

Subject: **A Year in Review**

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## A Year in Review



Kenley

*Jansen and Raleigh Middle Fingers take the crown*

Last year's winner has done it again, as [Raleigh Middle Fingers](#) are tops in the league. Raleigh Middle Fingers finished off 2017 with a 182.5 to 130.33 victory over Fuquay Nine, giving them an 18 - 7 final record. Coach Lipps benefited from quality at the top of their draft, picking up [DJ LeMahieu](#), [Dansby Swanson](#), and [Nomar Mazara](#) with their first three picks.

Nobody, however, did better with their first three picks than Coach Welly. He selected [Daniel Murphy](#), [Justin Turner](#), and [Marcell Ozuna](#), who put up the best production of any top three picks (+237.7 Points vs. Position Average). Coach Chris Burkett was the mirror image of Coach Welly. His first three picks were [Evan Gattis](#), [Albert Pujols](#), and [Danny Valencia](#). Ouch. </p>

On the coaching front, Coach Parker stood out as the best decision-maker this year. Their lineup moves gave their squad 138.4 more points than the experts would have. That was 227.4 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 10 loss where his decisions were 30 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 (repeating their feat from last year). Ball Hawks can place a good chunk of blame on [Mark Melancon](#), who fell a collective 170 points short of the league average pitcher while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other pitcher this year.

## King of the League

**Key Stat:**

[Raleigh Middle Fingers](#): 182.5

Fuquay Nine: 130.33

Last year's winner has done it again, as Raleigh Middle Fingers are tops in the league. Raleigh Middle Fingers finished off 2017 with a 182.5 to 130.33 victory over Fuquay Nine, giving them an 18 - 7 final record. Although they did good, Raleigh Middle Fingers also benefited from the 4th easiest schedule this year (measured by points against).

## Even-Keeled

**Key Stat:**

Spivey's Corner Knockouts Top 3 Players PPA: 80.3

Spivey's Corner Knockouts 4-6 Players PPA: 17.6

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. [Carlos Santana](#), [Christian Yelich](#), and [Andrew McCutchen](#) posted 80.3 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, [Stephen Strasburg](#), [Cody Allen](#), and [Carlos Carrasco](#), finished up at +17.6 PPA.

## You've Got a 'Tell'

**Key Stat for [Power Rangers](#):**

Record When [Robbie Ray](#) Overperforms: 8 - 4

Record When Robbie Ray Underperforms: 1 - 5

There was no better indicator of Power Rangers' fortunes this year than the performance of Robbie Ray. Power Rangers looked hopeless when Ray failed to hit his projections, and totally legit when he did. Coach Brake got enough good efforts from Ray to wind up at 12 - 11.

## Catching Fire

**Key Stat:**

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls Regular Season Wins: 11

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls Wins During weeks 2-8: 6

As Coach Rudd looks back on the season, he will no doubt fondly remember weeks 2 to 8 when Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls looked like world-beaters. They went 6 - 1 over that happy stretch. [Mike Trout](#) was the key, going 69 points over his positional average during that span. Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls finished the regular season with an 11 - 12 record.

## Stacked

**Key Stat:**

Average Infielder Points/Week: 66.9

Durham Indians Infielder Points/Week: 81.5

Durham Indians got big efforts from their infielders, who put up a best-in-the-league 81.48 points per game. [Francisco Lindor](#) was the key member of that stalwart corps, scoring 420 points for Durham Indians this season. The strong infielder group helps explain why Durham Indians wound up in 5th place during the regular season with a 13 - 10 record.

## Roster Hole

**Key Stat:**

Average RP Points/Week: 19.6

West Raleigh Moundchargers RP Points/Week: 5.8

West Raleigh Moundchargers struggled to find the right mix with their relief pitchers, who

averaged only 5.78 points per game. That was worse than any other team this year. [Kelvin Herrera](#) shares a big part of the blame for that lackluster group's performance, averaging 3.4 points in his five starts for West Raleigh Moundchargers this year. Despite those relief pitcher problems, West Raleigh Moundchargers finished up tied for the 6th best regular season record in the league at 12 - 11.

## Pulling the Right Levers

### Key Stat:

Average Coach's Points: 22.9

Coach Parker's Points: 138.4

Coach Parker can hang their hat on the fact that they were the best gameday coach in the league. They ended up winning their team the game in week 14 with their lineup decisions, which were 15.5 points better than the experts that week. Overall, Mauer Patch Kids finished in 1st place during the regular season with a record of 19 - 4.

## Second Fiddle

### Key Stat:

[Fuquay Nine](#): 130.33

Raleigh Middle Fingers: 182.5

Fuquay Nine 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 16 - 9 record. Their good standing can be attributed, in part, to their infielders, who ranked 2nd in the league.

## Eye for Talent

### Key Stat:

Average Top 3 Pick PPA: -7

Fostoria Screwballs Top 3 Pick PPA: 237.7

Coach Welly was on fire in the early rounds of the draft. He picked up Daniel Murphy, Justin Turner, and Marcell Ozuna with his first three picks, and they paid off, putting up better production than any other team's top picks (+237.7 Points vs. Position Average). Those top picks helped give Fostoria Screwballs a 16 - 7 regular season record.

## Hard Slog

### Key Stat:

Average Points Scored per Game: 185

Ellicott City Black Sox Opponents per Game: 205.1

Coach Kiel probably got sick of having to walk uphill all year long. Ellicott City Black Sox's opponents put up 205.1 points per game during the regular season, which was more points than any other team had to deal with. Ellicott City Black Sox's 6 - 17 record looks a bit better in light of the increased degree of difficulty.

## Knowing the Role

### Key Stat for Hickory Scorpions:

Average Center Fielder Points Per Game: 14.7

Charlie Blackmon Points Per Game Started: 22.3

Hickory Scorpions leaned on [Charlie Blackmon](#) all year, as he was the league's best center fielder, scoring 562 points. Blackmon's best game came in week 16, when he put up 43 points in a losing effort versus West Raleigh Moundchargers. Despite his performance this year, Hickory Scorpions wound up tied for 9th place during the regular season with a 7 - 16 record.

## Better Luck Next Year

**Key Stat:**

Average Team Points per Game (reg. season): 185

[Ball Hawks](#) Points per Game (reg. season): 145.1

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 Mark Melancon, who fell a collective 170 points short of the league average pitcher while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other pitcher this year.

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