

# Greater Chicago Strat League Newsletter

## June 27, 2024

### KEY DATES:

1. 6/30/2024 (Sunday) – Last call for rule change proposals to be nominated and seconded. Last call for Executive Committee nominations.
2. 7/2/2024 (Tuesday) – Trade deadline for July games.
3. 7/9/2024 (Tuesday) – 26-man rosters and pitching rotations (Starter Schedule) due. Deadline for rule change proposals to be nominated and seconded. Deadline for Executive Committee nominations.
4. 7/13/2024 (Saturday) – Rule change ballot published for inspection.
5. 7/21/2024 (Sunday) – Final player settings and manager tendencies, along with default lineup number specifications for each game due.
6. 7/24/2024 (Wednesday) – Final rule change and Executive Committee election ballot published.
7. 8/4/2024 (Sunday) – Season Trade Deadline. Voting on rule change ballot and executive committee due.

### REMINDERS:

1. Rule Change discussions and proposals coming up per the dates above. Get your thoughts out there now! (**Rule Change Submissions and Discussion**)
2. We will need another Executive Committee Member to join Greg Edens and Jim Calabrese (with Frank Lopeman's term coming to an end).

Here are the managers that are eligible to serve on the EC and have not “recently”:

Jim Aldrich, Steve Linke, Joe Ingrafina, Mike Gahalla, Glenn Panner/Alan Dyche, Mike Wilson

Recent EC members (year term ends/ended):

TBD (2027)	Tony Calabrese (2023)	John Stryker (2019)	Adam Smith (2015)
Jim Calabrese (2026)	Steven Seydell (2022)	Rich Domovic (2018)	Doug Salzwedel (2014)
Greg Edens (2025)	Brian Anderson (2021)	Ralph Madera (2017)	Steven Seydell (2013)
Frank Lopeman (2024)	Wes Davies (2020)	Mike Aldrich (2016)	Greg Edens (2012)

### DRAFT GRADES:

As we approach our All Star Break (after June games), now seems to be a good time to “Monday Morning Quarterback” the Draft, with some preliminary analysis on how things are working out. Context - I am grading this with the assumption that if a team is going for it, the first round pick should impact their wins most importantly and hopefully also be a no brainer carryover whereas if a team is not expected to be playoff bound, the first round pick should be a no brainer carryover - with current impact not as important.

**Pick 1: HUC selects McLain, Matt CIN SS/2B**

*Replay Analysis:* If they were going to make a playoff run, they needed to upgrade across the board and McLain is arguably the best combination defense/bat SS in the deck, albeit limited ABs. To this point, he has been a good addition to the bottom of the order as he is hitting just .266 with 6 HR and 33 RBI and 8 SB. He has been a key middle of the order option vs lefties, hitting .338 with a .620 slg and has played great D at SS.

*Early Season Analysis:* March shoulder surgery was a big blow. On the positive side, he could be back in early August and still get a couple hundred ABs if all goes well. Injury or not, this number 1 pick has not lived up to expectations.

**Grade: B**

**Pick 2: HUC selects Olson, Reese DEA RSP**

*Replay Analysis:* Drafted to partner with Crawford as the top (½ time each) right handers on the team, Olson has seemingly delivered to a 3.06 ERA and 0.90 WHIP over 10 starts. The team is positioned well for a playoff run, where he would be expected to see 2 (short) starts in a 7 game series.

*Early Season Analysis:* The 2-8 record may scare you off, but his numbers are comparable to last year at 3.35 ERA and 1.19 WHIP - and only 4 HR over 83 IP. Hard to say how he will fare as he pitches over 100 innings, but early results are worthy of pick 2 and he looks like the best pitcher from the first round.

**Grade: A-**

**Pick 3: JAM selects Caminero, Junior TBA 3B Prospect**

*Replay Analysis:* Uncarded, so this early pick will provide no immediate dividends.

*Early Season Analysis:* Going in, he was being considered to be the starting SS in Tampa this year after his AA success last year and during Spring Training. Instead, he is playing 3B at AAA, with an expected decrease in his hitting with a .261 average and .811 ops. Still has plenty of upside, but it looks like he may still be a year or more away and it feels like Skenes could have been the better prospect.

**Grade: C**

**Pick 4: CUB selects Ozuna, Marcell ATN DH/LF**

*Replay Analysis:* If they wanted to make a run at the division, they needed an impact bat. They are positioned well for a playoff run with a 4 game lead in the division and Ozuna's extra base and RBI production is a big part of that. He has crushed 24 HRs and is 3rd in the league in RBIs with 73 and tied for 3rd in runs with 67. Delivering vs both left and right handed pitchers, he is killing lefties with a .657 SLGvL.

*Early Season Analysis:* The concerns on him during the draft were that now in his 30s, his best years may be behind him, he is destined for another low average year and he is

just a DH. Well, do you wish you had someone with 21 HRs already and a .314/.391/.594/.985 slash line? This looks like a steal at pick 4.

**Grade: A+**

**Pick 5: HUC selects Gelof,Zack OAA 2B**

*Replay Analysis:* A playoff hopeful lineup lacked anyone to hit in the middle of the order and provide protection to Alvarez. Able to play less than half the season, Gelof was going to need to be that RBI producer batting cleanup vs righties. Held out the first couple months, he has only hit .243 with 6 HR and 23 RBI to date. On the bright side, he is on a team in the playoff race and has the ability to make an impact the rest of the way - with the odds in his favor to pick it up. He has played great D at 2B.

*Early Season Analysis:* It felt like he was a little lucky with his production last year and his high K rate could expose him in his first full season in the majors. That is exactly the case, as he has struggled with a .198 average and .608 ops. He has already reached his K total from last year in about ¾ as many plate appearances. Westburg may have been a better pick.

**Grade: C**

**Pick 6: COL selects Westburg,Jordan BAA 2B/3B**

*Replay Analysis:* Sitting firmly as a bubble team heading into the season, COL has had a great start to the season and is in the heart of a tough division/wild card race. Westburg has been a key part of that success, with an impressive stat line of .305/.356/.500/.856. Surprisingly, he is producing much better vs righties with a .325 ave and .532 slg while playing great D at 2B. The downside is he has been heavily used and will not have much to contribute the rest of the way.

*Early Season Analysis:* With 2 2B going back to back, we expected comparisons. Westburg is crushing it in the current season, with improved numbers across the board to a .283/.337/.516/.853 line. Although he has cooled down a little recently, the big surprise is he is killing right handers. The primary starting 3B now, he still sees a good number of starts at 2B also.

**Grade: A**

**Pick 7: WRK selects Sanchez,Cristopher\* PHN LSP**

*Replay Analysis:* Another team that seemed to be on the outside looking in for a tough division, the start of the season has been great as they find themselves in the thick of things. Sanchez was expected to be a key part of a deep rotation, but he has not delivered. Averaging less than 5 IP per start, he has a 5.54 ERA and 1.51 WHIP. Lots of IP left to turn things around, but to do that he has to pitch better to right handers.

*Early Season Analysis:* With his new contract, expect him to be in the Philly rotation for the next 6+ years. Good, but not great, numbers should keep him more as the #3 or #4

guy, but that is not bad considering this is arguably the best team in baseball. His 2.91 ERA looks great, but his 1.36 WHIP and 66/24 K/BB ratio over 77.1 IP as a lefty temper the excitement.

**Grade: B-**

**Pick 8: NYY selects Bailey,Patrick+ SFN C**

*Replay Analysis:* Bailey saw his first action of the year for the Yanks in June, joining the lineup of a surprising Division leading team. Not expected to bring much with the bat, he didn't, hitting just .132 with 1 RBI in 38 ABs. On the bright side, he threw out half of the attempted base stealers with flawless D behind the plate.

*Early Season Analysis:* The concern with Bailey heading into the draft is that he was a great young defensive catcher who would never hit. .299/.367/.439/.806 slash line answers that question! Getting the majority of the playing time at C with elite defense and an unexpected bat, this looks to be exactly what Jim expected as he moved all over the first round, but making sure to get Bailey exactly when he wanted him.

**Grade: B+**

**Pick 9: AAR selects Skenes,Paul PIN RSP Prospect**

*Replay Analysis:* Uncarded, so this early pick will provide no immediate dividends.

*Early Season Analysis:* It's hard not to get excited about the first 39.1 innings of his MLB career: 2.29 ERA, 0.99 WHIP and a 53/7 K/BB ratio. There is a reason he was the #1 pick in MLB in 2023 and the only (minor) surprise is how few innings he threw in the minors before his callup. Injuries are always a concern, but he looks like a steal at pick 9, and this rebuilding team has to feel great about this piece.

**Grade: A**

**Pick 10: TAM selects Benson,Will\* CIN OF**

*Replay Analysis:* Hoping for a division title, they needed to add some punch to their lineup vs R. Benson had limited ABs, but seemed to be a perfect fit to drop to them here. He has delivered, hitting .290 with 12 2B, 10 3B, 9 HRs and 8 SB, with dramatically better numbers (and most of his usage) vs R. He only has about one full month of usage left for the stretch run, but TAM is well positioned in part because of him.

*Early Season Analysis:* Whether you believed his production in Cleveland was the real him or if he really figured something out in his time in Cinci, you knew he was a platoon only player as a lefty going after righties. The reality seems to be a little of both, as he is just hitting .196/.290/.388/.678. However, if you just look vs R it is .222/.297/.431/.728. Better, but still not great. He is starting to lose playing time.

**Grade: B**

**Pick 11: HMA selects Duran,Jarren\* BOA OF**

**Replay Analysis:** On a team that was considered by some to be the favorite to win the division, Duran was going to need to be a key piece in LF. He has hit down in the order and although he has provided some traffic on the bases with 24 runs scored and 13 steals, he only has a .242/.307/.363/.670 hit line on a team in a 3 way race for the division.

**Early Season Analysis:** Pretty much repeating his numbers from last year with a similar speed/power mix (19 SB, 7 HR, 10 3B), he is splitting his time between CF and LF and heading to a 600+ AB season. .280/.347/.478/.825 looks pretty nice, but maybe even better in that he is killing right handers to a .905 OPS.

**Grade: B+**

**Pick 12: JAM selects Schanuel,Nolan\* LAA 1B**

**Replay Analysis:** This year was not going to be the focus anyway, so maybe not a surprise that he has not cracked the major league roster yet for JAM.

**Early Season Analysis:** Hitting just .226 with a .659 OPS is not the production you want from your everyday 1B, which helps to explain why the Angels are off to another dreadful season. Optimists will point to his past 2 weeks and that he has heated up with an .895 OPS, but pessimists will point out that his splits are almost identical (.656/.660 ops), making him mostly unusable so far.

**Grade: C-**

**Pick 13: DAL selects Salas,Ethan\* SDN C Prospect**

**Replay Analysis:** Uncarded, so this early pick will provide no immediate dividends.

**Early Season Analysis:** Everyone was talking about Salas and his quick rise to AA as a 17 year old. There was talk of him hitting the majors this year! Well, a return to high A was expected to help build the foundation. Instead, he has struggled to a .206/.310/.287/.597 line. At this point, the numbers are less important than the fundamentals, but this is a bit concerning nonetheless.

**Grade: C+**

**Pick 14: BUR selects Duran,Ezequiel TEA SS/Util**

**Replay Analysis:** This season was a rebuild effort, so they just needed PT from Duran. What he has done barely counts as he has committed 14 errors splitting time between 3B and SS while hitting just .243/.302/.437/.739.

**Early Season Analysis:** He looks like he has settled in as a super util, playing everywhere except C. His average is decent, but no power and no speed as a super util is not what Wes hoped for with this pick. .265/.301/.337/.638 across 166 ABs in his age 25 season leaves some questions about his future with BUR.

**Grade: C-**

**Pick 15: JAM selects Encarnacion-Strand,Christian CIN 1B/3B/RF**

**Replay Analysis:** He wasn't expected to contribute much during the current replay - and he hasn't. The only opportunity for PT was in RF, where he has committed 4 errors and is hitting just .184 with only 2 HRs.

**Early Season Analysis:** Another victim of injuries... A late April hit by pitch started a string of hand related issues which now may end his season as it uncovered a legacy problem in his other wrist! Waiting to better understand the potential ligament problems, he could return around the All Star break or could undergo the knife, ending his season. Prior to the injury, he was off to a cold start, hitting just .190 with 2 HR in 116 ABs.

**Grade: C-**

**Pick 16: DYE selects Garcia, Maikel KCA 3B/SS/2B**

**Replay Analysis:** With no plans to make a run this year, Garcia was just expected to contribute to a team with aspirations of .500. In limited use so far, he is hitting a respectable .273/.347/.433/.780 with 6 SBs, with a more impressive .306 ave and .500 slg vL.

**Early Season Analysis:** A quick look at his stat line may disappoint, as he is hitting just .238/.290/.349/.639. However, he is locked in as the every day 3B on a surprisingly good Royals team and in 2/3 of the ABs from last year, he has already hit more HR, has a better stolen base pace (17 so far) and his K/BB rate is dramatically improved. Right now, he may just be part of the plans vs lefties, but there are signs of optimism if he can get out of his June funk.

**Grade: C+**

**Pick 17: HUC selects Ragans, Cole\* KCA LSP**

**Replay Analysis:** Needing to build a rotation if they wanted to win the division, Ragans was a gift to fall to them here. He has delivered, going 5-0 with a 2.68 ERA across 9 starts and 69 Ks over 53 innings.

**Early Season Analysis:** Last year was clearly no fluke, as his numbers today are almost identical to last year with a 3.13 ERA and 1.15 WHIP in almost the same number of innings. The question here will be if his arm can hold up as innings mount and as hitters have more video on him.

**Grade: A**

**Pick 18: BUR selects Rooker, Brent OAA DH/RF**

**Replay Analysis:** It doesn't exactly matter, but you always want to win. Rooker has been one of the few bright spots for BUR this year, leading the team with 27 HRs (4th in league) and 66 RBIs (5th in league), even crossing the plate with 62 Runs (6th in league). He has had similar production from the DH spot against left and right.

**Early Season Analysis:** Never a great outfielder, he is playing even less in the field this year. As the primary DH his bat is going to need to deliver, which it has so far.

Although his HR pace is down slightly, his doubles are up and his overall slash line has improved from last year to .261/.338/.504/.842. His splits make him playable every day, with slightly better numbers vs R.

**Grade: A**

**Pick 19: DUB selects Abbott,Andrew\* CIN LSP**

*Replay Analysis:* Even a rebuilding team needs an ace to turn to when things get rough and Abbott was expected to be that guy for DUB. It has not worked out that way as Abbott has a 6.04 ERA and 1.79 WHIP through about half his usage. The only positive is that he has averaged better than 6 IP per start.

*Early Season Analysis:* As a lefty starter, the fact that his HRs are up and his Ks are down would usually lead one to worry. However, he seems to have made those changes with intent, as his overall numbers are improved to a 3.40 ERA and 1.18 WHIP while increasing his innings per start. This season definitely has him progressing in the right direction, while still a solid piece of the rotation.

**Grade: B**

**Pick 20: DUB selects Jobe,Jackson DEA RSP Prospect**

*Replay Analysis:* Uncarded, so this early pick will provide no immediate dividends.

*Early Season Analysis:* Another victim of injuries, but this starter's arm seems fine. Instead, it was a hamstring injury that has kept this 21 year old sidelined since early May. He is due back any day, when we will see if he can keep his good start (2.16 ERA, 1.05 WHIP, 24K in 16.2 IP) going at AA.

**Grade: B-**

**FINES & FINANCES:**

NO CHANGE

Bank Balance: \$1708.99

Outstanding Credits: \$140 total - CHI (\$20), DUB (\$80), JAM (\$20), WRK (\$20)

League Balance: \$1688.99