

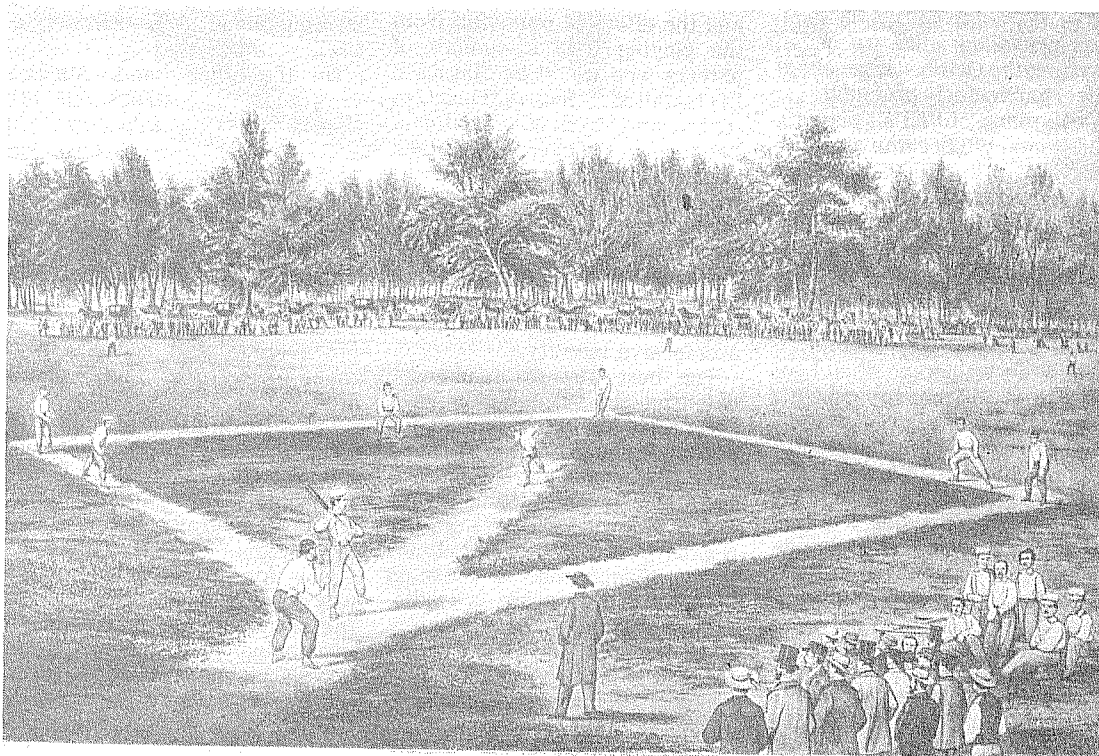
# EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of Extra Innings

"World Series Issue"

Vol. 3 No. 3

October, 1973



That might be Francis C. Sebring, "Father of Table Baseball" pitching in the Currier & Ives print "American National Game of Baseball". The teams are unidentified except to refer to the contest as "the grand match for the championship contested at Elysian Field, Hoboken, N.J." The print is from 1866. Today's baseball followers will recognize this art work as serving for the World Series playing card sets offered by Gillette this year.

## Found: "The Father of Table Baseball"

**FOUND:** The "Father" of Table Baseball!

While credit for developing baseball to its present form belongs to Alexander Cartwright, with Abner Doubleday having been exposed as a myth so far as being responsible for "inventing" the "National Game," credit for being the first to transfer baseball to the game table goes to Francis C. Sebring. He patented an "Apparatus For Playing Parlor Base-Ball" in 1868. At least, U.S. Patent #74154, issued February 4, 1868, to Francis C. Sebring of Hoboken, N.J. is the first specific evidence of such an accomplishment. We take a little "pride of coincidence" in the circumstance that Mr. Sebring was from Hoboken as my father was born there. As baseball historians know, the first baseball contest was played at Elysian Fields, Hoboken, June 19, 1846 between the Knickerbockers and a New York team.

We expect to learn more about Francis C. Sebring (we've already learned he is not part of the family which founded Sebring, Fla.).

This much we do know: he was a pitcher for the Empire Club, one of the earliest amateur teams to be founded. From "Baseball - America's National Game", published 1911, written by A.G. Spalding, we learn that Empire was the fourth club ever formed, the first being the Knickerbockers, and that Empire was

formed in 1854 and their grounds were in Hoboken.

The only playing record we could find for Sebring was in "Beadle's Dime Baseball Player", edited by Henry Chadwick. Sebring's playing record appears in the 1866 and 1867 editions. He did not make the transition to the National Association of Base Ball Players which formed in 1871. The years preceeding 1866 were those of the Civil War and Mr. Sebring may have been in the Union Army.

As a player, Sebring was not quite one of the luminaries of his day, although he was always positioned high in the lineup and appears to have been a better than average stickman. In the 1860s, high scoring games were standard. Batters could wait for a pitch they wanted and the ball was delivered underhanded and pitched (as in pitching horse shoes) not thrown. Regardless of the score, the starting pitcher went the distance. There were no bullpens.

We searched through copies of "The New York Clipper" for boxscores in which Sebring appeared, examining issues of 1866 and 1867. There were two sorts of contests: match series between major teams (Atlantics, Eckfords, Enterprise, etc.) on a "best two out of three" basis giving the winner a "whip pennant" to hold until another team bested them in a similar series. This appears to be the origin of

term "winning the pennant." The other games were more or less exhibition contests. Sebring appears as a pitcher in all his games with Empire, losing more often than winning, but did not pitch all Empire's games. However, he appears to have been the "regular" starter. One of the more unique victories to his credit came when the Empire team could field only seven players (two being identified in the lineup as "absent" - shades of Richie Allen).

Our research in this area was more hastily done than we'd have liked. We ran out of vacation time. After several years of having attempted to convince our wife that Cooperstown would be a wonderful place for a family vacation, it was agreed that I'd use part of this year's vacation to spend several days at Cooperstown by myself.

We arranged a trip that only a baseball addict could appreciate. Our "working hypothesis" was that we would spend as much time as possible at the Baseball Hall of Fame library attempting the track down of the origins of table baseball.

Ever since we designed and marketed our own game in 1970, we have been curious as to the origins and development of table baseball (and other sports games). We knew there'd been games which pre-dated today's versions. In fact, earlier this year

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## Batters Rated For "K" Factor

We have the feeling that no matter what we elect to do to provide the batter with an effect on strikeouts, it isn't going to satisfy everyone.

"EI" already has a method which gives the pitchers a precisely projected rate of recording strike outs. That has pleased the games players who keep pitching stats and who want Koufax, Ryan, etc. to get their full marks.

We recognize that this puts Matty Alou in the same class as Reggie Jackson when it comes to being fanned. Now, the problem is, how to take Ks away from Alou and add Ks to Jackson without disrupting the pitcher's rating.

It has been proposed that we introduce charts that would be weighted by the pitcher's stats counter balanced by the hitter's stats. In other words, if a given pitcher fanned hitters per so many batters faced and the batter struck out at a particular rate per plate appearances, you'd read one line across and another down and use the rating where they met. (Sort of like reading a mileage chart of distances between two cities on a road map).

Assuming it can be done (and we've come to believe that someone can reduce any live action of the baseball field to a formula) we feel it would be a step in the wrong direction.

What is needed it to take care of the Alous and Jacksons, not the majority of players who are grouped between the two extremes.

So, we're proposing the inclusion of MK (minus strikeouts) and PK (plus strikeouts) batters.

A batter rated MK will be one who strikes out on less than 10% of his outs. A batter rated PK will be one who strikes out on more than 30% of his outs.

By "outs" we mean those times he is retired or, by hitting into a force play, causes an out and is charged a time at bat.

What we'll do is subtract hits from at bats and regard the remainder at outs. There'll be some at bats included when the batter reached first on an error. However, we are not provided stats which tell us this. Since major league teams field at less than 2% errors (and many of these are made on plays on runners other than the batter, etc.), it doesn't materially effect the way a batter is retired.

In 1972 American League batters had 61,712 at bats and made hits 14,751 times. Subtract hits from ABs and you have 46,961 forms of outs. Divide all outs into the league's 10,174 strike outs and we find that the AL batters struck

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## EXTRA INNINGS

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## From The Bench

Maybe it's the heat wave which has prevailed since we began putting this issue together (we begin writing the October issue about Labor Day weekend) but we just don't feel particularly profound.

Since we have a close relationship with many of "EI's" players, perhaps you won't mind a few personal items. We became a grandfather on August 27 when our daughter, Beth, presented us with our first grandchild. Beth is Mrs. Jeremy Martin and took me right out of the "name the offspring" contest by having a girl. That she's named Lisa avoids my trying to convince them that John Leonard "Pepper" Martin would be a great choice. Other than contending I'm too young to be married to a grandmother, I feel all the swellings of grandparental pride. She's a beautiful little girl and even if she doesn't grow up to play short stop, I'm very pleased.

Another "generational gap" item came a few weeks ago when I got a letter addressed, "Dear Uncle Jack". It came from my cousin's son's son! Earlier this year I sent Bill Pritchard, who is my cousin's son, a copy of "EI." Bill is both a sports fan and an engineer and I thought he'd be interested. He passed it on to his son, Jeff, who is the one who wrote. Jeff is a teenager who plays a lot of ball and, on rainy days, has turned on with "EI" with a number of his buddies. It's kind of pleasant to realize the kid you last saw as a toddler is now playing baseball and can cope with a game as sophisticated as "EI."

### Splinterings From The Bench...

While visiting with Jack Redding, H of F librarian, he commented on the scarcity of MacMillan's "The Baseball Encyclopedia." It was published in 1970 with records through 1968 for \$25.00 per copy. It is understood to have been something less than a publishing goldmine for MacMillan's. For several years afterward I kept seeing it offered for \$15.95 in advertisements in Baseball Digest.

I do a lot of used bookstore exploring and I haven't seen a used copy for sale. I did find five unused copies in an Albany, N.Y. bookstore, but the owner wanted the full \$25.00. They were all in the original shipping boxes, unopened. The address is Plaza Book Shop, Inc. 380 Broadway, Albany, N.Y. 12207. It's the only place I know of now that has them.

When we designed "EI" we made it a policy in developing the game to exclude playing features which used stats not included in MacMillan's. Somehow, I figured every serious table gamer would have a copy of that reference work and would want to develop rosters of his own from stats in that book. Consequently, we never developed such factors as the number of times a catcher would throw out a base stealer because MacMillan's didn't include Attempted Steals.

It looks like we'll have to re-think our position on that.

### More Splinterings...

We had a wonderful time watching the Red Sox vs Baltimore on September 5. The game was in front of me but I had Jeff Sagarin, now living in Boston, on one side of me, and Ric Ricelli, from Wilmington, Mass. on the other. We kept leaping from the reality of the game being played to the real-life characteristics of "EI" and other table games. A very enjoyable time. One of the real rewards having developed "EI" is that it has created so many great new friendships with the game's players. Both Ric and Jeff are great at conceptualizing ways to extend the realism of the game; but I still am mostly indebted to Ric for his "off the cuff" idea of shaking the dice in a glass jar instead of rolling them on the desk. I find that not having to pick up the dice, put down the pencil, pick up the pencil (get down on the floor for the dice that rolled off the table) etc. shaves about five minutes off the playing time (solitaire) of each game.

### New Ad Policy . . .

Mostly because we ran over by a page (we're compulsive writers) we are backing up the insert page with a reproduction from Table Sports Scoreboard and the ad we ran in it. The same ad appeared in the Oct. 20 issue of The Sporting News. We don't imagine you are all that keen about the marketing aspects of "EI" (but, if the game doesn't keep finding new players we'll wither away) so we thought you'd like to know why we've changed our advertising policy.

Since we started "Extra Innings" we advertised the game and invited inquiry. (In our zeal we didn't even ask a dime for handling). It's hard to get as much description into the small space we can afford as is needed to describe the game, particularly to skeptical games players who've been disappointed and, possibly, ripped off by fly-by-nighters.

But, given the limited time we have for this project, it is a pain under the sliding pads to expend time and postage on "coupon clippers." So, before making our 1974 advertising effort in the Spring, we're giving the "direct sale" approach a try - or else, getting a buck for our labors (free copy of the newsletters, etc.)

## Defensive Ratings Help Needed

The SD and LD defensive ratings are subjective. They are based partially on fielding averages and statistics, but largely on reputation and observation.

The Designated Hitter rule in the American League in 1973 has had the effect of removing from the playing field a number of players who would be classified LD (Limited Defense). It has also transferred from the National League some players whose lack of range (the primary reason for rating a player LD) would have found them so rated. It is pointless to rate Frank Howard "LD" when he now functions as a Designated Hitter. Orlando Cepeda's immobility is no longer a defensive liability.

The best key to a player's defensive short-comings is when he is replaced in late innings for defensive purposes. When you have the opportunity to follow a team closely you become aware of this. For example: I "see" the Boston Red Sox in about 100 games a year, most of these on television, hear some on radio, take in about a dozen at Fenway Park. For 1973 I will be rating Reggie Smith an LD. Leg problems reduced his ability to cover the outfield, at least, for a substantial part of the season. Yaz offers a real problem. He'd be SD in the outfield, but has played this season at first base where he's in the middle range, without either an SD or LD extreme. However, in the final weeks of the season he played a number of games at third base where he must be regarded as an LD player. He is a superb athlete. He made several plays Brooks Robinson would have been applauded for. But twice he made three errors in a game and was often caught unprepared for bunts or topped rollers and he had difficulty on certain ground balls. Luis Aparicio can no longer be automatically classified an SD. He has slowed up a step and no longer goes into the hole and makes the long throw as he once did. Pitcher Roger Moret gets an LD this season because he is slow to cover first base and tends to stand on the mound watching the play. He has several times failed to back up third or the catcher on throws from the outfield.

I can rate the Red Sox with considerable confidence. But, how about the other twenty three teams? How substantial are my feelings that Horace Clarke should be rated LD? The times I have seen him play he has been unimpressive. A late season game between the Yankees and Red Sox was really settled by the second basemen. Doug Griffin (an SD) stopped two Yankee rallies with extraordinary plays.

Among the "EI" players are many who follow a team very closely. I'd really appreciate your observations before I have to assign defensive ratings to the 1973 players. Please read that portion of the "EI" text that describes rating players for SD and LD and T-1 and then review the roster of your favorite team.

## Batters Rated For "K" Factor

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out .216 of the times they made out (or caused a force out). By making a calculated guess at errors, batters were fanning about 20% of the times they registered an out.

The 1972 National League statistics are just about the same. It comes out .227 of all outs.

Let's examine some examples: Reggie Jackson had 499 ABs and 132 hits, leaving 367 "outs." Divided into 125 Ks, he was striking out at .34%—definitely a PK!

On the other hand, Aurillio Rodriguez, who struck out 104 times, comes out this way: 601 ABs, less 142 hits, leaves 459 "outs." Divided into 104 Ks averages 23% (practically the league average) and, despite the fact he fanned more than 100 times, he wouldn't be rated a PK. He had many more ABs than Jackson, for example, hit for a low average, and, consequently, made many more "outs" of all kinds.

Let's examine a player with good bat control, Luis Aparicio. Luis had 436 ABs, less 112 hits, for 324 "outs." He fanned 28 times for a .086 average, definitely an MK hitter.

Now, for a reasonably effective way to employ the MK and PK factors without creating a mechanical monstrosity. When an MK player is at bat, reduce the pitcher's strike out lines by half. If the pitcher's K rating is 6-1-1 (a strike out on all rolls between 6-1-1 and 6-6-6) when he faced an MK player it would be 6-4-1. Rolls between 6-1-1 and 6-3-6 would be read from the Second Roll Chart as they appear and not converted into Ks for the pitcher.

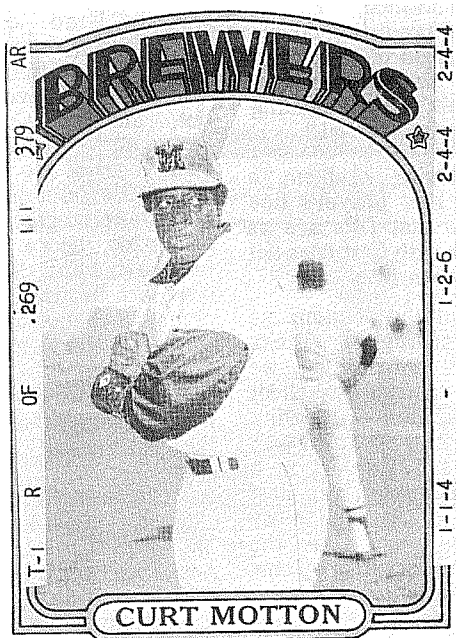
For the PK rated batter we'd add half as many lines to the pitcher's strike out lines. If he was rated 6-1-1, when Reggie Jackson or any PK batter was at the plate they'd increase to 5-4-1 and any form of put out on the Second Roll Chart would be regarded as a strike out.

We don't know if Reggie Jackson strikes out more often against Nolan Ryan than he does against softer throwing pitchers. The possibilities of weighting batters vs pitchers for strikeouts (and walks) or for ground balls hit as opposed to fly balls are endless. I'm almost grateful that such stats are not available or we'd never get our rosters rated in time and we'd end up with one of those games which take longer to play than an actual contest.

Don't misunderstand that last observation. We have no fault to find with games which require step-by-step consultation with intricate charts, supplemental dice or spinner action, etc. If that's what the player wants, he is entitled (and welcome) to it.

Somewhere in our wordy past writings we've tried to make it clear that all table games (except Sports Illustrated's derivative output which was created to meet a need determined by the marketing division of Time, Inc.) start with an inventor designing a game which first satisfied its inventor. That he didn't want to spend a whole night tracking down the possible ramifications of all play action has resulted in a game which doggedly tries to stay around 20 minutes playing time.

## If You Must Have Playing Cards - Try This



My son, Brian, is a "now" kid! Unlike his father who is an incorrigible collector or his mother who doesn't collect, but never throws anything away, Brian discards things as soon as they are replaced. (This is going to be a matter of: "While Brian disposes his father supposes").

We obtain for Brian a complete set of Topps Gum Cards each year. (See ads in TSN for sources. We have always bought from Stan Martucci and find him very reliable). As soon as the final set has arrived, Brian's past year's collection goes out. (But we salvage them).

As we get a handful of letters each month proposing we bankrupt our modest game venture by printing data on individual cards with photos, actual statistics etc., we keep mulling over the idea.

We liked the 1968 Milton Bradley baseball game's cards with player photos on the data cards. Maybe it was the expense of printing them, but, rather, we think it was the shelf obsolescence that saw MB pull its game off the market.

## New Basketball Game From Status-Pro (Midwest)

Just as this issue of the newsletter was going to press we received a copy of Status Pro's new NBA Basketball Table Game.

Jim Barnes, president of the company, formerly known as Midwest Research, has been a most kind correspondent and competitor.

We have not had time to put the game to the test of playing it. However, we read the instructions very carefully and have studied the basis of the game. It looks just great! No spinners, dice, etc. The game uses cards. It has the appearance of relative simplicity, yet with extreme sophistication. It accounts for every phase of the game.

At any rate, we realize that some table gamers like the tactile relationship of players on cards. Ourselves, we forget to turn the cards over. But, I suppose we could learn.

At any rate, here's the idea. Slice the rosters apart and tape the playing data (using clear scotch tape) on the cards. See illustration. You'd need an extra set of rosters and we'll send them to a game owner or newsletter subscriber for \$1.00. (We've got to get something out of this: so far we're building business for Topps Gum, Stan Martucci and the 3Ms Company).

When we were considering marketing "Extra Innings" we proposed to Topps that they add table game data to their cards. They never answered.

If Topps has not provided a card for each player on the roster we'd suggest using one of the many junk cards they include (photos of ball players as children, lists of other cards, etc.) They'd be the right size anyway.

There are individual player cards, an attractive game board and it is packaged very nicely. While players are graded according to reputation (and ability) there is no dependency upon specific stats (as in "EI" baseball). It would appear that a very knowledgeable follower of professional basketball could grade players for future years.

Since we have absolutely no expectation of ever designing a basketball game we have no hesitancy in recommending the "Status Pro"; game to anyone. At this time we don't know the price. We'd expect the game is advertised in basketball mags. Or, write to Jim Barnes, Status-Pro, Box 484, Waterloo, Iowa. Tell them Jack Kavanagh sent you!

## Father of Table Baseball

(Continued from Page 1)

we'd obtained a table baseball game which had been patented in 1884. (More about that in future issues, along with photos and descriptions of other 19th and early 20th century versions of table baseball).

We left Rhode Island early on August 7 and drove to Shea Stadium. We caught the Mets and Cards in an afternoon game then rushed to Yankee Stadium to pick up a two-night double header with Texas, arriving at the start of the third inning of the first game. Had it not been for traffic, we'd have been able to see three full major league games in one day. As it was, only our birthright knowledge of New York City got us to the Stadium as quickly as we did. We parked in downtown Manhattan and took the subway to the Stadium.

After the game we drove to a motel in Westchester and the next morning began leisurely drive up the Hudson River Valley. From Kingston, N.Y. we took Rt. 28 to Cooperstown, a winding route with stops at book dealers and antique shops along the way. Not too rewarding except when we stopped at an antique shop outside of Margaretville, N.Y. and the woman remembered there was an old baseball print up at the house. A daughter fetched it and it turned out to be the Currier & Ives print showing a championship match at Elysian Fields. There is a possibility the Empire Club might be one of the teams, although I doubt if that point will ever be authenticated. (See illustration, this issue).

At any rate, tucking our treasure (framed in glass for \$5.00) into the car, we drove on, stopping next in Oneonta, N.Y., about 30 miles short of Cooperstown. We picked up a number of good sports books in a place a few doors from Jim Konstanty's Sporting Goods Store.

On to Cooperstown, arriving about 6 p.m. and we just walked around a bit, saving our visit to start the next day.

The next day, we went to the Hall of Fame library and received a most cordial and helpful welcome from Jack Redding, librarian, and Cliff Kachline, historian. The library takes some getting used to! As one who has been building his own baseball library, it's overwhelming to find three, four and five copies of books you've been seeking for years; to have bound copies of everything: The Sporting News and its predecessors and early competitors, Baseball Magazine, all the Guides, etc. etc. I now know how the kid in the candy shop felt.

I'd been advised in advance that the library had no information about table games. So, I began looking through early periodicals for advertisements. I didn't find any. Of course, the search was slowed by an inability to skim just the ads. I wallowed in ancient baseball materials but left without having learned anything about the origins of table baseball.

That night I had dinner with John Swistak, co-developer of "Normalization", and his bride, Betty.

Although John and I have corresponded at great length and

talked a few times on the phone, following his return from Air Force service in the Aleutians, this was our first meeting. I'd brought the 1884 table game with me as John's particular area of interest is the National Association (1871-75). We played an "old timer's game" - two innings, just for the sentiment of it. More on that when we review that game in a future article.

Betty Swistak cheerfully sustained a show of interest as John and I covered a wide range of game developments, comparisons among available games, etc. John has a wide knowledge of the techniques of table gaming and has designed his own "Universal Baseball Association" rules, the better to emulate J. Henry Waugh. I'm very flattered that John has identified with "Extra Innings."

It was a most pleasant evening and I appreciated the Swistaks taking time to drive over from Rome, N.Y. where they live.

The next day, I was back at the library. I began by just browsing the shelves and found on one of them a black bound volume. It was a thesis for a master's degree which had been sent to the library. Written by John D. Cleaver in 1965 it was titled: "Heritage of a National Game - Social Baseball 1845-1875". It had been submitted to the State University of New York College at Oneonta for a degree of Master of Arts. I trust it earned Mr. Cleaver his honors; if not, I'll award him a golden M.A. (Muchly Appreciated).

Among the exhibits Mr. Cleaver included to demonstrate the effect of baseball on the social life of America was a photocopy of a page from Frank Leslie's "Illustrated Newspaper" Dec. 8, 1866 XXIII, P. 180. It had a woodcut illustration showing a man and woman playing a table baseball game, with several other people watching.

We'll defer a total description until the next newsletter, but from the article we learned it was a mechanical game (not played with dice or cards) and got our first lead on Mr. Sebring.

The rest of the day's visit was spent trying to trace the inventor's baseball career. A tour through the Baseball Museum concluded the visit. The place was packed with fathers and sons. We couldn't avoid realizing that baseball is still the "National Game". Despite the capital gains owners and the ball players who grasp for every financial return, baseball has an unbreakable hold on the imagination, the devotion and dedication of young and old alike.

The next morning we started back to Rhode Island. First, we had a meeting with the Mayor of Cooperstown, Harold Hollis. He was the first publicity director of the Cooperstown Hall of Fame and is a member of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. We spent a busy hour comparing statistical evaluations of players. (I had pre-mailed him material on Normalization). He has devised a comparative standard chart which enables one to quickly measure the rank of any proposed Hall of Fame player. It's an excellent concept except it places too much emphasis on the length of a player's career.

## From Table Tops Here and There

We have a happy coincidence. Two "EI" players have, separately, filed reports on full season replays of the 1972 Cincinnati Reds.

Hugh Montgomery, Jr., busy at his table in Paris (maybe, even at the Embassy) and Gary Bjorndahl in Grafton, W. Va. spent many months this year playing off the Reds against all National League opponents. It wasn't until each, independently, mailed us the results of their contests that we could see how closely they matched.

For example: Hugh ended with a won and lost record of 95-59 and Gary with 94-60 (commenting: "The Reds started the season very poorly, but finished strongly.") The actual W and L for the Reds was 95-59.

Gary provided complete stats, extra base hits, RBIs, etc. and Hugh noted only those which hit the projection on the nose.

Gary also gave us a team B.A. of .265 (actual .251) and the note that the team hit 121 HRs (124 actual). Hugh provides the notation that Johnny Bench came out almost perfectly: exact average (.270); exact doubles (22); exact HRs (40).

Here are the comparisons: Gary's replay stats (in brackets) on left; actual figures in the middle; Hugh's replay stats (in brackets) on right. First, Batting Records:

Player	Gary	Actual	Hugh
Rose	(.306)	.307	(.307)
Morgan	(.299)	.292	(.290)
Perez	(.296)	.283	(.283)
Tolan	(.294)	.283	(.283)
Bench	(.282)	.270	(.270)
McRae	(.280)	.278	(.284)
Geronimo	(.271)	.275	(.278)
Chaney	(.250)	.250	(.250)
Menke	(.238)	.233	(.237)
Hague	(.223)	.243	(.234)
Concepcion	(.200)	.209	(.212)
Foster	(.200)	.200	(.200)
Javier	(.182)	.209	(.198)
Uhlander	(.167)	.159	(.162)
Plummer	(.153)	.186	(.204)

### Pitching Records

#### Pitcher

#### ERA

	Gary	Actual	Hugh	Gary	Actual	Hugh
Nolan	15-5	15-5	15-3	2.15	1.99	1.44
Hall	7-1	10-1	14-3	2.37	2.61	2.60
Carroll	8-6	6-4	5-4	2.52	2.25	2.25
Billingham	15-13	12-12	12-12	2.81	3.18	3.18
Borbon	9-3	8-3	8-6	3.15	3.17	2.80
Grimsley	15-9	14-8	14-8	3.45	3.05	3.05
McGlothlin	9-6	9-8	9-5	3.51	3.91	3.41
Gullett	6-6	9-10	6-4	3.63	3.93	4.20
Simpson	7-8	8-5	9-6	3.95	4.15	3.73
Sprague	3-3	3-3	3-3	4.09	4.11	4.11

We've known since "EI" was devised that batting average, extra base hits, ERAs and, assuming pitchers work in rotation, get a realistic usage, etc., won and lost, will always be very close to real life figures.

However, since the present method of rating pitchers for walks and strike outs was not officially introduced until the Third Edition came out this year, we have not have the comfort of seeing those stats work out with true-life accuracy.

Hugh Montgomery did not provide his re-play stats for Ks and BB except to note when they were exactly on target. For example, he reports pin-point predictions in strike outs for Carroll, Nolan, Billingham, McGlothlin, Borbon and exactly reproduced walks figures for Simpson, Billingham, Borbon. He also notes that Borbon and Billingham yielded exactly the same number of hits they did in actual play. Looks good.

Gary Bjorndahl's figures are detailed and have very close correlations among them: Nolan SO 84 (actual 90), BB 29 (actual 30); Billingham SO 140 (actual 137), BB 73 (actual 64); Grimsley SO 80 (actual 79), BB 50 (actual 50).

We're not sure how many other table gamers enjoy having the statistics of re-plays, or details of particular games, printed in the newsletter. Such data is very valuable to us for it enables us to be reassured on some stats and challenged on others.

## Off My Glove. . .

No matter how we try, the eyes get bleary, the mind grows weary and we find typographical errors and oversights get past us and into print. We have a number of "official scorers" sitting up in the "EI" press box to catch those we don't pick up ourselves.

The "Third Edition" - over which we labored for six months - is flawed in some respects. The Error Designation Chart should read 4-3-3 on the third line of the last column.

The updating page for H of F and Historic Rosters completely missed the strike out and walk ratings for the 1906 Chicago Cubs. As follows: Beebe 1-4-4/5-5-6; Brown 1-2-5/6-2-1; Lundgren 1-4-2/6-2-3; Overall 1-4-2/6-1-6; Pfister 1-3-1/5-6-6; Reulbach 1-4-2/6-2-5; Taylor 1-3-1/6-5-2; Wicker 1-3-1/6-3-2.

And Tony Mullane, 1894 Baltimore Orioles, should be 6-4-6 for strike outs, not 4-6-6.

## Added DPs Proposed

As now constituted, "EI" is falling short of producing double plays by a margin of 15 to 20%, based upon league replays reported to this time (including our own re-cycled 1941 NL).

Another glaring problem a number of "EI" players has red-flagged is that DPs are as likely to occur with first base not occupied as when it is.

Granted that the solution we are proposing lacks mathematical confirmation, we find we are getting excellent results with the following modification: Add 2-6-1 thru 2-6-6 from the First Roll Chart as a signal for a DP whenever first base is occupied. Continue to use the DP Range provided on the basis of the team's rating as now described with the game.

This results in producing enough additional DPs to bring this stat into line, it still gives teams a weighting, plus or minus, for their actual DP production (a factor both in interleague replays and competitions among teams from different eras) and it provides a reason to give an intentional walk-to set up a DP situation.

While we're modifying the DP situation; with the infield Drawn in, reduce the team DP rating by half the lines assigned to DP range on roster. If they have an odd number of lines, five for example, leave the extra line for DPs-five would "half" to three.

## "Scoreboard" New Table Game Monthly Starts

Jack Kohn has acquired complete control of "APBA Innings" and, starting with the September issue, is broadening the scope of coverage to include all game company news.

In announcing his change of content, Mr. Kohn stated: "After attending the recent APBA convention in Philadelphia, we felt a need to express more objectivity in the paper and so have decided to provide all sports table gamers a chance to be heard in the first true all table sports forum in America."

Mr. Kohn, for seven years a sports writer for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury-News, is now a career Air Force officer with the rank of Major. His table gaming began with the Cadaco-Ellis All-Star Baseball Game and then to APBA and Strat-o-Matic as they came along. He was among the first to purchase "Extra Innings."

We were contacted as possible advertisers in the new format and, given the opportunity to convert 3,000 APBA players, we scheduled an ad. You can subscribe by sending \$4.00 for 12 issues to "Table Sports SCOREBOARD," Minot AFB, N.D., 58701, Jack Kohn 101-1 Raintree Circle.

## Heard From The Grandstand Managers

We'll lead off with a communique date-lined Varese, Italy. For one thing we like the international flavor this adds, but, mostly, it is from a newcomer to "EI" who already owns most of the games on the market. We still don't know why Michele Montagni has apparently set aside bocce in favor of baseball, but we like the questions he asks because they give us a chance to review some of the problems of presenting a table game.

Modestly, we'll brush aside the warm latin praise contained in the letter and take up the questions:

1. ...I think there should be more categories of fielders and not only SD, normal and LD.

Ans. See separate article on Defensive Ratings in this issue

2. Pitchers should be individualized as regards HRs allowed.

Ans. Granted. A problem up to this time is that we have limited ourselves to stats contained in MacMillan's. HRs given up by pitchers is not among them. The rest of the problem is delayed until we get through the rest of the questions as the essence of it is contained in our attitude toward table gaming.

3. Batters should be individualized as regards hit-by-pitch (Ron Hunt's on-base frequency is much damaged if you don't give him the right amount of HBP).

Ans. Right. Something should be done to give Hunt, Frank Robinson and others like them a plus factor. Since getting hit by the pitch or getting walked amounts to the same thing (free trip to first), let's include HBP with walks in creating PW (Plus Walks) rating. In 1971 when Ron Hunt got hit 50 times he also walked 51 times. Add them together and you get a PW rating and Hunt makes his true offensive contribution.

However, Hunt only got hit 26 times in 1972 with 55 walks (getting chicken?) and did not qualify for a PW rating by any yardstick. There are so few players who utilize bruised ribs as an offensive talent that I really don't want to build this factor into the game as a standard feature other than to include HB with walks in rating PW batters.

4. Errors should be included in the Squeeze Play Chart and in the Sacrifice Fly Chart.

Ans. "Yeahhhh" (said slowly and reluctantly). Everyone who agrees get their pencils out and turn to the Squeeze Play Chart.

Each of the four sections begins with a range of numbers that results in "Everyone SAFE. Credit batter with sacrifice." Change the last six numbers in each range so that, when rolled, these result in a new interpretation: "Everyone SAFE. Batter reaches first on an error, all runners advance one base." If the third dice is a one, error to pitcher; a two, error to catcher; three, error to first baseman; four, error to second baseman; five, error to third baseman; six, error to short stop. This will

(Continued on insert)

# Heard From The Grandstand Managers

(Continued from Page 4)

inject this element of realism without effecting the percentages of outcome.

Now turn to the Sacrifice Fly Chart. In all situations where the batter is out trying to score (or advance to third) a roll from 6-5-1 thru 6-6-6 becomes an error on the play and the runner is safe. If third dice is even give error to throw; if odd error to player handling the throw. Any other base runners move one base on the play.

5. You should allow the possibility of having base runners thrown out while attempting to stretch a hit.

We've thought about this a long time. There's an easy solution. Just apply the Stolen Base Chart. You could of course let the play action end and then send the base runner on a regular steal attempt before the First Roll on the next batter. But, if it adds zest to your play, elect to have the lead runner, if more than one, keep going. Roll the dice again and consult the Stolen Base Chart to learn whether he has advanced successfully. Do not use if fielder is Rated T-1.

6. Batters should have individualized batting lines versus R or L pitchers. In fact, not every lefty batter hits righties better than lefties and vice versa.

Ans. We just don't have the stats. Until the major leagues elect to incorporate this data with the official league statistics we can't employ it. While it is frequently given by broadcasters, we understand that this data is provided by the team's publicity department. At least, that's what Bill Crowley, publicist for the Red Sox, informs us.

Our present device will have to serve as an element of "gamesmanship" with less realism than we'd like.

Now, let's go back to the point we side-stepped under item two. There is a real problem in trying to satisfy all needs of all table baseball players. Ric Riccelli, Jeff Sagarin and I kicked this around the night we got together at Fenway Park. While we discussed it primarily in terms of developing a scale which could be applied to determining the outcome between a pitcher and batter in the matter of walks and strikeouts (to give each his percentage factor in this contest) Ric and I out-argued Jeff. We contended that there is a danger of finetuning a game to a point where every action of play has to be checked out minutely. After all, we're simulating a baseball game, not a moon shot.

Personally, we've always been influenced by an observation by table gamer Wayne Schierbaum of Cleveland, to the effect, "the easier it is to memorize the charts, the easier it is to play the game...and the more fun."

Table gaming, baseball in particular, sports in general, divides into two primary areas. Either you want to settle down to a game board for an evening of play with much attention to step-by-step detail or you want to move quickly from game to game and complete a season's play, an

elimination tournament, etc.

One of our primary goals in developing "EI" has been to provide a game which can be played satisfactorily in 20 minutes solitaire. We have no objection to adding realistic touches so long as they are understood to be optional (if they require added time in playing). Mostly, we still consider "EI" as much a tool to be used by each table gamer to alter as he sees fit as we do as a tightly defined game. What the hell, if you can't "do your thing" with a table game, what's the use of playing one?

"...on the First Roll Chart there is a place that says '2-3-6 thru 2-6-6. Reserved for 'Rare Events.' I have looked through all the directions and newsletters but I cannot find what this refers to. I would be very happy if you could clarify it for me." Philip Oakley, Corcoran Calif.

We included the "Rare Events" signal on the First Roll for those table gamers who like to inject extra events in their play.

For example, we have not included a player being ejected from the game in the rules of "EI". If it suits your fancy, you could use a number from the Rare Events series as a signal regarding the action to come on the Second Roll Chart. For example: Following a 2-3-6 on the first roll, the batter strikes out on a roll ending in a six, he protests so vigorously (and presumably profanely) that he is put out of the game. Or, if the batter walks on a roll ending in a six, the team in the field begins to abuse the umpire who finally puts a player out of the game. Now, determine which of the nine players in the game is the one ejected. We'll leave that to you. You could write one to nine on separate slips of paper and draw one. Some who have read this might think the whole thing rather silly; others might begin drawing up all kinds of off beat combinations. It depends on the player of the game.

We're always aware that one man's bag is another man's snare. For example, "EI" does not provide any automatic calling of the game. If a game player wants to see several innings of action go down the drain he can set up such a contingency by employing the "Rare Events" ploy.

If we kind of telescope many of the letters we receive, rather than reprinting them fully, it's to save space. We do maintain a practice of answering all letters immediately. Many, of course, deal with the same subjects as others and, because "EI" has been on the market nearly five years, we get questions from new followers which were handled in the past.

David Camburn, Wilmington, Del. asks about filling the gap in player stats between the end of MacMillan's (through 1968) and the present. Only way we know is to obtain Sporting News Guides for the recent seasons. That's our resource.

David also asks about batting

orders commonly used from 1876 to present. We rely partly on the Sporting News "World Series Records." Mostly "EI" replays deal with pennant winners from the past and you'll find boxscores of all previous WS games. If you

are really avid to check out actual lineups used and have a library available which has microfilms of the New York Times, you can use that. Otherwise your guess is probably not going to be too far off. Lineups have been pretty much arranged as they are today: A leadoff man who gets on a lot, a number two hitter who can advance him, your best average hitter, with pretty good power third; your slugger fourth; the next batter who has pretty much the characteristics of the third man in the lineup; then arrange the rest for batting average.

Bob Tate, Delmar, N.Y., inquires about rating players for running, throwing, fielding, if they played in only a few games. Here's what we do: If it is a minor league player who joined the parent club for a few games at the end of the season or who survived in the Spring until cut-downs, we look up his minor league record for the season in the Guide. If he could run, throw and field in the minors he'll carry these characteristics to the big leagues. Of course, if you are dealing with an established player who has played only briefly in a given season (Killebrew, for example) use the characteristics he established in full seasons.

Bob also wants to know how to tell when a player was traded during a season. This comes in handy when re-playing a season from the past. We use "Who's Who In Baseball" which gives the particulars of trades in which a player was involved, including the data of the transaction.

David Lempke, Indianapolis, Ind., suggests switching the error range to start with the 6-1-1 range for quicker identification on the First Roll Chart. Instead of starting at 3-5-1 (in the middle of the third row) he'd start at the top of the sixth row. Nothing wrong with that and it makes it quicker to spot error signals.

From Ken Turetzky, Peoria, Ill., Fred Demonte, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Bob Tate, Delmar, N.Y. we have been questioned about the use of the ERA Adjustment Chart in Inter-League Play, games between teams from different eras, etc.

Turn to your Adjusted ERA Chart. Put an X next to 3.27 - 3.41 (like our printer should have). Use that as the starting point for any pitcher. Subtract or add hitting lines for each level above or below that point.

From Vincent Arrigoli, Monroe, N.Y. and Barry and Thomas Hunt of Center Moriches, N.Y. we have received considerable input to deal with Tiring Pitchers. The Hunt brothers worked out an intricate chart which we don't have space for. We'll probably take up the subject of adjusting a pitcher's rating as a game progresses in a

future issue. For now we'll stick by the formula in the "EI" text and we do that with some misgivings. We don't think you can start juggling a pitcher's ERA, walk rating, K rating, etc. around on the premise that he tires as the game lengthens. Some pitchers characteristically start slowly and build up steam. Mickey Lolich is an example of this. But, more inhibiting is the realization that ERA (and K and BB) are the composite of all innings pitched, those while fresh as well as those when tiring. This is another of those thrusts toward refining data to a point where the playing time of the game is lengthened to small avail.

At this point we'd like to acknowledge the substantial input from two newcomers to "EI." Dr. Michael J. Traina, faculty member at Kent State University (where, if he's not careful, Ric Riccelli will turn up in one of his classes and they'll spend the semester debating the merits of table games) wrote to propose a number of new concepts. We'll save most for later.

We hate to extract a minor idea from a wealth of good ideas but you might want to try Mike's idea of snipping apart the Historical Team rosters and the supplement. He has pasted the Walk and Strike Out ratings and the DP, Error and T-1 ratings onto the Historic Team Roster and made a photo copy of the whole.

Bill Glasscoe, Vancouver, Wash. also has applied considerable thought to "EI" upon purchasing the game. He addressed the subjective areas of defense and base running. We'll sideline that one for a fuller response in the future. Both Mike and Bill sent in long letters and my long replies require they obtain the justification of having their points printed in full.

## Book Marks

"The Man Who Invented Baseball" by Harold Peterson, makes good reading for those who are not really familiar with the origins of baseball. It is something of a drawback to a reader who realizes that the author's research has been taken from a true historian's work with no credit given. Mr. Peterson would have the reader admire the diligence of his investigations when, really, the debunking of the Abner Doubleday myth has been going on for years (at least as far back as Henry Chadwick) and was most fully exposed as a figment of jingoistic Americanism by Robert W. Henderson in his fine and scholarly book, "Ball, Bat & Bishop" published in 1947.

Apparently the publishers (Scribner's) decided that a new generation of readers would now sit agape at the revelation that Alexander Cartwright deserves much of the credit of putting baseball into its present playing form and Abner Doubleday does not.

It's a readable book. Mr. Peterson, a staffer for "Sports Illustrated" does a glib job. Like its table sports games, "SI" spawns derivative offspring, whether they are pirating historical research or table gaming ideas.

# introducing

## TABLE SPORTS

## scoreboard

It's time for a change! A change that we know will be for the better . . . . better for us as the editor and publisher of what formerly was the APBA INNINGS but also for our readership which we have discovered is broader based in the world of table sports games than to be confined solely to the products of one game company.

With this first edition of SCOREBOARD, we hope to provide new direction and interest to the table sports players of America. The decision to broaden our base of readership was a very carefully contemplated one which was hastened by the resignation of former INNINGS publisher John Brodak.

Brodak created the INNINGS in mimeograph form over four years ago and has been a driving force in the popularity of mail leagues for table sportsmen and the return of adults to this satisfying hobby. Now, due to business pressures and extensive plans for the near future, Brodak has found it necessary to divest himself of all interest in the INNINGS and SCOREBOARD.

The decision to shoulder the entire responsibility of publishing and editing the SCOREBOARD (my wider scope version

of the INNINGS) was mainly based on the fact that our readers and contributors are games players with a wide vision who are eager to find out what is happening with all sports table games. With a wider field we are able to realize a larger paper with more features and advertising without raising the price as some of our competitors are doing despite the price freeze and governmental guide lines. This press run will top 3000 copies.

Our editorial policy will encompass news and features about all table sports games who care to editorialize or advertise on these pages. We will be objective when discussing the shortcomings or strengths of various games and let our readers make their own conclusions.

We were never a shill for the APBA Game Company, merely very devoted fans of 18 years acquaintance. Our respect for the APBA line of games is well known but trying other products can be like a rebirth.

Try it . . . . you'll like it!

Jack Kohn, Editor & Publisher

## EXTRA INNINGS

*The ultimate in table baseball*

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play — all major league teams on 1972 records . . . over 600 players, rated to hit accurately for average and power, for fielding skills, running, team DP's. Pitchers graded to ERA and rated precisely for walks and K's. In addition to today's teams, you get 36 of the great teams of the past . . . all Hall of Famers . . . career rated . . . plus the "top 400 players of all time"! Order direct for \$8.95, plus one dollar for handling and postage. Or, send one dollar, and ask for more information. When you purchase, the dollar will be credited to the sale.

WORLD SERIES BONUS: Game will be shipped immediately with rosters for 1972 season. In January, we will send you the 1973 rosters separately, at no extra charge!

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