

# MILWAUKEE BREWERS

# **National League Central**





4215

FRANCHISE WINS

**92-70** 

**2023 SEASON** 

1st
DIVISION

#3

FARM SYSTEM RANK

2023: Lost in NLWC

Milwaukee, WI - American Family Field (41,900)

Manager: Pat Murphy (0-0, 1st Season)

# **Brewers Going Back-to-Back?**

The Brewers claimed division titles in 2021 and again in 2023 thanks to superb pitching by both the rotation and the bullpen. The one-two punch of Corbin Burnes and Brandon Woodruff paved the way to 90 or more wins in each of those seasons. Now, the former has been traded to the Baltimore Orioles and the latter will likely miss all of the 2024 season with shoulder surgery. Can the Brewers navigate another run to a division title without their dynamic duo?

### **Batting**

For a team that won 92 games and an NL Central title, the offense was actually quite sluggish. They ranked below average in nearly every category and the back portion of the lineup struggled. **Christian Yelich** suffered through a couple of frustrating seasons following a broken leg injury in 2021 and 2022 but had a resurgence at the plate in 2023 and looked much more like the player who won an MVP in 2018 and finished runner-up in 2019. His power returned a bit in 2023 and included 19 home runs and 34 doubles and he also swiped 28 bases. He's by far the longest-tenured Brewer in a lineup that features a couple of new faces in **Rhys Hoskins** and **Joey Ortiz**. Hoskins missed all of 2023 with a torn ACL suffered in the spring but when healthy, he's a prototypical power hitter that hits plenty of home runs, draws walks, and also strikes out at a high clip. **Joey Ortiz** was one of the major pieces of the Corbin Burnes deal and he played in his first 15 major league games last year for the Orioles. He hit .321 with triple-A Norfolk last season in 88 games and while he's not a huge home run threat at the major league level, he did smack 30 doubles and stretch out four triples.

Ortiz is just one of the young Milwaukee bats who will be featured in the lineup. **Jackson Chourio** is the top prospect in the system and should start Opening Day in center field. **Brice Turang** debuted last season and while he was a bit inconsistent at the plate he is a tremendous defender at second. Fellow 2023 rookie **Sal Frelick** was a little more successful at the plate although in a much smaller sample size. He drew 28 walks in only 223 plate appearances and he too proved he is up to the task on defense. **William** 

# **Christian Yelich**



Photo via Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Contreras had a great season at the plate and hit for both power and average and earned a Silver Slugger award at catcher. Also at the top of the lineup is Garrett Mitchell who was held to just 19 games last season due to as shoulder injury. Willy Adames is also looking for a bounce-back season after a disappointing year at the plate although the did still hit 24 home runs and draw a career-high 71 walks.

### **Pitching**

The duo of Burnes and Woodruff are gone, but that doesn't mean that the pitching staff is devoid of talent. Freddy Peralta is the expected Opening Day starter, and, outside of his very last start of the 2023 campaign, he finished the season extremely strong. An ERA that was as high as 4.70 after the All Star break fell to 3.86 by the end of the season. He posted a career-best 7.9% walk rate while striking out 210 batters. The nickname "Fastball Freddy" certainly applies given the high-velocity and even his changeup registers in the high 80s. Wade Miley has had some of his best seasons well into his thirties which includes last season where he went 9-4 with an ERA of 3.14, although injuries held him to just 120.1 innings. In what is an extremely odd trend, Miley hasn't pitched more than 80 innings in an "even" season (only 37.0 innings with the Cubs in 2022 and 14.1 innings with the Reds in 2020). Milwaukee signed Jakob Junis in free agency. He made 36 of his 40 appearances last year for the San Francisco Giants out of the bullpen but he is traditionally a starter and that's the role he should have with the Brewers. Colin Rea pitched a career-high 124.2 innings but he's still yet to produce a season with an above-average ERA+. Former first round draft pick DL Hall was also a key piece in the Burnes deal and has a chance to earn the last rotation spot even though he has just one MLB start under his belt.

The bullpen was fantastic in 2023 (3.40 ERA, best in NL) and figures to be a key strength for the Brewers again in 2024. It helps to have arguably the best reliever in the game in **Devin Williams**. His changeup, nicknamed the "Airbender", is one of the most unhittable pitches in baseball. The pitch typically breaks more than 17 inches (the width of the plate) horizontally and moves so much that some have defined it as more of a "screwball". Find an overlay of his mid-90s fastball and his "Airbender" and you begin to understand why he's been so dominant. **Joel Payamps**, **Trevor Megill**, **Hoby Milner**, **Bryse Wilson** and **Abner Uribe** are all quality bullpen arms.

#### **The Bottom Line**

In order to find success in 2024, the Brewers simply must find more offense than they did in 2023. Even though the pitching staff should still be a strength, it's unrealistic to expect Brewers pitching to accomplish the MLB-best 3.71 ERA they posted in 2023. Improvement on offense is largely

dependent on young hitters taking the next step. That development will now occur without manager Craig Counsell who can be found in a rival dugout on the Northside of the Chicago. There is plenty of young talent on the roster and the long-term success of the team appears to be promising. However, this season might be a step backward in order to take two steps forward

2024 Projection: 82-80, 3rd in NL Central



#### 2023 MLB Ranks

RPG - 4.49 (17th) HITS - 1290 (26th) HR - 165 (24th)

ERA - 3.71 (1st) SO - 1425 (14th) FD% - .987% (8th)

**68 · MILWAUKEE BREWERS** 



## **Freddy Peralta**



Photo via Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

### **BREWERS 5-YEAR WIN TREND**

2019			89		
2020*	29				
2021			95		
2022			86		
2023			92		
	3	0 6	0 9	0 12	20

.531 < Number to Know

Craig Counsell's career winning percentage with the Brewers (his 707 wins are most in franchise history). His longtime assistant Pat Murphy now assumes the Brewers manager position.



Photo via Sports Business Journal

	Projected Lineup		'23 AVG
5	Garrett Mitchell	LF	.246
24	William Contreras	С	.289
22	Christian Yelich	DH	.278
12	Rhys Hoskins	1B	-
27	Willy Adames	SS	.217
10	Sal Frelick	RF	.246
11	Jackson Chourio	CF	-
2	Brice Turang	2B	.218
3	Joey Ortiz	3B	.212

	Projected Rotation					
51	Freddy Peralta	SP	3.86			
20	Wade Miley	SP	3.14			
35	Jakob Junis	SP	3.87			
48	Colin Rea	SP	4.55			
37	DL Hall	SP	3.26			
38	Devin Williams	CL	1.53			

# PLAYER SPOTLIGHT Rhys Hoskins - 1B



2022 Statistics

GP AVG OPS HR

GP AVG OPS HR RBI 156.246 .794 30 79

The Brewers hit only 165 home runs which ranked them 24th in MLB. If Hoskins returns to form following an ACL injury that cost him the entire 2023 season, he'll certainly help increase the Brew Crew's power numbers. In 2022 he clubbed 30 home runs and he's historically drawn a lot of walks including leading the league in that category in 2019. He signed a one-year, \$16 million deal that includes two player options in 2025 and 2026. He's never slugged under .450 and he's only now turning 30, so it's possible he's able to bounce back quickly and become a key contributor.

# 2024 Schedule



May 2024							
			TB 1:10		CHC 2:20	CHC 4 2:20	
CHC 5 2:20	KC <sup>6</sup> 7:40	KC 7:40	KC 8 2:10	STL 9 7:40	STL 10 8:10	STL <sup>11</sup> 7:15	
STL 12 2:10	PIT <sup>13</sup> 7:40	PIT <sup>14</sup> 7:40	PIT <sup>15</sup> 1:10		HOU <sup>17</sup> 8:10	HOU <sup>18</sup> 7:10	
HOU 19 2:10	MIA 6:40	MIA 6:40	MIA 6:40		BOS 7:10	BOS 4:10	
BOS 26 1:35	CHC 27 4:10	CHC 28 7:40	CHC 29 7:40	CHC 30 1:10	cws <sup>31</sup> 8:10		

June 2024							
						cws 1 4:10	
cws <sup>2</sup> 2:10	PHI 6:40	PHI 6:40	PHI 4:05		DET 6:40	DET 4:10	
DET 1:40	TOR 10 8:10	TOR 11 8:10	TOR 12 2:10		CIN 14 8:10	CIN 15 4:10	
CIN 2:10	LAA 9:38	18 LAA 9:38	LAA 9:38	SD 20 9:40	SD 21 9:40	SD 22 7:15	
SD 23 4:10	TEX 8:10	TEX 8:10	TEX 26 2:10		CHC 28 8:10	CHC 29 4:10	
CHC 30 2:10							

July 2024							
	COL 8:40	COL 8:40	COL 8:40	COL 8:10	LAD 10:10	LAD 6 7:15	
LAD 7 4:10		PIT 9 8:10	PIT 10 8:10	PIT 11 2:10	WSH <sup>12</sup> 8:10	WSH <sup>13</sup> 4:10	
WSH 14 2:10	All-Star Break - Arlington, TX					MIN 20 7:10	
MIN 2:10	CHC 22 8:05	CHC 23 8:05	CHC 2:20		MIA 8:10	MIA 27 7:10	
28 MIA 2:10	29 ATL 8:10	30 ATL 8:10	31 ATL 2:10				

	August 2024						
					WSH <sup>2</sup> 6:45	WSH <sup>3</sup> 4:05	
WSH <sup>4</sup> 1:35		ATL 6 7:20	ATL 7:20	ATL 8	CIN 9 8:10	CIN 10 7:10	
CIN 11 2:10	LAD 12 8:10	LAD 13 8:10	LAD 14 8:10	LAD 15 2:10	CLE 16 8:10	CLE 17 7:15	
CLE 18 2:10		STL <sup>20</sup> 7:45	STL 21 7:45	STL 22 2:15	OAK <sup>23</sup> 9:40	OAK 24 4:07	
OAK 4:07		SF <sup>27</sup> 8:10	SF 28 8:10	SF <sup>29</sup> 2:10	CIN 30 6:40	CIN 31 7:15	

September 2024							
CIN 12:10	STL 2:10	STL 3 7:40	STL 7:40		COL 8:10	COL 7 7:10	
COL 8 2:10		10 SF 9:45	SF 9:45	SF 9:45	ARI 9:40	ARI 8:10	
ARI 4:10	PHI 16 7:40	PHI 17 7:40	PHI 18 7:40	ARI 19 7:40	ARI 20 8:10	ARI 21 7:10	
ARI 22 2:10		PIT 6:40	PIT 25 6:40	PIT 26 12:35	NYM <sup>27</sup> 8:10	NYM <sup>28</sup> 7:10	
NYM <sup>29</sup> 3:10							

HOME

**AWAY** 

# PROSPECT TO WATCH Jackson Chourio - CF

Jackson Chourio isn't just the Milwaukee Brewers' top prospect but he's listed by many publications as the #2 overall prospect across Major League Baseball behind only Jackson Holliday. Unlike Holliday, who was drafted out of high school, Chourio was signed out of Venezuela in 2021 and he went right to work in the minor leagues. In the better part of three years, his minor league slash line is .286/.347/.490 including 47 home runs and 68 stolen bases. According to MLB, his 22 home run and 44 stolen base season in 2023 was the first 20-40 season by a teenager since some guy named Ronald Acuña Jr. His blend of power and speed at such an early age makes him an immediate candidate for Rookie of the Year contention in 2024 and he's a potential future superstar.



Photo via Brew Crew Ball