



## SPBI 1974 Pre-Season Newsletter



### 1974 Trades

There were a total of 54 trades made in preparation for the 1974 season. Before I discuss the leading trade mongers, it is interesting to note that the Dukes participated in 6 trades this season. Not outrageous, but when you consider that Al made a grand total of 5 deals in his first 4 seasons, it's impressive. What's up, Doc? With 16 trades, Dave Lauer narrowly beat out Steve Ehresman for the crown. Rick Ryan finished a close 3<sup>rd</sup> with 11.

Team	# Trades
Eagles	17
Chiefs	15
Cubs	11
Saxons	7
Dukes	6
Moondogs	6
Tigers	5
Thunder	5
Volcanoes	4
Phillies	4
Rats	4

Team	# Trades
Mountaineers	4
Red Storm	3
Spiders	3
Replacements	3
Black Sox	2
Stars	2
Forest Citys	2
Peppers	2
Triangles	2
G's	1
Tourists	0



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### 1974 Outlook

#### AL East

The Rats aren't among the league leaders in team hitting or pitching, but have enough of each to win the East. The Volcanoes are vastly improved over last year, and with a few breaks their pitching could give the Rats a good fight for the pennant. The Saxons can get on base and steal some bases, but their pitching staff is very thin, and they will most likely have 15 different pitchers getting at least 2 starts. The Mountaineers and Red Storm will struggle all season to score runs.

#### AL West

The Cubs pitching is second only to the Thunder, and an argument can be made that they are tops in the league. The G's have 5 top starters, and could lead the league in strikeouts. They can also get on base and have decent power to score some runs. The Phillies have Mike Schmidt, but there's not a lot of offensive support to protect him, so he could see a lot of IWs. The Triangles and Tigers will battle for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with the Phillies, and all 3 could challenge the G's for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Replacements don't have much power will give up too many runs to be competitive.

#### NL East

This race will be hot and heavy all season, as the Spiders, Tourists and Chiefs all have the skills to win the pennant. The Chiefs and Spiders will score runs in bunches, and the Tourists have a very solid pitching staff. The Chiefs also have solid pitching, and their front 3 of Sutton, Cuellar and Medich might be enough to grab the pennant. The Black Sox will be competitive offensively, but their bullpen is pretty thin and will run out of gas. The Moondogs won't score many runs, and their pitching is thin in both quantity and quality, so it will be put to the test all season.

#### NL West

Ridiculous is all I can say! There really is no reason for hope in this division; the Thunder are just the best team in SPB1! They are tops in hitting and pitching and their team obp is almost 30 points higher than the league average. They have plenty of speed and power to get those base runners home. Buzz Capra is their 5<sup>th</sup> starter... 'nuff said. The Forest Citys have a good balance of hitting and pitching and would compete for the pennant in any other division. The Dukes might be the most-improved team in 1974. With the exception of Foucalt, the Peppers bullpen is very thin. The Stars don't have much power or speed, and their bullpen is large but not very effective. Then there are the Eagles. The perennial winners of the Sportsmanship award always seem to come up with stellar performances from underrated players, so this season should be no exception.

#### AL Championship

The Rats vs. the Cubs. Pitching always wins, and this series should be no exception. The Cubs win in 4.

#### NL Championship

The Chiefs vs. the Thunder. The Chiefs are better than their record because of their tough division, but the Thunder's pitching staff is built for the short series. Thunder win in 3.

#### World Series

The Cubs vs. the Thunder. This is a great matchup between two great pitching staffs. The Thunder have so many weapons and ways to score runs, that they will wear the Cubs down. This will be a close series, where the bullpens might become the focal point, as neither starting rotation has any weak links. Thunder win in 6.



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### 1974 Predictions (1973 team name in parenthesis if different)

#### AL East

**Flushing Rats, Joe DeZarlo.**

1973 Record: 103-59, 1973 World Series Champions

1974 Prediction: 97-65

**Spirit Mountain Volcanoes, Marc Hollingsworth.**

1973 Record: 63-99, 4<sup>th</sup> Place American League East

1974 Prediction: 82-80

**Schaumburg Saxons, Vin Onstott.**

1973 Record: 79-83, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place American League East

1974 Prediction: 74-88

**Blue Ridge Mountaineers, Steve Brunner.**

1973 Record: 100-62, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place American League East

1974 Prediction: 72-90

**Niskayuna Red Storm, Don Rahn.**

1973 Record: 58-104, 5<sup>th</sup> Place American League East

1974 Prediction: 65-97

#### AL West

**Rossville Cubs, Rick Ryan.**

1973 Record: 95-67, 1<sup>st</sup> Place American League West

1974 Prediction: 92-70

**Gonzaga G's, John Dewan (Baltimore Stallions).**

1973 Record: 90-72, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place American League West

1974 Prediction: 87-75

**Dayton Triangles, John Turnbull.**

1973 Record: 67-95, 5<sup>th</sup> Place American League West

1974 Prediction: 79-83

**Terre Haute Phillies, Mike Boling (Piedmont Phillies).**

1973 Record: 74-88, 4<sup>th</sup> Place American League West

1974 Prediction: 78-84

**Frankfort Tigers, Gary Plunkitt.**

1973 Record: 83-79, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place American League West

1974 Prediction: 76-86

**Twin City Replacements, Marc Robinson.**

1973 Record: 61-101, 6<sup>th</sup> Place American League West

1974 Prediction: 69-93



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### 1974 Predictions (cont.) (1973 team name in parenthesis if different)

#### NL East

**Lafayette Chiefs, Steve Ehresman.**

1973 Record: 98-65, National League Champions

1974 Prediction: 88-74

**Cleveland Spiders, Chris Williams.**

1973 Record: 97-65, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place National League East

1974 Prediction: 87-75

**Asheville Tourists, Rich Applegate.**

1973 Record: 86-76, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place National League East

1974 Prediction: 85-77

**Evanston Black Sox, John Ungashick.**

1973 Record: 74-88, 4<sup>th</sup> Place National League East

1974 Prediction: 74-88

**Canton Moondogs, Tom Kackley (Kansas City Bombers).**

1973 Record: 41-121, 5<sup>th</sup> Place National League East

1974 Prediction: 64-98

#### NL East

**Las Vegas Thunder, Mike See.**

1973 Record: 108-54, 1<sup>st</sup> Place National League West

1974 Prediction: 112-50

**Rockford Forest Citys, Terry Baxter.**

1973 Record: 93-69, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place National League West

1974 Prediction: 92-70

**Amboy Dukes, Al "Doc" Schweitzer.**

1973 Record: 63-99, 6<sup>th</sup> Place National League West

1974 Prediction: 86-76

**Fairfax Peppers, Ron Peterson.**

1973 Record: 76-86, 5<sup>th</sup> Place National League West

1974 Prediction: 81-81

**Hollywood Stars, Don Zminda.**

1973 Record: 88-74, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place National League West

1974 Prediction: 79-83

**Kenosha Eagles, Dave Lauer.**

1973 Record: 86-76, 4<sup>th</sup> Place National League West

1974 Prediction: 66-96