

A Year in Review

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Freddie Freeman and Power Rangers take the crown

Last year's winner has done it again, as [Power Rangers](#) are tops in the league. Power Rangers finished off 2021 with a 280.5 to 195.5 victory over Durham Indians, giving them a 17 - 8 final record. They were led by [Freddie Freeman](#), [Walker Buehler](#), and [Teoscar Hernandez](#), who collectively finished 294.4 points above their positional averages while in the starting lineup.

On the coaching front, Coach Blue stood out as the best decision-maker this year. His lineup moves gave his squad 213.3 more points than the experts would have. That was 295.8 points better than Coach Kiel, who were the worst coach in the league. They ended up costing their team the game in week 18 with their lineup decisions, which were 42 points worse than the experts that week.

Coach Warren's decision-making was pretty decent this year, but it didn't matter. Spivey's Corner Knockouts wound up at 3 - 20, good for the worst record in the league. Spivey's Corner Knockouts can place a good chunk of blame on [Jeff McNeil](#), who fell a collective 134 points short of the league average hitter while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other hitter this year.

Is that Earl Weaver?

Key Stat:

Average Coach's Points: -1.2
Coach Blue's Points: 213.3

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 20 win where his decisions were 33.5 points better than the experts that week. That coaching performance goes a long way towards explaining why Fuquay Nine finished up tied for the 5th best regular season record in the league at 12 - 11.

Roster Hole

Key Stat:

Average SP Points/Week: 40
Hickory Scorpions SP Points/Week: 28.5

Hickory Scorpions struggled to find the right mix with their starting pitchers, who averaged only 28.46 points per game. That was worse than any other team this year. [Zack Greinke](#) shares a big part of the blame for that lackluster group's performance, averaging 5.4 points in his 12 starts for Hickory Scorpions this year. Those starting pitcher problems go a long way towards explaining why Hickory Scorpions finished the regular season with an 8 - 15 record.

Falling Down

Key Stat for [Ellicott City Black Sox](#):

Points Per Game Weeks 1 - 7: 201.8
Points Per Game Weeks 8 - 23: 160.6

Back in week seven, Ellicott City Black Sox 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 being tied for 9th place to finish the season with a record of 10 - 13. The bad record can be attributed to bad coaching, as Coach Kiel were the worst gameday coach in the league.

Bringing Out the Worst In Others

Key Stat:

Average Points Scored per Game: 173.4
Durham Indians Opponents per Game: 162.3

All year long, opponents kindly rolled out the red carpet for Coach Close and Durham Indians. They had 162.3 points per game scored against them during the regular season, which was fewer than any other team. The easy schedule takes a bit of the shine off Durham Indians' 15 - 8 record.

Work Horse

Key Stat for [Raleigh Middle Fingers](#):

Average Starting Pitcher Points Per Game: 11.9
Max Scherzer Points Per Game Started: 18.7

Raleigh Middle Fingers leaned on [Max Scherzer](#) all year, as he was the league's best starting pitcher, scoring 438.3 points. Scherzer's best game came in week 23, when he put up 54.5 points in a losing effort versus Ball Hawks. Overall, Raleigh Middle Fingers finished in 5th place during the regular season with a record of 12 - 11.

Top Heavy

Key Stat:

Ball Hawks Top 3 Players PPA: 416.7

Ball Hawks 4-6 Players PPA: 58.1

Ball Hawks were the most top-heavy squad in the league this year, with a huge gap between their top three players and their next three best starters. The group of [Vladimir Guerrero](#), [Julio Urias](#), and [Bo Bichette](#) wound up at +416.7 Points Vs Positional Average (PPA) while in the starting lineup this year. Their next three best players, [Aroldis Chapman](#), [Logan Webb](#), and [Charlie Blackmon](#), finished up well behind at +58.1 PPA.

Bully

Key Stat for Fostoria Screwballs:

Record Vs. Above 0.500 Teams: 4 - 10

Record Vs. Below 0.500 Teams: 7 - 2

Fostoria Screwballs 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. [Fostoria Screwballs](#) can place a good chunk of blame on [Patrick Corbin](#), who fell a collective 89 points short of the league average pitcher while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other pitcher this year.

Leader of the Pack

Key Stat:

[Power Rangers](#): 280.5

Durham Indians: 195.5

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Mirror Mirror

Key Stat for [Mauer Patch Kids](#):

Record When [Corbin Burnes](#) Overperforms: 7 - 1

Record When [Corbin Burnes](#) Underperforms: 5 - 8

There was no better indicator of Mauer Patch Kids' fortunes this year than the performance of Corbin Burnes. Mauer Patch Kids looked unstoppable when Burnes topped his projections, and merely so-so when he didn't. Coach Parker got enough good efforts from Burnes to wind up at 16 - 9.

Ownage

Key Stat:

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls: 995.2 points

Spivey's Corner Knockouts: 690.3 points

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls did well this year, but never looked as good as when they played Spivey's Corner Knockouts. They played Spivey's Corner Knockouts five times, and ended up winning each game. The cumulative margin of victory, at 304.8 points, represents the largest spread between any two teams this year.

It Couldn't Be Worse

Key Stat:

Average Team Points per Game (reg. season): 173.4

[Spivey's Corner Knockouts](#) Points per Game (reg. season): 137.4

There's always next year for Coach Warren. This year, however, Spivey's Corner Knockouts wound up in last place in the overall standings at 3 - 20. Coach Warren can only blame himself as he forgot to set his lineup 13 times this season.

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