

2015 Final Power Rankings:

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

1. Rockies (7-3, 2-0) (3) – Finally a new Champion is born. The Rockies have done what they always knew they could do, win the SWBL Championship. It wasn't easy, but this team fought and clawed their way to a 7-3 regular season record, and as the away team in both their playoff games, took down challenge after challenge to claim victory. Blake Spencer was a hell of a pitcher in the playoffs and Kyle Breda stormed the Championship in his sophomore year with 5 home runs and 9 RBIs to lead the Rockies to Season 13 glory. The Rockies will head into Season 14 as the number one pre-ranked team barring any team changes, but I have a feeling this is the start of Rockie Nation, not rising up, but staying on top.

2. Royals (8-2, 0-1) (1) – After finishing the season with the shellacking of the Yankees (14-2) and Spencer Bogad pitching a gem in his only pitching performance of the year, the Royals claimed home field advantage throughout the playoffs. They met the Yankees again an hour later and manager Gus Skibbe decided to start Bogad again for the first round of the playoffs after his stellar performance. Spencer gave up 5 runs in the first two innings and with the Royals only scoring 4, that was all the Yankees would need to move on to the Season 13 Championship. Gus hit 3 solo home runs in the game and Ty hit one, with Spencer and Edloe combining for 0 hits. The Royals have been the best team in the regular season the past two seasons, but what needs to change for them to get this playoff curse off of them?

3. Yankees (6-4, 1-1) (4) – If Scott Pohle was around for all 10 games of the season, he would be a lock for his second MVP in two years. Once he stepped back onto the field, he raked. Scott joined an already excited squad and helped lead the first team not named the Rays to the first AL Championship. Getting through the Royals in the playoffs was relatively easy after losing to them twice in the regular season by a combined score of 28-3. The SWBL Championship game against the Rockies was a different story. It will go down as one of the best games in SWBL history as the Yankees tried time and again to will a win, but after every break they received, they could not capitalize and lost a heartbreaker. Jackson Crosley seemed to get better throughout the weekend and Sam Bakula is a hitting machine, but will the Yankees make any changes in 2016? Especially with the looming possibility of Kevin Pohle making his return to the SWBL.

4. Brewers (7-3, 0-1) (2) – Peter finally got his first major award with MVP honors and was inducted into the second class of the SWBL Hall of Fame. They had a great season losing only one National League game and took the top NL spot into the playoffs. But disaster struck again in the playoffs as the Brewers only put up 3 runs against the Rockies in the NL Championship Game, with Peter and Kyle combining for 0 hits in the game. David Olderman was a great addition on the mound to lead them back to the playoffs, but what does this team need to do to get that first Championship of their careers?

5. Rays (6-4) (5) – The defending champs just could not hold off the Royals and Yankees throughout the season and miss the playoffs for the first time in the Franchise Era. You have to wonder what this season could have brought for the Rays if Derek Thompson was in this lineup and shared the pitching load with Paul, who threw the most pitches throughout the weekend (200 more than the next guy). The bad news is, they couldn't win their fourth championship in a row, but the good news is that they continue their streak as undefeated in the playoffs!

6. Cardinals (3-7) (6) – This was the worst year in the career of this franchise. Brett and Sam did what they needed to do, but their teammates could not match their production. Nick Lape tied for the league in strikeouts, and the threesome of Lape, Patterson, and Benware combined for a batting average of just above .450. On a positive note, the Cardinals continue to be one of the best pitching teams in the league, allowing the second fewest runs in the SWBL. Brett and Sam will be back to the drawing board in the offseason to see if there is anything they can do to get back in the winner's circle. As of now though, time looks as if it has run out on the hometown team.

7. Athletics (3-7) (7) – The A's finished 2015 with the third highest amount of runs scored and the second most runs allowed. Their offense was the best it has been in years, even without their star player, Steve Hays. Rookie of the Year, Chris Costello and Michael Karl (second in the voting) are two of the best prospects the SWBL has seen in recent years. It will be an interesting offseason as the Athletics decide where they want to go with the franchise with the return of Steve Hays and many rumors of possible players wanting to get on board with this intriguing franchise.

8. Expos (0-10) (8) – The Expos become the fourth team in four years to go 0-10 at the bottom of the National League. They are most definitely headed to the NWLA Dangerfield Tournament and might make a deep run as they posted the worst run differential in SWBL history with -122. Their core 6 players to start the season (not counting John Leicht) finished in the bottom 7 slots in batting average, who along with David Olderman of the Brewers accounted for the only players to bat under .400...and they were all on the same team... Many predictors continue to scratch their heads as to why they thought this team would ever win a game. John Leicht should get some offseason chatter, but the rest of this team can account for maybe the worst team in SWBL history.