

Scoresheet Baseball September 28th, 2009

Hi All: There is only one week of regular season games left after this report. If your team is still a couple games out of the playoffs then you better give your players a sense of urgency!

We did talk about ties and tiebreakers 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 comes to a close 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 think Jeter will win the award. And there is nothing wrong with that really - a shortstop with an on-base percentage over .400, an OPS (on-base plus slugging percentage) of .865, and 'leadership' that is often credited for helping the Yankees to the best record in baseball, all make a pretty good case for an MVP. But myself, I'd have to vote for Joe Mauer. Catcher is a position where it is even harder to find offense than at shortstop, and Mauer has an OPS almost 200 points higher than Jeter. Obviously the NY media machine is bigger than Minnesota's (duh), and so Jeter vs. Teixeira is getting most of the headlines. But Mauer is truly having a season for the ages. Also worthy of serious consideration is Kevin Youkilis (he'd get my 2nd place vote behind Mauer.)

NL MVP: I generally prefer good hitting shortstops (or second basemen or catchers) to good hitting first basemen when it comes to MVP voting. And by that criteria either Hanley Ramirez or Chase Utley would be a great choice. But Pujols is having far too good a year to not vote for him. Is there anyone playing now that is even close to being as feared a hitter as Albert?

AL Cy Young: A 2.06 ERA pitching in a league with a DH? And somehow getting 16 wins on a rather weak KC team? King Felix, Halladay, Sabathia (with a shot at 20 wins), and Edwin Jackson (why didn't I draft him???) have all had excellent seasons. But even though his team has been out of the pennant race for months, Greinke has to be a near unanimous choice for the AL Cy Young.

NL Cy Young: It looks like Saint Louis will bring home both the MVP and Cy Young awards this year, as the two top contenders in my mind are Chris Carpenter and Adam Wainwright. Carpenter has a slightly better ERA, but Wainwright has 40 more innings pitched, so Adam would get my top vote, with Carpenter second and NL strikeout leader Lincecum third. Too bad the Giants hitting is so bad, as with a little better support I think Lincecum would have been a good bet to get his 2nd straight Cy Young award.

Quick Rules Note: The *Scoresheet* season includes major league games thru Sunday, October 4th 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 5th (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).

Quick Rules Change Reminder: For Scoresheet run perpetual leagues, the limits to be considered a 'Scoresheet minor leaguer' (to qualify to be protected at just the cost of a late draft pick on your 2010 protected list) are going up to 50 career major league innings pitched, or 130 career major league at-bats. Players who qualify according to these limits have an asterisk next to their name on your league roster (on the rosters that come with the game results every 3 weeks or so, and the ones on your league's home page.)

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 9/20/09) only.**

AL Team Wins: Pale Hosers (Gerry Rothrock) 106; Trading Post (Chad Stenerson / Leon Shahon) 104; Downeast Beasts (Davis Whitesell) 104; smithlocke (Greg Tavalire) 104; 2 tied with 103.

NL Team Wins: Ground N Pound (Paul Miramonti) 108; Al Asad Avengers (Eric Moyer) 105; Werewolves (Jeff Wong) 105; Javelinos (John Richards) 104; 2 tied with 102.

BL Team Wins: Midwest Lumber Barons (Bobby Clarke) 103; Dirty Birds (Michael Turner / JD Wilks) 103; Goers (Jim Elliott) 102; DK Goes Yard (Ron Engel) 100; Ashburners (Lloyd Harrell) 99; Team Hoss (Richard Little) 99.

Enjoy the final week! - Jeff Barton