

Scoresheet Baseball August 24th, 2009

Hi All: Once again, we are devoting this week's notes to playoff matters. 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. 7th (Labor Day) thru Sept. 13th is the one that will be used if your team makes the playoffs. And 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. 7th - the new lineup will affect that week's games, and then if you make the playoffs we'll just go back and re-use your lineup from the week of Sept. 7th. **OR**, instead of us using the same lineup as you use for *Scoresheet* games the week of Labor Day, **you can turn in a 'playoff only' lineup. To be used for the playoffs, that lineup also has to be submitted** (sent from the web, postmarked, e-mailed or faxed) **by/before 1 PM Eastern time/10 AM Pacific time on Labor day, Sept 7th.** (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, any lineups and trades turned in on Tuesday September 8th will NOT be used for the games that week, nor will any playoff lineups turned in after Labor Day's first MLB game starts be used. After all, using lineups and trades turned in on Tuesday the 8th 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 Monday the 7th 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 7th thru 13th, or any playoff lineups, on Saturday Sept 5th since most Post Offices will NOT be postmarking letters on Labor Day.**

You **can** turn in a lineup you want used for the 'playoffs only' from your league web site (or can send it in by postal mail, fax or regular e-mail). On your web based lineup form there is now a link at the top of that form that says 'click here to create a playoff only lineup. NOTE: As that name implies, if you choose that 'Playoffs Only' form then that lineup will NOT be used for any regular season games. The playoff form is a separate form, meaning that creating a playoff lineup will **not** erase or replace your regular lineup.

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 Labor Day will automatically be used for the playoffs if you do not send in a playoff only lineup - **if you actually write the word 'playoff' on your lineup card or you send in a 'playoff only' lineup then we assume you do NOT want it used for any regular season games!**

A 4-man rotation is used in the playoffs. So, to send in the 'playoff only' lineup you will need to have just 4 starting pitchers listed. (NOTE - when you first go to the 'playoff only' lineup there will be 5 starting pitchers shown, since that form will originally open with whatever you have entered as your regular lineup. But once you make changes and hit either send or save then your changes will be saved, and will show up the next time you open that playoff form.)

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. If you need a pitcher pulled from the bullpen to start then the normal procedures apply - the program will look down the bullpen in order that you list pitcher names and will start the first pitcher it comes to that had at least one start in the last 4 weeks of the major league season (ignoring the 'earliest inning to use as a reliever' and 'rank as a reliever' columns).

A player's **playing time limits** for the playoffs are 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 in the last 4 weeks of the season 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 the last 4 weeks 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 how that player will do is determined by what he did per at-bat, or per inning pitched.

Finally, don't forget the *Scoresheet Baseball* **trading deadline of Monday morning, Sept. 7th!**

Have a great week! - Jeff Barton