

# Stars of the National Baseball League's first 10 years

Joe Gray ★ 27 February 2011

When Cody Cain powered strike three past Bracknell's Leo Nogami at 19:39 on Sunday 5 September 2010, it not only signed off Richmond's second national title but also brought the curtain down on the first decade of the National Baseball League (NBL).<sup>1</sup> Ten years earlier, a re-alignment of teams and divisions had been carried out to accommodate a new top-tier circuit that was founded with the purpose of establishing flagship British baseball clubs. In the words of an article from the Spring 2001 issue of *Double Play* (a British baseball and softball publication):

*"The purpose of the National League is to bring together the best teams and players in a single division to play more competitive games at better facilities, under conditions (such as the use of wooden bats) that are closer to those found in international competition."*

In the seasons immediately preceding the creation of the NBL, top-tier teams from the north and from the south had competed in parallel regional brackets, and they had come together in the postseason play-offs. The new circuit featured six teams in its inaugural year, all from the south, but the now-downgraded northern league still sent its best teams into the play-off mix with the NBL sides. In later years, teams from the north have competed in an integrated top tier (2002–03),<sup>2</sup> played in a separate NBL regional bracket (2004–07),<sup>3</sup> or not had representation at all (2008–10).

No northern outfits have won their way through to a national final during the 7 years of the flagship league's existence in which they were eligible (2001–07). Moreover, record keeping has been of a limited nature among those northern teams that have competed in the NBL. For these two reasons, this

analysis has a focus on southern teams, their players, and the grounds they used.

## Astronomy

The aim of this article is to take a broad perspective on the highlights of the NBL's first 10 years by asking a wide range of questions: **The star franchises?** The star teams? **The star seasons?** The star batters? **The star home-run hitters?** The star pitchers (and pitches)? **The star strike-out machines?** The star two-way players? **The star one-two punches?** The star single-season performances at the plate? **The star single-season performances on the hill?** The star fielders? **The star base-runners?** The star grounds?

Directly below there is a discussion of potential weaknesses of the methods used to address these questions. If this is not your type of thing, you can safely skip to the section titled "Star franchises" on the next page and carry on reading from there.

## Using statistical data

For a number of questions, answers were gained from seeing what the statistics tell us. It should be noted that the analyses conducted had some weaknesses.

- ★ The relatively short British baseball season leaves us with small sample sizes, and therefore luck plays a big role in the numbers posted.
- ★ It is difficult to adjust for factors such as quality of competition and home-field dimensions with the limited data-set.
- ★ Some important data are missing, with one particularly notable gap being pre-2008 position-by-position fielding stats.
- ★ Other stats are only partially informative (for instance, standard fielding statistics do not tell us much about range, while pitching data are muddled with the effect of teams' contrasting fielding quality).

Nevertheless, the statistical data available provided the best means of objectively answering the questions being asked, and careful processing and interpretation helped to ensure, where at all possible, that the conclusions were reasonably sound.

### Polling participants

For answering other questions, a poll was conducted of the individuals involved in the league, using email to distribute the survey to a broad range of potential respondents. As with using stats, there were some weaknesses with this method.

- ★ The survey was anonymous and therefore vulnerable to people trying to engineer a particular result that they wanted to see rather than voting honestly.
- ★ On rating scales, everyone assigns numbers in a different fashion, unless there is a concerted effort to calibrate responders (there was not in this case).
- ★ There was a potential time bias, in which players from more distant seasons might have somehow been assessed in a different way from those competing in more recent seasons.
- ★ Individuals who started as youngsters in the early 2000s and are still competing now – as improved players – might have been disadvantaged by respondents who saw them only when they were younger.
- ★ Club favouritism may have had an effect on responses, be it subconscious or otherwise.

However, the results from this method again appear to have had reasonable reliability. Manual checking was conducted to comb out survey returns that indicated an intention to subvert the results (fortunately, over 75% of respondents appeared to have answered honestly). A small number of adjustments were also made to force-calibrate responders by shifting response profiles with votes placed consistently at one of the extremes of the scale back towards the middle. There was a reasonably even coverage of seasons among respondents.<sup>4</sup> The spread of teams represented was not as even, but the data cleansing described above should have lessened the potential effect of any club bias.

Finally, where results from both methods are presented, it is not the case that one is given as some

kind of validation of the other. They are simply different ways of asking the same question, presented in parallel.

### Star franchises

In the 10 years of the NBL's existence so far, there have been just two **ever-present franchises**, the **Bracknell Blazers** and **Croydon Pirates** (and only one **ever-present General Manager**, the latter's **Dave Ward**).<sup>5</sup> It is not surprising to find these two clubs at the top of the table of NBL franchise wins (Table 1). Neither club, though, is among the top five franchises sorted by win rate. This list is headed by the **London Mets**, the **Windsor Bears**, and the **London Warriors**, in that order (Table 2).

Moving now to league titles and national finals, the **Warriors** claimed the **most pennants** in the NBL's first decade, topping the league on **three occasions**.<sup>6</sup> Three teams won the pennant twice, those being the **Croydon Pirates**, the **London Mets**, and the **Windsor Bears**. The **Richmond Flames** secured the league crown once.

While pennants are not trivial, winning the postseason is of much greater significance than securing the league, because it determines the national champion each year. These championships

Franchise	Wins	Losses
Bracknell Blazers	129	124
Croydon Pirates	117	146
Richmond Flames	99	91
London Warriors	89	44
Brighton Buccaneers	89	65
London Mets	84	18
Windsor Bears	70	34
Herts Falcons	21	31
Southampton Mustangs	13	15
Cambridge Monarchs	10	15
Mildenhall Bulldogs	10	16
Essex Arrows	4	24

Table 1. NBL franchise win-loss records, sorted by wins.

Franchise	Win rate	Games played
London Mets	.824	102
Windsor Bears	.673	104
London Warriors	.669	133
Brighton Buccaneers	.578	154
Richmond Flames	.521	190
Bracknell Blazers	.510	253
Southampton Mustangs	.464	28
Croydon Pirates	.445	263
Herts Falcons	.404	52
Cambridge Monarchs	.400	25
Mildenhall Bulldogs	.385	26
Essex Arrows	.143	28

**Table 2.** NBL franchise win rate and games played, sorted by rate.

were evenly divided, with four teams – the **Brighton Buccaneers**, the **Flames**, the **Mets**, and the **Pirates** – each **winning twice**. Windsor and Bracknell were each victorious in the national title on one occasion.

Appearances in **national finals** are also evenly spread: **Brighton**, **Croydon**, **Richmond**, and **Windsor** all made **four appearances**, while the **Blazers** and the **Mets** won through to this stage twice.

### Star seasons

Season-by-season **league quality scores** have been derived in a separate piece of research.<sup>7</sup> Ratings, on a scale of 20–100, reflect the standard of baseball on the whole in the top tier each year (2006 and 2007 were excluded owing to a large proportion of games being played between top-tier and second-tier teams). A rating close to 100 does not suggest perfect baseball, but instead implies consistent superiority over other seasons in the analysis. The scores were:

- ★ **2003**, 98.3;
- ★ **2004**, 77.9;
- ★ **2008**, 71.5;
- ★ **2005**, 44.2;
- ★ **2010**, 38.2;
- ★ **2009**, 26.7.

### Star teams

One of the true stand-out performances by a British team came when the Pirates finished fourth in the 2005 European Cup, after qualifying by winning the national title in 2004. This was the best-ever showing by a British team in a club competition on the continent, and this must surely swing “**franchise of the decade**” in the **Pirates’** favour (their European quest will be discussed in an upcoming article). Two years later, Croydon made more history by going unbeaten in the regular season. Their win tally of 26 is believed to be the highest ever in an unbeaten season by a top-tier British team.<sup>8</sup> However, they did not go on to win the national title. Among **championship-winning** teams, it is the **2008 Mets** that had **fewest regular-season losses** (just one).

In one of the questions posed in the survey, participants were asked to rate teams that had won a pennant, a championship, or both on a scale where the lowest score signalled an “average NBL team” and the highest score represented “as good a team as you will ever see in Britain.” The **top-ten teams** based on the average **survey** response were as follows:

- 1 **2008 Mets** (won league [23–1] and national title);
- 2 **2001 Buccaneers** (won national title);
- 3 **2002 Buccaneers** (won national title);
- 4 **2003 Bears** (won league [17–8] and national title);
- 5 **2004 Bears** (won league [23–7]);
- 6 **2007 Mets** (won national title);
- 7 **2007 Pirates** (won league [26–0]);
- 8 **2002 Warriors** (won league [22–3]);
- 9 **2005 Warriors** (won league [20–8]);
- 10 **2001 Warriors** (won league [21–6]).

Turning to the statistics on offer, team pitching and offensive records for some well-established categories are shown in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

Category	Value	Team
Best ERA	1.99	2008 Mets
Best WHIP	1.00	2008 Mets
Most strike-outs	208	2004 Bears
Most strike-outs / 9 inn	12.2	2008 Mets
Fewest walks / 9 inn	2.3	2002 Warriors

**Table 3.** NBL team pitching records.

Category	Value	Team
Most home runs	33	2004 Bears
Most stolen bases	89	2001 Pirates
Most sacrifice hits	21	2002 Warriors
Most plate apps / strike-out	9.2	2008 Mets
Best batting average	.423*	2007 Pirates
Best on-base average	.523*	2007 Pirates
Best slugging average	.667*	2007 Pirates

**Table 4.** NBL team offensive records.

\*Excluding 2006 and 2007, seasons in which a substantial proportion of games were played against second-tier opposition, leaves the 2008 Mets with the best batting average (.376), on-base average (.474), and slugging average (.526).

These stats highlight the specific strengths of particular teams, but in order to rank the outfits using these types of numbers it would be necessary to meld figures relating to offence, pitching, and fielding into a single statistic.<sup>9</sup> Unfortunately, the fielding stats available are both incomplete and insufficient for this purpose. Thus, it is better to make a **qualitative** case for the **stand-out team**.

It is not a tricky case to make. The **2008 Mets'** pitching staff posted the best ratio of strike-outs to free passes (a simple but useful defence-independent fielding statistic). Their hitters were second only to the 2007 Pirates in gross production average (GPA; a good overall offensive statistic that can be interpreted on the scale of batting average),<sup>10</sup> and the Pirates were able to feast on some second-tier pitching in that season's league structure. The Mets' defence that year was stellar, with a 75% "gold glove" infield (fielding awards were given to Josh Chetwynd at first base, Jason Holowaty at second base, and Alex Malihoudis at shortstop) supported by Will Lintern behind the dish (see "Star fielders" section).<sup>11</sup> Finally, they were not sluggish round the bases, with Troy Kantor leading the way (he stole four bases in a single game, for instance).<sup>12</sup> The **closest team** to the 2008 Mets in this **qualitative** reckoning were the **2004 Bears**.

### Star batters

Among batters with at least 150 NBL plate appearances (PA), **Ryan Barwick** (Pirates, 2007–08)

had the **leading GPA** (.470). Just behind him in the list is **Ryan Bird** (Flames, 2008–10) with a GPA of .448. Next come **Maikel Azcuy** (Pirates, 2006–10) with .421, **Roddi Liebenberg** (Pirates, 2002–03; Bears, 2004; Blazers, 2005–09) with .400, **Rhys Dixon** (Pirates, 2004–07) with .399, and **Simon Pole** (Warriors, 2001–04; Mets, 2005 and 2007–08) with a value of .397.

The GPA values are not corrected for standard of competition, park factors, or any other aspects of the environment in which the players posted their respective figures. It is therefore particularly interesting to view the results of a survey question that asked participants to rate players with at least 150 NBL PA on a scale where the lowest score signalled an "average NBL player" and the highest score represented "as good as you will ever see in Britain."<sup>13</sup> All six of the players mentioned above appear among the **top-ten batters** based on mean **survey** rating, although the order is different and some other players break up the list:

- 1 **Simon Pole**;
- 2 **Alex Malihoudis** (Buccaneers, 2002–06, Mets, 2007–08);
- 3 **Jason Holowaty** (Blazers, 2003–04; Flames, 2006; Mets, 2007–08);
- 4 **Roddi Liebenberg**;
- 5 **Ryan Barwick**;
- 6 **Ryan Bird**;
- 7 **Rhys Dixon**;
- 8 **Adam Roberts** (Warriors, 2001; Bears, 2002–04; Blazers, 2005, 2007, and 2009; Flames, 2008);
- 9 **Josh Chetwynd** (Blazers, 2002, 2004, and 2009; Buccaneers, 2006; Mets, 2007–08);
- 10 **Maikel Azcuy**.

Survey respondents were also allowed to name up to three **outstanding batters** not in the list, **without a minimum PA restriction**. Below are the players who gained multiple mentions:<sup>14</sup>

- ★ **Dennis Grubb**, 6 mentions (Bears, 2004; 84 PA);
- ★ **Oscar Lopez**, 3 (Buccaneers, 2001; 22 PA);
- ★ **Kevin August**, 2 (Buccaneers, 2001; 28 PA);
- ★ **Troy Kantor**, 2 (Mets, 2008; 61 PA);
- ★ **Jon Miller**, 2 (Blazers, 2003; 56 PA);
- ★ **Mark Rigby**, 2 (Mets, 2008; 72 PA);
- ★ **Daniel Williams**, 2 (Mets, 2010; 68 PA).

Player	Home runs	Homers / at-bat (%)
Roddi Liebenberg	31	9.3%
Simon Pole	22	4.9%
Ryan Trask* (Blazers, 2001-10)	22	3.4%
Maikel Azcuy*	18	7.5%
Grant Delzoppo* (Warriors, 2003-04; Flames, 2006-10)	18	5.1%
Cody Cain* (Warriors, 2003-05; Flames, 2006-10)	18	4.3%

Table 5. Leading NBL home-run hitters. \*Active in 2010.

Finally, it is worth noting that **Simon Pole** and **Ryan Bird** were the only two players to claim the NBL **Most Valuable Batter** award **more than once** between 2001 and 2010. The former gained three of these titles, and the latter was awarded it on two occasions.

### Star home-run hitters

Table 5 shows the leading home-run hitters in the NBL, ranked by total number. Also provided in the table, in order to provide the context of playing time, is the rate of home runs per at-bat, expressed as a percentage.

### Star pitchers (and pitches)

Of those hurlers who amassed at least 100 innings pitched (IP) between 2001 and 2010, **Dean Stoka** (Bears, 2004–05) had the **highest ratio of strikeouts to free passes**, with a value of 5.37. Following him in the list are **Simon Pole** (3.58), **Luke Russell** (3.02; Blazers, 2001–03), **Cody Cain** (2.97), **Matt Gilbert** (2.34; Monarchs, 2001; Blazers, 2002–03; Arrows, 2010), and **Nick Carter** (2.24; Buccaneers, 2001–05). The same two pitchers came out on top in a survey question that asked respondents to rate players with at least 100 IP in the NBL on a scale where the lowest score signalled an “average NBL player” and the highest score represented “as good as you will ever see in Britain.”<sup>15</sup> Here are all of the **top-ten pitchers** based on responses to that **survey** question:

- 1 **Dean Stoka**;
- 2 **Simon Pole**;
- 3 **Jason Roberts** (Mets, 2009–10);
- 4 **Nick Carter**;
- 5 **Cody Cain**;
- 6 **Henry Collins** (Blazers, 2001 and 2007–10);
- 7 **Ian Bates** (Pirates, 2004–05);
- 8 **Matt Gilbert**;
- 9 **Michael Osborn** (Warriors, 2001–05; Flames, 2006–10);
- 10 **Mark Mills** (Buccaneers, 2001–04).

As was the case with the batting section of the survey, respondents were allowed to name up to three **outstanding pitchers** not in the list, **without a minimum IP restriction**. Below are the players who gained at least three mentions:

- ★ **Brian Essery**, 7 mentions (Mets, 2008);
- ★ **Troy Kantor**, 7 (Mets, 2008);
- ★ **Kyle Gardner**, 3 (Mets, 2007);
- ★ **Adam Lemke**, 3 (Pirates, 2006–07);
- ★ **Ryan Koback**, 3 (Bears, 2004);
- ★ **Gavin Marshall**, 3 (Buccaneers, 2001);
- ★ **Ben Percey**, 3 (Pirates, 2005–07).

There were other free-text components to the survey’s pitching section. One asked participants to name the pitcher with the **best fastball**. Among 26 responses, six players gained multiple votes:

- ★ **Cody Cain**, 6 votes;
- ★ **Brian Essery**, 3;
- ★ **Simon Pole**, 3;
- ★ **Kyle Gardner**, 2;
- ★ **Gavin Marshall**, 2;
- ★ **Dean Stoka**, 2.

In another question, participants were invited to enter the hurler with the best off-speed pitch (and to name the pitch type). Among 27 responses, there were again six players who gained multiple votes, although only two also appeared in the best-fastball list:

- ★ **Nick Carter**, 4 votes (all “change-up”);
- ★ **Jason Roberts**, 3 (not specified [ns]);
- ★ **Dean Stoka**, 3 (all “curveball”);
- ★ **Cody Cain**, 2 (1 “curveball” and 1 “slider”);
- ★ **Adam Lemke**, 2 (both “curveball”);
- ★ **Alan Smith**, 2 (ns; Warriors, 2001–05; Mets, 2007).



Turning, finally, to players who have claimed the NBL **Most Valuable Pitcher** award **more than once**, only **Simon Pole**, with two titles, has that honour.

### Star strike-out machines

Table 6 provides the pitchers with the highest strike-out tallies in the NBL, ranked by total number. Also given in the table, in order to provide the context of playing time, is the rate of strike-outs per 9 innings.

### Star two-way players

The only player to feature in both the “Star batters” and “Star pitchers” lists earlier in this article was **Simon Pole** (2nd among pitchers and 6th among batters). Pole’s magical two-way season came in 2005, a year for which he was awarded both the Most Valuable Batter and the Most Valuable Pitcher awards.<sup>16</sup> Extending the “Star batters” and “Star pitchers” lists to the top ten in each category brings just one more player into the overlapping group: **Ian Bates** (7th among batters and 10th among pitchers).

In this section, it is also worth mentioning **Troy Kantor**, who was not eligible for consideration in the voting for either the star batter or the star pitcher, because of his limited NBL playing time. His noteworthy achievement in this area is being the only player to feature in the “honourable mention” lists in this article for both batters and pitchers.

### Star single-season performances at the plate

Focusing in from a multi-year to a single-season perspective, work has been conducted previously to tease out the star single-season batting performances.<sup>17</sup> The premise of the piece of research was to adjust for the standard of competition each

Player	Ks	Ks / 9 innings
Cody Cain*	303	12.2
Simon Pole	279	9.1
Matt Gilbert*	243	9.3
Matt Maitland* (Blazers, 2003-10)	242	9.5
Nick Carter	215	7.3

**Table 6.** Leading NBL strike-out machines. \*Active in 2010.

year by calculating how dominant each batter’s GPA was relative to that of the other hitters in the league. The three **highest dominance scores** belonged to the following players:

- 1 **Simon Pole** (2.444), 2005 Warriors;
- 2 **Roddi Liebeneberg** (2.146), 2005 Blazers;
- 3 **Daniel Williams** (2.069), 2010 Mets.

### Star single-season performances on the hill

One of the true stand-out pitching feats of the NBL’s history so far was **Jason Roberts**’s 15-win season in 2010, which (according to available records) broke a wins record set by John Devey of Aston Villa in 1890, the inaugural year of domestic baseball competition in Britain.<sup>18</sup> But a more statistically robust approach to assessing single-season greatness is provided, as with the batting, by a previous piece of research assessing dominance, this time in the ratio of strike-outs to free passes.<sup>19</sup> The three **highest dominance scores** were registered by the following players:

- 1 **Simon Pole** (2.308), 2003 Warriors;
- 2 **Dean Stoka** (2.259), 2003 Bears;
- 3 **Cody Cain** (2.191), 2004 Warriors.

### Star one-two punches

With typical NBL competition comprising weekly 7-inning double-headers, a pair of decent starting pitchers is the core of a team’s pitching staff. It is, therefore, an interesting extension of the work on individual single-season pitching performances described above to sum the dominance scores of pitching pairs to assess the **best one-two punches**. The leading eight duos were:

- 1 **Ryan Koback/Dean Stoka** (4.228), 2004 Bears;
- 2 **Cody Cain/Simon Pole** (3.752), 2004 Warriors;
- 3 **Alex Keprta/Simon Pole** (3.376), 2005 Warriors;
- 4 **Brian Essery/Troy Kantor** (3.212), 2008 Mets;
- 5 **Simon Pole/Matt Scales** (2.797), 2002 Warriors;
- 6 **Matt Gilbert/Luke Russell** (2.668), 2003 Blazers;
- 7 **Adam Lemke/Ben Percey** (2.227), 2006 Pirates;
- 8 **Nick Carter/John Chadwick** (2.144), 2004 Buccaneers.

### Star fielders

Traditional defensive stats broken down into fielding positions are available only from 2008 onwards in the

NBL, and even with those numbers there is little information captured on the defensive range of players. Therefore, a survey-type approach is of particular use in this area of the game. In the questionnaire, participants were asked to supply the name of the NBL's best catcher, infielder, and outfielder, in their opinion.

The response to the **catching** question was clear-cut: **Will Lintern** (Buccaneers, 2001–06; Mets, 2007–10) was named by 12 of 27 respondents. A similar situation was seen with the **outfielder** question: **Alex Malihoudis** gained 12 of 26 responses. For **infielders**, the results were more mixed: **Jason Holowaty** led with five of 27 responses, but **Simon Pole** was just one behind, and **Alan Bloomfield** (Warriors, 2001–05) and **Rob Pene** (Bears, 2001) also picked up multiple votes.

### Star base-runners

**Ryan Trask** has the **most stolen bases** to his name in the NBL, with 96, and behind him is **Charlie Caskey** (Pirates, 2001–08) with 84. Turning to **base-stealing success rate** (among players with at least 40 steals), the leading names are **Martin Visser** (Flames, 2004–10) with 95.4%, **Jason Holowaty** with 94.1%, and **Robbie Unsell** (Flames, 2009–10) with 93.6%. Taking a shorter-term perspective, the NBL **single-season record** belongs to **Matt Ayling** (Pirates, 2001–03), who swiped 23 bags in 2001.

A survey question asked for the **“best base-runner”** and thus allowed participants to consider not just base-stealing but other components of rounding the bags (e.g. the ability to move from first to third on a single). The top three players according to the 27 **survey** responses were:

- ★ **Robbie Unsell**, 6 votes;
- ★ **Troy Kantor**, 3;
- ★ **Rob Pene**, 3.

### Star grounds

The final topic to be covered in this article is the venues used in the NBL. In the **survey**, participants were asked to name what they thought were the best, the second best, and the third **best venues** used in the NBL between 2001 and 2010. Brighton's **Pavilion Field** came out on top, with 24 of 30 1st-placed votes. This was all the more impressive given that it has not

been in use for the past few seasons, and thus not all respondents would have seen it. The second-best field according to respondents was **Roundshaw** in Croydon (2 of 30 1st-placed votes and 10 of 27 2nd-placed votes). Finally, Hemel Hempstead's **Grovehill Ballpark** came out third (2 of 30 1st-placed votes, 4 of 27 2nd-placed votes, and 8 of 25 3rd-placed votes).

### Notes

- 1 The NBL was known as the Rawlings National League between 2001 and 2003 and as the National League between 2004 and 2007, before it changed to its current name partway through the 2008 season.
- 2 In 2002, the Preston Stingers became the first northern NBL team, but they folded during that season.
- 3 The move in 2004 to split the circuit into regional brackets broke the NBL's original aim – as stated in the Spring 2001 issue of *Double Play* – “to bring together the best teams and players in a single division.”
- 4 Respondents for each season: 2001, 16; 2002, 19; 2003, 20; 2004, 21; 2005, 18; 2006, 14; 2007, 19; 2008, 18; 2009, 21; 2010, 19.
- 5 The Blazers were called Bracknell/Richmond Wildfire in 2001.
- 6 After the London Warriors folded at the end of the 2005 season, a number of players joined the Richmond Flames, and this club can thus be seen as incorporating a continuation of the Warriors franchise.
- 7 For the methods and the original article see <http://www.baseballgb.co.uk/?p=2581>. For an update for 2010 see <http://www.baseballgb.co.uk/?p=9443>.
- 8 This included some games against second-tier opposition and some forfeit wins.
- 9 Baseball is all about scoring runs but not conceding them, and so it would, in theory, be informative to examine average run differentials in establishing the star teams. However, there is incomplete information for the early part of the decade, and game truncations resulting from the “mercy rule” are another complicating factor.
- 10 Gross production average is calculated as  $(0.45 * \text{on-base average}) + (0.25 * \text{slugging average})$ .
- 11 See <http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/historical.html#fa>.

- 12 See <http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/historical.html#4sb>.
- 13 The list contained the top 20 NBL batters according to the “on-base average plus slugging average” statistic.
- 14 This eliminates the possibility that players were only nominated by themselves.
- 15 The list contained the top 15 pitchers in the NBL according to the ratio of strike-outs to bases on balls.
- 16 See <http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/historical.html#mvp>.
- 17 For methods and full results up to 2008 (including an alternative approach that gives different results to those derived from using the primary method) see [http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/articles/Batting\\_01-08.pdf](http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/articles/Batting_01-08.pdf).

For updates to the results for the 2009 and 2010 season see <http://www.baseballgb.co.uk/?p=3796> and <http://www.baseballgb.co.uk/?p=9443>, respectively.

- 18 See <http://www.baseballgb.co.uk/?p=8814>.
- 19 For methods and full results up to 2008 see [http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/articles/Pitching\\_01-08.pdf](http://www.gbbsa.org.uk/articles/Pitching_01-08.pdf). For updates to the results for the 2009 and 2010 season see <http://www.baseballgb.co.uk/?p=3796> and <http://www.baseballgb.co.uk/?p=9443>, respectively.



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