

THE HERMAN

Standings:

We here at the Herman will give you standings of the superior league, but no analysis. Stats for all players will be on their way shortly, so you can do the analysis yourself. As soon as Major League stats are sent to Superior League headquarters, trade talks may commence. Meanwhile, We have a special treat for you. Waylon Jennings is our guest writer, and he will review the career of one of this league's all time greats.

East		Central		West	
Louisville	15-10	Toledo	18-7	Phoenix	17-8
Miami	14-11	Texas	15-11	Las Vegas	12-13
Boston	14-11	Springfield	13-13	Mars	12-14
Orlando	12-13	Chicago	10-15	Utah	7-19
Baltimore	11-14	Cleveland	7-18		

Midnight has not yet struck for Toledo, In Utah cries of "we want him" or "Eddie save us" can be heard.

Special Feature by Waylon Jennings.

Well, I'm a gonna take yall back in time. It's the early sixties, in Hazard county Georgia, and this here's a story about a good ol' boy named George. Little George was given a baseball by his daddy, Elmer, when he was 2 months old, and little George instinctively new what to do with it. He struck out his Teddy bear looking, on just three pitches. When he was five, George would spend all day pitching to any family member who would catch him, but when it came time to start up teeball, George wanted no part of it. He cried and cried when they wouldn't let him pitch to a batter, and finally he was placed on a baseball team with 8 year olds. He went 13-2 that year, and can to this day tell you what mistakes he made. There was still no microleague baseball in Georgia at this time, so George did what most kids did, root for the New York Titans. With Mickey Mouse in center, and Yogi Bear behind the plate, no one could stop this team.

Now I'm gonna digress here just a moment. Microleague wasn't technically invented until 1982. Of its principal owners, the first one wasn't born until 1970. But let me assure you, these games have always been going on, its just that no one was there to record them. These games have been going on since Jesus hit the miraculous bases empty grand slam off the knuckleballer Methuselah. And before that even.

Back to George. He went on to become the greatest pitcher ever at Hazard County high, with a 44-0 record in his 4 years there. Still, pro scouts were not knocking

on his door. He had excellent control, but his fastball was clocked in the low 80's. After high school George borrowed money from his high school sweetheart, Tammy Lee, so he could catch a plane ride out to Miami for a tryout. He promised to return with a wedding ring if he made it big. George was able to get hitters out, but still didn't impress the scouts enough to draft him. He was only 18, and they offered him a spot in the collective microleague minors. The minor league system was run independently from the big leagues. Every year they picked the top prospects out of that league, held a draft, and sent so many players up to the big leagues. George wasn't a big leaguer yet, but he took his \$1500 bonus straight back to Georgia and got married. George's first couple of years in the minors didn't go so well. He did enough to hang around, posting .500 records, but every year they called out the players for the draft, and every year he wasn't one of them. When he came to spring camp at age 22, something was different. He felt stronger, and was clocked up to 91 MPH. Still with great control, George had his best year. The big leagues in 1988 were taking 21, 3 players each for 7 teams. George was one of the 21, he had made it. Georgia had recently added an expansion team, but there was no chance of George going home to pitch. The penguins had traded all of their picks away. George wound up the 15th player chosen out of 21, by the Portland Decepticons. He was forced to go across the country to pitch, but at least he had a shot at the big leagues.

George was sent to the Decepticon minor league camp, where he toiled as Roger Chillingworth and Battletrap, two young stars his age, were leading Portland to their first world championship. Late in the year Portland decided to get a leadoff hitter. Rickey Thon, a second baseman in his mid 30's who got on base a lot, was available from Georgia. I can't recall what the exact deal was but it involved a player to be named later. Later came after the world series and the player was named George.

George arrived to his hometown's spring training camp in 1989, with an exciting young team. It included Galvatron, who was to win the MVP award that year and become a 40-40 man, and Gerald White, a young left fielder who was to claim a job and keep it for quite some time. The bullpen included flame throwers Dave Beard and Kent Rocky, the rotation was full, but Manager Bill the Cat needed a lefty in the pen, and asked George to do just that. He was ecstatic, a big leaguer at last. He was good, with a 3.52 ERA and 10 saves, his K/W ratio was near 5-1. The next year he was 8-2 with a 4.55 ERA, but the league ERA was near 6 that season. Georgia won the division each year. The next year he was given a chance to start, and went 6-4 in a 54 game strike shortened season.

George now was an experienced starter. He knew the hitters, he knew how to pitch, he was ready to be the ace of the staff. If you haven't already guessed, George Wallace Calhoun has usually been known by his middle name. As the new ace of the staff, he pitched 248 innings, was 21-3, had a 1.90 ERA, won a Cy Young award, and won a world championship. He's been great ever since, always giving his team 200 innings and a sub 3 ERA. Occasionally talent and luck combine, like 1993 (17-8, 1.72) and 1995 (21-9, 2.13), giving him cy young caliber seasons. But he's always the ace of the staff.

Wally Calhoun is 37 now, still throwing strikes, hoping to get to 200 wins. His career record is 166-103, 4th all time in wins. His last goal is to go out a winner, as the year 2000, the year of the penguin approaches.