

Scoresheet Baseball April 20th, 2009

Hello Again: I have now written a note to myself for next year to make sure I draft extra pitching, as somehow I ended up with more OFers than current major league pitchers on two different teams.☺ Meanwhile, I plan on spending a lot of time this week trying to make a couple of trades.

**Supplemental Draft:** In Scoresheet leagues we do **not** have weekly free agent pickups. Instead, we have three in-season drafts of 3 rounds each, the first of which will be in early May. This week with the weekly results we've included a short list of players that have not yet been picked in your league. (A complete list of undrafted players for your league is available on your league's web page – just click the 'undrafted players and ranking list' link on your league's web page to see that complete list.) Players are listed in order of playing time so far this season.

We have only listed players who are eligible in your league according to our draft-by-list rules. A player who was listed on the OTHER league's Scoresheet player list is NOT eligible to be drafted in leagues we run the draft for. For example, players who have been traded into the American League, or signed by an AL team since January 16th (when we made the player lists), but who are on the Scoresheet NL player list, such as Ronny Cedeno, are NOT eligible in our AL draft-by-list leagues. (However, since Cedeno is on our NL player lists he **IS** still eligible in Scoresheet NLs.) Likewise, Aaron Heilman (now with the Cubs) **IS** on our 2009 AL player list, and so he is NOT eligible to be drafted in Scoresheet NLs that do a draft by turning in lists to us, but he is still eligible in Scoresheet ALs. If you are unsure if a player is eligible in your league, go ahead and rank him anyway - if he is eligible then you'll have him listed where you want him; if he is not eligible we'll just skip right over him.

You are NOT restricted to drafting just the players listed under the top undrafted section; any player on your type of league's (AL or NL) Scoresheet player list, or any player in an organization in your major league (as long as he is **not** listed on the other league's *Scoresheet* draft list), is eligible. The player list printed in this week's results is just to help you see who's available and playing the most in the majors.

If you are in a 'public' Scoresheet league where we put the league together and find team owners (ie. a league that is designated with a league **number**), and you did your pre-season draft using the web draft then your league will automatically use the web draft for the in-season drafts. Just as in the pre-season draft, all pick times are shown on the page called 'www draft results', and you will enter

and save your draft list on the page called '<your league's> undrafted players and ranking list'.

**IF YOU ARE IN A PRIVATE LEAGUE (A LEAGUE DESIGNATED BY A NAME) THEN PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE FROM YOUR LEAGUE TELL US HOW YOU WANT TO DO YOUR IN-SEASON DRAFTS.** You CAN use the web draft to do the drafts if your league wants, even if you did not use the web draft in the pre-season – we just need to know to set up your league to do that. But even if your private league did the web draft in the pre-season your league is **not** automatically scheduled to do the web draft for the in-season drafts until we are told to do so (since many private leagues do their own drafts at different times.) So please do have someone in your league tell us how you are going to do your drafts – thanks!

If you are in a numbered league that did the pre-season draft by sending ranking lists to our office then that is how the in-season draft will be done. If you are in a 10 team league your draft list should have about 15-25 players on it - in a 12 team league it should probably be 20-30 players long. (Owners list far different players on their draft lists - most of you will get all 3 players from the first dozen players you list.) And PLEASE include Scoresheet player numbers. If you want to list a player that you do not have a number for then you **must** include the following information: his name, what position he plays, and team or major league organization he plays for. For the web draft a player number must be used, so if you want a player without a number please ask us to add him.

Each team gets 3 picks in the in-season drafts, and you can also trade draft picks. Assuming your league drafted the normal 35 rounds in the pre-season, round numbers are called round 36-38 in the May draft, round 39-41 in the late June draft, and rounds 42-44 in the draft held in early August.

The supplemental draft will have **roster balancing rules for position players:** you can get up to 2 players from the same position (or if you use a plus you can get up to 3 players at the same fielding position.) **There are NO roster balancing limits on pitchers in the mid-season drafts - if you just list pitchers you will get all pitchers, unless your list runs out.** Owners who do not submit a list will still acquire 3 players in order of major league playing time, (playing time thru April 26th, with one IP = 2 plate appearances.) You do NOT have to drop any of your old players to make room for the new ones.

The draft will be held week 5 (the week of May 4<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>), and players drafted will automatically be added to your team's taxi squad for

week 5 games. Drafts **using the web draft will begin Tuesday afternoon, May 5<sup>th</sup>** at 4 PM Pacific time, so you need to make sure you have a list entered and saved on your league's web page before then.

**If you are in a league that is sending ranking sheets to our office then your draft list must be submitted (postmarked, faxed, e-mailed or turned in from the web site) by 1 PM Eastern time Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.** As is true with all of our postmark dates, if using postal mail it is a good idea to postmark your list a couple of days early if possible, as we can't very well use a list if it is not here by the time we hold the draft.

Draft results will be included with the 5th week's reports (games thru May 10<sup>th</sup>). The first round will be held in the reverse order of the week 4 standings, with the order snaking (reversing in round two). The June and August drafts will be held in reverse order of the standings in all 3 rounds.

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**LINEUP DEADLINES:** If you turned in a new lineup for this second week's games, but it did not get used, then most likely you missed the Monday deadline for lineup changes. To have a lineup change take effect for the second week you had to submit it (sent from your league's web page, postmarked, faxed or e-mailed) by/before 1 PM Eastern Time 10 AM Pacific time Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (before the first major league game began on Monday.) This is a game where you **predict** how your players will do that week in the majors. If you submit a lineup after the week's major league games have started, then it will not take effect until the following week.

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This week we have printed individual stats for all of your players, plus stats for every other team's starting lineup vs RHPs, their 5 man rotation pitchers, and for their closer. This early in the season, when you look at individual player's *Scoresheet* stats, you will notice some discrepancies from their major league numbers. Each week, *Scoresheet* games are played based on what your players did that week in the majors. However, **mainly** because of different pitcher and hitter matchups in *Scoresheet* than in the majors, your players will not all do exactly each week what they did in the majors. If your pitcher faces a *Scoresheet* team of really hot batters that week he is going to give up more hits than if he faces a team of cold hitters. Same for your hitters; if they face a group of really hot pitchers that week in *Scoresheet* than they are not going to match their major league totals. Vice-versa, if your *Scoresheet* team faces pitchers who got rocked in the majors than your hitters

should do better than they did in the majors.

There is also an element of luck in each *Scoresheet* at-bat. As the season goes on the 'luck of the dice' has a chance to balance out. (We will go more into that in the next two weeks newsletters.) Finally, most *Scoresheet* leagues have 10-12 teams, while the majors have 14 teams in the AL, and 16 in the NL. This means your players in *Scoresheet* are only facing the top 75-80% of the major leaguers - the guys who are doing the worst in the majors are generally getting very little playing time in *Scoresheet*. This 'All-Star effect' causes all individual stats in *Scoresheet* to be a little lower than in real life. After all, it is harder for your hitters to have great batting stats in *Scoresheet* when they don't get to face some of the majors worst pitchers. And likewise, it is harder for your pitchers to post good numbers in *Scoresheet* when they don't get to face the worst major league hitters. This 'All-Star factor' does affect all *Scoresheet* teams - not just yours! I think you'll notice this as you look at other team's player stats - if your guys are down a few points you should see that other team's players are suffering the same fate. **This All-Star effect is NOT something we programmed into our game on purpose** - it only comes about because *Scoresheet* teams are generally only using the best 75% of the major leaguers, so your players are generally facing better than average opponents.

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**Carry-over pitcher starts:** There is a star (\*) printed next to your starting pitcher if that start is being carried over from a previous week. This 'carry over of unused starts' happens only if one of your starting pitchers started twice some week in the majors, but was only needed to start once for you. That unused start (and stats) are carried over to a later week for use when you are short a start. (Actually, since those unused stats are **added** into the later week's stats, the star appears next to both his starts in the later week.) For instance, if you have a pitcher who started twice the first week in the majors, but he started only once for you, then in some week after week 1, when that pitcher only starts once in the majors, but you need him to start twice, he will use that unused start (and those unused stats) for your *Scoresheet* team. (This will also be explained in greater detail in a future newsletter.) \*However, other than unused starts for pitchers in your rotation, unused player stats are **NOT** carried over to future weeks. If you own a guy whose major league at bats or innings pitched are not used because you had him on the bench or in the pen then those stats are lost to you.

Have Fun, and Play Ball! - Jeff Barton