

2017 Final Power Rankings:

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

1. Rockies (6-4, 2-0) (3) – Time and time again, this team proves they deserve to be talked about for a Championship run every year. Besides the historical Rays franchise, the Rockies are far and away the most successful playoff team in history and are nominated for the National Teams Hall of Fame in 2017. Brett Spencer was a workhorse down the stretch for the Rockies, pitching both playoff games and in the championship, on a bum ankle. To win the championship they had to get by two teams with a combined record of 20-1 in the 2017 season. Kyle Breda is on the rise, Grant Boyd was Mr. Clutch, and Brian Kenney showed his defense is one of the best in the country, and that doesn't even mention the Spencer brothers who are two of the game's best. If this team stays together, they should be the favorites heading into 2018, because they have proven they can always beat the best with their best.

2. Royals (10-0, 1-1) (1) – Well, the curse strikes again. The Royals are the only team in SWBL history to complete a perfect regular season, and both times they have done it, they have not won the Championship. Sam Skibbe and Tyler Flakne were both in the top three for SWBL MVP, with Sam taking the award, and Ty Butler was runner up for the Platinum Hands award. They won their franchise's first playoff game against the Brewers, but could not get passed Brett Spencer and the untimely error by Ty in the Championship game. They have proven they are the most successful regular season team in SWBL history, but can long-standing captain Gus Skibbe find a way to fix their playoff woes? If this roster stays together, they should be heavy contenders again heading into 2018.

3. Yankees (9-1, 0-1) (2) – This team looked to be firing on all cylinders heading into the playoffs in 2017. They had their CY Wiffle Ace and the bash brothers seemed to be back with the improved season of Kevin Pohle. The only game they lost all season was to the 10-0 Royals, but in the playoffs they could not get by Brett Spencer and the eventual champs, the Rockies. Jackson was a lights out stud all weekend long, but gave up 6 in the first inning of the playoffs and the Rockies pitching never let up after that. This team has a lot to be proud of in 2017, as they look to get the bitter taste out of their mouths before 2018.

4. Brewers (5-5, 1-1) (5) – What may seem like a not so good year on paper, actually shows some great promise for this fan favorite franchise. When the top three players for the Brewers are at their best, there aren't many pitchers who can stop them. Patrick Gatti put together an MVP caliber year, but Peter and Kyle were nowhere to be found as PG hit the same amount of HR than both of them combined. For their fourth spot in the lineup they utilized rookie Curran Collins, Jim Stout, and John Doerries, but combined only hit 6 home runs for 8 RBI. This team has the depth on all sides of the ball with a strong rotation anchored by David Olderman. They won their first playoff game in a while and were just three runs away for a chance at the Championship

5. Twins (7-3, 0-1) (4) – This team had many surprises in 2017. Chris Meador was one HR shy of leading his team in the category, while also not winning this year's Gold or Platinum Hands award (still was one of the best fielders in the season), Will Rath finished second in CY Wiffle voting going 5-0 on the season, Derek Thompson was atrocious in his SWBL return, and maybe most surprising of them all, Spencer Bogad was a non-factor. He had two wins on the mound and at the plate was not his usual self. Despite, or in spite, of all of the surprises though, this team still managed the fourth seed in the playoffs, but fell short to the Brewers in the first ever SWBL Wild Card game. It will be interesting to see if captain Chris Meador makes any changes to the roster heading into Season 16 and the Twins look to make a bigger push towards the Championship.

6. Diamondbax (3-7) (8) – The Diamondbax finished as the first team out of the playoffs going 3-7 during their first year in the SWBL. They are the first “outside” franchise in league history and did well socially while seemingly underperforming physically. They showed up to everything, fit right in to our weekend lifestyle, and brought their friendly Minnesota accents with them. On the physical side, Jimmy Cole, at the plate, might have been the biggest bust in SWBL rookie history, injury laden or not. Their best player, Mat Peisert had to leave early due to a family emergency and Devin Nelson saw one of our worst minor injuries in the franchise era. Nobody hit more than four home runs, but I think this squad, under captain, Trent Steffes, saw what needs to be done and will return in 2018 smarter and better than ever, to try and secure a playoff spot in their sophomore campaign.

7. Expos (2-8) (7) – How they won two games and how they are 7th on this list with the most runs allowed and the least amount of runs scored is beyond reason, but when you let this team “Expos”e you, they will sneak out a victory, or in this case...two. Jimmy Nelson was sneaky good on the mound this year, Germer hit TWO HOME RUNS, and the trio of John, Evan, and Dylan gave some confidence to a struggling franchise. While their two wins came against opponents with losing records, they were four runs away from beating the Yankees and the Twins and on Monday morning almost beat the Brewers in a 2-1 game! You gotta believe their confidence is rolling high this offseason as they look to continue improving in 2018.

8. Astros (2-8) (9) – Two wins, both against the Athletics, is a step forward in the right direction for Bryan Benware's franchise. If some bounces would have fallen their way, they could have easily been a 5-5 team or possibly even with a winning record, taking the 10-0 Royals into extra innings and losing only by one! Benware had a career year at the plate and made some smart managerial decisions throughout the season. He had the largest roster to choose from and carefully made each lineup based on the opponent. With the PA guys not returning in 2018, it will be interesting to see where the Franchise of the Year will go this offseason.

9. Athletics (1-9) (6) – What the “Heck” happened to the A’s in 2017? They signed Paul, Luke was back, Steve was coming off of a great year, they were mere runs away from a Championship in 2016, only to end 2017 with just one win. While the Athletics did beat the Expos for their only win of the season, they lost twice to the Astros and once to the DBax, teams that the Expos beat for their two wins. We are going to chalk this one up to pure confusion and a fluke that they all got out of their systems. After their second place finish in 2016, and a more talented roster with the addition of Paul Castellano, you just have to scratch your head at this year and move on to 2018.