

AL West by Matt Granese

Carlin Law (Carlin)

Ronnie Carlin entered his first draft without bro in law Brad Goldstein. Filling the void will be the speedy Joe Mamone, fresh off his MVP caliber season that likely saved Goldfarb Nation from extinction. The Carlin duo will anchor the infield at Pitcher and SS with Mamone captaining the OF. Newbies (sort of) Rory Cohen and Dwaine Hall bring solid bats to help solidify the offense. Perennial Carlin all-stars Feingold, Sobel, and Gary Cohen solidify the middle of the lineup and are sure to teach guys like Joe Olivencia how to play the game at a high level.....Very solid all around offense and defense...not a ton of speed outside of Mamone. RC a solid hurler and proven division champ in recent years. Likely division champ in a 3 horse race.

OFF B+, DEF B+, Speed B, Pitching B

PREDICTION: 13-9

Express Imprints (Lapine)

For many years, Lapine's squad relied on big bats and shaky D and they always fell short in the end. After a season where youth and speed brought Captain Lapine the 2010 championship, he appears to have repeated last year's blueprint. The Brock duo and MVP Roland were off the board when Lapine picked late in round 1, but he found speed, youth, and great hitting in the Cytryn combo. Then he backed it up by picking first time draftees Donnie and Ari Mesmer. An early surprise was the 5th round choice of Most Improved Adam Rothschild, who jumps from a 10th round pick in 2010. Lapine showing great faith in the youngster and also grabbed another cornerstone from '10 in Darren Freeman. Similar to last year, Lapine appears to have waited until late for his pitcher in returnee Mel Greenblatt. This team will put a lot of pressure on defenses and can easily win this division with good health and good attendance from its top players.

OFF A, DEF B, Speed A, Pitching C

PREDICTION: 12-10

Wallman Law/Fradkin Law (Wallman)

Once again, Wallman draws a top 2 pick off the board and gets slugger Eddie Fradkin right away. Some say he waffled over the pick for weeks and months and was afraid to take the commish in back to back seasons. Could that lack of faith come back to haunt on opening day vs. the Pollocks? Capt Wallman was well prepared after numerous mock drafts in the offseason and he made his co-capt Jacoby happy with the Perloff/Krauss pick in round 3. A solid OF and great hitter who could miss a chunk of games may hurt this squad and keep captain Todd juggling his lineup. Fortunately, he has highly talented players that can play both infield and OF. The Yockel duo along with Cy Friedlich (nearly left for dead after many years as a 5th or 6th round pick) move from a division winning squad in Schef to near basement dweller Wallman who will look to avoid a 2-8 start this year. This team has a solid lineup, and a good defense behind the veteran hurler. Despite the 10 win prediction, this squad could contend for division honors if a lot of things fall into place.

Speed will be lacking on this squad but the power thread of Fradkin, Marter and Yockel keeps this squad contending.

OFF B, DEF B+, Speed C-, Pitching B+

PREDICTION: 10-12

Pizza & Pasta Factory (Feldman)

For every division contender there is a non contender. With 3 expected contenders in this division, that leaves our good friend Feldy to remain below the coveted Mendoza line that bears his name. Glen looks to improve on a 15 seed in 2010 and started strong by trading for 2010 league MVP Glen Roland. He later added the oft injured, but always top notch defensive wizard in Darren Kay, coincidentally a former MVP himself (2009). It potentially went a little downhill after that as Feldy grabbed a pair of new players that will really make or break this club. They could be good, but for now too much uncertainty to expect big results. Will the young Feldman foursome improve enough offensively to change the woes of previous clubs? Glen backed up some early head scratchers with solid, proven big bats in Mike Ringel and Wayne Sherman. This offense again appears to be struggling for runs all year long, but MVP Roland has already been seen around Marlboro tutoring the young Feldman hitters and results could follow soon. This is a tough division so for 2011, this team will just hope for a 7 seed in the AL. Good luck and may all teams strive to go north of the Feldman Line!

OFF C-, DEF B, Speed B-, Pitching B

PREDICTION: 9-13

NL West by Todd Wallman

Massage Envy(Sarcona)

Lenny finally got his wish at a shot at a lottery pick, and boy did it pay off with his good friend Big Dave. This team has a ton of hitting and may have the tallest average height of any team in league history. These guys will score runs, and Lenny made some nice middle round picks to solidify the defense. With the best balance in the division we pick Lenny to win his first division in ??? years. We don't predict a monster win total with Doc missing more games than he did last year (0), but they should be able to take a very evenly matched NL West.

Offense: A-
Defense: C+
Speed: C+
Pitching: B

PREDICTION 13-9

Arrow Termite(Beilis)

Marty makes the smart choice of not trading away his #1 pick, and selects Gluck for the second year in a row. Immediately, his team becomes a winning team in our mind. With young Vader ready to step up to LCF, Marty needed a bat and who better than the Gentle fella Rick Schindels. Marty grabs his friend at 4 and one of our best pitchers at 5 to round out a solid start. The only concern here is that this team may not be able to keep up with the monster offenses of Sarcona and Granese in this division. This team will have one of the best infields in the league and will pitch, however we see a struggle at times scoring runs. We shall see.

Offense: C
Defense: A-
Speed: B-
Pitching: A-

PREDICTION 12-11

Bagel World(Goldfarb)

Guy didn't want to mess with last year's success so he goes right back to the winning formula of the Bykofsky's at 1-3 to open his draft. Great Value when you get one of the best avg hitters in the league with the second to last pick of the 3rd round! At early 2 he selects young Martino who will no doubt be a top SS in our league immediately. This team has alot of youth and should run the bases well. This team will also play very good defense up the middle. However, like Marty the lack of power and hitting depth in the lineup is what keeps this team from winning the division. However, after last year Guy may have found his drafting groove, so we make this prediction cautiously.

Offense: C+
Defense: B+
Speed: B
Pitching: A-

PREDICTION 11-11

Paco's Taco's (Granese)

This pick is as much about history as anything else, as this draft was MG's best in years. This lineup is the scariest 2-6 in the league, and the middle and bottom has several proven hitters as well. The only thing keeping us from predicting this team as a division winner is the unknown of the new player. Did MG find the steal of the draft with his controversial 3-6 pick, or will he regret passing on some proven commodities? This team will have one of the highest run totals by year's end, no question. However, the concern (as it usually is) is on defense and team chemistry. With Clamp on the mound they will pitch, but will Dave be shaking his head afterwards? As always, MG's draft is fun to pick apart, but besides our obligation to put him BELOW THE FELDMAN LINE, the real pick would be for a tie for the division with Lenny. That being said.....

Offense: A

Defense: C

Speed: B-

Pitching: A-

PREDICTION 10-12

AL EAST by Bobby Harris

CK Sports (PERAGINE)

Rookie manager Joey Peragine had a great start to his first ever draft, snagging solid players Murphy, Turner, Titi, and the Silbermans.....and very underrated pitcher Mark "the K" Karp. "The K" will need to be stellar this year as there is not a lot of offensive length in this lineup and while the defense is solid (is there a better defensive SS/LCF combo than Peragine and Murphy?), other than "Union Hill" Turner there is no long ball threat in this lineup, and just not enough sticks to get a lot of runs. Mark "The K" will have to go to his funky delivery earlier in the count than he usually does, and try to keep hitters off stride and rely on his defense....He will have to.....He will also have to keep the opposing team to under 7 or 8 runs, as we do not see Team Peragine scoring double digit runs too often. Most teams can not withstand vacations and injuries, but for this team it will be an even greater challenge than for most.....where is Mike Vaccaro when you need him (Bruno???? HmMMMM). Taking The Silbermans, while on paper a great pick, is a tough pick with Greg at school for the first few games and then gone for the playoffs (unless he is graduating and available playoff time)....his loss would hurt. The other dimension to this team that is often overlooked, there are a lot quality guys. This should not be a team turmoil, like others in this league with more up and down talent. So, if Greg is available playoff time and this team meshes, a run is possible. Otherwise the team highlights will be the post Wednesday Night Game tailgate. Drinks on Joey!!!!

Offense- C-

Defense- A

Pitching- B

Speed- B

PREDICTION: 8-14

Team Post Season Award Candidates

Def IF- Peragine

Def OF- Murphy

Gastro of Ocean(Pollack)

Rookie manager Matt Pollack had an impressive start to his inaugural draft by snagging Commish JZ, who has vowed to burn the Justin Jacoby Hitting CD he used last year, and bounce back with an MVP type year. The Commish is determined, and who are we to doubt the Commish. More importantly Matt Pollack didn't doubt it and happily took The Commish as a middle of the first round draft pick, unheard of in years past. Getting such great value, makes round two pick Brock Hor, a perennial League Batting Average contender, that much more lethal. With Brock and JZ in the middle of that lineup....look out !!! Add the Menage a Pollacks to this lineup and you got some serious firepower to contend with at the top of this lineup. But then it drops off and this team will need to put up lots of runs when the Big Five come to bat, and will likely struggle to score runs in the off innings. While our Commish patrols LCF, he may have to cover LF, RCF, and RF as well. Not a very strong OF after JZ, and that may necessitate Manager Matt to take his brother Mitch off 2b and put him in LF, where Mitch is a very underrated LF. The INF defense looked a little thin even with the steady Mitch at 2B, but there are no gold gloves in this INF, nor do we see any emerging. Lots of solid players but no anchor player to solidify the INF. We predict Team Pollack will see more INF combinations tried than any other teams. But, and there is no bigger But....Matt Pollack got great value and one of the better pitchers in our league when Team Pollack got Herm "Sinker" Suarez. Herm will have to mix in his cut fastball, and stay away from his trademark sinker, to try to induce more fly balls for Team Pollack LCF anchor, JZnot sure this team wants to see too many ground balls. Unless the defense can win

games with steady versus stellar, we predict it could be a tough start to the managerial career of Matt Pollack , a likely .500 season.....which would not be terrible it certainly beats going “Under The Feldman Line”

Offense- B
Defense- C
Pitching- B+
Speed- C-

PREDICTION: 11-11

Team Post Season Award Candidates

CY Young- Suarez
OFF Player- JZ
Def OF- JZ

Allstate-Bruce Krug Agency(RANDELL)

Why would a Ferrari Car owner put a Chevy motor in his car?

Team Randell Pit Boss Bradley was driving his Ferrari at a 180 MPH , making solid pick after solid pickDell Abba (MVP?) , Malysz (ROY?) , Cottrell (Def IF?) , Golden (Def OF?) , late round gems Bolton , Dille , Krug , Rappy , Glassman.....but wait NO Clampferer , NO “Bram” , No Rubin , NO Tilker , NO PITCHER?

PFFFFTTTTT.....The Ferrari just blew a gasket , though given the track record of the Team Randell Pit Boss, we suspect The Ferrari will go to the shop for an overhaul and come out with a new look. But at least on paper it looks like this Ferrari will have Gary Shaw for 3 innings and then Abra Gadabra, Dell Abba takes the hill , or Bradley himself or does Shaw go the distance? Then again, can Shaw go back to back games for 9 innings? I think the last time Gary went back to back 9 innings, Haley’s Comet was seen streaking across the heavens. While we have no doubt James and Bradley can man the hill , has this league ever had a 1A pitcher? Can Team Randell be as steady without their perennial 2B manager making those patented belly flop dives up the middle and rather take the hill? Wouldn’t that create a domino effect where Kessler would have to go to 2b , Rappy to LF , Ceasar Tovar to RF , oh that’s right Tovar isn’t on this team.....nonetheless more question marks than usual for a Randell team.

All of that said , this team has too much talent not to succeed and with heart and soul player Dell Abba, a strong middle of the lineup player in newcomer Shawn “ I was tutored in Little League by Bobby Harris” Malysz, nice firepower from Cottrell and Golden, the versatility of perennial Team Randell stalwart Andy Kessler (who learned first hand the meaning of “Under The Feldman Line” last year), and then just solid players in Dille , Bolton , and Rappy , Team Randell could very well ride this Ferrari into Victory Lane. The only question is by how many lengths.

Offense - B+
Defense- B
Pitching- C-
Speed- B

PREDICTION: 13-9

Team Post Season Award Candidates

MVP- Dell Abba
Off Player of the Year- Dell Abba
Rookie of the Year- Malysz

TuscanyRose (SCHEF)

There is one certainty in The Marlboro Softball league- “Never count Schef out”. Never has that saying been as tested as it will be this year. After failing to secure the duo of Donald and Ari (AKA L’Affaire Mesmer) Schef shocked the room by

taking last years Team Lapine savior Dave Polzer.....as **HIS SHORTSTOP** (And should Polzer make it two consecutive years of being a savior, Dave gets an automatic exemption into the Marlboro Softball Hall of Fame having the 5 year waiting period waived) . In other words last year's Cy Young finalist will now get the spot occupied last year by Jordan Preiss ? Has Schef gone mad? But wait , there is more , Schef rolled the dice (Schef must have thought he was still in Vegas!) and snagged Mike Conti , coming off of knee surgery. No doubt Mike is a top ten player in this league when healthy , but taking another gamble like this???? Wow Schef must have been feeling his oats....but then again if Big Dave can play a respectable shortstop and /or Mike Conti returns to form, the gamble will have paid off, as these two players are dynamic offensive players and will give Schef some real firepower. But there is one other interesting dimension to Schef taking Mike Conti, he gets Papa " I pitch" Conti as well. Did that mean the very successful three year run of Schef/Friedlich was coming to an end? Would Schef's Consiglieri be gone? Sent packing? Or would Schef draft him as a back up pitcher or as a 1B? As the sixth round approached , "The Leo Spot" , the room waited in great anticipation , what would Schef do? Then the words...."I take Gary Jaeger" came out of Schef's mouth , the run was over , Leo now in Brady Quinn fashion fell out of the sixth round, ultimately to Wallman who happily took his new office roommate. So new look Team Schef was taking shape , sort of.....Schef did bring some of the old gang back...Tommy B , Schiffman , Heller , and Buck. Laitman , Lehman , and Jaeger are all solid players that will fill in very nicely around the big Two of Dave and Mike.....but the success of Team Schef 2011 will be whether either can make shortstop a happy place!

Offense- B
Defense- B
Pitching- C
Speed- C

PREDICTION: 12-10

Team Post Season Award Candidates
Manager of the year- Schef
MVP- Polzer
Offensive Player of the Year- Polzer
Def OF- Schef

NL EAST by Ronnie Carlin

Main Electric (Applebaum)

Coach Applebaum entered his sophomore year of being a captain after a tough year one. The good news is he spent the last six months going over draft strategy, learning from his prior errors, and came to the draft in 2011 ready to pick a contender. The bad news is that he didn't. Do not get me wrong, the undersigned is a big fan of first round pick Adam Greenspan and thinks that second round pick Jason Dunn (welcome to the league) will be an explosive offensive player in this league. However, the lack of speed and leather will cost this team more games than the big bats can overcome. Fortunately for Brian, and I do mean fortunately, Evan Steinberg was available in round four, too late for him to be available, to play shortstop. Jack Goldrosen at third base will add to a solid left side of the infield. Even so, with an outfield of Dunn, Greenspan, Applebaum and ?, Alan Rubin will have his work cut out for him on the mound. Keep an eye on young Dan Abramowitz to be a bright spot on this squad. His Jesse-like swing looked incredible at tryouts but was round seven too early to take what appeared to be mostly an offensive player? This team will undoubtedly pound a few teams into oblivion but the average Sunday will be a struggle. I predict a 9-13 record for this squad and most likely one and Dunn in the playoffs.

Offense – A, Defense – C, Speed – D, Pitching - C

PREDICTION: 9-13

Potential Award Winners:

Defensive OF: Justin Callow

Defensive IF: Justin Brock

ROY: Dunn

CY Young: Drapkin

Lawcash (Younger)

Jason Younger also enters his second season as a captain and picked himself what appears to be a decent squad, at least on paper. Hopefully Younger got an A in chemistry in his high school days because it may take a mad scientist to keep this team together if the season gets off to a tough start. That being said, from a talent point of view, this squad has the best defense and pitching in the division. Jared Goldberg is a star continuing to rise and Pargament was always a very steady glove in left-center. Add Barth, Truzz and Messinger and you have an outfield. Younger gives this team a nice up the middle combo, but it is a bit unclear as to who is playing third. Hopefully newcomer Klein can play the spot otherwise Dougy Cohen is going to have to step up and man the hot corner along with Barry Tobias. Despite the question mark at third, Younger has the great neutralizer, Marty Safchik, who will keep the ball in the air and let his outfielders run them down. I predict a 13-9 record for this squad which should give them the division by one game over Team Harris.

Offense B+, Defense B, Pitching B, Speed B

PREDICTION: 13-9

Potential End of the Year Awards

MVP - Jared

Cy Young - Safchick

Charlie Hustle - Doug Cohen

Mr. Nice Guy - Truzz

King & Sons (Harris)

Bobby looked at the draft board and watched the usual suspects fall. Some would anticipate a Cytryn reunion, but instead Bobby went a different direction and drafted highly touted Justin Callow to run the show. After his LCF was locked up, Harris made a very nice selection with the Paladino combo rounding out the left side of his infield. He did not disappoint with his next few picks taking the ever steady Russell Krauss and big hitting Eddie Johnson. Some might question Bobby's decision to draft two of the best third basemen's in the league between Eddie Johnson and Rich Paladino but I am guessing one of these two will end up at second base. Perhaps the biggest question on D will be who is on the mound and how do they do. Tilker and Harris have both had excellent seasons and some not so great seasons. Perhaps sharing the duty will help them both bring their A game for half a game. Perhaps not. Assuming the pitching holds up, expect this team to play solid on both sides of the ball and be part of a three team race for the division come late August.

PREDICTION: 12-10

Offense A, Defense B, Speed B, Pitching B-

Potential End of the Year Awards

ROY - Callow

Defensive Infielder - Mike Paladino

Mr. Nice Guy - Either Paladino, Krauss, Soskel

M&L Carpet Cleaning (Spiegel)

Mitch had to be thrilled to land the darling pick of the draft, the Brock Brothers, midway through the first round of the draft. Joining the Brocks this year is the forgotten Uncle Mike Brock (welcome to the league). Patrick "I'm faster than my brother" Brock coming off a ROY type season will run the outfield, while older brother Justin "I'm actually faster than my brother" Brock showed he can play SS with the best of the league. Between the Brock combo, Mitch grabbed slugger Mike Petrosino to bring some power to the lineup. While the undersigned it a big fan of the bit hitting Petrosino, the Paladino brothers fit like a glove in round two but if Mitch does not take a bit bat in his first three picks he feels very unsatisfied. The evil genius then rounded out his outfield and infield with Spiegel lifer Doug Ringel (I will supply the post-game cheesesteaks from the Philly Cheesesteak Factory), Howie Rosenblum, and Carlos Kwan. Mitch again decided to remain behind the plate this year drafting stud pitcher and veteran Darren Drapkin to run the show. If (and this is a decent sized if) this team can play solid defense all year, then expect them to be contending for the division title and also make some noise in the playoffs.

PREDICTION: 12-10

Offense B+, Defense B, Speed B+, Pitching A

Potential End of the Year Awards

MVP - Justin Brock

Cy Young - Drapkin

Best Cheesesteak - Ringel

Offensive Player - Petrosino

