

## **PRE-SEASON PROGNOSIS 1936**

### **AMERICAN LEAGUE**

#### **Frankfort Frogs**

The Frogs have a knockout pitching staff and an offense that is just a shade below the Glaziers and are slight favorites for the 1936 AL flag. The Iron Horse Lou Gehrig returns at first and he has the potential for a triple crown season; there aren't many SPBX players who can compare to him. Tony Cuccenello gives you a solid bat and great glove at second. Eric McNair is a workmanlike shortstop, and his backup is journeyman Travis Jackson. Marv Owen has a good bat and acceptable glove at third. Rollie Helmsley and Bill O'Dea are both solid receivers behind the plate. Bea Bell brings a .350 BA with good power to left field. Johnny Cooney in center lacks power but he is a great ball hawk. He'll share time with Hub Walker. George Puccinelli will get most of the starts in right where he has a decent bat and good glove. Pete Fox, who knows how to take a walk plus Bruce Campbell who has a hot bat are available for spot play in the garden. The leaders of the pitching staff are Hal Schumacher and Billy Swift. Roy Parmalee plus swingmen Frank Gabler and Max Butcher will fill out the rotation. Jesse Haines and the two swingmen will man the bullpen.

#### **San Diego Glaziers**

The defending AL Champs return a good attack, but the pitching staff is below par. They could challenge the Frogs with a few breaks. Gus Suhr is a solid first baseman who knows the strike zone, has decent power and can field his position well. Billy Herman at second has a .330 bat with great doubles if not homer power and can field with the best of them. Luke Appling at short might flirt with .400, knows the strike zone and with Herman forms one of the best double play combos in the league. Stan Hack at third isn't quite the hitter as his other infield mates but he also knows how to take a walk; his glove is questionable. Gus Mancuso and Eddie Miles are both .300 hitting catchers and Gus is unequaled on defense and has a cannon arm. Wally Berger in center has good power to go with a solid glove. Paul (Big Poison) Waner, acquired in a major off-season trade will shine in right with a great BA, OBA and 50 double power potential; he is also a great fielder. John Stone in left is another hot bat with good power and a solid glove. Woody Jensen, who didn't get the memo about how to take a walk is a useful outfield spare. Then we get to the pitching staff. Tommy Bridges is a decent number one, but his best mates will be Bucky Walters and Bobo Newsom, both of whom have control issues. Ivy Andrews and swingman Pete Appleton round out the rotation. The team doesn't have much of a bullpen and the quality of the rest of the staff is far below that of the pitchers already mentioned. If the Glaziers hope to repeat as AL champs, they will need to overachieve on the mound.

#### **New Haven Whiffenpoofs**

The Poofs and Colonels will be locked in a fight for third place all year but for either of them to advance would be a major accomplishment. New Haven has a slightly better pitching staff and for that reason get a slight nod. The team has a solid first baseman in Dolph Camilli who can do it all; great BA and OB plus 30-homer potential and an adequate glove. Roy Hughes at second has a good bat with modest power and won't kill you on defense. Leo Norris is a decent shortstop who can play everyday but he'll make a lot of errors in the field. Bill Brubaker has an OK bat with decent power at third, but his glove is suspect. Tony Piet, Joe Cronin and Frankie Fritsch are all useful infield spares. Rick Ferrell is a good hitting catcher and he'll be spelled by Bill Atwood who is a fine hitter. Frank Demaree in right has a solid bat with decent power and can hold his own in the field. Goose Goslin in left can get on base and has good power. Ernie Sulik is the only natural centerfielder on the team but it will be tough to keep Joe Moore on the bench as his bat is just too good. New Haven's pitching staff is very close to the Frogs,

and this will need to be the avenue the team will use to rise in the standings, if that is possible. Lon Warneke, Cy Blandon and Wes Ferrell are all solid starters. Jonny Broaca and Ted Lyons will round out the rotation although Lyons is a big falloff from the others. Mace Brown is a decent reliever, but he'll get little help from any of his mates and the manager will be forced to keep his starters in a little longer than he might like.

### **Louisville Colonels**

As stated above, the Colonels will fight it out for third place, but a leaky pitching staff may well hold them back. Jim Bottomley has a decent bat but shaky glove at first. Lou Chiozza will be forced to play the vast majority of his games at second even though he is a better outfielder. His glove at second is very suspect. Billy Jorges is a decent fielding shortstop with minimal power, but he'll be limited to only about 120 games and filling in the rest will be a challenge. Pepper Martin has a very good bat with some power but his glove at third is atrocious. In a perfect world he would also be much better playing the outfield. Ben Chapman in center has good power and on base with an OK glove. Mel Ott in right is probably the best all around player on the roster as his power is very good and he knows how to take a walk plus he fields his position well. Ducky Medwick in left sports a great BA but he is hesitant to take a walk. He could easily lead the league in doubles and can also hit the ball out of the park on occasion plus his glove is very good. Spud Davis will start 120 or so games at catcher and he is more than adequate but his main backup Moe Berg is below par. Schoolboy Rowe is the closest thing to a workhorse on the staff, but his numbers aren't all that great. Al Hollingsworth is a decent number two, but the balance of the rotation will be shared among several swingmen who are OK but nothing special. However, a lack of any depth on the staff will force the swingmen to devote a lot of time to the bullpen.

### **Schenectady Blue Sox**

The Sox might advance in the standings but could just as easily fall to sixth. The offense is OK, but the pitching staff is weak. Jimmy Foxx at first is the best hitter on the team with a great BA & OBA plus 40-homer power. Tommy Carey at second has an decent bat and doesn't walk much with little power but his glove is acceptable. Shortstop is a grab bag and the manager will be hard pressed to get through the season with the cast of characters presently available at this position. Third baseman Harlon Clift is one of the best hitting infielders in the league with a .300 BA, an excellent bating eye plus good power and a top-notch glove. The only bad thing you can say about catcher Bill Dickey is that he can't play every day. But when he is in there his bat is superb with very good power and his defense is well above average. His backup is Ray Hayworth, who represents a major come down. Kiki Cuyler will play one of the corner outfield positions and his bat is very good although you'd like a little more power from this position. Lou Finney, the other corner outfielder is a good hitter for average, though not as good as Cuyler but seriously lacks home run power. Sam West is a ballhawk in center and his OBA is top-notch but he also lacks power. On the mound Schenectady has three decent starters in Ed Brandt, Fred Frankhouse and Tiny Chaplin. The balance of the rotation will be filled in by swingmen with teenage phenom Bullet Bob Feller waiting in the wings. The staff lacks any depth and when it's time to turn the ball over to the bullpen, it could be bombs away.

### **New York Mutuals**

New York could rise to fifth with some breaks but a fall to the cellar would be tough to imagine as the Strudels are putrid. Ripper Collins will share time at first with Tommy Thompson who also plays the outfield. Thompson could best be described as powerless. Lonny Frey can do the job at second but he is far from All-Star material. Frey will also need to log some time at short where the only other player is part timer Billy Myers. Several part timers will fill in at second when Frey is at short. Third base is the abode of Odell Hale, one of the better hitters on the team who also has a solid glove. Gabby Hartnett

has a cannon arm and good bat at catcher while his main backup will be Billy Sullivan who is a very solid hitter. Augie Galan in center is the closest thing the team has to a full-time outfielder and his bat is decent if powerless. Babe Herman can play about 120 games in the garden; his bat is OK at best, but his defense is weak. Thompson and several mediocre part timers will fill out the outfield starts. The pitching staff isn't bad with four decent starters in Carl Hubbell, Monty Pearson, Jim Weaver and Lefty Gomez. Swingman Ben Cantwell will get a few starts when he isn't anchoring the bullpen. Beyond those mentioned, the staff is thin.

### **West Baden Strudels**

This club finished dead last in all the categories of my complex formula, often by a wide margin and might not even equal the pitiful 53 victories they had in 1935. Hal Trotsky will play first base and he is clearly the best hitter on the team, capable of hitting .340 with 40 homers but his defense is weak. Stu Martin and Jimmy Jordan will share second base, but Martin is a much better hitter. Rabbit Warsler has a weak and powerless bat at short, but his defense is good. Lew Riggs at third has a little power and won't kill you in the field but overall he is nothing to write home about. Catcher is a nightmare as a cast of thousand will move in and out of the lineup with only Jimmy Wilson, who will be limited to less than 100 games as someone you can count on. Standout Rookie Joltin' Joe DiMaggio can hit well over .300 with very good power and a great glove; his only drawback is that he won't draw many walks. The rest of the garden slots will go to a variety of part-timers, the best of whom is Heine Manush, but even he has a punchless bat. On the mound, the best hurlers are swingmen Claude Passeau and Johnny Lanning, but they will only be able to start 45 or so games between them. After that we are talking about the likes of Ray Benge, Eldon Auker and Mel Harder. When they are in the games it's bombs away. Jack Wilson will man a seriously weak bullpen.

## **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

### **Brooklyn Dodgers**

The Dodgers have a thunderous offense, clearly the best in the NL and rivals the Glaziers in all of SPBX. The pitching staff is just a shade below the Titans and Brooklyn gets a slight nod for the pennant. Buddy Hassett has a .300 bat but not a lot of power and doesn't get on base as much as you would like. He'll be spelled by Johnny Mize who has more power and also plays the outfield. Alex Kampouris, who has a weak bat, but decent glove will share time at second with Red Kress who also plays short. Billy Rogell who has a decent bat and glove will get the majority of starts at short. Billy Werber has good on base with some power and will play third base. Cecil Travis has a .300 bat and can fill in almost anywhere, including the outfield. Frankie Hayes is a solid catcher who can play almost every day. Earl Averill in center is one of the stars of the league. He could challenge for the batting title plus has 30 homer and 40 double potential. George Selkirk is another .300 hitter who can take a walk, has good power and can field his position; he'll play a corner outfield slot. The third outfielder, Gee Walker has all the tools except a batting eye. And we haven't even talked about Doc Cramer who could start for almost any other team although he lacks power, but his glove is unrivaled. Dizzy Dean is the clear leader of the staff but he'll get great help from Van Mungo and Tex Carleton. Paul Derringer and Sugar Cain will round out the rotation. Pat Malone is a decent reliever, but all the starters will fill in the bullpen as needed.

### **Detroit Titans**

As stated above, the Titans have a good pitching staff but the Dodgers offense is just too strong and the race will be close. Joe Kuhel who has a .300 plus bat and good power will patrol first base. Tony Lazzeri knows how to get on base and has decent power for a middle infielder; he'll play second. Shortstop Arky Vaughn may be the best hitter on the team with an exceptional batting eye, good power and is solid in the field. Pinky Higgins plays third and he also has a solid bat with good power and a decent glove. The Schnozz Ernie Lombardi is that rare creature, a catcher who can hit .330. His backup Bruce Odgers is a big falloff from the Schnozz. Hal Lee, a decent if punchless hitter will play left and ballhawk Terry Moore will patrol center. Moore has minimal home run power but can hit a few doubles; he doesn't know the strike zone. Several part-timers will fill in the blanks, but none are outstanding. Bill Lee and swingman Larry French are the two top starters, but the manager will need to milk several other swingmen or make a trade to get through the season. Waite Hoyt and Charlie Root are decent relievers, but they will also need to start.

### **Fairfax Atlantics**

A massive falloff after the top two but Fairfax, San Francisco and Brunnerville will battle it out all season for third place. The Atlantics have a slightly better pitching staff than the other two and get a slight advantage. Jack Burns is the first baseman where he brings a good batting eye and awesome power. All around standout Charlie Gehringer is at second. He can do it all; might challenge for the batting title, knows how to take a walk, hit 60 doubles and is a sensational fielder. Dick Bartell will be Gehringer's double play mate at short and between the two of them few balls will get through the infield. Bartell is also a well above average hitter. Buddy Lewis can do the job at third and overall Fairfax has a top-flight infield with Ossie Bluege as a great fill in at second, short and third. Al Lopez has a cannon arm at catcher, and he'll be backed up by Ray Berres; neither can hit very well. Lloyd (Little Poison) Waner will log 100 plus games in center and when he's in there he'll do the job on defense and slap the ball around the infield but very few will go out of the park. Ival Goodman will play right field where he has good power and a decent glove. Several part-timers will fill in as needed. The three top starters (Danny McFayden, Red Ruffing and Johnny Allen) are as good as another other trio in the league. After that it gets a little thin, but they do have a lot of live arms. Roy Henshaw and Monte Weaver will handle most of the bullpen chores.

### **San Francisco Seals**

As mentioned above the Atlantics and Seals are very close. Sam Leslie has a near .300 bat with minimal power and he'll alternate with veteran Charley Grimm at first base. Second base is a problem as they have good field no hit Al Niemiec and poor field minimal bat Joe Coscarart. Shortstop is the domain of Lynn Lary who has a very good on base average and is acceptable in the field. Joe Stripp is a fine hitter with limited power at third and he'll be backed up by Art Garabaldi who is not bad. Cliff Bolton and Earl Grace with some help from Joe Glenn will be the receiving corps. Off season acquisition Jo Jo Moore can play every day in left where he brings a .300 bat and some power plus a good glove. Frenchy Bordagaray in center is almost a clone of Moore but his glove isn't quite as good. Chuck Klein will play right, and he is the top power man on this otherwise powerless team. Jimmy Ripple and Jesse Hill will fill in as needed. Promising rookie Bill Nicholson is waiting in the wings. The pitching staff is not strong and will be the Achilles Heel of the team. Curt Davis and swingman Gen Schott are the top two hurlers but after them you have Jimmy DeShong who has serious control issues. Paul Daffy Dean is available for limited starts, but an off-season injury will hamper his effectiveness. Swingmen Benny Frey and Bump Hadley are also available. After those mentioned above, the pickings are slim.

### **Brunnerville Bean Brewers**

The lineup suffers from a serious lack of power, but the pitching staff is middle of the road, and they should battle for third place. Zeke Bonura at first has a powerful bat and possibly the only pleyer on the team who will finish the season with double figure homers. Virgil Whitehead at second has a nondescript bat but a flashy glove. Jackie Hayes will share time at short with Leo the Lip Durocher. Hayes in a much better hitter but both can field. Pinky Whitney who has some hitting ability will share time at third with Billy Mayo who has none. Luke Sewell and Al Todd will play behind the plate; both are decent receivers but like the rest of the roster have little power. Wally Moses plays a mean centerfield and has a great BA with double and triple if not homer power. Rip Ratcliffe is similar to Moses with the bat but his defense in left field is wanting. Ethan Allen will hit close to .300 but not walk much and he patrols right. Mule Haas has a good batting eye but lousy glove and is available for spot play in the garden. Lefty Grove is the clear leader of the staff and one of the best pitchers in all of SPBX. Earl Whitehead is number two, but he has some control issues. A flock of swingmen will fill out the rotation and the bullpen. There is not a lot of depth on the staff.

### **Borger Gassers**

The Gassers could move up in the standings, but it is a little crowded ahead of them. It's unlikely they will fall to the cellar. Les Scarsella and Jack Salzgaver will play first base as 1935 star Hank Greenberg will miss virtually the entire season due to injuries. Jim Butcher and John Kroner will alternate at second. Kroner is much better hitter, but neither are much with the glove. Buddy Myer who has a decent bat and glove will get in a few games. Frankie Crosetti is a fixture at short; he has decent power, gets on base and is a good fielder. Billy Urbanski will start most of the games at third with Butcher and Kroner also filling in. Billy has a pop gun bat but won't kill you in the field. Babe Phelps will be a great hitter for 120 or so games at catcher but his arm is weak. Gilly Campbell and Sid Gautreaux will fill in behind the plate. Bob Johnson in left has a .300 bat with good on base and the best power on the squad. Joe Vosmik in left also knows how to get on base but has little power and a weak glove. George Watkins and Larry Rosenthal will fill in at the third outfield slot. Rosenthal knows how to take a walk but otherwise they are both no better than average hitters. Lefty Al Smith will lead the staff, but the rest of the rotation is a parade of nonentities. Johnny Murphy and Clay Bryant form a decent bullpen combo.

### **Montreal Golden Buddhas**

The team has a little bit of offense, but the pitching staff is arguably the worst in all of SPBX. Buck Jordan at first is a solid slap hitter with a good glove. Pep Young and Chile Gomez will share time at second base. Neither can hit much but Gomez is a slightly better fielder. Shortstop goes to Bill Knickerbocker who has a decent bat and glove. Red Rolfe at third is a solid hitter with nice power and a good glove. Tom Padden and Tony Giuliani will share time behind the plate. Padden is a better hitter, but neither can hit the ball out of the infield very often. Al Simmons is a solid hitter with nice power and a good outfield glove. Jake Powell can get on base and field his position but lacks much pop in his bat. The third outfielder Moose Salters probably has the best home run power on the team but even he might not reach 20 homers. Gene Moore will also get a lot of outfield at bats. On the mound Red Lucas is clearly the best pitcher on the team but other than Red Kelley the rest of the rotation is a nightmare. Dick Coffman is the only one resembling a decent reliever as the bottom of the staff is very weak.