

# Vagrant League

## Fantasy Baseball

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February 2002

### VLFB to Start 12<sup>th</sup> Season

*Pitchers and Catchers Report February 15th*

#### Ed Feldman

League Commissioner

I would like to welcome everyone to the twelfth season of [Vagrant League Fantasy Baseball](#). Many of the names and faces have changed since 1991, our inaugural season, as have many of the rules but the name of the game has been the same. That is, be the best GM you can and get bragging rights over your fellow owners during a cold winter and the rest of your life. Regardless of how you do year in and year out, as long as you can say at least "...yeah, but at least I won the whole thing once..." you can put many owners in there place regardless of your average position finish.

At the start of this twelfth season I am happy to report that unlike Major League Baseball, our league is going strong with a great bunch of owners and modified rules over the years that make the league both fair and balanced. I am sorry to say however, that we have lost a founding father in Jim Cortazzo of the X-Men and more recently the Ryan Express. Jim has been a great owner and I'd like to thank him for 11 solid years of

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### Founding Member Calling it Quits

*Goodbye Ryan Express, Hello ?*

#### Ed Feldman

League Historian

After eleven seasons that have seen Jimmy Cortazzo win the league in 1992 and post an [average position finish of 4.9](#), good enough for 5<sup>th</sup> place all-time, Jimmy ([X-men](#), [Ryan Express](#)) bids farewell to the VLFB.



Jimmy (shown above) was one of the best at the game the in the early years of the league posting impressive finishes of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> during the first four years of the league. Jimmy's best years were in the pre-internet days when owners were behind the eight ball if

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### Winter Meetings

*Time to get this season rolling*

#### Ed Feldman

Meeting planner

It is that time of year to setup a round of winter meetings to discuss some minor rule changes (after last years many changes I prefer to keep changes to a minimum this year). At the conclusion of the rules portion of the meeting we can then start trade talks if anyone is interested. Please reply back with your order of preference for the following dates and I will pick the

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Season

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service. He will be missed but he will also be replaced. In fact, he has been replaced by a pair KPMG employees (Chris Oliva and Tom Jordan) that will co-own the team. Time will tell if they can adapt to a rotisserie style league as well as the Monarchs have and win it all in just their second year. In this era of reduced dumping brought on by last years effective rule changes addressing dumping, they may not have the same opportunity to win it all so quick however. Since there are seven current owners out of 11 that have not won it all yet there is no shame in not winning it in there second season. Good luck Chris and Tom and good drafting.



## New Owners Join League

*Meet the New Kids on the Block*

### **Ed Feldman**

Competition Committee Chairman

With the spot made available by the departure of Ryan Express the competition committee went quickly to work, filling the spot in a matter of days. The spot was easy to fill as the new co-owners, Chris Oliva and Tom Jordan were being wooed for over two years and in fact were close to joining the league two tears ago when we expanded to 12 teams, but they just couldn't pull the trigger then as time constraints are an issue (they are both tax accountants so they are very busy mid March thru April 15<sup>th</sup>) and they were satisfied with online fantasy style leagues.

What finally pushed them over the edge this time to join the league? One thing was constant badgering but mainly both have fairly mastered the on-line fantasy style baseball leagues and they are looking for new challenges. Only time will tell if they will adapt as well as Walter & Jim ([Monarchs](#)) and win it all in just their second season or wind up like Frank (Krackerjacks) and finish 11<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> their first two seasons. Time constraints early on are still a problem but they will be able to work through them and enjoy the rest of the season in style.

Neither Chris or Tom bring any rotisserie style fantasy baseball experience with them but they are both accomplished on-line fantasy style players having won a league. As all returning league members know

however, although the game is essentially the same there is a vast difference once you add in a money auction and keepers. Of course that is also what adds much of the extra fun as well. Both Chris and Tom are also huge baseball fans and bring a love of the game to the table as well. FYI, they have not unveiled the name of their franchise yet.



## New Owner BIO's"

### **Chris Oliva**

Chris is married and has one child, Samantha, that is just two months old. Congrats Chris! He comes to us from Ohio with a 5 year stop over in Atlanta and a 3 year how-do-you-do in Detroit before settling down in good old Plainview, NY. He currently works at KPMG where he is a Senior Tax Manager (and sits just around the corner from Ed and Frank).

Chris' favorite baseball moment is a no-hitter he attended in 1991 in Atlanta. He watched all the action from great seats behind the plate as three pitchers combined for the no-no led by starting pitcher Kent Mercker. It should be pointed out that his favorite team is the Braves so this was extra special for him. (OK Mets fans, he is a good guy despite being a Braves fan so cut him some slack!) Chris' favorite ball park that he has attended is Jacobs Field in Cleveland. What, not Shea Stadium Chris? Don't you know beauty when you see it?

### **Tom Jordan**

Tom is married and has four children ages 8,6,4 and 2. God have mercy on you Tom! Yeah, you'll have time for rotisserie. Tom is a native Long Islander and currently lives in Massapequa and currently works at KPMG where he is the Tax Managing Director. (and sits not far from Ed, Frank & Chris).

Tom is a huge Met fan and his best baseball moment is the Mets winning it all in '86. He also attended the clinching game that put them into the World Series that year. You may have noticed that we now have a Met fan and Brave fan co-owning a team which does raise some eyebrows. It will be interesting to see if they remain friends through this.



## WEBSITE LINKS

[Vagrant League Fantasy Baseball](#) (Our home page)

[USAStats](#) (Our stat service. League code and password are both vagrant).

[Major League Baseball](#)

[ESPN MLB](#)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### PROTECTED LISTS

PLACE: CALL IN OR BY EMAIL

TIME: MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, BY NOON

15 Man protected lists are due to Ed for each team. Please try and not wait for the last possible minute as nothing will change and the other owners want the rosters as soon as possible.

### THE AUCTION\RAFT

PLACE: KPMG, MELVILLE

TIME: **MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>, NOON**

Please be sure to keep this date free!

### TRADING DEADLINE

TIME: AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>, NOON

There is no trading after this deadline until the season is over

### SEPTEMBER EXPANSION

TIME: SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>

Beginning with the September 3<sup>rd</sup> moves you can expand your roster from 23 players to 24. The extra player can be either a hitter or pitcher.

## Goodbye

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they missed Sportcenter one night or failed to get the USA Baseball Weekly each week. This was also in the days of no online daily stats to see how you were doing.

There was some controversy at how good Jim was at rotisserie as he was the lone VLFB member to subscribe to "Benson", a pay service that was a pioneer of the time. Coincidentally enough, with the advent of the internet making information equally accessible to all the X-Men\Ryan Express team averaged 8<sup>th</sup> place from 1998 thru 2001. When asked about his recent performance the last 4 years Jimmy was quoted as saying "With equal information for all I am not really any better at this than anyone else. Since I can no longer consistently win money I have no choice but to quit the league". Since his quote at the end of last season when he notified league officials that he was leaving the league Jimmy has recanted that statement saying that the real reason he quit is that he does not have enough time to do it anymore. Flying in the face of this new explanation is the fact that when helping to plan Barry's bachelor party in Las Vegas it has been calculated that Jimmy has spent over 34 man hours getting airfare and hotel rates while constantly emailing the people attending of the status of each new piece of information. Based on this it would appear that time is actually not a problem. Which reason should you believe? That is up to the reader but regardless of the reason we are sorry so you go Jim.

*Single season Records by X-Men\Ryan Express:*

*1996 – 2<sup>nd</sup> best all-time stolen bases – 235*

*2000 – Worst ever ERA – 5.133*

*2000 – 2<sup>nd</sup> worst WHIP ever – 1.501*



## Meetings

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one that is best for the most people. If you do not want to come please let me know that as well. The dates are: Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> or Friday March 8<sup>th</sup>. The start time is 6-6:30-pm. The meeting will be in my office and the start time is flexible based upon what time people can get here. I can also order pizza if people want. Another alternative could be meeting at a restaurant such as Friday's or Ruby Tuesdays but that might not be such a good idea if the date is Friday night as these places get crowded quick for happy hour. I guess the best thing to do is when you reply back to me (via email: [edwardfeldman@kpmg.com](mailto:edwardfeldman@kpmg.com)) let me know what time you think you can get to my office by and if you prefer a restaurant. Majority rules here.



## RULES REFRESHER

### TRADING

- Unrestricted trading with other teams until noon on the second Tuesday in August. No trading after this date.
- After the completion of the auction until the trading deadline, any players traded with a salary of \$6 or less will have \$2 added to his contract each time he is traded.

### FARM SYSTEM CONTRACTS

- Farm system players called up will have a contract of \$2 his call up year, \$4 his second year and \$6 his third year.

### LONG TERM CONTRACT FORMULA

- The third year of a players contract is his option year.
- You can keep him at his current salary but then he must be thrown back in at the end of the season.
- You can sign him to a long term contract according to the following formula:  
$$(\text{Length of contract} * \$2) + \text{Original Salary.}$$
- The new contract starts his third season, *NOT* the next season.
- Players signed to a long term contract *CANNOT* be released back into the free agent pool. He can be placed on your bench or traded.
- The buyout of a long term contract can take place in the off season only. The buyout is forfeiting \$2 from your \$130 auction pool for the upcoming season for each contract you want to buy out regardless of the value or length of contract.

### LINKS

- Players are no longer linked together when placed on the DL.
- When a player on the DL is activated by his MLB team, the VLFB owner may release/waive/bench any player on his roster as long as proper position eligibility is maintained.
- Once per season, you may release/bench a player that has not been released, DL'd, sent down, etc. by his MLB team. This is known as the "free move".

## Stat Service Change?

We may go with [TQStats](#) instead of [USAStats](#)

### Ed Feldman

League Commissioner

TQStats is an online service that provides virtually all the same features and functions as last years stat service USAStats.

The main reason for the considered switch is money. TQstats charges \$99 for the entire league whereas USAstats charges \$39 per team which translates into \$468. The ultimate switch would save us \$29 per team, or \$348 for the league, as we would make the price the flat auction fee plus stats a total of \$260 (\$10 per team for stats with the excess \$21 going to the prize pool).

TQStats has been used by John Ortiz (Arms & Hammers) for years in another league and he is very happy with the service. In addition, I believe that leagues returning to TQStats gets something like a \$20 discount.

I will contact both USAStats and TQStats in the coming days to get more information on both and let you know what I find out.



### BARRY TO GET MARRIED

Congratulations are in order to Barry (the BarBarryans) as he is taking the plunge and getting married in August. Wisely, Barry has set the wedding date after our trading deadline so feel free to make trade countless offers to him in early August. I'm sure his bride-to-be won't mind at all!

Barry, a few words of advice as you enter the holy bonds of matrimony. First, be sure that the future Mrs. Greenberg knows that the draft/auction is always the last weekend in March and that she is to schedule some alone time for herself that day. Second, that rotisserie is NOT a complete waste of time and money and lastly don't tell her when you finish in the money so that you do not have to hand your winnings over to her.



## Who's Who

### **Arms & Hammers**

John Ortiz



Phone: 631-853-4914  
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### **BarBarryans**

Barry Greenberg



Phone: 516-681-9757  
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### **Double D**

Doug Drotman



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### **Eight Men Out**

Lee Sunshine



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### **Futurians**

Ed Feldman



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### **KrackerJacks**

Frank Cottone



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### **Master Blasters**

Ira Mandelbaum



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### **Monarchs**

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Walter Flamme



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### **Mutts**

Craig Mandel



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### **Red Storm**

Howie Storm

Bob Metzger



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### **Shu's Crew**

Ron Shuster



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### **Un-named**

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Tom Jordan



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