

# 1872 AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE REVIEW

## WRITERS POOL OBSERVATIONS

As in the NBBO, the major change to the pitching regulations had a noticeable impact on offensive output. Scoring was down 12.9% (7.0 R/G to 6.1), Extra-Base Hits decreased by 25.1% even though Batting Average only dropped from .286 to .284, and Bases on Balls were cut by 28.6%. The increased control and spin on the ball that was granted to pitchers when they were allowed to snap their wrists while delivering to the batsman made it more difficult to draw Bases on Balls and more difficult to make solid contact.

**ALLEGHANY:** They need a bat. John Sampson wasn't close to an equal replacement for Royal Altman, and while Samuel Kessler hit .345 (.814 OPS) he turns 37 at the start of next season. Kessler's replacement at 3B, Frank Doherty, was a worthy All-Star due to his amazing defense, but he had a light bat that delivered a sub-600 OPS (.592).

**AMERICAN:** An incredible season. They matched St. John's with a 29-16 record over the 2nd half and snatched the Metropolitan pennant from Gotham in the last week of the season before stunning St. John's in the cup by winning games 6 & 7 on their turf. William Busby keeps hitting Home Runs, Willie Davis looks ageless, Franklin Petty was as good as expected, and Charles Sturch – a #1 prospect for about four years – finally put together an All-Star campaign.

**EXCELSIOR:** Anything to decrease their reliance on Jim Creighton. They had a better Win% than the champions when he pitched and had the worst Win% in the league when he didn't. Their defense, ranked 10th, remains a major issue, and attempts to fortify the lineup didn't work out. However, #2 P Nicholas Banfield had an outstanding 2nd half.

**FLOUR CITY:** After finishing in 2nd by eight games in the inaugural season they cut the deficit in half this season. F.C. will probably continue on their current path, as they have a top-three offense and extremely talented pitching. The only question is defense, which didn't perform as well as their regulars are capable of.

**GOTHAM:** Heartbreak. From a nearly wire-to-wire lead and six All-Stars to a late-season crash and a runner-up finish. Maybe the best thing they can do this winter is simply try to put that 1-5 final week behind them.

**KINGS CO:** Everyone except Theodore Kohlberg & Garfield Koonce is expendable. They finished 38-52, but their -152 Run Differential suggests a 35-55 finish was more appropriate. This team needs *numerous* upgrades in order to compete.

**KNICKERBOCKER:** Their defense fell to #6 and their bats couldn't make up for it, as Edward Huntley had what was easily the worst offensive season of his career. It also might be time to let rotating #2 P's Bancroft & Cato go, as #1 prospect Brett Landreth is now rated 3.5 stars, which suggests he's good enough to start at P for nearly every APBL team. Shamrock did the same with Henry Tallman this year and were rewarded with an All-Star season.

**MASS. BAY:** Their offense fell to #9, having difficulty adjusting to 37 y/o Thomas Maloney becoming a backup. Albert Stoffers was outstanding, but aside from that they likely need to look at upgrading a few positions.

**NIAGARA:** They had an awful start, then played outstanding baseball for about a month, and then had an awful finish. They gave former #1 overall prospect Jack Smith a chance at P – a major mistake as he went 6-14 with a 5.57 ERA. They also had the worst offense in the league, with only one player batting over .300. Niagara needs an overhaul.

**ORANGE:** The loss of Petty didn't really hurt them, as the production of former Niagara CF Taliesin Buckley nearly made up for it. A couple of their batsmen didn't hit as well as last year and they were a bit unlucky, given they finished in 4th place with the conference's 2nd-best Run Differential.

**SHAMROCK:** The three-week injury absence of James Burke certainly didn't help, but All-Stars Frank Bulger & Henry Gaul along with William McCrory all hit notably worse in 1872. Henry Tallman (25-21, 2.65 ERA, 4.7 WAR) was great in his first season as a full-time starter, and it looks like they may be moving on from Tom Ricks.

**ST. JOHN'S:** They played like two teams within a team, and that killed them in the Founders' Cup. They have the best-hitting outfielders in the APBL and a .340 hitter at First Base, but their other infielders sacrifice offense – all three had an OPS under .600 – for Golden Glove level defense. They could fix this issue a bit by upgrading the bat at C, where Peter Caliguri is neither a solid hitter nor a great defender.

**COLONIAL CONFERENCE STANDINGS**

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
St. John's	56	34	.622	--	593	466	+127
Flour City	52	38	.578	4	595	532	+63
Mass. Bay	43	47	.478	13	516	554	-38
Shamrock	42	48	.467	14	480	497	-17
Alleghany	39	51	.433	17	482	515	-33
Niagara	38	52	.422	18	450	552	-102

**METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE STANDINGS**

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
American	51	39	.567	--	638	558	+80
Gotham	48	42	.533	3	601	587	+14
Orange*	46	44	.511	5	579	508	+71
Knick	46	44	.511	5	584	572	+12
Excelsior	41	49	.456	10	527	552	-25
Kings Co.	38	52	.422	13	551	703	-152

\*ORA 9-9 v KNI w/ higher RD

**PER-TEAM STATISTICS**

1872: 6.1 R/G, .286, .655 OPS, 977 H, 129 2B, 35 3B, 3 HR, 138 SB, 3.37 ERA, 85 BB, 70 K, 5.1 E/G, .878 FLD%  
 1871: 7.0 R/G, .284, .686 OPS, 972 H, 142 2B, 75 3B, 6 HR, 150 SB, 3.87 ERA, 119 BB, 71 K, 4.9 E/G, .886 FLD%

**FOUNDERS' CUP II: St. John's v American**

American (1st title in APBL or NBBO) wins series four games to three.

GAME 1: AME 1-6 StJ – Nelson Townsend (RF, StJ) 3/4 (all 1B), 1 R, 2 RBI, SB, OF AST

GAME 2: AME 5-8 StJ – Nelson Townsend (RF, StJ) 2/4, 2B, 2 R, 1 RBI, 1 BB, 2 SB

GAME 3: StJ 7-15 AME – Franklin Petty (CF, AME) 5/5, 2B, 4 R, 2 RBI, SB

GAME 4: StJ 1-6 AME – Louis Marcel (SS, AME) 2/4, 2B, 1 R, 4 RBI

GAME 5: StJ 8-1 AME – Howard Burns (P, StJ) CG, 7 HA, 1 ER, 2/4 (both 1B), 1 R, 1 RBI

GAME 6: AME 9-2 StJ – William Busby 3/4, 2B, 3B, 2 R, 2 RBI, BB, 2 SB

GAME 7: AME 10-2 StJ – John Brown (P, AME) CG, 4 HA, 1 ER, 2 K

MVP: Werner Verstegen (3B, AME) – .364 (12/33), .758 OPS, 8 R, 1 2B, 8 RBI, 1 BB, 3 SB, 0.68 WPA, 0.2 WAR

## AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE AWARD WINNERS

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

**BATSMAN OF THE YEAR:** Konrad Jensen – 33 y/o LF, St. John's (3rd career BotY)

- **.402/.454/.512, .966 OPS**, 96 R, **154 H**, 16 2B, 10 3B, 2 HR, **95 RBI**, 40 BB, 62 SB, **196 TB, 6.97 WPA, 6.2 WAR**
- Led APBL in nine major offensive categories; Hit .447 (80/179) with 1.071 OPS after July 1st (39 G).
- Babe Johnson (2B, GOT) 2nd – .361, .867 OPS, 96 R, 137 H, 18 2B, 8 3B, 71 RBI, 38 BB, 33 SB, 5.40 WPA, 3.8 WAR
- Nelson Townsend (RF, StJ) 3rd – 371, .882 OPS, 102 R, 150 H, 26 2B, 7 3B, 50 RBI, 23 BB, 43 SB, 3.83 WPA, 4.4 WAR

Jensen's 1872 was nearly as good as teammate Townsend's 1871. He had career highs in Hits, RBI, & WAR, and he hit over .400 for the third time in five seasons between both major competitions. This was his sixth major individual award between the NBBO & APBL – three BotY's & MVP's each. Johnson & Townsend were excellent, but nobody came close to Jensen.

**PITCHER OF THE YEAR:** James Goodman – 33 y/o, Flour City (2nd career PotY)

- 26-15, 2.74 ERA, 102 K, 380.1 IP, 32 CG, 3 SHO, 26 BB, 1.20 WHIP, 3.9 K/BB, 9.2 WAR, 9.6 rWAR
- Top five in nine major pitching categories; 22-8 with 2.87 ERA after June 1st.
- Thomas Smith (StJ) 2nd – **29-13, 2.41 ERA**, 24 K, 381.2 IP, 35 CG, 2 SHO, 1.22 WHIP, 0.6 K/BB, 5.7 WAR, 10.1 rWAR
- Jim Creighton (EXC) 3rd – American Professional Baseball League Most Valuable Player

So, why didn't Smith, who led the league in Wins & ERA, take PotY? It was widely believed that much of his success was due to the fact that behind him was a St. John's defense that led the APBL in all four factors: Errors, Fielding %, Efficiency, & Zone Rating. On the other hand, Goodman pitched for a team whose defense was in the bottom half of the league, and after the calendar flipped to June he was fantastic, even if he didn't end up leading the APBL in any major pitching categories. Creighton may have finished third, but he was given a familiar award to compensate.

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:** Jim Creighton – 31 y/o P, Excelsior (5th career MVP)

- 24-19, 2.93 ERA, **170 K, 383.1 IP**, 28 CG, 1 SHO, 34 BB, 1.19 WHIP, **4.0 K/9, 5.0 K/BB, 9.8 WAR**, 7.3 rWAR
- 45 G: .366, .860 OPS, 28 R, 53 H, 6 2B, 3 3B, 15 RBI, 11 BB, 8 SB, 65 TB, 1.08 WPA, 1.5 WAR
- 11.3 total WAR between pitching & batting; led league in K's for 12th straight year & in pitching WAR for 8th time
- Konrad Jensen (LF, StJ) 2nd – American Professional Baseball League Batsman of the Year
- Willie Davis (LF, AME) 3rd – .358, .843 OPS, 102 R, 144 H, 26 2B, 7 3B, 68 RBI, 15 BB, 39 SB, 5.36 WPA, 4.2 WAR

So, why didn't Jensen double up and take MVP to go with BotY? When Creighton pitched in a game Excelsior was 26-19, which would be 52-38 over 90 games – one better than champions American. When Creighton didn't pitch Excelsior was 15-30. That's why Creighton was the APBL MVP: when he had the ball Excelsior played like Founders' Cup contenders, and when he didn't have the ball Excelsior played like bottom-dwelling embarrassments.

Jensen had an extraordinary season, but he also plays with another extraordinary corner outfielder in Nelson Townsend. On the other hand, there is *nobody* like Jim Creighton.

**GREENHORN OF THE YEAR:** Rudolph Decker – 27 y/o CF, St. John's

- .337/.361/.413, .774 OPS, 106 R, 138 H, 19 2B, 6 3B, 0 HR, 36 RBI, 7 BB, 64 SB, **169 TB**, 4.02 WPA, 3.8 WAR
- Top ten in five major offensive categories; Hit .432 (41/95) in May with .929 OPS.
- C. Whitehead (2B, ORA) 2nd – .343, .769 OPS, 69 R, 136 H, 21 2B, 5 3B, 72 RBI, 3 BB, 4 SB, 4.08 WPA, 2.2 WAR
- Frank Doherty (3B, ALL) 3rd – .258, .592 OPS, 39 R, 95 H, 19 2B, 1 3B, 57 RBI, 6 BB, +17.2 ZR, 0.36 WPA, 1.5 WAR

After St. John's missed out on Franklin Petty the front office was left wondering how to replace the center of "The Hydra", William Johnson, after ten seasons playing with Jensen & Townsend. They signed Decker figuring he'd take a year to develop, and instead he reformed The Hydra almost immediately, with the only thing Decker missing being Johnson's patience at the plate. Whitehead was the more touted Greenhorn, but a slow start and suspect defense (-9.2 ZR), hurt him.

**GOLDEN GLOVES**

- P: Monroe Munson (NIA/1st) – 21 PO, 55 AST, 2 DP, 13 E, 1.92 RNG, +10.5 ZR, 1.273 EFF
- C: Albert Goddard (EXC/1st) – 33 PB, 34.3 RTO%, 3.48 C-ERA, +6.7 ZR, 1.062 EFF
- 1B: Frank Bulger (SHA/2nd) – 945 PO, 48 AST, 30 DP, 26 E, 11.40 RNG, +10.0 ZR, 1.101 EFF
- 2B: Ralph Knight (FC/2nd) – 326 PO, 275 AST, 19 DP, 60 E, 7.05 RNG, +14.6 ZR, 1.110 EFF
- 3B: Frank Doherty (ALL/GH) – 159 PO, 158 AST, 2 DP, 30 E, 3.63 RNG, +17.2 ZR, 1.156 EFF
- SS: Anthony Mascherino (ORA/13th) – 292 PO, 312 AST, 24 DP, 81 E, 6.79 RNG, +22.2 ZR, 1.117 EFF
- LF: Willie Davis (AME/5th) – 163 PO, 1 AST, 28 E, 1.95 RNG, +1.5 ARM, +5.9 ZR, 1.068 EFF
- CF: Declan Brice (MB/5th) – 250 PO, 8 AST, 45 E, 3.00 RNG, -1.2 ARM, +8.7 ZR, 1.059 EFF
- RF: Reginald Roper (NIA/1st) – 181 PO, 1 AST, 61 E, 2.11 RNG, -3.1 ARM, +7.8 ZR, 1.081 EFF

## TEAM OF THE YEAR

P: Thomas Smith (StJ/1st)

- **29-13, 2.41 ERA**, 24 K, 381.2 IP, 35 CG, 2 SHO, 22 BB, 1.22 WHIP, 0.6 K/BB, 5.7 WAR, 10.1 rWAR

C: Harvey O'Donnell (FC/2nd)

- .354, .759 OPS, 50 R, 112 H, 7 2B, 1 3B, 0 HR, 61 RBI, 2 BB, 0 SB, 122 TB, 4.61 WPA, 2.3 WAR

1B: William Busby (AME/4th)

- .340, .838 OPS, 63 R, 120 H, 12 2B, 4 3B, **5 HR**, 79 RBI, 29 BB, 1 SB, 155 TB, 4.69 WPA, 2.5 WAR

2B: Babe Johnson (GOT/3rd)

- .361, .867 OPS, 96 R, 137 H, 18 2B, 8 3B, 0 HR, 71 RBI, 38 BB, 33 SB, 171 TB, 5.40 WPA, 3.8 WAR

3B: Werner Verstegen (AME/3rd)

- .295, .681 OPS, 74 R, 119 H, 19 2B, 3 3B, 0 HR, 85 RBI, 17 BB, 33 SB, 144 TB, 4.67 WPA, 1.4 WAR

SS: Anthony Mascherino (ORA/13th)

- .302, .690 OPS, 85 R, 127 H, 18 2B, 4 3B, 1 HR, 56 RBI, 31 SB, 156 TB, +22.2 ZR, 2.81 WPA, 4.1 WAR

OF: Konrad Jensen (StJ/12th)

- **.402/.454/.512, .966 OPS**, 96 R, **154 H**, 28 XBH, 2 HR, **95 RBI, 40 BB**, 62 SB, **196 TB, 6.97 WPA, 5.2 WAR**

OF: Franklin Petty (AME/4th)

- .343, .810 OPS, **107 R**, 132 H, 22 2B, 8 3B, 0 HR, 51 RBI, 21 BB, 49 SB, 175 TB, 4.74 WPA, 4.1 WAR

OF: Nelson Townsend (StJ/7th)

- .371, .882 OPS, 102 R, 150 H, 26 2B, 7 3B, 0 HR, 50 RBI, 23 BB, 43 SB, 190 TB, 3.83 WPA, 4.4 WAR

## MISCELLANEOUS

### APBL STATISTICAL LEADERS

- Average: .402 by Konrad Jensen (LF, St. John's)
  - On-Base: .454 by Konrad Jensen
  - Slugging: .512 by Konrad Jensen
  - OPS: .966 by Konrad Jensen
  - Hits: 154 by Konrad Jensen
  - Extra-Base Hits: 35 by Walter Dudley (1B, Orange)
  - Doubles: 33 by Walter Dudley
  - Triples: 15 by Clive Strachan (RF, Gotham)
  - Home Runs: 5 by William Busby (1B, American)
  - Runs Batted In: 95 by Konrad Jensen
  - Runs: 107 by Franklin Petty (CF, American)
  - Stolen Bases: 64 by Rudolph Decker (CF, St. John's)
  - Total Bases: 196 by Konrad Jensen
  - Bases on Balls: 40 by Konrad Jensen
  - Win Prob. Added: 6.97 by Konrad Jensen
  - Batsman WAR: 5.2 by Konrad Jensen
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- Wins: 29 by Thomas Smith (St. John's)
  - Losses: 31 by Daniel Flynn (Kings Co.)
  - ERA (200+ IP): 2.41 by Thomas Smith
  - Strikeouts: 170 by Jim Creighton (Excelsior)
  - Innings: 383.1 by Jim Creighton
  - Complete Games: 36 by Henry Tallman (Shamrock)
  - Shutouts: 4 by Monroe Munson (Niagara)
  - BB/9 (200+ IP): 0.4 by Tom Hauser (Mass. Bay)
  - K/9 (200+ IP): 4.0 by Jim Creighton
  - K/BB (200+ IP): 5.0 by Jim Creighton

- WHIP (200+ IP): 1.13 by Thomas Paddock (Orange)
- Pitcher WAR: 9.8 by Jim Creighton
- Pitcher rWAR: 10.5 by Henry Tallman

## ACHIEVEMENTS & NOTABLE EVENTS

- May 18: Royal Altman (Gotham) bats 6/6 with three Doubles, five Runs, & three RBI against Knickerbocker
  - July 17: James Goodman (Flour City) pitches a four-hit Shutout and bats 2/3 with a Double against Niagara.
  - July 20: Jim Creighton (Excelsior) finishes with nine Strikeouts in a win against Kings Co.
  - Aug. 5: The Metro Conf. wins the 2nd All-Star Game 9-8 (10 Inn.). William Busby (American) is named MVP.
  - Aug. 24: Shamrock 16-17 Flour City is the 1st APBL game in which both teams score 15+ runs.
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- One player hit .400: Konrad Jensen (St. John's) at .402. Albert Stoffers (Mass. Bay) was 2nd at .383.
  - No players had an OPS over 1.000. Only two had an OPS over .900: Jensen (.966) & Stoffers (.905)
  - The only batsman to have a WAR of higher than 5.0 was Jensen (5.2).
  - The only batsman to have 90+ Runs Batted In was Jensen (95).
  - Four players scored 100+ Runs in 1872.
  - There was one six-hit game: the 6/6 by Royal Altman on May 18th.
  - William Busby (American) was the only player to hit 5+ Home Runs.
  - William Busby has won six consecutive Home Run titles between the NBBO & APBL.
  - After three players stole 70+ bases last year, none stole 70+ this year.
  - Four pitchers earned 25+ Wins in 1872.