

1993 SEASON UPDATE

Well we have just passed the one third marker of the season and it looks competitive in all six divisions. The races are lining up in accordance with my pre season predictions but there is still a lot of room for shifting. Let's look at each division.

AL EAST

Black Swamp holds a 3 game edge over preseason favorite Quigley. Dexter lies 8 back and Canton, as predicted, is out of the race while rebuilding. The Salamanders have done it with surprisingly good pitching, especially from the starters, all of whom are overachieving. The bullpen has the best era in the league and is vulturing up some wins thanks to the starter keeping the games close. The offense meanwhile is performing at league average. The Q's are staying in the race with an offense on pace to score over 900 runs. The bats are covering for a disappointing performance by the pitching staff.

AL CENTRAL

Baltimore sits in a familiar place on top of the division but with only a 3 game margin over second place teams Carolina and Lafayette. Frankfort and Indianapolis have faded early and trail 9 1/2 and 16 respectively. The Redbirds are on pace to score nearly a 1000 runs but are .23 below the league average in ERA. In games in which Harnisch doesn't start they are only 2 games over .500. Carolina leads the league in runs scored with 341 and will not take a back seat to Baltimore on offensive prowess. However, their league worst ERA of 5.46 needs to come down. Lafayette is doing with pitching trailing only the Bridegrooms for honors as the league's best pitching team. Their offense is below league average, however.

AL WEST

Brooklyn has the best record in the league and leads Chicago by 4. Pitcairn hangs within reach only 6 back. Pandora brings up the rear at 11 back. Brooklyn is doing it with pitching. They've given up 32 fewer runs than the next best staff and lead in most major team pitching categories. Their offense, while not among the elite, is still scoring enough to make this team the best in show so far. Chicago (which is first in the wildcard race) is having a fine season being on pace for over 900 runs and having the third best pitching in the league. Pitcairn is hanging tough but may have some tough sledding while resting some key players.

NL EAST

Birmingham sits 2 games under .500 but still holds a five game lead over Niskayuna. New Jersey is still within 6 while Atlantic City has faded to 13 back with the league's worst record. The Cloverleafs are the only team with more runs scored than given up 264-262. They rank in the middle of both offensive and pitching stats but are the least schizophrenic team in that regard in the division. Niskayuna is league average in hitting but ranks 11th in team pitching. New Jersey ranks second in team pitching but second to the last in team hitting and therein lies the rub of their season.

NL CENTRAL

In the other weak sister division Anaheim is only 1 game over .500 but is in first place. Cleveland sits 2 ½ back while Kansas and Cedar Rapids are only 3 ½ off the pace and last place expansion team Michigan isn't knocked out yet at only 5 ½ back. Anaheim has made the best case with one of the better starting staffs in the league so far. Cleveland starters have been respectable but their bullpen has struggled. Kansas has the best offense in the division but the leagues worst overall pitching. Cedar Rapids has struggled offensively but their pitching is in the league average range.

NL WEST

This is top to bottom the best division in the league, boasting the four best teams in the league and with the best starting pitching this side of Brooklyn. Currently Red Bluff sits atop the division with the league's best record. Kitsilano and Frisco have the league's second best record and are tied for second 1 game back. Gray's Harbor has the league's third best record and sits in fourth place at 4 back. In total runs given up Red Bluff is 1, Frisco is 2, Kitsilano is 4 and Gray's Harbor is 7. Only four AL teams have given up fewer runs than Gray's Harbor. In league offense Frisco is 1, Red Bluff 2, Kitsilano 3 and Gray's Harbor 5. I can't wait for the August/September divisional matchups.