

# EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of Extra Innings

'Hot Stove' Issue

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## I Was There 1972 Rosters On The Way... More Data Than Ever Before

by John Cronin

The following eye-witness account has been provided by a displaced Dodger fan. John's letter, accompanying this article, established he first became a Brooklyn Dodger fan in 1940, suffered his first heartache, the first of many, when the Yankees defeated the Dodgers in the 1941 World Series. His baseball world crumbled when O'Malley moved the team to Los Angeles. John makes the case for many of us when he says: "Anybody who wasn't a Dodger fan from 1941 through 1957 doesn't really know what it was like to be a true baseball fan. It was like a cause. When the Dodgers left it was like some one died."

Here's John's recollection of one of the glory days of the Dodgers:

The recent and untimely death of Jackie Robinson has brought to mind memories of one of the more exciting figures of our game of baseball.

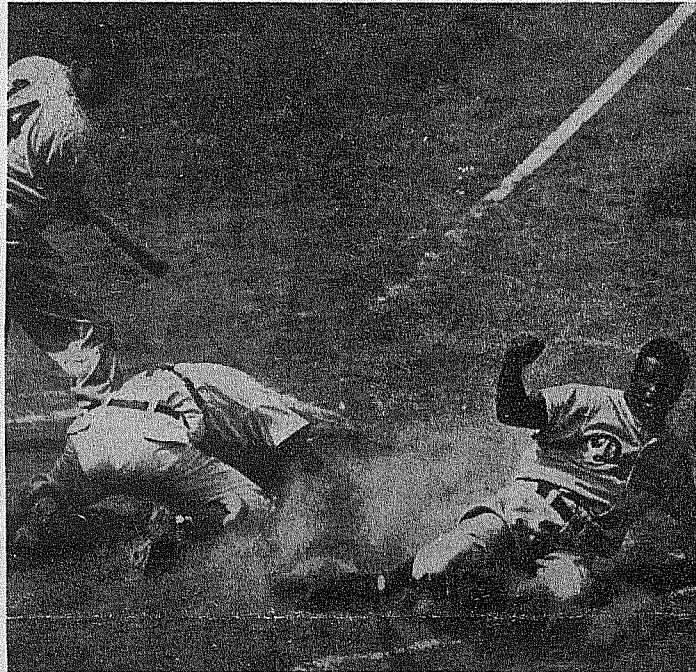
I go back, in my mind, to the last Sunday in September, 1951. The National League race had come down to the last day with the Dodgers and Giants tied. The Giants were in Boston and the Dodgers last gasp was in Philadelphia. Five of us, decided Philly was coser to our New York base than Boston and headed for old Connie Mack Stadium. There'd been little advance sale for the game. Who'd have thought, when the Dodgers were 13 1/2 games ahead in August, it'd be necessary to buy tickets for the Phillie's last game. We did manage to work our way through the thousands milling outside at the ticket booths and got seats in the upper stand between first and home.

Brooklyn stranded two runners in the first inning and the Phillies went ahead on two homers by Tommy Brown an ex-Dodger who was a Brooklyn boy. When Brown was with the Dodgers he was the star of batting practice. If you showed up at the park early you could see him propel many into the stands, yet none in the game that followed. Here he was doing it now to the Dodgers.

The score went back and forth until the Phillies assumed an 8 to 5 lead in the eighth. The scoreboard showed the Giants had beaten Boston and were the pennant winners unless the Dodgers could pull it out.

Brooklyn rallied for three runs in the top of the eighth and then both teams drew blanks into extra innings. Came the bottom of the twelfth and Don Newcombe was pitching for the Dodgers. The

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Jackie Robinson, whose early death has deprived us of an unrelenting spokesman for racial progress, lives in the memories of sports fans. His feats are retained through the real-life recreations of "Extra Innings" and in the undimmed memories of those who saw him in action. John Cronin's recollections of one of Jackie's greatest days is in this issue. Also, a review of Robinson's autobiography will be found on page four.

### Another Look At Stolen Bases

The stolen base chart, like many of the optional play circumstances of "Extra Innings", was arrived at primarily from our observations of major league play. The success percentages we projected were "seat of the pants" estimates (which is not a bad simile unless you prefer to dive into a base head first).

We obtained Earnshaw Cook's newest statistical analysis of baseball, "Percentage Baseball and the Computer" as soon as it was available. We'd been led to believe from advance publicity that it would contain new insights into situations previously obscured in statistics. Unfortunately, Mr. Cook based his belief that hitting away was a better strategy than an attempted steal on the same raw league data we've always had. This simply lumps all steal attempts and all stolen bases.

This bothers us. It does not treat separately (as we've done with our Stolen Base Chart) the stealing of second, third or home and whether the pitcher is left or right handed, thus facing the runner or having his back to him.

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### Hitters Now Influence Walks

We've long been bothered by the relationship of the batter and pitcher in the issuing of walks. Is it more the result of the pitcher's wildness, the batter's cagy strategy, the batter's reputation which finds the pitcher working too carefully, or what?

It's one of those "chicken and the egg" situations which upset the neat mathematical projections which make baseball such an attractive table top game. So, we've decided to make an omelet.

We put the basic influence in the hands of the pitcher, literally as well as figuratively. The new method for rating walks, described in the July newsletter prevails.

From the very outset of designing "Extra Innings" we had allowed for those players who collect an exceptional number of walks in a season. We'd used 100 or more walks to identify what we called the Special Player. We wanted those walks to be included as part of the offensive capabilities of those who earned them from the pitchers. Also, we wanted to have realistic plate appearances for

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The 1972 rosters are completed and are being mailed separately to subscribers to the newsletter. That they will arrive in a "plain brown envelope" is the result of our decision to separate the production of rosters containing the public records of members of the Major League Baseball Players Association from the "Extra Innings" game itself.

You will find the rosters are the culmination of several years of devising the best method of producing playing rosters. The rosters are printed, two to a page, on 8 1/2 x 11 pages. They'll snap right into the binder, if you wish. Also, they are printed so that they can be cut apart without snipping off part of a roster on the reverse side, should you wish to use them that way.

They contain the fringe players of all teams. We used a minimum of 25 games played as the cutoff in deciding who to include. You can play out full league schedules and follow actual player uses almost totally. We've added "at bats" info, together with "games played" so that you can use players in close approximation to the times they appeared in actual league boxscores. Pitchers individualized batting lines are included on the rosters.

Pitching records also now include "games started" to serve you as a guide in setting up pitching rotations and separating starters from relievers. All pitchers are rated for walks and strike outs according to the new method described in the July newsletter. (A separate article in this issue will tell you about a new role to be played by batters in determining walks. This has necessitated modifying the First Roll Chart and it is made part of this newsletter.)

Double Play and Error Info, by team, is made part of the roster. This, too, follows the revisions described in the July newsletter. Players appearing with more than one team in 1972 have been included on each roster for their actual records with each team they played for.

This last feature had previously been a supplement to the rosters. In the first several years of "EI" we were able to knock out rosters on the basis of unofficial stats available at the end of the season. However, the growing sophistication of the game has made it necessary to wait for the official stats which start trickling out in December. Actually, it makes for a more compact package.

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# From The Bench

"Extra Innings" was designed from a hitting point of view. The first edition (September, 1970) correlated defense with pitching. The lower the pitcher's ERA the better defensive support was assumed.

The second edition (April, 1971) introduced defensive ratings at the extremes of individual ability, Superior Defense - to describe a Brooks Robinson or Limited Defense - to describe a Frank Howard. We also explained that our concept of Limited Defense was primarily that of a player's range, rather than his having stone fingers.

Now, as the third edition takes final form, we have been reconsidering the matter of defense. First, it has two roles in table play: it adds to the realism of performance and it adds to the gamesmanship. If a game relies only on the offensive strengths of the players, a table top manager can load his lineup with power without having any penalty result. The 1954 New York Giants could play Dusty Rhodes for his bat and not be penalized for his defensive shortcomings.

The major handicap in rating players defensively is that it becomes almost entirely a matter of subjective judgement. When a game designer attempts to judge the rosters of 24 major league teams, his limited experience as an observer is a failing. Statistics can be misleading. A sorearmed outfielder can acquire a lot of assists when runners try to take advantage of this.

We note that Horace Clarke is approaching assist records of Charlie Gehringer, yet doubt if the Yankee second baseman can even be ranked as outstanding among today's players.

We keep a running record of our impressions of the defensive skills, or lack of them, during the major league season. The yardstick we rely upon mostly is the defensive adjustments made by team managers in the late innings of a ball game. But we are handicapped by the limited number of games we can follow through their progression. We only see about half a dozen games in person each season. In 1972 we visited Fenway Park twice; Shea Stadium once; Yankee Stadium once and Jary Park twice. We watched just about every NBC Saturday and Monday night telecast. We watched about 50 Red Sox local telecasts. We watched every game of the playoffs and World Series. We "saw" between 125 and 135 games all told. The only team we watched often enough to form our own separate judgements about was the nearby Red Sox.

We rate players subjectively and with trepidation. We believe we are more often right than wrong.

We have wrestled with the possibility of grading players for defensive ability and correlating the total team to a defensive ranking. We have rejected this concept for many reasons.

Defense is much more than the ability to catch a ball, field a grounder or throw accurately. Defense is primarily a matter of range. Whether from sheer speed of foot or instant reflexes, some players will get to balls others will wave at. Defense is the ability to make the double play. Defense is the ability to keep runners off the bases by not making errors. Defense is the attention to details that sees outfielders hitting the cutoff man, and the infielder letting the ball go through or cutting it off. It is the pitcher backing up the right base, the catcher who hustles down the line and holds overthrows to a minimum of added bases. It is a composite of many things.

Through development in the newsletter, and to be incorporated in the third edition, are the two most essential elements of team defense; fielding average and double plays. These are now "built into" the play of the game. We are retaining the SD and LD ratings.

The Superior Defense player will convert some base hits into put outs. More importantly, the Limited Defense player will reduce his teams effectiveness and provide the games' player with a reason to replace weak defensive players and discourage the possibility of loading the lineup with good bats and bad hands.

We have also arrived at our method as a result of not wanting to encumber the game with a variety of charts based upon the various base occupancy situations which can exist or having the games' player constantly adjusting from one column to another.

Simplicity of play has been our goal. Mostly, we believe, table games result from the designer developing a game to suit his own requirements. We happen to prefer a quickly played game rather than one which unfolds at a leisurely pace. We like a playing method that places everything in sight. We dislike picking things up, putting them down, etc. When we play "EI" we have all charts tacked to a backboard. If we had to tack up seven separate play charts, for each possible base runner situation, plus the optional charts, we'd lack the space. We play other table baseball games occasionally, usually two-handed with those who can't kick an early addiction. We fume a bit as they keep muttering: "Let's see, I changed shortstops so now I'm fielding three... oh, I forgot there was a runner on first, etc. etc."

We figure we now have, in "EI", an effective means of having the defense contribute to or inhibit a team's success and one which can be used in a reasonably easy way.

We only wish we had a firmer grasp on the true capabilities of the players on all the teams, particularly many of the fringe players. We offer you the defensive ratings as something less than the work of an oracle. We keep pointing out that, once you have acquired "EI", you are your own boss. You can re-rate players when you feel we have misjudged someone.

## 1972 Rosters

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A new feature rates the throwing ability of outfielders and requires a revision to the Sacrifice Fly chart. When an outfielder is rated T-1 reduce the number on the first dice by one in all situations.

All the revisions which have been made this past year are being incorporated in the third edition. Work is progressing well on this. Our target date is April 1, although we might finish it sooner. The third edition will also be contained in a looseleaf binder. The one you have with your second edition will do quite nicely. Just remove the old pages and charts and replace with the new.

The third edition will also include the normalization feature discussed in the October newsletter. Jeff Sagarin and John Swistak are hard at work on rating players for this section.

## Hitters Now Influence Walks

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those who get walks because of their power threat. "Better to give Ruth four balls for one base than one ball for four bases," is the way Whitey Witt described such strategy. Unless the Babe drew a large number of walks he'd bat many more times in a league replay and, since his ratio of HRs would be unchanged, he'd club an excessive number of homers.

Pitchers yield about 10% walks for all batters faced. As we so often do with "EI", we've described the extremes and created two designations. The SP (Special Player) has been replaced by the PW (Plus Walks) which takes effect for all batters who draw 20% or more walks for their at-bats. Those getting 100 or more walks in a season are automatically included.

The category MW (Minus Walks) has been introduced to account for those who swing at virtually anything around the plate and get very few walks. We apply this rating to those with 5% or less walks to their at bats.

On the 1972 rosters players, with 150 or more ABs, are rated PW or MW if they fit either category. We still leave the basic control in the hands of the pitcher. However, a PW rated batter at the plate increases the pitcher's walk rating by three full numbers on the second dice. If he was rated 1-3-3, to that batter he'd be rated 1-6-3. This increases the walk likelihood by .0833.

A MW rating reduces the pitcher's rating by two full numbers on the second dice. A pitcher rated 1-4-3 would drop to 1-2-3 for an MW rated batter, a decrease of .0556 in the probability of a walk. We feel this will produce the

## I Was There..

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Phils loaded the bases with two out.

Del Ennis hit a low liner up the middle. Reese was too far in the hole to reach it. Robinson, the second baseman was also seemingly out of position. Then with a last minute lunge, he dove through the air and crashed to the ground with the ball. Seconds passed before the umpire finally gave the out sign. Yet Jackie still lay there. It was five minutes before he rose, stunned, but still able to play.

The thirteenth inning passed without scoring and, in the fourteenth who else but Jackie Robinson broke the tie with a home run! The Dodgers held off a final Phillie rally. As he had so many times that season and in all his seasons with the Dodgers, Jackie Robinson had made the game saving play and delivered the game winning hit.

Jackie's heroics to keep the Dodgers in the race in 1951 have been shadowed by the Bobby Thomson climactic homer to win the playoff which followed. But Thomson's fame rests on one feat; Robinson's place in our memories is based on a montage of super human efforts.

Editor's inevitable added comment: One of the wonderful things about sharing memories of great events in baseball is that they stir the memories of others. I was far from Philadelphia on September 30, 1951 and farther from Brooklyn. My wife and I had moved to Columbus, Ohio the year before. On that day I was in Hebron, Ohio, outside Columbus where my wife had lured me to a polo game in company with some new acquaintances. Under other circumstances I could have enjoyed that sport. But, to the consternation of my wife and the bafflement of our hosts, I disappeared to listen to the Dodger-Philly game on the car radio. I could just barely bring in the signal and spent inning after inning with my ear pressed to the speaker. I haven't the faintest idea who won the polo match but I recall startling those polite spectators with yells of joy that sounded straight from the bleachers at Ebbets Field. A small world note: our hosts at the polo match were the Preston Davises. The same Dr. Preston Davis to whom "Extra Innings" is co-dedicated to and whose contributions of computer skills later helped form the game.

right balance between pitchers and batters. The primary value is with the pitcher, but now those who contribute to walks by waiting them out or intimidating the pitcher or who ignore the strike zone and swing at pitches outside it, will also govern the results.

## Subscribe To Newsletter Now Make Sure Of 1973 Rosters

We've eliminated using a coupon for newsletter subscriptions. We're flattered that a number of "EI" followers have said they didn't want to cut into their copy of the newsletter. At any rate, if the envelope in which this newsletter was mailed is

marked NL 1/73 end, it means your subscriptions expires with this issue. A renewal now will bring you the next three issues (July, Oct. 1973 and Jan. 1974) and will insure that the 1973 season rosters will be mailed, separately, to you in January 1974.

## Another Look At Stolen Bases

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Also it incorporates the successes on a double or triple steal where the action is on the lead runner. While Reggie Jackson was successfully swiping home in the fifth game of the American League Playoffs, his teammate was picking up a stolen base at second although the throw was cut off.

Also, it includes the runners who are thrown out on an "attempted steal" which is really a busted hit and run play. The runner goes, the batter swings and misses and the runner is thrown out. It goes in the box score as an attempted steal when the runner had larceny neither in his heart or his feet (to steal a Ping Bodie line).

Anyway, Cook hasn't helped much. But he does draw attention to the improvement in base stealing on a league-wide basis, comparing the decade of 1951 through 1960 with the expansion era. When there were eight teams to a league the success percentage was 54.7%. In 1971, with 12 teams to a league, the ratio is up to 61% in the American League and 65% in the National League. In 1972 the American League was again 61% and the National League was 63%. It hardly follows that runners are faster. It is apparent that weaker throwing catchers are scattered throughout the majors and that more pitchers are less capable of holding the runner to his base and releasing the pitch to the plate quickly.

In a recent interview, Lou Brock, stellar stealer, nicely avoided an odious comparison between the throwing arms of Manny Sanguillen and Johnny Bench. He explained he had more success against Sanguillen because the Pirate staff was less adept at holding runners on base. Bench himself demonstrated this in the Playoffs by stealing twice in one game against Pittsburgh pitchers who were less than rapt in their attention to his lead off first.

"EI" players have asked that we rate catchers for throwing ability, making it more difficult to steal against some, easier against others. It's tempting. However, in all candor, we just can't assume enough subjective knowledge of all the backstops of the 24 major league teams to rate arms. And, the strongest thrower is nullified by a lazy pitcher. Of all the factors contributing to the steal of a base, a slow release of the pitch is possibly the most important. If the league stats told us the number of steal attempts and successes against pitchers and catchers, we'd undertake this refinement. Until they do, we'll have to stick to what averages we have.

At any rate, Mr. Cook and our own curiosity directed our attention to our own Stolen Base Chart and we find it flawed in respect to the Average Runner. We just weren't fair to him. Please pencil-correct the chart in your game for steals of second and give the average runner a steal on rolls from 1-1-1 through 3-4-5 against right-handers and 1-1-1 against 3-3-3 against left-handers. The rest of the original "guesstimates" still strike us as appropriate.

## From Table Tops Here And There

"Since purchasing 'Extra Innings' last year I have never been disappointed once! Proof of that is the exciting contest I had between the 1934 St. Louis Cardinals and the 1961 New York Yankees.

"The Yankees struck first. Bobby Richardson doubled and Mickey Mantle blasted a two run homer in the first inning. However, in the fourth Rip Collins doubled for the Cards; Ernie Orsatti doubled, scoring Collins and the incomparable Dizzy Dean singled Orsatti home.

"In the bottom of the fourth Yogi Berra homered to give the Bronx Bombers the lead. In the fifth, outfielder Jack Rothrock of the Cards also blasted a solo homer to knot the score again.

"The score remained 3 to 3 until the fateful seventh. The Card's Pepper Martin walked and stole second. Frankie 'Fordham Flash' Frisch singled Martin home and the Gas House Gang led 4 to 3. Dizzy Dean shut out the Yankees the rest of the way. Dean allowed six hits, struck out ten and walked one to defeat Whitey Ford who pitched a strong six innings before leaving for a pinch-hitter. This 4-3 game was a great encounter. Hats off to 'Extra Innings' and Jack Kavanagh who gives us sports gamers that 'extra' which no other game brings."

Rick Korcheski  
Thunder Bay (South) Ontario,  
Canada

Ed. Comment: Aw, shucks.

## Heard From The Grandstand Managers

"After seeing the latest improvement on the game, I'm interested in whether you plan to revise the Hall of Fame Roster. I'm torn between continuing my Hall of Fame League, using the present edition, or starting the 1948 American League with the revised game."

Michael Bradley  
Spokane, Wash.

With the third edition of "EI" will come all H of F players, normalized to a selected "best" season (with some this'll be a tough decision). There'll be many more players who have not been elected to the Hall of Fame but enjoyed super star status for at least several seasons. We particularly want to include some who have been deprived of H of F selection because of injury or illness shortened careers such as Addie Joss, Lefty O'Doul, Hack Wilson, Pete Reiser, Ewell Blackwell or whom we feel are being unfairly overlooked, such as Arky Vaughan, Bob Lemon, Bucky Walters, Bobby Schantz, etc. We are thinking in terms of a "top 400" (equivalent of eight 25 man squads) provided as a player pool and allowing for draft leagues either on a solitaire basis or an individually managed league in two-handed play.

"I should like to thank you for the many hours of pleasure this game has given to my son and his friends. This is the second one he is giving as a gift to a cousin. Interestingly, he plays 'Extra

"Here are the stats for the '71 Cardinals replay. I didn't play the full 162 games for the other teams because it gets too long and it's boring playing a game between the Padres and Expos when they are 30 games out of first place."

David Lempke  
Indianapolis, Ind.

Note: David supplied a full complement of figures. Brock stole 71 bases (actual 64). We'll reprint batting averages with the actual season's figures in brackets. The extra base totals and RBI figures were just as close.

Torre - .360 (.363)  
Brock - .310 (.313)  
M. Alou - .311 (.315)  
Simmons - .313 (.304)  
Sizemore - .260 (.264)  
Javier - .282 (.259)  
Maxvill - .194 (.225)  
Hague - .227 (.226)  
McNertney - .269 (.289)  
Melendez - .225 (.225)  
Cruz - .272 (.274)  
Cardenal - .220 (.243)  
Kubiak - .167 (.250)  
Gibson - 18-10 (16-13) 3.03 (3.04)  
Carlton - 17-11 (20-9) 3.42 (3.56)  
Cleveland - 10-14 (12-12) 4.02 (4.01)  
Reuss - 12-16 (14-14) 4.78 (4.78)  
Zachary - 5-13 (3-10) 4.85 (5.30)  
Drabowsky - 6-1 (6-1) 3.29 (3.45)  
Santorini - 3-2 (0-4) 3.53 (3.78)

"This happened when the 1971 Pirates bombed Three Finger

Brown and 1906 Cubs. Those "hitless wonders" banded out 14 hits in the losing cause while the Pirates racked up 12 hits with homers by Stargell and Robertson. This game was followed by a real cliff hanger as Palmer and the 1971 Orioles defeated Christy Mathewson and the 1904 Giants 1-0. This game was a real thriller."

Hugh Montgomery  
American Embassy (Paris)

"Recently I bought a copy of 'Extra Innings'. I want to tell you with a doubt your game is the greatest. I've tried many other baseball games but yours tops them all. My friends and I have completed a fifty game season. Here are some statistics. Because of your great way of rating players we even brought up rookies using their records from the minor leagues."

Final Standings 1972				
National	W	L	GB	Pct.
Los Angeles	25	25	-	.500
San Francisco	24	26	1	.480
Cincinnati	18	32	7	.360
American	W	L	GB	Pct.
Detroit	33	17	-	.660
Oakland	28	22	5	.560
Baltimore	22	28	11	.440

Leaders: NL Pitching. Brewer, L.A. 5-1 0.80 ERA. AL Pitching. Lolich, Det. 11-6 1.98 ERA. HR NL F. Robinson, LA, 15; HR AL

Andrew DePasquale  
Staten Island, NY

Innings" with his friends who are 13-14 years old, and his brother who is only eight. And he can amuse himself easily by playing it alone when there is no one else around.

"It occupies a prominent place on his bookshelf and is becoming slightly dog-eared from many hours of loving use."

Mrs. Marvin B. Mesnik  
Center Moriches, N.Y.

Editor's Note: Several times, in writing us, Paul Soyka made reference to the library at the Cooperstown Hall of Fame. We asked for more details and received the following:

"In Cooperstown, very close to the Museum building is the library (30 yards). Jack Redding and Cliff Kachline are the librarian and historian respectively. Both are super nice people. I wrote them in 1969 asking whether they had some detailed information and they said the library was open for use for me anytime. They only asked that I tell them when I was coming and how many days I would use the library. So I informed them and have since been there five or six times, sleeping in a sleeping bag by the lake in summer and in my car in winter.

"The library is stupendous! An amazing collection of books, pictures, Sporting Lives, etc. etc. etc. And Jack and Cliff really go out of the way to aid any problems in interpretation or finding books.

"The library is open 9 to 5, five days a week, closed I think only two days per year. There are a number of tables for you to sit at and a super friendly and helpful atmosphere prevails!"

Paul Soyka  
North Bergen, N.J.

Editor's Note: The writer of the following letter was one of the first to purchase "EI". He provided a very useful critique of the first edition which was quite helpful in producing the second edition.

"Forgive me for not keeping in touch over the past year. I have been attending the University of Cincinnati, but I should never have been too busy to send a letter.

"Thank you very much for sending me your newsletters. They are exceptionally well-done and very informative and interesting. You certainly seem to have built up quite an intelligent following for Extra Innings. This fact alone attests to the high quality of your game and your responsiveness to suggestions and innovations.

"...I only hope you make your third edition as simple and fast as possible to play. Any chart system which allows easy memorization is an advantage to the avid player. I certainly intend to keep in touch in the future. Keep up the good work and Happy Holidays!"

Wayne Schierbaum  
Seven Hills, Ohio

## Revised First Roll Chart

- 1-1-1 thru 1-6-6 (See pitcher's rating for walks issued)
- 2-1-1 Hit Batter
- 2-1-2 Passed Ball - all catchers (when rated SD does not apply if runner on third)
- 2-1-3 Pickoff - By pitcher if runner (s) are at first or runners on first and second. If first and second, runner at second is picked off - (1to6)
- 2-1-4 Pickoff - By catcher if runner (s) on first or third. If catcher rated SD, pickoff of lead runner at any base, regardless of number of base runners.
- 2-1-5 Wild Pitch when runner on first only.
- 2-1-6 Wild Pitch runner (s) on any base.
- 2-2-1 Balk - runners on any base.
- 2-2-2 Interference by catcher if batter strikes out with runner (s) on base.
- 2-2-3 Injury - If followed by single (consult injury chart)
- 2-2-4 Injury - If followed by double (consult injury chart)
- 2-2-5 Injury - If followed by triple (consult injury chart)
- 2-2-6 Injury - If followed by force play at second (consult injury chart)
- 2-3-1 Injury - If followed by tag play at plate (consult injury chart)
- 2-3-2 Injury - If followed by foul out (consult injury chart)
- 2-3-3 Injury - If followed by outfield fly (consult chart)
- 2-3-4 If batter singles with runner on first, ball hits runner who is automatically out.
- 2-3-5 Ground Rule Double - If followed by double, triple or home run. Any base runners limited to one base advance; triple or home run is reduced to double.
- 2-3-6 thru 2-6-6 (Reserved for "rare events")
- 3-1-1 thru 3-4-4 DOUBLE PLAY RANGE (See Defensive Team Rating and Double Play Chart)
- 3-4-5 Triple Play - 2 or 3 men on base. If followed by In. F. fair fly ball.
- 3-4-6 Triple Play - bases loaded only. If followed by In. F. fair fly ball.
- 3-5-1 thru 6-6-6 ERROR RANGE (See team rating and Error Designation Chart)

## Report On Books...

One of the most unique hard cover books to appear toward the end of 1972 is "Forty Years A Fan" by Edward F. "Dutch" Doyle. For the older reader, the author's recollections of a youth well spent while growing up within walking distance of the ball parks of Philadelphia's clubs in the American League and the National League, is most enjoyable. For the young fan, the author, who "has seen them all from the 1920s onward," provides evaluations of players at each position which are very enlightening.

Reading Mr. Doyle's book is like talking about your favorite sport in your favorite tavern. "Forty Years A Fan" is published by Dorrance & Co., 1809 Callowill St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19130. \$4.95.

"I Never Had It Made" is an absorbing autobiography by the late Jackie Robinson, released a few weeks before his death. The book is roughly in two parts: his career as an athlete and his later life as a businessman, father and activist. As can be expected, it is blunt and honest. Jackie's feelings for Branch Rickey are expressed with a strong devotion. His attitude toward Walter O'Malley reinforces the disfavor in which he is held by old Dodger fans, and, we suspect, a wider spectrum. We can't recall ever hearing a sincere tribute paid to

the man, even from the West Coast. We found the Robinson book totally absorbing in all areas. If you want to read it like it was, get Jackie's book. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. \$7.95.

"The Summer Game" by Roger Angell contains excellent writing. The author, like Roger Kahn ("The Boys of Summer") is one whose prose style is a delight. "The Summer Game" provides excellent insights to baseball from the fan's point of view. While not dealing with "real life" recreations specifically, Mr. Angell identifies that feeling about the game which table gamers bring to their simulations.

"The Summer Game" ranks high on the list of books on baseball that have the added merit of literary quality to recommend them. The Viking Press, 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. \$7.50.

"The World Series - A Complete Pictorial History" by John Devaney and Burt Goldblatt is one of those oversize, overly expensive volumes which makes a rather good gift to someone you wish to impress. It is more the product of research than anything else. It has more than 400 photos and a great many interviews. Largely, it plods from one World Series to the next,

without capturing the flavor of the autumn classic. A number of minor errors irritate the reader. On page 92 is a photo of Mike McNally sliding home in the 1921 series. In the photo is a player halfway down the third base line which the photo caption says: "...might be pitcher Art Nehf." Since the player is wearing a glove on his left hand and Nehf was a left-handed pitcher, it surely isn't Artie.

However, of particular interest to table gamers are reproductions of ads for earlier forms of table baseball. These were not "real life" games, such as "EI", but games which provided a standard sort of table play.

The earliest - sometime around WW One - is "World Series Parlor Baseball" which contains a familiar sounding enticement: "Free - One of the Players". However, this refers to one of the miniature base runners, not a performance card of a real player. From about 1920 is an ad for "Bam-Bee-No" (Babe Ruth's nickname was "The Bambino") and his endorsement comes with it. Unlike today's superstars who append their identities to anything, the Babe makes no claims - implied or otherwise - for having invented it. He just praises it. The game was played with "three combination cubes" and there's a reference to 6-6-6 being a home run.

At any rate, the book is published by Rand McNally (related to Mike?) and costs \$12.95.

## At Deadline

The Revised First Roll Chart was expected to fill most of this page. However, we find ourselves with an unexpected windfall of white space.

We've heard from Bill Bickel, our foothold in Yonkers in winters and the Catskills in summers, twice recently. We're abashed that we can't find Bill's reply to the question we'd raised in the October newsletter, as to whether he'd ever completed play of his Loser's League. This was Bill's weird competition matching the worst teams of all times. What we found most intriguing was the league standings. Since the project was to determine which team was the worst, he printed them so that the team with the poorest record was on top!

But... we do have at hand Bill's latest report. In this he is disclaiming any bias in the first place ranking of his favorite Yanks, in his "Eastern League" at this point in his playout. But, mostly, we're indebted to Bill for some further good thinking in table game development.

The subject is the Double Play ratings for teams: Bill proposes that the team's DP range be lowered by one with an AAR (Above Average Runner) at bat; by two with an S rated batter (Superior); and raised by one for a Slo runner. We rate this an excellent idea for those who are willing to inject one more consideration when playing the game. It adds a value to management judgements and a further touch of realism to the game.

Another flash from Bill's imaginative mind is that some of the outfield flyouts designated as Sacrifice Fly options be limited to efforts to score only by AAR and S rated runners.

We recently had a warm and wonderful letter from Bert Derdon, an Attorney-at-Law in Houston. Bert wrote mostly to offer some excellent advise vis-a-vis the Major League Baseball Players Association and we feel he'd be a worthy opponent to Marvin Miller in any court room.

We were most interested when Bert described himself as 68-year-old trial lawyer with a heavy practice who says: "when I'm tired, I can sit down by myself or with my friends and play a table top game and enjoy it."

Frankly, we think it is simply wonderful that a game like "Extra Innings" can bring satisfaction to such a wide range of enthusiasts. Elsewhere in this issue there's a report of young boys, as young as eight, enjoying "EI", and we number Bert Derdon among many who started following baseball many, many years ago. My own father, who'll be 83 in March, enjoys playing two-handed games with me. He loves to roll back the years to the early part of the century when he lived practically across the street from Washington Park, the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers prior to Ebbets Field. He hasn't come up with any "I Was There" stories for me yet. But, last month when I visited him he recalled the 1924 Army-Notre Dame game, with the Four Horsemen. The game was played at Ebbets Field. Like Casey Stengel says: "you could look it up."