

2014 Day 3 Power Rankings:

Overall Rank. Team (Record) (Last Ranking)

1. Royals (9-0) (1) – The Royals clinched the playoffs after the early games on Sunday, and they are one win away from making history as they face off against the last place Athletics for their place in the record books. The Royals' four starters are hitting better than any other team in the league and might be the only team without a hole in their batting order. Ty Butler has come onto the SWBL scene with a force and will be an incredible asset to his franchise in the years to come. This team is on the fast track to the Championship and Gus could be the first person in SWBL history to win four in a career.
2. Rockies (6-3) (2) – This team has now earned the respect they deserve as they clinch home field advantage throughout the playoffs if they continue on. The biggest surprise for this team has been the contributions of Brian Kenney who has been the undeniable leader for the Rockies this season. (Blake couldn't even find his batting gloves, shirt, or sunglasses today by himself...) If Blake can get back to his ways, Brian continues his improvements, and they find some depth in pitching, this team could make a run to their second finals in three years.
3. Yankees (5-4) (6) – After losing all four games on Saturday, the Yankees came back to sweep the NL in interleague play on Sunday. Scott Pohle and Sam Bakula were on a mission to make sure their team has a shot at playoff contention. Jackson did well on the mound and even got his chances at the plate with the struggles of Corey Pohle in the lineup. To clinch their second playoff berth in the past two years, all they have to do is beat the Rays during the game of the day on Monday, which is the last game of the regular season.
4. Rays (5-4) (3) – The back to back defending champs are one game away from missing the playoffs in 2014. To clinch, they simply need to beat the Yankees; an accomplishment they have already made this season. Paul is leading the league in batting strikeouts and hopes to help his team turn themselves in the power department on Monday if they want any chance at a three-peat.
5. Cardinals (4-5) (4) – Well, Brett and Sam called each other out and wanted them to help on their respective side of the ball, but I don't think the plan was for them to switch roles completely. Brett is leading Sam in all hitting categories, and Sam leading Brett in all pitching. To clinch the playoffs, the Cards need to beat the 0-9 Pirates on their last game of the regular season. If the co-captains can find some better balance, along with the dynamic hitting contributions from Nick Lape, this team might be able to make a deep run.

6. Brewers (4-5) (5) – The biggest surprise of the season has to be the very average play of the Brewers in 2014. The curse of the number one ranking may live on as the Brewers seem to be out of playoff contention. Mathematically, they are still in it, but mentally they have checked out, as they only beat the Pirates 6-5 on their final game on Sunday. With the Rockies as their final game of the season, the Brewers will just try and end their season .500 and take away some valuable learning experiences heading into the offseason.

7. Athletics (3-6) (7) – The A's won the toilet bowl for the second straight year in a row AND beat the Cardinals for the second straight year as well! They already improved from last year's record and look to play the role of spoiler in the Royals quest to the first ever SWBL perfect regular season. Steve Hays has to be the most improved player in the league as he showcases strong play on both sides of the ball. They are officially out of the playoffs, but are ready to shock the world and head into the offseason with raging confidence.

8. Pirates (0-9) (8) – Ugh. NWLA Dangerfield Champions 2014, here they come. Andy has claimed retirement as his bid for his tenth career win is closing. This looks to be the last year the Pirates will be in attendance. The only thing they can hope for is to destroy the Cardinals with them on their way out the door, but other than that, it looks to be a good bye to the always memorable, Pirates organization.