

# Greater Chicago Strat League Newsletter

## August 5, 2024

### KEY DATES:

1. 8/9/2024 (Friday) – 26-man rosters and pitching rotations (Starter Schedule) due.
2. 8/21/2024 (Wednesday) – Final player settings and manager tendencies, along with default lineup number specifications for each game due.

### RECENT NEWS: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Congrats and thanks to Jim Aldrich for his election to the Executive Committee, replacing Frank Lopeman. The EC at the conclusion of the 2024 season will be:

Jim Aldrich (2027)

Jim Calabrese (2026)

Greg Edens (2025)

### DIVISION RACES: TRADE IMPACTS

A quick look at trade summaries and how division races are impacted:

### CAPITOL

#### **HUC: 78-36 - 1st (18-6 July), 11 Game Lead**

- .263 (7th), 172 HR (7th), 3.48 (2nd)
- .296/.517 vL, .250/.456 vR, 3.51 Starter ERA, 3.39 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** *Kevin Kiermaier\**, *Matt Manning*, *Carmen Mlodzinski*, *BUR-10*, *AAR-15*
- **Total Subtractions:** *Bubba Chandler*, *Ken Waldichuk\**, *Trevor Story*, *HUC-4*, *HUC-7*
- 2 trades setting up for the playoffs and stretch run, adding a defensive CF that can play against L or R, a 1 start playoff starter and a middle relief arm. Manning already paid off, going 5-0 in 5 July starts with a 1.50 ERA. Currently the #1 seed with a 9-game lead and 10 over the #2 seed, the depth added should help them hold on to a first round bye - but no impact additions the way so competitors did.

#### **WRK: 67-47 - 2nd (15-9 July), 2nd WC (Tight Race)**

- .243 (14th), 177 HR (4th), 3.85 (7th)
- .256/.443 vL, .239/.428 vR, 3.99 Starter ERA, 3.62 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** *None*
- **Total Subtractions:** *None*
- A solid month, but in a tight Wild Card race (4 teams within 3 games of them) it seems like they could have added something. Depth will not be an issue the final 2 months, but do they have enough strength to hold off their challengers?

**VRN: 64-50 - 3rd (11-13 July), 3 back in WC**

- .231 (18th), 132 HR (15th), 3.43 (1st)
- .261/.461 vL, .221/.364 vR, 3.79 Starter ERA, 2.52 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** Clayton Kershaw\*, Ryan Borucki\*, Yandy Diaz, Alex Verdugo\*, Brady House, COL-5, HMA-12
- **Total Subtractions:** Freddy Peralta, Erick Fedde, Emerson Hancock, Mike Soroka, Harrison Bader, Joey Ortiz, Abner Uribe, VRN-3, VRN-16
- 3 trades -They knew they needed offense (18th average, 15th HR) to compete and they got it in Yandy Diaz, who will probably DH and play some 3B for them. Verdugo is not a huge bat, but a great defensive RF who will upgrade them offensively as well. Is this enough to partner with the #1 pitching staff and great defense to win some games 1-0 and 2-1? Maybe if they play NYY enough they could, but the question is, is this too little too late as they were shut out 4 times and scored 1 and 2 in their recent 1-8 series vs HUC.

**COL: 59-55 - 4th (9-15 July), 8 back in WC**

- **Total Additions:** Freddy Peralta, Erick Fedde, Ranger Suarez, Harrison Bader, Joey Ortiz, Emerson Hancock, HOH-3, VRN-3
- **Total Subtractions:** Merrill Kelly, Clayton Kershaw\*, Ryan Borucki\*, Jason Foley, Yandy Diaz, Alex Verdugo\*, Felix Fermin, COL-5, COL-8
- 2 HUGE trades as this promising team exits the race in a big way. In what turns out to be a great sellers' market, COL looks poised to make a run next year with Suarez (2.87, 1.06), Fedde (2.98, 1.11), Peralta (3.94, 1.21) and some other nice young talent coming over.

**JAM: 43-71 - 5th (14-10 July), 24 back in WC**

- **Total Additions:** None
- **Total Subtractions:** None
- They already made their moves.

**CAPITOL**

**TAM: 66-48 - 1st (12-12 July), 1 Game Lead**

- .265 (6th), 133 HR (13th), 3.80 (6th)
- .284/.449 vL, .259/.437 vR, 3.76 Starter ERA, 3.91 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** Brandon Drury, DYE-12, DYE-13, HMA-13
- **Total Subtractions:** Jhony Brito, Jose Urquidy, TAM-8, TAM-11, TAM-15
- 2 trades - Drury will provide some much-needed utility depth the rest of the way, but it feels like this team could have done more to improve their bullpen as they look to hold off CHI.

**CHI: 65-49 - 2nd (11-13 July), 1 back in Division, 2 back in WC**

- .270 (2nd), 173 HR (5th), 4.44 (11th)
- .288/.498 vL, .266/.477 vR, 4.76 Starter ERA, 4.15 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** *Luke Raley\**, *Luke Maile*, *HOH-16*, *DAL-16*
- **Total Subtractions:** *CHI-4*, *CHI-13*
- 2 trades for a team still trying to stay alive - but not trying too hard... Raley is a low cost upgrade in RF that could actually help him next year as well. Can he power his way into the playoffs one more time? With a pitching staff in the lower half of the league (worst among playoff contenders), it feels like they missed out on improving their biggest weakness - starters and relievers are both worst among playoff contenders.

**GGG: 56-58 - 3rd (11-13 July), 10 back in Division**

- **Total Additions:** *Jose Butto*
- **Total Subtractions:** *Chris Martin*
- 1 minor deal - won't hurt him this year as he fights for .500. Nice addition to carryover.

**DYE: 50-64 - 4th (9-15 July), 16 back in Division**

- **Total Additions:** *Miguel Castro*, *Mike Soroka*, *Kyle Hendricks*, *Jhony Brito*, *HMA-3*, *NYY-3*, *HMA-4*, *TAM-8*, *TAM-11*
- **Total Subtractions:** *Charlie Morton*, *Ryan Pressly*, *Matt Wallner\**, *Brandon Drury*, *DYE-8*, *DYE-11*, *DYE-12*, *DYE-13*, *DYE-15*
- 4 trades as he unloads anyone with value that isn't a key part of his plans for next year. Most likely, the draft picks are all that will be remembered come next year (although Morton could be missed, despite being 40).

**SRD: 40-74 - 5th (9-15 July), 26 back in Division**

- **Total Additions:** *None*
- **Total Subtractions:** *None*
- Nothing to see here.

**COASTAL**

**CRC: 69-45 - 1st (19-5 July), 1 Game Lead**

- .266 (4th), 134 HR (12th), 3.78 (5th)
- .263/.405 vL, .268/.427 vR, 3.83 Starter ERA, 3.66 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** *None*
- **Total Subtractions:** *None*
- Seems like they already made their moves and have nothing planned. We will see if they regret it or not - as it seems like they could use a little more punch, especially vs L, as they are arguably the worst among the playoff contenders vs L.

**CUB: 68-46 - 2nd (14-10 July), #1 WC, 1 back in Division**

- .266 (5th), 173 HR (5th), 3.93 (9th)
- .317/.563 vL, .253/.438 vR, 4.52 Starter ERA, 2.92 Bullpen ERA
- *Total Additions: None*
- *Total Subtractions: None*
- A solid month, but in a tight Wild Card race, it seems like they could have added something - especially to the rotation. What happened to trader-Tony? The fans are getting frustrated!

**BUR: 43-71 - 3rd (9-15 July), 24 back in WC**

- *Total Additions: Bubba Chandler, Ken Waldichuk\*, Lucas Giolito, Chase Silseth, HUC-4, NYY-7, HMA-7, CHI-13*
- *Total Subtractions: Matt Manning, Carmen Mlodzinski, Bryce Elder, Joey Votto\*, Luke Maile, Tommy Pham, BUR-10, BUR-12, HOH-16, HOH-16*
- 4 deals - not a lot of impact. A few middle picks and a prospect or two for some guys we won't remember next year.

**DAL: 39-75 - 4th (6-18 July), 28 back in WC**

- *Total Additions: CHI-4*
- *Total Subtractions: Luke Raley\*, DAL-16*
- Took Raley with the last pick in the 4th this year, didn't use him, got a 4th back.

**DUB: 34-80 - 5th (7-17 July), 33 back in WC**

- *Total Additions: None*
- *Total Subtractions: None*
- Nothing to see here.

**SOUTH CENTRAL**

**HOH: 68-46 - 1st (18-6 July), 2 Game Lead**

- .259 (8th), 243 HR (1st), 3.70 (4th)
- .282/.603 vL, .251/.479 vR, 3.84 Starter ERA, 3.61 Bullpen ERA
- *Total Additions: Merrill Kelly, Abner Uribe, Chris Martin, Jason Foley, Felix Fermin, COL-8, NYY-9*
- *Total Subtractions: Ranger Suarez, Jose Butto, Erik Swanson, Brady House, HOH-3, HOH-15*
- 4 deals, but the impact player is Merrill Kelly to partner with Webb at the top of their rotation - the previously weak spot for them. Fermin is a nice upgrade at catcher as well and both Uribe and Martin will be nice setup options. A tough division, but he may have done the most to improve.

**NYY: 66-48 - 2nd (12-12 July), 2 back in Division, 1 back in WC**

- .230 (19th), 116 HR (18th), 3.50 (3rd)
- .244/.419 vL, .226/.358 vR, 3.79 Starter ERA, 3.05 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** *Matt Wallner\**, *Joey Votto\**, *Bryce Elder*, *Erik Swanson*, *DYE-8*, *BUR-12*, *HOH-15*
- **Total Subtractions:** *Lucas Giolito*, *Chase Silseth*, *Miguel Castro*, *NYY-3*, *NYY-7*, *NYY-9*
- 3 trades for a team that still doesn't really believe in itself but is trying to pacify the fan base. With an awful offense (19th average, 18th HR), there is plenty of opportunity to improve. Wallner and Votto do add some nice pop to the lineup, and they are not going to miss anything they gave up, but their competition was more aggressive. Maybe Swanson in the bullpen will help lead to some 1-0 wins to sneak into the playoffs.

**HMA: 65-49 - 3rd (14-10 July), 3 back in Division, 2 back in WC**

- .250 (11th), 179 HR (3rd), 3.86 (8th)
- .275/.483 vL, .246/.448 vR, 4.56 Starter ERA, 2.75 Bullpen ERA
- **Total Additions:** *Charlie Morton*, *Ryan Pressly*, *Jose Urquidy*, *Tommy Pham*, *DYE-11*, *DYE-15*, *TAM-15*, *VRN-16*, *HOH-16*
- **Total Subtractions:** *Kyle Hendricks*, *HMA-3*, *HMA-4*, *HMA-7*, *HMA-12*, *HMA-13*
- 5 deals, but I am not sure they gave up or acquired anything that will be noticed. Morton looks like his card next year will be the prize of these deals, but they are in a dogfight for the playoffs this year. Their rotation could have used an upgrade.

**AAR: 52-62 - 5th (13-11 July), 15 back in WC**

- **Total Additions:** *Trevor Story*, *HUC-7*
- **Total Subtractions:** *Kevin Kiermaier\**, *AAR-15*
- 1 minor trade sending away a retiring player for a mid-round pick and possible flier on a bounce-back for Story.

**OAK: 48-66 - 5th (9-15 July), 19 back in WC**

- **Total Additions:** *None*
- **Total Subtractions:** *None*
- Nothing to see here.

**TRADE SUMMARY (since 6/22/24):**

To BUR: Bubba Chandler, Ken Waldichuk\*, HUC-4

To HUC: Matt Manning, Carmen Mlodzinski, BUR-10

To HMA: Jose Urquidy, TAM-15

To TAM: HMA-13

To VRN: HMA-12

To HMA: Mike Soroka, VRN-16

To DYE: Miguel Castro, NYY-3

To NYY: Matt Wallner\*, DYE-8

To HMA: Ryan Pressly, DYE-15

To DYE: Mike Soroka, HMA-4

To BUR: Lucas Giolito, Chase Silseth, NYY-7

To NYY: Bryce Elder, Joey Votto\*, BUR-12

To DYE: Kyle Hendricks, HMA-3

To HMA: Charlie Morton, DYE-11

To CHI: Luke Raley\*, DAL-16

To DAL: CHI-4

To AAR: Trevor Story, HUC-7

To HUC: Kevin Kiermaier\*, AAR-15

To BUR: CHI-13

To CHI: Luke Maile, HOH-16

To DYE: Jhony Brito, TAM-8, TAM-11

To TAM: Brandon Drury, DYE-12, DYE-13

To COL: Freddy Peralta, Erick Fedde, Harrison Bader, Joey Ortiz, Emerson Hancock, VRN-3

To VRN: Yandy Diaz, Clayton Kershaw\*, Alex Verdugo\*, Ryan Borucki\*, COL-5

To BUR: HMA-7

To HMA: Tommy Pham, HOH-16

To VRN: Brady House

To HOH: Abner Uribe

To COL: Ranger Suarez, HOH-3

To HOH: Merrill Kelly, Jason Foley, Felix Fermin, COL-8

To GGG: Jose Butto  
To HOH: Chris Martin

To NYY: Erik Swanson, HOH-15  
To HOH: NYY-9

**FINES & FINANCES:**

COL and HMA Fined \$10 for not voting (8/5/24)

Bank Balance: \$1828.99

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

Outstanding Debts: \$20 total - COL (\$10), HMA (\$10)

League Balance: \$1708.99