2014 JWBL Season Summary

Unlike last season, which was built around a Grand Prix-style series of Tiara Cup tournaments, this season was more about building more local identities to the teams through the Victoria Series paradigm. Teams would typically play 2 games a week, with the East and West divisions alternating weeks. There was only ever one game going on at any one time. The first half of the season was 14 games for each team (10 Victoria Series and 4 Tiara Cup games), the second half was 18 games per team(14 and 4 Victoria Series and Tiara Cup games respectively).

The 4 teams were broken into 2 divisions: The West and South teams were in the Western Division, the East and North teams were in the Eastern Division. The majority of the season was based around intradivisional Victoria Series games, with only 4 Tiara Cup tournaments, creating a wildly unbalanced schedule. Both divisions were broken into halves, and a single game playoff held if the winner of the first half of the season was different from the second half winner. Ties in either half of the season are broken by run differential and then by total runs. Wasn't clear what would have happened if they were still tied after this. The winners of the 2 divisions played each other in a Best of Three Queen Series final.

All games are regularly scheduled for 7 innings. Victoria Series games can go up to 9 innings if necessary, if still tied after 9; game is called a tie. Tiara Cup games (except for the final) end after 7 no matter the score. Tiara Cup finals are played to a maximum of 9 innings. In the semi-finals, a lottery is held in tie games to determine who advances, but the game counts as a tie in the standings.

Other Notes:

- The October 12th date for the West Division playoff is a guess. It wasn't necessary, and frankly was quite clear fairly early, that it wasn't going to be necessary so it was never officially scheduled
- The Queen Series ended in 2 games, but November 16th was the officially scheduled date of Game 3 of the series.
- In case you are curious, West won both halves of the season in the Western Division quite easily. East won the 1st half, and North won the 2nd half in the East Division, East won the playoff game.
- West defeated East 2-0 in the Queen Series final, winning Game 1 6-0 and Game 2 8-7 coming from 6-2 down after the 2nd inning.
- Last season's pitcher of the year, Honami Ohta, was an odd situation. Having announced that she wasn't coming back right after the 2013 season ended, she was shockingly put back on the East roster the day before the season started. East chose not to use her, and indeed, left her completely off the roster for some early season games. Coupled with the obvious struggles of the South team early in the season, led to the trade mentioned below.
- May 20th saw the only trade of the season, with the aforementioned Honami Ohta along with Yasuka Ohzawa going from East to South in exchange for Nami Okumura. The players were available for their new teams immediately.

- The 2014 Women's Baseball World Cup took place in Japan from September 1st-September 7th. It was won by Japan, who was only ever really challenged by the US.
- This matters here as West players Minami Yano, Akane Nakamura and Iori Miura were on the team, and were thus unavailable for the September 2nd and 3rd Victoria Series games. There were no players from South that made the national team
- In total, there were 7 players from the JWBL that made the Japan roster. The other 4 were Yuki Kawabata, Risa Nakashima and Miki Atsugase from East, and Ayami Sato from North (who shut the US out in the Gold Medal Game and won tournament MVP)
- Those who have played with the 2013 set, you'll notice that there was quite a bit of turnover in the league from last season to this season. A few of the players that retired took coaching positions in the league. Those included:
 - o Maya Kawaho 2013 East player, 2014 East Manager
 - O Chie Niihara 2013 South player, 2014 West Coach
 - O Yu Kawamoto 2013 East player, 2014 North Manager

Suggested Realist Lineups:

West		Player	Position	East	Player	Position
	1	Mika Konishi	3B	1	Miki Atsugase	SS
	2	Tsudoi Konishi	2B	2	Haruka Mihara	CF
	3	Iori Miura	CF	3	Miku Kayano	1B
	4	Kasumi Nakamura	SS	4	Yuki Kawabata	3B
	5	Akane Nakamura	С	5	Miwa Naroka	RF
	6	Ayumi Ikeyama	DH	6	Shiho Imai	DH
	7	Chiaki Shioya	1B	7	Natsumi Nakano	2B
	8	Chika Saeki	LF	8	Ai Kumizaki	С
	9	Arisa Kanayama	RF	9	Chika Nakahira	LF
Р		Minami Yano	SP	Р	Risa Nakashima	SP
North		Player	Position	South	Player	Position
	1	Chihiro Satoh	LF	1	Hiraku Kawasaki	RF
	2	Yumiko Miura	CF	2	Saki Soda	LF
	3	Mari Yamazaki	SS	3	Sachika Tanaka	SS
	4	Yui Ohyama	1B	4	Tomoko Tanaka	1B
	5	Chizuru Ishizuka	2B	5	Ayumi Kawaguchi	DH
	6	Shino Kokubo	DH	6	Natsumi Saso	2B
	7	Haruna Tadano	3B	7	Yasuko Ohzawa	3B
	8	Miki Horikoshi	С	8	Asami Kawabata	С
	9	Miri Iwaya	RF	9	Hikari Hashimoto	CF
Р		Ayami Sato	SP	Р	Mika Miyahara	SP

Schedule:

First Half	Series	Visitor	Home	2nd Half	Series	Visitor	Home
April 3rd	Victoria Series West	South	West	July 4th	Victoria Series East	East	North
April 4th	Victoria Series West	West	South	July 5th	Victoria Series East	North	East
April 11th	Victoria Series East	North	East	July 11th	Victoria Series West	West	South
April 12th	Victoria Series East	East	North	July 12th	Victoria Series West	South	West
April 18th	Victoria Series West	West	South	July 19th	Victoria Series East	North	East
April 19th	Victoria Series West	South	West	July 20th	Victoria Series East	East	North
April 24th	Victoria Series East	East	North	July 26th	Victoria Series West	South	West
April 25th	Victoria Series East	North	East	July 27th	Victoria Series West	West	South
May 2nd	Victoria Series West	South	West	August 1st	Victoria Series West	West	South
May 3rd	Victoria Series West	West	South	August 2nd	Victoria Series West	South	West
May 9th	Victoria Series East	North	East	August 11th	Victoria Series East	North	East
May 10th	Victoria Series East	East	North	August 16th	Tiara Cup Semi Final	West	East
May 16th	Victoria Series West	West	South	August 16th	Tiara Cup Semi Final	South	North
May 17th	Victoria Series West	South	West	August 17th	Tiara Cup 3rd Place	Loser 2	Loser 1
	Tiara Cup Semi Final		North	August 18th	Tiara Cup Final	Winner 2	Winner 1
May 24th	Tiara Cup Semi Final	South	East	August 22nd	Victoria Series West	South	West
	Tiara Cup 3rd Place	Loser 1	Loser 2	August 23rd	Victoria Series West	West	South
	Tiara Cup Final	Winner 1	Winner 2	August 25th	Victoria Series East	East	North
	Victoria Series East	East	North	September 2nd	Victoria Series West	West	South
May 31st	Victoria Series East	North	East	September 3rd	Victoria Series West	South	West
June 6th	Victoria Series West	South	West	September 13th	Tiara Cup Semi Final	East	South
June 7th	Victoria Series West	West	South	September 13th	Tiara Cup Semi Final	North	West
June 14th	Victoria Series East	North	East	September 14th	Tiara Cup 3rd Place	Loser 1	Loser 2
June 14th	Victoria Series East	East	North	September 14th	Tiara Cup Final	Winner 1	Winner 2
June 21st	Tiara Cup Semi Final	East	West	September 19th	Victoria Series East	North	East
June 21st	Tiara Cup Semi Final	North	South	September 20th	Victoria Series East	East	North
June 22nd	Tiara Cup 3rd Place	Loser 1	Loser 2	September 26th	Victoria Series West	South	West
June 22nd	Tiara Cup Final	Winner 2	Winner 1	September 27th	Victoria Series West	West	South
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				October 10th	Victoria Series West	West	South
				October 11th	Victoria Series West	South	West
				October 12th	West Division Playoff	2nd Half Winner	1st Half Winner
				October 14th	Victoria Series East	North	East
				October 14th	Victoria Series East	North	East
				October 15th	Victoria Series East	East	North
				October 18th	Victoria Series East	North	East
				October 19th	East Division Playoff	2nd Half Winner	1st Half Winner
				November 8th	Queen Series Game 1	East Division Winner	West Division Winne
				November 15th	Queen Series Game 2	West Division Winner	East Division Winner
				November 16th	Queen Series Game 3	West Division Winner	East Division Winner
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