

Season's Past Baseball
 Summary of Actual & Expected Wins
 1962 Season

Team	Runs			Wins			Finish		
	Scored	Against	Diff	Expected	Actual	Diff	Actual	EW	JMU
American League									
Detroit Metro Stars	889	540	349	118	120	2	1	1	1
Route 66 Hot Rods	854	689	165	98	99	1	2	2	2
Frankfort Fortress	738	682	56	87	98	11	3	4	3
East Kenosha Lions	801	691	110	93	86	(7)	4	3	5
West Warwick Monarchs	703	772	(69)	73	79	6	5	6	4
Seattle Totems	690	654	36	85	79	(6)	6	5	6
South River Gladiators	629	704	(75)	72	67	(5)	7	7	7
Rossville Hornets	614	798	(184)	60	64	4	8	8	8
New York Mets	634	948	(314)	50	59	9	9	9	9
American League									
Salzburg Bishops	831	657	174	100	97	(3)	1	1	3
Hampton Road Cruisers	781	698	83	90	91	1	2	2	2
Lafayette Slims	710	657	53	87	84	(3)	3	3	1
Portland Beavers	695	681	14	83	84	1	4	3	5
Winter Harbor Seals	627	644	(17)	79	79	0	5	5	6
Los Angeles Surfers	630	629	1	81	78	(3)	6	6	4
Evanston Elephants	693	711	(18)	79	78	(1)	6	6	8
Wabash Rivers	583	663	(80)	71	68	(3)	8	8	9
Fairfax Colts	517	801	(284)	48	48	0	9	9	7

Enclosed is a comparison of actual wins, expected wins and my pre-season forecast. The American League pretty much fell into place all along the line. Despite a whopping 11-game positive differential in actual versus expected wins, the Frankfort Fortress would have only dropped one position in the standings. The Lions and Totems underachieved but again it was only worth one slot and the Monarchs 6-game over achievement only gained them one slot. The hapless Mets over achieved by 9 games but it really didn't mean anything. In terms of the pre-season picks, I was right on except for flip flopping the Lions and Monarchs.

In the AL, things were also pretty close as no one overachieved by more than one game nor under achieved by more than three. The preseason picks were off in that the surprising collapse of the Slims pushed them into third place while the Bishops captured the flag despite third place in the pre-season. The Surfers didn't do anywhere near as well as they should have and I clearly vastly over rated the Colts who were picked for seventh but finished a distant 9th.

From Ron Peterson:

John,

I also clearly overrated my Colts. I really expected they would manage 70 wins. I thought I had a respectable starting staff with a good back end of the pen with Don McMahon and the two Bobbys, Tiefenauer and Shantz. With Al Spangler at the top of the order and Frank Thomas and Roman Mejias in the middle of the middle of the lineup, I knew scoring runs especially in Colt Stadium would be tough but I thought I would score enough to be competitive. I knew defense was going to be a problem.

So with a 48-114 record, I slightly misjudged. The offense was really bad as 517 runs scored was last in the league by a wide margin. In addition, opponents scored 801 runs which was second worst behind only fellow expansion team the Mets. The defense was as bad as I feared, tied for worst in the league in FPct. and second worst in unearned runs allowed. The team was at the bottom of almost every category just looking at the NL.

There weren't many positives. I had 3 real-life 20 game losers in Roger Craig, Turk Farrell and Al Jackson but no one lost 20 for the Colts. Farrell (4-18) and Jackson (9-18) ended up the worst with 18 losses. The only pitcher on the team with a better than .500 record was Tiefenauer with a 4-3 mark out of the pen. McMahon did respectable as a closer with a 5-6 record and 21 saves. The best starting pitcher was probably Jim Golden with a 3-9 record and 3.29 ERA. Al Jackson led in wins with 9.

Offensively, there isn't much to talk about. Al Spangler with a .378 OBP did fill the leadoff role and Frank Thomas was solid with 30 HR's and 92 RBI's. One of the biggest problems was the number of AB's that had to go to terrible hitters. Don Zimmer (.487 OPS), Joey Amalfitano (.536), Bobby Wine (.514), Bob Lillis (.534) all got significant AB's. Rookie Lou Brock struggled as well with a .238 average. He did show his speed with 12 triples.

Finally there was the defense. Roman Mejias tied for team lead with 20 errors in RIGHT FIELD! Don Zimmer also had 20 errors but he was at 3rd base where errors can be expected but he only appeared in 75 GAMES! Catcher Merritt Ranew lead the league with 10 errors and tied for league lead with 20 passed balls and yes he appeared in a grand total of 63 GAMES!

Oh, the fun of an expansion team. Time to start scouting 1963 rookies.

Ron

From Don Rahn:

Following my fellow expansion owner with a write-up of my own. I'm quite proud of the fact that my Mets finished with a SPB-best +9 in expected wins.

Drafting and running an expansion team is a great experience. You obviously have low expectations for several years, which makes it easy to enjoy the little things.

The team got off to a great start and were once 44-44, but the wheels fell off when the pitching staff came back to earth.

In a nutshell - a team ERA of 5.19 and a WHIP of 1.52 says it all. Baseball in the 60's was all about pitching.

However, there was one huge bright spot. Ken Johnson. In real life Johnson finished 7-16 with a 3.84 ERA and a 1.22 WHIP. In SPB-II (1962) Johnson, the Mets #1 pick in the expansion draft, went 13-10 with a 3.85 ERA and 1.08 WHIP. He tossed 7 complete games and 3 shutouts in 32 starts and 220 IP. Clearly the team's MVP.

Jay Hook had solid numbers for a #5 SP in a rotation, however he was the Mets #2 guy. The rest of the staff was awful.

The Mets offense proved to be a little better overall compared to the pitchers. There were 5 teams with a lower batting average. 1B Norm Larker was probably our top overall offensive player. Larker hit .274/.389 with 17 homer and 78 RBI. Carl Warwick lead the team in both HR's (25) and RBI (82) despite a .248 BA. Bob Aspromonte had a solid year, hitting .264 with a team best 29 doubles. Aspro will be a fixture in the lineup for several years to come.

Looking forward to building this team around Gaylord Perry, Ken Johnson and whoever we get in the 1st round.

Don