

SPB1 1989 preseason forecast from Street&Schmoody's Baseball Publications

Seasons Past Baseball's premier publication, Street&Schmoody's 1989 Baseball Prospectus has produced, for their loyal readership, another rousing preview for the upcoming 36th season of SPB1.

With the Seasons Past ladder playoff system implemented, last season saw the National League Spirit Mountain Volcanoes work the playoff ladder from a wild card bottom rung to one rung from the top, losing the championship to the Bloomington Hoosiers. This season expect both leagues to have returning champions and no surprises from the playoffs.

For season predictions, Street&Schmoody's divides each league into top tier and bottom tier. Here are the following predicted finishes.

AMERICAN LEAGUE predicted finishes:

Top Tier (top four teams make playoff ladder)

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|-----|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. | 108 wins | Bloomington Hoosiers |
| 2. | 98 wins | Rockford Forest Citys |
| 3. | 84 wins | Dayton Triangles |
| 4. | 84 wins | Collierstown Highlanders |
| 5. | 80 wins | Seattle Rainiers |
| 6. | 79 wins | Frankfort Tigers |
| 7. | 77 wins | Hatteras Pelicans III |
| 8. | 76 wins | Indy Alley Cats |
| 9. | 68 wins | Evanston Black Sox |
| 10. | 65 wins | Birmingham Barons |
| 11. | 62 wins | Chanute Owls |

Street&Schmoody predict that the Hoosiers will again run away with AL title by a comfortable margin with with the Forest Citys climbing into the playoff picture for the first time in three seasons. The Triangles and Highlanders will fight to the finish to a tie for the final two AL wild card spots. The rest of the AL will struggle to get to .500. The Rainiers having the best chance to top the break even mark with at least three times competing to stay out of the basement.

NATIONAL LEAGUE predicted finishes:

Top Tier (top four teams make playoff ladder)

1. 101 wins Bolton Hill Scotties
2. 92 wins Beast Coast Brushbacks
3. 89 wins Wichita Wind Surge
4. 86 wins Flushing Rats

5. 85 wins New York Mets
6. 83 wins Ottawa Lynx
7. 81 wins Fairfax Peppers
8. 77 wins Spirit Mountain Volcanoes
9. 70 wins East Kenosha Lakers
10. (t) 67 wins Blue Ridge Mountaineers
10. (t) 67 wins Milwaukee Road

Street&Schmoody looks at the powerful NL and see basically the same playoff contenders from the previous season, but World Series loser Volcanoes are predicted to drop out of the top tier and the Rats will be the team that squeaks by the Mets for the final NL wild card spot. Bold prediction: NL teams will have more than half finish above the .500 mark

This is how Street&Schmoody's sees the SPB1 1989 playoff ladder shaking out:

AL Playoffs:

- (#3)Dayton Triangles over the (#4) Collierstown Highlanders in six games.
- (#2)Rockford Forest Citys over the (#3)Dayton Triangles in seven games.
- (#1)Bloomington Hoosiers over the (#2)Rockford Forest Citys in five games

NL Playoffs:

- (#3)Wichita Wind Surge over the(#4)Flushing Rats in seven games.
- (#2)Beast Coast Brushbacks over the (#3)Wichita Wind Surge in seven games.
- (#1)Bolton Hill Scotties over the (#2) Beast Coast Brushbacks in six games

World Series: In a rematch of the 1987 SPB1 championship the (AL #1)Bloomington Hoosiers over the (NL #1)Bolton Hill Scotties in six games.

SPB1 1989 Champion: Bloomington Hoosiers