

PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1966

AMERICAN LEAGUE

New York Mets

The Mets won 94 games last year and finished just four games behind the Newark Bears and it appears that these two clubs will battle it out again in 1966. Both have a solid attack to go with a good pitching staff. Ron Fairly will share time at first base with Fred Whitfield. Fairly is a better overall hitter but Wingy has more power. Both are LHB's and have issues with LHP's. Teenager Willie Montenez has great potential but is still several years away. Second base is not a standout position for the Mets. Jerry Lumpe is a weak singles hitter with an OK glove, but he can't hit LHP and will be platooned with George Smith who has very modest power and a lousy glove. Shortstop Zoilo Versalles has a good glove and pounds LHP, but he will struggle to hit .250 with very modest power. At third base Jim Ray Hart has excellent power but with a lousy glove and can't hit LHP so he will be platooned with Ken Boyer who has some power with a better glove and can hit LHP very well. Hart may get some time in the outfield or DH. Another platoon situation at catcher where Tim McCarver has some power and a decent glove but will yield to Don Pavletich when a lefty is on the mound for the opposition. Don has some power but a poor throwing arm. Left fielder Frank Robinson is the clear leader of the offense as he has 50-homer potential with a BA well over .300 and a good batting eye. In center the team has Willie Davis who has a fabulous glove with modest power but doesn't know how to take a walk. Jim Northrup will get the most starts in right field where he has decent power and a good glove. Jose Tartabull, who has some ability to hit singles if not homers, will get some time in the garden. Leon Daddy Wags Wagner has a putrid glove and is therefore a great candidate for the DH slot where he has nice power. The Mets starting staff of Ken Johnson, Phil Ortega and swingmen Bucky Brandon, Johnny Podres and Ron Herbel are acceptable but the key to the pitching staff is a sensational bullpen which consists of Joe Hoerner, Ron Kline, Eddie Fisher and Bob Humpheries ; they are head and shoulders above any other relief staff in the league. If the Mets get a late it's katy bar the door.

Newark Bears

The Bears won the regular season flag in 1965 but faltered in the playoffs and are poised for another run in 1966. Boog Powell and Joe Adcock will platoon at first base. Boog has nice power and good on base while Joe can also hit the ball out of the park, but both men have below average gloves. Adcock may also get some time at DH. Bill Mazerowski has a good glove and some power but a poor OBA and will share time at second with Bernie Allen who also has a nice glove but little power. At short Dick Groat has his usual good glove but little power; Wayne Causey who is almost a mirror image of Groat with the bat and glove will get some playing time at short. Chuck Hiller is the main man at third base where he has some offensive ability but that doesn't include the home run and he has an acceptable glove. His backups are Wanye Causey and Pete Ward, neither of whom will light up the scoreboard very often. Bob Rodgers with help from Duke Sims will man the catching position. Neither has much power but are decent with the glove. The two stars of the team are centerfielder Sey Hey Willie Mays and right fielder Hammering Hank Aaron. Both could approach or exceed 40 homers with a decent BA and OBA with great gloves. Ellis Valentine has a nice glove with some power and will play left field. Don Lock with help from Adcock will be the main men at DH. Lock has some power with a decent OBA but will struggle to hit .250. Mike Cueller is the standout leader of the pitching staff, but he will be ably assisted by Sudden Sam McDowell and Dave McNally. This trio are all LHP's which could be a plus or minus. Denny McClain and Marcelino Lopez round out a solid rotation. Stu Miller is the top man in the bullpen, but he has several able assistants.

Frankfort Frigates

The Frigates got hot in the playoffs and made it all the way to the World Series before losing to the Louisiana Lightning. This year they look to be in a three-way fight for third place with the Grays and Tigers, but their offense will have to overperform to get them into the pennant race. Joe Pepitone will alternate between first base and center field with Ken Hawk Harrelson getting time there when Joe is in the outfield. Joe has some nice power and a decent glove but doesn't walk much. Ken has a good glove, but you can't say a whole lot more positive about him. Davey Johnson has a nice glove at second with very modest power but not a very good OBA. Bobby Knopp and Jake Wood will fill in at second as needed. Chico Salmon and Bob Saverine will switch off at shortstop. Neither has much power or on base but Saverine is a better fielder. Dick (Don't call me Ritchie) Allen has a powerful bat and can get on base, but his glove is weak. He would make a perfect DH but none of the other Frigates who can play third are any better in the field. Aging veteran Elston Howard is a nice receiver behind the plate, but he doesn't have much power. Bill Heath is a nice singles hitter and will get some limited playing time behind the plate. Tony Conigliaro is a fixture in right field where he has 30-homer power and a below average glove. The rest of the outfield and DH slots will be catch as catch can with a half dozen or so spear carriers switching in and out. As stated above, Pepitone will also get some time in the outfield. The pitching staff is a much more positive element for the team. Dean Chance is a solid number one and he's a real work horse but does have some control issues. Dave Boswell, Dennis Ribant, Fritz Peterson, Ray Washburn and Tony Cloniger will round out the rotation. The bullpen is solid with Lindy McDaniel, Bob Lee and Claude Raymond. If the pitching staff can perform up to the hype and the attack has a few overachievers, the Frigates could get into the playoffs and hope the magic of 1965 will repeat itself. On the downside, they could also fall all the way to fifth place.

Fairfax Grays

The Grays have a better overall offense than the Tigers but lack power and the pitching staff is middle of the road. Tony Perez is starting to develop as a first baseman, but his big years are still in the future. This year he will share time with Danny Cater who is a nice slap hitter with minimal power. Charley Hustle Pete Rose is a fixture at second base where he has nice power plus a .300 bat and an acceptable glove. Dale Maxvill is your quintessential great glove, mediocre bat shortstop; he'll get some help from Ron Hansen who is definitely well below par. Bob Aspromonte can play just about every day at third and has an acceptable glove but little power and lousy on base. Jose Azcue and Jerry Grote will share time behind the plate; both have good gloves, but Azcue is a much better hitter, Tommy Agee has a great glove in center field and also decent power. Cleon Jones and Bob Browne will get most of the starts in the corner outfield slots. Jones is a better overall hitter, but Browne has more power. Several others, including budding star Roy White will also get outfield time. These same outfielders will also man the DH slot. Gaylord Perry is the clear leader of the staff but Fred Talbot and several swingmen plus part timer Jim Nash (who will be great in limited opportunities) constitute the starting staff. Don Nottebart and Pete Cimino are the leaders of the bullpen.

Massillon Tigers

The Tiger offense isn't bad, but they have pitching problems. Third place and a playoff spot isn't out of the question but a fall to sixth or seventh is also possible. First base will be manned by rookie George Scott has a good glove with 30-homer power. He'll be spelled by Gordie Coleman who despite being a LHB can hit LHP's very well. Don Blasingame, a toothless hitter with a decent glove, will share second base with Nate Oliver who can hit LHP; he has no power but does have a good glove. Frank Bolling will also get some 2B starts as the team waits for hot shot rookie Mike Andrews to develop. At shortstop, Gene Alley has a nice bat with modest power; he does have a good glove. Clete Boyer has a great glove

at the hot corner and some power. Behind the plate Tom Haller has very good power and will be backed up by Pat Corrales who doesn't have much of anything except a good glove. Veteran Al Kaline returns in right field where he has a cannon arm, 30-homer power and a good batting eye. In left the team has Tommy Harper who doesn't have much power but can spray the ball around pretty well and also steal a base. Chuck Hinton and Don Demeter will share time in centerfield; both have modest power and decent gloves. Curt Blefary who has 25-homer power and knows how to take a walk, will share time at DH with Lee Maye who is a nice spray hitter. Al Jackson, Jim Palmer, Vern Law and swingmen Lee Stange and Bob Buhl will fill out the bulk of the starting rotation. The bullpen is a little shaky with only Joe Moeller and Bill Henry as top-notch performers. For the Tigers to move up the pitching staff must overachieve.

Asheville Tourists

This club could move up to fifth but just as easily fall to seventh. Going up any higher would be a major accomplishment. Orlando Cepeda is very good first baseman who can hit the ball out of the park with a .300 BA and a decent glove. At second base Woody Woodward has no home run power but can knock it around the field and his glove is solid. Maury Wills at short has no power and lousy on base but does have a good glove. Jim Lefevre will man the hot corner where he has nice power and a decent bat but a below average glove. John Bateman is the number one catcher, and he has some power with a decent glove. He'll be spelled by Jimmie Cooker. Carl Yastremski in left can play every day, has good double and homer power with a nice OBA and a great glove. Jimmie Hall will start 120 or so games in center field where he has 20-homer power and a decent glove but might not hit .250. Right fielder Rocky Colavito has good power and on base plus a decent glove, but his BA will suffer. Jackie Brandt is a nice extra fielder in right and center. A gaggle of mediocracies will move and out at DH. The pitching staff has a lot of starter depth with the leaders being Bob Bolin and Rich Richert. Part timers Steve Barber, Jim Bouton and Jim O'Toole will round out the rotation. The bullpen is weak without a standout closer and could be a year-long problem.

Joliet Jakes

The Jakes will battle the Tourists for fifth place and might even rise to fourth with a few breaks but are unlikely to sink to the cellar. Chuck Harrison and Moose Skowron will share time at first base. Chuck has modest power and a decent glove whereas the veteran Skowron is starting to show signs of age, and his power has declined significantly. Bobby Richardson will get the most starts at second, but his bat is pretty toothless, and his defense no more than average. Horace Clarke who has a better bat and glove than Richardson will get some playing time, but it will be limited. At shortstop, Rico Petrocelli has nice power for a middle infielder and a good glove, but his BA is weak and he can't hit LHP. His backup will be Dick Schofield who has no power whatsoever but can hit lefties better than Rico. Ed Charles will get the most starts at the hot corner and his bat is not bad plus he has a good glove. Utilityman Eddie Kasko will fill in as needed while the team waits for highly touted rookie Sal Bando to develop. Johnny Romano, who has decent power, will share time at catcher with Jake Gibbs who has a dynamite glove and throwing arm. Mickey Stanley and Roger Repose will share time in centerfield. Mickey has a near .300 bat but little power and a good glove whereas Roger has modest power but a weak BA. Russ Snyder will get the most starts in right where he will carry a .300 BA but little power. Jim Landis, who has seen better days, will also get some time in right and left. Former home run champ Roger Maris has seen his skills decline significantly in the last few years, will get some starts in left with Landis picking up the balance. Mickey Mantle can still hit a few home runs and get on base, but his defensive skills have deteriorated to the point where he will be a full time DH in 1966. Several spear carriers will fill out the DH starts. Mel Stottlemire (do you catch a Yankee theme with this crew?) is the closest thing they have to an ace, but he would be down the list in the rotation for any

of the good teams. After him the rotation is a collection of swingmen, none of whom are very impressive. Ex starters Moe Drapowsky and Lou Burdette have been relegated to the bullpen and could be effective, but they have minimal support.

Beard Black Cats

This club won only 61 games last year and might not surpass that total in 1966 and escaping the cellar would be a major accomplishment. The team will probably have the worst OBA in all of SPB60. Norm Siebern will get the most starts at first base and the best that can be said for him is that he has a good batting eye but possesses minimal power. Dick Nen doesn't have much to offer but he'll have to fill in for Siebern for 30 games or so. Ron Hunt who has a little power but the best BA on the team and will play second base where his defense is decent and he'll be backed up by Dick Traceswki who has a good glove but little else. Eddie Brinkman can play every day at short where he has a good glove but won't contribute much with the bat. Don Wert has some power, and on this team a decent BA and will get a lot of starts at third. His backup is Charley Smith who is a virtual clone of Wert except for his inability to draw walks. Both will probably get some time at DH. Phil Roof who has a nice throwing arm but a minimal bat, will share time at catcher with Johnny Edwards who is even a worse hitter than Roof. Vic Davalillo has a nice glove in center field but has little power and doesn't know how to take a walk. He'll share time with Adolpho Phillips who has nice power, especially for this team. Art Shamsky, who has the best power on the team (which isn't saying much) will play about 100 games in right and left. The rest of the outfield is very shaky, and the manager will have to constantly move players in and out, but few have much ability. The DH slot will be filled by the outfielders mentioned above. This is not a strong offense. Then we get to the pitching staff which has some holes but is far better than the offense. Larry Jackson, Ken Holtzman, Larry Jaster and Bob Friend aren't bad, and the bullpen is very good with Phil (the Vulture) Regan, Darrell Knowles and Ron Perronoski. However, how many late leads will this trio have to protect?

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Kansas City Scouts

The defending SPB60 champs changed their name in the off season from the Louisiana Lightning but should be right in the pennant fight this year as they will battle with the Tarheels and Bombers all year long. First baseman Ernie Banks has faded a bit from his glory days, but he still has decent power with a respectable BA and glove but a weak OBA. Glen Beckert at second doesn't have much power, a weak glove and OBA but his BA may approach .300 and he can play just about every day. Leo Cardenas at short can also play every day and has nice power for a middle infielder plus an acceptable glove. At the hot corner Brooks Robinson still has a flashy glove and decent power. Catcher John Roseboro has modest power and a good glove. Right fielder Roberto Clemente still has his cannon arm and can hit well over .300 with 30-homer power. In center field Vada Pinson has a nice glove with decent power and a near .300 BA but doesn't walk much. Billy Williams in left has 30-homer power with a nice BA, OBA and decent glove. Tommy Davis is a terrible fielder and will be relegated to the DH slot where he destroys LHP but has minimal power. He'll be spelled by Earl Battey who also will get some games at catcher. The Scouts have solid players at just about every position and the manager can just write in the same players almost every day. The pitching staff is sensational with five excellent starters (Bob Gibson, Jim Kaat, Don Sutton, Bob Veale and Larry Dierker). Veale should have a great season, but it is unlikely he will match the fabulous 29-1 record (which includes the playoffs) that he achieved in 1965. The bullpen is also outstanding with Hoyt Wilhelm, Hal Woodeshick, Bob Locker, Al Worthington and Don McMahon. Any of these could be the number one reliever on many of the other SPB60 teams.

Raleigh Tarheels

The Heels had a great 114-48 record in the 1965 regular season but were upset in the playoffs and didn't make the World Series. However, they will be back in the mix this year. Bil White is a solid performer at first base where he has good power, a great glove and decent OBA. Don Buford can play every day at second base where he has modest power and OBA plus an acceptable glove. Jim Fregosi at short is similar to Buford in all areas but has a better glove. Ron Santo is a vacuum cleaner at third base, and he has 30-homer power, a .300 BA and might draw 100 walks. Dennis Menke is a nice infield reserve and may get some starts at DH. Randey Huntley is the number one catcher, and he has nice power but doesn't walk much. Clay Dalrymple will fill in as needed; he doesn't have much power but is a solid defender with a good throwing arm. Rico Carty in left field has a great BA and knows how to take a walk plus has decent power and an acceptable glove. Curt Flood has a great glove in center field with some power but swings at everything and as a result doesn't draw many walks. Johnny Callison has a cannon arm in right and can hit a lot of doubles plus a few home runs. Along with Menke, several players will move in and out of the DH slot. Raleigh's pitching staff will compete with KC all year long and some would say it is even better. The sensational Sandy Koufax plus Juan Marichal and Jim Bunning all have 20-win potential and Gary Peters and Jim Maloney aren't far behind. Dick Lines and Billy McCool are great relievers and have some nice backups but the 'pen isn't as solid as the Scouts.

Gem City Bombers

Gem City has probably the best offense in the league and could hit over 250 team homers. The pitching staff is decent but not up to the level of the two teams above. They should qualify for the playoffs and might even move up to first or second with a few breaks and/or breakdowns from the Scouts or Tarheels. First baseman Willie Stretch McCovey has great power, a .300 BA, good on base and can field his position fairly well; how can you ask for more? Dick Green at second has a flashy glove but minimal power and lousy OB. However, this lineup can easily cover for him. At shortstop Sonny Jackson will hit close to .300 but has minimal power and is just adequate with the glove. Deron Johnson has a poor glove at third base but does have 25-homer power, Unfortunately the club doesn't have a good defensive replacement on the roster. Ossie Chavarria is a very useful infield and outfield utilityman. Joe Torre is one of the best catchers in the league; he combines very good power with a plus .300 BA and is a solid receiver; Russ Nixon is no Joe Torre, but he can fill in adequately for a few games while Joe rests. The outfielders are not the greatest when it comes to defense but all of them can hit. Center fielder Felipe Alou has 30-homer power with a very good BA although he doesn't walk much. Towering Frank Howard in right has nice power and a decent BA but his defense is well below par. In right Willie Horton strikes out a lot but also can hit the ball over the fence. Al Luplow is a nice fill in outfielder. Harmon Killebrew can't field a lick and is therefore a natural DH. He could easily hit 40 homers and draw 100 walks. As mentioned above, the pitching staff only suffers in comparison with the two teams listed above. The five starters (Claude Osteen, Earl Wilson, Gary Bell, Don Drysdale and Mike McCormick) would rule the AL, but they are unfortunately in the NL. Frank Linzy and Pete Mikkelson are nice relievers, and they will get some decent support from the rest of the bullpen. Dick the Monster Radatz has declined badly from his glory years and will just be a mop up guy in 1966.

Houston Colt 45's

Big falloff after the top three but the 45's look pretty solid in the fourth slot. The attack is a little weak, but the pitching staff is solid. They don't have anywhere near the power of the Bombers, but what they do have is spread around pretty well. Donn Clendenon is a solid hitter with nice power and a .300 BA. His defense is a little weak and defensive whiz Wes Parker will get some starts at first and Donn will move to DH. Cookie Rojas is a nice steady second baseman who can play just about every day and can

contribute with his bat (sans power) and his glove is decent; Tommy Helms is his backup. John Kennedy and Larry Brown will switch off at shortstop; neither have much to offer offensively but Brown is a better fielder. Third baseman Eddie Mathews has declined some from his glory days but can still knock the ball out of the park, assuming the pitcher is not a lefty; in that case Helms will fill in. Both men are decent fielders. Paul Casanova has modest power and a good glove; he'll get the majority of starts at catcher and will be backed up by Jerry Zimmerman. Paul Blair is a ballhawk in center field and has modest power; he'll switch off with Jimmy Wynn who has some nice power; Wynn will also get some time in left. Tony Oliva will play everyday in right where his glove is excellent and his bat very good. In left speedster Lou Brock has some power plus a good BA; he'll get some starts at DH to make room for Wynn. As stated above, Clendenon and Brock will share the DH slot when they are not playing in the field. The top four starting pitchers (Joel Horlen, Steve Hargan, Sonny Siebert and Mudcat Grant) are all very good and Al Downing is right behind them. Youngster Fergie Jenkins is a nice swingman, but his future is limitless. Jack Acker and Jenkins are the main men in the bullpen. They have some decent pitchers behind them but the Houston 'pen is not as good as the teams above.

Asbury Argonauts

This club finished in the cellar last year but should see some improvement in the new year. The offense is OK, but the pitching staff is below par. Stormin' Norman Cash will never equal his fabulous 1961 season but he is still a solid performer with great power, a nice BA and a good glove. Cesar Tovar has a good glove at second base and can knock the ball around pretty well, but few will leave the park; Dalton Jones will fill in as needed. Bert Campaneris at short can steal a base and has a decent glove but it would be nice if he walked more; in fact Dick McAuliffe who has 20-homer power will probably get more starts than Bert, especially when a good catcher from the opposition can neutralize Campy's stealing proclivities. Joe Foy has nice power and knows how to take a walk plus has a decent glove at third base. Rich Rollins has declined from his early career success and will be limited to a utility role in 1966; his power is mediocre along with his BA and his OBA is pitiful. Catcher Bill Freehan has some power and a good throwing arm; he'll catch about 130 games; veteran Del Crandall will fill in as needed but his skills have deteriorated with age. Tony Gonzales has minimal power, but his BA isn't bad, and he is the closest thing the team has to a full-time outfielder. Rich Reichart has a nice bat with some power but will be hard pressed to play even 100 games. Larry Stahl is a nice fielder but can't do a lot with his bat. Floyd Robinson is only 30 years old, but his skills have seriously deteriorated from his early career success. Jim Hickman and Ollie Brown are also on the roster and will get some playing time, but neither will contribute much. The outfielders mentioned above will also man the DH position when they aren't in the field. Bruce Howard and Jim Perry have very good stats, but neither will be able to start more than 25 games or so. The rest of the rotation will be primarily Jack Fisher, Dick Ellsworth and Mickey Lolich. Roy Face and Hal Reniff are the top men in a so-so bullpen.

Toledo Rockets

Toledo could finish anywhere from fifth to seventh, but I have them pegged for sixth. Ed Kranepool has some decent numbers with power and will get the vast majority of starts at first base. Diamond Jim Gentile is an "old" 32 and just a shadow of his former self. Tony Taylor and Jerry Buchek will share time at second base; neither will contribute much with the bat, but Taylor is a better fielder. Luis Aparicio returns at shortstop and can play almost every day and slap the ball around pretty well plus steal a few bases and he handles his glove very well. Max Alvis is above average at third base and has a bit of power plus a decent glove. Andy Etchebaren will get the most starts at catcher where he has a nice glove and minimal power, but his BA is very poor. Bob Tillman and Orlando McFarlane will fill in as needed. Ancient Smokey Burgess can still hit the ball, but he will be primarily a pinch hitter in 1966. Mike Shannon in right and Lou Johnson in left are pretty much carbon copies of each other

with decent power, an acceptable BA and OK gloves. Tom Tresh can still take a walk and hit home runs, but his BA will be down from his glory years; he'll primarily play center field but also fill in the corner slots as needed. Ted Uhlelander is a great ballhawk in center and will be used as defensive replacement and occasional starter. Manny Mota will have a great BA with minimal power and will play both DH and some outfield. Harvey Kuenn is a terrible fielder and will also get some starts at DH as he can still hit around .300. Tommy John and Chris Short, both lefties are the main men in the rotation with help from Denny LeMaster and swingmen Lew Krausse, Dave Wickersham and Jim Merritt. Clay Carroll and Bill O'Dell will lead the bullpen brigade. Aging Whitey Ford will come back as a swingman and should be effective when he pitches but that will be very limited.

Boulder Run Bullies

Both the Bullies offense and pitching staff are below par, and they might not be able to reach the 70 wins they achieved in 1965. Don Mincher will share time at first base with Willie Stargell moving to DH against RHP. Willie has very good power and a .300 plus BA, but his defense is terrible when he has to play the field. Don has some power and decent on base plus a good glove. Second baseman Joe Morgan doesn't have much power, but his BA will hover around .300 and he walks quite a bit; defense is average. Shortstop will be shared by Don Kessinger and Jim Davenport. Kessinger is a decent slap hitter, but he has little power and poor on base plus his glove is below par; Davenport has a better glove and hits LHP's very well and has some power, but not much. He is also adverse to the base on balls. Jose Pagan and Paul Schall will platoon at third. Pagan has a decent glove with minimal power but hits LHP very well; Schall also has little power but does know how to take a walk but his glove is acceptable. Bob Uecker and Gene Oliver with help from Jesse Gondor will man the catcher position. None of the trio can hit very well and have no power but won't kill you with their gloves. Ken Berry is the full-time centerfielder with minimal power and on base but has a nice glove. Jose Cardenal has some power and a decent BA with a good glove and will patrol left field. Jim Gosger and Lou Clinton will share time in right; Gosger has a little power whereas Clinton has minimal and neither will hit for a high BA, but both are acceptable in the field. As stated above, Stargell will get time at DH with Gosger filling in as needed. George Brunet and Dave Guisti are the only two full-time starting pitchers but swingmen Luis Tiant, Rollie Sheldon and Joe Nuxhall will fill in most of the rest of the rotation. The bullpen isn't bad with Dennis Higgins, Bob Miller, Steve Hamilton and Fred Gladding the top men. Young Steve Carlton is a diamond in the rough but isn't quite there yet.

Kentucky Colonels

This club was known as the New Bedford Ahab's in 1965, but new ownership impacted the team name. They have also have an offense that is a little better than the AL's Black Cats, but the pitching staff is worse so you can flip a coin as to who will end up as the worst team in SPB60. They will certainly finish last in all of SPB60 in team home runs. Tommy McCraw and Ken McMullen, who will also get some time at third, will switch off at first base. McCraw has a very good glove but not much of a bat. McMullen has a little bit of power with a decent glove at first and better one at third. Hal Lanier has a topflight glove at second and can play pretty much every Tito Fuente at short continues the Colonel's tale of good defense and he has modest power but don't look for him to draw many walks. Lanier will get a few starts at short when Gonzales is at second; but he doesn't walk much, has almost no power and will struggle to hit anywhere near .250. Pedro Gonzales, who also has a good glove but not much of a bat will get some playing time at second. As stated above, McMullen will get time at third which he will share with Bob Bailey who has double figure home run power, a rare occurrence on this club. Mike Ryan, another offensive cypher, will get the most starts at catcher where his defense is adequate. Jeff Torborg and Ron Brand will fill in behind the plate as needed. Rusty Staub is one of the best hitters on the club; he has a nice glove and knows how to take a walk; he'll play right field. Pint size Matty Alou

will have a very nice BA and could even compete for the batting championship, but he has minimal power, doesn't walk much and has a below average glove in center field. Mike Herhsberger (a Massillon Ohio native!) will play left field where he has an adequate glove and decent power, at least on this team. Future star Bobby Tolan will get a few starts in left. Jesus (don't call me Jay) Alou will get the most starts at DH, but he certainly doesn't have the kind of power you would like in the DH slot. Various nonentities will fill in for Alou as needed. The pitching staff has a lot of bodies but not a lot of quality. They have some decent swingmen and part timers such as Blue Moon Odom (a future star) and Nelson Briles but the rest of the rotation is very shaky. Minnie Rojas is a nice reliever and will get some support from Gen Brabender, but the rest of the bullpen will come from the non-starting starters who aren't much.