

Scoresheet Baseball May 4th, 2009

Hi All: The next game report (week 5, showing games thru 5/10/09) will include the results of the supplemental drafts. Those players will be added to your taxi squads for week 5 games (added to rosters before the week 5 games are played on our computer.)

Last week we printed a stat table which shows: each team's record when ahead after 7 innings, tied after 7, and behind after 7; their record in one-run and extra inning games; and record when facing RH and LH **starting** pitchers (that table is shown and updated on your league's web site every week.) While after only a few weeks there is quite a bit of luck in some of these numbers, there still may have been enough games to spot some of your teams weaknesses and strengths. Your record in close games can indicate if your bullpen (especially your closer) is doing the job, and should also show if your pinch hitting and/or sac bunt numbers need adjusting, as those strategies can affect close games decided in the late innings. Looking at your record vs. RHP and LHP should help indicate if you need to trade for some more left or right-handed batters. And maybe some of the vs. RHP and LHP numbers for the other teams will help you when deciding if, and how, to use the 'teams pitchers prefer to face' column. Using the teams prefer to face column to have your righties slated to go against teams with lots of right handed hitters (or against teams with lousy records against RHPs), and to designate your left handed starting pitchers to go against teams with a weakness vs. LHPs, can surely help you win a couple extra games over the course of a 162 game season.

Last week I said we'd talk some this week about **why a player's Scoresheet stats don't exactly match his major league stats**. So here starts a topic that is discussed every year. I apologize for the repeat, but many folks are playing *Scoresheet* for the first time, and even experienced Scoresheet players might need a refresher once in awhile.

To start, the player's *Scoresheet* stats which should match his major league numbers are the 'individual dependent stats', **not** the 'team dependent' numbers. ERA, hits, walks and strikeouts per inning pitched, batting and slugging average, HRs, etc., are things each individual player does independent (mostly) of his teammates, and are the kind of stat the *Scoresheet* computer keeps track of. Such things as a pitcher's won-loss record, or a hitter's RBIs or runs scored, depend a lot on the team he is on, and **will** be a lot different in *Scoresheet* than in the majors!

The pitchers your hitters face in *Scoresheet*, and the hitters your *Scoresheet* pitchers face, **do** play a large factor in how your players do in *Scoresheet*. After only 4 weeks (and especially in any one week) you may have faced more than your fair share of hot or cold opponents. The best way to check what type of opponents you've faced is to look at that one line of stats that prints out at the end of your week's games.

Those are the **real major league stats** of your opponent's players that week, weighted by how much they played against you.

Another big factor in how your players are doing is how you use them in *Scoresheet*. For instance, if you had Brandon Inge buried on the bench the first 4 weeks of the season when he hit 8 home runs for the Tigers, and so he got no at-bats for you, then of course you did not get the benefit of those 8 home runs. This means that if you play him full time the rest of the year, he should end up with about 8 less HRs for you than he gets for the Tigers.

Likewise, if you somehow guessed that Lance Berkman was going to start out hitting horribly, and you did not play him these first 4 weeks (when he hit only .184!), and then you do play him the rest of the season, and **if** he hits better than .184 in the majors the rest of the season, then Berkman should end the year with a higher *Scoresheet* batting average for your team than he has for the Astros, since you were not playing him when he had those horrible stats. After all, if you are a canny enough manager to bench a guy during the weeks he stinks in the majors, and you use him the weeks he does well, then his overall *Scoresheet* numbers can be better than his major league numbers. Of course, this is tough to do since we have you mail in lineups **before** the week starts, which is the whole point of a Monday deadline! For instance, who the heck actually had Berkman benched to start the year?? But hopefully you get the point. (I traded for Berkman, and I am sure that's why he has stunk so far.)

Besides simply deciding whom to play each week, there are a number of other ways you can influence your player's *Scoresheet* numbers. Platooning hitters can definitely help their hitting - though it does take away from their total number of at-bats, thus lowering things like HR totals. (HRs, like any other stat, are based on the number hit **per** at-bat - if a guy gets only half as many at-bats for you as he does in the majors then you'd expect him to end the year with less HRs, doubles, etc.) Pitcher's *Scoresheet* ERA's are influenced by your fielders. Also, hook numbers do affect a pitcher's *Scoresheet* ERA. How your players perform on the field is the most important thing for your won-loss record - if your players are having a slow start then not even the greatest managing job ever will have you over .500. But if your managerial decisions change your record by just one game every month that is a difference of 6 games over the course of the season, which is a big deal.

Best of Luck, and enjoy the week! - Jeff Barton

P.S. We still have a few 'orphaned' teams available in our continuing leagues (teams in leagues keeping 13 players from year to year). If you'd like to take over one of those orphans the cost is **only \$29** for the rest of the season. To see available teams please go to: www.scoresheet.com/baseball.php and click on the 'available continuing league teams' link.