

PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1976

AMERICAN LEAGUE

South River Gladiators

The Glads won 91 games in 1975, but this was 24 games off the lead. However, in 1976 they have upgraded their roster and will battle the Elephants and maybe even the Barons and Surfs all season long. Ed Kranepool, Joe Torre and Willie Stargell will rotate at first base. Ed has modest power which Joe doesn't and Kranepool is a better fielder. But Stargell has the most power of the trio. Torre may also get some starts at third base and Kranepool will play some outfield. Felix Millan is a decent punch and judy hitter with a nice glove and will hold down second base. Ken Harrelson with help from Mike Phillips will patrol the shortstop position. Neither has any power but Phillips is a better defender. Aurelio Rodreguez is the incumbent third baseman, but his value is almost exclusively his glove. Catcher Johnny Bench has a good grasp of the strike zone plus decent power and a cannon arm but might not hit .250. His backup is Andy Etchebarren. Rico Carty is a made to order DH as he can't play any position without being a major liability, but his bat is top notch with a .300 BA and nice extra base power. Rusty Staub in right has a leaky glove but makes up for it with a potent bat. He can hit the ball out of the park and knows the strike zone. Rick Manning is a nice ball hawk in center who can spray the ball around the field but won't hit many home runs. Sixto Lezcano will get most of the starts in left where he has a good glove but pretty much a punchless bat. South River has a solid pitching staff with the three top starters (Tom Seaver, Bert Blyleven and Luis Tiant) all capable of great seasons. The fourth starter Rudy May isn't quite up to the caliber of the trio above. John Hiller and Danny Frisella lead the bullpen.

Evanston Elephants

The Pachyderms only won 76 games last year but several big off season moves vaulted them into contention in the new year. The biggest of those moves will be playing first base in the person of Rod Carew who is a master at getting on base and has good double and triple if not home run power plus he is a good fielder. Second base is a little weak with Fred Stanley and Jerry Terrell. Neither can hit much but Stanley is a better fielder. Bert Campaneris at short knows the strike zone, fields his position well and can also steal a lot of bases. Ken Reitz at third can play just about every day but won't contribute much with his bat although his glove is decent. Thurmon Munson (a Canton Ohio native!) is one of the better catchers in the league who has a .300 bat, nice power and a good glove. His backup is Bill Freehan. At DH we have John Milner and Jerry Turner. Milner has some power and knows how to take a walk. Dan Ford and Jose Cardenal will alternate in right field. Ford has better power, but Cardenal will hit for a much higher average. Hal McRae in left has a .330 bat and can hit doubles if not a lot of homers. Center field is a little weak with Rusty Torres and Wilber Howard. Both are OK fielders but neither can hit much. John Denny is the leader of the staff but a slew of excellent swingmen will fill put the balance of the rotation. The bullpen is top notch with Rollie Finger, Dick Tidrow and Adrian Devine plus the non-starting swing men.

Missouri Barons

The Barons have a good attack, but the pitching staff is not up to the standards of the two clubs above. George Scott is a solid first baseman with nice power and a good glove. Bob Randall has a punchless bat and poor glove and will switch off at second base with Frank White whose only real asset is his glove. White will also get some time at short where the incumbent is Bucky Dent who has a punchless bat but a decent glove. Pete (Charlie Hustle) Rose has a great BA and OBA and can record a lot of extra base hits but his defense at third is terrible. Bill Stein can fill in at third if Pete plays some games at DH but his

glove isn't much better and his bat is below average. Joe Fergeson is a nice defensive catcher, but his bat is weak. Biff Pocaroba will catch a few games, but he has almost no extra base power. Jose (the masher) Morales is a horrible defensive catcher and might have to get into some games to take advantage of his bat, but he might be more valuable as a pinch hitter or DH. Don Baylor may get a few starts at first base where he has a good glove but his primary position will be DH where he has some nice power. The outfield is loaded with the star being George Foster who has a great glove and cannon arm to go with good power and a .300 bat. Jay Johnstone also has a .300 bat with nice doubles if not home run power. Larry Hisle has decent power and a good glove. Juan Beniquez will also get a lot of playing time as he is a defensive whiz in center field although his bat is not that strong. Downtown Ollie Brown is also available for play in the garden. Frank Tanana and Nellie Briles are the top two starters, but the quality falls off after those two as the balance of the rotation will be Kenny Holtzman, Dave Roberts and Jackie Brown. Sparky Lyle is a top-notch reliever, but his only reliable helper is Dennis Leon who is limited in the number of games he can pitch.

Carolina Surf

An ownership change necessitated a name change from the Route 66 Hot Rods (the defending SPB2 champions) to the Carolina Surf. This new edition won't win 115 games as the Hot Rods did in 1975 but they could still battle for the pennant with a few breaks and some breakdowns from the teams above. Keith Hernandez and Mike Ivie will switch off at first base. Both have decent bats without a lot of power, but Hernandez is a much better fielder. Bobby Grich at second has nice power, a good OBA and can do the job on defense. Roy Smalley at short can slap the ball around but few will leave the park, however he knows how to take a walk and can do the job on defense. Larry Parrish at third has modest power but doesn't get on base that much; his glove is average. Carlton Fisk is the main man at catcher, and he has decent power and a nice glove. His backup, John Wockenfuss is well below par in all areas. Reggie Jackson has some defensive issues and will spend most of his time at DH where his powerful bat will be much appreciated, but he will get some time in left field. Dave Parker in right field has a nice bat with decent power plus a great glove and cannon arm. George Hendrick has 25 homer power, but he'll be forced to play center field as there are no real alternatives. Charlie Spikes is a nice defender in left but his bat is weak. Hot shot rookie Andre Dawson is still at least a year away. The Surf have an excellent pitching staff and if they move up in the standings, the staff will be the main reason. The starters are good but not great with the top hurlers being Ed Figuera, Brent Strom, Catfish Hunter and Tom Underwood. However, the bullpen is out of this world. They have five relievers (Mike Littell, Ken Forsch, Tippy Martinez, Kent Tekulve and Bruce Sutter) all of whom would be the top reliever on almost any other team. If the team has a lead after the sixth inning, the game may already be over.

Fairfield Colts

The Colts could move up in the standings, but their pitching staff will probably hold them back. Rick Monday and Lamar Johnson will platoon at first base. Monday has 30-homer power while Johnson sprays the ball around the outfield pretty well but doesn't have much power. Marty Perez with help from Larvell Banks will hold down second base. Perez is a so-so hitter and fielder while Banks is a decent hitter with a terrible glove. Banks will also get a lot of time at shortstop. In addition to Banks, Mario Menendez who has a horrible bat, but good glove will also get some shortstop starts. Roy Howell and Steve Braun will hold down the hot corner. Howell has a little more power than Braun but Steve is a much better overall hitter. Neither player is much of a fielder. Ray Fosse and Dave Rader will share time behind the plate. Neither has much power but Fosse can hit for average, and both are just adequate with the glove. Hulking Greg Luzinski will be the full time DH and he has nice power and a .300 bat. Jorge Orta isn't much of a fielder, but he has a decent bat and will patrol left field. With Monday playing first base the team lacks a good defensive centerfield and will be forced to play Greg Gross who has a

good OBA but lacks power. Pat Kelly and Pepe Mangual will alternate in right field. Neither has much power and both are lousy fielders, but Mangual knows how to take a walk. Highly touted youngster Jack Clark is waiting in the wings. Bill Travers, Rick Rhoden and Steve Carlton are a nice trio at the top of the rotation, but quality falls off after that and the balance of the rotation will be filled by several no-name swingmen. The bullpen is weak with Mickey Scott the only potential standout, but he will be limited in the number of games he can pitch.

Dayton Dragons

The Dragons could move up to fifth place because of an above average pitching staff but a weak attack will probably hold them back. Lee May has nice power and a decent glove and will play first base. Jerry Remy and Rennie Stennett will alternate at second base; Rennie is a much better fielder but has an aversion to the base on balls. Neither has any real power. The shortstop Chris Spier has a weak bat with little power and just an adequate glove but will draw a few walks. Dave Chalk at the hot corner has a weak bat with little power but his defense is top notch. Tim Johnson is a very useful infield reserve at second, short and third. The lead catcher is Butch Wynegar who has some power and an adequate glove. Bruce Kimm who has a cannon arm is his top replacement. Bruce Bosclair will get the most starts at DH; his bat is OK, but he has little power; Lou Brock may fill in when he isn't playing the outfield. Center fielder Greg Maddox won't hit a lot of home runs, but he can do just about everything else with a great BA and sensational glove. Joe Rudi and speedster Brock will share time in left field; Rudi has better power and a decent glove. Brock will steal a lot of bases and has a decent bat but doesn't walk much. Bobby Murcer in right has 25 homer potential and a good feel for the strike zone. Doug Rau, Garry Ross, Gary Nolan and fireballer Nolan Ryan lead the starting corps. Ryan could strike out 300 batters but might walk 200. Jim Colburn and several swingmen round out the rotation. The bullpen is excellent with Stan Thomas, Jeff Terpko, Tug McGraw and Gary Burgimeier.

New York Mets

The Metropolitanans won 94 games last year but were still well out of the pennant race. However that level of accomplishment seems like a distant dream in 1976. They could move up to sixth place but getting any higher will be tough. However, it would need a major collapse and great overachievement from the Angels for them to fall to 8th. The first baseman is Steve Garvey who has a .300 BA and some power to go with a decent glove. Rob Andrews and Ted Sizemore will platoon at second base. Neither has any power but both are good fielders. The shortstop position will see Frank Duffy and Tom Veryzer switch off. Both guys can't hit their way out of a paper bag, but Duffy is a better fielder. Slugger Mike Schmidt is a fixture at third base. He has 40-homer power and will probably draw 100 walks plus is a vacuum cleaner with the glove. Steve Swisher and Buck Martinez (my drinking buddy I can tell you about if you ask) are both nondescript on both offense and defense. Jim Rice, a good power hitter who also plays left field will switch off at DH with Cliff Johnson who has some power and an ability to draw walks. Fred Lynn will get the most starts in center field where he has a nice bat with decent power and adequate glove. Larry Herndon, a better fielder with a punchless bat will also get time in center. Ben Oglivie who has a good glove to go with some power will get the most starts in right field but don't hold your breath waiting for him to take a walk. Gene Clines, has a good glove but punchless bat and will get the remaining starts in right. Speedster Omar Moreno is waiting in the wings along with slugger Gorman Thomas. The team has four good starters in lefties Jerry Koosman and Randy Jones plus righties Bruce Kison and Steve Rogers. Jim Willoughby is the leader of the bullpen.

Los Angeles Angels

The holy ones won 86 games last year, but a leaky pitching staff will make it hard for them to match that number this year. Bruce Bochte, backed up by Bob Robertson will play first base. Bochte has minimal power but can draw walks while Robertson is pretty terrible with the bat. Dave Cash at second is an everyday player who can spray the ball around the park but very few will leave it; his defense is OK. The shortstop Mark Belanger may shed his good field/no hit label not because he can't field, he is terrific, but this year he may actually be able to hit. Darrell Evans and Kevin Bell will platoon at third. Evans has a little bit of power but will struggle to hit much over .200. Bell has an edge on defense. Ted Kubiak is a nice infield reserve. Darrell Porter and Dave Duncan will share time behind the plate, and both will be fixtures in the ninth slot in the batting order as they are both offensive cyphers. Ken Singleton has a nice bat with decent power and OBA but a lousy glove and is made to order for the DH slot. Al Oliver has a good glove and very good bat with some power and will platoon in center field with Amos Otis. The manager may find situations when both can play at the same time. Lyman Bostock murders RHP's and will platoon with Mike Anderson in left field; both are good fielders. Tom Poquette and Leon Roberts will platoon in left. Both can hit their respective pitchers very well but not the other side. Budding star Lee Mazzilli is waiting in the wings. Doug Bird, Woody Fryman and Rick Reuschel are the top three starters and should do a very good job. After them the quality falls off. The team does have four good relievers in Rawly Eastwick, Bob Apodoca, Pedro Borbon and Al (the Mad Hungarian) Hrabosky.

West Warwick Monarchs

The Monarchs seem solid in ninth place as it will be tough for them to overtake the Angels and for them to fall to the cellar would be a catastrophe. Mark Hargrove at first certainly knows how to take a walk and he can hit doubles if not homers. However, both he and Willie Montanez only play first base and for both to be in the lineup at the same time one will have to DH. Duane Kuiper will share time at second with Dave Nelson; neither has much power but Kuiper is a better overall hitter. Robin Yount is the everyday shortstop, but he doesn't have much power or on base but at 20 years old, he is learning. Doug Rader at third has some offensive capability and a good glove. Tommy Helms and Danny Thompson are nice infield spares. They don't have a regular catcher, but a trio of nonentities will cover the position. As stated above either Hargrove or Montanez will play DH with the other at first base. Except for Dusty Baker all the outfielders on the team are weak defensively and Baker isn't much offensively. Ken Henderson and Al Bumbry will play more games than anyone else; both have no more than modest power. In fact the Monarchs could easily finish last in all of SPB2 in home runs. Carlos May (my old neighbor) has a terrible glove and just a so-so bat, but he'll be forced to play the field to make room for the Hargrove/Montanez first base/DH combo. Roland Office is another terrible fielder but he'll get into a lot of games as he can hit better than most of his outfield mates. Don Sutton, Jim Lonborg and Dock Ellis are three good starters. Larry Dierker and Vern Ruhle will round out the rotation. They have three decent relievers in Steve Mingori, Ron Reed and Gene Penz.

East Kenosha Lions

There is no guarantee that the Lions will exceed their pitiful 53 wins from 1975, and they clearly have the worst pitching staff in the American League and also the weakest offense so a last place finish is virtually guaranteed. Chris Chambliss at first base is one of the better hitters on the team with nice power but a poor OBA. Lenny Randle will play second base, and his only real positive is a decent but not outstanding glove. Pint size Freddy Patek will hold down shortstop; he can steal a base if he gets on first base. At third Buddy Bell is a solid hitter with a good glove. Hector Torres can play second, short and third pretty well but he can't hit. Jim Sundberg has a cannon arm at catcher but not much of a bat. Ancient Hank Aaron will alternate at DH with Claudell Washington; Aaron is at the end of his brilliant

career. The three outfielders (Jose Cruz, Dwight Evans and Ralph Garr) are among the best hitters in the lineup. Jerry Mumphery and Bernie Carbo will also get some outfield starts. Phil Niekro and his knuckleball is the leader of the staff. Behind him are Bill Singer and Steve Renko plus several swingmen. Gene Garber is the leader of the bullpen, and he'll get some help from Bruce Dal Canton and the swingmen.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Montreal Royals

The Royals won 108 games and the regular season NL pennant in 1975 but were knocked off by the Totems and didn't make it to the World Series. They are solid favorites in 1976 and may exceed 100 wins again this year. They have probably the best pitching staff in all of SPB2 and the offense is also right up there. Johnny Grubb and Tony Solita will switch off at first base. Both have modest power and know how to get on base. Ron Jackson and Jack Brohamer will share time at second. Both have modest power but Brohamer is a much better defender. The shortstop, Dave Concepcion, has a nice bat and great glove plus he can play just about every day. At third we have another of my drinking buddies, George Brett, who has a .330 BA and nice power to go with a very good glove. Manny Sanguillen and Gene Tenace will platoon at catcher. Tenace has very good power and a great ability to get on base while Manny has a better BA and better throwing arm. Veteran Ron Fairly who can take a walk will share DH with several other decent hitters. AL Cowens who has modest power and a decent glove is the closest thing the team has to a full-time outfielder, but he is adverse to the base on balls. Jerry Morales who has nice power will share the balance of the outfield starts with several top-notch part timers such as Bake McBride and Davey Lopes. Jim Palmer is the clear leader of the staff but his mates (John Matlack, Burt Hooton, Jim Rooker and swingman Joe Niekro are all top notch. The team has three great relievers in Dave LaRoche, Skip Lockwood and Bill Campbell.

Seattle Totems

Seattle will have a tough time dethroning the Royals and may need to fight off the Fortress to stay in second place. John Mayberry at first can take a walk and hit a few homers but his glove and BA are both weak. The incomparable Joe Morgan is an everyday player at second base. He can hit with power, take a walk and steal a base. Bill Russell is a steady influence at short where his glove is top notch, and his glove is adequate; but he doesn't walk much. Sal Bando at third has good power and an eye for taking a walk with a good glove but might not hit .250. Ted Simmons has a weak glove at catcher, but he can hit doubles if not homers and will bat close to .300 and like many other players on the squad knows the strike zone. Dick Allen will share DH duties with Tony Oliva, although both of these former stars are on the downside of great careers. Willie Crawford, Roy White and Reggie Smith will get the lion's share of outfield starts. All have decent power and can field their positions. Sensational rookie Mark the Bird Fydych leads the pitching staff with great support from Al Fitzmorris, Mickey Lolich and Gaylord Perry. The L/R combo of Gary Lavelle and Butch Metzger are the main men in a fine bullpen.

Frankfort Fortress

The Forts are almost guaranteed to surpass the 78 wins they had in 1975 and with a few breaks could contend for second play, but it would take a major downturn from the Royals for them to vie for the pennant. Tom Paciorek and Craig Kusik will share time at first base. Tom is a better hitter for average but a worse defender while Craig has modest power and a better glove. Veteran Willie McCovey is on the roster, but his skills have seriously deteriorated. Denny Doyle and Alan Bannister will alternate at second base. Neither has any power and both are lousy on defense. Larry Bowa is a solid everyday

shortstop, but he has little power and doesn't walk much. A host of no names will move in and out at third base with the best being Bob Bailey who will be severely limited in how much he can play. Former star Brooks Robinson is on the team but his skills, both offense and defense have seriously declined over time. Barry Foote has a cannon arm at catcher but not much offensive ability. He can only play about 100 games and his replacements are a group of no names and no talents. Ritchie Zisk who has a solid bat with good power, but a poor glove will serve as the full time DH. Ken Griffey in right field has only modest power but possesses a .330 BA and a decent glove. Willie Davis in center has a decent glove and some power but doesn't know how to take a walk. Bill Robinson in left has the best power on the team to go with a .300 bat but an aversion to the base on balls. Several spear carriers will fill in the remaining outfield starts. Jim Barr is the clear leader of the starting corps. He is followed by Andy Messersmith and Jim Bibby who aren't bad, but the quality falls off pretty quickly after that trio. Paul Lindblad and Clay Carroll are the best in the pen.

Winter Harbor Seals

The Seals seem pretty set in fourth place; overtaking the Fortress would be a challenge although with a few missteps they could fall to fifth place. Bob Watson at first leaves a little to be desired defensively but his bat is superb. He combines a great BA with nice power. Manny Trillo is a full-time good field no hit second baseman. Rick Burleson, the shortstop, on the other hand is a good hitter but without lot of power and is more than adequate on defense. Ritchie Hebner at third has minimal power and a below average glove. His backup, Jim Fregosi is distinctly below average with both the bat and glove. If John Stearns and Bob Stinson could play a full season between them, the catcher position would be fine, but they will only be able to start about 100 or so games and the balance will be handled by Ellie Hendricks, who has a decent glove but can't buy a base hit. Jimmy Wynn will get a lot of time at DH where he has decent power and knows how to take a walk but will be challenged to maintain a BA much over .200. Carl Yastrzemski who has a very poor glove will get some DH time in addition to playing left field. Carl has decent power and knows how to take a walk. Chet Lemon and Joe Wallis will switch off in centerfield. Neither is much of a hitter but Lemon has a good glove. Oscar Gamble and Jerry Martin will platoon in right. Gamble has decent power while Martin has none. Bombo Rivera is a nice outfield spare as long as no one hits the ball in his direction. The Seals pitching staff is not bad and starts with J R Richard who has a blazing fast ball but also control issues. Tommy John, Ken Brett, Dave Goltz and Dennis Leonard round out the rotation. Dave Tomlin and Steve Foucault are the top arms in the bullpen.

Salzburg Prince Archbishops

The prelates could rise to fourth but that is pretty much the best they could hope for. Falling to sixth would represent a major failure for the squad. Mike Jorgenson and Gary Thomasson will platoon at first base. Neither has much power but Mike has a better glove. Phil Garner at second has nice power and a decent glove plus he can play every day. The shortstop Don Kessinger isn't a standout in any area, but he can play just about every day. Rico Petrocelli and Rod Gilbreath will share time at third. Neither has much power or much of a glove. Mario Guererro is a nice infield spare. Alex Johnson is the DH but he won't contribute much to the attack. Bob Boone who isn't a bad hitter but has limited power will be the main man at catcher, but his backup Rick Dempsey will contribute only on defense. Bill Buckner in left has a .300 bat with modest power and a good glove. Von Joshua and Jerry White will share time in center; neither has much power or on base potential but White is a better fielder. Tom Grieve is the more or less full-timer in right and he has the best power on the team; in fact he may be the only Archbishop to reach double-figure homers. The team has two good starters in Mike Torrez and John Candelaria. Dave Freisleben, Rick Wise and Bob Forsch round out the rotation. Mike Hough is the leader of the bullpen but after him the quality is weak.

Speedway Sparkplugs

The Plugs won 107 games last year but will probably have to settle for .500 or less this year. Jim Spencer and Andre Thornton will platoon at first base; both have moderate power but Spencer is a better fielder. Darrell Thomas and Pete Mackanin will platoon at second; they are both mediocre hitters, but Thomas has a better glove. Tobie Harrah will play short and third with Jim Mason filling in at short and Wayne Garrett at third. Harrah has some power while Garrett knows the strike zone. Duffy Dyer and Jim Essian will platoon at catcher. Neither has much power but Essian's is practically non-existent. Jeff Burroughs will play DH; he has nice power but might not hit .250. Cesar Geronimo has a great glove and nice bat and plays center. Ron LeFlore plays left where he has a .300 bat and is very dangerous on the basepaths. Dave Collins and John Lowenstein will share time in right field; neither has much power but Collins is a better overall hitter. The starting staff isn't bad with John Montefusco, Fergie Jenkins and Jerry Reuss. Jerry Redfern and Goose Gossage are also available. The bullpen is mediocre with Ken Sanders, Pablo Torrealba, Bob Moose and Mike Marshall.

Portland Beavers

One thing you can definitely say about the Beavers is that they will surpass the pitiful 49 wins they achieved in 1975, but they still will finish anywhere from 8th to 10th this year. Tony Perez at first has a leaky glove but a nice bat with good power. Mick Kelleher will share time at second base with Gary Sutherland. Neither has any real offensive capability but Mick is a slightly better fielder. At short Darrell Chaney is a full timer with a decent if powerless bat and an adequate glove. Highly touted rookie Garry Templeton is still a year away. Enos Cabell at third doesn't walk much and has little power but he can slap the ball around and is a good defender. At catcher Earl Williams has some power but a terrible throwing arm; his main backup is Tim McCarver who has a nice if punchless bat but also a poor throwing arm so base stealers will have a field day against this duo. Bill Madlock has a great bat with nice power, but his horrible glove makes him the ideal DH. Paul Blair in center field is the closest thing the team has to a full-time outfielder but even though he has a good glove, his bat is horrible. Bobby Bonds is probably the best all around outfielder on the team which isn't saying much but he will be limited to about 100 games. The rest of the garden slots will be filled by a parade of mediocrities. Vida Blue is clearly the leader of the staff and could easily win 20 games with more support but it's highly unlikely he'll get it with this club. Pat Zachary, Pete Falcone and Jim Slaton plus a few swingmen will fill out the rotation. Grant Jackson and Daryl Knowles lead the bullpen but there isn't much behind them.

Hampton Road Cruisers

This club could move up to eighth place but just as easily fall to the cellar. Cecil Cooper at first has a nice bat with decent power although he doesn't have a good knowledge of the strike zone. His backup is Tony Muser who has a nice glove but not much else. Willie Randolph is the primary second baseman and he is a nice slap hitter with little power and a decent glove. His backup, Mike Tyson, is a better hitter and fielder but will be limited in the number of games he can start. Roger Metzger can play every day at short and has a fine glove but not much of a bat. Everyday third baseman Craig Nettles has the best power on the team and is a dynamite fielder. Mickey Stanley is a great utilityman who can play almost everywhere. Fred Kendall holds down the catcher's slot where his defense is average and his bat not much better. Brian Downing is his backup, and he has about the same skill set. Lou Pinella and Boog Powell will share time at DH. Lou is a better hitter with modest power, but Boog is starting to feel the effects of a long and successful career. Del Unser is the only outfielder that theoretically can play almost every day, but he won't contribute much to the attack if he does. Ellis Valentine has an OK bat and glove but will be limited to about 100 games. The rest of the outfield starts will be spread around from the likes of Jim Wohlford, Mike Lum, Stanley and possibly even Muser. This is not a good outfield group.

The pitching staff is not strong and has no real standouts but will rely on a cast of swingmen and starters with limited appearances. The top relievers, Jim Kern and Dave Hamilton both have control issues.

Perryville Stingers

The Stinger attack is not strong, but it can be said without any hesitation that the pitching staff is the worst by far in all of SPB2. By default Doug DeCinces will be the primary first baseman in 1976; he has minimal power but not much else you can brag about. George Mitterwald, normally a catcher will be forced to play some first. Lee Lacy, a better hitter, and Vic Harris a better fielder will share time at second but neither has much power. Tim Foli at short has the ability to hit doubles if not homers and possesses a decent glove. Don Money and Roy Staiger will get most of the starts at third base; Money has modest power, but Staiger is a better fielder. Ed Hermann who has a terrible bat and not much better glove will share time at catcher with Vic Correll and Mitterwald. Highly touted rookie Dale Murphy is still a year away. Hector Cruz has some power and will handle the bulk of the DH time. Cesar Cedeno in center is the best hitter on the team with good power and a decent glove. Billy North in right doesn't have much power, but he won't embarrass you at the plate and he is a terror on the basepaths. Rick Miller has a great glove but has little power and will get most of the starts at the third outfield slot. Between Harris and Lacy whomever is not playing second will fill in the outfield. Jim Umbarger is the closest thing the team has to an ace pitcher. Pat Dobson isn't bad, but after that it is Dick Ruthven and Rick Waits who are both mediocre. The bullpen is practically non-existent and the manager will be forced to leave his starters in a lot longer than he might have wanted.