



#10 (7-13) NOBLE NARWHALS

LINEUP

#17 JACKSON BUZEA

#15 MITCHELL GERLACH

#16 ALEX FRIEDMAN

#21 GREG GIERLING



Things looked brutal for the Narwhals early on. Jeremiah Wiltjer and Kyle Jansma the Narwhals 2 top picks looked had new priorities with a kid and a new job. They went 1-6 to start the year and it all changed when Jackson Buzea got signed to the Narwhals squad. Jackson took on “being Noble” right to heart and the fit was perfect. Add a up and comer in Mitchell Gerlach and the team went on to finish 6-7 and get out of the cellar a place everyone had them finishing.

The struggle for this team will be pitching, especially with this lineup. Recent addition Alex Friedman has had a huge sophomore slump and seems helpless from the mound this year after a strong finish last year. The Narwhals are the only team to finish with a ERA over 9, and they finish with 11.00. They have given up 176 runs this year in 20 games and some haven’t been pretty. Their opponents batting average is 0.477 allowing almost every other batter to get on base. On the flip side the Batting numbers have been stellar. A 0.414 batting average is good enough for 3rd in the league. They have had 70 Homers this year making a big impact from the plate.

They face an uphill battle facing the Truckers this week, and if they do pull out a victory it looks over after that. With both Alex and Greg seeing 4 of the 6 innings in the championship the score could reach 30 for the first time in Leroy History. I have a feeling the Narwhals finish the year in the bottom of the sea.

#17 Jackson Buzea looks to be a shoe in for the rookie of the year. He was the front runner for MVP and held his own against Caleb for quite some team in his first season in the league. In 20 Games he has 33 Homers, 54 RBI's and 54 Runs scored, all 2nd in the league. He has been a great 2 way player as well with a 1.45 ERA/0.76 WHIP/10.34 K's per Game Slash Line. Jackson looks to make the All Leroy team in his first year and represent GBL in fine fashion. It will be interesting to see what his future holds if he will look to be an owner or enter the draft next season. Oh almost forgot he has struck out 50 batters in just 29 innings.

#15 Mitchell Gerlach – Him and his brother Alec will forever be compared in this league. Both coming in the league at the same time and going to completely different situations in the league. Mitch is fighting is way for a playoff spot to play Alec who sits at home waiting to see who will win this bracket. He has seen some recent success as of late with 29 k's in 21 innings and a 7.71 ERA. His opponent batting average has struggled with a 0.411 clip. His batting numbers have been great with a 0.444 batting average to go with 10 Homers on the year. He has been quietly making an impact in the Narwhal success as of late.

#16 Alex Friedman – The ORWBL Commissioner like many non owners this year has been shipped a time or to. I don't know if I can even count on one hand how many players stayed with the team that drafted them. Friedman has hit a sophomore slump from the mound in a bad way. At the end of 2017 he dubbed himself the side arm slinger and looked to be using a Brett type pitch to find the zone. It hasn't transferred into 2018 as opponents have reached base more than have gotten out with him on the mound. Just 9 k's in 17 innings pitched is completely opposite of the AI we saw last year who had 41 k's in 28 1/3. He lost some power from the plate as well this year with only 7 Homers but has gotten on base at a more consistent level almost surpassing the 0.400 mark. The ORWBL Commish would like nothing else to beat the Truckers and face the team that threw him to the dirt just a few weeks ago.

#21 Greg Gierling – Greg has had a season similar to Friedmans, a lot of struggle from the mound that has led to a ERA up over 20 on the year. The highlight for Greg this year has been his bat swing. A lot of offseason practice has translated over from the plate where he posted 6 Homers this year with 15 RBI's. This season was a stress full roller coaster ride that saw his best players to start the year have lifestyle changes. It was a great year for him to not back down and look to regroup and get Jackson to set a new tone for the franchise moving forward. Finishing 6-7 proved that anyone can manage and own a team in this league and still win games if every buys in.