

Scoresheet Baseball August 6th, 2007

Hi All: There are 8 full weeks (roughly 50 games) 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 of 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. But for now, I'd like to mention that we have done our best to design our playoff system so that 'weird' trades just for the playoffs do NOT make sense. 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.**

Trade Bait: We've once again printed the 'trade bait' info for all leagues. What these '**most unused playing time**' sections show is the players in your league who have the biggest difference that week between their major league and *Scoresheet* playing time. Some of these players are recent draft picks that have not yet been put in a new lineup by their owners, but this info should still help you see which teams have extra players at various positions. You may also see a player show up on those 'unused' lists that is having a pretty darn good season so far, but is still not being used by his owner. Maybe a call to that owner can get you a little known player for little cost, but who could fit nicely into your lineup or rotation.

Don't forget that there is a **trading deadline** in *Scoresheet*. This year the deadline is **Labor Day morning, September 3rd (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. Obviously some teams will be out of the hunt for a crown by late August, but 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. Thanks again for your cooperation!

The folks at Ron Shandler's BaseballHQ.com are once again putting on a weekend fantasy baseball conference centered on the Arizona Fall league. This year's meeting begins with a welcome reception Thursday evening, November 1st, and runs thru Sunday afternoon, November 4th. Included among many other fun activities are seminars on fantasy baseball draft and trade strategies; tips on how to evaluate players (both major and minor leaguers); tickets to four AFL Arizona Fall League games; and some fun bonding with other fantasy players. Fantasy baseball experts such as Baseball HQ's Ron Shandler and Deric McKamey, Jim Callis of Baseball America, Jeff Erickson of Rotowire, Peter Kreutzer of mlb.com, Lawr Michaels of CreativeSports, Joe Sheehan of Baseball Prospectus, minor league expert John Sickels, and Trace Wood of Longgandhi.com, will all be leading various discussions. I will also be there, and I will be leading a couple of seminars on various fine points of *Scoresheet*, and answering any and all questions on *Scoresheet* you might have.

I will also be attending all the ballgames - there will be plenty of chances to talk at length about *Scoresheet*, along with time to pick the brains of the many experts Ron has assembled. Plus sitting a couple of rows behind home plate, watching future stars, and talking fantasy baseball (and *Scoresheet* in particular) is hard to beat. If you'd like more information about the Arizona Seminar, check out the official web site, at:
<http://www.baseballhq.com/seminars/arizona.shtml>

NOTE: Other than me going every year, *Scoresheet* has nothing to do with sign-ups; this is strictly a BaseballHQ run event. I'll be happy to answer any questions I can, but contacting BaseballHQ is the best way to get questions answered, price and sign up info, etc. When you sign up please do mention you are a *Scoresheet* player - the more *Scoresheet* guys the more pull we have as far as designing conference topics. Please note - BBHQ does offer Early Bird pricing - **register by August 31st and save \$70!**

Have a winning week! - Jeff Barton

P.S. The start of **football** season is almost here. If you would like to get into a league (either one that will draft using the web based draft system or a league where you would send ranking lists to our office) please let us know to save you a spot in a league. Once we hear from you we will send you complete drafting info. - Jeff