

1992 Pre-Season Prediction – by Prose Perpetrator a.k.a. Beet Righter.

The write-ups will have the following flow:

League – Division

Team Name – Manager

1991 record

1992 Pythagorean Theory Win Prediction[wins, based on PT – Position Prediction –

Manager Report – What the Manager reported on their team. Or almost what they reported



My .02 on the team. This information is for entertainment purposes only. The league and writer are not responsible if you use this information to make wagers because if you lose – ain't our fault however, if you win "I told you so"

Still consider myself a rookie at this job and much to your chagrin have retained last years team member and welcome a consultant Rational Thought. RT for short has at times provided great insight. Another team member Gut Feelings a.k.a. Pipe Dreams or Piper, not related to Crack Pipe also a freelance reporter. What can I say, we placed an ad for knowledgeable baseball reporters: Peter Gammons, Tim Kurkjian and Karl Ravech applied and were accepted. Once they realized their work product would be paid for in praise, there would be no profit, they proclaimed piracy and promptly resigned. Have no fear for Numberz Here was retained! Totally unreliable, Numberz Here, First Name: Numberz and Last Name: Here is less than truthful. He is a big fat liar!! He provides information and backs it up with – Numberz sez so! He goes by nicknames such as: (I'll let you fill in the blanks) A balancing act between RT, Piper and Numberz would provide a very detailed report with great value. The problem is getting them in the same room and their being civil since professional decorum is not in their vocabulary.

As a review, reminder or reason for projections being what they are, the following paragraph was used last year and again this year. A little background and part of collective consensus for the projections.

Ballpark factors, players, manager style and good ole happen stance. Each ballpark has an impact on Numbers. Each player – if played to their total will be "in the ballpark" for final stats. YES – there will be the phenomes that skew stats by OVER perform or UNDER perform. We have all had those and we soooooo enjoy the one and despise the other. Some teams play more station to station, waiting for the "bloop & blast" vice "small ball". I did notice we are men of honor, as we don't steal (bases) as much as we should – according to Numbers Here. Sabermetrics is alive and well at the zoo or stuffed in the museum. Log jam of players skew

numbers. A team might have 2 ½ full time position players at one position. This of course will not allow any of them to reach their full potential. Don't we hate it when a player has a 2-22 stretch? Well when we sit him because another player needs his Abs – the benched player won't be able to obtain his "R Factor". As I type this, Hurricane Florence(2018) and Hurricane Dorian (2019) is making plenty of noise outside. I'd explain the "R Factor" something I heard or read and my recalling of the information is something like "over time the numbers will true. A .250 hitter hitting .330 will digress to his true state given time" This is where we ride that hot streak only to see it get cold fast. Another issue when a manager has "too many" at certain positions. I could take the above into consideration.....nah too much work. Pitchers and the HR & DP numbers. Ballpark and players on defense. These two could be looked into a little more aggressively in order to provide a truer account of the future. Numbers Here sez "don't do it because it will take longer, more effort, make you appear like you know what you're talking about and people will expect more out of you!" This time Numberz B tellin da truf.

ED NOTE: Realignment of teams will be noted. 1991 had two divisions per league and this year we have three.

American League – East:

Anok Island Gnomes – Steve Brunner

1991: 97-65 2th Place – NL West

1992: 85 wins – 1st Place

Steve's thoughts on the Gnomes: Gnomes welcome league realignment and the Wild Card or at least would have last year. Living in the past and their 97 wins – fifth best record and no wild card had them watching the playoffs. Present prognostication reflects AL East as a "weak" division. Picked to finish at the top of the AL East – when you finish on top you still make the playoffs no matter which division you're in.

Fans are giddy about the lineup. Top three boast OBP over 400: OF Brett Butler, OF John Kruk and 2B Roberto Alomar. Power comes from: OF Juan Gonzalez, 1B Jeff Bagwell, 3B Terry Pendleton and SS Travis Fryman. Catching corps is led by Tony Pena and a cast of others that are mediocre on a good day. Bench players will see limited action with the key cogs having 600+ abs. Five Starters for the year! Jimmy Key, Scot Erickson, Tom Candiotti, Jose Rijo and Rheal Cormier can march thru the 162 game season. There will be a few spot starts to keep the others viable for next year. Bullpen reflects 542 games before bonus and 30%. Cris Carpenter, Pat Clements, Mel Rojas and Roger McDowell for a fairly decent bridge to volatile closer Rob Dibble. Here to will have extra arms fighting for games to remain viable for next year.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Decent team that spent draft capitol on Pendelton & Rijo. Now or never season.

Numberz: Best of the worst. Man did they luck out on realignment. Out of the division:#1 in AVE .266 OBP .335 SPC .396 ERA 3.51 WHIP 1.28 and QS% .641 on track to win fewer games than last year.

Piper: Printing and selling playoff tickets before the first pitch of the season. Gnomeland has fans thinking they are in Fog City or Wright Patt. Can or how the manager ruins this one? Only time will tell.

Worcester Grays – Hugh McElaney

1991: 100-62 1st Place – WS Runner Up - AL East

1992: 76 wins – 2rd Place

Hugh's thoughts on the Grays: After six straight division titles - and three WS appearances - it looks like the party's over, for awhile, in Worcester. Age and injury are starting to take their tolls on key players (Strawberry, Eric Davis, Hrbek, Scioscia, Morris . . .), and over the next couple years, the Grays will start to work promising youngsters like Jose Hernandez, Damion Easley, and Derek Bell (along with newly-acquired veteran reliever, Rick Aguilera) into the mix. Core guys are Tony Phillips, Mike Stanley, Greg Gagne, and southpaw Jim Abbott.

As usual, we'll have several multi-position guys in action this season, and will use everybody on the roster to best effect. But in the end, we'll be looking up at the Gnomes and relegated to the sidelines come October.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Grays: Tony Phillips leads the team with 600+ abs and Lou Whitaker is next with 450. Lou's power wouldn't be noticed on most other teams. Jim Abbott #1 the others 4+ ERA and two Bonus Babies round out the rotation. The bullpen is shaky until Rick Aguilera or Matt Harvey can be summoned as closers. Team ERA of 3.98 and WHIP of 1.35 will be working hard to keep the scores low.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Age and treachery beats youthful enthusiasm. Track record will not translate into a winning season.

Numberz: Fair numbers all around has the team treading water and possibly viable.

Piper: A worthy opponent that will be juggling lineups and mixing potions to keep players healthy. Young guns lining up for infinity and beyond.

Fairfax Canaries – Ron Peterson

1991: 72-90 4th Place – NL West

1992: 54 wins – 3rd Place

Ron's thought on the Canaries: The Canaries are in rebuild mode. Rickey Henderson was traded before 1991 season. Alan Trammell is no longer the player he was. Ellis Burks has bad knees. Brook Jacoby is now gone.

Getting McGwire in return for Rickey helped start the rebuild. Getting a great lucky draw for the draft really helped as the team picks up the young Pedro Martinez but he won't contribute this year.

This is going to be another tough year. 2B, SS and 3B are all one year stop gaps with Tim Teufel, Spike Owen and Kelly Gruber. The OF has Dave Martinez and several low average lumbering sluggers which won't help the pitching staff defensively. Mark McGwire and Terry Steinbach should have solid years but both are injury prone and will miss time.

For the pitching staff, the best thing you can say is they are workhorses as there are 4 guys with 30 or more starts. The bullpen isn't much better as veteran Tom Edens may be asked to fill the closer spot.

90+ losses seems likely.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Canaries: Mo Vaughn has 501 real life Abs so his .228 gets him to 601. Big Mac appears in 139 games hitting 42 dingers in 467 Abs. Ron wasn't kidding about the rebuild. Plenty of bodies to go around and few to speak of. Charles Nagy will be nagging about carrying the team with his 2.96 ERA and 35 GS. Three bonus pitchers to get starts: Erik Hanson 4.82, Ricky Bones 4.57 & Tom Browning 5.07 Decent bridge builders Tom Edens & Bob Patterson to get to 4+ ERA closers: Randy Myers & Mike Schooler.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Team hits 145 HRS and five players account for all but 38. Lack of getting on base will hurt run production. Combine that with the teams 4.26 ERA and less than 50% QS and 1.37 WHIP doesn't bode well.

Numberz: 2nd highest WHIP, 2nd highest ERA they have enough GS to get thru the season. Those three things combined = three and Canaries should be a lock to finish 3rd.

Piper: Rebuild starts now. Canary Fans are seen wearing shirts Y Not Us?? John Turnbulls computer gets the avian flu and Pedro Martinez stats reflect 35 GS Steroids gone wild in the

clubhouse, injured players get healthy and nobody gets injured and Canaries are singing at the top of the division.

Hartford Yard Goats – Sean Comerford

1991: 58-104 6th Place - AL West

1992: 44 wins – 4th Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Yard Goats: Perennial Lottery Pick Power. Yard Goats will sit atop the garbage heap enjoying the view. They don't poses the worst team AVE .251 even their OBP .303 isn't the lowest. Another 100 loss season in the making.

Kevin Reimer 494 Abs 16 HRs leads the team and his .267 AVE and .336 OBP might get him a few IBBs being he is "The Man" in Hartford. Only one other Yard Goat has 400+ Abs. Sean will be mixing and matching lineups all season long. Lefties Dave Fleming and Bruce Hurst have 3.39 and 3.85 ERAs respectively. LH hitting lineups will get opportunities vs Yard Goats as these two will 35 GS each. Bonus Babies Tim Leary and Scott Scudder will get plenty of starts and a decent contingent of righties will get the remaining. The Firemen look more like Firestarter's. Jeff Montgomery does a great job of ending games. Todd Worrell is the other bright spot in the pen.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Next years draft pick must be savored or traded to fill needs.

Numberz: Yup, they don't lead the league in worst numbers. Their 44 projected wins is the lowest.

Piper: Two double digit winners out of their starting rotation. Yard Goat closer gets 20+ saves. Monty or Worrell – each could wind up with 15 saves if used properly.

American League – Central:

Wright-Patt Plainsmen – John Turnbull

1991: 111-51 - 1st Place – NL West

1992: 107 wins – 1st Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Plainsmen: Ain't nothing plain about Dem Plainsmen. Where to start: Rickey Henderson leading off, 2nd Ryno Sandberg, 3rd Kirby Puckett, 4th Paul Molitor 5th &

6th Mickey Tettleton switch-hitting backstop with 32 HRs and Jose Canseco's 26 HRs in 439 Abs. 177 total HRS and an amazing 224 SBs. Clubbing the ball like some would club baby seals. Plenty of opposing pitchers will get "tight forearms" and wanna be scratched when Wright-Patt is in town.

Six players with 500+ Abs finding the right lineup and sticking to it with a tweak here and there. Ya might call John T a "tweaker" if he gets it right. Heck, with this team, most of us could get it right. With that offense who needs pitchers? Nolan Ryan, Doc "No Coke" Gooden, Orel Hershisier, Mike Morgan team leading 2.55 ERA and Frank Viola enough starts for 162 games. Who needs a bridge to get to the closer when you have FOUR closers with 30+ saves!!!! Doug Jones 80 games 1.85 ERA 36 SVs, Lee Smith 70 games 3.12 ERA 43 SBVs, Tom Henke 65 games 2.26 ERA 34 SVs and Jamie Farr 1.56 65 games 30 SVs.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Setting cruise control could be dangerous. A keen eye to keep players below their limits and sprinkling in others that might be viable for next year.

Numberz: Let's see....team hits .279/.357/.423 Triple Crown on hitting stats. Did I mention their 177 HRS and 224 SBs?? Phantoms have 168 HRs and 233 SBs and no other team can sniff that air. Plainsmen pitching 3.20 ERA 109 QS in 168 GS for a .649% in other words Starter – Closer will be seen often if not CGs.

Piper: He's back! John T has revenge on his mind and with this group should be able to "claim" a seat in the WS. That would be a dugout unlike most of us that will have a seat in the stands.

Edmonton Magpies – Chris Williams

1991: 71-91 – 4th Place – NL East

1992: 93 wins – 2nd Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Plainsmen: Magpies enter 1992 looking to improve greatly and await the progression of Jim Thome, young LH hitter with potential and Jeff Kent from the right side. Realignment thankfully moved them out of Fog City Phantoms division into Wright Patt's. Still a solid team on paper, albeit no real fear will be struck when the lineup is announced.

Outfielders lead the way; Bip Roberts getting on base and stealing a few, Candy Maldonado smacking a few HRs and Danny Tartabull doing both sans stealing. The remaining cast will come and go as lineups will be a mix and match or shake and bake lineup. Three starters with 35 GS lead by Ken Hill 2.68 ERA 4th and 5th starters will be exciting or they will be exiting early in order to get to decent bullpen. Rod "Shooter" Beck should gun down most opponents to end the game.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Chris Williams will have his work cut out for him.

Numberz: Magpie Nation should be giddy with a 20+ jump in the win column, so sez Numberz.

Piper: While waiting for player development, current starters get a fire and show their stuff making their case to remain in the show. Playing second fiddle in the American Central, Magpies could sneak up the food chain of playoff hopefuls.

Toledo Mud Hens – Rich Applegate

1991: 96-66 2rd Place – AL West

1992: 85 wins – 3rd Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Mud Hens: Toledo is juiced up about their chances in 1992. Household at every position there should be joy in Mudville for the Hens.

Not sure where to start. Five core players and Barry Larkin didn't make the cut!, have 575+ Abs. Carlos Baerga, Brady Anderson and Joe Carter provide the HR power and the first two get on base at a decent clip. Robin Ventura plays solid at 3B. Barry Larkin, Tony Gwynn and Mo Vaughn require a watchful eye as penning them in the starting lineup would be joyful, sorrow would be found if they play too much. Nice back ups abound in Toledo. 3 ½ Starters will make for an interesting season. Lefties Randy Tomlin & Donovan Osborne and Jaime Navarro are respectable however, not your normal "top of the rotation" arms. The bullpen has their ups and downs as the team ERA of 3.93 and 1.38 WHIP teeter to the high side.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Offense will score runs in a variety of ways. Keeping the opponets from doing the same will be the challenge.

Numberz: .273/.338/.402 ain't Plainsmen/Phantoms – darn near as good. Projected to finish 3rd not because of their hitting Mud Hens could muddy up the picture with some decent pitching, doubtful.

Piper: The offense will score runs. The pitchers will get motivated when pitching with a lead. The offense will continue to score runs and the other teams will tuck tail and run. That's how the Mud Hens climb up the ladder.

Punxsutawney Pachyderms - John Lippincott

1991: 62-100 6th Place – NL West

1992: 76 wins – 4th Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Pachyderms: Two consecutive 62 win seasons a third is probable.

Not a .300 hitter in the lineup. Pachyderm as a team .252/.315/.371 not the worst and not the best to score runs. Jay Bell is going to see plenty of action at SS and Cecil Fielder is the big bat in the lineup. Granted, he'd be the big bat in most lineups. Four players, Bell, Fielder, Ruben Sierra and Kevin Seitzer anchor the team. Dave Magadan will add spark when played 321 Abs. Another mix and match lineup.

Enough starts to cover the season without adding in Bonus Babies and they will see plenty of starts. Bobbys Witt & Ojeda have 34 & 32 starts respectively. Jack Armstrong is on his third team in three years, getting scooped up in Rule 5 for the second year in a row. Captain America was 6-6 for the Gnomes with three CGs and lowered his ERA by 1 ½ runs. Pachyderms are looking for the same from Jack. Team ERA 4.06 and 1.42 WHIP will see the scoreboard light up. Xavier Hernandez and Joe Boever will do a fine job in relief. Finding others to help might be an issue.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Another long season for Pachyderm faithful and they won't forget the previous two seasons. This one might be better.

Numberz: Hold on and hope for a high lottery pick.

Piper: A bounce here and there and they could be out of the lottery and not finish 6th in a 4 team league.

American League - West

San Diego Vaqueros – Steve Lehman –

1991: 88-74 - 3rd Place - AL East

1992: 96 wins – 1st Place

Steve's Thoughts on Vaqueros: My San Diego Vaqueros will be decent.

A handful of decent starting pitchers with Chuck Finley, Zane Smith, Alex Fernandez and Jose Guzman

And a couple of good hitters with Edgar and Devo and Olerud, but not enough. I would guess 500 or so for the season.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Vaqueros: Realignment has the Vaqueros sniffing playoffs.

Another team with four players with 500+ Abs Devon White leading the way in CF however, this .303 OBP won't see him on base much but when he gets on, he doesn't spend much time at first. Egdar Martinez is their star at 3B. John Olerud anchors the other corner in the infield. Coaxing the best of the rest will be key to winning the division. Three VG starters will be another key to their success. Jose Guzman, Chuck Finley and Alex Fernandez are those three. Cast of characters will provide the other starts and with the right combination will be very good. Bullpen might not be a fan favorite and the team .488% QS will see them often.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: American West is stronger than the American East and the Vaqueros should be in the hunt

Numberz: They don't hit so well .255/.315/.372 and they pitch fair 3.82 ERA 1.37 WHIP and the numbers still call for 96 wins. Steve is guessing for .500 or so. One of us will be surprised.

Piper: The right bounce and they will end up on top. The right lineups and running a streak of good things and playoff games will be in their future.

Nidavellir Dwarves – (1991 East Kenosha Lemurs) - Dean Toso

1991: 90-72 - 2nd Place – AL East

1992: 90 wins – 2nd Place

Dean's Thoughts on Dwarves: The Dwarves first year in the SPB4 should be interesting. We have decent hitting and pitching with the bullpen featuring 3 closers highlighted but Dennis Eckersley.

Our starting hitters have All-Stars Rafael Palmeiro, Craig Biggio, Tony Fernandez and 7 Time All-Star Wade Boggs along with Ron Gant who has hit 32 HR the last 2 years , winning the Silver Slugger Award last year. Matt Nokes will get the majority of the playing time behind the plate,

while Steve Finley, Mark Whitten, Dan Gladden and youngster Moises Alou will fill the rest of the OF play. One thing the Dwarves lack is power depth in the line-up. but we will try to make up for it with strong situational hitting and running the bases well. Bo Jackson will be out all year after suffering a major hip injury last year.

On the pitching end the starting pitchers include All-Star and 1991 Cy Young winner Tom Glavine, Pete Harnisch who had a very strong year in 1991 and was also an All-Star, and 2 time All-Star Mark Langston who won 19 games in 1991. The final 2 spots in the rotation will be filled but Mark Portugal, Greg Harris and rookie Butch Henry. The bullpen will be strong if no injuries occur but our depth is severely lacking after the top 4-5 guys. Five time All-Star Dennis Eckersley is going to anchor the bullpen from the closer role while swing man Norm Charlton and former closer Steve Olin will be waiting in the wings if Eckersley struggles. Mark Guthrie and Dwayne Henry will round out the back end of the bullpen in hopes of providing enough relief to get the Dwarves to the playoffs in 1992.

The Dwarves are a potential playoff team as we have a strong hitting cast and 3 top starting pitchers and a pretty strong bullpen. But we lack power in our line-up and that could hurt up in the long season.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Dwarves: Ditto on what Dean typed.

Nokes and Palmeiro provide the power with 22 each. Nokes in 384 Abs and Palmeiro in 608. Another team that does not boast a .300 hitter. Once they get on, four steal more than 20 bases. Granted one of them is 50/50 in steals and caught stealing with 20 each. Lefties R Us with four in the rotation: Tom Glavine, Mark Langston and Butch Henry will be offset by Pete Harnish. Not bad. As noted, the bullpen is strong and plenty of door closers to go around.

RT: Lack of hitting or as noted, situational hitting will be the key.

Numberz: Up start Dwarves have high hopes. 90 projected wins would have them on top in two other divisions and six behind the one they're in. Luck will have to be on their side to make the playoffs.

Piper: Young and ready – today is opening day! As long as they repeat that phrase often, even when they go thru a bad patch, anything can happen. Eager and ready for the season to start. Doing what needs to be done when it needs to be done will bode well for Dwarves.

Asgard Guardians – Mel Schwarz

1991: 76-86 2nd Place – NL East

1992: 75 wins – 3rd Place

Mel's Thoughts on Guardians: While you are laughing your way through the Asgaard roster, here is the April MP for our games and your further entertainment. (sent along with MP for Gnome series)

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Guardians: Another team without a .300 hitter. Dave Hollins might be only fair playing third but he is good with the bat. George Brett at 1st is also known for being good with the lumber. Goes downhill from there, just won't be laughing cause some of us have been there.

Steve Sax, Robin Yount and Junior Felix have 500+ Abs with Jeff Blauser providing a good bat good field at SS. Flavor of the day will round out the lineup. Another lefty dominate team: Craig Lefferts, Greg Swindell, Chris Hammond and Bud Black. Crafty Bob Tewksbury is the bright spot. Guess if Tewks is the bright spot things might be dim. 247 GS before any Bonus Babies can be counted. Team ERA of 3.47 and WHIP of 1.29 will keep the team in games. Bullpen only has 248 GR before the 30% rule – so arms will be a plenty.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: The right mix and pitcher friendly parks will do the Guardians well.

Numberz: .247/.309/.361 won't get many runs. Pitching should do the Asgaard Guardians well 3.47 ERA 247 GS and 142 of them QS .575% 1.29 WHIP keeping them in games.

Piper: Situational hitting will do the team good. George Brett's leadership will sneak them a few wins.

Baltimore SpaceMen – Mace Matayc

1991: 70-92 6th Place – NL East

1992: 71 wins – 4th Place

Mace's Thoughts on SpaceMen: Going from the National League East Division into the newly realigned AL West, the

Baltimore SpaceMen like their chances against fellow former division rival Asgaard Guardians and the former East Kenosha Lemurs (90 wins in '91) now the Dwarves from Nidavellir along with the Vaqueros of San Diego (88 wins in '91). Add to that a move from spacious Memorial Stadium to cozy Camden Yards, might we see a 70 win club in '91 top .500 in '92? Late trade acquisition reliever Mark Eichorn (9-6 2.10 85ip 5sv) and FA pick reliever Rusty Meachem (3.00 17ip) from the former Thunder Bay Damage, bolsters an already deep pen to include fellow righty Jim Gott (2-9 3.39 66ip 26sv), and lefties Dan Plesac (6-6 3.28 85ip 2sv), and Scott

Radinsky (7-4 2.60 72ip 1sv). John Wetteland (2.16 in 8 ip in '91) will inherit the closer role from Jim Gott. SPs Steve Avery (15-11 3.07) and Bill Gullickson (14-9 3.02) hope to repeat last season's success and Doug Drabek (7-19 4.55) and John Burkett (10-15 3.96) can't help but improve on 17 tandem win. GM Matayc said, "If I get 28 wins from those two clowns, we are going to have a pennant chasing team." When it was pointed out that is only a nine game improvement to last season's 70 win team, Matayc's response was, "that is our next phase, to be an 80 win team, but one that is chasing a pennant." Fans will soon realize a lack of a full rotation will be the SpaceMen's fatal flaw going into the '92 season. On offense FA acquisition C CFisk (.250 13/40 in 106 games caught) will anchor a heavy right handed hitting lineup and platoon with C Greg Olson (.255 5/35 127 games caught). 1b will return the platoon of Hal Morris (.290 .807ops 14/51) and Andres Galarraga (.220 .646ops 11/36). Mark Lemke (.204 .498ops 1/7 8 errors in 109 games) takes over second base from Bill Doran, traded to the Rossville Rockets. SS will belong to Mark Lewis (.249 .618ops 1/18) when last year's starter Kurt Stillwell went to the Vaqueros as a free agent pick, while the hot corner will be held down by slugging Matt Williams (.291 .869ops 32/102). George Bell (.256 .646ops 13/66) and Bobby Bonilla (.305 .837ops 13/73) man the corners in the OF, while Willie Wilson (.266 7triples 17sbs) and newcomer Derrick May will split CF duties. Camden Yards will welcome an improving SpaceMen squad.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on SpaceMen: High hopes for the team from outer space. Could be a dream or reality, just like landing on the moon. 😊 Bell & Williams provide the power too bad won't be many on base ahead of them. Team .244/.304/.345 won't throw fear into opposing pitchers. Avery & Drabek potent one two punch however, the follow thru pitchers Gullickson, Burkett and host of others are less desirable. The bridge to Wetland is sturdy; Gott, Radinsky, Meacham and Eichorn. Not your HOF names but will get the job done. Team 3.52 ERA 54% QS 1.26 WHIP will strike some fear on some opposing teams.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Good pitching can beat good hitting. SpaceMen can validate the saying in 1992

Numberz: as noted above - .244/.304/.345 makes scoring runs difficult 3.52 ERA 1.26 WHIP is respectable. If one rises and the other stays on track and increase in wins will be the result.

Piper: New park and new attitude but will it be enough?

NATIONAL LEAGUE – EAST

Astoria Zoo Crew – Joe DeZarlo

1991: 85-77 3rd Place NL West

1992: 88 wins – 1st^d Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Zoo Crew: Good mix of hitter with Gary Sheffield 33HRs and Cal Ripken at short will be joined by veterans and promising up starts: Nails Dykstra, Dingo Dave Nilsson, Dave Hamilton, Harold Baines, Jack Clark, Mario Duncan and Gary Carter. Sid Fernandez and Omar Olivares carry the banner and plenty of others will be used to other 100 games. Too bad some of them will be bonus babies.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Good offense, decent defense not too sure about the pitching.

Numberz: .260/.318/.384 not cause for fear, respectable. 4.08 ERA 50% QS and 1.36 could be cause for worry. Low scoring games could be the norm for the Zoo Crew.

Piper: Good home cooking and smart moves from the Zoo Keeper could find them at the top. Too much time in the mosh pit could be cause for concern.

Beast Coast Brushbacks – Chris Longo

1991: 75-87 4th Place AL West

1992: 86 wins – 2nd Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Brushback: Striking distance and coiled to make a move. Log jam at 1B with Frank BIG HURT Thomas leading the way. Moose Milligan and Paul Sorrento will be hard pressed to reach 50%. Big Hurt, Albert "Joey" Belle and Darren Daulton provide extreme pop. Chili Davis and second base combo of Oquendo and Randolph have to get on to get driven in. Javier Lopez and Ryan Klesko have another year toiling in AAA Atlanta before securing starting positions. John Smoltz, Kevin Gross and Terry Hulholland start 100 games, the other 62 might be exciting. Brushbacks pen is in rare air, that is they are pretty decent. Gregg Olson as their closer is very respectable and Stan Belinda ain't no slouch.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Decent is the offense, starting pitching and bullpen. Solid team in the NL East that could be a tight race.

Numberz: .253/.342/.393 respectable. 3.77 ERA 53% QS and 1.32 respectable. Brushbacks appear to be a respectable team. Nothing to write home about but decent enough to be considered pesky.

Piper: Brushbacks can very well find themselves in the playoffs. Smoke and mirrors or good management. Beast Coast aside from four or five players that would start for 95% of the teams. It is the bench players that would also be coveted on a majority of teams that will make the difference, if they play in October.

East Kenosha Leathernecks - (Thunder Bay Damage) – Dave Lauer

1991: 63-99 - 5th Place NL West

1992: 64 wins – 3rd Place

Dave's Thoughts on Leathernecks: Dave Lauer's "retirement" from SPB4. The long-time SPB member had no sooner conveyed title of his East Kenosha Lemurs to Dean Toso then the "forced sale" of the Thunder Bay Damage lured him back into the last decade of the 20th century baseball.

The team was renamed the East Kenosha Leathernecks in honor of Lauer's son-in-law, a disabled Iraq War combat veteran. Then old "Trader Dave" kicked into high gear and put together a whole new look for the East Kenosha fans.

A trade with the Metropolitan brought rookie Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez to fill a gaping hole at catcher with a long-term, high quality player. Mike Lavalliere was a late acquisition in a deal that also brought 1Bman Wally Joyner to East Kenosha as Don Mattingly and Don Slaught were sent to a genuine pennant contender. Rookies Greg Colbrunn and John Jaha will be Joyner's backups in 1992. The middle of the infield is solid defensively, but will be way below average offensively. The starters there are Keith Miller and Dick Schofield, who along with 3B-man Todd Zeile do not exactly strike terror in the hearts of SPB4 opponents.

Roberto Kelly and Jay Buhner anchor the outfield, with Kevin McReynolds, Willie McGee and Phil Plantier getting in their PA's as well.

The notable absence of power will be an asset at home. Not so much anywhere else.

Pitching. Yea. Well, there's Kevin Brown! The rest of the rotation is well below competitive caliber. The Leathernecks' bullpen is long, but after Jeff Innis and Jeff Brantley, the quality diminishes rapidly. There are 633 relief games available for the Leathernecks in 1992, and they may need them as "complete games" are just about the sole possession of Brown.

Lucky for the Leathernecks that there are 6 divisions in SPB4, so the worst they can do is finish 4th in the NL East – which they certainly will do.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Leathernecks: 1992 will only strengthen their draft position for 1993. This coupled with additional draft picks will help them in years to come, just not in 1992.

RT: Dave pretty much hit it on the head.

Numberz: .258/.328/.366 holds them around the league average Trio of Buhner, Kelly and Joyner play daily and can do damage, slight damage with the bat. Plug and play offense will change from day to day, the consistency will remain constant. 4.28 ERA .48% QS 1.42 WHIP have the honor of giving up the most runs in the league. Might be because they have so many that pitched so many games.

Piper: Watching young players develop. Setting up trades for next year. Walking back and forth to the mound. Mixing up lineups should keep Dave busy until 1993 when the Leathernecks break boot camp. Semper Fi.

New York Metropolitanans – Don Rahn

1990: 69-93 5th Place - AL West

9191: 68 wins – 5th Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Metropolitanans: Devereaux will be looked up to lead the Mets to the promised land. Dean Palmer and Eric Karros secure the corners of the infield and provide supportive power. Don will use the other 27 players to round out the lineups on a rotating basis. Securing Mike Piazza, Tim Salmon, Matt Stairs gives the Mets hope in the future. Quantity on the mound with 204 GS will make it easy for Don to build a consistent rotation with Tim Belcher, David Cone, Scott Sanderson and Frank Castillo all capable of 35 GS. Who wouldn't like to have that problem? Problem will be the pen and closer Dog Henry.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Scoring runs will be an issue and giving up runs will be easy. Those two things could have the Mets looking at 100 in the loss column.

Numberz: .230/.285/.347 under .300 OBP ain't good – trust me on that one. 4.03 ERA .53 QS and 1.36 might not be as bad as it appears.

Piper: Playing the games, getting everyone their Abs and becoming a lottery pick – might sum of the 1992 season for the M.E.T.S METS METS METS

NATIONAL LEAGUE - CENTRAL

Lafayette Aviators – Steve Ehresman

1990: 73-89 – 4th Place – AL West

1991: 100 wins – 1st Place

Steve's Thoughts on Aviators: I think the Lafayette Aviators have strong pitching and a good every-day line-up. They are not a home run hitting crew, but they should score their share of runs.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Aviators: "Boring!" Homer Simpson just took a look at the Aviators roster. SEVEN countem – 7 players with more than 500 ABS and all but catcher is covered, where you will find Slugo Don Slaughter (Trader Dave said he was sent to a contender) and Benito Santiago. Andre Dawson is the biggest bopper and his 22 dingers top the team. Six other hitters have more than 10 HRs and Andy Van Slyke chip in 45 doubles and 12 triples. Pat Listach and Delino DeShields steal 54 & 46 bases, in a league that normally doesn't steal since that is stealing is dishonest and we are an honorable lot. Lots of starts 163 before 10% is added giving Dennis Martinez, Melido Perez, Bill Wegman and Chris Nabholz with 35 starts each 10% added. Lefty Charlie Leibrandt is low man with 34 GS. "Boring!" Homer sez. Seven members in the bullpen 378 games before 30% is added and bring in Steve "Playing Baseball Part-Time This Year" Howe is a stellar closer for 26 games."Boring!" Pure plug-N-play and having that option can become, you guessed it "Boring!" Guess if you have to win a division, this is one way to accomplish the feat.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Stacked, loaded, unstoppable. Heck, Aviators will have Wil Cordero ready for next year.

Numberz: .266/.326/.386 will keep the base coaches busy. 2.96 ERA 64% QS and 1.19 WHIP will confound the opposing teams. Good mix, a fine cocktail if you will, for a good season of wins for the Aviators.

Piper: Aside from an injury that would sideline a start, wait aside from rain delay – no injuries to worry about. Over confidence might be the only thing Steve has to worry about.

Frankfort Firebugs – Gary Plunkett

1991 – 74-88 5th Place AL East

1992 – 88 2nd Place

Gary's Thoughts on Firebugs: I hold no great hopes for my 1992 team (Frankfort Firebugs). However, I do believe we have a good shot at the upper half of the standings by the finish. Strong starting and relief corps (at least on paper). Not much in hitting, though there is some longball power in the group. Not many players who walk a lot, but do have some speed, and looking forward to the season.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Firebugs: If Gary gives his team a little praise, there might be something there. True, there are some boppers on the team: Rob Deer 32 HRs, Larry Walker 23 HRs, Mike Macfarlane 17 HRs Tom Brunansky 15 HRs and Robby Thompson 14 HRs can hit'em just not sure how many will be solos. Fair team of mix and match lineups should see equal playing time for all concerned. 160 pre SPB adjustments GS is more than enough to breeze thru the season without worries, just not "Boring!". Jack McDowell and Frank Tanana have 35&34 GS. Numbers go down from there and quality gets baby like, as in bonus babies. Bullpen is very good – on paper – with a great mix of lefty / righty combos. How many pitchers will he carry is the question. Firebugs have 586 GR before adjustments.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Decent team that will be looking up at the Aviators. Other divisions should be glad the Firebugs aren't in theirs or they could be looking up at the Firebugs.

Numberz: .251/.311/.390 not fearful group. 3.65 ERA 48% QS will tax the bullpen 1.38 WHIP Pitching is about average pen with plenty of options.

Piper: Timely hitting and the perfect dance on the mound will see the Firebugs lighten up the sky. Wrong mix and it will be an awful tasting cocktail. More on the curdled Yahoo left in the refrigerator since the 1985 draft.

Minneapolis Millers – Terry Baxter

1990: 67-95 5th Place – NL East

1991: 67 wins – 4th Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Millers: Kenny Lofton, Will Clark, Paul O'Neill and catcher Tom Pagnozzi play the most for Minneapolis. With that said, David Justice hits 21 HRs in 484 Abs. two .300 hitters on the team that will see a treasure trove of players take the field. Problem is the quality of their output on offense. Arms a plenty with 174 non-adjusted GS and 462 GR.

Danny Jackson and Kevin Tapani lead from the front and will be backed up by a variety list of players. Bryan Hickerson and Mike Henneman throw on a daily basis and do a fine job, it's the other arms that will cause some concern for the Millers.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Timely hitting and timely pitching will be the key. Others team agree. Variety lineups and variety bullpen members could swing the pendulum in the Millers favor.

Numberz: .253/.325/.369 about run of the mill for the Millers. 3.90 ERA 51% QS and 1.35 WHIP should keep the anemic offense in the game.

Piper: Flip a coin and it comes up heads more often than tails. Keep that coin. That's what Terry will need to do, find the lineup and arms that bring success and keep'em playing.

Rossville Rockets – Rick Ryan

1991: 91-71 3rd Place – AL West

1992: 73 wins – 4th Place

Rick's Thoughts on Rockets: I think that the Rossville Rockets will be hard-pressed to finish higher than 3rd in a 4 team division.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Rockets: Rick will enjoy managing: Tim Wallach and Bill Doran. Tinkering with lineups will become a past-time for Rick and his Rockets. Tinkering that will be enjoyable escaping the basement possible. Eddie Murray and his 16 HRs lead the team. Felix Jose, Deion Sander and Howard Johnson steal 20+ bases each and roam the outfield. Enough GS for the year and 370 GR before adjustment should get the Rockets to the end of the season. Opposing teams might send the ball flying out like a rocket when some of the arms are called. Whiplash and head shaking a plenty could be routine in Rossville. They did make an 11th hour trade for Bill Krueger and his 4.53 ERA and 29 GS, no slashing of balls allowed and he will be a nightmare on Rossville Street.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Depends on how things play out – could 100 losses be in the cards? Doubtful however, a bad string of games and you never know. Finding the right mix.

Numberz: .247/.313/.368 not seeing pitches to take – they will swing at anything. 4.05 ERA 51% QS and 1.40 WHIP is decent just not less than what the offense can put up.

Piper: Fighting for third is realistic. Becoming a lottery pick might be possible. It is a fine line.

NATIONAL LEAGUE - WEST

Fog City Phantoms - Mike See

1991: 112-50 1st Place - NL East

1992: 97 wins – 1st Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Phantoms: Trader Mike. Seems each year Mike's teams go into Rule 5 draft needing nothing to shore up. Barry Bonds and Ken Griffey Jr. in the outfield, enough said. Crime Dog at 1st and his 35 HRs are second on the team. Knoblauch at second and Marquis Grissom the other outfielder stealing 78 bases out of the teams 233. If they don't hit the ball out of the park, they will turn singles into doubles and double into triples. 187 GS with Jose Mesa and his 4.59 being the rough spot. Ben McDonald, Andy Benes and Roger Clemens each have 35 GS. Curt Schilling and his 29 GS will be selectively used. Ramon Martinez is still learning to pitch. Decent bullpen with 382 GR before adjustments and quality. Jose Mesa is the only bonus baby pitcher! Trader Mike strikes again. I recall a conversation in Chicago walking back from breakfast when a few of his hints were passed. I've put those words to use on occasion. Worked well once. Pick it and stick it lineups and slight juggling of the rotation to get the right matchups.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Projected to lose more or win fewer games, you pick and no matter what you pick the Phantoms should be on top in the NL West.

Numberz: .270/.337/.415 breathing the air with the Plainsmen at the top of the league in offensive categories. 3.29 ERA 62% QS a few points behind leader Plainsmen and Aviators, 1.24 WHIP so they can hit and can pitch. Those two combined equal wins. Won't be able to hit and pitch every game is the only reason they won't win 120 games.

Piper: Numberz said what? Won't win 120 games – we'll see about that! Best part, aside from Clemens, Schilling, Bonds and Griffey nobody knows whom else will be on the Phantoms 1993 roster.

Los Angeles Kingsmen – Jonathan Dalton

1991: 59-103 6th Place – NL East

1992: 92 wins – 2nd Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Kingsmen: Luck of the draw landed the Kingsmen in the NL West. 92 projected wins has the team doing something right. The only thing wrong, is the division they are in because the Phantoms roam the NL West. Dave Winfield leads the team in offensive

categories. Granted he would lead most teams, ok most teams. His 26 HRs over shadow the 12 & 10 hit by Reggie Sanders and Luis Gonzalez. Blender approved lineup. Or using the big bingo rolling thing to create lineups might work as well for the Kingsmen. At first blush not sure how 92 wins came up. Guess I'll let Numberz explain later. Kingsmen will need production from bench players. GS before adjustment list 138 GS that coupled with 272 ER before adjustments will have Jonathan selecting arms wisely.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Smoke and mirrors and the smoke is legal in 11 states. First blush and not the kind in a glass, doesn't reflect 92 wins.

Numberz: .258/.319/.366 for the hitters OBP 60 points higher than ave and few HRs. 4.25 ERA 41% QS 1.38 WHIP somehow has them giving up fewer runs than they score. Kingsmen boast 1166 IPs as a team and other teams are in the 1500 range. R Factor or skewed number syndrome might be alive in Los Angeles one of the 11 states.

Piper: Keeping crack out of the pipe. Even the hardcore fans of the Kingsmen can't fathom 40 game climb in the win column with this crew.

Portland Pickles (1991 - Carolina Game Sox) – Marc Hollingsworth

1991: 82-80 4th Place AL East

1992: 80 wins – 3rd Place

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Pickles: Limits. That will be a challenge for Marc and the Portland Pickles. Grace, Reed and Caminiti nail down 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively in the infield and also key elements of the offense. Talk about a high wire / tight rope act over use could be a challenge. Getting caught up in winning games and resting players could be a real pickle for the Pickles. When Greg Maddux and Dave Stewart march out on the mound, the entire team picks it up a notch. If they don't, they need to reevaluate themselves. Another mix and match rotation from there and plenty of 4+ ERAs to include a bonus baby or two. Bullpen is thin with Jeff Parrett and Al Osuna leading by example. When called John Franco should be lights out as a closer.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Keeping pace with last year would be great. .500 would be a victory.

Numberz: .265/.326/.364 from the hitters ain't all that bad. Lack of power thinks they live in hurricane zone. 3.44 ERA .55 QS and 1.31 WHIP has them keeping pace. The pace of the offense will be key.

Piper: Rise above. Simple slogan and this year doesn't have to be like last year.

Ottawa Rough Riders – Stan Barkun

1991: 69-93 6th Place AL East

1992: 74 wins – 4th Place

Stan's Thoughts on Rough Riders: Two thoughts on my team:

1. I can contend for the first time since I joined the league before the '89 draft.
2. I am going to enjoy having my all time favorite player, Tim Raines at the top of my lineup after I acquired him just before the draft.

Going to be a fun season in Ottawa guaranteed.

Beet Righter's Thoughts on Rough Riders: 1991 Draft changed the Rough Riders and Gnomes. Stan selected Mike Mussina with the first pick ahead of three HOFers (Mussina went in later) causing Bagwell to drop to #4. Then when Stan picked up Cal Eldred whom the Gnomes eyed caused a big ripple effect. At times I curse Stan and at times I thank Stan. Eye can ramble since I'm typing this stuff 😊 Two 20 HR hitters on the team Ray Lankford and Chris Hoiles are the only double digit HR hitters. Rock Raines is the only other 500+ AB player besides Lankford. More lineups with creativity will be the cry from Rough Rider faithful. Mike Mussina anchors the rotation with 35GS and Cal Eldred and his 15 starts should dominate opposing lineups. Randy Johnson and Kevin Appier add 67 starts. Other pitchers will be called on to assist and will do a decent job. Mike Perez should be a rally killer out of the pen and his 77 games plays well. 209 GS and 309 GR before adjustments should also play well.

FINAL OUTCOME:

RT: Good pitching beats good hitting. Only a few teams have great hitting so the Rough Riders are on the plus side of the equation.

Numberz: .258/.332/.364 hitting and getting on base will be accomplished however, long ball ain't gonna happen too often. 93 team total HRs and two players account for 40. Two players steal 87 bases out of 133. 3.35 ERA 59% QS 1.26 WHIP keeps the other team from scoring and that bodes well for the Rough Riders. How well? Only time will tell.

Piper: Living right is what the Rough Riders need to do. Rock at the top. Fans will enjoy the season no matter the outcome.

AL WINNER: Plainsmen

NL WINNER: Aviators

WS WINNER: Plainsmen

RT:

AL Winner: Plainsmen

NL Winner: Phantoms

WS Winner: Phantoms

Numberz:

AL Winner: Plainsmen

NL Winner: Aviators

WS Winner: Plainsmen

Piper: My Piper 😊 It's good to be Beet Righter

AL Winner: Gnomes

NL Winner: Rough Riders

WS Winner: Gnomes

Hurricane Dorian is knocking at the door. Oh, I've just been informed it's Tropical Storm Dorian here in Fayetteville. No matter what you call: rain, wind, rain, wind and rain for 12+ hours it can be exciting. Recall last year about this time same type of weather was happening. Thanks for reading and enjoy the season. Play Ball!!