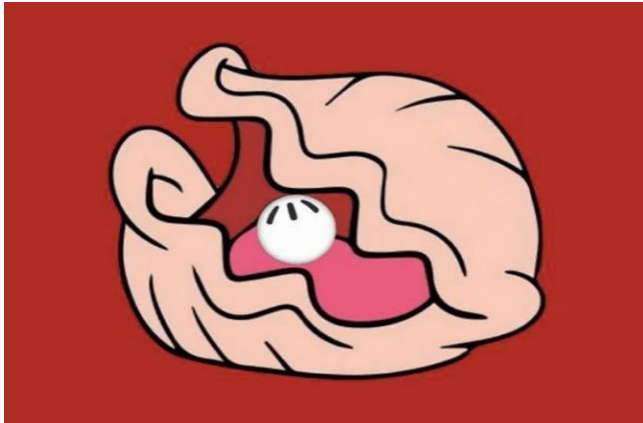


2018 LEROY WIFFLE DEATH BRACKET



#8 (8-12) LEROY CLAMS

LINEUP

#21 Kevin Vroegh

#22 Lucas Miedema

#25 Matt Dykstra

#10 Kyle Schaaf



The Leroy Clams were the preseason favorite to win it all. The hype was all in for Austin Gibson and Andrew Sitter who after this season who undoubtable be the most over rated players in Leroy moving forward. Early season penalties and injuries were the downfall of the Clams as Matt seemingly every couple weeks had to make moves to stay relevant. Just reading the names in this lineup could strike fear in any team in the league, but everyone of them have been vulnerable this year.

Let's start with a team aspect. The Clams lead the league with 4 blown saves this year. That means one out of every 5th game this squad was dropping L's to the other team when it mattered, a huge indicator they could falter come playoff time if the game is close. They finished the year with 4 saves meaning it's a 50/50 shot this team holds on to the lead late. They were 8th in the league in E.R.A with a 8.73 Clip in the regular season, and most of that lays on Matt's shoulders. A once dominate pitcher in the league in strikeouts, his team finished 10th in team k's with only the Dusters getting fewer. They average 7.53 strikeouts per 6 Inning game a tough number when you allow 13.14 hits per 6 inning game. They were a dominating hitting team to start of the league but things took a bad turn as they finished right at the league average at 0.395. Against the other 3 teams in the death bracket they finished 5-1 with a loss to the Narwhals mid-season.

They begin the bracket against the Flyin Hawaiians, a team that has given them struggles. They will play them on Fenway and if they win will be on Harambe playing for a chance to come back. Both matchups against the Hawaiians went into extras. The Facebook Game matchup against the Hawaiians went into 8 innings seeing each pitcher pitch twice. That matchup was a completely different Clams team that included Grant, Mitchell, and Gibson... none of who are on the current squad. The last matchup will have one change, Josh Smits won't be playing for the Clams and Kyle Schaaf will be in that spot. To me this is a huge upgrade not only in skill, but in a player who has played many game this year and is in playoff form, ready to go. Projection: Clams 7, Hawaiians 4

The Clams are hoping for a Truckers win as the Narwhals have given them all they can handle this year. The first matchup included a 25-20 finish in a blood bath, the second was a 8-6 Narwhals win that left the Clams with another blown save.

#21 Kevin Vroegh – The kid is showing what kind of passion he has for the league. He gets married this upcoming Saturday and still looks to be a huge X factor for the Clams in this bracket. When Kevin learned of the Clams dropping down he went on a huge rant of the tie breaker system. With the recent growth of the league many people don't know what an interictal part of the league Kevin was in the founding years. He led the Fantastic Four to a Championship in 2015 after coming up just short the previous year. He was a part of many meetings to determine rules and always had an opinion and voiced it leading to many changes that still exist in the league today. When he announced his retirement last year it was a huge hit as he was the first main guy to walk away as he got an internship in Michigan for the summer. In typical Kevin like behavior he texted me this spring saying he was coming back to wreck the league and in a way he jumped back into where he left off. He has tied his career high for singles and doubles and has a 0.470 batting average which is above his career average. The power numbers are what seems to be off this year with just 5 Homers and 18 RBI's. He looks to be more of a get on guy this year letting the big bats of Matt and Lucas drive him in. The part that surprises me the most is his pitching numbers. He currently holds a 5.36 ERA which is below his career average and his 1.34 WHIP and opponents 0.309 batting average are also below. His strikeouts have been hard to come by only averaging a little over 1 an inning. The Clams whole roster fields at an above average rate which should keep his numbers down and help them get out of the bracket.

#22 Lucas Miedema – Lucas was looking to be a bust this year after getting drafted 2nd overall by the Sultans only to be traded before the 1st way point. He was known for his contact hitting last year finding ways to get on base but has really worked on his power numbers this year with 17 Homers in 17 Games to date. He is hovering right under the 0.400 batting average mark. The struggle Lou has faced like many others is the influx of new talent has brought a lot of good fast ball hitting bats. His ERA has jumped up nearly 3.00 from last year sitting at 8.26. He has only 23 k's in 20 1/3 innings pitched and his opponents batting average is right at league average, 0.396. For many the 2nd year should see improvements and that doesn't seem to be the case for Lou who is having a sophomore slump.

#25 Matt Dykstra – Up until last week when he had to attend a wedding in Iowa he had attended every game this year, something he has been known for the last couple years. Although he slowly becoming the Tim Lincecum of the league as his numbers have turned so bad its sickening. Matt finished 2016 with a Championship on the Bomber squad. He finished with a 1.11 ERA with 88 k's in 38 innings pitched with an opponents batting average of 0.71. This season he currently has a 9.98 ERA with 43 k's in 27 2/3 innings pitched and a 0.456 opponents batting average. The once All Leroy pitched isn't even in the top half and it has been a huge factor for the Clams struggles this year. The good thing about Matt has been his bats. He peaked over 1.000 Slugging for the first time in his career and for the 2nd straight year has hit 20+ Homers. Matt won Player of the week in week 1 and has always been a clutch player when it comes to playoff situations and big moments. He won't have to be a top tier ace for this team to do well, but he needs to do better than the average #2 he is currently playing at.

#10 Kyle Schaaf – Kyle is one of the funniest and chill guys in the league just looking to have fun. After being a part of the 3 headed monster on the Sultans, salary cap restrictions forced Robby to trade his whole roster including Kyle. He landed back on the Clams and looks to continue a great rookie season. When Kyle first started playing he was known as Matt's brother, who holds the record for least amount of games played at 1. No one knew what to expect and he has shown a lot of passion and has had some early success in his first year. A 0.365/0.722 line with 11 Homers 26 RBI's and 31 Runs in 17 games is an impressive line for anyone in Leroy let alone a rook. Unfortunately with the influx of rookie talent this year a lot of what Kyle has done has gone unseen. A season like this in the past couple seasons would have been heavily talked about. Based on this year's salary he is the 2nd best player on this team and to make a few more strides from the mound where he has been inconsistent at times. A 7.50 ERA and only 28 k's in 24 innings hasn't been All Star worthy. He will get his first taste of win or go home this week and see if he can find one more gear.

This team is the only squad with above average players, they are even 1-4 and it could be good or could be bad if they are all off their game.