

## PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1970

### AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

#### **New York Mets**

The Mets won 119 games last year and the AL pennant but lost the World Series in a shocking five game upset by the Totems. They might not match last year's win total but are still odds on favorites in the AL East. Dick Allen at first and Harmon Killebrew at third are sluggers who can hit the ball out of the park and take a walk but in both cases their defense leaves a lot to be desired. Cesar Tovar is a very good outfielder but he may have to pay some second base as otherwise the team is a little thin at that position. Veteran Luis Aparicio at short has transformed himself from a flashy fielder who steals bases like crazy but is allergic to the walk into a solid hitter for both average and on base but his defense and base stealing have suffered. Joe Torre is one of the best catchers in the league who can do it all with BA, OB, power and a good glove. Matty Alou, Frank Robinson and Roy Foster will get the lion's share of the OF starts but Art Shamsky is also available plus Tovar when he isn't playing 2B. On the mound the team has a R/L combo of Gaylord Perry and Mike Cuellar who are each capable of winning over 20 games and between them could start almost half of the team's games. Wayne Simpson, George Stone and Bob Moose will fill out the rotation. They have an outstanding bullpen quartet of Ken Sanders, Lindy McDaniel, Ted Abernathy and Joe Hoerner, all of whom could be the top reliever on almost any other team. And the rest of the staff isn't bad with last year's ace, Denny McClain, reduced to a mop-up role.

#### **Fairfax Colts**

The Colts won only 72 games last year and should greatly improve on that total in 1970 but overtaking the Mets will probably be a bridge too far. They have very good diffused power in the lineup and the pitching staff is solid, although not up to the standards of the Mets. Jim Hickman will share time at first with Tony Horton but he'll also get some OF starts. Between Ted Kubiak and Eddie Leon, one will play short and the other second but the manager will have to determine who's on second. Al Gallagher, Wayne Garrett and John Kennedy will share time at third but this is not a team strength. Ray Fosse, a solid hitter and defender, will get the lion's share of starts behind the plate. Lou Brock and Tony Oliva will man the corner OF slots with Oliva clearly the best hitter on the team. Brock is a stealing threat every time he gets on base. Rick Monday will get most of the starts in center but he'll need to be spelled occasionally by Hickman and Oliva. Clyde Wright is a solid number one starter with the rest of the rotation filled out by Sonny Siebert, Don Wilson, Larry Dierker and Tom Phoebus. Tom Hall and Don McMahon are a good L/R duo out of the pen and they'll get some quality help from Pete Mikkelson and Fred Scherman.

#### **Hudson Valley Renegades**

A change of ownership in the off season also brought about a name change as the former Steel City Yinzers are now the Hudson Valley Renegades. The Yinzers finished a distant second in the 1969 AL East standings and could repeat that feat in 1970 but the Colts will have to stumble a bit. The team does have good power and could end the season leading the entire AL in home runs but the overall team defense is poor. Hulking OF Frank Howard is the team's top offensive weapon and in addition to home runs he knows how to take a walk but his defense is atrocious. Rico Carty could lead the league in BA and he also knows how to take a walk and might be the team's best defensive OF, but that isn't saying much. Jimmy (the Toy Cannon) Wynn will patrol CF and he also knows how to hit the ball out of the park and take a walk but his defense is subpar. Lee Maye is also available for spot play but once again he cannot field very well. Norm Cash is a solid first baseman who might share some time with Howard.

Davey Johnson is tough on both offense and defense at second while Rico Petrocelli is a 30-homer shortstop. Jose Pagan and Bill Sudakis will share time at the hot corner; neither will be confused with an All-Star. The team has a lot of bodies who can play catcher but none are very good. The pitching staff is well below the quality of the two teams above and has no solid number one starter. The best are Jim Bunning and Alan Foster with Steve Hargan, Ron Reed and swingman Jim Hardin filling in as needed. There is no one on the roster even close to a top notch reliever and the starters will need to vastly overachieve if the team is to move up in the standings.

### **Mulberry Marauders**

The Marauder's offense is inferior to the Renegades but the pitching staff is a little better and represents the only hope of them moving up to third place; much more than that would be very difficult. The overall team BA and OBA could easily be the worst in all of SPBII with the exception of the woeful Bay Sox. Outfielder Willie (Pops) Stargell and third baseman Ron Santo are the team's main power sources. First sacker Jim Spencer is decent but nothing special. Second baseman Dick McAuliffe can field his position and take a walk but his BA is below par. Bobby Wine is your standard good field, no hit shortstop. Pete Reichardt and Mickey Stanley are decent outfielders but the balance of the OF starts will go to the likes of Walt (No-Neck) Williams and Jimmy (Mr. Smith Goes to Washington) Stewart. Jerry Grote is a top notch defensive catcher with a punchless bat. The team has three decent left handed starters in Jim Kaat, Ken Holtzman and Danny Combs with Carl Morton providing support from the right side. Tom Murphy is also available to start along with swingman Rollie Fingers. Ray Lamb and Claude Raymond are the closest thing to a bullpen but neither will win any awards at season's end.

### **Nanoose Bay Sox**

The Sox lost 110 games last year and might not do quite that badly in 1970 but they are doomed to last place in the AL East absent a monumental collapse of the teams above or a sensational overachievement from their own players. They have a punch and judy offense and will probably end the season with the worst OBA in all of SPBII. Left-handed hitting Don Mincher can pound the ball against RHP's but is pretty much helpless against lefties. John Bocabella is the closest thing to a platoon partner for Mincher but he won't set the world on fire. Second baseman Don Campbell can field his position and knock out a few extra base hits but his BA and OBA is guaranteed to be poor. Hot shot rookie Bobby Grich is waiting in the wings but the key words are waiting and future. Shortstop is a disaster waiting to happen as no one will be able to contribute much from that position. Paul Schaal is the third baseman by default but his bat is the definition of punchless. John Bateman behind the plate can field his position and hit a few home runs but can't do much else. The team has 21 pitchers on the roster but other than Dick Drago and maybe veteran swingman Robin Roberts, very few of them could crack the starting rotation of most SPBII teams. Too many starts will go to the likes of Joel Horlen, Tom Griffin and horror of horrors Gene Brabender. Reliever Mike Marshall has a lot of future potential and he is probably the best of a very sorry lot in the bullpen.

## **AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST**

### **Route 66 Hot Rods**

The 'Rods won 119 games last year but lost the AL pennant to the Mets. This year they should be fighting it out all year long with the vastly improved South River Gladiators. Both teams have solid lineups and an excellent pitching staff with very little distance between them but the Rods get the nod ever so slightly. Long time first baseman Rod Carew will be reduced to part time duty in 1970 but he will be replaced by George (Boomer) Scott who combines a solid bat with a good glove. Scott may

have to play some third base and be replaced at first by Marty Keough or Joe Rudi. Billy Grabarkewitz will play somewhere, either second or third with several solid part-timers filling in the missing games. Bert Campaneris at short has a decent home run bat, good defense and the ability to steal bases. Pete Rose will man one OF slot and promises his usual hustling style of play. Reggie (Mr. October) Jackson suffered some off season injuries and may have a less than stellar season but is still a solid performer. Merv Rettenmund leads a host of very good part timers who will fill in the balance of the OF plate appearances. Thurman Munson (a Canton, Ohio native) returns at catcher with a great glove and arm although his power numbers may be down a bit. Jim Palmer is the leader of the starting staff but he'll get a lot of help from the likes of Steve Carlton, Chuck Dobson and Catfish Hunter. Stan Williams leads a sensational bullpen which is five or six deep. If the 'Rods get a late lead, it will be lights out.

### **South River Gladiators**

The Glads finished well under .500 last year but could easily threaten the century mark in 1970 wins. The team has some very good power and it is spread around all throughout the lineup. Young Johnny Bench is coming into his own as one of the premier catchers in the game with 40 plus homer potential and a cannon arm. Donn Clendenon and Nike Epstein will share time at first and both are solid but Epstein's defense is suspect. Felix Milan can get on base and is an adequate fielder at second but doesn't have a lot of power. Bud Harrelson at short won't embarrass you at the plate or in the field. Don Money will get most of the starts at third but he'll be spelled by Tony Taylor who also plays second and the outfield. Veteran Willy Mays is starting to slow down but will still give you a good bat and acceptable defensive play in center. Vada Pinson is solid in one of the OF corner spots with several part timers available to fill in at the third slot. Tom Seaver is the unquestioned leader of the staff but the rest of the rotation is solid with even fifth starter Rudy May capable of being a two or three on most other teams. The bullpen isn't as strong as the Hot Rods but they can still get the job done.

### **Winter Harbor Seals**

A big falloff after the big two and the Seals will be battling the Fortress all year long for third place. The team has decent power from several sources with the best being Carl Yastzremski who can play both first and the outfield. Bob Watson will get some first base at bats and he is more than satisfactory. Ron (the clay pigeon) Hunt will get most of the starts at second but he has a banjo bat and his defense is not that great. He'll be spelled by super sub Roberto Pena who also plays first, third and short. Larry Bowa doesn't have much power and a poor batting eye but is adequate in the field at a short. Ritchie Hebner will get most of the starts at third; he has a decent bat but a leaky glove. Except for Yaz, when he plays the outfield, the garden slots are a little weak with a host of part timers, some better than others. Frank Hernandez and Tom Haller will share time behind the plate and they are adequate. Sudden Sam McDowell leads the pitching staff and he combines a lot of strikeouts with a lot of walks. His best support will come from Tommy John and Milt Pappas but the lower half of the rotation is not strong. Howie Reed and Gary Wagner are the big men in the bullpen but Marcelino Lopez will also contribute.

### **Frankfort Fortress**

As mentioned above, the Frankfort crew could contend for third place but are unlikely to fall to fifth. Neither their offense or pitching staff are outstanding but both are decent. The big man (in more ways than one) on the attack is first baseman Willie (Stretch) McCovey who combines a thunderous bat with a very good batting eye and decent defense. Second is the domain of Sandy Alomar who can do the job on defense but his offense is about as far away from McCovey's as you could imagine. Leo Cardenas at short has a good glove and can contribute to the offense. Ken McMullen is a flashy fielding third baseman who has modest power but a poor BA. Ellie Hendricks and Jerry Moses are serviceable catchers. Don Buford and Jim Northrup are two of the regular outfielders and both can do the job. The

third slot will be filled by several capable part-timers. On the mound, Dave McNally is the staff ace and a real workhorse but he'll get a lot of support from the likes of Andy Messersmith, Les Cain, Jim Nash and swingman Bill Zepp. Clay Carroll and Jim Granger are top notch relievers.

### **Los Angeles Angels**

The Holy Ones seems destined for fifth place but falling to the cellar is a greater possibility than rising any higher. They lack any real power source and the pitching staff is almost as bad as the lowly Royals. Al Oliver at first is one of the best hitters on the team and although he lacks home run power he can hit doubles. Young Dave Cash is the second baseman of the future but his playing time will be limited and veteran Bill Mazerowski will get the majority of starts in 1970. Bill's bat is not very productive anymore but he is still capable on defense. Dennis Menke is probably the best hitter on the team and will play somewhere, probably at third. That leaves short to Cesar Gutierrez who would qualify as a decent banjo hitter who can defend except for one thing; he is arguably the worst starting defensive SS in all of SPBII. Amos Otis would be a good addition to any outfield plus he is a whiz at stealing bases but he doesn't have a lot of help. John Briggs can hit a little and is a good defender but is not a full-time player. Ken Singleton could be a star down the road but won't play enough to be a factor this year. Ron Swoboda and Leron Lee are the next best outfielders but they are both well below par. The manager could play Oliver in the OF but this would leave a gaping hole at first. John Ellis could fill in at first but he'll be forced behind the plate due to a lack of any real alternatives. Jim Perry is a solid number one starter but other than Woody Fryman and swingman Barry Lersch he won't get much support. Tom Timmerman is an OK reliever but the balance of the bullpen will be staffed by the likes of Danny Murphy.

### **Montreal Royals**

The Royals won a league low 42 game in 1969 and don't appear to be anywhere near that bad in 1970 but could still approach or exceed the century mark in losses. In the context of the AL West they are last in all five of my measurement categories but in absolute terms aren't nearly as bad as the Bay Sox . The offense will probably end the season with the fewest homers in all of SPBII and the pitching staff is thin. Veteran Ron Fairly will share time at first with Carl Taylor and the best you can say about that pair is that they won't kill you. The rest of the infield is a grab bag with half a dozen players moving back and forth between second, short and third with only budding star Davey Concepcion as a real potential gem but his bat in 1970 is spectacularly punchless. It's hard to know where to start in the outfield as Al Ferrara who has a good batting eye and some power is the only thing even approaching a full time player but his defense is abysmal. Elliot Maddox can play the outfield and he has a decent if punchless bat but if he does play in the garden that will just complicate the team's infield problems. The less said about the rest of the outfield scene, the better. Chris Cannizaro is the number one catcher but hot shot second year man Gene Tenace is waiting in the wings. Jim Rooker and Joe Niekro are decent starters while Skip Lockwood and Steve Renko fill out the rotation. Jack Aker is a top notch reliever and he'll get some bullpen help from Tom Dukes and John Gelnar but that's about it. The Royals have some good young players but that is a story for another day as they won't contribute that much in 1970.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST**

### **Seattle Totems**

The Totems won 111 regular season games in 1969 plus the NL pennant and the World Series; what do you do for an encore? This year's edition is loaded and the heavy favorites to repeat in the NL East; the playoffs are a crap shoot but they have to be right up there with the other top teams. Wes Parker at first can do it all, great BA, good batting eye, power and a flashy glove. Joe Morgan at second might

have some defensive issues but he is great with the bat, can take a walk and is a terror on the basepaths. Eddie Brinkman has a punchless bat at short but he can slap the ball around and is a wizard in the field. Third base is the venue of Sal Bando who also has a great batting eye, decent power and a solid glove. Reggie Smith, Bobby Tolan and Roy White are the three outfielders and it would be tough to find any trio in the league to compare with them. Ted Simmons will share catching duties with Dave Duncan; neither can hit much but the rest of the lineup can easily carry them. They have four very dependable starters in Jerry Koosman, Bill Hands, Mickey Lolich and Phil Niekro plus swingman Diego Segui. Jim (Mudcat) Grant is a knockout reliever with a rubber arm but he'll get a lot of support from Dick Selma and Wilbur Wood, not to mention Jim Roland. The Totems will be hard to beat.

### **Evanston Elephants**

The NL East is the best example of the idea that the ratings are strictly based on relative numbers within the division as after the Totems, the rest of the division is very mediocre at best. The Pachyderms will fight it out all year with the Bishops and possibly the Monarchs for second place. Boog Powell and Beltin' Bill Melton are cannons at the corners of the infield. Both have 30 plus homer potential and won't kill you in the field. The best you can say about second sacker Horace Clarke is that he plays every day and can steal a base but his bat is punchless, he doesn't walk much and his defense is no better than average. However he is a star compared to shortstop where slick fielding and light hitting Steve Huntz will share time with Milt Rameriz who can field but not hit anything and Gil Garrido who can spray the ball around some without much extra base power but his fielding is suspect. Jose Cardenal is the best outfielder on the team but Jay (don't call me Jesus) Alou can slap the ball around but not hit it out of the park. The third slot will be filled by a collection of part-timers. The catching duties will be handled by Bill Freehan and Andy Etchebarren while the team waits for budding star Carlton Fisk to finish his minor league seasoning. The pitching staff does have Jim McGlothlin who could fit into any team's rotation but the balance of the starts will be farmed out to a variety of part-timers and swing men with the lower half very shaky. The bullpen does have Don Gullett, Horacio Pina and Dick Ellsworth plus the non-starting starters but overall the staff is not strong except in comparison with the other non-Totem NL East clubs.

### **Salzburg Bishops**

The Salzburg offense is marginally better than the Elephants but the pitching staff a little worse. The team is a bit deficient in home run power but they do have some good players, especially outfielder Cito Gaston who can pop the ball but is a little weak on defense. Danny Cater at first might hit .300 but you'd like a little more power from this position. Tommy Helms at second wrote the book on being a banjo hitter with a poor batting eye but he won't kill you on defense. Shortstop Don Kessinger has some non-homer extra base potential and is a solid fielder. Sid O'Brien and Jim Lefebvre will share time at third but neither will impress anyone. Catcher Dick Dietz is a solid hitter with good power but his defense is poor. Mack Jones is probably the best of a very mediocre outfield crew flanking Gaston. On the mound, Bob Veale is the number one starter and he has a good strikeout pitch but also some control problems. The next best are Rick Wise and Mike Torrez but after them it's a bit thin. Ron Perronoski is an excellent closer and he'll get some good help from Jim Ray but how many leads will this team carry into the late innings?

### **West Warwick Monarchs**

The team has some major offensive problems but the pitching staff isn't bad, especially in the context of the NL East. Rich Reese will play first base and even though he won't kill you, he won't win too many games either. Bobby Knoop has a punchless bat and so-so glove at second while Dal Maxvil is the perfect manifestation of a good field no-hit shortstop. On the other hand, Doug Rader at third can hit

the ball out of the park and is a more than satisfactory fielder. Gail Hopkins will get the most starts at catcher but his bat is punchless and his throwing arm terrible. There is a cast of thousands backing him up but you can't say very much good about them other than that Jake Gibbs, a former Rose Bowl quarterback, can hit a little but he won't be able to catch much more than 50 games. Bob Johnson and Dock Ellis are solid starters and they will be backed up by Pat Jarvis, Don Sutton and Jim Merritt. Dave Baldwin, Steve Mingori and Cal Koonce are decent relievers but behind them the quality is thin.

### **Milwaukie Pilots**

The airmen might be able to escape the cellar but I wouldn't bet the farm on it. The team has some pop in the lineup in outfielders Tommy Agee and Lou Pinella plus first baseman Bob Oliver and third sacker Brooks Robinson who also continues as a defensive standout. Tommy Davis can hit some but he is a terrible outfielder and will probably spend some time spelling Robertson at first. A legion of part-timers will have to be shuffled in and out of the lineup on a daily basis to cover the rest of the outfield needs. Second base is a disaster area with four players competing for playing time and only Frank Quilici having any ability (modest at that) on either offense or defense. Mark Belanger brings his great glove and totally punchless bat to shortstop. Jerry McNertney and Paul Ratliff are the best of a poor receiving corps. Former star John Roseboro is on the roster but his glory days are long past. However, youngster Steve Garvey has a lot of promise for the future. Marty Pattin is the number one starter but quality falls off pretty quickly after him as the number two is Jerry Janeski who is guaranteed to get battered more often than not. The balance of the rotation will have to be filled by a cast of mediocre swingmen. These swingmen will have to serve as the bullpen as there isn't a pure reliever on the staff who can do the job.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST**

### **Portland Beavers**

The Beavers are clear favorites in the NL West but unlike the East, there is some hope for the Wild Weasels and Voyageurs. Portland's offense is head and shoulders better than anyone else in the division while the pitching staff is a little suspect. The team should lead the NL and maybe all of SPBII in homers. The Baby Bull Orlando Cepeda is a fixture at first base and has 35 homer potential. Glen Beckert at second is solid, if unspectacular, on defense and he can slap the ball around but not many will leave the park. Neither Gene Michael or Jack Heideman can hit much and they will shuffle in and out of the lineup at short as the manager will be pinchitting quite a bit. Tony Perez patrols the hot corner and carries a 40 homer bat with a good batting eye. Duane Josephson who has some offensive ability will share time behind the plate with Bob Tillman. Outfielder Billy Williams is poised for a breakout season and he'll get great support from Bobby Bonds. Felipe Alou is the third outfielder but it would be nice if he had a little more power and a more patient batting eye. Bob Gibson is the leader of the staff and has 20-win potential. Jim McAndrews, Juan Marichal and Gary Gentry will fill out most of the remaining starts. They have two sensational lefty relievers in Darrell Knowles and Pete Richert. There are several other decent relievers on the roster but the fifth starting slot could be problem.

### **Thud Ridge Wild Weasels**

There should be a real race in the NL West, for second place. Very little separates the Wild Weasels, Voyageurs and Schema Busters. The Weasels have some good team power and a very good pitching staff. It probably won't be enough to overtake the Beavers but stranger things have happened. Deron Johnson has a good bat and poor glove at first. Second baseman Mike Andrews has a decent home run bat for a middle infielder but his glove is lacking. Shortstop is a problem with Larry Brown, Dick Schofield and erstwhile 3B Clete Boyer sharing playing time. Craig Nettles holds down the hot corner;

his bat is decent if unspectacular but his defense is beyond reproach. Catcher is a three-headed monster and will be a season long problem for the manger. Paul Blair, Johnny Callison and Joe Pepitone are the top three outfielders and they can do the job. Jim Gosger is the main OF backup. The top three starters are Dick Bosman, Mel Stottlemyre and Fergie Jenkins and all are very good with 20-win potential, assuming adequate run support. Blue Moon Odom and Jack Billingham will fill out the rotation. Steve Hamilton and Eddie Watt are good relievers but there isn't much behind them.

### **Tippecanoe Voyageurs**

The Voyageurs have a decent offense and the pitching staff is not bad. They could rise to second but competing for the pennant will be tough. Nate Colbert at first is the fulcrum of the attack as he has 40-homer power. Tommy Harper at third is the only other serious power threat on the team. Dick Green has a flashy glove at second but can't hit his way out of a paper bag. Maury Wills at short is good both offensively and defensively but his base stealing skills have slowed down a bit since his glory days a few years ago. Jose Azcue and George Mitterwald will share time at catcher and they are both adequate. Willie Davis, Tony Gonzales, Ted Uhlander and Jim Holt will share time in the outfield but only Davis is a real offensive threat and none have much extra base power. The leaders of the pitching staff are Fritz Peterson and Gary Nolan but Gary Peters and several swingmen will also contribute. Rene Lacheman, Dick Hall and Moe Drapowsky are decent relievers. Whatever success Tippecanoe has in 1970 will have to come from the pitching staff.

### **Data City Schema Busters**

A change of ownership led to a name change as the former Wabash Rivers took on one of the most unusual monikers in SPB history. They have a decent chance to compete for second place and are the reverse of the Voyageurs with a good offense but shaky pitching staff. Since pitching is 80% of baseball (who ever said that?) Tippecanoe gets a slight nod. The team has a couple of aging veterans who still have a lot left in the tank (Hank Aaron and Al Kaline) who both play first and the outfield and it looks like Kaline will get the nod at first with Hank moving to the garden. Julian Javier returns his punchless bat and flashy glove to second base while Tito Fuentes will play short. Tito has a slightly better bat than Julian. Don Wert will get most of the starts at third but he is probably one of the weaker third basemen in the league. Roberto Clements, Alex Johnson and slugger Tony Conigliaro are available in the OF but it will be tough to play all three of them and Aaron at the same time. Where is the DH when you need it? Ray Culp and Steve Blass are the top two starters with Claude Osteen a solid number three. Things get a little thin after that trio. In the bullpen the big men are Sal Campisi and Hoyt Wilhelm and there are a few spear carriers behind them that won't kill you but overall the staff is thin.

### **East Kenosha Lions**

A big falloff after the top four but the Lions should be a safe bet for fifth as the Barons have some real problems. East Kenosha hitters have a strong aversion to the base on balls and many home runs will be of the bases empty variety. Lee Maye at first provides a 30 plus home run bat but he is afflicted by the OB virus. Ken Boswell and Cookie Rojas will share time at second and they won't kill you but are not top quality. Hal Lanier is the starting shortstop but he also avoids walks like the plague. He'll get some help from pint-sized Freddie Patek. Aurelio Rodriguez is a flashy fielder at third who has decent power. Ken Berry is a top notch fly chaser in center but doesn't have the kind of power you'd like from a starting outfielder. Downtown Ollie Brown has good power from another outfield slot. Bernie Carbo is a solid hitter with good power and a decent glove but he won't be able to play every day. Mike Hegan, a better first baseman, will be forced to cover most of the remaining OF starts. The team does have some diamonds in the rough in the persons of Jose Cruz and Cesar Geronimo. Johnny Edwards, another non descript hitter will get the lion's share (no pun intended) of the starts at catcher. Stan Bahnsen, Joe

Coleman and Pat Dobson are the top three starters but the quality falls off pretty fast after that trio. They do have a good bullpen consisting of Paul Lindblad, Dave Guisti and Chuck Taylor.

### **Kansas City Barons**

As was mentioned above, my formula measures the relative positions **within** a division of the various teams but does not take into account absolute differences in the numbers. Therefore if one team is just a few points worse than another they get a lower rating but if they are many points worse the rating is not further impacted. That logic is relevant to the Barons who are much worse, especially in pitching stats, to all the other teams in the division. Therefore the chances of them escaping the cellar in 1970 are very slim. Offensively they are bad but not horrible. Bob Robertson is a first baseman with decent power but not a great BA or OBA. Denny Doyle will share time with Ron Brand at second but neither can field very well and are mediocre to lousy hitters with no power. Gene Alley at short can field but not hit. The manager will have to make some decisions at third as Bob Bailey and Ed Speizio are two of the better hitters on the team, especially in terms of on base but Bailey can't field very well and Spezio plays nowhere but third. Bailey might have to move to first for a few games or to the outfield where he is a horrible fielder. Pat Kelly and Ivan Morrell both are good defensive outfielders but neither can hit much, especially for power. Manny Mota is a decent slap hitter but a lousy fielder. Ed Kirkpatrick is the best defensive catcher on the roster and has some modest power but he might have to be pressed into service in the outfield. If Kirkpatrick doesn't catch, the role falls to Phil Roof and several spear carriers. The best starters are youngsters Nolan Ryan and Jim Nelson but both are limited in the amount they can pitch and have serious control issues. Bill Butler and Ray Sadecki will fit into the rotation but the balance of the starts will have to come from a grab bag of questionable hurlers who might have some potential for the future but not this year. Tom Burgmeier and Jim Colburn are the closest thing to adequate bullpeners but there isn't much else.