

The Bull League Journal

A newsletter for owners of BLBA teams ISSUE #1 - 19 Apr 93

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Introduction

Welcome to the first *Bull League Journal*, the newsletter for owners of teams in the BLBA, and which replaces the "Bull Times" magazine.

This newsletter will aim to give owners and the public alike an insight into the Bull League, and a concise summary of the news and events since the previous issue. It will not, however, report scores, or trades or injuries, unless those events were important to the league in some way.

This first issue will attempt to summarize the events since last season. Since the commissioner began operating an electronic bulletin board system (BBS), the Bull League became sidetracked, and eventually, when 1993 arrived, had to be rushed to a finish.

Last Year - A Summary of 1992

It's not easy to summarize an entire season into one small article, however I will try. Basically, the season was halted shortly after the All-Star Break, which was won by the Lake League All-Stars (the cup will soon be engraved, and will be on display at the commissioner's home). A full-length playoff schedule was embarked upon, and the Ohio Oxen met the Seattle Salts in the Bull Cup Championship Series. The Seattle Salts were the victors, and the 1992 owner will be informed of that event shortly.

The Most Outstanding Non-pitcher of the Year awards were (for the Lake League) Carl Simms [1B, Chicoutimi Cingantes], and (for the Eagle League) Cola Classique [CF, Seattle Salts]. Both players performed excellently in an otherwise mundane season of low batting averages, and sub-par offense.

The Most Outstanding Pitcher of the Year awards were (for the Lake League) Dandy Lundgren [Chicoutimi] and (Eagle League) South Paw [Nevada Speeders]. South Paw allowed only one hit during the entire season, and threw three no-hit games of four complete games.

The Owner of the Year award was given to Rick Trupp, who - at the beginning of the 1992 season - had the most interest in his team, the Nevada Speeders, of all the owners. Congratulations, Rick! The award will soon be engraved to put permanence to your honour!

The All-Star Trophy went to the Lake League for 1992, who defeated the Eagle League 6-2 at LAPark, home of the California Tidals. Nick Red of the Boston Brawlers was the game MVP.

The Quick Start to 1993

Out with the old, in with the new, as they say. The commissioner issued an executive order (93-002) allowing the League to assume control of all teams for the purpose of making transactions which will benefit all teams in an attempt to remedy the massive problem of poor offense and extraordinary pitching.

Many players with low batting averages were retired, and many players were "ported" from other leagues, though they are not actual players because of a bill which banned players with real names. Many players had their ratings and abilities in the league computer "adjusted" so that the result would be games with higher scores and better offense, which makes for a more interesting brand of baseball.

Another executive order was issued by the League Office (93-001), which aborted the plan to expand the Lake league by two teams. The two planned teams were the Buffalo Storm and the Detroit Lakes. Depending on how ownership is in 1993, these teams may be implemented by 1994.

The League will also no longer keep exact records of passed balls and

sacrifice hits, nor will it keep the boxscores for regular season games. Only post-season and All-Star games will have boxscores on record, unless requested by either team in a regular season game.

Also gone for 1993 are the paid ownership systems and complicated fees. All teams are now free to own on a first-come-first-serve basis, however there will be no prize fund, and due to the expense, no feature booklets (such as the Player Register) will be made available.

With all the changes for this season, the League has tried to keep the baseball side the same. In the early days of the Bull League, each season would bring a new look to the leagues and divisions and teams - now the commissioner is confident the current configuration is here to stay. This year marks the third season of operation for the BLBA (Bull League Baseball Association) as it is currently configured.

All-Star Game 1993

The third annual BLBA All-Star Game will be in Toronto, at Classic Stadium, the home of the Toronto Ducks baseball club in the Lake League. The Lake League All-Stars are hosting the Eagle League All-Stars. The players will be voted on by the team owners using the same system as 1991, shortly before the All-Star Break begins.

This year, All-Star Break is scheduled for June 20-26.

The commissioner will entertain requests for the site of the 1994 All-Star Game, however if no requests are submitted, next year's mid-summer special will be held at OlympiaDome, the home stadium for the 1992 Bull Cup Champion Seattle Salts.

Trophies

There will be no change in the BLBA policy on trophies. The Bull Cup WILL go to the owner of the winning team of the Bull Cup, however the League wishes to stress the fact the the Bull Cup would be on LOAN, and not the property of the winning owner. The name of the winning owner WILL be engraved on the Cup BEFORE it is surrendered to the winning owner, and the League reserves the right to request the cup back at ANY time. The League ALSO reserves the right NOT to surrender the cup if the winning owner is located outside of the immediate vicinity (read: *easy driving distance*) of the commissioner or if either the commissioner or the owner are planning a move in the near future.

The same policy runs for the Owner of the Year award, the only other trophy to leave the League Office. Rick Trupp is the 1992 recipient. We hope to see cut-throat competition for the 1993 recipient! Trading, dealing, activity and transactions are the way to win it - the more the merrier! A winning team helps too! The winner is decided by the commissioner.

The All-Star Trophy is on display at the residence of the commissioner. For each year, it displays the score of each All-Star Game, and the name and team of the MVP.

General Scribbles...

The first game of the 1993 season was played before this was printed (the ONLY game played before this was printed). The Toronto Ducks hosted the Chicoutimi Cinquantes at Classic Stadium - the Ducks' Bo-Bo Beckers threw a no-hitter, and was only 1 walk away from a perfect game. Dandy Lundgren of Chicoutimi allowed two solo home runs, the only hits of the game. Rookie R. Heart and veteran Joe Slick were the lucky home run hitters of the game, and Joe looks like he's back on his 1991 track (or maybe even 1990?). Toronto won 2-0.

Other games to be played on DAY 1 (19 Apr 93) were: Montreal Metros @ Boston Brawlers; Ohio Oxen @ North York; Chicago Pitbulls @ Richmond Ravens; California Tidals @ San Diego Seagulls; Seattle Salts @ Nevada Speeders. DAY 2 is the same as DAY 1. Updates and team schedules are available from the commissioner. The voice phone number is (416)603-0267, 12pm-8pm Mon-Fri.

May Day (01 May 93) is a holiday and a day off for all teams and

players. On the schedule, May Day falls between DAY 4 and DAY 5.

The Cow League will probably not operate this year (again), unless someone with the appropriate equipment volunteers. The season would be only 20 or so games long, and occasionally the data disks would need to be given to the commissioner for a short time for farm team transactions and statistical updates.

REMINDER:

You may request the schedule for your team from the commissioner. Blank spaces will be given to allow you to fill in the results of the games yourself.

At the completion of DAY 12, and DAY 24, and DAY 36, rosters for ALL teams will be printed, and the full standings released. This information will be made available to owners at no charge. If you wish, the results of all games up to that point for your team will also be made available.

Real people win the Owner of the Year award! You could be the next one! All you need to do is GET INVOLVED! For trading purposes, full statistics can be made available for all teams/players at request.