

## **Final 2014 Power Rankings:**

*Overall Rank. Team (Record, Playoff Record) (Last Ranking)*

1. Rays (6-4, 2-0) (4) – The Rays have pulled off the impossible. Many thought that the Rays were done, after finishing their Sunday with more losses than wins. Nobody thought they would win back to back championships and again nobody thought it would be possible to win three in a row. Will Rath was an excellent addition to the roster and having Derek Thompson back on the squad was the best news the Rays organization could have ever received. The question continues to stay the same though, will they all be back, and can they do it again?
2. Royals (10-0, 0-1) (1) – The first ever perfect SWBL regular season ended in disaster as the Royals were destroyed by the Rays, as 2014 CY Young winner, Gus Skibbe had no answer for the Rays offensive attack. Ty Butler was arguably the best rookie this league has ever seen and when Gus Skibbe had the worst power numbers on a team of four, you know this team was hitting at full throttle. The Royals will enter Season 13 with much to build on.
3. Cardinals (5-5, 1-1) (5) – The Cardinals boasted the best pitching rotation in 2014, winning the National League division title against the Rockies, holding them to only 3 runs after losing to them twice in the regular season. After defeating the Rays in the regular season though, the Cardinals were mercy ruled in the finals and were left wondering. They did everything they needed to do to win, but nothing more. Next year will be important to build on their successes and learn from their mistakes in 2014.
4. Rockies (6-4, 0-1) (2) – After beating the Cardinals twice in the regular season and claiming the top seed in the National League, they could not put together runs to advance to the finals in 2014. Brian Kenney was the glue that held this team together for as long as he could, while Blake was not himself in Season 12. Grant Boyd had another down year and Kyle Breda, despite his Perfect Game against the Pirates and leading the league in walks received, could not help get the Rockies to the SWBL Championship.
5. Yankees (5-5) (3) – Captain, Scott Pohle won his first ever MVP award after leading the league in home runs and runs batted in. Sam Bakula and John Calloway added as much as they could but in the end they could not stop the roll that the Rays went on again in 2014. Jackson Crosley led the league in innings pitched and had to take over as the fourth batting slot for Corey Pohle who struggled mightily in 2014. The Yankees will need to either develop the young Pohle in the offseason or find a new fourth player to compete with their divisional rivals' power upgrades.

6. Brewers (5-5) (6) – I guess practice does not make perfect as 2014 was a season to forget for the Brew Crew. The sad part of the season was the fact that they lost their third playoff berth in a row by losing to the Cardinals twice, by one run. Peter Leicht was an MVP candidate but Cornell and PG were very average in Season 12. Rookie Danny Bell could not touch the numbers of 2014 Rookie of the Year, Ty Butler of the Royals. The Brewers will look to bounce back in 2015 as captain Peter Leicht has sworn off booze and women (yeah right) after their disappointing 5-5 season.

7. Athletics (3-7) (7) – The Athletics franchise continues to improve each and every year they play. Captain Alex Heck added some much needed leadership to his team while sophomore player, Steve Hays took this team on his shoulders and led them to three wins against the Yankees, Pirates, and Cardinals. Luke Bakula has expressed interest in returning to the A's in his contract year, while this season may have been the last for Ray McGrew. The A's might be one strong player, and a couple wins away from surprising the American League with a playoff berth.

8. Pirates (0-10) (8) – NWLA Dangerfield Tournament, here they come. The Pirates, with their “defeated” record and an exact, -100 run differential, have a good chance at repeating their ultimate prize of the worst wiffleball team in North America. Captain, Andy Oldenburg has announced his retirement and the Pirates organization has seen its final day in the SWBL. It seems as if the band of mates will stay in the historical teams section for good.