

**By – Bobby Harris**

### **LAWCASH (YOUNGER)**

In any other year “winning” the #1 overall pick in the draft ensures a “winning” season (see Feldy and Wallman the last two years). This year, however, it is not a certainty. In fact there was pre-draft chatter “The Brocks” might fall as low as #8 overall. Heavens to Feldy! First The Brocks are a 4 pick combo – with two unknown YUTE cousins – as part of the package. But most importantly Pat is coming off shoulder surgery and when and if he will be “Pat” is uncertain. So when JY took The Brocks it would be interesting to see how he would compensate for all the question marks. Load up on bats? Get lots of Defensive OFs? A lock down 3B, giving JY an All Star infield? Instead JY went with a LF and pitching depth. D Schwartz and Bohmer, JY faves, and another combo pick Lenny “I think I can pitch” Sarcona and Tommy “I ll beat the shift” Seixas. A LF and Two Pitchers. Then the always solid Gary Jaeger, another pitching option! JY may not have the best pitching staff but he certainly has the deepest staff. Aside from the pitching question marks, there are some attendance/absence question marks....the Mayor, Sammy, Jaeger, all have a history of missing games. Throw in Pat’s playing status and there is the potential of playing lots of games with 9 players. And without Pat anchoring that OF JY could be taking a lot of cut off throws from the OF. So many lfs on this team, if Pat gets back to form, if pitchers work out, if Comins is another “Brock”, if all the absences coincide or are spread apart.

Not sure with all those lfs I see another Brock and JY winning season (though look out in the playoffs!) . Then again, this reporter proved, the prognosticators wrong last year and finished 14-8. In this league anything is possible, and JY and Brock have had a recent history of being on winning teams. Hard to bet against them.

PREDICTED RECORD: 10-12

**Offense...C**

**Defense....C**

**Pitching....C**

**Speed.....A**

POTENTIAL AWARD CANDIDATES

Offensive POY....J Brock

Rookie of the Year.....Comins

### **PIZZA/PASTA FACTORY (FELDMAN)**

Ok, let’s put the Connie Mack jokes aside for the moment (jokes to come later), it is the opinion of this reporter that Feldy has put together his best team yet. Clearly determined to have “The Feldman Line” renamed or abandoned altogether, he made solid pick after solid pick. It is also no joke, when you have four open picks to start your draft, and secure in the knowledge that 3 out of 4 OF positions are covered before the draft ever begins. Makes the whole league your oyster. First Pearl – Noel Gluck – arguably the best SS and as a fierce a competitor as there is in the league. Second Pearl – Glen Roland – a perennial first rounder who drops to the second round only because of lingering injury concerns from last years “collision”. In the opinion of this

reporter, Roland will be fine, will have his usual stellar year, and will be a force. Just a hunch! Third Pearl – The Lazmanian Devil – the most feared hitter in the league and fits like a glove on this team of “light hitting” Feldy’s. Fourth Pearl – Lipomi – for two years a SS and a second rounder...now Feldy gets in THE FOURTH ROUND. Fifth Pearl – Stewart – this guy on my radar from the 5<sup>th</sup> round on....I think the steal of the draft in the 7<sup>th</sup> Round! Throw in Larry “just give me 4 innings “ Schiffman an 11<sup>th</sup> rounder who hits 400, and Mitchie “The Kid” Spiegel the best bench coach in the league (and back up pitcher), Feldy covered all the bases. Like all teams Team Feldy has a few question marks, and in Feldy’s case it’s the pitching rotation, line up selections, pregame motivational speeches.....this is where Herr Spiegel comes in....if Mitchie can focus long enough on the game and not on in game discussions with “The Boys” about the upcoming WWF Pay Per View- this team has it all! It used to be the three most feared words for league players after the draft was “Hello, my Brotha”. Now the most feared team on your Sunday schedule will be Team Feldman. No Joke!  
PREDICTED RECORD: 16-6

**Offense...A**  
**Defense....A**  
**Pitching....C+**  
**Speed.....B+**

POTENTIAL AWARD CANDIDATES

Defensive IF....Gluck  
Offensive POY....Laz  
Manager of the Year....Spiegel  
Most Improved....Andrew Feldman

**LHRGB LAW (GOLDFARB)**

Guy Goldfarb, AKA Trader Vic, had more to do with the outcome of 15 other managers draft than anyone else in the draft room. Virtually every round, Guy was active wheeling and dealing, sliding from table to table as if he was auditioning for Celebrity Apprentice. When the smoke cleared, Guy had pieced together a collection of rookie and veteran players, YUTES and Middle Age to Old Farts, and power/speed and Tortoises. At the end of the day, Guy’s draft hinges on the young Martinez at SS. Looked good at tryouts and the cognizanti of the league suspect Guy has the inside track on this kid. Nonetheless, a newbie in the league and will need for him to at least perform to the 1A status. Team Goldy OF is solid with Alex, KP, Turner , and Messina ....however the IF after the young Martinez is a little long in the tooth and does not have lots of mobility. This team also leads the league in Starting Catching /First Basemen, so if there are absences, there is not a lot of bench help. However , Guy did get the crafty Marty Safchick to pitch , and with the Mat now the new strike zone , this reporter predicts Marty’s high back spin floaters that nip the front and back of the plate will set off a firestorm of arguments with the umps about the “Marty Strike Zone”. Edge to Team Goldy there. The middle of the lineup is solid with Tommy T, KP, Turner, and Messina and will need table setters Bobby Feldy and Alex to get on a lot to get those big innings that Team Goldy will likely need to turn the order more than three times. Otherwise, the smoke from draft day will linger like a San Francisco fog.

PREDICTED RECORD: 10-12

**OFFENSE- C**  
**DEFENSE-C**  
**PITCHING-B**  
**SPEED- B**

End of Year Candidates  
Rookie of the Year- Martinez  
Mr Nice Guy- Scott Adler

### **NONNA'S (LAPINE)**

Here is a bold prediction, Team Lapine will lead the league in Rookie of the Year candidates. Beyond that, can't go bold with this team. They could go 6-16 as easily as they could go 16-6. So many new players at key spots in the draft, it is hard to handicap the outcome for this team. Here is what I do know, Justin Callow slated to play SS, is an athlete and a winner (see Team Bobito playoff terror circa 2012). So even though JC's best position is LCF, he is the type of player that will make it work, though the complete report card can't be filled out until and after a full season at SS. With JC at SS, it means Spoto (last year's draft steal at 6) a second rounder this year, goes to LF or LCF with newbie Torres filling in at the other position. They both need to be studs to make the JC at SS a fully successful switcheroo. Now the fun for Denny really begins as Curreri, Laconte, and Meyer drafted 4-5-6 respectively, all new with loads of potential, will have to play key roles for the "master plan" to work. After going "newbie", Denny went "oldie but goodie" on the mound, taking long time Lapine fave Alan Rubin. And in the end, if Rubin comes through, then Denny foregoing a pitcher in the premier pitcher rounds of 4-5-6 (last year Denny took "The Herminator" in round 4) when all the other managers loaded up, will have paid off handsomely. No pressure Alan! And then throw in getting Ferasse in round 7 a vastly under rated player and a back- up pitcher as well, it gives this team lots of flexibility. Overall this reporter sees a very strong OF, a few question marks in the IF, a strong offense and the potential to be a very good team. Although the fate of this team rides on the shoulders of Rubin and lots of unknown players. Well let's just say they are unknown to bulk of the league. Would it surprise anyone to find out all the new players are really cousins of Dave Silverberg? Lots of Breakfast Club fodder if that ever turned out to be true.

PREDICTED RECORD 13-9

**OFFENSE- A**  
**DEFENSE-B**  
**PITCHING-B**  
**SPEED- C+**

End of year candidates  
Offensive Player of the year- Spoto  
MVP- Callow  
MOY- Lapine  
Rookie of the year- Torres, Curreri, Laconte, Meyer  
Most Improved- Zavlasky

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**By - Todd Wallman**

### **EXPRESS IMPRINTS (Pollock)**

With Matt away, the statistical brains of the Pollock operation got to attend his first draft. While Mitch's draft sheets/notebook looked like they had been through a laundry cycle, we all know Mitch had a clear plan in mind. With the 2nd overall pick, Mitch selected favorite son and top 3 hitter in the league Jared (and Steve) Goldberg. The intrigue in the draft room increased as the 2nd round came to a close to see whether Mitch would grab the tremendous value pick of Mesmer/Mesmer. As expected, Mitch and his charting wouldn't let him pass. With a monster top 5, the rest of the roster was filled in nicely with the versatile Krant, underrated Lombardi combo pick, and long time love interest Rozenswaig again welcomed back to the Pollock homestead. The only real question here is how Matt holds up on the mound over the course of the season. This team likes to outscore it's opponent, and they will likely do so on many Sunday's.

Predicted record: 12-10

Offense-A

Defense-C

Pitching-B-

Speed-C

MVP-Jared, Ari

### **JAM COLLECTIONS (Randell)**

Despite the rumor mill suggesting on Saturday night that there were "credible threats" that Brad was going to select DK right in front Jacoby, it did not come to be and Brad made stud SS Martino the overall #3 pick of the draft. Needing a LCF in round 2 Brad grabbed rookie sensation Goddard to lead his OF. In a somewhat surprising (but understandable) selection with the first pick of the 3rd round Brad took 2013 MVP Clamp to pitch. Now Brad can move back to 2b and hit his typical .565 and the board will make him a 6 next year because he's only a singles hitter. Also returning home as a Randellette is the Matrix who will turn out to be one the best value picks in this year's draft. Brad continued his value selections with Lehman "missing 5-7 games can drop me 2 rounds" Messinger and Kreppel securing a veteran outfield. I don't really see any weaknesses on this squad. They can pitch, play defense and hit with a very balanced lineup. I see a very strong regular season for this squad with a conference title extremely possible.

Predicted record: 14-8

Offense-B+

Defense-B+

Pitching-A

Speed-B

MVP-Martino

### **FRADKIN LAW (Applebaum)**

The first half of the first round of the draft was somewhat predictable as the top 6 SS's went off the board. It was up to Apple to buck the trend at team #8 and who better to do that with than our beloved commissioner (and Brian's brother in law). With Apple as a 3 (pewh.....) he had an open 2 pick to get his SS, which he did with Mr Carlin. This top 3 is scary good offensively, clearly the best middle lineup in the league. Brian then grabbed the winning Yockel combo pick and Herm to don the mound to secure himself with one of the league's best hurlers. This team won't be at a loss for offense, the concern here is defensive consistency. We see an up and down campaign, but a very dangerous team come playoff time.

Predicted record: 11-11

Offense-A-

Defense-B-

Pitching-A

Speed-C

MVP-JZ

### **JIFFY LUBE (Granese)**

It seems like I am fortunate enough to be given the privilege of doing the MG write-up every year. While MG finally popped his cherry winning a playoff series for the first time in 8 years as a manager, his regular season is a predictable as a spelling or grammar mistake in one of JZ's emails. For the past 4 years this author has predicted a sub .500 record despite thinking that several of the squads had the potential to finish above the Feldman/Granese line. This 2014 version of the Douf's is no different.....MG's selection of Murph took nobody by surprise, and MG was half way to securing the core4 from last year's 10-12 squad. Kush brings a welcomed addition and bat protection for MG. Gene in the 4th is a steal, and grabbing Drapkin in the 5th will be a selection MG thanks his fellow YIT's for down the road. MG then predictably completed the core4 with Pat and DC. There is some thinking amongst the pundits and yenta's that MG whiffed on the 2nd half of his draft, the jury is still out. Regardless, with some personality on this team MG will have a very competitive bunch that should be one of the more cohesive groups assembled. However, it's MG and the prediction must stay the same.....enjoy.

Predicted record: 10-12

Offense-B

Defense-B-

Pitching-A

Speed-B

MVP-MG

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**By - Jason Younger**

### **ACE HOME IMPROVEMENT (Jacoby)**

What happens when you take 8 guys from last season's championship squad and add Dave Polzer? You automatically become the favorite to repeat as Marlboro Men's Softball Champs. After GG got his Co-Captain, SS and dear friend with the 4<sup>th</sup> open pick the rest of the draft fell

into place and looked easy. The big surprise was stud middle infielder Vega dropping to GG in the 7<sup>th</sup> which allowed the captain to trade his 4<sup>th</sup> round pick for RC's 5<sup>th</sup> reuniting Barth with the rest of the 2013 limeys. SS DK always makes his team a contender but the real secret to success is Eric Lurie. Entering his 4<sup>th</sup> season in the league Eric has been to 3 finals and has 2 championships. Nobody understands post season softball better than Eric and Emily Lurie. This team seriously has it all; great pitching, terrific defense and solid hitting. Anything less than the 1 seed and trip to the finals would be a disappointment for this crew. The real question is if and when this team wins its 2<sup>nd</sup> championship in a row will the board realize GG is a top defensive outfielder in the league and properly rate him??????

PREDICTED RECORD: 16 & 6

1 seed

Offense – B-

Defense – A-

Speed - C

Pitching - A

### **CK BASEBALL (Harris)**

It's hard to question any pick Bobby makes, the guy always puts together a tough and competitive squad and this year is no different. Was it loyalty or did Harris know something about the Tritto combo when he grabbed ageless wonder Schef with his first pick? After that pick the captain went chalk grabbing the best available player in each and every round. Paladino is one of the best SSs in the league and Perloff next to Schef gives Team Harris a very nice outfield D. Newman in the 4<sup>th</sup> with combo Gelman as a 7<sup>th</sup> round RCF is an absolute steal. If Kessler can pitch and Lawless is as good as advertised this team is will be really tough to beat. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base are not clear when looking at the roster but Captain Harris knows what he is doing and by week 6 this team be rolling. A very good balance on both sides of the plate should have this team near the top of their division by season end and expect them to make a deep post season run.

PREDICTED RECORD: 13 & 9

Offense – B+

Defense – B

Speed – C+

Pitching - B

### **VM CLEANING (Bykofsky)**

2<sup>nd</sup> year Captain Byko had a rough 2013 season by his standards when the first year manager finished sub .500 (as predicted). Justin went into the 2014 draft confident that things would be different even though just days earlier his father was scratched from the roster. It's not easy to replace a top pitcher and arguably the league's best hitter (for average) in round 3 but Justin did get a very good hitting SS to fill the Papa B void. J Taub adds some needed power for this squad and makes the left side of the infield very solid. While there is no pick anyone can say was a mistake when you look at this line up and defense it doesn't scare you. On paper this team has the best combined batting average so perhaps they will score runs and prove the author wrong but Captain Byko might want to brace himself for another sub.500 season. Perhaps next season

the board will consider a lower rating for El Capitaino to offset the difficulty of in game managing and playing.

PREDICTED RECORD: 8 & 14

Offense – B-

Defense – C+

Speed – B-

Pitching – A-

### **CAFÉ SPEZIA (Carlin)**

The Rec Room doors opened at 8am for the 2014 Marlboro Men's Softball draft and by 8:10am 15 captains and 6 board members had gathered with excitement that the big day was finally upon us. Like every previous draft no matter what time it was scheduled to begin Captain Carlin was nowhere to be found and this year was no different. When RC finally strolled in he looked annoyed and inconvenienced. One can only speculate he was up all night putting his draft board together but needed to get a few hours of sleep in. Since RC has the luxury of coming as a combo with the beast Brad G all he needs to do is sit back and wait to see which stud drops to him in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Lo and behold the mighty Cytrons fell and RC put together the most dangerous back to back hitters in the league with Brad and Jessie. Captain Ronnie was caught slightly off guard when Steinberg was taken leaving him without a true shortstop but an after draft trade brought Evan home and all was good. All the pieces fell into place in the 10<sup>th</sup> when RC got his guy and the entire Fast Times at Ridgemont High cast was once again reunited. This team has it all speed, hitting and defense. 10 combined games missed from the Cyntron brothers might hurt their regular season record but this is not a team you want to meet in the playoffs and we all know post season is what count in Marlboro softball.

PREDICTED RECORD: 12 & 10

Offense – A-

Defense – B

Speed – B+

Pitching – A-

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### **BY- Justin Jacoby**

### **WALLMAN LAW (Wallman)**

Five years into his tenure as captain TW finally found himself in the back half of the draft for the first time, and with his good fortune came an end to the panting and the moaning about being an early 3. The location paid off beautifully as TW was able to grab 2012 DOF year Joe Peragine with his first pick and immediately came back with the Preiss duo in the 2<sup>nd</sup>.. Kastner and 2013 champ Bolton round out a great infield while former Lapine and Beilis favorite son Dimarco will lockdown RCF giving this team excellent defense at nearly every position. Top to bottom, this group should have enough offensive firepower to score plenty of runs, but on the days where the bats go quiet, this collection of gloves will likely keep them in every game. Attendance could

be the only issue that stands in the way of great things for this team but a balanced attack across the board will likely put TW on the MOY ballot for a third consecutive season. One thing is for sure, this squad will not be staring at the back of the middle school come round 1 of the playoffs, but should have plenty in the tank to make a significant post season run.

Prediction: 14-8

Offense-B

Defense B+

Speed- B

Post season awards:

DOF NOM- Peragine

DIF NOM- J Preiss

Cy Young-Kastner

MOY- Wallman

Sportsmanship: Bolton

### **SUPERIOR AUTO GROUP (Mamone)**

No captain in the league wanted to put 2013 in their rear view mirror faster than JoMo. Fresh off of a 5 win campaign, and multiple mock drafts later, Joe sharpened his pencil, and strolled into the Municipal Center ready to map out a juggernaut. As the first 9 picks went off the board in a swift and expeditious fashion, Joe took the allotted 5, multiplied that by 5, and 25 minutes later had the younger Martinez signed sealed and delivered. In less than 2 minutes all of the deliberation was undone when Joe shipped Martinez to the Goldy nation, in exchange for Mike and Uncle Rob Conti. With his SS now comfortably in the fold, Joe went to work grabbing bff Jackson in the third, the versatile Difiedele to man 2B in 4<sup>th</sup> and Eddie Johnson to be the caretaker of the hot corner in the 5<sup>th</sup>. The steal on this squad however, is brother Paul who somehow fell through the cracks with the board and remains a mid 7<sup>th</sup> rounder in right center while just now hitting his stride as a player. Overall this team should be fairly competitive. It won't be a juggernaut, but shouldn't be awful either. Seidels' 5-7 early missed games could pose a problem, and don't be shocked to see Mike Conti amongst the walk leaders around the league as teams will find ways to make the rest of the line-up beat them. The offense could have some long days especially if no one steps up to protect Mike in the line-up. The defense should be pretty good and there might be enough here to hover around .500 but in the end I don't think this squad sees the Feldman line. Either way, expect marked improvement over last season, which is north of 5, and should keep JM from throwing himself off a cliff and threatening to give up his team.

Offense C

Defense B

Speed B

Prediction: 10-12

Most Improved: Paul Mamone

Sportsmanship: Buckly

### **A&H CHIROPRACTIC (Marrone)**

It's hard to argue any kind of draft strategy with a guy who took his team to the finals in his inaugural campaign as a manager. In fact most people probably wouldn't. However, I can't imagine during the Saturday night pre-draft party at Chateau Marrone where Schef and the yentahs were huddled around the table, that Glenn mapped out a squad quite like this. With the 5<sup>th</sup> overall pick, Marrone grabbed the older Martinez who at tryouts showed that he has the potential to be the most complete player of any in that group. Hoping to outslug teams, the captain grabbed Hor, Schindelheim and Krauss with his next few picks and with Jerry D, as well as new comers Chen and Eric Mallow there's no question that this team will score plenty of runs. Most people however believe that defense wins championships and there are far too many defensive question marks with this squad. Rumors are swirling that rookie Martinez may make his debut as a left center fielder not a shortstop, while B Hor jr will handle the reins at ss. Interesting decisions lie ahead for the captain. Clearly, this team will have moments where they knock the cover off the ball and likely come out on the right side of some lopsided games, but I just don't see them catching it consistently enough to generate a tremendous amount of success, and most of all wins. Other than Martinez, there isn't a lot of team speed on this roster which could make covering ground on the bigger fields a significant challenge. Ultimately, it could take several weeks to truly see what alignment might work best and after giving up the most runs in the league last season, Glenn will undoubtedly need more than organic oranges to prevent it from happening again..

Prediction: 7-15

Offense B

Defense C-

Speed C-

Rookie of the Year-Martinez

### **MODELL'S (Beilis)**

Once he found out that 2013 DOF and nephew Vader was rated a 2, most had Marty pegged in the early part of the draft. Fast forward a few days and give props to the board when it was revealed that MB would be picking 9-16. Fortunately, Marty's Squeeze Spiegel was on hand to provide a cold compress and the necessary remedies to scrape him off the floor and nurse him back to health for draft day where Marty recovered extremely well. With the 11<sup>th</sup> open pick, arguably one of the top three players in the league fell in his lap and Beilis quickly snared Vaccaro pairing him with Vader, giving this team a ridiculous left side of the OF. In the 3<sup>rd</sup>, newbie Lang, a late addition, was grabbed for RCF and this squad was coming into form. Two more rookies in Coughlin and Mayer will team up in the middle of the diamond behind Howie who came out of nowhere last season to become a dominant force on the mound. Up and down the line-up there is plenty of hitting and an excellent mix of lefty and righty bats. The overall defense has a chance to be at the top of the league and the only real question mark with this team would be if the new comers struggle to make plays. If the newbies play well this might be the least flawed and most balanced team in the entire league. Expect a big year and a lengthy post season run from this group while also expecting Marty to be in a boot by week 3, and watching playoffs. I hope the commish has Ostroffe on speed dial.....

Prediction- 15-7

Offense-A-

Defense B+  
Speed B

Postseason Awards

MVP- Vaccaro

DOF-Vaccaro, Vader

Rookie of the Year-Lang, Coughlin

MOY- Beilis

Sportsmanship-Stone

Cy Young-Rosenblum