

A Year in Review

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A Year in Review



Jose Ramirez and Durham Indians take the crown

All twelve teams started the 2022 season with dreams of a championship, but only [Durham Indians](#) and Coach Close made it a reality. Durham Indians finished off 2022 with a 160.83 to 111.17 victory over Raleigh Middle Fingers, giving them a 17 - 8 final record. That impressive record was partially a result of great coaching, as nobody earned their team more points with their lineup decisions than Coach Close.

Coach Rudd didn't need to do a lot of coaching when it came to their starting pitchers, who put up a league-leading 55.32 points per game. Meanwhile, Coach Chris Burkett could only dream about good starting pitcher play this year, as Hickory Scorpions' starting pitchers were the worst in the league, coming up with only 24.7 points per game. [Nick Pivetta](#) shares a big part of the blame for that lackluster group's performance, averaging 4.2 points in his 12 starts for Hickory Scorpions this year.

Spivey's Corner Knockouts had lots of positional problems, which drove them into the ditch at 4 - 19. That was the worst mark in the league (repeating their feat from last year). Spivey's Corner Knockouts can place a good chunk of blame on [Austin Hays](#), who fell a collective 60 points short of the league average hitter while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other hitter this year.

Top Heavy

Key Stat:

Hickory Scorpions Top 3 Players PPA: 373.7
Hickory Scorpions 4-6 Players PPA: 38.1

Hickory Scorpions 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 [Aaron Judge](#), [Jose Abreu](#), and [Kyle Schwarber](#) wound up at +373.7 Points Vs Positional Average (PPA) while in the starting lineup this year. Their next three best players, [Clay Holmes](#), [Alex Verdugo](#), and [Amed Rosario](#), finished up well behind at +38.1 PPA.

Problem Children

Key Stat:

Average Infielder Points/Week: 62.1
Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls Infielder Points/Week: 46.7

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls struggled to find the right mix with their infielders, who averaged only 46.65 points per game. That was worse than any other team this year. [Jared Walsh](#) shares a big part of the blame for that lackluster group's performance, averaging 9.3 points in his 13 starts for Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls this year. Those infielder problems go a long way towards explaining why Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls wound up tied for 7th place during the regular season with an 11 - 12 record.

King of the League

Key Stat:

[Durham Indians](#): 160.83
Raleigh Middle Fingers: 111.17

'There can be only one.' This season, that was Durham Indians. They finished off 2022 with a 160.83 to 111.17 victory over Raleigh Middle Fingers, giving them a 17 - 8 final record. That impressive record was partially a result of great coaching, as nobody earned their team more points with their lineup decisions than Coach Close.

Golden Group

Key Stat:

Average Infielder Points/Week: 62.1
Mauer Patch Kids Infielder Points/Week: 69.6

Mauer Patch Kids got big efforts from their infielders, who put up a best-in-the-league 69.57 points per game. [Rafael Devers](#) was the leader of that pack, scoring 364 points for Mauer Patch Kids this season. Overall, Mauer Patch Kids finished in 7th place during the regular season with a record of 11 - 12.

Mirror Mirror

Key Stat for [Ball Hawks](#):

Record When [Dylan Cease](#) Overperforms: 7 - 4
Record When Dylan Cease Underperforms: 2 - 6

There was no better indicator of Ball Hawks' fortunes this year than the performance of Dylan Cease. Ball Hawks looked hopeless when Cease failed to hit his projections, and at least decent when he did. Coach Matthew Burkett could have used a lot more good efforts from Cease, as they closed the season at 9 - 14.

Following the Script

Key Stat for Power Rangers:

Record Vs. Above 0.500 Teams: 2 - 7

Record Vs. Below 0.500 Teams: 10 - 4

Power Rangers 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. That record is all the more impressive given that Power Rangers had the 4th hardest schedule (measured by points against) this year.

Streaking the Wrong Way

Key Stat:

Fuquay Nine Regular Season Losses: 14

Fuquay Nine Losses During weeks 10-17: 7

As Coach Blue wonders why Fuquay Nine failed to make the playoffs, he will have to think about weeks 10 to 17 when Fuquay Nine looked like the worst team in the league. They went 1 - 7 over that unhappy stretch. [Ronald Acuna](#) should shoulder much of the blame, doing 40.3 points worse than the average right fielder while in the starting lineup during that span. Fuquay Nine wound up tied for the 2nd worst regular season record in the league at 9 - 14.

Second Fiddle

Key Stat:

[Raleigh Middle Fingers](#): 111.17

Durham Indians: 160.83

Raleigh Middle Fingers 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 Durham Indians, but overall they did well enough to end up with an 18 - 7 record. They were led by [Trea Turner](#), [Manny Machado](#), and [Shohei Ohtani](#), who collectively finished 315 points above their positional averages while in the starting lineup.

On the Hot Seat

Key Stat:

Average Team Points per Game (reg. season): 177.6

[Spivey's Corner Knockouts](#) Points per Game (reg. season): 164.3

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 4 - 19. Spivey's Corner Knockouts can place a good chunk of blame on Austin Hays, who fell a collective 60 points short of the league average hitter while in the starting lineup, doing more damage than any other hitter this year.

Worst In Show

Key Stat for Ellicott City Black Sox:

Average Shortstop Points Per Game: 13.3

Thairo Estrada Points Per Game Started: 10.6

Ellicott City Black Sox were held back by [Thairo Estrada](#), who did more to damage his team's chances than any other shortstop. While in Ellicott City Black Sox's starting lineup, Estrada fell 53.7 points short of the average shortstop. Estrada's worst game came in week 20, when he couldn't do any better than -3 points in a losing effort versus Mauer Patch Kids. Despite his performance this year, Ellicott City Black Sox finished up tied for the 4th best regular season record in the league at 13 - 10.

Afraid of Change

Key Stat:

Average Number of Starters: 42.5
Fostoria Screwballs Starters: 29

When faced with tough decisions, Coach Welly's usual move was to just stay the course. Fostoria Screwballs used less starters than any other team, putting only 29 different players into the lineup during the regular season. Despite that coaching performance, Fostoria Screwballs finished the regular season with a 14 - 9 record.

Falling Down

Key Stat for [West Raleigh Moundchargers](#):

Points Per Game Weeks 1 - 7: 190.1
Points Per Game Weeks 8 - 23: 163.5

Back in week seven, West Raleigh Moundchargers were in contention to win the title, tied for 4th place. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be, as they fell all the way to 9th place to finish the season with a record of 10 - 13. The unimpressive finish was partially due to their 9th ranked outfielders.

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