

# 1873 AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE REVIEW

## WRITERS POOL OBSERVATIONS

It took an extraordinary finish, but this was American's season. They had the best batsman, the best pitcher, the best greenhorn, and star power unmatched in the history of the sport. The frightening thing is that almost all of their stars are under contract for next year and beyond.

**ALLEGHANY:** They looked good for a month but ultimately finished 5th in the Colonial due to an offense that was in the bottom three in every major category. The team probably needs upgrades at 1B, 2B, LF, & CF. The good news: their pitching duo of Raynard Cordell & Elmer Seabold is very good.

**AMERICAN:** Not much to say for the team that has it all now that they'll enter 1874 as the 2x defending APBL champions. If they can bring John Henry back and upgrade the #2 P spot then there's simply no beating American next year.

**EXCELSIOR:** The good news was that they weren't as utterly reliant on Jim Creighton as they were in seasons past. The bad news was that they had the APBL's worst offense, as veteran star CF Obelix Tsiaris had a major drop in production and their defensive aces had light bats. Another winter of retooling is in order.

**FLOUR CITY:** Three APBL seasons and three 2nd-place finishes in the Colonial, although they've cut the final margin from eight games to four to two. Their pitching duo of the James 1&2 – Goodman & York – is the best in the APBL. However, 3B Hugh Harris & 1B Hawk Peterson had career-worst seasons so offensive upgrades are needed.

**GOTHAM:** They struggled as much as projected this season. Down years from Royal Altman & Babe Johnson, combined with the worst pitching in the league as Charles Sturch was a surprising disappointment, spelled Gotham's doom. If they upgrade 3B & CF and their talented pitchers come around, next year could be much better.

**KINGS CO:** This was going to be a developmental year, and not surprisingly they had the worst record in the league. The good news: Garfield Koonce continues to be an outstanding player, and their trio of greenhorn batsmen didn't look out of place. The bad news: their pitching continues to be a major issue.

**KNICKERBOCKER:** They expended so much energy trying to keep up with American that it resulted in crash and a 4-11 August collapse. Almost every regular except LF Edward Donovan is due back and they have talented 23-year-old OF Henry Jost, so it's possible that the team stands pat over the winter and hopes that American comes back to the pack in 1874.

**MASS. BAY:** Last place in the Colonial, and it's because of the fact that, while this team can seriously club the ball, their defense is second, possibly third, rate and their pitchers are just okay. They could use upgrades everywhere but C & 1B, and they'll need a new LF if veteran star Thomas Maloney retires after the most difficult season of his career.

**NIAGARA:** They were mostly okay. Niagara's offense ranked 6th out of twelve and their pitching was in the middle of the pack, but their work in the field saw them commit the third most Errors in the league. If they let John Gaynor go and move Henry Card to LF, a better defensive CF could help this team out a lot.

**ORANGE:** Their offense was great, but their pitching outside of #1 Paul Caldwell really struggled. The team may also be best served by letting Walter Dudley go and moving Samuel Kessler back to 1B so a better defender with an okay bat can take over the LF spot. In addition, they'll be hoping for a return to form out of Taliesin Buckley.

**SHAMROCK:** That they improved by six games (42-48 to 48-42) despite losing James Burke is to their credit. Newcomers Earl Crosby & Arthur Fisher did well, and centerpiece signee William Dickerson was magnificent. Unfortunately, Henry Tallman had a major fall in form that saw him removed from regular duty, so Shamrock may need a new #2 pitcher.

**ST. JOHN'S:** Heartbreak for the second consecutive season. Their offense was excellent as always, their defense was good, and while their pitching struggled at times they were still #3 in Runs Allowed. St. John's just weren't as good as American, but the rest of Colonial is creeping up on them. St. John's may need to make a splash this winter and sign a star.

### COLONIAL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
St. John's	52	38	.578	--	772	653	+119
Flour City	50	40	.556	2	727	666	+61
Shamrock	48	42	.533	4	718	683	+35
Niagara	43	47	.478	9	701	768	-67
Alleghany	42	48	.467	10	652	681	-29
Mass. Bay	35	55	.389	17	724	843	-119

### METROPOLITAN CONFERENCE STANDINGS

	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	RD
American	65	25	.722	--	851	567	+284
Knick	48	42	.533	17	766	741	+25
Orange	46	44	.511	19	746	725	+21
Excelsior	44	46	.489	21	593	624	-31
Gotham	36	54	.400	29	711	798	-87
Kings Co.	31	59	.344	34	595	807	-212

### PER-TEAM STATISTICS

APBL: 7.9 R/G, .297, .680 OPS, 1,079 H, 125 2B, 48 3B, 9 HR, 184 SB, 3.72 ERA, 78 BB, 66 K, 7.2 E/G, .837 FLD%  
 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%

### FOUNDERS' CUP III

GAME 1: StJ 4-12 AME – James Burke (CF, AME) 4/6, 2 2B, 3 R, 4 RBI

GAME 2: StJ 6-5 AME – Nelson Townsend (RF, StJ) 4/5, 2 R, 1 RBI, 2 SB

GAME 3: AME 12-13 StJ – Falco v. d. Vaart (C, StJ) 3/5, 3 R, 1 RBI

GAME 4: AME 9-8 StJ – Franklin Petty (RF, AME) 2/4, 3B, 2 R, BB, 2 SB

GAME 5: AME 8-11 StJ – Konrad Jensen (LF, StJ) 2/3, 1 R, 2 RBI, BB, SB

GAME 6: StJ 2-14 AME – Willie Davis (LF, AME) 2/4, HR, 4 R, 2 RBI, BB, 2 SB

GAME 7: StJ 15-16 AME – James Burke (CF, AME) 4/6, 3 R, 2 RBI, SB

American (2nd title; 2nd consecutive) wins series 4-3

FOUNDERS CUP MVP: 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 31) – American BC; 1st career BotY

- .368/.395/.489, .884 OPS, **130 R**, 155 H, 16 2B, **16 3B**, 1 HR, **109 RBI**, 17 BB, **113 SB**, 206 TB, 6.7 WPA, **5.0 WAR**
- Led APBL in R, 3B, RBI, SB, & WAR; Set all-levels records for Runs, RBI, & Stolen Bases in a season
- Hit .528 (19/36) with 1.207 OPS, 13 R, 12 RBI, & 5 SB during Founders' Cup
- Konrad Jensen (LF, StJ) 2nd – American Professional Baseball League Most Valuable Player
- Edward Huntley (SS, KNI) 3rd – .374, .901 OPS, 109 R, 156 H, **36 XBH**, 3 HR, 98 RBI, 18 BB, 34 SB, **7.9 WPA**, 4.3 WAR

In every other instance ever, a batsman who led his league in both Average & OPS took home the BotY award. However, Jensen became the first to miss out because such was the unprecedented run production of Burke while he terrified opponents all season for American. If there was an award for Comeback Player of the Year it would've gone to Huntley, who raised his Average 98 points and his OPS 236 points from his career-worst 1872.

**PITCHER OF THE YEAR:** John Henry (age 35) – American BC; 3rd career PotY

- **30-5**, 3.14 ERA, 341.1 IP, 21 CG, **1 SHO**, 18 K, 0.5 K/9, 0.7 K/BB, 1.22 WHIP, 3.0 WAR, **9.8 rWAR**
- 1st P in APBL history with 30+ Wins in a season; Won 30+ games in a season for the 3rd time
- James Goodman (FC) 2nd – 29-13, 2.90 ERA, 369.2 IP, **29 CG**, **1 SHO**, 98 K, **5.8 K/BB**, 1.24 WHIP, **9.1 WAR**, 9.6 rWAR
- Jim Creighton (EXC) 3rd – 28-18, 3.26 ERA, **395.1 IP**, 29 CG, 1 SV, **153 K**, **3.5 K/9**, 1.24 WHIP, 8.2 WAR, 8.7 rWAR

If you lead your league with 30+ Wins, then you win PotY. That's how it's always gone, and that's why Henry is taking home PotY for the 3rd time ahead of yet another set of fantastic seasons by Goodman & Creighton. Goodman had his best APBL campaign and his best overall since his historic debut season for Flour City in 1869. Creighton led his league in Strikeouts for the thirteenth year in a row, and he nearly became the first ever to pitch 400+ innings in a single season.

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER:** Konrad Jensen (LF, age 34) – St. John's BC; 4th career MVP

- **.380/.416**/.488, **.904 OPS**, 113 R, 156 H, 18 2B, 10 3B, 2 HR, 87 RBI, **27 BB**, 88 SB, 200 TB, 7.7 WPA, 4.8 WAR
- Led APBL in AVG, OBP, OPS, & BB; Top three in Slugging, Hits, Stolen Bases, & WAR
- Edward Huntley (SS, KNI) 2nd – American Professional Baseball League Batsman of the Year 3rd place
- James Burke (CF, AME) 3rd – American Professional Baseball League Batsman of the Year

Jensen didn't take BotY, but he took home league MVP for the 4th time since he was the most technical batsman in the league and he played for the APBL runners-up. American simply had so much star power that it was hard to argue Burke was the sole reason why they went 65-25, though he made quite an argument for himself with his performance during the Founders' Cup. Had Knickerbocker finished closer to American, then Huntley would've had more of an argument for MVP.

#### GREENHORN OF THE YEAR: Martin Prince (SS, age 24) – American BC

- .332/.346/.419, .765 OPS, 88 R, 127 H, 11 2B, 8 3B, 2 HR, 67 RBI, 32 SB, 160 TB, **+27.0 ZR**, 4.3 WPA, 4.0 WAR
- Led all APBL players in Zone Rating; Only Greenhorn with more than 1.5 WAR; SS for APBL champions
- Bert Landreth (P, KNI) 2nd – 14-1, 2.92 ERA, 151.0 IP, 8 CG, **1 SHO**, 8 K, 0.6 K/BB, 1.28 WHIP, 1.5 WAR, 1.9 rWAR
- Drees v. d. Leest (2B, KC) 3rd – .299, .705 OPS, 76 R, 119 H, 22 XBH, 1 HR, 51 RBI, 9 BB, 7 SB, 2.2 WPA, 1.4 WAR

And three of the four individual awards went to American thanks to Prince's outstanding campaign. Prince was the best fielder in the APBL, and he complemented his outstanding glove work with above average hitting (119 OPS+) and quality baserunning. Had Landreth not missed half the season due to two separate injuries he might have been able to build on his 14-1 record and stake his claim to GotY. As it was, he had a great first year for Knickerbocker. Van der Leest settled into the Kings Co. infield just fine, and he was the best of their Greenhorn trio.

#### APBL GOLDEN GLOVES

- P: Tom Ricks (SHA/1st) – 25 PO, 46 AST, 2 DP, 18 E, 1.91 RNG, +6.6 ZR, 1.093 EFF
- C: Roel Woudenberg (ALL/4th) – 5 PB, 29.0 RTO%, 3.43 C-ERA, +4.0 ZR, 1.143 EFF
- 1B: Frank Bulger (SHA/3rd) – 896 PO, 81 AST, 32 DP, 38 E, 11.27 RNG, +10.1 ZR, 1.109 EFF
- 2B: Clyde Hudspeth (EXC/1st) – 300 PO, 290 AST, 19 DP, 69 E, 7.01 RNG, +22.2 ZR, 1.140 EFF
- 3B: Ben Gagliardi (StJ/2nd) – 132 PO, 159 AST, 7 DP, 68 E, 3.65 RNG, +10.4 ZR, 1.116 EFF
- SS: Martin Prince (AME/GH) – 299 PO, 276 AST, 32 DP, 96 E, 6.74 RNG, **+27.0 ZR**, 1.154 EFF
- LF: Edward Donovan (KNI/3rd) – 170 PO, 3 AST, 50 E, 2.06 RNG, +1.3 ARM, +9.0 ZR, 1.097 EFF
- CF: Louis Dyke (KNI/1st) – 225 PO, 11 AST, 68 E, 2.79 RNG, -3.2 ARM, +7.1 ZR, 1.068 EFF
- RF: Reginald Roper (NIA/2nd) – 168 PO, 8 AST, 75 E, 2.02 RNG, +1.3 ARM, +6.6 ZR, 1.085 EFF

#### APBL TEAM OF THE YEAR

P: John Henry (AME/3rd)

- **30-5**, 3.14 ERA, 341.1 IP, 21 CG, **1 SHO**, 18 K, 0.5 K/9, 0.7 K/BB, 1.22 WHIP, 3.0 WAR, **9.8 rWAR**

C: James Simon (SHA/1st)

- .353, .765 OPS, 56 R, 117 H, 17 2B, 0 3B, 0 HR, 72 RBI, 6 BB, 1 SB, 134 TB, 3.2 WPA, 2.4 WAR

1B: Albert Stoffers (MB/1st)

- .380, .875 OPS, 93 R, **161 H**, 22 2B, 6 3B, **3 HR**, 87 RBI, 8 BB, 4 SB, 204 TB, 4.7 WPA, 2.9 WAR

2B: Peter Boyce (AME/2nd)

- .334, .756 OPS, 96 R, 136 H, 19 XBH, 1 HR, 85 RBI, 6 BB, 46 SB, 168 TB, +18.0 ZR, 5.1 WPA, 3.2 WAR

3B: William Dickerson (SHA/3rd)

- .344, .819 OPS, 95 R, 146 H, 20 2B, 14 3B, 0 HR, 89 RBI, 12 BB, 44 SB, 194 TB, 5.1 WPA, 4.1 WAR

SS: Edward Huntley (KNI/10th)

- .374, .901 OPS, 109 R, 156 H, 22 2B, 11 3B, **3 HR**, 98 RBI, 18 BB, 34 SB, **209 TB**, **7.9 WPA**, 4.3 WAR

OF: Konrad Jensen (StJ/13th)

- **.380**, **.904 OPS**, 113 R, 156 H, 18 2B, 10 3B, 2 HR, 87 RBI, **27 BB**, 88 SB, 200 TB, 7.7 WPA, 4.8 WAR

OF: James Burke (AME/4th)

- .368, .884 OPS, **130 R**, 155 H, 16 2B, **16 3B**, 1 HR, **109 RBI**, 17 BB, **113 SB**, 206 TB, 6.7 WPA, **5.0 WAR**

OF: Franklin Petty (AME/5th)

- .335, .786 OPS, 127 R, 143 H, 19 2B, 8 3B, 2 HR, 78 RBI, 16 BB, 80 SB, 184 TB, 6.1 WPA, 3.5 WAR



## MISCELLANEOUS

### APBL STATISTICAL LEADERS

- Average: .3805 by Konrad Jensen (LF, St. John's)
  - On-Base: .416 by Konrad Jensen
  - Slugging: .501 by Edward Huntley (SS, Knickerbocker)
  - OPS: .904 by Konrad Jensen
  - Hits: 161 by Albert Stoffers
  - Extra-Base Hits: 36 by Edward Huntley
  - Doubles: 27 by Walter Dudley (1B, Orange)
  - Triples: 16 by James Burke (CF, American)
  - Home Runs: 3 by six different batsman
  - Runs Batted In: 109 by James Burke (new record)
  - Runs: 130 by James Burke (new record)
  - Stolen Bases: 113 by James Burke (new record)
  - Total Bases: 209 by Edward Huntley
  - Bases on Balls: 27 by Konrad Jensen
  - Zone Rating: +27.7 by Martin Prince (SS, American)
  - Batsman WPA: 7.92 by Edward Huntley (new record)
  - Batsman WAR: 5.0 by James Burke
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- Wins: 30 by John Henry (American; new record)
  - Losses: 32 by Jack Doherty (Kings Co.; new record)
  - ERA (200+ IP): 2.90 by James Goodman (Flour City)
  - Strikeouts: 153 by Jim Creighton (Excelsior)
  - Innings: 395.1 by Jim Creighton (new record)
  - Complete Games: 29 by Jim Creighton
  - Shutouts: 1 by ten different pitchers
  - BB/9 (200+ IP): 0.4 by James Goodman
  - K/9 (200+ IP): 3.5 by Jim Creighton

- K/BB (200+ IP): 5.8 by James Goodman
- WHIP (200+ IP): 1.22 by John Henry
- Pitcher WAR: 9.1 by James Goodman
- Pitcher rWAR: 9.8 by John Henry

## ACHIEVEMENTS & NOTABLE EVENTS

- May 7: Everett Schreiber (Orange) sets new records with 8 RBI & 11 TB at Excelsior.
  - May 13: William Schumacher (Shamrock) bats 6/7 (all 1B, 3 R, 5 RBI) at Mass. Bay.
  - May 31: Thomas Maloney (Mass. Bay) bats 6/6 (3B, 3 R, 4 RBI) at Shamrock
  - July 5: Jim Creighton (Excelsior) bats 5/5 while pitching a Complete Game Win vs Gotham.
  - July 19: Franklin Skaggs (Mass. Bay) hits five Hits for the 2nd time in five days.
  - Aug. 4: The MC wins the All-Star Game 11-8 at Olneyville Field (StJ). MVP: William Dickerson (3B, SHA)
  - Aug. 16: John Henry (American) becomes the 1st APBL P with 30 Wins in a season.
  - Aug. 16: James Burke (American) becomes the 1st player with 100 RBI in a season.
  - Aug. 17: James Burke (American) becomes the 1st player with 100 SB in a season.
  - Aug. 17: James Burke (American) becomes the 1st player with 100+ R, RBI, & SB in a single season.
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- For the 1st time, the APBL season ended with nobody batting .400.
  - James Burke was the only batsman to reach 5.0 WAR.
  - Three players had 90+ RBI in 1873.
  - Fifteen players scored 100+ Runs in 1873.
  - Four players finished 1873 with 70+ Stolen Bases.
  - There were three six-hit games in 1873.
  - The longest Hitting Streak of the season was 32 games by Mario Fusilli (StJ; ended May 15)
  - For the 1st time in seven years, William Busby (American) failed to win his league's Home Run title.
  - Four pitchers earned 25+ Wins in 1873, the same as last season.