

# WHAT IS GOING ON IN WITH OFFENSE IN NEW YORK?

## TEAMS SCORING HALF A RUN MORE PER GAME; FIVE SCORING 9+ PER OUTING

NEW YORK STATE (June 1, 1864) – Over the first month of the 1864 season, the goings on in the Northeastern League have been in line with the standard fare of the past two to three seasons: teams are scoring 7.0 runs per game, Batting Average is .290-.300, and even though league-wide O.P.S. is down to roughly .680 the runs are still coming in.

However, the state of the game in the New York League has been quite different over the first four weeks of 1864 play. Even though the collective batting in the league is in line with the past two seasons of play, scoring is up half a run per game to 7.5 runs per team, and five teams are scoring more than nine runs per afternoon:

- Kings County – 10.2 R/G (204 R/20 G)
- Flour City – 9.2 R/G (185 R/20 G)
- Empire – 9.2 R/G (184 R/20 G)
- Syracuse – 9.2 R/G (184 R/20 G)
- Union – 9.2 R/G (184 R/20 G)

Kings Co. has typically had one of the top attacks in the N.Y.L, but this year they've looked like a completely different beast. Newcomer Cormack Alexander is batting a whopping .478 after four weeks, and that has meant plenty of chances for the batsmen behind him in the lineup to drive in runs. As a team, Kings Co. is batting .344, best in the N.B.B.O.

Flour City once again has a powerful offense after leading the N.B.B.O. in runs last season. Their #3, 4, & 5 batsmen – Henry Fowler, Will LaValliere, & Charles Schuster – are all batting over .400, and only one non-pitcher in the lineup is batting less than .325. Their pitching is struggling as it was last season, but they are determined to win through raw power.

Empire has been led by Ilkka Kivivuori, who is in his first season in Brooklyn after two in Reading. He is batting .394 with a ridiculous 27 R.B.I. through twenty games, but every regular member of the lineup has at least ten.

Back upstate, Syracuse has the second-best Batting Average in the N.B.B.O. at .337. They are currently led by Newcomer Carson Law, who is batting .394 while matching Kivivuori with 27 R.B.I. Like Empire, every non-pitcher in the Syracuse lineup has ten or more R.B.I. Number one pitcher Charles Snodgrass is batting .318 with six R.B.I. in eleven games.

Union of Morrisania is the surprise of the five teams in the above list. In years past they have displayed middling offensive output, but after one month of the 1864 season they are averaging nine runs per game thanks to a pair of 5-6 batsmen in Arthur Salois & Albert Fowler who are both batting over .350 with more than 20 R.B.I. through four weeks of play. They also have one .400 batter in Paul LeFebvre.

Even at the bottom end of the New York League the offenses are better. The last-place attack in the N.Y.L. currently belongs to Minuteman, who are averaging 5.5 runs per game (109 R/20 G). In contrast, there are three teams in the Northeastern League scoring less, and league-worst Olympic is averaging 4.8 runs per game (95 R/20 G).

There is no way to know if the increase of offense in the New York League will continue on for the rest of the season, but this may well be the first season in which the N.Y.L. is seen as the more exciting of the two halves of the National Base Ball Organization.