

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 15<sup>th</sup> is Draft Day for SPB4. Here is my second offering Beat Writer or Roving Reporter. Now to beat the keys for a Pre-Draft Report, composed 1 Jul 17, before the trades posted later that day.

Houston Colt 45's – MGR Scott Saxon. The 45s still have rounds in the chamber with Glenn Davis, Chris "Spuds" Sabo and Pete "Inky" Incaviglia. Dickie Thon will show the ropes to a young SS named Omar Vizquel. Dave Valle will get most of the work behind the plate. Dickie Thon plays every day @ SS however, has a power outage this year. A true balance of speed and power 143 HRs 138 SBs is epitomized by Sabo's 25 dingerz and 25 stealerz. Hurling 4 Houston: Bruce Hurst, Mike Scott, Tim Leary all three VG and Teddy Higuera. The first three will get your attention 33+ starts from each. Door Closer is still Jeff Montgomery when the music plays, as he takes the mound in the 9<sup>th</sup>. Picking 18<sup>th</sup> in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round, should land the 45s some more ammo.

East Kenosha Lemurs – MGR Dave Lauer. Second year in SPB4 EKL still has a "loaded team" players with plenty of ABS to get thru the season. Something "Trader Dave" is not known to have on his team. Craig Biggio fills in nicely behind the plate for another year or two. Light hitting Rafael Palmeiro, only 25 should naturally develop into a power hitter, anchors first. Tommy Herr plays second poorly however, will play daily. Wade Boggs will be eating chicken and hitting at third for over 700 plate appearances. Tony Fernandez will shade to his right to help Boogs fair glove at third.. The outfield is full – no room in the outfield! Dan Gladden in left field Roberto Kelly in center get plenty of action. Part-time players with power Lloyd Moseby and Daryl Boston will see part time duty behind 500+ appearance players; Steve Finley and Junior Felix. Trader Dave might not be in the market to move his other bit parts – like he really needs them ☺ Lefties, Mark Langston and Tom Glavin will toe the rubber and be joined by Mark Portugal with part-time starter lefty Mark Guthrie. A decent staff to begin the games. Greg W. Harris could pitch in 73 games setting up for Mitch Williams or Dave Smith – take your pick. EKL has the 6<sup>th</sup> pick and adding to this loaded lineup should be easy. Which piece to add is the question. Could Dave draft the player to trade him??? Like last year, fans are eager to see what happens and reluctant to buy their favorite player jersey because he might be traded. Sales have shown they are not worried about these guys going anywhere.

Toledo Mud Hens – MGR Rich Applegate. Mud Hens still has the best catcher tandem going. 42 year old Carlton Fish and Australian BJ Surhoff 1,000 Abs combined 24HRs and 25 SBs. Ok, Surhoff will play 3<sup>rd</sup> ....wait, last year 1<sup>st</sup> round pick Robin Ventura is getting his feet wet at third, 565 PAs. What a problem to have, where to play BJ Surhoff. Alvin Davis remains at first and the power on the team is Joe Carter and his 24 HRs and 22 SBs – as good as the other two. Tony Gwynn does his thing from RF and Barry Larkin as one of his injury free years to anchor SS. Bit parts to fill out the team on the field. 18 arms can toe the rubber. The best among them.....Matt Young. Picking 8<sup>th</sup> the Mud Hens will pick up a regular player – where he plays is the question.

Wright-Patt Plainsmen – MGR John Turnbull. Another loaded team. Switch hitting catcher Mickey Tettleton can easily play the season with his 659 Pas. Mark McGwire at first – 39 HRS, Kelly Gruber and his 31 HRS play decent at the corners. Paul Molitor and Ozzie Smith are VG up the middle. Outfield boasts Kevin McReynolds, Kriby Puckett and “Juice Man” Jose Canseco and his 37 HRs and 19 SBs. Scoring runs should be fun for the Plainsmen. A scary staff - Nolan Ryan, Dwight Gooden, Frank Viola, The original “Nightmare on Elm Street” Bill Krueger and Mike Harkey complete the rotation. If all goes well, Orel Hershiser won’t pitch enough and go out to the masses next year. “CLOSERS”!! GET YA CLOSERS!! Take your pick: Lee Smith, Tom Henke or Doug Jones. Between the three gets you 191 games. Another good season looms for the Plainsmen, as a spring storm looms to ruin the crops. No first round pick as a result of going for the 1989 season – making trade w/ Mets and losing a heart breaker WS to the Rockets. Like last year; Picking their first player after 45 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. Building, chopping wood, getting it done, retooling, doing the work. Say what you want, the crackers Will be working in 1990. Catcher by committee. Gerald Perry and Ricky Jordan won’t scare anyone at first. Second sackers Randy Ready and Billy Ripken join Lenny Harris and Ken Oberkfell as “Who’s Playing Where?” Ozzie Guillen will be the Human Highlight Reel for the Crackers. Dave Winfield is the only double digit HR hitter with 21. “Leftys R Us” gets the Crackers 115 starts from the left: Fernando Valenzuela, David Wells, John Smiley and Neal Heaton. Bullpen is well balanced. The balance is between lefties and righties and good and bad. The 19<sup>th</sup> pick won’t be enough for 1990.

Edmonton Magpies – MGR Chris Williams. Five players have ½ the teams HRs and the total is 102. Boasting more SBs than HRs 123 to 102 could be a fun team to watch. 13 players can be used at various positions. Star power or the current theme of “branding” is: Dwight Evans at first, Gary Gaetti at third and Bip Roberts “somewhere” as he can stroll to the plate 629 times, his defensive position can vary almost anywhere. Rule 5 pick from the Gnomes, Jeff “One Flap” Leonard will anchor a corner in the outfield – he also has the most Abs in the outfield. Gone from last year all the starting pitchers with 33 starts. Bob Welch and Mike Moore combine for 70 starts, which is ½ the 140 the current roster contains. No fear in the bullpen. The Magpies will wisely spend their 22<sup>nd</sup> pick on a need for the team.

Frankfort Firebugs – MGR Gary Plunkett. Hope. Firebugs hope to improve on last year. 1,000 Abs behind the plate. Clark Brothers at 1<sup>st</sup>; Jack & Jerald won’t complete the season (549 PAs) and Jack gets it done with 25 HRS in 442 PAs. This is Howard Johnson’s good year; 668 PAs 23/34 HR/SB Hubie Brook and Rob Deer share RF might not hit well however, they hit with power 47 combined HRs in 1,129 Abs. Young blood Larry Walker plays a little in RF – 478 Pas and steals 21 bases and hits 19 HRs. Jack McDowell anchors the staff with 35 starts. The others pitch fair, Saberhagen is limited to 22 starts. Bullpen is a variety of L / R and do a decent job. Picking 11<sup>th</sup> should provide the Firebugs a little extra light / hope for the 1990 season.

Lafayette Aviators – MGR Steve Ehersman. Benito Santiago is learning the game playing part-time. Carmelo Martinez and Wally Joyner form a good platoon at first base. Spike Owen's 633 PAs should keep him playing shortstop most of the season. Patchwork 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> basemen will be plenty as Steve awaits Dean Palmer's progression. A young set of outfielders, Gerald Young has seen his best days. Ron Gant and Erick Yelding get the most chances in the outfield. Gant's 32-33 HR/SB play well and Yelding stealing 64 bases and his ability to play 2B, SS and all outfield positions will ensure he sees plenty of playing time. Mike Felder, Henry Cotto and Glenallen Hill combine to make an above average outfielder. When the Aviators pitchers take the mound, FAA will be clearing airspace as the propensity of see high flying projectiles has great potential. (they gonna give up some HRs – saving grace Veterans Stadium HR numbers RH Batters 78 and LH Batters 118) The bullpen duo of Lee Guetterman and Rick Aguilera will get plenty of action. The starting rotation currently has Walt Terrell and Andy Hawkins with ERAs north of 5.00. Their 12<sup>th</sup> pick will probably pitch, or could be the best athlete at the time.

Thunder Bay Damage – MGR Rob Capizzano. Todd Zeile catching or playing the corners, Don Mattingly and Terry Pendleton at the corners providing VG and EX defense. Middle of the infield; Gregg Jefferies and Shawon Dunston provide some power and speed. Speed is apparent in the outfield Vince Coleman 77 SBs and 31 from Willie McGee will be a sight to see them running wild. Andy Van Slyke is a balanced CFer with 17 HRS and 14 SBs. Decent array of starters in Jim Deshaies, Jose Rijo, Kirck McCaskill and Kevin Brown would fit well on any roster. Trio in the pen is the preverbal Three Headed Monster; Bobby Thigpen, Jeff Brantley and Duane Ward are all can keep leads safe. Rob has amassed a team that plays well in their home park. As was typed here last year: "The 16<sup>th</sup> pick should provide someone that will fit nicely in a strong lineup. The 16<sup>th</sup> player taken should be very happy to join the team."

Astoria Zoo Crew – MGR Joe Dezarlo. The 7<sup>th</sup> pick should go in the starting lineup at any position other than Cal Ripken's or Gary Sheffield's. A fast outfield might be hard to break into with Lenny "Nails" Dykstra anchoring CF. Time Raines and 49 SBs lead the team playing LF. RFers Harold Baines provides power and Mookie Wilson has speed and defense to add to CF/LF. Platoon catchers are adequate, nothing to write about. Upgrades at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base would do the Crew well. Lefty strong rotation has two starters with the dreaded +5 ERA. Dave Stieb will be the anchor. The bullpen is well balanced with a group of "Who's He?" getting the job done in unspectacular fashion.

Chesapeake Space Men – MGR Mace Matayc. Bobby Bonilla 32 HRs from RF, Matt Williams 33 HRS from third base have 10+ more than the other two, double digit HR hitters; Andres Galarraga at first and George Bell in left. Platoon catchers and platoon second basemen get the job done. When Kurt Stillwell is your starting SS – at least you have a starting SS. John Tudors PR rating as a starter appears misleading as his numbers look better that a Poor Rating. No starters with a 5.00 ERA however, three are "bonus" starters. Decent bullpen with lefty righty combinations: Ken Dayley and Dan Plesac from the left and Mike Henneman and Jim Gott from the right. The 14<sup>th</sup> pick should land a player to fill one of the team's needs.

Ostego Lake Monsters – MGR Mike See.....Not too sure who is on the team as this is composed. Ken Griffey Jr & Bobby Bonds in the outfield. If that ain't enough – Cecil Fielder and his 51 HRs might grab some attention. Another team with “catcher by committee” Jeff Treadway and Kevin Seitzer hold down 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Rex Hudler will be pushed to his 237 Abs playing everywhere but C & SS. His defense is above average, he hits pretty good and could start on other teams. Five starting pitchers with 30 starts is a great way to enter the draft. Paul Assenmacher and Larry Andersen shore up the backend of the bullpen – not sure who works the other innings. Decent pitchers that could be dominating. The 4<sup>th</sup> pick in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round and 3<sup>rd</sup> pick in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round will land a Monster of a player. One that will move right into the lineup because they are that good or a trade has been made.....flash back to what I typed last year: A brief interview with Mr. See, lasted about 5 minutes he also made two trades and made me an offer. The Lake Monsters “may” still have Kirk Gibson leading the clubhouse. **NO LONGER ON THE TEAM** Barry Bonds has a following in the See house, hence the move to garner this light hitting youngster. Felix Fermin brings his cat like reflexes to short and is one of the few players that should buy a home in Ostego. **Still on the roster** During the purge of the team Bob Milacki the only pitcher to survive. **NO LONGER ON THE TEAM**

Carolina Game Sox – MGR Steve Eury. Heading into the draft the Game Sox first pick is #20 in the 1st 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. – the only thing changed from what was written last year is their pick is in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. Allan Anderson and Dennis Lamp don't have a great year however, the others would fit in any roster. Dave Parker is leading by example with 21 HRs from first base. Roberto Alomar plays daily at second. Ken Caminiti and Alfredo Griffin play on the left side of the infield. Kevin Mitchell will drive the offense with 35 HRs from left field is joined by a supporting cast; Tom Brunansky, Joe Orsulak and 50 steals from Otis Nixon playing great LF/CF will be interesting to watch. Game Sox could have a sneaky season.

Asgaard Guardians – MGR Mel Schwarz. The 17<sup>th</sup> pick will add protection to a position somewhere, where is the question. Decent cast of catchers. George Brett continues to hit at 37 from first base. Julio Franco steals second as much as he plays second. Guardians third basemen are not the worst in the league. Chris James, Jesse Barfield, Von Hayes and Glenn Wilson get most of the playing time in the outfield. Team with decent power from a variety of players. Five pitchers with 30 or more starts. 42 year old Charlie Hough and Tom Gordon are VG on the mound. Arms a plenty in the pen, strong lefties; Kenny Rogers and Craig Lefferts will see plenty of action. The Guardians are positioned for a sneaky season.

San Diego Vaqueros – MGR Steve Lehman. These cowboys are still young and promising. Sandy Alomar John Olerud, Sammy Sosa and at 26 years old Lance Johnson provide “decent daily dude”, DDD or D3 or D Qubed. Edgar Martinez just seems to stay on base with his .397 OBP playing third. Bill Pecota is a great backup all infield positions and corner outfield. When Devon White gets on he can steal and plays great defense in center field. Stealing more bases than hitting homeruns will not be an issue for this

team 135 SBs to 97 HRs. Playing in Yankee Stadium with a short porch to right should make Mel Hall and John Olerud happy. Four lefties in the starting rotation should keep visiting lefty power hitters on the bench. Another team with a balance of lefty righty in the pen. Pitching strong Vaqueros will find themselves learning this season. They might learn they can play well enough to win. Their 5<sup>th</sup> pick in the 1<sup>st</sup> round will land them a player that will be happy to join this young team. The following was typed last year and holds true this year: Vaqueros will no doubt round up a heard of players and create a buzz for the season as they eye the future.....The future might be sooner than expected.

Minneapolis Millers – MGR Terry Baxter. Catcher by committee. Will the Thrill Clark is D Qubed at first. Scott Fletcher, Walt Seiss, Jeff King play the other infield positions and Mike Sharperson stands ready to play in front of them or behind them – whatever is required – as he is all about the team needs. All about his own needs is 22 year old “Neon” Deion Sanders his .158 ave will garner him 218 Abs in the outfield. Paul O’Neill and Cory Snyder get most of the playing time in the outfield and joined by a cast of characters. Decent rotation with Mike Morgan leading the way. Three starters are in the bonus category. Steve Fry, Barry Jones and Dave Schmidt might be the arms to talk about in the pen. The 2<sup>nd</sup> pick in the First Round and 4<sup>th</sup> pick in the Second will land the Millers a much needed player.

Worcester Grays – MGR Hugh McElaney. The 21<sup>st</sup> pick in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round will doubtfully bring a quality player. No doubt he should be a DQubed type player. A decent mix of speed and strength with 134 steals and 158 HRS have the “Straw that Stirs the Grays” in Darryl Strawberry playing RF with 37 HRS and 15 SBs. Erick Davis and 34 year old Robin “MVP” Yount combine for 41 HRs and 36 SBs a formidable starting outfield backed up nicely by Jim Eisenreich. Tony Phillips takes his daily VG defensive ratings in second, third or short and his offensive numbers are not offensive. Kent Hrbek hits quietly at first has his silent lumber will put up some thunder. Can’t forget Carney Lansford, word on the street he just bought a snowmobile, playing fair at the corners and Lou Whitaker is still the leader of the team playing daily at second. A decent mix of speed and strength spread out throughout the team. Four starters with actual starts above 33 each however, three of them qualify as bonus players. Too bad they are limited for those 36,35,33 starts would double to 72, 70, 66 = 208 games ☺ The Grays will be eager to get to the pen early and often as their numbers are lower than the starters. Atlee Hammaker and Jerry Don Gleaton from the left are good however, not as good as Bryan Harvey and Tim Burke from the right. Nice to have double lefty righty moves. Moving is what the Grays continue to do, moving up in the standings.

Ottawa Rough Riders – MGR Stan Barkun. 3<sup>rd</sup> pick in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round and 1<sup>st</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> pick in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round will land a daily user at some position. Three picks in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round should keep the Scouting Staff busy looking at the tapes and filling team needs. Another Catcher by Committee team, with 40 year old Rick Dempsey leading the way on the defense and Mike Fitzgerald on the offense. Neither one really scares the other team. Corner infield will be a mix and match with Jim Presley getting playing time someplace as his 19 HRs are second best on the team. Juan Samuel has 38 SBs once he gets on base and his .316 OBP makes that a challenge. Candy Maldonado is the heavy hitter from LF/RF with 22 HRs. Randy Johnson, John Burkett and Bill Gullickson each can start 35 games Bob Walk and Kevin Appier fill out the

rotation to form a formidable staff. The pen has trusty Joe Boever throwing 67 quality RPs. If there is pitching at those draft picks – will really help the team. Al Leiter is still working on things in the minors.

Winnipeg Goldeyes formerly Canton Moondogs – MGR Don Hunt has started the clock on the 1<sup>st</sup> pick by offering to the league “Paul Sorrento is available”. Word on the street – Frank Thomas will put a Big Hurt on opposing pitchers and play first base. Randy Milligan will share duties with the rookie this season. Second base duo of Jose Oquendo and Jerry Browne has over 1100 Abs at second base. Third base and short stop will be a committee position. Currently Goldeyes spy six outfielders on their roster Joey Belle being the most promising where next year he begins to play more. A great rotation: John Smoltz, Dennis Martinez, Scott Sanderson and Oil Can Boyd total 139 quality numbers. 50 more starts can be squeezed out of Terry Mulholland and Kevin Gross as Tommy Greene will break out next year. Bullpen look like: Stan Belinda, Darrel Akerfelds link the starters to closer Greg Olson. Goldeyes will be worth watching, to see if the price of gold goes up or down.

Punxsutawney Pachyderms – MGR John Lippincott Four catchers on the roster with Matt Nokes leading the group. Fred “Crime Dog” McGriff is the offensive leader.400 OBP and 35 HRs. Harold Reynolds has 737 Pas and steals 31 bases from second base. Jay Bell and Bill Spiers have over 1,000 PAs playing short stop. Rule 5 Domingo Ramos was picked to back up Dave Magadan at third. Magadan’s .417 OBP should get notice from opposing pitchers. Mike Greenwell, Billy Hatcher, Jerome Walton and Ruben Sierra will get most of the in the outfield and Shawn Abner and Doug Dascenzo provide adequate backup. Roger Clemens and his 34 starts 1.93 ERA should create plenty of buzz in Pachyderm Land. Todd Stottlemeyer, Bobby Witt, Bryn Smith round out the rotation. Dennis Eckersley will close out the wins – just how often he will get the chance will be the question. Currently the bridge from starter to closer is under repair and has a reduced weight limit. 9<sup>th</sup> pick in the 1<sup>st</sup> Round will land them a prized player.

Rossville Rockets – MGR Rick Ryan. No longer can you smell the fragrance of WS Champagne. Last season was magical as the Rockets secured Last Pick in the First Round, wait he traded the pick for Dave Winfield who was traded for Andre Dawson. What Trader Rick do something like that?? The team looks ready to do it again and with a little tweaking, might just accomplish the task. Lance Parrish has 523 PAs and 24 HRs playing VG defense. The others catchers will take turns warming up pitchers in the bullpen. Eddie Murray still switch hits and plays first, 26 HRs. Ryno Sandberg has a decent year, 40 HRs 25 SBs playing VG daily at second. Tim Wallach’s VG third base play is sweetened with 21 HRs. Gary Templeton and Dick Schofield are only AV shortstops with over 900 Pas. Outfield is solid, as in no room for rookies (unless a trade is made) Bo Jackson 28 HRs, Andrew Dawson 27 HRS, Dale Murphy 24 HRs and Dave Henderson 20 HRs will share the outfield as young slugger Eric Anthony 10 HRs in 277 ABs sits the bench getting late inning action. If there is a weakness the rotation might show rust or WS hangover. Ed Whitson, Ken Howell, Danny Darwin, Mike Jeffcoat, Dennis Rasmussen and Charlie Leibrandt equal L / R starters will feel good about giving the lead to the pen. Five pitchers have 65 and one has 55. Doubt if the Rockets stand pat however, some of the players will have a long career in Rossville.

Anok Island Gnomes – MGR Steve Brunner. A solid catcher in Tony Pena for his defense and 540 PAs. Mark Grace at first base is a daily event. Jody Reed's VG defense and adequate bat would probably play on any team. Shortstop and third base will be an adventure. Franklin Stubbs and David Justice have left handed power and are the only double digit homerun hitters on the team with 23 & 28 dingers respectively. Brett Butler, John Kruk, Milt Thompson will join Justice and Stubbs in the crowded outfield. Waiting in the wings, 20 year old Juan "Going Going" Gonzalez. Rotation was bolstered with two Rule V picks. Guess when you write about the addition of Dave LaPoint and Mike Witt the say is true "one man's trash is another man's treasure". Joe Magrane, Tom Candiotti and Jimmy Key round out the lefty dominated rotation. Bullpen has a glimmer of hope. Turning the ball over to Tim Crews, Juan Agosto, Roger McDowell and Rob Dibble 287 times will be a routine event. The over and under will be; who strikes out more batters – the starters or relief pitchers?? The 10<sup>th</sup> pick can't come soon enough or often enough for the Gnomes. One sure thing, the streak of 81-81 seasons will end at two in a row in 1990.

New York Metropolitan – MGR Don Rahn. Catching Duo of Ernie Whitt and Charlie O'Brien, known for brining in the hockey mask to baseball – learned that tid bit on the last draft in Cooperstown. Where do you stock players?? Mets say first base: Pedro Guerrero, Sid Bream, Mike Marshall, Brian Downing and Ron Kittle over 2K of PAs, upside is Marshal plays RF and Downing attempts to play third base. Steve Sax is stealing bases and playing second. Charlie Hayes and Kevin Elster play of the left side of the infield. Looking for help in the outfield will be Felix Jose and Mike Devereaux. David Cone anchors the rotation. Jose DeLeon, Tim Belcher Roy Smith and Chris Bosio will take turns starting. Norm Charlton will spend time starting and relieving. The only problem is there is only one Norm Charlton. Bill Landrum and Steve Bedrosian do a fine job at the back of the pen, just need to find the bridge from starter to closer. Now you see me now you don't – Steve Howe returns next year to help out in the pen. 23<sup>rd</sup> pick in the first round won't provide the relief needed for the Mets.

Fairfax Canaries – MGR Ron Peterson. Catching by committee where Terry Steinbach and Geno Petralli see most of the action behind the plate. Carlos Quintana plays the most innings at first base joined by the multi position players whom also play first: Dave Bergman, Tommy Gregg, Gary Redus and Francisco Cabrera. Canaries have the luxury when it comes to double switches at first. Johnny Ray and Fred Manrique share second base. Not playing well with others on the left side of the infield; Brook Jacoby(also plays first) Outfielders a plenty. Leading off and stealing(65) everything that he can – Rickey Henderson and roaming LF. Ellis Burks and his 21 HRS – 7 less that team leader Ricky Henderson(28) will get full season of playing CF. Young Greg Vaughn, Dave Martinez, Dan Pasqua and RJ Reynolds will share the outfield but not the spotlight with Rickey & Ellis. 35 game starters; Tom Browning and Erik Hanson will be joined by Dave Johnson, Brian Holman, Jack Armstrong and Mark Gardner as starters. Names that might not be in Cooperstown however, they do form a decent rotation. Randy Myers, Cuck Crim, Tom Niedenfuer and Rick Honeycutt all have 65 or more games in relief. 15<sup>th</sup> pick should land a nice piece of the puzzle.

Sit back relax. Draft Day is right around the corner. Once it's over and some dust settles, Review of Draft Day will hit the streets. Here is to a Happy July 4<sup>th</sup> and even Happier Draft Day.