

Hi All: Once again, the **Scoresheet trading deadline is 1 PM Eastern/10 AM Pacific time, September 3<sup>rd</sup> (Labor Day). That is also the deadline for turning in lineups to be used for next week's games of September 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 9<sup>th</sup> and for 'playoff only' lineups.** (The first major league games on Labor Day start at 1 PM Eastern time, so that is the deadline for lineups and trades.) If you make a trade, please do report it to us by the deadline so that we can put it thru! If possible, we prefer you e-mail, fax or postal mail in trade notes, rather than phone them in, so that we have a written record of the trade, though we will take phone reports if necessary. And like always, please only make trades that are designed to help **your** team, not a friend's!

September 3<sup>rd</sup> is also the deadline to turn in a 'playoff only' lineup. You do **NOT** have to turn in a special lineup for the playoffs. If you do not turn in a special playoff lineup then we simply use whatever lineup you have in effect for games of September 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 9<sup>th</sup> as your lineup for the playoffs. If you turn in a **lineup you want 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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! And as also mentioned last week, you CAN turn in a playoff only lineup using the normal web based lineup form - just use the drop down menu next to the send button to choose 'playoff only'.

Please note that September 3<sup>rd</sup> is Labor Day, meaning it is a federal holiday, so Post Offices are closed. Even so, **in the interest of fairness to other members of your league, any lineups and trades turned in on Tuesday September 4<sup>th</sup> will \*NOT\* be used for the games that week**, nor will any playoff lineups turned in on the 4<sup>th</sup> be used. After all, that would not be fair to your fellow league members since you would have had the advantage of seeing your player's stats from major league games played on Monday September 3<sup>rd</sup>. So if you normally turn in lineups or trades from work, and will not be working on Labor Day, then please make sure you either turn in your lineup or trade from home by/ before Monday morning, or from work on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup>. **And if using postal mail to send in your lineup please make sure you put your lineup in the mail by Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup> since most Post Offices will not be issuing postmarks on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

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Once again - **how much a guy can play in the Scoresheet playoffs** is solely based on how much he plays in the majors the last 4 weeks of the season. In every series hitters can get up to 40% of the number of at-bats they got in the majors the last 4 weeks of the regular season and pitchers can get up to 45% of their innings pitched. **How well the players will do** is based 40% on how they do in the majors the final 4 weeks of the season, and 60% on how they did in the majors the first 5 months, assuming they play about the same amount of time per week all season long. Also, we only let pitchers start a game in the playoffs if they start a game in the majors in the last 4 weeks of the season. Major league teams don't use middle relievers to start playoff games, and we figure *Scoresheet* teams shouldn't do so either.

Yes, we do realize you'd probably make a different playoff lineup if you were turning it in in October, and knew exactly what all your players did in September. But the reason that we have you submit your lineup with 4 weeks left in the season is we want to keep the element of prediction in our game - we want you to decide who to play **BEFORE** you see how players actually do in the majors the last 4 weeks. This is especially true for rookie call ups. If you have a young minor leaguer, and he is called up in September, he can play for you in the playoffs, based on his September playing time. However, you have to have the guts to stick him in your lineup before you see how he does. Deciding how to use your players before you see how they do is one of the most important parts of *Scoresheet*!

And please remember that all lineup cards should list a normal 5 man rotation, whether it is a normal weekly lineup or a playoff lineup. If your 5<sup>th</sup> 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 assigned numbers you can choose to also list your 5<sup>th</sup> starter at the top of your bullpen, with whatever hook, rank and earliest inning numbers you want. Then, if that 5<sup>th</sup> 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. (This is only possible for the 5<sup>th</sup> starter - the 1-4 guys in your rotation can not also be listed in the pen.)

Have a great week! - Jeff Barton