

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON IN JERSEY CITY?

PT. JERSEY, 45-45 IN THEIR 1ST APBL SEASON, IS 16-29 HALFWAY THROUGH THEIR 2ND CAMPAIGN

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (June 28, 1879) – It has been a strange 1879 for Port Jersey B.B.C.

Port Jersey were the darlings of the A.P.B.L. last year. For their first season in the league, the team from Jersey City was picked by the Writers Pool to finish well under .500, as were the three other new teams, and to be not much of a factor in the Colonial Conference. However, they were over .500 for nearly the entire season and finished their inaugural A.P.B.L. campaign with a 45-45 record, placing them fifth in the Colonial Conference only via Run Differential and less than ten games behind Colonial champions St. John's.


A big factor in Pt. Jersey's surprising success was their ability to win close contests. They were 16-10 in 1-run games and 8-4 in Extra Innings last year. They didn't look like a team in their first season of A.P.B.L. play, and their record in tight games was made all the more impressive by the fact that all of their key signings during the winter before their A.P.B.L. debut were young Greenhorns the team was looking to build toward the future with.

So far in 1879, Pt. Jersey has played one fewer game than the other Colonial Conference teams due to a rainout, which means that their second season in the A.P.B.L. hit its midway point yesterday. The results so far aren't good:

- Port Jersey: [8th \(last\) in Colonial at 16-29](#), 11.5 GB, -18 RD, 8-13 Home, 8-16 Away

At the current time, they are the second-worst team in the A.P.B.L., better only than Metropolitan bottom feeders Orange and their 15-31 record. However, one thing stands out: the fact that Pt. Jersey 16-29 with a Run Differential of -18. In contrast, Massachusetts Bay is alone in 5th in the Colonial at 23-23 with a Run Differential of -20.

So, how does Pt. Jersey have a 16-29 record with a Run Differential that suggests their record should instead be 21-24? To put it simply, their close-game ability from last year has completely evaporated:

APBL COLONIAL CONFERENCE		W	L	PCT	GB	G	Pyt Diff	RDiff	Home	Away	X-Inn	1-Run	
	Port Jersey B.B.C.	16	29	.356	11½	45	21-24	-5	-18	8-13	8-16	1-5	1-13

Their 1-13 record in one-run games is **BY FAR** the worst in the A.P.B.L. – no other team has fewer than three wins in one-run games – and their 1-5 record when games go to extra innings is the worst of any team that has played at least five extra-inning games so far this season. What they were doing right late in games last season has gone completely wrong this season.

The team's inexplicable struggles in close games are made all the more confounding by the fact their two 23-year-old stars are playing very well:

- 3B Vincent Dixon: .348, .801 OPS, 33 R, 69 H, 9 2B, 4 3B, 1 HR, 36 RBI, 2 BB, 4 SB, 3.4 WPA, 1.4 WAR
- 1B Samuel Eastman: .391, .902 OPS, 37 R, 75 H, 8 2B, 5 3B, 1 HR, 33 RBI, 4 BB, 3 SB, 1.6 WPA, 1.8 WAR

Their two 24-year-old regulars aren't playing poorly either:

- CF Art Kanellopoulos: .293, .772 OPS, 29 R, 56 H, 10 2B, 10 3B, 24 RBI, 3 BB, 4 SB, 0.7 WPA, 0.9 WAR
- LF Jaake Romkes: .333, .802 OPS, 40 R, 64 H, 10 2B, 6 3B, 1 HR, 32 RBI, 3 BB, 11 SB, 1.2 WPA, 1.0 WAR

The statistics suggest that Pt. Jersey can turn things around in the second half due to their Run Differential combined with the fact that they're third in the A.P.B.L. in Runs Allowed (6.1 RA/G). If they can just shake whatever hex it is that's been hitting them when games are on the line, then at least the team can end 1879 on a high note. However, it's unlikely that they'll repeat last season's .500 finish.