

Hi All: It is hard for me to believe there is only one week left in the season. While my AL team is nursing a slim 2 game division lead (meaning I wish the season ended today), I could use another month for my NL team to turn it around. Maybe trading away Peavy back in April was not such a good idea?

We did talk about ties and tie breakers last week. If there are ties in your league for playoff spots and special tie breaking series need to be played, those tie breaking series will be played and sent out at the same time as the regular playoff games are sent out. The tie breaking series do use playoff lineups, and the normal playoff rules for playing time and stats used, so they get played with the playoff games, and not next week's regular season final report.

Like many folks, as the season winds down I enjoy giving my guesses as to who will win this year's major baseball awards. Just as for my Scoresheet teams, I prefer guys who put up the best numbers in such things as on base and slugging percentage or ERA over folks who just have a bunch of RBIs or pitcher wins. And for position players I also strongly take fielding position into account - I figure a slugging shortstop is worth a lot more than a slugging DH. So, given that, *if* I had a vote (which of course I don't), my awards would go as follows:

AL MVP: I gotta go with Alex Rodriguez this year. Magglio Ordonez is having a great year, Ortiz is having his usual monster slugging season, and Vlad has led the Angels to the playoffs. But ARod plays 3B while those other guys play OF or DH. In fact, I think my 2nd place vote would go to Jorge Posada. A catcher who has an on-base percentage of .425 and a slugging percentage of 548 is pretty darn valuable, eh?

NL MVP: This is a tough one. Chipper Jones is having a great year (leading the NL in OPS) while playing 3B. But Chipper has missed some time (he has less than 500 ABs thru today), and is also not on a playoff bound team. Chase Utley is also having a great year, and finding another middle infielder with stats like his is virtually impossible. But like Chipper, Utley also missed a significant chunk of time, and Philly may also miss the playoffs. (Though I bet both Chipper and Chase led a lot of Scoresheet teams to the playoffs!) So if I had a vote I'd give it to Prince Fielder. Matt Holiday has slightly better stats, but I credit at least part of that to playing his home games at Coors field. Other deserving players are Hanley Ramirez and Miguel Cabrera of the Marlins and David Wright of the Mets. All in all, I think the NL MVP race is pretty darn wide open.

AL Cy Young: If we are talking about most valuable compared to where they were drafted in a fantasy league this year then Fausto Carmona would win this award hands down. A 3.03 ERA and 18-8 record from a guy that actually went undrafted in a few Scoresheet leagues in the pre-season? That is awesome! But since Cy Young award voters don't take a player's Scoresheet draft position into account I'll have to go with Beckett.

NL Cy Young: With a 2.83 ERA and a batting average against of only .188 how the heck does Chris Young only have a record of 9-7? Do the Padre players have something against Young and just don't hit when he pitches? I imagine he has a much better record than 9-7 for virtually all of his Scoresheet teams. But with that record there is no way Young will win the Cy Young, or even siphon too many votes away from teammate Jake Peavy. So, in a somewhat lopsided race I'll give my vote to Peavy over Brad Penny and Brandon Webb.

Quick Rules Note: The *Scoresheet* season includes major league games thru Sunday, September 30th only - the Sunday of the final week of the scheduled major league regular season. Our policy has always been NOT to use any games played after the final Sunday of the major league regular season, so if for some reason there is a major league game played on Monday, October 1st (maybe a make up of a rain-out, or a one-game playoff to break a tie), those stats will **not** count for the *Scoresheet* season (regular season or playoffs).

Once again we've printed the win leaders from throughout Scoresheet. Next week we will again print all the various stat tables for your individual league, and then with the playoff results we will include final leaders throughout Scoresheet in all the various categories, along with final league rosters for all of you. Remember, the wins and losses listed below are **thru last week's games (games thru 9/16/07) only**.

AL Team Wins: Soxers (Stephen DuBois) 104;
Ground N Pound (Paul Miramonti) 103;
Texas Rangers (Ben Chapman) 103;
Dicerons Bicornises (Ryan Wong) 102;
Hammerin' Hissy Fit (Mark Hasbrouck) 101.

NL Team Wins: Horseshoes (Herb Poole) 105;
Yellowstone Yogis (Steve Daughney) 104;
Armed Forces (Mark Hanchey) 104;
Diamond Dogs (Rick Osborne) 103; 2 tied with 101.

BL Team Wins: Maybe this year? (Keith Fish) 98;
Axemen (Monte Milburn) 98; Dough Boys (Owen Jones) 97;
3 tied with 96.

Enjoy the final week! - Jeff Barton