

A Year in Review

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Martinez and Ball Hawks take the crown

J.D.

When it is all said and done, Coach Matthew Burkett will have the bragging rights for this entire offseason. [Ball Hawks](#) finished off 2018 with a 141.17 to 133.17 victory over Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls, giving them a 17 - 8 final record. Coach Matthew Burkett benefited from quality at the top of their draft, picking up [Christian Yelich](#), [Ozzie Albies](#), and [Nomar Mazara](#) with his first three picks.

Nobody, however, did better with their first three picks than Coach Rudd. He selected [Justin Verlander](#), [Ian Happ](#), and [Starling Marte](#), who put up the best production of any top three picks (+133 Points vs. Position Average). Coach Welly was the mirror image of Coach Rudd. His first three picks were [Tommy Pham](#), [Yangervis Solarte](#), and [Chris Archer](#). Ouch.

Looking at positional battles, nobody had a better infielder group than Power Rangers, who got 76.87 points per game out of that position. Meanwhile, Coach Matthew Burkett could only dream about good infielder play this year, as Ball Hawks' infielders were the worst in the league, coming up with only 46.52 points per game. [Miguel Andujar](#) shares a big part of the blame for that lackluster group's performance, averaging 8.3 points in his three starts for Ball Hawks this year.

Hickory Scorpions had lots of positional problems, which drove them into the ditch at 6 - 17. That was the worst mark in the league. Coach Chris Burkett can only blame himself as he forgot to set his lineup 2 times this season.

It Couldn't Be Worse

Key Stat:

Average Team Points per Game (reg. season): 181.4

[Hickory Scorpions](#) Points per Game (reg. season): 168.4

There's always next year for Coach Chris Burkett. This year, however, Hickory Scorpions wound up in last place in the overall standings at 6 - 17. Coach Chris Burkett can only blame himself as he forgot to set his lineup 2 times this season.

Enjoy the Show

Key Stat for Mauer Patch Kids:

Getting to watch [Jacob deGrom](#)

Mauer Patch Kids might not have had the most enjoyable season in the standings, but at least they got to watch Jacob deGrom. deGrom was saddled with an underperforming team in real life too, but still managed to smash the MLB record for consecutive quality starts.

Knowing the Role

Key Stat for West Raleigh Moundchargers:

Average Relief Pitcher Points Per Game: 12.3

Edwin Diaz Points Per Game Started: 21.4

West Raleigh Moundchargers leaned on [Edwin Diaz](#) heavily, as he was the league's best relief pitcher, scoring 520.3 points. Diaz's best game came in week 19, when he put up 48.5 points in leading West Raleigh Moundchargers to victory over Mauer Patch Kids. In part because of his efforts, West Raleigh Moundchargers wrapped up the regular season tied for having the 3rd best record at 13 - 10.

Tough Road

Key Stat:

Average Points Scored per Game: 181.4

Raleigh Middle Fingers Opponents per Game: 189.9

Coach Lipps probably got sick of having to walk uphill all year long. Raleigh Middle Fingers' opponents put up 189.9 points per game during the regular season, which was more points than any other team had to deal with. Raleigh Middle Fingers' 9 - 14 record looks a bit better in light of the increased degree of difficulty.

You've Got a 'Tell'

Key Stat for [Power Rangers](#):

Record When [Nicholas Castellanos](#) Overperforms: 8 - 3

Record When Nicholas Castellanos Underperforms: 3 - 6

There was no better indicator of Power Rangers' fortunes this year than the performance of Nicholas Castellanos. Power Rangers went 8 - 3 when Nicholas Castellanos hit his expectations, and 3 - 6 when he didn't. Coach Brake got enough good efforts from Castellanos to wind up at 14 - 11.

Blame the Scouts

Key Stat:

Average Top 3 Pick PPA: 21

Fostoria Screwballs Top 3 Pick PPA: -140.4

Coach Welly missed in the draft when it counted most, flubbing the first three rounds. He picked up Tommy Pham, Yangervis Solarte, and Chris Archer with his first three picks, which turned out to be the league's worst top trio (-140.4 Points vs. Position Average). Flubbing those key picks predicatably led to a less than stellar year, as Fostoria Screwballs finished with a 9 - 14 regular season record.

Not Coachable

Key Stat:

Average Coach's Points: 3.7

Coach Kiel's Points: -75.4

Coach Kiel have plenty of decisions to regret after their lineup choices left them as the worst gameday coach in the league. They sure distributed those lost points well however, as they never cost their team a game with their decisions. Ellicott City Black Sox finished up tied for the 3rd best regular season record in the league at 13 - 10.

Bully

Key Stat for Durham Indians:

Record Vs. Above 0.500 Teams: 2 - 7

Record Vs. Below 0.500 Teams: 10 - 4

Durham Indians mopped up the bottom dwellers in the league, but struggled big time against top competition. Their mastery over bottom dwellers ended up being enough to give them a 12 - 11 regular season record. Durham Indians' good standing can also be attributed, in part, to their infielders, who ranked 3rd in the league.

Streaking the Wrong Way

Key Stat:

Fuquay Nine Regular Season Losses: 14

Fuquay Nine Losses During weeks 15-20: 6

As Coach Blue wonders why Fuquay Nine failed to make the playoffs, he will have to think about weeks 15 to 20 when Fuquay Nine looked Like the worst team in the league. They went 0 - 6 over that unhappy stretch. [Jon Lester](#) should shoulder much of the blame, doing 62 points worse than the average starting pitcher while in the starting lineup during that span. Fuquay Nine wound up tied for 8th place during the regular season with a 9 - 14 record.

Falling Down

Key Stat for [Spivey's Corner Knockouts](#):

Points Per Game Weeks 1 - 7: 192.8

Points Per Game Weeks 8 - 23: 154.3

Back in week seven, Spivey's Corner Knockouts were in contention to win the title, tied for 3rd place. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be, as they fell all the way to 11th place to finish the season with a record of 8 - 15. Spivey's Corner Knockouts can place a good chunk of blame on [Buster Posey](#), who fell a collective 84 points short of the league average hitter while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other hitter this year.

Nobody Does It Better

Key Stat:

[Ball Hawks](#): 141.17

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls: 133.17

All twelve teams started the 2018 season with dreams of a championship, but only Ball Hawks and Coach Matthew Burkett made it a reality. Ball Hawks finished off 2018 with a 141.17 to 133.17 victory over Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls, giving them a 17 - 8 final record. Coach Matthew Burkett did well right from the start, picking up Christian Yelich, Ozzie Albies, and Nomar Mazara with his first three picks.

Preseason Winner

Key Stat:

Average Top 3 Pick PPA: 21

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls Top 3 Pick PPA: 133

Coach Rudd was on fire in the early rounds of the draft. He picked up Justin Verlander, Ian Happ, and Starling Marte with his first three picks, and they paid off, putting up better production than any other team's top picks (+133 Points vs. Position Average). Those top picks helped give Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls a 20 - 3 regular season record.

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