

Draft Day Doings, Draft Day Dance, Draft Day Dreams. Yes, we all dream on Draft Day. What will our team look like in the new season. Well, once again, it's that time for SPB. July 16<sup>th</sup> is Draft Day for SPB4. Here is my first offering Beat Writer or Roving Reporter. Now to beat the keys for a Pre-Draft Report.

Houston Colt 45's – MGR Scott Saxon. The 45s have some rounds in the chamber with Glenn Davis and Howard Johnson anchoring the corners of the infield. Inky, Phil Bradley and Cecil Espy will roam the outfield most of the season. Dickie Thon offers pop @ SS however, won't play the entire season. Hurling 4 Houston: Bruce Hurst, Mike Scott, Tim Leary and John Hurst. The first three will get your attention and Sneaky John Cerutti could be on the mound deep into the games. Door Closer in Jeff Montgomery when the music plays, as he takes the mound in the 9<sup>th</sup>. With two picks in the first 26, 45's should obtain some extra gun powder for 1989.

East Kenosha Lemurs – MGR Dave Lauer. EKL was able to secure the funding and received a SPB4 franchise just a few days ago. Trader Dave has been at work and will continue to work in overhauling the club, if they need it or not. EKL has decent players all around the field; Craig Biggio currently behind the dish, Rafael Palmeiro, Tommy Herr, Tony Fernandez and Wade Boggs will see plenty of action as daily players. Dan Gladden, Lloyd Moseby and Roberto Kelly have gloves and will roam the outfield. Lefties, Mark Langston and Tom Glavin will toe the rubber however, they can't pitch back to back to back for the entire season. Trader Dave will no doubt move pieces around. EKL has the 7<sup>th</sup> pick and a young starting pitcher would fit nicely in their rotation. Fans are eager to see what happens and reluctant to buy their favorite player jersey because he might be traded.

Toledo Mud Hens – MGR Rich Applegate. Mud Hens have by far the best catcher tandem going. 41 year old Carlton Fish showing the ropes to Australian BJ Surhoff. Alvin Davis will launch a few out of the park playing fulltime first base. Joe Carter and Tony Gwynn offer up the – I get on, you drive me in – combo in the outfield. Spare parts all around for the remainder of the team. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> pick will garner two regulars that will bolster the Mud Hens and make the fans eager for more.

Wright-Patt Plainsmen – MGR John Turnbull. Orel Hershier's 19 wins last year have given the team hope. Hope their players can obtain goals in the top tier of the league. As each player obtains these goals, the team will WIN!!. When the Plainsmen visit your town, make sure the fans in the outfield seats bring gloves and extra balls to throw out because they can hit. Fan fav, Kirby Puckett will roam CF and be on base for the young Bash Brother Jose Canseco, Mark McGwire, switch hitting catcher Mickey Tettleton and steady left fielder Kevin McReynolds. Paul Molitor and Ozzie Smith will hold down the left side of the infield and also clog the base paths ahead of the boppers. The starting rotation is anchored by the Flame Thrower himself, Nolan Ryan. Young Dwight Gooden will have the luxury to watch Frank Viola, Orel Hershisier, Mike Witt and Nolan Ryan go every 5<sup>th</sup> day – JT will have to "work" Gooden into the rotation. Guess that is a problem to have. Then again, he could trade some of his pitching ☺ This crop of Plainsmen will want to be at their best, as last year's roster was overhauled. The Plainsmen fans are nothing near being plain in their fanatic frenzy that feeds on good pitching and good hitting.

Something the Plainsmen currently have. Picking their first player after 38 others have been drafted might make some fans less enthused however, the Plainsmen Pack have been buying merchandise and planning parties for October.

Buckhead Crackers – MGR Marc Robinson. With the 17<sup>th</sup> pick in the First Round the Buckhead Crackers select..... Slick fielding SS Ozzie Guillen is all the rage. Andre Dawson does not know how to do anything but play however, his knees will not allow him to play every day. Frenando Valenzuela will bring his legion of Frenandomaina to the park every fifth day. The team will be all smiles when John Smiley toes the rubber, just that he won't toe it enough. David Wells is stretching out his arm in the bullpen. The clubhouse manager is grumbling about their rookie pitcher Curt Schilling, as all he wants to listen to is NPR and keeps sending socks back to be cleaned. The Crackers will be reloading; they just don't have enough picks this year. Then there is always Trader Dave and others that are willing to help build your team.

Edmonton Magpies – MGR Chris Williams. Five pitchers with 33 or more starts – that's always a good sign going into draft day. The Magpies have little to crow about on the offensive side of the ball. Dwight Evans will play every day in RF and provide the power. Hubie Brooks and Danny Tartabull will chip in on offense and also play OF. Pete O'Brien and Jose Lind hold down the right-side of the infield. Gary Gaetti plays a great 3B and has some pop. Youngster waiting to fill out Mark McLemore. 21<sup>st</sup> pick in the draft the Division Winners from last year will find a piece and keep the winning going in Edmonton.

Frankfort Firebugs – MGR Gary Plunkett. Hope. Firebugs hope not to be squashed into the windshield of a moving vehicle, or visor of a motorcycle helmet. Hope the Firebugs are not captured and placed in jars and used as nightlights. Hope their 2<sup>nd</sup> pick of the draft will save the day. Bret Saberhagen and Frank Tanana throw real well. Well, who throws behind them is the question. Young outfielder Dante Bichette will watch Rob "K or Gone" Deer and Bip "I'll Play Anywhere" Roberts. Gary will no doubt tweak the team and find a catcher someplace.

Lafayette Aviators – MGR Steve Ehersman. Sweet Lou Whitaker and Wally Joyner both hit from the left-side and hit they do. Winning the division last year garners them the 22<sup>nd</sup> pick. Whomever they pick will grow with other upstart youngster, Ron Gant. Benito Santiago is one of the best behind the plate. NO doubt Steve would agree, that were to Benito to have hit two points lower in 1989 – one of them would have been REAL happy. The bullpen duo of Lee Guetterman and Mark Williamson have 135 games between them. The starters will need them, as Bob Welch will be expected to go long in the game to save the pen.

Thunder Bay Damage – MGR Rob Capizzano. The 16<sup>th</sup> pick should provide someone that will fit nicely in a strong lineup. Don Mattingly, Greg Jefferies, Jose Oquendo, Terry Pendleton provide every day depth in the infield. Shawon Dunston will also seek playing time at SS. Vince Coleman will be the table setter along with Lonnie Smith and Andy Van Slyke to play daily in the outfield. Jay Buhner will move

will slowly into the lineup and develop in the Majors. Another team with a strong starting five: Jim Deshaies, Scott Bankhead, Kirk McCaskill, Ken Howel and Kevin Brown. Jose Rijo will throw in a few games. A decent front line. The bullpen is anchored by Bobby Thigpen and Duane Ward and their respective total of 127 games and the other two relievers another 120+. Thunder Bay can do some damage, before the draft. The 16<sup>th</sup> player taken should be very happy to join the team.

Astoria Zoo Crew – MGR Joe Dezarlo. The WS Winners will bask in the glow of last season no longer. The last pick of the 1<sup>st</sup> round a solid team that has a few needs. Cal Ripken is the main ingredient. Steve Buechele, Gary Sheffield, Tim Rains, Lenny Dykstra, Harold Bains and Mookie Wilson will provide the offensive support. The bullpen anchor is Jeff Reardon and Michael Jackson. Two-man rotation of Dave Stieb and Sid Fernandez leave plenty of room for others to pitch. Don't count the Crew out as Joe has been there before and he has a way of motivating his team.

Chesapeake Space Men – MGR Mace Matayc. Fans have given up wings for crab cakes. The move from Fenway to Memorial Stadium. The slightly more spacious Memorial Stadium will favor Mark Gubicza, Doug Drabek and Mike Bielecki. A balanced bullpen has lefties Ken Dayley and Dan Plesac to partner up Mike Henneman and pitchers to be named later. Space Men Fanatics will follow Andres Galarraga and Matt Williams, bookends of the infield and leaders in the clubhouse. Bobby Bonilla and George Bell will provide support and beyond them a cast of characters. The 19<sup>th</sup> pick should land a player to fill one of the teams many needs.

Ostego Lake Monsters – MGR Mike See.....Not too sure who is on the team as this is composed. A brief interview with Mr. See, lasted about 5 minutes he also made two trades and made me an offer. Stepping back into SPB4 the historic 20 man trade has created a new fan base in Ostego. Not to mention the other 25, with Mike who can keep up with the number of trades. The Lake Monsters “may” still have Kirk Gibson leading the clubhouse. Barry Bonds has a following in the See house, hence the move to garner this light hitting youngster. Other members of the club are well aware of the “put up numbers and win or put your things in a bag and move”. Felix Fermin brings his cat like reflexes to short and is one of the few players that should buy a home in Ostego. During the purge of the team Bob Milacki the only pitcher to survive. He will be joined by five lefties and five righties, the likes of Ramon Martinez, Pete Harnisch and Paul Assenmacher. Closer Mike Schooler will educate the others in the bullpen. The 1<sup>st</sup> pick in the draft should make any “Kid” happy and the 19<sup>th</sup> overall should also be a decent offering to the Lake Monster maniacs. Over/under for Draft Day Trades by the Lake Monsters is five.

Carolina Game Sox – MGR Steve Eury. Heading into the draft the Game Sox first pick is #14 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round. The seven pitchers on the roster are formidable. Starters: Greg Maddux, Dave Stewart, Mike Boddicker and Allan Anderson will keep the bullpen rested. John Franco will close and is joined by Dennis Lamp and Dan Schatzeder. Robert Alomar, Ken Caminiti, Alfredo Griffin, Rafael Ramirez, Oddibe McDowell and Tom Brunaksky will be on the field most of the season. Recently obtained Kevin Mitchell

will provide fireworks at the plate and excitement in the field. They will need to use timely hitting – get them in bunches – as a bloop & blast won't come as often as they'd like.

Asgaard Guardians – MGR Mel Schwarz. The 14<sup>th</sup> pick will add protection to a position somewhere, where is the question. George Brett, Julio Franco and Jeff Blauser fill three of four positions in the infield. Outfielders Von Hays and Jesse Barfield will provide the muscle for the offense. A good balance of left right combination from their starting staff is found in: Bud Black, Greg Swindell, ageless Charlie Hough and Bob Tewksbury. Flash Gordon will fill in the role from starter or reliever. Asgaard fans can still feel safe as the Guardians have a decent mix of this and that and with a tweak or two could be a pleasant surprise.

San Diego Vaqueros – MGR Steve Lehman. These cowboys are young and promising. Sandy Alomar is learning behind the plate. Lance Johnson has found a shortcut to thridbase and could be fast enough to set a record for hitting triples. Edgar Martinez is searching to find a position however, his bat is ready. Trading Sheriff Kevin Mitchell for #13 in the first round will no doubt bring another quality youngster. A great posse looking for a Head Wrangler to lead the club. Chuck Finley, Jamie Moyer, Zane Smith, Mark Thurmond, Don Carman lead the staff from the left side. Vaqueros will no doubt round up a heard of players and create a buzz for the season as they eye the future.

Minneapolis Millers – MGR Terry Baxter. Playing in the Metrodome should be fun for Will The Thrill CLark. Marvell Wynne, Darnell Coles, Paul O'Neill and Claudell Washington will share duties in the outfield. These names will not strike fear in the hearts of the opposing pitchers. On the mound, Jeff Russell is more than ready to close out wins, something he might not get to do often as a Miller. The 11<sup>th</sup> pick in the First Round and 4<sup>th</sup> pick in the Second will land the Millers a much needed.....

Worcester Grays – MGR Hugh McElaney. Two picks at 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> overall should land the right players for the WS Runner Up. Grays look anything but gray. Mike Scioscia & Stanley doing the catching. Kent Hrbek has limited playing time at first however, when he plays he hits. Willie Randolph, Tony Phillips, Carney Lansford, Greg Gagne, Robin Yount, Jim Eisenriech, Erick Davis and Darryl Strawberry all play almost every day. Not a bad core of characters. Pitchers are deep, just not as deep as the offense. Jack Morris, Rick Reuschel provide the experience to teal Melido Perez a few things. Tandem closers Tim Burke and Bryan Harvey should be busy as the Grays stay competitive.

Ottawa Rough Riders – MGR Stan Barkun. Team name reflects the type of season they may have. The 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> pick may very well change their outlook. This year's deep draft will land quality to a team needing help. Dave Parker is still leading the charge in the outfield. Randy Johnson is still looking for the strike zone. Walt Terrell, Bob Walk, Bobby Witt provide starts. Joe Boever, Mark Grand and Jeff Parrett will see plenty of action out of the pen. Yes sir, those picks will fit nicely as the team waits for Al Leiter to learn how to pitch.

Canton Moondogs – MGR Tom Kackley 5<sup>th</sup> pick in the First Round and 1<sup>st</sup> Pick in the second will add street cred to the Moondogs. Jack Howell, Chili Davis provide the pop. Governor Jerry Brown lives on second and Gary Pettis steals bases and hits in centerfield. The remain cast of supporters will do just that, support. Young catcher Darren Daulton look promising. Dennis Martinez, Don Robinson, Terry Mulholland, John Smoltz form a solid rotation. Norm Charlton and Gregg Olson should be busy in the bullpen setting up for each other and closing out games. A team with expectations of good things to come. All depends who is packing and reporting to Canton for Spring Training.

Punxsutawney Pachyderms – MGR John Lippincott Roger Clemens goes deep into the game and MGR Lippincott calls in Door Closer Dennis Eckersley – put it on the board WIN for the Pachyderms. A great strategy however, only works 35 times. What will the other 120+ games bring? Crime Dog Fred McGriff and Mike Greenwell lead a left hand batter heavy lineup. Ruben Sierra can also add support for the offense. The Pachyderms punch could be enough for the other starters to keep this team competitive. The 20<sup>th</sup> overall pick will help, just how much and where.

Rossville Rockets – MGR Rick Ryan. Fan Favs: Ryne Sandberg, Tim Wallach, Bo Jackson and Charlie Leibrandt lead a Rocket team that looks ready before their first pick in the draft, 10<sup>th</sup> pick in 2<sup>nd</sup> Round. Lance Parrish controlling: Rick Sutcliffe, Ed Whitson, Ken Howell and other starters. Bullpen help in every day lefty Frank DiPino turning the ball over to 9<sup>th</sup> inning specialist Dave Righetti. Plenty of sparks on offense: Eddie Murray, Dale Murphy and Dave Henderson join the Fan Favs as every day players. Ted Power looks to build on his 1988 performance where he pitched 40 games with a sparkling 1.99 era. 1989 might be a year the team treads water as they eye on more production in 1990. Very doubtful all of these players will be around to see what happens. Rick has been known to make a trade or two during Draft Day: over/under two.

Anok Island Gnomes – MGR Steve Brunner. A team in the need of a shot in the arm. That is what they should get with the #6 & #8 pick. Who they take is anybody's guess. Mark Grace holds down 1<sup>st</sup> Base and weak fielding ok hitting Jeff Leonard provide the current power for the team. A hodge podge of players will take the field: Tony Pena catches, Jeff Hamilton, Alvaro Espinoza and Jerry Reed anchor the infield. Brett Butler, John Kruk and Milt Thompson share duties in the outfield. A strong point might be their rotation: Jimmy Key, Joe Magrane, Rick Haler, Tom Candiotti and Mike Flanagan should get them thru the season. Kevin Appier sure would help shore up any weak spot in the rotation. Bullpen is decent with Rob Dibble, Juan Agosto and Roger McDowell as their closer. This year's draft could very well set the tone for seasons to come. Just how will Steve Brunner direct the team is anyone's guess.

New York Metropolitan – MGR Don Rahn. Eye on the current and future picking #6 & #11 in the Second Round will be a start to fill any position that needs filling. Pedro Guerrero, Steve Sax, Kelly Gruber and Kevin Elster fill the void in the infield. Waiting for you Joey Cora to fill out is easier with the

current cast. Outfield help in the form of a real regular would be very welcomed. Starting pitchers: Tim Belcher, Chris Bosio, David Cone, Jose DeLeon and another should give the bullpen plenty of rest. When Don waives to the pen a Righties-R-Us will come calling in the form of: Larry Andersen, Juan Berenguer, Steve "Bedrock" Bedrosian and Bill Landrum as the Metropolitans wait for Steve Howe to return from: 1. Injury, 2. Suspension, 3. Drug Rehab 4. Driving around New York.

Fairfax Canaries – MGR Ron Peterson. Canary fans sing loud when Rickey Henderson gets on base. Something he does often. Johnny Ray has always been a crowd pleaser in Fairfax as fans continue to buy his jersey and shows little signs of slowing down. Hitters could be on this year's draft menu at #12. Catching is covered with Terry Steinbach and Barry Lyons. Plenty of players on the roster to cover numerous positions. Everyday man Slick Rickey and Brook Jacoby, Alan Trammel will set the table for the others to bring them in. The pitchers will have to work extra hard to keep the scores low as the offense might be scarce. Tom Browning, Storm Davis, Brian Holman and Erik Hanson will provide good advice for Jack "All-American" Armstrong. Rick Honeycutt continues to contribute as Chuck Crim and Randy Myers form the back of the bullpen. Fairfax fans eagerly await the draft and seasons to come, as this one might not be a repeat of the above .500 season from last year.