

COMMISSIONER COPY



28th Annual WFBL Winter Talks

February 27th, 2022

1. Draft pick trades review
2. All but Andrew and Nolan attending
3. Budget review
4. Check Presentations

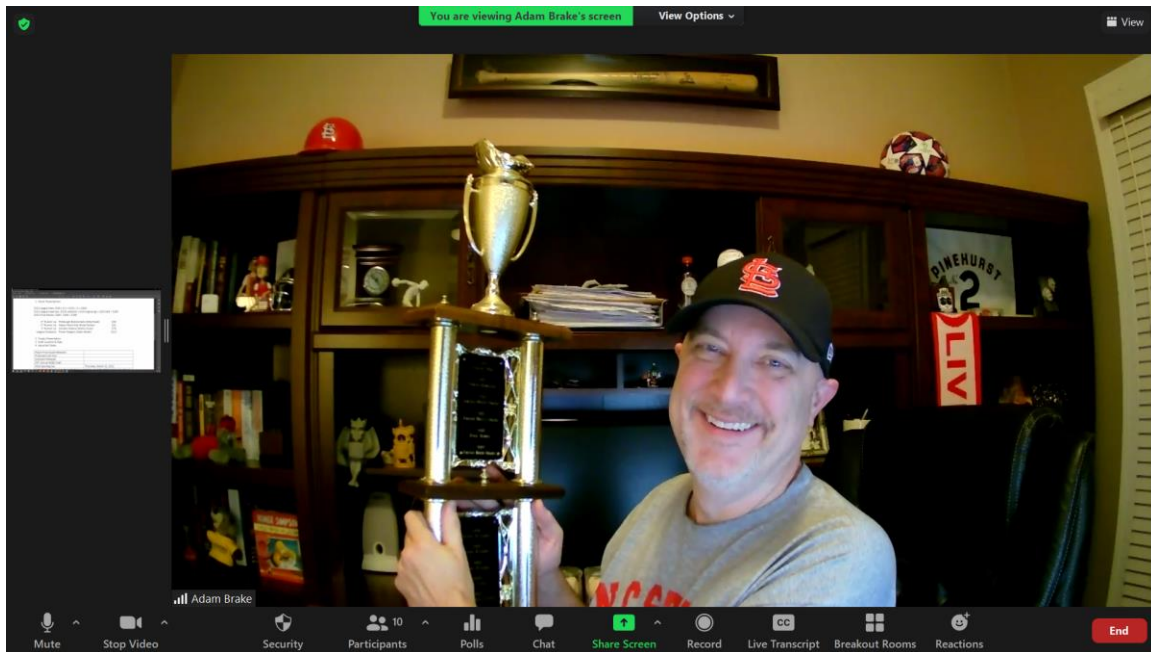
2021 League Fees: $(\$40 \times 11) + (\$20 \times 1) = \$460$

2021 League Expenses: $(\$150 \text{ website}) + (\$10 \text{ engraving}) + (\$20 \text{ ball}) = \$180$

2021 Prize Money: $\$460 - \$180 = \$280$

		<u>2021</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
3 rd Runner Up	Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (Mike Rudd) 2021 Avent Division Champions (16-7)	\$40	\$40	\$40
2 nd Runner Up	Mauer Patch Kids (Nolan Parker) 2021 Doeren Division (15-8)	\$52	\$52	\$52
1 st Runner Up	Durham Indians (Dennis Close) 2021 Keatts Division Champions (15-8)	\$76	\$76	\$76
League Champion	Power Rangers (Adam Brake) 2021 Wild Card Winner (15-8)	\$112	\$112	\$112

5. Trophy Presentation:



2021 "Year of the Pitcher (Part 2)?" Season in Review

- The Power Rangers were the only team to return to the postseason in 2021, having now made the post-season the last three (full) seasons.

COMMISSIONER COPY

- With their win, the first since 2015, the Power Rangers have now won 8 WFBL championships.
- *Trending Up:* Aven Division Champion Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls proved to be the most improved team in 2021, netting 8 more games in 2021 over the previous full season. Doeren Division Champion Mauer Patch Kids improved by 5 wins over their previous campaign.
- *Trending Down:* The Spivey's Corner Knockouts could only manage 3 wins in 2021, 10 fewer than in 2019. Fuquay Nine and Ellicott City Black Sox had 4 and 3 additional losses respectively than they had during the previous campaign.
- Other Trends
 - **20** draft picks traded in 2021 (up from 19 in '19) – most active was Spivey's Corner (5 away, 5 to), Power Rangers (4 away, 3 to), Durham Indians (4 away), and Ellicott City (4 to)
 - **83%** (10/12) of the league either traded away or received a draft pick in '21 (down from 91% in '19). The Hickory Scorpions and Ball Hawks were the only teams not involved in a trade involving a draft pick.
 - **66%** (8/12) participation in the 2021 Minor League Draft (unchanged from in '19)
 - **83%** (10/12) participation in the 2021 Winter Talks (up from 66% in '19)
- A Summer Talks event was not held in 2021.
- All 2021 3rd-year protectees were either traded away or dropped during the 2021 season.
- 2021 was the lowest scoring season on record:
 - As a league, teams averaged only 173.4 points per week (ppw) this season. Compared to 2019, this is a decrease of 20.4 ppw. The previous low was 181.4 in 2018.
 - No one cracked 300+ pts in a regular week for only the 5th time since 1997. It was the first time no one cracked 280 pts (high was PWR's 267.7).
 - No one averaged 200+ ppw for the first time since 2014, which was only the 3rd time this has happened (2013). 5 teams were 200+ ppw in 2019. In fact, only one team avg'd 190+ ppw (PWR 190.4). This was the first time that has ever happened. 7 teams were 190+ ppw in 2019.
 - After finally getting someone to score 5000+ points in 2019 (PWR 5095.0) for the first time since 2006, the league's top scoring team had only 4378.8 (PWR).
 - SCK averaged 137.4 ppw, 2nd lowest scoring total ever. Only the 2nd time in league history a team averaged less than 145 ppw (APX 115.3 in 2013).
 - For only the third time in league history, a team reached the playoffs averaging less than 185 ppw (DUR 184.6). Others were HWK in 2018 (178.2) and KAL in 1997 (179.0). DUR also won their division. It was only the 2nd time in league history a team won their division scoring less than 185 ppw (HWK, also won title).
 - 6 teams scored less than 4000 total points on the season, most in league history. By comparison, only one team did not reach that mark in 2019. In 2011, no teams failed to reach that threshold. Ironically, those same teams combined to led the league in weekly scoring 7 times! Prior to this year, that had only happened 10 times since 1997!
 - Similarly, 4 teams averaged less than 170 ppw, most in league history. Those teams led the league in weekly scoring 3 times, where that had only happened 4 times since 1997 prior to this season.
 - SEVEN teams had fewer than 4000 pts scored against them. Before this season, that happened only NINE times! Lower that threshold to 3900 pts, and THREE teams had fewer than 3900 pts scored against them. Before this season, that happened just TWICE! In fact, TWO teams (DUR 3734.8 and PIT 3794.5) broke the record for fewest points scored against them, previously held by MPK in 2017 (3818.5).
 - Ball Hawks become the first team in league history to lose 300+ games. Their total stands at 309.
- Congratulations to the Durham Indians for making the playoffs for the first time in their 10-year history, along with their first playoff win!
- Congratulations to the Mauer Patch Kids for their first ever playoff win their 7-year history and 2nd playoff appearance. Every current team in the league now has at least one playoff win. MPK is now the only team yet to reach the Championship game.
- PIT made the playoffs without leading the league in weekly scoring in any week. This is only the 6th time in league history that has happened. Those 6 teams combined to win just 3 playoffs games with zero Championship game appearances.
- RMF and HWK both continued their remarkable 24-year streaks of never having won a wildcard, in spite of their combined 15 division titles and 6 WFBL championships, including 4 of the last 5 league titles. 27 wildcards have been won in the history of the league, none by either of them. In fact, the two teams have combined to finish 2nd in their division only FIVE times. By contrast, FUQ has won the wildcard 5 times in just 14 seasons (1 division title, 2 Championships).

COMMISSIONER COPY

6. Draft Location & Date

Location

- Kernersville? Cary?
- Chip's house? Mike's house? Thomas's house?

Date

- MLB Opening Day is Thursday, March 31st.
- Friday, March 25th; Saturday, March 26th; Sunday, March 27th?
- What time?

7. Important Dates

The official WFBL Player Price Guide must be released no later than 2 weeks prior to the draft. Ideally, it should be released 2 weeks prior to when protection lists are due (which would be 3 weeks prior to the draft, since protection lists are typically due one week before the draft).

Dates below are in pencil, pending MLB labor according

Player Price Guide Released	Sunday, March 13, 2022
Protected Lists Due	Sunday, March 20, 2022
Schedule Released	Wednesday, March 30, 2022
29 th Annual WFBL Draft	Sunday, March 27, 2022
MLB Opening Day	Thursday, March 31, 2022
Initial Roster Transaction Requests Due	Friday, April 15, 2022 (email in by 10pm)
Minor League Draft	Sunday, April 24, 2022 (online at 9pm)
Expanded Rosters	Monday, August 22, 2022
Trade/Transaction Deadline	Monday, August 29, 2022
Playoffs Begin	Monday, September 12, 2022

8. League Software

Cost for CBSsports.com remains \$149.99 as the "Early Bird Special" (deadline was Feb 10th)

9. Draft

- Online draft board: expect only minor improvements in the 19th installment of our home-grown online draft software. URL for WFBL is <http://wfbl.acbrake.org>
- Projector?

10. Minor League Draft

For the past 12 years now, we've held the minor league draft online all in one night. This alleviates issues where a player lost minor league draft eligibility during the course of the draft. Owners who cannot be available have the opportunity to submit a list.

COMMISSIONER COPY

11. Open Forum

- a) Eloy Jimenez was protected, but suffered a major pectoral injury shortly prior to the 2021 draft. He was forced to remain on the Moundchargers roster until the end of the second week as per the rules. At the 2020 Winter Talks, we ratified a new rule that any player could be *added* following the draft as long as the team acquiring that player has cap room available, but we made no provisions for drops. Do we want to consider some sort of protection clause here or not?
 - a. No Vote
- b) CBS has a rule that players will lock in their roster spot for the week once the scheduled start time of their first game has passed. This will happen even if the game is cancelled or postponed. The Rules Committee voted to extend the time allowed to swap out a player if the game is cancelled due to COVID (as was the case once last season).
 - a. For rainouts too? Yes
 - b. Go with what CBS does. No change to the rules.
- c) Chip wanted to propose any minor league player that was protected ONLY should be \$1 the first year they are called up.
 - a. Could be for anyone protected.
 - b. Could limit it to \$3, protected at least once.
 - c. Only for this draft, going forward.
 - d. Vote 1: \$1, starting this year, immediate: 6-5 (failed because not a majority)
 - e. Vote 1: \$1, starting next year, protect for one year: 6-5 (failed because not a majority)
 - f. Vote 2 (PASS): \$3 7-4
- d) Jeremy: Move minor league players to your major league roster at the draft to meet minimum roster numbers?
 - a. No second
- e) Entry fee has not changed since 1994, yet inflation has caused the buying power to change dramatically. I would propose we get rid of the Commissioner's discount while raising the entry fee from \$40 to \$75.
 - a. \$50 and no commissioner discount – 2nd
 - b. PASS: 10-1
- f) Jeremy: Extending minor league eligibility: Withdrawn
- g) Others?

12. Constitution Review - Approved

13. Rules Committee Nominations and Elections

Jeremy was elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2019. Mike and Matt were elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2020. So, we need 1 new guy to replace Jeremy to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2022.

Noms: Chris Burkett (11-0)

COMMISSIONER COPY

14. Draft Lottery

2 “chances” – Power Rangers, Durham Indians, Mauer Patch Kids, Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls

4 “chances” – All other teams

1. RMF (Keatts)
2. SOX (Doeren)
3. FOS (Avent)
4. SCK (Keatts)
5. PWR (Doeren)
6. HIK (Avent)
7. WRM (Keatts)
8. HAW (Doeren)
9. *DUR (Keatts)
10. FUQ (Avent)
11. *MPK (Doeren)
12. *PIT (Avent)

15. Division Alignment

*Defending Division Champs: Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (Avent), Mauer Patch Kids (Doeren), Durham Indians (Keatts)

Avent Division:

- Fostoria Screwballs
- Hickory Scorpions
- Fuquay Nine
- *Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls

Doeren Division:

- Ellicott City Black Sox
- Power Rangers
- Ball Hawks
- *Mauer Patch Kids

Keatts Division:

- Raleigh Middle Fingers
- Spivey’s Corner Knockouts
- West Raleigh Moundchargers
- *Durham Indians