

Scoresheet Baseball June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Hi All: It is a new month – maybe my guys will start hitting now that the summer months are here? And why didn't someone tell me in March that Sizemore (my top pick in our local one-year AL) would be hitting just .223 on June 1st? He has been so bad I am almost happy he went on the DL yesterday - my bench OFer has to be better, eh? But it is pretty tough to compete when my 'best' player is stinking up the joint.

**NEXT IN-SEASON DRAFT:** For leagues following our normal in-season draft schedule, the next three round draft will be held the week of June 22nd. Leagues using the web draft will have their web draft begin Tuesday afternoon June 23rd, and the submission (postmark) deadline will be Monday June 22nd for leagues drafting by sending lists to our office.

Players drafted in the June MLB amateur draft **will** be eligible in our June Scoresheet draft. All three rounds will be done in the reverse order of the standings at that time (the standings that show games thru June 21<sup>st</sup>.) We will also talk more about the draft in the next two week's newsletters.

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Most Scoresheet leagues now have drafted 38 rounds of players (35 in the pre-season, and another 3 rounds in May), with another three round draft scheduled for late June. But the talent available in the June draft is generally pretty thin - you are unlikely to draft players in rounds 40 and later that will greatly improve your team's W-L record this year. So, if you have some holes to fill, or your team is simply not performing as well as you'd like, making a trade with a fellow team owner is probably your best bet to change your team's fortunes around.

Not only can making a trade help your team's won-loss record, it can also be a lot of fun. When contacting a fellow *Scoresheet* owner about a deal, even if you don't agree on a trade, you'll most likely at least have a fun conversation about baseball. That is why I prefer talking trade by phone rather than e-mail - chatting about baseball with fellow *Scoresheet* team owners is generally a pretty darn good time.

By looking at your league's roster (included with the postal results every 3 weeks or so, and updated on your league's web page every week), you can hopefully find a team whose needs fit your excesses, and who may have some players available

at a position you need filled. I definitely think the most fun in trading is when both owners can walk away thinking they each helped their own teams, and **not** when one owner is simply looking to take advantage of another owner. So, when thinking of deals to propose to another owner, try to find one that helps **both** teams.

When looking for trading partners, you might also want to look at the sections we printed again this week titled **unused IP** or **unused plate appearances**. These are what we refer to as the '**trade bait**' sections, and show which players in your league are getting more playing time in the majors than in *Scoresheet*. Those stats are **not saved** for future use (except for unused pitcher starts for pitchers that were in your rotation); that info is just designed to help see which teams may have players available for trade. You can also give friends a little grief about 'why didn't you use so and so this week'?

That 'trade bait' info is also available on your league's web page, and is updated every week. To see those 'unused playing time' sections you should go to your league's main page and click on the link called '<your league's> rosters with major league stats'. The top sections of that 'rosters with stats' page is the trade bait info.

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**Farm System:** Players on your roster who are not listed on your lineup card are **automatically** included on your farm system. These farm system players **will** come in to play for you if needed, before we go to AAA players. Also, before using a farm system player the computer does check to see if any of your 30 players on the lineup card qualify at the position needed - if they qualify there they will be used before the farm system player, even if you do not list that position for them on the card. But, farm system players will be used before we move guys 'out of position'. Also, bullpen pitchers will be moved into your starting rotation if needed (as long as they either had a start that week in the majors, or pitched at least 3 innings that week in the majors and are not on our short reliever list), **before** we start a pitcher on your farm system. NOTE – just like any player, a guy on your farm system can only appear in a Scoresheet game **if** he has major league playing time that week. When players are brought up from the farm system they are called up **in order of season to date playing time**.

Have a great week! - Jeff Barton