

## Street & Schmoody's May Power Rankings: (Bottom to Top) Records to May 31, 1985

22. (22.) Fairfax Peppers (NL East 15-45). One of five teams that separate the bottom feeders by two games. Someone has to claim this dubious spot (this publication does not believe in ties in baseball rankings) but the Peppers earned it by bookending the beginning of month with a losing streak of thirteen games from late April to an end of month nine game losing streak. Three road series out of four in June and prospects look bleak.
21. (21.) Beast Coast Brushbacks (NL East 16-44). Two brutal losing streaks of five and six will bury a team faster than a team of gravediggers. Didn't I say that last month? No Richie Hebner jokes, this time. How about: Which has a longer shelf life, the Brushbacks or New Coke? (introduced April 1985, taken off shelves, May 1985.)
20. (19.) Collierstown Highlanders (AL East 17-43). Losing 14 out of your last 15 will drop you only one spot in the lower tier. After 60 games it's time to rethink playoff chances.
19. (18.) Preble Zorros (AL East 18-42). Swept by the Mets in embarrassing fashion to extend a nine game losing streak and then nearly swept in two other series. The Zorros did manage a three game winning streak against the Scotties, but a lot of 'L's' between solo W's makes for a dismal May. The Zorros bullpen allowed 20 of 30 inherited runners to score and a team 5.16 ERA for May. More bad May stats: Zorros last in team BA (.231), OBP (.325), and first in batter Ks (217) and nearly last in the American League.
18. (17.) Daytona Triangles (AL East 17-37). Having a bye this month keeps them ahead of the Zorros, but winning only four games in a month spells disaster. June is bookcased with a series against the Highlanders and the Zorros but the rest of the month looks like a lot of losses.
17. (14.) Las Vegas Thunder (NL West 25-29). No one is standing out on the pitching side. No one stands out on the batters side. The Thunder needs to acquire some headliners if they are occupying the Strip. What goes on in Vegas, thankfully, stays in Vegas.
16. (12.) Asheville Tourists (NL East 25-29). The Tourists beat out the Thunder for this spot because they won one more game in May. They get to face the Thunder in June and that might end up telling us who ranks over who. Or maybe not.
15. (10.) Evanston Black Sox (AL West 28-32). Starting May with an 8-2 record, the Black Sox imploded with a nine game losing streak (eight at home) and are desperately in need of a laundry change, as they finished the month with a losing record. June should be the right detergent to get the Sox back to winning ways as they host the Highlanders and travel to the Triangles and Zorros.
14. (13.) Spirit Mountain Volcanoes (NL West 28-32). Seven and five game losing streaks in May with solo wins in three of the series played and the Volcanoes are still mired in the middle of the pack. With a team ERA hovering near five (4.84), pitching will have to have a big turnaround if the V's want to win.
13. (15.) Ottawa Lynx (NL West 29-31). Starting May with five straight wins over the Triangles and adding another five game winning streak helped the Lynx to be one of two teams in the NL West to finish above .500 in the month. A balanced schedule for June will show which direction the Lynx are heading in.

12. (16). Flushing Rats (NL East 31-29). The Rats lost only one series and held their own in the other four. Improving their monthly record by one game see them tossed upwards four spots in the rankings. With June's schedule looking like a challenge these Rats can handle, expect them to continue their rise upward, but they need to have more than two game winning streaks and they need to cut down on the number of walks given up by their starters.

11. (8). Bolton Hill Scotties (NL West 31-29). A below .500 May (14-16) keeps the Scotties out of the top 10 for the moment. This team has too much offensive power to linger this low. 3B Wade Boggs batted .398. Jesse Barfield slammed 10 dingers. 1B Mike Schmidt drove in 30 rbis. With a May low team ERA (5.37), problems lurk for the Scotties. One complete game in thirty means a taxed bullpen. This team needs to consider pitching help.

10. (6.) Milwaukee Road (NL West 34-26). This team is not a top 10 team. They got lucky against the Tigers, Hoosiers, and Lynx winning those series, but the Mountaineers and Mets showed the Road's vulnerabilities. A cushy June schedule with a bye series will keep the Road in contention, but when summer starts, look for the Road to disappear.

9. (20). Kenosha Eagles (AL West 30-24). Swept the Peppers in five, took five of six from Triangles and won their other two series. Led SPB in May team ERA (2.69) and fewest Inherited Runners Pct. (.182 36/6) and Quality Starts Pct. (.750 18/24). Can their pitching staff continue this rate? Odds are, no. Are these Eagles for real? June will tell as their schedule includes the Flames, Forest Citys, Alley Cats, and Spiders. Seems rough. They will definitely need to hit more than nine home runs.

8. (2.) Frankfort Tigers (AL West 33-27). When you play .400 ball in May, you topple from the top. What happened? The Tigers started May losing five on the road to the Road, then won 8 of 10, then floundered the rest of the month going 4-12. This team's direction seems to be trending downwards with the Alley Cats, Hoosiers, and Spiders on deck, look for the Tigers to sink even lower in the rankings.

7. (7.) Cleveland Spiders (AL East 34-26). May Highlight: sweeping the Highlanders in six. May Lowlight: nearly swept by the Hoosiers in a six game series. The Spiders need to improve their bullpen but SPs John Tudor (4-2 1.31), Tim Birtsas (4-0 2.54), Atlee Hammaker (1-1 2.57) and Matt Young (4-1 3.82) might be enough to take the Spiders to the promised land.

6. (3.) Cuyahoga River Flames (AL East 33-21). Following up a decent April with a better May and this team drops three rankings? What's up with that? These Flames are hot but get no respect. Two five win series and only one losing series to the Scotties made for a winning month. The Forest Citys and Alley Cats lurk ahead in June. The Flames should end June burning near the top five.

5. (9.) Blue Ridge Mountaineers (NL East 34-20). Another fast climbing team having the benefit of a bye in May, the Mountaineers won all four of their series. June looks favorable for the Mountaineers with the Lynx, Thunder, Peppers, Rats, and Scotties on the schedule.

4. (11.) Indy Alley Cats (AL West 37-23). Making the second biggest leap from April are the Alley Cats with their dominating three of four series wins and the Mountaineers providing the only bump in the road for the month. Going 11-3 in one run games signals a strong bullpen. SP Rick Reuschel (5-0 2.47 41k) leads a pitching staff that went 22-8 in May. C Carlton Fisk (.318 10 hr 18 rbi) and RF Andre Dawson (.275 8 hr 23 rbi) pace the Alley Cats attack.

3. (5.) New York Mets (NL East 39-21). Improving their win total over last month by three puts the Mets at the top of the NL. May started with the finish of a seven game sweep of Zorros followed by winning the next four series, three of which were on the road. The Mets finished the month third in team batting average (.289) and second in runs scored (176). The Mets also led the NL in ERA (3.30) for the month of May.

2. (4.) Rockford Forest Citys (AL West 43-17). Winning at an .800 pace in May, the Forest Citys are suddenly flexing some strength, even though their May schedule was lightweight. They took all five series played, sweeping the Black Sox in six. Scoring 184 runs (6.0/g) highlights the power of Forest Citys' lineup with old timer Darrell Evans slugging 8 HRs and driving in 25 RBIs. Their pitching staff had the second best team ERA for May at 3.05, with CL Goose Gossage picking up 12 saves with a minuscule 0.67 ERA in 13.1 innings. SPs Britt Burns (5-0 2.45), Danny Cox (3-0 3.26), and Jose Rijo (4-0 3.69) will try to have repeat performances in June.

1. (1.) Bloomington Hoosiers (AL West 45-15). Starts the month off with a five game road sweep of the Thunder and slam the Spiders, Triangles and Highlanders (19-4). Only the Road gets the better of the Hoosiers this month winning a best of seven with four wins. At their present pace, the Hoosiers will hit the 120 win mark. Go figure.

**AL Batting Ldrs - May AL Player of the Month (May): RF Tony Gwynn, Hoosiers**

**BA:**

**.386 Tony Gwynn, Hoosiers**

**.344 Phil Bradley, Forest Citys**

**.341 Pedro Guerrero, Flames**

**OBP:**

**.428 Rickey Henderson, Highlanders**

**.417 Tony Gwynn, Hoosiers**

**.412 Pedro Guerrero, Flames**

**SLG:**

**.737 Gary Carter, Flames**

**.706 Carlton Fisk, Alley Cats**

**.682 Pedro Guerrero, Flames**

**HR:**

**10 Gary Carter, Flames**

**10 Carlton Fisk, Alley Cats**

**10 Dave Winfield, Flames**

**RBI:**

**27 Dave Winfield, Flames**

**26 Steve Garvey, Black Sox**

**26 Tony Gwynn, Hoosiers**

**Total Bases:**

**80 Phil Bradley, Forest Citys**

**73 Tony Gwynn, Hoosiers**

**65 Dave Winfield, Flames**

**NL Batting Ldrs - May NL Player of the Month (May): CF Dale Murphy, Volcanoes**

**BA:**

**.398 Wade Boggs, Scotties**  
**.378 Carney Lansford, Volcanoes**  
**.372 Dale Murphy, Volcanoes**

**OBP:**

**.471 Wade Boggs, Scotties**  
**.450 Alvin Davis, Tourists**  
**.442 Dale Murphy, Volcanoes**

**SLG:**

**.711 Dale Murphy, Volcanoes**  
**.622 Carney Lansford, Volcanoes**  
**.595 Jesse Barfield, Scotties**

**HR:**

**10 Jesse Barfield, Scotties**  
**9 Dale Murphy, Volcanoes**  
**8 Mike Schmidt, Scotties**  
**8 Dave Parker, Mets**

**RBI:**

**32 Dale Murphy, Volcanoes**  
**30 Mike Schmidt, Scotties**  
**27 Jesse Barfield, Scotties**

**Total Bases:**

**86 Dale Murphy, Volcanoes**  
**77 Dave Parker, Mets**  
**75 Jesse Barfield, Scotties**

**AL Pitching Ldrs - May AL Pitcher of the Month: Rich Goosage, Forest Citys**

**Wins:**

**5 Britt Burns, Forest Citys**  
**5 Rick Reuschel, Alley Cats**  
**5 Brett Saberhagen, Hoosiers**  
**5 Mike Scott, Flames**

**ERA:**

**0.67 Phil Niekro, Eagles**  
**1.18 Charlie Leibrandt, Hoosiers**  
**1.31 John Tudor, Spiders**

**IP:**

**55.0 John Tudor, Spiders**  
**49.1 Andy Hawkins, Alley Cats**  
**47.0 Danny Cox, Forest Citys**

**K's:**

**41 Rick Reuschel, Alley Cats**  
**35 Brett Saberhagen, Hoosiers**  
**34 Jose Rijo, Forest Citys**

**Sv:**

**12 Rich Goosage, Forest Citys**  
**7 Greg Harris, Hoosiers**  
**6 Gary Lavelle, Alley Cats**

**NL Pitching Ldrs - May NL Pitcher of the Month: Tom Browning, Road**

**Wins:**

- 4 Roger Clemens, Mets**
- 4 Ricky Mahler, Mets**
- 4 Danny Jackson, Road**

**ERA:**

- 1.32 Roger Clemens, Mets**
- 2.03 Bert Blyleven, Mountaineers**
- 2.03 Tom Browning, Road**

**IP:**

- 50.2 Chris Codiroli, Lynx**
- 50.0 Oil Can Boyd, Mets**
- 48.2 Tom Browning, Road**
- 48.2 Danny Jackson, Road**

**K's:**

- 43 Sid Fernandez, Mets**
- 34 Tom Browning, Road**
- 32 Floyd Bannister, Volcanoes**

**Sv:**

- 8 Willie Hernandez, Mountaineers**
- 4 Don Carman, Rats**
- 4 Randy O'Neal, Thunder**
- 4 Donnie Moore, Mets**
- 4 Jeff Reardon, Scotties**