

Hi All: There are 8 full weeks of regular season games left after this report, meaning there is a lot of baseball yet to be played this year! And in *Scoresheet*, I think the standings can change even more dramatically in the last few weeks of a season than they do in the majors. Plus, as pointed out a couple of weeks ago, most *Scoresheet* leagues do have a wild card also making the playoffs. So don't just look at how far back you are from the first place team; also take a look at where you stand in the wild card hunt.

Next week we will have a lengthy discussion of how the playoffs work. In brief: How your players will do in the playoffs is based partly on how they do in September, and partly how they performed all season long. But **playing time in the playoffs is ONLY based** on how much a guy plays in the last 4 weeks of the major league regular season. We do this so that some owner who is playoff bound can't trade a scrub player to a non-playoff contender for a guy who is out for the rest of the year but had good early season stats. To avoid having those kind of trades influence the playoffs, we have a simple rule - **if a guy does not play in the majors in the last 4 weeks of the season than he can't play in the *Scoresheet* playoffs.**

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As mentioned last week, the third/final **mid-season draft** is coming up. The draft will consist of three rounds, with the draft being done in reverse order of the standings thru August 16th in all 3 rounds.

**If you are in a league that is drafting by sending ranking lists to our office then your draft list must be submitted** (postmarked, faxed, e-mailed or turned in from your league's web page) **by/before 4 PM (Eastern time) Monday, August 17th to be used.** If we do not get a list from you then the draft program will assign players to your team based on major league playing time thru August 9th. Please note that for leagues drafting by sending us ranking lists any TRADES involving draft picks in this supplemental draft must also be submitted by the submission deadlines to take effect!

**If you are in a league that is doing the in-season supplemental draft using the web draft system** (and your league is following our normal schedule and draft rules) then **your web draft will begin Tuesday afternoon August 18th.** The exact times for the web drafts are shown on the page called 'www draft results' on your league's web site.

Mid-season drafts run thru us do still follow the original draft eligibility rules - players who are on the other league's original Scoresheet player list are not eligible in this draft. Players who are on neither league's Scoresheet list are not eligible to be drafted until they sign with, or are drafted by, a major league organization in your type of league.

To enter your list for the web draft you should use the link on your league page called '<your league's> undrafted players and ranking list'. For web drafts that ranking list window will have a 'save' button at the bottom of the list, but not a send button. If you are in a league that is drafting by sending ranking lists to us you can also use that web based ranking list to create and send your list to us (in those type of leagues there is a send button.) If you are in a web draft league please do **NOT** e-mail, fax or postal mail us a list - your list needs to be entered on your league's ranking list page so the web draft program can access it. If you have no list entered when it is your team's turn to pick the program will assign a player to your team based on major league playing time thru Aug 9th.

Draft results will be included with the 20th week's reports (showing games thru August 23rd.) Players drafted in leagues that send in ranking lists to our office will be added to taxi squads effective the week of August 17<sup>th</sup> (since lists are due before major league games begin that week.) Leagues using the web draft will **not** have players added to taxi squads the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> since the draft is being run during that week, so players will be eligible to play in games, and to be put on lineup cards, beginning with the week that starts Monday August 24<sup>th</sup>.

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Don't forget that there is a **trading deadline** in *Scoresheet*. This year the deadline is **Labor Day morning, (September 7<sup>th</sup> this year) before the first major league game starts on Labor Day.** And once again, please **ONLY** make trades if they are designed to help your team. No matter where you are in the standings please do not make trades just to help a buddy out. When you make a trade think of how your fellow owners will view the trade - we all play fantasy baseball for fun, and that fun can be ruined if someone in the league is making unfair trades just to help out a friend's team.

Have a winning week! - Jeff Barton

REMINDER: The WEEKLY DEADLINE to turn in lineup changes and/or trades to have them used for that upcoming week's Scoresheet games is each Monday **BEFORE** the first **major league game** starts. Next week (Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>) the first MLB game is scheduled to start at 4 PM Eastern/1 PM Pacific time. So if you want to turn in a trade note or new lineup for next week (the games that will use the major league game stats from the week of August 17th thru Aug 23rd), please make sure you send in (send from your league website, postmark, e-mail or fax) that lineup or trade by/before 4 PM Eastern/1 PM Pacific time on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

P.S. The start of **football** season is almost here. If you would like to get into a league please let us know to save you a spot. Once we hear from you we will send you complete drafting info. - Jeff