

# COMMISSIONER COPY



## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual WFBL Winter Talks Meeting Minutes

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### 1. Check Presentations

2022 League Fees: (\$50 x 12) = \$600

2022 League Expenses: (\$150 website) + (\$20 engraving) + (\$20 ball) = \$190

2022 Prize Money: \$600 - \$190 = \$410

		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2019</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Runner Up	Fostoria Screwballs (Dennis Welly) 2022 Avent Division Champions (14-9)	\$50	\$40	\$40
2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner Up	Ellicott City Black Sox (Chip Kiel) 2022 Doeren Division (13-10)	\$71	\$52	\$52
1 <sup>st</sup> Runner Up	Raleigh Middle Fingers (Thomas Lipps) 2022 Keatts Division Champions (17-6)	\$113	\$76	\$76
League Champion	Durham Indians (Dennis Close) 2022 Wild Card Winner (15-8)	\$176	\$112	\$112

### 2. Trophy Presentation

#### 2022 Season in Review

- The Durham Indians were the only team to return to the postseason in 2022. With their first championship, they became the 8<sup>th</sup> active franchise with a league title.
- *Trending Up:* Keatts Division Champion Raleigh Middle Fingers and the Hickory Scorpions proved to be the most improved teams in 2022, netting 5 more games in 2022 over the previous full season. Doeren Division Champion Ellicott City Black Sox and Avent Division Champion Fostoria Screwballs both improved by 3 wins over their previous campaigns.
- *Trending Down:* 2021 division champions Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls and Mauer Patch Kids had 5 and 4 fewer wins respectively than they had in 2021.
- Other Trends
  - **20** draft picks traded in 2022 (unchanged from '21) – most active was Spivey's Corner (1 away, 7 to), Power Rangers (1 away, 3 to), Durham Indians (4 away), and Ellicott City (3 away, 1 to)
  - **100%** (12/12) of the league either traded away or received a draft pick in '22 (up from 83% in '21)
  - **83%** (10/12) participation in the 2022 Minor League Draft (up from 66% in '21)
  - **92%** (11/12) participation in the 2022 Winter Talks (up from 83% in '21)
- A Summer Talks event was not held in 2022.
- All 2022 3<sup>rd</sup>-year protectees were either traded away or dropped during the 2022 season.
- 2022 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest scoring season on record:
  - As a league, teams averaged only 177.7 points per week (ppw) this season. Compared to 2019, this is a decrease of 16.1 ppw. This season did have a 4.3 ppw increase over 2021.
  - Only one team (Fostoria) cracked 300+ pts in a regular week.
  - No one averaged 200+ ppw for the second year in a row and only two teams avg'd 190+ ppw (RMF 198.7, DUR 190.0). 7 teams were 190+ ppw in 2019, 8 teams were 190+ in 2017.
  - Despite increasing their average ppw by nearly 30 points over the previous year, SCK managed only one additional win.
  - For only the fourth and fifth times in league history, a team reached the playoffs averaging less than 185 ppw (SOX 175.3 and FOS 177.9). Others were DUR in 2021 (184.6), HWK in 2018 (178.2) and KAL in 1997 (179.0). SOX and FOS also won their divisions. It was only the third and fourth times in league history a team won their division scoring less than 185 ppw (DUR and HWK).

## COMMISSIONER COPY

- The Hickory Scorpions became the second team in league history to lose 300+ games, joining their brother who became the first team in 2021. Their total stands at 304.
- RMF and HWK both continued their remarkable 25-year streaks of never having won a wildcard, in spite of their combined 16 division titles and 6 WFBL championships, including 4 of the last 6 league titles. 28 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).

### 3. Draft Location & Date

#### Location

- Kernersville? Hickory?
- Chip's house? Matt's house? Chris' house?
  - Hickory – Matt's house

#### Date

- MLB Opening Day is Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>; Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>; Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>?
- What time?
  - March 26 – afternoon (Droopy can't make the morning, will still have to do remote)

### 4. 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).

Player Price Guide Released	Sunday, March 5, 2023
Protected Lists Due	Sunday, March 19, 2023
Schedule Released	Monday, March 27, 2023 (or thereabouts)
29 <sup>th</sup> Annual WFBL Draft	Sunday, March 26, 2023
MLB Opening Day	Thursday, March 30, 2023
Initial Roster Transaction Requests Due	Friday, April 14, 2023 (email in by 10pm)
Minor League Draft	Sunday, April 23, 2023 (online at 9pm)
Expanded Rosters	Monday, August 21, 2023
Trade/Transaction Deadline	Monday, August 28, 2023
Playoffs Begin	Monday, September 11, 2023

### 5. League Software

Cost for CBSsports.com remains \$149.99 as the "Early Bird Special" (deadline is Feb 10<sup>th</sup>)

### 6. Draft

- Online draft board: expect only minor improvements in the 21<sup>st</sup> installment of our homegrown online draft software. URL for WFBL is <https://wfbl.acbrake.org>
- Projector?

## COMMISSIONER COPY

### 7. Minor League Draft

For the past 14 years now, we have 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.

### 8. Open Forum

- a) Andrew expressed a desire to allow SP/RP-qualified players to be used at either SP, RP or SP/RP, not just at SP/RP. Any second? **Mike seconds.**
  - a. **Vote: 2 for, 8 against**
- b) Our constitution clearly says that batters with no major league experience will only be eligible at their “established position” as per CBS (4.1). For established players, if they did not qualify at any position, they are only eligible at the position they played “the most” (4.2). If they played an equal amount of games at multiple positions, they are only eligible at the position they are likely to play in the upcoming season, confirmed by 5+ owners at the draft (4.3). Where does that leave a player like Tatis, who played zero games in 2021? CBS lists him as SS, but it is conceivable he will not play a single game at shortstop this season (with Xander Bogaerts guaranteed the everyday role at short). If we go with CBS’s “established position”, would he lose that once he plays 20+ games at another position (4.5)?
  - a. How do we interpret/apply the existing rules to Tatis?
  - b. Do we want to change/clarify our rules to account for players like this in the future?
    - i. **Proposal – update 4.1 to include players that have missed the last season(s) to use CBS default position and cannot be 2-position player. (If CBS lists two positions, I assume 4.3 kicks in?)**
    - ii. **Vote: 9 for, 1 present (Mike)**
- c) People have complained about the 3-day All-Star Week matchup in the past. Is there any support for changing Week 1 from an 11-day week to a 4-day week, and then play no matchup during the All-Star Break week?
  - a. **No support**
- d) **Waiver claim rule: Says “2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday”. Need to reword to “Saturday of Week 2”, since most opening weeks now cover the first 2 Saturdays**
  - a. **Vote: 9 for (Mike left)**
- e) **Codify rules committee judging “intent” of the rule. Rule 13.4 2<sup>nd</sup>,**
  - a. **Vote 9-0**
- f) **VC will step-in when an RC member is involved. Rule 13.5 2<sup>nd</sup>,**
  - a. **Vote 9-0**
- g) **Commish will assign ad hoc RC members (as needed) when more than one RC member is involved in the dispute, 2<sup>nd</sup>,**
  - a. **Vote 9-0**
- h) Others

### 9. Constitution Review

### 10. Rules Committee Nominations and Elections

Mike and Matt were elected to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2020. Chris was elected to serve 2-year term beginning in 2022. So, we need 2 new guys to replace Mike and Matt to serve a 2-year term beginning in 2023.

**Noms: Andrew Blue and Dennis Close – vote 9-0**

### 11. Draft Lottery

## COMMISSIONER COPY

2 “chances” – Durham Indians, Raleigh Middle Fingers, Ellicott City Black Sox, Fostoria Screwballs

4 “chances” – All other teams

### 12. Division Alignment

1. Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls (K)
2. Fuquay Nine (D)
3. Hickory Scorpions (A)
4. Ellicott City Black Sox (D\*)
5. Power Rangers (K)
6. Durham Baseball Team (A)
7. Mauer Patch Kids (K)
8. Ball Hawks (D)
9. West Raleigh Moundchargers (A)
10. Raleigh Middle Fingers (K\*)
11. Spivey’s Corner Knockouts (D)
12. Fostoria Screwballs (A\*)

Defending Division Champs: Fostoria Screwballs (Avent), Ellicott City Black Sox (Doeren), Raleigh Middle Fingers (Keatts)

Keatts:

Raleigh Middle Fingers (Champ)

Mauer Patch Kids

Power Rangers

Pittsburgh Brahma Bulls

Doeren:

Ellicott City Black Sox (Champ)

Spivey Corner Knockouts

Ball Hawks

Fuquay Nine

Avent:

Fostoria Screwballs (Champ)

West Raleigh Moundchargers

Durham Baseball Team

Hickory Scorpions