

PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1935

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Frankford Frogs

The Frogs and Glaziers look to be in a tight race all season long but have contrasting team stories. Frankford has a decent offense but an outstanding pitching staff while San Diego's offense is top of the line, but their hurlers are second rate. The Iron Horse Lou Gehrig returns at first. He probably won't be able to repeat his sensational 1934 stats but is still a top-notch performer. He can hit the ball out of the park and his batting eye is outstanding. At second Tony Cuccinello is a fine hitter and good fielder; he will share time with Gordon Slade who can also play short. Mickey Haslin will get the lion's share of starts at third where he is a fine contributor both at the plate and in the field. Eric McNair has some fielding issues at short, but he can hit pretty well. Rollie Helmsley is a fine catcher who can play almost every day. Pete Fox in center has a solid bat with decent power and is a fine defender. Buzz Boyle in right field is a slap hitter but he won't embarrass you. Buzz Campbell is a solid hitter but will only be available for half-time duty. Several spear carriers will pick up the balance of the garden starts, and the team even has aging Babe Ruth, but he is but a shadow of his former self. Then we get to the pitching staff which is arguably the best in all of SPBX. Hal Schumacher is a potential 20-game winner and the leader of the staff. Bill Parmalee is a fine number two although he has some control issues. Three solid swingmen (Bill Swift, Cy Johnson and Jesse Haines) will fill out the rotation and also provide the bulk of the bullpen help. If the Frogs are successful in 1935, the pitching staff is the key.

San Diego Glaziers

The Glaziers will challenge the NL Titans for the best offense in SPBX. Gus Suhr at first base has some fielding issues but has a solid bat with decent power and knows how to get on base. Billy Herman might be the best second baseman in all of SPBX; he could challenge for the batting title, hit well over 50 doubles and is a vacuum cleaner in the field. Luke Appling at short doesn't have much power but he can slap the ball around pretty well and could lead the league in walks plus his glove is top notch. Stan Hack at the hot corner has a .300 bat and knows how to get on base but doesn't have much power. Gus Mancuso is a fine catcher, and he is ably backed up by Tom Padden. Wally Berger is a ball hawk in center with a near .300 bat and 30 homer potential. Jo-Jo Moore can play every day, has good power and is a sensational left fielder. Woody Jensen and John Stone, the other two outfielders don't have much home run power, but they can get on base and know how to hit doubles and triples. Tommy Bridges is the leader of the pitching staff, but he has some control issues. A host of swingmen, the best of whom are Joe Sullivan and Ivy Andrews, will back up Bridges, but none are outstanding, and many have control issues. This same crew will do double duty in the bullpen.

New Haven Wiffenpoofs

The 'Poofs could challenge. and they have a better balance of hitting and pitching than the two teams above. Dolph Camilli has nice power at first and a decent glove. Frankie Fritsch will share time at second with Tony Piet; they are both slap hitters who can get on base and won't kill you in the field. Joe Cronin at short has some power and knows how to get on base. Buck Jordan at third is not a good fielder and has an aversion to the base on balls. Rick Ferrell at catcher is a solid hitter although he lacks home run power but his defense and throwing arm are unexcelled. Johnny Moore has some defensive issues in the outfield, but he is a very good hitter who can play every day. Goose Goslin on the other hand is a fine fielder and just as good a hitter as Moore. The third slot will go to Mel Almada who is practically a clone of the other two at the plate and is adequate in the field. On the mound they have five solid starters (Cy Blanton, Ted Lyons, Leon Warneke, Wes Ferrell & Johnny Broaca) a rarity in this

league. Any semblance of a bullpen will have to come when these guys aren't starting as there isn't much else.

New York Mutuals

The defending WS champs will have to overachieve to repeat but it's not impossible. On the other hand, they might find it hard to beat out the Colonels for fourth place. Ripper Collins is a solid hitter at first with very goof power. Oscar Melilo at second can field with the best of them but his bat is average at best; he'll be spelled by Billy Sullivan who also plays third. Lonny Frey and Billy Myers both can do the job at short. Odell Hale at third is a good hitter and adequate fielder with decent power. Gabby Hartnet is a very good catcher and probably the best hitter on the team, but he'll be limited to about 120 games; his replacement is Charley Berry who is below average. Switch hitting Augie Galan can play everyday in left field and combines a superior bat with a fine batting eye and a good glove. Babe Herman, another outfielder, has only one flaw, he can only play about 120 games. Tommy Thompson and several decent part-timers will fill out the garden slots. Lefty Gomez and Carl Hubbell are the top starters, and both can do the job. Jim Weaver and General Crowder will fill out the rest of the rotation along with several mediocre swingmen. The bullpen will be catch as catch can.

Louisville Colonels

Louisville is essentially tied with New York in my elaborate formula and might even fight for the pennant if a lot of things break their way. Jim Bottomley who is well below average at the plate with no power and a lousy fielder will split time at first with Spud Davis who is a much better hitter but horrible fielder. Davis might also get some time behind the plate. Lou Chiozza will get most of the starts at second base where he is decent with both the bat and the glove. Billy Jurgens at short doesn't hit or walk much but he can field. Third baseman Pepper Martin (the Wild Horse of the Osage) is a fine hitter who can also steal a base but has some defensive issues. Mark Koenig can fill in at second, short and third. Harry Danning, the aforementioned Spud Davis and Eddie Phillips will share time behind the plate. Ducky Medwick and Mel Ott are both full time outfielders with very good power (practically the only power hitters on the squad) and they both can also field very well. Ben Chapman who has good doubles if not home run power will get most the starts at the third OF slot. Schoolboy Rowe is the leader of the pitching staff, and he isn't bad. Swingmen Bill Hallihan and Mark Hollingsworth are the next best starters. The balance of the rotation will be filled by several decent but not outstanding swingmen. Chief Hoggset is an OK full-time reliever. but he has control issues.

Schenectady Blue Sox

A major falloff when you get to the last two slots and the only thing the Blue Sox and Strudels will compete for is staying out of the cellar. However, Schenectady will need to seriously under achieve or the Strudels overachieve for the Blue Sox to fall to seventh place. However, Schenectady's pitching staff is right up there with the NL's Golden Buddhas as the worst in all of SPBX. Jimmy Foxx at first is the best hitter on the team by far as he combines a great BA, knows how to take a walk and has 40-homer potential; plus that he is a good fielder. Boze Berger, a good fielder and so-so hitter will share time at second with Tom Carey, a better hitter and just as good a fielder who will be limited in his playing time. Shortstop is a real problem as the manager will have to alternate several non-entities in order to fill up the lineup card; Berger may need to help out here. Harlon Clift is a fine hitter with a good batting eye with a decent glove and will handle third base. Bill Dickey is a good hitter and a decent receiver who will share time behind the plate with Ray Hayworth who has a cannon arm. The outfield is a grab bag with only Sam West as a full timer. West can hit, hit with power and get on base plus he is a good centerfielder. The other outfield slots will be filled with part timers, the best of whom are Lou Koenecke and Lou Finney. Watty Clark, Tom Zachary and Sam Jones are decent starters but are limited

in how much they can pitch, and the rest of the staff is pitiful. Running out Frank Frankhouse, Orville Jorgans and Ed Brandt for any appreciable number of starts is a recipe for disaster. No discernable bullpen exists.

West Baden Strudels

The West Baden offense is woeful, probably the worst in all of SPBX and the pitching staff just a bit better than the Blue Sox, so escaping the cellar will be a major accomplishment. The team could easily finish last in homers and might not have a double figure dinger player on the roster. Phil Cavaretta at first has some power, probably the best on the team and he can field adequately but doesn't know how to take a walk. Rabbit Warstler is a great fielder at second but won't contribute much at the plate. Tommy Thevenow will get the most starts at short, but his bat is punchless. Johnny Burnett who is a better fielder, but an even worst hitter will back up Thevenow. Lew Riggs is the third baseman, and his bat is good in the context of this team and his glove is adequate. Jimmy Dykes is available to fill in at first, second and third. A three headed monster of Al Spohrer, Ray Mueller and Shanty Hogan will handle the catching duties. Hogan is a decent hitter but terrible fielder and is limited in his playing time. The outfield is a vast wasteland of banjo hitters and part timers, the best of whom are Vern Washington and Henie Manush. Lefty Grove could be a 20-game winner on a better team but could easily be a 20-game loser on this club. The starting corps falls off very fast after him with Ray Bengé and George Earnshaw the best of a bad lot. Then we get to the likes of Sugar Cain who will have a hard time finding the plate enroute to a string of lousy starts. Vic Sorrell and Zack Wilson are OK relievers, but both have trouble with control and are limited in playing time.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Detroit Titans

Detroit is clearly the class of the NL and favorites for the pennant, but the Dodgers and Gassers may have something to say about that. As mentioned above, they have a great attack, and the pitching staff is first rate. Bill Terry at first doesn't have the home run power you would like from this position, but he will hit a lot of doubles and could have a BA over .340. Tony Lazzeri at second has more power than you would expect from a middle infielder, knows how to take a walk and is an adequate fielder. Arky Vaugn, the incumbent shortstop could flirt with a .400 BA and .500 OBA plus he possesses good power and can field his position well. Pinky Higgins will hold down the hot corner; he is a fine hitter with good power but has some defensive issues. Cookie Lavagetto, a decent hitter can fill in at second and third. Ernie (The Schnozz) Lombardi doesn't walk much but makes up for it with a great BA and decent power. He'll get the most starts at catcher and is backed up by Sammy Holbrook. Hank Leiber is another sensational hitter with good power but has some defensive issues in the outfield. Hal Lee lacks power but can smack the ball around very well and is a solid fielder at another outfield slot. Terry Moore is a great ball hawk in centerfield who has doubles if not home run power. Danny Taylor can fill in as needed in the garden; his offense is also top notch. Larry French and Bill Lee are the leaders of the pitching staff, and both have 20-game potential. Swingmen Charley Root, Waite Hoyt and Whitey Wilshire will fill out the rotation. Dutch Leonard who has excellent control will be the top man in the bullpen along with the swingmen. The Titans will be tough to beat.

Brooklyn Dodgers

The team had a change of ownership and a name change as they were previously the Las Vegas Knights, the reigning NL champs. They could repeat but it will be tough as they'll have to both overcome the Titans and fight off the Gassers. Hal Trotsky at first has good power and can field his position well. Alex Kampouris can play every day at second but has an aversion to the base on balls but is an acceptable defender. Billy Rogell is a wizard with the glove at short and can slap the ball around pretty well. At third the team has Cecil Travis who doesn't have much home run power, but he can hit .300 and is a great fielder. Bill DeLancey and Frankie Pytlack will share tie behind the plate; both are decent hitters with good throwing arms. Doc Cramer in center field is a top-notch fielder who has good doubles power and is capable of hitting .330. George Selkirk and Earl Averill will get most of the remaining outfield starts and both are top notch, but room must be found for Gee Walker who can play all three outfield slots. Dizzy Dean, Mel Harder and Paul Derringer will start well over 100 games between them, and all have 20-game potential. Van Lingo Mungo and Willis Hudlin will round out the rotation and both are fine hurlers. Ed Heusser and Eldon Auker will man a top-notch bullpen.

Borger Gassers

The Gassers offense is slightly better than the Dodgers and the pitching staff a little worse. Both will fight for second place and maybe even the pennant all year long. First sacker Hank Greenberg can do it all; hit for average with great power, get on base and field his position very well. Buddy Myer at second can play every day, hit close to .350 and can take a walk plus he is an excellent fielder. Frankie Crosetti and Billy Urbanski will share time at short; Frankie is a better hitter and fielder but will be limited to less than 100 games. Jim Bucher, who can also play second will share time at third with Travis Jackson. Both are good hitters, but Bucher is the superior defender. Babe Phelps, Billy Campbell and Jimmie Wilson will share time behind the plate; Phelps is by far the best hitter, but he has some defensive issues, and his playing time will be limited. In the outfield the top player is Joe Vosmik who has great doubles and triples, if not home run power and might hit .350 plus he is a solid defender. Bob Johnson is another outfielder who can play every day, has a good batting eye and can also field his position well. George Watkins will claim the third slot and he is no slouch with the bat or glove. The team doesn't have the individual quality of the Dodger's starters, but they do have depth. John Whitehead is the best of the lot, and he is backed up by several good swingmen. Al Smith who has great control is a solid reliever.

Fairfax Atlantics

Another ownership change and the former Kenosha Kingfish are now the Fairfax Atlantics. A big falloff after the top three and the rest of the league will be scrambling with any of them possible for fourth through seventh place. First base is the abode of Jack Burns who is an above average hitter but lacking home run power with average defense. Charlie Gehringer is a star quality second baseman who can do it all including fielding his position flawlessly. Dick Bartell is a serviceable shortstop with some power and decent defense. The third baseman is Johnny Vergas who can field well but not hit much. Al Lopez and Paul Richards which when I look into my crystal ball were both future successful managers will share time at catcher. Neither has any power but they are both good defensively. Roy Johnson is a full-time outfielder who is a decent hitter without home run power who knows how to get on base but is a liability in the field. Lloyd (Little Poison) Waner is good defensively in center and can hit .300 but avoids the base on balls like the plague. He can hit doubles and triples but not homers. Switch hitter Ival Goodman has some power and can field while the balance of outfield starts will go to Earl Combs and Jack Rothrock both of whom are banjo hitters. Red Ruffing is the leader of the staff and good enough to be in the rotation of any other team in the league. Johnny Allen, Roy Henshaw and Vern Kennedy are

the next best starters, but quality falls off after that group. The bullpen is not strong, and the starters will need to pull double duty.

Montreal Golden Buddhas

Another ownership change as the former Albany Empires acquires a very colorful moniker. A decent attack will be held back by what may be the worst itching staff in SPBX. Babe Dalgren holds down first base; he is a modest hitter with minimal power and a poor glove. Les Mallon and Ossie Bluege will share time at second; Mallon is a better hitter and fielder but neither has much pop in their bats. Bill Knickerbocker at short can hit some doubles if not homers and has a .300 bat while his defense is well above average. Red Rolfe at third can hit and field while his defense is adequate. Charley Gelbert and Chile Gomez are infield spares. Catcher Mickey Cochrane is a very good hitter and fielder and could draw 100 walks but will be limited to only 120 or so games. His backup is Tommy Heath. Moose Saltes can play every day in the outfield and has good power and an excellent glove but is a bit wary of waiting on a walk. Jake Powell is close to Saltes with the bat but not as good on defense. Al Simmons has some decent power and can field pretty well. Randy More and Carl Reynolds will fill out the garden starts. Red Lucas has pin-point control and has the best stats on the pitching staff, but he'll be limited in how many games he can start. Bill Walker and Slick Castleman are decent starts, but the quality falls off pretty fast after that trio. Rube Walberg can start a handful of games, but he might be better used as a reliever. The lower portion of the staff is very grim.

San Francisco Seals

The Seals won 97 games last year and were in the pennant race deep into September, but this is another year. The pitching staff has almost completely disintegrated, and the attack is much weaker. A last place finish is not out of the question but with a few breaks they could move up a notch or two. Sam Leslie returns at first and he is a solid hitter but without home run power. Second base is a grab bag with no one capable of starting more than 80-90 games. The people the manager will need to shuttle in and out of the lineup are all well below par. Lyn Lary at short can hit a few doubles and knows how to take a walk and won't kill you in the field. Joe Strip at third is a nice banjo hitter and can field his position but he'll be limited to less than 120 games; the balance will have to be filled with the same crew that are manning second base. Cliff Bolton is the top catcher and he's not that bad of a hitter and can field enough to not be an embarrassment. Earl Glenn is his number one backup, but his bat is punchless. Paul (Big Poison) Waner is once again the top outfielder, but his stats will be well below those of 1934. Chuck Klein is the best power hitter on the team but he'll only be able to play about 120 games. Jesse Hill, Frenchy Bordagaray and Ernie Orsatti are also available for outfield play but none of the three has any power. Paul (Daffy) Dean is far and away the ace of the staff, but he can't pitch every day. Swingman Gene Schott is next in the rotation but after him it's bombs away as the likes of Bump Hadley, Ed Linke and Si Johnson all have control issues and are guaranteed to light up the scoreboard for the other side. Jimmy DeShong is a nice reliever but how many leads will he have to protect?

Brunnerville Bean Brewers

The former Lafayette Red Sox changed owners and the new owner picked a colorful moniker. Their hitting attack is a little better than the AL Strudels, but you can argue that it doesn't beat out anyone else. Zeke Bonura at first is probably the team's best hitter with some decent power and an acceptable glove. Burgess Whitehead at second can field but doesn't hit much. He'll be backed up by several nonentities. Leo the Lip Durocher is the starter at short; he has a little power and doesn't walk much but he can field. Pinky Whitney will get the majority of starts at third and he is barely adequate with both the bat and glove. Max Bishop and Skeeter Newsome are available as infield spares. Luke Sewell and Al Todd will share time at catcher, and both are decent hitters. Ethan Allen (of the Green Mountain

Boys) is a great defender and a solid hitter who could hit .300 with 45 doubles. Rip Radcliffe is an everyday outfielder with modest power but is not that great in the field. Wally Moses can hit very well but will be limited to less than 100 games. Several part timers will fill out the lineup card. Earl Whitehill is the top starting pitcher, but he would be hard pressed to make the fourth or fifth slot on the better teams. George Blaeholder is number two, but he is no trip to Hollywood. Swingmen Bob Smith and Guy Bush will also figure in the rotation, but the manager will be forced to give more starts than he wants to Johnny Babich who is horrible. The team does have two decent relievers in Don Brennan and Lolyd Brown both of whom can start a few games.