A Year in Review

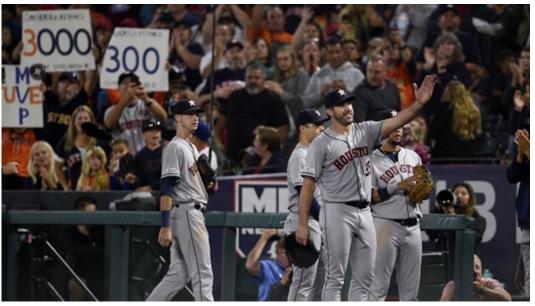
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A Year in Review



Justin Verlander and Raleigh Middle Fingers take the crown

Coach Lipps took on all comers this season, and had what it took to prevail. <u>Raleigh Middle</u> <u>Fingers</u> finished off 2019 with a 216.5 to 199.17 victory over Power Rangers, giving them a 16 - 9 final record. Their good standing can be attributed, in part, to their infielders, who ranked 2nd in the league.

When it came to infielders however, nobody had a better group than Spivey's Corner Knockouts, who got 92.04 points per game out of the 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 45.61 points per game. Jean Segura shares a big part of the blame for that lackluster group's performance, averaging 14 points in his 23 starts for Ball Hawks this year.

While Ellicott City Black Sox didn't win that positional battle or the overall crown, Coach Kiel did earn a nice consolation prize: the award for best coaching this season. Their lineup moves were 123.2 points better than the experts this season, which was the best mark in the league. That was 194 points better than Coach Blue, who was the worst coach in the league. He sure distributed those lost points well however, as he never cost his team a game with his decisions.

Coach Chris Burkett also had trouble coaching, and the results sure showed. Hickory Scorpions wound up at 6 - 17, good for the worst record in the league (repeating their feat from last year). That record looks even worse given that Hickory Scorpions got the benefit of the 4th easiest schedule this year (measured by points against).

Turn Around

Key Stat for <u>Ellicott City Black Sox</u>: Points Per Game Weeks 1 - 7: 173.4

Points Per Game Weeks 8 - 23: 224

Ellicott City Black Sox were not looking great back in week seven when they were tied for 9th place. Although they didn't come all the way back, Coach Kiel certainly has to be pleased with the way things turned around, as Ellicott City Black Sox finished the regular season tied for 4th place with a record of 13 - 10. They were led by <u>Gerrit Cole, Juan Soto</u>, and <u>Carlos Santana</u>, who collectively finished 486.4 points above their positional averages while in the starting lineup.

Literally the Worst

Key Stat for Ball Hawks:

Average Starting Pitcher Points Per Game: 13.1 Carlos Carrasco Points Per Game Started: 4.4

<u>Carlos Carrasco</u> stunk it up so badly that Ball Hawks will have to shower all off season to get off the stink. Carrasco was the worst player in the league, scoring 213.9 points less than the average starting pitcher while in the starting lineup. Carrasco's worst game came in week two, when he couldn't do any better than -8.3 points. The bad performance of Carrasco helps explain why Ball Hawks wound up tied for 8th place during the regular season with a 10 - 13 record.

Mirror Mirror

Key Stat for <u>Mauer Patch Kids</u>: Record When <u>Tommy Pham</u> Overperforms: 6 - 3 Record When Tommy Pham Underperforms: 1 - 4

There was no better indicator of Mauer Patch Kids' fortunes this year than the performance of Tommy Pham. Mauer Patch Kids looked hopeless when Pham failed to hit his projections, and totally legit when he did. Coach Parker could have used a lot more good efforts from Pham, as they closed the season at 10 - 13.

Following the Script

Key Stat for Durham Indians:

Record Vs. Above 0.500 Teams: 3 - 7 Record Vs. Below 0.500 Teams: 9 - 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. Coach Close also had a hand in the impressive record, since he was the 3rd best gameday coach in the league.

Tough Road

Key Stat:

Average Points Scored per Game: 193.8 Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls Opponents per Game: 209.2

Coach Rudd probably got sick of having to walk uphill all year long. Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls' opponents put up 209.2 points per game during the regular season, which was more points than any other team had to deal with. Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls' 8 - 15 record looks a bit better in light of the increased degree of difficulty.

Fizz Out

Key Stat:

Fostoria Screwballs Regular Season Losses: 11 Fostoria Screwballs Losses During weeks 9-14: 5

As Coach Welly wonders why Fostoria Screwballs failed to make the playoffs, he will have to think about weeks 9 to 14 when Fostoria Screwballs looked like the worst team in the league. They went 1 - 5 over that unhappy stretch. <u>Raisel Iglesias</u> should shoulder much of the blame, doing 38.2 points worse than the average relief pitcher while in the starting lineup during that

span. Fostoria Screwballs finished up tied for the 6th best regular season record in the league at 12 - 11.

Leader of the Pack

Key Stat: <u>Raleigh Middle Fingers</u>: 216.5 Power Rangers: 199.17

Coach Lipps took on all comers this season, and had what it took to prevail. Raleigh Middle Fingers finished off 2019 with a 216.5 to 199.17 victory over Power Rangers, giving them a 16 - 9 final record. Raleigh Middle Fingers owes part of their success to <u>Justin Verlander</u>, who scored 217 more points than the average starting pitcher totaled this season (that was best in the league).

Even-Keeled

Key Stat:

Spivey's Corner Knockouts Top 3 Players PPA: 95 Spivey's Corner Knockouts 4-6 Players PPA: 34.4

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. <u>Trea Turner</u>, <u>Will Smith</u>, and <u>Jorge Polanco</u> posted 95 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, <u>Kris Bryant</u>, <u>Mike Moustakas</u>, and <u>Marco Gonzales</u>, finished up at +34.4 PPA.

You're Not Helping

Key Stat: Average Coach's Points: 24.8 Coach Blue's Points: -70.8

Coach Blue has plenty of decisions to regret after his lineup choices left him as the worst gameday coach in the league. He sure distributed those lost points well however, as he never cost his team a game with his decisions. Fuquay Nine finished the regular season with a 16 - 7 record.

So Close...

Key Stat: <u>Power Rangers</u>: 199.17 Raleigh Middle Fingers: 216.5 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 Raleigh Middle Fingers, but overall they did well enough to end up with an 18 - 7 record. Their good standing can be attributed, in part, to their starting pitchers, who ranked 2nd in the league.

Better Luck Next Year

Key Stat:

Average Team Points per Game (reg. season): 193.8 <u>Hickory Scorpions</u> Points per Game (reg. season): 163.5

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 9 times this season.

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