
Subject: A Year in Review

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A Year in Review



Nolan Arenado and Raleigh Middle Fingers take the crown

When it is all said and done, Coach Lipps will have the bragging rights for this entire offseason. [Raleigh Middle Fingers](#) finished off 2016 with a 277.17 to 183.33 victory over Hickory Scorpions, giving them a 17 - 8 final record. Coach Lipps benefited from quality at the top of their draft, picking up [Freddie Freeman](#), [Adam Jones](#), and [Starling Marte](#) with their first three picks.

Nobody, however, did better with their first three picks than Coach Chris Burkett. He selected [Brian McCann](#), [Brian Dozier](#), and [Alexei Ramirez](#), who put up the best production of any top three picks (+127.4 Points vs. Position Average). Coach Kiel was the mirror image of Coach Chris Burkett. Their first three picks were [Salvador Perez](#), [Chris Davis](#), and [Jason Kipnis](#).! Ouch.

On the coaching front, Coach Blue stood out as the best decision-maker this year. His lineup moves gave his squad 118.3 more points than the experts would have. That was 216.2 points better than Coach Chris Burkett, who was the worst coach in the league. He cost his team wins in two different games, including a week seven loss where his decisions were 8 points worse than the experts that week.

Coach Matthew Burkett's decision-making was pretty decent this year, but it didn't matter. Ball Hawks wound up at 4 - 19, good for the worst record in the league. Ball Hawks can place a good chunk of blame on [Miguel Sano](#), who fell a collective 114 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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Knowing the Role

Key Stat for Mauer Patch Kids:

Average Relief Pitcher Points Per Game: 13.4

Kenley Jansen Points Per Game Started: 18.3

Mauer Patch Kids leaned on [Kenley Jansen](#) all year, as he was the league's best relief pitcher, scoring 477.7 points. Jansen's best game came in week 21, when he put up 37.3 points in a losing effort versus Fuquay Nine. In part because of his efforts, Mauer Patch Kids finished up tied for the 5th best regular season record in the league at 13 - 10.

Shuffling the Deck

Key Stat:

Average Number of Starters: 51.8

Spivey's Corner Knockouts Starters: 76

Like a fashionista picking out shoes or an oenophile picking a fine wine, Coach Warren just could not decide who to start from day to day. Spivey's Corner Knockouts had more starters than any other team, putting 76 different players into the lineup over the course of the regular season. Overall, Spivey's Corner Knockouts finished in 5th place during the regular season with a record of 13 - 10.

King of the League

Key Stat:

[Raleigh Middle Fingers](#): 277.17

Hickory Scorpions: 183.33

Coach Lipps took on all comers this season, and had what it took to prevail. Raleigh Middle Fingers finished off 2016 with a 277.17 to 183.33 victory over Hickory Scorpions, giving them a 17 - 8 final record. Their good standing can be attributed, in part, to their relief pitchers, who ranked 3rd in the league.

Even-Keeled

Key Stat:

Fostoria Screwballs Top 3 Players PPA: 129.4

Fostoria Screwballs 4-6 Players PPA: 58.7

It was all for one and one for all with Fostoria Screwballs 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. [Daniel Murphy](#), [Jake Arrieta](#), and [Joe Panik](#) posted 129.4 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, [A.J. Ramos](#), [Jose Abreu](#), and [Hisashi Iwakuma](#), finished up at +58.7 PPA.

Bully

Key Stat for West Raleigh Moundchargers:

Record Vs. Above 0.500 Teams: 4 - 10

Record Vs. Below 0.500 Teams: 7 - 2

West Raleigh Moundchargers mopped up the bottom dwellers in the league, but struggled big time against top competition. Their inability to come through in tough games doomed them to an 11 - 12 regular season record. Coach Moore can also blame himself for part of that bad record seeing as he was the 11th ranked gameday coach in the league.

Enjoy the Show

Key Stat for Durham Indians:

Getting to watch [Max Scherzer](#)

Durham Indians might not have had the most enjoyable season in the standings, but at least they got to watch Max Scherzer. Max was solid all year, but never better than in his May 20th start against his old team the Tigers, [when he tied the MLB record with 20 strikeouts in a game](#) Having plenty of highlight moments helped him put up a total of 487.3 points for the season.

Second Fiddle

Key Stat:

[Hickory Scorpions](#): 183.33

Raleigh Middle Fingers: 277.17

Hickory Scorpions 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 Raleigh Middle Fingers, but overall they did well enough to end up with a 15 - 10 record. They were led by Brian Dozier, [Edwin Encarnacion](#), and [Adrian Beltre](#), who collectively finished 375.8 points above their positional averages while in the starting lineup.

Is that Don Shula?

Key Stat:

Average Coach's Points: -8

Coach Blue's Points: 118.3

Coach Blue can hang his hat on the fact that he was the best gameday coach in the league. He gave his team the victory in two different games, including a week 10 win where his decisions were 23.9 points better than the experts that week. That coaching performance goes a long way towards explaining why Fuquay Nine wrapped up the regular season tied for having the 3rd best record at 14 - 9.

You've Got a 'Tell'

Key Stat for Ellicott City Black Sox:

Record When [Matt Carpenter](#) Overperforms: 7 - 2

Record When Matt Carpenter Underperforms: 4 - 6

There was no better indicator of Ellicott City Black Sox's fortunes this year than the performance of Matt Carpenter. Ellicott City Black Sox looked unstoppable when Carpenter topped his projections, and merely so-so when he didn't. Coach Kiel could have used a lot more good efforts from Carpenter, as they closed the season at 11 - 12.

Stacked

Key Stat:

Average OF Points/Week: 40.8

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls OF Points/Week: 60.9

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls got big efforts from their outfielders, who put up a best-in-the-league 60.87 points per game. [Mookie Betts](#) was the key member of that stalwart corps, scoring 571 points for Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls this season. The strong outfielder group helps explain why Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls finished the regular season with a 16 - 7 record.

Better Luck Next Year

Key Stat:

Average Team Points per Game (reg. season): 190.1

[Ball Hawks](#) Points per Game (reg. season): 160.2

There's always next year for Coach Matthew Burkett. This year, however, Ball Hawks wound up in last place in the overall standings at 4 - 19. Ball Hawks can place a good chunk of blame on Miguel Sano, who fell a collective 114 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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