

Weekly Wiffle Thoughts Vol. 2

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Pre-Season Power Rankings: Revisited

I hope everyone enjoyed my first round of “Weekly Wiffle Thoughts” last week and I’m eager to continue this weekly piece the rest of the season. For my second contribution to the website, I will give my own take on Sam’s Pre-Season Power Rankings. Let the debating begin!

First off, let’s give you a quick reminder of Sam’s pre-season rankings:

- 1 – Royals
- 2 – Rays
- 3 – Brewers
- 4 – Yankees
- 5 – Cardinals
- 6 – Indians
- 7 – Rockies
- 8 – Pirates

Now, here’s my take on what the pre-season rankings SHOULD BE:

1 – Yankees

This squad has scrappy written all over them, led by Jackson Crosley. I’ve yet to see Jackson’s game on the wiffle ball field, but if it’s anything like his game on the baseball diamond, he will be a pest for teams all year. Captain Scott Pohle is a freak of nature and is arguably the best athlete in the league. He can single handily take over a game and is on my personal MVP watch. Finally, Sam Bakula was a solid player from what I remember in the past. He won’t hurt you in any aspect and that will come up big throughout the weekend of play.

2 – Brewers

I gotta give some love to the top senior-circuit team this upcoming season at the number two spot (in my opinion). Led by captain Peter Leicht and fellow Parkway South Baseball alumni Kyle Cornell, they will possess arguably the top 1-2 punch from any lineup in the league. Peter is the silent assassin and is consistently a great player in the SWBL. Cornell will easily challenge for the HR title this season and should rack up plenty RBI’s as well. Now granted, I don’t have much knowledge of Ryan Briggs and

Patrick Gatti's capabilities, but I don't need too. Peter and Kyle alone make the Brewers a World Series threat.

3 – Rockies

Speaking of silent assassins, captain Blake Spencer leads the Rockies this upcoming season. Alongside teammates Brian Kenney and Grant Boyd, the veteran crew should be solid throughout. Blake is a streaky player, but is easily capable of winning the MVP any season. His ferocious swings at the plate and his ability to psych out opponents with his stink eye gives him a competitive edge against anyone. Brian was an average player from what I remember years ago and if Grant possesses any wiffle traits of his older brother Craig then he will be a solid contributor as well.

4 – Royals

Gus Skibbe, the top pitcher I've ever faced, leads the Royals with teammates Edloe Donnan, Will Rath, and Mike Derestine. Gus may be guilty of quick pitching now and then, but it proves to be successful on the mound. Edloe has always been an above-average player and somehow finds a way to terrorize opposing pitchers. However, with his current picture on the Royals team page, it appears that Edloe has entered the world of marijuana and may be distracted in the outfield as he's lighting up his bong. Mike Derestine serves as the team's wild card. I met Mike through Parkway South summer school way back when and I know his speed is his top ability. Speed can cause havoc for opposing members and could result into several throwing errors by the opposition.

5 – Cardinals

This is the most interesting case of the 10th SWBL season. If Brett Spencer proves to be healthy come opening day, to go along with arguably the best overall player in the league in Sam Skibbe, then they would immediately vault into the number one spot of my rankings. However, it appears that Brett won't be ready to play, so I have to assume Sam will be left to carry the majority of his team's production. Just right behind his brother Gus in pitching ability, Sam is capable of shutting down his opponents' hitting any day. I have no previous knowledge of his teammates Nick Lape and Tony Fiorello, so I will pass on analysis of them. If Brett does return then watch out, the Cardinals instantly become the World Series favorites.

6 – Pirates

Screw you commish Skibbe! While 6th place isn't anything to brag about, I believe this is a better projection of my team's capabilities this upcoming season. While I personally would be livid with a finish this low, I do feel that we will not finish dead last. With that said, I think the Pirates are capable of being the most feared hitting team in the league. Pitching on the other hand, well, we'll worry about that later. In every season I have taken part of, I have annually finished among the league leaders in average, home runs, and runs batted in. With my veteran teammates by my side (fellow ROY Grant Steward and the one-and-only Rob Walters), we will likely rely on out-hitting our competition. With Rob's on-field antics and his ability to hit the long-ball and Grant's solid overall game, I believe we will prove our doubters wrong.

7 – Rays

At first glance, it looks like the Rays might have the greatest team speed in the league. Captain Paul Castellano is another fine definition of “scrappy” and teammate Chris Meador utilizes his speed to his advantage. The third and final member, Derek Thompson, is an unknown to myself but I will assume he is also going to be a single / double hitter and create problems for opposing defenses. This is clearly the biggest difference between my rankings and Sam’s as Sam thinks highly of the Rays at his number two spot.

8 – Indians

We end my Season 10 pre-rankings with the Indians and for no real reason for doing so. I know absolutely nothing about two of their three members (Spencer Bogad and Alex Heck), but I’m more than aware of John Calloway. I had the privilege of coaching John a couple summers back for Post 208 Legion Ball and his skills on the baseball diamond were fantastic. So, I will assume that John’s wiffle ball skills will be just as good or even better than his baseball skills. With that being said, Calloway is my dark horse pick for Season 10 MVP. If he can put up MVP numbers then there’s no reason why the Indians can severely prove me wrong.

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