

SPB1 Premier Baseball Magazine, Street & Schmoody's brings you the July 1986 Power Rankings: (Bottom to Top) along with rankings change. Statistics for team and player are for the month of July. Because there was a six game series played the last two days of July and the first four days of August, team records reflect from the end of July. All stats and records listed in this writeup are for July. Three teams dropped out of the top 10 (#6 Peppers, dropping five places, #9 Flames, dropping seven places, and #10 Road, dropping three places) while three teams broke into the top 10 (#10 Forest Citys, #9 Spiders, and #8 Volcanoes). July saw one series sweep: Forest Citys over the Black Sox.

22. (-) Dayton Triangles (AL 25-79). The Triangles did not have the worst SPB1 June record, 7-16, only the third worst, but those other teams played more games in July than the Triangles. One positive, the Triangles batters had the fewest July strikeouts in the SPB1 with 114. 1B Wally Joyner (.372/1/15) led the Triangles in hitting, while SP Scott Bailes (3.14 1-2 15k) was the staff leader. Triangles entered July with a five game losing streak, ending the streak with a three game winning streak, then ending the month and into August with an eight game losing streak.

21. (-) Evanston Black Sox (AL 38-72). The Black Sox posted the SPB1 July worst team ERA (6.23). One bright spot for the Black Sox was their catchers throwing out 56% of base stealers to lead the SPB1 in July. 2B Bill Doran (.292/2/9) led the hitters while SP Rick Honeycutt (2.53 2-1 19k) was the leading pitcher. The Black Sox did have a four game winning streak in July and a seven game losing streak at the end of the month, to include getting swept by the Forest Citys.

20. (-) Ottawa Lynx (NL 46-64). The Lynx led the SPB1 with 34 July errors and a .964 worst fielding pct. A five game winning streak early in July followed by a five game losing streak kept the Lynx from having a more successful month. CF Lenny Dykstra (.383/0/9) led the offense, while SP Danny Darwin (3-0 1.57 12k) led all Lynx hurlers.

19. (-) Indy Alley Cats (AL 46-64). These Alley Cats have a surprisingly balanced run margin of zero. The Alley Cats led the AL in July OBP (.358) and runs scored (161). Once again the Alley Cats led the SPB1 with 49 taters and 501 total bases and turning 32 double plays. DH Reggie Jackson led the AL with nine home runs in July. RF Andre Dawson (.366/5/13) led a cadre of Alley Cats (five) who hit more than five July home runs. SP Bill Gullickson (3-2 4.86 17k) posted the only winning record for an Alley Cat starter. The Alley Cats did enjoy a four game winning streak but also two- four game losing streaks.

18. (-2) Flushing Rats (NL 48-62). The Rats led the SPB1 with 61 July doubles and the NL with drawing 119 July walks. They also posted SPB1 worst team batting average in July (.225). A seven game losing streak early in July followed with a month ending five game losing streak into August and the Rats are slowly swirling down the drain.

17. (-4) Asheville Tourists (NL 49-59). The Tourists had the SPB1 worst July record (7-20) causing their four spot dropoff. Their July (2-13) home record was the worst in the SPB1. Six and seven game losing streaks do that to faltering teams. Scoring an SPB1 July lowest 3.2 runs per game did not help. 3B Brook Jacoby (.353/0/6) led all hitters while SP Teddy Higuera (1-2 3.11 30k) led the staff.

16. (-7) Cuyahoga River Flames (AL 51-59). The Flames had the AL July worst record (8-21) dropping them out of the top ten rankings. The Flames also had the worst AL July home record (3-11). An eight game home losing streak contributed to the Flames demise. The Flames led the SPB1 with the most July batter strikeouts (220). 1B Greg Walker highlighted the offense (.370/5/18) while SP Fernandez Valenzuela (3-2 3.83 38k) won almost half the Flames July games.

15. (+3) Hatteras Pelicans (AL 51-59). These Pelicans took a hot June ending and went into the first two days of July with an 11 game winning streak finishing July with a 13-10 record. LF Jeffrey Leonard (.313/2/10) led the hitters and SP Chris Welsh (3-1 3.32 1k) led a staff that had four pitchers from the relief corps combine for 3-0 0.83era 42k in 54 innings. They also post three- three game winning streaks. If the Pelicans keep this up, they may make the top 10 yet.

14. (-) Beast Coast Brushbacks (NL 51-59). The Brushbacks led the SPB1 in July slugging (.504) and the NL with 41 home runs. RF Jose Canseco hit 10 home runs in July. SS Tony Fernandez (.406/1/7) led a group of five starters who hit a July .300 or better. July's team ERA (5.18) prevented the Brushbacks from enjoying a winning month. SP Bob Kipper (3-2 3.55 23k) was the only starter to post an ERA below 5.00.

13. (-3) Milwaukee Road (NL 52-58). The Road had two- three game winning streaks offset by two -four game losing streaks. LF Jim Rice (.345/10/30) hit 10 home runs in July to tie the Flames RF Jose Canseco for most NL July home runs. SP Juan Nieves (3-3 3.43 23k) led all Road pitchers.

12. (-) Kenosha Eagles (AL 52-56). 1B Will Clark (.305/0/8) led the batters and SP Mike Moore (4-1 2.01 24k) led the Eagles' staff.

11. (-5) Fairfax Peppers (NL 56-54). The second worst NL July record, 7-16, contributed to the Peppers drop from the top 10. The Peppers could only manage a one- two game winning streak. CF Mookie Wilson (.339/5/14) led all hitters, while LF Kevin Mitchell showed some promising power with five home runs in 43 at bats. MR Rick Aguilera (1-1 2.74 15k) led the staff.

10. (+1) Rockford Forest Citys (AL 57-53). A six game losing streak in early July was balanced with a month ending seven game winning streak, to include a series sweep of the Black Sox. 1B Darrell Evans (.309/8/18) powered all hitters. SP Bob Forsch (2-1 2.93 20k) paced the staff.

9. (+6) Cleveland Spiders (AL 57-53). The Spiders had the most AL July wins (20-9) to catapult them into the top 10. The Spiders tied with the Tigers with an AL leading 56 doubles. LF Mike Easler (.398/4/15) was the July Player of the Month while 2B Robbie Thompson led the AL with 23 July rbis and RF Kevin Bass added seven home runs. SP Terry Mulholland (2.10 4-0 12k) led the staff.

8. (+9) Spirit Mountain Volcanoes (NL 57-53). The Volcanoes can point to the SPB1 most July victories (21-8) as the primary reason for their huge nine position gain. The Volcanoes led the SPB1 in July with 180 runs scored and 483 total bases. The Volcanoes also had the July player and pitcher of the month winners with DH Bob Horner (.424/5/22) and SP Floyd Bannister (5-0 1.53 20k). The Volcanoes ended July with a six game winning streak.

7 (+1) Collierstown Highlanders (AL 60-50). A six game winning streak helped the Highlanders compile the fourth best July AL record, 16-10. LF Larry Herndon (.305/2/12) paced the offense, while SP Scott McGregor (3-0 2.03 18k) topped the staff.

6. (+1) Frankfort Tigers (AL 63-47). The Tigers had the best AL July record (16-7 .697) to see them gain slightly on the AL leading, Hoosiers. The Tigers had the best AL July road record (8-3). The Tigers led the AL with the best July batting average (.298), slugging (.487) and led the SPB1 with a 3.22 July team ERA. The Tigers played the month of July without losing two games in a row. RF Chili Davis (.356/2/10) paced a hot hitting team. SP Jose Guzman (4-1 2.04 19k) out pitched team mate SP Dwight Gooden (3-1 1.64 26k).

5. (-) Bolton Hill Scotties (NL 67-43). The best SPB1 July record (18-5 .783) did not see the Scotties improve in the power rankings, but this team is starting to get on a roll. Not only did the Scotties have a seven game winning streak, but like the Tigers, the Scotties went the month of July without losing two games in a row. The Scotties had the best SPB1 July road record (14-3) and led the SPB1 in July batting average (.309), obp (.378), and runs per game (7.3). 1B Mike Schmidt (.396/8/32) and led the NL with 32 rbis in July. SP Eric Show (4-0 3.32 22k) led the pitching staff.

4. (-1) Bloomington Hoosiers (AL 69-41). The Hoosiers had the AL best July home record (11-3). The Hoosiers drew an SPB1 high 134 walks. The Hoosiers led the SPB1 with a July best 2.5 K to BB ratio and once again led the SPB1 with a .994 fielding pct. CF Robin Yount (.360/4/15) paced the offense, while July Pitcher of the Month SP Bruce Hurst (5-0 1.70 35k) topped the staff.

3. (+1) Las Vegas Thunder (NL 70-40). The Thunder had the SPB1 best July home record (12-2) along with the most July stolen bases, 37 in the SPB1. RF Mike Davis had 10 stolen bases, followed by 2B Harold Reynolds and CF Kirby Puckett eight steals. RF Danny Tartabull (.347/4/16) led the offense. SP Curt Young (4-0 2.88 15k) paced the rotation. The Thunder had nine and five game winning streaks.

2. (-) New York Mets (NL 70-40). The Mets led the NL with a 3.70 team ERA and a .988 fielding pct. in July. The Mets entered July with a six game winning streak. 1B Don Mattingly (.348/6/25) topped all Mets hitters, while SP Bob Welch (3-2 3.18 43k) led all pitchers.

1. (-) Blue Ridge Mountaineers (NL 67-37). A sub .500 month, 10-13, did not drop the Mountaineers from their top perch, but they are precariously hanging on. The Mountaineers could not manage anything more than a two game winning streak in July. 1B Eddie Murray (.345/3/10) led the offense, while SP Charlie Hough (3-1 3.73 19k) paced the pitching staff.

AL July Player of the Month: Mike Easler, Spiders (.398/.448/.625/1.073 35h 8doubles 12xbh 55tb).

NL July Player of the Month: Bob Horner, Volcanoes (.424/.476/.674/1.150 39h 24r 22rbi 17xbh 62tb).

AL July Pitcher of the Month: Bruce Hurst, Hoosiers (5-0 1.70 37ip 9bb 35k 0.95whip .197oppba 5qs).

NL July Pitcher of the Month: Floyd Bannister, Volcanoes (5-0 1.53 47ip 20k .223oppba 7.1 h/9 6qs)