

2020 Final Power Rankings

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

1. Expos, 6-4, 3-0 (Koetting Eye Center 3) (4)

An unbelievable finish to an improbable season for the first time playoff team. The SWBL Expos are your 2020 SWBL Champions, a sentence many doubters never ever thought would be said. What better way to cap off this weird year and season, with a weird exclamation point. The Expos are a team that finished second in pitching and second to last in hitting, proving that winning can be done with great pitching down the stretch. From being 2-4 after Saturday morning, and basically out of the playoff picture with one more loss, to this, an improbable run, finishing off with a 7-game winning streak to a title. Jimmy was the arm they needed despite Brett pitching some of the best he has in his life, but Brett came through on offense in a big way in playoff games that didn't need many runs to be won. Germer and Close took over as the 3 and 4 hitters on the team, squeaking out hits when they needed to. John Leicht played right field as the Expos looked poised out there in the playoffs, crowning John as the first Leicht brother on the trophy. Hats off goes to manager Kevin Wiethuchter for continuing to plug with the same strategy that ultimately gave him the title he coveted. A big congratulations goes out to this franchise, your 2020 SWBL Champions.

2. Brewers, 7-3, 1-1 (Glendale CDJR 1)(3)

The Brewers finally made it back to the Championship and looked like their potent offense would carry them to their first titles, but Jimmy Nelson's knuckleball stopped them in their tracks. The big three for the Brewers had a great year on both sides of the ball with Peter Leicht pitching to a 3-0 record on the season, and Derek Cornell is a great get for their fourth player. After scoring 23 runs in their last regular season game, they combined to only score ten in two playoff games as their offense was held in check. Rumors swirled about a possible final season for the Brew Crew, but after a great season, they look to stay in the top tier for their division draw and return for Season 19.

3. Braves, 7-3, 0-2 (Koetting Eye Center 1)(2)

A disappointing end to a surprisingly delightful start for this one year only franchise. They played two games on Monday, both against the Expos, and both end in the loss column. The first game, they got dominated by the best pitching performance possibly ever seen on the Blur against Brett, then despite scoring the most runs off Jimmy in the playoffs, they couldn't keep Brett in check at the plate who matched the Braves scoring by himself in the semifinal matchup. Steve Hays had a huge three-run home run to tie the game, and Sam put up a two-run shot to give them the two-run lead heading into the final inning. After a strange inning for the Expos up to bat with a botched infield fly call, a plethora of Gus Skibbe walks, and floater hits down the line for the Expos, the Royals curse seemed to follow the Skibbe brothers to the Braves and their season was ended. A fun ride to watch this team as they all head back to their own franchises in 2021.

4. Twins, 6-4, 0-1 (Glendale CDJR 1)(5)

With Spencer Bogard back in the lineup on Monday, the Twins had a great day at the plate, scoring 34 runs between the two contests. Spencer put up historic numbers in 2020 and despite only being at 6 games, found himself still in the top 3 of the major hitting categories. The team record speaks for itself as they went 1-3 without him on Sunday. Chris Meador had a down year at the plate, as did Will Rath on both sides of the ball, but the biggest bright spots for the franchise are the continued excellent play from Cory McCarthy, and the up and coming two way player in Edloe Donnan, who is turning himself into quite the pitcher to complement his hitting. After a first round exit against the Brewers in 2020, the Twins look poised to come back stronger than ever for Season 19.

5. Rockies, 6-4, 0-1 (Koetting Eye Center 2)(1)

The Rockies needed one win against their old rivals, the Brewers to end their regular season and the one seed would have been locked up. Instead, they got trounced and ended up being the lowest playoff seed due to the use of numerous tiebreakers for the first time in SWBL history. Their gift was a fresh Jimmy Nelson and a pitching duel ensued. The final inning went south real fast with the Rockies up two with one out. After Blake decided to walk the bases loaded to get to Evan Close, things took a turn for the worse. The strategy seemed to have worked, but the grounder went right through the legs of Kyle Breda and the Expos moved on to the Rockies dismay. A tough end to their season as they continue to be the only team in franchise history to make the playoffs every year. Even without Brett, and with rookie, Mike Patterson, this team stayed competitive in all of their games and with Grant Boyd back in the lineup next season, they look to get back on track in 2021.

6. Yankees, 4-6 (Glendale CDJR 3)(6)

The pattern continues. One year up, one year down. The reigning champs were pretty much eliminated last night, but with a large margin win against the Twins, the Yankees had a glimmer of hope. That hope was destroyed though as the Twins sent the Yankees home with a 23-12 beat down to end the regular season. Scott had another great season at the plate, but the biggest offensive contributor on the Yanks this season was Jackson Crosley, finishing in the top 5 for Home Runs. While this team did well offensively, scoring the third most runs in the league, they gave up the most runs over anyone, including the rookie Marlin team. Jackson was not himself on the mound as Scott had to take over as ace and this team finds themselves watching the playoffs on the outside looking in. John Calloway presumably makes his way back next year and then comes the interesting log jam on offense and defense as Kevin Pohle proved himself to be a top fielder in 2020.

7. Astros, 4-6 (Koetting Eye Center 4)(7)

The Astros were looking for help on Sunday and then they could focus on Monday's game, but with the Expos pulling off an amazing run, the Astros were just looking for the most wins in their franchise history, and they got it. This was the best season for the Stros to date, but still fell just short. They were the only team to beat the Expos twice in 2020, and look back at the games that were decided by either one run or home run derby and this team could have easily locked up a spot in the playoffs without even being a wild card team! Benware played like a

hero, hitting a home run after breaking a rib in the field and looks to recover in the offseason. Keaton Adams was this team's All-Star, finishing in the top 10 in many power offensive categories. Cole looks to be a front runner for Rookie of the Year, and the duo of Cam and Jeremy kept the Astros in games on the mound. This team looks poised to get better in 2021 with Olderman to make his ultimate return and bolster this pitching staff to continue to lower that runs allowed category to better than 6th.

8. Marlins, 0-10 (Glendale CDJR 4)(8)

Sure they went 0-10 like everyone predicted, but they have a lot to build upon. Despite finishing last in Runs Scored and Run Differential, they didn't finish last in Runs Against by one run! Sam Rudnick cemented himself in the rookie of the year conversation and looks to be a great addition to the future of this league. Eli Erickson proved his worth on all sides of the ball, with Trent contributing at the plate and Josh on the mound. Luke Bakula rounded out this team well with some experience but took a little bit to get his swing back. He was the workhorse on the mound and got the offense rolling during many games. Many positives to look forward to in the future as the Marlins will hopefully find a place in our league structure next year, and beyond.