

## **2020 Preseason Power Rankings**

*Overall Rank. Team, Record (Division Rank)(Previous Ranking)*

### **1. Braves, 5-0 (Koetting Eye Center 1)(5)**

There were many big surprises in the first half of Season 18, but possibly none more surprising than the only undefeated team being the Braves. The Royals/Athletics combo team, has won on the pitching side of the ball, with Gus and Sam leading in the CY Wiffle race. On offense, Gus Skibbe is the team's MVP, hitting almost .800 on the season. If Sam, Steve, or Paul can just hit over .500 for the remainder of the year, Gus will have the complement he is looking for and this offense could really take off. Good pitching will only take you so far as the Braves play all four of their games tomorrow against opponents in the top five of these power rankings.

### **2. Twins, 3-1 (Glendale CDJR 1)(2)**

2 games Friday and 2 games Saturday, all with Bogad. Spencer is the MVP leader and if he wasn't missing four games, he may have been in contention for back to back for the award. While Chris may have one error, he looks as good as ever in left, and Edloe Donnan picked up another complete game win on the mound, his second in two years. Will Rath returned on the mound to get two wins for the Twins Saturday morning, and Cory McCarthy has been an incredible addition, looking to not slow down after his National Rookie of the Year campaign in 2019. Cory also is the only person so far to hit the 50/50 bucket! Four games tomorrow, all without Bogad as this potent offense looks to continue to roll to possibly another Chris Meador championship.

### **3. Brewers, 4-2 (Glendale CDJR 2)(3)**

A great start for the Brew Crew as they look to be possibly the best overall hitting lineup in the league. PG's emergence as a stud on both sides of the ball has always been known, but this year is proving he will be in that position for years to come. Peter is on a tear this season, hitting more home runs in half of a season than he hit all of 2019. Derek Cornell is a great spark plug for this team, and Josh Rogers gets the call to replace Kyle "Tiger Woods" Cornell; looking impressive as a fill in, looking for that longer-term SWBL contract. The rotation of Kyle and PG is proving most effective, both throwing shutouts this season and PG with a bonus save.

### **4. Rockies, 2-2 (Koetting Eye Center 2)(4)**

The 2-time champs are continuing to search for the right mojo with the loss of Brett and Grant Boyd from 2019, but are right in the thick of it all, in this very tight year via the standings. Breda and Blake are hitting well as this team's top duo, which you gotta believe is from Kyle's pregame belly button routine and Blake's scooter riding, while Mike Patterson leads in the Rookie of the Year race, and BK has been a monster in left field making incredible plays as usual. This team will continue to work on the pitching side of the ball as they look to extend their playoff streak and make a run. Their highlight of the 2020 season so far, came from a 10-3 win against the Expos with their former ace, Brett on the mound and their bats came alive.

#### **5. Astros, 2-4 (Koetting Eye Center 4)(7)**

Captain Bryan Benware has put together his most talented roster yet, and that doesn't even include recent free agent signing, David Olderman. Cam Smith and Jeremy Worrell are doing well on the mound for this squad, keeping them in tight games. Easily, their record could be flipped at 4-2, but they lost to the Yankees by 1 and got beat in an extra inning tie game into home run derby against Gus Skibbe and the Braves. Cole Layton is in the thick of things for Rookie of the Year but still has a lot to prove, and Keaton Adams is this team's go-to bat when a spark is needed. They face off in a rematch against the Braves in the early game tomorrow, then a long break to clear their heads before their evening matchups. This team is still aiming for their first playoff appearance after already tying their highest season win total before Sunday.

#### **6. Expos, 2-3 (Koetting Eye Center 3) (6)**

Five games in one day is always tough for any team and it showed later on in the day as they drop their last two to end Saturday. Before that though, they had a two game winning streak beating the rookie Marlins team and Jimmy Nelson shutout the Brewers as his knuckleball was dancing something fierce. The Rockies and Astros then combined to score 26 runs the next two games with the Expos only scoring 4 combined to end their day under .500. Captain Kevin Wiethuchter will look to right the ship as he continues to vie for a Hall of Fame bid on the side.

#### **7. Yankees, 1-3 (Glendale CDJR 3)(1)**

Could this really be happening again? The pattern seems to have continued for this franchise as the reigning champs are without John Calloway sure, but Jackson Crosley has been a hitting machine and still they find themselves 1-3 after a truly underwhelming Saturday. Early losses to the Twins and Rockies had the Yankees starting 0-2, then a close win against the Astros, and they end their day with a loss to the Braves. Most of their games have been close as Scott Pohle continues to lead his team with amazing offensive power, and Kevin Pohle is putting together a nice RF Gold Hands resume himself, giving up his body for many spectacular plays. This is a team that can beat you handedly when firing on all cylinders and you gotta believe with five games tomorrow, they will hit their sweet spot soon to crawl out of this uncharacteristically low ranking.

#### **8. Marlins, 0-4 (Glendale CDJR 4)(8)**

It's their first day and things went about as you would expect any new team to go. They were no match for the Braves and Brewers in their first two games as a franchise, but found their rhythm and kept it very close with the Expos and the second matchup against the Brewers, only being outscored 9-2 between both games. Luke Bakula seems to be struggling with the pressure this team needs him to perform at, but is too good of a player to stay in a slump. Josh Anthony has been taking the bump the most, and Sam Rudnick is proving to be a pretty good leadoff hitter atop the lineup. Captain, Eli Erickson shows much promise as a leader and a player as the Marlins look to get their first win in franchise history tomorrow.