

## The Stat-Drunk Computer Nerd looks at the 2016 TBL draft

Draft day is coming up unusually quickly this year, so the SDCN, single-malt at his elbow, setting aside his Dickens, settles in to evaluate the state of the league...

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

For some teams, this draft is the season of Light. The draft is talented and deep. Hoboken has 3 first-round picks. Brobdingnag, Hudson, Calusa, Taylorville all have very strong draft position. Las Vegas and New West are also well-placed.

For other teams, it is the season of Darkness. Melrose don't have a pick until the end of round 2. Whitman and Munich will see over 100 players go before their first choices. For Warrenton, over 150 players. Knoxville won't draft a player until next year. Rest assured, those picks have purchased a lot of firepower for those teams – they all rank in the top 7 in the league.

For contenders in the International Conference, it is the spring of hope. Whitman and Brobdingnag are running ahead of the pack, but there are at least 5 legitimate contenders (Gotham City, Warrenton, Rye, Grand Cayman, Columbus) for the other 3 post-season slots.

For contenders in the National Conference, however, it is the winter of despair. Breaking into the top five (Munich, Melrose, Knoxville, Kansas, Taylorville) is going to be terribly, horribly tough. The jockeying within those 5 for the post-season will be fascinating – the top 3 have already spent most of their 2016 draft, but the Taylors have a very high quality draft coming, and Bill has an average share as well. Munich's landing Miggy Cabrera with a late-breaking trade with Calusa was a mighty statement, making the already fearsome team into a super-sized monster.

The best romantic back-story of this draft has to be Darrell's. The Midwest Mongrels need 266 outfield games just to get legal, and the ENTIRE TWINS STARTING OUTFIELD is available in this draft. Alas for romantics, his draft is a tad thin to get them all, though he hopes to snag at least one.

<b>1. LAS VEGAS (NC)</b> Offense: 15    Pitching: 10 Draft Quality: high	<b>Overall Rank: t13</b> Youth: 10 Needs: 1B-57,3B-4,RP	<b>KRIS BRYANT</b> – who else? The Gamblers are getting better quickly.
<b>2. HOBOKEN (IC)</b> Offense: 21    Pitching: 20 Draft Quality: very high	<b>Overall Rank: 20</b> Youth: 1 Needs: SP-19,IF-102,C-95,RP	<b>SCHWARBER,Kyle</b> – the other beast.
<b>3. BROBDINGNAG (IC)</b> Offense: 3    Pitching: 18 Draft Quality: very high	<b>Overall Rank: 8</b> Youth: 3 Needs: SP-18,C-56,RP	<b>SEAGER,Corey</b> – the extraordinarily talented very young SS must be the focus of Joe's pre-draft maneuvers
<b>4. HUDSON (NC)</b> Offense: 7    Pitching: 12 Draft Quality: very high	<b>Overall Rank: 11</b> Youth: 2 Needs: SP-39,IF-12	<b>CORREA,Carlos</b> – another monster SS. A toss-up here with...
<b>5. ZION (NC)</b> Offense: 19    Pitching: 17 Draft Quality: average	<b>Overall Rank: 19</b> Youth: 14 Needs: SP-23,1B-34,SS-89	<b>LINDOR,Francisco</b> – yet another monster SS.

<b>6. CALUSA (IC)</b> Offense: 17 Pitching: 22 Draft Quality: very high	<b>Overall Rank: 20</b> Youth: 6 Needs: SP-55,RP,OF-99	<b>PEDERSON,Joc</b> – strong young pick for a team needing OFers
<b>7. COLUMBUS (IC)</b> Offense: 18 Pitching: 14 Draft Quality: average	<b>Overall Rank: t13</b> Youth: 18 Needs: C-58,SP-3,RP	<b>SANO,Miguel</b> – doesn't fill a need, but will supply a lot of power in the future.
<b>8. NEW WEST (IC)</b> Offense: 23 Pitching: 15 Draft Quality: very high	<b>Overall Rank: 23</b> Youth: 5 Needs: IF-141,DH-162,OF-123,RP	<b>RUSSELL,Addison</b> – Jim has needs all over the place, but a lot of quality draft picks to fill them with.
<b>9. TAYLORVILLE (NC)</b> Offense: 12 Pitching: 3 Draft Quality: high	<b>Overall Rank: 6</b> Youth: 21 Needs: OF-125	<b>CONFORTO,Michael</b> – filling a need with quality. The Taylors' strategic advantage this year is lots of picks in a deep draft.
<b>10. BROBDINGNAG (IC)</b>		<b>SYNDERGAARD,Noah</b> – a catcher is what Joe really needs, but this is a tad high to take one.
<b>11. NORTHBORO (NC)</b> Offense: 20 Pitching: 8 Draft Quality: average	<b>Overall Rank: 18</b> Youth: 4 Needs: IF-153	<b>FRANCO,Maikel</b> – SOMEONE has to stick at 3B for NBO. Ashe didn't, so let's try his replacement.
<b>12. BLUE HILL (IC)</b> Offense: 8 Pitching: 19 Draft Quality: low	<b>Overall Rank: 17</b> Youth: 9 Needs: SP- 56	<b>DUFFY,Matt</b> – a young 3B-5 will keep that rating for a long time. He's got a bat, too.
<b>13. THE STATESMEN (NC)</b> Offense: 5 Pitching: 21 Draft Quality: high	<b>Overall Rank: t13</b> Youth: 12 Needs: SP-59,RP	<b>GALLO,Joey</b> – a lottery ticket. No present value, tremendous power potential.
<b>14. RYE (IC)</b> Offense: 16 Pitching: 9 Draft Quality: average	<b>Overall Rank: 10</b> Youth: 24 Needs: C-76,OF-41,RP	<b>SWIHART,Blake</b> – talented young catcher.
<b>15. KANSAS (NC)</b> Offense: 10 Pitching: 2 Draft Quality: average	<b>Overall Rank: 5</b> Youth: 8 Needs: SP-12,OF-41	<b>PISCOTTY,Stephen</b> – this fills a need with good value.
<b>16. MARACAIBO (NC)</b> Offense: 9 Pitching: 10 Draft Quality: average	<b>Overall Rank: 11</b> Youth: 17 Needs: IF-2	<b>BUXTON,Byron</b> - Yes, Walter brought in Ethier, but he's looking to the future. This guy should develop into the prototypical Rumrunner – fast, excellent fielder, 5 tool player.
<b>17. HOBOKEN (IC)</b>		<b>MCCULLERS,Lance</b> – filling the starting pitcher hole with talent
<b>18. TAYLORVILLE (NC)</b>		<b>ROSARIO,Eddie</b> – best OF on the board, but breaks Darrell's heart.
<b>19. GRAND CAYMAN (IC)</b> Offense: 14 Pitching: 16 Draft Quality: low	<b>Overall Rank: t13</b> Youth: 11 Needs: SP-29,1B-6,IF-12,C-95	<b>REALMUTO,J.T.</b> – takes care of the catcher position for the foreseeable future.

<b>20. HUDSON (NC)</b>		<b>TRAVIS,Devon</b> – 1/3 season of a very fun card this year, starting job going forward
<b>21. HOBOKEN (IC)</b>		<b>MURPHY,John Ryan</b>
<b>22. CALUSA (IC)</b>		<b>SANTANA,Domingo</b>
<b>23. GOTHAM CITY (IC)</b> Offense: 11    Pitching: 12 Draft Quality: low	<b>Overall Rank: 9</b> Youth: 19 Needs: SS-14,SP-33	<b>KANG,Jung Ho</b> – a bit old for a team without much youth, but his job is solid, his card is very nice, and he’s a perfect fit for a contending team.
<b>24. MIDWEST (NC)</b> Offense: 24    Pitching: 24 Draft Quality: low	<b>Overall Rank: 24</b> Youth: 23 Needs: OF-298	<b>PILLAR,Kevin</b> – Sano, then Buxton, then Rosario, all off the board. Pillar is a talented, reliable every day player, but not a Twin.

### No picks in the first round:

<b>30. DETROIT (IC)</b> Offense: 22    Pitching: 24 Draft Quality: average	<b>Overall Rank: 22</b> Youth: 7 Needs: SP-37	Despite not having a first round pick, has 2 2s and 2 3s.
<b>48. MELROSE (NC)</b> Offense: 2    Pitching: 6 Draft Quality: very low	<b>Overall Rank: t3</b> Youth: 22 Needs: SP-5	Mark has a 2, a bonus and a 4 to improve his team to match mighty Munich.
<b>109. WHITMAN (IC)</b> Offense: 6    Pitching: 4 Draft Quality: very low	<b>Overall Rank: 2</b> Youth: 15 Needs: RP	Brian spent his draft to build a monster, and doesn’t need much other than some bullpen innings.
<b>114. MUNICH (NC)</b> Offense: 1    Pitching: 1 Draft Quality: very low	<b>Overall Rank: 1</b> Youth: 13 Needs: IF-15	Paul used his draft picks to build a monster as well. He’ll find someone in the 4 <sup>th</sup> to play some SS games.
<b>157. WARRENTON (IC)</b> Offense: 14    Pitching: 7 Draft Quality: very low	<b>Overall Rank: 7</b> Youth: 20 Needs: nothing	Captain Jack can stand pat.
<b>none KNOXVILLE (NC)</b> Offense: 4    Pitching: 5 Draft Quality: see you next year	<b>Overall Rank: t3</b> Youth: 16 Needs: nothing	Ditto Pat, of course.

If the above was not murky enough, here’s a guess at the second round, featuring a starting pitcher run:

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 25. [LV] NOLA,Aaron         | 33. [DET] TOMAS,Yasmany    | 41. [MID] TAYLOR,Michael  |
| 26. [HOB] RODON,Carlos      | 34. [BRO] SEVERINO,Luis    | 42. [STM] BETTIS,Chad     |
| 27. [IND] RODRIGUEZ,Eduardo | 35. [NBO] SPANGENBERG,Cory | 43. [NW] CANHA,Mark       |
| 28. [HUD] MATZ,Steven       | 36. [BRO] OSUNA,Roberto    | 44. [STM] HEANEY,Andrew   |
| 29. [ZIO] MARTE,Ketel       | 37. [STM] NORRIS,Daniel    | 45. [NW] BURNS,Billy      |
| 30. [DET] WALKER,Taijuan    | 38. [RYE] POMPEY,Dalton    | 46. [HUD] IGLESIAS,Raisel |
| 31. [COL] PEREZ,Carlos      | 39. [KAN] ROSS,Joe         | 47. [GC] JUNGSMANN,Taylor |
| 32. [NW] HERRERA,Odubel     | 40. [MAR] SHAW,Travis      | 48. [MLR] ANDERSON,Cody   |