

# NWLA to MLB Comparisons

By: Chris Meador (SWBL LF)

Another wiffleball season has come and gone and yet again the summer was highlighted by the NWLA Tournament in Dublin, Ohio. While we came up just short, finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup>, by no means was the tournament a failure. Every year we meet new teams and make new friendships and this year was no different. The weekend was full of surprises both good (LWA) and bad (GBL). The SWBL often gets a bad rep for not really coming to win and only showing up to have fun. Whether that is accredited to our happy-go-lucky attitude or desire to form bonds with other teams, we are actually okay with that stigma. There truly isn't a league that we are not happy to see and even play each and every year.

While baseball players at any level have had continuous failure in the SWBL, you can't help but see the similarities in the two sports and make comparisons. These comparisons are solely based off my interpretation and in no way reflect the views of the SWBL as a whole.

## BCW

Nick Nuemann – Jeff Samardzija

\*\*\*Flowing locks and power right arm make this one easy. Nick can hurl a lot better than most assumed coming in. Big shout out to Shed Field for backing out so everyone had the pleasure of meeting these guys.



## BWBL

Doug Novitski – Brett Lawrie

\*\*\*Doug gets my vote for NWLA “bad boy”. If there were ever a brawl at the tournament I want Doug on my side. This draws the Lawrie comparison who is no stranger to brawls and scuffles. Also, much like Lawrie, Doug can swing the stick a little. Throwing up a 2/11/.250 line for the weekend.



## GAWL

Dave Pierce – Josh Tomlin

\*\*\*Both underrated pitchers who will not blow you away with gas. Threw 10 innings with 20k's and 1.20 ERA. Top of the rotation talent.



## GBL

Jeremy Ratajczyk – Robinson Cano

\*\*\*Much like the entire GBL roster, Jeremy had an off year at the plate. Nevertheless Jeremy and Cano share the oh-so-sweet lefty swing. One of the best all-around hitters in the country. I tried to give him a White Sox comparison but they all suck. Go Twins.



## HWFB

Matt Butrym – Jose Fernandez

\*\*\*Butrym can deal. If he pitched every other game he would be at the top of the strikeout leaderboard. SWBL saw nearly every ace this year and there is not a better pitch than the Butrym slider. Much like Jose, Matt can produce from both sides of the ball. Hitting .391 with 9 hits.



## HRL

Tyler Flakne – Chris Sale

\*\*\*Reigning SWBL champion & SWBL Phillies teammate of mine, Tyler is one of the best pitchers in the country. Hands down the best lefty. His epic duel with Artim will always be remembered. Sale has given up 2 RBIs to left handed batters in 2 years. If a lefty has ever gotten a hit off Tyler I would love to see the video. Is that HRL jersey uncomfortable Tyler, well you look great in a SWBL jersey next year.



## HVWBL

Kris Morse – Dustin Pedroia

\*\*\*Unquestioned team leader and consistent hitter. Kris does whatever needed to help his team. Above average in every aspect of the game. Kris finished with a .500 OBP which draws the Pedroia comparison.



## KWL

David Ayers – Jacob DeGrom

\*\*\*True ace stuff here. Ayers shutout both PWL and MNWA over 10 innings while allowing just 1 BB all tournament. The control is elite and the 11.40 K/6 supports that David has filth to go along with it.



## LWA

Brett Detmar – Corey Kluber

\*\*\*Could have easily gone with Caleb Jonkman here, but Brett one hitting the SWBL gives him the nod here. Absolutely filthy. 10 innings, .60 ERA and a .032 OBA. All of that while beating two of the best hitting teams in the league; SWBL and HRL. LWA has a bright future.



## MNWA

Andrew Lindor – Jeff Francoeur

\*\*\*One of the most liked guys at the tourney. A true team guy that will always have a spot on a roster because of what he brings to the clubhouse. Sometimes you wonder how Francoeur is still in the league, but as soon as you speak to him you know why...



## OCWA

Chris Roeder – Jose Altuve

\*\*\*Roeder gets my vote for best all-around player at the tournament. Ironically his biggest competition for that honor are most likely his teammates, Ryan Bush and Regis Pollard. Roeder is realistically a top 5 hitter and pitcher which puts him in rare company. Capped off a great weekend by getting the W in the championship game.



## PWL

Jack Shannon – Max Scherzer

\*\*\*Lots of strikeouts, not many walks. Jack led the tournament with an absurd 16.06 K/6. He draws the home team comparison as one of the nastiest pitchers in the nation. PWL fell to Farkas and then Bogad in back to back games. Tough draw but Shannon dealt.



## SWBL

Jackson Crosley – Jake Arrieta

\*\*\*21 innings, 0.57 ERA, .088 OBA, 41K's, 0.29 Hits/innings pitched. Jackson outdueled and eliminated Pierce, Butrym and Farkas. Only loss coming to Bush and we were one inning away from a Crosley/Bush duel for the title. Despite being a rookie, Jackson has already cemented himself as one of the best pitchers in the nation.



## TBW

Chris Harley – Mike Trout

\*\*\*Hits for average, hits for power. Arguably the best hitter in the NWLA and an even better guy. Lead Tampa to a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in a year where many leagues were down on them. A sore arm prevented this ace from throwing late on Sunday but his bat more than made up for it.



## WSEM

Evan Bortmas – Giancarlo Stanton

\*\*\*Bortmas can absolutely hit. On a team that has struggled to hit for average the past few years, Bortmas is this team's best hitter sporting a 2/14/.282 line for the tournament. Personally I am a big fan of his first pitch swinging attitude in a sport where many simply look to walk.





## WWF

Zach Artim – Zack Greinke

\*\*\*Both these guys will give you 150 pitches if needed. Both are absolutely terrifying both on and off the mound. Artim will go down as winning the greatest pitcher's duel in the history of the tournament. A true competitor and workhorse.

