

PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1932

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Schenectady Blue Sox

The Sox won 109 games last year but it was only good for second place. However, they are loaded in 1932 and are heavily favored for the AL pennant although the defending WS champion Riptide could threaten if the Sox falter. Double XX Jimmy Foxx leads the attack and he is in excellent shape to win the triple crown and threaten the Babe's record 60 homers. Jimmy may move to third base for a few games so that Ed Morgan can get some first base at bats. Lefty O'Doul will hold down LF and provides a thunderous bat. Sammy West is one of the best defensive CF's in the league and is also a very good hitter. Kiki Cuyler and Earl Webb will share time in right and both are more than adequate. Bill Dickey and Ray Hayward are a solid duo behind the plate. There are no standouts at second, short or third (other than when Foxx plays the hot corner) and all of them have defensive problems but the balance of the lineup is strong enough to carry them. Watty Clark is the ace of the staff but he has a good supporting cast which includes starters Pat Zachary, Heine Meine & Ed Brandt plus several solid swingmen who will man the bullpen when not starting.

Lincoln City Riptide

The 'Tide won't match last year's 112 wins but they could threaten the century mark but overcoming the Blue Sox will be a tall order. The Babe is getting a little long in the tooth but he is still among the best hitting outfielders in the league although his defense is not up to past standards. Heine Manush is solid in left while Fred Shultz brings a good bat but below average glove in center. Don Hurst is an excellent hitter at first with solid extra base power. George Grantham, a good hitter but lousy fielder will get most of the starts at second with his only real backup journeyman Neal Finn. Red Kress at short and Jimmy Dykes at third are solid if unspectacular. Shanty Hogan is adequate at catcher. On the mound, Lincoln City is far below the quality of the Blue Sox and the staff will need to seriously overachieve if they are to contend for the pennant. Lefty Grove is spectacular and Pat Malone a solid number two but other than George Pipgrass the quality falls off sharply in the rest of the staff. Dolph Luque is a decent reliever but he won't get much help from the other hurlers.

Frankfort Frogs

The Frogs should definitely improve on last year's 65 wins and with a few breaks might even contend for second. The strength of the team is the pitching staff but the attack isn't bad. The Iron Horse Lou Gehrig will once again lead the offense with the only problem being protecting him in the lineup and avoiding a slew of intentional walks. Hack Wilson and Riggs Stephenson will man two outfield slots with Hack providing some HR power and Stephenson threatening 50 doubles. Bruce Campbell will be in the third slot and he is decent but none of the three are natural CF's would could cause defensive problems as the season progresses. Tony Cuccinello is solid both offensively and defensively at second but shortstop Eric McNair, although he has some good extra base power, is not a good fielder. Third base is a grab bag with none of the players who will start anybody to scare you. The same thing applies to catcher where a cast of thousands will shuttle in and out of the lineup all season long. Ray Binge will get more starts than any other pitcher but the manager will need to run quite a few of the swingmen in and out of the rotation to get through the season but none of them will embarrass you and they provide a decent bullpen when not starting.

New York Mutuals

A big falloff after the top three but slots four, five and six will be tight with any of the teams capable of exchanging places. The Mutuals do not have a lot of team home run power but Babe Herman is a cracker jack RF with very good extra base power. Dick Porter can hit for a high average and a lot of doubles if not homers. Sam Rice will do a great job in limited action and will be spelled by Freddy Lindstrom when Freddy isn't playing third. Harvey Hendrick and Billy Sullivan will split time at first but neither is a serious home run threat. Ski Melillo is a decent glove man at second but a below average hitter. Billy Urbanski at short has an aversion to the base on balls but his fielding is OK. Wally Gilbert who is decided below par will split time at third when Lindstrom is in the outfield. Gabby Hartnett is an excellent defensive catcher with a cannon arm and is above average at the plate. Carl (screwball) Hubbell and General Crowder are as good as any other one-two starters in the league while Clint Brown and Lefty Gomez are also more than acceptable as third and fourth in the rotation. The fifth slot will be a grab bag of swingmen with only Ben Cantwell anyone to write home about. The regular rotation starters will have to pull double duty in the bullpen as otherwise there is no one of consequence.

New Haven Whiffenpoofs

The "Poofs have a decent pitching staff but a below average attack. They could rise to fourth but it would be asking a lot to do better. Jimmy Foxx will probably out-homer their entire team. Only part-time CF Johnny Moore is a legitimate double-figure HR threat and even then not by much. The team has an incredible 32 non-pitchers available to play but many have limited playing time and the manager will have to shuffle guys in and out of the lineup. Tony Piet at second, Joe Cronin at short and Ossie Bluege at third are the only full time players on the roster; all are decent with Cronin the best of the bunch. First base is a grab bag with four players alternating in and out with the best being Buck Jordan. The outfield is probably the weakest in the league with only Moore as a decent contributor. His non-starts and the other two slots will be filled by a host of mediocrities. Rick Ferrell is a decent almost full time catcher with Al Spohrer as an acceptable backup. Lon Warneke, Ted Lyons and Wes Ferrell are a very good start to any rotation but there isn't much behind them and only Firpo Marberry can be counted on for consistent bullpen help.

Louisville Colonels

The Colonels are the opposite of the Whiffenpoofs; they have a decent offense and a poor pitching staff. The outfield of Mel Ott, Smead Jolley and Ben Chapman is among the best in the league as they combine a good BA, power and in the case of Ott and Chapman very good on base. Jim Bottomley and Art Shires will share first base with Bottomley the far better hitter. Hughie Critz is a fancy fielder at second and he has some extra base power but it would be nice if he was a little more patient at the plate. Mark Koenig would be a superstar if he could play every day at short but injuries will limit him to 35-40 games with the balance picked up by Billy Jorges who is a defensive wizard with a punchless bat. Heine Shuble and Carey Selph will share the hot corner with Shuble the better fielder and Selph a superior hitter. Spud Davis is one of the better catchers in the league and he'll be backed up by spymaster Moe Berg. Bill Hallahan is a good starting pitcher but will be limited in how much he can pitch while the rest of the rotation is below par. Swingman Chief Hogshead is the best of a mediocre bullpen.

San Diego Glaziers

The Glaziers lost 108 games in 1931 and 1932 doesn't look to be much of an improvement. The offense is the worst in the AL and will give the Gassers a run for their money as the worst in all of SPB-X. The pitching staff isn't much netter. The home run will be a rare occurrence for San Diego and they probably won't have anyone with double figure dingers over the course of the season. The two best hitters, Billy Herman and Bill Cissell are both natural second basemen which means Cissell will have to move to short

where his defensive weakness will be exposed. That will then push Luke Appling to third which is also not his best defensive position. Gus Suhr has some good double and triple if not homer power at first. The outfield will be grab bag with only CF Tom Oliver capable of playing more than 120 games. The balance of the outfield starts will be shared by a cast of Punch and Judy hitters. The catching corps isn't bad with Gus Mancuso the best of the lot. On the mound, the best starters are Tommy Bridges and Ivy Andrews although Bridges has some severe control issues. The rest of the staff is weak with no bullpen in sight. It will be a long season in San Diego.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Albany Empires

The Empires combine a stellar pitching staff, possibly the best in all of SPB-X, with a thunderous offense and as a result are odds on favorites in the National League in 1932. Chuck Klein and Al Simmons will anchor the corner OF slots with both capable of putting up gargantuan numbers. Several solid players are available for the third garden spot although no one on the team is a solid defensive centerfielder but this will be a minor problem. Lu Blue and Joe Judge will share time at first but won't put up the kind of numbers you would like from this position. Rabbit Maranville is your typical good field, low hit second baseman although he could be spelled by solid hitter Art Scharein when he's not playing third. Charlie Gelbert is a serviceable shortstop and he has several capable backups. Joe Sewell, who has some extra base power will get the lion's share of starts at third with Scharein as his backup. Mickey Cochrane returns his great bat, glove and arm at catcher where he is unsurpassed. Then we get to the pitching staff where the top three of Huck Betts, Red Lucas and Bob Brown are unsurpassed in the league. The final two slots will be ably filled by Snipe Hansen and Sloppy Thurston. Red Faber is a solid reliever and will be the mainstay of the bullpen along with the non-starting starters. Veteran Rube Walberg will be forced into a mop up role, especially given his erratic control.

San Francisco Seals

The Seals made a slew of off season trades in an attempt to match the Empires but the pitching staff still has too many holes and they should finish a distant second and may be pressed by the Leopards. If the game could be reduced just to offense, the Seals would be unbeatable. The outfield of Paul (Big Poison) Waner, Earl Averill and Earl Combs is sensational in all areas; batting average, on base, extra base power and defense plus Ernie Orsatti, when he isn't playing first base is arguably the best fourth OF in the league. Off season acquisition Dale Alexander will be great for 120 or so games at first with Orsatti filling in for the balance. The double play combo is not strong offensively or defensively with several players shuffling in and out of the lineup. Joe Stripp at third is solid on both sides of the diamond. Catcher is the venue of a three-headed monster that won't kill you but not win many games either. Then we get to the pitching staff which has a standout in Si Johnson, who can also pitch in relief but the rest of the starting staff is shaky with only venerable spitballer Jack Quinn and swingman Carol Yerkes available for quality bullpen work. This team will have a lot of high-scoring games but the question is will the pitching staff give up even more?

East Kenosha Leopards

East Kenosha has an attack which except for power approaches the Seals and the pitching staff is definitely better so they could make a push for second place but contending for the pennant seems out of reach. Lloyd (Little Poison) Waner is an excellent ballhawk in CF and a very productive hitter and he'll have Kiddo Davis in left who can also hit and field but neither has the kind of power you'd like from the garden. Roy Johnson is a productive hitter in right although not quite as good as the other two although

he does have some power while Wally Roettger is a very capable fourth outfielder. Wally Berger has good power at first but it would be nice if he took a few more walks. Charley Gehringer returns at second with his usual stellar statistics and he can also field very well. He'll be paired at short with Dick Bartell who has good doubles power and can work with Gehringer to turn a lot of double plays. Willie Kamm at third is a serviceable hitter and also a solid fielder. Al Lopez and Frank Grube will share time behind the plate but neither is capable of hitting the ball out of the park. They have a solid five-man rotation anchored by Red Ruffing while Eppa Rixley will provide some quality relief along with the non-starting starters.

Prairie Crossing Red Foxes

The defending NL champs will compete in 1932, for fourth place with the Knights. Both the hitting and pitching is in the lower half of the NL stats but they do have some strengths, especially slugging first baseman Bill Terry. Goose Goslin is the number one outfielder although his numbers will probably be down from a sensational 1931. Moose Haas is a decent CF but doesn't have a lot of extra base power. Johnny Frederick and Billy Rhiel will share the third OF spot and they are acceptable if not stars. Tony Lazzeri will man second base and bring his productive bat, good power and on base plus a flashy glove. A big come down at short where Leo (the Lip) Durocher is the incumbent but his bat is very weak and glove no more than average. At third is Pie Traynor who can hit for average but doesn't have a lot of power. Catcher is a problem with Luke Sewell and Benny Tate not contributing much with the bat. Guy Bush and Flint Rhem are the mainstays of the starting staff with Ed Holley a decent third man but the lower part of the rotation is suspect. The manager will have to scrape together a bullpen from the non-starting starters and a host of journeymen.

Las Vegas Knights

As mentioned above, the Knights and Red Foxes will battle each other all year long with little separating the two teams; flip a coin. They have five decent outfielders who will move in and out of the lineup with only John Stone as an everyday regular. Stone has good extra base power and can field his position well. The best of the rest are Doc Cramer and Gee Walker. First sacker Ripper Collins is the team's best power source but he does not have a good OBA. Johnny Burnett who can hit and Lee Mallon who is mediocre with the stick will share time at second but neither is a defensive standout. Billy Rogel can get the job done defensively at short and his bat is at least acceptable. Third baseman Pinky Whitney has some good offensive numbers and can do an acceptable job in the field. Earl Grace and Roy Spencer will handle the catching chores and their offense is decent but not good. On the mound Dizzy Dean is far and away the standout but Mel Harder and Paul Derringer are also good. The manager will be able to scrape by for the balance of the rotation. In the pen the big man is Chad Kinsey along with a raft of swingmen and non-starting starters.

Detroit Titans

Another battle royale shaping up between the Titans and Gassers but this one will be to escape the cellar! Except for outfielder Hal Lee the team lacks a big power source. Bob Fothergill and Danny Taylor are decent in the outfield but neither will be able to play much more than 110 games which leaves room for Johnny Watwood and several journeymen to fill out the OF starts. Joe Kohel and Bud Clancy will share time at first but neither have anything close to the amount of power you would like from the position. Jackie Hayes will get most of the starts at second but his bat is below par and his defense is average at best. He'll be backed up by several no-names who will quickly be forgotten when the season is over. Rookie Arky Vaughn will break in with a good, if punchless, bat and defense good enough to not be a liability. Urbane Pickering fits the mold of the other infielders, a decent if punchless bat and average defense. Ernie (the schnoz) Lombardi is the number one catcher but is also one of the slowest

base runners in all of baseball. Larry French and Charlie Root are a good lefty/righty combo to lead off the starting corps with Milt Gaston a shaky number three. The lower part of the rotation is not strong and the less said about it, the better. There isn't much of a bullpen and the starters will need to pull double duty.

Borger Gassers

The Borgers have probably the worst pitching staff in all of SPB-X and the offense, although mildly better than the Titans is nothing to get excited about. Joe Vosmik is a good outfielder who has some extra base power and a decent glove and George Watkins isn't far behind. Randy Moore is the best of the rest of the outfielders but his bat is punchless; behind those three there is very little. Charlie Grimm has some doubles if not home run power at first and can hit for a decent average. Buddy Meyer at second has an OK bat but poor glove. Frankie Crosetti and Travis Jackson will share time at short but this position is not a team strength, to say the least. Randy Moore is the best third baseman on the roster but this isn't saying much and in the 50 games or so he won't be able to start, Katie bar the door. There are only three catchers on the roster and it will be a real challenge for the manager to get through the season with such a short list. The pitching staff has nothing like an ace and the manager will have to shuttle starters and relievers in and out of the lineup constantly just to keep afloat. The fact that Roy Mahaffey will probably get the most starts tells you something about the overall quality of the staff.