

## SUMMER of '24- FBBA Returns to Glory Days



Could not resist a follow-up to what I thought was a GREAT RETURN to yesteryears with a home grown bar-b-que in the Commish's yard, littered with coolers and ultimately Jamieson's empties, burgers and dogs squeezed on a grill, rain turning to sunshine and a tear in the back of every eye for our missing chums- Marv, Ed, Butch, Tommy, Tim. ( our other friends and close-ones who aren't with us as well). Days like Saturday are why WE DO THIS, I hope, and the ball-busting just enriches the friendships 'cause only friends can get away with that shit. Next year's

could be in Maryland which was drunkenly posited right after the next President of the US was almost murdered. The date will likely be July 12, 2025, this time with the Bon Vivs in the house with the rest of us as year's "have-nots" get assaulted by the contenders. A word to Eric, Alan & Anthony (Michael,too)- High class all the way, stayed from start to stop, worked the room, left with next year's starting pieces and no doubt will be contenders next Spring. If not for injuries, injuries, injuries which befall ALL, we'd be looking at different money-winners. Quick look at Teams in order of Trade day rankings on Sat. AM, July 13.

**1. Amigos-** Buff wouldn't or couldn't pull a trigger even though Alan and Eric spent most of the day in the operating room. Funny thing is, could well still be in \$\$\$ spot but pitching will have to take him there. Can't lose Acuna for 45% of the season before that catches up and it will, all things being equal. Can't Dela-Cruz(es) your way to the top spot over the long haul.

**2. SOBS-**never afraid to deal and obviously would trade each other if they thought it would keep 'em contending.



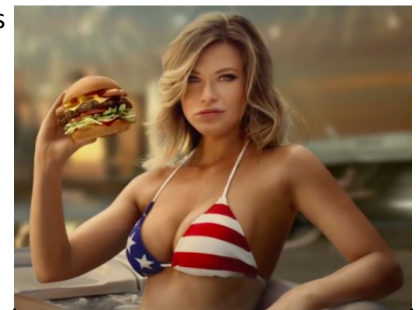
Traded pitching to get pitching. Didn't lose a top closer. Biggest move was gambling on Tatis remaining hobbled for lion's share of second half. Added Arenado and Swanson to upgrade offense a bit but not much. Keys will still be a hot homer

month from Schwarb, continued SB contributions of a surprising Turang, bounce back 2nd half from Hoerner and a Bohn repeat of 1st half. All that happens and they'll get a check, if not the big check.

**3. Love Machine-** might as well jinx 'em right now. I got Dickie w/ the big check if Webb's Ratio, K & ERA numbers surpasses Severino's, if Tatis can come back with at least 2 solid Tatis-like months. Alonso gives him the huge power boost and Harvey could well be closer if/when Finnegan is traded outta DC to AL. Other impressive pieces are Merrill, Teoscar and Lane Thomas.... Nice balanced accumulation on trade day.

**4. Bon Vivs-** welcome to the party. Only 2 deals but both additions in Montgomery & Castellanos. Team already solidly in contention and contending for more than 4th. What if Yamamoto, Kershaw and T. Walker make impactful returns????... Watch out, not such a sleeper for top rung.

**5. Zombs-** Rob needs to hire a naked a 30 year old woman of independent means to do the barbecuing so he can be engaged throughout- hell, the league would chip in to help him pay for that rental for the day and Gary would drive her home. Anyway, I digress... A plus addition in Closer A. Diaz. Will need all-star type 2nd halves from Nola, Gray and Harrison (could happen), more production from Hoskins, the Albies of '23 and continued awakening of Riley in Alt. With all of the above a check is well within sight for the Brothers Boc.



Burger anyone?



6. **KoNY**-Fried a very nice pickup for the 2nd half run. Could've used 1 more impactful pitching move.

Love Stott for BA & SBs. Machado, Smith and a hot Ozuna remain pivotal. Can't sleep on Yelich and the exciting Rojas in Philly getting more time. In it for sure, but either may be one effective pitcher short or Taillon, Mikolas and Manaea give him 2 out 3 productive starters. Very much alive for a money spot.

7. **Lupin Express**- K\_O made big grabs in Freeman, Lindor, Snell and dice roll on Soler. Could use a solid return from Marte and don't sleep on Olsen and Cruz in last 2 months. All around has the tools for the money but 15 points is a lot to make up for a big check, but do-able. Can't blame 'im for lack of trying. Did a great job on D-Day and had the right team in Amazins who year in and year out do the "big dump" deal within opening minutes which gets all the other teams' juices flowing. Which Snell shows up down the stretch? So.....



Happy rest of Summer mon freres and may the beer stay cold, the race stay tight and and nobody get destroyed by injuries, the one equalizing equalizer in league. Beat the heat!!! The race is on!!! Cap. J.