

1875 AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE REVIEW

WRITERS POOL OBSERVATIONS

ALLEGHANY: What this team needs to do is more mental than anything else. If they can figure out the August yips and instead keep playing like they do early in the season, then Alleghany easily has what it takes to be a dominant cup winner. One potential problem: Elmer Seabold, who authored the Founders' Cup No-Hitter, is free to leave if he so chooses.

AMERICAN: Change nothing. This team has the best player in the sport, the most powerful lineup in the sport, and a group of young pitchers that should improve next year. If there is one quibble it's that Sidney Crowder easily replaceable at LF. Otherwise, American is in impeccable shape and will almost certainly be favored to take another title next year.

EXCELSIOR: They were better than their projected record as the Metro co-favorites before the season, but unfortunately American was even better. Creighton was incredible again, Banfield finally came around, and their defense was very good. This team could still improve, as SS & RF only produced at replacement level.

FLOUR CITY: Another tough season, but one with an impressive end, as F.C. moved up from last place to take 2nd to themselves by the finish. Ernest Dugas, Hugh Harris, and Ralph Knight were very good, but they need a new RF, Samuel Kessler is finally showing his age as he nears 40, and LF Edward Donovan had his first mediocre season at age 37.

GOTHAM: Only two games worse than last season, but one place lower due to the strength of American & Excelsior. Spots #1-5 in their lineup are very good, but #6-8 have light bats. Of the three, SS George Pugatch is the best as he offers Golden Glove defense at SS, so it's C & CF that are the weak links. Also, they could lose Peadar Daly after one season.

KINGS CO: They won seven more games than last season, but Kings County is still a very poor team. Garfield Koonce was brilliant and Fred Bartholomew is a good LF, but aside from that this team could justifiably change every other position.

KNICKERBOCKER: It was going to be a transition year, but *nobody* expected last place to be the result. Charles Burton & Bert Landreth displayed loads of talent as the pitching duo but their infield defense was porous, and they allowed a lot of extra runs as a result. Knick likely needs a new C, 2B, 3B, & SS if fortunes are to improve dramatically next year.

MASS. BAY: From two last-place finishes to 3rd – a fine season. Mass. Bay was basically average at everything. Moving William Trowbridge worked out quite well, as his ZR went from -37.4 at a SS to -6.2 at a 3B. The rest of their lineup and pitching was okay to good, but one notable issue is that is that 3x All-Star Albert Stoffers had his worst season.

NIAGARA: Back down to last place for the team from Buffalo. Their offense remained weak, and Ernest Lewis, who has retired, was no longer a capable middle infielder. They still have two very good outfielders in Charles Barrett & Reginald Roper, and Tomoharu Mukai has proven himself to be a capable #1 P. They need a C, 1B, 2B, & possibly a CF.

ORANGE: Defending a championship after starting 1-11 was too tall of an order to complete, and it did Orange in. The team doesn't have any huge weaknesses going into the winter, but they do have one very notable worry: that Anthony Mascherino could leave. The legendary SS is on the wrong side of 35, but he still put up 4.5 WAR and a +14.2 ZR this season.

SHAMROCK: Shamrock improved by a few games, finished .500, and took 4th place as a result. Their infield? No issues there since they all made the All-Star Game. However, SS Arthur Fisher is free to leave. Ten-year #1 P Tom Ricks is also free to leave this winter, as is #2 P John Henry. What Shamrock does with their pitching may determine how they do in '76.

ST. JOHN'S: It took *nineteen years*, but St. John's finally dipped below .500. Their outfield is perfect as it is, even if Konrad Jensen & Nelson Townsend are in their mid-30s. Also, Howard Burns & Thomas Smith make up a very good pitching duo. It's the infield that needs to be reshaped, as 37 y/o Mario Fusilli had a down year and they had weak bats at C, 2B, & SS.

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

COLONIAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
Alleghany	51	39	.567	--	732	615	+117
Flour City	47	43	.522	4	716	650	+66
Mass. Bay	46	44	.511	5	682	678	+4
Shamrock	45	45	.500	6	646	689	-43
St. John's	43	47	.478	8	653	665	-12
Niagara	38	52	.422	13	582	714	-132

METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
American	57	33	.633	--	812	609	+203
Excelsior	56	34	.622	1	661	602	+59
Gotham	48	42	.533	9	685	643	+42
Orange	43	47	.478	14	686	651	+35
Kings Co. ¹	33	57	.367	24	624	823	-199
Knick	33	57	.367	24	622	762	-140

1: Kings Co. 10-8 vs Knickerbocker

PER-TEAM STATISTICS

1875: 7.5 R/G, .295, .678 OPS, 1,057 H, 123 2B, 48 3B, 12 HR, 146 SB, 3.49 ERA, 75 BB, 72 K, 6.7 E/G, .847 FLD%

1874: 7.4 R/G, .293, .672 OPS, 1,050 H, 123 2B, 44 3B, 10 HR, 156 SB, 3.38 ERA, 79 BB, 72 K, 6.8 E/G, .846 FLD%

FOUNDERS' CUP V

American (3rd title) wins series 4-3 over Alleghany.

GAME 1: ALL 1-8 AME – James Burke (CF, AME): 3/5 (2B, 3B, 6 TB), 1 R, 2 RBI, SB

GAME 2: ALL 19-3 AME – Franklin Petty (RF, AME): 4/6 (3B, 6 TB), 4 R, 2 RBI

GAME 3: AME 5-9 ALL – Frank Doherty (3B, ALL): 4/4 (2B, 5 TB), 1 R, 3 RBI

GAME 4: AME 11-7 ALL – Sidney Crowder (LF, AME): 2/4 (HR, 5 TB), 2 R, 4 RBI

GAME 5: AME 0-4 ALL – Elmer Seabold (P, ALL): **NO-HITTER**, 0 BB, 2 K

GAME 6: ALL 7-6 AME – John Meier (LF, ALL) 3/4 (all 1B), 3 R, 1 RBI, 1 BB

GAME 7: ALL 7-13 AME – Peter Boyce (2B, AME) 3/5 (all 1B), 3 R, 1 RBI

FOUNDERS' CUP MVP: Franklin Petty (RF, American)

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

Career award totals are carried over from the NBBO.

BATSMAN OF THE YEAR: James Burke (CF, age 32) – American B.C.; 2nd career B.o.t.Y.

- **.401/.419/.531, .950 OPS**, 111 R, **173 H, 27 2B**, 13 3B, 1 HR, 93 RBI, 14 BB, 77 SB, **229 TB**, 5.7 WPA, **5.9 WAR**
- Set A.P.B.L. record for Hits; led league in AVG, OBP, SLG, OPS, XBH, 2B, TB, & WAR
- Babe Johnson (2B, GOT) 2nd – .353, .862 OPS, 102 R, 144 H, 17 2B, **15 3B**, 71 RBI, 27 BB, 32 SB, 4.9 WPA, 3.5 WAR
- Konrad Jensen (LF, STJ) 3rd – .342, .856 OPS, 110 R, 137 H, 30 XBH, 3 HR, 72 RBI, 34 BB, 66 SB, 5.2 WPA, 4.4 WAR

Of course the award was going to James Burke, who took his second B.o.t.Y. in three years. Burke led the league in nine offensive categories while setting a new record in one, and he did so while batting .400 and playing for the champions. Johnson had another great year, and Jensen was 3rd in OPS in spite of his worst Batting Average in a decade.

PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Jim Creighton (age 34) – Excelsior B.B.C.; 3rd career PotY

- **31-14**, 2.96 ERA, **116 K, 383.2 IP, 29 CG**, 1 SHO, **2.7 K/9, 4.1 K/BB, 1.27 WHIP, 8.8 WAR**, 5.8 rWAR
- Set A.P.B.L. record for Wins; led league in K, IP, G, GS, CG, K/9, K/BB, HA/9, RA/9, & WAR
- Elmer Seabold (ALL) 2nd – 25-16, 3.23 ERA, 362.1 IP, 26 CG, 1 SHO, 86 K, 1.6 K/BB, 1.39 WHIP, 5.7 WAR, 5.9 rWAR
- Albert Lively (GOT) 3rd – 20-15, 3.12 ERA, 360.0 IP, 19 CG, **2 SHO**, 17 K, 0.5 K/BB, 1.34 WHIP, 5.1 WAR, 5.2 rWAR

Creighton didn't lead the league in thirteen pitching categories this season. Instead, he led in "only" eleven while becoming the first A.P.B.L. P to go past 30 Wins in a season. Unfortunately for Seabold, the previous means that his consecutive 25-Win seasons have resulted in runner-up finishes for P.o.t.Y. Lively had a fine season for Gotham.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Franklin Petty (RF, age 32) – American B.C.; 2nd career MVP

- **.365/.385/.452, .837 OPS, 130 R**, 160 H, 16 2B, 8 3B, 2 HR, 70 RBI, 15 BB, **79 SB**, 198 TB, **6.2 WPA**, 4.0 WAR
- Tied A.P.B.L. record for Runs; led league in SB & WPA; top five in AVG, H, RBI, TB, & WAR
- A. Mascherino (SS, ORA) 2nd – .357, .816 OPS, 91 R, 157 H, **27 2B**, 5 3B, 60 RBI, 26 SB, +14.2 ZR, 5.0 WPA, 4.5 WAR
- Gerald Strong (SS, ALL) 3rd – .305, .699 OPS, 94 R, 137 H, 21 XBH, 3 HR, 72 RBI, 30 SB, **+27.5 ZR**, 4.2 WPA, 3.8 WAR

It was Petty's presence at the top of the lineup helped American players finish #1-4 in the in RBI this season, and for that he's earned his second career M.V.P. honor. His bat work was outstanding, and he terrorized opponents on the basepaths. Mascherino had a throwback season for Orange, while Strong wasn't quite as excellent as he was last year.

GREENHORN OF THE YEAR: John Meier (LF, age 28) – Alleghany B.C.

- .330/.344/.428, .771 OPS, 103 R, 144 H, 13 2B, 12 3B, 2 HR, 82 RBI, 5 BB, 49 SB, 187 TB, 4.5 WPA, 3.1 WAR
- Only Greenhorn All-Star from Colonial Conference; top ten in H, R, 3B, RBI, SB, TB,
- Simeon DiStefano (P, AME) 2nd – 22-9, **2.70 ERA**, 15 K, 269.2 IP, 19 CG, 0.7 K/BB, 1.28 WHIP, 4.0 WAR, 5.5 rWAR
- Daniel Gibson (P, FC) 3rd – 21-20, 3.36 ERA, 14 K, 334.2 IP, 21 CG, 1 SHO, 0.3 K/BB, 1.41 WHIP, 4.5 WAR, 4.1 rWAR

Meier took G.o.t.Y., but it was the subject of much debate. The Alleghany LF had an excellent season, but DiStefano was 22-9 while leading the league in ERA. At the same time, DiStefano spent 1/3 of the season out of the pitching rotation while Meier was an everyday player. Gibson was the biggest surprise – forced into the F.C. rotation after a surprise retirement.

APBL GOLDEN GLOVES

- P: James Goodman (FC/6th) – 20 PO, 35 AST, 1 DP, 18 E, 1.52 RNG, +6.0 ZR, 1.184 EFF
- C: Raynard Steinbach (AME/1st) – **35.0 RTO%**, **3.01 C-ERA**, 4 PB, 13 E, +4.7 ZR, 1.095 EFF
- 1B: Frank Bulger (SHA/4th) – 793 PO, 75 AST, 22 DP, 40 E, 10.12 RNG, +7.5 ZR, 1.084 EFF
- 2B: Clyde Hudspeth (EXC/3rd) – 348 PO, 301 AST, 21 DP, 59 E, 7.69 RNG, +21.7 ZR, 1.115 EFF
- 3B: Frank Doherty (ALL/3rd) – 123 PO, 161 AST, 6 DP, 58 E, 3.36 RNG, +15.4 ZR, **1.190 EFF**
- SS: Gerald Strong (ALL/3rd) – 297 PO, **319 AST**, 23 DP, 95 E, 6.88 RNG, **+27.5 ZR**, 1.152 EFF
- LF: Konrad Jensen (STJ/4th) – 178 PO, 1 AST, 28 E, 2.01 RNG, +2.8 ARM, +6.0 ZR, 1.046 EFF
- CF: Louis Dyke (KNI/3rd) – 276 PO, 11 AST, 64 E, 3.30 RNG, +1.8 ARM, +10.3 ZR, 1.068 EFF
- RF: Reginald Roper (NIA/3rd) – 153 PO, 9 AST, 43 E, 1.87 RNG, +0.4 ARM, +4.4 ZR, 1.065 EFF

APBL TEAM OF THE YEAR

P: Jim Creighton (EXC/7th)

- **31-14**, 2.96 ERA, **116 K**, **383.2 IP**, **29 CG**, 1 SHO, **2.7 K/9**, **4.1 K/BB**, **10.8 HA/9**, **1.27 WHIP**, **8.8 WAR**

C: Everett Schreiber (ORA/6th)

- .325, .755 OPS, 74 R, 113 H, 21 2B, 4 3B, 56 RBI, 8 BB, 2 BB, 3.28 C-ERA, 3.5 WPA, 2.7 WAR

1B: Cormack Alexander (KNI/6th)

- .356, .841 OPS, 78 R, 142 H, 22 2B, 2 3B, 2 HR, 89 RBI, 26 BB, 5 SB, 6.0 WPA, 3.4 WAR

2B: Babe Johnson (GOT/5th)

- .353, .862 OPS, 102 R, 144 H, 17 2B, **15 3B**, 0 HR, 71 RBI, 27 BB, 32 SB, 4.9 WPA, 3.5 WAR

3B: Frank Doherty (ALL/1st)

- .340, .773 OPS, 69 R, 120 H, 9 2B, 5 3B, 3 HR, 71 RBI, 6 BB, +15.4 ZR, 4.0 WPA, 3.5 WAR

SS: Anthony Mascherino (ORA/14th)

- .357, .816 OPS, 91 R, 154 H, **27 2B**, 5 3B, 60 RBI, 7 BB, 26 SB, +14.2 ZR, 5.0 WPA, 4.5 WAR

OF: Konrad Jensen (StJ/15th)

- .342, .856 OPS, 110 R, 137 H, 14 2B, 13 3B, 3 HR, 72 RBI, 34 BB, 66 SB, 5.2 WPA, 4.4 WAR

OF: James Burke (AME/6th)

- **.401, .531 SLG, .950 OPS**, 111 R, **173 H**, 27 2B, 13 3B, 1 HR, 93 RBI, 77 SB, 5.7 WPA, **5.9 WAR**

OF: Franklin Petty (AME/6th)

- .365, .837 OPS, **130 R**, 160 H, 16 2B, 8 3B, 2 HR, 70 RBI, 15 BB, **79 SB, 6.2 WPA**, 4.0 WAR

MISCELLANEOUS

RECORDS

- American set a new record for team Batting Average with .323.
- Franklin Petty (American) tied the record for Runs in a season with 130.
- James Burke (American) set a new record for Hits in a season with 173.
- Garfield Koonce (Kings Co.) set a new record for Singles in a season with 135.
- Peter Boyce (American) set a new record for RBI in a season with 111.
- Jim Creighton (Excelsior) set a new record for Wins in a season with 31.

APBL STATISTICAL LEADERS

- Average: .401 by James Burke (CF, American)
- On-Base: .419 by James Burke
- Slugging: .531 by James Burke
- OPS: .950 by James Burke
- Hits: 173 by James Burke
- Extra-Base Hits: 41 by James Burke
- Doubles: 27 by James Burke & Anthony Mascherino (SS, Orange)
- Triples: 15 by Babe Johnson (2B, Gotham)
- Home Runs: 6 by Troy Oberst (LF, Excelsior)
- Runs Batted In: 111 by Peter Boyce (2B, American)
- Runs: 130 by Franklin Petty (RF, American)
- Stolen Bases: 79 by Franklin Petty
- Total Bases: 229 by James Burke
- Bases on Balls: 36 by Hugh Harris (3B, Flour City)
- Zone Rating: +27.5 by Gerald Strong (SS, Alleghany)
- Batsman WPA: 6.2 by Franklin Petty
- Batsman WAR: 5.9 by James Burke

- Wins: 31 by Jim Creighton (Excelsior)
- Losses: 26 by Charles Burton (Knickerbocker)
- ERA (200+ IP): 2.70 by Simeon DiStefano (American)
- Strikeouts: 116 by Jim Creighton
- Innings: 383.2 by Jim Creighton
- Complete Games: 29 by Jim Creighton
- Shutouts: 2 by Albert Lively (Gotham)
- BB/9 (200+ IP): 0.4 by Charles Burton & Jack Doherty (Kings Co.)
- K/9 (200+ IP): 2.7 by Jim Creighton
- K/BB (200+ IP): 4.1 by Jim Creighton
- WHIP (200+ IP): 1.27 by Jim Creighton
- Pitcher WAR: 8.8 by Jim Creighton
- Pitcher rWAR: 7.3 by James Goodman (Flour City)

ACHIEVEMENTS & NOTABLE EVENTS

- May 14: Mass. Bay wins at Niagara in a 19-0 Shutout victory.
- May 20: Martin Prince (SS, American) has 7 RBI (5/6, 2 2B, 2 R, 7 RBI) at Knickerbocker.
- June 3: Peter Boyce (2B, American) has 5 SB (3/5, 3 R, 1 RBI, 5 SB) at Kings Co.
- June 29: Troy Oberst (LF, Excelsior) becomes the 1st player since 1872 with 5+ HR in a season.
- July 6: Isaac Holm (LF, Orange) has 2 HR & 7 RBI (4/5, 2 HR, 3 R, 7 RBI) vs Excelsior.
- July 15: Falco van der Vaart (C, St. John's) has 6 Hits (6/6, 2B, 2 R, 2 RBI) vs Alleghany.
- July 17: Both Excelsior and Shamrock win via Shutout.
- July 22: Werner Verstegen (3B, Knick) hits for the APBL's 1st Cycle (4/4, 3 R, 3 RBI) at Excelsior.
- Aug. 2: The MET wins the 5th All-Star Game 14-12. MVP: Louis Dyke (CF, KNI). HOST: Alleghany.
- Aug. 18: Anthony Mascherino (SS, Orange) has the APBL's 1st 40-game Hitting Streak.
- Aug. 18: Jim Creighton (P, Excelsior) reaches 30 Wins for the second time.
- Aug. 20: Elijah Hill (3B, Excelsior) has 6 Hits (6/6, 1 R, 1 RBI) vs Gotham.
- Aug. 21: The Hitting Streak of Anthony Mascherino (Orange) ends after 42 games.
- Aug. 22: James Burke (CF, American) raises his Average from .399 to .401 on the last day of the season.
- Aug. 22: American clinches the Metropolitan Conference pennant on the last day of the season.

- Aug. 23: American batsmen finish the season #1-4 in the A.P.B.L. in RBI.
- Aug. 29: Elmer Seabold (P, Alleghany) pitches the A.P.B.L.'s 1st No-Hitter in Game 5 of the Founders' Cup.
- Sep. 1: American (3rd title) wins Founders' Cup V in seven games over Alleghany.

PERFORMANCES OF THE SEASON BY GAME SCORE

- #1: 108 by Isaac Holm (LF, Orange) on July 6 vs Excelsior (4/5, 2 HR, 3 R, 7 RBI, 10 TB)
- #2: 103 by Clive Strachan (RF, Gotham) on Aug. 14 vs Kings Co. (4/6, 4 R, 6 RBI, 1 BB, 1 SB)
- #3: 99 by Martin Prince (SS, American) on May 20 at Knick (5/6, 2 2B, 2 R, 7 RBI, 7 TB, 1 DEF DP)
- #4: 92 by Martin Prince (SS, American) on July 18 at Gotham (5/6, 2B, 3B, 2 R, 6 RBI, 8 TB, 2 SB)
- #5: 90 by Clyde Hudspeth (2B, Excelsior) May 25 vs Kings Co. (5/6, HR, 3 R, 4 RBI, 8 TB)
- #6: 89 by Elmer Seabold (P, Alleghany) in Game 5 of F.C. vs American (NO-HITTER, 0 BB, 2 K)
- #7: 89 by Gerald Strong (SS, Alleghany) on July 9 vs Mass. Bay (5/5, 3 R, 4 RBI, 3 SB)
- #8: 89 by Lane Garvin (C, Mass. Bay) on May 14 at Niagara (5/5, 3B, 3 R, 4 RBI, 7 SB)
- #9: 89 by Clive Strachan (RF, Gotham) on June 13 vs American (5/5, 2B, 3B, 4 R, 3 RBI, 8 TB)
- #10: 88 by Ben Gagliardi (SS, St. John's) on Mar 14 vs Flour City (4/5, HR, 3 R, 5 RBI, 7 TB)