**Best Brassworld Team Pitching in History**

I remember the 1990s Atlanta Brave rotations with Glavine, Smoltz, Maddux as the stars and complementary pieces in Zane Smith, Steve Avery, Pete Smith, Denny Naegle and some others. In the 1950s the Indians had assembled a pitching staff that once got them past the Yankees and Mickey Mantle in his prime. In Bill James’ Abstract though, he rates a turn of the century staff as the best. The Boston Beaneaters club played only .500 ball though as the bats were pathetic. So, after 14 years of Brassworld, which have been the best pitching staffs?



First, it is obvious that San Jose is dominating this leaderboard and with the addition of Kershaw is off to great start for the remainder of this decade. The 2012 staff was an alchemist’s dream come true as Erik Bedard went 14-0 with 1.60 ERA, Gio Gonzelez was 27-1, 2.11, Brandon Beachy 16-4, 2.35, Bruce Chen 16-3, 2.65 and nailing down the #5 spot was none other than Felix Hernandez at 17-8, 2.78. The offense did their part, narrowly leading all BW in OPS.

However, if the Team ERA is divided by the League ERA for the year, we can get a better idea of performance relative to the league. Most notable, in the NERA chart is that Virginia in fact now has more teams in the top 5% of Brassworld pitching than any other, 4. Also, teams from the early and mid-2000s are now seen more often as the first chart ranked by raw ERA shows only one team from 2010 and all the rest are from 2012 or more recent. Before there was San Jose, there was the Portland Grays, the first juggernaut team in Brassworld and they make this list for their 2005 moundsmen whose collective ERA was 3.35, best in BW and whose .856 OPS was tied for best. Their staff was anchored by Jason Schmidt, a young Dontrelle Willis, and Curt Schilling. His closer was somewhat pedestrian, Coco Cordero, but they went all the way, winning the World Series that year.