

SPBI 1969 Post-Season Newsletter

1969 Final Standings

The 1969 season could be described as "all or nothing", as 9 teams won 90 or more games, and 8 teams lost 90 or more games. Only two teams finished close to .500. The closest division race was in the AL West, with the Cubs finishing 8 games behind the Tigers. In the NL West, the **4th** place team won 94 games (and finished 18 games back)! However, each division had its share of strong teams, which would lead to an exciting post season. In fact, the 4 division winners finished in the top 5 of the Final Power Rankings.

The 1969 season finished close to my predictions, but predicting in SPB is fairly easy if you replay enough seasons. (The +/- is how many games my predictions were off by)

AL EAST	W	L	Pct	GB	Prediction	Place	+/-
1969 Lincoln Grays	105	57	.648	-	98-64	(1)	+7
1969 Flushing Rats	90	72	.556	15	86-76	(2)	+4
1969 Pocono Pelicans	72	90	.444	33	77-85	(4)	-5
1969 Schaumburg Saxons	70	92	.432	35	78-84	(3)	-8
1969 Blue Ridge Mountaineers	45	117	.278	60	58-104	(5)	-13

AL WEST	W	L	Pct	GB	Prediction	Place	+/-
1969 Frankfort Tigers	105	57	.648	-	101-61	(1)	+4
1969 Rossville Cubs	97	65	.599	8	88-74	(2)	+9
1969 Habana Robustos	79	83	.488	26	80-82	(3)	-1
1969 Dayton Triangles	73	89	.451	32	79-83	(4t)	-6
1969 Wabash Ravines	72	90	.444	33	79-83	(4t)	-7
1969 Elkhart Electric Eels	62	100	.383	43	66-96	(6)	-4

NL EAST	W	L	Pct	GB	Prediction	Place	+/-
1969 Asheville Tourists	100	62	.617	-	86-76	(1)	+14
1969 Tennessee Smokies	87	75	.537	13	87-75	(2)	even
1969 Cleveland Spiders	78	84	.481	22	77-85	(3)	+1
1969 Evanston Black Sox	75	87	.463	25	75-87	(4)	even
1969 Chicago Ravens	47	115	.290	53	53-109	(5)	-6

NL WEST	W	L	Pct	GB	Prediction	Place	+/-
1969 Hollywood Stars	112	50	.691	-	97-65	(1)	+15
1969 Las Vegas Tarantulas	95	67	.586	17	96-66	(2)	-1
1969 Las Vegas Thunder	95	67	.586	17	80-82	(4)	+15
1969 Rockford Forest Citys	94	68	.580	18	93-69	(3)	+1
1969 Cooperstown Legends	66	96	.407	46	75-87	(5)	-9
1969 Kenosha Eagles	63	99	.389	49	59-103	(6)	+4

1969 Playoffs

For the first time in SPBI there were divisional playoffs. Each manager submitted excellent write-ups that can be found on the SPB web page.

In the ALCS, the Grays won the last 3 games to take the series from the Tigers 3 games to 2. I don't think a MVP chosen, so I took it upon myself to appoint Andy Messersmith the ALCS MVP. Andy had a 0.60 ERA in 2 starts over 15 innings, and would have been 2-0 if Gary Nolan didn't blow a save in game 1 after Andy left the game in the 7th with a 3-0 lead.

In the NLCS, the Stars swept the Tourists in convincing fashion, allowing only 2 runs (1 earned). Gene Michael was named NLCS MVP in a losing cause with his .700 average and 7 of the Tourists' 16 hits.

1969 World Series

In the World Series, the Lincoln Grays came back from a 3 games to 2 deficit to beat the returning WS Champion Hollywood Stars. It doesn't appear that a MVP was chosen, but a few players were given kudos. In a tight race, I give the nod to Harmon Killebrew as World Series MVP. His .440 average, 4 home runs and 12 RBIs propelled him over Doc Ellis, 2-0 0.00 ERA over 2 starts and 15.1 innings in a losing cause.

Did you know?

The Pelicans had the most hits in a game in 1969 with **25** on June 22nd against the Cubs at Wrigley field.

The Grays scored the most runs in a game in 1969 with **24** on April 23rd against the Tarantulas at Memorial Stadium.

The Rats had the most home runs in a game in 1969 with **6** on August 14th against the Mountaineers at Shea Stadium.

There were **5** Triple Plays in 1969. The Mountaineers and Rats turned 2 apiece, and the Forest Cities had 1. The Mountaineers two triple plays came 3 days apart (May 19th and May 22nd)!

Boog Powell led the Majors in 1969 with **4** Grand Slams.

The Tigers had the most team Grand Slams in 1969 with **8**.

Denis Menke led the Majors in 1969 with **4** leadoff home runs.

Curt Motton led the Majors in 1969 with **6** pinch-hit home runs.

Roberto Clemente was the best clutch hitter* in 1969 with a **.457 avg.**

*all at bats with 2 outs from the 7th inning on

Rod Carew had a **20-game** hit streak in 1969.

Willie Davis and Sandy Alomar each had **2** steals of home in 1969.

Tommy Dean had **3** triples in one game on June 2nd against the Tarantulas at San Diego Stadium.

Tommy Helms had **6** hits in one game (13 innings) on August 4th against the Eagles.

Glenn Beckert had **4** stolen bases in one game on September 3rd against the Thunder at Crosley Field.

Tom Griffin had **16** Strikeouts in one game on April 28th against the Ravens at Connie Mack Stadium.

Juan Marichal allowed **16** hits in one game twice (and won both games!). June 12th against the Stars and July 13th against the Tourists at Comiskey Park.

1969 Award Winners

As of the writing of this Newsletter, voting had just started for 1969 All-Stars and Award Winners. Here are some predictions.

AL MVP-

Will Killebrew and Aaron, the Grays' bash brothers, split the vote and come away empty? And what about the Tigers, with Buford's ability to get on base and Blair's combination of power and speed? The Cubs' Frank Howard hit 54 homers and drove in 151 RBIs and Pete Rose hit .345 avg with a .435 obpct. The Rats' Brock had 16 triples and 58 steals and Yaz hit 43 home runs and drove in 123. Boog Powell hit 49 home runs and had 127 RBIs, but the Ravines 5th place finish might hurt his chances. Frank Robinson also had an excellent year for the last-place Eels with 35 home runs and a .401 obpct.

AL Cy Young-

The Grays' Messersmith (16-8, 1.79, 225 Ks) and Odom (22-6, 2.38) should finish in the top 5 or 6. The Tigers' Hands (24-5, 2.45) and Gentry (18-13, 2.80) will get some votes. The Cubs' Palmer (14-4, 1.78) has great numbers. The Rats' Gaylord Perry (23-9, 2.18, 228 Ks) always seems to be in the running. The Saxons' Phil Niekro (18-12, 2.36) had a great WHIP in over 300 innings pitched.

NL MVP-

The Stars were loaded with talent. Jones batted .368 with a .431 obpct, White batted .321 with a .427 obpct and Smith batted .311 with 28 home runs. Sal Bando of the Tourists hit .325 with 37 home runs and a .433 obpct, and Bonds had a 30-30 season. Then there's the Smokies' May with 47 home runs and 170 RBIs. The Tarantulas' McCovey hit .321 with 43 home runs, and the Thunders' Jackson batted .319 with 39 home runs.

NL Cy Young-

The Tourists' Jenkins (25-6, 2.11, 286 Ks) had a great WHIP in 320+ innings. The Stars had 3 20-game winners; Singer (23-11, 2.40, 223 Ks), Ellis (22-5, 2.43) and Gibson (21-7, 3.09, 203 Ks). The Thunders' Wilson (21-8, 2.41, 264 Ks) and the Black Sox's Marichal (22-12, 2.54, 201 Ks) had great seasons. The Tarantulas' Osteen (21-9, 2.96) should get some votes.