

'Better Eight Than Never' - The Newsletter of MLB8

Week 10 Review

The week was a triumph for the NL as they won the interleague series 56-52. The NL was led by the Dodgers, Expos and Braves who all went 7-2 or better. No-one in the AL fared better than the Indians and Rangers who both went 6-3.

The Braves week propelled them into the wild card position ahead of the Marlins and much-improved Rockies. The Expos perhaps said goodbye to Montreal in an excellent position whilst the Dodgers are now a massive 20 games clear.

The Indians week got them back in the race in the AL Central, helped by the fact that the Twins had a terrible week and are currently on a 5-game losing streak. The Rangers good week helped them consolidate their current wild card position and close to within 2 games of Anaheim for the division. GM Gibson's week was made all the more enjoyable with the signing of pitcher Brandon Backe who, it is hoped, will be a useful addition to the squad.

The big signing though was the Giants signing of former Pirate Joe Beimel. There was slight surprise that a pitcher of his quality has joined a team that has a worse record than the one he left. However, a \$7 million signing bonus may have persuaded him as the Giants spent big to get their man.

Time will tell whether this was the right move for all concerned but the Giants now look to have what could be an excellent pitching staff, which they will need if they are going to challenge the Dodgers in the future. The Pirates got plenty of losing points as they look to improve their overall squad. Beimel may face his former team-mates this week as the Giants travel to Pittsburgh.

Week 11 Preview

That will be one of a number of interesting series this week. In the AL East, the Blue Jays, who have been slowly chipping away at the Red Sox advantage, travel to Boston. You would think that they will need to win this series but, whenever challenged so far this season, the Red Sox have had the answer. The rest of Boston's week looks reasonable, as does the Yankees whilst Toronto have a tough week, also facing KC and the Angels.

In the Central, the Twins will look to get back on track as they visit their now main rivals the Cleveland Indians. They then face the top 2 teams in the West in Anaheim and Texas. Cleveland have it slightly easier as they host Oakland and travel to Seattle. The Royals wait in the wings, looking to take advantage of slip-ups from the other 2.

Anaheim and Texas don't face each other this week but the West is so close that all series are important. The middle series for Texas is a trip to improving Tampa. Texas has swept both series so far, a trend that GM Dilworth's men will be determined to stop.

In the NL East, the Phillies will look to end a 6-game losing streak and have what – on paper – looks to be about as easy a week as you could get. They will need to take advantage or could be slipping out of the race. The Marlins also look to have a reasonable week and will hope to get over a demoralising home sweep by the Rangers.

In the Central, the Pirates have the daunting task of travelling to the Dodgers and Reds with the emotional series against San Fran in between. The Reds had a slightly disappointing week against the AL but have what looks to be a reasonable schedule and it would be no surprise if they won 7 or 8 games this week.

The Dodgers cruise serenely on and it seems not to matter who they play. The Giants will hope that Beimel gives them a boost and have 2 home series this week. The interesting team in this division is perhaps the Rockies. They are in the wild card race and will look to stay in as they face San Fran, Cincy and Florida this week.

All-Star Game

I will look to run the all-star game again in the next 2 or 3 turns. Full stats are available on David Trice's excellent website (www.gbspn.com) which should help you in making your selection. A voting form is attached for you to use. I hope to get plenty of votes in and would particularly like to hear from people that I don't hear from often or aren't on the email list.

GAMEPLAN ADVERTISEMENTS

<http://www.gbspn.com/> Gameplan Baseball news and statistics from all eight Gameplan Baseball leagues.

<http://www.uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/gameplanbaseball/messages> A discussion group for Gameplan Baseball managers. The group includes discussions on the features of the game, news, results, and possible developments.

Until next week, Ian.

ALL-STAR GAME VOTING FORM

1B – 1:
1B – 2:
1B – 3:

2B – 1:
2B – 2:
2B – 3:

3B – 1:
3B – 2:
3B – 3:

SS – 1:
SS – 2:
SS – 3:

C – 1:
C – 2:
C – 3:

LF – 1:
LF – 2:
LF – 3:

CF – 1:
CF – 2:
CF – 3:

RF – 1:
RF – 2:
RF – 3:

P – 1:
P – 2:
P – 3:
P – 4:
P – 5:
P – 6:

Please vote for your top three positional players and your top six pitchers (doesn't matter whether they are starters or relievers). The top vote getter at each position and top pitcher will start the All-Star Game. Please note that you can vote for players from your own team.

The All-Star manager will decide on the DH, the other pitchers and batting order. They will also ensure that every team is represented on the squad, though no team is guaranteed to have someone actually play in the game.

My intention is that the teams are managed by the managers of the champions of each league. This would mean Paul Beaumont for the American League and Patrick Lee for the National League. Do you agree with this option?

YES / NO

I am willing to donate a turn credit for the game:

YES / NO

Please feel free to replicate this form and return by email or through the post or however you would like to vote as long as there are 3 players for each position and 6 pitchers.

Deadline for receiving votes is 30th April so get checking the GBSPN website and get voting!