

1989 Season Prediction – Post Season Review by Prose Perpetrator

1989 is over. We all had ups and downs. Some breaks went our way and some of course did not. Some made gains and some.....

Rick Ryan had a “decent” year. Making the playoffs by tying for first and winning a “play in game”. Then all he did was move into the World Series, spot the 5th highest scoring team that boasted the lowest runs allowed for the entire league a three game lead in the best of seven series. Yup, Trader Rick “Rasputin” Ryan pulled out an unbelievable feat and claimed the 1989 WS Championship.

The write-ups will have the following flow:

“something I typed before the season began” [my two cents] other ramblings of a mad man.

League – Division

Team Name – Manager – position prediction - wins, based on PT– actual wins – actual finish - write-up ramblings

American League – East: “Grays should remain the team to beat.” And they were claiming the top spot. Game Sox a scant three games behind. Firebugs placed one position higher than guessed and Lemurs were a second place tie projection and came in 4th. Vaqueros and Rough Riders finished as projected 5th and 6th respectively.

Worcester Grays – Hugh McElaney –

LAST SEASON: 90-72 1st place WS Runner Up –

THIS SEASON: 77 PT wins - 1st Place ACTUAL: 1st Place 98-64 RUNS 842-628 +214

Offensive leaders: E. Davis .294/.375/.577 38 HRS 114 RBI, Yount .335/.395/.513 41 2Bs 12 3Bs 15HRS, 114 RUNS 110 RBI, Hrbek and Strawberry hit below .230 chipping in 28 & 25 HRS 91 & 62 RBIs. Leading both leagues with 842 runs will get you some wins.

Team totals .274/.343/.419 237 2Bs 50 3Bs 158 HRS, 842 runs 799 RBI stealing 70 bases while getting caught 30 times.

Winning 98 Games ain't easy and what is even harder is when you only have three starters with more than 10 wins. Reuschel 19-7 3.38 ERA was the workhorse with 250 inning in 34 starts. Jim Abbot chipped in 15-5 3.25 ERA in 30 starts and 194 innings. The only other starter with 10 wins was Jeffcoat going 10-8 in 22 starts. Closers Burke 9-4 23 saves in 64 games and Harvey 7-7 12 saves in 57 games. The Gray bullpen was more colorful than their team moniker. Only two pitchers had more losses than wins. Guess that is one way to get those 98 wins.

Team totals 3.55 ERA 98-64 43 saves 21 CGs 11 SHO 1450.2 innings 1294 hits 127 HRS 135 DPS

Carolina Game Sox – Steve Eury – (Hired Guns)

LAST SEASON: 87-75 2nd place

THIS SEASON: 90 PT wins – tied for second ACTUAL: 2nd Place 95-67 RUNS 671-602 +69

“Kevin Mitchell will be a one man wrecking crew.” .245/.345/.481 33 HRS 101 RBI The cast of characters: R. Alomar, Caminiti, Brunansky and Dempsey might not have been grabbing headlines with prodigious numbers, they were doing yeoman like work.

Team totals .242/.318/.372 223 2Bs 32 3Bs 141 HRS, 671 runs 638 RBI stealing 69 while getting caught 44 times.

“As Stewart and Maddux go, so will the Game Sox.” Stewart 22-11 3.01 ERA and Maddux 14-9 2.83 ERA started 37 and 36 games. Mike Boddicker started 35 going 7-14 4.50 ERA Franco had 40 saves in 70 games going 7-7 2.96 ERA

Team totals 3.12 ERA 95-67 55 saves 17 CGs 9 SHO 1466 innings 1394 hits 89 HRS 121 DPS

East Kenosha Lemurs – Dave Lauer - (Natti Bohs)

LAST SEASON: 78-84 3rd place

THIS SEASON: 95 PT wins – tied for second ACTUAL: 4th Place 75-87 RUNS 663-765 -12

“The Lemurs are not a land of misfit players Trader Dave has so enjoyed.” Three players finished with more than 140 games played. Tony Fernandez provided the “power” with 12 HRS. Wade Boggs lead the team in RUNS & RBIs with 73 and 75. As this team matures, they will be something to watch.

Team totals .256/.322/.357 238 2Bs 45 3Bs 79 HRS, 663 runs 628 RBI stealing 120 bases while getting caught 43 times.

“Their success might depend on how Mark Langston, Tom Glavine and Roy Smith pitch.” “ Dave Smith should hold leads and do the job.” Langston 9-9 in 31 starts only pitcher with +200 innings 3.72 ERA. Glavine 8-13 3.53 ERA Roy Smith 4.52 ERA 6-13. Dave Smith 54 games 32 saves 5-4 1.29 ERA in 63 innings.

Team totals 3.68 ERA 75-87 39 saves 14 CGs 12 SHO 1454 innings 1358 hits 128 HRS 111 DPS

Frankfort Firebugs - Gary Plunkitt –

LAST SEASON: 71-91 5th place –

THIS SEASON: 88 PT wins – 4th place ACTUAL: 3rd Place 83-79 RUNS 662-668 -6

“Nick Esasky will be ticked off this season and play like a MVP.” Esasky .267/.339/.503 29 HRS 70 RUNS and 89 RBIs not what you’d see from an MVP. Four games over .500 with a run differential of -6 is very respectable. The offense was not much to boast about. Timeliness of production was key.

Team totals .230/.300/.372 202 2Bs 33 3Bs 169 HRS, 662 runs 630 RBI stealing 82 bases while getting caught 33 times.

“The pitchers Tanna & Saberhagen will do their part, too bad they can’t do more.” Saberhagen 18-9 2.00 ERA 10 CGs in 269.2 innings. Frank Tanana 15-10 3.36 ERA in 257 innings. Clancy was respectable 1307 3.55 ERA Pena claimed 17 of the teams 35 saves

Team totals 3.63 ERA 83-79 35 saves 21 CGs 10 SHO 1451 innings 1474 hits 140 HRS 100 DPS

San Diego Vaqueros – Steve Lehman –

LAST SEASON: 62-100 6th place –

THIS SEASON: 77 PT wins – 5th place – ACTUAL: 5th Place 53-109 RUNS 531 – 830 -299

“Todd Benzinger and Devon White will play every day.” 156 (534 ABS) and 162(622 ABS) games played. Only two others saw action in more than 110 games, with only three players having more than 400 ABS

Team totals .237/.292/.326 185 2Bs 41 3Bs 76 HRS, 531 runs 513 RBI stealing 80 bases while getting caught 35 times.

“Chuck Finley – starter and when he is not on the mound, Vaquero fans can get in the food line or go to the bathroom.” Chuck went 8-16 3.80 ERA in 32 starts 194 innings and did NOT lead the team in wins! He tied for second with Thurmond 8-7 3.96 in 63 games of relief throwing 120 innings. Swingman Aquino in 38 games 14 being starts went 8-5 with 2 saves and a 4.24 ERA. Leading the team with 9-14 4.94 ERA was Mike Smithson.

Team totals 4.73 ERA 53-109 31 saves 10 CGs 7 SHO 1443 innings 1560 hits 142 HRS 115 DPS

Ottawa Rough Riders – Stan Barkun – (Vipers)

LAST SEASON: 76-86 4th place –

THIS SEASON: 68 PT wins– 6th place – ACTUAL: 6th Place 50-112 543 – 840 -297

“When 38 year old Dave Parker is your mainstay and only player that will stay in the lineup on a regular basis, get comfortable cause it will be a long season for loyal fans.” Parker played 152 games, 558 ABS 23 HRS 91 RBIs scoring 56 times. Note 23 of those were cause he drove himself in with a HR.

Team totals .229/.287/.337 231 2Bs 27 3Bs 103 HRS, 543 runs 520 RBI stealing 34 bases while getting caught 23 times.

“Witt and Walk anchor the rotation.” Most times the word anchor has a decent meaning. Here it is what it is, found at the bottom of a body of water. Both had 7 wins to go with their 19 & 17 losses respectively. Rookie Randy Johnson showed promise going 7-20 in 34 starts with a lofty 6.10 ERA in 183 innings he K’d 157 and walked 97

Team totals 4.74 ERA 50-112 31 saves 4 CGs 0 SHO 1427 innings 1509 hits 120 HRS 127 DPS

American League West: “45’s & Mets will battle all year with the slight edge to the upstart Mets.” The 45’s tied for 1st and the upstart Mets appeared to have stalled in 1989. Rockets shot to the top finishing four places higher than their projected finish, tying for 1st with the 45’s. Aviators were in 3rd. Mets dropped to 4th from their lofty prediction of 1st. Mud Hens finished in 5th one position above their projection. Cavaliers dropped three positions from their projection and landed in 6th.

New York Metropolitanans – Don Rahn –

LAST SEASON: 74-88 4th place –

THIS SEASON: 105 PT wins – 1st place – ACTUAL: 4th Place 82-80 796 – 707 89

Guerrero’s .345/.409/.487 16 HRS 87 RUNS and 74 RBIs were not enough to propel the team to the top. Sax .325/.365/.418 104 RUNS were respectable, like Guerrero playing in 153 games. Gruber’s .338/.372/.522 18 HRS 75 RUNS and 84 RBIs were good for supporting, just not enough. Good but not enough was a theme for the team.

Team totals .291/.346/.430 314 2Bs 20 3Bs 150 HRS, 796 runs 759 RBI stealing 65 bases while getting caught 23 times.

“They will go as far as their pitching takes them. Four pitchers each starting 33 or more games and the highest ERA is 3.52 a total of 135 games.” Cone 18-10 4.00 ERA 35 starts, DeLeon 14-11 3.21 ERA 36 starts, Bosio 14-12 4.43 ERA 35 starts and Belcher 12-14 4.42 ERA 33 starts did not carry the team as expected. The pitchers gave up 707 runs and only 628 were earned. Tied for second in the league with 21 blown saves (Rossville Rockets also had 21) Fairfax Canaires had 24, could call for some despair when going to the pen.

Team totals 3.90 ERA 82-80 35 saves 21 CGs 6 SHO 1431 innings 1431 hits 157 HRS 95 DPS (only one other team had fewer than 100 double plays. More woes on defense)

Huston Colt 45’s – Scott Saxon –

LAST SEASON: 75-87 3rd place –

THIS SEASON: 87 PT wins – 2nd place – ACTUAL: 1st Place 90-72

“A misstep by the Mets and the 45’s will be there to take the reins. A team building for next year and that year could very well be now. Duo boppers Glenn Davis and Howard Johnson anchor the corner infield.” Davis .253/.322/.485 40 HRS 89 RUNS 122 RBIs Johnson .294/.369/.563 37 HRS 105 RUNS 122 RBIs and 21 GW RBIs “they were who we thought they were!” Denny Green shouted. Espy was not award worthy on the bases his 53 runs could have been more had he not been caught stealing 32 times while stealing 43 bases.

Team totals .272/.332/.420 270 2Bs 41 3Bs 161 HRS, 746 runs 719 RBI stealing 111 bases while getting caught 66 times.

Bruce Hurst and Mike Scott started 69 games finishing 15 and throwing 7 shut outs going 19-6 & 18-7 respectively. Door closer Montgomery 36 saves faired the team well. Gregg Booker’s 54.00 ERA is legendary, getting the loss in his 1/3 inning walking one and giving up one hit and two runs.

Team totals 3.67 ERA 90-72 42 saves 25 CGs 15 SHO 1467 innings 1467 hits 104 HRS 127 DPS

Lafayette Aviators – Steve Ehresman – (Colts)

LAST SEASON: 100-62 1st place –

THIS SEASON: 86 PT wins - 3rd place ACTUAL: 3rd Place 83 – 79 700 – 675 -25

“The height the Aviators will fly is based on how many runs can they score. Leading the charge, second sacker Lou Whitaker.” And he did, .253/.369/.496 32 HRS 79 RUNS 88 RBI Wally Joyner .301/.361/.455 16 HRS 78 RUNS 92 RBI good offensive production from two players with 157 games each.

Team totals .249/.315/.386 253 2Bs 41 3Bs 140 HRS, 700 runs 671 RBI stealing 181 bases while getting caught 60 times.

Bob Welch 16-10 2.80 ERA turned in a solid season. Rick Aguilera started 9 games throwing 3 shut outs and 3 complete games, if he could only have had 30 more starts!! 10-8 4 saves and 3.03 ERA 137 Ks in 121 innings. Williamson & Gutterman combined 10-9 31 saves. The real gem, Pat Perry 0.00 ERA 21 games, 24 innings 1-0 3 saves and he even gave up a HR and 4 runs!! I’m guessing Steve enjoyed pitching him and keeping the steak going. “Getting the most out of his players has the Aviators on a fine line of best or bust.” I’d say he got the best out of Perry. Lefties hit him for a robust .074 AVE and .138 OBP and righties lit him up .151 ave .270 OBP and the lone HR.

Team totals 3.76 ERA 83-79 45 saves 16 CGs 12 SHO 1442 innings 1393 hits 139 HRS 116 DPS

Canton Cavaliers – Tom Kackley – (Moondogs)

LAST SEASON: 58-104 6th –

THIS SEASON: 86 PT wins – 3rd place ACTUAL: 6th Place 73 – 89 645 – 724 -79

“Jumping from 6th to 3rd should have the Cavaliers throwing baby powder in the air.” No baby powder was thrown in 1989. Jack Howell .269/.347/.496 25 HRS 66 RUN 95 RBS were respectable. 1B production Gene Larkin .271/.344/.329 46 RUNS 39 RBIs and Randy Milligan .284/.384/.515 10 3B 13 HR 60 each RUNS & RBIs were fair, just not overly productive from a power position. .

Team totals .246/.319/.359 203 2Bs 45 3Bs 109 HRS, 645 runs 621 RBI stealing 55 bases while getting caught 35 times.

Five pitchers with more than 10 losses Don Robinsion 14 CGs and 5 SHOs in 32 starts lead the team with 14-11 record. Gregg Olson 24 saves in 53 games had 7 blown saves going 6-9 with a 4.92 ERA , not as automatic as I guessed he would be. “Gregg Olson is almost a sure things to close out the game.”

Team totals 3.98 ERA 73-89 30 saves 25 CGs 9 SHO 1446 innings 1462 hits 154 HRS 115 DPS

Rossville Rockets – Rick Ryan –

LAST SEASON: 99-64 2nd place –

THIS SEASON: 79 PT wins – 5th place ACTUAL: 1st Place 90-72 728 – 618 +110

“Will the Rockets really fizzle from 99 wins and lose 20 fewer games in a year?? That is what the numbers reveal. Maybe I should relook. Nah, this will be more fun.” Eight players played in more than 140 games for the Rockets. Bo Jackson’s 33 HRS lead the team, Ryno hit 30 and scored 103 RUNS, Eddie “Plays Every Day” Murray’s 27 HRS and team leading 94 RBIs showed that no one person was carrying the Rockets to the launch pad. Dawson .288/.332/.522 21 HR 63 RUNS 69 RBIs were just another indication of “teammates helping teammates”

Team totals .256/.310/.403 253 2Bs 28 3Bs 175 HRS, 728 runs 699 RBI stealing 71 bases while getting caught 40 times.

Big Red Sutcliffe 18-12 in 35 starts 2.74 ERA 11 CGs saw Ed Whitson keep up going 17-9 in 35 starts 2.91 ERA 7 CGs. Dave Righetti 59 games and 64 innings proved Rick did not call on him for a one inning save all the time. A team effort to win 90 games. Three pitchers had more losses than wins, Righetti being one of them going 4-7 2.25 ERA with 7 blown saves. Rockets were second with 21 blown saves, during the regular season. Guess iffin they gonna lose a game, might as well do it in the regular season and get it out of their system.

“Bullpen is capable in work horses: Danny Darwin, Frank DiPino, Dave Righetti and Cecilio Guante.”

Dawrin 7-3, 7saves 2.28 ERA 68 games 86.2 innings, DiPino 3-4 4 saves 1.88 63 games 76.2 innings, Righetti 4-7 24 saves 2.25 59 games 64 innings, Guante 2-2 3 saves 4.91 ERA 36 games 44 innings

“A fragile season could have the Rockets take off and land on a distant planet, go on and play in the World Series or fizzle off at take-off on the launching pad.” One way to hedge my bets and be able to type [see told you so, it would happen – drop the mike, walk off the stage!]

Team totals 3.32 ERA 90-72 43 saves 26 CGs 9 SHO 1486 innings 1326 hits 129 HRS 100 DPS

Toledo Mud Hens – Rich Applegate –

LAST SEASON: 71-91 5th place –

THIS SEASON: 79 PT wins – 6th place ACTUAL: 5th Place 77-85 642 - 723 -79

“Joe Carter and Alvin Davis will do their best in cracking the ball out of the park. They hit a combined 56 HRs” and they did with 26 & 28 only 54 of their actual 56. Carter’s 100 RBIs were one better than Davis. Tony Gwynn lead the team with 88 runs followed by Davis and his 86 then Carters 76, “the trio of Gwynn, Carter and Davis can and will do damage.” They did, save Carlton Fisk and his 14 HR, the only other Mud Hen to hit double figures in the long ball department.

Team totals .255/.312/.366 252 2Bs 48 3Bs 87 HRS, 642 runs 617 RBI stealing 68 bases while getting caught 29 times.

“John Farrell leads the team and will no doubt be the Toledo Cy Young. Problem, lucky if he makes it in the top 20 of the league.” Going 12-13 4.41 ERA is not what you want in your Cy Young winner. He was the only double digit winner. Spreading out the losses evenly as only Shawn Hillegas 7-13 record was a double digit loser. Jesse Orosco 44 games 44.2 innings and 21 saves going 7-3 2.82 ERA and Goose Gossage 39 games 39.2 innings and 15 saves going 2-5 2.50 ERA were the more conventional closers.

13 CGs and 10 SHOs pretty much tell the tape of when the starters were good, they were real good. Just not often enough.

Team totals 4.12 ERA 77-85 43 saves 13 CGs 10 SHO 1432 innings 1436 hits 107 HRS 113 DPS

National League East – Magpies remain pesky and they were winning the East. Guardians bettered the guess by one position and finished in 2nd. Space Men finished in 3rd on spot lower than predicted. Milers finished 4th, as guessed. Monsters and Crackers flip flopped their preseason guess as the Crackers took 5th and the Monsters secured the 6th place finish.

Edmonton Magpies – Chris Williams –

LAST SEASON: 94-68 1st place –

THIS SEASON: 79 PT wins – 1st place ACTUAL: 1st Place 94-68 786 - 592 +194

Danny Tartabull one of the big guns .297/.386/.564 30 HRs 82 RUNs 90 RBIs and Dwight Evans .250/.370/.425 20 HRs 93 RUNs 80 RBIs was the other. “The other cast of characters need to perform

well enough to keep the Magpie tradition of winning rolling this year.” And they sure did. Nothing spectacular just good enough to win.

Team totals .265/.329/.398 242 2Bs 38 3Bs 147 HRS, 786 runs 749 RBI stealing 66 bases while getting caught 20 times.

“Magpies will fly as high as their starting rotation takes them. Mike Moore, Bert Blyleven make a good one two punch” Bert “Be Home By Eleven” 17-10 2.96 ERA in 31 starts and 215 innings must have gotten great run support as Mike Moore only went 15-4 1.76 ERA in 34 starts and 245 innings. The 1-2 punch had a good supporting cast. “Scott Garrelts will get spot starts and as Garrelts goes, so may the Magpies.” [pulled my shoulder out, patting myself on the back] Garrelts went 14-3 2.85 ERA in 27 starts 186 innings [what in 2017 is considered a WORK HOURSE / FULL SEASON = 30+ starts] Erick Plunk only plunked one getting 33 saves in 56 games. Gary Mielke was anything but the average reliever he was rated going 9-4 5 saves in 41 games and 47 innings sporting a 1.53 ERA

Team totals 3.11 ERA 103-59 58 saves 21 CGs 7 SHO 1472 innings 1356 hits 104 HRS 121 DPS

Baltimore SpaceMen – Mace Matayc –

LAST SEASON: 82-80 3rd place –

THIS SEASON: 86 PT wins – 2nd place ACTUAL: 3rd Place 81-81 658 – 686 -28

George Bell .278/.310/.479 23 HR 78 RUNs 120 RBIs, Bobby Bonilla .281/.345/.496 20 HR 94 RUNs 83 RBIs, Andres Galarraga .244/.317/.400 23 HR 67 RUNs 70 RBIs were the Terror Trio. If they didn’t do it, probably didn’t get done.

Team totals .247/.302/.384 271 2Bs 40 3Bs 134 HRS, 658 runs 634 RBI stealing 57 bases while getting caught 17 times.

“Gubicza, Drabek and Bielecki form a terrific trio at the top of the rotation.” Gubicza 16-13 2.37 ERA in 34 starts 9 CGs 6 SHOs, Drabek 14-10 4.38 ERA 34 in starts and Bielecki 15-9 3.17 ERA in 32 starts with 3 CG SHOs did top the rotation. Dan Plesac pitched great in relief getting 15 of the teams 38 saves. Rumor he is not long for the mound and might find the chair in front of the camera more to his liking in MLB. “SpaceMen relate the season to a 10 minute mission with 10 minutes of air. No room for extra things or something going wrong. A fine line from success or failure.” 81-81 is a fine line.

Team totals 3.65 ERA 81-81 38 saves 19 CGs 13 SHO 1450 innings 1403 hits 101 HRS 123 DPS

Asgard Guardians – Mel Schwarz –

LAST SEASON: 83-79 2nd place –

THIS SEASON: 83 PT wins – 3rd place ACTUAL: 2nd Place 92-70 701 – 608 +93

Trio of Barfield, Brett and Franco did not disappoint. Barfield hit 26 HRs 84 RBIs Brett still learning the game .264/.335 51 RUNs 81 RBIs Julio Franco .308/.359/.489 91 RUNs 72 RBIs. Five players played more than 130 games churning out decent numbers and the supporting cast was exactly that, very supporting.

Team totals .255/.322/.394 277 2Bs 24 3Bs 147 HRS, 701 runs 668 RBI stealing 81 bases while getting caught 29 times.

“Middle of the road pitching staff has crafty veteran Charlie Hough, prone to giving up the long ball – lefties Bud Black and Greg Swindell as their main three. Mel will have to balance the 70 starts to get the most out of the pitching staff. The bullpen is loaded with lefty specialists: Craig Lefferts, Rob Murphy and Kenny Rogers have 217 games between them. Closer Jay Howell should lock most of the games, giving the Asgaard loyalists hope for a good season.” Getting the most out of the pitching staff he did! Hough was 9-9 in 30 starts with 3 CG SHO to go along with his 4.10 ERA in 191 innings allowing 25 HRS and 96 total runs. Swindell 15-9 2.83 ERA in 30 starts, Bud Black 12-16 3.48 ERA in 36 starts. The other starters Rod Nichols 6-0 3.31 in 11 starts 65 innings. The bullpen did their job 54 saves and only blowing 11 chances. Jay Howell 1.65 ERA 28 saves, Craig Lefferts 2.31 ERA 17 saves played out as advertised. Guardians had 9 CGs and 13 SHO !! That’s teammates picking each other up and helping their brothers out!! Hats off to “Motivator” Mel for a fine job with the bullpen.

Team totals 3.37 ERA 92-70 54 saves 9 CGs 13 SHO 1453 innings 1341 hits 128 HRS 107 DPS

Minneapolis Millers – Terry Baxter – (Grizzlies)

LAST SEASON: 79-83 4th place –

THIS SEASON: 80 PT wins – 4th place ACTUAL: 4th Place 70-92 669 - 834 -165

“Terry’s MMers have a good offense. The issue will be their pitching is just as offensive. The Millers almost score as many runs as they give up 662/663. According to Bill James and the PT that will get you 80 wins. “This is why we play the game” quote from many a manager/owner. Games ain’t won on paper.” Well, they didn’t score as many seven less and gave up 171 more than projected. Winning 10 less games than what the crystal ball said. Will “The Thrill” did exactly as advertised .306/.401/.527 12 3Bs 25 HRs 90 RUNs 107 RBIs and was IW 18 times! To go along with his 17 GW RBIs. His teammates were yeoman like in their offensive duties. Eleven players appeared in more than 100 games.

Team totals .254/.312/.384 262 2Bs 42 3Bs 126 HRS, 669 runs 644 RBI stealing 52 bases while getting caught 28 times.

“Whereas some teams had starters with an ERA above 3.50 this team has one starter with an ERA below 3.50 the Millers lead the league in two pitching categories: ERA 4.63 and WHIP 1.480 era Lead the league as in with the highest, you know more is better right! Terry will also make many a trip to the mound. Chess, checkers or 4-square, in order to make it through the season MMers will have to make many roster moves getting 28 starts from Dave Schmidt to lead the team. Seven possible starters are of the bonus type. A very fine line from 4th place to 6th place.” And the line they found was 4th!!

22 pitchers were used and hopefully not hurt during the season. Yowza! Mike Morgan was the superstar 12-8 9 saves in 20 starts 2.52 ERA in 182.2 innings 9 CGs and 4 SHOs. Dave Schmidt lead the team with 28 starts going 10-10 with a 4.80 ERA. Barry Jones got the most out of his 28 games and 33 innings getting 16 saves and posting a 2.43 ERA. The other cast of characters were just too non-noteworthy to describe.

Team totals 4.78 ERA 70-92 37 saves 19 CGs 12 SHO 1428 innings 1597 hits 157 HRS 132 DPS

Ostego Lake Monsters - Mike See – (Lakers)

LAST SEASON: 68-94 6th place –

THIS SEASON: 66 PT wins – 5th place ACTUAL: 6th Place 61-101 532 – 660 -128

“Little team power, little team speed, little team offense.” Six players had more than 10 HRs, Bonds leading them with 19. 57 total stolen bases and Bonds had 23. Of the 615 RUNS Bonds had 86. “Barry Bonds will be a one man wrecking crew stealing more bases than homers early in his career.” He was and he did. Eight players with more than 120 games played. Nothing super and then no doubt half the team will be gone before next year.

Team totals .250/.305/.366 221 2Bs 36 3Bs 121 HRS, 615 runs 586 RBI stealing 57 bases while getting caught 41 times.

“Nine pitchers or more could see action as a starter.” 12 was the final tally for starters. Pete Smith had 29 starts to lead the team. 7-11 4.33 ERA ain’t the best but it was for the Lake Monsters. Not a double digit winner to be found on the 61 win season and only three double digit losers and Don August’s 13 lead the team. Truly a team effort. Andy Benes shows promise going 2-5 3 CGs and 1 SHO 2.91 ERA in 11 starts and 77 innings with 75Ks. Mike Schooler 20 saves in 60 games and Mitch “Wild Thing” Williams 65 games 81.2 innings 4.41 ERA has been rumored to be on the trading block.

Team totals 4.18 ERA 61-10 27 saves 12 CGs 8 SHO 1471 innings 1464 hits 149 HRS 112 DPS

Buckhead Crackers – Marc Robinson –

LAST SEASON: 69-93 5th place –

THIS SEASON: 50 PT wins – 6th place ACTUAL: 5th Place 68-94 532 – 660 -128

When Tim Foley leads your team in RBIs with 57 and 11 of those GW RBIs, which also lead the team, while hitting 7 HRs, you know you don’t score much. Scoring one run more and winning 15 more games than Vaqueros shows economy of runs. Seitzer and Ready hit 10 and 11 HRs. Guillen and Seitzer each played 153 games and drove in 44 each while scoring 65 & 66 respectively. Ozzie did steal 43 of the

teams 79 bases. Eight players with more than 100 games played however, only three had more than 130.

Team totals .240/.299/.343 235 2Bs 37 3Bs 85 HRS, 532 runs 508 RBI stealing 79 bases while getting caught 36 times.

“Smiley won’t be smiling too much” 13-11 3.62 ERA in 28 starts and 184 innings, his lone CG shutout did provide an opportunity for a great big grin. “Door Closer Jeff Russell has 71 games available might be lucky to get in 30 save opportunities.” He pitched in 72, 23 was the magic number Russell would have a chance to close and 21 he did in an outstanding manner 1.24 ERA with 89Ks in 87.1 innings. 20 pitchers were used and three of them had ERAs under 2.00

Team totals 3.80 ERA 68-94 32 saves 17 CGs 7 SHO 1435 innings 1450 hits 98 HRS 118 DPS

National League West – “Defending World Series Champions Astoria Zoo Crew get no respect. Wright-Patt Plainsmen (1st) and Fairfax Canaries (3rd) Punxsutawney Pachyderms (6th), Thunder Bay Damage(2nd) and Anok Island Gnomes(4th) are projected above the Zoo Crew. And this is why we play the games.” Only the Pachyderms won fewer games by two than the Zoo Crew.

Wright-Patt Plainsmen – John Turnbull –

LAST SEASON: 87-75 3rd place –

THIS SEASON: 92 PT wins – 1st place. ACTUAL: 1st Place 106-56 750 – 514 +236

“157 is their total team HRs. (they hit 159) Mickey Tettleton a switch hitting catcher (26)[hit 24], Mark McGwire at firstbase (33)[hit 42] Kevin McReynolds (22) [hit 17] Jose Canseco will be used sparingly with his 258 PAs and 17 HRs[hit 17] Nothing plain about the Plainsmen this year.”

McGwire did not hit for average .222 and his 42 HRs 119 RBIs allowed Molitor and Puckett to score 107 & 104 times with OBP of .374 & .375. They got on in front of Big Red and he drove them in. Seven players had more than 130 games, so it was pretty easy plug and play.

Team totals .266/.332/.418 287 2Bs 35 3Bs 159 HRS, 750 runs 718 RBI stealing 82 bases while getting caught 34 times.

“John Turnbull will get the most out of his starting rotation – three are rated excellent and two are very good – Frank Viola, Orel Hershiser, Mike Witt, Nolan Ryan and Dwight Gooden. If or when they tire strolling out will be Lee Smith, Greg Minton, Tom Henke and Doug Jones. Plainsmen pitchers are the cream of the crop in the NL West and should be more than enough to garner the top spot.”

Cruise Control – what we use going down the roadway: dreaming, listening to music, talk shows our mind wanders – not really “thinking” and engaged in the activity we should be engaged – controlling the

vehicle in which we are operating! When your starters with more than 10 starts win 13 or more games, you must be doing something right. When your 1st Draft Pick of the season – nick named “The Night Mare on Elm Street” – Billy Krueger gets 5 starts appears in 17 games in relief – 75.1 innings total 4-0 1.43 ERA you must be living good. Tom Henke “former 1st Round Pick of the Anok Island Gnome” 54 games 54 innings – TRADITIONAL 1 inning closer – 43 saves in 44 chances goes 2-2 1.17 ERA with 69 Ks, is supported by Lee Smith [last time we were in Cooperstown, Lee Smith was mentioned – often as I recall for a very unusual reason – most of us have something in common with Lee Smith – buying a ticket to enter the Baseball Hall of Fame] breaking with the conventional way of listing pitching stats – cause the Plainsmen need special attention:

Hershiser 19-8, 35 starts, 6 CG 4 SHO, 2.81 ERA 249.2 innings 9 HRs 27 DPs

Witt 17-10, 31 starts, 11 CGs 3.12 ERA 210 innings

Ryan 16-9, 2.42 ERA, 35 starts, 8 CGs 5 SHOs, 245 innings 154 hits 305 Ks – 101 BBs almost 1Ks for every hit – WOW! Ooops, the 101 walks must count for something

Gooden 13-3, 19 starts – were it more WOW. 3.36 ERA 121 Ks in 128 innings

Franky V. 13-14 3.39 ERA in 37 starts – to be fair, most of the hitters must have thought “Franky V is on the mound, I can take a day off on the field” providing him 4.0 run support, compared to the cocaine snorting Doc Gooden’s 5.8 runs when they knew more was better.

Four pitchers posting ERA under 2.00 The three listed above and Julio Machado’s 1.23 ERA in 7 games 7.1 innings totaled: 143 games 200 innings 223 Ks 7 HRs 12 DPs

Forgone conclusion they’d be in the WS and how many more will they be in??

Fairfax Canaries – Ron Peterson –

LAST SEASON: 84-78 4th place –

THIS SEASON: 87 PT wins – 2nd place ACTUAL: 3rd Place 89-73 775 – 743 +32

“Thievery is the word opposing managers will mutter[104 SBs]. Slick Ricky Henderson starts it off and the daily production goes down from there.” Slick Rick .318/.416/.497 22 HRs 109 RUNs 71 RBIs 96 BB 55 SB and caught 15 times. He is what he is. Brook Jacoby was second on the team with 14 HRs 92 RBs.

Only four players had more than 400 Abs, the supporting cast did not support well enough, adequate, just not well enough.

Team totals .270/.336/.397 247 2Bs 32 3Bs 135 HRS, 775 runs 740 RBI stealing 104 bases while getting caught 27 times.

“37 starts from lefty Tom Browning will set the gold standard for the Canaries’ staff. Issue is the standard might be too high for the other pitchers.” His 14-11 3.70 ERA in 37 starts was a challenge accepted by Brian Holman 13-10 3.10 ERA in 27 starts. As the wins and losses were spread out among

18 pitchers. “Lefties Rick Honeycutt and Randy Myers will be joined in the pen by righty Chuck Crim. The other cast members might be carrying gasoline in their gloves only to fuel the fire vice put it out.”

Honeycutt 2.54 ERA, 5-5 7 saves in 60 games and 78 innings 3 HRs and 19 DPs, pretty good. Randy Myers, 62 games, 47 save chances and only saved 33 – 14 blown saves! 6-8 3.88 ERA – had he saved ALL the games, the Canaries would have won 103 games and only been 3 games back. Chuck Crim had a sneaky 9-4 4 saves in 66 games posting a 4.19 ERA with 4 blown saves. Guess the bullpen thought “if Myers can, so can I” and combined for 24 blown saves. 13 CGs and a total of 2 shut outs. Canaries will be singing for a new pitching coach. I’d find out whom Mel was using and offer him gazillions more.

Team totals 4.13 ERA 89-73 48 saves 13 CGs 2 SHO 1460 innings 1461 hits 148 HRS 137 DPS

Punxsutawney Pachyderms - John Lippincott –

LAST SEASON: 104-58 1st place –

THIS SEASON: 84 PT wins – 3rd place ACTUAL: 6th Place 75 – 87 638 – 627 +11

“Balance of speed and power as SB 135 and HR 130 for a total team effort.” Actual 65 steals and 86 HRs Billy Bates lead the team with 16 steals followed by Harold Reynolds and 11 – getting caught 17 times. (not gonna make a comment about maybe he should give this up and try something else ☺) Ruben Sier hit 26 HRs drove in 77 and Crime Dog hit 20 HRs driving in a team high 81 RBIs. Mike Greenwell scored 75 runs to lead the team was IW’d 10 times.

Team totals .257/.311/.359 263 2Bs 30 3Bs 86 HRS, 638 runs 604 RBI stealing 65 bases while getting caught 38 times.

“ Punxsutawney starting pitchers should go deep into the games and keep the Pachyderms in contention. Mark Davis can close the door 70 times during the season. As long as the pitchers that bridge from the starters to Davis the 9th – don’t blow the lead, the Punxsutawney Pachyderms will be a joy for the loyal fans.” Mark Davis was used in 55 games, 65 innings saving 13 games going 5-5 1.80 ERA. Roger Clemens 14-7 2.27 ERA in 32 starts 234 innings 219 Ks. Bryn Smith 4 CGs SHO 13-8 2.32 ERA in 29 starts 193 innings, Jeff Ballard 10-17 in 32 starts 3.41 innings 213 innings and Pascual Perez 11-6 in 25 starts 5 CGs 170 innings 143 Ks. Dennis Eckersley topped the team with 16 saves in 45 games going 3-3 2.32 ERA in 45 games and 50 innings with 54 Ks. Mark Davis from the left side had 13 saves in 16 chances going 5-5 1.80 ERA in 55 games 65 innings 60 Ks with 4 HRs and 13 DPs The Pachyderm pitchers totaled 11 blown saves – keeping the bridge to the closer open for all travelers.

Team totals 3.22 ERA 75-87 34 saves 21 CGs 18 SHO 1472 innings 1408 hits 102 HRS 127 DPS

Anok Island Gnomes – Steve Brunner –

LAST SEASON: 81-81 5th place –

THIS SEASON: 84 PT wins – 4th place ACTUAL: 4th Place 81 – 81 607 - 606 +1

“Jeff Leonard and his 24HRs will spark the offense. A station to station team, unless your name is Butler or Thompson who will join Leonard in the outfield.” Leonard one of two players to hit double digit HRs with 17 56 RUNs and 67 RBIs. Butler scored 96 RUNS stealing 35 bases and Thompson had 24 steals and 56 runs. Two consecutive seasons 81-81, guess we are just average. Try for a three peat?

Team totals .247/.310/.340 280 2Bs 20 3Bs 65 HRS, 607 runs 574 RBI stealing 95 bases while getting caught 49 times.

“Gnomes success will come from their pitching staff. Rotation of Key, Magrane, Mahler, Candiotti and Flanagan will get them thru the season.”

81-81 is not successful and neither were their starters. Former 1st round pick Joe Magrane 4.08 ERA goes 13-14 in 33 starts, 218 innings. Tom “Candy Man” Candiotti 2.68 ERA 12-10 in 33 starts 242 innings with 138 Ks, the other three in 96 starts go 30-40 ERA around 3.60

Rob Dibble 9-2 12 saves in 16 chances appeared in 62 games throwing 88.1 innings K'd 126 1.12 ERA, Roger McDowell 57 games 67 innings 5-5 2.53 converted 25 saves out of 32 tries. An average team doing average things with an average manager. 81-81 was posted last year and this year, what will next year bring??

Team totals 3.30 ERA 81-81 45 saves 17 CGs 9 SHO 1470 innings 1429 hits 94 HRS 128 DPS

Thunder Bay Damage – Rob Capizzano –

LAST SEASON: 77-85 6th place –

THIS SEASON: 79 PT wins – 5th place ACTUAL: 2nd Place 92-70 733 – 619 +114

“5th place – you kidding me!!” I was as their 2nd Place finish was realized with Donny Baseball 26 HRS and 126 RBIs to lead the team. Vince Coleman stole 57 bases and scored 91 times hitting 14 3Bs. Eight players had more than 400 Abs with Mattingly getting 645. Scoring was not a problem.

Team totals .262/.322/.390 297 2Bs 68 3Bs 93 HRS, 733 runs 707 RBI stealing 118 bases while getting caught 49 times.

“Jim Deshaies, Scott Bankhead, Kirk McCaskill, Kevin Brown will get most of the action. No HOFers and more importantly, no bums. Another team that will look for a bridge between starters and closer Bobby Thigpen. He should be 45 or more chances to close out the W for the Damage.”

Kevin Brown goes 16-6 2.95 ERA in 30 starts, 7 CGs 5 SHOs in 210 innings, Kirk McCaskill 14-7 in 29 starts, Scott Bankhead was a tough luck pitcher in 33 starts 2 SHOs in 210 innings and K'd 148 posting a 8-6 record with a 3.33 ERA, Jim Deshaies 2.83 ERA in 33 starts 15-8 228 innings K'd 142 Thigpen saved 28 of 32 games in 51 appearances going 59 innings K'd 36 and walked 32. Bob Kipper 1.87 ERA 48 games 53 innings and a 4-2 record with 3 saves was very reliable.

Team totals 3.46 ERA 92-70 46 saves 22 CGs 15 SHO 1467 innings 1390 hits 95 HRS 133 DPS

Astoria Zoo Crew – Joe Dezarlo –

LAST SEASON: 96-66 2nd place –

THIS SEASON: 69 PT wins – 6th place ACTUAL: 5th Place 77 – 85 534 – 568 -34

“Can’t get no respect. Oh, how have the mighty fallen? Power outage? Poor pitching? Don’t really see it here.” Tim Raines scored 79 of those runs and Harold Baines topped the team with 14 HRs and 77 RBIs. Power outage was there. Guess Zoo Crew forgot to make a power bill payment. Another team with 11 players getting into 100 or more games and Gary Ward was in 98. Only Four players had more than 450 Abs. Cal Ripken .215/.279/.314 played in 162 games hitting 11 HRs and driving in 70. All their catchers combined hit 3 HRs and drove in 43. The combined batting average qualified the team for BONUS players. That about wraps up it up.

Team totals .231/.291/.325 248 2Bs 15 3Bs 77 HRS, 534 runs 507 RBI stealing 92 bases while getting caught 45 times.

“ Zoo Crew starting rotation can march out lefties: Sid Fernandez, Derek Lilliquist, Paul Kilgus and throw righty Dave Stieb on a regular basis. Spot starters could sneak in a few wins. Handing the ball over to closer Jeff Reardon is not a sure thing. Michael Jackson “he he” will be a bright spot as he moon walks in from the bullpen on pitching changes. Last in the division – could be and could be in 2nd place. It’s that close in the NL West.” Senior Sid 19-11 2.53 ERA in 35 starts, 8 CGs 6 SHOs in 256 innings 188 Ks, Dave Stieb 13-16 in 35 starts 2.86 ERA in 245 innings, Derek Lilliquist 14-15 in 33 starts 3.81 ERA 223 hits in 203 innings. Michael Jackson did his best impression of a good pitcher 6-5 4 saves 62 games, 88 innings, 82 Ks 51 hits 1.84 ERA. Jeff Reardon saved 36 of the teams 43 saves going 2-8 3.32 ERA.

AL – Mets [ROCKETS]

NL – Plainsmen [PLAINSMEN]

WS – Mets [ROCKETS]

Rick did an outstanding job in getting his team in position to advance in the post season. I admit, like some reporters, I didn’t see the games played and glanced at some reports. Could they have been “fake news”? Nope, from the accolades bestowed to Rick, his Rockets did things that were unexpected. Some would say the Plainsmen imploded like the Hindenburg. Some would also believe it was staged and the comeback was nothing more than a scripted play. Much like the WWE or “wrestling” where there are heroes and heels. The one I like is the rumor going around about the Super Bowl fix. In order to “apologize” to the Patriots and Tom Brady for deflate gate ☺. Nope, The Rockets had an uphill climb and they did it. I’ll venture to guess he might keep most of the team for next year because I read that most of them were his favorite players.