

## FBBA Draft Day, 2024

Hats off to the Commish on his selection of our new program!! Lots to like about it on all levels.

Welcome to the Bon Vivs and look forward to meeting you guys in NJ in mid-Summer.

At first blush, I'm thinking this year will start off as a nail-biter, then injuries will cripple a few teams early to create some distance. Don't see a very clear wire - to - wire path for anyone, nor do I see a certain basement dweller; leave that to the NY Mets may step up and grab that brass ring.

Let's go alphabetical for an early look.



**Amazins'** - '23 Champs are likely a later charging team, presuming Buehler returns in '24. Snell & Strider top gun anchors. Gonna need production from a few of the graybeards like Bryant, Muncy. Solid 4some in Lindor, Carroll, Happ & Ketel Marte if a repeat 2023 in store. That ain't a bad crop. B. Rodgers is due to surpass expectations and Noelle Marte is certainly a talent, tho' deferred w/ suspension. Alan will be in the Montgomery sweepstakes. Needs Ginkel to close in AZ., Finnegan, gulp!

**Amigos** - Buff likely drafted the best 14 position players in the league. Well done!!! Barely any holes there, especially if Lux & India return to the promise they once showed. I see alotta top tier OFFENSE Categories in the Amigo's column. Pitching is certainly not as daunting as offense but serviceable enough to contend. Gray & Gore in DC, Quintana in NY are the ones to watch. ⅓ of those 3 can't shit the bed. Hodgepodge of relievers. What's in the tank for C. Morton? Not a lotta margin for error from the bump.

**Ball Four** - Freddie in a class by himself. Big Harris fan...expect a big season from him. Frelick and Thomas are pretty key potentially. Not a Soler fan in SF. Swanson's seen more upside than he is gonna see. Gorman a sleeper for a big season. Pitching-wise the keys are Pfaadt & J. Jones and the development of Meyer in Miami. Rooting for a nice healthy comeback from Diaz and needs Cease to earn his inflated salary. Not a Montas fan. Eric will be swindling his way into a money spot at trade deadline.

**Bon Vivs** - Overall a nice blend of offense with very solid players, at least 9 by my count. (You figure them out) Players like Conforto, Perdomo, Cooper and Yaz are decent complements to a top rung collection. Pitching-wise, rolled the dice big time on Yamamoto. Time for Hunter Greene to meet the hype, needs a healthy Eury Perez. Lance Lynn scares me over the long haul. Bullpen is enough. I like this team for a money spot. Welcome aboard!!!



Ohtani & Yamamoto

**Knights of NY** - MM put together a good veteran squad of ½ dozen core players on offense and a coupla perennial cheapos who, with decent seasons, can make a difference, like the underachieving Tommy Edman, D'Arnaud (always a great playoff player), V. Robles (WHEN ..WHEN...WHEN??) and H. Bader. Sleeper in Nats Garcia. Musgrove and Kelly and maybe Phils' Suarez anchor the pitching staff which will need some consistency from Mikolas and Manaea while waiting for the return of Taillon. Otherwise SP is on the thin side. Relying on Pirates for Saves/Holds is shaky ground.

**Love Machine** - TIM WILL ALWAYS BE THE CO-CAPTAIN!!! Toughest team in league to gauge comin' outta the box at least for me. Arenado ain't what he was, methinks, Friedl's bounce back from injury is key, very intriguing to see what Encarn-Strand will produce, how are Braves gonna use Kelenic? What's Blackmon got in the tank? Nimmo on our "drive you crazy Mets???" Merrill Jackson playing time in SD???. Pitching will be all about Sale, Sale, Sale, return of Sewald and consistency of Luzardo. Severino a waste of ½ that money but maybe Hicks will finally live up to the hype. Let's see what Dickie can make out of the ingredients of this soup!!!



**Lupin** - Will be a decent jump up the ladder in '24 for KO with a few anchor vets and a bunch of future possibilities. Anchors in Harper, Marte (watch drop off this year), Olsen, Iglesias, Darvish meshing with exciting new blood like a star in the making in Chourio, Abrams in DC, Walker in StL, O. Cruz in Buctown & the full year arrival of Campusano in SD. McLain a nice steal for '25. Will be needing big year out of Peralta and M. King and got little help from last 4 pitchers picked on DDay.



**Cardenals** - Not seeing a lotta big pop after Alonso. Will need to get it from Castellanos, Thernandez in LA (a stud, I think) and some significant ABs from Duvall. Comeback year for talented Tim Anderson and emergence of E Rosario in DC after being hidden in Atlantic are keys to uplifting the offense. Senga's recovery to form, Puk's emergence as a starter and big seasons from Fried and Glasnow. Think B. Miller will be a good #4 someday in LA or a good #2 somewhere else.



\$43?

**SOBs** - took no prisoners early with a bunch of money and overspent a bit on Tatis, Hoerner and Hayes early in draft. Gallen at top price. Stung by loss of Steele who with Webb woulda made a pretty good trio. Last year Saves were a problem, potential fix in Doval & Helsley and a few good set up guys. SPitchers Wicks and K.Gibson both low hanging fruit. Could hurt. Better than '23, we'll see how much better. SB's shorn up with Turang, Tatis & Hoerner and pinch runner supreme McCarthy in AZ. They should get a bunch. Comeback year on tap.

**Zombs** - Albies & Riley were outstanding in '23. Can Albies get near that again? Riley can. Love Steer and I think Outman is a sleeper. G Moreno the next Yadi w/pop, Hoskins a nice buy until someone assassinates him from the stands in City Field. Can't wait to see him in Philly. Nola and S. Gray who could have a big time impact in the Loo if he stays healthy, are the SP anchors. Also like Gavin Stone long range. Stick a fork K. Hendricks and A. Uribe won't be enough for Saves holds. Needs Gallegos to bump Helsley in the Loo which is likely.



**Afterthoughts....**

What a crop of younguns!!!!!! - biggest since forever.... McClain, Abrams, Burger, Chourio, Cruz, Fraley, Campusano, M.King, Puk, B. Miller, Turang, Carroll, Strider, Gorman, Winn, J.Jones, Pfaadt, DeLaCruz, Chisholm, Encar-Strand, N. Jones, Tovar, Outman, Morel, Stone, Harrison... probably a 1/2 dozen others. ALL THESE GUYS ON THE WAY UP.

On the way down..... Arenado & Goldy, Starlin Marte, Darvish, Chapman, Muncy, Barnhart, Swanson, Morton, Blackmon, Hendricks, Bryant, Severino, Quintana

Right now I am liking Amigos for a big check, Bon Vivs for some \$\$\$ with Lupin and SOBs making decent comebacks. Nobody is out of the money right now.... Lol. Tight one coming up. Injuries will be the great divider.

Checks please to JW from: Ball Four, Amazons, Love Machine \$475 each. \$250 minimum now. Mail to: John Wuestman 7245 Swan Point Way Columbia, Md. 21045

See y'all in July somewhere in Jersey, I guess. Be well, gents & Good luck! Cap

