Frank got a little wild and walked two consecutive batters after the first two outs of the inning were recorded. David Bell took advantage and drove a sharp single to center to score Paul O'Neill for a 2-1 lead. The score remained in Georgia's favor till the bottom of the ninth. Ace Brave closer, Keith Foulke, was brought on to finish this one out. Scheduled to bat were Surhoff, Vidro and then Alex Gonzalez. BJ and Jose went down quietly on flyballs. Gonzalez, however, was called back to the dugout. Out stepped Mark McGwire to pinch hit. The all-time BRASSball home run leader was obviously dangerous in this situation. Big Mac worked himself to a favorable 3-1 count. With the next pitch Foulke tried to fool the red-headed bomber with his patented changeup, hoping to catch Mac sitting on a fastball. Mac picked up the change and hung back. "Boom!" The pitch was reversed and sent majestically to the centerfield bleachers. The game was now tied 2-2. After that the Braves were dejected and did nothing with the bat and went 1-2-3 in the top of innings 10 and 11. In the bottom of the eleventh the 'Readys won when Andruw Jones dropped a flyball that allowed Terrence Long to score from second after he had doubled.

In game six a return engagement of the game 1 starters took place with Garcia once again facing off versus Reynolds. The first two innings were quiet, but then in the top of the third the Braves busted out for five runs. The big blows of the inning were two two-run homers, one from Paul O'Neill and the other from David Bell. In the bottom of the same frame the Everreadys were able to get three of the runs back thanks to five hitters that reached safely. In the top of inning four the Braves were able to extend the lead out to 7-3 when Paul O'Neill connected for his second two-run blast of the game. But in the bottom of the frame Hessville once again was able to respond. This time six hitters reached safely to generate four runs to tie the game at 7-7. In innings three and four Freddy Garcia had no one to blame but himself. Of the 11 Hessville hitters who reached base during those two innings, five came on free passes issued by him. But in the top of the eighth the Braves finally broke through in the series. Rookie A.J. Pierzynski drilled a single to give the Braves the lead. Derrek Lee's three run dinger in the top of the ninth was insurance and the Braves went on to win 12-7.

The finale was Sele versus Hudson once again. Hessville got things going early in the first and scored all the runs they would need in this one. Three runs came across in that inning, highlighted by Larry Walker's two-run double that was drilled to the gap. Sele sparkled on the mound as he was able to get into the eighth. He scattered nine hits, walked only one and whiffed six. In the top of the eighth the Braves tried to rally and Jay Bell's two-out miscue did get the score to 3-2. But Josias Manzanillo got the next hitter and turned the game over to Flash Gordon in the ninth to finish a very impressive series for the Everreadys.

In the end this series was important. Hessville finished the season five games ahead of Georgia. That difference came in this series. Hessville won both of the one-run contests. The Everreadys simply had the more productive offense for seven games. With this edge Hessville can now prepare for its wild card matchup versus the very same Braves.

## AL Notes

The Moline Cutters finished out the 2002 regular season with the best record in the AL. Scott Brosius hit a robust .412 in September to raise his average to .297 on the year. Bret Boone finished off a marvelous regular season by launching 7 more homers to finish with 38 on the year. Barry Bonds walked 19 more times in the month to finish with 185 on the season. He also grabbed the AL homer title with 58. Luis Gonzalez drove in 24 teammates in September to lead the Cutters. Torii Hunter hit only .231 in September while Ellis Burks finished with an awful month hitting only .139. Curt

<b>AL East Standings</b>		
Moline	112-50	--
Hessville	101-61	11
Georgia	96-66	16
Minnesota	88-74	24

Schilling started only one game in September, but managed to go 10 plus innings and whiff 15 batters in it. Chan Ho Park was 2-1 with a 1.99 earnie in September. Greg Maddux has slumped headed into the playoffs as he went 1-4 in his season ending starts. Miguel Batista was a perfect 4-0 in September. Arthur Rhodes was perfect in 7 relief innings and struck out 12 batters.

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**AL WINS: SCHILLING, MOL...26**, Clemens, CC...21, Morris, MIN...19, Hudson, GEO...19

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Fans in Hessville had a wonderful September. Their Everreadys not only won a franchise best 101 games they also will be returning to the post-season for the first time since 1995 when their squad won the AL East. This time they go as the wild card, but that don't matter to them. The team gutted out a 13-9 month some how. They hit their worst (.248) and pitched their worst also (6.10 ERA). Larry Walker was big in the month as he hit .415 and led the 'Readys with 18 ribbies. Larry now holds a batting crown as he finished the season hitting .364. Edgar Martinez had another fine month at the plate as he hit .386. Mark McGwire had 7 hits in September, 5 were launched as souvenirs. Jason Giambi hit only .247 for the month but still got on base at a .402 clip. Terrence Long stroked 9 two-baggers despite a .225 average. On the mound only Aaron Sele survived as he went 4-1 and finished the season with an 18-9 mark. All other starters, except Paul Byrd in one start, registered ERA's over seven. Tom Gordon saved 10 games in 10 appearances. Jim may have to literally slug his way through the post-season competition.

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**AL SLUGGING: Bonds, MOL....745, WALKER, HES....650**, Guerrero, CC....649, Sheffield, CC....635

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Georgia Brave followers also got to celebrate a post-season berth in September. Their 9-13 month wasn't great but it does get the Braves to October play for the first time in franchise history. Dmitri Young hit .360 for the month. Derrek Lee hit only .266 in Spetember but still finished with a .334 average and 46 doubles. Bubba Trammell and Paul O'Neill each had 4 homers in the month to lead the Braves. Andruw Jones, who was on fire since his trade from Minnesota, slumped with a .167 September and made three rare errors. On the mound the pen carried the Braves in the final month. Russ Ortiz was the only stable starter down the stretch with his 3.33 ERA. Hudson, Miller and Ortiz all won 17+ games. Freddy Garcia remarkably lost 16 games for the Braves. Keith Foulke finished with 38 saves.

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**AL WHIFFS: HERNANDEZ, GEO...182**, Sexson, TOL...179, **CAMERON, GEO...168**, Cruz, IOWA...162

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An 8-14 September from the Mudcats clinched their fall from first to last. The Mudcats did finish well over .500, a rarity for a last place club. A-Rod paced the club in September as he hit .310, scored 21 runs, smacked 7 homers and drove in 18. John Vander Wal hit 4 homers and had 14 ribbies. Ray Lankford rapped out 8 doubles. Despite a .206 September Todd Walker finished at .292 with 38 doubles for a fine season. Late pickup Kerry Wood struck out 60 in 45 innings. Matt Morris went 2-0 to finish at 19-4. Trevor Hoffman was disappointing in the closer role for the Mudcats as he had a 4.98 ERA for the year. Pitching overall in September was poor for the Mudcats. Call-up Josh Fogg took it on the chin as he went 0-3 in 9 relief appearances.

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**AL HR/9 IP: MORRIS, MIN...0.61**, Adams, CC...0.67, Ortiz, GEO...0.71, Estes, HES...0.77

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The Maulers had the best September in the AL as they went 16-6. September was huge for two Maulers in particular: Jeff Bagwell and Rich Aurilia. Bagwell hit .446 with 7 homers and 24 ribbies. Rich Aurilia, on his way to serious MVP consideration, hit .405 with 10 dingers and 26 ribbies. Gary Sheffield hit .366 with 6 homers.

**AL Central Standings**

Cook County	106-56	--
Iowa	86-76	20
Box City	57-105	49
Plaza	52-110	54

Troy Glaus smacked 8 September homers. Heck the team hit 66 homers for the month! That's 3 per game! Vlad Guerrero sort of struggled. He hit only .224 but 13 of his 19 hits were of the extra base variety that allowed him to drive in 18. Pedro Martinez sharpened up for the post-season as he went 3-0 with a 1.32 ERA. Roger Clemens' 4-1 September got him to 21-9 on the year. Late pickup Scott Sullivan threw 20 solid innings in relief. Terry Adams hopes to continue his magical season (17-4, 3.59) in the playoffs. All in all, the Maulers are peaking just at the right time. They will await the victor of the Hessville/Georgia series.

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**AL HITS: AURILIA, CC...229**, Boone, MOL...211, Ordonez, IOWA...206, **GUERRERO, CC...199**

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A so-so 10-12 finish for the Rubes gave them a nice 2002 season. Mags Ordonez capped a fine season by hitting .357 with 11 doubles in the final month. His 22 ribbies enabled him to capture the league RBI title. Tony Clark hit .342 with 5 dingers. Cristian Guzman hit .354 with 5 steals. Cliff Floyd hit .320 with 16 extra base hits. Jose Cruz had an impressive season as he finished with 45 doubles, 37 homers and 113 ribbies. The Rubes led the AL with 240 steals. Mark McLemore had 48 and Eric Young 45 of them. Danys Baez was 3-1 in 10 relief appearances. Tanyon Sturtze was 2-1 with a 3.38 ERA in September. Jose Mercedes stumbled with a 1-2, 6.86 month but led the Rubes for the season with 14 victories. Rubes recorded only one September save.

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**AL RBIS: ORDONEZ, IOWA...156**, Gonzalez, MOL...147, Aurilia, CC...146, Guerrero, CC...134

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Lenny's Parcelmen finished their second straight rebuilding year with an 8-14 September. Chris Gomez hit .361 for the month. Youngster Jay Gibbons came up and pounded 7 homers while also driving in 17. Miguel Tejada just missed out on 100 ribbies (95) but his other numbers were good: 273 average and 32 homers. Steve Cox produced 18 September ribbies with the aid of 8 doubles. The Boxmen had a woeful 7.97 ERA in September. Youngsters Ryan Jensen (7.04) and Danny Wright (10.72) took their lumps. For the year Esteban Loaiza led the staff with 10 wins.

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**AL BB/9 IP: Maddux, MOL...1.39**, Lima, PLZ...1.64, **LOAIZA, BOX...1.66**, Schilling, MOL...1.83

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The Lions of Plaza came through with a pretty decent September as they went 10-12. Angel Echevarria hit .367 for the month. Luis Castillo had his best month. His .297 September got him up to .250 for the season. Little Luis also stole 12 bases. Adam Dunn led the club in September with 5 homers and 15 ribbies despite a .198 average. On the mound Rod Beck didn't allow a run on his way to 6 saves. Pitching wasn't great for the Lions but Jake Westbrook did pick up 2 wins in his 3 September starts.

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**AL TRIPLES: Guzman, IOWA...15**, **CASTILLO, PLZ...13**, Gonzalez, MOL...12

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The Mudhens held on to finish 82-80 and capture their second straight division crown. Mike Lamb stepped in for the recently traded Mike Lowell to hit .475 in September. Damian Rolls had a fine month as he hit .351, with 7 doubles and 9 swipes. Matt Lawton tied for the club lead in homers (4) and ribbies (11) and led with steals (13). Richie Sexson was down in September as he hit only .188. For the year Richie hit .268 and clubbed 34 homers. Any playoff success the Mudhens have will most likely come because of Richie. Jeromy Burnitz' .169 in September dropped him to .233 for the season. He did hit 30 homers. Surprisingly, the Mudhens had a solid 3.32 ERA despite the jettisoning of former ace Kerry Wood. Cal Maduro had a 1.54 ERA in 4 starts but could only pick up one win. Woody Williams came over from Brooklyn and had a 4-2

<b>AL West Standings</b>		
Toledo	82-80	--
Brooklyn	77-85	5
La Crosse	74-88	8
S. Barbara	57-105	25

September mark. Jeff Suppan had a 2-1 record with a 2.86 ERA in September. At 13-10, Suppan will have to be the ace for the Mudhens as they face the Cutters.

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**AL STEALS: TYNER, TOL...56**, Pierre, BRO...53, Castillo, PLZ...49, McLemore, IOWA...48

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The Bulldogs had a solid 13-9 September to finish in second place. Wilton Guerrero hit .400 for the month. Tino Martinez hit .354 and led Brooklyn with 4 homers and 15 ribbies. Roberto Alomar had a tough finish (.239) but he had an excellent season that saw him hit .309, 22 dingers and score 99 runs. Phil Nevin finished with 31 dingers and 93 ribbies. Rook Juan Pierre picked up 10 steals in the month. Bulldogs compiled a 3.52 ERA in September. Ryan Dempster was 2-2 with a 2.13 ERA. David Wells was 2-1. Kevin Appier went 3-1 to finish with a 14-10 record. Steve Woodard did not enjoy his callup as he had a 7.20 ERA in 5 September appearances.

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**AL SAVES: Gordon, HES...52**, Zimmerman, MOL...42, Foulke, GEO...38, **SASAKI, BRO...36**

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The Lagers finished out the year with a respectable 12-10 September. Ben Grieve hit .364 in the final month and got on base at a .507 clip. Mike Sweeney hit .326 down the stretch to raise his average to .298. His 10 September doubles left him one shy of 50. Manny Ramirez clubbed out 8 homers and drove in 17 to lead the Lagers in both categories for the month. Eric Chavez played somewhat sparingly for the Lagers in September. I'm not sure that helps Lager management in off-season negotiations with their star third sacker. Ricky Gutierrez finished in the top 10 in batting with his .326 average. Willis Roberts was 2-2 in September as he swung between starting and the pen. Scott Strickland registered 7 more saves during the month to finish with a solid 32 save season. James Baldwin was the only Lager starter to win 10 contests (10-7).

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**AL DOUBLES: Guerrero, CC...52**, **SWEENEY, LAC...49**, Bagwell, CC...48, Young, PLZ...48

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Santa Barbara's 9-13 September puts a cap on a long year for the usually successful Outlaws. Like all teams in the division this month they were able to post a sub-four ERA (3.82), indicating that runs were at a premium in the AL West contests. Rob Fick hit .338 in September to finish with a nice season: .279 average with 21 homers in 398 at bats. Garrett Anderson led the Outlaws with homers (7) and ribbies (19) for the month. Like Fick, Garrett also had a very nice 2002 campaign: .301-33-119. Raul Mondesi's slide continued as he hit .210 for the month and finished at .241. Roy Halladay had a very nice finish as he went 4-1 with a 2.10 ERA in September. Youngster Chris George was 3-1. Bart Colon ended up as the winningest pitcher on the staff for the season (14-15).

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**AL CG's: COLON, SB...11**, Schilling, MOL...11, Dempster, BRO...10, Morris, MIN...10

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**September AL Leaders:** Jeff Bagwell hit .446. Rich Aurilia had 34 hits. Mags Ordonez had 11 doubles. Cliff Floyd had 4 triples. Juan Pierre had 95 at bats. Jason LaRue whiffed 32 times. Matt Lawton stole 13 bases. Pedro Martinez had a 1.32 ERA. Kerry Wood struck out 60 batters. Tom Gordon picked up 10 saves. Danny Wright allowed 33 runs. Tom Glavine walked 25 batters. Chad Durbin served up 9 gopher balls. Jamie Moyer received 12.2 runs of support.

#### Overheard

Ray Martin offered this explanation to Al on his spelling of the city the Tigers call home: "Yours is the one team name that I have to look up each time to spell, so please forgive me if I ever butcher it, I struggle with English, never mind French."

2002 AL BATTING CHAMPIONSHIP-FINAL													
PLAYER	AVG	GP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	OBP	SLG
Larry Walker, Hessville	.364	156	506	112	184	33	2	36	121	91	108	.470	.650
Rich Aurilia, Cook County	.350	158	654	146	229	32	2	46	146	58	75	.401	.616
Gary Sheffield, Cook County	.350	149	543	128	190	27	1	42	133	85	79	.439	.635
Magglio Ordonez, Iowa	.338	158	609	112	206	39	3	45	156	74	73	.409	.634
Derrek Lee, Georgia	.334	145	557	100	186	46	3	23	109	42	110	.384	.551
Bret Boone, Moline	.333	156	634	107	211	37	3	38	125	30	115	.370	.580
Jose Vidro, Hessville	.329	130	496	84	163	31	2	16	70	39	55	.384	.496
Ricky Gutierrez, La Crosse	.326	131	528	74	172	32	3	12	61	34	52	.377	.466
Vladimir Guerrero, Cook County	.323	161	616	120	199	52	7	45	134	54	91	.386	.649
Cristian Guzman, Iowa	.321	147	521	82	167	25	15	17	82	22	86	.353	.524

2002 AL ERA CHAMPIONSHIP-FINAL													
PLAYER	ERA	W	L	GS	CG	SO	IP	R	ER	H	BB	K	HR
Curt Schilling, Moline	2.03	26	2	34	11	1	270	72	61	199	55	284	28
Greg Maddux, Brooklyn-Moline	3.30	18	10	33	8	1	239.2	94	88	225	37	155	22
Matt Morris, Minnesota	3.39	19	4	31	10	1	223	87	84	227	74	178	15
Kerry Wood, Toledo-Minnesota	3.41	14	9	26	8	4	174.1	75	66	111	78	225	15
Russ Ortiz, Georgia	3.53	18	9	32	4	3	229.2	102	90	212	111	167	18
Kevin Appier, Brooklyn	3.54	14	10	31	2	0	203.1	85	80	158	61	155	22
Terry Adams, Cook County	3.58	17	4	20	1	1	173.2	73	69	170	53	138	13
Roger Clemens, Cook County	3.72	21	9	35	6	1	229.2	112	95	216	83	224	20
Tim Hudson, Georgia	3.95	19	10	33	8	0	230	114	101	225	75	165	31
Wade Miller, Georgia	4.10	17	10	32	8	3	219.2	105	100	198	81	158	29

## NL Notes

The Mets dominated their divisional opponents to the tune of a 15-7 record in September. The Met offense scored 6 runs per game in the month. Trot Nixon hit .407. David Segui hit .392 with 8 taters and 16 ribbies. On the season Segui hit .340 and slugged an impressive .582 in 318 at bats. Rookie Albert Pujols heated up nicely for the Mets in September with a .338 average and 27 ribbies. Eric Karros' .176 September dropped him to .246 for the season. Cal Ripken Jr hit 6 homers in his farewell month. Gary Glover was 3-0 between

the Met pen and rotation in September. Bob Wickman picked up 6 more saves to finish with 35. Milton went 3-0 in September to finish with a Met best 15-10 record. Barry Zito and Todd Ritchie both had 5.25 ERAs in their last month of action. Those two will need to get better versus Ocala in the playoffs.

### NL East Standings

Glen Allen	81-81	--
Racine	74-88	7
Springfield	73-89	8
Charlevoix	60-102	21

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**NL RBIS:** Sosa, OCA...216, Helton, OCA...154, Green, OCA...154, **PUJOLS, GA...146**

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The Heat went 11-11 in September and ended up 7 games behind the Mets. Good season for the Heat, though, as they hung in the race all season long. Marty Cordova hit .390 in September. Royce Clayton hit .368 and led the Heat with 16 September ribbies. For the season Royce hit .326. Mark Grudzielanek hit .328 for the month and popped 6 dingers to lead the Heat. Grudzy's 20 led the Heat for the season. Jay Payton hit only .221 down the stretch. Doug Mientkiewicz finished the season with a .320 average. Josh Towers won both of his starts and posted a 1.50 ERA. Joe Mays won only one of his final four starts and finished with a Heat best record of 13-6. Kris Wilson (6.97) and Chris Holt (6.11) had tough finishes. Radke's final ERA of 3.65 was best among the Heat starters.

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**NL BB/9 IP:** **RADKE, RAC...1.35**, Buehrle, BLO...1.58, Ritchie, GA...1.83, Mussina, BLO...1.91

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Like Racine the Isotopes ended up going 11-11 in the final month. Bobby Bonilla (?) hit .441 in his final month of BRASSball play. Chris Richard hit .321 in September and picked up 4 steals. Cvorey Koskie hit .261 but had a slugging pct of .511 for the last month. Despite his overall average of .237, Corey led the Topes in homers (31), ribbies (96), and steals (23). Craig Biggios's .221 September dropped him under .270 for the season (.266). Bill Wagner notched 7 more saves on his way to the league save title. Lefties Mark Redman (2-1, 4.00) and Mark Mulder (2-1, 4.15) kept the Topes in games during September. Mulder finished with a team best 16-12 record. Fellow lefty Jarrod Washburn was not so fortunate as he finished 9-17. Bobby Howry went 2-3 with a 9.00 ERA in nine September relief appearances. Youngster Ruben Quevedo got a taste of the bigs in September, but it proved to be bitter (6.26 ERA).

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**NL SAVES: WAGNER, SPR...42**, Percival, OCA...39, Wickman, GA...35, Benitez, BLO...34

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Al's Tigers finished up the year in much the same form they exhibited all year long: lots and lots of runs from both teams on the field. Lance Berkman's .405 September raised his average to .330 for the season. Lance also slugged .583 for the season and had a .435 OBP. Karim Garcia mashed 6 September homers and hit .366 too. Tyler Houston went nuts as he led the Tigers with 8 homers and 19 ribbies for the month. Tyler hit .345 for the season in part time duty. Tiger fans were excited to get glimpses of future stars Michael Cuddyer and Eric Munson. Dave Borkowski won 2 September games in relief. Six September starters for Al posted ERA's well over six and beyond. Wunderkind Rick Ankiel made a return to BRASSball in September, but wasn't successful (0-1, 7.45). Rumor has it Al is already searching for a different cast of characters to compose his 2003 pitching staff.

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**NL WALKS: Helton, OCA...108**, Delgado, GEM...105, **BERKMAN, CHA...97**, Sosa, OCA...96

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Paul's Sioux finished with a 35-15 mark over the last two months after a 16-6 September. A close race ended up being comfortably won by Stanley. Ryan Klesko led the Sioux in September with 7 homers and 20 ribbies. He also hustled his way into 4 steals. Jeff Kent smacked 9 doubles in the month. The Sioux were very consistent at the end. Bernie Williams, Jermaine Dye, Moises Alou and Raffy Palmeiro all hit in the .280-.300 range. On the season Raffy led Stanley with 36 taters. Jeff Kent dove in 125 and hit .324. What a free agent pickup he proved to be for Paul. Alou hit .326 with 116 ribbies. Rookie Paul LoDuca hit .297 and slugged .520 all while catching the majority of the time. Randy Johnson got back on track as he had a perfect 4-0 September with a 3.38 ERA. For the season The Unit went 21-8 and whiffed 359 batters. Rookie Joel Pineiro had a 3-0 September mark. Kevin Brown took a tumble in September as he went 1-2 with a 7.11 ERA. Sioux need Brownie to get reversed for the playoffs, obviously. John Burkett came up one victory shy of 20 for the season (19-9).

**NL Central Standings**

Stanley	100-62	--
Columbus	92-70	8
Bloomington	85-77	15
Fleetwood	85-77	15

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**NL K's: JOHNSON, STA...359**, Mussina, BLO...230, Zito, GA...221, Vazquez, OCA...209, Kile, FLE...181

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The Buckeyes held onto second place in the NL Central and will now host the wild card series. All Star John Olerud hit .364 in September to raise his average to .306. Richard Hidalgo hit .296 with 13 ribbies. Tony Gwynn hit .500 (7-14) in his farewell month. Carlos Beltran's .234 September doesn't detract much from a spectacular season. He still hit .312 and drove in 140 runners for the year. Ray Durham sunk even lower with his .188 September and just can't get going. Rook Jimmy Rollins starting to tire and hit .221 in the final month. On the hill Randy Wolf had an excellent 2.14 September ERA. Wolf was the staff leader and finished with a 15-7 record and a 3.79 ERA. Jeff Nelson had a tough month out

of the pen (6.35 ERA). Tail end of Buckeye rotation struggled all year: Denny Neagle (11-13, 5.01) and Paul Abbott (9-8, 6.04). Ah, but for the playoffs all begins anew and opportunities are presented for heroics from the discounted ☺

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**NL TRIPLES:** Cedeno, BLO...16, **BELTRAN, COL...15**, Tucker, SPR...13, **DURHAM, COL...11**

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Collapse in Bloomington! Well, not totally, but now Vaughn and his Bees must hold off the Walkers in a one game playoff for the final NL playoff spot. Ichiro has hit .366 so far in September. He may still take the Triple Crown away from Sosa with a spotless 4 for 4 hitting performance versus the Walkers in the playoff game. Marlon Anderson has put up a .345 average so far and stands at an outstanding .340 average for the year. Juan Gonzalez punched 6 more homers in September and leads the Bees with 39. Possibly another big one to win a playoff game? Tony Batista's .104 September has dropped him to .234 for the year. Preston Wilson has quietly had a fine season. He has his .305 with 28 homers, 110 ribbies and 31 stolen bases. The Bees pitching struggled mightily in the final month and ended up posting a 5.32 ERA. Bees faithful did see the debuts of heralded prospects Carlos Hernandez and Josh Beckett. Mark Buehrle's 22-6 rookie season has him in-line for serious award recognition.

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**NL STEALS:** **ICHIRO, BLO...89**, **CEDENO, BLO...77**, Glanville, NG...41, Rollins, COL...40

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An 11-11 September was enough to give Joal and his Walker's one more game to make the 2002 dance. Bobby Abreu had a big the final month as he hit .356 and got on at a .486 clip. He also smacked 11 doubles. Jim Edmonds pounced back to lead the Walkers in September with 20 ribbies. Quiet Jorge Posada hit 5 September homers and drove in 16. Chipper Jones should garner some MVP votes after his stellar 2002 season: .310-39-133. All of the Walker regular hitters were clicking in September. On the mound Al Leiter sparkled with a 1.72 ERA, but could only notch one win in his three starts. All the other Walker starters posted ERA's over five for September. Brad Penny was 16-8, 4.72 for the season while Steve Sparks was 17-10, 4.92. If the Walkers do make the playoffs the key guy on the staff may become Ramiro Mendoza (107 innings, 3.45 ERA) to help out the starters.

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**NL DOUBLES:** Helton, OCA...77, Kent, STA...57, **ABREU, FLE...57**, **STEWART, FLE...49**

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The Ocelots finished with the best record in BRASSball after their 16-6 September. The story for Ocala begins with Sammy Sosa who has *almost* won the Triple Crown. Sammy smacked 79 homers on the season and drove in an incredible 216 (both new league records). The batting crown remains in limbo, though, as Sam currently holds a two point margin over Ichiro, .356 to .354. Congratulations to Sammy on an astounding year. In September JD Drew hit .368, slugged .684 and got on base at a .484 clip. Todd Helton added 8 more doubles to break his league record that he had previously set last season. Shawn Green continued the Ocleot barrage in September with 8 moon shots of his own. Javier Vazquez went a perfect 5-0 in September to tie Schilling with 26 wins on the season. Rook Roy Oswalt went 2-1 with a 1.13 ERA in September. Troy Percival finished the season with 39 saves and a 1.26 ERA. Percival actually didn't register a save in September as Corey let five others pick up some saves instead. Blake Stein went 3-0 in 5 September starts.

#### NL West Standings

Ocala	117-45	--
Gem City	82-80	35
N. Georgia	69-93	48
Metropolis	38-124	79

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**NL HOMERS:** **SOSA, OCA...79**, **GREEN, OCA...56**, **HELTON, OCA...43**, Gonzalez, BLO...39, Jones, FLE...39

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Gem City had a solid 14-8 final month to finish over .500 for the season. Pudge hit a robust .515 in September with 5 dingers and 14 ribbies. Carlos Delgado's .354 month got him up to .294 for the season. Carlos also hit 6 homers and had 19 ribbies to lead the Wolfpack. 26 Wolfpack errors in September were highlighted by 9 from Chris Truby and 8 from Julio Lugo. Lugo actually led all of BRASSball with 44 miscues. Truby somehow managed to hammer 5 homers and drive in 17 with his .178 September average. Ageless Steve Finley played an errorless centerfield for the Wolfpack and hit .280 with 20 homers. Rick Reed won all three of his September starts and posted a 1.50 ERA to boot. Reed ended up with a Wolfpack best 15-11 record. Youngster Jason Jennings got a look-see and did not embarrass (2-2, 4.68). Bobby Jones was pummeled in his five starts and had a 9.68 ERA for the month.

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**NL HBP's:** Biggio, SPR...31, **DELGADO, GEM...20**, Hidalgo, COL...19, Rolen, COL...18

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North Georgia finished up the season with an 8-14 September. Doug Glanville hit .324 in September and was just shy of .300 at the end (.299). Yellow Jackets could only muster 13 homers in the month. Fred McGriff hit 2 along with a few others. On the season Brian Jordan led the club with 27 dingers and 93 rbis. Heralded youngster Corey Patterson saw some more time in September and hit .182. His .165 average for the season indicates he may need a bit more seasoning down on the farm. Ron Villone went 2-2 in 13 September relief appearances. Jon Lieber did pick up two more victories to finish over .500 at 14-13. Smoltzie had 3 more saves to give him 33 on the year to go along with his 0.71 ERA.

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**NL H/9 IP:** Johnson, STA...7.10, **BERE, NG...7.41**, Buehrle, BLO...7.61, Vazquez, OCA...8.25

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2002 in the NL West may be remembered as much for Ocala's dominance as for the fact that it may be Metropolis' last time in last place for the foreseeable future. Andy's youngsters are just about ready and methinks some of that funny money of his may finally be lavished on free agents ☺ No more Jeff Reboulet's for Avenger faithful (I hope). Rafael Furcal came up, hit .291 and swiped 10 bases. Vernon Wells 9 doubles and 10 ribbies in the month. Jose Ortiz hit 6 homers and had 12 rbis to lead the Avengers, all despite a .205 average. Russell Branyan whiffed 35 times in 80 at bats on his way to a paltry .113 batting performance in September. Juan Cruz went 2-3 in his starts with a respectable 3.89 ERA. Luke Prokopec 1-1 with a 3.91 ERA in his starts. Tim Redding figured in many contests as he went 1-3 in 14 relief outings and notched the only Avenger save in September.

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**NL WHIFFS:** **BURRELL, MET...165**, Sosa, OCA...141, Posada, FLE...141, Edmonds, FLE...140

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September NL Leaders: Trot Nixon hit .407. Todd Helton scored 24 runs. Bob Abreu had 11 doubles. Sammy Sosa clubbed 13 more homers. Scott Rolen was walked 19 times. Ichiro swiped 14 bases. David Segui had an OPS of 1.696. Javier Vazquez picked up 5 wins. Brandon Duckworth suffered 4 losses. Roy Oswalt had a 1.13 ERA. Jason Isringhausen and Billy Wagner had 7 saves. Eric Gagne yielded 10 dingers. Rick Ankiel threw 6 pitches to the backstop. Randy Johnson whiffed 60 batters. Joel Pineiro allowed only 4.09 hits per 9 innings.

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2002 NL BATTING CHAMPIONSHIP- UNOFFICIAL													
PLAYER	AVG	GP	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	K	OBP	SLG
Sammy Sosa, Ocala	.356	161	615	155	219	41	6	79	216	96	141	.446	.828
Ichiro, Bloomington	.354	162	732	124	259	35	6	12	81	24	65	.381	.467
Todd Helton, Ocala	.341	161	607	156	207	77	5	43	154	108	83	.441	.697
Marlon Anderson, Bloomington	.340	152	518	86	176	38	3	8	61	27	63	.371	.471
Lance Berkman, Charlevoix	.330	156	578	121	191	45	4	31	110	97	139	.435	.583

Moises Alou, Stanley	.326	145	540	97	176	28	1	26	116	36	62	.366	.526
Jeff Kent, Stanley	.324	160	629	122	204	57	3	35	125	61	98	.388	.591
Roger Cedeno, Bloomington	.324	146	509	89	165	24	16	6	64	43	86	.377	.470
Bob Abreu, Fleetwood	.321	154	591	116	190	57	8	26	89	94	125	.413	.577
Albert Pujols, Glen Allen	.321	161	619	114	199	45	4	36	146	73	123	.395	.582

2002 NL ERA CHAMPIONSHIP-UNOFFICIAL													
PLAYER	ERA	W	L	GS	CG	SO	IP	R	ER	H	BB	K	HR
Javier Vazquez, Ocala	3.04	26	4	35	3	0	236.2	84	80	217	53	209	27
Mark Buehrle, Bloomington	3.09	22	6	35	3	1	233	81	80	197	41	142	32
Randy Johnson, Stanley	3.43	21	8	35	7	0	260	108	99	205	91	359	34
Brad Radke, Racine	3.64	8	10	33	0	0	200	86	81	205	30	114	23
Randy Wolf, Columbus	3.78	15	7	28	3	1	171.1	78	72	161	59	140	11
Jason Bere, North Georgia	3.88	8	9	27	0	0	183.1	86	79	151	94	155	26
Mike Mussina, Bloomington	3.89	17	14	34	4	2	236	105	102	249	50	230	28
Joe Mays, Racine	3.96	13	6	35	0	0	234	107	103	221	63	131	30
Jon Lieber, North Georgia	4.01	14	13	31	6	1	229	113	102	238	51	145	28
Al Leiter, Fleetwood	4.03	7	13	31	2	0	196.1	101	88	183	44	147	25

## Raw Draft Order

Here is the preliminary outline of the draft order.

- |                    |                |               |                     |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Metropolis      | 7. Springfield | 13. Iowa      | 19. TBD             |
| 2. Plaza           | 8. La Crosse-* | 14. Minnesota | 20. TBD             |
| 3. Santa Barbara-* | 9. Racine-*    | 15. TBD       | 21. TBD             |
| 4. Box City-*      | 10. Brooklyn   | 16. Hessville | 22. TBD             |
| 5. Charlevoix      | 11. Gem City   | 17. TBD       | 23. TBD             |
| 6. North Georgia   | 12.            | 18. TBD       | 24. BRASSball Champ |

\* indicates these two teams tied and will alternate their positions in each round.

## In Season Standings Rewards

This past season BRASSball instituted a new rewards program to encourage members to report their results so as to have the website standings as up to date as possible. Here are the following amounts awarded:

Georgia- 23, \$300,000	Hessville- 22, \$220,000	Moline- 13, \$130,000	Cook County- 23, \$300,000
Box City- 23, \$300,000	Plaza- 22, \$220,000	Iowa- 19, \$190,000	S. Barbara- 23, \$300,000
La Crosse- 22, \$220,000	Toledo- 23, \$300,000	Brooklyn- 23, \$300,000	
Racine- 12, \$120,000	Springfield- 20, \$210,000	Glen Allen- 23, \$300,000	Charlevoix- 16, \$160,000
Stanley- 23, \$300,000	Columbus- 5, \$50,000	Bloomington- 4, \$40,000	
N. Georgia- 7, \$70,000			

According to the guidelines of the program the following teams did not receive awards because they were already maxed out at what they could receive. They were: Metropolis, Fleetwood, Gem City, Ocala and Minnesota. One last note: 472 of a possible league series' were reported, or 85%. I think that is excellent for something of this nature that was brand new to the majority of us. Let's improve next season and get to 90% reported!

## Home/Road Discrepancy Program

BRASSball, as we all know, holds fair play and honest managing of an opponent's instructions as key foundations to our success. As such, the league pays out a monetary award to those teams that exhibited home/road records that were below league average. The league average in 2002 was +1.83 games better at home than on the road. The rewards given were:

Award #1: Minnesota (-12) and Santa Barbara (-13) (\$3,000,000)

Award #2: None

Award #3: None

Award #4: Racine (-4), Stanley (-2), Metropolis (-2) (\$1,500,000)

Award #5: Bloomington (-1), Hessville (-1), La Crosse (0), Glen Allen (-1), Box City (+1), Iowa (0), Gem City (0) (\$1,000,000)

## **Free Agency Conductor**

BRASSball is all set to see a new Free Agency conductor this off-season. Robert Smith will be handling the duties. Two months to go. More will come on Free Agency next newsletter.

## **Awards Ballot**

Enclosed in the ZIP archive you will see separate AL and NL Nominees files. You will also find a separate ballot. Please vote only for players in your league. The nominees are only suggestions. You are free to vote for whomever you choose. Remember, in BRASSball, voting is not an option. Please return your ballot to me by October 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Proposals Ballot**

Every off-season the BRASSball membership seeks to make some alterations to our fine league. This year is no exception. The actual Proposals are in a Word DOC. Please fill in the separate ballot for your votes. Like the awards, votes must be returned to Mark by the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.

## **Fines**

SEPT 2002: Racine fined 2 million for late mailing of results to statistician (2<sup>nd</sup> offense).

SEPT 2002: Racine fined 1.75 million for late mailing of results to opponents.

## **Trades**

1. Ocala trades Adrian Beltre and Brett Tomko to Toledo for Sean Burroughs, Toledo's 2003 3rd round draft choice and Columbus' 2003 4th round draft choice.
2. Minnesota trades Michael Young, Mike Hampton and \$4,000,000 to Box City for Jay Gibbons.
3. Box City trades Chris Gomez to Glen Allen for \$500,000.
4. Box City trades Darin Erstad and Ugueth Urbina to Santa Barbara for Robert Fick, Ben Petrick and Brent Butler.
5. Cook County trades Jose Rijo and Steve Kline to Charlevoix for \$500,000.
6. Toledo trades Jeff Suppan, Dave Burba and Todd Van Poppel to Charlevoix for Deivi Cruz, Tim Drew and Luis Pineda.
7. Minnesota trades Doug Creek, Scott Linebrink and Bart Miadich to Toledo for Ryan Ludwick.
8. Toledo trades Adam Everett to Charlevoix for Charlevoix's 2003 6th round draft choice.
9. Toledo trades Luis Rivas, Mike Williams, Scott Sauerbeck and Brandon Inge to Ocala for Eli Marrero, Alex Sanchez and Jeremy Fikac.

10. Toledo trades Bud Smith, Wascar Serrano and Doug Nickle to Minnesota for Geoff Jenkins, Jerrod Riggan, Brandon Berger, Garrett Atkins and \$500,000.

## **Contract Extensions**

The following players reached last minute extensions with their current employers. Corey will have the full list of signings with his new roster file that will come out soon.

Cook County: Mike Piazza

Moline: Barry Bonds and Greg Maddux

Fleetwood: Al Leiter, Derek Lowe and Jim Edmonds

Stanley: Rafael Palmeiro

## **Upcoming League Deadlines**

October 25<sup>th</sup> Award and Proposal ballots must be returned to Mark by this date.

## **Next Issue of League News**

Countdown to a champion. Free Agency around the corner.