MILWAUKEE SENTINEL-PRESS

OCTOBER 6, 2033 · THE MILWAUKEE MOBSTERS BEAT

Mobsters win 98 and steal 29; Phoenix comes to town

BY **DANNY KOLAR** · MILWAUKEE SENTINEL-PRESS

Twenty-nine. That is how many bases this club stole all year. Fewest in baseball by a mile. Huron stole 265, and Huron finished 17 games behind us. I keep telling you: you don't have to run if nobody can get you out.

Ninety-eight and 64. Tied with Somerville for the second-best record in baseball. The best on-base percentage in the league, the best OPS, the most walks, 604 of them. The Mobsters finished second in the Topaz, five games behind San Juan, and that makes us the third seed in the Fire and the home team against Phoenix starting Friday. I had this club around .500 in March. I was off by 17 games. Put it on my tab.

In September I asked Ryan, three games back of San Juan and 2-7 against them, whether he could win the Topaz.

> *"We plan to," he said.*

They didn't, but give the man this: on the night of September 25 we were seven back with nine to play, and we went 7-2. We swept Huron here, took two of three from Kansas City, and went into San Juan and won the first two, 5-3 and 2-1, before they blew us out 9-2 on the last day. San Juan had already locked up the division. It was a nice way to tell them we'll see them later.

August is the month I'll remember. Twenty and 7. Nine straight wins from August 14 to 23, three of them in Las Vegas and two in Oklahoma City, and one of the two in Oklahoma City was 1-0. Jason Klamm, a 21st-round pick who makes the minimum, hit in 20 straight games before Virginia stopped him on August 29, and

he was the Fire Conference Rookie of the Month for August. Brent Chute was the Batter of the Month for July and finished with 40 home runs and 117 runs scored. He is 26.

Then I asked Ryan about Jesus Espinosa, who went 9-for-54 in that sim.

> *"The guy isn't a god," he said, "sometimes guys have a bad week or two."*

Not a god. Just the guy who finished at .305 with a .396 on-base percentage and 25 home runs, playing second base every day. I'll take two of those.

Trevor Faria came back from the knee on September 12, a little after Labor Day, which is when I told you he'd better, and finished at .304 with 77 runs batted in. Ramiro Ortiz hit 31 home runs and .208, and if you can explain that line I'll buy. Karl Perkins at shortstop got up to .213. I'm still sorry, Karl. Ryan picked up Josh Foster from New York on deadline day for a fifth-round pick, and Foster hit four home runs in 23 games as the backup catcher.

The rotation doesn't have a name you'd put on a poster, and it has five guys with 10 or more wins. Alex Sanchez, Dusty Wasson and Ricky Castillo won 12 apiece. Paul Tremblett won 10. Andy Trainer came back from the injured list and finished 10-3 with a 2.81, the best earned run average on the staff. Wasson had a 2.42 after the deadline.

Here's the part that keeps me up. The bullpen blew 28 saves this year, tied for second-most in the league. Steve Summey has 14 saves and 12 blown ones, tied for the most blown in baseball. Ryan Moynahan has 11 saves and blew one. Chris Calvert, 36, has 28 holds. In a short series somebody has to get the 27th out, and in August I asked who the closer was. I'm still asking.

Phoenix. They won 87 games and they're the sixth seed. We took three of four from them here in June. The last time we played them in October was 2028, the first round, and they beat us in six. I was there. I didn't like it then either.

Games 1 and 2 are here, where this club went 53-28. Get in the building.