

PLAY BALL! IT'S OPENING DAY!

NORTHEAST U.S.A., May 5 (1858) – Season number two of the National Base Ball Organization will see its first pitch thrown at just after noon today, when Sons of the Ocean visits Portland B.C. in Portland, Maine and Gotham B.B.C. takes on Mutual B.B.C. in New York City. Near the end of the preseason, the 50+ writers who cover the league and its individual clubs were asked to predict how the season would go, and collectively here are how their responses averaged out:

PREDICTED NEW YORK LEAGUE STANDINGS

BROOKLYN	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	N.Y.C.	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA
Nassau Co.	45	25	.643	--	538	457	Metropolitan	43	27	.614	--	510	447
Atlantic	40	30	.571	5	521	477	Mutual	41	29	.586	2	545	490
Kings Co.	39	31	.557	6	525	439	Knickerbocker	40	30	.571	3	500	438
Bedford	34	36	.486	11	431	467	Orange	39	31	.557	4	515	451
Eckford	34	36	.486	11	520	515	Gotham	33	37	.471	10	468	502
Empire	33	37	.471	12	430	436	Hilltop	30	40	.429	13	383	444
Continental	32	38	.457	13	419	472	Union	29	41	.414	14	430	498
Excelsior	25	45	.357	20	456	577	Harlem	27	43	.386	16	444	524

UPSTATE	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA
Syracuse	40	30	.571	--	476	419
Utica	38	32	.543	2	502	448
Victory	37	37	.529	3	452	427
Niagara	36	34	.514	4	582	550
Eagle	34	36	.486	6	443	485
Flour City	34	36	.486	6	481	489
Binghamton	33	37	.471	7	437	490
Minuteman	30	40	.429	10	458	523

PREDICTED NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE STANDINGS

COASTAL	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA	INLAND	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA
Shamrock	46	24	.657	--	552	424	Alleghany	44	26	.629	--	574	442
Mass. Bay	42	28	.600	4	556	513	Reading Ath.	39	31	.557	5	513	451
American	37	33	.529	9	510	475	Susquehanna	38	32	.543	6	497	480
Quaker St.	35	35	.500	11	493	497	Pioneer	36	34	.514	8	453	464
Trenton Utd.	34	36	.486	12	460	487	Scranton	33	37	.471	11	468	493
Port Jersey	33	37	.471	13	585	574	Sportsman's	32	38	.457	12	430	488
Newark	30	40	.429	16	485	540	Merrimack Mills	31	39	.443	13	465	516
Olympic	25	45	.357	21	435	566	Lake Erie	29	41	.414	15	427	493

N. ENGLAND	W	L	PCT	GB	R	RA
St. John's	51	19	.729	--	623	437
S. o. t. O.	41	29	.586	10	517	520
Portland	37	33	.529	14	531	525
Quinnipiac	35	35	.500	16	522	521
Green Mtn.	33	37	.471	18	486	466
Granite	31	39	.443	20	455	491
Oceanic	31	39	.443	20	442	484
Cantabrigians	24	46	.343	27	407	539

As one can see, after adding the two most highly-rated newcomers to the league over the offseason St. John's B.C. is expected to be the best team in the N.B.B.O. by some margin. The writers anticipate them to score nearly NINE runs per game, with a cumulative total of nearly fifty more than any other team. Their predicted Run Differential of nearly +190 is also expected to be the best by a considerable distance. On paper, it would appear that the only way they will fail to lift the Tucker-Wheaton Cup this year is if they play well below expectations. Other than that, the main thing of note is that the writers expect all eight teams in the Upstate Championship to finish within ten games of each other. That should make for very exciting baseball in greater New York state.

Writers were also given the chance to predict who they think will take home this season's awards, including the newest piece of hardware: the Newcomer of the Year award, given to the best player who completes his first full year of senior-level N.B.B.O. play.

NEW YORK LEAGUE AWARD FAVORITES

BATSMAN OF THE YEAR

- **FAVORITE:** Joe Bentley – 2B, Niagara B.B.C.
- **SECOND:** Walt Driscoll – 1B, Mutual B.B.C.
- **THIRD:** Chester Ellis – OF, Atlantic B.B.C.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

- **FAVORITE:** Edward Huntley – 3B, Orange B.B.C.
- **SECOND:** Jerald Peterson – 3B, Kings County B.B.C.
- **THIRD:** Albert Jones – CF, Knickerbocker B.B.C.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

- **FAVORITE:** William LaVallier – OF, Utica B.B.C.
- **SECOND:** Per-Olaf Bakken – SS, Kings County B.B.C.
- **THIRD:** Callum Barr – CF, Atlantic B.B.C.

GOLDEN GLOVES

- **P:** Willie Kitson (Harlem), **C:** John Plotts (Harlem), **1B:** Albert Canepa (Hilltop), **2B:** Henry Ciccone (Metropolitan), **3B:** Edward Huntley (Orange), **SS:** William Reasner (Syracuse), **OF:** George Anderson (Union), **CF:** Callum Barr (Atlantic), **OF:** William Bennett (Eagle)

TEAM OF THE YEAR

- **P:** Carl Bancroft (Utica), **C:** James Hoddle (Flour City), **1B:** Walt Driscoll (Mutual), **2B:** Joe Bentley (Niagara), **3B:** Leroy Weld (Metropolitan), **SS:** Carl Keener (Minuteman), **OF:** Chester Ellis (Atlantic), **CF:** Albert Jones (Knickerbocker), **OF:** Chatham Richter (Gotham)

NORTHEASTERN LEAGUE AWARD FAVORITES

BATSMAN OF THE YEAR

- **FAVORITE:** Fred Fowler – OF, Massachusetts Bay B.C.
- **SECOND:** Arthur Waltrip – OF, American B.C.
- **THIRD:** Collin Henderson – 1B, St. John's B.C.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

- **FAVORITE:** William Johnson – OF, St. John's B.C.
- **SECOND:** Samuel Kessler – 3B, Sons of the Ocean
- **THIRD:** Daragh Adams – 2B, Shamrock B.C.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

- **FAVORITE:** Collin Henderson – 1B, St. John's B.C.
- **SECOND:** Anderson MacGyver – 2B, St. John's B.C.
- **THIRD:** Leslie Wolf – OF, Reading Athletic Club

GOLDEN GLOVES

- **P:** Jonathan Case (Newark), **C:** Jimmy Reardon (Trenton United), **1B:** Collin Henderson (St. John's), **2B:** Willard Krone (Port Jersey), **3B:** Jerriek Stoner (St. John's), **SS:** Anthony Mascherino (Green Mountain), **OF:** William Hunt (Reading), **CF:** James Dennard (Oceanic), **OF:** Lester Chadwick (Massachusetts Bay)

TEAM OF THE YEAR

- **P:** Morton Heglestad (St. John's), **C:** Joe Feuerstein (Portland), **1B:** Collin Henderson (St. John's), **2B:** Daragh Adams (Shamrock), **3B:** Samuel Kessler (Sons of the Ocean), **SS:** Albert Gore (Granite), **OF:** Fred Fowler (Massachusetts Bay), **CF:** Raleigh Altstadt (Sportsman's), **OF:** Arthur Waltrip (American)