

SPB1 1985 preseason forecast from Street and Schmoody's Baseball Publications

Using the most recent up-to-date supercomputer analytics (with a credibility interval, a measurement of precision, of four wins predicted, give or take), Baseball's premier publication, Street and Schmoody's 1985 Baseball Yearbook has produced, for their loyal readership, after 89,016 simulations, another epic preview for the upcoming exciting SPB1 1985 season.

(All stats from the 1984 SPB1 season; Batter and Pitcher averages are ages along with the number of players 25 and under and 35 and over; team stats are organizational rankings out of 22) (TA= trade acquisition followed by team acquired from. FA = free agent draft year with round and pick number) Enjoy!

1985 marks the 32nd season of Season Past Baseball 1. With a season of contraction (two franchises dropped prior to the '84 season) and the introduction of a new divisional and playoff format incorporated, more teams will be looking forward to capturing one of four playoff spots in their league. The past two championships have been carried home by first timers. Who will put this season's championship into their trophy cabinet? Could it be one of the ten franchises yet to win a championship, as 'the' team that will be putting on the glass spikes and becoming the next Cinderfella? Can any team come closer to the five SPB1 championships held by Mike See of the (now contracted) Las Vegas Thunder I, (renamed the Cleveland Buckeyes in their final season)? Will Mike See be able to bring a Las Vegas Thunder II version (formerly the Pine Barons¹ franchise) to a consecutive fifteen game seasonal improvement, increasing his odds in capturing one of the divisional wild cards? What are we waiting for? Let's get to it.

Offense and Pitching Rankings by Organization (22 teams) are shown next to the team.

Top 5 franchises with number of players 25 and under:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----|
| 1. Las Vegas Thunder | 24 |
| 2. Frankfort Tigers | 16 |
| 3. New York Mets | 15 |
| 4. Flushing Rats | 14 |
| 5. Rockford Forest Citys | 13 |
| Ottawa Lynx | 13 |

Top 3 franchises with number of players 35 and over:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Flushing Rats | 8 |
| Bolton Hill Scotties | 8 |
| 2. Dayton Triangles | 7 |

¹ (Franchise turnover results in team nicknames changing. The current version of the Las Vegas Thunder II traces its roots through these franchises: Las Vegas Platas de la Reyes ('83), Manchester Pine Barons ('80-'82), Hatteras Pelicans II ('79), Wilmont Dodgers ('75-'78), Twin City Replacements ('72-'74), Mill City Millers ('71), Habana Robustos ('69 expansion-'70).

AL EAST DIVISION predicted finishes:

- 1. 86 wins Collierstown Highlanders**
- 2. 81 wins Cleveland Spiders**
- 3. 78 wins Cuyahoga River Flames**
- 4. 65 wins Preble Zorros**
- 5. 57 wins Dayton Triangles**

**Collierstown Highlanders : Batters 28.7 avg -25 (6) +35 (4)
Pitchers 27.1 avg -25 (5) +35 (0)**

**BA .252 (20) OBP .319 (16) SLG .384 (14) Runs 672 (18) HR 127 (12) SB 113 (T3)
ERA 4.14 (10) 9.4 H/9 (9) 2.8 BB/9 (3) 4.4 K/9 (19) Sv 39 (T10) K 701 (T19) CG 17 (17)**

Starting with the AL East and in a surprise, the forecast is for the Collierstown Highlanders (70-92 4th) to upset the rest of the AL East and take the division crown. The Highlanders' John Moore has this team primed for another run at the division, after failing to defend their division crown last season. Look for veteran backstop Lance Parrish (.239 30 90) to again be among the leaders in games caught and will probably claim the clean up spot in the lineup. The infield will consist of 3B Tom Brookens (.239 2 17) platooning with Garth Iorg (.220 1 16), SS Tim Foley (.249 6 34), 2B Ron Oester (.235 4 41), and 1B Willie Upshaw (.264 10 83) with Enos Cabell (.282 13 54) handling the DH duties. OFs Larry Herndon (.240 7 44), Rickey Henderson (.285 21 54 50 sb), and Gary Redus (.233 9 58) will provide the speed game with a bench of Steve Henderson (.256 5 35), Thad Bosley (.290 1 6), and Johnny Grubb (.285 6 20) to fill in when necessary. There may be a chance that Rickey and Redus will both top 80 steals. GM Moore will be looking for a big turnaround from his veteran righties Joaquin Andujar (11-8 3.30), young Jay Tibbs (6-2 2.07), Steve Bedrosian (4-10 6.11), Ed Whitson (5-14 4.33), and lefty Scott McGregor (9-12 4.52). Moore is hoping these starters will eat up tons of innings taking a burden off a bullpen anchored by Lee Smith (2-8 3.39 26sv), supported by a cast of Floyd Youmans ('85 2nd rnd #5), Dave Rozema (6-5 2.19 FA '85 5th rnd #5), the 'other' Bob Gibson (5-2 4.02 FA '85 4th rnd #5) and fan favorite Greg 'Moon Man' Minton (3-1 3.78 5sv). Look for the Highlanders to outlast the Cleveland Spiders in a very weak division.

**Cleveland Spiders: Batters 29.2 avg -25 (5) +35 (3)
Pitchers 27.8 avg -25 (6) +35 (1)**

**BA .283 (4) OBP .346 (2) SLG .440 (4) Runs 903 (3) HR 180 (5) SB 35 (21)
ERA 4.43 (17) 9.4 H/9 (8) 3.2 BB/9 (13) 5.2 K/9 (9) Sv 42 (T7) K 838 (8) CG 23 (T7)**

After consecutive division titles, GM Chris Williams' Cleveland Spiders (93-69 1st; lost AL Division series to the Hoosiers) will find overcoming the Collierstown Highlanders challenging. Catching duties will fall primarily on Rich Gedman (.289 28 105) with rookie Darren Daulton ('83 1st rnd #15) in backup duty. Wayne Gross (.246 16 72), Scott Fletcher (.240 3 32), Bill Doran (.267 7 49) and Andre Thornton (.262 29 102) make up a solid infield from third to first. A trio of .300 hitters highlight the Spiders outfielders as Mike Easler (.312 15 84), Jose Cruz (.305 24 86) and Kevin Bass (.323 8 50) will not let too many pitches or drives get by them. Billy Hatcher (.278 4 54) and Hal McRae (.322 5 24) will probably split the DH duties. Rick Manning (.293 10 48) and Steve Jeltz (1 ab in '84 FA '85 3rd rnd #3) providing spot duty. GM Williams will be depending on a sinistromanual

rotation consisting of John Tudor (17-6 3.61), Matt Young (5-10 6.02), Atlee Hammaker (3-2 4.91), Geoff Zahn (16-4 2.75), and Tim Birtsas ('85 2nd rnd #17). The bullpen will be anchored by righties Sammy Stewart (4-2 5.38 5sv), Don Aase (3-3 3.35 5sv), Bob Stanley (4-8 3.83 18sv), and Don Robinson (2-3 3.97 10sv), one of whom will establish themselves as the closer. Ricky Horton (5-9 7.76) and Carlos Diaz (1-1 5.88) will be the bullpen lefties. With Steve Howe ('84 dnp) returning from his nose candy addiction that resulted in a year long suspension, GM Williams is hoping that Howe's return will provide support for the other lefties. They should still give the Highlanders a run for the division crown.

Cuyahoga River Flames: Batters 29.2 avg -25 (5) +35 (2)
Pitchers 27.6 avg -25 (5) +35 (0)

BA .284 (2) OBP .345 (3) SLG .431 (6) Runs 837 (5) HR 180 (5) SB 44 (19)
ERA 4.24 (12) 9.7 H/9 (14) 3.1 BB/9 (10) 5.8 K/9 (3) Sv 41 (9) K 838 (8) CG 18 (16)

Will the Cuyahoga River Flames (86-76 2nd) four consecutive second place finishes (along with a seven season .500 streak) finally culminate with a championship? GM Marc Robinson will need an overachieving bullpen and a reliable bench in order to keep the River Flames upwards trend. Catcher Gary Carter (.316 27 98) will provide the bat and glove behind the dish. Pedro Guerrero (.295 19 92), Dickie Thon ('79 1st rnd #15), Jim Gantner (.305 10 76), and Greg Walker (.291 14 69) make up the infield from third to first. The outfield will be manned by Mike Young (.288 17 57), Fred Lynn (.323 20 93), Cesar Cedeno (.223 8 49) and Dave Winfield (.364 21 84). George Hendrick (.242 10 49), Allen Wiggins (.281 4 56 76sb TA Thunder), Sid Bream ('84 dnp) and Jerry Hairston (.255 4 24) will provide bench support. The starting pitching will certainly be a strength with Fernando Valenzuela (16-6 2.89), Mario Soto (13-12 4.44), Mike Scott (9-13 5.43), Moose Haas (10-12 4.96) and Rick Rhoden (14-11 4.04),, and a young Bill Swift ('85 1st rnd #14) waiting in the wings. Mike Stanton (1-1 3.39 28sv) will reprise his closer role as the rest of the bullpen will include Bob James (4-8 4.97), George Frazier (6-3 3.32), and lefties Jamie Easterly (1-3 5.73), Chuck Cary ('85 4th rnd #14) and Paul Miraella (2-4 4.93). The River Flames could actually be a sleeper team that leapfrogs into a playoff spot.

Preble Zorros: Batters 27.9 avg -25 (6) +35 (1)
Pitchers 26.9 avg -25 (6) +35 (0)

BA .269 (11) OBP .323 (14) SLG .449 (2) Runs 775 (10) HR 218 (2) SB 101 (8)
ERA 4.67 (19) 9.8 H/9 (17) 4.0 BB/9 (22) 5.0 K/9 (14) Sv 28 (20) K 798 (15) CG 21 (T10)

GM Jim Wheeler's Preble Zorros (67-95 5th) look to replicate their 90 wins from two seasons ago, but it may prove more difficult to stop the downward spiral. The Zorros will struggle to reach 70 wins but should manage to stay out of the AL East basement. Don Slaught (.277 5 33) will share the catching duties with Rick Cerone (.210 2 14) and Bo Diaz (.226 1 7). Third to first will be manned by Graig Nettles (.235 18 48), Craig Reynolds (.287 11 53), Juan Samuel (.279 19 77), and Steve Balboni (.229 27 75). DH duties will be handled by Jim Pressley (.217 6 25). Can Jeffrey (Hack Man) Leonard repeat last season's performance by once again circling the bases over 30 times, with one flap down (.309 32 79)? Dave Henderson (.236 13 49) and Harold Baines (.279 18 62) will attempt to duplicate Hack Man's numbers. A young Paul O'Neill ('85 1st rnd #2) will be patiently waiting for his opportunity. With a rotation of Jack Morris (10-15 3.70), Bill Laskey (14-12 4.85 TA Black Sox), Lee Tunnell (1-6 8.23), Jim Clancy (11-9 4.26), and Len Barker (6-7 3.46), the Zorros

have a chance at striking at the .500 bell, but will require a herculean effort from their starting pitching. In the bullpen, lefty John Franco (4-9 3.12 22sv) is expected to share the closer role with newcomer Tom Henke (0-0 4.50). Larry Andersen (7-7 5.73), Ken Howell (3-1 3.65), Warren Brusstar (1-4 3.58 9th rnd #9), Dave Von Ohlen (1-0 2.00) and Dave Stewart (6-13 5.41) are expected to chew up the later innings. The Zorros youth movement will still need more seasoning, but team prospects are looking up.

Daytona Triangles: Batters 28.6 avg -25 (7) +35 (4)
Pitchers 30.5 avg -25 (2) +35 (3)

BA .253 (19) OBP .317 (17) SLG .378 (16) Runs 696 (16) HR 130 (11) SB 105 (6)
ERA 4.53 (18) 10.3 H/9 (20) 2.8 BB/9 (4) 5.5 K/9 (5) Sv 30 (18) K 892 (5) CG 21 (T10)

John Turnbull's Dayton Triangles (72-90 3rd) should give the Zorros plenty of competition for the AL East division's doormat. Catcher Bob Brenly (.288 32 103 TA Alley Cats) will handle the squat with Tom Nieto (.304 4 17) as backup. Ron Cey (.263 26 96), Hubie Brooks (.257 8 51 TA Tigers), Tony Bernazard (.231 3 19), and Jason Thompson (.255 13 69) will see the majority of the at bats in the infield. The outfield will be Lee Lacy (.335 10 75), youngster Odibe McDowell ('85 2n rnd #7) and Steve Lyons ('85 2nd rnd #22). Brad 'I am not a communist' Komminsk (.210 10 32) will be counted on for DH duty. Tom Paciorek (.235 0 10), John Shelby (.223 3 29 TA Hoosiers), and Chris Chambliss (.291 12 45 FA 5th rnd #7) occupy the bench. Seven players on this roster are 35 or older, but on the upside, there is a younger talent waiting to burst on the scene: CF Devon White ('85 1st rnd #7). Starting pitching will have John Butcher (13-8 4.41 TA Mountaineers), Ray Burris (10-9 3.33 TA Hoosiers), alongside reinstated pitcher Vida Blue ('84 dnp) and then a gaggle of goose arms. The bullpen will need to step up to the challenge as Ron Davis (5-9 4.92) is expected to claim the closer's role. Mike Jones (1-3 6.23), Rich Thompson ('85 rnd 8 #7), Vern Ruhle (3-0 6.01), Bob McClure (2-2 5.13 '85 2nd rnd #20) and Steve Shields ('85 9th rnd #7) will try to hold any rare lead that is presented to them. This is going to be one hard fall as we predict the Triangles will manage only 57 wins.

AL WEST DIVISION predicted finishes:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 1. 98 wins | Rockford Forest Citys |
| 2. 97 wins | Indy Alley Cats |
| 3. 93 wins | Bloomington Hoosiers |
| 4. 86 wins | Kenosha Eagles |
| 5. 85 wins | Frankfort Tigers |
| 6. 75 wins | Evanston Black Sox |

In the tough AL West, no team finished below .500 last season. Can the same hold true this season? It is a good bet that all teams in this division have a shot of at least a wild card. This is a division that could conceivably furnish three playoff teams with 100 victories, in the same season!!! Do not be surprised to see the Hoosiers, the Alley Cats, and the Forest Citys finish with 102/101/100 victories. (You read it here, first, in Street and Schmoody's 1985 Baseball yearbook).

Rockford Forest Citys: Batters 27.6 avg -25 (8) +35 (3)
Pitchers 27.6 avg -25 (5) +35 (2)

BA .276 (6) OBP .344 (4) SLG .422 (7) Runs 830 (6) HR 179 (6) SB 73 (12)
ERA 4.79 (21) 10.3 H/9 (22) 3.4 BB/9 (18) 5.3 K/9 (7) Sv 38 (14) K 857 (7) CG 20 (13)

Rockford Forest Citys (81-81 6th) GM Terry Baxter may have found the secret to capturing this division. Just stay under the radar without the flash and let the reliables get the job done. Bruce Benedict (.203 1 12) and Jerry Willard (.227 10 30) will share the catching duties. Rance Mulliniks (.352 4 51), Jose Uribe (.167 0 0), Lou Whitaker (.318 13 63) and Darrell Evans (.286 12 46) make up the infield from third to first. DH duties will be captured by Mike Brown (.335 14 46) and Bill Buckner (.249 8 55). Phil Bradley (.339 0 22), Joe Orsulak (.271 0 7) and Tom Brunansky (.292 42 131) will be the ‘punch and judy’ in the lineup and roam the outfield. Nick Esasky (.182 16 39), Jim Dwyer (.193 3 17), Gary Roenicke (.231 8 36) and Steve Buechele (‘85 1st rnd #11) are part of Forest Citys’ deep bench. Danny Cox (8-13 5.43 trade acq.), Britt Burns (4-5 4.93), Jim Slaton (5-6 3.30), Rick Sutcliffe (19-12 4.28) and Bob Forsch (1-0 0.73) will occupy rotation spots and keep the Forest Citys in games. The closer role will go to Goose Gossage (12-4 3.60 16sv) with assistance from Terry Forster (3-1 4.08), Rich Bordi (2-6 4.05), Nat Snell (0-0 1.35) and Steve Ontiveros (‘85 2nd rnd #11). Look for the Forest Citys to finish at or close to the top.

Indy Alley Cats: Batters 29.0 avg -25 (5) +35 (0)
Pitchers 28.7 avg -25 (5) +35 (2)

BA .283 (3) OBP .338 (6) SLG .477 (1) Runs 918 (2) HR 258 (1) SB 84 (10)
ERA 4.88 (22) 9.8 H/9 (16) 3.5 BB/9 (20) 4.3 K/9 (20) Sv 42 (T7) K 699 (21) CG 19 (T14)

GM Rick Ryan’s Indy Alley Cats (formerly known as the South Bend Cubs) (87-75 2ndT WC, won AL Wild Card series vs Tigers, lost AL Championship vs Hoosiers) will be one of the strong contenders for a playoff spot with a quintet of mashers (the Cats outfield, plus 3B Tim Wallach and DH Reggie Jackson) who hope to duplicate last season’s team home run totals that saw 258 baseballs leave the yard (3rd most in SPB1 history, behind the record setting 276 bombs by the ‘70 Lincoln Tunnel and just missing 2nd place ‘79 Canton Moondog’s 259 dingers). Veteran catcher Carlton Fisk (.220 18 61 TA Triangles) will provide the clubhouse leadership to keep the Alley Cats focused. Tim Wallach (.265 42 107), Garry Templeton (.266 8 54), Wally “I got your” Backman (.308 9 43) and Leon Durham (.311 13 34) make up a dynamic quartet. One of the league’s better outfields will have Mike Marshall (.242 31 81), Lloyd Moseby (.322 37 117 40sb) and Andre Dawson (.284 28 99) denting some outfield walls with bat and glove. Reggie Jackson (.228 21 60 TA Triangles) was acquired for DH duties. Floyd Rayford (.310 8 41), John Russell (.286 4 11), Domingo Ramos (.238 0 2), Bob Bailor (.315 1 7) and Mark Brouhard (.243 1 10 FA ‘85 9th rnd #9) supply the pinch hit at bats. Doyle Alexander (17-11 3.68), Andy Hawkins (6-4 6.09), Walt Terrell (9-14 4.21 TA Lynx), Rick Reuschel (7-3 4.61) and Bill Gullickson (8-1 3.84) will be the starting moundsmen. Bruce Sutter (3-1 3.00 6sv TA River Flames) takes over as closer, with stalwarts Gary Lavelle (4-3 3.77 14sv), Tim Stoddard (6-2 4.55 15sv), Larry Sorenson (4-5 6.35) and Roy Thomas (0-2 12.46 TA Forest Citys) expected to absorb the majority of relief innings. These Alley Cats are ready to roll!

Bloomington Hoosiers: Batters 27.3 avg -25 (6) +35 (0)
Pitchers 26.8 avg -25 (6) +35 (0)

BA .272 (9) OBP .326 (12) SLG .404 (11) Runs 770 (11) HR 136 (10) SB 109 (5)
ERA 3.89 (6) 8.7 H/9 (5) 3.2 BB/9 (16) 4.3 K/9 (21) Sv 39 (T10) K 701 (T19) CG 31 (T3)

GM Steve Lehman has not sat back on his SPB1 champion Bloomington Hoosiers (86-76 T2nd WC, won AL Division series vs Spiders, won AL League Championship vs Cubs, won SPB1 Championship vs Mountaineers). Last season's catchers both topped 20 dingers. Can miracles happen twice? Ozzie Virgil (.268 20 75) will split the catching duties with Bill Schroeder (.323 23 67). Ken Oberkfell (.249 1 35) has the hot corner, the 'Wizard of Oz' Ozzie Smith (.280 3 39 31sb) will handle shortstop, reliable Ryne Sandberg (.329 19 105) second base and Keith Hernandez (.268 12 69 TA Peppers) will be the fixture at first base. Former shortstop Robin Yount (.249 18 51 TA Triangles) will join Tony Gwynn (.348 7 91) to handle the outfield chores along with Keith Moreland (.262 15 62) and Kevin McReynolds (.245 14 52) sharing DH and spot outfield duties. Tim Flannery (.263 2 19), Randy Ready (.171 2 14) and Brett Butler (.272 1 37) will provide bench support. With a plethora of rotation riches comprising of Ron Guidry (7-12 4.86 TA Triangles), Bret Saberhagen (3-2 3.94), Charlie Liebrandt (8-8 3.31), Mike Boddicker (18-10 2.92) and Bruce Hurst (13-12 3.94) with Dave Dravecky (7-7 3.53) and Dennis Martinez (9-10 5.07) available to chew up spot starts, the Hoosiers will provide a formidable challenge to the Forest Citys and Alley Cats for first place. Len Whitehouse (4-0 4.96 '85 10th rnd #10), Scott Garrelts (0-0 4.40), Greg Harris (6-4 4.36), Mike Armstrong (5-4 4.56), Wes Gardner (0-0 3.38 '85 3rd rnd #22) and Stew Cliburn (0-0 13.50) will be relied on for the later innings. The Hoosiers have the horses to take them back to the big game.

Kenosha Eagles: Batters 29.5 avg -25 (4) +35 (3)
Pitchers 28.6 avg -25 (8) +35 (3)

BA .258 (17) OBP .324 (13) SLG .391 (12) Runs 700 (15) HR 111 (15) SB 42 (20)
ERA 3.70 (3) 8.7 H/9 (4) 3.2 BB/9 (14) 5.6 K/9 (4) Sv 47 (3) K 920 (4) CG 10 (T21)

Kenosha Eagles (84-78 5th) in any other division might actually have the team to make a run for a crown, but in the AL West, no sympathy for the devil. GM Dave Lauer has Ernie Whitt (.208 11 35) at catcher with Chris Bando (.350 9 38) as backup. Phil Garner (.268 1 27) should beat out Buddy Bell (.324 8 65) for the hot corner, while Rafael Santana (.250 0 13) will handle shortstop with Dick Schofield, Jr. (.185 5 33) as backup. It appears Greg Brock (.205 13 36) and Pete Rose (.321 1 39) will share 1B/DH duties. In the outfield, newcomer Vince Coleman ('85 FA 1st rnd #12) should provide speed on the basepaths and scouts believe that Coleman could reach 90 stolen bases and with luck, might hit the 100 mark (Rod Carew has the SPB1 stolen base record with 139 stolen bases for the Las Vegas Thunder I in 1975 and the second place record holder, Lou Brock, Flushing Rats, had 127 sb in 1974). Chet Lemon (.247 9 61) and Brian Downing (.283 22 76) will man center and right, respectively. It appears that Ken Griffey (.241 7 35) will spell the outfielders and DH. The Eagles band, Mike Pagliarulo (.294 1 23), Luis Salazar (.218 0 14), George Vukovich (.272 4 41 FA '85 3rd rnd #20), and Jim Pankovits (.517 0 11 FA '85 4th rnd #1) will headline the bench. The Eagles have eight pitchers fighting for rotation spots headed by oldtimers Phil Niekro (11-11 3.86) and Joe Niekro (9-12 4.00 TA Brushbacks), Ron Darling (11-7 3.07), Mike Witt (11-7 3.14), Mike Moore (8-12 4.20), Shane Rawley (7-6 3.24), and youngsters Mark Gubicza (9-7 3.84), and Jim Gott (6-3 3.46). Who knows? With the baseball

analytics-driven mind of GM Lauer, you might see the Eagles open the season with a seven man rotation. GM Lauer has done stranger things. Those who fail to make the rotation will probably end up in long and middle relief. Bullpen roles will be distributed among Pat Clements (FA '85 2nd rnd #12), Gene Garber (7-5 3.33 15sv), Juan Agosto (5-5 4.47 5sv), Dan Spillner (2-6 5.53) and Tom Gorman (1-1 5.54 FA 6th rnd #12). These Eagles will soar, but probably not to the playoffs, this season.

Frankfort Tigers: Batters 29.0 avg -25 (5) +35 (2)
Pitchers 25.1 avg -25 (11) +35 (1)

BA .268 (12) OBP .329 (11) SLG .444 (3) Runs 824 (7) HR 212 (3) SB 113 (T3)
ERA 4.30 (14) 9.4 H/9 (10) 3.4 BB/9 (19) 6.4 K/9 (1) Sv 45 (6) K 1033 (1) CG 22 (9)

GM Gary Plunkitt's Frankfort Tigers (88-74 1st; lost AL Division series to the Cubs) rise to first after eight non playoff years may be short-lived playing in the toughest division of them all. Mike Heath (.226 11 53) will handle the catching duties with Tim Laudner (.267 6 24) as the backup. George Brett (.275 8 45 TA Lynx) will handle the hot spot with Roy Smalley (.214 6 28) platooning at short with Luis Aguayo ('84 dnp), Johnny Ray (.310 11 54) at second, while Dave "King Kong" Kingman (.251 42 102) will place his iron glove at first. The Tigers are hoping for repeat seasons from Howard Johnson (.306 20 65) and Jim Morrison (.314 17 44) (risen from the tub to platoon in the bigs). Joe Carter (.257 12 37 TA Lynx), Willie Wilson (.274 3 46 47sb TA Triangles) and Chili Davis (.283 15 66) man the outfield from left to right. Carmelo Castillo ('84 dnp), Len Matuszek (.234 9 34) and Davey Lopes (.304 9 37 TA Lynx) will provide outfield support and Bill Madlock (.265 2 10 FA '85 2nd rnd #15) will be counted upon as the DH. Dwight Gooden (18-9 3.15 294k), Dennis Eckersley (16-12 3.88), Storm Davis (13-9 4.69), Jose DeLeon (8-7 4.12), and Kurt Kepshire (7-7 4.16) will be a formidable rotation. Dave Righetti (4-2 4.09 30sv) and Tom Niedenfuer (5-9 4.47 11sv) will dominate the late innings with support from Joe Beckworth (7-1 4.90), Tippy Martinez (2-0 6.21), Dave Shipanoff (FA '85 7th rnd #15), Steve Davis (FA '85 9th rnd #15) and Jeff Heathcock (FA '85 4th rnd #15). Plunkitt's Tigers need to make their playoff run now, before the rocking chairs come out.

Evanston Black Sox: Batters 30.8 avg -25 (2) +35 (6)
Pitchers 29.3 avg -25 (1) +35 (0)

BA .277 (5) OBP .334 (8) SLG .415 (8) Runs 799 (9) HR 140 (9) SB 100 (9)
ERA 4.31 (16) 9.3 H/9 (7) 2.3 BB/9 (2) 4.3 K/9 (22) Sv 46 (T5) K 693 (22) CG 38 (1)

GM John Ungashick's Evanston Black Sox (86-76 4th) have seen first place or bridesmaid finishes in eight of the past nine seasons (last season broke the streak, finishing 4th, two games out of first and one game from a wild card). The Black Sox currently hold SPB1's active consecutive seasons with a winning record, with ten. Playing in the toughest division will make it difficult for the Black Sox to maintain their high level of success. Catcher Jody Davis (.233 8 46) will be backed up by Darrell Porter (.318 14 64). The infield shows its limitations with seven players able to play third base, but none full-time. Larry Parrish (.265 12 80) will probably see the majority of at bats at third. Shortstop will be handled by Dave Concepcion (.249 3 30), second base by Bobby Grich (.270 17 65) and first by Steve Garvey (.269 11 91). Lonnie Smith (.226 13 60 40sb), Ken Landreaux (.267 9 26), and Terry Puhl (.306 14 71) will take most of the outfield at bats. Paul Householder (.136 0 5 FA '85 3rd rnd #13), Jeff Burroughs (.079 1 3 TA Forest Citys), Reid Nichols (.299 2 17 FA 4th rnd

#13), Max Venable (.384 2 8) and Rob Picciolo (.245 0 10 FA '85 5th rnd #13) provides bench support. Frank Tanana (16-13 4.92), John Denny (9-4 3.28), LaMarr Hoyt (16-11 4.17), Kirk McCaskill (FA '85 1st rnd #13), and Rick Honeycutt (12-9 3.54) will win their share of games. Dave Smith (5-6 2.26 28sv) will be the closer, with Al Holland (3-9 4.68 10sv), Keith Atherton (0-2 8.03), Jeff Calhoun (3-2 1.59), and Bert Roberge (1-3 4.10) expected to provide middle to late innings relief. The Black Sox are a serious threat to end their 10 season winning streak. Maybe some Black Sox mojo will keep the streak alive.

NL EAST DIVISION predicted finishes:

1. 99 wins Blue Ridge Mountaineers
2. 98 wins New York Mets
3. 78 wins Flushing Rats
4. 73 wins Beast Coast Brushbacks
5. 72 wins Asheville Tourists
6. 67 wins Fairfax Peppers

Blue Ridge Mountaineers: Batters 28.8 avg -25 (6) +35 (2)
Pitchers 29.8 avg -25 (4) +35 (3)

BA .272 (10) OBP .333 (9) SLG .413 (9) Runs 803 (8) HR 181 (4) SB 64 (14)
ERA 2.92 (1) 8.4 H/9 (1) 2.3 BB/9 (1) 4.8 K/9 (16) Sv 49 (2) K 795 (16) CG 35 (2)

In the NL East, it is looking like the Blue Ridge Mountaineers (111-51 1st; won the NL Divisional series vs Rats, won the NL Championship vs Scotties, lost SPB1 Championship to Hoosiers) will retain their status as division champs, just barely staying ahead of the rising New York Mets. GM Steve Brunner has one of the league's better pitching staffs to go along with a blend of veterans and young players, led by catcher Bob Boone (.181 2 29), backed up by Dave Valle (.520 1 5). Gary Gaetti (.272 6 70) will handle the hot corner. Shortstop will be shared between Bill Almon (.186 5 12), Onix Concepcion (.272 0 16), and Greg Gagne (1 ab in '84). Frank White (.280 22 64) and Eddie Murray (.330 22 99) will cover the right side of the infield. Gary Ward (.264 20 75), Dwayne Murphy (.233 34 85), and Gary Pettis (.265 4 28) will occupy the outfield spots with Gary Matthews (.282 18 72), Tony Armas (.295 40 137) and Herm Winningham (.286 0 3) providing bench support and DH at bats. SPB1's only 20 game winner last season and second in ERA, Bert Blyleven (20-5 2.51) returns to head a stellar rotation, along with Bob Knepper (14-8 3.54 TA Triangles), SPB1 ERA leader, Charlie Hough (18-6 2.48), Don Sutton (14-5 3.71), Jerry Reuss (5-5 2.83) with Scott Sanderson (12-5 2.69) and Ken Dixon (2-0 1.65) fighting for the scrap pile innings. Dan Quisenberry (8-5 3.32 13sv) and Willie Hernandez (3-3 1.85 30sv) headline a strong bullpen along with Jeff Lahti (2-3 2.29), Zane Smith (2-1 2.21) and Julio Solano (4-1 0.64) in support. The Mountaineers will dominate the NL East, but the Mets might be the bug in their soup.

**New York Mets: Batters 28.3 avg -25 (7) +35 (2)
Pitchers 26.5 avg -25 (8) +35 (0)**

**BA .267 (13) OBP .319 (15) SLG .379 (15) Runs 735 (13) HR 94 (19) SB 70 (13)
ERA 3.90 (7) 9.5 H/9 (11) 3.1 BB/9 (11) 5.5 K/9 (6) Sv 26 (T21) K 891 (6) CG 26 (6)**

New York Mets (76-86 3rd) GM Don Rahn inherited a team on the decline back in the 1971 season and commenced a five season rebuild culminating with a 109-win 1976 season and a World Series win. After an 80-82 season in 1977, the Mets won 104 and 106 games, respectively, to close out the 70's, losing in the '78 World Series and the '79 LCS. Another rebuild was in order and after five seasons, the 1985 Mets are now primed to begin a run to the World Series. The rebuilding started with the '81 draft, when the Mets grabbed 1B Kent Hrbek (1st rnd #4) and CF Von Hayes (1st rnd #9). In 1982, the Mets selected Don Mattingly (1st rnd #3) and Oil Can Boyd (1st round #21). Then in 1983, the Mets selected Sid Fernandez (1st rnd #5) and Dennis Rasmussen (1st rnd #21). The Mets were also fortunate to have picked up Bob Welch in the '84 Contraction Draft. While past stars like Jim Rice, Joe Morgan and Ron Cey were dealt for future picks, one mainstay from the past remained. Slugger RF Dave Parker (.298 9 68) will anchor a potent offense that features our stable of young stars 1B Don Mattingly (.310 14 88), DH Kent Hrbek (.278 21 85) and CF Von Hayes (.298 9 56). A solid but aging catching platoon of Rick Dempsey (.207 1 19) and Ted Simmons (.230 0 13) will provide some steady defense behind the plate. 3B Chris Brown (.200 0 3), SS Alfredo Griffin (.238 0 35), 2B Jack Perconte (.288 0 31) fill out an above-average infield along with a lot of Jerry Royster (.219 2 20 TA Lynx) as a super utility player. A combination of Randy Bush (.178 4 15) and R.J. Reynolds (.262 1 12), along with a cast of many, will adequately fill the weakest spot on the team in LF. The Mets pitching staff is one of the best in SPB1 and features a core of four in Bob Welch (11-12 4.20), Sid Fernandez (5-7 3.59), Oil Can Boyd (8-5 3.36), and Rick Mahler (9-15 4.46). Dennis Rasmussen (10-8 3.53) and youngster Roger Clemens (9-5 3.40) will get their fair share of starts as well. The bullpen may be one of the best in the division with Dennis Lamp (6-5 4.79), Brian Fisher (FA '85 3rd rnd #3), Dan Schatzeder (7-8 2.96) and Gene Nelson (1-1 2.72) with Donnie Moore (1-8 4.21 15sv) as closer. This team is built to be a contender for many years to come. They will compete for the NL East title this season and with a little luck could make a serious run for the championship for the first time in a long time.

**Flushing Rats: Batters 29.4 avg -25 (8) +35 (5)
Pitchers 28.3 avg -25 (6) +35 (3)**

**BA .265 (14) OBP .336 (7) SLG .384 (13) Runs 769 (12) HR 120 (14) SB 57 (T16)
ERA 3.77 (5) 8.9 H/9 (6) 3.4 BB/9 (19) 5.1 K/9 (11) Sv 39 (T10) K 831 (10) CG 27 (5)**

GM Joe DeZarzo will be counting on the Flushing Rats (88-74 2nd; WC lost NL Division series to Mountaineers) to repeat last season's playoff appearance but with positive results. Mickey Tettleton (.382 0 12) and Butch Wynegar (.252 5 57) share catching duties. It is anticipated that Rick Schu (.222 0 3) is ready to claim the hot corner. Shortstop belongs to one of the league's best, Cal Ripken (.301 23 109). Tom Herr (.248 10 48) and Dan Driessen (.283 14 56) comprise the right side of the infield. Carmelo Martinez (.265 13 68) in left, a platoon of Daryl Motley (.256 11 54) and Garry Maddox (.269 5 25 FA '85 4th rnd #16) in center and Darryl Strawberry (.250 15 73) in right will be the Rats outfield. DH duties taken up by a plethora of hitters to include Toby Harrah (.224 2 27) and Ray Knight (.252 4 22). Gerald Perry (.238 3 33), Rob Wilfong (.268 5 28 FA '85 4th rnd #20) and Tony Perez (.318

1 20) provide bench support. Frank Viola (19-8 3.34), Tom Seaver (17-8 3.23), Joe Hesketh (0-2 2.41), Mark Langston (18-9 3.49) and Bobby Ojeda (8-9 3.60) will headline a heavily southpaw rotation. Don Carman (0-1 7.59) is expected to claim the closer's role with Bill Campbell (3-1 2.35), Kent Tekulve (1-4 4.90 5sv), Jay Howell (3-6 3.47 28sv) and Doug Sisk (3-5 4.67 TA Forest City) holding down the bullpen. Look for the Rats to hover near .500.

Beast Coast Brushbacks: Batters 27.6 avg -25 (8) +35 (1)
Pitchers 26.9 avg -25 (3) +35 (0)

BA .250 (22) OBP .312 (20) SLG .354 (21) Runs 610 (20) HR 100 (17) SB 29 (22)
ERA 4.10 (9) 9.6 H/9 (13) 3.1 BB/9 (9) 4.6 K/9 (18) Sv 26 (T21) K 732 (18) CG 23 (T7)

GM Chris Longo and his Beast Coast Brushbacks (67-95 6th) have not seen the light of .500 since 1981 when Chris took over the franchise reins. This season will probably see the same. Mike Sciosia (.249 4 35) and Charlie Moore (.167 0 4 FA '85 3rd rnd #10) will split catching duties. 3B Paul Molitor (.212 0 3) will have a full season to prove himself as SS Tony Fernandez (.252 1 14), 2B Julio Franco (.294 2 40) and 1B Don Baylor (.269 32 88) provide the rest of the flash and dazzle on offense and defense. Gorman Thomas (.138 0 1 TA Eagles), Candy Maldonado (.235 6 25) and Larry Sheets (10abs in '84) will pose as the outfielders and no one will deny that statutes can fly. Barbaro Garbey (.281 5 44 FA '85 4th rnd #3), Steve Kemp (.264 3 28), Rich Dauer (.221 0 38) and Pat Sheridan (.260 7 53 TA Thunder) comprise the bench. Bud Black (13-7 3.15), Charles Hudson (6-15 4.75), Steve Trout (12-14 2.63 TA Thunder), Bill Krueger (4-10 4.24), Larry McWilliams (7-16 4.36) round out the rotation with Jim Beattie (8-10 3.61 FA '85 6th rnd #3) ready to spell tired starters. The bullpen is highlighted with Tim Burke ('85 2nd rnd #3) along with closer Dave Schmidt (4-1 2.89) and bullpen mates Rod Scurry (4-1 1.41 6sv), Ron Robinson (1-0 3.05), Keith Creel ('84 dnp), Dickie Noles (1-2 3.52) and Mike LaCoss (5-6 3.38 6sv TA Thunder). The Brushbacks will have a difficult time reaching .500.

Asheville Tourists: Batters 28.1 avg -25 (8) +35 (3)
Pitchers 27.8 avg -25 (3) +35 (1)

BA .251 (21) OBP .311 (21) SLG .363 (19) Runs 655 (19) HR 107 (16) SB 54 (18)
ERA 4.09 (8) 9.6 H/9 (12) 3.0 BB/9 (5) 5.0 K/9 (15) Sv 39 (T10) K 810 (13) CG 10 (T21)

Asheville Tourists (74-88 5th) GM Rich Applegate will be dealing with bringing the Tourists back to respectability. This may be a project that will take some time. Mark Salas is the surprise starting catcher (19abs in '84) while Donnie Scott (.155 0 12) shares backup squatting duties with Steve Yeager (.214 3.17). 3B Brooks Jacoby (.225 1 28), SS Ernest Riles ('85 2nd rnd #8), a platoon of Glenn Hubbard (.245 12 57) and Vance Law (.292 13 43) at second and Alvin Davis (.261 16 66) holding down first highlights the infield. Applegate is confident that George Foster (.249 17 69), Willie McGee (.273 11 62) and Andy Van Slyke (.247 4 42) will be the bright spot for the team this season. DH will probably see some combination of Ben Oglivie (.247 7 54) and Claudell Washington (.247 14 56). Donnie Hill (.167 2 12), Wayne Tolleson (.220 0 26 TA Lynx) and Tim Corcoran (.317 2 15) provide the bench pinch hits. The Tourists rotation is headed up by Dave Stieb (14-12 3.42) with Ron Romanick (9-15 3.53), Ken Schrom (5-7 3.52), Burt Hooten (4-5 3.12 FA '85 3rd rnd #8), Dick Ruthven (3-7 4.72) and lefty Teddy Higuera ('85 1st rnd #8) a much needed addition. The bullpen will have Bill Caudill (3-2 3.32), Craig Lefferts (3-2 3.50), Ken Dayley (1-3 8.38), Frank DiPino (1-4 2.40 13sv), Bill Dawley (8-6 3.62 13sv), Steve Mura ('84 dnp) and

Bob Shirley (2-3 5.33). The Tourists road to respectability will be a little bit more windier as they will find it tough to reach .500.

**Fairfax Peppers: Batters 28.4 avg -25 (7) +35 (4)
Pitchers 27.8 avg -25 (5) +35 (1)**

**BA .262 (15) OBP .315 (19) SLG .366 (18) Runs 679 (17) HR 97 (18) SB 57 (T16)
ERA 3.77 (4) 8.6 H/9 (3) 3.0 BB/9 (8) 5.0 K/9 (12) Sv 29 (19) K 822 (12) CG 31 (T3)**

GM Ron Peterson will have a tremendous challenge keeping the Fairfax Peppers (75-87 4th) competitive and in the race for any slot out of the basement. Catcher Terry Kennedy (.223 9 59) will be the primary backstop and should keep the rotation and bullpen running smoothly. Doug DeCinces (.232 10 62) will handle the hot corner. Shortstop will be shared between aging Larry Bowa (.258 0 39) and Paul Zuvella (4abs in '84). 2B Tim Teufel (.271 10 58) and 1B Juan Beniquez (.339 5 54) will shore up the right side of the infield. George Bell (.294 23 112), and the Wilson twins, Mookie (.270 10 53) and Glenn (.244 4 31) provide pop in the outfield. Terry Harper (.075 0 2) probably ends up being the Peppers' DH. Nelson Simmons (13 abs in '84), U.L. Washington (.239 1 16), Oscar Gamble (.105 0 2 FA '85 6th rnd #9) and Sal Butera ('84 dnp FA '85 4th rnd #9) will provide the fireworks coming off the bench. Eric Show (8-10 3.95), Mike Mason (11-5 3.15), Ed Lynch (0-2 6.26), Rick Aguilera (FA '85 1st rnd #9), John Candelaria (10-11 2.54) and Tommy John (6-9 4.90) will comprise most of the rotation starts, while the bullpen will be handled by Frank Williams (2-9 5.64), Bill Scherrer (8-6 2.21), Bobby Castillo (1-2 4.32 11sv), Peter Ladd (3-2 3.66 9sv), Rick Langford ('84 dnp) and Calvin Schiraldi (0-0 5.14). Someone will have to come out of this group and take the closer role. The spiral downward will continue for the Peppers, but better times are ahead.

NL WEST DIVISION predicted finishes:

- 1. 92 wins Bolton Hill Scotties**
- 2. 88 wins Las Vegas Thunder**
- 3. 76 wins Ottawa Lynx**
- 4. 74 wins Spirit Mountain Volcanoes**
- 5. 70 wins Milwaukee Road**

**Bolton Hill Scotties: Batters 30.2 avg -25 (3) +35 (4)
Pitchers 29.7 avg -25 (4) +35 (4)**

**BA .275 (7) OBP .344 (5) SLG .406 (10) Runs 872 (4) HR 126 (13) SB 104 (7)
ERA 3.37 (2) 8.6 H/9 (2) 3.0 BB/9 (7) 5.8 K/9 (2) Sv 46 (T4) K 956 (2) CG 21 (T10)**

In one of the easiest divisions to forecast, it looks as if the Bolton Hill Scotties (93-69 1st; won NL Division series vs Volcanoes, lost NL Championship to Mountaineers) will have no problems fending off the Thunder and the rest of the division to maintain their grip on the NL West crown. None of the other divisional teams are serious rivals for first. GM Marc Unger has the Scotties gunning for their third straight 100 win season.² With an explosive

² With the passing of GM John Measor (Nanose Bay Barking Owls) prior to the 1984 season, Marc Unger was awarded the Barking Owls franchise and rebranded it as the Bolton Hill Scotties. The 1983 Barking Owls were 100-62.

lineup packed with young studs and future Hall of Famers, Unger has high hopes for the '85 season and expectations are that the Scotties should be near the top in most offensive categories. Alan Ashby (.256 7 27), Glenn Brummer (.246 2 8) and Dave Van Gorder (.158 1 4) will man the catching position. 3B Wade Boggs (.326 2 62), SS Alan Trammell (.311 17 107), 2B Manny Trillo (.301 7 35 TA Alley Cats) and 1B Jack Clark (.297 10 51) will provide a majority of the offense. The Scotties boast the league's best outfield with the fan monikered 'Earth, Wind and Fire' trio of Dwight Evans (.292 24 111), Tim Raines (.282 3 54) and Jesse Barfield (.257 11 47). Mike Schmidt (.321 20 50) will share first base and DH while Dusty Baker (.290 1 12), Al Oliver (.335 1 78), Milt Thompson (.290 1 13) and Jorge Orta (.333 3 56 TA Lynx) will be role players on the bench. Starting pitching may give Unger some anxiety. Nolan Ryan (8-1 2.75) and Mike Smithson (19-10 3.54) and then a grab bag from Pascual Perez (12-11 4.21), Jerry Koosman (8-13 3.5), Juan Berenguer (16-4 3.65) and Mickey Mahler ('84 dnp). Jeff Reardon (2-1 2.60), Ed Nunez (4-5 2.45 6sv), Ted Power (4-2 2.37 9sv), Roger McDowell ('85 1st rnd #20), Steve Crawford (2-0 1.63), Neil Allen (8-5 3.74) and Ray Searage (2-0 1.35 19sv) will provide one of the better league bullpens. Unfortunately, with the exception of Nolan Ryan and Mike Smithson, their starting rotation is near laughable and unless they can make a trade or two, will likely be cobbled together week to week with spot starters, relief pitchers and a lot of prayer. Expect the Scotties to stay competitive throughout the long season but pitching could certainly let them down. Playoffs? Possible, and in this division, more than likely. Series rings for everyone? With the current status of the rotation, doubtful right now.

Las Vegas Thunder: Batters 24.3 avg -25 (15) +35 (0)
Pitchers 25.2 avg -25 (9) +35 (0)

BA .274 (8) OBP .331 (10) SLG .372 (17) Runs 717 (14) HR 71 (21) SB 232 (1)
ERA 4.27 (13) 10.1 H/9 (19) 3.0 BB/9 (6) 5.1 K/9 (10) Sv 33 (16) K 830 (11) CG 12 (19)

In a huge surprise, Street and Schmoody's will go out on a limb and pick the 'outside of the box' Las Vegas Thunder (72-90 3rd) to grab one of the wild cards. GM Mike See is continuing the ground up rebuild of one of the league's most turned over franchises since its inception as a 1969 expansion team.)³ Catching may provide one of the bigger rewards as Mark Bailey (.259 5 32 TA Eagles) has three backups all under the age of 25, Bob Melvin ('85 3rd rnd #6), Mike LaValliere ('84 dnp) and Brian Harper (.402 0 19). 3B Terry Pendleton (.364 3 42), SS Spike Owen (.272 1 51), 2B Marty Barrett (.296 0 32 TA Brushbacks) and 1B Glenn Davis (.209 0 6) will be the starting infield. Rob Dernier (.270 0 62), Kirby Puckett (.295 1 69), and Mike Davis (.241 8 54) will patrol the synthetic pastures of the Metrodome. Ron Kittle (.213 34 74 TA Eagles) will occupy the DH. Sam Khalifa ('85 4th rnd #2), David Green (.256 15 63), Mitch Webster (.188 0 6) and Billy Hatcher ('84 dnp) will take most of the bench swings. Orel Hershisier (13-7 3.01), Kevin Gross (3-11 6.40), and then a group of "who are these guys" Joe Cowley (3-3 4.93), Al Nipper (8-10 4.42) and Ray Fontenot (8-9 4.19) are expected to take this franchise to the next level. Randy O'Neal (0-1 4.22 TA Brushbacks) is the surprise closer. Ed Vande Berg (4-6 6.53 TA Forest Citys), Jeff Dedmon (4-2 2.08), Gary Lucas (3-5 6.86), Randy St. Claire (0-0 5.63 TA Alley Cats), Joe Johnson ('85 3rd rnd #1 TA Forest Citys) and Tom Waddell (2.74 9-4 6sv TA River Flames) will fill in the bullpen innings. Can anyone say, 'Surprise, the Thunder have arrived.'

³ See note 1.

Spirit Mountain Volcanoes: Batters 27.3 avg -25 (5) +35 (1)
Pitchers 27.0 avg -25 (6) +35 (0)

BA .294 (1) OBP .352 (1) SLG .439 (5) Runs 955 (1) HR 149 (8) SB 147 (2)
ERA 4.30 (15) 10.0 H/9 (18) 3.1 BB/9 (12) 5.0 K/9 (13) Sv 51 (1) K 809 (14) CG 11 (20)

GM Marc Hollingsworth has the competitive fires lit under the Spirit Mountain Volcanoes (98-64 2nd, lost NL Divisional series to Scotties) as they attempt to dethrone the Scotties in the NL West. This may be a daunting task, but the Volcanoes have the players to give the Scotties and Thunder competition. Catching belongs to Tony Pena (.297 12 59) with an infield of Carney Lansford (.301 11 83), Rafael Ramirez (.276 9 73), Damaso Garcia (.304 6 61 33sb) and Pete O'Brien (.277 14 69) from third to first. CF Dale Murphy's MVP caliber season will be hard to duplicate (.288 48 158) as Dan Gladden (.448 2 55) and Dave Collins (.327 1 63 46sb) will surround him in the outfield. Kirk Gibson (.289 18 88) will divide the DH duties with Bob Horner (.247 1 15) and will see the majority of the DH at bats. Mike Hargrove (.256 6 44), Jeff Stone (.351 4 30), Dave Bergman (.242 4 19) and Dann Bilardello (.255 2 12) will spell starters from the bench. Starting pitching will be solid with Bryn Smith (10-8 4.09), Floyd Bannister (12-5 4.68), Dan Petry (14-8 4.01), Dave LaPoint (10-10 5.29) and Don Schulze (3-2 4.85) rounding out the rotation. The bullpen is less formidable with Rick Camp (12-6 4.20), Cecilio Guante (6-3 3.09), Jim Acker (2-0 3.35), Dave Rucker (4-6 5.23 12sv), Doug Corbett (6-6 3.62 31sv), and Roy Lee Jackson (4-5 4.57). Lighting fires and winning divisions are two separate things. The Volcanoes will need to step up their game.

Ottawa Lynx: Batters 27.6 avg -25 (9) +35 (2)
Pitchers 27.4 avg -25 (4) +35 (1)

BA .256 (18) OBP .316 (18) SLG .339 (22) Runs 565 (22) HR 65 (22) SB 59 (15)
ERA 4.20 (11) 9.8 H/9 (15) 3.2 BB/9 (15) 4.7 K/9 (17) Sv 37 (15) K 751 (17) CG 14 (18)

Three consecutive 90+ loss seasons has put the Ottawa Lynx (62-100 4th) into a downward spiral that does not bode well for GM Stan Barkun and this upcoming season. Veteran catcher Jim Sundberg (.260 4 28) will share duties with Mike Fitzgerald (.223 2 23). The infield will be a patchwork with players bouncing around all over the field (and we are not including the defensive shifts). Bobby Meacham (FA '85 3rd rnd #21) will probably start at shortstop with Mariano Duncan (FA '85 1st rnd #21) shifting over to second base. The question 'who's on third' seems to be answered with a platoon of Ed Romero (.271 1 15) and Kurt Bevacqua (.228 1 9 FA '85 6th rnd #2). Bruce Bochte (.255 4 46) will take over first base while Rod Carew (.285 2 44) handles DH duties. Eddie Milner (.248 6 37), Rupert Jones (.269 11 51 TA Tigers) and Rudy Law (.259 4 36) will be taking over the majority of the OF at bats while Lenny Dykstra (FA '85 1st rnd #4), Danny Heep (.256 3 17) and Ivan Calderon (12 abs in '84) will provide additional at bats and fill the options for utility roles. Curt Wilkerson (.255 0 27) and Julio Cruz (.199 6 44 '85 5th rnd #6) will be on the bench. Jimmy Key (0-1 6.23), Danny Darwin (3-8 6.05 TA Tigers), Neal Heaton (7-18 4.32), David Palmer (6-9 4.54) and Chris Codiroli (4-2 4.76) will take the bump for the Lynx, while the bullpen will be handled by Jesse Orosco (3-7 2.24 24sv), Tim Lollar (2-13 6.14 TA Alley Cats), Aurelio Lopez (4-4 3.76 5sv), Curt Wardle (FA '85 4th rnd #7), Jerry Reed ('84 dnp) and Steve McCatty (1-6 7.85 FA '85 5th rnd #20). Lots of youth, but not enough to make the Lynx a .500 team, but they should not repeat their 100 loss season.

**Milwaukee Road: Batters 28.1 avg -25 (7) +35 (3)
Pitchers 29.1 avg -25 (5) +35 (2)**

**BA .261 (16) OBP .309 (22) SLG .360 (20) Runs 593 (21) HR 90 (20) SB 76 (11)
ERA 4.77 (20) 10.3 H/9 (21) 3.3 BB/9 (17) 5.2 K/9 (8) Sv 31 (17) K 835 (9) CG 19 (T14)**

Much to the chagrin of the fanbase, it looks like the Milwaukee Road (57-105 5th) will continue to occupy the NL West basement with no clear indications of moving upstairs. No amount of pie in the sky pronouncements from Road GM Matayc will help this team avoid another bottom of the division finish. When will ownership dump this clown and bring sanity back to the team? Road fandom rumor mill has Matayc tanking the season for once in a lifetime prospect, OF Barry Bonds, in the upcoming '86 free agent draft. This is not making the Roadies happy as they are now demanding that Matayc makeup for his monumental 'Ozzie' mispick and instead focus on drafting and signing two local semi-pros, who have captured the imagination of the local fans. Roadie fans now insist that GM Matayc put his sights on the dynamic duo, Pete Kielbasa and Felipe Patata, of the semi-pro club, the Franksville Sauerkrauts. That could be a mighty combination one ignores at one's own risk. Catchers Bob Kearney (.201 2 23) and Ron Hassey (.269 1 13) will be sharing the squat duties, while Matt Nokes FA 2nd rnd #2) will need a couple of seasons before making any major contributions. First base duties will fall primarily on Cecil Cooper (.268 13 76). Second base will be expertly handled by Steve Sax (.219 2 46 37sb). Controversial selection (FA '85 1st rnd #1) Ozzie Guillen will take over shortstop duties, but where he ends up in the batting order remains a mystery. Third base will be Terry Francona's domain (.357 0 23). From left to right, the outfield will have returning Jim Rice (.252 26 108), Jerry Mumphrey (.294 11 55) and Al Cowens (.272 9 53), a late season trade acquisition from the Cubs (Alley Cats)(along with reliever Tom Hume for reliable lefty bullpen fan favorite Gary Lavelle and outfielder George Wright). DH duties will be handled by Pat Tabler (.267 11 50). The rotation will be led by returning starters Mike Krukow (9-14 5.20), Mark Thurmond (9-13 4.11), newcomers Danny Jackson (2-0 6.37) and Tom Browning (1-2 5.29) while Pete Vuckovich (inactive last season, but a former Conquistador, resigned as a FA '85 5th rnd #1) and Mike Flanagan (10-19 4.26) will share the fifth spot. The bullpen will be led by Road veterans Rollie Fingers (3-3 1.39 26sv), former starter, Mark Davis (10-14 5.85), Mark Clear (2-7 5.46), Bruce Kison (0-2 5.54), Tom Hume (1-1 6.72), Frank Wills (0-1 3.26), along with newcomers Frank Eufemia (FA '85 6th rnd #1) and Tom Filer (FA '85 10th rnd #1). It is not impossible for the Road to reach triple digit losses, but all horrible things must come to an end. The Road will be expecting to reach the 70 win plateau.

So all that remains is to pick which team will be hoisting the 1985 SPB1 championship trophy? Street and Schmoody's 1985 Baseball Yearbook boldly goes out on a limb and predicts a repeat title run by the Bloomington Hoosiers. Put that in your wallet and take it to the bank.

AL East Division Champs - Collierstown Highlanders (86 Wins)

AL West Division Champs - Rockford Forest Citys (98 Wins)

AL Wildcard - Indy Alley Cats (97 Wins), Bloomington Hoosiers (93 Wins)

NL East Division Champs- Blue Ridge Mountaineers (99 Wins)

AL West Division Champs - Bolton Hill Scotties (91 Wins)

NL Wildcard- NY Mets (98 Wins), Las Vegas Thunder (87 Wins)

AL Playoffs:

Bloomington Hoosiers over Rockford Forest Citys (4-2)

Indy Alley Cats over Collierstown Highlanders (4-1)

Bloomington Hoosiers over Indy Alley Cats (4-3)

NL Playoffs:

Blue Ridge Mountaineers over Las Vegas Thunder (4-1)

NY Mets over Bolton Hill Scotties (4-1)

NY Mets over Blue Ridge Mountaineers (4-2)

1985 SPB1 Championship

Bloomington Hoosiers over NY Mets (4-2)