



League News July 2003

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Matchup of the Month



Versus



Bakersfield	Tale of the Tape 2003 Stats	Cook County
+108	Run Differential	+207
.807	OPS	.895
3.58	ERA	3.35
24-18	Road Record	26-16
48-36	2003 Record	59-25

For July we have a matchup of two very fine AL clubs. Cook County has been one of the best teams in BRASSball for years now. Their offense is phenomenal in application. Both teams have fine pitching staffs. The Rattlers are no slouches themselves with a bat in their hands. Both teams also excel away from their home yards. Frankly, this should be a heckuva matchup. Let's see how it turned out.

Game 1: Wade Miller (BAK) vs Tim Wakefield (CC)

The Rattlers struck first in game one with a Jose Hernandez rbi triple. Derrek Lee's solo homer in the fourth off of Wakefield made it 2-0 early for the Rattlers. In the sixth Derrek Lee smacked a gap double to plate another run for the visitors. Jeromy Burnitz followed with a sac fly to push the lead out to 4-0 and in the end giving Miller all he would need to secure the win. The Rattlers went on to a 7-0 whitewashing in game one. Miller allowed only three hits over six innings. Jayson Durocher pitched the last three frames for an extended save.

Game 2: Sidney Ponson (BAK) vs Steve Trachsel (CC)

Derrek Lee once again got the Rattlers out front early. This time he sent an impressive rocket out to left field for a quick two run headstart in the first. In the second, after Mike Cameron's sacrifice moved the runners on first and third up ninety feet, David Bell grounded to third to plate the Rattlers third run. In the top of the third the Rattlers collected three more runs to end the Mauler chances in game two. The Rattlers would cruise to an easy 12-3 victory in game two. Young callup Ben Broussard finished the day with four hits. Like Miller, Ponson allowed only three hits in his six innings of work and was also ably followed by Durocher for three innings. After two games the Rattlers had scored 19 runs off of the strong armed Maulers.

Game 3: Tim Hudson (BAK) vs Tom Glavine (CC)

A fine pitching matchup was scheduled for game three. For the third straight game the Rattlers got on the board first. Cameron led off the game with a single and was moved along with Bobby Hill's sac. Derrek Lee then singled to put runners on the corners. Glavine, already unnerved, proceeded to walk Dmitri Young to load the sacks for David Bell. Bell responded with a run scoring single for the first run. Next up was Bubba Trammell and Bubba was able to coax a second walk out of Glavine and the second run of the inning trotted in from third. Glavine finally settled down in the first and got out with only the two runs allowed. In the bottom of the first Nomar Garciaparra's solo homer got one of the runs back for the Maulers. Then in the third Lee continued his hot hitting when he smacked a solo homer of his own to make it 3-1 Bakersfield. On the mound Hudson was doing his job as he kept the Mauler bats silent. A fourth Rattler run came across in the fourth when- guess who- Derrek Lee delivered a run scoring single with two outs. In the bottom of the sixth the Maulers would get as close as 4-3 when Desi Relaford's double scored two. Huddy left for the showers in the eighth finally after yielding a solo blast to Carl Everett. The final ended up 7-4 Bakersfield with Derrek Lee the star of the day as he collected five hits on the day.

Game 4: Freddy Garcia (BAK) vs Jamie Moyer (CC)

Moyer started out game four able to do what his Mauler cohorts couldn't- keep the Snakes off the scoreboard for the initial innings. This time the Maulers were able to strike first when Carl Everett lifted a long fly that seemingly sneaked over the fence beyond the leaping reach of Mike Cameron. In the top of the fourth Moyer's defense behind him crumbled as they committed two errors that led to two runs for the Rattlers. In the bottom of the fifth Piazza evened the contest at two when he homered to lead off the inning. In the top of the sixth the Rattlers came back. Bobby Hill led off with a double and moved up to third on Derrek Lee's hustling infield single. Lee stole second to give Dmitri Young another runner in scoring position, but his lofted fly to center wasn't deep enough to plate Hill. David Bell then followed with a walk to put runners at every base for Bubba. Trammell came through as he pulled an inside pitch from Moyer into the left field corner to score two. Eugene Kingsale's single scored another run to make it 5-2. The scoring in the inning continued when Glaus threw one wide of first allowing Trammell to score easily. After six the score was 6-2 and three of the runs were helped along by the Mauler lack of defense. The final would end up 8-4 Rattlers to give them an impressive sweep in suburban Chicago. Lee finished the game with three hits while Kingsale bagged three ribbies.

Game 5: Pedro Martinez (CC) vs Russ Ortiz (BAK)

A sterling pitcher's duel began game five. Through four innings of play both squads were scoreless and Pedro had only yielded one hit. In the top of the fifth Alfonso Soriano started a rally when he singled to left. Nomar kept it going as he too singled. Soriano scooted into third and up came Jason Giambi. Giambi rolled a seemingly innocuous grounder down to Lee at

first, but Lee ran over the ball for a silly error. Soriano came in from third for the first run. Ortiz became unglued out on the mound and proceeded to walk the next three batters allowing two more runs to score. After batting the Maulers were up 3-0. To the Rattlers credit they came right back in the bottom of the frame as Broussard led off with a dinger and Bell later singled to plate their second run to make it 3-2. But that was the closest the Rattlers could come in game five. Pedro was shaky as he allowed five walks through his seven innings of work. But the offense came through and the Maulers won their first one in the series 6-2.

Game 6: Tim Wakefield (CC) vs Wade Miller (BAK)

A rematch of game one's moundsmen was in store for game six. This one was a taught pitchers duel as the Rattlers held a 2-0 lead after batting in their half of the seventh. But in the eighth and ninth innings the Maulers were able to push across solo runs on sac flies to tie the game at two. Unable to score in the bottom of the ninth the game continued into extra frames. Relievers Mike Timlin for Cook County and Keith Foulke for the Rattlers were masterful in relief as the 10th, 11th and 12th innings ticked by with nary a run scored. In the top of the 13th Soriano led off with a single and stole second and then scurried to third when Pierzynski's throw veered toward right center. Nomar was next and he popped to short for the first out. Then the dangerous Jason Giambi strutted to the plate. Big G was able to work himself into a friendly 2-1 count. Foulke tried to get strike two with his change but G was ready, stayed back and drove a solid single to plate the go ahead run. Foulke was looking worked over after the Giambi single and had put in four innings so Dan Smith was brought in to face the heretofore silent Vlad Guerrero. Vlad was silent no more as he greeted Smith with a thunderous two run blast to put the game on ice. In the bottom of the 13th the Rattlers got the first two batters aboard, but a miracle rally ended when David Bell went down 3-6-3.

Game 7: Steve Trachsel (CC) vs Sidney Ponson (BAK)

The Maulers got the offense pumping early in the finale as solo dingers from Soriano and Giambi made it 2-0 visitors. The Rattlers grabbed a run back in the bottom of the first when Andruw Jones led off with a homer. In the bottom of the second David Bell knotted the game at two with a run scoring single. Not to be outdone in the third the Maulers went back on top 3-2 when Guerrero's single brought in a hustling Garciparra from second. The Maulers had the sacks full in the third but Todd Greene's DP ended a potential outburst of runs. In the fourth the Maulers extended the lead to 4-2 when Troy Glaus delivered the third solo dinger of the game for the Maulers. That would be the last run scored by the Maulers in this one. Solo runs in the fourth and sixth innings got the score back to level. To start the eighth game six hero Mike Timlin was pitching in relief of Trachsel. Wiry Jose Hernandez was his first batter in the eighth. Timlin tried to sneak the cheese past Jose but couldn't do it as Jose reversed it and sent it soaring out to the left field bleachers for the game winning run. Foulke managed the ninth this time and the Rattlers had taken the series by winning five games from the vaunted Maulers.

An excellent series this proved to be. The Rattlers taking four in Cook County's stomping grounds was near unbelievable- even for a team of Bakersfield's caliber. Derrek Lee was a one man force of his own to begin the series. This series ended up being critical to the Rattler fortunes as the Mudcats charged in July, but thanks largely to this series, the Rattlers were able to extend their divisional lead by a game.

Your 2003 BRASSball All Stars...

Name	Team	Pos	Gms	AL HITTERS						
				BA	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB
Giambi, Jason	CC	1B	84	.301	.434	.613	23	56	75	2
Thome, Jim	CC	1B	77	.274	.416	.625	26	56	58	0
Castillo, Luis	TOL	2B	83	.338	.386	.427	2	38	54	50
Soriano, Alfonso	CC	2B	84	.257	.294	.477	20	51	67	23
Bell, David	BAK	3B	84	.308	.364	.495	12	46	45	0
Huff, Aubrey	LAC	3B	64	.289	.335	.587	21	58	34	1
Lieberthal, Mike	PLZ	C	83	.280	.333	.418	7	32	28	0
Piazza, Mike	CC	C	74	.309	.372	.558	17	44	43	0
Pierzynski, A.J.	BAK	C	71	.349	.398	.509	2	22	27	0
Bonds, Barry	MOL	OF	74	.374	.548	.839	25	52	52	1
Floyd, Cliff	IOWA	OF	69	.318	.389	.589	14	57	42	5
Guerrero, Vladimir	CC	OF	84	.339	.383	.670	31	85	71	27
Hunter, Torii	MOL	OF	79	.298	.338	.554	18	52	41	7
Ramirez, Manny	LAC	OF	61	.364	.445	.711	15	50	45	1
Rodriguez, Alex	MIN	SS	84	.292	.370	.569	25	76	62	0
Tejada, Miguel	BOX	SS	84	.286	.347	.517	20	66	46	2

Name	Team	W	L	AL PITCHERS							
				SV	GS	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	HR
Alfonseca, Antonio	HES	0	1	12	0	2.66	20	17	8	13	1
Dotel, Octavio	LAC	2	4	2	0	2.05	53	36	19	58	3
Glavine, Tom	CC	12	3	0	17	3.64	128	124	28	73	20
Halladay, Roy	SB	10	5	0	18	2.85	123	94	48	89	9
Marte, Damaso	IOWA	3	1	4	0	0.62	29	17	8	31	2
Martinez, Pedro	CC	13	2	0	17	2.65	122	98	33	133	11
Rivera, Mariano	CC	2	2	21	0	2.14	21	9	10	18	2
Williamson, Scott	MIN	5	1	3	0	1.13	48	27	32	57	2
Wood, Kerry	BRO	8	7	0	19	3.30	141	103	81	142	20

Name	Team	Pos	Gms	NL HITTERS						
				BA	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB
Delgado, Carlos	GEM	1B	81	.272	.408	.576	21	49	59	1
Konerko, Paul	FLE	1B	79	.358	.390	.557	14	66	48	0
Kent, Jeff	STA	2B	83	.304	.343	.565	21	63	48	0
Vidro, Jose	MET	2B	84	.295	.361	.401	4	32	55	0
Vina, Fernando	PRE	2B	67	.287	.356	.381	1	21	40	9
Alfonzo, Edgardo	OCA	3B	73	.315	.377	.491	10	53	44	0
Brayan, Russ	CHA	3B	77	.275	.345	.533	21	69	50	2
Posada, Jorge	FLE	C	76	.278	.366	.484	12	46	39	1
Rodriguez, Pudge	GEM	C	65	.283	.328	.530	12	34	33	4
Abreu, Bob	FLE	OF	83	.333	.441	.634	18	59	63	5
Giles, Brian	OCA	OF	77	.300	.438	.596	18	60	61	6
Green, Shawn	OCA	OF	84	.300	.382	.544	22	75	65	1
Higginson, Bobby	COL	OF	68	.311	.388	.496	10	54	43	10
Sosa, Sammy	OCA	OF	81	.308	.410	.613	26	80	69	0
Walker, Larry	SPR	OF	74	.359	.451	.602	13	56	49	8
Jeter, Derek	OCA	SS	83	.318	.376	.478	14	45	81	12
Renteria, Edgar	NG	SS	83	.335	.388	.521	9	38	66	19

Name	Team	W	L	NL PITCHERS							
				SV	GS	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	HR
Benitez, Armando	BLO	4	2	21	0	2.78	32	20	9	39	5
Gagne, Eric	NG	2	0	23	0	1.72	31	22	2	45	3
Leiter, Al	FLE	7	5	0	18	2.45	117	97	34	78	9
Oswalt, Roy	OCA	12	4	0	20	2.99	141	129	41	114	17
Rhodes, Arthur	OCA	3	0	11	0	0.34	26	6	5	27	1
Schilling, Curt	STA	12	3	0	17	2.92	129	97	24	144	17
Wagner, Billy	SPR	0	2	18	0	1.53	29	19	8	23	2
Zito, Barry	GA	11	5	0	19	3.56	131	115	54	100	19

**2003 All Star Game
TeePee Tomb**

American	AB	R	H	BI
Castillo, 2b	3	1	2	0
Soriano, ph-2b	3	0	0	0
Rodriguez, ss	4	0	0	0
Tejada, ph-ss	2	0	0	0
Bonds, lf	2	2	0	0
Floyd, ph-lf	2	0	0	0
Guerrero, cf-rf	5	2	2	8
Giambi, 1b	2	2	1	0
Ramirez, rf	4	1	1	2
Hunter, cf	1	0	1	0
Thome, dh	3	1	2	0
Pierzynski, ph	1	0	0	0
Piazza, c	3	1	1	0
Lieberthal, c	1	0	0	0
Huff, 3b	1	2	1	1
Bell, 3b	2	0	1	1
	39	12	12	12

National	AB	R	H	BI
Renteria, ss	3	0	0	0
Jeter, ss	1	0	0	0
Abreu, cf	3	1	1	0
Giles, dh	3	0	0	0
Vina, ph	1	0	0	0
Sosa, rf	3	2	2	2
Green, ph-rf	1	0	0	0
Walker, lf	3	1	1	0
Higginson, ph-lf	1	0	0	0
Kent, 2b	3	1	2	1
Vidro, 2b	1	0	1	0
Konerko, 1b	1	0	0	0
Delgado, ph-1b	1	0	0	0
Rodriguez, c	1	0	1	1
Posada, ph-c	2	0	0	0
Branyan, 3b	1	0	0	0
Alfonzo, ph-3b	3	0	0	0
	32	5	8	4

Americans....510 050 010 12 12 0
 Nationals.....200 300 000 5 8 4

Americans	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Martinez, W	3	3	2	2	1	1
Halladay	0.1	3	3	3	1	0
Glavine	1.2	1	0	0	0	0
Marte	1	0	0	0	0	2
Dotel	1	0	0	0	0	3
Williamson	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Wood	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Alfonseca	0.1	0	0	0	0	0
Rivera	1	1	0	0	0	2

Nationals	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schilling, L	1	4	5	4	0	0
Zito	3	3	3	3	5	1
Oswalt	1	3	3	3	1	3
Benitez	1	0	0	0	0	2
Rhodes	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gagne	0.2	2	1	1	1	2
Wagner	0.2	0	0	0	0	0
Leiter	0.2	0	0	0	0	1

LOB- AL: 10 NL: 4 DP-AL: 2 NL:1
 2B- Piazza, Kent, Vidro
 HR- Guerrero-2, Ramirez, Sosa
 A-43,970 T-3:33

2003 BRASSball ALL STAR GAME

Americans win 12-5
 Vlad has incredible day at the plate

The 2003 event landed at the Tee Pee Tomb, otherwise known as the home of the NL standouts- Stanley Sioux. Starting on the hill was the hometown's new hero- Curt Schilling. This was to be Schilling's second All Star start in a row as he performed the duty last year for the AL squad. Opposing him was Pedro Martinez. Just before game time the starting DH's were selected- Jim Thome for the AL and Brian Giles for the NL. With the introductions complete and the anthem sung a spectacular night in Stanley could commence.

The AL came out hungry for a win. Luis Castillo led off with a solid single and was awarded second when Kent threw wildly to first. Unexpectedly a fan in the fifth row had a souvenir already ☺ After A-Rod lined out Barry Bonds reached on an error by Paul Konerko at first. Up came the feared Vlad Guerrero. Schilling challenged the Mauler star with high heat, but was unable to get Vlad to offer. Down 2-0 in the count he came back with another fastball that missed its outside target. Down the middle it came and Vlad ripped at it and sent a three run bomb blast on its way to left field. Quickly the AL had jumped all over the Nationals. Jason Giambi was the next batter and was hit by a pitch that got away from Schilling. The sixth batter in the inning was slugger Manny Ramirez. Not learning from the Vlad at bat apparently Schilling tried to challenge another slugger with cheese. Nobody sneaks it by Manny and he too connected for a mammoth blast. After batting in the first the Americans had tallied five times already.

Spotted some runs Pedro had to feel comfortable out on the hill. Well, maybe too comfortable because with two down he served a fastball on a platter to the slugging Ocelot Sammy Sosa. Sammy launched it for a souvenir, scoring Bobby Abreu with him. The NL got two runs back after their half of the first and now only trailed 5-2.

Glen Allen's Barry Zito came on to start the second inning for the NL. Zito got himself in hot water as he loaded the bases with only one out. Guess who came up with the sacks full? That's right- Vlad. So here we had Zito and his masterful curve pitted against the deadliest swinger in BRASSball. Zito gave him his best and he got Vlad to a 2-2

count. On 2-2 Zito tried to hook him one more time. Vlad held back on the curve, swung and connected to send a towering drive to centerfield. Abreu raced back to the wall and hoped he had a chance at keeping this one in the park. With his back against the wall Abreu camped and caught a long out from Vlad that scored the sixth American run of the game. Zito was able to settle and get out of the second without further damage.

Pedro was dutiful on the mound as he pitched the AL through three innings and allowed only his first inning runs. To start the bottom of the fourth Roy Halladay was brought on as the second AL hurler. Sosa led off with a base knock. Larry Walker followed with a base hit of his own to get two runners on. Batting third in the inning was Jeff Kent and he was able to gap a double to score Sosa for the NL's third run. Frustrated, Doc Halladay uncorked a wild pitch that allowed Walker to scamper in from third. Still uneasy, he couldn't focus to get Konerko at the plate as Konerko was walked after only four pitches. With runners now on the corners up came Pudge Rodriguez. Halladay was finally able to record an out as he got Pudge to hit a can of corn out to Vlad in center, but it was deep enough to score Kent from third. After recording that out Halladay was relieved in favor of veteran Tom Glavine who was able to get the next two hitters to end the inning. After four complete the score was now 6-5 AL.

But in the top of the fifth and with Zito still pitching this game was put to bed. Jim Thome singled to start the inning. Mike Piazza followed with a double that drove Zito to the showers. On came Roy Oswalt and he was greeted by Aubrey Huff. Huff was able to reach out and dink a single over short for the first run of the inning. Oswalt appeared out of the inning though as he retired both Luis Castillo and A-Rod on strikes. He however could not get Bonds whom he walked to load the sacks. For the second time in the game Vlad came to the plate with the bases loaded. This time Vlad didn't miss. This time he returned the pitcher's offering well out into the left field stands. The Stanley fans were both stunned and celebratory as they just witnessed a man not only hit a grannie in an All Star game but collect eight rbi's to boot! Surely a performance like this will never be seen again. This historic dinger put the AL out front 11-5 and they were not challenged the rest of the way. Some fine pitching was had by the AL, particularly Octavio Dotel who set the NL down 1-2-3 on strikes in the seventh. The final score ended up 12-5 in the AL's favor. For the record Vlad came up two more times in the game, but neither time with men on base. In any event he etched himself into the BRASSball history books with this performance.

Thanks to Paul for playing the ninth installment of our league's fine All Star game. With Vlad's performance the AL now trails in the series four games to five. Next year the game heads back to the AL for its tenth anniversary. Here's hoping it lives up to this one.

AL Notes

AL EAST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs AL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Bakersfield Rattlers	68-44	---	33-23	35-21	20-8	21-16	17-15	.807	3.64
Minnesota Mudcats	63-49	5	29-27	34-22	19-9	15-23	7-20	.804	3.82
Moline Cutters	52-60	16	24-32	28-28	14-14	12-24	14-19	.733	4.08
Hessville Everreadys	35-77	33	17-39	18-38	12-16	14-25	11-23	.695	6.03

Bakersfield enjoyed an AL best 20-8 month of July to extend their lead over the Mudcats to five games. As evidenced in the *Matchup of the Month* Derrek Lee did just about everything for the Rattlers in July. Lee hit .355 with 9 homers and 25 rbi. He scored 28 runs. He stole five bases. As an impending free agent Lee is getting hot at the right time. Jose Hernandez also was quite impressive during July as he hit .371 with 7 dingers. All Star AJ Pierzynski hit .315 with 10 doubles. Mike Cameron got on at a .388 clip in July, slugged 7 homes and drove in

19. Freddy Garcia was 4-2 in his July starts with a 3.77 ERA. Tim Hudson went 4-0 in July despite a hearty 5.44 ERA. Darren Holmes picked up 3 wins in relief in July. Russ Ortiz was 3-1 in July. On the season Ortiz has a very fine 3.11 ERA.

The Mudcats charged in July as they went 19-9, but failed to pick up ground on the leader. In July Gary Sheffield finally made himself noticeable to the Mudcat faithful. Sheff hit .310, pounded out 10 dingers and drove in 25. He also posted a fine 1.107 OPS for the month. A-Rod continues a torrid pace set last month by hitting .345 and leading the club in runs (28) and rbi (32). Craig Wilson hit .360 in July, and of note, has been hit 25 times by opposing pitchers. Ouch! Mark Kotsay another poor month (.220). Catcher Ramon Hernandez hit .163 in July and will now be pushed aside in favor of All Star Pudge Rodriguez. Kirk Rueter went 4-0 in July with a 2.92 ERA. Matt Morris (3 wins) and Pedro Astacio (2) won games despite bloated plus-six ERA's in July.

The Cutters went 14-14 in July and appear to have sunk out of contention. Barry Bonds continues to do all he can do. In July he registered a .508 OBP and a .652 SLG. Bret Boone snapped out of a season long funk by hitting .295 in July with 6 dingers and 20 rbi. All Star Torii Hunter led the club in homers (10) and rbi (35). Einar Diaz collected 9 two-baggers during the month. Kerry Robinson hit .183 in extended playing time. Miguel Batista posted a fine 2.25 ERA in July but his 2-3 record shows he was on the wrong end of run support. Greg Madduz sports a fine 2.95 ERA on the year but is only 7-5. Maddux is another Cutter pitcher begging for some runs. Elmer Dessens upped his record to 12-5 in July.

Hessville went 12-16 in July. Rondell White hit .295 with 4 homers in July. Charles Johnson hit .338 with 10 doubles. Jack Wilson is scrapping for ROY attention as he is now hitting .285 after July action. Terrence Long led the club with 17 July ribbies. Jose Valentin hit .365 in platoon duty for the month. Abraham Nunez had a rough month as he only hit .140. No Hessville starter could register a sub-four ERA in July but Brian Anderson did go 4-2. Brian Moehler took the worst of it (1-4, 7.39). Juan Alvarez a solid 1.50 ERA in 12 innings of relief.

AL CENTRAL Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs AL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Cook County Maulers	77-35	---	41-15	36-20	39-17	20-11	21-14	.875	3.38
Iowa Rubes	60-52	17	32-24	28-28	28-28	13-16	17-18	.791	4.14
Box City Parcelmen	35-77	42	18-38	17-39	15-41	7-27	7-20	.724	5.82
Plaza Lions	29-83	48	13-43	16-40	13-43	13-16	11-13	.665	5.75

The Maulers continued to clip along in 2003 as they went 18-10 in July. Vlad Guerrero continues his attempt at a Triple Crown season by hitting .330 in July with 10 homers and 24 rbi. Vlad is also now up to 36 steals for the season. Jason Giambi hit .294 with 9 dingers in July. What a sweet free agent pickup he has been for the Maulers. Nomar hit .315 in July with 9 doubles. All Star Alfonso Soriano slumped in July as he only hit .224 for the month. Mike Piazza needs a summer breather after hitting .256 in July. Jim Thome is up to 30 dingers in 2003. The Maulers paced the AL All Star selections with eight. On the mound Pedro continued to shine as he went 4-1 with a 1.95 July ERA. Mike Timlin was 3-1 in relief. Mariano Rivera picked up 8 more saves in July without allowing a run to score. Tim Wakefield has the second best starter ERA on the staff at 3.61. Mike Stanton is 6-0 in relief so far. Vulture ☺

The Rubes slumped in July going 13-15 and now find themselves in a playoff dogfight. Cliff Floyd hit only .225 in July but did his absolute best to make his successes count as he led the club in homers (7), rbi (19) and tied in runs (19) and doubles (8). Craig Biggio continued his pleasant campaign by hitting .298 in July with 4 big flies. On the year Craig is hitting .312. Cristian Guzman hit .327 in July. Mags Ordonez drove in 20 runners for the month. Robin

Ventura (.212) and Jason Varitek (.210) are having disappointing seasons. Odie Perez went 4-1 in July with a 2.40 ERA. Hideo Nomo completed three July starts on his way to 2.27 ERA for the month. John Thomson a rough month (9.00 ERA). Buddy Groom 7-1 in relief so far.

Team Brown went 9-19 in July. Tim Salmon continued to mash in July and may still figure in a playoff contender's plans. In July he hit .347 and slugged at a .693 clip. His 23 July ribbies led the squad. Kenny Lofton made the most of his torrid July (.375 BA, 6 HR) by getting dealt away to Cook County. All Star Miggy Tejada had a ho-hum July as he hit .262 and committed 8 errors in the field. Robert Fick hit a lowly .204 in July but did drive in 16 runners with it. Cory Lidle tossed 4 CG's in July to go along with a 3.83 ERA. Mike Hampton will forget July quickly (10.44 ERA).

A 7-21 July has sunk the Lions to the lowest depths of BRASSball. But the Lions continue to audition youngsters for the future so the fans up in ND at least get to enjoy the previews. Veteran Marty Cordova swung a hot July bat as he hit .318 with 5 knocks and 21 rbi. Fellow vet Kevin Young hit .261 with 5 homers of his own and 20 ribbies. Eric Hinske posted an impressive .445 OBP in July. Bill Selby had an interesting July. He only hit .172 (15 for 87), but 11 of those 15 hits went for extra bases, including five triples and 4 homers. Jeff Farnsworth the only Lion to notch two victories in July. Scott Erickson and Brett Myers combined to go 0-10 in July.

AL WEST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs AL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Santa Barbara Outlaws	62-50	---	33-23	29-27	20-8	18-20	14-19	.774	3.52
La Crosse Lagers	61-51	1	30-26	31-25	16-12	20-19	17-13	.799	4.51
Toledo Mudhens	56-56	6	32-24	24-32	17-11	15-19	15-19	.745	4.45
Brooklyn Bulldogs	43-69	19	25-31	18-38	13-15	15-24	14-20	.715	4.71

A 16-12 July keeps the Outlaws barely out front in the West. Garrett Anderson came through with a big month as he hit .342 with 9 homers and 30 rbi. Erubiel Durazo posted an impressive 1.173 OPS in July. Todd Hollandsworth hit .333 and scored 18 runs. Adam Kennedy hit .303 in July. Jacque Jones tumbled in July as he only hit .195 for the month. Eli Marrero continues to lead the club in homers with 19. Aaron Boone has 31 swipes in 2003. Out on the bump Rodrigo Lopez (4-1, 2.20) and Tomo Ohka (4-1, 2.78) were an impressive Outlaw combo. That brings Rodrigo up to 9-2 in only two months of work so far. Roy Halladay is 11-8 in 2003 with a 3.13 ERA. Danny Graves threw a scoreless month of relief in July.

The Lagers charged in July as they went 18-10. Thanks to that performance they've climbed over the Rubes for a playoff spot at the moment. Long way to go though. Sparkplug Jerry Hairston Jr. hit .342 in July with 12 two-baggers. Ben Grieve toted a productive bat in July as he smacked 8 long balls and drove in 20 runs. Johnny Damon hit .315 and led the club with 21 rbi in July. It is worthy to note that the Lagers put this month together with their two All Star mashers, Manny Ramirez (.253 BA) and Aubrey Huff (.236 BA), having subpar months. Alex Cora was used effectively off the bench to hit .535 in 43 at bats with 20 runs produced. Lagers enjoyed possibly their best team effort out on the mound (3.54 ERA) in July. Kip Wells posted a 3.12 ERA in July. John Burkett went 3-1. All Star Octavio Dotel picked up three relief wins in July. Closer Troy Percival saved 7 wins despite a 7.27 ERA. Kevin Millwood's 9-9 record not indicative of his quality outings for the Lagers (3.54 ERA). He keeps this team in games.

The Mudhens bubble may have burst as they went 13-15 in July. They are still at .500 and within reach of a playoff spot though. Shannon Stewart was productive as he hit .333 with 9 doubles and 15 rbi in July. Andy Fox (.364 BA, 7 steals) and Mike Lamb (.347 BA, 9 rbi) were

quite helpful in spot duty for the Mudhens. Alex Sanchez and Luis Castillo both swiped 14 bags in July, although Castillo (.195) slumped badly. One has to wonder what numbers Richie Sexson would be putting up if he played in a park more conducive to his prodigious power. The Tall Thin Man has only 16 dingers so far. Moose Mussina was 3-1 in July with a 3.00 ERA. Bret Tomko is quietly at 11-7 in 2003 for the Mudhens. Jon Garland 1-5 in July.

A 10-18 July from Brooklyn has them firmly focused on the future. That is no more evident than in the personage of Austin Kearns. In July the young callup hit .360 with 8 homers and 21 rbi. Veteran Jeff Conine hit .356 for the month. Shortstop Alex Gonzalez hit .301 with 4 dingers and 18 rbi. Brent Abernathy collected 8 July doubles. Ken Griffey Jr. hit 5 of his 6 2003 homers in July. Josh Fogg went 3-2 with a 3.27 ERA in July. Brian Tollberg completed all five of his July starts. All Star Kerry Wood struggled to start the second half (1-4, 4.62).

AL June Leaders: Kenny Lofton hit .375 in July. Barry bonds scored 30 runs. Jerry Hairston Jr. doubled 12 times. Bill Selby legged out 5 triples. Torii Hunter had 35 rbi. Mike Cameron whiffed 38 times. Craig Wilson was hit by 10 pitches. Vlad Guerrero grounded into 8 DP's. Austin Kearns slugged .740. Derrek Lee amassed 78 total bases. Jose Hernandez hit .440 versus RHP's. Pedro Martinez had a 1.95 ERA. Esteban Loaiza tossed 49.2 innings. Mariano Rivera saved 8 games. Brett Myers allowed 44 runs. Danny Wright allowed 33 walks. Hideo Nomo whiffed 42 hitters. Migeuel Batista balked twice. Jayson Durocher allowed 4.76 hits per 9 innings. Kirk Rueter received 8.33 runs of support.

AL STATS LEADERBOARD							
Doubles		Hit by Pitch		Slugging Pct.		HR vs RHP's	
Magglio Ordonez	41	Craig Wilson	25	Barry Bonds	.783	Vlad Guerrero	34
Garrett Anderson	37	Craig Biggio	14	Vlad Guerrero	.663	Alex Rodriguez	30
Nomar Garciaparra	35	Jason Giambi	13	Jason Giambi	.611	Jason Giambi	28
Mike Lowell	35	Miguel Tejada	12	Derrek Lee	.598	Jim Thome	24
Cliff Floyd	34	Jose Valentin	11	Alex Rodriguez	.593	Torii Hunter	24

NL Notes

	NL EAST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA	
Springfield Isotopes	69-43	---	37-19	32-24	18-10	14-10	14-12	.770	3.96	
Glen Allen Mets	64-48	5	34-22	30-26	12-16	16-9	14-18	.788	3.74	
Port Richey Everglades	44-68	25	18-38	26-30	8-20	12-16	16-13	.702	5.30	
Charlevoix Tigers	38-74	31	21-35	17-39	7-21	14-15	15-12	.770	7.19	

A 17-11 July from the Isotopes keeps them safely out front in the East. All Star Larry Walker led the club in July in average (.392), homers (7) and rbi (17). Luis Gonzalez got on at a .388 clip and scored 15 runs. Jeff Bagwell hit .286 with 20 runs scored and 5 diners. Michael Tucker contributed 9 doubles and six steals in July. Matt Stairs is having a nice season in a reserve role as he is hitting .325 with 9 homers for the 'Topes. Mark Mulder went 4-2 with a 2.38 ERA in his six July starts. Mark Redman and Jarrod Washburn both won three games in July. Washburn is now 13-6 for the season. Ramon Ortiz (5.71) and Kyle Lohse (5.23) wavered a tad in July. Billy Wagner picked up two relief wins and three saves in July.

Glen Allen went 18-10 in July to strengthen their hold on a playoff spot. Albert Pujols hit .291 in July with 7 bombs and 19 rbi. Mel Mora supplied some pop also as he went deep 7 times in July. Trot Nixon had a .425 OBP in July. Quinton McCracken had a very productive July as he hit .311, led the club in runs (18), doubles (8) and steals (5). Catcher Bengie Molina had a tough July as he hit .136 for the month. Andy Ashby sparked in July for the Mets as he went 5-1 with a 3.00 ERA. Callup Runelvys Hernandez went 4-1 in July. Four Met relievers combined

with a 1.66 ERA. The biggest news though comes from AJ Burnett who threw a no hitter for the Walkers! Jorge Julio had 8 July saves and now has 21 on the season.

A.J. Burnett tosses a no-hitter!									
Fleetwood					Metropolis				
	AB	R	H	BI		AB	R	H	BI
Catalanotto, 2b	4	0	0	0	Hubbard, rf	4	0	0	0
Abreu, rf	2	1	2	0	Vidro, 2b	3	0	0	0
Jones, dh	3	0	2	0	Berkman, cf	3	0	0	0
Konerko, 1b	4	0	1	0	Burrell, lf	3	0	0	0
Edmonds, cf	4	0	1	0	Chavez, 3b	3	0	0	0
Posada, c	4	0	0	0	Ramirez, dh	3	0	0	0
Ibanez, lf	4	0	1	0	Paquette, 1b	3	0	0	0
Clayton, ss	4	0	0	0	Fordyce, c	3	0	0	0
Counsell, 3b	2	0	1	0	Escalona, ss	2	0	0	0
	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>27</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Fleetwood	100	000	000	1 8 0					
Metropolis	000	000	000	0 0 1					
Fleetwood	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO			
Burnett, W	9	0	0	0	2	10			
Metropolis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO			
Armas, L	7.2	8	1	1	4	8			
Magnante	1.1	0	0	0	0	0			

Bloomington went 14-14 in July to keep a glimmer of playoff hope alive. Callup Joe Crede swung a mighty bat. He hit .356 with 9 homers and 26 rbi. Ichiro hit .311 in July and scored 23 runs but oddly could only steal one base. Ichiro might be nursing a sore hammy. Marlon Anderson showed some of his 2002 form by hitting .375 in July. David Ortiz also had a solid month as he hit .375 with 6 taters and 21 ribbies. Juan Gonzalez hit .329 with 12 doubles. Preston Wilson hit only .215 in July but he was still able to muscle 7 over the fence for the Bees. CC Sabathia went 3-0 with a 2.63 ERA in July. Youngster Josh Beckett will have much better months than this past July: 0-4, 9.09 ERA and 9 homers allowed.

Columbus went 13-15 in July. Richard Hidalgo was a big producer in a part time role. In July he hit .356 and slugged at a .661 clip. Jimmy Rollins got going with a .281 July average and 11 doubles. Carlos Beltran collected 12 July doubles. Scott Rolen continues in his season long doldrums as he hit .214 in July. Livan Hernandez had a nice month out on the hill as he went 4-2 with a 3.54 earnie. Darrell May went 2-2 with a 2.77 ERA. Roberto Hernandez picked up 4 saves. Jeff Nelson (1.80, 22K's) and Sean Lowe (1.80 ERA) had nice months in relief.

NL WEST Expanded Standings									
	W-L	GB	HOME	ROAD	Vs NL	Vs LH	1-RUN	OPS	ERA
Ocala Ocelots	82-30	---	42-14	40-16	38-18	19-9	22-10	.854	3.46
Gem City Wolfpack	58-54	24	32-24	26-30	26-30	15-13	22-18	.757	4.38
North Georgia Yellowjackets	55-57	27	26-30	29-27	26-30	17-12	24-16	.717	4.11
Metropolis Avengers	43-69	39	21-35	22-34	23-33	9-21	12-10	.692	5.26

Ocala went 17-11 in July. Shawn Green carried the biggest Ocelot stick in July. He slugged .673 and drove in 31 runners. Todd Helton hit .354 in July with 12 doubles and 29 rbi. Brian Giles hit .340 with a .458 OBP. Luis Rivas hit .339 for the month. Derek Jeter hit only .235 but did swipe 12 bags and score 23 runs. Kenny Rogers won four July starts for the Ocelots. Roy Oswalt posted a solid 3.18 ERA in July but needed a few more runs as he went 3-4. Glendon Rusch is now 18-3 on the season with a 5.18 ERA. Scott Sauerbeck (0.87) and Steve Reed (1.35) had fine outings out of the Ocala pen. Arthur Rhodes leads the club with 14 saves.

A 12-16 month from Gem City has them freefalling out of playoff consideration. Dustan Mohr hit .277 in July with 5 dingers and 17 rbi. Todd Walker hit .284 and scored 19 runs. Mark Bellhorn hit .271 and clubbed 6 homers. Veteran Barry Larkin had a tough month as he hit only .229 for the month. The Wolfpack committed only 7 errors in July and their total of 43 on the season is lowest in the NL. Tony Fiore was plugged into the rotation in July and went 2-0 with a 3.44 earnie. Jason Isringhausen picked up 6 July saves and now has 21.

A horrible 9-19 has dropped the Yellowjackets way off the playoff pace. The 'Jackets had a tough month scoring runs as they managed to score a little over three runs a game. Fred McGriff did the best he could hitting .352 with 4 homers and 12 rbi. Shea Hillenbrand and Placido Polanco both hit .306 in July. Youngster Corey Patterson hit only .198 in July. Jon Lieber posted a 3.82 ERA but could only go 1-4. John Smoltz took a turn again as the squad's closer in July and saved 5 of the 9 wins. Joe Beimel (8.31 ERA) had a rough month.

The Avengers couldn't repeat June's success and thus had an 8-20 July. Lance Berkman hit .286 for the month with 6 homers and 22 ribbies. All Star Jose Vidro hit .294 with 12 doubles and 22 runs. Eric Chavez still in a funk as he hit .240 in July but did pick up 6 of his 15 homers in the July heat. Aramis Ramirez (.171 BA) and Craig Paquette (.170) didn't play too well. Kevin Beirne started 6 times, registered a 2.90 ERA but could only go 1-0. Charles Nagy probably headed back to the minors after going 0-5 with a 9.86 July earnie.

July NL Leaders: Craig Counsell hit .403. Bernie Williams collected 43 hits. Shawn Green clubbed 10 homers. Sammy Sosa walked 22 times. Carlos Delgado whiffed 35 times. Quinton McCracken sacrificed himself 15 times. Derek Jeter stole 12 bases. Larry Walker had a .684 slugging. Joe Crede amassed 79 total bases. Todd Helton hit .529 off lefties. Charles Nagy lost five times. Javier Vazquez threw 52.1 innings. Vlad Nunez pitched in 19 games. Jorge Julio had 8 saves. James Baldwin allowed 10 big flies. Wilson Alvarez allowed 26 walks. Curt Schilling whiffed 59 hitters. Batters hit only .162 off of Damian Moss. Mark Mulder allowed only 0.60 walks per nine innings. Randy Johnson received 8.40 runs of support.

NL STATS LEADERBOARD							
Innings Pitched		Walks allowed		Wild Pitches		K to BB ratio	
Roy Oswalt	192.1	AJ Burnett	89	Tony Armas Jr.	13	Curt Schilling	5.80
Javier Vazquez	179.2	Jimmy Anderson	75	Roger Clemens	11	Eric Milton	4.46
Curt Schilling	177.0	Glendon Rusch	73	Dennys Reyes	9	Randy Johnson	4.43
Paul Byrd	172.0	Barry Zito	72	Jeff Suppan	8	Javier Vazquez	3.72
Derek Lowe	171.2	Tony Armas Jr.	69	Ramon Ortiz	8	David Wells	3.50

Award Watch

Two Mauler hitters merit attention in July. Vlad, of note, is on his way to a historic season. Young fireballing rookie Jorge Julio gains some notice. Ortiz and Oswalt are having fine seasons.

Award	Player	AVG	OBP	SLG	HR	RBI	R	SB	
AL MVP	Vlad Guerrero, CC	.337	.377	.663	41	109	96	33	
NL MVP	Shawn Green, OCA	.302	.382	.577	32	106	82	1	
AL ROY	Alfonso Soriano, CC	.249	.286	.449	25	67	81	35	
		W	L	SV	ERA	IP	H	BB	K
AL CY	Russ Ortiz, BAK	11	7	0	3.11	151	116	67	102
NL CY	Roy Oswalt, OCA	15	8	0	3.04	192	186	52	156
NL ROY	Jorge Julio, FLE	2	2	21	3.26	50	45	11	47

Proposal Preview

What follows is a preview of a proposal that will be on the ballot this off-season. Because it affects the way we approach MO players Corey and I felt it important to let all in on it early so as to think it over, pose questions, analyze one's team in relation to it, etc. If you do have questions please pass them along to both Corey and I. This is a collaborative effort of the two of us. The main thrust of this proposal is to eliminate the need for callups in BRASSball. Callups and MTM players have mushroomed into an accounting nightmare for Corey. We felt there had to be a better way to get usage out of young players.

Remove the MO and MTM call-up system. Replace it with the following:

- Until a player achieves 200 PA's or 40 innings in a MLB season he can remain on an MO contract as long as the owner continues to resign him.
- Once a player does achieve 200 PA's or 40 innings in a MLB season he becomes a Y1 player if the owner wants to retain him. The cost of a Y1 player is 200K.
- A Y1 player at season's end would then need to be renewed to a Y2 contract if they are to be retained. The cost of a Y2 player is also 200K.
- A player on a Y1 or Y2 contract can be used completely. That is, if he has 500 PA's or 163 innings to use- he can use them without having to be "called up."
- After a Y2 player finishes his season he must be signed to an "A" or "U" contract if the manager wishes to retain him. The deadline for doing so will be October 25th
- All players currently on MO contracts, upon passage of this proposal, would be moved to Y1 contracts if they had achieved the 200/40 threshold in the just completed MLB season.
- Players on Y1 & Y2 contracts will NOT be considered "Playoff Eligible."
- Players on MO contracts will still be able to play in September for free.
- Players on MO (resigned to MO or Y1) and Y1 (resigned to Y2) contracts that are not renewed will go back into the draft and start the process over again. However, Y2 contracts will not be renewable as Y2 contracts. The player needs to be signed to an A or U contract OR be released into the free agency pool.
- Under this proposal A contracts and free agent contracts would become limited to a length of 7 years if passed.
- Under this proposal U contracts would become limited to a length of 3 years if passed.
- New contract amounts will need to be implemented [see chart below]. Please note that no current ML contracts will be affected- only newly inked ones.

New contract amounts		
	A	U
1 year	NA	\$400,000
2 year	NA	\$1,000,000
3 year	\$6,000,000	\$2,000,000
4 year	\$10,000,000	NA
5 year	\$15,000,000	NA
6 year	\$24,000,000	NA
7 year	\$35,000,000	NA

Fines

None ☺

Trades and Roster Stuff

65. Charlevoix trades Tyler Houston to Moline for Moline's 2004 6th round draft choice.
66. Charlevoix trades Steve Kent to Metropolis for a bag of roasted almonds.
67. Santa Barbara trades Julio Santana to Metropolis for \$50,000.
68. Minnesota trades Lastings Milledge and Aaron Cook to Gem City for Ivan Rodriguez.
69. Minnesota trades Doug Davis to North Georgia for a super-sized bag of popcorn and a large, refreshing drink.
70. Gem City trades Al Levine and \$66,667 to Metropolis for 4 box seats at the Hall of Justice for the remainder of the season.
71. Stanley trades Mike Myers and Jay Powell to Metropolis for \$100,000.
72. Columbus trades Erik Hiljus, Mike Bacsik and Chris Brock to Metropolis for \$100,000.
73. Cook County trades Ken Harvey to Gem City for Steve Finley and \$750,000.
74. Box City trades Kenny Lofton and \$889,000 to Cook County for Stanley's 2004 4th round draft pick.

Upcoming League Deadlines

August 15th Results due to both opponents and Dave and Corey

August 17th Trade deadline for September games

August 25th Instructions and rotations due out for September

Guest Authors

Jim Clark informs us of the latest doings down in Glen Allen.

Next Issue of “League News”

One more month is left in the season. Who’s looking good for the playoffs? Who has to fight for one more month? We’ll see.

MONTHLY REVIEW

The Glen Allen Mets played to a 12-16 record in June. After a twenty-win month this was kind of a let down which could be attributed to only winning one game against the Ocala Ocelots. The teams’ batting average went down from .278 to .274 and the teams’ ERA rose from 3.72 to 3.81. Although these differences may seem minor, the Mets dropped out of a first place tie with Springfield to six games back in the National League East. There still remains the hope for the playoffs by winning the wild card position.

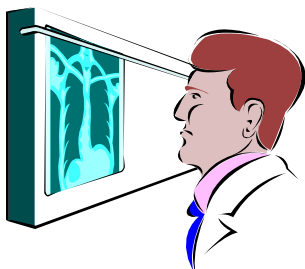
Mets GM Clark could only shake his head, “In May, everything seemed to fall in the right places for us, but in June they just did not. The team felt flat, so I will bring up a few guys from the minors and give a few of the veterans a little time to rest and recover from injuries. Hopefully when we talk this time next month there will be that spark again.”

Player of the Month

In June, Albert hit 4 home runs, Trot 3, Colbrunn 3, Justice 4, Mora 4, so whom do you pick? Wait a second! Five home runs were hit by Ricky Ledee! Acquired in a trade in the off-season, he was rehabilitating in the minors from a bad hamstring. Ledee arrived in style, blasting 2 HR in his first game as a Met.

“The scoreboard lit up with fireworks and read WELCOME RICKY!! It was a great feeling to help this team win in my first game.” Ledee had responded in the post-game interview that first night.

He hit .279 with 6 doubles and 8 runs, 13 RBI and a triple for his first month as a Glen Allen Mets. Unfortunately, that hamstring gave him more trouble and he will spend July on the disabled list. “I was getting in a good groove, so this (injury) is discouraging, but I will be back for the playoff run in August and contribute in the post season.”



Injury Report

Or this could be called the Mets pitching report due to a month of sore shoulders.

Jason Grimsley will be resting a tired shoulder and return in August.

Mike Venafro will be on the disabled list with tendonitis after extensive use in North Georgia.

Orlando Hernandez developed a sore elbow and will return in August.

Rookie Alert

Due to the noted injuries the following players will join the Mets for July.

*Runelvys Hernandez will replace Orlando (No relation) in the rotation.

*Scott Mullen will replace Venafro as the left-handed specialist.

*Brendan Donnelly will become the right-handed set up man for Grimsley.

*Orlando Hudson will get a chance as Ledee rest that hamstring.

*Bob Wickman remains in the minors for his rehabilitation and hopes to join the team in August.

Mendoza Watch

Melvin Mora and Bengie Molina have both been oscillating around that .200 batting average. Neither player has batted that low in their careers, but due to their valuable defensive positions for the Mets one or both may this season.