

## MIDWEST MONGRELS

### 2011 Emergency Instructions

Player	TM	B	BC-MG	BC-CG	SSN	SPD	ARM	PB	TH	G	PA	REM SBA
Mike Aviles	KC	R	-6/0	SA-0	29	15	33			110	445	19
Darwin Barney	CC	R	+4/-5	SA-3	N	13	34			30	85	0
Alexi Casilla	MN	B	3/-3	SA-0	33	17	30			69	169	7
Trevor Crowe	CLEV	B	-8/1	SA-0	29	15	31			122	479	27
Carlos Gomez	MIL	R	-5/1	SA-0	33	19	37			97	318	21
Adam Jones	BAL	R	-5/0	SA-0	20	16	33			149	619	14
Mark Kotsay	CWS	L	-19/1	SA-5	11	7	35			107	359	4
Adam LaRoche	AZ	L	-3/-1	SA-1	14	6	31			151	611	1
Mitch Maier	KC	L	-6/0	SA-3	24	14	32			117	418	5
Victor Martinez	BOS	B	13/-8	SA-0	26	6	32	1	-3	127	533	1
Nate McLouth	ATL	L	-14/2	SA-5	30	18	31			85	286	9
Jason Michaels	HOU	R	3/-5	SA-2	N	11	31			106	202	0
Nick Punto	MN	B	-1/-1	SA-0	29	16	34			88	285	8
Edgar Renteria	SF	R	2/-3	SA-2	33	12	30			72	266	3
Carlos Santana	CLEV	B	-13/5	SA-0	33	6	33	2	2	46	188	3
Matt Tolbert	MN	B	-10/4	SA-0	20	16	33			48	97	2
David Wright	NYM	R	8/-4	SA-3	25	17	33			157	658	30
Pitcher	TM	T	GRADE	CTL	HR	FAT	WP	HB	BK	MF	ST	RIP
<b>STARTERS</b>												
Homer Bailey	CIN	R	7X	12	11	26	2			1	19	
Madison Bumgarner	SF	L	9Y	31	11	26	1			0	18	
Brett Cecil	TOR	L	8	13	11	27	3			1	28	
Ryan Dempster	CC	R	11X	-21	-12	28	2		0	0	34	
Jeremy Hellickson	TB	R	12X	35	-16	9/10	3		0	1	4	
David Pauley	SEA	R	9	13	-16	26	3		0	0	15	4.7
Alex Sanabia	FLA	R	8	33	21	22	0		0	2	12	8.3
Ervin Santana	LAA	R	9Y	12	-12	29	3			0	33	
Ross Detwiler	NC	L										
Brandon Webb	NC	R										
Jordan Zimmermann	NC	R										
<b>RELIEVERS</b>												
Miguel Batista	WAS	R	12*	-22	-12	8	3		0	0	1	77.7
Jason Berken	BAL	R	10*Y	22	23	8	3	0	0	2		62.3
Bruce Chen	KC	L	10	-16	-12	26/9	1		0	3	23	140
Kyle Farnsworth	ATL	R	12*X	15	33	6	3		0	2		64.7
Paul Maholm-- <i>INNOC</i>	PITT	L	2	13	24	30/10	1		0	1	34	185
Carlos Monasterios	LAD	R	1/15*	16	-25	25/10	3		0	0	13	88/ 35
Dennys Reyes	SLC	L	12*	-44	36	5	3		0	2		38
<b>SP/RP totals</b>											<b>234</b>	<b>668</b>

Cuts-- Carded—Barney, W. C. Carter, Juan Castro, J. Feliciano, M. Ryan, Stairs,  
 Uncarded—Everett, Arias, Buckner, Martis, Schoneweis, Smith, Springer  
 Waiver Wire: L. Powell cut, D. Barney added back to the roster

## Player Usage Information

MONTHLY ROSTER	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Mike Aviles	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Darwin Barney	X	Down	Down	Down	Down	Down	Down	Up
Alexi Casilla	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Trevor Crowe	Down	Down	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Carlos Gomez	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Adam Jones	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Mark Kotsay	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Adam LaRoche	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Mitch Maier	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Victor Martinez	Down	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Nate McLouth	Up	Up	Down	Down	Down	Down	Down	Up
Jason Michaels	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Nick Punto	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Edgar Renteria	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Carlos Santana	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Matt Tolbert	Down	Down	Down	Down	Down	Down	Down	Up
David Wright	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Down (In Minors)								
Hitters	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	17
Pitchers	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	15
Pitchers	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
STARTERS								
Homer Bailey	Up	Down	Down	Down	Up	Up	Up	Up
M. Bumgarner	Down	Down	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Brett Cecil	Down	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Ryan Dempster	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
J. Hellickson	Down	Up	Down	Down	Down	Down	Down	Up
David Pauley	Up	Up	Down	Up	Down	Down	Up	Up
Alex Sanabia	Up	Up	Up	Down	Down	Down	Down	Up
Ervin Santana	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up	Up
Ross Detwiler								
Brandon Webb								
J. Zimmermann								
RELIEVERS	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Miguel Batista	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Jason Berken	2	2	2	2	2	D	D	2
Bruce Chen*	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*	6*
Kyle Farnsworth	C3	C3	C3	D	D	2	2	2
Paul Maholm*	L5*	L5*	L5*	L5*	L5*	L5*	L5*	L5*
C. Monasterios	D	D	D	C	C	C	C	C
Dennys Reyes	SL	D	SL	SL	SL	SL	D	SL
Down (D) = Not on roster that month	C=Closer L=Long Man SL=Situational Lefty, 1-2 batters per outing *Not starting, just relieving, no grade advancement Number = Suggested maximum innings per road series							

## **MIDWEST PITCHING ROTATION**

### **April (19)**

1-4	@WAK	4768
6-8	KNX	476
10-12	RIC	847
14-17	KAN	6841
19-23	@MAR	78416

### **May (21)**

1-5	@NBO	78456
6-9	@ZIO	7845
11-14	GOH	3845
15-18	CAY	7384
20-23	POR	5384

### **June (19)**

1-4	@KNX	2738
6-8	@RIC	427
9-11	WAK	384
12-16	HUD	27384
18-21	@MUN	2734

### **July (21)**

1-5	MLR	82634
6-9	NW	8263
11-14	@DAL	4826
15-18	@WHT	3482
19-22	@BH	6348

1--Bailey	5--Hellickson
2--Bumgarner	6--Pauley
3--Cecil	7--Sanabia
4--Dempster	8--Santana

### **August (20)**

1-4	@LV	2134
5-8	@COL	8213
10-13	@MEL	4821
14-17	GC	3482
18-21	RYE	1348

### **September (20)**

3-5	@WAK	248
6-9	KNX	1324
10-13	RIC	8132
14-17	NBO	4813
19-23	@KAN	48123

### **October (22)**

1-4	@HOU	4816
5-9	@POR	34812
10-14	MUN	34812
15-19	BRO	34812
20-23	MAR	3481

### **November (20)**

2-6	ZIO	34861
7-10	@HUD	3486
11-13	@KNX	134
15-18	@RIC	6137
19-22	WAK	8613

**The Dawgs will play the board game this year as always.**

**Please wait for instructions each month; I will send them by the first of the month always.**

### **Emergency Batting Orders**

#### **vs LHP**

Casilla	2B-8
Renteria	SS-8
Martinez	C-8
Wright	3B-3
LaRoche	1B-4
Jones	CF-2
Michaels	DH
Gomez	RF-3
Crowe	LF-2

#### **vs RHP**

Aviles	2B-7
Maier	LF-3
Jones	CF-2
Wright	3B-3
LaRoche	1B-4
Santana	C-7
Kotsay	RF-2
McLouth	DH
Punto	SS-8

# Midwest on Offense in 2011

It will be another long year for the Dawgs on offense. We have some good hitters, but most of the boys lack power and will struggle to get on base. That being said, the offense should be better than it was last year, and the team will go as far as its pitching staff allows it to go.

**Catcher:** Victor Martinez starts 127 times, with young Carlos Santana spelling him. Landon Powell continues to have a spot on the roster, and he will split duties with Santana in April while Martinez sits in extended spring training due to injuries. POWELL IS NOW GONE TO THE WAIVER WIRE, REPLACED BY DARWIN BARNEY.

**First Base:** Adam LaRoche is still on board for 151 games, and his replacements will come from the collective efforts of Martinez, Powell, and Mark Kotsay, depending on shifts and grades of starters.

**Second Base:** Mike Aviles is the leader with 110 games, and Alexi Casilla jumps in for 69 games. Both will be on the roster all season, and lineups will tell you which one starts. The starter should play the whole game as the other rests. There is not enough bench to allow both to play in many games at the same time. Matt Tolbert is very limited in PA and will not be on the roster until November most likely. WAIT—WE NOW HAVE BARNEY IN RESERVE TOO, SO YOU CAN IMPROVISE AT 2B, AS WELL AS SS, AND THAT WILL BE EXPLAINED IN ROSTER INSTRUCTIONS ON A MONTHLY BASIS. LOOK FOR BOTH TOLBERT AND BARNEY TO BE ACTIVATED AT TIMES BEFORE NOVEMBER.

**Third Base:** David Wright sees duty 157 times. Casilla slides over to start the five games Wright will rest.

**Shortstop:** The Dawgs welcome back Nickie Punto and salute Edgar Renteria, his platoon partner. Between the two of them they cover 160 games, so Casilla will start two games there, also. SEE NOTE ABOUT BARNEY'S RETURN ABOVE IN 2B SECTION.

**By now, it should be totally clear: the Dawgs can never pinchhit for a 2B, 3B, or SS hitter in a key point of the game.** If necessary, I will address the usage issue through trade in September. HA! Limitation has been addressed. Be sure to keep an eye on the monthly instructions, as they will include changes in the roster from what is printed here in the emergencies. Both Barney and Tolbert will make it to the bigs during the summer (hold your snickers back and fear the little ball players of Midwest!!!!)

**Outfield:** The starting group is Trevor Crowe in left, Adam Jones in center, and Carlos Gomez in right. All are limited by games. Mitch Maier will fill the left and centerfield game spots, and Kotsay will spell Gomez. The outfielders will generally all be on the roster each month, and specific lineups will accompany each game considering who your starter is.

**DH:** Jason Michaels is the man 106 times; the remaining 56 games will be filled by Nate the Not So Great McLouth. Again, both will be on the roster all year and matched up to your starters.

**All of the outfielders will be able to be shuffled in and out of the games as you change pitchers. There appear to be plenty of PA at this point,** and I will also address any issues with a stop gap trade in September.

## Offensive Strategies

**Bunt:** Well now, we know how I like this play. Early in the game, hit and run rather than bunt. But from the seventh inning on, game within one run either way, bunt leadoff man to second or third. Suicide in the seventh or later if the game is -1 or tied with the following hitters up: Punto, Maier, Kotsay. Do not pinchhit to create this situation. In addition to the incredible Nicky Bunto, remember that Tolbert and Barney, when they are playing, should be thinking about squaring around also. We will set the league record for SH this year!!

**Hit and Run:** General rule of thumb is to use the hit and run when any two-31 hitter is up, there are no or one outs, and the Dawgs are +1/-1 in the score. Be aggressive early in the game to get my runners into scoring position. If the play results in a SBA for a runner, do not hit and run with that same runner at first later in the game.

**Stolen Base:** Wright, Crowe, and Gomez can steal second any time in the seventh inning or later if their run would tie or give the Dawgs the lead, regardless of the catcher arm/pitcher

move adjustments. Limit them to 2 stolen base attempts per series for now. Aviles can run in the same situations as Wright, Crowe, and Gomez, but he should be limited to one attempt per series. Do not straight steal with Jones.

**Runner Advancement and Throws:** Use the chart for advancing on the bases, and throw to bases as you would for your own team. I trust your judgment. Do not be afraid to be aggressive and possibly lose base runners; I lack power and depend on the speed of my runners to try for an extra base.

**Infield In:** I never have good luck with this. So, limit this to the 8<sup>th</sup> inning or later, less than two outs, and Dawgs ahead by one to three runs.

**Hold Runners/Stretch:** Hold all runners at first as long as game is within four runs. If more than that, do not hold with LH batters at the plate. Always stretch with runners on base.

Everything else is your judgment. Play my team as you would yours. Within the restrictions listed above, play to win today's game, but remember that my infielders cannot be subbed for. All other moves are good.

## Midwest Pitching (oxymoronic) in 2011

In addition to a shaky offense, the Dawgs will have a less than stellar pitching staff this season. The good news is that the starting staff is young and has plenty of upside for the future. The bad news is that the bullpen is a group of castoffs, rejects, and starters who are bulking up relief innings. It's going to be a long haul this season.

The starters range from grades of 7 to 12. The rule of thumb this year is to go as far with the starter as possible, the 7s and 8s looking for 5 to 6 innings, the 9s looking for 6 to 7, and the 11s and 12s trying to go a solid 7. That being said, there should be no stapling to the mound this year. No one should be kept in the game to absorb a pounding. If a rally starts in the middle innings and a bullpen move could be helpful, the move should be made. The more critical thinking here will be the use of the bullpen.

**Closers:** Monasterios and Farnsworth. Farnsworth is the closer in April, May, and June, and then Monasterios comes up to close until his 35 RIP are used up, when Farnsworth becomes the closer again. Neither is great, but how hard can it be to pitch one inning for a save? We will find out this season.

**Lefty specialist:** Reyes fits the bill, but only has 38 IP. He should get one or two outs and then leave the game. He will sit two months as I have to go with six starters in those months to round out the rotation. During those months, Maholm and his grade of two can be used when you have a really bad lefty split for which you will not pinch hit. Remember, he does not get the five point advancement.

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> innings:** Rotate Berken, Batista, and Farnsworth in this spot (Farnsworth will be in this role from September to the end of the season). One inning at a time for each, and rotate them to get them into as many games as possible. If their innings are shot by September, I will try to trade for some more relief help in this spot. Be careful with all these men's innings, but don't be afraid to use them to win a game I am in.

**Blowout and 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> innings:** Maholm in the blowouts, Chen in the close games. Limit each to 2.7 innings each outing, and let them go that distance for sure to save on the other relievers. Try to switch them up so that they don't get fatigued but are available in all the games in your series save one. Maholm first, Chen second if a blowout occurs (starter pounded in first three innings). If the pounding is in the final game of the series, Maholm can pitch the rest of the game and just take more of the beating to save other innings. Curiously enough, later in the season, Monasterios becomes a 1 after his 35 IP as a 15 are used up. He then gets 50+ innings as a blowout man, too.

Overall, remember that neither Chen nor Maholm gets the five point bump. Use the other guys in the middle of innings to get the bump when the game is close and it could help give me a

shot at stopping your rally. If the relievers blow the lead by more than five in the seventh or later, switch to Maholm if he has not pitched so as to save their innings.

The Dawgs will be competitive this year, but they are likely to score too few runs and give up too many. Any time we are close late, play to win. Don't be afraid to play a hunch with this pitching staff to try to steal a game for me.

Darrell