

NATIONAL BASE BALL ORGANIZATION JULY RECAP

NORTHEAST U.S.A. (Aug. 1, 1868) – The end of July means there is a little over one week left in the 1868 NBBO season. Here is how the month of July unfolded for the competition:

REGIONAL LEADERS (63 of 70 games played)

- BROOKLYN: Kings County at 43-20 (Excelsior 3 GB)
- NEW YORK CITY: Orange at 44-19 (Knickerbocker & Metropolitan 7 GB)
- UPSTATE NY: Niagara at 38-25 (F.C. 1 GB, UTI 2 GB, BING 3 GB, VIC 5 GB)
- COASTAL: American at 44-19 (Shamrock 4 GB, Mass. Bay 6 GB)
- INLAND: Alleghany & Susquehanna tied at 44-19 (no other team in contention)
- NEW ENGLAND: St. John's at 45-18 (clinched pennant)

While all six regions had 0-2 games of separation between the leaders and second place at the end of June, two of the regions have since seen teams take control. In the New York City race Orange BBC, who last took the pennant in 1862, have a seven-game lead on Knickerbocker & Metropolitan and need just a win or losses by the two other teams to clinch. Elsewhere, St. John's grew their lead over Sons of the Ocean from two games to ten during July, clinching their eleventh New England title in twelve NBBO seasons.

The remaining regional races are open. Kings County and American look likely to make the Tucker-Wheaton Cup – American for the first time – while Alleghany & Susquehanna are in a brawl for the Inland pennant and Upstate NY is crazy.

BATTERS OF THE MONTH (June)

- NYL: Garfield Koonce (1B, K.C.) – .429 AVG, 1.043 OPS, 31 R, 42 H, 7 2B, 3 3B, 1 HR, 24 RBI, 2 BB, 0 SB, 1.3 WPA, 1.3 WAR
- NEL: Konrad Jensen (OF, STJ) – .429 AVG, 1.230 OPS, 44 R, 39 H, 6 2B, 8 3B, 1 HR, 24 RBI, 20 BB, 24 SB, 1.4 WPA, 1.9 WAR

Kings County newcomer Koonce, already an All-Star selection, had a month that more than justified the front office's decision to let Cormack Alexander leave for Quaker State and install him at first base. This is his first BotM honor.

Jensen takes his seventh BotM honor – his first this season – with an extraordinary 4.5 weeks that saw him set a record for runs scored in a single month while stealing two dozen bases over just 23 games.

PITCHERS OF THE MONTH (June)

- **NYL:** Raynard Cordell (ORA) – 9-3, 2.26 ERA, 123.2 IP, 10 CG, 1 SHO, 10 BB, 15 K, 0.99 WHIP, 2.2 WAR, 5.1 rWAR
- **NEL:** William Tighe (STJ) – 10-0, 2.53 ERA, 114.0 IP, 9 CG, 1 SHO, 7 BB, 11 K, 1.12 WHIP, 2.3 WAR, 3.0 rWAR

Cordell wins his second PotM in a row with another outstanding month for the likely New York City champions. His record this season – 25-8, 2.40 ERA, 4.7 WAR, 10.5 rWAR – may see him knock Jim Creighton out of the Team of the Year if Orange takes NYC and Excelsior finishes 2nd in Brooklyn.

Elmer Seabold of Susquehanna was excellent again in July – 9-3, 2.80, 37 K, 2.2 WAR – but he was not going to beat a 10-0 month by the #1 for the NBBO's best team. Tighe was mediocre in May & June (9-7, 4.51 ERA) but was brilliant in July as his St. John's team went 19-3 to leave the rest of New England behind.

NEWCOMERS OF THE MONTH (June)

- **NYL:** Garfield Koonce (1B, K.C.) – New York League Batsman of the Month
- **NEL:** Tom Hauser (P, AME) – 9-3, 2.88 ERA, 117.1 IP, 8 CG, 0 SHO, 10 BB, 9 K, 1.33 WHIP, 1.9 WAR, 1.8 rWAR

William Johannessen had an ever so slight dip in form in July (6-4, 2.65, 2.0 WAR), and that opened the door for Koonce to take the NotM honor since he was already the NYL's best batsman for the month.

Hauser went 9-3 with a sub-3.00 ERA for the second month in a row, and that means he sweeps the NEL NotM honors for 1868, making him certain to win Newcomer of the Year.

STATISTICAL LEADERS (1868 Season)

- Average: .409 by Mario Fusilli (1B, SYR)
- OPS: 1.078 by Konrad Jensen (OF, STJ)
- Runs: 98 by Konrad Jensen (OF, STJ)
- Home Runs: 12 by William Busby (1B, AME)
- RBI: 81 by Alfred Suber (OF, L.E.)
- Stolen Bases: 62 by Taliesin Buckley (CF, NIA) & Konrad Jensen (OF, STJ)
- Batter WPA: 5.6 by Royal Altman (OF, ALL)
- Batter WAR: 5.3 by Franklin Petty (CF, L.E.)
- ERA: 2.24 by Jonathan Scott (ALL) over 209.0 IP
- Wins: 28 by Elmer Seabold (SUS)
- Complete Games: 31 by Jim Creighton (EXC)
- Strikeouts: 181 by Jim Creighton (EXC)
- WHIP: 1.06 by Raynard Cordell (ORA) over 311.0 IP
- Pitcher WAR: 10.6 by Jim Creighton (EXC)
- Pitcher rWAR: 11.1 by Jim Creighton (EXC)