

1993 END OF SEASON WRAPUP

AL EAST

Preseason Prediction-Quigley, Black Swamp, Dexter and Canton.

Season Final-Black Swamp, Quigley, Dexter and Canton.

The Salamanders pitching greatly overachieved from their real life stats. They had huge differentials in ERA, WHIP, OPS and RC/27. They gave up fewer runs in the AL than anyone but the great Brooklyn staff. Therein lie their success and the end of Quigley's 6 year run of division championships.

The Q's still had an excellent season winning 92 games and missing a shot at the wildcard by only 2 games. Dexter improved 16 games from 1992 and finished just under .500 at 80-82. Canton was doing some serious rebuilding and with the worst record in the organization is probably eyeing Alex Rodriguez in next spring's draft.

AL CENTRAL

Preseason Prediction-Baltimore, Carolina, Lafayette, Frankfort and Indianapolis.

Season Final-Baltimore, Lafayette, Frankfort, Carolina and Indianapolis.

Baltimore's high powered offense did not disappoint and led them to their 5th divisional title in the last 7 years. Lafayette should have been and was a wildcard contender and the finished only 3 back of the Zephyrs. Frankfort finished at .500 scoring a lot and giving up a lot also. Carolina had a disappointing season scoring an amazing 872 runs but their staff was raked for 901 runs. Indianapolis finish last as an expansion team is likely to.

AL WEST

Preseason Prediction-Brooklyn, Chicago, Pitcairn and Pandora.

Season Final- Brooklyn, Chicago, Pitcairn and Pandora.

Well, I got this one right on. I said Brooklyn was a pitching driven team and they proved that by giving up the fewest runs this side of Kitsilano. They also improved an amazing 27 games over their 1992 season. Chicago grabbed the wildcard and their first trip to the playoffs. Pitcairn lost a chance to rise above .500 due to some disappointing pitching performances. While Pandora finished last they did improve 16 games from 1992 and are starting to build the core to rebound to playoff form.

NL EAST

Preseason Prediction-Birmingham, New Jersey, Niskayuna, Atlantic City

Season Final- Birmingham, New Jersey, Niskayuna, Atlantic City

I said 85 or 86 wins would be enough to win the division but Birmingham won it with 83 and still finished a comfortable 15 games ahead of New Jersey. The rest of the division won between 59 and 68 games and will figure prominently in the first round of the 1994 draft.

NL CENTRAL

Preseason Prediction-Cleveland, Cedar Rapids, Anaheim, Kansas and Michigan.

Season Final-Kansas, Cleveland, Anaheim, Michigan and Cedar Rapids.

Boy, did I miss the read of Kansas and Cedar Rapids. I knew Kansas could score and give up runs but they outscored their real life number by a half a run a game, more than enough to vault them to the crown. Cleveland slipped by giving up more runs than any other NL team. Anaheim finished where I had them, while expansion Michigan managed to escape the cellar. I overrated Cedar Rapids, probably based on their 1992 division crown.

NL WEST

Preseason Prediction-Grays Harbor, Red Bluff, Frisco, Kitsilano

Season Final-Kitsilano, Red Bluff or Grays Harbor, Frisco

I got it very wrong with Kitsilano but then again I'm not too surprised. The Hedgehog's starters had the best ERA and their relievers the 4th best ERA. Their offense also plated 804 runs, had the leagues best OBA and decent slugging. The Rivers and the Rough Riders are two evenly matched teams and their playoff should come down to the Riders better starting or the Rivers better pen. Frisco had a great season, but the 6-15 record against divisional opponents in September proved their downfall.