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## **Beltran Belts Nationals to Victory!**

**Two run homer from Wolverine CF wins All Star Game in dramatic fashion**

With a two-run blast off of reliever Juan Rincon in the tenth inning, Carlos Beltran secured the honor of the Jackie Robinson Award as MVP of the All Star Game.



Previous to that clinching at bat, Carlos was already in the running for the honor when his two-run, eighth inning home run had squared the game at three. Pitching was notable on the American side, as their first three hurlers- John Garland, Johan Santana and Jason Schmidt- gave room for the Americans to take

the reigns in the contest. 'Big Papi' David Ortiz' two-run double had given the Americans an early 2-0 lead. On the mound, Francisco Rodriguez proved to be the most dominant pitcher of the evening. His three inning relief performance saw him yield no hits and whiff five. With the Americans stymied by K-Rod, the Nationals were able to prevail behind the big bat of Beltran.

Thanks to Henry and Jonah for playing the series.

Boxscore is below.

**2007 BRASSWORLD ALL STAR GAME**

AL	AB	R	H	BI	NL	AB	R	H	BI
Sizemore, cf	5	1	3	0	Jeter, ss	5	1	2	0
Guillen, ss	4	1	1	0	Pujols, 1b	5	0	1	0
Schilling, p	0	0	0	0	Beltran, cf	5	2	3	4
Crain, p	0	0	0	0	Cabrera, 3b	4	0	2	0
J. Jones, ph	1	0	0	0	Ramirez, lf	4	0	0	0
Bonds, lf	4	0	0	0	Martinez, c	4	1	1	0
Rincon, p	0	0	0	0	Iguchi, 2b	4	0	0	0
Ortiz, 1b	3	0	1	2	Crawford, rf	4	0	2	1
Barrett, c	0	0	0	0	Halladay, p	0	0	0	0
Wright, 3b	3	0	0	0	Wagner, p	0	0	0	0
Utley, 2b	4	0	1	0	Thomas, ph	1	0	0	0
McCann, c	2	0	0	0	Mussina, p	0	0	0	0
Howard, ph-1b	2	0	0	0	Lofton, ph	1	0	0	0
Ibanez, rf	0	0	0	0	Ryan, p	0	0	0	0
Holliday, ph-rf-lf	4	1	1	1	Clemens	0	0	0	0
Garland, p	0	0	0	0	Sanchez, ph	1	0	0	0
Castillo, ph	1	0	0	0	Rodriguez, p	0	0	0	0
C. Jones, ph	1	0	0	0	Guerrero, ph	1	1	1	0
Schmidt, p	0	0	0	0					
Tejada, ph-ss	2	0	0	0					

36 3 7 3

39 5 12 5

AL	000	002	100 0	3 7 0
NL	000	000	120 2	5 12 0

AL	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Att: 34,472
Garland	2	3	0	0	0	1	T: 3:15
Santana	2	1	0	0	0	2	2B: Sizemore, Ortiz,
Schmidt	2	2	0	0	0	1	Martinez
Cain	1	2	1	1	0	0	HR: Beltran-2, Holliday
Schilling	1	2	2	2	0	0	SB: Sizemore, Guillen,
Crain	1	0	0	0	0	0	Guerrero
Rincon, L	0.2	2	2	2	0	1	CS: Crawford
							S: Barrett
NL	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	LOB: AL-6, NL-5
Halladay	1.1	2	0	0	0	1	DP: AL-1, NL-0
Wagner	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	GIDP: Ramirez
Mussina	3	1	0	0	0	1	
Ryan	1	3	2	2	1	2	
Clemens	1	1	1	1	0	1	
Rodriguez, W	3	0	0	0	1	5	

# Lies, damn lies, statistics and Politicians

(from the Shysterball blog)

## If you outlaw VORP, only outlaws will have VORP

Great moments in impotent bureaucracy, brought to you by the Houston Independent School District:

The Houston Independent School District has denied a parent's request for the statistics of high school baseball players, citing a federal privacy law.

In April, Scott Rothenberg made a formal request for the statistics, such as hits and home runs, of players on the Bellaire High School baseball team. He received a letter Tuesday from the district's lawyer telling him the information is private under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act . . .

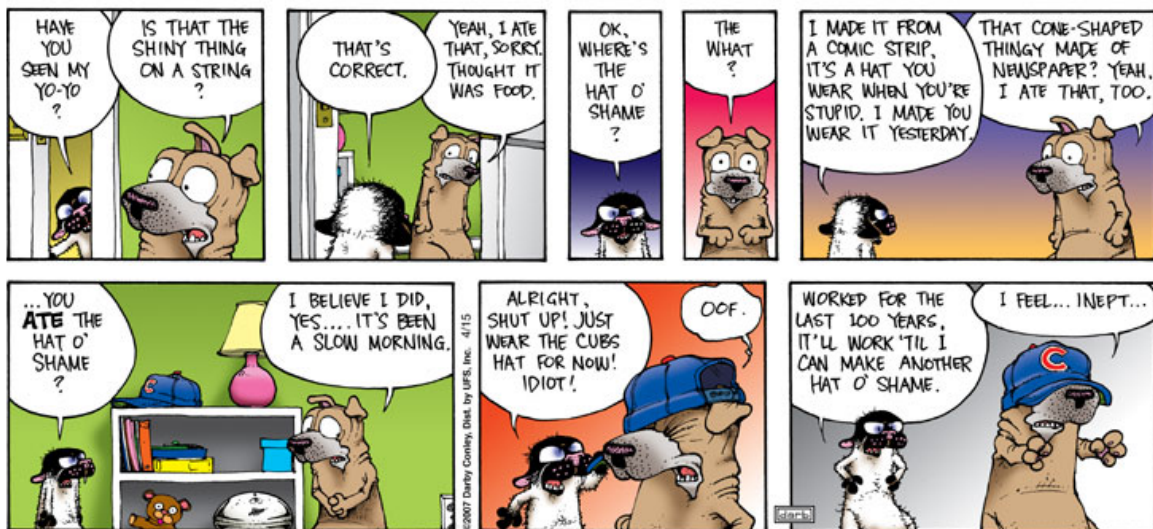
"We agree it looks weird, and frankly, it would probably be a whole lot less heartache to the district if this information were not protected," said Chris Gilbert, an attorney for the district. "But the law is the law and we're required to follow it."

\* \* \*

## And something that speaks to the editor's Inner Brewer:

GET FUZZY

BY DARBY CONLEY



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## **Fantasy Gaming Gives Insight Into Learning**

*[Note: this story appeared on Yahoo! News.]*

*Fri Jul 13, 7:02 PM ET*

FRIDAY, July 13 (HealthDay News) -- Fantasy baseball leagues could bring scientists a better understanding of how people learn.

Erica and Rich Halverson, assistant professors at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, are conducting a study of the organization and rules of play of three different fantasy baseball leagues, as well as participants' strategies, degree of competitiveness, and what they get out of the game.

"We're trying to figure out how can we cast a net over something like fantasy baseball to figure out what kind of learning goes on here," Rich Halverson said in a prepared statement. "What are the structures that orchestrate the learning? What are the outcomes?"

Erica Halverson is an assistant professor in the department of educational psychology, and Rich Halverson is assistant professor in educational leadership and policy analysis. Both are avid fans of fantasy baseball leagues and belong to the Games, Learning & Society Research group in the university's School of Education.

About 16 million adults played fantasy sports in 2006, according to the Fantasy Sports Industry Trade Association.

"Not only is it something we love, but this is a huge market of gaming that's going on where people are spending thousands and thousands of hours playing," Erica Halverson said in a prepared statement. "As a research group, we're fundamentally interested in what people learn from gaming and what gaming has to offer education. This is sort of a subset of gaming that's a new avenue to explore."

Fantasy baseball leagues -- and other fantasy sports games -- require a great amount of research and learning on the part of participants, the researchers noted.

One initial finding: A woman who knew little about baseball said her participation in a fantasy baseball league has led her to become more of a fan of the game, and she now listens to games on the radio.

"If you're thinking about this as a game structure that gives people the opportunity to become more invested in a given set of content, it's kind of a nice

insight," Erica Halverson said. "You've hooked people in a way that maybe they're not hooked before."

The researchers were expected to discuss their study Friday at the 3rd annual Games, Learning & Society Conference, in Madison, Wis.

\* \* \*

## **New Exeter Owner**

Name: Doug Beebe

Team: Exeter Alewives – name change and city/stadium move coming after '07 season

Brassworld Status: Rookie

Ownership tendencies: Let's Make A Deal! More GM than game day Manager

Hometown: Cleveland, OH

Currently Living In: Columbus, OH

Real World Job: Commodity Manager – Commercial Vehicle Group

Personal: Married < 1 year (Doreena), no kids yet

Favorite Teams: Indians, Ohio State Buckeyes, Indiana Hoosiers – I also follow the Browns and Cavaliers less enthusiastically

Favorite Players: Omar Vizquel, Grady Sizemore

In My Spare Time: Real estate investing, travel, play - softball, volleyball, basketball, flag football

I've been a baseball fan since I was old enough to open a pack of baseball cards. I was raised an Indians fan, and I know they're going to break my heart again this year and fail to make the playoffs. Such is the life of the Cleveland sports fan, sigh. But I digress, I've been into the statistics of baseball since the old All\*Star Baseball boardgame

<http://www.boardgamegeek.com/game/3157>. Yes, I used to keep score in those games, and I wish I still had the game and the scoresheets. I've played a lot of Diamond Mind baseball – replayed the '94 season a bunch of times, and think that: a) I'm not a wonderful in-game manager, and b) the Indians had some magic going in that 100-44 record. I've fiddled with Out Of The Park some, too, more as something to do in airports and hotels. As mentioned previously, this is my first Strat experience, outside of a free trial league on SportingNews.

Fantasy-wise, I've been in a football league – <http://www.gflonline.net> for the last fourteen years (the Columbus Gamblers) [*editor's note: there's gambling in Columbus???*] and have been in plenty of single-year Rotisserie baseball, fantasy football, and even a year or two of hockey (at which I was awful) leagues, with mixed success, based mostly on the amount of time I put in.

So, obviously, I'm your stereotypical sports junkie. I'll watch any sport, at almost any time – unless the commentator is John Madden or Joe Morgan.

I look forward to matching wits with everyone!

\* \* \*

Noticed on Buster Olney's ESPN chat the other day. He's one of us!

**Kevin (New Gloucester, ME):** *Do you or did you ever play Strat-O-Matic baseball?*

**Buster Olney:** *(1:51 PM ET) Kevin: Are you kidding? Probably played played 50,000 games, and which explains my subpar college transcript.*

\* \* \*

## Who are the 2007 defensive All-Stars (thus far)?

*[Note: This is passed along from John Dewan's 'Stat of the Week.' Some may be aware that Hal Richman contributed his sense of player's fielding ability in the most recent Bill James Handbook. Also, as far as I can remember, Dewan himself used to be (or still is) a SOM gamer. In any event, let the fielding ratings debate start in earnest with these nuggets from Mr. Dewan. Of course, all rights are reserved to Mr. Dewan here- this ain't my stuff! Enjoy.]*

July 18, 2007

In [The Fielding Bible](#) I introduced a new way to quantify defensive contributions called the Plus/Minus System. The book covered every 2005 defensive player other than pitchers and catchers using Plus/Minus and a variety of other defensive metrics.

[The Bill James Handbook 2007](#) published the Plus/Minus leaderboards for the 2006 season (adding pitchers for the first time) and the 2008 version will publish the Plus/Minus leaderboards for the 2007 season. But how about a preview now?

The recent All-Star Game tried to bring together 2007's best players. Let's take a look at the best players from a defensive standpoint thus far this year. Here are the 2007 Plus/Minus defensive leaderboards (through games of Monday, July 16).

### First Basemen

Name	Team	PM
Albert Pujols	StL	+25
Casey Kotchman	LAA	+13
Ryan Klesko	SF	+10
Kevin Youkilis	Bos	+8
Ryan Shealy	KC	+8

## Second Basemen

<b>Name</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>PM</b>
Chase Utley	Phi	+16
Aaron Hill	Tor	+13
Mark Ellis	Oak	+12
Howie Kendrick	LAA	+10
Brandon Phillips	Cin	+8
Kaz Matsui	Col	+8

## Third Basemen

<b>Name</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>PM</b>
Pedro Feliz	SF	+21
David Wright	NYM	+15
Scott Rolen	StL	+13
Aramis Ramirez	ChC	+13
Adrian Beltre	Sea	+12

## Shortstops

<b>Name</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>PM</b>
Troy Tulowitzki	Col	+22
Adam Everett	Hou	+17
Jack Wilson	Pit	+12
Omar Vizquel	SF	+12
Jason Bartlett	Min	+12

## Left Fielders

<b>Name</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>PM</b>
Shannon Stewart	Oak	+11
Matt Holliday	Col	+10

Geoff Jenkins	Mil	+9
Adam Lind	Tor	+8
Emil Brown	KC	+8

### Center Fielders

Name	Team	PM
Andruw Jones	AtL	+22
Carlos Beltran	NYM	+16
Curtis Granderson	Det	+14
Coco Crisp	Bos	+13
Alfredo Amezaga	Fla	+8
Ryan Church	Was	+8

### Right Fielders

Name	Team	PM
Andre Ethier	LAD	+16
Carlos Quentin	Ari	+10
Austin Kearns	Was	+9
Alex Rios	Tor	+8
Magglio Ordonez	Det	+7
Corey Hart	Mil	+7

### Pitchers

Name	Team	PM
Greg Maddux	SD	+5
Jon Garland	ChW	+5
Kameron Loe	Tex	+5
Five Tied With		+4

The worst defensive player thus far this year: Florida Marlins shortstop Hanley Ramirez at -23. Derek Jeter is a close second at -21.



By the way, I've been asked the same question many times: When will the next edition of [The Fielding Bible](#) come out? Answer: Not this year, but likely next year. The reason: We're working on a new book that will take time away from doing a [Fielding Bible](#) this year. The new book is called *The Bill James Gold Mine*. Keep an eye out for it next spring.

Short description of the Plus/Minus System:

[The Fielding Bible](#) contains a detailed explanation of the Plus/Minus System, but here is a summary.

The plus/minus figure of +25 for Albert Pujols means that he made 25 more plays than could be expected from an average first baseman. This +25 is determined by looking at each play hit in his direction and comparing what Pujols does with that play compared to all other first basemen.

Every time a fielder catches a ball and gets the out, he receives a fraction between 1 and 0. If it was a difficult play, he gets a larger fraction. An easy play, a smaller fraction. That fraction is determined by what percentage of times that same play is made by all players at that position, in the same location of the field, and on a ball hit just as hard. The higher the percentage (easier play), the lower the fractional award for the defensive play. The lower the percentage (harder play), the higher the fractional award.

Every time a fielder fails to make the play, he gets a negative version of that same fraction.

We add up all these fractions and round the number to an integer to create their Plus/Minus at that position (some guys play multiple positions in one season). A final Plus/Minus number around zero indicates an average performance.

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## All the Stars

I'm proud of our All Star Game. The managers always seem to have fun with it; I like that it means something in our league (it didn't in MLB when BW started- Bud stole it from us!) and I like that it is a hard team to crack. See, we select only 25 guys per league. What does MLB choose? 40 per squad? It's like their owners WANT to pay All Star bonuses or something. Not only is it just 25 per league in BW but all 24 teams are accounted for on the squads. I do like that tradition of MLB. Nothing wrong with every club sending its best rep to the game, imo. So, I thought it would be interesting, after five years of All Star contests, to break down who's been on the club the most and who has...well...been on a team at some point. But first to the trivia. Three players have been selected to all five All Star games. The first two might be fairly easy to guess: Albert Pujols and Vlad Guerrero. But would you've guessed Billy Wagner as the third?

BRASSWORLD's All Star process has produced other interesting tidbits. Guess which Giles brother has appeared in the most All Star games? If you guessed "Brian" you are wrong. Can you believe 2007 was Derek Jeter's FIRST All Star selection? There have been plenty other of players you might have assumed that had more than one All Star appearance under their belt: among these might be Carlos Beltran, Garrett Anderson, Torii Hunter, Bartolo Colon, Roy Oswalt, Andy Pettitte and Chipper Jones. Then how about the "Even a Blind Squirrel finds a nut Category?" Headliners of this bunch would be Craig Wilson, Luis A. Gonzalez (btw, the longtime D-Back LF affectionately known as 'Gonzo' has never made a BW All Star team), Chris Hammond, Deivi Cruz, D'Angelo Jimenez and Mike Koplove. But then again it was nice to see aging stars had made it to the BW All Star game one time before retiring. Among these would be Fred McGriff, Marquis Grissom, Tim Salmon, Robb Nen and David Wells (Oops! Boomer isn't retired- yet!).

So enjoy perusing the list. Here it is in its entirety:

Player	Year	ASG
Guerrero, Vlad	2003	5
Pujols, Albert	2003	5
Wagner, Billy	2003	5
Bonds, Barry	2003	4
Rodriguez, Alex	2003	4
Schilling, Curt	2003	4
Tejada, Miguel	2003	4
Abreu, Bobby	2003	3
Cabrera, Miguel	2006	3
Carpenter, Chris	2006	3
Clemens, Roger	2006	3
Halladay, Roy	2004	3
Kent, Jeff	2003	3
Ortiz, David	2004	3
Santana, Johan	2004	3
Soriano, Alfonso	2003	3
Alou, Moises	2006	2
Baez, Danys	2006	2
Berkman, Lance	2003	2
Castillo, Luis	2007	2
Chavez, Eric	2003	2
Edmonds, Jim	2003	2
Estrada, Johnny	2007	2
Figgins, Chone	2006	2
Foulke, Keith	2003	2

Gagne, Eric	2003	2
Giambi, Jason	2004	2
Giles, Marcus	2004	2
Guillen, Carlos	2007	2
Hafner, Travis	2006	2
Johnson, Randy	2003	2
Jones, Jacque	2003	2
Larue, Jason	2003	2
Lee, Derek	2004	2
Lieberthal, Mike	2003	2
Lopez, Javy	2004	2
Loretta, Mark	2007	2
Martinez, Pedro	2003	2
Martinez, Victor	2006	2
Nathan, Joe	2006	2
Posada, Jorge	2004	2
Ramirez, Manny	2007	2
Rodriguez, Francisco	2004	2
Rodriguez, Pudge	2004	2
Rolen, Scott	2004	2
Ryan, B.J	2007	2
Schmidt, Jason	2004	2
Smoltz, John	2003	2
Thome, Jim	2003	2
Varitek, Jason	2003	2
Wright, David	2006	2
Zambrano, Carlos	2006	2
Anderson, Garrett	2004	1
Barrett, Michael	2007	1
Bay, Jason	2006	1
Bell, David	2003	1
Bellhorn, Mark	2005	1
Beltran, Carlos	2007	1
Berroa, Angel	2004	1
Blake, Casey	2005	1
Blalock, Hank	2005	1
Boone, Bret	2003	1
Borowski, Joe	2007	1
Brown, Kevin	2004	1
Buehrle, Mark	2004	1
Bush, Dave	2006	1
Cabrera, Orlando	2003	1

Cain, Matt	2007	1
Carrasco, Hector	2006	1
Chacin, Gustavo	2006	1
Clement, Matt	2004	1
Colon, Bartolo	2004	1
Cormier, Rheal	2004	1
Crain, Jesse	2007	1
Crawford, Carl	2007	1
Cruz, Deivi	2005	1
DeJesus, David	2006	1
Drew, J.D.	2005	1
Eckstein, David	2003	1
Embree, Alan	2003	1
Fultz, Aaron	2006	1
Furcal, Rafael	2006	1
Garcia, Freddy	2005	1
Garland, John	2007	1
Giles, Brian	2003	1
Glaus, Troy	2003	1
Gonzalez, Luis A.	2005	1
Graves, Danny	2003	1
Green, Shawn	2005	1
Grissom, Marquis	2004	1
Groom, Buddy	2003	1
Hall, Bill	2006	1
Hall, Toby	2006	1
Hammond, Chris	2003	1
Hawkins, Latroy	2005	1
Heilman, Aaron	2006	1
Helton, Todd	2003	1
Hernandez, Orlando	2003	1
Hillenbrand, Shea	2003	1
Holliday, Matt	2007	1
Howard, Ryan	2007	1
Hudson, Tim	2003	1
Hunter, Torii	2003	1
Ibanez, Raul	2007	1
Iguchi, Tadahito	2007	1
Jenkins, Geoff	2006	1
Jeter, Derek	2007	1
Jimenez, D'Angelo	2004	1
Jones, Andruw	2004	1
Jones, Chipper	2007	1

Jones, Todd	2007	1
Koplove, Mike	2006	1
Koskie, Corey	2004	1
Loaiza, Esteban	2004	1
Lofton, Kenny	2007	1
Lowell, Mike	2004	1
Maddux, Greg	2003	1
Marte, Damaso	2004	1
Matsui, Hideki	2006	1
McCann, Brian	2007	1
McGriff, Fred	2003	1
Mueller, Bill	2004	1
Mussina, Mike	2007	1
Myers, Brett	2006	1
Nen, Robb	2003	1
Nixon, Trot	2004	1
Ordonez, Magglio	2003	1
Oswalt, Roy	2003	1
Papelbon, Jonathan	2007	1
Peavy, Jake	2007	1
Perez, Oliver	2005	1
Pettitte, Andy	2006	1
Piazza, Mike	2003	1
Pierre, Juan	2004	1
Polanco, Placido	2006	1
Putz, J.J.	2007	1
Ramirez, Aramis	2006	1
Renteria, Edgar	2004	1
Reyes, Jose	2007	1
Rincon, Juan	2007	1
Rivera, Mariano	2006	1
Roberts, Brian	2006	1
Sabathia, C.C.	2004	1
Saito, Takashi	2007	1
Salmon, Tim	2003	1
Sanchez, Alex	2004	1
Sanchez, Freddy	2007	1
Sexson, Richie	2004	1
Sheets, Ben	2005	1
Sheffield, Gary	2004	1
Sizemore, Grady	2007	1
Speier, Justin	2005	1
Street, Huston	2006	1

Sweeney, Mike	2003	1
Thomas, Frank	2007	1
Turnbow, Derrick	2006	1
Urbina, Ugueth	2005	1
Utley, Chase	2007	1
Vazquez, Javier	2004	1
Vizquel, Omar	2006	1
Walker, Larry	2003	1
Walker, Todd	2003	1
Ward, Daryl	2006	1
Wells, David	2003	1
Wells, Vernon	2004	1
Williams, Mike	2003	1
Willis, Dontrelle	2006	1
Wilson, Craig	2005	1
Wilson, Jack	2005	1
Wilson, Paul	2005	1
Young, Michael	2006	1
Zito, Barry	2004	1

\* \* \*

## BrassWorld Pennant Race Heats Up

By Jonah Keri

With Month 4 now complete, it's time to take a look at the BrassWorld pennant races. Several teams picked up the pace in July, faring well in the standings and bolstering their rosters ahead of the deadline to trade between leagues. Let's break down each division and see how the teams stack up, with two months to go.

<b>Cobb</b>	<b>WON</b>	<b>LOST</b>	<b>PCT</b>	<b>GAMES BACK</b>
Alaska	72	36	.667	--
Greenville	58	50	.537	14
Waukesha	49	59	.454	23
Hogan's	48	60	.444	24
South Range	35	73	.324	37
Silver	35	73	.324	37

Alaska has remained in control all season, and now owns the biggest lead of any first-place team, with a 14-game cushion. Greenville would be a fourth-place team in any of the other three divisions; they're solidly in second and nearly assured of a playoff spot in the lopsided Cobb Division. Waukesha's already

looking ahead to next season, having landed a solid bounty of first-base prospect John Mayberry Jr., lefty reliever John Grabow and a second-round draft pick for Jose Valentin. Hogan's hasn't been very active on the trade market, even as the Heroes start to prep for the 2008 season. After a strong '06 campaign, South Range figured to need a year or two to rebuild—expect a return to contention soon as the team rebuilds with younger talent. Silver will battle South Range to stay out of the Cobb's cellar; trading Scott Elarton to Port Richey may have been addition by subtraction.

<b>Ruth</b>	<b>WON</b>	<b>LOST</b>	<b>PCT</b>	<b>GAMES BACK</b>
Gotham City	75	33	.694	--
Plum Island	66	42	.611	9
Williamsburg	59	49	.546	16
Hoboken	56	52	.519	19
Exeter	49	59	.454	26
New York	46	62	.426	29

Gotham City owns the best record in BrassWorld through July, but it's not standing pat; the trade that brought Gary Matthews Jr. and Joe Nelson to town should bolster both the offense and the bullpen. As it has every year, the Plum Island squad has leveraged a huge homefield advantage into one of the best records in BrassWorld: At 40-14 at home and 26-28 on the road, Plum Island's 14-game gap between home and road records is the largest of any team in the league. Williamsburg looks poised for a post-season berth, as it looks to hang onto third place in the toughest division in the league. Hoboken will look to play playoff spoiler, as it's likely headed for a #5 or #6 seed. Exeter fans will adopt a wait 'til next year approach, as Don Beebe takes over ownership of the Ruth Division mainstay. After a 2006 World Series berth, New York has been one of the most aggressive teams on the trade market as it rebuilds; a package headed by Kurt Suzuki in the Gary Matthews Jr. trade, and another deal shipping lefty-masher David Ross out of town should help.

<b>Aaron</b>	<b>WON</b>	<b>LOST</b>	<b>PCT</b>	<b>GAMES BACK</b>
Taggart	73	35	.676	--
Lake Zurich	65	43	.602	8
Lafontaine Park	62	46	.574	11
Virginia	49	59	.454	24
Port Richey	48	60	.444	25
Annadale	30	78	.278	43

Few teams have improved more this season than Taggart; the Titans' trade for Jose Valentin pushes them one step closer to a #1 seed in the playoffs. In his first full season as the team's owner Kevin Kolb has guided Lake Zurich to a strong

showing, making an already strong team better. Lafontaine Park's off-season acquisitions of Jason Giambi, Andruw Jones, Mike Mussina and company, combined with a well-placed trade for Josh Johnson and Josh Bard earlier this season, make the Diamonds a dark horse pick to win their first championship. Among rebuilding teams, Virginia has been the most active trader, cashing the likes of Roger Clemens, Wilson Betemit and others into a plethora of solid talent, led by Kevin Youkilis. With Chien-Ming Wang, Jonathan Broxton and company anchoring an intriguing, young pitching staff, Port Richey could be just a year away from a serious playoff run. Annadale cashed in Ryan Freel and Luke Scott for an impressive collection of young talent and draft pick help; Tom Glavine remains on the market.

Mays	WON	LOST	PCT	GAMES BACK
Montreal	68	40	.630	--
Northwoods	64	44	.593	4
Maryland	62	46	.574	6
West Oakland	55	53	.509	13
Aspen	40	68	.379	28
Mansfield	32	76	.296	36

The always trigger-happy McGaffigans hope to repeat last season's title run, adding Roger Clemens, Ryan Freel, Luke Scott, Chris Coste and others to their first-place roster. No team owns a tougher middle of the lineup (Miguel Cabrera, Travis Hafner, Jason Bay) than Northwoods, making the Moose the team no one wants to face come October. Despite losing its grip on first place on July, Maryland should comfortably make the playoffs, where one of four loaded Wild Card teams could easily blaze through to the World Series. Every year, one good team hits the golf course early due to great competition; trailing the #6 seed by seven games, that team could be West Oakland this season, despite an excellent core of talent led by budding superstar Jose Reyes. After a 109-win division-winning season that ranked as one of the best in BrassWorld history, Mansfield has taken a step back this year, though new ownership should provide a fresh start.