

## 18 Thoughts: Week 1

Is there anything better than Week 1? Still riding high from the excitement of the draft and preseason content, Week 1 elevates teams from D.O.A. to frontrunners, demotes contenders to pretenders, and proves that nobody has any idea how to evaluate the 18 teams in this league. This season is no different. As Activ succinctly put it after seeing the Thundercaps vs. Returns of the Jedi results, "This community knows nothing and we are all idiots."

1. How about those moronic power rankers? Going by the aggregated power rankings, there were a grand total of six series upsets out of seven matches played, with two yet to be played. Maybe everyone should wait to do their rankings until after Week 1.
2. As one of the aforementioned power rankers, I'd like to publicly apologize for my ranking of the Globebotters. It turns out DudeMcGuy was not, in fact, overvalued in the draft and that Bert on offense actually makes a lot of sense. Beware this team.
3. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my own team's "upset" series win over the Catalytic Cap Converters this week. As a whole, Blue Suede Poosts didn't dominate statistically (outside of Sugar) but so far, they were the only team to go 5-0 this week. Are we the best team in the league right now? Doubt it. Are we better than a lot of people thought we'd be? You're goddang right.
4. Speaking of stats, it was odd checking TPL this week and not seeing multiple players from my team on the same leaderboard. In past seasons you were almost guaranteed to have two players in a category, sometimes even three. With 18 teams, those top 20 spots are actually worth something this season.
5. Continuing in the vein of the community knowing nothing, I was talking to a Juke Juice division captain who made a good point about the much discussed skill disparity this season. To quote, "the 'skill gap' between the former B teamers and former minors players was, predictably, overstated... 95% of the people in this league can hang." Hard to argue after some of the performances we saw this week from Jer32, Victor Messi, and others.
6. If the newcomers can continue to hang for the rest of the season, that could spell trouble for some of the vet-laden teams in our league. You've got to think that the young balls will continue to improve and that these veterans are somewhat ceilinged out. Something to watch for.
7. One of those veteran teams that most thought highly of, Returns of the Jedi, only managed a single win this week. It's a little bit of a shock to see a team with so much talent get beaten soundly like they did. After boogie's majors performance, I expected a lot better out of their offense than what we got. Their Game 3 win is the winning formula for them, with Mike Trout and boogie dominating statistically and WRIG cleaning up on powerups. They need to find a way to be consistent or they're in for an early playoff exit.
8. Their opponent, the Thundercaps are a bit of a sleeping giant, in my opinion. Acuraun and dingbat put together a really good performance this week and will continue to be a force the rest of the season. Jazzz came into this week with community perception of her as the clear anchor of this team. After a nine cap performance, I think she's laid those thoughts to rest.

9. I polled a couple of players on how they felt their teams performed this week. Consistency was a common refrain. I have a feeling that's going to be a theme throughout this season. The best team may not necessarily come away with the championship but the one with the most consistency and discipline will. Insert your arguments about why the most consistent team is also the best team here.
10. Continuing on that consistency thought, it feels like we had a lot of cap trains and cap swings this week. Do teams tighten up as we move along or do we keep seeing this sort of back and forth action? I hope it's the latter.
11. Had another GM bring up map order and wonders why it differs from how majors is doing it. I don't necessarily know that it matters but it did throw me for a bit of a loop. I honestly don't remember voting on this format, CRC bad?
12. CRC not bad, in fact. I think we can all take a moment to step back and appreciate the undertaking that merging leagues together was. So far, it's largely gone off without a hitch. The Novice draft finished up on Sunday and now all three leagues are in game mode. Kudos to the CRC for the work they've put in so far.
13. I say largely without a hitch, due to the gh0st situation. I think most would agree that someone with gh0st's experience and statistics at the B team level would be a top player in this season's Novice league. Without being available to play Mondays, I think it was the right call to remove him from the Novice draft. It sounds like there was some miscommunication on the CRC's part, which is regrettable, but when you skip a draft it's been well established by now that you may not be allowed into the lower tier.
14. We've been really fortunate so far with the amount and level of content we've had. I think the new league structure has really contributed to this and allowed a lot of people to get their opinions out there. As a sometimes content creator myself, don't be afraid to try something different or to reuse something old. Any content is good content.
15. There was some discussion earlier today on the 50 minute structure. I'll repeat myself here. From a streaming perspective it didn't feel any different from a 40 minute week. The rules limiting time between games seem to be doing a good job. However, it seems that some players have mixed opinions on the length. I don't see a midseason change occurring but something to bookmark for next season's CRC elections.
16. I'm really interested to watch the two outstanding games tonight and tomorrow. Miami is heavily favored against Holdin' Gate. I would love to see anti-re go off and for Sir Cle to prove to everyone that the trade to get him was a good one. Plus, who doesn't love watching Jarvis lose?
17. We also get to see Big Cap Rescue take on the Protagonists tonight. It's a great opportunity for NameLEss to step up and show he was worth the hefty price tag. Unfortunately for them, I think tonight is the start of the kolmogorov Defensive Rookie of the Season campaign. The guy is cracked and playing next to bbb will let him pile up the stats. My series prediction? 4-1 BCR.
18. I'll close with the rest of my way too early awards predictions. MVB: Sugar. OBOS: anti-re. OROS: kl. DBOS: DudeMcGuy. DROS: kolmogorov.