

Draft Day Review. The dust has long settled on Draft Day, the day most teams dream about. Some of the dreams are nightmares that awaken you with a cold sweat and chills that just won't go away. Some dreams are pleasant and make the start of your day a good one.

Preparation for each team can be a ritual or happenstance. Time is the magic elixir that must be added to preparation. No further adue, let the Draft Day Rambling begin!

No magic in the order of teams listed. Team Name – Manager – number of picks in the first six rounds/ number of picks in the first three “keeper” rounds - summary of players drafted in the “keeper” and notes for the “sleepers”.

Huston Colt 45's – MGR Scott Saxon – 6/3: Picking up a shortstop for life, or at least 20 years in slick fielding Omar Vizquel, with their 1st Round pick @ #13. 89 will find Omar & Dickie sharing duties at short before Vizquel takes over for a longtime. Dwight Smith added in the 2nd Round will roam the corner outfield positions. The ROY runner-up to teammate Jerome Walton is a good 4th outfielder. Much promise on the Cub duo of Walton & Smith however, a promise that was not kept as both had decent careers, just not at the level some prognosticators predicted. The “sleepers” a lefty out of the pen and utility infielder.

East Kenosha Lemurs – MGR Dave Lauer – 3/3 EKL might have set a record, granted one Dave may have inherited and also help make, in having only three picks in the draft. Granted they were in the Keeper Rounds. 7th pick in the 1st round landed Steve Finley, a fixture in the outfield for years to come. Lefty pitcher Mark Guthrie was taken in the second round and has been warned about buying a home in East Kenosha.

Toledo Mud Hens – MGR Rich Applegate – 5/2: Robin Ventura was secured with the 4th pick in the 1st Round. This pick locked up third base for years. “Guys like this don't come around that often” was typed by Rich as he smiled much to the chagrin of other managers that hoped Robin would slip down a few more. Ventura will watch from the dugout this year before becoming a pillar of the infield to come. When you need pitching and the pool is shallow, you get Jaime Navarro in the 2nd Round. A limited quality lefty out of the pen and utility infielders were selected as roster fillers.

Wright-Patt Plainsmen – MGR John Turnbull – 6/2: When your first pick in the draft is lefty pitcher Billy Krueger, you know your dream is a nightmare on Elm Street. That is what John found with his first pick at #15 in the 2nd Round, 38 players had been taken before the Plainsmen were called to the podium. Utility and a very quality reliever in Julio Machado were signed. A sleeper in Geronimo Berroa, as he sleeps until 1994 when he becomes more than a P2 type player. No doubt Berroa might be wearing another uniform before he provides his team quality production.

Buckhead Crackers – MGR Marc Robinson – 4/2: Stocking up on starting pitchers Buckhead goes with Kevin Tapani with the 17th pick in the 1st Round. Tapani will not be counted on this year to produce for the Crackers. From 91-93 he averages 35 starts with good numbers. More pitching with their 2nd Round pick in Mike Dyer. A bullpen catcher and corner outfield/firstbase were taken to lessen their P2 Pick Pressure. P2 Pick Pressure is when you looking to fill out the roster. (ED NOTE: I've used P2 to obtain starter – reflection on how bad some of my teams have been. Or how badly I manage them)

Edmonton Magpies – MGR Chris Williams – 5/2: When you need catching and can wait for players to develop, Darrin Fletcher and Joe Girardi fit the bill. Catcher by committee is the cry of the Magpies. The Professor has patience on his side, and selected Roger Mason in the 4th Round. 1992 will be when Magpie Minions will clamor of the virtues of Roger Mason.

Frankfort Firebugs – MGR Gary Plunkett – 6/2: Larry Walker will find right field next year and stay there for as long as he wants or until 2005. Predraft chatter concerning his Rockie years were put to sleep when Plunkett picked him 2nd pick in 1st Round. Pitchers Olin & Clutterbuck will be arms on the mound. Hensley “Bam Bam” Meulens was stolen in the 6th Round at #10. A player with so much promise will fit nicely on the bench and begin his P2 career in Frankfort.

Lafayette Aviators – MGR Steve Ehersman – 6/2: Dean Palmer, will take some time to season and become a decent 3rd sacker for the Aviators. In three years, his all or nothing swings will be seen all over the league. The definition of a P2 Player is Glenallen Hill, taken in the 2nd round with the 22nd pick. A good player that just doesn't have the Abs or numbers to warrant a spot on a limited roster. His productive producing years are in the future. Pitchers, hitters and a Skeeter round out the Aviators roster. Skeeter was traded shortly after the draft, no Skeeter love in Lafayette.

Thunder Bay Damage – MGR Rob Capizzano – 7/4: 1st Round pick starts behind the plate and then moves to 3rd base, Todd Zeile. Gathering backstops as the Damage take Greg Myers in the 2nd Round. The Damage will have two players fighting for one position as Zeile moves to 3rd base, where Terry Pendleton currently plays. This has the odor of a trade in the future.

Astoria Zoo Crew – MGR Joe Dezarlo – 6/3: Picking last in the 1st Round garnered the Zoo Crew Big Ben McDonald. Big Ben will work poorly out of the pen this year until he establishes himself as a reliable starter in 1991. Derek Lilliquist a steal at the bottom of the 2nd Round gives the Crew an instant starter for 1989. Lilliquist will no doubt become a P2 Player as his 1992 season is one to behold. Clubhouse greats and leadership were taken in the 3rd & 4th Round with Gary Ward and Bill Buckner bringing years of experience, granted their best years are in the rear view mirror.

Chesapeake Space Men – MGR Mace Matayc – 5/3: Door closer John Wetteland dons a spacesuit in the 1st Round. Wetteland will use the revolving door until 1992 when he learns how to stop the door from moving. Greg Olson will assume backstop duties next year. Herm Winningham will provide useful Abs in the outfield.

Otsego Lake Monsters – MGR Mike See – 8/5: HOF Ken Griffey Jr. not much suspense here, fan favorite will buy a big house and build a budding relationship with locker-room neighbor and natural clubhouse leader Barry Bonds. When you need to fill many spots on your roster and pitching is a need, Andy Benes as a 1st Round #19 fits in nicely. Spot starts for Benes this year before 4 consecutive 33+ game seasons.

Pitching and more pitching ruled the day for the Lake Monsters as Chuck McElroy, Mike Fetters, Kent Mercker, Steve Frey and Mike Hartley were added. Some will contribute this year however, only sparingly as they grow into better pitchers in a few years. They will all move into the same double wide trailer on Lake Otsego as they know their days as Lake Monsters are numbered. FYI for those keeping score at home, lone survivor prior to the draft was Bob Milacki as the last remaining Athabasca Laker, was sent packing after the draft. Dust has not settled since the draft as players, like the battery rabbit “keep going and going and going”.

Carolina Game Sox – MGR Steve Eury – 5/2: With no 1st Round Pick, the following players will provide limited support for the Game Sox: Lee Mazilli, Rudy Seanez, Jeff Petererek, Mauro Gozzo and Julio Solano. They will not strike fear into the opposing team nor build a large fan base, just players playing the game.

Asgaard Guardians – MGR Mel Schwarz – 6/3: Lefty Kenny Rogers #14 in the 1st Round will add flavor to the bullpen with 73 games. Working out of the pen for four good years before becoming a starting pitcher in 1993. Schwarz selected his battery mate in Joe Oliver in the 2nd Round. Some pontificators pondered the pick as other praised the pick. Oliver preforms adequately behind the plate and is respectable on the right-side of home, as a hitter. Kent Anderson, Brad Komminsk and Scott Coolbaugh provide the relief position players require every now and then as they all can't be Cal Ripken.

San Diego Vaqueros – MGR Steve Lehman – 7/4: “No habla English” and “baseball been bery bery good to me” ” Cork is not only used to cap fancy wine bottles, it can also be used in a bat.” Quotes that will be linked to the 3rd selection 1st Round by the Vaqueros, Sammy Sosa. The skinny, light hitting outfielder starts to warm up in 1990 and takes off in 1993. Take off he does at an accelerated rate. Some might believe his work ethic is building block of his success and haters will hate and believe the results on the field came from a tiny bottle or “better living thru modern medicine” a.k.a. steroids. Starting in 1993 - very few managers would shun Sammy from their roster. Just as big a splash came 16 picks later as John Olerud donned a Vaqueros ballcap. Todd Benzinger holds down firstbase in 1989 and then moves to the outfield as Olerud can't stay off the bases and has to play someplace. Two great picks in the first round that should give the posse plenty to ponder. Wally Whitehurst and Gene Harris provide extra arms out of the pen. Not a bad round up in the draft for the Vaqueros.

Minneapolis Millers – MGR Terry Baxter – 3/3: Talk about draft economy, do more with less. Adding to the crowd in the outfield Millers make Marquis Grissom their pick in the 1st Round. In two years, it will be hard to keep Grissom off the field. Thievery of bases by the fleet footed, gold glove, all-star will bring a bevy of fans to the ball park to support the team. Two sport star Dieion Sanders was a steal in the 3rd Round. He also brings an element of speed to the team. Only time will tell if Dieon's hobby of football/baseball will keep him on the Millers each year of Deion will become a PrimeTime P2 player. (ED NOTE: Some folks mention stealing of bases and how important they are, or can be. Stats are stats and can prove something or nothing. In 1997 Deion steals 56 bases and scores 53 runs. Was he stealing bases for himself? Was he on a team that just couldn't bring him home? Guess it is the quality of the steal and not the quantity) Sandwich in the 2nd Round, infielder Jeff King. Like others in the draft, takes him a few years to get moving and moving he does. His ability to play numerous infield positions and swing the bat at a decent rate will make him a valuable asset to any team. Three quick picks and Terry drops the mic. A sweet quick day for the Millers.

Worcester Grays – MGR Hugh McElaney – 6/3: WS Runner Up Grays go to the mound for their first two picks: Jim Abbott and Greg Hibbard, two left handed starters that will make the rotation in their rookie year. Baseball Reference has this to say about Jim Abbott: **Bats:** Left, **Throws:** Left , **Fields** Left as well. In a short survey of other pitchers, Abbott is the only one with a fielding position listed. With good reason. An under the radar move, had McElaney add 1B Jack Daugherty to the roster to backup Kent Hrbek at first. OBP Monster Doug Baker was a steal in the 4th round, his 86 Abs between 2B/SS should keep the Grays competitive. These two picks clearly help the team albeit in a small way. Picks that keep winners winning.

Ottawa Rough Riders – MGR Stan Barkun – 7/5: Quality picks landed starting pitcher Kevin Appier with the 10th pick in the 1st Round. The better of the starting pitchers in the hitter laden draft, Appier was the first pitcher taken. Next year he cranks up his starts and becomes a modern day workhorse. 15th Pick in the 1st Round landed C Chris Hoiles. Granted Chris takes a few years to get going and then sits very nicely behind the plate with power. Keeping with a pick and wait attitude, SS Gary Disarcina was added in the 2nd round. Second pick in the 2nd round is yet another player that picks it up in 1991 – Mike Stanton becomes a reliable asset in the bullpen. 3rd Rounder C Lenny Webster has value as a P2 player. His 23 Abs and .391 OBP are nice however, the next two years are very limited and might make it hard to keep on the roster. Then his P2 value is also weak however, one of the roster watchers might see value and pick him up for a steal.

Canton Moondogs – MGR Tom Kackley – 10/6: 1st Round 5th overall pick Albert Belle. Some might know him as Joey. Two years appears to be the battle cry of the draft. Mr. Belle fills out nicely in 1991 and puts up numbers that would lock him in batting 3rd or 4th on most teams. Love him or hate him he can play. (ED NOTE: I've always enjoyed his production and antics that have been associated with him.) Pitchers Wilson Alvarez, Stan Belinda and Tommy Greene have been added to the major league roster.

Their worth will not be realized for another two years. Paul Sorrento fell to the 3rd round as his 1992 season might be too far in the future for some. When he arrives, it will be like an additional 1st round pick – if you can keep him on the roster until then. Brothers Mike: Blowers, Benjamin and Huff also fit in very well for the Moondogs. With 10 draft picks all have value – some just have to age a little. Guess you could say it was a “cheesy” draft as they have to age and could be good or real smelly.

Punxsutawney Pachyderms – MGR John Lippincott – 10/4. Another 10 draft team, Pachyderms use their 20th pick in the 1st Round to grab Mr Infield Bill Spiers. 10th pick in the 2nd Round grab up ROY Jerome Walton. If only the Pachyderms could freeze his 1989 season. 3rd Round picks: Xavier Hernandez grows into a good bullpen helper and Jim Taber ponders a future outside of baseball in 1990. The remaining picks fill out the roster nicely

Rossville Rockets – MGR Rick Ryan – 5/2: No picks in the first two rounds. Something Trader Rick is willing to deal with, as no doubt he obtained whom he wanted in those trades. Rick doesn't give draft picks away, guessing he received a decent return. Pitcher Scott Scudder brings his 4.49 era and 23 games with 17 starts to the Rockets. Just thing one more run and his use would have been doubled. Twins; Eric Anthony and Yelding will join the Rocket squad. Anthony's 92 & 93 season show promise with his 19 & 15 HRS respectively in the Astrodome. Ya just never know if Rick will watch them on his team or as the visitors stroll thru Rossville. Mr Play Me Anywhere Yelding fill out nicely next year in a role that Rick relishes.

Anok Island Gnomes – MGR Steve Brunner – 7/3: Being the writer I can extrapolate much to your chagrin, as I type my thoughts. Draft Day has always been something I prepare for some times more than others. This year, having 1st Round #6 & #8 should land me “two studs” as described by another SPB Manager. Studs or duds, cause I've been known to make many a draft mistake or three. Contemplation of whom would fall to #6 had me guessing. My Draft Wish List had versions of: Griffey, Walker, Gonzalez, Ventura, Finley & Grissom being gone. A dream would have Ventura available and that was crushed by Rich Applegate at # 4. When Juan “Going Going Gone” Gonzalez was available – it was an easy selection. Granted he will fill a roster spot for two years before he gets “pumped” up in 91 and explodes in 92 and 93. EKL's Dave Lauer having the dreaded “samwich pick” would no doubt get me guessing. Finley was quickly taken off the board. Will I keep with my list or go “cray cray” ?? Olerud, Appier and Vizquel were still on the board. Olerud would require a trade, as Mark Grace is currently playing first. Sure some would consider this an upgrade. Appier – we all need pitching. Vizquel would solve my SS issues for season to come. Grissom would give me four centerfielders – granted all would be decent and play the corners respectively. Nope, there is still one name out there that was graded higher so David Justice will take over right field next year. His super season in 94, too bad it wasn't one year earlier to go along with Juan's year. Oh well. Content to have Gonzalez and Justice. Doug Strange in the 3rd round could be a very strange pick as he blossoms in 93. Then again, when you need a position now, waiting four years might not be the best option. The remaining players are just happy to have been drafted. Guess the issue will be keeping these guys for a few years.

New York Metropolitan – MGR Don Rahn – 6/3. Mets first pick was #6 in the 2nd Round. Brian Downing brings his bat and is still searching for a glove to play leftfield or first base. When you need middle infield help you take Jose Vizcaino in the second round. Another player that takes a few years to mature and be considered a true keeper. Prior to the first pitch of the season will see Don on the waiver/trade wire to win the pennant. At the very least, give it a real good shot. One player away!

Fairfax Canaries – MGR Ron Peterson – 5/2: Greg Vaughn taken #12 in the 1st Round. Vaughn plays sparingly in 89 and is a bonus 529 Abs in 1990. Like many other players in the draft, becomes a much better player in a few years. Mark Gardner in the 2nd Round lucky number 13 will also awaken in a few years to be a decent 4th or 5th option in a rotation. Not being a year for pitching, this could be considered great value in the 2nd Round. P2 players in Francisco Carera, John Barfield and Adam Peterson don the yellow unis of the Fairfax Canaries.

Winners or losers all players signed with the teams that drafted them. Some teams drafted for immediate impact – need them now! While others drafted with – we can wait – attitude. No doubt there may have been some buyer's remorse once the dust settled. P2 is always a good time. This year the newly acquired EKL did NOT become the first frozen team!! As a matter of fact, his team was not even frozen!! One reason, Dave obtained a well-stocked team. Trading was hot and heavy after the draft as there have been: 25 trades, 62 players have traded places and 11 1990 Draft Picks have been exchanged. Trader Rick sent his 1st Round Pick in 1990 for Dave Winfield and then traded him for Andre Dawson. Talk about wheeling and dealing. There were other players that have been on the merry go round thinking they would ride the unicorn only to find out they would be on the zebra or the dreaded bench. Yup, trades make the world go round. Enjoy and keep wheeling and dealing cause the 1990 draft is less than a year away and.