

It's that time of year again! The BBL is coming back for a tenth season, now bigger than ever as the league has been split into two sub-leagues of 22, one playing each version of the game.

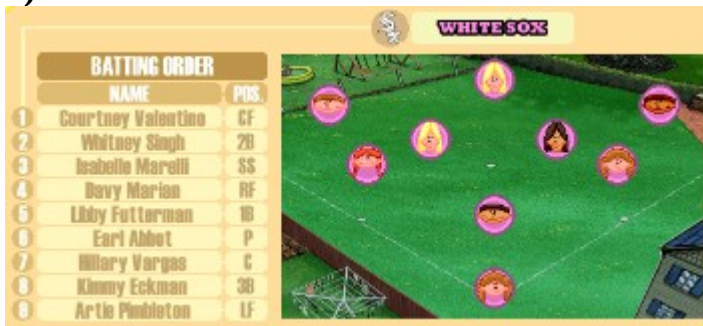
As is tradition, I have gone through and done basic analysis on each team. To create an initial power ranking, each team's offense and defense got graded on a five-value scale, with ratings on the higher end carrying a larger increase in score (values are 0/1/2/4/6), though it is worth noting that, as is usual with me, I assigned very very few ratings at either far end of the scale. Extra modifiers were then added based on other factors, mainly the team's home field and coach, to reach a final point value. In case of ties, I used my own judgment to rank the tied teams.

So enjoy the team analyses, and check out the end of this article for official predictions!

Thanks to Crazyei8hts for providing team previews and defensive alignments, and to Vissery for providing data on teams' average skill ratings!

Disclaimer: These were based on brief, not all-encompassing team analyses done on a total of forty-four teams. I make no guarantees as to their accuracy, quality, or consistency. Also, I'm not trying to make anybody feel bad here – I am analyzing the teams as honestly as possible and some are weaker than others, but I hope you won't let it get you down if I gave your team a poor grade. Think of it instead as a challenge to prove me wrong!

1) Red White Sox



Coach: MelloMathTeacher (1.2-season veteran, 21-5 lifetime record, 1 division title, 1 LDS title, 1 LCS title, 1 WS title)

Division: Backyard League (BL) West

Home field: Eckman Acres

First pick: Davy Marian (#22 overall)

Last pick: Kimmy Eckman (#177 overall)

Average arm strength: 69 (#3 in league)

Average swing power: 67 (#14 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.9 (#7 in league)

Average stamina: 41 (#22 in league)

Average coordination: 51 (#20 in league)

Average throw accuracy: 53 (#20 in league)

Average relief rating: 207 (#3 in league)

Defense: Good. While not as ironclad as his famous Junior Athletics, Mello's second team still has a solid defense that might prove difficult to gain a foothold against.

Offense: Good. This team has a good base of speed, a bunch of strong bats, and no big liabilities at the plate. The lack of top-tier hitting will force them to work a bit harder to succeed, but they definitely have the tools to make it work.

Other modifiers: +1. Mello may not be planning to work as hard this season as he has in the past, but he's still proven his skill as a coach and may well still be one of the best-prepared this season.

Total: 9

Additional comments: With all the high relief ratings in play here, it's possible that the early pitching substitutions will wreak havoc on this defense and leave it wide-open. If that doesn't happen, though, this is going to be an intimidating team indeed.

2) Minnesota Twins



Coach: Toast (3-season veteran, 25-18 lifetime record, 1 WC title, 1 player award)

Division: BL East

Home field: Tin Can Alley

First pick: Susan Gore (#15 overall)

Last pick: Sophie Meyer (#179 overall)

Average arm strength: 67 (#13 in league)

Average swing power: 77 (#2 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.8 (#9 in league)

Average stamina: 68 (#1 in league)

Average intelligence: 76 (#1 in league)

Defense: Average. This defense has the right pieces in the right places while lacking any really intimidating players out in the field proper.

Offense: Good. The array of speed is rather unimpressive, but the majority of players possessing average speed is still good, especially when blended with this team's immense power. A couple of middling power hitters and then a bunch of strong ones makes for a lineup with no duds, one that will make other teams quake in their boots.

Other modifiers: +2. This offense is well-built to take advantage of Tin Can Alley, and Toast saw success with a similar team build last season.

Total: 8

Additional comments: Toast has once again drafted a power-heavy team at a power-friendly field, just like last season, and it's easy to imagine that this squad will similarly make the playoffs.

3) Mighty Rangers



Coach: Wizard (5-season/6-team veteran, 52-40 lifetime record, 1 division title, 2 WC titles, 1 LDS title, 2 player awards)

Division: Frontyard League (FL) West

Home field: Tin Can Alley

First pick: Cliff Floyd (#23 overall)

Last pick: Ricky Johnson (#178 overall)

Average arm strength: 66 (#8 in league)

Average swing power: 59 (#19 in league)

Average speed tier: 4.1 (#3 in league)

Average stamina: 67 (#2 in league)

Average contact hitting: 43 (#20 in league)

Average throwing accuracy: 40 (#22 in league)

Average height: 3.4 (#1 in league)

Defense: Good. The defense isn't brimming with top-tier talent, but it's been very well put together to avoid having any holes. Hellerman on the mound will help make this a tough field to get an edge on.

Offense: Poor. There's a lot of bat power ratings in the 60s and 70s. There's only one better, two weak bats, and while the speed on this team is decent, it's not fantastic. This team will need to rely on stringing together long rallies, and that may prove difficult to do.

Other modifiers: +3. Bat power in the 60s and 70s is perfect for hitting the ball off the walls of Tin Can Alley and this offense should thrive there. Wizard is also a proven veteran coach who's always in the playoff hunt.

Total: 8

Additional comments: I think Wizard knew what he was doing when he drafted this team, and he won't be any easier to beat than normal.

4) Montreal Expos



Coach: Jyknigh (6-season/7-team veteran, 52-52 lifetime record, 2 WC titles, 1 LDS title)

Division: BL East

Home field: Dirt Yards
First pick: Sarah Maxwell (#17 overall)
Last pick: Erin Harris (#193 overall)

Average arm strength: 59 (#18 in league)
Average swing power: 71 (#11 in league)
Average speed tier: 4.2 (#2 in league)
Average contact hitting: 41 (#22 in league)
Average throwing accuracy: 68 (#3 in league)
Average eye: 44 (#21 in league)

Defense: Poor. Maxwell being stuck behind the plate is quite unfortunate. The defense will be helped out by good speed, but I think that will be outweighed by the shortage of strong arms, and two of the three the team does have might get tired early from pitching.

Offense: Good. Like quite a few others, this team has a high power floor and a lot of moderately high-power hitters, but unlike those others, this team also has the above-average speed to make that really work. Five fast players and that bats to move them around can be a dangerous weapon indeed.

Other modifiers: +2. Dirt Yards won't do the poor arms on this team any favors, but it's the perfect place for the speedy lineup to wreak havoc on opposing defenses, which should more than make up for its downside.

Total: 7

Additional comments: This team was clearly built for a single purpose: to score a lot at Dirt Yards. It should be great at that; the real question is if it will be viable at anything else.

5) Humongous Marlins



BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS.
1	Pete Wheeler	LF
2	Grace Tipton	RF
3	Francis Blower	3B
4	Wing Kwan	2B
5	Mike Piazza	1B
6	Judy Abwunza	P
7	Randi Uno	CF
8	Murray Goldman	C
9	Vicki Kawaguchi	SS

Coach: Personizzle (BBL rookie, Backyard Baseball OnLine (BBOL) veteran)

Division: BL West

Home field: Cement Gardens

First pick: Pete Wheeler (#9 overall)

Last pick: Judy Abwunza (#197 overall)

Average arm strength: 66 (#7 in league)
Average swing power: 53 (#22 in league)
Average speed tier: 4.3 (#1 in league)
Average throwing accuracy: 50 (#21 in league)
Average aggression: 44 (#20 in league)
Average intelligence: 49 (#20 in league)

Defense: Average. With quite a bit of speed and scary infield and outfield both to start with, I was tempted to rate it higher, but after the first pitching change, one of those two fields is going to drop a level in quality. Fatigue in general will not be kind to this team, and I'm skeptical of Vicki at shortstop. Offense: Average. Once again, all the speed is a promising sign, but the large number of weaker bats and lack of true top-tier hitting might limit this team's potential, especially once their slow players start to clog the basepaths. A strong infield will be lethal against this team.

Other modifiers: +2. Cement is the perfect field for a speed-based team like this one and will accentuate their strengths nicely.

Total: 6

Additional comments: Personizzle has one of the speediest squads around, and this team's success is going to hinge on whether he can capitalize on that strength. This is a team that I can easily envision rising above their initial ranking.

6) Tampa Bay Pirates

BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS
1	Vladimir Guerrero	LF
2	Olga Tollefson	RF
3	Sammy Sosa	C
4	Jeff Bagwell	SS
5	Ingrid Bahman	3B
6	Emily Lowbel	1B
7	Jerry Winchell	P
8	Colt Weismann	2B
9	Cindy Chang	CF

Coach: shrewsbury91 (4-season veteran, 24-32 lifetime record, 1 player award)

Division: BL East

Home field: The Paveway

First pick: Sammy Sosa (#10 overall)

Last pick: Jerry Winchell (post-draft waivers)

Average arm strength: 67 (#6 in league)

Average swing power: 62 (#17 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.7 (#13 in league)

Average coordination: 76 (#1 in league)

Defense: Good. Four laser-armed pros form the backbone for an intimidating squad to go up against, and I think overall it's good enough to cover for the two significant holes in Jerry and Olga, although I question the choice to put Sosa behind the plate rather than a slower player.

Offense: Average. This is a very solid blend but doesn't wow me.

Other modifiers: None

Total: 6

Additional comments: This looks like a very solid all-around team and will probably put forth a respectable, but not flashy, performance.

7) Texas Astros



Coach: bobbyJONES2370 (1-season veteran, 6-8 lifetime record, 1 player award)

Division: FL East

Home field: Dubois Diamond

First pick: Maria Luna (#21 overall)

Last pick: Butch Sherrod (#182 overall)

Average arm strength: 64 (#9 in league)

Average swing power: 73 (#4 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.4 (#19 in league)

Average aggression: 37 (#22 in league)

Average intelligence: 49 (#21 in league)

Defense: Good. The defense was even more intimidating before Bobby traded some of it away, and it's not lockdown-tier, but it still has a lot of solid fielders and should be a formidable obstacle.

Offense: Average. A floor of 51 power is quite good, and there's a good number of power hitters in the lineup, but the team's mediocre speed and lack of true top tier hitting is enough to keep me from fully buying into this one.

Other modifiers: 0. It is worth noting that the team's likely first two relievers play shortstop and center field, so patient opponents will be rewarded with a notably easier defense. On the other hand, the home field of Dubois Diamond will give a nice boost to Marky and should make it that much harder to get through the first couple of pitchers.

Total: 6

Additional comments: It appears that Bobby has once again built a solid all-around squad. Let's see if he can improve on his effort last season.

8) White Red Sox



Coach: lillwaws26 (BBL rookie, also writes for Sports Illustrated)

Some draft picks made by Emery92 and Yurya

Division: BL West
Home field: Parks Department #2
First pick: Marilyn McDonnell (#14 overall)
Last pick: Mickey O'Connor (#189 overall)

Average arm strength: 53 (#21 in league)
Average swing power: 79 (#1 in league)
Average speed tier: 3.6 (#16 in league)
Average contact hitting: 63 (#3 in league)
Average coordination: 69 (#3 in league)
Average aggression: 66 (#1 in league)

Defense: Average. The number of weak arms on this team is concerning, but the outfield does have good range and McDonnell raises this rating a whole level practically by herself.

Offense: Good. While lacking top-tier talent, this is a power-laden squad with no crippling speed issues, and has the potential to do a lot of damage.

Other modifiers: 0. This team is very well built for Parks, where the weaker outfield arms won't be as much of a problem and the power hitters can go to town. However, I feel that in order to truly live up to its potential, this team needs everything to fall the right way. There's a lot of potential for things to go horribly wrong.

Total: 6

Additional comments: I feel that this is a high-variance team. If things go right, they could do very very well. But if opponents can exploit the defense's weak points reliably, and the power hitters fail to consistently hit the ball quite far enough, they might see some dark days indeed.

9) Los Angela's Angels



Coach: alex7456 (BBL rookie, BBOL veteran)

Division: BL East

Home field: Playground Commons

First pick: Leah Wayne (#8 overall)

Last pick: Jason Giambi (#180 overall)

Average arm strength: 48 (#22 in league)
Average swing power: 73 (#5 in league)
Average speed tier: 3.8 (#9 in league)
Average coordination: 70 (#2 in league)

Defense: Poor. It looks decent at first glance, but there's a lot of weak arms and it's not going to do very well once the substitutions start. As soon as Angela's off the mound, the infield in particular will be very suspect.

Offense: Good. While the number of very slow players is slightly concerning, six bats with above 80 power is a fearsome sight indeed, and several speedy players complement those nicely. Jody Palmer as the only player with neither of those strengths is a good sign.

Other modifiers: None.

Total: 5

Additional comments: Alex has gone all-in on offense and will need both to deliver and for his shaky defense to hold together for long enough in order to succeed this season. It's definitely a possibility, but hardly a given.

10) Mighty Wombats



Coach: Marco (5-season veteran, 26-42 lifetime record, 1 player award)

Division: BL West

Home field: Cement Gardens

First pick: Kiesha Phillips (#30 overall)

Last pick: Terry Vega (#181 overall)

Average arm strength: 68 (#4 in league)

Average swing power: 71 (#8 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.7 (#13 in league)

Average throwing accuracy: 69 (#2 in league)

Defense: Average. This team is loaded with fielders that are solid but unspectacular at their respective positions. It might be a tier higher if not for the dicey prospect of Yvonne going to third base when Chipper takes over as the second reliever.

Offense: Average. This resembles an improved version of last season's Wombats lineup, with decent speed and medium-high power. This time, though, Marco dialed the power up a bit and so the offense should be more viable, although it also lacks top-tier talent to make it really intimidating.

Other modifiers: None.

Total: 4

Additional comments: This is an extremely average, unexciting team to analyze.

11) Baltimore Orioles

ORIOLES		
BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS.
1	Alex Rodriguez	3B
2	Alicia Blakely	LF
3	Maya Woodruff	CF
4	Petra Chukov	RF
5	Derek Jeter	SS
6	Jim Kiley	C
7	Dawn Cozart	1B
8	Chucky Flinder	2B
9	Christina Beattie	P



Coach: SilverBullet102 (3-season veteran, 4-37 lifetime record)

Division: FL West

Home field: Steele Stadium

First pick: Derek Jeter (#7 overall)

Last pick: Chucky Flinder (Post-draft waivers)

Average arm strength: 70 (#2 in league)

Average swing power: 75 (#3 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.3 (#21 in league)

Average relief rating: 161 (#22 in league)

Defense: Average. The dynamic duo of A-Rod and Jeter will make for a lethal left half of the infield, but the rest of the defense is nothing special and their efforts will be hindered by a lack of speed.

Offense: Average. This is another lineup that boasts a lot of medium-high power hitters, with only one hitter below 70 power! On the other hand, Petra's the only hitter with power higher than 84, and the lack of speed in the lineup will give the team trouble taking extra bases when not hitting the ball out of the park.

Other modifiers: 0. The home field of Steele Stadium should work out nicely with this moderately high-power lineup. On the other hand, SilverBullet has struggled throughout his BBL career, and might do so again this season.

Total: 4

Additional comments: This is a team that could do very well if things line up right, but more realistically will probably cause its coach a lot of frustration.

12) Super-Duper Melonheads

MELONHEADS		
BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS.
1	Lindsay Felgate	LF
2	Fabienne Callahan	2B
3	Julie Dunkel	RF
4	Andros Rosen	3B
5	Wendy Parsons	SS
6	Heather Quinn	1B
7	Luanna Lal	P
8	Vincent Sweet	C
9	Rosanna Phelps	CF



Coach: Eauxps I. Fourgott (7-season/10-team veteran, 59-92 lifetime record, 2 division titles, 1 LDS title, 2 player awards)

Division: FL West

Home field: Tin Can Alley

First pick: Lindsay Felgate (#1 overall)

Last pick: Heather Quinn (Post-draft waivers)

Note: The Melonheads' other ninth-round pick, Andres Isben, is the team's designated powerup user instead of Heather.

Average arm strength: 64 (#11 in league)
Average swing power: 67 (#15 in league)
Average speed tier: 4 (#4 in league)
Average throwing accuracy: 71 (#1 in league)
Average eye: 42 (#22 in league)
Average aggression: 38 (#21 in league)
Average height: 2 (#22 in league)

Defense: Average. This is far from a lockdown-tier defense, especially without any laser arms, and it's really a bit embarrassing considering my draft ended up being more defense-focused. But I *think* there's enough here to get the job done.

Offense: Poor. It's front-loaded with power and speed, with four kids excellent in at least one of those attributes and another who's good at both. But all the slower players with unimpressive bats are going to hamper the team's efforts, and so far they haven't been able to put up very good scores in scrimmages.

Other modifiers: 0. On the one hand, I'm playing at my favorite field of Tin Can Alley where I'm known to thrive. On the other hand, this team is not especially well-suited for that field, and I've also been known to struggle with defense-first teams.

Total: 3

Additional comments: I'm pretty happy with my draft given the picks I had, and I haven't given up hope for this team. But it seems quite possible that my early trading just left me in too weak of a position.

13) Atlanta Braves



BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS
1	Ray Tran	2B
2	Jordan Thorneer	3B
3	Cheryl Reynolds	C
4	Debbie Nogasawa	LF
5	Veronica Luo	CF
6	Trey Claus	1B
7	Tim Hudson	P
8	Joella Minotti	RF
9	Tina Borrara	SS

Coach: Natetastic28 (3-season veteran, 24-21 lifetime record, 1 division title, 1 WC title)

Division: BL East

Home field: Scrapco Field

First pick: Cheryl Reynolds (#13 overall)

Last pick: Tim Hudson (#192 overall)

Average arm strength: 58 (#20 in league)
Average swing power: 69 (#12 in league)
Average speed tier: 4 (#4 in league)
Average coordination: 56 (#22 in league)
Average throwing accuracy: 68 (#3 in league)

Defense: Poor. With only two really strong arms and a lot of middling arms and stamina ratings, this defense will break under heavy pressure. A lot of close-together relief ratings also means that if the chips fall the wrong way, pitching substitutions will wreck the defense in short order.

Offense: Average. A lack of major weaknesses is good, but with only one elite power hitter and two faster kids, I'm wondering if this lineup will be able to really run efficiently.

Other modifiers: 0. Nate performed well last season with an offense that didn't initially wow me, and could easily do so again here. On the other hand, Scrapco's bouncy surface isn't going to pair well with the team's lackluster throwing.

Total: 3

Additional comments: Nate did well with a strong defense last season, and appears to have gone for the opposite approach here, but I'm wondering if he focused too much on all-around okay players at the expense of his team not having any great strengths.

14) Cincinnati Royals



BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS
1	Willie Mays	SS
2	Adam Van Doren	CF
3	Claudio Villarta	LF
4	Molly May	C
5	Pamela Kirkos	3B
6	Derek McCattary	2B
7	Jeff Conino	1B
8	Dominique Lowe	RF
9	Ramona Bennett	P

Coach: arcothunder (1-season veteran, 6-8 lifetime record)

Division: FL East

Home field: Dirt Yards

First pick: Willie Mays (custom) (#5 overall)

Last pick: Dominique Lowe (#184 overall)

Average arm strength: 60 (#16 in league)

Average swing power: 72 (#7 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.9 (#7 in league)

Average eye: 45 (#20 in league)

Average aggression: 58 (#3 in league)

Average relief rating: 171 (#20 in league)

Defense: Average. The left side a.k.a. the side more people hit to is quite intimidating and will be tough to find a lot of success in. On the other hand, while it has enough speed to be decently viable, the right side is full of weak arms and could yield a lot of extra bases to a team that can successfully take advantage.

Offense: Average. This team lacks many slow players or any really weak bats, and has a good trio of strong power hitters, but the large array of mid-tier bats and lack of exceptional speed prevents it from being a great lineup.

Other modifiers: -1. The home field of Dirt Yards goes all right with this offense, but could spell trouble when combined with all the weak arms on defense.

Total: 3

Additional comments: This team could do reasonably well as their big weakness won't be the easiest to exploit, but there will be some opponents who do successfully exploit that weakness and lay the smackdown on them.

15) Green Giants



Coach: crazyei8hts (10-season/12.5-team veteran, 134-83 lifetime record, 5 division titles, 3 wildcard titles, 5 LDS titles, 4 LCS titles, 1 WS title, 4 player awards)

Division: FL West

Home field: Dirt Yards

First pick: Barry Bonds (#16 overall)

Last pick: Todd Xavier (#183 overall)

Average arm strength: 63 (#12 in league)

Average swing power: 59 (#20 in league)

Average speed tier: 4 (#4 in league)

Defense: Poor. Did Crazy not notice that his shortstop and third baseman are probably going to be the first two relief pitchers? This infield is going to be in shambles by the ten-run point, and the outfield will have to work overtime to make up for it.

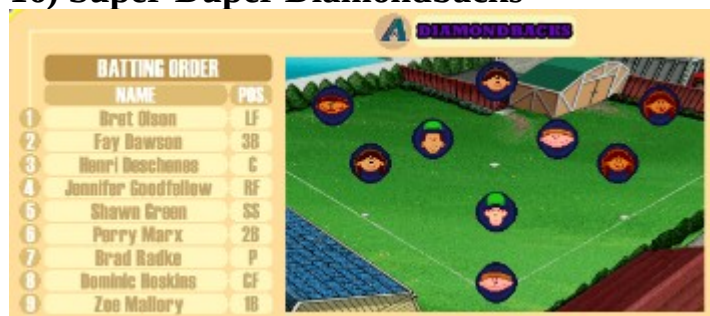
Offense: Average. Crazy's got a good array of power bats on half the team and several speedsters, but a bunch of weak bats and slow runners are going to limit their potential.

Other modifiers: 0. If there's one place where it's really bad to have a wrecked infield, it's Dirt Yards. But Crazy has the most BBL experience of anybody and a championship under his belt, and won't go down easily.

Total: 3

Additional comments: This looks like a trainwreck just waiting to unfold. But maybe Crazy knows something I don't.

16) Super-Duper Diamondbacks



Coach: KingPepsi (1-season veteran, 11-7 lifetime record, 1 division title, 1 LDS title)

Division: FL East
Home field: Steele Stadium
First pick: Henri Deschenes (#2 overall)
Last pick: Zoe Mallory (#188 overall)

Average arm strength: 61 (#15 in league)
Average swing power: 66 (#16 in league)
Average speed tier: 3.7 (#13 in league)
Average contact hitting: 42 (#21 in league)
Average intelligence: 45 (#22 in league)

Defense: Poor. There are a lot of middling arms here and a shortage of truly intimidating defenders. Henri behind the plate will at least stay there for a long time, but still feels like a mistake, and stat-wise is the worst catcher in the '03 league.

Offense: Average. This is a solid blend of power and speed, but it would look even better if the team hadn't traded Goodreau for a weaker bat for no clear reason.

Other modifiers: None.

Total: 3

Additional comments: In some respects this is a similar team to last season's Diamondbacks, but without Henri anchoring at shortstop and with a less cracked offense, I don't see them performing as well this time.

17) Philadelphia Mets



BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS
1	Kathy Wolf	3B
2	Jimmy Rollins	LF
3	Jay Green	P
4	Parker Collum	RF
5	Carlos Beltran	SS
6	Annie Frazier	CF
7	Rafael Mendrix	2B
8	Barbara Jones	1B
9	Mary Reilly	C

Coach: Vissery (3-season veteran, 20-15 lifetime record, 1 division title, 1 LDS title)

Division: FL West

Home field: Casa de Pablo

First pick: Jay Green (#11 overall)

Last pick: Mary Reilly (#166 overall)

Average arm strength: 59 (#19 in league)
Average swing power: 71 (#10 in league)
Average speed tier: 3.8 (#9 in league)
Average stamina: 43 (#20 in league)
Average relief rating: 168 (#21 in league)

Defense: Poor. This defense will feast on balls hit to the left side of the field, but the right side is extremely vulnerable. And it might not take long for a tired Jay Green to move to either third base or catcher, either way sending the defense's stocks plummeting.

Offense: Average. Vissery has moved from a team with four 100 power bats to a team with only three bats above 72 power. I was tempted to rate the resulting lineup as “poor”, but I think there’s just enough quality speed and power to raise it up a level.

Other modifiers: -1. Casa is not going to be a fun place for this team full of mediocre arms and bats to play. On the other hand, Vissery is one of the hardest-working coaches in the BBL, and we saw the success that can bring last season.

Total: 2.

Additional comments: I’m really not sure what to make of this offense. Whether it turns out to be good enough to perform solidly or not will probably largely dictate the team’s success.

18) Little Padres



BATTING ORDER		
	NAME	POS
1	Chico Pappas	CF
2	Kon Griffroy Jr.	SS
3	Albert Pujols	P
4	Ronny Dobbs	RF
5	Frank Thomas	1B
6	Greg Vaughn	LF
7	Paco Kaufman	2B
8	Loma Ng	C
9	Linda Potter	3B

Coach: mattitude (BBL rookie, BBOL veteran)

Division: FL East

Home field: Casa de Pablo

First pick: Chico Pappas (#12 overall)

Last pick: Linda Potter (#185 overall)

Average arm strength: 63 (#13 in league)

Average swing power: 72 (#6 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.3 (#21 in league)

Average intelligence: 72 (#3 in league)

Average relief rating: 208 (#2 in league)

Defense: Average. This defense isn’t flashy and is on the slow side, but it has enough to get the job done.

Offense: Average. There are quite a few strong bats on this team, which it will need to counter all the slow runners. This isn’t likely to be the most consistent offense, but there’s only one real liability in the lineup.

Other modifiers: -2. Playing at Casa is going to be a nightmare for all these slow runners, and will accentuate the team’s weaknesses both on offense and defense.

Total: 2

Additional comments: This is not dissimilar to Wizard’s reasonably successful Cardinals from last season, but it’s not as stacked with power and lacks the benefit of a skilled veteran at the helm. I don’t think they’ll get as close to the playoffs.

19) Seattle Fishes



Coach: elchrisblanco (4.5-season veteran, 42-33 lifetime record, 1 division title, 1 WC title, 1 LDS title)

Division: BL East

Home field: Parks Department #2

First pick: Marsellus Marx (#20 overall)

Last pick: George Coleman (#186 overall)

Average arm strength: 72 (#1 in league)

Average swing power: 68 (#13 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.6 (#16 in league)

Average stamina: 67 (#3 in league)

Average eye: 73 (#2 in league)

Average relief rating: 213 (#1 in league)

Defense: Poor. I don't know what Chris is doing with this alignment, but it feels all wrong to me. In particular, Marsellus at shortstop is a questionable choice that could really torpedo the team.

Offense: Poor. A lot of mid-tier bats. A lot of average or slow runners. The only fast player also has the only really strong bat on the team. Rallies might prove tough to start and tougher to keep going.

Other modifiers: None

Total: 2

Additional comments: Either this team is a work of secret genius by Chris, or he's just suffered a lapse from his normal team-building abilities.

20) Cleveland Indians



Coach: c0rn (BBL rookie)

Division: FL East

Home field: Steele Stadium

First pick: Ichiro (#4 overall)

Last pick: Betty Houston (post-draft waivers)

Average arm strength: 64 (#10 in league)
 Average swing power: 60 (#18 in league)
 Average speed tier: 3.4 (#19 in league)
 Average stamina: 67 (#3 in league)
 Average contact hitting: 64 (#2 in league)
 Average coordination: 51 (#21 in league)
 Average eye: 76 (#1 in league)
 Average height: 3.4 (#1 in league)

Defense: Terrible. It's amazing how a defense can have such a nominally good collection of arms yet look so weak. They have the scariest pitcher and catcher possible in the league, but the rest of the field will be easy to exploit.

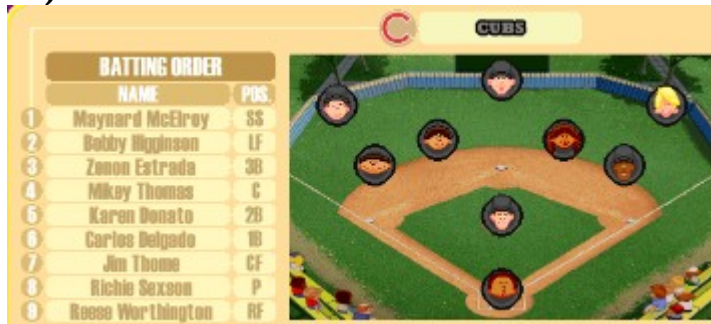
Offense: Poor. There are a lot of slow players on this team, and only one big-time slugger who herself is far from top tier. Ichiro, Kenny, and Kendall will be fine, but the rest of this lineup might struggle to get much done.

Other modifiers: +1. If this team has a saving grace, it will be its home field, which suits the defensive alignment surprisingly well and will give Ernie a much-needed boost. On the other hand, c0rn struggled in Winterball, tempering expectations for how well he might do here.

Total: 2

Additional comments: Is c0rn cursed after ruining Jibbo's meme team for the season? Only time will tell.

21) White Cubs



Coach: benjaminion (BBL rookie)

Division: FL East

Home field: Parks Department #2

First pick: Zenon Estrada (#19 overall)

Last pick: Reese Worthington (#191 overall)

Average arm strength: 60 (#17 in league)
 Average swing power: 71 (#8 in league)
 Average speed tier: 3.6 (#16 in league)
 Average stamina: 43 (#21 in league)
 Average contact hitting: 65 (#1 in league)
 Average intelligence: 73 (#2 in league)

Defense: Poor. Maynard at shortstop is an inspired choice and an early player to watch for the Goldie Glove, but the rest of this defense is below average in both speed and arms, and there's a very real

chance that Mikey comes in as the second reliever. Maynard's going to have to carry the defense by himself.

Offense: Poor. Another team with a relatively high power floor and a lot of medium-power bats, but I don't feel like there's enough speed in the lineup to make it work.

Other modifiers: -1. Parks is going to hurt this team and its unimpressive arms more than it helps it and its slow baserunners.

Total: 1

Additional comments: I can envision a reality where the top players on this team carry it to success, but for the purposes of these rankings, the odds are stacked against it.

22) Mighty Tigers



BATTING ORDER	
NAME	POS
1 Ivan King	2B
2 Pablo Sanchez	RF
3 Stephanie Morgan	SS
4 Kay B'Toole	SS
5 Donald Vogel	C
6 Robert Young	P
7 Ruth Proutt	CF
8 Kristen Sullivan	1B
9 Francesca Whitaker	LF

Coach: Jibbodahibbo (6.5-season/8-team veteran, 63-71 lifetime record, 1 division title, 2 WC titles, 2 LDS titles, 1 LCS title)

Division: BL West

Home field: Dubois Diamond

First pick: Pablo Sanchez (#6 overall)

Last pick: Ivan King (#198 overall)

Average arm strength: 67 (#5 in league)

Average swing power: 55 (#21 in league)

Average speed tier: 3.8 (#9 in league)

Average eye: 70 (#3 in league)

Average aggression: 63 (#2 in league)

Defense: Poor. I vacillated on this one as the outfield is solid and Kay can do a lot at shortstop, but she just doesn't have the speed or support from the rest of the infield to make me feel comfortable listing this as an average defense.

Offense: Poor. There's some good bats and few slower players, but there's also a lot of weak bats that will pose a serious problem.

Other modifiers: -1. Dubois Diamond is going to exacerbate the weak hitters' issues.

Total: 1

Additional comments: If anybody can make this kind of team work, it's Jibbo, and mad respect to him for taking Ivan King when nobody else dared to. But has he dug himself too deep of a hole this time?

Predictions

It is worth noting that these are more or less made up on the fly, and should be taken with several grains of salt.

FL West

5) **Orioles.** Last year I hyped up SilverBullet only for him to have a rough season. This year, I'm predicting that he's going to struggle again. Will a pattern emerge?

4) **Mets.** Vissery is not here to play as hard as last season, and this team is clear evidence. I think they're much more likely to be a footnote, although I also think they're the Frontyard team most likely to surprise me with a playoff run.

3) **Giants.** Crazy won't let this team drop down into the dumpster, but he may well struggle to contend for playoffs, even more than last season.

2) **Melonheads.** I'm going to be optimistic for now. There are a lot of flawed teams in this division, and if I can figure out how to really use this offense effectively, that could result in a relatively good season for me, and maybe even a wildcard slot.

1) **Rangers.** Wizard has by far the best-looking team in the division, and is in prime position to finally win his division outright for the first time in his career.

FL East

6) **Indians.** I think this team is going to struggle a lot, though hopefully not as much as they did in Winterball.

5) **Diamondbacks.** If I'm correct, Pepsi will be in for an unpleasant surprise when he starts the season and realizes that this team isn't as good as his last one. Maybe he'll prove me wrong again, but I don't think the D'Backs have the same magic this season.

4) **Padres.** Sheer determination, Maynard, and Zenon will allow Benjaminion to carry this team to victory enough times to get out of the cellar.

3) **Cubs.** Mattitude's team should be viable enough away from home to have a decent season.

2) **Astros.** Bobby should have a solid season, and whether he outright wins the division or not, I think he's got good odds at securing a playoff spot.

1) **Royals.** Maybe I'm buying too much into the recent Winterball results, but I believe in Arco going into the season. If this team's defense can avoid collapsing at home, they could put up one of the Frontyard's best performances.

BL West

5) **Tigers.** Maybe a season of Jibbo suffering with him will be what it takes to finally stop the ironic Ivan King praise.

4) **Red Sox.** As I mentioned, this is a high-variance team, and that means they're one of the most likely to drop too many games to stay in the playoff hunt.

3) **Wombats.** There's good precedent for Marco to have a decent but not amazing season that leaves him short of playoffs yet again, especially with a very average team like this one.

2) **White Sox.** Mello is going in with his weakest defense yet, but he and his team are still good and I think they have good odds of a playoff spot.

1) **Marlins.** This team is a big question mark, but well-built teams for Cement Gardens have a good track record in recent seasons, and Personizzle could easily continue that trend. This certainly isn't a team to be underestimated and I think their playoff odds are pretty good.

BL East

6) **Fishes.** I just don't get what Chris is doing with this team, and especially in such a stacked division, can't predict a good season for them.

5) **Braves.** Nate is stuck in what's likely to be '03's Division of Doom, and I'm not sure his roster is good enough for him to keep up. It may be the roughest season in a while for him.

4) Pirates. This team is solid, but I worry that they're not dynamic enough to keep up against this competition. On the other hand, they're prime candidates to sneak in and steal a wildcard spot unexpectedly.

3) Expos. JY is going to tear it up at home and probably will be right in the thick of the playoff hunt, but I think that his team's weaknesses, especially on the road, will hold him back just enough for him to miss out on a slot.

2) Angels. Alex's reports of his scrimmages with last season's Royals lead me to believe that he's going to prove one of the better coaches at harnessing an offense-first team. If so, he should have a good rookie season here even in a tough division of veterans, and has good odds to take a playoff spot.

1) Twins. Last season it was the wildcard. This time with a similar but improved squad, Toast is coming for the division, and I think he's going to take it.

Playoffs

Division Playoffs: Melonheads over Royals, Rangers over Astros, Marlins over Angels, White Sox over Twins

League Championship Series: Rangers over Melonheads, White Sox over Marlins

Backyard World Series: White Sox over Rangers. I do not, in fact, think that Mello is an invincible coach who is bound to win everything, but I do think he is a good coach with a good team. If he makes another playoff run he might not be able to help himself from working harder and winning out much as he did in Season 7, and that may will culminate with him becoming our third repeat champion.