

# 1876 AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE REVIEW

## WRITERS POOL OBSERVATIONS

**ALLEGHANY:** The loss of Seabold was a killer. Cordell had another fine season (22-15, 3.34, 53 K) but Seabold's replacement, Greenhorn James Lockhart, was a clear downgrade (14-24, 3.50, 29 K). Another major issue: 3B Doherty & CF Golden saw their averages fall by 75+ points. There's a chance this season was a one-off. To upgrade: 1B & maybe CF.

**AMERICAN:** Four cup wins in five years – American has become the dynasty of dynasties in baseball. The signing of George Kassabian to move Sid Crowder to backup at LF meant there were no holes in the lineup or pitching duo, and the result was a Founders' Cup sweep. However, star SS Martin Prince is free to leave this winter.

**EXCELSIOR:** They reverted back to a combination of spectacular pitching and anemic offense. Creighton & Seabold were incredible together, with Seabold **FINALLY** taking the strikeout crown from Creighton, but their 12th-ranked offense meant both were 21-21. Hill & Oberst were great, but the loss of Hudspeth hurt the attack more than they thought it would.

**FLOUR CITY:** Competitive but flawed due to below-average defense. Kessler, Dugas, & Knight made for a nice middle of the lineup, but LF Donovan (38), 3B Harris (36), & SS Hodges (35) are starting to look their age. Another problem: James Goodman is about to turn 38 and there's no clear #2 in the team's pitching duo. Next year could quickly go very wrong.

**GOTHAM:** Disaster. In short order, Royal Altman lost his OF range, forcing a move to 1B, and Babe Johnson missed five weeks injury, and the team proceeded to go 8-32 over its next 40 games. Otherwise, close to .500. If they plug the newfound hole in LF then next season will trend upward. Potential storm cloud: longtime RF stalwart Clive Strachan can leave.

**KINGS CO:** **AT LAST**, a highly competitive K.C. team after five years below the 40-win mark. Koonce & Bartholomew were excellent as the 3-4 combo, 3B Williams needed no adjustment time to the A.P.B.L., RF Miller was passable in his first season as a regular, and Banfield was the #1 they needed after coming in from Excelsior. To upgrade: 2B & SS.

**KNICKERBOCKER:** A league-record improvement of 19 wins (33-57 to 52-38) and 2nd place in the Metro – a successful season. Mascherino was EXACTLY what the infield needed after moving to 2B, and Groff was decent after taking 3B from Verstegen. Burton & Landreth both had ERA's under 3.00. Problem: 9x All-Star 1B Alexander can leave this winter.

**MASS. BAY:** Their second straight over-500 season and 3rd place in the Colonial. Their second raid of rivals Shamrock bore fruit, as 2B Fisher and #2 P Ricks both had good seasons. 1B Berg was an All-Star in his first A.P.B.L. season, young LF Durand proved a capable batsman, and after moving to 3B Stoffers had his best season in three years. To upgrade: CF.

**NIAGARA:** From worst to first in the Colonial – a better season than they could have dream of. Ignore how it ended. 2B Hudspeth was an All-Star in his first season after moving from Excelsior, and teamed brilliantly with SS Schumacher. Mukai had a career-best ERA. #2 P Smith was a surprise. RF Roper made All-Star Game #6. Issue: CF Barrett can leave.

**ORANGE:** Another down year. SS Harmon was an All-Star in his first season as a regular, but it was offense where he was a major downgrade from Mascherino. Greenhorn Hopp was just okay in CF. C Schreiber crashed to .252, his first season under .300. The good: RF Valentine was an All-Star and LF Crosby did well in his first Orange season. To upgrade: P, 1B, & CF.

**SHAMROCK:** Worst season in team history. They brought in two Greenhorn pitchers and it didn't work at all, with #1 Hagan going 9-27. They also saw 1B Bulger hit under .300 for the first time, RF Noble's average fall 80+ points, and new SS Falconer put up -2.2 WAR and a -44.2 ZR, both league records in a bad way. To upgrade: SS, LF, & CF.

**ST. JOHN'S:** From their first under-500 season to one game from a playoff. The infield tweaks worked, as Greenhorn 2B Cannon hit .320, veteran Price was a passable SS, and 3B Todd emerged as a star. However, both Jensen & Townsend had their worst seasons, with Townsend batting .278. They'll bank on the two flanks of the Hydra returning to form next year.

## AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS

### COLONIAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
Niagara	51	39	.567	--	643	591	+52
St. John's	50	40	.556	1	694	581	+113
Mass. Bay	48	42	.533	3	717	683	+34
Flour City	46	44	.511	5	710	676	+34
Alleghany	43	47	.478	8	589	657	-68
Shamrock	32	58	.356	19	576	741	-165

### METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
American	57	33	.633	--	729	541	+188
Knick	52	38	.578	5	630	573	+57
Excelsior <sup>1</sup>	44	46	.489	13	548	524	+24
Kings Co.	44	46	.489	13	636	667	-31
Orange	41	49	.456	16	586	626	-40
Gotham	32	58	.358	25	580	778	-198

1: Excelsior 10-8 vs Kings Co.

### PER-TEAM STATISTICS

1876: 7.1 R/G, .285, .658 OPS, 1,002 H, 113 2B, 54 3B, 6 HR, 161 SB, 3.32 ERA, 88 BB, 141 K, 6.3 E/G, .854 FLD%

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%

### FOUNDERS' CUP VI

American (4th title; 4th in 5 years) wins series 4-0 over Niagara.

GAME 1: NIA 5-6 AME – James Burke (AME) 2/5 (2B, 3 TB), 1 R, 3 RBI, GW HIT

GAME 2: NIA 4-14 AME – 3B William Carrigan (AME) 2/5 (both 1B), 2 R, 2 RBI

GAME 3: AME 13-3 NIA – CF James Burke (AME) 3/6 (all 1B), 1 R, 3 RBI, 2 SB

GAME 4: AME 8-6 NIA – RF Franklin Petty (AME) 2/5 (2B, 3 TB), 1 R, 1 RBI, 2 SB

FOUNDERS' CUP M.V.P.: James Burke (CF, American)

## AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

*Career award totals are carried over from the NBBO.*

**BATSMAN OF THE YEAR:** James Burke (CF, age 33) – American B.C.; 3rd career B.o.t.Y.

- **.387/.415/.521, .936 OPS, 120 R, 165 H, 22 2B, 16 3B, 1 HR, 80 RBI, 20 BB, 90 SB, 222 TB, 5.3 WPA, 6.0 WAR**
- Led A.P.B.L. in AVG, OBP, SLG, OPS, R, H, 3B, XBH, SB, TB, & WAR; 3rd B.o.t.Y. in four years
- Eamonn Todd (3B, StJ) 2nd – .354, .824 OPS, 74 R, 136 H, 19 2B, 6 3B, 1 HR, **95 RBI**, 18 BB, 3.8 WPA, 3.9 WAR
- Garfield Koonce (1B, KC) 3rd – .353, .821 OPS, 73 R, 143 H, 20 2B, 2 3B, **4 HR**, 65 RBI, 15 BB, 3.6 WPA, 2.6 WAR

This is how it works: if you lead the league in ELEVEN offensive categories, then you win B.o.t.Y. Nobody came remotely close to Burke's level of production with the bat this season, and while it wasn't the 7.0 WAR season of Nelson Townsend in 1871 he definitely deserved the unanimous vote. Todd emerged as a star in 1876. Koonce's consistency earned him 3rd place.

**PITCHER OF THE YEAR:** Simeon DiStefano (age 25) – American B.C.; 1st career P.o.t.Y.

- **29-17, 2.54 ERA, 28 K, 392.2 IP, 30 CG, 1 SV, 392.2 IP, 0.7 K/BB, 10.1 HA/9, 1.23 WHIP, 3.9 WAR, 11.3 rWAR**
- Set A.P.B.L. record for rWAR; led league in W, ERA, IP, & HA/9; 2-0 (2.65 ERA, 3 K, 17.0 IP) in Founders' Cup
- Bert Landreth (KNI) 2nd – 23-18, 2.75 ERA, 96 K, 377.0 IP, 30 CG, 1 SHO, 5.3 K/BB, 1.21 WHIP, 6.7 WAR, 4.2 rWAR
- Howard Burns (StJ) 3rd – 21-17, 2.83 ERA, 69 K, 372.1 IP, 28 CG, 1 SHO, 5.3 K/BB, 1.24 WHIP, 7.0 WAR, 6.2 rWAR

If going by overall stat line then P.o.t.Y. could've been shared by Jim Creighton & Elmer Seabold, but the Excelsior men both went 21-21 and the voters aren't going to put a .500 season on a pedestal. Enter DiStefano, whose dependability was brilliant in his own way. Knick #1 Landreth turned potential into stardom. Burns had his best season, and he just turned 27.

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:** James Burke (CF, age 33) – American B.C.; 1st career M.V.P.

- Also named A.P.B.L. Batsman of the Year
- Led A.P.B.L. in Batsman WAR by 0.8; 3rd in WPA; Named Most Valuable Player of Founders' Cup
- A. Mascherino (2B, KNI) 2nd – .332, .799 OPS, 83 R, 133 H, 29 XBH, 76 RBI, 13 BB, 36 SB, +15.7 ZR, 2.4 WPA, 5.2 WAR
- Albert Stoffers (3B, MB) 3rd – .373, .833 OPS, 99 R, 141 H, **23 2B**, 3 3B, 73 RBI, 7 BB, 2 SB, 5.4 WPA, 2.8 WAR

Burke becomes the first to win B.o.t.Y. & M.V.P. in the same year because, in addition to leading the league in eleven offensive categories, he led the league in Batsman WAR, was top-three in WPA, and was M.V.P. of the Founders' Cup. Until August it looked like Mascherino would win, but he went cold late. Stoffers responded brilliantly to his position switch.

# **GREENHORN OF THE YEAR: Alfred Williams (3B, age 29) – Kings County B.B.C.**

- .292/.320/.400, .720 OPS, 86 R, 125 H, 18 2B, 14 3B, 0 HR, 55 RBI, 14 BB, 14 SB, 171 TB, 3.5 WPA, 2.3 WAR
- Only Greenhorn to make A.P.B.L. All-Star Game
- Cletus Cannon (2B, StJ) 2nd – .321, .753 OPS, 102 R, 128 H, 25 XBH, 1 HR, 68 RBI, 16 BB, 53 SB, 2.7 WPA, 1.8 WAR
- Harold Durand (LF, MB) 3rd – .335, .776 OPS, 61 R, 111 H, 17 2B, 7 3B, 56 RBI, 2 BB, 4 SB, 2.3 WPA, 1.1 WAR

Williams didn't hit .300 but he was close to the mark, and he was a good defender & decision-maker on the diamond, which put him above Cannon & Durand. Cannon was a prototype St. John's batsman at 2B, but his defense (-15.7 ZR) was lacking. Durand was the best hitter of the three, but baserunning & defense were issues as he adjusted to professional baseball.

## **GOLDEN GLOVES**

- P: Raynard Cordell (ALL/1st) – 14 PO, 41 AST, 5 DP, 6 E, 1.32 RNG, +8.9 ZR, 1.115 EFF
- C: Raynard Steinbach (AME/2nd) – 31.8 RTO%, 2.96 C-ERA, 23 PB, 17 E, +5.8 ZR, 1.050 EFF
- 1B: Frank Bulger (SHA/5th) – 893 PO, 58 AST, 33 DP, 44 E, 11.07 RNG, +8.1 ZR, 1.091 EFF
- 2B: Clyde Hudspeth (NIA/4th) – 322 PO, 285 AST, 35 DP, 54 E, 7.10 RNG, +16.6 ZR, 1.115 EFF
- 3B: Jonathan Quarles (GOT/1st) – 115 PO, 161 AST, 6 DP, 59 E, 3.61 RNG, +12.4 ZR, 1.151 EFF
- SS: Martin Prince (AME/2nd) – 288 PO, 301 AST, 51 DP, 87 E, 6.71 RNG, **+27.1 ZR**, 1.177 EFF
- LF: Fred Bartholomew (KC/1st) – 148 PO, 51 AST, 32 E, 1.76 RNG, +1.0 ARM, +6.4 ZR, 1.077 EFF
- CF: Rudolph Decker (StJ/1st) – 247 PO, 7 AST, 77 E, 2.95 RNG, +0.5 ARM, +13.9 ZR, 1.108 EFF
- RF: Nelson Townsend (StJ/1st) – 152 PO, 9 AST, 61 E, 1.82 RNG, +2.3 ARM, +4.1 ZR, 1.027 EFF

## **TEAM OF THE YEAR**

POS	NAME	TEAM	TotY	W	L	ERA	K	IP	CG	SHO	K/BB	HRA	HA/9	WHIP	WAR	rWAR
P	Simeon DiStefano	AME	1st	<b>29</b>	17	<b>2.54</b>	28	<b>392.2</b>	30	0	0.7	4	<b>10.1</b>	1.23	3.9	<b>11.3</b>
POS	NAME	TEAM	TotY	AVG	OPS	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SB	WPA	WAR	OTH
C	Lane Garvin	MB	1st	.346	.767	62	116	9	2	1	60	10	5	3.6	2.1	
1B	Garfield Koonce	KC	3rd	.353	.821	73	143	20	2	<b>4</b>	65	10	1	3.6	2.6	
2B	Anthony Mascherino	KNI	15th	.332	.799	83	133	15	13	1	76	13	36	2.4	5.2	+15.7 ZR
3B	Eamonn Todd	StJ	1st	.354	.824	74	136	19	6	1	<b>95</b>	18	1	3.8	3.9	

SS	Martin Prince	AME	1st	.322	.786	86	119	16	9	1	74	17	33	3.1	4.9	+27.1 ZR
OF	Konrad Jensen	StJ	16th	.339	.816	108	139	18	10	1	80	24	76	5.8	3.7	
CF	James Burke	AME	7th	.387	.936	120	165	22	16	1	80	20	90	5.3	6.0	.521 SLG
OF	Ernest Dugas	FC	1st	.329	.801	99	132	18	11	1	71	17	33	4.0	3.5	

## MISCELLANEOUS

### SEASON RECORDS

- Excelsior pitchers set a new record for Team Strikeouts with 343 (3.8 K/G).
- Elmer Seabold (Excelsior) set new records for Strikeouts with 182
- Elmer Seabold set a new record for K/9 Ratio with 4.57.
- Jim Creighton (Excelsior) set a new record for K/BB Ratio with 8.67
- Howard Burns (St. John's) set a new record for BB/9 Ratio with 0.31.
- Simeon DiStefano (American) set a new record for RA9-WAR with 11.3.

### APBL STATISTICAL LEADERS

- Average: .387 by James Burke (CF, American)
- On-Base: .415 by James Burke
- Slugging: .521 by James Burke
- OPS: .936 by James Burke
- Runs: 120 by James Burke
- Hits: 165 by James Burke
- Doubles: 23 by Albert Stoffers (3B, Mass. Bay)
- Triples: 16 by James Burke
- Extra-Base Hits: 39 by James Burke
- Home Runs: 4 by Garfield Koonce (1B, Kings Co.)
- Runs Batted In: 95 by Peter Boyce (2B, American) & Eamonn Todd (3B, St. John's)
- Stolen Bases: 90 by James Burke
- Total Bases: 222 by James Burke



- Bases on Balls: 34 by William Busby (1B, American)
  - Zone Rating: +27.1 by Martin Prince (SS, American)
  - Batsman WPA: 5.8 by Konrad Jensen (LF, St. John's)
  - Batsman WAR: 6.0 by James Burke
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- Wins: 29 by Simeon DiStefano (American)
  - Losses: 29 by Albert Lively (Gotham)
  - ERA (200+ IP): 2.54 by Jim Creighton (Excelsior) & Simeon DiStefano (American)
  - Strikeouts: 182 by Elmer Seabold (Excelsior)
  - Innings: 392.2 by Simeon DiStefano
  - Complete Games: 32 by Jim Creighton
  - Shutouts: 4 by Jim Creighton
  - BB/9 (200+ IP): 0.3 by Howard Burns (St. John's)
  - K/9 (200+ IP): 4.6 by Elmer Seabold
  - K/BB (200+ IP): 8.7 by Jim Creighton
  - WHIP (200+ IP): 1.19 by Jim Creighton
  - Pitcher WAR: 8.1 by James Goodman (Flour City)
  - Pitcher rWAR: 11.3 by Simeon DiStefano

## ACHIEVEMENTS & NOTABLE EVENTS

- May 4: Jim Creighton (Excelsior) bats 3/4 (2B, 2 RBI) while pitching a Shutout (5 HA, 7 K) at Orange.
- May 14: Jerald Peterson (Alleghany) has 5 Hits & 6 RBI at Mass. Bay.
- June 3: Albert Stoffers (Mass. Bay) has 6 Hits (6/6, 2B, 3 RBI) vs Flour City.
- June 8: Gotham scores 6 times in the bottom of the 9th to defeat Kings Co. 12-11.
- June 20: Excelsior wins 19-0 at Gotham. Jim Creighton pitches the Shutout (3 HA, 4 K).
- June 20: James Burke (American) has 5 Stolen Bases at Kings Co.
- June 28: Washington Kihlstedt (Mass. Bay) pitches a One-hitter vs Niagara (CG SHO, 1 BB, 6 K).
- July 19: Edward Donovan (Flour City) has 5 Stolen Bases at Shamrock.
- Aug 2: The CC wins the 6th All-Star Game 7-3. MVP: Reginald Roper (RF, NIA). HOST: American.
- Aug 4: Elmer Seabold (Excelsior) records 11 Strikeouts during a 10-inning game vs Orange.

- Aug 19: Samuel Kessler (Flour City) has 6 Hits (6/6, 2 2B, 3 RBI) at Mass. Bay.
- Aug 21: James Burke (American) finishes the season leading the A.P.B.L. in 11 offensive categories.
- Aug 21: Jim Creighton (Excelsior) fails to lead his league in Strikeouts for the first time since 1860.
- Aug 26: American (4th) wins Founders' Cup VI in a sweep over Niagara.

#### PERFORMANCES OF THE SEASON BY GAME SCORE

- #1: 104 by Albert Stoffers (3B, Mass. Bay) vs Flour City on June 3rd (6/6, 2B, 5 R, 3 RBI)
- #2: 100 by James Burke (CF, American) vs Excelsior on Aug. 10th (5/6, 2B, 4 R, 5 RBI, 2 SB)
- #3: 92 by Eamonn Todd (3B, St. John's) at Flour City on June 11th (5/6, 2B, 3 R, 5 RBI, DEF DP)
- #4: 92 by George Kassabian (LF, American) at Orange on Aug. 12th (5/6, 2 2B, 3B, 3 R, 5 RBI, SB)
- #5: 92 by Harold Groves (2B, Shamrock) at St. John's on Aug. 16th (5/6, 2B, 3 R, 5 RBI)
- #6: 90 by Washington Kihlstedt (P, Mass. Bay) vs Niagara on June 28th (CG SHO, 1 HA, 1 BB, 6 K)
- #7: 89 by Ernest Dugas (CF, Flour City) at Alleghany on May 20th (5/5, 3B, 3 R, 4 RBI)
- #8: 89 by John Meier (LF, Alleghany) vs St. John's on June 4th (5/5, 3B, 3 R, 4 RBI, 7 SB)
- #9: 88 by Ashley Hearn (RF, Alleghany) vs Niagara on June 15th (4/4, 4 R, 4 RBI, SF)
- #10: 87 by Cletus Cannon (2B, St. John's) on May 3rd vs Niagara (5/5, 2 2B, 3B, 4 R, 2 RBI, 2 SB)