

SIX-TIME ALL-STARS CHANGE TEAMS!

DAVIS, HUNTLEY, & KESSLER JOIN NEW CLUBS; ALLEGHANY OVERHAULS ROSTER

NORTHEASTERN U.S.A. (Nov. 19, 1864) – The calendar has not turned over to 1865 yet, but already there has been major changes in the National Base Ball Organization since the end of the 1864 season. Most notably, three of the four players who have been named to all six All-Star Games – Willie Davis, Edward Huntley, & Samuel Kessler – have joined new clubs.

The first train to leave the station was one containing 3B Samuel Kessler, who – after eight years, one Batsman of the Year award, and one M.V.P. award playing for the Sons of the Ocean in Massachusetts – left for Pittsburgh on October 9th, where he will be the new centerpiece of the Alleghany B.C. roster. Kessler had a “down” season in 1864, with his .337 average being his lowest since 1858 and his 2.5 W.A.R. his lowest since 1860. He was still easily an All-Star, and it took a historic season by Port Jersey newcomer Walter Dudley to keep Kessler from his seventh Team of the Year nod.

Superstar SS Edward Huntley was the second player to switch allegiances, although he did not have to move far. Huntley, the two-time New York League M.V.P and six-time N.Y.L. leader in Batsman W.A.R, stayed within the New York City Championship, leaving Orange B.B.C. and joining the Knickerbocker club, a move that should make them an irresistible force on paper in 1865. Knickerbocker has also added one-time N.E.L. leader in Wins Herman Easley to be their second pitcher. Assuming they add a defensively competent CF to replace the disappointing Gregersen Rohrmann, it is hard to see how the Knickerbocker club fails to get back to the top of N.Y.C. next year. Orange was able to soften the blow of losing Huntley by bringing in three-time All-Star Per-Olaf Bakken from Kings County.

The third six-time All-Star to change clubs, in a move that happened just this morning, was Willie Davis returning home to Philadelphia and joining American B.C. after seven extraordinary years with Susquehanna that included two Batsman of the Year awards, one M.V.P, and four Team of the Year selections.

A spot in the outfield opened up after four-time All-Star Arthur Waltrip told the club he would not return next year – a move that will be discussed further down – and American G.M. Ernest Lockwood moved quickly to bring the sport's premier

center fielder back to his home city. It was not the only major change made by Lockwood, as he recruited 21-year-old, 4.5* 2B Peter Boyce and decent outfielder William Kohl from independent ball, and #2 pitcher Edward Lindsey from Minuteman to go with them while telling promising 22-year-old 1B William Busby that he will be the team's regular 1B next year. There are not even any games for six months, and already American is much improved on paper.

However, there is one team that already looks like it will be more improved than any other next year, and for that we have to go back to Samuel Kessler's move to Alleghany as that was not the only move pulled off by second-year G.M. Mark Davis. In addition to his recruitment of Kessler, Davis brought in the aforementioned Waltrip to be the new CF after a disappointing season from Clive Stock. He also recruited the two highest-rated players from independent ball, 5* star outfielder Royal Altman, who will be their new LF, and 5* pitcher Fred Richards, who will be their new #1 pitcher.

Alleghany still has holes at 1B, 2B, & SS, but Davis has six months to find players for those positions and he may end up going with quality 21-year-old prospect Edgar Drury at 1B anyway. If those three positions are shored up, Alleghany could go from last to first in the Inland Championship.

There is still one major veteran whose status is unknown, and that is 1859 N.E.L. Batsman of the Year and three-time All-Star Anderson MacGyver. He has told the St. John's front office that he is unsure if he wants to return to the club next year, and that could mean another piece of the Providence-based dynasty is taken away.