

# Beer League Baseball



## 2011 Draft Report Card

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<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>JACKSON PARK BADGERS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MANHATTAN 24 HORSEMEN.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>FRISCO SILVER BULLETS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TITLETOWN CORPORATE RAIDERS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>KUKAGAMI LAKE CHIPPERS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ARLINGTON COWBOYS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>INLAND EVIL EMPIRES.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SAN ANTONIO TEJANOS .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>TEXAS SNOW MONKEYS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>BOSTON RED STRIPES.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>GRANITE CITY GANGSTERS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>GUADALAJARA GRAND SPORTSMEN .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>HOLLYWOOD LIBERAL ELITE.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>ST LOUIS ARCH RIVALS .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PHILADELPHIA STOOGES.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>GARSON EHS .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>TORONTO BEAVERS .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>EDMONTON TRAPPERS .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>NICKEL CENTRE WOLF PACK.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>SUDBURY NORTHERN ALES.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>PREDICTIONS – 2010 REDUX: .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>PREDICTIONS – 2011: .....</b>	<b>32</b>

## Introduction

The fourth annual Beer League Baseball draft took place on March 12, 2010. After nearly 2.5 of drafting, and many, many beers (hopefully nobody ended the draft looking like this guy), the 19 attending owners finally had teams to call their own.

After the last three drafts I did a report card, grading everyone's picks, and I've decided to make it an annual thing, since I enjoy doing it and everyone seems to enjoy reading it.



What I've done is copied each team's draft results (for this year only) into the report card. Then I evaluate each team's draft based on a number of factors: Did this team overpay for anyone? Did they get good value picks? Did they make the right decision with the direction of their draft (ie attempt to contend vs rebuild)? Did they spend all their money (or did they seem to have good reason not to spend)? Did they apportion their money smartly (ie if a team with 3 third basemen spent 50 bucks on A-Roid, that wouldn't make much sense). After I've discussed the draft, I came up with the best and worst values on the team. Finally, after all that, I assign a grade and summarize my overall thoughts on the team.

I should say that all these grades and team breakdowns are only my opinions. I didn't set out to do this to ruffle any feathers, or insult any owners, and if I do end up offending anybody with my grades, I apologize. I merely intend this to be a fun read, and something to get everyone psyched up for Opening Day.

After all the teams are complete, I've tried to make a prediction of every team's record this season. Again, this is just my opinion, though I will say that some of my predictions in past years were pretty close to accurate.

With that said, I hope everyone enjoys this document and has a fun time reading it, and I welcome any complaints and arguments about my grades! Bring it on, and Play Ball!

ALL LEAGUE

IIA DIVISION

## Jackson Park Badgers

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
Ryan Braun	36	1/3
Alex Avila	5	1/3
Alex Gordon	1	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
Kevin Gregg	2	1/3
Nick Masset	3	1/3
Tyler Clippard	1	1/3

### Owner: Nate Feuerer

Total Payroll: \$296, \$4 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: A

2009 Draft Grade: A-

2010 Draft Grade: A-

### The Good:

Nate spent most of his draft budget getting a franchise hitter in Ryan Braun. He also filled out his bullpen with some nice cheap pickups. Kevin Gregg has a decent card for this year (except for the walks) and since he's a closer in 2011 he's a threat for a JAM next year with a good season. Masset rebounded from a tough start in 2010 to post very solid numbers over 77 innings. Clippard has a K/9 of 11.1 over 91 IP. Not too bad for \$6 combined!

Considering what catching was going for in the draft, getting Alex Avila for \$5 has to be considered a bargain. I'm not totally convinced that his hot cup of coffee in 2009 wasn't a fluke, but he's been handed the starting job in 2011 so for \$5 it makes sense to take a gamble. Alex Gordon is a nice \$1 flier type, a post-hype sleeper who could surprise.

### The Bad:

There isn't much not to like here. If I have to nitpick, I could say that Braun went a few bucks higher than I would have valued him at (given the depth of OF in the draft and in general), but he's a franchise hitter just entering his prime so I'm sure Nate didn't mind spending the few extra bucks to lock him up.

**Best Value: Clippard** at \$1

**Worst Value:** None of the picks really apply here, so I guess I'll say **Masset** at \$3

### The Verdict:

Nate has always done well on these report cards, and this year is no different as I'm giving him an overall grade of **A-** for this draft. Nate drafted a solid half of a bullpen, getting 225+ innings of likely 3.25 ERA pitching for only \$6. He locked down a franchise outfielder just entering his prime at market value (or just a bit above), and took some cheap gambles on a young catcher and a post hype outfielder. Well done!

## Manhattan 24 Horsemen

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
Juan Rivera	4	1/3
Felix Pie	1	1/3
Jose Molina	1	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
Ian Kennedy	28	1/3
Clay Hensley	6	1/3
Darren O'Day	6	1/3
James McDonald	8	1/3
Kris Medlen	1	1/3

Owner: Ron Erdmann

Total Payroll: \$300, \$0 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: B

2009 Draft Grade: B+

2010 Draft Grade: C+

### The Good:

Ron spent the bulk of his draft budget getting a young pitcher coming off of a JAM season. I actually like the Kennedy signing, I think Ron paid market value, maybe a touch below (if I had the cash I would have went to \$30 or so). Kennedy will need to keep the HR ball under control considering he pitches in Arizona, but I like his future.

I'm ok with getting Hensley/O'Day for 6 bucks each, again that's about market value, maybe a bit below for both of those nice 'pen cards. Medlen for a buck is nice, given he has either 14 starts or 108 IP out of the 'pen with the potential to put up solid numbers. Rivera could look like a steal a year from now, if he gets playing time in Toronto the Roger's Centre could boost up his power numbers. Pie is a nice 4<sup>th</sup> OF for a buck and should see some playing time this year in Baltimore, while Molina is a nice backup catcher (-2 arm) who will combine with his brother (-3 arm) to shut down the running game this season. Jose Molina could also see more playing time this year if Arencibia falters.

### The Bad:

I don't have much to say in the "bad" column here. About the only signing I wasn't wild about is James McDonald for \$8. I was in there bidding on McDonald, but I was hoping to get him for \$5 or less. Ron's paying \$8 assuming that McDonald's "sleeper" status will come true, but that's far from guaranteed despite his nice finish stretch last year.

**Best Value:** Most of his picks were at market value, so I'll say **Molina** for \$1.

**Worst Value:** **McDonald** for \$8.

### The Verdict:

I give Ron an overall grade of **B** for this year's draft. He picked up some nice talent near market value, and didn't really make any big mistakes, but didn't really get any huge bargains either. Overall a rock solid draft.

## Frisco Silver Bullets

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
Derrek Lee	10	1/3
Matt Kemp	19	1/3
Mike Aviles	8	1/3
Asdrubal Cabrera	1	1/3
Blake DeWitt	1	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
John Axford	16	1/3
Wade Leblanc	1	1/3
JA Happ	4	1/3

Owner: Dan Trueden

Total Payroll: \$298, \$2 left on the table

2010 Draft Grade: C+

### The Good:

I do like Lee to have a bounceback year (I do have him in the EJMA after all!), despite the recent news of his wrist issues. Kemp is a talented guy, if a bit overpriced. Asdrubal is a steal at only \$1, as I expect he'll bounce back if he's healthy. DeWitt provides some at bats on the cheap. I don't know, I remember the price of JAM relievers being higher than what some paid in this auction, because I think Axford is a steal at \$16. I'm not a big JA Happ fan, but 16 starts with an ERA in the mid-3's for only \$4 isn't bad.

### The Bad:

As mentioned above, I think Dan reached a bit for Matt Kemp. Still the guy has a lot of talent and if he can put it together in 2011, that pick should work out ok. I'm not a huge Aviles fan, so I wouldn't have gone to \$8 on him. Leblanc is kind of a "meh" \$1 pick, as he's no different from several guys that made it to the minors draft.

**Best Value: Cabrera** for \$1.

**Worst Value: Aviles** for \$8.

### The Verdict:

I give Dan an overall grade of **B** for this draft. Loved the Cabrera pick, liked the Lee and Axford picks, didn't like the Aviles/Leblanc picks.

## Titletown Corporate Raiders

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
Danny Espinosa	4	1/3
Chris Carter (OAK)	2	1/3
Adam Moore	1	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
Mike Leake	3	1/3
Jenrry Mejia	1	1/3
Kenley Jansen	2	1/3
Jake Arrieta	1	1/3

Owner: Craig Paprocki

Total Payroll: \$285, \$15 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: B+

2009 Draft Grade: C+

2010 Draft Grade: B

### The Good:

So Craig had a fairly quiet draft, as he didn't draft anyone above the \$4 he paid for Espinosa. Regarding Espinosa, I like the signing as he's got dibs on regular playing time in Washington and is regarded as having a good glove and some pop. Chris Carter has the potential to be a steal, as he's coming off of a down season. Adam Moore is a smart pickup given Miguel Olivo's injury. Mike Leake is like any other Cincy pitcher: At the mercy of Dusty "arm killer" Baker. Still, he's got some upside and is a nice pickup for \$3. Mejia is a top prospect for the Mets and I'm surprised he went for only a buck. Jansen has a killer card and is a sleeper for the closer job in LA.

### The Bad:

I don't know much about Arrieta, but the AL East is a tough place for a pitching prospect to develop. Based on his numbers last year (48:52 BB:K ratio), he may not have the stuff to survive. Craig left a lot of money on the table which could have been strategic; however, given his pre-draft roster I think a case could have been made that he had (has?) a good enough team to make a run, whereas in this draft he seemed to focus on the future. He has a great offensive core (CarGo, Konerko, Zimmerman, Ludwick, Holliday), good 1-3 starters (Wainwright, Ervin, Cahill), and the JAMs of Mo/Rauch in the 'pen. He could have picked up a 4<sup>th</sup> starter and a 'pen card or two instead of focusing on the future and he'd have been set for a run, I think. Even still I think he'll be in the race all year.

**Best Value:** Carter for \$2.

**Worst Value:** I don't know, I guess **Arrieta** at \$1 (nothing really jumps out at me).

### The Verdict:

I give Craig an overall grade of **B-** for this draft. He picked up some nice sleepers on the cheap, but I feel like he should have used his picks and his extra dough to pick up some parts to help him make a run this season.

## Kukagami Lake Chippers

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
BJ Upton	15	1/3
Ike Davis	7	1/3
David Freese	4	1/3
Brian Roberts	7	1/3
John Jaso	9	1/3
Jim Thome	6	1/3
Seth Smith	2	1/3
Johnny Damon	3	1/3
Domonic Brown	6	1/3
Wilson Betemit	4	1/3
Sean Rodriguez	4	1/3
Cliff Pennington	1	1/3
Russell Martin	10	1/3
Jose Lopez	4	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
Dallas Braden	27	1/3
Chris Narveson	7	1/3
Hiroki Kuroda	22	1/3
Johan Santana	29	1/3
Alex Sanabia	5	1/3
Rafael Betancourt	3	1/3
Kevin Slowey	3	1/3
Joel Peralta	3	1/3
Brett Cecil	13	1/3
Wilton Lopez	4	1/3
Derek Holland	3	1/3

Owner: David Longe

Total Payroll: \$201, \$99 left on the table

### The Good:

Reviewing David's first draft and it's a mixed bag of very nice picks and picks I didn't agree with so much. We'll start with the good: I like the BJ Upton pick, he's a good defensive CF who walks and has some pop, a bit of a sleeper pick. John Jaso went cheaper than several inferior catchers went later in the draft, so that was a good pick as well. Thome has a monster bat for half a season so I like the pick at \$6. Seth Smith is a nice platoon bat for only \$2. Domonic Brown, despite his injury, has a bright future and could end up a steal at \$6. Betemit has a good DH bat for a reasonable price, and Pennington is a fulltime SS with some speed for only a buck. Rodriguez is a nice utility option for \$4.

On the pitching side, I like the Peralta pickup, he has a killer card for only \$3. Cecil is priced about right given his 2010 card and potential to improve. Holland is a nice gamble at the back of Texas' rotation. Kuroda always seems to be underrated but \$22 for 31 JAM starts is a nice deal here.

### The Bad:

I'm not a big Ike Davis fan, not that \$7 is horrible, just would have spent that roster spot/money elsewhere considering 1B is so deep (David had cash to burn, he may have been smarter to go after Howard or Cabrera in hindsight). Brian Roberts is still having issues with his back (this was known at the time of the auction), so spending more than a buck or two on him was an overpay in my opinion. I was targeting Russell Martin as a

sleeper catcher pickup, but for \$10 you are hoping and praying he a) stays the starter all year, and b) returns to his past form. I don't think either of those things are a given, considering his hip issues and the rise of Jesus Montero.

On the pitching side, I'm not a Dallas Braden fan, I don't think he has great odds of repeating, which therefore leads me to believe that David overpaid for a career season. I don't really get the Johan pick either; \$29 for a starter coming off of shoulder surgery who could miss over half the year? He'll be a buyout next year for sure. I did praise Sumner for saving cash for next year, but in David's case I would have rather he opened up the pocket book for an elite name or two (ie a Heyward or as mentioned above, Howard/Cabrera) to build his team around.

**Best Value: Pennington** for \$1.

**Worst Value: Santana** for \$29.

The Verdict:

I give David an overall grade of **B** for this draft. I think he did a good job overall for his first draft in the BLB. As detailed above I did like a lot of his picks, but he did make several selections that I don't agree with. Overall I think the good outweighed the bad and he'll be in good shape in next year's auction.

ALÉ LEAGUE

SECON DIVISION

## Arlington Cowboys

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Yorvit Torrealba	10	1/3
Jason Donald	1	1/3
Brennan Boesch	1	1/3
Austin Kearns	1	1/3
Ryan Spilborghs	1	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
		1/3

Owner: Brad Pike

Total Payroll: \$298, \$2 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: C+

2009 Draft Grade: C-

2010 Draft Grade: B+

### The Good:

Brad came into the draft with only \$16 to spend on 5 roster spots, and he spent it all (except \$2) on offense. I like his \$1 pickups: Donald is there for at bats, Boesch has an OK card (especially against LHP) despite his horrific second half, Kearns has a solid all-around card (even splits, plays all 3 OF spots, good on base skills, some speed), and Spilborghs has a good card against RHP (though he is limited).

### The Bad:

Torrealba is way overpriced at \$10. I shouldn't be beating Brad up too much on this pick; after all I was right up there with him, over bidding Yorvit as I too was desperate for catching at bats. Still, even if I had "won" Torrealba for \$9, it's an overpay for half a season of a mediocre catcher. At least Yorvit has the Texas catching job so maybe he'll put up some nice power numbers and this pick won't seem so bad in a year...

**Best Value:** Kearns for \$1.

**Worst Value:** Torrealba for \$10

### The Verdict:

Brad had some solid \$1 picks, and the Torrealba overpay. I'm going to average them out (and cut him a bit of slack for the reasons mentioned above regarding Torrealba) and give him a grade of **B**.

## Inland Evil Empires

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Coco Crisp	13	1/3
Reid Brignac	10	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Matt Belisle	9	1/3
Sean Burnett	5	1/3
Matt Capps	5	1/3
Livan Hernandez	11	1/3

Owner: Dan Herman

Total Payroll: \$293, \$7 left on the table

2009 Draft Grade: B-

2010 Draft Grade: C

### The Good:

Dan managed to pick up some nice bullpen arms in Burnett and Capps at reasonable salaries. Belisle has a great card too and provides over 90 innings to Inland's 'pen. Livan for \$11 is a solid buy considering the JAM over 33 starts. Brignac has the Tampa starting shortstop job in 2011 and could have a nice season, making the \$10 investment pay dividends.

### The Bad:

Coco Crisp, while he has some nice stolen base numbers, is priced too high at \$13 for half a season, especially considering his platoon split (he's kind of a lefty masher though he's not horrible against RHP). Belisle is a buck or two more expensive than I would have gone, and I think Livan could end up a buyout a year from now (Dan has to hope he pitches well enough to be worth \$11 or poorly enough to not be on a 40 man roster...).

**Best Value: Hernandez** for \$11 (for this year anyway).

**Worst Value: Crisp** for \$13.

### The Verdict:

I give Dan an overall grade of **C+** for this draft. He grabbed some nice bullpen arms at reasonable salaries on the whole. The Livan pick is ok for this year but could bite him next year, and I liked the Brignac pickup, though I wasn't crazy about Coco Crisp at \$13.

## San Antonio Tejanos

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
Jason Heyward	26	1/3
Grady Sizemore	6	1/3
Miguel Olivo	13	1/3
JJ Hardy	10	1/3
Jacoby Ellsbury	9	1/3
Chris Johnson	3	1/3
Pat Burrell	1	1/3
Rod Barajas	9	1/3
Orlando Hudson	13	1/3
Franklin Gutierrez	17	1/3
Eric Young Jr	1	1/3
Tyler Colvin	1	1/3
Melvin Mora	4	1/3
Alberto Callaspo	4	1/3
Lyle Overbay	1	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
Ricky Nolasco	21	1/3
Craig Kimbrel	6	1/3
Edinson Volquez	12	1/3
Carlos Zambrano	18	1/3
Mike Pelfrey	19	1/3
Carlos Silva	8	1/3
John Lackey	20	1/3
Alexi Ogando	3	1/3
Jordan Zimmermann	8	1/3
Chris Volstad	4	1/3

Owner: Christian Sumner

Total Payroll: \$238, \$62 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: C+

2009 Draft Grade: A

2010 Draft Grade: N/A

### The Good:

Sumner had a whole roster to fill, which is definitely a challenge in this draft. I actually liked that he didn't feel the need to overspend; rather, he saved some money for next year. Regarding his picks, I liked the Heyward pick (I know that was the computer but still), as well as Ellsbury, Burrell, Hudson, Colvin, and Callaspo on offense. On pitching, Kimbrel could turn out to be a steal, Volquez is a gamble but not too expensive at \$12, Zambrano/Pelfrey are reasonable at those salaries (Zambrano in particular turned his season around in the second half after Chicago's retarded decision to move their best starter to the 'pen backfired). Zimmermann is another gamble that could pay off, as he was looking good down the stretch last year.

### The Bad:

There are a few picks I don't love. Sizemore is an injury risk, and I wouldn't have gone as high as \$6 on him as by all accounts he still isn't recovered from his knee issues. Chris Johnson's season screams fluke to me, though as a \$3 DH he's not horrible. I'm not a fan of EY Jr or Melvin Mora. Ricky Nolasco seems to always underperform, so I'm not crazy about the price tag on him.

**Best Value:** **Colvin** for \$1

**Worst Value:** Nothing too terrible, but I'll pick **Mora** for \$4.

The Verdict:

Given that he was distracted and had to fill an entire team in a somewhat weak draft, I thought Sumner did quite well overall. I give his draft a grade of **B+**. He's filled his team with some star level talent, some sleepers/guys coming off injury, and in general avoided falling into the trap of having a ton of money to spend and grossly overpaying middling talent.

## Texas Snow Monkeys

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Neal Walker	13	1/3
Mitch Moreland	3	1/3
Brad Hawpe	1	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Ryan Franklin	13	1/3

Owner: Jon Barnes

Total Payroll: \$300, \$0 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: B-

2009 Draft Grade: B

2010 Draft Grade: A-

### The Good:

With only four picks, this draft is tough to evaluate. I like the Moreland pick, as I think he's underrated and is a good bet to be at least an average 1B for the next few years. For \$3, that's practically a steal. Hawpe for a buck is reasonable, he's first in line for San Diego's 1B job. Thinking back to what JAM closers usually get, I like the Franklin signing for just \$13. He doesn't have a great card by closer standards, but many JAM relievers have gone for \$20+ in the past, so \$13 is a nice little bargain.

### The Bad:

I have to write something here, so I guess I'll just say that I'm not *crazy* about the Walker pick. There is a chance that he takes a step forward in his sophomore season and this looks like a good deal, but there's also a chance that his rookie year was a fluke (he did kind of come out of nowhere after his prospect stock dropped), and the \$13 is a buyout candidate. Not a horrible contract, but not one I love either.

**Best Value: Franklin** for \$13.

**Worst Value: Walker** for \$13.

### The Verdict:

I give Jon an overall grade of **A-** for this draft. I liked three of his four picks, and even the one I didn't like, I also didn't hate either. He did a good job filling out his roster with the limited spots/cash he had.

## Boston Red Stripes

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Miguel Cabrera	46	1/3
Logan Morrison	7	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Chris Sale	6	1/3

Owner: Steve Fi

Total Payroll: \$294, \$6 left on the table

2010 Draft Grade: B+

### The Good:

Fi came into the auction with \$65 and only 3 roster spots to fill, and he did exactly what I would have done in that situation: Lock down a star level talent, then fill the last two spots with cheap bargains/sleepers. Miggy went for about what I expected him to go for, and though that's a lot of money to allocate to a 1B, Miggy is young, coming off a monster season, and a good bet not to fall off a cliff over the next 3 years. Logan Morrison and Chris Sale both have bright futures and were smart pickups by Fi.

### The Bad:

I dunno, do I have to write something here? Ok, fine, I guess I could say that tying up nearly 1/6 of your payroll in one guy is a bit risky, and that Morrison/Sale, while both top young talent, are no guarantees to earn their salaries the next few seasons due to the risky nature of rookie/sophomores. Bah, that's just nitpicking though.

**Best Value: Morrison** for \$7.

**Worst Value: Cabrera** for \$46 (by default I guess)

### The Verdict:

I give Fi an overall grade of **A** for this draft. Hard to evaluate when he only had 3 picks, but he made smart use of his money-to-roster spot ratio (that's a thing, right?), and nabbed the best hitter in the draft as well as two of the best young players to fill out his roster.

LAGER LEAGUE

BOCK DIVISION

## Granite City Gangsters

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Aramis Ramirez	12	1/3
Mike Stanton	23	1/3
Ian Desmond	8	1/3
Josh Thole	10	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Mark Buehrle	11	1/3
James Shields	10	1/3
Jon Niese	12	1/3

Owner: Ron Wright

Total Payroll: \$281, \$19 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: B+

2009 Draft Grade: A-

2010 Draft Grade: A

### The Good:

I liked most of Ron's picks this year. Aramis is a good bounceback candidate and is reasonably priced at \$12. Mike Stanton might be a bit overpriced for 2010, but I'm a believer in his power potential so I don't mind the \$23 price tag here. Josh Thole is a bit overpriced (what catcher wasn't in this auction?) but he's young, has a starting job, and gets on base at a good clip. Buerhle and Niese are a couple of lefties that Ron picked up at reasonable prices which have some upside (Buehrle isn't young but he's been consistently above average for years now so there is a chance he bounces back and shaves half a run off of his ERA in 2011).

### The Bad:

I'm not a huge fan of Ian Desmond; I think he's a tad overrated in general, even owing to the fact that SS is a thin position. James Shields is a popular sleeper, and I agree he could bounce back, but \$10 is a bit high to bet on that possibility. Another negative is that Ron left \$19 on the table, though this could have been intentional since as I look at his roster he seems built more towards future success.

**Best Value:** I'll say **Niese** for \$12.

**Worst Value:** **Shields** for \$10.

### The Verdict:

I give Ron an overall grade of **B+** for this draft. I liked most of his picks on offense, particularly Mike Stanton and Aramis Ramirez, and the picks I disagreed with aren't horrible overpays or anything.

## Guadalajara Grand Sportsmen

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Ryan Howard	21	1/3
Ian Kinsler	20	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Jon Papelbon	12	1/3
Josh Beckett	16	1/3
Jon Broxton	8	1/3
Drew Storen	8	1/3

Owner: Steve Bay

Total Payroll: \$290, \$10 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: C

2009 Draft Grade: B-

2010 Draft Grade: B

Since Steve didn't show up to the draft, it doesn't make much sense to analyze the picks. I will say that he should be happy we are using CBS and not the Fantasy Auctioneer site we used in the first year, because there's really only one pick (Kinsler at \$20) that I hate, and one pick (Beckett at \$16) that I'm not so sure on. Every other pick seems to be good/decent value.

### The Verdict:

I give Steve an overall grade of **N/A** for this draft.

## Hollywood Liberal Elite

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Jason Bartlett	11	1/3
Starlin Castro	17	1/3
Jarrod Saltalamacchia	1	1/3
Marcus Thames	2	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Joe Blanton	1	1/3

Owner: Doug Becker

Total Payroll: \$298, \$2 left on the table

2009 Draft Grade: B+

2010 Draft Grade: B

### The Good:

Salty is a nice pick at \$1; I actually wanted to pick Salty up at the end of the draft, but I desperately needed to get 2 catchers with at bats, and since I already had Arencibia I felt it would have been a wasted roster spot. Still he will get lots of AB in Boston this year, so the \$1 gamble could pay dividends, if for no other reason than Doug not having to spend 10-15 bucks on mediocre catching AB in next year's draft. I originally was going to trash the Bartlett pick, but looking at his 2010 card, factoring in the probability that he'll bounce back somewhat this year, and considering the depth of the SS position, I actually don't mind Bartlett at \$11. Joe Blanton could be a steal at \$1, especially when you consider his torrid second half pace last season.

### The Bad:

Once Doug drafted Bartlett for \$11, I really don't understand spending \$17 on Starlin Castro. I really wanted to get Castro, but I dropped out when the bidding got around \$10. He was only 21 last year and I'd bet he is bound for some regression, despite his nice 2010 card and upside, so I think \$17 is an overpay, especially considering that Doug has Bartlett on his roster already.

**Best Value: Blanton** for \$1.

**Worst Value: Castro** for \$17.

### The Verdict:

I give Doug an overall grade of **A-** for this draft. I really only disliked the Castro pick, though due to his upside that has the potential of turning out ok. The rest of his draft I liked, so he gets the A-.

## St Louis Arch Rivals

Hitters		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
		1/3

Owner: Brian Feig  
 Total Payroll: \$294, \$6 left on the table  
 2008 Draft Grade: B+  
 2009 Draft Grade: A-  
 2010 Draft Grade: B

Pitchers		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Gio Gonzalez	20	1/3
Joaquin Benoit	10	1/3
Johnny Venters	8	1/3
Ernesto Frieri	1	1/3
AJ Burnett	5	1/3
Kyle Drabek	3	1/3
Joe Nathan	2	1/3

### The Good:

I love the bullpen that Brian built. Benoit at \$10 and Venters at \$8 aren't bargains by any stretch, but they aren't overpays either. Between those two (and Ernesto Frieri, a steal at \$1 for his sick playoff card), Brian's added about 175 innings of *sub 2.00 ERA* innings to a bullpen that already included Rafael Soriano's JAM and 1.73 ERA in 62 IP. Wow. A lot of 6 inning games in St Louis this season, that's for sure. Regarding Brian's other picks, I like Burnett for \$5 as a bounce back sleeper, Kyle Drabek has the potential to be very undervalued, if not this year then next year for sure, and Joe Nathan could be a steal if he can bounce back from Tommy John (I know Brian said he didn't want Nathan, but I think he'll be a good trade chip for Feig).

### The Bad:

About the only pick I didn't love was Gio Gonzalez for \$20. I'm just not a big Gio fan, I think his ERA was lucky last year considering his mediocre BB:K ratio. Still, as far as this year goes, he'll put up good numbers and help Brian contend for a playoff spot.

**Best Value: Frieri** for \$1.

**Worst Value: Gonzalez** for \$20.

### The Verdict:

I give Brian an overall grade of **A** for this draft. I liked pretty much all of his picks, and even the one I didn't love isn't totally indefensible. Well done.

## Philadelphia Stooges

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Carl Crawford	36	1/3
Jon LuCroy	9	1/3
Ryan Raburn	11	1/3
Peter Bourjos	3	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Ivan Nova	3	1/3
RA Dickey	12	1/3

Owner: Aaron Peck

Total Payroll: \$300, \$0 left on the table.

### The Good:

Aaron did manage to snag one of the best overall hitter cards in the draft in Carl Crawford, though we'll discuss the price in the next section. Ryan Raburn is constantly underrated, but he's got a good 2010 card and it seems like Detroit will give him a chance to be the starting LF for them in 2011, so the price is right at \$11. Ivan Nova could turn out to be a steal at \$3 given the Yankee's thin rotation. RA Dickey has a nice card, and I kind of figured he'd go for more than \$12. Yeah he's probably a one year wonder, but there's always a chance that he can be productive in the Met's rotation for a year or two longer (Wakefield has carved a pretty nice career out for himself, so knuckballers CAN be successful, though Wake is the exception, not the norm).

### The Bad:

If LuCroy didn't break his finger I'd be praising the signing; even now I suppose LuCroy won't miss a lot of time, but hand injuries tend to linger, so it could affect him during the first half of the year. Peter Bourjos may struggle for playing time with the Wells acquisition. As mentioned above, I like Crawford but I think Aaron reached for him, as \$36 is a lot to tie up in a guy who has never hit more than 20 HR in a season and who's value is tied mainly to his speed, batting average, and defense.

**Best Value:** Nova for \$3.

**Worst Value:** Crawford for \$36.

### The Verdict:

I give Aaron an overall grade of **B** for the draft. He had some nice picks (Raburn, Nova, Dickey) but overpaid on a few guys (though not by a ton).

*LAGER LEAGUE*

*PIESNER DIVISION*

## Garson Ehs

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Victor Martinez	21	1/3
Omar Infante	14	1/3
Mike Morse	3	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Travis Wood	9	1/3

Owner: Doug Anness

Total Payroll: \$291, \$9 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: A-

2009 Draft Grade: B-

2010 Draft Grade: B+

### The Good:

I really like the Victor Martinez pick, especially considering what happened to the value of crappy catchers later in the draft. I was right in there bidding with Doug but I couldn't see myself going to \$22 (I was hoping to get Victor for \$20), a decision which I would regret terribly later in the draft. Mike Morse has a nice part time card and, it seems, a starting job this year in Washington, so the \$3 price tag is a bargain.

### The Bad:

Omar Infante, coming off of a fluky career year, seems vastly overpriced at \$14. I guess if Doug is going for the playoffs this year (which he seems to be based on his picks and current roster) the signing is defensible, but I anticipate that Infante could be a buyout next year. I like Wood but I worry that Dusty Baker will shred his arm.

**Best Value: Morse for \$3.**

**Worst Value: Infante for \$14.**

### The Verdict:

I give Doug an overall grade of **B+** for the draft. He added the top catcher in the draft and got a bargain in Mike Morse. I didn't love the Infante signing, though he does make his team better for a run in 2011.

## Toronto Beavers

<b>Hitters</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Bernadina	1	1/3

<b>Pitchers</b>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
		1/3

Owner: Norm Larrett

Total Payroll: \$300, \$0 left on the table

2009 Draft Grade: C+

2010 Draft Grade: A-

How do I grade a draft where the owner came in with a buck to fill one spot? Don't want to give Norm a "N/A" which would imply he didn't show up. I guess I could talk about that one guy, Roger Bernadina. Bernadina has a decent enough card for 2010, and seems as though he will get plenty of at bats in Washington this year, so I think Norm did quite well for his one guy.

**Best Value: Bernadina for \$1.**

**Worst Value: N/A**

The Verdict:

I give Norm an overall grade of **B+** for this draft. I mean, I dunno. As I say above, how do I grade just one pick? Still, he picked up an OF with a decent enough card and who has a shot to be a bargain a year from now, so that counts for something in my book.

## Edmonton Trappers

Hitters		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Adam Dunn	16	1/3
JP Arencibia	2	1/3
Bill Hall	3	1/3
Humberto Quintero	3	1/3
Clint Barmes	3	1/3
Chris Snyder	1	1/3

Pitchers		
<u>Name</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Year</u>
Zach Greinke	30	1/3
Mike Minor	5	1/3

Owner: Mike Jackson

Total Payroll: \$272, \$28 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: A-

2009 Draft Grade: B+

2010 Draft Grade: C

### The Good:

I went into this draft with a goal of competing in 2012, so I was looking for guys who are not necessarily prospects, but rather have good chances of doing well in 2011. I also needed to nab some starts, middle infield AB, and an entire season's worth of catcher AB. I had targeted Zach Greinke and was willing to pay \$30-\$35 for him (despite the rib injury), since I think he'll have a big year in the NL. Mike Minor is a solid sleeper pick as he's set to crack the Braves rotation and is a top prospect.

I did get "stuck" with Dunn as I was trying to bid him up, but \$16 ain't bad for a perennial 35-40 HR bat. I was happy to get Arencibia for \$2, as well as Bill Hall for \$3 (he fills holes this year and his Houston's starting 2B in 2011).

### The Bad:

Despite the fact that I justified the Dunn signing above, it was still a mistake on my part, as I have more than enough 1B/DH at bats, so it forced me to scramble to re-adjust my draft strategy on the fly. I also left a huge sum of \$\$\$ on the table; partly that was strategic, but I sure wish I went higher on Victor Martinez, or maybe got in on bidding for a guy like Ian Kennedy.

**Best Value: Arencibia** for \$2.

**Worst Value: Quintero** for \$3 (just needed some catcher AB)

### The Verdict:

I am generally happy with my draft for the most part, but there's no question I didn't execute my game plan as well as I could have. Therefore, I'll give myself a solid B.

## Nickel Centre Wolf Pack

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
Nick Markakis	20	1/3
Justin Smoak	5	1/3
Jack Cust	1	1/3
Danny Valencia	4	1/3
Todd Helton	1	1/3
Michael Brantley	1	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
Arthur Rhodes	2	1/3
Ross Ohlendorf	1	1/3
Joel Zumaya	1	1/3

Owner: Nicholas Stock

Total Payroll: \$285, \$15 left on the table

2009 Draft Grade: B+

2010 Draft Grade: B

### The Good:

Nick made some smart additions on offense. I like the Markakis signing, he's 27 and even though the power has declined, he still posted a .370 OBP with good defense in RF. Smoak has the potential to look smart next year too, and I've always been a big Jack Cust fan so I love the signing on the cheap. Valencia has a nice card for this year for \$4. I was going to trash on the Rhodes signing until I checked out his card, so now I don't mind it.

### The Bad:

Ohlendorf and Zumaya both seem like guys that should have lasted to the minors. Zumaya is a trendy sleeper pick each year, but I just doubt the guy's ability to stay healthy. It's a shame, and I hope he can put together a full year, but already he's having elbow trouble so it looks unlikely. Valencia seems doubtful to repeat this year (he kinda came out of nowhere in 2010), and Helton and Brantley are kind of a pointless picks given the depth of 1B/OF around the league. Nick also left a lot of dough on the table, which could have been strategic (I'm on the fence on whether or not his team is good enough this year for a run; the offense is there but the pitching depth isn't) or could have been a mistake.

**Best Value:** Cust for \$1.

**Worst Value:** No really terrible picks, but I'll chose Helton at \$1 I guess

### The Verdict:

Nick had an ok draft, solid but not great. I liked his pickups on offense for the most part and don't mind the Rhodes pick, but I'm ambivalent about the rest of his \$1 pickups. For that, I'll give him a grade of **B-**.

## Sudbury Northern Ales

Hitters		
Name	\$	Year
Johnny Gomes	3	1/3
Jason Castro	1	1/3
Wilson Valdez	1	1/3
Kila Ka'aihue	1	1/3

Pitchers		
Name	\$	Year
Joe Thatcher	2	1/3
Kyle Farnsworth	1	1/3
Carlos Carrasco	1	1/3

Owner: Mike Stockhaus

Total Payroll: \$300, \$0 left on the table

2008 Draft Grade: B+

2009 Draft Grade: B

2010 Draft Grade: A-

### The Good:

Mike didn't have a lot of money to play with, as he had to draft 7 guys with only \$10. Gomes was a nice pickup for only \$3, as he's got the clutch and B power against both sides. Ka'aihue, a perennial sleeper pick, seems to be finally getting a shot in KC so he is a nice pick for a buck.

On the pitching side, Mike picked up Thatcher solely for a postseason ace out of the 'pen, as his card is sick but he only has 35 IP. Carrasco is a decent gamble for a buck given the state of Cleveland's rotation this year.

### The Bad:

I don't know who was left at infield when Mike nominated Valdez, but there had to have been somebody better, right? Valdez is pretty underwhelming despite the good D at 3 infield positions. Castro is a wasted pick since he had knee surgery last week, and Farnsworth is another reliever that could have made it to the minors.

**Best Value: Gomes** for \$3.

**Worst Value: Castro** at \$1.

### The Verdict:

I give Mike an overall grade of B- for this draft. He didn't have a lot to play with but he made some smart picks both in terms of sleepers and to help his 2011 team make a run for the playoffs. I dock him points for the Castro and Valdez picks however.

## Predictions – 2010 redux:

Below are my predictions of records and playoff seeds from last year's report card, as well as a write up I did:

Ale League			Lager League		
IPA	W	L	Bock	W	L
Jackson Park*	92	70	Granite City*	96	66
Titletown*	89	73	St Louis*	89	73
Frisco	81	81	Motown	86	76
Chicago	75	87	Guadalajara	79	83
Manhattan	69	93	St Pauli	60	102
Stout	W	L	Pilsner	W	L
Texas*	86	76	Sudbury*	95	67
Clearwater*	84	78	Edmonton*	93	69
San Antonio	82	80	Garson	80	82
Arlington	74	88	Nickel Centre	73	89
Inland	68	94	Toronto	69	93

*I think the IPA division will come down to Jackson Park or Titletown, but right now I give JP the edge because I feel they have a deeper team than Titletown. It could go either way though depending on in-season moves. I think Frisco will be around .500, with Chicago and Manhattan bringing up the rear. I know Ron wanted to touch .500 this year, but I don't see it man, not with your rotation. Sorry.*

*Looking at the Stout division, no team really jumps out as a strong contender (makes me wish I stayed there). I put Texas out front because they have a decent rotation and solid lineup, but I could see San Antonio or Clearwater winning as well. Arlington should come in 4<sup>th</sup> just ahead of Inland and their almost all lefty rotation (Lilly, Moyer, Lannan, Romero, Duke) and bullpen (Miller, Sherrill, CJ Wilson). Dan must have a southpaw fetish...*

*I see a changing of the guard atop the Bock division, as I think Granite City's wicked pitching should allow them to win the division with Motown and St Louis considerably weaker this year than last year. After GC, it's a tossup for who finishes second; I like Brian's lineup better than Doug's, but Doug has a slightly deeper rotation. In the end I'll give the edge to Brian, but moves could be made during the year that flip flops these two. Guadalajara has an improved team from years past, but he'll come up short since he plays in a tough division/league. St Pauli could lose 100 games, again because he's in a tough division and league.*

*Now the Pilsner division is a tough one, both to predict and to play in. All the teams except Toronto have designs on making the playoffs, but obviously at most only 3 of us can (and won't because we'll get strong competition for the wild card from Doug/Brian). This is easier to work out backwards in my head, so that's how I'll describe it here.*

*Toronto should finish last as I think Norm will rebuild this year, seeing that he's in a tough division and his team has a lot of holes. Nick has a good offense but not enough pitching, so he'll finish 4<sup>th</sup>, leaving the rest of the division up to a 3 team race. I have to have Garson finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>, I think he's got some nice offensive guys and a good top of the rotation but he doesn't have enough depth to finish higher. That leaves Edmonton and Sudbury battling for top spot. Sudbury's rotation is much stronger than mine in terms of depth, no question, but I do feel like I have a better offense (and deeper too). I think our bullpens are about even. Right now, I'll give the slight edge to Sudbury to win the division, but I think it'll be a tight race.*

*So right now I have Jackson Park, Titletown, Texas, and Clearwater making the playoffs in the Ale League. I'm not at all confident about the last wildcard spot, as there's several teams that could make a play for it (Frisco, San Antonio come to mind).*

*In the Lager, I have Granite City, St Louis, Sudbury, and Edmonton making the playoffs, with Motown in the race all season long. As you can see, I feel pretty confident that the Lager League is much better than the Ale League, as I've given them 20 more wins as a whole.*

Now here are the final standings from last season.:

Ale League			Lager League		
IPA	W	L	Bock	W	L
Titletown*	105	57	St Louis*	110	52
Jackson Park*	82	80	Granite City	105	57
Manhattan*	81	81	Guadalajara	96	66
Frisco	75	87	Hollywood (ie MO)	83	79
Chicago	57	105	St Pauli	49	113
<hr/>					
Stout	W	L	Pilsner	W	L
Inland*	81	81	Nickel Centre *	107	55
Clearwater	70	92	Edmonton*	106	56
Boston (ie SA)	70	92	Sudbury*	106	56
Texas	65	67	Garson	68	94
Arlington	58	104	Toronto	51	111

I've highlighted teams that I pegged exactly right in terms of place in the divisional standings. I predicted 2 of the 4 playoff teams in the Ale League and 3 out of 4 playoff teams in the Lager League. So, 5/8 isn't bad (and it's the same as I did last season). Still I didn't do a great job overall, as I missed a lot on quite a few teams. I'll have to step up my game this year!

## Predictions – 2011:

Now, I present for debate, my 2011 predictions:

Ale League			Lager League		
IPA	W	L	Bock	W	L
Jackson Park*	92	70	Hollywood*	92	70
Manhattan*	88	74	St Louis*	88	74
Frisco	85	77	Philadelphia	83	79
Titletown	77	85	Guadalajara	79	83
Kukagami	65	97	Granite City	63	99
Stout	W	L	Pilsner	W	L
Boston*	94	68	Sudbury*	89	73
Arlington*	86	76	Garson*	87	75
Inland	77	85	Toronto	83	79
Texas	74	88	Nickel Centre	78	84
San Antonio	66	96	Edmonton	74	88

Man, this shit was HARD this year. I think there is more parity in the BLB this year than any year I've done this. There are no truly terrible teams, and there are no teams that really stand out as totally stacked either. Well, I'll try my best, but I fully admit that these predictions may be out to lunch:

I think the IPA division is Jackson Park's to lose, with a much improved Manhattan battling Frisco for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. I see Craig continuing to re-tool for next year, but still fielding an impressive offense, so he'll hover around the .500 mark. Kukagami had a tough task trying to draft an entire team, and I just don't think he stacks up to the rest of his division mates.

To me, Boston is the class of the Stout division, with Arlington likely to cruise to 2<sup>nd</sup> place and a wildcard berth. Inland and Texas are in the next tier, as both are teams with strengths and weaknesses. San Antonio, much like Kukagami, was in a tough spot trying to draft an entire team, and I pick them to finish last.

I see Hollywood and St Louis battling it out all year; I pick Hollywood to finish a few games above St Louis to take the division on the strength of their pitching rotation depth. Philly could surprise as Aaron has put together a solid team, but I just don't think the depth is there to challenge the top 2. Guadalajara should hover around .500 all year, while I think Ron continues to build for 2012 and therefore GC should finish in last.

The Pilsner division is still strong, but not nearly as stacked as a year ago. I will pick Sudbury to win the division, but I think Garson will nip at his heels all year. Toronto is much improved and Norm could pull off a few trades to surprise his Ontario compadres. Nickel Centre always seems to do better than I give him credit for, but this year I don't see the pitching matching the strong offense. As for myself? Well I like my offense, but

my pitching depth and my likelihood of making some moves this year has led me to predict a last place finish (albeit with a not horrible 74 wins) while I re-tool for 2012.

So right now I have Jackson Park, Manhattan, Boston, and Arlington making the playoffs in the Ale League. In the Lager, I have Hollywood, St Louis, Sudbury, and Garson making the playoffs. We'll see how I do in a year's time!