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SUMMER 2011 BBM AWARDS Most Valuable Player: Luis Terrero, Mexico City Diablos Rojos

With two weeks to go in the regular season, Luis Terrero had a valid shot at winning no less than EIGHT offensive titles in the Mexican League for 2011: Batting average, hits, homers, RBIs, runs scored, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, on-base-plus-slugging percentage and stolen bases. And remember that the Liga is very much a hitter's league.

While it's true that Terrero had to settle for leading the LMB in runs, RBIs, slugging percentage and OPS while finishing second in batting average, homers and on-base percentage (he was "only" third in stolen bases) takes nothing away from what ended up being one of the most remarkable offensive seasons in any professional league in the past several years.

Talk is cheap, so let the numbers do the talking for us: .390 batting average, .485 on-base percentage, .770 slugging percentage, 1.254 on-base-plus-slugging percentage, 38 homers, 109 runs, 110 runs and 30 steals. We have hardcore researchers who read BBM: They're all invited to find a single-season performance with those kinds of totals in Organized Baseball over the recent past. There may be someone who can match them, but I can't think of him.

Luis Terrero not only deserves to be named Most Valuable Player by the LMB itself, anything short of a unanimous vote reflects at least one case of denial that belongs in the same room as Lindsay Lohan at the Betty Ford Clinic.

SUMMER 2011 BBM AWARDS Pitcher of the Year: Francisco Campos, Campeche Piratas

One of the things modern baseball managers need to be concerned with is overworking their pitchers. When one of those pitchers is 38 years old, in his 21st season of pro ball and relatively slight of stature at 5'11" and 185 pounds, the risk of having that hurler wear down in the hot summer months rises exponentially. Unless that pitcher is Francisco Campos.

The Campeche veteran not only didn't lose steam over the steamy weeks of July in the Yucatan peninsula in the southern tip of Mexico, he actually seemed to get stronger. In his last ten starts in the regular season between June 1 and July 25, the man they call "Pancho Ponches" because he's been perhaps the top strikeout artist in Mexico over the past two decades put together a 7-1 record with a 2.89 ERA, striking out 68 batters over 65 innings with just 16 walks (including only four free passes in 32.2 innings over his last five starts. In fact, in his last regular season outing against the eventual Liga champion Tigres in Cancun, Campos struck out nine while walking one batter in 5.1 frames. So much for wearing out.

For the season, the native of Guaymas registered a 12-5 record with a 3.42 ERA, including 138 whiffs and 38 walks in 137 innings while tying for the Liga lead in wins. Since debuting as a 17-year-old in 1995 with the Piratas (except for a 5-0 record in five starts with Monterrey in 2005, he's never pitched for another LMB team), Campos has gone 146-85 with 1,604 strikeouts in 2,181 innings along with an ERA slightly under 3.00. Campos may not just be the Liga's best pitcher in 2011...he has a valid argument for being the best pitcher in Mexico of this generation.

SUMMER 2011 BBM AWARDS Playoff MVP: Pablo Ortega, Quintana Roo Tigres

Observers might've had an inkling that Ortega was in for a solid postseason when he narrowly missed a perfect game in his final start of the regular season, but even the wily right-handed veteran would've been hard-pressed to predict how well he'd pitch en route to the Tigres' tenth Mexican League pennant since their first LMB season in 1955.

Ortega went on to win three games in four decisions among his five starts, giving up just four earned runs over his 32 playoff innings to post a microscopic 1.13 ERA. Although his control wasn't as sharp as he'd have liked it in issuing 13 walks while hitting four other batsmen, the 35-year-old Nuevo Laredo product scattered 24 hits through three playoff rounds (and just one homer) in picking up a win in each series. Ortega helped Quintana Roo's four-game sweep of powerful Mexico City in the Mexican Series by combining with relievers Juan Sandoval and Sandy Nin on a 1-0 shutout in front of a sellout crowd at home in Cancun on August 22.

The playoffs capped a terrific comeback year for Ortega, who looked like he might've been all but finished after a disastrous 2010 season in which he went 2-6 with an 8.24 ERA in 17 games for the Tigres after going 36-14 the previous three Liga campaigns. Instead, he turned in a 10-3 record during the 2011 regular season and finished third in the LMB with a 3.29 ERA, trailing only Reynosa's Marco Tovar (3.11) and Puebla's Andres Meza (3.14) before his sterling playoff work.

SUMMER 2011 BBM AWARDS Manager of the Year: Daniel Fernandez, Veracruz Aquilas

The Aquilas had an entirely forgettable 2010 in which they went 39-66 (winning just 15 of 52 games in the second half), but Veracruz native Fernandez took the reins last winter and led the Red Eagles to a solid 54-49 record and a berth in the Southern Zone finals against the Tigres. Veracruz was probably best-known for the 1-2 power punch of Liga home run champ Jorge Guzman and Victor Diaz, who combined for 73 longballs, but it was pitching that was the main reason for the Aquilas' 16-game improvement over their 2010 showing.

Fernandez cobbled together a pitching staff led by starters Joel Vargas (11-7/3.60) and Juan Acevedo (9-5/3.68) plus relievers Hector Navarro (3-3/4.25/15 saves) and Jailen Peguero (5-0/1.40/8 saves) into one with the Liga's lowest ERA at 4.24. Granted, the starting rotation was thin after Vargas and Acevedo, which makes the Aquilas' season all the more remarkable, given that their .273 team batting average was the worst in the circuit.

The 2011 season serves as sweet vindication for Fernandez, a former Mexico City Diablos Rojos star who was dumped unceremoniously by the Diablos in 2009 one year after leading them to their last LMB pennant in his first year and then to the league's best regular season record the season he got fired. Fernandez then spent 16 games in 2010 on the Tabasco managerial merry-go-round before getting canned with a 5-11 record with the hapless Olmecas.

SUMMER 2011 BBM AWARDS Newcomer of the Year: Doug Clark, Quintana Roo Tigres

Having spent more than one winter in the Mexican Pacific League, the 35-year-old native of Springfield, Massachusetts is no stranger to baseball south of the border. However, 2011 was Clark's first season in the Mexican League after spending the previous three summers playing in Korea, and he made the most of it for the Quintana Roo Tigres.

A former MLBer with the San Francisco Giants in 2005 and Oakland Athletics in 2006, Clark had a strong first year in Cancun by batting .315 in 97 games for the Tigres and turning in one of just two 20/20 seasons in the Liga with 21 homers and 20 stolen bases. He played in the All-Star Game after batting .346 with 13 homers before the break, although he tailed off a bit in the second half of the season after playing continuously since the spring of 2010. While Clark's 67 runs scored and 58 RBIs weren't head-turning numbers, he had a knack for getting a hit when it counted late in games. Then came the playoffs.

Over 16 games, Clark's .259 average was somewhat negligible, but his productivity wasn't. His 14 runs and 14 ribbies were both among the postseason Liga leaders, his 4 homers tied Willie Romero and Albino Contreras for the Tigres team lead, his 4 stolen bases was tops among all players in the playoffs, and he went 6-for-12 in the Mexican Series against Mexico City as the Tigres swept the Diablos for their tenth LMB pennant. Not bad for a guy who didn't play varsity baseball in high school before walking on at the University of Massachusetts, where he was on scholarship as a football wide receiver.

BASEBALL MEXICO'S 2011 Mexican League All-Star Team

1B-Barbaro Canizares, Oaxaca (.396/20/76): *Led the Liga in batting, hit .526 over last 10 games of season to win title.*

2B-Jose Amador, Saltillo (.355/18/79R): *Bright spot in dismal year in Saltillo. Hit .324 or better each month of season.*

3B-Marshall McDougall, Reynosa (.327/15/79): *Ex-Florida State star returned from Asia to provide clutch hitting for Broncos.*

SS-Domingo Castro, Reynosa (.321/2/58R): *Slap hitter with little power has topped .300 mark all three years in Reynosa.*

LF-Luis Terrero, Mexico City (.390/38/110/30SB): *Ex-MLBer had monster year, only second 30/30 season in Liga history.*

CF-Leo Heras, Mexico City (.342/18/60/25SB): *Solid first year with Diablos, 5'8" 155-pounder socked career-high 18 HRs.*

RF-Jorge Guzman, Veracruz (.290/39/97): *Led Liga in HRs to form great 1-2 punch with Victor Diaz, raised BA 52 points.*

C-Iker Franco, Quintana Roo (.276/23/74): *Solid vet and clutch hitter led champs in HRs and RBIs, 72 HRs in last 4 years.*

DH-Edgar Quintero, Monterrey (.357/32/78): *Longtime star was backbone for surprising Sultanes despite tailing off late.*

LHP-Marco Tovar, Reynosa (12-4/3.11/80K): *Former reliever led Liga in ERA, tied for top in wins in second year as starter.*

RHP-Francisco Campos, Campeche (12-5/3.42/113K): *Only got better as season progressed. The Salon de la Fama awaits.*

RP-Sandy Nin, Quintana Roo (8-4/2.80/24SV): *Led circuit in saves, won or saved 32 games. Only 15 walks in 70.2 IP.*

MGR-Daniel Fernandez, Veracruz (54-49/.524/3rd): *Rebuilt moribund team around pitching, led them to LMB South finals.*

NOTE: *All Baseball Mexico Awards and All-Star Teams are selected arbitrarily (but almost never capriciously) by BBM editor Bruce Baskin.*