

CAPTAIN PREDICTIONS 2015

N.L. NORTH by Todd Wallman

ACE ALUMINUM - Younger.....

When you win 18 games and give up 99 runs on the season you don't hesitate to go back to the SS that lead you to that type of season. WELCOME HOME MY BROTHA DK....After 2 straight difficult seasons, JY did not want to mess around on the mound in 2015, so who better to grab than arguably the best in the league Mr Clamper. Some pressure on JY after the first 3 rounds to grab OF help and he did exactly that in rounds 4-6 with veterans and a newcomer who could be the key to this squad. In fact, this team has 3 new players which is always risky but could also produce some tremendous upside. I'm sure blogging expert Mitch Pollock could give us some stats on what drafting new 3 players does for their chances to win a championship. Moving along, this team most definitely has "the best up the middle defense in the league" and it's not even close. If they get solid OF play, they may challenge the 99 runs against from a couple of years ago. These guys will challenge for a division and a #1 seed in the playoffs.....

PREDICTED RECORD: 15-7

CK BASEBALL - Harris.....

Bobito was holding the golden ticket on Monday and his cell phone was blowing up all day with trade offers. So, either he didn't get his asking price OR he realized that he was more than comfortable sticking with the monster rookie from last year M Martinez. Good call!! With his 2/3 Harris made picks for his boys Schef/Kush, but the intrigue for this roster came when a trade with Randell "controversially" enabled BH to obtain HOF Silverberg and his boy. With his first pick of the 5th Mr Kastner came home to his mgr that he won a title with a couple years ago. That pick sets up this squad to have one of the most feared top 5 lineups in the league. With very few selections remaining the OF was completed with another love interest in Gelman and Yigdal. If Bobito can sort out a couple of defensive question marks, we really like this group. After a very rough 2014 Bobito may very well be back in the hunt for his 3rd jacket.....

PREDICTED RECORD: 14-8

VM CLEANING - Goldfarb....

Many were expecting a potential trade for the #1 pick in the draft from the original GG, but it could not be consummated so Guy sat at 9th overall and waited to see who would fall to him. Somewhat surprisingly, Mr Callow,esq was available and was scooped up. Now protected at SS by JC and Alex, Goldy was able to predictably grab bff KP in the 2nd. Set up nicely after the top 3, Guy was able to select maybe the best 4/5 value picks in the draft with Lipomi and Barlow. The rest of the draft continued well adding some grizzly veterans like Kessler, Kreppel, Kamras, and Mel. This team will catch the ball, and has depth in the lineup. If Kessler and Mel can stabilize the pitching staff, this team will challenge for it's division. The only weakness we see here is too many lawyers on the roster.....

PREDICTED RECORD: 13-9

JAM COLLECTIONS - Randell.....

Ok, let's just say that some people just can't get away from controversy.....Captain Brad found it again at this year's draft after most believe he was shell shocked by the selections of Clamp and Polzer in the 2nd round just a couple of picks before his 2nd and 3rd round selections. He recovered nicely with AP to secure LCF, but ended up trading his 3rd round pick for MVP buddy Zuto.....love interest Rothchild came home in the 4th, along with other Randellete lifers Lehman, Aronson, Burnsy, and Bob Feldman in the middle rounds after Brad settled into the draft. This team might provide Brad one of his largest challenges as a manager, as this group is not short on personality and opinions. More importantly, in terms of softball there is plenty of talent here for a winning record, but we are concerned about the captain not selecting a more proven hurler than himself.....

PREDICTED RECORD: 10-12

N.L. SOUTH by Bobby Harris

WALLMAN LAW - Wallman

Not since the days of double sponsors has TW seen his rating as low as a 4...and guess what, he took big time advantage...wheeling and dealing, in and out of the first round...as he grabs Glen "I finally agree with something Bobito has to say" Roland in the second round, but is really a first round talent. And trading Jo Mo to JB, getting earlier picks in the even rounds positioning himself to get some really good players especially in the middle rounds. So when the smoke clears, he ends up with a young and coming player in Bryan Jackson, a very underrated OF in Dave Schwartz, and very underrated Team Harris Alums, Fox, Tierney, and Cy Young candidate Howie "Sunny" Rosenblum. But the biggest get, has to be last years MVP, Mark Carlin. I had Mark, as a top 10 pick this year.....how the "F" does Mark drop (again!) to the second round? This is the formula that wins championships, and TW has to be one of the early favorites. Not a lot of weaknesses on this team, and when TW filled in with pieces like Stewart, Bohm, and even Herman and Krain, you know TW had utilized his time on Monday working the draft board opposed to doing closings or depositions. The "only" questionable pick is grabbing a 297 hitter in the 9th round...clearly a "friends" pick...but then again, yours truly cant criticize that approach, as I plead guilty there as well. Well done Toddly, though you wont be the first YIT to win a championship, being the second one will still garner lots of bragging rights and likely winning some dinner bets.

Team Record- 14-8

Offense- B+ (would be an A, but for lack of power)

Defense-B+

Pitching- A

Speed-B

POY- M Carlin

MVP- M Carlin

CY Young- Rosenblum

Mgr of The year- Wallman

Most Improved- D Cohen (slam dunk)

Mr Nice Guy- Tierney

FRADKIN LAW - Applebaum

When you are defending champion , you are playing with “House Money” (where have I heard that one before?)...so you cant question Apple for anything....though he did let the consensus best LCF (hitting and fielding) and family slide....whats the problem ? I guess Apple doesn't want the Commish to take credit for back to back...just a hunch. Nonetheless, Eddie Fradkin is not a bad consolation prize. When Ed is on , there isn't a more feared hitter in the league and that includes Big Dave and The Lazineator. And then again with an open 2 (how the “%\$#% does that happen....ah never mind) gets great value and another thumper in Eric Golden in the second round. Add Lenny later in the draft , and this team becomes the Oakland A's circa 1989...the Marlboro softball league version of ...”The Bash Brothers”. Apple is going to love games at UH and Middle School. And though a questionable defensive team, when you got Double D on the mound , you negate those defensive woes. And lets not forget Eric “I have the best winning percentage in the league the last three years” Lurie....solid at 3rd....and he seems to end up on winning teams every year....or is it the other way around? With all that said , Apples season hinges on a rookie....is it AJ or PJ Wollman? Either way , if he can play SS , keep Ed in LCF , it will make a huge difference...if Ed has to come and play SS....OF Defense could be a problem. Though perennial Bobito Fave Bobby Frey will be in the OF some place....another Ponce De Leon fountain drinker....you know at some point he will make a game saving sliding catch. Mark it down....it will happen. Speaking of catching, way too many behind the plate candidates on this team and not a lot of depth.... should be Apples Achilles heel , but then again , when you come off a 19-3 championship season , you get to play the House Money card.

Team Record- 11-11

Offense- A

Defense- C

Pitching- B

Speed-C

End of year Candidates

POY- Fradkin

Cy Young- Drapkin

Rookie of The year- Wollman

Mr Nice Guy- B Frey

PIZZA/PASTA FACTORY - Carlin

For the first time since RC has been a captain , he was actually early for this years draft. You know how he is going to vote next year...Sunday Morning or Monday Evening?No brainer! And even though RC did not have a first round pick , he got first round talent when Mike Conti dropped all the way to the middle of the second. Second year in a row , RC pounced on “drop like a rock” talent. Last year it was Jesse’s attendance concerns , this year it was whether Big Mike decides to bowl or play softball when it matters. If its softball , another steal for RC. In Brad G , one of the most feared hitters in the league and a steady LCF. After that , lots of questions marks , Brock Hor , a great hitter , but can he man the OF any more , Gary Cohen as versatile a player in the league , may need to be used in multiple positions. “The Silbermans” look to be part of the IF , and in Greg , also lots of flexibility. And rumors have it , Big Wayne Sherman , is not so big anymore....which likely makes an already lethal bat more lethal. And then the usual familiar RC faces, Sobie, Rappy , and Paulie Walnuts. Team Carlin , as always , will be competitive and has lots of firepower, just needs for a few of the questions marks to become exclamation points.

Team Record: 11-11

Offense- B+

Defense- B-

Pitching-B

Team Speed-C

End of Year Candidates

POY- Goldstein

Most Improved- Greg Silberman

BURGER BROS -Paladino

Here is the good news, Mikey AKA Spike Paladino , makes his first Mayors Trophy appearance , now for the bad news , he did not have a first round pick. But that did not stop Spike from making a risky , but potentially high reward season changing pick. In Jeff Martinez, Team Paladino gets a stud LCF talent. But Jeff fell because of concerns with attendance. Granted a small sample size , and a Team Marrone alum , but nonetheless , until proven otherwise , a rep that sticks. Otherwise a steal of a pick. Third pick “The Lazineator”, finally liberated from

Under The Feldman Line purgatory, next to Fradkin and Silverberg as feared a hitter as there is in the league. And then a bit of a surprise pick in the "Yockels", not because they don't deserve to be there, but Papa and "The Lazineator's" best position is first base....so unless Mikey has something cooked up, looks like splitting time at first. Offensively, Papa was a dominant offensive player in 2014, Mikey clearly hopes The Ponce De Leon cocktail he was drinking does not have a one year shelf life (though Papa was spotted hitting the elliptical of late, and looking fit). In Yockel Jr, a very underrated coming talent in this league, no accident his teams have won or been on top the last few years with Seth manning RCF....hmmm, maybe there is a method to Spike's madness?! Then there is Bro Rich, last seen sipping the bubbly in the East Frances parking lot after Team Big Red Machines Championship in 2012. Getting Rich back, adds a solid bat, and some IF flexibility, as Rich can go to 3rd or 2nd. Yet with all that offensive firepower for Team Paladino, this season hinges on Zim and Podos Jr being capable corner OFs' and Alan Rubin being a consistent week in and week out pitcher. If they are, this team, (though trashed in the Banquet circuit AKA Yenta Brunches) could surprise and beat up teams. Know this, I have played with Mikey "Spike" Paladino for 4 seasons (one a championship season), he is by far the most underrated SS in this league, and a real competitor. If attendance does not undermine this Team, they will surprise some people. Otherwise see Team Jacoby Year 1.....growing pains!

Team Record 10-12

Offense- B+

Defense- C

Pitching-C

Team Speed-C

End of Year Candidates

POY- Laz

Def If- Paladino

Most Improved- Podos Jr

A.L. WEST by Jason Younger

SUPERIOR AUTO – BYKOFSKY

As the old saying goes “3rd time is a charm”. After back to back below average drafts Captain sensitive Byko finally got it right. Thanks to a very generous Captain TW, Byko was able to grab his best pal Mamone for what will probably the best left side outfield this league has ever seen. Only question really is which one of these egomaniacs moves to LF??? The infield is really solid with steady Eddie, Polguy, Long, Raucher, Lamberson and Palehonki who is delivered to each game by Mamone and Byko. Ageless wonder Papa Byko still a magician with the bat solidifies an already great infield defense. With the exception of offensive power this team has it all – speed, defense and hitting. Expect single digit losses for this squad and a team that should make a very deep post season run. More important we all might finally get a break from the Captain complaining about his rating.

PREDICTED RECORD: 14&8

LHRGB LAW - GRANESE

Could this be the year Captain MG finally made all the right moves??? When you get the beast J Brock in the 2nd round you know things are going well. Add in stud Murphy, beast power Siedenber and steal of the draft Krauss and this team looks great on paper. This could be the year MG finally quiets the nay sayers. MG will have to work out a few defensive issues that might cause some early season losses but this team should score a lot of runs and who knows with J Brock on the bases MG might finally get himself on the leader board in a few categories. Pat Pingaro who was at the Rec center at 5pm awaiting the start of the draft is probably the happiest guy in Marlboro softball being reunited with MG and Murphy. If the kids that belong to Krauss and Murph are half the athletes of their fathers this team will be very good and dangerous. Mg also gets the greatest bench coach, bookkeeper and probably nicest guy in this league in Bernie Brock to help him manage those tricky situations. The author of this write up is expecting big things from his ex-commuting partner.

PREDICTED RECORD: 13&9

JIFFY LUBE - JACOBY

With his SS, co-captain and most importantly his dear friend DK off the board Captain GG had to adjust quickly to life without the guy that led him to back to back 16 win seasons and a championship, so he did what any great captain would do – he grabbed the Commissioner. JZ, the guy who has led his squads to 4 championships in 10 seasons and the league’s best all-around player gives this team a great OF middle defense. Add to that the best hitting pitcher in Polzer and Captain Hugs was off to a great start. Grabbing the SS that went to the finals as a rookie and best buddy Perloff and GG was feeling no pain and ready to start belting out “Rapper’s Delight. While there are some questions defensively where guys will play, this team looks pretty solid. Not sure it’s a 16 win squad that Captain Gerj has become accustomed to managing but it’s a very nice squad and he has JZ.

PREDICTED RECORD: 12&10

ADVANCED ORTHOPEDICS - FELDMAN

When Feldy drafts a team you never know what damage he will cause – not on the field of course but whose summer he is going to ruin. This year unfortunately for the author, I don’t think Feldy ruined any summers. Hard to go wrong when you start with Peragine, C Ryan, offensive beast Gentle Rick and Steinberg. Add in the feldy boys and this team has a nice balance of power, speed and defense. The roster is loaded with outfielders so it will be interesting to see who Captain Feldy moves to the infield. With bench coach Mitchy S in mix there is no doubt all the right decisions will be made and this team should be very competitive in a very tough division. As long as anyone not named Feldman on this team brings ear plugs on Sundays everyone will be happy

PREDICTED RECORD: 11&11

AL East by Matt Granese:

MODELL’S - Beilis:

Marty coming off yet another unsuccessful trip to the finals but an impressive season nonetheless. Drafting solo for the first time in two decades...no brother,

no Vader Sr., no Vader Jr. and not to be overlooked NO BOOT on the foot (for now). With the 7th pick in the 2015 Softball draft, Marty Beilis selects Eliot Infante? A newcomer to the league but looked great in tryouts hitting bombs all over East Frances. Mr. Infante will anchor the infield for MartyBall2015. Familiar names such as Taub and Dimarco also will call Team beilis home in 2015. Always an interesting pick, Ari and Donnie bring the best average/OBP of any combo pick in the league. With Jason Taub and Dave Senss, this team has the ability to have a huge top of the lineup. Dimarco and Marcel are a great middle and Mark Karp in the 7th a tremendous grab. Sandler Dukes and Gorstein all very solid players that should make this team a division winner.

PREDICTED RECORD: 13-9

Rookie: Infante

Cy Young: Karp

NONNA'S - Lapine:

Dennis has made his living recently on pillaging the new talent. This year he said good bye to old friends Callow and Spoto and got things started with one of the best veteran SS's in the league in Noel Gluck, who oh by the way also has hit .600 the last two years. He next went young with Mark Goddard to roam the OF and then it was a family addition as Phil Getz makes his return to the league. Likely to play LCF but who knows as 2nd year player Billy Torres and newbie Blecher are expected to be Of's as well. Nice to see John Vega reach free agency and finally get a lifeline away from the DK/Jacoby love affair. He'll now have a chance to turn 2 with Gluck for 22 games. Tommy, Stone, and overlooked in this draft is my man Joe Olivencia make a nice middle of the order. This squad has a nice top of the order and a solid defense. The middle of the order will have to step up and improve their offensive numbers from previous years for this team to challenge in a weak AL East.

Record: 11-11

MVP: Vega

Improved: Torres

Nice Guy: Olivencia

GASTRO OF OCEAN - Pollock:

In the winter, Mitch Pollock runs a thousand permutations to determine the best offensive weapons in Marlboro Softball. But when all is said and done, there's no poker face needed when Matt takes that info to the draft room. With Jared Goldberg gone, you just take the league's most feared hitter in 2014 and then you start handing out cigars. Really no surprise that Spoto signs the free agent deal to head to Coors field to join the pollocks and their "we won't play at Muncipal" mission statement. With Conti, Taub, and Eric Golden looming as Pollock prototypes, the choice in round 2 was a Spoto '14 teammate in Dean Curreri. Herm Suarez, more or less a Pollock uncle at this point, was the obvious choice in round 4 and before you knew it this team was fell into form quickly with Lipsky, Ferrese, Laconte, Glazer, Rosenschwaig.....do these guys really even need to prep? Ken Glazier had a great 2014 and could become a huge cog in this squad's offense. At first look, this is not a team known for it defense but in the AL East they could just hit their way to the top in typical Pollock style.

Record: 8-14

Offensive Player: Spoto

NJ SALT - Marrone:

Really hoping Glen studied hard this offseason as 13-31 his first two regular seasons is starting to make Glen Feldman look like Tony LaRussa. Not known for chalk picks, Glen grabbed a strong first rounder in Jordan Preiss coming off a great season for the league's top regular season squad in 2014. Pick number 2 went for the sweet swinging second year man Chris Lang, who was expected a high 2nd rounder this year and that prediction was right on the money. He'll get to learn the league next to the veteran Barth "BF4" Frank, who not only has 50 wins the last 3 regular seasons but also was the signature pick of round 4 this year. All around hard hitting threat Dan Difedele appears to have committed his full summer to Marrone Nation (also a member of the over 55 squad with Glen). A couple of nice versatile ballplayers in Jordan Krant and Kenny Feingold and also 2nd year man Scalea, who returns to Team Marrone after a nice run of hitting late in the season. This team has a lot of potential but will REALLY need Marrone and BF4 to light things up with the bat for this offense to turn over. Not sure this will happen quite enough but 3rd place in the division and 8 wins a monster season for Captain Glen.

Record: 8-14

Defensive IF: J. Priess