



League News

June 2003

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Matchup of the Month



Versus



Glen Allen	Tale of the Tape 2003 Stats	Gem City
+57	Run Differential	+13
.796	OPS	.739
3.72	ERA	4.04
11-2	Vs Lefty Starters	8-1
34-22	2003 Record	32-24

For June the *Matchup* features two surging BRASSball clubs. Both teams are solidly in post-season contention and the Mets in particular are trying to defend a division title. Glen Allen, on paper, does appear to have the advantage with both its hitting and pitching. Of note may be the teams' respective records versus lefty hurlers. Both are quite good, but while the Mets were scheduled to throw three southpaws, the Wolfpack do not feature a lefty starter. Let's see how this thing turned out.

The series started out in Glen Allen with Rick Reed starting for the Wolfpack and El Duque for the Mets. Mark Bellhorn opened the scoring for the Wolfpack with a solo homer in the second. In the bottom of the third the Mets got the run back with two-out single from Dave Justice. The top of the fourth started out innocently enough as Duque got Todd Walker swinging. The number eight hitter, Geronimo Gil, got on with a base knock. For some reason Duque couldn't put away Rey Ordonez as he allowed him to reach via the base on balls. Marvin Benard was next and he popped out to the catcher. With two down Duque just had to get around Dustan Mohr to avoid trouble in the fourth. Mohr got a pitch on the inside half and ripped it into the leftfield corner for a double. With runners now on second and third, a run in and Carlos Delgado coming to the plate Bud Harrelson signaled for four outside. Delgado took his base and Reggie Sanders dug in. Sanders was up to the challenge as he smacked a solid single that drove in two runs. Duque finally got Spiezio to end the fourth but the score was now 4-1

Wolfpack. Reed was content with that three run lead. He worked through six innings scattering ten hits. In the eighth the Wolfpack plated two more runs to make the final 6-1. For the game Dustan Mohr went 4 for 5 at the plate.

Game two was a matchup of two BRASSball vets- Rocket Clemens for the Mets and the rejuvenated Andy Benes for Gem City. Through the first four innings both starters were zoned in as they both had one hitters going. In the top of the fifth the Wolfpack took advantage of a Chris Gomez error to score one run. Then in the sixth the 'Pack drove Rocket from the game and clinched game two. The first two hitters got on with singles and then executed a double steal to ratchet up the pressure on Roger. He whiffed Sanders for the first out, but then uncorked a wild pitch to allow the second run of the game. Spiezio then blooped one in over short and the third run trotted in. With a walk to the next batter Rocket was yanked and the Pack were on their way to a 6-0 victory. Three relievers helped Andy Benes to record a game two shutout.

For game three youngsters Eric Milton and Jason Jennings were scheduled to oppose each other on the bump. In the third inning the Mets struck first thanks to a huge three-run blast from Ricky Ledee. Spotted three runs Milton cruised through the first five innings without allowing a run. In the bottom of the fifth a solo dinger from Melvin Mora stretched the Met advantage to 4-0. In the top of the sixth the Wolfpack touched Milton for the only time in this one. With two out Pudge Rodriguez lofted a long fly to left that carried over for a two run homer. But it wasn't enough. The Mets added an insurance run in the seventh and won comfortably 5-2. Milton went eight allowing only four hits. Luis Vizcaino pitched the ninth for the save.

Game four's scheduled starters were Chan Ho Park for the visitors and Andy Ashby for the Mets. Ashby had a rocky first inning to start. The first two batters reached via walks. Pudge was third and Ashby got him looking at a fastball on the outside corner. Not out of the jam yet, he now had to face the imposing Delgado. Delgado coaxed a walk from Ashby and now the sacks were full with only one out recorded. Spiezio sauntered up to the plate looking to capitalize on Ashby's predicament. On a 2-1 count he was fooled by Ashby's offering but got enough wood on it to get it through the five and a half hole. Todd Walker trotted in with the first run. Still wandering in the proverbial woods Ashby now needed to get around Reggie Sanders. He could not as he proceeded to walk Sanders. This free pass brought in run number two for the Wolfpack. Manager Harrelson was already phoning to the pen and getting some help up. Mark Bellhorn came up as the seventh batter to hit in the inning. With the infield in he helped out Ashby by pulling one right to Pujols at first, who ably threw home to cut down the lead runner. Almost out of the woods now Ashby still had to get around Jeff Hammonds to end his first inning ordeal. He did when he got Hammonds to ground to Damian Jackson at second. Four walks in the inning for the 'Pack but only two runs out of it. The Mets got a run back in the bottom of the second when Pujols' two-out single plated Jose Vizcaino. In the top of the third Gem City went up 3-1 with Delgado's solo homer. But the Wolfpack lead was short lived as the Mets came right back in the bottom of the third and tied the game at three. Justice drove a gap double to bring in one run and Pujols followed with a sac fly to produce the runs. In the fourth the Mets took the lead for good when Bengie Molina's single got Damian Jackson in from second. Ashby was finally able to get comfortable in this one and ended up throwing eight innings. Trot Nixon put this one away in the seventh when he slammed a three run homer off of Vlad Nunez. Some late runs made it close at 7-5, but the Mets finished with a split at home.

With game five the action turned to Borden Ballpark, home of the Wolfpack. The Mets sent their young ace Barry Zito to the hill while the 'Pack countered with Jason Johnson. Gem City

opened up the scoring in the first when Pudge smacked a solo homer off Zito. Johnson cruised into the sixth for the Wolfpack as the score stayed at 1-0 through five. In the top of the sixth with two out and one on up came Pujols. The big bat of the Mets had been fairly quiet in this series and Johnson hoped to continue that. But on a 1-1 pitch Pujols jumped on a fastball inside and pulled it down the left field line for a two-run homer. Trot Nixon followed with a triple to drive Johnson from his outing and down 2-1. In the top of the seventh the Mets extended their lead to 3-1 when Ramon Vazquez came through with a clutch two-out single that plated a hustling Mel Mora from second. In the bottom of the seventh the Wolfpack tried to rally when Pudge doubled and came home on a Spiezio single to make it 3-2. But Zito got Sanders to follow with a rally killing double play to end the eighth and preserve the lead. Luis Vizcaino came on to relieve Zito for the ninth and retired the Gem City hitters 1-2-3 for his second save of the series. Zito allowed only four hits and walked no one in his eight innings of work.

Game six's starters were Clemens for the Mets and Reed once again for Gem City. Glen Allen scored a run in the first to start the scoring. In the bottom of the first the Wolfpack came right back though as the second batter of the inning, Steve Finely, drilled a solo homer to tie the game at one. In the top of the third the Mets got the bats going. Dave Justice led off the inning with a home run to make it 2-1. Pujols and Trot Nixon then followed with back-to-back doubles to raise their lead to 3-1. After Nixon's double Reed settled down and got the next three batters to avoid any further damage. In the bottom of the fourth the Wolfpack plated a two out run when Marvin Benard singled in Matt Williams. But that would be the closest they would come in this one. Rocket pitched into the eighth and then the pen took it from there for him. Vizcaino came on in the ninth but got himself in a heap of trouble as he loaded the bases with only one out. But he got Spiezio to pop to second and Sanders to swing through on strike three to notch his third save of the series. The final ended up 4-2. Trot Nixon finished the game 4 for 5 with 2 rbi.

The finale of this fine series pitted Milton against Benes. Gem City jumped out to a 3-0 lead after three innings of play. In the top of the fourth the Mets appeared to be set to rally as the first two hitters singled to put men on the corners. Trot Nixon, however, grounded weakly to second for a double play. A run came home, but the rally was quelled and Benes retained the lead. The Wolfpack put this one to bed in the bottom of the fifth with back-to-back blasts from Jeff Hammonds and Benji Gil. Up 5-1 now, Benes made it through six innings. The pen wavered in the eighth and ninth, but a Wolfpack win was secured by the score of 6-3. Hammonds finished with a three hit performance.

Glen Allen came out ahead by a slim 4 to 3 margin this month. The Wolfpack were unable to capitalize on the three lefty starts- winning only one of those contests. Both teams are in the thick of the wild card hunt and this could indeed have been a post season preview. From what this first half matchup showed, both are indeed capable of getting there.

AL Notes

AL EAST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs AL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Bakersfield Rattlers	48-36	---	24-18	24-18	0-0	18-13	10-13	.807	3.58
Minnesota Mudcats	44-40	4	22-20	22-20	0-0	11-21	4-16	.792	3.65
Moline Cutters	38-46	10	17-25	21-21	0-0	10-19	10-17	.719	4.08
Hessville Everreadys	23-61	25	13-29	10-32	0-0	9-21	7-19	.688	6.13

The Rattlers experienced their first sub .500 month in June as they went 13-15. Jose Hernandez swung a hot June bat as he hit .330 with 7 homers and 22 rbi. Andruw Jones hit

.281 and led the club in doubles (8), runs (26) and homers (8). Catcher AJ Pierzynski hit .434 in platoon duty in June and is hitting a robust .349 on the season. Mike Cameron struggled through June hitting only .167. Curiously, the defense committed 20 of its 44 total errors in June action. Wade Miller posted a fine 2.20 ERA in his four June starts. Russ Ortiz went 3-2 with a 3.51 ERA. Tim Hudson struggled slightly in June as he posted a 1-3 mark with a 4.50 ERA. Jayson Durocher registered a tiny 1.13 ERA in 24 relief innings in June. Closer Keith Foulke only saw two innings worth of action in June. Freddy Garcia is 8-6 on the season.

With a 16-12 the Mudcats have narrowed the gap in the AL East to four games. Alex Rodriguez carried the club in June play as he led his teammates in virtually every category: average (.325), runs (26), homers (11), rbi (33) and doubles (9). A-Rod has only committed one error at shortstop all season long. Gary Sheffield finally picked it up in June as he hit .290. He does hit the break though with only 4 big flies. Mike Lowell (.213) and Mark Kotsay (.211) struggled throughout the month. Eric Young is hitting .308 for the season with a team leading 14 steals while splitting time at second for the Mudcats. Kirk Rueter was 3-1 in June. Scott Williamson was tough out of the pen in June as he posted a 0.93 ERA and allowing only 6 hits in 19 innings. Trevor Hoffman picked up 5 June saves.

Moline went 12-16 in June, unable to take advantage of Bakersfield's stumble. Barry Bonds continues to add on to his impressive 2003. He hit .371 for the month with a .557 OBP and a .871 slugging. Torii Hunter hit .295 with 8 doubles and 5 dingers. Old-timer Mark Grace hit .286 and knocked four out of the park. Bret Boone only hitting .227 on the season. Ruben Sierra only hit .178 in June. Young Mark Prior led the Cutter staff in June going 4-1 with a 2.40 ERA. Greg Maddux went 3-2 in June and is only 5-4 on the season despite a fine 3.00 ERA. Kelvim Escobar saved 4 June games without allowing a hit. Ismael Valdes a poor June as he went 0-5 with a 7.15 ERA. Elmer Dessens and his 9-4 record will merit some All Star consideration. Miguel Batista has a fine 7-4 mark at the halfway point with a 2.46 ERA.

Hessville went 10-18 in June. Abraham Nunez (.386) and Jose Guillen (.378) performed well in reserve duty. Terrence Long carried the productive bat in June as he smacked 6 homers and drove in 16 runs. Joe Girardi hit .288 for the month. Young shortstop Jack Wilson is enjoying a solid rookie year as he is hitting .261 so far with 17 doubles. Steve Sparks went 4-2 in June with a 3.11 ERA. Shawn Estes went 2-2 with a 4.15 ERA for the month. Antonio Alfonseca saved 7 Everready victories in June. Robert Person wants to forget June: 0-3, 9.77 ERA.

AL CENTRAL Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs AL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Cook County Maulers	59-25	---	33-9	26-16	21-7	18-10	15-11	.895	3.35
Iowa Rubes	47-37	12	27-15	20-22	15-13	13-13	15-13	.797	4.14
Box City Parcelmen	26-58	33	15-27	11-31	6-22	7-24	6-14	.712	6.01
Plaza Lions	22-62	37	11-31	11-31	6-22	12-14	8-9	.658	5.30

The Maulers tore through June play going 22-6. Jason Giambi was huge in June as he hit .351 with a .508 OBP and .711 slugging. Vlad Guerrero, ho-hum, hit .330 with 8 homers, 30 rbi and 11 swipes. Vlad is on pace for a historic 50-50 season. If he can catch Bonds in average (trails by 35 points) he would be in position to win the Triple Crown. Mike Piazza hit .294 in June and led the Maulers with 9 big flies. Jim Thome only hit .237 in June but did contribute as he had a .398 OBP for the month. Nomar hit .324 in June and his 27 doubles lead the club on the year. The AL's best pitching staff posted a 2.99 June ERA. The big news was Tom Glavine picking up a no hitter (below). Tommy also went 5-0 with a sparkling 2.21 ERA. Tim Wakefield was 4-0 in June. Mariano Rivera saved 9 June wins. Pedro now 13-2 for the season. Jamie Moyer quietly at the break with an 11-4 record and 3.94 ERA.

Tom Glavine's No Hitter

	AB	R	H	BI
La Crosse				
Matthews Jr, rf	4	0	0	0
Damon, cf	3	0	0	0
Ramirez, lf	3	0	0	0
Sweeney, 1b	3	0	0	0
Carroll, 3b-2b	3	0	0	0
Huckaby, c	3	0	0	0
Hairston Jr, 2b	1	0	0	0
Huff, ph-3b	1	0	0	0
Gutierrez, dh	3	0	0	0
Cruz, ss	3	0	0	0
	27	0	0	0

	AB	R	H	BI
Cook County				
Soriano, 2b	4	0	0	0
Garcia-parra, ss	3	0	1	0
Giambi, 1b	2	1	1	1
Guerrero, rf	3	1	1	1
Thome, dh	3	0	0	0
Piazza, c	3	0	0	0
Glaus, 3b	3	0	0	0
Everett, cf	3	0	0	0
Taylor, lf	3	0	0	0
	27	2	3	2

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
La Crosse						
Millwood, L	7	3	2	2	1	8
Dotel	1	0	0	0	0	1

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cook Cnty						
Glavine, W	9	0	0	0	1	3

HR: Giambi, Guerrero

A: 38,574

T: 2:03

Iowa went 15-13 in June to remain firmly in second in the Central and also atop the wild card race. Mags Ordonez hit 13 June doubles and now has an impressive total of 34 at the midway point. Cliff Floyd a solid June with his .398 OBP and .592 slugging. For the season Floyd leads the Rubes with 57 rbi. Ellis Burks may have batted only .220 in June but did launch 7 taters and drive in 20 runs, both team highs. Cristian Guzman hit .214 in June. Big Ben Davis hit 4 homers and batted .469 in 32 June at bats. Oh my! Odalis Perez went 4-1 in June with a 2.12 ERA. Tanyon Sturtze (7.60) and John Thomson (8.02) hit plentiful road bumps in June. Thomson is still an impressive 8-3 on the season.

Box City's 6-22 June can only mean that better days must be ahead ☺ Kenny Lofton bulked up in June as he led the club with 6 dingers and 23 rbi. Jason LaRue hit .288 in June. Tim Salmon took a tumble in June, hitting only .185 with 9 rbi. Miggy Tejada in All-Star form: .286, 20 homers, 66 rbi. Cory Lidle went 1-3 despite a respectable 3.72 ERA. No other Box City starter could register an ERA below 6.75 in June. Esteban Loaiza, Jimmy Haynes and Danny Wright went a combined 0-14 in June. Ouch!

Like Box City, Plaza hopes its 6-22 June is the worst of it in 2003. Darren Bragg hit .302 with 9 two-baggers in June. Keith Lockhart hit a paltry .163 in June, but made the hits count as his 11 rbi led the club. The Lions only hit .203 as a team in June. Veterans Neifi Perez (.282) and Mike Lieberthal (.275) are having solid seasons. Masato Yoshii's 1-4 June not indicative of his reasonable 4.25 ERA. Young Oliver Perez posted a 4.02 ERA with 38 K's in 40 June innings. Scott Erickson (0-8) winless on the season.

AL WEST Expanded Standings

	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs AL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Santa Barbara Outlaws	46-38	---	25-17	21-21	18-10	15-14	12-14	.767	3.56
La Crosse Lagers	43-41	3	21-21	22-20	16-12	14-14	12-13	.793	4.84
Toledo Mudhens	43-41	3	24-18	19-23	17-11	11-14	12-14	.748	4.47
Brooklyn Bulldogs	33-51	13	19-23	14-28	13-15	10-19	12-11	.691	4.85

An 18-10 June from the Outlaws put them out front in the West by 3 games. Darin Erstad hit .305 in June. GA hit 11 doubles, but only batted .216. Jacque Jones hit .368 with 8 doubles and 14 rbi in June. On the season he is hitting .336. Eli "Hide your hearts girls" Marrero led the Outlaws with 8 June homers and 19 rbi. Eli is actually the surprise team leader for the year with 17. Phil Nevin hit .357 in platoon duty. Adam Kennedy is batting .338 halfway through 2003. The Outlaws have the third best ERA in the AL and posted a 3.43 mark in June. Rodrigo Lopez went 5-1 with a 2.29 ERA in his first month of action. Matt Clement went 3-1 with a 2.14 ERA. Roy Halladay 10-5 on the season with a 2.85 ERA. Robb Nen 21 saves on the season. Bart Colon only 7-7 despite a 3.77 ERA. Danny Graves still struggling (6.55).

A 16-12 June keeps La Crosse on pace in both the division and wild card race. As usual the Lagers assembled some fine offensive performances. Johnny Damon hit .331 with 9 doubles and 6 homers. Gary Matthews Jr. hit .346 with 11 doubles. Manny Ramirez took a breather in June (54 AB's), but still hit .322 with 6 big flies and a team high 18 rbi. Jamey Carroll and Jerry Hairston Jr. both hit 4 triples in June. Mike Sweeney slugged .523 in June. Ben Grieve (.231) and Mark Grudzielanek (.222) struggling at the break. Kip Wells was 3-1 with a 2.78

ERA in June. Carl Pavano 2-1 with a 3.00 ERA. Actually, all the Lager starters posted ERA's below four in June- a very nice indicator for the Lagers for the rest of the season.

Toledo's 17-11 has them firmly in playoff consideration. Luis Castillo hit .302 in June with 23 steals. Castillo's total of 50 leads the AL. Mike Lamb hit .292 with 16 rbi in June. Richie Sexson hit 9 doubles in the month, but has only 13 bombs on the years. Shannon Stewart's 19 rbi led the Mudhens in June. Randall Simon hitting .355 for the season. Mudhen pitchers enjoyed a fine June (3.34 team ERA). Chris Reitsma was awesome as he went 5-1 with a 1.50 in seven starts. Swingman John Halama went 3-0 with a 1.02 ERA in June. Moose finally put together a solid month (2.75 ERA), but could only win once. Brett Tomko and Mike Maroth both were 3-1 in June. Scott Strickland (2.42 ERA, 4-2) and Mike Koplove (15 saves, 2.55 ERA) having fine seasons out of the pen. Ryan Franklin will want to forget June: 0-3, 9.93 ERA.

The Bulldogs put together a 13-15 June. Prospect Austin Kearns came up and hit .330 BA, .423 slugging with 11 two-baggers in June. Juan Pierre hit .319 in June. Pierre also leads the Bulldogs with 23 doubles so far. Alex Gonzalez hit .304 in June with 5 dings and 20 rbi. Brian Daubach quietly having a nice season (.307-16-44). Ryan Dempster went 3-2 in June with a 3.25 ERA. Josh Fogg in June. Kaz Sasaki has been impressive in his few chances in 2003: 0.72 ERA, 4-2, 11 saves. Kerry Wood completed four of his June starts. Omar Daal struggled a bit going 2-4 with a 5.08 ERA in June. Gabe White a tough June out of the pen (0-2, 7.00 ERA).

AL June Leaders: Barry Bonds hit .371. Johnny Damon scored 33 runs. Magglio Ordonez doubled 13 times. Alex Rodriguez smacked 11 homers. Jason Giambi drew 28 walks. Jose Hernandez whiffed 39 times. Jack Wilson laid down 20 sac bunts. Luis Castillo swiped 23 bags. Gary Sheffield rolled into 8 DP's. AJ Pierzynski hit .447 off righties. Mike Piazza saw 32 bags stolen against him. Chris Reitsma had a 1.50 ERA. Rodrigo Lopez threw 51 innings. Robb Nen saved 10 games. Tom Glavine hurled threw 2 shutouts. Aaron Sele allowed 55 hits. Robert Person allowed 27 walks. Kerry Wood whiffed 53 batters. Matt Clement allowed only 5.08 hits per 9 innings. Pedro Astacio allowed only 0.22 homers per 9 innings.

AL STATS LEADERBOARD							
Pitching Losses		Save Percentage		Strikeouts		Opponent Batting Avg.	
Shawn Estes	11	Antonio Alfonseca	.923	Kerry Wood	142	Kerry Wood	.202
Mike Hampton	10	Mike Koplove	.882	Pedro Martinez	133	Matt Clement	.209
Jimmy Haynes	10	Mariano Rivera	.875	Jason Schmidt	130	Roy Halladay	.209
Esteban Loaiza	10	Keith Foulke	.857	Matt Clement	113	Russ Ortiz	.217
Steve Sparks	10	Kaz Sasaki	.846	Freddy Garcia	106	Pedro Martinez	.217

NL Notes

NL EAST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Springfield Isotopes	52-32	---	27-15	25-17	18-10	11-8	11-9	.771	3.99
Glen Allen Mets	46-38	6	24-18	22-20	12-16	13-7	9-15	.792	3.81
Charlevoix Tigers	32-52	20	18-24	14-28	7-21	12-12	12-10	.810	7.10
Port Richey Everglades	30-54	22	11-31	19-23	8-20	9-14	8-9	.704	5.53

The Isotopes went 18-10 in June to take a comfortable lead over Glen Allen. The Isotopes spread their June production amongst many players. Larry Walker hit .321 and Luis Gonzalez .302. Roberto Alomar hit 7 doubles and swiped 6 bags. Jeff Bagwell clubbed 8 homers and drove in 23. Matt Stairs hit .333 with 4 dingers in limited June action. Corey Koskie is hitting a disappointing .213 on the season with only 2 long balls. Mark Redman went 3-1 with a 3.18 earnie. Jarrod Washburn also was 3-1. Mark Mulder is now 10-2 through June. Billy Wagner

saved 7 June contests without allowing a run. Kyle Lohse was the only 'Tope pitcher to really get roughed up in June (5.97 ERA).

Glen Allen put together a tough 12-16 June mark. David Justice hit .413 in June and also posted a .698 slugging. Trot Nixon hit .305 with 4 triples. Greg Colbrunn was just ridiculous in his 33 at bats: .485 BA, 1.030 slugging. Ricky Ledee led the Mets with 5 June homers. Albert Pujols led the club with 19 rbi. Melvin Mora only hit .161 in June. Roger Clemens was 3-1 with a 3.86 ERA in June. Barry Zito was 3-2 in June. Andy Ashby (5.13 ERA) had a tough month on the bump. Met closer duties still ably filled by two arms: Luis Vizcaino (9 saves) and Esteban Yan (16).

Charlevoix experienced a difficult 7-21 June. Russell Branyan was awesome for the Tigers as he hit .324 with 6 homers and 27 rbi. Carlos Guillen hit .291 with 4 dingers. Daryle Ward hit .287. Frank Thomas having a nice season with a .400 OBP and .524 slugging. Brad Fullmer and Ron Belliard both with 20 doubles on the year. The Tiger staff registered an 8.18 ERA in June. Ouch! Nelson Cruz won two games in relief. James Baldwin managed to go 2-2 with a team high 12.93 earnie in June. Steve Kline picked up 5 saves before shuffling out to Santa Barbara in a trade. Jeff Suppan 7-6 on the season.

Port Richey's 8-20 month of June was about the same as Charlevoix's. Chris Singleton was the offensive leader in June as he scored 16 runs, belted 7 homers, drove in 13 and swiped 8 bases. Dave Berg hit .292 with 10 doubles in June. Fernando Vina was quite productive as he scored 15 runs in only 14 games played in June. Jay Payton is hitting a robust .336 for the season. Joe Randa had a tough June as he only hit .219. Pete Munro was 3-0 in his four June starts. The experienced trio of Brad Radke, Joe Mays and Julian Tavaroz combined to go 0-10 in their 12 June starts. Damian Moss had his worst month (0-3, 4.78).

NL CENTRAL Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Stanley Sioux	55-29	---	27-15	28-14	0-0	7-6	19-9	.812	3.95
Fleetwood Walkers	48-36	7	29-13	19-23	0-0	7-7	9-13	.834	3.99
Bloomington Bees	42-42	13	26-16	16-26	0-0	8-8	16-11	.741	4.15
Columbus Buckeyes	39-45	16	21-21	18-24	0-0	7-6	16-9	.743	5.30

The Sioux performed well in June as they went 19-9 to strengthen their Central lead. Ryan Klesko was the leader of the big bats in June as he hit .321 with 6 homers and 21 rbi. Jeff Kent hit .315 with 10 two-baggers. Bernie Williams hit .307 and scored 22 runs. Jermaine Dye homered 9 times in June despite a .235 average. Raffy Palmeiro also could only muster a .235 average in June. Randy Winn has had a nice season for the Sioux after 84 games: .305 average and 26 steals. Curt Schilling was 4-1 in June with a sparkling 1.77 ERA. Woody Williams 3-2 with a 2.37 earnie. Youngster Zach Day was impressive in his 18 innings of relief work (1.47 ERA). Jose Mesa has 17 saves on the year. Joel Pineiro still struggling to find his groove (6-7, 5.87 ERA).

The Walkers' 14-14 June left them more in the wild card race than in the divisional race. Either way, they are in good shape. Bobby Abreu was quite impressive in June as he hit .333 with 9 doubles, 7 homers, 20 runs scored and 27 driven in. Chipper Jones hit .301 himself with 17 runs scored of his own. Powered by some new braids, Royce Clayton hit .303 with 5 homers in June ☺ Paul Konerko's .358 average in good for second in the NL behind Larry Walker's .359 mark. Al Leiter led the starters in June as he went 3-2 with a 1.79 ERA. Derek Lowe unfortunately went 1-3 in June despite a fine 3.29 ERA. Chuck Finley, on the other hand, went 3-3 with his 5.50 ERA. Finley is 11-4 halfway through the season.

An impressive 17-11 June by the Bees has raised them to third in the division and into the wild card mix. Ichiro hit .330 in June with 9 doubles and 15 rbi. Carlos Febles hit .328. Preston Wilson (.225, 5 HR) and Tony Batista (.223, 6 HR, 18 rbi) supplied the pop despite their lower averages. Batista leads the Bees with 16 big flies on the season. Paul Wilson (3-1, 3.06) and Mark Buehrle (3-1, 3.11) enjoyed fine Junes. CC Sabathia pitched well during the month (3.55), but it is not reflected in his 2-4 record. Jeff Weaver is enjoying a solid season has a reliever in 2003: 2-0, 2.70 76 innings. Armando Benitez has 21 saves on the year.

Columbus fell off the pace in June after going 11-17. Ray Durham hit .337 with 10 steals in June. John Olerud hit .296 with 6 dingers and 19 rbi. Olerud also recorded a fine .430 OBP in June. Jeremy Giambi posted a .462 OBP before being traded to Minny. Scott Rolen hit .225 in June. Jimmy Rollins down to .183 in 2003. Johan Santana was 3-3 in June with a 3.70 earnie. Livan Hernandez (5.72) and Jeremy Affeldt (6.80) were roughed up in June.

NL WEST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Ocala Ocelots	65-19	---	32-10	33-9	21-7	15-3	14-5	.866	3.18
Gem City Wolfpack	46-38	19	26-16	20-22	14-14	13-6	16-12	.759	3.97
North Georgia Yellowjackets	46-38	19	22-20	24-18	17-11	13-7	19-11	.723	3.75
Metropolis Avengers	35-49	30	17-25	18-24	15-13	6-13	11-6	.712	5.27

A 21-7 June from the Ocelots has them on pace for quite possibly a historic BRASSball season. Derek Jeter was awesome in June: .347 BA, 34 runs, 8 homers and 19 rbi. Brian Giles hit .322 with 6 homers and 20 rbi. Giles also had a .459 OBP in June. Sammy Sosa hit .292 in June with 7 homers. Todd Helton leads the Ocelots with a .326 average after 84 games. Don't throw a lefty if you want a chance versus the Ocelots. They are 15-3 against lefties so far. Roy Oswalt went 5-1 with a 3.48 ERA in June. Glendon Rusch won 4 June games with a plus six ERA. Kenny Rogers was 3-2 in June with a 1.64 ERA. Arthur Rhodes allowed 1 hit in 14 June innings. LaTroy Hawkins registered a 0.43 ERA in 21 June innings. What a tandem!

Gem City held in place with a 14-14 June. Pudge hit .315 in June with 8 doubles and 6 homers. Scott Speizio hit .308 with 15 rbi and 19 runs scored. Steve Finley hit .306 with 5 big flies. Carlos Delgado had a .420 OBP in June with 19 rbi. Rey Ordonez checks in at .219 at the break. Wolfpack committed only 9 errors in June. Rick Reed was 3-1 with a 3.00 earnie in June. Jason Johnson only 2-3 despite a 2.73 ERA. Andy Benes and Jason Jennings both 3-1 in their June starts. Jason Istringhausen has 15 saves to go along with his 0.93 ERA in 2003.

North Georgia got back in the thick of things thanks to a 17-11 June. Shea Hillenbrand hit .308. Benny Santiago hit .305 with 15 rbi. Brian Jordan hit .293 with 10 doubles and 20 runs scored. Fred McGriff hit .286 with 5 homers and 27 rbi. Edgar Renteria (.335) and Placido Polanco (.304) are proving to be a sweet hitting middle infield. Ted Lilly was 3-0 with a 2.86 ERA in June. David Wells was 4-1 with a 3.91 ERA. Eric Gagne saved 10 wins. Paul Byrd had a tough June (7.28 ERA). Andy Pettitte has a solid 3.01 ERA after 84 games.

The Avengers had their best month so far as they went 15-13. Eric Chavez hit .353 with 6 homers and 28 rbi in June. Pat Burrell slugged .604 with 31 rbi. Jose Vidro hit .322 with 10 doubles. Lance Berkman and Lee Stevens both clubbed 8 homers in June. Chris Magruder hit 8 Junes doubles to go along with his .207 BA. Greg Zaun slumped in June, hitting .165. Jorge Sosa was 4-0 with a 2.88 ERA in June. Tony Armas Jr. was 4-0 in June. Steve Parris (6.68) and Aaron Myette (8.44) had rough Junes. Mike Thurman probably lost his spot in the pen after going 1-4 with a 10.26 ERA in June.

NL June Leaders: Jason Kendall hit .354. Chris Singleton batted 125 times. Derek Jeter scored 34 runs. Trot Nixon smacked 4 triples. Jermaine Dye delivered 9 souvenir balls. Pat Burrell drove in 31 runners. Eric Chavez posted a .647 slugging pct. Brian Giles had a .459 OBP. Jeff Bagwell hit 7 homers off of lefties. Roy Oswalt won five times. Kenny Rogers had a 1.64 ERA. Aaron Myette allowed 57 hits. Nelson Cruz served up 13 dingers. Rady Johnson K'd 66 hitters. Jeremy Affeldt uncorked 6 wild pitches. Jason Johnson allowed only 1.52 walks per 9 inn. Opponents hit .168 off of Ramon Ortiz. Glendon Rusch received 9.83 runs of support.

NL STATS LEADERBOARD							
Batting Average	Bases on balls	Homers vs RHP		Sacrifice Hits			
Larry Walker .359	Brian Giles 64	Sammy Sosa	23	Rey Ordonez	16		
Paul Konerko .358	Frank Thomas 63	Lance Berkman	22	Jose Vizcaino	13		
Edgar Renteria .335	John Olerud 62	Jermaine Dye	22	Placido Polanco	12		
Bob Abreu .333	Bob Abreu 61	Trot Nixon	21	Quinton McCracken	9		
Bernie Williams .332	Carlos Delgado 58	Carlos Delgado	20	Mike Bordick	7		

Award Watch

The Mudcats place their best on the board. No hit hero Glavine is having a fine season and Schilling is trying to grab back-to-back awards, but this time in the NL. Bryanan makes it two Charlevoix rooks to garner attention. Odie will merit Cy consideration by season's end if he keeps it up.

Award	Player	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB	
AL MVP	Alex Rodriguez, MIN	.292	.370	.569	25	76	62	0	
NL MVP	Paul Konerko, FLE	.358	.390	.557	14	66	48	0	
NL ROY	Russell Bryanan, CHA	.275	.345	.533	21	69	50	2	
		W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	K
AL CY	Tom Glavine, CC	12	3	0	3.64	129	124	28	73
NL CY	Curt Schilling, STA	12	3	0	2.92	130	97	24	144
NL ROY	Odalis Perez, IOWA	9	3	0	3.50	129	119	28	80

Corey has new e-mail address

If you have not made the change already to your address book, please do so. Corey's new address is weissc@tcq.net. Thanks.

Reporting Trades

When reporting trades to Corey please be very clear as to what is involved in the trade. DO NOT simply forward Corey a string of messages to Corey and expect him to decipher what was dealt. In a message to Corey please state in the subject line that this is indeed a trade report, i.e. OCALA-MINNESOTA TRADE. Then clearly state what was involved in the trade, i.e. "Ocala trades Sosa to Minnesota for A-Rod." Lastly, always remember that both managers are required to notify Corey of the trade.

2003 All Star Game

This year Paul Weltz and his Sioux get the honors of hosting our mid-season event. Enclosed in the ZIP archive you will find a ballot for your league to fill out. Please complete the ballot and return to me by July 15th so Paul has plenty of time to play and enjoy the game.

Overheard

In the June 11th issue of *Sports Weekly*, John Hunt published a wonderful response to his query as to “whether your significant other enjoys fantasy baseball.” The reader’s response: “My wife of 30 years asked me who I loved more, her or baseball. I said I didn’t consider baseball a ‘who’.” Why do I suspect some BRASSballers share this sentiment ☺

Fines

None ☺

Trades and Roster Stuff

59. Columbus trades Jeremy Giambi to Minnesota for Miguel Olivo, Ryan Ludwick, Jake Gautreau, Andres Galarraga and \$550,000.
60. Charlevoix trades Steve Kline to Santa Barbara for Kevin Gryboski.
61. Charlevoix trades Dan Wilson to Santa Barbara for Bret Prinz.
62. Toledo trades Adrian Beltre, Chris Reitsma and Ryan Drese to Charlevoix for Todd Zeile, Casey Blake, Charlevoix's 2004 2nd round draft choice, Charlevoix's 2005 2nd round draft choice, Charlevoix's 2005 5th round draft choice and \$750,000.
63. Glen Allen Kerry Robinson to Moline for Moline's 2004 7th round draft choice.

Upcoming League Deadlines

- July 15th All Star ballots are due to Mark
- July 15th Results due to both opponents and Dave and Corey
- July 17th Trade deadline for August games
- July 25th Instructions and rotations due out for August

Guest Authors

Jim C. and Lenny have each authored articles for us.

Next Issue of “League News”

The All Stars come out in Stanley! The season advances to the serious stages.



Best Month Ever?

Was this past month of May the Glen Allen Mets best month in their history? GM Clark responded, "I leave that to the statisticians to determine, but it sure felt great! We were 9-5 at home and played an incredible 11-3 on the road to finish 20-8 for the month, after playing .500 in April."

Mets batting coach, Ed Kranepool was all smiles when asked about May 2003. "We raised our team batting average from .260 to .278 while hitting 44 homeruns, 57 doubles and 10 triples. It seemed like everybody was outstanding so how could I pick just one? If you twist my arm I would say Jose Vizciano, who was batting .222 with ten hits for April and finished May at .315 with 29 hits in a limited role. Trot Nixon continues to lead the team in the slugging categories: 18 HR, 42 RBI, 4 triples and 36 runs."

Keep up the good work guys.

Pitching Report

Bullpen coach John Stearns was pleased with the 12 saves his crew earned in May. "We have a good group of guys without any big egos. Luis Vizciano is so quiet, until you ask him to pitch and then you hear the pops from my mitt. He recorded 5 saves and E.Y. (Esteban Yan) had 6 this month. Todd Jones has struggled some, but we have put in extra work."

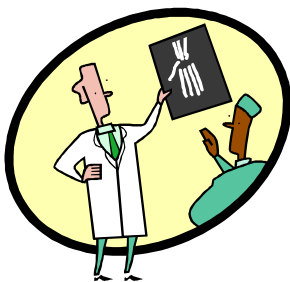
"The entire staff has been steady and one of our team's strengths. The starters know that if they can give us six innings or so, this crew can get them the win. I know if we can keep doing our job and the offense scores some runs we will contend for the Division title."



Last month this over the Mets 2002 MVP and his mediocre stats. Well Albert Pujols has pulled into a tie for team lead in RBI with 42, slugged 7 homers and brought the average up to .292, while leading the team in walks with 31, and 61 hits.

Let's Go Mets!

There's Albert!
publication raised concern



INJURY REPORT

David Segui had no broken bones in his hand after experiencing pain, only a severe sprain that will land him on the disabled list for June. He will surely return for September.

Two Articles from Lenny...

Common Strat Mistakes

Making the most out of the game's features and options helps improve draft league performance, especially when combined with proper roster management.

Insufficient Position Depth

Every position requires replacement players, whether as defensive specialists or platoon players. Building or establishing alternatives for every position decreases the possibility of entering into future drafts with glaring weaknesses or disadvantages.

Left-Handed Pitchers

So much of the "lefty" myth comes across as unfounded or inaccurate. Left-handed pitchers perform very well in a variety of situations depending on league size and opposing roster composition. As an example, left-handed pitchers are worth their weight in gold against teams with unstable balance ratings.

Super Hal Bullpen Management

Believe it or not, Strat managers don't necessarily employ this feature when creating computer managers for their teams. Pitching staffs perform better in crucial situations when implementing this function, and over the course of a season, make a positive difference in the won-loss column.

Platoon Properly

Using platoons for selected positions improves the possibility of winning. Too many platoons allow opposing managers to use their bullpens as an effective weapon against you. Besides, part-time players are never as effective over multiple seasons as those who are more competent in all aspects of the game.

Take Small Steps

Use the rosters nearest in proximity to your own ball club as points of comparison. The first step is reducing the quality level between you and your division counterparts, then other competitors, and finally the league as a whole. Comparing your own roster to that of the league champion serves little purpose except if situated in a position where the two ball clubs stand on an equal basis competitively.

Trading First Round Picks

Rookies and prospects require a large developmental period, especially in an area where almost every major league team brings its players too quickly through their systems. Be very careful of trading a player who'll perform brilliantly in two to three years for a player who is past his peak performance value.

Range Ratings Overblown

Looking at the more traditional Strat-O-Matic draft leagues, range ratings, especially at shortstop, second base, or center field, receive far too much emphasis. As many teams win with players rated 2 or 3 as those with the so-called "critical" top range rating.

PICKING THE RIGHT BALLPARK

Picking the right ballpark for your team is as important as the personnel you have up and down your bench. For the lucky one's, you have the chance to build your team first, then pick your ballpark accordingly. Folks, picking the right ballpark to fit your team is as difficult as scouting the next phenom, maybe more so, because not unlike that young phenom player, the ballpark will change from year to year, sometimes drastically. There are ballpark 'slumps', just like players are inclined to have, and 'off years' just the same. So how do you go about discerning what type of park would best suit your needs?

Everything always goes back to 'the master plan,' building a team that will contend for years to come through a nice blend of youth and experience. I tend to go for the youth and experience combination because it is a widely acknowledged fact that players perform at their peak between the ages of 27 to 33 years of age. That's a pretty large window of time to count on a player to perform for you. All the better if you stack your team with fairly proven players closer to the 27-29 year old range.

With pitchers though, I have a little bit different philosophy. I want my staff anchors to have at least 400 to 500 innings of MLB experience behind them, and I sprinkle that with a few up and comers to round out the staff. If I go too young or inexperienced, I tend to fill the holes with dependable long men in the bullpen and a few that might give me a spot start. Ideally, I also have a balanced staff with a couple of lefties to face up a strong right-handed hitting team.

The ballpark you choose should be balanced in such a way that it compliments the type of defense and pitching you have, as well as your lineup balance. If you are heavy in the lineup with right-handers, a shorter fence in LF will help you with some power. By the same token, you can stack your pitching staff with right-handers to create an opposing manager tendency to put lefties out there swinging for a rightfield fence that's deeper and more difficult to hit a home run. That will help your pitching staff to some degree.

If you have a set of middle infielders that are not grade 'A' type glovemen with '3' or worse range factors, try to look for a ballpark that has a low ballpark effect reading for singles. This will help offset grounders that go for singles on the X-chart reading, and often times will help your less than spectacular pitchers work out of jams. Keep in mind though that this does not always work, bad players will make bad plays regardless of how well managed they are. But you the manager can help offset a lot of the defensive AND offensive shortcomings by giving yourself an even better home field advantage. If a MLB team did well in real life in their home park, your chances of success will be higher in that park, if it is your home park also.