



Vagrant League

Fantasy Baseball



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Greatest Owner of All Time

Why It's Me

Craig Mandel

Team Owner

The greatest owner of all time.

What does it take to be the best. It is something I have pondered for quite a long time. Then I realize if you are going to do something be the best that you can be. So I have decide to anoint myself the greatest owner in Vagrant league history.

Why am I the best. Its simple I work harder then anyone else in doing this. I look for an edge. I find information and try to act on it. I never have or ever will trade a player that is hurt knowingly to another person. I try to be fair. My feeling is the Mets are never going to call me about the GM job so this is the closest thing to it. I did send in my resume when they had an opening never heard back from them. I thought for sure that when they saw how well I did in vagrant league baseball I was a shoe in for the job. I want to expand the league I want more minor leaguers I want more bench players. The reason is simple I feel that knowledge is power and the more I know the better it is for myself. I don't believe managing or owning a team is something you due from February to

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It's Time Has Come

Give Me One GOOD Reason Why Not

Doug Drotman

Team Owner

"A man's got to know his limitations." I know mine. Managing a fantasy baseball team is not it.

A man also needs to know what he is good at. I think I have a pretty good handle on that. I know what is good for this league. I am not the commissioner type, nor am I the reactionary owner that wants to change a rule and include the entire American League because one of my players got traded.

Want some evidence. I pushed for the \$260 payroll; I proposed the trading tax system. There have been others but those brain cells are no longer with me. Those have been two of our best changes to date – and they were fought to the death by several owners.

I now believe the time is right for the optional Utility Player/Pitcher. Hear me out Craig. We are talking about your ninth pitcher and 14th hitter. Craig on your team we are talking about Cody Ross or Carlos Villanueva. You dropping Ross and adding Chad Bradford won't change the competitive balance of the league. What it will do is:

1. Allow you to help with a weakness. Add some strikeouts, saves or a few SB's if that is a weakness
2. Let's you to keep a good hitter active and dump a pitcher hurting you rather than send the hitter to the bench when your starter returns from the DL
3. Help trading. How can you be opposed to this? It is very hard to make a hitting for pitching trade because of position eligibility and the quality of the throw-in player that each team is offering. You can now trade straight up.

I understand that people are concerned about the draft.

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Trading Deadline Preview

Who Has Chips to Trade?

Chris Oliva
Team Owner

As the All-Star break approaches and the VLFB nears the halfway point the trading activity looks to heat up. There have already been some key trades (thanks to Mr. Sunshine) and some key free agent pick-ups (thanks to Mr. Clemens).

I thought it would be interesting, if not self-serving, to run down the teams looking to improve themselves, and identify those players that would/could be dangled as prime chips in current year trades. The list was compiled quickly, as the deadline for this article approached quicker than I had realized, so I'm sure I've left someone out, but that is what will provide everyone something to talk about. I have intentionally left off those players who have not yet been activated from the farm system. So.....here is my list (all prices prior to \$4 tax):

MasterBlasters – A perennial favorite in this league with his cunning ability to pick blue chips players up like he was digging into a bag of Terra chips (the blue variety of course). Already having pulled a deal off with Mr. Sunshine, he is sitting with Barry Bonds at \$19, Nady at \$5, Petit at \$2, and Olsen at \$2. Don't we all wish we had David Wright on our team.

BarBarryans – This guy has won enough money in this league over the past several years to fund a few small countries. The move you pulled with Mr. Sunshine showed me why you finish near the top every year. Will Kerry Wood ever return to form? Ryan Dempster is nice at \$2. I find it interesting that the MasterBlasters and the BarBarryans, currently 2nd and 3rd in the standings, respectively, are last and second to last in saves.

KrackerJacks – The leader of the pack at this stage is working the phones and email like a madman already. The man who can "guarantee" practically anything he puts his mind to, has Angel Guzman at \$2, Clay Hensley at \$2, Garret Atkins at \$6, and Rickie Weeks at \$6.

Cosmo – Charley Mutts – Probably one of the most influential owners in VLFB history, the Mutts owner has not really had the arrows in his quiver recently to be able to pull off any big time trades. That hasn't stopped him

from trying though. With Conor Jackson at \$6 and Adam Wainwright at \$2, there really are slim pickings at the chip counter. Oh, by the way, Craig, CHRIS REITSMA SUCKS!!!

Marauders – The newest and most inexperienced member of the VLFB has seen his season go from the heights of 1st place to the depths of 7th place in what feels like a heartbeat. The past month has not been kind to this team as injuries to key players and lack of production from key rookies has hurt. On the bright side, the outlook is looking better. With a stable of young players at relatively cheap contracts, Prince Fielder at \$6, Dan Uggla at \$6, Lastings Milledge at \$6, Chris Burke at \$5, Chad Billingsley at \$2, and Cole Hamels at \$2, this team has a lot to offer those owners that halt their march for the current year and look to stock up for years to come.

If I had more time I'd go through everyone's roster but, I'm late with this article already.

Before I finish this article, I have to pose this question to the reading audience.....Will Doug Drotman spend the extra \$1 he gets for writing an article?

Futurians – The Grande Dame of the VLFB (I am still confused as to why we aren't known as the VFBL), Mr. Feldman has had a rocky road this year. He has, however, pulled off what I believe to be the trade of the year, acquiring Chris Capuano was huge!! His roster has the likes of Felipe Lopez at \$1 and Derrick Turnbow at \$14 that could be turned into a run at the money.

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Any Records Being Broken?

Where Have All the Saves Gone?

Ed Feldman
Team Owner

With about 72 games played at the writing of this article I thought it was time to look at what, if any, records are on pace to be broken this year. Not many as league balance and reduced NL talent seem to be having an impact.

Hitting:

The Master Blastors seem to have a legitimate shot at 1st or 2nd for best batting average. His current staggering mark of .2963 is shattering the previous league record of

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The Greatest

Continued from page 1

October. Its a job that we need to do 365 days a year. I have won the league 4 times and finished 2 twice. Not bad for a guy who hates computers. I used to get all my info from baseball weekly remember the days we would all run to the local newsstand on Tuesdays to get it.

What I like about the league is that the people for the most part play for the fun of it and we have lot of fun with each other. I like the wheeling and dealings that go on. I understand better then most that luck plays a huge part in this. But I think over time luck evens itself out.

So in closing even though there are other owners who have shown that they are excellent there can only be 1 who is the best.

I feel that we should have a Hall of Fame and I should be the first inductee.

Qualifications to be inducted into the Vagrant League Hall of Fame.

1. Must have one the league 3 times.
2. Must be in the league for at least 7 years.
3. Must have an average finish under 6
4. Must be at least 5 feet tall (sorry Frank)
5. Must vote no to the flexible position.

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WEBSITE LINKS

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

[Major League Baseball](#)

[TQStats](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TRADING DEADLINE

DATE: AUGUST 8TH

TIME: NOON

Non trading after this deadline

SEPTEMBER EXPANSION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 5TH

TIME : NOON

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Why Not?

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That is the only argument I have ever hear. Once again, that issue can be addressed by requiring teams to draft 14/9. But why do that? How often have you seen a pitcher left at the end of the draft that you wanted but you were already filled up. This allows even more flexibility. For people who say it is not realistic, look around – MLB teams adjust their hitter/pitcher mix all of the time.

Look – we all want flexibility in our jobs, schedules and even our wives. Why not add more flexibility to the league. I would appreciate an intelligent response to this in the next newsletter or posted on the web site (or comments from Craig or Frank). No is just not good enough.

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Records

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.2901 set by Egghead (Craig) back in 2000. It may be time to start throwing syringes at Ira when you see him.

Homers, RBI's and runs scored are all between the record high and low pace so far.

Pitching:

The is a shot that Eight Men Out could set a new mark for the second lowest win total with his pace of 52. The current second worst is 51 but without Dontrelle, Lee might be in trouble here. The lowest mark was set by Double D with 44 back in 1995. With one bad stretch Lee could challenge that. We'll keep the watch going on this.

The leading pace of 72 saves by Shu's Crew is nowhere near any records but is notable that should he win the category with 72 saves, it would be lowest total by the category winner since Double D's 68 in 1995. Where have all the saves gone?

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The Last Time The Braves Did Not Win The NL East

Do You Know The Answer

Ed Feldman
Owner

MLB went to three divisions in 1994 but since this was the strike shortened season, 1995 became the first full season of three divisions. Since no other team has won the NL East since 1995 I thought it would be interesting and nostalgic to see what MLB and the VLFB looked like in 1993, the last time someone other than Atlanta won the NL East.

MLB (NL Only) of 1993

Wow! Would you have been able to name the teams in the NL East, the last season of two divisions? There were 7 teams in each division. Do you know who won the NL East in 1993? Hint, it wasn't the Braves despite 14 straight first place finishes?

How can this be? I am sure Chris, the baseball historian of our league and admitted Braves fan (but we still like him), would remind everyone else that the Braves were in the NL West prior to 1994. See the final 1993 standings on the last page of this newsletter for the interesting results. A painful note: the Mets finished last with a record of 50-103 and the evil empire Yankees finished second with a record of 88-74 but alas, poor Yankee fans, there was no wildcard that season so your beloved team did not make the playoffs.

VLFB of 1993

Boy, the makeup of our league was drastically different in 1993.as there are only six owners still in the league from that bygone era, Ed, Ira, Doug, Craig, Lee & Barry. Of course the quality of the league has improved with the addition of the 'new' six owners.

The VLFB winner that year was the Mandelizers, aka Craig. This was the first year in which Craig won and we have not heard the end of it since. Interestingly enough, I came in 3rd that season, I will have to double check that, it must be wrong. Amazing about Craig's win that season, he did not come in first in any category yet scoring 46.0 out of 55 total points in both hitting and pitching for a total of 92 points. This shows that balance is the real name of the game for teams that have visions of championships (and not just delusions).

1993 final Standings

	<u>Team</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Hitting</u>	<u>Pitching</u>
1	Mandelizers	92.0	46.0	46.0
2	X-men	82.5	32.0	50.5
3	Futurians	82.0	49.0	33.0
4	Double D	69.0	35.0	34.0
5	Uptown Studs	59.0	42.5	16.5
6	Deep Threat	56.0	29.0	27.0
7	Mudhens	52.5	14.0	38.5
8	Flatulators	51.5	22.0	29.5
9	Eight Men Out	49.5	35.5	14.0
10	Porn Flakes	35.0	7.0	28.0
11	Barbaryans	32.0	18.0	14.0

Some VLFB 1993 Notes:

- Ø The BarBarryans last place finish. His last season before re-entering the league in 1999 and catapulting to the top of the league. Seems that time playing in A-ball really helped him out. Maybe I should try that.
- Ø First season of VLFB expansion, to 11 teams
- Ø Auction still based on \$130
- Ø Had rule stating unrestricted trading is until the All-Star break and then you could only trade with teams two below or above you in the standings until August
- Ø Had a fee structure for making roster moves, no flat fee
- Ø No extra money for 6th, 7th & 8th place
- Ø FA pickups were 'linked' to the people you picked them up for
- Ø No bench rule
- Ø Oh yeah, Frank was only 19

Some general points of interest from 1993

- Ø Basketball superstar Michael Jordan retires to play professional baseball
- Ø Terrorism strikes as the World Trade Center is bombed for the first time
- Ø Final Cheers episode airs. Beavis & Butthead are the in-thing
- Ø "Jurassic Park" breaks box-office records
- Ø Stephen Spielberg's film, "Schindler's List," takes seven Academy Awards (still never saw it)

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A Guide to VLFB Teams & Owners

The Book On Each Team

Barry Greenberg
Owner

"It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it. The hard... is what makes it great." - Jimmy Dugan, on baseball, "A League of Their Own"

The above quote is appropriate for our league, not to suggest we are a bunch of women, but because our league is ours alone. Also because its not easy to do well in Roto without putting a lot of effort into it. We toil in anonymity, without a fan base or a press corps covering us. All we have to note our accomplishments is this publication and the league website. So with that in mind, here is a guide to ourselves, as you might find in a sporting publication if this was a real league and not "just" Roto. Thanks to all of you who responded (especially Ira) to my request for comments on the owners and franchises in our league. The blurbs are listed in alphabetical team order, and are broken down into sections; the first being some general comments, followed by selected comments from other owners, which are attributed with the writer's initials at the end of the comments. Enjoy.

Arms and Hammers, John. Member since 1997, Best finish: 2nd, 1999.

Consistent professional. Clearly knows his stuff and is competent in all phases of the game. Consistency is evidenced by his four straight money finishes from 1998-2001, but he has slackened off in recent years. Low-key player, who can mistakenly be overlooked among some of the more egotistical players in the league. Deliberate drafter. Recent mediocre finishes may be the result of his overextension into too many other leagues, or perhaps from his cracking the beers before the auction has concluded. Had what should have been a money team in 2005, but missed out on a money spot by a close margin in that incredibly tight campaign.

"Consistent best of the rest owner still trying to find the pot of gold. May need to lay off the beer at the auction to take it to the next level." – EF

"John is the best owner at the draft – he brings beer. That alone should be worth a money spot in the end. Every year John seems to have a money team on paper but every year something seems to go wrong. Injuries, off year, etc. That

is proof that you can do everything right at the draft but if the roto G-ds do not smile down upon you - you can't win. A large degree of roto success depends so much on luck. I am still waiting for the year that John buys one of the first 20 players thrown out. Has the discipline to hold his money and control the end of the draft. I really thought this could have been the year that John wins it all – I loved his team coming out of the draft. I still love his team – needs some breaks to win it all and after a slow start has steadily climbed up in the standings. Good luck brother." – IM

BarBarryans, Barry. Member 1991-1993, rejoined 1999. Best finish: Champion, 2004, 2005.

Has become the league's dominant team in recent years, having been a money team for the last five years, finishing in 1st or 2nd place in four of those years. In doing so serves as an example of the possibility of upward mobility in the league, as his first tenure in the league saw him finish in last place two out of three years. Has this year again assembled a superior team, and is aware of the historical implications of what a high money finish this year are. There may be better pure player value evaluators in the league as well as stronger trade negotiators, but no one matches his talent for draft strategizing. While he can be a forceful critic of league rules at times, he is a strong supporter of the league establishment and its traditions, serving as a primary contributor to the league website and this publication.

"Clueless in his first stint in the league he clearly honed his craft prior to re-entry and has been the team to beat the last five years. Enters auction with explicit game plan and sees it thru to the end. Smart trader the last few years." – EF

"When in the league in the beginning, had knowledge of talent, but was unable to translate that knowledge into success. In addition, had a string of bad luck and fell victim to our "old" Rules, lost Cone & Gooden and received nothing in return, a crushing blow. Came back into the league with a renewed confidence and has kicked ass ever since. He clearly knows how this game is played and is recognized as being a powerhouse owner (can draft, can manage money, can trade, and has good luck). Has once again set himself up with a money team (maybe/probably first place)." – IM

"I used to think Barry was lucking into so many good moves but he does symbolize "the harder I work, the

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Owners Guide

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luckier I get.” He has now become a roto power. He complains and low-keys it too much for a guy with so much success in the league. He has to realize that he is at the top of the game and stop trying to get pity. There are plenty of owners that need and deserve the pity. Trust me, if I ever have his success I will be cocky and arrogant beyond belief. Barry – enjoy it.” – DD

Cosmo-Charley-Mutts, Craig. Member since 1991. Best finish: Champion, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2000.

Having won more championships than any other franchise, and holding an active-team league leading average position finish of 4.5, Craig is arguably the top player over the league’s history. His strength is as an unrelenting trader; he starts looking to make deals months before the season starts and never lets up until the deadline. While there may be more successful drafters, Craig makes up for any draft miscues in short order via the trade route and should always be considered a contender. Because of his success over the years in trades, other owners justifiably may be more careful in scrutinizing any deal involving him. Loves to trash talk, and has the record to back it up. Weakens the ‘brand’ of his team by constantly changing his team’s name. If we had a George Steinbrenner, it would be Craig.

“I think he is the best owner for the league. He gets the juices flowing and ALWAYS wants to trade. He starts to make calls in November. If not for him, this league would be pretty boring. He will pull off a couple of trades, which then forces every owner to start evaluating their own team, and gets everyone "into" the league. He has a great understanding of Roto and is the most successful owner in our league. If every owner just wanted to beat Craig, they would find themselves in the money (just about) every year. He puts the time into the league which has obviously translated into success. He is like the Red Sox to a Yankee fan – you love to hate him. He talks trash and backs it up.” - IM

“Never proposes a trade, just asks who you like in his team and what you are willing to give up for him. Consistent money winner whose real skill is the art of the trade. Needs improvement on his auction skills.” – EF

Double D, Doug. Member since 1991. Best finish, 3rd place, 1991, 2002.

There may be no owner with a greater knowledge of talent and NL personnel than Doug, but he has failed to achieve consistent success despite that knowledge. The most outspoken owner, he is never afraid to offer his opinions on other owner’s moves and draft selections, but is also refreshing in that he often qualifies his comments by acknowledging his own uneven record of success. In doing so, spices up the draft. I personally enjoy sitting next to him at the auction so I can hear his running commentary. Will also be remembered for leaving \$26 on the table in the 2006 draft. Always willing to discuss a trade, but tends to believe the spin he puts on the value of his own players, and thus becomes a victim of his own salesmanship. Should not be overlooked however; has finished in the money seven times.

“Great auction comments and insights but can never put it into practice for himself. May be better writing articles for Rotoworld evaluating talent than actually being in a roto league. Likes developing trades for other teams but always overestimates the trade value of his players.” – EF

“The draft chatter box. He has opinions about everyone and is not afraid to voice them. I love Doug at the draft. He has real balls. He is the only one that will “bid you up” on a player he knows/thinks you really want – He does this at the risk of getting stuck with that player, even if he doesn’t want that player himself. He takes dollars off the table by doing this and he is great at controlling a draft. As an example – this year I really wanted Finley - I thought I could get him real cheap being a 4th outfielder, being old, and coming off a terrible year. In part, I wanted him as Bond’s insurance – Doug read this correctly and promptly bid him up and stole him from me. He may not have wanted him, but he took the gamble and did not let me get him cheap – I hate him and love him at the same time. At the moment, Finley is giving him positive roto money – He has exceeded the \$7 spent. In my mind, Doug should have won this league 5 times with his knowledge. I really think he knows how to evaluate talent and assign a price to that talent, but something seems to happen to him on his way to the alter.” – IM

Eight Men Out, Lee. Member since 1993. Best finish: 2nd, 2004.

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Has unique views of how to play roto, valuing rookies and generally discounting established pitchers in the draft. As such, he has had some of the more unusual drafts over the years, and is a bit of a wildcard. His unorthodox approach makes a nice contrast to some of the more conventional styles exhibited by other owners. Not a prolific trader, but is willing to pull the trigger on any deal without fanfare once he is satisfied that he has received fair value. Is willing to either dump, or to add talent, as is appropriate depending on the situation. His philosophy has brought him a moderate amount of success throughout the years, almost winning in 2004.

“The person to trade with if you want to move young, cheap inexperienced pitching. Does not like to shop his players around and will never be the one to initiate trade talks. Never seems to have a plan.” – EF

“Lee is a wild card – He loves to take risks. You can count on two things every year at the draft from Lee – 1) He refuses to spend money on established starting pitching – Even last year where he spent *some* money it still was not enough. 2) He loves rookies. These are two very risky draft strategies, yet, year in and year out Lee is in the middle of the pack (minus this year) fighting for money. It seems like he has the knack to draft unknown fresh pitchers and rookie position players that develop into real good major league players. Unfortunately for Lee, sometimes they mature to that level in the 4th year of their contract (one year too late for Lee to enjoy their success). When they develop early, however, Lee has a real chip. He can use this chip to trade and win now or he can use this chip to build around for years to come. He is always willing to trade &/or talk trade making him a very good fun owner to have in the league.” – IM

“The polar opposite of Ira. Just like his mentor Andrew “don’t call me Andy” Harris, he loves young players. In fact, it borders on an obsession. He does fall in love with players and will overpay for the guys he wants. Has a good knack for finding good young players but I guess if you buy a lot, plenty should pan out. As for trading I do not believe Lee and I have ever made a trade in 10 years. I can only remember two trade discussions with him. Maybe that’s why neither of us have ever won.” – DD

Futurians, Ed. Member since 1991. Best finish: Champion, 1995.

The Bud Selig of the league, Ed both runs the league as Commissioner and is a team owner. Major League Baseball has nothing over the VLFB however, as MLB would be well served by hiring a commissioner as competent as Ed. As commissioner, Ed does excellent work in handling transactions, managing the league website, adjudicating rule disputes, and even in publishing this newsletter. More impressively, I can not recall any situation where he allowed his conflicting role as both owner and commissioner to influence a rules determination. That in itself is a very impressive feat. Unfortunately, Ed’s skills as an owner seem to have fallen behind his ability as a commissioner. While a competent negotiator and trader, he seems to have not developed a viable draft strategy, despite that he is knowledgeable as to player personnel and values. A recent run of two money finishes in three years may indicate a turnaround in his fortunes.

“He either has no plan at the draft or a very flawed plan or just has trouble adjusting. He seems to be scrambling every year. I can never figure him out. I never think he has a good draft but very often does. The last few years it appears that Ed has lost some confidence but his in-season moves this year seem to indicate that he is getting it back.” – DD

Our Commish - A thankless job which he performs at its highest level. The league has run very smoothly for so many years and is enjoyed by every owner (Cortazzo aside) because of the endless work of our leader. Settling rule discrepancies, posting moves every week, maintaining our own Vagrant web site, keeping historic stats, etc – everything is done just right. Now as far as his talents as an owner - There is nobody more enthusiastic about roto at the beginning of a year – His level of enthusiasm, however, is maintained only by the amount of success his team is having. He takes losing to heart. I don’t think Ed realizes how good he really is at this game – He credits his success to dumb luck but blames himself for being a bad owner when things go wrong. If there is a knock on Ed, I would say that he over values

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his players (I am guilty as charged as well) and is afraid to pull the trigger on a trade. Those flaws can be detrimental to a team, which I think has added to Ed's volatile success. When speaking with him, he clearly has a firm grasp on strategy, etc and should react more with his gut than his head. – IM

"Has trouble creating a plan for the auction and executing when he does create one. Does not adapt well to the flow of the auction. Won it all once but doubt he ever will again. Often on the verge of quitting the league. His best rotisserie skills are as commissioner running the league." – EF

KrackerJacks: Frank. Member since 2000. Best finish, 3rd place, 2004.

One of the newer members, Frank has steadily improved his performance in the last few years, actually improving his finish each year for a five year period. Brash and bold, Frank trash talks with anyone (but always with a smile), although he has yet to establish the record to back it up. God help the league if and when he wins the championship, which could happen as soon as this season based on his current performance. His cockiness and youth has worked against him, as while it is always helpful in life to be an optimist, rose colored glasses can sometimes obscure the truth. His enthusiasm for the league is an asset to the entire membership. As a member of the "Melville Mafia", (ie, those who work in or near KPMG) he has the opportunity to talk roto with various other owners at any time, thus adding to the cohesiveness of the league.

"Does not believe in Rotisserie Gods and thus not afraid to make bold predictions. On the cocky side when evaluating talent and his team but brings enthusiasm to the league. Benefits from having no kids and being able to put a lot of time into his team. Has definitely improved over the years and could be on the verge of his first title." – EF

"Frank, much like the Marauders, came into the league recently. What is most impressive about Frank is, with the exception of last year's hiccup, since 2000, which is the year he came into the league, he has improved in the standings every year – 2000 11th place finish, 2001 10th place finish, 2002 7th place finish, 2003 6th place finish, 2004 3rd place finish. If Frank were a stock, you would have to be very happy with its performance. Talk about really learning the game. Granted, last year was a big hiccup, with a last place finish, but Frank is right back on course sitting in first place – looking to make the leap from worst to first. He has truly become a force to be reckoned with." – IM

"A guy with way more confidence than ability (I bet you are all saying, no that's Doug) The difference is I used to have the ability. He has yet to prove anything. The fact that Frank and I agree a lot on players is pretty telling. I must admit – except for the verbal sparring with Craig -- he is definitely the most entertaining owner at the draft." – DD

Marauders, Chris. Member since 2002. Best finish, 7th, 2005.

The newest owner in the league, Chris is still learning the ropes. However, he is clearly thoughtful, deliberative, and seems to have figured it out and is on his way to being a successful owner. A true baseball fan, noted for his appreciation of the game. Has developed a "lead with strength" philosophy, requiring a large investment in top players, and will be deadly if he couples this with an effective end-game. Seemingly straightforward in his style and more subdued than some other owners, he is nevertheless not shy about offering his well reasoned opinion when he feels changes need to be made, and also enjoys getting into the trash talk with Craig and Frank.

"Loves to have the best hitter and pitcher in the league. Unproven in the auction but has an improved team this year. Likes to trade with KrackerJacks despite getting burned repeatedly." – EF

"Our newest "new" owner. A great addition to our league – really loves baseball but has somehow lost his way being in NY and rooting for the Braves. I guess if there is any team to model your success after, the Braves would be the perfect team. Great minor league system, good consistent players, and ownership willing to make a trade to improve the team. It takes a couple of years to learn how to draft, manage money, and to learn some of the tendencies of other owners.

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Owners Guide

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Chris has taken his lumps in this learning curve but definitely knows what he is doing now. All you have to do is talk to him about roto and you will realize that he has caught on in a big way. This years Marauder's team has taught us how much one player can mean to a team. When Pujols was healthy, the Marauders were sitting on top in the standings – without Pujols they have fallen to the middle. At one point, Pujols alone had as many homeruns as some entire teams...truly amazing. Show me a player putting up crazy roto numbers and I will bet that player is on a team that is in position to win money (See Soriano, Carlos Lee, Carlos Beltran)." – IM

MasterBlasters, Ira. Member since 1991. Best finish: Champion, 1994, 2001, 2002. Arguably, along with Craig, the most successful owner over the history of the league and definitely the most consistently strong performer. Leads the league with ten money finishes, and is only kept from the top spot in active average position finish by his injury marred 2005 campaign. Had a string of six consecutive money finishes from 1994 to 1999. Set the single season best record in 2001, winning 115 of 120 available points. Also the most well rounded owner, as he has proven superior ability as a talent evaluator, drafter, and trader. And, as can be seen from his comments in this article, a nice guy also who generally avoids the trash talk tossed around by some of the other owners, despite that with his record he would be entitled to be extremely cocky. A staunch supporter of the status-quo, very conservative in his views towards rule changes.

"Prefers a five year study before implementing a new rule and then will still vote no for any suggested change. Strong at the auction in the middle years but has not faired as well lately. Needs to get back on top of his game." – EF

"The most prepared of all of the owners. Devises a plan and sticks with it. Although he has loosened up lately he is not great at improvising at the draft. Rarely falls in love with a player. Sees them as what they are -- numbers. Rarely invests in young up and comers. Sticks to solid and reliable veterans. Has an excellent knack for picking hitters but rarely has the same success with pitchers." – DD

Monarchs, Jim C. Member with Walter F, 1997-2004, rejoined 2006.

Best finish: Champion, 1998. 2003. An enigma, this franchise seems to either win or finish near the bottom of the league, with no middle ground. It is this lack of consistency that keeps the Monarchs from being mentioned as being in the elite group of owners, despite their two championships. Jim is operating this team solo for the first time after having taken a year off and taking over full ownership from Walter. As a solo owner, Jim's ability is an unknown, although his knowledge and abilities have clearly been on display at the draft over the years. He also has a reputation as a tough negotiator. This season has not shown Jim to be a proactive owner however; as of this writing he has not logged on to the league stat site since early May.

"Good every other year owner with former partner. Unknown quantity as a single owner. Apparently does not like to check stats."

"The Monarchs have been a model of consistency – Not perhaps the ideal model, but a model nonetheless. They are either very good or very bad. From 1997 to 2004 they were within 3 from the bottom or within 3 from the top. With the exception of 2001 and 2002, when they finished 11th and 10th respectively, they alternated from good year to bad year each year – This trend continued when the team was under new management and finished in 3rd coming off a last place finish the year prior. Now that Jim is back without Walter, we will find out which part of the success or failure he was responsible for. Personally, I am glad Jim has come back into the league as he is a well liked and well respected owner. I have had many trade dealings with Jim, both dumping and loading and I personally know that he drives a tough bargain. Through the art of trade, whether it is a dumping trade or a loading trade, Jim has had a lot of success – He has turned border line money teams into winners and has had success in turning a bad/unlucky team into a winning team the following year. This philosophy has worked well for the Monarchs and I wish Jim continued success (or failure)." – IM

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Red Storm: Howie. Member since 1999. Best finish: 3rd, 2000.

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Howie came into the league and made an immediate impact, finishing 6th which is very impressive for an expansion team. He then finished 3rd the following year and appeared to be an up and coming impact team. Since that time, however, he has backslid, finishing at or near the bottom in four of the next five years. Appears knowledgeable at the draft, but is not the strongest trader out there. Has not been the luckiest owner (sustained one of the all-time worst bits of Roto misfortune in 2005 when two of his players, Carlos Beltran and Mike Cameron, collided into each other and sustained significant injuries). Perfected the “hold-buster” move, by outbidding himself he quashes any actual or potential hold. Serves as a great foil for Craig and is appreciated for this by many of the other owners.

“Still trying to figure it all out. Makes some strange trades.” – EF

“Breaks two of the token rules at the draft. He has a favorite team (Mets) and a rival owner (Craig). I think he gets off strategy by worrying about Craig and trying to get Mets. He’s not as bad as he used to be but it still is a weakness.” – DD

“Howie came into the league in 1999. He tasted quick success finishing 6th and 3rd in his first two years. Subsequent to that, however, he has fallen on hard times, placing last, or second to last, 3 out of the next 5 years. Howie has had some real good drafts but has not had the best of luck during the season. I always root for someone who is very enthusiastic and passionate about the game even though the enthusiasm and passion is not always rewarded with success. Every year he is juiced about the draft, and is usually active in the off season trading, regardless of where he finishes the year prior – you have to love that about an owner. There are certain things that you can always count on happening at the draft – One certainty is that at some point during the draft, Howie will out bid *himself* – It is a great strategy if there is a player that you really want and don’t want to lose that player for \$1 more. Howie bids on a player for \$22, someone puts on a hold, and then Howie bids \$23 – I love it. I don’t think there has been a draft where he has not done that move. Howie is a great baseball player and really knows the game – its too bad he cant bid on himself.” – IM

Shu’s Crew, Ron. Member since 1994. Best finish: 2nd place, 1998.

One of the most personally popular owners, Ron is probably the most deserving of those who have not yet won a championship. Extremely prepared for the draft, but will not play it safe. There may be no more enthusiastic owner as far as wanting to ‘be in the draft’; Ron will refuse to trade some players before the draft, even knowing he will throw them back, in order to liven the draft up. He epitomizes never giving up on the season and is thus very reluctant to dump. There is no owner more adept at the late season charge; he once even moved from 11th place in June to finish 3rd.

“Has the go for it mentality which will prevent him from ever winning it all as he always gives away value keepers to better himself this year. Helps to spice up the trade market.” – EF

“I think Ron is one of the best owners. It seems like every year Ron is at the bottom of the standings early, due to bad luck and injuries. In fact, it seems like every year Ron receives calls from other owners inquiring as to when he is going to dump. But every year Ron hangs in there, makes some trades, and finishes in the money or just below money. He really amazes me. I think, for the most part, Ron drafts really well - but he did have one of the most peculiar drafts when he was left with \$10 and 10 players to draft. I cant wait for Ron to win it all - he is very deserving. He is really into Roto, regardless of how his team is performing, and he is always willing to trade.” - IM

“My favorite owner at the draft. I never know what he is going to do. Definitely adjusts with the flow of the draft but unfortunately it often leaves him in tight spots. He’s usually the guy who throws the draft off by overpaying or buying a guy you do not expect. A definite wild card. As for trading, I love trying to deal with him.” - DD

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List of Most Undervalued Players (Year to Date)

AKA Who To Trade With

Chris Oliva

Owner

I thought it would be interesting to see who the players were that are currently performing at a value significantly in excess of their contract. So, utilizing RotoTimes' 2006 Rotisserie Dollar Value calculator I have compiled the following list (stats through June 28, 2006):

Pos	Player	Team	\$\$ Value	\$\$ Contract	\$\$ Undervalued
3B	David Wright	NYM	\$41.33	\$10.00	\$31.33
1B	Ryan Howard	Phi	\$34.18	\$6.00	\$28.18
OF	Matt Holliday	Col	\$37.29	\$10.00	\$27.29
SS	Felipe Lopez	Cin	\$27.85	\$1.00	\$26.85
2B	Dan Uggla	Fla	\$27.42	\$5.00	\$22.42
SS	Bill Hall	Mil	\$23.16	\$1.00	\$22.16
2B	Rickie Weeks	Mil	\$25.85	\$6.00	\$19.85
1B	Prince Fielder	Mil	\$25.09	\$6.00	\$19.09
2B	Brandon Phillips	Cin	\$26.96	\$10.00	\$16.96
3B	Garrett Atkins	Col	\$26.24	\$10.00	\$16.24
OF	Lance Berkman	Hou	\$34.91	\$20.00	\$14.91
OF	Jeff Francoeur	Atl	\$20.28	\$6.00	\$14.28
OF	Alfonso Soriano	Was	\$41.48	\$28.00	\$13.48
OF	Brad Hawpe	Col	\$23.24	\$10.00	\$13.24
SS	Nomar Garciaparra	LAD	\$29.14	\$16.00	\$13.14
3B	Chad Tracy	Ari	\$22.03	\$10.00	\$12.03
2B	Freddy Sanchez	Pit	\$21.95	\$10.00	\$11.95
1B	Nick Johnson	Was	\$25.99	\$15.00	\$10.99
SS	Hanley Ramirez	Fla	\$24.82	\$14.00	\$10.82
P	Chris Capuano	Mil	\$34.20	\$5.00	\$29.20
P	Aaron Harang	Cin	\$31.03	\$5.00	\$26.03
P	Bronson Arroyo	Cin	\$34.02	\$14.00	\$20.02
P	Chris Carpenter	StL	\$24.32	\$5.00	\$19.32
P	Derrick Turnbow	Mil	\$32.85	\$14.00	\$18.85
P	Tom Glavine	NYM	\$30.73	\$12.00	\$18.73
P	Josh Johnson	Fla	\$22.17	\$4.00	\$18.17
P	Brian Fuentes	Col	\$21.78	\$10.00	\$11.78
P	Scott Linebrink	SD	\$12.95	\$2.00	\$10.95
P	Tom Gordon	Phi	\$29.63	\$19.00	\$10.63
P	Brett Myers	Phi	\$13.29	\$3.00	\$10.29

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Final MLB Standings 1993

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Eastern Division		Home	Away	Div
Toronto	95-67 .586	----	48-33 47-34	51-28
NY Yankees	88-74 .543	7.0	50-31 38-43	28-23
Baltimore	85-77 .525	10.0	48-33 37-44	23-29
Detroit	85-77 .525	10.0	44-37 41-40	33-32
Boston	80-82 .494	15.0	43-38 37-44	20-32
Cleveland	76-86 .469	19.0	46-35 30-51	23-28
Milwaukee	69-93 .426	26.0	38-43 31-50	17-22
Western Division		Home	Away	Div
Chi White Sox	94-68 .580	----	45-36 49-32	46-33
Texas	86-76 .531	8.0	50-31 36-45	37-41
Kansas City	84-78 .519	10.0	43-38 41-40	41-37
Seattle	82-80 .506	12.0	46-35 36-45	38-40
California	71-91 .438	23.0	44-37 27-54	35-43
Minnesota	71-91 .438	23.0	36-45 35-46	37-41
Oakland	68-94 .420	26.0	38-43 30-51	39-39

American League Championship

[Toronto-Chi White Sox](#) 4-2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Eastern Division		Home	Away	Div
Philadelphia	97-65 .599	----	52-29 45-36	38-27
Montreal	94-68 .580	3.0	55-26 39-42	38-27
St Louis	87-75 .537	10.0	49-32 38-43	33-32
Chi Cubs	84-78 .519	13.0	43-38 41-40	33-32
Pittsburgh	75-86 .466	21.5	40-41 35-45	32-33
Florida	64-98 .395	33.0	35-46 29-52	0-0
NY Mets	59-103 .364	38.0	28-53 31-50	21-44
Western Division		Home	Away	Div
Atlanta	104-58 .642	----	51-30 53-28	55-23
San Francisco	103-59 .636	1.0	50-31 53-28	53-25
Houston	85-77 .525	19.0	44-37 41-40	34-44
LA Dodgers	81-81 .500	23.0	41-40 40-41	39-39
Cincinnati	72-89 .447	31.5	40-40 32-49	34-44
Colorado	67-95 .414	37.0	39-42 28-53	31-47
San Diego	61-101 .377	43.0	34-47 27-54	27-51

National League Championship

[Philadelphia-Atlanta](#) 4-2

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