

## **PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1977**

### **AMERICAN LEAGUE**

#### **Carolina Surf**

The reigning AL Champs won 111 regular season games in 1976 and look perfectly capable of achieving at least 100 wins in 1977. They have clearly the best offense and pitching staff in the AL. Keith Hernandez is a fixture at first base where he combines a near .300 BA, good OBA and very nice power plus a flawless glove. Room must be found for Jason Thompson who has 30-homer power but only plays first base; I'm sure he'll get some time at first and DH. Derrell Thomas at second has a great glove and can spray the ball around the infield with modest power. Bob Bailor and Roy Smalley will platoon at shortstop. Bailor has a much better bat but a weak glove while Smalley's bat is weak and his defense no better than average. Larry Parrish will get the most starts at third; he clobbers LHP and has modest power, but his glove is terrible. Wayne Garrett will fill in; he has a decent if punchless bat but a nice glove. Catcher Carlton Fisk is one of the best receivers in the league; he can do it all with the bat, has a great sense of the strike zone and could easily acquire 60 extra base hits. His glove is more than adequate. When he needs to rest, John Wockenfuss is a good replacement. In right Dave Parker is one of the best players in SPBII and could challenge for MVP. He batters both RHP's and LHP's with good power and has a cannon arm. George Hendrick and Andre Dawson will man the other two outfield slots, and both are solid performers. Reggie Jackson is the main man at DH although as mentioned above, some time will be found for Thompson. Reggie has nice power and good on base, but he does strike out a lot. The team has a cast of very adequate starters in Ed Halicki, Mark Lemongello, Ed Figueroa and Mark Langford but the heart of the staff is a sensational bullpen which is five deep and led by the incomparable Bruce Sutter. When this team gets a late lead it's Katy bar the door.

#### **Evanston Elephants**

The Pachyderms made it to the league finals last year but lost out in seven games to the Surf. In 1977 they will be engaged in a year long struggle with the Gladiators and Barons for the two AL wild card slots; you can throw a blanket over the three teams as they are very close. First sacker Rod Carew is poised for a sensational season and might even flirt with a .400 BA. He will hit a lot of singles but also has some power and possesses a very good glove. A big come down at second base where Mike Tyson with help from Jerry Terrell will permanently occupy the ninth spot in the batting order. Neither can hit their way out of a paper bag, but Tyson does have a nice glove. Bert Campaneris holds down shortstop, and he slaps the ball around pretty well but doesn't have much power; his glove is good. Ken Reitz at third has an aversion to the base on balls but he does have nice power. His range in the field is very bad, but he doesn't make a lot of errors. When Rietz sits Junior Moore is an adequate replacement. Hal McRae in left has the potential for 50 plus doubles and 20 homers with a near .300 BA. In center Jose Cardenal can hit lefties but not righties while Wilbur Howard is horrible against lefties but good against righties. Unfortunately, Howard won't be able to shoulder all the right-handed pitchers that the Elephants will face and other players will need to fill in. The club has a lot of outfield plate appearances so a parade which includes Lee Stanton, Jerry Turner and John Milner will need to fill in. Steve Kemp is the primary DH but he may also get some outfield starts. Steve has decent power and on base and can hit both righties and lefties. Thurmon Munson (a Canton Ohio native!) is a solid hitter and receiver behind the plate, and he has a good replacement in Steve Skaggs. The starting rotation has five stalwarts led by Wayne Garland. The bullpen has three standouts in Rollie Fingers, Dick Tidrow and Adrian Devine.

### **South River Gladiators**

As mentioned above, the Glads will be in the wild card race all season long. The offense has some problems, but the pitching staff is very good. Dan Driessen is the first baseman, and he isn't bad. He can hit .300, knows how to take a walk and has decent power plus an adequate glove. There is a parade of non-entities at second base, none of them can hit much, field very well or play anything close to regularly so the manager will be swapping guys in and out of the lineup. Bill Russell has a very good glove at short to go with a slap-hitters bat. At third Sal Bando has modest power, can play every day and knows how to take a walk plus has an acceptable glove. Johnny Bench has a cannon arm and nice power and will handle the bulk of games behind the plate. His backup is Ron Hodges. A lot of players will move in and out of the outfield positions and DH with the best being Ralph Garr, Roy White, Sixto Lezcano, Ed Kranepool and Rico Carty. However, it's on the mound where the team will shine and any success the team has in 1977 will be due to the pitching staff. Tom Seaver and Bert Blyleven are the clear leaders, but Rudy May is not bad as number three. Mark the Bird Fidrych will put in a handful of decent starts with the balance of the rotation being several spear carriers. The bullpen is solid with Tom Johnson and John Hiller as the top guys.

### **Missouri Barons**

The Barons are the reverse of the Gladiators, a decent attack and leaky pitching staff but they should be in the wild card fight all year. George Great Scott is solid at first base where he has good power and a nice glove. Frank White at second can slap the ball around but few will leave the park and he doesn't walk much but his glove is solid. Bucky Dent is the shortstop, and he has a little better bat than White but not as good a glove. Pete (Charlie Hustle) Rose can play every day at third and has a .300 bat with some power but a very poor glove. Bill Stein has a better glove than Rose and might get some starts with Rose moving to DH. In left George Foster has a potential 50-homer bat and a good glove. Larry Hise in right has good power and can hit .300 but his glove is weak. Juan Beniquez has a great glove in center, but his bat is just so-so. Don Baylor who has a nice bat and weak glove will get the majority of starts at DH. The manager will be faced with a dilemma to strengthen his defense by putting Rose at DH with Baylor on the bench or playing some outfield. Joe Fergeson and Biff Pocoroba will platoon at catcher; Biff is a better hitter. Frank Tanana and Dave Rozema are the top two starters with Dennis Rasmussen not far behind. A gaggle of swingmen will fill out the rotation. Sparky Lyle and Dave Heaverlo are a good L/R duo in the bullpen, and they'll get help from Dick Drago. The top pitchers must perform for the Barons to excel as the pitching staff is not deep.

### **Fairfax Colts**

It will be tough for the Colts to move up, but they will be battling the Angels and Monarchs for fifth place all year long. Lamar Jackson and Rick Monday will switch off at first base. Johnson is a better hitter, but his glove is weak whereas Monday has nice glove; both have decent power. Jorge Orta at second has a very nice bat with some power but his glove is below average. Marty Perez and Larvell Blanks will share time at short; Blanks is a better hitter but neither can field very well. Eric Soderholm has nice power and a good glove at third and he'll be backed up by Mike Cubbage. Mark Hill and Dave Rader will share time behind the plate. Neither can hit much but Hill is better fielder. Rupert Jones is a flyhawk in center who can play every day and has nice power. Jack Clark has a nice glove in right with some power. Pat Kelly will get the most starts in left where he has very modest power but does know how to take a walk. Greg Luzinski who will also play some outfield will share time at DH with Roy Howell. Luzinski has 40-homer power while Howell will hit for a higher average. Steve Carlton is the clear ace of the staff and has every chance to win 20 or more games with the right amount of run

support. A big come down to Rick Rhoden and Andy Hassler at two and three with the rest of the rotation a real problem. The bullpen is weak without a clear ace.

### **Los Angeles Angels**

The Holy Ones have a nice attack, but the pitching staff has some holes. They could just as easily rise to fifth as fall to seventh. Bruce Bochte will be the main man at first base by default as the only other first sacker on the roster is Darrell Evans who will spend most of his time at third. Bochte could hit .300 but has little power. At second Dave Cash has little home run power though he can hit doubles with a decent batting average, but his glove is leaky. Mark Belanger returns at short with his great glove and no-hit bat. As stated above Darrell Evans will play third where he has some nice power and on base but a below average glove. Tucker Ashford is a nice infield reserve, but he doesn't hit much. Darrell Porter with help from Vic Correll will man the catcher position. Porter has some power and knows how to take a walk, but his receiving skills are weak. Correll's bat is very weak. The team has a wealth of good outfielders and features Lyman Bostock, Al Oliver, Ken Singleton and Tom Poquette. All except Poquette have nice power and can hit .300. Lee Mazzilli is also available for spot play in the garden. Singleton will probably get most of his plate appearances at DH. Rick Reuschel and Gaylord Perry lead the starting staff and both are outstanding. Things thin out a bit after those two and the manager will have to be very savvy to make sure the bottom of the rotation doesn't sabotage the efforts of the top guys. They have two good relievers in Warren Brusstar and Pedro Borbon.

### **West Warwick Monarchs**

The "Kings" will battle for fifth place all year but moving up beyond that will be a challenge. The pitching staff is decent and if they succeed the hurlers will be responsible. Mike Hargrove at first is arguably the best hitter on the team. He combines a .300 BA with the ability to draw 100 walks with nice power and a decent glove. At second Duane Kuiper has no power but his bat or glove won't kill you. Talented youngster Robin Yount is starting to come into his own. He has doubles if not home run power and can hit close to .300 but his glove is not strong. Steve Ontiveros at third is a solid hitter who will bat close to .300 with a near .400 OBA and decent power but his defense is horrible. Al Bumbry in center doesn't have much power but he can hit close to .300 and has a decent glove. Tony Armas and Ken Henderson will share right field; neither will contribute much with their bats, but their gloves are adequate. Dusty Baker is a solid bat in left with 30-homer power but a below average glove. Willie Montanez will get the most starts at DH and he is a solid all-around hitter. A place will need to be found for Doug Rader who plays first, third and the outfield, although his outfield glove is weak. Allan Ashby and Terry Humphery will share time behind the plate; neither hits very well but Ashby has a decent throwing arm. Jim Rooker, Don Sutton and Doc Ellis are at the top of the pitching staff and will do very well. Ken Kravec and Jim Lonborg will round out the rotation. Ron Reed, Don Hood and Steve Mingori are a fine trio in the bullpen. As stated above a good performance by the pitching staff is the Monarchs main hope of moving up in the standings.

### **New York Mets**

A real comedown for the last three slots and the Mets will be battling the Lions for eighth place all year long, but the Flyers are so pitiful that it's highly unlikely they will sink to the cellar. First baseman Steve Garvey doesn't walk much but otherwise he is a solid offensive performer with 30-homer power and a decent glove. Rob Andrews has a decent if punchless bat at second, but he has a great glove. Tom Verezer at short has a very weak bat and just an adequate glove. Jerry Royster will fill in as needed at both second and short. Third sacker Mike Schmidt has 40-homer power and a great eye of the base on balls plus a very solid glove. Center fielder Omar Moreno doesn't hit much with minimal power or on base, but his glove is solid. Fred Lynn in left has some power but his overall offensive stats are weak. Ty

Cline and Ben Ogilvie will share most of the remaining outfield starts. Ben has decent power which Ty does not, but Ty is a much better hitter for average. Both are decent fielders. Jim Rice the DH is the best offensive performer on the team as he has a .320 BA with very good power. Cliff Johnson has 20-homer power with a good BA and OBA with a good throwing arm but his overall defensive skills behind the plate are weak. Steve Swisher a very poor hitter but a good receiver will spell Johnson as needed. Steve Rogers, Ron Guidry, Jerry Koosman and Joaquin Andujar are a nice quartet at the top of the pitching staff. Bill Atkinson is the leader of the bullpen.

### **East Kenosha Lions**

EKL have a slightly better attack than the Mets, but the pitching staff is not quite as good. As stated the two will battle for eighth place all year. First baseman Chris Chambiss has decent power and can play every day with an acceptable glove, but he has some issues with LHP's. First round draft pick Bump Wills will move right in at second base where he has decent power, good on base and a very nice glove. Pint size Freddie Patek will alternate with Dave McKay at shortstop. Freddie can steal a base, and his glove is solid whereby McKay's glove is very poor. Buddy Bell who has a good bat with decent power and a great glove will get the most starts at third base; Lenny Randle who also plays the outfield will fill in as needed. Jim Sundberg and Steve Yeager both of whom have great gloves, will share time behind the plate. Yeager has more power, but Steve's bat will produce a better batting average. The right fielder Jose Cruz will hit close to .300 with nice power and a good glove. Jerry Mumphery doesn't have much power, but he does spray the ball around pretty well and has a good glove in center field. When not playing third Lenny Randle will share time with Claudell Washington in left field. Both are decent hitters with modest power. The club will be able to enjoy Rusty Staub's solid bat but not his horrible glove by playing him full time at DH. Iron man Phil Niekro will lead the starting staff but the rest of the rotation will be filled by swingmen and pitchers with less than stellar statistics. Elias Sosa and Gene Garber are two standout relievers.

### **Dayton Flyers**

An ownership and name change will not help this club who seem to be wired into last place. They are last in almost all offensive statistics, and the pitching staff isn't much better. Lee May and Doug Ault will platoon at first base. May has some good power which Ault does not but Ault's glove is far superior to May's. Rennie Stennett who has a solid bat and glove will start the majority of games at second base with Jerry Remy filling in as needed. Chris Spier is pretty nondescript on both offense and defense, but he will be the regular shortstop. Dave Chalk has a decent if punchless bat and good glove; he will play third base. Butch Wynegar and Milt May will share time at catcher. Both have modest power but May is a much better receiver. Gary Maddux is a solid fielder in center and has a decent bat with some power but doesn't draw too many walks. Bobby Mercer has a leaky glove in left but does have 30-homer power and a nice batting eye. Al Woods in left won't kill you but won't win too many games with his bat. Joel Youngblood is a nice fill in at all three outfield positions. Lou Brock has a terrible glove and will be assigned to the DH slot where he has little power or on base but can steal bases, although he has a tendency to be thrown out quite a bit. Nolan Ryan might set a record for strikeouts but could also walk over 200 batters. He is the ace of the staff. Doug Rau is his main helper in the rotation. After that it gets a little sketchy. Tug McGraw and Dave Campbell are the main men in the 'pen but they will get some help from Dyar Miller.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

### **Winter Harbor Seals**

Unlike the AL, the NL will have a season long fight for the top spot between the Seals and Royals. The "loser" will almost certainly qualify for a wild card. Winter Harbor has probably the best offense in all of SPB2. Bob Watson is a solid first baseman who can hit close to .300 with good power and a very nice glove. Second baseman Manny Trillo can play almost every day and has a useful if powerless bat and a decent glove. Shortstop Rick Burleson has a nice bat with doubles if not home run power and an acceptable glove. Ritchie Hebner has a poor glove, but his bat needs to be in the lineup, and he will start most of the games at third base. Pedro Gonzales and Ted Martinez are useful infield spares. Chet Lemon has a great glove in center and has some power in his bat. Reggie Smith is solid in right field where his .300 bat is combined with the ability to draw close to 100 walks and he has 30-homer power. The third member of a stellar outfield is left fielder Carl Yastremski who will hit close to .300 with good on base and power plus his glove and throwing arm are top notch. Oscar Gamble's weak glove means that he will get the lion's share of starts at DH where he has 30-homer power. Jerry Martin and Otto Velez are available for outfield and DH play. Ted Simmons is one of the better hitting catchers in the league with good power and on base. His capable backup is Bob Stinson. Tommy John, J R Richard, Dennis Leonard and Dave Goliz form a solid starting quartet although Richard does have control issues. Joe Sambito, Enrique Romo and Dave Tollin are the leaders of an excellent bullpen.

### **Montreal Royals**

The Royal attack isn't quite up to the standards of the Seals, but the pitching staff is arguably better and might be the best in both leagues. The Rons (Fairly and Jackson) will platoon at first base. Fairly is a terror against RHP with decent power whereas Jackson can hit LHP pretty well. Davey Lopes has a nice bat with some power and good on base plus a solid glove as the primary second baseman. Cookie Rojas will fill in as needed. At short Dave Concepcion has minimal power and doesn't walk much but he can field his position very well. My drinking buddy George Brett holds down third base and is sensational in all aspects; both offense and defense. Catcher Gene Tenace might not hit .250 but could draw over 100 walks and has decent power and a good glove; his backup is Larry Cox. Al Cowens isn't a great fielder in center but more than makes up for it with a hefty bat and nice power. Warren Cromarie in left has a great glove and even though he doesn't hit it out of the park that much, he can hit doubles and triples. Bake McBride will get most of the starts in right field and his bat and glove are both solid. Jerry Morales who has a fine bat is also available for outfield or DH duties. Tony Solatia and Dick Allen will get a lot of starts at DH, but this is one of the weakest slots in the batting order although the rest of the murderous lineup can easily carry them. Burt Hooton and Jim Palmer are the top two men in the rotation, and both are excellent. The rest of the starting squad is a collection of good swing men. The bullpen is very deep with Bill Campbell, Larry Gura, Skip Lockwood and Dave Laroche plus the non-starting swing men.

### **Frankford Fortress**

Big falloff after the top two but the Fortress are in good shape to grab the second wild card slot. First base is a real challenge for the Fortress' manager. They have several decent hitters (Craig Kisick, Willie McCovey, Gene Richards and Bill Robinson) who are all terrible with the glove. Clearly one or more of them will get a lot of time at DH. By default Denny Doyle will get the most starts at second base even though both his bat and glove are weak. Both Davey Johnson and Julio Cruz are rated at second base but neither has enough plate appearances to be the regular. Johnson has a good bat but poor glove while Cruz is exactly the opposite. Larry Bowa and Alan Bannister will share time at shortstop. Bowa is a

decent slap hitter with an average glove whereas Bannister is a better hitter with little power, but his glove is weak. At third base Butch Hobson has a nice bat with 30-homer power but a very weak glove. Infield defense is a major issue with this team. Catcher is a problem as only weak hitting Earl Williams can catch as many as 100 games. Several weak fielding spear carriers will need to fill in as needed. Ken Griffey in right has a very nice bat with decent power and an acceptable glove. Davey May will get a lot of starts in center and left where he has a decent glove but a weak bat. As stated above the quartet of weak fielders mentioned above will get time in both the outfield and DH. The four top starters (Bob Knepper, Jim Bibby, Wayne Twitchell and Jim Barr) are no more than adequate, and they'll get a little help swingman Dave Stanhouse. The bullpen is very deep with Clay Carroll, Bob Lacey and Joe Kerrigan.

### **Data City Schema Busters**

This club won 82 games last season and could match that total this year and with a little luck they could grab a wild card spot, but I wouldn't bet the house on it. The attack isn't bad, but the pitching staff is weak. John Mayberry and Dave Kingman will alternate at first base. Both have some power but neither will hit for much of an average although Mayberry does know how to take a walk. Joe Morgan at second still has a lot left in the tank as he can hit close to .300 with power and knows the strike zone but his defense is below par. Shortstop will be shared by Frank Tavaras and Rodney Scott. Tavaras is a better fielder while Scott is a better hitter, but neither will clear the fences very often. Third baseman Ron (the Penguin) Cey might not hit .250 but he could draw 100 walks and has 30-homer power plus a decent glove. Mickey Rivers plays center field and doesn't walk much but he should hit well over .300 with modest power and a decent glove. Dave Winfield patrols right field and he has good power with a dynamite glove and throwing arm. In left the team has Gary Mathews who has nice power and a sense of the strike zone but his glove is weak. At DH Willie Horton clobbers LHP and has some power. Catcher Gary Carter has a great glove and throwing arm plus 30-homer power. The top two starters are Nino Espinosa and Dennis Eckersley. A lot of other hurlers will move in and out of the rotation, but none are outstanding. Bob McClure and Randy Moffitt (Billie Jean King's brother!) are the top arms in the pen.

### **Speedway Sparkplugs**

With some luck this club could move up in the standings but making it to a wild card slot will be tough. Larry Bittner and Andre Thornton will share first base. Bittner is a good hitter with some power and a very good glove. Thornton knows how to take a walk and has 30-homer power but a weak glove; he'll get some time at DH. Art Howe and Rich Dauer alternate at second base. Howe is a slightly better hitter but Dauer is a much better defender. At short Craig Reynolds is your typical good field little hit infielder. Third baseman Toby Harrah is a solid hitter with good power and on base but has a poor glove. Art Howe who has a good glove at third will get some playing time there. Left fielder Jeff Borroughs has great power and on base but a very poor glove and throwing arm. Cesar Geronimo has a decent bat with a good glove and will get most of the starts in center field. Ron Leflore doesn't walk much but his bat is very productive in terms of BA and power; his glove is weak and he'll play left and some center field. Dave Collins is also available for outfield play but his stats are not impressive. Thornton, Borroughs and Harrah will move in and out of the lineup at DH when they are not playing in the field. John Stearns who has a great glove and knows how to take a walk plus modest power will get most of the starts at catcher; his backup is Jerry Grote who can slap the ball around but has no power of any kind. The top men in the rotation are John Montefusco, Jim Colburn, Fergie Jenkins and Jerry Reuss who are decent. The bullpen is very good with Goose Gossage, Gary Lavelle and swingman Pablo Torrealba.

### **Portland Beavers**

This club could challenge the Sparkplugs for fifth place, but it will be tough for them to move up much higher. They only won 55 games last year and should certainly improve on that number in 1977. Tony Perez at first is a solid hitter with nice power and a good glove. The trio of Mike Kelleher, Larry Milbourne and Dave Roberts will switch off at second base and none of them are good hitters, but Kelleher has a solid glove. Gary Templeton thinks a base on balls is something to be avoided at all costs but when he swings the bat the ball will go all over the field with modest power. His defense is decent, and he can steal a base but also gets thrown out a lot. The manager will have to decide whether or not to play Enos Cabell or Bill Madlock at third base. Madlock is a much better hitter, but his defense is weak whereas Cabell is an OK hitter without much on base and a glove not much better than Madlock. Bill might play a lot of DH because of his defensive shortcomings. Bobby Bonds in right field is the only full-time outfielder; he has very good power and a nice glove. The club has a half dozen other outfielders who will move in and out of the lineup; none are exceptional. As stated Madlock will get a lot of time at DH along with the outfielders mentioned above. Charlie Moore and Tim McCarver will get most of the starts behind the plate. McCarver is a very good hitter but a poor fielder and can only catch about 100 games. Mike Slaton, Bob Shirley and Vida Blue lead the starting staff, but none are exceptional. The balance of the starts will go to several non-entities. Darell Knowles and Dan Spillner lead a mediocre bullpen.

### **Salzburg Prince Archbishops**

This team could move up to sixth with a few breaks but a fall to eighth would represent a real failure. The offense is not strong, but the pitching staff is decent. Bill Buckner who has some offensive ability with minimal power, but a poor glove will alternate at first base with Mike Jorgenson who also plays the outfield. Rod Galbreath who has a limited bat, but a decent glove will switch off at second with Steve Dillard who does little with either bat or glove. Phil Garner who has nice power for a middle infielder will switch off between shortstop and third base. Kiko Garcia who has a nice glove but lousy bat will fill in at short while veteran Don Kessinger will get some starts at third. Pedro Guerrero who avoids the base on balls like the plague is available to play second or short. Bob Boone who has a decent bat and great glove will be the main man at catcher with Rick Dempsey as his backup. Mitchell Page is the best hitter on the team as he can hit .300 with good on base, nice power and has a top-notch glove in left field. Gary Thommason will most of the starts in center; his bat is not bad and defense adequate. Paul Dade who can hit close to .300 with little power will be the main man in right field. Jim Tyrone is also available for outfield play. Von Joshua who doesn't have much power or on base will be the primary DH by default as his glove is miserable. John Candelaria is one of the best starting pitchers in the league and could easily win 20 or more games with a team who could support him properly. Bob Forsch, Mike Torrez and Ross Grimsley will fill out the rotation with help from Rick Wise who is an accident waiting to happen. Barney Schultz, Charlie Hough and Doug Bair are the main men in a solid bullpen. The team will rise or fall on the success or failure of the pitching staff.

### **Perrysburg Stingers**

Perrysburg will probably battle the Cruisers for eighth place but rising any higher will be tough. First baseman Eddie Murray is clearly the best player on this team as he can hit close to .300 with 25 or more homers plus a good glove. Don Money at second can play just about every day with very good power and a decent glove. Shortstop Bill Almon can smack the ball around pretty well although he doesn't walk much but he has a good glove. Third sacker Doug DeCinces has nice power and a good glove. Vic Harris is a useful infield reserve. Ed Ott, George Mitterwalkd and Ed Hermann will share time behind the plate. Hermann is the best hitter, but he will be limited in the number of games he can play. Second year man Dale Murphy is waiting in the wings. Cesar Cedeno will get the lion's share of starts in center

field; he has nice offensive numbers and a decent glove. Jim Norris doesn't have a lot of power, but he knows the strike zone and is a good defender at either corner outfield slot. Several other players, none of whom are better than adequate will fill out the outfield slots and DH position. The club has no outstanding starting pitchers and will need to run out a half dozen nonentities. They do have two good relievers in Lerrin LaGrow and Mike Garman.

### **Hampton Road Cruisers**

The complete ineptitude of the Seattle Totems will keep the Cruisers out of last place, and they could easily rise to eighth but don't look for much more. First baseman Cecil Cooper doesn't walk a lot but otherwise his offensive numbers are impressive. He should hit .300 with nice power and has a decent glove. Willie Randolph at second doesn't hit many homers but can hit doubles and triples and has a flawless glove. Ivan Dejesus at short is similar to Randolph in his offensive numbers and given that he is also a top-notch defender, the Hampton Road crew has one of the better defensive double play combinations in the league. At third Craig Nettles could approach 40 homers and also possesses a solid glove. Catcher is a bit of a problem for this club. Fred Kindall will get the most starts but he contributes little on offense and is a liability on defense. Brian Downing is the best of several replacements, but he can't catch very many games. Ellis Valentine will get most of the starts in right field; he has a near .300 bat with 25-homer potential and is decent defender but doesn't walk much. Del Unser and Jim Wolford will platoon in center field. Unser has a decent bat with some power, but he needs to stay away from LHP at all costs. Wolford's offensive contributions are modest at best. Terry Whitfield and Joe Zdeb will likewise platoon in left. Terry has minimal power and on base but a good glove. Joe can hit LHP but has very little power and a decent glove. Terry Puhl is available as a useful outfield spare. Lou Pinella has a productive bat with some power but can only play about 100 games which he will do at DH. Mike Lum will fill in at DH, but his bat is not what you would want from a DH. Then we get to the pitching staff which you could argue is the worst in all of SPB2 with the exception of the pitiful Totems. Paul Splittorf, Larry Christenson, Steve Stone and Doc Medich are top four starters, but Splittorf and Stone have control issues. Jim Kern and Dave Hamilton are a R/L combo in the bullpen, but both have trouble with the base on balls and will get little help from any other relievers.

### **Seattle Totems**

This club won 94 games last year and advanced to the league finals but what a difference a year makes. They rank dead last in all five of the stats that I use in my complicated formula, some by a wide margin. Jim Spencer will get the most starts at first base and he does have some power but not much else on either offense or defense. Pete LaCock will fill in as needed and he has some zing in his bat but can't play very many games. Doug Flynn and Mike Champion will switch off at second base, but both are offensive cyphers with lousy gloves. Rob Picciola can't even be considered a good field no-hit shortstop because his glove is just average, but he certainly qualifies as no-hit. Phil Mankowski is a decent hitter especially in the context of this club and is an OK fielder at third but will be limited to less than 100 games. His backup is Ellis Valentine who probably won't hit his weight. Jim Essian is a decent receiver with some power and good on base and will share the catching duties with John Ellis who has little to offer from either his bat or glove. A parade of non-entities will switch off at DH. The best of a very mediocre outfield crew is Tony Scott but he has little power and can only play about 100 games but does have a nice glove. Steve Braun can play a lot of games but won't do much to light up the scoreboard and has a very poor glove. A gaggle of lousy part-timers will fill out the garden starts. The manager will have a year-long nightmare trying to come up with a pitching rotation. The best is Floyd Bannister who will be limited in the number of starts he can make and has control issues. The less said about the rest of the rotation the better. Butch Metzger can appear in a lot of games in relief, but he'll get little help from the rest of the bullpen crew.