

SPBI 1970 Season Finale Newsletter

1970 Final Standings

The 1970 season was about the home run, as the 22 teams averaged 158 home runs each, up about 25 home runs on average from 1969. The American League had a bit more power than the National League, but the Senior League held the advantage in most other batting categories except walks and stolen bases.

The American League East race was the closest, as the Rats held a slim ½ game lead over the Tunnel at the start of play in September. A 20-4 September gave the Rats the pennant, although the Tunnel battled until the end and finished the month with a 19-8 record. The Cubs won the AL West pennant fairly easily over the 2nd place Tigers, finishing 15 games ahead.

The National League East race was similarly easy for the Tourists, as they finished 13 games ahead of the 2nd place Black Sox. The Stars lead the National League West most of the season, although a down month in September cut their 13-game lead in half.

Once again, the season finished close to my predictions. A couple of teams won a lot more than I predicted, but the same amount won much less. Three of the four division leaders won as expected. The Black Sox won 6 games less than predicted, while the Tourists won 13 more. That's why we play the game!

1970 Final Standings					Predictions		
AL EAST	W	L	Pct	GB	W - L	Place +/-	
Flushing Rats	104	58	.642	-	107 - 55	(1)	-3
Lincoln Tunnel	101	61	.623	3	85 - 77	(2)	+16
Cascade Glaciers	76	86	.469	28	80 - 82	(3)	-4
Schaumburg Saxons	65	97	.401	39	72 - 90	(4)	-7
Blue Ridge Mountaineers	57	105	.352	47	62 - 100	(5)	-5
AL WEST	W	L	Pct	GB	W - L	Place +/-	
Rossville Cubs	106	56	.654	-	99 - 63	(1)	+7
Frankfort Tigers	91	71	.562	15	94 - 68	(2)	-3
Elkhart Electric Eels	71	91	.438	35	73 - 89	(4)	-2
Wabash Ravines	70	92	.432	36	81 - 81	(3)	-9
Habana Robustos	67	95	.414	39	71 - 91	(5)	-4
Dayton Triangles	63	99	.389	43	61 - 101	(6)	+2
NL EAST	W	L	Pct	GB	W - L	Place +/-	
Asheville Tourists	96	66	.593	-	83 - 79	(2)	+13
Evanston Black Sox	83	79	.512	13	89 - 73	(1)	-6
Cleveland Spiders	79	83	.488	17	78 - 84	(3)	+1
Lafayette Chiefs	64	98	.395	32	74 - 88	(4)	-10
Kansas City Red Streaks	61	101	.377	35	63 - 99	(5)	-2
NL WEST	W	L	Pct	GB	W - L	Place +/-	
Hollywood Stars	105	57	.648	-	104 - 58	(1)	+1
Fairfax Peppers	99	63	.611	6	94 - 68	(2)	+5
Las Vegas Thunder	95	67	.586	10	87 - 75	(3)	+8
Rockford Forest Citys	81	81	.500	24	76 - 86	(4)	+5
Kenosha Eagles	78	84	.481	27	73 - 89	(5)	+5
Amboy Dukes	70	92	.432	35	67 - 95	(6)	+3

1970 Playoffs

In the ALCS, the Rats swept the Cubs by a combined score of 29-7. **Carl Yastrzemski** was named ALCS MVP, going 6 for 7 with 7 walks, 3 home runs, 9 runs scored and 5 RBIs. Johnny Bench finished a close 2nd with 4 home runs and 6 RBIs.

In a repeat of the 1969 NLCS, the Stars defeated the Tourists, although it took 4 games this time. **Jim Fregosi** was named NLCS MVP. Fregosi hit .400 and drove in 4 runs

1970 World Series

In the World Series, the Hollywood Stars came back from a 3 games to 1 deficit to beat the Flushing Rats. In the most dramatic 7th game in SPB World Series History, Bob Gibson tossed a no-hitter against the Rats, taming their mighty offense. In fact, if not for a 2nd-inning error (that was quickly erased on a double-play), Gibson would have pitched a perfect game! **Bob Gibson** was the unanimous choice as World Series MVP. He started 3 games, won two with one no-decision, allowed 0 runs and only 8 base runners in 21 2/3 innings, while striking out 24.

Did you know? Miscellaneous Reports

The **Thunder** had the most hits in a game with **29** on July 28th against the Peppers at Riverfront Stadium. In total, a team had **20** or more hits on 19 different occasions.

The **Thunder** and **Ravines** scored the most runs in a game with **21**. The Thunder did it on July 28th against the Peppers at Riverfront Stadium, and the Ravines did it on August 18th against the Cubs at Wrigley field. Three other teams scored **20** runs in one game (Tigers, Rats and Forest City).

The **Ravines** and the **Rats** tied for the most home runs in a game with **8**. The Ravines victimized the Cubs on August 18th, and the Rats did it against the Saxons on September 30th.

Three teams tied for the most stolen bases in a game with **6**. The **Stars** against the Spiders on May 28th, the **Thunder** against the Black Sox on June 25th and the **Tourists** against the Black Sox on July 17th. Coincidentally, the Black Sox are looking for a catcher in 1971...

The **Spiders** and **Glaciers** both turned **6** double plays in one game, on June 24th and July 13th, respectively.

There were **8** Triple Plays. The **Thunder** turned **2** and the **Cubs** hit into **3**. **Aurelio Rodriguez** of the Stars had the dubious honor of lining into **2** triple plays.

The **Rats** had a **20-game** winning streak from August 2nd through August 25th.

The **Tunnel** had at least 1 home run in **23** straight games from July 1st through July 25th.

The **Tunnel** had the most team Grand Slams with **12**.

Did you know? Miscellaneous Hitting Reports

Deron Johnson of the Tunnel led SPB with **5** Grand Slams.

Roy White of the Stars led SPB with **7** leadoff home runs.

The Cubs **Ted Savage** led SPB with **5** pinch-hit home runs.

The Spiders **Chuck Hinton** led SPB with **24** pinch-hits.

Deron Johnson of the Stars had a **4-home run** game on May 29th against the Eels.

Three players had **6** hits in one game; **Jose Cardenal** and **Rico Carty** of the Glaciers, and **Jerry Moses** of the Tourists.

Joe Torre of the Spiders had a **25-game** hit streak.

Five players hit for the **cycle**. **Tommie Agee** of the Peppers did it twice. **Manny Sanguillen**, **Dick Allen** and **Reggie Jackson** round out the remaining.

Ike Brown of the Cubs walked **5** times in one game.

Did you know? Miscellaneous Pitching Reports

Tom Seaver of the Ravines had the longest complete game, a **13-inning** 1-0 victory against the Black Sox.

The Black Sox **Bob Johnson** had **14** Strikeouts in one game on August 14th against the Spiders.

There were 12 **1-hitters** in 1970. All but one of the one-hitters were complete game wins. **Pat Dobson** of the Peppers lost 2-1 on September 12th against the Forest Citys, with both runs unearned. **Tourists'** pitchers had **3** 1-hitters.

Did you know? Miscellaneous Fielding Reports

Ted Kubiak of the Eels made 4 errors in one game.

1970 Award Winners

As of the writing of this Newsletter, voting had just started for 1970 All-Stars and Award Winners. Here are some predictions.

AL MVP-

This looks like a 2-player race, but there are many outstanding performances to choose from. The Cubs' **Boog Powell** (.371, 47HR, 130Runs, 127RBI) and the Rats' **Carl Yastrzemski** (.357, 42, 145, 135) had very similar numbers, but The Tunnel's **Deron Johnson** (.300, 49, 109, 145) and **Harmon Killebrew** (.252, 50, 105, 119), the Rats' **Tony Perez** (.322, 44, 115, 140), the Cubs' **Pete Rose** (.346, 222 Hits) and the Mountaineers' **Tommy Harper** (30HR, 33 steals) could steal some important votes from the front-runners.

AL Cy Young-

The Ravines' **Tom Seaver** (18-9, 2.04ERA, 0.97WHIP, 247K) has the edge over the Rats' **Ray Culp** (20-8, 3.05, 1.17, 225), the Tigers' **Bill Hands** (18-10, 2.93, 1.14, 163) and the Eels' **Fritz Peterson** (21-11, 3.30, 1.17, 129). The Robustos' **Jim McAndrew** (12-7, 2.74, 1.04, 100) and the Rats' **Gaylord Perry** (19-9, 3.14, 1.18, 204) could also grab some votes.

AL Fireman-

The Tunnel's **Clay Carroll** (9-8, 17Saves, 0.94WHIP) and the Cubs' **Stan Williams** (5-3, 15, 1.01) lead the pack, with the Tigers' **Fred Gladding** (9-6, 21, 1.37), the Rats' **Tom Hall** (4-6, 17, 1.30) and the Triangles' **Joe Hoerner** (1-8, 23, 1.54) close behind.

NL MVP-

The Tourists' **Bobby Bonds** (.343, 24HR, 121Runs, 99RBI, 37SB) and the Forest City's **Jimmy Wynn** (.303, 36, 111, 140, 23) combined power and speed. The Chiefs' **Lee May** (.283, 44, 92, 130), the Spiders' **Dick Allen** (.262, 40, 84, 110), the Peppers' **Willie McCovey** (.310, 39, 100, 119) and the Black Sox's **Don Mincher** (.295, 36, 87, 107) all provided plenty of power. The Stars' **Wes Parker** (.343, 202 Hits, 49Doubles, 120RBI) was a clutch RBI-man all season.

NL Cy Young-

This race is even closer to call than the AL MVP! The Tourists' **Fergie Jenkins** (26-2, 2.41ERA, 1.04WHIP, 246K) and the Stars' **Bob Gibson** (22-6, 2.70, 1.19, 226) have nearly identical numbers and both were critical to their team's success. The Red Streaks' **Marty Pattin** (11-11, 2.58, 1.18, 151), the Peppers' **Pat Jarvis** (17-9, 3.14, 1.23, 170) and **Pat Dobson** (15-12, 3.08, 1.33, 170) and the Eagles' **Steve Renko** (19-11, 3.15, 1.38, 141) will battle for the #3 spot.

NL Fireman-

The Thunder's **Ken Tatum** (7-4, 26Saves, 1.06WHIP), the Spiders' **Ken Sanders** (9-5, 14, 0.96), the Eagles' **Claude Raymond** (0-5, 25, 1.24), the Red Streaks' **Frank Linzy** (4-2, 23, 1.53) and the Dukes' **Ted Abernathy** (2-7, 27, 1.45) should round out the top five spots.