

Scoresheet Baseball August 20th, 2007

Hi All: Once again, we are devoting this week's notes to playoff matters: the lineups used, stats used, playing time limits, etc. We wish the best of luck to all of you still fighting for a playoff berth!

If you do not turn in a special 'playoff only lineup', then the lineup you have in effect for major league games the week of Sept. 3rd thru Sept. 9th is the one that will be used if your team makes the playoffs. You do NOT have to turn in a new lineup that week - like all other weeks, we will just continue to use your most recent lineup if you make no change. You **can** also make lineup changes after Sept. 3rd - the new lineup will effect that week's game, and then if you make the playoffs we'll just go back and re-use your lineup from the week of Sept. 3rd. **Or**, instead of us using the same lineup as you use for *Scoresheet* games of Sept. 3rd thru Sept. 9th, **you can turn in a 'playoff only lineup'. To be used for the playoffs, that lineup also has to be submitted** (postmarked, e-mailed or faxed) **by/before 1 PM Eastern time/10 AM Pacific time on September 3rd!** (In other words, sent in before the first major league game starts on Labor Day.)

Please note that even though Labor Day is a holiday for many folks, any lineups and trades turned in on Tuesday September 4th will NOT be used for the games that week, nor will any playoff lineups turned in on the 4th be used. After all, using lineups and trades turned in on Tuesday the 4th would NOT be fair to the other folks in your league, since you would have been able to see what all your players did on September 3rd before sending in your lineup. If you generally send lineups by postal mail **please make sure you postmark any trades, or any lineup changes you want used for games of September 3rd thru 9th, or any playoff lineups, on Saturday September 1st since most Post Offices will NOT be postmarking letters on Labor Day.**

You can also turn in a lineup you want used for the 'playoffs only' using the web lineup form. Simply choose the second pull-down menu after the SEND button that says either 'use now' or 'for playoffs ONLY'. NOTE: As that name implies, if you choose 'for playoffs ONLY' then that lineup will NOT be used for any regular season games.

If you are sending in a lineup by postal mail, fax or regular e-mail and want that lineup only used for the playoffs (and **not** for regular *Scoresheet* games that week), make sure you clearly mark 'PLAYOFF ONLY' at the top of the lineup so we don't miss it. **If you want your lineup used for both regular season games and the playoffs do NOT write 'playoffs' on your lineup card.** The lineup used for games beginning September 3rd will automatically be used for the playoffs - **if you actually write the word 'playoff' on your lineup card then we assume you do NOT want it used for any regular season games!**

A player's **playing time limits** for the playoffs is determined **only** by **how much** he plays in the majors the last 4 weeks of the season. Pitchers in the *Scoresheet* playoffs will be allowed to pitch up to 45% as much as they did during those final 4 weeks in the majors; hitters have up to 40% of their total major league at-bats during those final 4 weeks available for *Scoresheet* playoff use. If you have a player who does not play at all in the majors after September 3rd he will **not** play at all for you in the playoffs!

How a player performs in the playoffs will be based 40% on what he does in the majors the last 4 weeks of the season, and 60% on what he did in the majors the first 5 months, **IF** he plays the same amount of time per week during the 2 periods. If a guy only plays in the majors after Sept. 3rd, then his playoff stats will only be based on those stats. Vice-versa, if a guy plays full-time in the majors the first 5 months, but only part-time in the last 4 weeks of the major league season, then his first 5 months stats will count more than the last 4 weeks when figuring how he will do in the playoffs. We simply multiply each player's major league stats in the last 4 weeks of the season by 3.33, then add in his total stats from the first 22 weeks. Then, as always, how that player will do is determined by what he did per at-bat, or per inning pitched.

A 4 man rotation is used in the playoffs. To start in the playoffs, a pitcher must start at least once in the majors the last 4 weeks of the season; for a pitcher to start twice in the playoffs he must have at least 3 major-league starts the final 4 weeks of the season. However, all lineup cards (even playoff only cards) should list a normal 5 man rotation. If your 5th starter is not needed to start a playoff game he will automatically be moved to the top of the bullpen with an earliest inning of 1, a hook of 3, and a rank of 5 versus both RHBs and LHBs. To avoid using those default numbers you can choose to also list your 5th starter at the **top** of your bullpen, with whatever hooks, rank and earliest inning numbers you want. Then, if that 5th starter needs to be used as a starter we'll use his starter numbers, and if he is not needed to start a game he'll be eligible to come out of the pen, with either the numbers you show for him, or the default numbers if you don't list him in the pen. When we say 'list your 5th starter in the pen' we mean that you can list him twice on your lineup card, once as your 5th starter in the rotation, and also as your first (top line) listed pitcher out of the pen.

Finally, don't forget the *Scoresheet Baseball* **trading deadline of Monday morning, Sept. 3rd!**

Have a great week! - Jeff Barton

P.S. If you (or a friend) have an interest in playing *Scoresheet Hockey* this year (a great way to get more involved with the NHL!), please give us a call and we will mail you a free information packet. Or, you can read more about the hockey game on our web site.