

## Whitey's Rap Sheet for the 2014 TBL Draft

Whitey Bulger, the former General Manager of the Grand Cayman Havens, is not dead. Even now, imprisoned in a maximum security facility with no hope of freedom, he waits and schemes. He can't direct the Havens on Draft Day, but he keeps tabs on the outside world. His spies are almost everywhere, even in the secret underground caverns of the Illuminati.

So it should come as no surprise that Whitey has ideas about what to expect at the upcoming TBL draft. He has stolen some ideas from the desk of Guiseppi and the Stat-Drunk Nerd, but stealing is, after all, a way of life with Whitey. So, to keep his mind sharp and to hide the fact that his shiv is shaped like a pen, he has produced the second annual Whitey's Rap Sheet, the Gold Standard of predictions for what to expect shortly in Milford, MA:

### #1 BROBDINGNAG

With all the cards on the table, Vlad could choose any number of directions. With little-mentioned Alex Rios in the fold, he could eschew an outfielder for the best right-handed pitcher in the game. But Whitey doesn't think he will be able to resist *Yasiel Puig*.

### #2 KANSAS

Bill Schwartz is shrewd. He had a terrific draft last year, even if Matt Harvey fell victim to some evil curse on the pitching staff. The consensus says Wil Myers, but Whitey's not buying it. Bill will enjoy being able to write in an 18-15-15 rotation for more than half the season. *Jose Fernandez*.

### #3 MUNICH

Paul Montague isn't ready to contend. He likes his guys, but not enough of them had BIG years. So, time to regroup. Does he jump on Wil Myers, who fell into his lap? It would give him five starting outfielders, and last we checked, only four could play at a time (with the DH). Whitey could be wrong, but he believes Paul goes instead for promise over playing time: *Jurickson Profar*.

### #4 NORTHBORO

Stephen Stein and Bob Jordan say, loudly and in unison: *Wil Myers*.

### #5 BLUE HILL

Mark Ludwig would have loved to get Myers, but it was never going to happen. So he takes the next-best outfielder, someone who will be around for a good 15 years or more: *Christian Yelich*. In two years, starting from scratch, the Mudslides have built a formidable outfield.

### #6 KNOXVILLE

Pat Martin could go in a number of directions here, but Whitey sees a need. With one more solid starting grade, the Blue Thunder will look better in a short series. While it could be Sonny Gray, Whitey thinks Pat will call the name *Chris Archer* to give him two starts in a seven-game series and get a prized pitching prospect. Can't argue with that logic.

### #7 GRAND CAYMAN

Someone else has written that this team "needs starting pitching like Mars needs women." Whitey agrees, which means Boomer does too. *Shelby Miller* gives the Havens present and future value: everything you want in a first-round pick.

### #8 HUDSON

Clay Beard was a problem for Whitey to figure out. The Generals run their training camp like a military base, so spies could only watch the rough satellite footage. There's no first base help in this draft. Clay could choose to shore up his rotation, so Tony Congrani could go here, but Whitey thinks

he'll go for help at shortstop, where Jed Lowrie plays with a bat. Jose Iglesias, the defensive whiz, is a possibility, but Clay likes higher offensive upside despite the risks. **Bradley Miller**.

#### **#9 MELROSE**

The Avengers have a black hole named Robert Andino at shortstop. He's just seen one shortstop go. Will Mark Freedman panic and select the next shortstop on his shopping list? Whitey thinks Mark has a cooler head than that. There's a potent bat to help another infield spot: **Anthony Rendon**. And the Dan Uggla era slowly chugs to a close.

#### **#10 GOTHAM CITY**

Switching Nick Swisher back to first base opens up a spot in the outfield, where **Kris Davis** can join Giancarlo for what's becoming a powerful outfield corps for savvy Anton Greenwald's Batmen.

#### **#11 TAYLORVILLE**

The last time all three prognosticators agreed on a Taylorville (or Richmond) pick, all were correct, but the pick (Wil Middlebrooks) didn't turn out to be the answer. Will **Nolan Arenado** be any different for the Taylor brothers? Whitey thinks so, and at least he'll have both under team control.

#### **#12 DALLAS**

Speaking of unanimous picks, here's another for Steve Powell: **Travis d'Arnaud**, who seems to be the right pick at the right time for a team that needs building blocks.

#### **#13 RYE**

After a disappointing season that saw the Herons miss the postseason for the first time in six years, Craig Musselman will have at least one more go with his aging team. He has one glaring weakness: catcher. So power-hitting **Evan Gattis** fills the bill for now and for the future.

#### **#14 TAYLORVILLE**

This pick makes the #11 more likely, although if the Taylor boys think that Arenado falls to this pick, and there's someone they want more at #11, all bets are off. Assuming the draft follows this pattern, this pick becomes either a young outfielder or pitching help. So either someone like Jackie Bradley or, more likely, the 30 starts of **Julio Teheran**.

#### **#15 GREATER OHIO**

Like pick #13, sometime a player appears on the list at the right time to help the team exactly where it needs help. In Devlin Toth's case, Whitey thinks that **Jedd Gyorko** helps the Chia Pets perfectly. After all, Dev traded away Chris Getz and Maicer Izturis, right?

#### **#16 MUNICH**

Since Paul Montague passed up Wil Myers for über-prospect Jurickson Profar, he set the direction for his draft. Next up, says Whitey, starting pitcher help. Whitey believes it could be Gerrit Cole, but **Michael Wacha** is a year younger. Neither is a bad pick here.

#### **#17 KANSAS**

Bill already shocked the draft by taking Jose Fernandez over Wil Myers. What can he do for an encore? Whitey is surprised you have to ask. **Tony Cingrani**. Just imagine: 18-16-15-15. The offense just has to be good enough to win 1-0 or 3-2 games.

#### **#18 NEW WESTMINSTER**

Jim Jeatt has sold off the farm animals to focus on growing dental floss or creamed corn for 2014. His pitching staff is a shell of its former self, and the offense is led by ... Lonnie Chisenhall? The loss of Hanley Ramirez has left a gulf where a shortstop used to be, so that's the most pressing concern,

according to Whitey. **Didi Gregorius** gives the Whiskeyjacks a 24-year-old prospect at the position, even if he won't replace Hanley. Jose Iglesias is also a possibility here.

#### **#19 MELROSE**

Mark got his man for second base with Rendon, so this next name might surprise some, but Mark is an astute student of the game. He sees one name on the board who should have been gone by now, a name he will gleefully call out now because the player also helps him over games at shortstop: **Nick Franklin**.

#### **#20 GRAND CAYMAN**

Boomer took Shelby Miller with his first pick. Time to focus on other needs? Could it be time for shortstop help? Iglesias is still on the table. A young catcher? Mike Zunino is still out there. An outfield prospect? Oswaldo Arcia waits for someone to call his name. Whitey thinks Boomer instead will continue to focus on pitching. **Gerrit Cole** has dropped too far.

#### **#21 ZION**

Rich Meyer loves high-risk, high-reward ballplayers. They've provided the Elders with some great players in the past. The Sensei will roll the dice with a player who could be awesome and who helps this year too, as the team tries to go deep into the playoffs again in 2014: **Danny Salazar**.

#### **#22 WHITMAN**

Brian Hanley has skillfully put all the pieces together for another contender. All the pieces but one. What does he need the most? **Jose Iglesias**, and boy is he glad to see him drop this far, although he's likely prepared to go to Plan B (Jordy Mercer) if he has to. It's nice to have options, Whitey knows.

#### **#23 NORTHBORO**

Ecstatic that they were able to land Wil Myers, the two-headed GM of Steve and Bob turn back to mining prospects. The best available at a skill position might be **Matt Davidson**, so Whitey thinks that's the name they'll call.

#### **#24 PORTLAND**

What do you get for a team that has everything? Why, more of the same. Assuming that Ray and Jon don't trade this pick away, Whitey thinks they'll add to the plethora of right-handers in the rotation, taking a pitcher who'll also give them a quality start in a seven-game series: **Sonny Gray**.

There you have it, baseball fans. Whitey marks each of the predicted picks with an asterisk, meaning nothing is certain until a name rings out on Draft Day. Still, this wrap sheet should add to the mystery until that day, shedding new light on the predictions of other, lesser men. All Whitey asks is that you keep those cards and letters coming. He misses the camaraderie and back-stabbing of his TBL brethren. -*Whitey*