
Subject: A Year in Review

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Date: Thursday, October 2, 2014 4:43 AM

A Year in Review



Jose Bautista and Fuquay Nine take the crown

'There can be only one.' This season, that was [Fuquay Nine](#). They finished off 2014 with a 208.83 to 197.17 victory over Power Rangers, giving them an 18 - 7 final record. Fuquay Nine's good standing can be attributed, in part, to their relief pitchers, who ranked 4th in the league.

When it came to relief pitchers however, nobody had a better group than Ball Hawks, who got 27.32 points per game out of the position. [Francisco Rodriguez](#) was the key member of that stalwart corps, scoring 330.5 points for Ball Hawks this season. Meanwhile, Coach Moore could only dream about good relief pitcher play this year, as West Raleigh Moundchargers' relief pitchers were the worst in the league, coming up with only 14.91 points per game.

Turning our attention to the draft, it's clear that Coach Rudd hit it out of the park with his first three picks. He picked up [Anthony Rizzo](#), [Brad Miller](#), and [Giancarlo Stanton](#), who put up better production than any other team's top picks (+178.6 Points vs. Position Average). Coach Matthew Burkett was the mirror image of Coach Rudd. His first three picks were [Wilin Rosario](#), [Martin Prado](#), and [Andrelton Simmons](#). Ouch.

Power Rangers did well enough in their draft to finish up in second place for the year with a 16 - 9 record. Although they did good, Power Rangers also benefited from the 2nd easiest schedule this year.

Second Fiddle

Key Stat:

[Power Rangers](#): 197.17

Fuquay Nine: 208.83

Power Rangers came so close and yet were so far, winding up in second place. Their season closed with the sour note of a playoff loss to Fuquay Nine, but overall they did well enough to end up with a 16 - 9 record. Although they did good, Power Rangers also benefited from the 2nd easiest schedule this year.

Preseason Winner

Key Stat:

Average Top 3 Pick PPA: 18.9

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls Top 3 Pick PPA: 178.6

Coach Rudd was on fire in the early rounds of the draft. He picked up Anthony Rizzo, Brad Miller, and Giancarlo Stanton with his first three picks, and they paid off, putting up better production than any other team's top picks (+178.6 Points vs. Position Average). Those top picks helped give Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls a 14 - 9 regular season record.

Nobody Does It Better

Key Stat:

[Fuquay Nine](#): 208.83

Power Rangers: 197.17

Coach Blue took on all comers this season, and had what it took to prevail. Fuquay Nine finished off 2014 with a 208.83 to 197.17 victory over Power Rangers, giving them an 18 - 7 final record. Fuquay Nine's good standing can be attributed, in part, to their relief pitchers, who ranked 4th in the league.

Following the Script

Key Stat:

Record Vs. Above 0.500 Teams: 2 - 7

Record Vs. Below 0.500 Teams: 11 - 3

Raleigh Middle Fingers made their bones beating the dregs of the league, but struggled big time against top competition. Their mastery over bottom dwellers ended up being enough to give them a 13 - 10 regular season record. [Raleigh Middle Fingers](#) were led by [Felix Hernandez](#), [Anthony Rendon](#), and [Freddie](#)

[Freeman](#), who collectively finished 276.4 points above their positional averages while in the starting lineup.

Knowing the Role

Key Stat:

Average Relief Pitcher Points Per Game: 13.5

Greg Holland Points Per Game Started: 16.2

Ellicott City Black Sox leaned on [Greg Holland](#) all year, as he was the league's best relief pitcher, scoring 427.8 points. Holland's best game came in week 18, when he put up 36.5 points in leading Ellicott City Black Sox to victory over Raleigh Middle Fingers. Despite his performance this year, Ellicott City Black Sox wound up tied for 7th place during the regular season with a 10 - 13 record.

Even-Keeled

Key Stat:

Spivey's Corner Knockouts Top 3 Players PPA: 240.6

Spivey's Corner Knockouts 4-6 Players PPA: 155.8

It was all for one and one for all with Spivey's Corner Knockouts this season, as they ended up with the most balanced lineup in the league. Unfortunately, this was more due to their top players not doing so well. [Craig Kimbrel](#), [Jose Altuve](#), and [David Ortiz](#) posted 240.6 Points Vs Positional Average (PPA) while in the starting lineup this year, one of the worst marks in the league. Their next three best players, [Josh Donaldson](#), [Albert Pujols](#), and [Yasiel Puig](#), finished up at +155.8 PPA.

Problem Children

Key Stat:

Average OF Points/Week: 44.3

Mauer Patch Kids OF Points/Week: 30.5

Mauer Patch Kids struggled to find the right mix with their outfielders, who averaged only 30.52 points per game. That was worse than any other team this year. [Marcell Ozuna](#) shares a big part of the blame for that lackluster group's performance, averaging 5.9 points in his 11 starts for Mauer Patch Kids this year. Those outfielder problems go a long way towards explaining why Mauer Patch Kids finished the regular season with an 8 - 15 record.

Got Our Number

Key Stat:

Durham Indians: 714.3 points

Power Rangers: 947.7 points

Durham Indians didn't have a great year, and part of that can be blamed on Power Rangers. Durham Indians faced Power Rangers five times, and Power Rangers ended up winning each game. The cumulative margin of defeat, at 233.3 points, represents the largest spread between any two teams this year.

Streaking the Wrong Way

Key Stat:

Fostoria Screwballs Regular Season Losses: 13

Fostoria Screwballs Losses During weeks 8-13: 5

As Coach Welly wonders why Fostoria Screwballs failed to make the playoffs, he will have to think about weeks 8 to 13 when Fostoria Screwballs looked like the worst team in the league. They went 1 - 5 over that unhappy stretch. [Ian Desmond](#) should shoulder much of the blame, doing 22.1 points worse than the average shortstop while in the starting lineup during that span. Overall, Fostoria Screwballs finished in 7th place during the regular season with a record of 10 - 13.

Bringing Out the Worst In Others

Key Stat:

Average Points Scored per Game: 182.5

West Raleigh Moundchargers Opponents per Game: 169.8

All year long, opponents kindly rolled out the red carpet for Coach Moore and West Raleigh Moundchargers. They had 169.8 points per game scored against them during the regular season, which was fewer than any other team. For the season, West Raleigh Moundchargers finished with a 10 - 13 regular season record, good for 7th place.

What Could Have Been

Key Stat:

Record Before Troy Tulowitzki's Injury: 11 - 4

Record After Troy Tulowitzki's Injury: 1 - 7

Hickory Scorpions were humming along pretty good heading into week 16, but that was before [Troy Tulowitzki](#) tweaked his hip while matched up against Ellicott City Black Sox and had to undergo season ending surgery. After that, Hickory Scorpions were a very different team, going 1 - 7 the rest of the way.

Better Luck Next Year

Key Stat:

Average Team Points per Game (reg. season): 182.5

[Ball Hawks](#) Points (reg. season): 180.5

There's always next year for Coach Matthew Burkett. This year, however, Ball Hawks wound up in last place in the overall standings at 7 - 16 (despite an average point total). Ball Hawks can place a good chunk of blame on Wilin Rosario, who fell a collective 104 points short of the league average hitter while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other hitter this year.

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