

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 – 7/4: Jim Leyritz 1st Round #18, Larry Sheets and Luis Sojo in 2nd Round. Leyritz provides versatility in playing multiple positions and catching is one of them. 93 & 94 are his best years and he is worth a roster spot for nine years. Sleeper picks are pretty tired and did not return calls for an interview. Gary Wayne, Cliff Young, and Brent Knackert.

East Kenosha Lemurs – MGR Dave Lauer – 7/4 1st Round # 6 Moises Alou Sleeps until 92 then takes 99 off and lookout after 2000. Second Rounder Mark Whitten is a spot eater, just no sure for which team. 3rd Rounders Jim Layana and Milt Cuyler will share an RV as they will be ready to move. Rumor has it Turner ward, Jim Poole and Rick Parker have already been traded

Toledo Mud Hens – MGR Rich Applegate – 6/3: 1st Round # 8 Carlos Baerga will anchor down 2nd base similar to last years 1st round pick Robin Ventura was secured with the 4th pick in the 1st Round. As Rick typed last year about Ventura holds true for Baerga. “Guys like this don't come around that often”. Randy Tomlin in the 2nd Round and backup catcher Brent Mayne in the third make for a decent haul. Wes Chamberlain, Fred Lynn and Mike Bell complete the players taken in day one.

Wright-Patt Plainsmen – MGR John Turnbull – 6/2: #23 in the 2nd Round – Brian Barnes That is what the Plainsmen fans were wanting to hear. If not, that is all they got. Hector Villanueva in the 3rd was the haul for Wright-Patt. Larry Casian, Pete Coachman, Jim Vatcher and Rob MacDonald sound more like a law firm or at best shady private investigators vice ball players. John has a way of putting a winning team out there, just not thru the last two drafts.

Buckhead Crackers – MGR Marc Robinson – 5/3: 1st Round #4 Luis Gonzalez gives the Crackers a quality corner outfielder. SS Mike Bordick was taken #19 in the 1st Round and will be an everyday SS from 92-2000. 3rd Rounder Craig Grebeck plays enough positions to make this a valuable pick. Scott Aldred and Sil Campusano were the other two selections.

Edmonton Magpies – MGR Chris Williams – 6/3: Picking #22 in the 1st is a result of a winning team. David Segui joins the Magpies as switch hitting first baseman and sometimes outfielder. 2nd Rounder Chris Nabholz and 3rd Rounder Darren Holmes bulk up the arms for the Magpies. Bill Haselman, Mark Leonard and Mike Simms did not make many managers scream “they were on my list!”

Frankfort Firebugs – MGR Gary Plunkett – 6/2: Like last year, only two picks in first three rounds. #11 in 1st Round Brian MacRae, not his wishful pick however, decent non the less. Jim Neidlinger in the 3rd Round. Andujar Ceden, Jose Melendez, Mark Dewey, Luis Lopez were the sleepers.

Lafayette Aviators – MGR Steve Ehersman – 5/4: 1st Round Picks: #12 Delino DeShields, #21 Jose Offerman, #24 Darren Lewis form the genesis for strong up the middle. Infielders DeShields and Offerman making a decent DP Combo and swiping bases should be a daily diet of the duo of DeShields and Lewis. A decent trio. Rich Rodriguez a mainstay lefty out of the pen at #13 in the Second Round and Al Osuna in the 4th will aid the pen in games.

Thunder Bay Damage – MGR Rob Capizzano – 6/3: 1st Round #16 Jeff Conine waits till 93 before paying off and pays off he does at left and first base. Shawn Boskie pitches and drafted in the second round. Rest of the players; Jeff Manto, Dave Walsh, Ed Vosberg and Joe Kraemer will cause more damage to the home team than stopping damage by the other team.

Astoria Zoo Crew – MGR Joe Dezarlo – 7/3: 1st Round #7 Tino Martinez landed Zoo Crew a hitter that takes off in 92. Omar Oliveras and Steve Decker will not keep managers restless as they prepare to visit the Zoo however, their value in the Crew is what matters. Brian Giles, Mike Norris, Joe Bitker and Kip Gross sound like a Boyz Band in the 90s. Just the kind of music Joe is known to enjoy ;)

Chesapeake Space Men – MGR Mace Matayc – 5/3: 1st Round #14 Steve Avery and 2nd Round #11 Scott Radinsky and 3rd Rounder Dana Kiecker gives the SpaceMen “arms now” Two of the three pitch much better than the other whom will no doubt be long gone. Paul Abbott and Randy Hennis round out the “Pitchers R Us” draft by the SpaceMen.

Otsego Lake Monsters – MGR Mike See – 5/2: Basement to Penthouse is the battle cry of Otsego. Todd Hundley #3 in the 2nd Round is giddy about joining the Monsters. PH / back up first baseman Kevin Maas in the 3rd Round was a victory for the talent laden team. As teams passed on the potential of Maas, Monsters knew he was the one for the fit. Carlos Garcia, Scott Chiamparino and Scott Lewis could be bit pieces of the team or key players in a trade

Carolina Game Sox – MGR Steve Eury – 3/2: 1st Round #20 Alex Cole a speedy outfielder watches more games than he plays. When he does play, will be a thorn to the opposing team. Colby Ward pitches in 90. Phil Stephenson plays 1st. Ed Note – he was the Cape Fear Croc Manager the year I coached first base for one game. I have his autographed rookie card. 12,949 more to go and I'll have as many as Gary 😊.

Asgard Guardians – MGR Mel Schwarz – 6/3: 1st Round #17 Dave Hollins 92&93 will be the years the Guardian faithful rejoice on this pick. Chris Hammond in the 2nd Round should make the roster for a few years. Mark “Chief” Salas taken in the 3rd Round will play his last year for the Guardians. Julio Valera, Javier Ortiz and Gary Green were the other three players drafted. Can you guess where they play?

San Diego Vaqueros – MGR Steve Lehman – 7/3: 1st Round #5 Alex Fernandez two rocky years on the mound before he settles down at the tender age of 23 and becomes a front line starting pitcher many teams would clamor to obtain. Dave Burba in the second round fills a void in the bullpen. Willie Blair helps in plugging the remaining holes on the mound. Steve Searcy and Tom O'Malley join the game of “where do I play?” Legacy Pitcher Mel Stottlemire taken in the 6th round along with Efrain Valdez.

Minneapolis Millers – MGR Terry Baxter – 5/2: Not a draft pick, acquired in a trade for the 2nd pick overall was David Justice. Not a bad selection at #2, were it to have been a pick. Leo Gomez in the 2nd Round plays 3rd then a little 3rd and 1st and more 3rd. Phil Plantier in the 3rd is a player of worth in 92 & 93, not a bad pick in the 3rd. Joe Grahe and Pedro Munoz will add value in a few years, if they remain on the Millers roster.

Worcester Grays – MGR Hugh McElaney – 6/2: No first rounder and Mark Leiter answered the phone #21 in the Second Round. Thomas Howard, Edgar Diaz, Jerry Goff, Daryl Irvine and Gerald Alexander were not scouted by many teams and will make the Grays fans eager for next year's draft. Fans can be fickle that way in the what, as they want all the players to be stars and it takes 25 to fill out a roster.

Ottawa Rough Riders – MGR Stan Barkun – 9/6: Another year of keeper picks – six in the first three rounds. 1st Round #3 land Ray Lankford to patrol the outfield for years. Mickey Morandini in the 2nd Round plays a solid second base and is joined by Scott Cooper a corner infielder starts to play in 92. Some of the Rough Riders last year's picks also had a learning curve and Stan might be lining them up to take off in the same year. Three third rounder's; Dave Hansen, Mike Perez and Alan Mills fill needs at third and the mound. Sleeper picks; Scott Leius, Brian Bohanon and Karl “Tuffy” Rhodes will see action this year.

Winnipeg Goldeyes – MGR Don Hunt - Canton Moondogs – 8/5 – 1st Round #1 was a very easy decision to sign HOFer Frank “Big Hurt” Thomas. The first hurt was put on Paul Sorrento as he was offered to the trade market prior to the draft. The other 1st Round #13 Bill Sampen will stroll to the mound from the bullpen many times and soon be forgotten in three years. When you picked a HOFer you fans might be hungover and not remember whom else was taken. 2nd Round pick Orland Merced can spell Thomas and play the outfield and has better slash lines than Sorrento – good pick! 3rd This was written last year in regards to Sorrento - 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. Third Rounders Scott Ruskin and Jose Uribe assist in roster completion. Part time players: Anthony Telford, Carlos Hernandez and Time McIntosh were also hooked into playing for the goldeyes.

Punxsutawney Pachyderms – MGR John Lippincott – 5/2. Top picks; Jeff Shaw and Sean Berry will hold down roster spots. Rich Delicia, Rich Garces and Eric Gunderson answered their phones and have jobs for 1990.

Rossville Rockets – MGR Rick Ryan – 4/1: No picks in the first round and picking last in the second round land WS Winner Cuck Carr. Paul Marak, Kevin D. Brown, and Lance Dickson all have a place to play. Some are fan favorites and some are draft picks.

Anok Island Gnomes – MGR Steve Brunner – 7/4: Being the Beet Righter I will extrapolate much to your chagrin. Draft Day is always something I prepare for some times more than others. This year’s motorcycle trip to Dayton, had me thinking about last year when I had 1st Round #6 & #8 and didn’t get the player I was wanted – Robin Ventura. Thanks Rich. Trading Dave Justice to move up for the #2 in the 1st Round is one of those “good for both team” trades. Other teams would disagree as they felt like I did last year when the “wanted” player was taken. Travis Fryman #2 in the 1st gives me a player at third for a few years. Plus watching him play A ball in Fayetteville NC is a sentimental pick. Our 10th pick in the 1st Round landed a starting pitcher in Scott Erickson much to the chagrin of Firebug Faithful whom hoped he’d last one more pick. Mel Rojas in the second round is the type of relief pitcher wanted – games and he gets better in a few years. Derrick May in the 3rd fills in as a 4th or 5th outfielder. Quality parts – not quantity Paul Faries, Steve Chitren and Scott Lusader make the 90 roster. Another draft that helps the team in a few years.

New York Metropolitan – MGR Don Rahn – 6/2. First Round # 23 Bernard Gilkey and 2nd Round #14 Lee Stevens give the Mets what they wanted. Oscar Azocar, Ken Williams, Charlie Kerfeld and Jimmy Kremers round out the draft picks. Don is known to shake the waiver wire and dial the phone to shore up the team. At times draft day can be over rated if you get what you need other ways.

Fairfax Canaries – MGR Ron Peterson – 7/3: Charles Nagy #15 in the 1st Round will toe the rubber as a starter Greg Vaughn taken #12 in the 1st Round. He gets going in 92 only to be side tracked till 94 when he becomes a decent starter. Tim Naehring in the second round and Geronimo Pena in the third give the Canaries al versatile player and good part-time second sacker. Terry Shumpert, Reggie Harris, Mike Gardiner and Tony Perezchica have jobs in 90

As with every draft – is your team better after the draft? Should be. Rule 5 Draft prior to the Rookie Draft appears to be a big hit with most of the gang. Like most, didn't like it at first – cause it was new and all things new must be feared. Now it is very likeable. As likeable as whom you drafted in 1990.

In weeks we take the field for 1990. Three weeks later, some will look at the draft list for 91. I have my eye on a few players 😊