

BRASSWORLD JOURNAL

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Alaska Hot Stoves Rally; Win in Seven

Identical to last year's climatic finish, the newly crowned champions had to reel off a three game run of perfection in order to secure the title. This year it was the Hot Stoves, and their success gives manager Chris Blake his first BRASSWORLD title.

The Stoves prevailed in Game 7 (boxscore below) the hard way.

The Pats finally seemed secure, having wrested control of the game, and the series, with an impressive ninth inning that saw them plate three runs, two coming on back-to-back blasts from Kevin Youkilis and NL ROY Geovany Soto.

Joe Nathan was wobbly in the ninth as he tried to close out the victory, as he allowed three baserunners, all of who scored- the last coming due to his own imperfection, a wild pitch that sent Clint Barmes scurrying home with the game-tying run.

In the extra frames, Chris turned the game over to his ace closer, Jon Papelbon. Papelbon rewarded him with three magnificent innings, allowing only a harmless single in the twelfth.

PAST CHAMPIONS

2003: Syracuse SkyChiefs (John Feola)
2004: Portland Grays (Stefan Feurherdt)
2005: Northwoods Moose (Corey Weisser)
2006: Montreal MacGaffigans (Jonah Keri)
2007: Montreal MacGaffigans
2008: Silver Sluggers (Lenny Luchtefeld)

It was in the bottom of the frame that the Stoves' perseverance was rewarded.

Josh Anderson gamely led off with a double and manager Bardos wisely called for four wide ones to set up a double play. Brian Moehler came in to lay down a bunt, but he pushed it too hard and Omar Vizquel alertly went to third to keep an extra ninety feet between the Stoves and destiny. But the wide play of one veteran deserves to be bested by that of another and Troy Glaus was that veteran.

| BRASSWORLD WORLD SERIES, GAME 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|---|----|----|--------------------|----|---|----|----|--|
| Virginia | AB | R | H | BI | Alaska | AB | R | H | BI | |
| Byrd, lf | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | Giles, lf | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Bradley, rf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | J. Anderson, pr-lf | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| R. Davis, pr-cf | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Aviles, ss | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| Victorino, ph-cf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | McCann, c | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Markakis, cf-rf | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | Papelbon, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Youkilis, 1b | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | Moehler, ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Soto, c | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Glaus, 3b | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Durham, 2b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Kapler, rf | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Infante, 2b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Edmonds, ph-rf | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Tatis, 3b | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | Thames, 1b | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Marte, 3b | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Fielder, ph-1b | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Dempster, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Barnes, 2b | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| Theriot, ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | McLouth, cf | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Vizquel, ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Cook, p | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Lee, p | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Derosa, ph | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | |
| Rhodes, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Breslow, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Geary, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Park, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Wagner, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Lester, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Lowe, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | C. Young, ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Nathan, p | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Bell, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Reyes, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Masterson, P | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Romo, p | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Ross, ph-c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Pennington, 3b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | 49 | 7 | 15 | 7 | | 45 | 8 | 11 | 6 | |

| Virginia | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | Att: 46,310 |
|-------------|-----|----|---|----|----|----|--------------------------|
| Lee | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2B: Soto, Durham, Tatis, |
| Rhodes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Anderson, Fielder |
| Geary | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3B: Aviles |
| Wagner | 2.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | HR: Youkilis, Soto |
| Lowe | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | SB: R. Davis |
| Nathan | 1.1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | S: C. Lee |
| Reyes | 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | GIDP: Bradley, McCann |
| Romo | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | LOB: VIR-10, ALA-6 |
| Dempster, L | 0.1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | DP: VIR-1, ALA-1 |
| Alaska | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO | E: Markakis, Nathan |
| Cook | 6 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | |
| Breslow | 0.1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Park | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |
| Lester | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | |
| Bell | 1.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| Masterson | 0.2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| Papelbon, W | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | |

“See the ball, hit the ball,” goes an old baseball saw and Glaus did so. He ripped the first pitch he saw from Dempster right through the box and into center. Speedy Shane Victorino collected the ball feverishly quick and hurled

the ball back to home, but it was too late, Mike Aviles careened around third and over home plate into the arms of on-deck witness Jim Edmonds.

It took three innings too long, but the Stoves had their championship.

Special mention to Shaun Marcum for an impressive Game Six performance in which he spear-headed a Stoves' staff that shutout the Patriots on only three hits.

Troy Glaus nabs Series MVP honors, who in addition to delivering the game-winning hit, went 9 for 23 in the series, with three multi-hit games.

AL AWARDS

| MVP | PTS | WALTER JOHNSON | PTS | ROOKIE | PTS |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Chipper Jones | 75 | Aaron Cook | 91 | Mike Aviles | 106 |
| Manny Ramirez | 63 | Brandon Webb | 74 | Evan Longoria | 67 |
| Carlos Beltran | 53 | Matt Cain | 39 | Nick Blackburn | 67 |
| Ian Kinsler | 48 | Tim Lincecum | 38 | Joba Chamberlain | 25 |
| Carlos Delgado | 38 | Joakim Soria | 32 | Greg Smith | 17 |
| Brian McCann | 21 | Mariano Rivera | 16 | Jorge Campillo | 13 |
| Nate McLouth | 5 | Dan Haren | 10 | Jim Johnson | 9 |
| Troy Glaus | 3 | Jon Papelbon | 6 | Johnny Cueto | 7 |
| Chase Utley | 3 | Braden Loper | 4 | Kosuke Fukudome | 1 |
| Dustin Pedroia | 2 | Nick Blackburn | 2 | | |
| Josh Hamilton | 1 | | | | |

NL AWARDS

| MVP | PTS | CHRISTY MATHEWSON | PTS | ROOKIE | PTS |
|----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Albert Pujols | 90 | Derek Lowe | 94 | Geovanny Soto | 98 |
| Hanley Ramirez | 66 | Cole Hamels | 58 | Jay Bruce | 78 |
| Miguel Cabrera | 63 | Cliff Lee | 53 | Joey Votto | 44 |
| Aubrey Huff | 27 | Roy Oswalt | 32 | Armando Galarraga | 43 |
| Kevin Youkilis | 24 | Mike Mussina | 30 | Denard Span | 19 |
| Alex Rodriguez | 13 | Ervin Santana | 13 | Joey Devine | 14 |
| Mark Teixeira | 11 | Zack Greinke | 4 | Ryan Sweeney | 7 |
| Jose Reyes | 10 | Ben Sheets | 1 | Cory Wade | 4 |
| Grady Sizemore | 3 | | | Jesse Carlson | 1 |
| Carlos Quentin | 3 | | | Jose Arredondo | 1 |
| Jason Bay | 1 | | | | |
| Geovanny Soto | 1 | | | | |

| PAST AWARD WINNERS | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| YEAR | AL MVP | NL MVP | JOHNSON | MATHEWSON | AL ROY | NL ROY |
| 2003 | Barry Bonds | Vlad Guerrero | Randy Johnson | Tim Hudson | Not awarded | Not awarded |
| 2004 | Javy Lopez | Albert Pujols | Carlos Zambrano | Bartolo Colon | ??? | ??? |
| 2005 | Barry Bonds | Albert Pujols | Randy Johnson | Ben Sheets | David Wright | Khalil Greene |
| 2006 | Alex Rodriguez | Albert Pujols | Carlos Zambrano | Roger Clemens | Gustavo Chacin | Huston Street |
| 2007 | David Ortiz | Albert Pujols | John Lackey | Chris Carpenter | Prince Fielder | Hanley Ramirez |
| 2008 | Chipper Jones | Alex Rodriguez | Carlos Zambrano | Justin Verlander | Ryan Braun | Jack Cust |

* * *

2009 Free Agency Review

By David Dick

Here is my review of the 2009 Free Agency period. All dollar values listed are the per year values of the contract. Big Fish is defined as signings greater than or equal to \$3,000,000 per year. Dumpster diving is defined as signings for less than \$500,000 per year. Middle class is everything else. Please take my evaluations with a grain of salt, as I'm doing this more for entertainment than serious prognostication.

Alaska Hot Stoves

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: none

Dumpster Diving: Tony Abreu (2 yrs @ \$250,000), Pat Burrell (3 yrs @ \$420,000), Bruce Chen (1 yr @ \$237,000), Ian Kennedy (3 yrs @ \$355,000), Kazuo Matsui (2 yrs @ \$375,000), Augie Ojeda (2 yrs @ \$250,000)

Review: Alaska chose to look for some bargains and filler, as there was not a lot of money in the bank. Pat Burrell's contract could work out nicely if he rebounds from an off year and I think the flyer on Ian Kennedy could pay off as well in year 3.

Annadale Anteaters

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: none

Dumpster Diving: Matt Herges (1 yr @ \$200,000), Mark Kotsay (1 yr @ \$200,000), Jason LaRue (1 yr @ \$225,000)

Review: Annadale didn't have much cash in the bank, so they picked up some cheap playing time on minimum or near minimum contracts.

Aspen Rainmakers

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Casey Kotchman (2 yrs @ \$500,000), Vernon Wells (4 yrs @ \$1,490,000), Dan Wheeler (2 yrs @ \$700,000)

Dumpster Diving: Mike Jacobs (2 yrs @ \$250,000), Laynce Nix (2 yrs @ \$275,000)

Review: Despite having a little bit of money to spend, Aspen chose to focus on value signings with potential upside, as evident by the contracts to Vernon Wells and Laynce Nix. Jacobs and Kotchman form a cheap solution to a big hole at first base. Wheeler was a good value signing even with his card being hard right.

Bloomington Greeks

Big Fish: Kevin Correia (4 yrs @ \$3,250,000)

Middle Class: Brandon Lyon (3 yrs @ \$1,800,000), Nick Masset (5 yrs @ \$2,250,000)

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: Bloomington shelled out big bucks for Kevin Correia, which is a bit surprising since his previous high in innings was 110. Correia will have to keep producing like he did in 2009 to make this contract worthwhile. Brandon Lyon doesn't figure to have a very good closer rating (only 3 for 6 in 2009), but his recent form (excluding 2008) and balanced card make the dollar value worth it. The Nick Masset signing perplexes me. 2009 was the first year he gave up less than one hit per inning and came anywhere close to a 9 K/9. I hope Vaughn knows something I don't about Masset or else this contract may come back to bite him.

Dublin GaelForce

Big Fish: Bengie Molina (2 yrs @ \$3,000,000)

Middle Class: Tim Redding (2 yrs @ \$710,000), Jeff Suppan (3 yrs @ \$1,700,000), Carlos Villanueva (3 yrs @ \$760,000), Todd Wellemeyer (3 yrs @ \$500,000)

Dumpster Diving: Mitchell Boggs (1 yr @ \$225,000), Oliver Perez (3 yrs @ \$400,000)

Review: The big splash was signing Bengie Molina, possibly the slowest player in the game. He can still hit the ball out of the ballpark, though, so he has worth. The rest of the signings were to provide innings for the pitching staff. If Oliver Perez ever straightens his head out, his signing could be a steal. Don't count on it, however.

Exeter Alewives

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Garrett Atkins (4 yrs @ \$1,000,000), Edwin Encarnacion (4 yrs @ \$1,000,000), Chien-Ming Wang (4 yrs @ \$1,000,000)

Dumpster Diving: Nick Green (1 yr @ \$450,000), Melvin Mora (1 yr @ \$400,000), Xavier Nady (3 yrs @ \$334,000), Pat Neshek (3 yrs @ \$375,000), Russ Ortiz (1 yr @ \$280,000), Nate Robertson (3 yrs @ \$334,000)

Review: Mike Forsyth comes back into BRASSWORLD and tries to sign every third baseman available! Well, he missed on Adrian Beltre, but you get the point. I imagine Garrett Atkins will get some time at first base, so there won't be a three-headed monster at third. There were some interesting gambles too in Wang, Nady, Neshek and Robertson. I like the gambles on Wang and Nady, as they could come back and be part of the Yankee machine in the near future. I'm not so sold on Neshek and Robertson, however. Neshek hasn't really pitched in two years and I'm sure many Tiger fans wish Robertson hadn't pitched the last two years either. However, both came cheap so it's worth the gamble.

Gotham City Gargoyles

Big Fish: Mariano Rivera (2 yrs @ \$4,600,000)

Middle Class: Jamey Carroll (2 yrs @ \$500,000), Clay Condrey (1 yr @ \$500,000), Jose Contreras (1 yr @ \$1,000,000), Alex Cora (2 yrs @ \$595,000), Bobby Seay (2 yrs @ \$880,000)

Dumpster Diving: Carlos Delgado (3 yrs @ \$334,000), Kelly Johnson (3 yrs @ \$400,000)

Review: Gotham City was able to resign Mariano Rivera, but it used a big portion of their available cash and forced them to shop on the cheap for their remaining signings. Of those, I like the Kelly Johnson signing the best. He had a down year last year, but only in terms of batting average. He still showed power and patience, so he is a good bet to rebound and reap huge dividends for the Gargoyles.

Greenville Black Sox

Big Fish: Derek Lowe (3 yrs @ \$3,000,000), Michael Young (5 yrs @ \$5,000,000)

Middle Class: Brad Penny (3 yrs @ \$2,600,000), Brendan Ryan (3 yrs @ \$2,300,000), Randy Winn (2 yrs @ \$2,300,000)

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: Greenville shelled out some cash to pick up five starting players. Derek Lowe and Brad Penny had down years, but if they return to form the contracts given to them will be good value. If Michael Young was still at shortstop I would like the contract more, but I fear his bat won't carry at third base for the life of the contract.

Hoboken Bums

Big Fish: Bronson Arroyo (4 yrs @ \$3,399,000), Doug Davis (3 yrs @ \$3,012,048)

Middle Class: David Ortiz (3 yrs @ \$1,365,000), Alfonso Soriano (4 yrs @ \$1,250,000)

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: Hoboken shelled out some big bucks to land two-fifths of a rotation. I think Pete was very surprised there were no bids on Doug Davis, and decided to spread the money over three years rather than give him a one year deal for five megabucks. David Ortiz and Alfonso Soriano are signings to keep an eye on for the long term. Both had down years in 2009, but if they rebound these contracts will be considered very cheap.

Mequon Keglers

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Koyie Hill (1 yr @ \$810,000), Brad Lidge (3 yrs @ \$775,000), Scott Podsednik (2 yrs @ \$1,700,000)

Dumpster Diving: Jason Jennings (3 yrs @ \$476,000), Seth McClung (3 yrs @ \$425,000), J.J. Putz (2 yrs @ \$250,000), Mike Rivera (1 yr @ \$275,000)

Review: I'm not sure what to make of Mequon's free agent signings. The Koyie Hill contract seems to be high relative to his card. Podsednik's contract will be ok if he can put up a .350 OBP again in 2010, but his recent history has not been as good. The pitchers signed could pan out, but all have troubled recent history as well. Lots of risk, only time will tell how much reward.

Montreal McGaffigans

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Adrian Beltre (4 yrs @ \$1,500,000), Jeff Clement (3 yrs @ \$600,000), Mark DeRosa (3 yrs @ \$1,050,000), Gil Meche (5 yrs @ \$2,100,000), Hideki Okajima (2 yrs @ \$800,000), Tony Pena (2 yrs @ \$600,000), Ben Sheets (4 yrs @ \$1,150,000)

Dumpster Diving: Matt Albers (1 yr @ \$210,000), Rich Hill (1 yr @ \$200,000), Justin Miller (2 yrs @ \$315,000), Garrett Olson (3 yrs @ \$420,000), Chris Snyder (3 yrs @ \$400,000)

Review: I think the Adrian Beltre contract is the absolute steal of this free agency period. Jonah is going to be very happy with that contract for years to come. The gambles on Gil Meche and Ben Sheets could pay off very big as well and the dollar amounts are reasonable. DeRosa provides a nice utility bat to help plug holes as the rebuilding continues and the rest of the contracts are very reasonable as filler. Chris Snyder is a little bit of a gamble (back surgery, eek!), but cheap. The only signing I didn't like is Jeff Clement. The Pirates are going to have him play first base and his bat is nothing special there. Unless he returns to catcher he has no value.

New York Metz

Big Fish: Jorge Posada (3 yrs @ \$3,500,000)

Middle Class: Sean Burnett (2 yrs @ \$2,000,000), C.J. Wilson (3 yrs @ \$1,850,000)

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: The Metz land Posada and a pair of lefty relievers. I understand the value on C.J. Wilson due to the closer rating, but think that Burnett went for way more than he was worth. Perhaps a bit of auction frenzy?

Northwoods Moose

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Mike Hampton (1 yr @ \$600,000)

Dumpster Diving: Chad Durbin (3 yrs @ \$475,000), Jeff Francis (3 yrs @ \$400,000)

Review: Not a lot here to comment about. If Francis returns to form his contract will be a steal. Durbin's contract is also a decent value for middle relief.

Palm Harbor Sandcranes

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: none

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: none

Palo Alto Robber Barons

Big Fish: Jorge de la Rosa (5 yrs @ \$3,087,000), Ichiro Suzuki (5 yrs @ \$3,900,000)

Middle Class: LaTroy Hawkins (2 yrs @ \$1,838,000), Kenshin Kawakami (3 yrs @ \$1,943,000), Shawn Marcum (4 yrs @ \$1,000,000), Omar Vizquel (1 yr @ \$1,048,000)

Dumpster Diving: Elmer Dessens (1 yr @ \$221,000), Brendan Donnelly (1 yr @ \$200,000), Reed Johnson (1 yr @ \$399,000), Mike MacDougal (1 yr @ \$378,000), Steven Pearce (1 yr @ \$200,000), Tyler Walker (1 yr @ \$200,000), Kip Wells (1 yr @ \$499,000)

Review: Palo Alto lands one of their owner's favorite players, in Ichiro Suzuki. Rumor has it that David Dick will be wearing his Ichiro jersey for every single Strat session over the life of the contract. The de la Rosa signing could blow up (he does pitch in Coors!). The Kenshin Kawakami contract is a great value, especially when compared to the contracts signed by Brad Penny and Jeff Suppan. The Hawkins deal is also good value compared to some of the other contracts for relievers with closer ratings. Vizquel was a bit of an overpay for a platoon partner with Stephen Drew. The Shawn Marcum signing was a bit of a gamble, but if he returns to form it will pay off in spades. The rest of the signings were to address some holes and were relatively cheap.

Plum Island Greenheads

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Octavio Dotel (2 yrs @ \$635,000), David Eckstein (2 yrs @ \$550,000), Charlie Morton (3 yrs @ \$985,000), Tim Stauffer (3 yrs @ \$575,000), Brett Tomko (1 yr @ \$525,000), Jamey Wright (1 yr @ \$525,000)

Dumpster Diving: Josh Fogg (2 yrs @ \$325,000), Joel Zumaya (3 yrs @ \$350,000)

Review: Plum Island chose not to make a big splash this year and instead made some medium-money signings to fill some holes.

San Jose Tasmanian Devils

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Henry Blanco (2 yrs @ \$670,000), Geoff Blum (2 yrs @ \$550,000), Nelson Figueroa (2 yrs @ \$525,000), Tony Gwynn Jr. (3 yrs @ \$1,000,000), Willie Harris (3 yrs @ \$870,000), Joe Nathan (5 yrs @ \$2,650,000)

Dumpster Diving: Randy Choate (2 yrs @ \$220,000), Chad Moeller (1 yr @ \$200,000), Andres Torres (3 yrs @ \$450,000), Billy Wagner (3 yrs @ \$475,000)

Review: San Jose didn't have a ton of cash entering into free agency, so they tried to fill some holes while at the same time getting some upside. Certainly the most money went to Joe Nathan and considering what other relievers went for in this period he was certainly the reliever steal of free agency and I think the second best signing behind Montreal's signing of Adrian Beltre. The rest of the signings are an interesting mix and are all helpful cards for 2010.

Silver Sluggers

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: none

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: none

South Range Mariners

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Randy Johnson (1 yr @ \$907,725), Braden Loper (3 yrs @ \$1,200,000), Edward Mujica (3 yrs @ \$500,000), Jason Vargas (2 yrs @ \$500,000)

Dumpster Diving: Bobby Crosby (1 yr @ \$250,000), Ken Griffey Jr. (2 yrs @ \$425,000), Jose Molina (1 yr @ \$300,000)

Review: Michael Swanson is a big-time Mariners fan so I know he is thrilled to sign Randy Johnson and Ken Griffey Jr. The rest of the signings fill some holes and provide depth.

Taggart Titans

Big Fish: none

Middle Class: Jermaine Dye (2 yrs @ \$1,500,000), Alex Gonzalez (2 yrs @ \$575,000)

Dumpster Diving: Josh Anderson (1 yr @ \$200,000), Mike Sweeney (1 yr @ \$200,000)

Review: Taggart was a bit short on cash, so not a lot going in free agency. Jermaine Dye was the big splash and then it was some good value contracts to fill some holes.

Virginia Patriots

Big Fish: Ryan Dempster (4 yrs @ \$4,300,000), Trevor Hoffman (2 yrs @ \$3,000,000), Andy Pettitte (2 yrs @ \$3,600,000), Sean White (1 yr @ \$3,492,000)

Middle Class: John Buck (2 yrs @ \$550,000), Kiko Calero (2 yrs @ \$2,250,000), Luis Castillo (1 yr @ \$1,500,000), Arthur Rhodes (1 yr @ \$2,000,000), Jim Thome (1 yr @ \$1,300,000)

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: If it wasn't for Williamsburg, Virginia would have been the biggest spender by far. I really like the Castillo signing for his on-base skills and the fact that it is only a one year contract. The Andy Pettitte contract is a bit of a risk at two years, since his return to baseball is not guaranteed. The Sean White contract just baffles me. I know he'll have a great card, but almost \$3.5M for 64 innings?

Waikiki Rabbits

Big Fish: Paul Konerko (1 yr @ \$4,600,000)

Middle Class: Willie Bloomquist (1 yr @ \$1,600,000), Shawn Camp (1 yr @ \$800,000), Kevin Gregg (2 yrs @ \$650,000), Brandon Medders (2 yrs @ \$725,000), Ivan Rodriguez (1 yr @ \$1,500,000), David Weathers (1 yr @ \$725,000)

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: Paul Konerko will have an absolutely monster card versus lefties. Willie Bloomquist plays lots of positions. Kevin Gregg will have a closer rating. Ivan Rodriguez can catch. However, I think all of these contracts are a bit on the expensive side. I don't think this is a knock against Matt as much as the fact that with an auction-style free agency it is entirely possible for an owner to just miss on enough guys that they get forced into overpaying for options B and C. Luckily (or perhaps unluckily for the rest of us), Waikiki still has the most cash in the bank of any franchise and I'm sure that once the young kids like Feliz, Tillman, Posey and Schafer start producing Matt is going to make some big splashes in free agency and turn Waikiki into a powerhouse.

West Oakland Wolverines

Big Fish: Jimmy Rollins (5 yrs @ \$5,500,000)

Middle Class: Todd Coffey (3 yrs @ \$945,000)

Dumpster Diving: Raul Chavez (1 yr @ \$210,000), Chris Coste (1 yr @ \$210,000)

Review: West Oakland opened their wallet wide to sign Jimmy Rollins in hopes that 2009 was an aberration and that he returns to his prior form. The Todd

Coffey signing shows Bill's faith that Coffey has finally put it all together. Chavez and Coste provide some cheap depth behind the dish.

Williamsburg Burgesses

Big Fish: Craig Counsell (1 yr @ \$4,600,000), Adam Dunn (2 yrs @ \$7,500,000), Roy Oswalt (4 yrs @ \$5,250,000), Albert Pujols (5 yrs @ \$9,000,000), Shane Victorino (4 yrs @ \$5,000,000)

Middle Class: Brian Fuentes (2 yrs @ \$2,200,000), Cesar Izturis (3 yrs @ \$1,275,000)

Dumpster Diving: none

Review: To use terminology from Michael Lewis' book Liars Poker, Williamsburg is the "Big Swinging Dick" this year, shelling out almost \$35M just in 2010 salaries. Top dog indeed! I think the Pujols contract is actually very good value, considering that his contract is cheaper than CC Sabathia, Johan Santana or ARod. Counsell ended up being a bit of overpay due to auction fever, but at least it is only for one year. Adam Dunn will probably live up to the value of that contract, as the folks in BRASSWORLD see more (and true) value in him than MLB GMs. I'm sure after this cash outlay anything short of title contention will be a disappointment in Williamsburg.

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Building On The LaFontaine Legacy - A Lefty Makeover

By Dave Silverberg

When Mark asked me to join BW there were 2 immediate pluses that I saw:

- 1) The LaFontaine team built by Dan had an outstanding core
- 2) The ability to build custom parks is a huge draw for me in any league I'm joining

Having played with Dan in BRASS & BLOC the last two years, it didn't surprise me to see a really good foundation:

- Felix H, Josh Johnson, Shields & Dice-K as key SPs
- Aardsma & Affeldt anchoring the pen
- Zobrist, Ethier, Damon & Aramis Ramirez as the cornerstones on offense
- Some nice young talent in Billy Butler, Martin Prado, Sean West, and a good prospect list including Smoak, T Beckham & A Crow

Plenty to work with there, and enough LH/SW talent on offense for me to build my typical lefty-slanted park with some hope that I'd be able to cobble together the 3-4 more LH bats & 2 LH Ps I'd need to make it functional. In the

end, allowing for some weather effects, we went for a park that is 18 BP HR to LH and 1 to RH during normal conditions.

The biggest issue confronting this team was money. After initially confusing “bank balance” with “carryover” (sorry Corey!), I realized the 1st deal I had made with Jonah (basically Smoak, Dice-K & Quentin for Bedard, Davis & change) had left me nearly penniless. So I had three priorities seemingly competing against each other:

- Finish finding the LH talent I needed after acquiring a few pieces in the deal with Jonah
- Solidifying SS as I didn't think Zobrist would have good enough D there
- Slashing costs enough to build a bankroll of \$4-5M heading into free agency

I scouted a few teams and after a while found one with the kind of SSs I wanted: 2 range D, fully eligible for playoffs, OB .360 or better vs RH. Rene of Aspen needed some pitching and liked Shields, and I liked Bartlett. He cost me a 1st round pick as well but I figured in the end it'd be worth it given he has 3 years of control left at below-market pricing. I also shaved payroll in the deal so killed two birds with one stone.

As free agency progressed we continued to add & subtract according to plan. Since the makeover started, here's the tally sheet:

Departed:

SPs: Dice-K, Shields

Hitters: Quentin, Prado, Alexei Ramirez

Prospects: Smoak, Crow, Montero, Melville

Come & Gone:

Valbuena, Nick Hundley

Added:

SPs: Bedard, Sowers, Karstens

Hitters: Chris Davis, Bartlett, John Baker, Schierholtz, Venable

RPs: Joe Nathan

Prospects: Hosmer, Arrieta

With about \$4M left in the bank and just a couple of very small holes to fill, thinking we can make minor splashes the rest of FA & prep for the draft with 5 or 6 picks in the 1st 3 rounds to work with. Here's what the lineup vs RH looks like at this point:

SS Bartlett

LF Damon

RF Ethier
 2B Zobrist
 1B Davis
 CF Venable
 3B Ramirez
 C Baker

SPs are King Felix, J Johnson, Bedard/Sowers, Karstens, West
 RP's are J Nathan, Aardsma, Affeldt, R Ramirez & Nunez

So we're feeling good about going into battle with that group, should be a blast, so many thanks for the invite.

A couple more quick notes about BW - I like the deep prospect list, though I am curious to see what impact it has on the depth of the draft compared to other leagues. Also, while the auction format is quite lively, I do think that the end prices are not stratospheric for anyone, so I feel like the money at play is relatively evenly distributed and the market for talent is a relatively mature one. That should bode well for parity/competitiveness in the league overall.

Looking forward to it gang!

Dave/San Jose



Williamsburg Team Statistics 2003-2009

| | AVG | AB | R | H | 2B | 3B | HR | RBI | SB | CS | E |
|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|
| 2009 | .267 | 5628 | 761 | 1502 | 296 | 34 | 195 | 729 | 25 | 7 | 102 |
| 2008 | .264 | 5570 | 736 | 1473 | 337 | 44 | 163 | 708 | 32 | 14 | 110 |
| 2007 | .261 | 5642 | 811 | 1470 | 304 | 31 | 207 | 782 | 30 | 7 | 92 |
| 2006 | .255 | 5586 | 676 | 1423 | 285 | 29 | 116 | 635 | 89 | 25 | 131 |
| 2005 | .262 | 5558 | 877 | 1458 | 317 | 26 | 239 | 834 | 44 | 18 | 108 |
| 2004 | .247 | 5615 | 668 | 1389 | 271 | 33 | 186 | 635 | 78 | 24 | 92 |
| 2003 | .253 | 5564 | 778 | 1408 | 282 | 31 | 218 | 743 | 77 | 32 | 87 |



Chase Utley
 16th round 2002 draft

| | OB% | SLUG | PROD | GAM | BB | IBB | SO | HBP | SH | SF | GIDP | TB | HR | MH | RR | DD |
|------|------|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|----|------|------|-----|-----|----|----|
| 2009 | .324 | .436 | 0.759 | 162 | 411 | 18 | 1073 | 78 | 43 | 35 | 144 | 2451 | 101 | 94 | | |
| 2008 | .326 | .429 | 0.755 | 162 | 470 | 21 | 1047 | 60 | 54 | 39 | 156 | 2387 | 90 | 73 | | |
| 2007 | .340 | .435 | 0.775 | 162 | 626 | 64 | 1112 | 68 | 61 | 36 | 155 | 2457 | 112 | 95 | | |
| 2006 | .315 | .378 | 0.694 | 162 | 451 | 30 | 931 | 63 | 75 | 41 | 155 | 2114 | 56 | 60 | | |
| 2005 | .350 | .458 | 0.808 | 162 | 704 | 46 | 1167 | 69 | 63 | 43 | 120 | 2544 | 122 | 117 | | |
| 2004 | .305 | .407 | 0.711 | 162 | 425 | 25 | 1227 | 51 | 49 | 33 | 112 | 2284 | 93 | 93 | | |
| 2003 | .328 | .432 | 0.76 | 162 | 586 | 47 | 1167 | 49 | 51 | 39 | 119 | 2406 | 108 | 110 | | |

| | ERA | W | L | IP | H | R | ER | HR | BB | SO | OAVG |
|------|------|----|-----|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 2009 | 4.48 | 78 | 84 | 1441 | 1572 | 791 | 718 | 151 | 523 | 1040 | .282 |
| 2008 | 4.28 | 78 | 84 | 1450.1 | 1438 | 760 | 689 | 163 | 457 | 1120 | .258 |
| 2007 | 3.96 | 87 | 75 | 1477.1 | 1383 | 708 | 650 | 171 | 490 | 1216 | .248 |
| 2006 | 3.97 | 72 | 90 | 1464.2 | 1456 | 732 | 646 | 167 | 504 | 1222 | .259 |
| 2005 | 3.90 | 97 | 65 | 1455.1 | 1343 | 700 | 630 | 155 | 491 | 1316 | .244 |
| 2004 | 4.79 | 56 | 106 | 1451 | 1562 | 826 | 772 | 185 | 517 | 983 | 0.278 |
| 2003 | 4.38 | 86 | 76 | 1461.2 | 1430 | 776 | 711 | 179 | 583 | 962 | 0.258 |



Ryan Zimmerman
4th round 2005 draft

| | CG | SHO | SAV | BFP | IBB | BK | WP | PB | IRSC% | X-TOT | X-OUTX-PCT |
|------|----|-----|-----|------|-----|----|----|----|-------|-------|------------|
| 2009 | 2 | 5 | 46 | 6278 | 24 | 9 | 52 | 4 | .234 | 843 | 570 .676 |
| 2008 | 6 | 6 | 38 | 6203 | 14 | 8 | 52 | 20 | .315 | 864 | 613 .709 |
| 2007 | 4 | 11 | 37 | 6211 | 30 | 9 | 48 | 5 | .208 | 861 | 603 .700 |
| 2006 | 11 | 8 | 31 | 6309 | 28 | 6 | 53 | 13 | .299 | 914 | 573 .627 |
| 2005 | 18 | 13 | 41 | 6145 | 28 | 8 | 57 | 14 | .345 | 833 | 547 .657 |
| 2004 | 3 | 5 | 34 | 6346 | 35 | 1 | 46 | 12 | .273 | 855 | 625 .731 |
| 2003 | 8 | 9 | 49 | 6300 | 40 | 8 | 61 | 14 | .289 | 834 | 635 .761 |

IRON-MAN JOE MCGINNITY: A TRIBUTE



Kudos to Jim Bodnar for researching these numbers. Three of the top five include Williamsburg, an obvious vigorous advocate for increasing our usage rate to 110%. Hah!

Brassworld's Longest Games 2003-2009

| Date | Innings | Score |
|-------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 14-Apr 2008 | 23 | WAI 4 13 1 WIL 5 17 0 |
| 5-Jul 2007 | 21 | HOB 6 17 1 HOG 5 17 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|----|------------|----|----|---|------------|---|----|---|
| 9-Apr | 2007 | 20 | MMM | 6 | 19 | 0 | MAN | 3 | 13 | 2 |
| 16-May | 2007 | 20 | WIL | 9 | 19 | 1 | GCG | 8 | 20 | 2 |
| 17-Apr | 2005 | 20 | WIL | 3 | 12 | 2 | WAU | 2 | 9 | 0 |
| 7-Apr | 2004 | 20 | MMM | 4 | 16 | 0 | PRS | 3 | 13 | 0 |
| 2-Apr | 2009 | 19 | GEO | 3 | 11 | 0 | VIR | 4 | 11 | 2 |
| 12-Jul | 2009 | 19 | WAI | 6 | 20 | 0 | DUB | 7 | 22 | 0 |
| 18-Sep | 2008 | 19 | NYM | 2 | 7 | 0 | HOB | 1 | 15 | 4 |
| 15-May | 2007 | 19 | MON | 4 | 11 | 0 | NOR | 5 | 12 | 2 |
| 15-Aug | 2007 | 19 | NYM | 6 | 21 | 2 | HOG | 4 | 20 | 1 |
| 11-Sep | 2005 | 19 | SIL | 8 | 14 | 1 | GBS | 6 | 16 | 0 |
| 18-Sep | 2004 | 19 | PIG | 2 | 10 | 0 | TOO | 0 | 9 | 1 |
| 29-May | 2007 | 18 | NOR | 4 | 16 | 3 | ASP | 5 | 14 | 0 |
| 12-Aug | 2007 | 18 | ANN | 7 | 18 | 1 | MMM | 8 | 19 | 1 |
| 22-Apr | 2006 | 18 | ANN | 5 | 17 | 1 | ASP | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| 3-May | 2006 | 18 | MON | 3 | 12 | 1 | ALA | 5 | 15 | 0 |
| 18-May | 2006 | 18 | WIL | 12 | 13 | 2 | WAU | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| 27-Sep | 2006 | 18 | ANN | 5 | 15 | 0 | LPD | 8 | 17 | 1 |
| 11-Sep | 2006 | 18 | NOR | 6 | 14 | 1 | MAN | 5 | 11 | 1 |
| 27-Apr | 2005 | 18 | WIL | 7 | 15 | 1 | EXE | 4 | 15 | 1 |
| 15-May | 2005 | 18 | WAU | 4 | 9 | 0 | BEC | 5 | 13 | 0 |
| 9-Jun | 2003 | 18 | VIR | 3 | 8 | 1 | TAG | 4 | 11 | 0 |
| 25-Apr | 2004 | 18 | WIL | 4 | 10 | 0 | GBS | 5 | 21 | 0 |
| 13-Apr | 2004 | 18 | VIR | 8 | 19 | 1 | MMM | 4 | 12 | 2 |
| 6-Jun | 2004 | 18 | SSG | 9 | 18 | 0 | WOW | 8 | 14 | 2 |
| 16-Aug | 2004 | 18 | PIG | 6 | 10 | 2 | GBS | 4 | 13 | 0 |
| 27-May | 2009 | 17 | GCG | 6 | 12 | 0 | MEQ | 5 | 16 | 0 |
| 16-May | 2009 | 17 | NYM | 3 | 8 | 1 | GCG | 4 | 11 | 1 |
| 26-Aug | 2009 | 17 | NYM | 5 | 16 | 0 | SRM | 6 | 13 | 1 |
| 2-Apr | 2008 | 17 | GBS | 6 | 14 | 0 | SRM | 3 | 13 | 2 |
| 8-Sep | 2008 | 17 | HOG | 3 | 11 | 0 | GBS | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 25-Jun | 2007 | 17 | LPD | 4 | 11 | 2 | ASP | 5 | 14 | 1 |
| 14-Sep | 2007 | 17 | SIL | 7 | 14 | 1 | NYM | 8 | 15 | 1 |
| 13-Jul | 2006 | 17 | GBS | 3 | 15 | 0 | SBQ | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| 20-May | 2005 | 17 | RIV | 1 | 5 | 1 | GBS | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| 7-Aug | 2005 | 17 | SIL | 3 | 11 | 1 | SBS | 4 | 17 | 0 |
| 7-Jun | 2003 | 17 | GCG | 9 | 14 | 3 | BBB | 5 | 17 | 0 |
| 18-Jun | 2009 | 16 | HOB | 3 | 12 | 1 | WAI | 1 | 15 | 3 |
| 14-Aug | 2009 | 16 | PIG | 5 | 14 | 1 | MEQ | 6 | 15 | 0 |
| 4-Sep | 2009 | 16 | PIG | 8 | 11 | 1 | NYM | 9 | 16 | 2 |
| 25-Apr | 2008 | 16 | SIL | 7 | 20 | 1 | HOG | 4 | 13 | 2 |
| 6-May | 2008 | 16 | ALA | 8 | 13 | 1 | SRM | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| 3-Jul | 2008 | 16 | TAG | 4 | 13 | 1 | VIR | 3 | 11 | 1 |
| 23-Jun | 2007 | 16 | PIG | 10 | 12 | 0 | WIL | 4 | 10 | 3 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|------|----|------------|----|----|---|------------|----|----|---|
| 13-Apr | 2005 | 16 | BEC | 7 | 16 | 1 | MAN | 8 | 23 | 1 |
| 8-Jun | 2005 | 16 | RIV | 7 | 21 | 2 | BEC | 8 | 19 | 0 |
| 15-Aug | 2005 | 16 | ANN | 2 | 11 | 1 | PRS | 3 | 12 | 1 |
| 21-Sep | 2005 | 16 | BBS | 9 | 22 | 2 | SBQ | 8 | 15 | 1 |
| 28-May | 2003 | 16 | WIL | 5 | 15 | 1 | PIG | 4 | 9 | 1 |
| 23-Jul | 2003 | 16 | WOW | 2 | 7 | 0 | BEC | 5 | 17 | 0 |
| 27-Aug | 2003 | 16 | GRA | 2 | 10 | 2 | WBR | 4 | 10 | 2 |
| 16-Apr | 2004 | 16 | TAG | 2 | 11 | 0 | BEC | 3 | 12 | 0 |
| 4-May | 2004 | 16 | VIR | 1 | 6 | 1 | SBS | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| 31-May | 2004 | 16 | WOW | 5 | 9 | 2 | TBB | 6 | 14 | 2 |
| 26-Jul | 2004 | 16 | ASP | 3 | 12 | 1 | ANN | 4 | 10 | 2 |
| 20-Sep | 2004 | 16 | SBS | 10 | 12 | 2 | GRA | 11 | 16 | 0 |
| 21-Jun | 2008 | 15 | GBS | 7 | 14 | 0 | SRM | 6 | 16 | 0 |
| 26-Aug | 2008 | 15 | HOB | 2 | 11 | 1 | GBS | 3 | 8 | 0 |
| 29-Apr | 2003 | 15 | VIR | 6 | 19 | 0 | PRS | 4 | 13 | 2 |
| 30-Apr | 2003 | 15 | BBB | 4 | 10 | 2 | ASP | 3 | 12 | 1 |
| 3-Jun | 2003 | 15 | GCG | 7 | 12 | 0 | WIL | 6 | 14 | 2 |
| 30-Jun | 2003 | 15 | PRS | 7 | 15 | 0 | BEC | 8 | 20 | 0 |
| 20-Jul | 2003 | 15 | BEC | 8 | 17 | 1 | MMM | 5 | 10 | 3 |
| 22-Sep | 2003 | 15 | GBS | 7 | 18 | 0 | SIL | 6 | 14 | 1 |

Jim Bodnar again with a marginal win study of 2009 BRASSWORLD.

Moneyball 2009



| Team | Salaries | Wins | WIN/MIL | Extra Sal | Extra Win | MarWin |
|-------------------------|----------|------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| New York Metz | 30.82 | 87 | 2.82 | 5.82 | 47 | 8.08 |
| Waikiki Rabbits | 27.17 | 57 | 2.10 | 2.17 | 17 | 7.83 |
| Alaska Hot Stoves | 49.65 | 113 | 2.28 | 24.65 | 73 | 2.96 |
| Virginia Patriots | 47.29 | 106 | 2.24 | 22.29 | 66 | 2.96 |
| Bloomington Greeks | 40.53 | 84 | 2.07 | 15.53 | 44 | 2.83 |
| Williamsburg Burgesses | 41.20 | 78 | 1.89 | 16.20 | 38 | 2.35 |
| Mequon Keglers | 51.79 | 102 | 1.97 | 26.79 | 62 | 2.31 |
| Gotham City Gargoyles | 54.43 | 108 | 1.98 | 29.43 | 68 | 2.31 |
| West Oakland Wolverines | 44.78 | 81 | 1.81 | 19.78 | 41 | 2.07 |
| Hoboken Bums | 44.35 | 80 | 1.80 | 19.35 | 40 | 2.07 |
| Lafontaine Park | 57.90 | 104 | 1.80 | 32.90 | 64 | 1.95 |

| Diamonds | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----|---------|-------|----|---------|
| Palo Alto Robber Barons | 53.59 | 93 | 1.74 | 28.59 | 53 | 1.85 |
| Exeter Alewives | 37.61 | 62 | 1.65 | 12.61 | 22 | 1.74 |
| Northwoods Moose | 65.50 | 105 | 1.60 | 40.50 | 65 | 1.60 |
| Taggart Titans | 57.20 | 91 | 1.59 | 32.20 | 51 | 1.58 |
| Aspen Rainmakers | 57.96 | 89 | 1.54 | 32.96 | 49 | 1.49 |
| Silver Sluggers | 68.41 | 98 | 1.43 | 43.41 | 58 | 1.34 |
| Dublin GaelForce | 53.24 | 75 | 1.41 | 28.24 | 35 | 1.24 |
| Greenville Black Sox | 53.66 | 72 | 1.34 | 28.66 | 32 | 1.12 |
| South Range Mariners | 45.32 | 61 | 1.35 | 20.32 | 21 | 1.03 |
| Palm Harbor Sandcranes | 67.63 | 68 | 1.01 | 42.63 | 28 | 0.66 |
| Annadale Anteaters | 48.18 | 48 | 1.00 | 23.18 | 8 | 0.35 |
| Montreal McGaffigans | 38.99 | 41 | 1.05 | 13.99 | 1 | 0.07 |
| Plum Island Greenheads | 39.63 | 41 | 1.03 | 14.63 | 1 | 0.07 |
| | 49.03 | | 1.69 | | | 2.16 |
| | average | | average | | | average |

| |
|----------------------------|
| Notes: |
| 40 wins set as minimum |
| \$25 mil is minimum salary |



Our Friend in Strat, Bill Galanis.

Original BRASSWORLD member.

Manager exemplar.

Thank you, Bill, for helping our league be what it is today through your actions.