



(BPI-Van Schaick Island, New York)
Biff Barnes Jr. TML Highlight Reel
Franchise All Stars - April 2021

Thunder!! Thundercats Roll!

To open up the pandemic-driven **Franchise All Stars League**, the **Duluth Thundercats** put up a league best 20-6 record, which included a TML first 13-0 April record at home! This gave the **T-Cats** a big 6-game lead already in the **Robinson Division**. Elsewhere in the **Atmospheric Conference**, **Beverly** (15-11 for the month) has a slim lead over both **New York** and **Murderous** in the **Gatto Division**. The **Pertierra Division** is all knotted up from top to bottom.

Over in the **Oceanic Conference**, **Walla Walla** (17-9) has a solid 5-game lead in the **Williams Division**. **Albany** (16-10) leads **'Skayuna** by 1 game in the **Steinmetz Division**. **Arkansas** and **Kentucky** (both 16-10) are tied for first in the **Ruth Division**.

There were **92** 1-run games and **25** extra-inning games in April in what will be a contentious season!

The early batting leader is **Madison's J.D. Martinez** with a strong .402 average, followed by **Duluth's Willy Adames** at .387 and **Walla Walla's "Player of the Month" Javier Baez** at .374. **Martinez** also leads in Hits (41) and OBP (.487). **Baez** leads in SLG (.757). **Duluth's Miguel Cabrera** is the RBI leader (28) and **California's Matt Holiday** is the early HR leader with 11. The early SB leader is **Kentucky's Mookie Betts** (14 SB/4 CS).

The early ERA leader is **Beverly's Justin Verlander** at 1.35, followed closely by **Glenmont's Alex Cobb** (1.38) and **Camarillo's "Pitcher of the Month" Aaron Nola** (1.51). **Nola** (6-0) also leads in victories, followed by **Arkansas's Josh Johnson** (5-0). The Strikeout leaders are **Madison's Max Scherzer** and **Danny Way's Gerrit Cole**, both with 62 K. The Saves leader is **Albany's Koji Uehara** (8/9 in 12 GR, 3.00 ERA).

Below are some awards and tid-bits from April in the TML Franchise All Stars League.



**** Player of the Month ****



(WW) Javier Baez

.374, 40-107, 8-3-9, 81 TB
24 R, 25 RBI, 3 W, 3 SB
OPS 1.150, 31 RC

Honorable Mention:

J.D. Martinez (MN) .402, 5 HR, 21 R, 22 RBI, 31 RC
Jose Bautista (KY) .333, 9 HR, 19 R, 27 RBI, 30 RC
Mookie Betts (KY) .340, 7 HR, 26 R, 13 RBI, 28 RC
Charlie Blackmon (NP) .361, 6 HR, 20 R, 14 RBI, 28 RC
Paul Konerko (WW) .317, 10 HR, 21 R, 21 RBI, 26 RC



**** Pitcher of the Month ****



(CM) Aaron Nola

6-0, 1.51, 6 GS, 6 QS, 0 CG
41.2 IP, 28 H, 13 W, 48 K
.190 OAVG, 0.98 WHIP

Honorable Mention:

Justin Verlander (BV) 4-1, 1.35, 5 QS, 0.92 WHIP
Luis Severino (MN) 3-2, 2.22, 6 QS, 1.19 WHIP
Hyun-Jin Ryu (MX) 3-2, 1.74, 6 QS, 0.97 WHIP
Cole Hamels (WW) 4-1, 2.41, 5 QS, 1.05 WHIP
Stephen Strasburg (DT) 3-0, 2.32, 5 QS, 0.87 WHIP
Kyle Freeland (DT) 4-1, 1.91, 5 QS, 1.12 WHIP
Jose Fernandez (VC) 2-2, 2.23, 4 QS, 0.84 WHIP
Alex Cobb (GL) 2-1, 1.38, 2 QS,

**** Top Pitching Performance #1 of the Month ****



Chesapeake's **Luis Castillo** tossed the season's first **no-hitter** at visiting **Toxic Waste!** **Castillo** worked around 4 walks and 2 fielding errors to keep his shutout. **Castillo** fanned 12 en route to his CG gem.

4/18/2020, TX20-CH20, Nationals Park

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Toxic Waste	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	1
Chesapeake	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	x	-	5	7	2

Steaming Crabs	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	PCH/STR	ERA
L.Castillo (w 2-2)	9	0	0	0	4	12	127/74	3.65

**** Top Pitching Performance #2 of the Month ****



Four days later, **Arkansas's Collin McHugh** turned in the season's second **no-hitter**, on the road at **Danny Way!** **McHugh** walked 3 batters, but none of them even reached 2nd base! He fanned 12 along the way!

4/22/2020, AR20-DW20, Rogers Centre

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Arkansas	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	-	3	9	0
Danny Way	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0

Travelers	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K	PCH/STR	ERA
C.McHugh (w 2-2)	9	0	0	0	3	12	113/73	2.93

Honorable Mention:

4/18: Max Scherzer (MN) 8 IP, 2 H, 0 R, 4 W, 15 K **Won 9-0**
4/24: Chris Sale (AV) 8 IP, 6 H, 1 R, 2 W, 14 K **Won 4-2**

** Offensive Performance of the Month **



Walla Walla's **Javier Baez** had a big day in the 16-0 blowout of visiting **Traffic**. **Baez** was 4-for-5, with a 3-run triple in his team's 11-run 1st inning and added a 3-run double in the 5th. **Baez** ended up with 6 RBI. Walla Walla starter **Cliff Lee** turned in a CG, 2-hit shutout, walking just 1 and fanning 13.

4/8/2020, TR20-WW20, Wrigley Field

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		R	H	E
Traffic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	2	0
Walla Walla	11	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	x	-	16	14	0

Wombats		AB	R	H	HR	BI	BB	AVG
J. Baez	2b	5	3	4	0	6	0	.513
1:1B & 3-RBI 3B ; 3:F7; 5:3-RBI 2B ; 7:1B								

Honorable Mentions:

4/ 4: David Dahl (MX) 5-5, 2R **2B**, 1R **1B**, **2B**, 2 **1B**
 4/12: Marwin Gonzalez (TX) 5-5, 5 **1B**



** Overtime Game of the Month **

The longest game of the month was a 16 inning marathon between **Murderous** and host **Glenmont**. **Glenmont** took advantage of wildness by **Murderous** pitchers in the 16th when **Luke Voit** drew a 1-out walk, advanced to 2nd on a wild pitch and scored the winning run on a 2-out single by **Yorvit Torrealba**.

4/9/2020, MX20-GL20, Oriole Park at Camden Yards

	123	456	789	012	345	6		R	H	E	LOB
Murderous	012	001	000	000	000	0		4	11	0	16
Glenmont	000	300	100	000	000	1		5	15	0	11

Next up ... May highlights!

Staff Columnist - *Biff Barnes Jr.*

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