



# EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of Extra Innings

Vol. 4 No. 1 January 1974

**LET ME EXPLAIN...** the change in the newsletter format is a temporary situation. Here's what has happened: it's known as "the curse of the one-man operation." I've been experiencing my own "energy crisis" and can't take the comfort of blaming it on the "oil interests" or Nixon's disinterest. When I didn't ask for "seconds" at our Thanksgiving dinner, I tipped off that something was wrong. During the next couple weeks I grew more and more exhausted. A virus? Mono? So, I checked in with the family doctor and after a number of tests he identified the problem as an over-active thyroid. While I suppose I should be flattered at my age to have any gland become over active, let me assure you that the thyroid is the Charles O. Finley of all glands. What happens is that you feel as though you'd just swum the English Channel (against the tide). At any rate, with the problem identified, medication was prescribed and I'm pretty much up to par. However, for six weeks I was hardly able to drag myself to my office to put in a few hours a day at my full-time job. And this is a critical time in the world of "Extra Innings."

I prepare the rosters of the completed season and that takes a lot of time, particularly since we've added individual ratings for pitcher's strike outs and walks and the effect of batters on these items.

To add to the problem of roster preparation, I have depended in the past on The Sporting News to publish the official league stats which include such necessary data as the divided stats for players who appeared with more than one team in the league; pitcher's complete games; batters walks and strike-outs; team fielding averages and double plays. None of this material is included with the unofficial stats TSN publishes at the conclusion of the season. Of course, those stats enable me to get about 90% of the work done on the rosters. Thank God I did that phase of the work before my illness.

When the January 6, 1974 issue of TSN appeared, still without stats, I called them and, as I expected, they'd decided to sacrifice that material because of the newsprint shortage they claim is causing them to reduce the content of the newspaper. Some other time I'll take up the merits of that management decision. Here I'll only wonder at a publication which has billed itself as "the Bible of Baseball" excludes such a vital item as the official league stats. Do you think it is to increase the sales of the Baseball Guide?

So, I phoned the Providence Journal and they had the American League stats (as they don't cover National League games they hadn't obtained that league's records). A friend on the sports desk lent me the American League stats over a weekend and that covered that league.

I phoned the National League office in San Francisco and explained my plight to Dave Grote, Public Relations Director, and he rushed me a set of their stats.

Even so, I was about three-weeks behind my schedule in producing the 1973 rosters - to be distributed with the January newsletter. As this is written, early in January, I can anticipate many, many letters arriving toward the end of the month asking about the 1973 rosters. Those who don't know our compulsive sense of honor will suspect larceny.

Therefore, to simplify the whole project, this issue of the newsletter is being prepared in the most simple form. It takes extra time to layout the pages, crop fotos, edit copy to fit into column areas, etc. So, that's the explanation. (Probably too long, but I hope that most of the newsletter subscribers feel there is a personal relationship between the designer of "EI" and the games's players.)

## NEW H of F AND HISTORIC TEAM SUPPLEMENT...

As if trying to get the 1973 rosters and the January newsletter produced wasn't causing enough problems, we discovered our supply of Hall of Fame and Historic Team rosters was running out.

We'd provided a supplement which contained records of players elected to the H of F since we first printed this material in 1971. The supplement also provided the new pitcher ratings and batter effects, DP and Error Data.

Obviously, with a re-print necessary, all of this had to be correlated into the new issue. There were many times when we cursed the decision to rate batters for PW/MW and PK/MK. We had to make these determinations for all the historic team rosters. While we were at it we increased the number of teams in the Historic Roster section from 36 to 39. We added in the three teams whose rosters we provided in the July, 1973 issue of the "EI" newsletter (1922 Giants; 1928 Cardinals and 1929 Cubs.) We also dropped the 1931 Athletics (as we have the 1929 A's and it's virtually the same team) and the 1943 Yankees (as we have so many Yankee teams.) These we replaced with the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers and 1948 Cleveland Indians.

It's likely that many of you will want to obtain the new supplement. To back the wolf a few feet away from the door, I'll ask you to send a dollar and I'll send you the new Hall of Fame and Historic Team Rosters (16 pages, 8 1/2 X 14).

**FROM THE BENCH...** (or, what's a newsletter without an editorial?)

We received a most unnerving letter from Mitch West, one of "EI's" earliest contributors. Mitch's letter ran about 2,000 witty and pithy words and we sent it back and asked him to reduce it to about 500 so we could print it and then respond to it. We haven't heard from Mitch since then so we'll have to do the best we can with describing Mitch's complaint and providing our response. Essentially, Mitch was lamenting the fact that "EI" has grown too complicated. He would prefer to have pitchers graded A through E, as in the first edition, with the ratings tied to ERAs.

As we see it, the changes which have been made in "EI" have several effects. As we keep pointing out, many of the sophistications are optional. You don't have to use the Adjusted ERA Chart; you can use a standard rating for walks and strikeouts, etc. Through our contacts with "EI" players we concluded that the majority wanted a more sophisticated game and have utilized many ideas which originated with "EI" players.

It does add to the length of playing time. In our experience, we now spend about five minutes more playing a game which once took 20 minutes to play. However, since we began shaking the dice in a glass jar, we've shaved five minutes off the playing time by not having to pick the dice up, transfer pencil from hand to table and pick up again, etc.

Where we're conscious of having created greater problems for some players is in the time necessary to prepare rosters for teams which don't come with the game. Our already referred to experience of rating players for PW/MW and PK/MK and the procedure for giving each pitcher a true statistic for walks and strike outs are time consuming.

We're not really doing justice to Mitch in these paragraphs. Hopefully, he'll re-write his position, then we'll print it in the next newsletter. However, we have been concerned that "EI" will become too unwieldy for many. And, to many who examine it for the first time it appears too complex.

Well, we decided some time ago to bypass the freckle faced kid down the block and try to provide table gamers with a form of table baseball game which they could use as it comes or alter to suit their own likes.

**SPLINTERS FROM THE BENCH...** No "freckle faced kid from down the block" is Peter Schleifer. In the early 1960's, our next door neighbors were Dave and Alice Schleifer. They moved away to our mutual regret taking with them little David, about four years old. We continued to exchange annual messages via Christmas cards and, in a note several years ago, Dave mentioned that Peter was interested in table baseball. So, we sent him a copy of "EI", thinking, "well, his Dad'll help him with it."

This year's Christmas card from the Schliefers included a newspaper account of David's success at Stoneybrook in using the school's computer system to re-play baseball games. We were also sent a print out of a play-by-play of a game between the 1927 Yankees and the 1969 Mets in which Hoyt bested Seaver 4-3. (Had it been any other result we'd write the whole thing off as a fraud!)

It continues to fascinate us in our middle age to discover the toddlers of yesteryear are growing up so brilliantly. Incidentally, in the photo of David at the computer, he is wearing his hair modishly long. And, on the wall behind the computer is a photo of Albert Einstein (whose hair, though white, was even longer!)

**NEW ADDRESS...** At the moment we are still residing at 50 Hilltop Drive. The "for sale" sign has just gone up. However, we have already purchased a home in the next town, North Kingstown. Our son, who uses a wheelchair to get around, was the motivation to buy another house. We learned of the availability of a house built for a paraplegic; ramps to all entrances, extra wide doorways, a specially equipped bathroom, etc. Also, it has a basement about six times the size of the one in which we now conduct our "EI" business. So, as far as "EI" is concerned we'll still be a basement business (we'll have been in more basements than the Phillies!) At any rate, the new address will be 51 Kingswood Road, North Kingstown, R.I. But, hold up on using it for a while. I have the feeling we're going to be at 50 Hilltop Drive for some months yet.

# EXTRA INNINGS

Published January, July, October  
\$2.75 per year  
EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER  
50 Hilltop Drive  
East Greenwich, R.I. 02818  
Vol. 3, No. 3 October, 1973

**HEARD FROM THE GRANDSTAND MANAGERS...** (OK let's get some gaming ideas into this thing!)

Fred Davis and his wife drove down from Malden, Mass. (just before gas became a problem) and posed some questions. He argues (and well) that some fly outs should always score a runner from third, not only those indicated for an optional try. It's a good point and you are welcome to tinker with your Second Roll Chart if you agree with Fred.

Fred also nailed us by pointing out that the combination of Ted Williams high batting average (.406) in 1941 and Bob Feller's strike out rating that year has the effect of making it impossible for Williams to fly out against Feller. Fred argues for mixing the forms of putouts rather than grouping them by types. Our argument against this is that it is easier to memorize the chart if all rolls are in groups which result in similar actions. Well, we never claimed we were perfect. Somewhere in the mail bag is a letter asking if we're going to have a Fourth Edition. A look at EI's bank account requires we answer that. As soon as we sell out the Third Edition, we'll print a Fourth Edition. It's inevitable we won't be able to resist touching up some of the play action at that time.

Another frequently asked question (but not frequently enough) we receive from happy EI players asking to purchase the charts for Normalization. As we keep making clear, we purposely keep "EI" a limited project. We advertise infrequently as we can't stretch our available time to handle more business than we are presently doing. We sell about 500 games a year and net a meager "profit". Of course, we don't charge ourselves for the thousands of hours we apply to the project. If we did we'd close up shop.

The situation is such that we are reluctant to invest more dollars in printing the Normalization Charts right now. Also, while we think this is a fantastic idea (Normalization) only about 10% of the public seems to agree with us. So, assuming business holds up reasonably well through 1974 (and we've added three of the magazines that bloom in the Spring to our media list), we hope to generate enough income to finance the printing of the charts for Normalization. If all goes well, look for them offered in the October newsletter.

**NEW NAME FOR NEWSLETTER?** While we think it's a fey idea to call a newsletter a "newsletter", maybe we should have something more con-

ventional. There's the ABPA Journal; there's Scoreboard (once the APBA Innings); there's Mike Zimmerman's temporarily (we hope) suspended Coaching Lines - the best of the titles, we think: there's Strat-O-Matic Review. Jim Barnes, president of Status-Pro (formerly Midwest Research) was kind enough to send us a number of back issues and we were kind enough to send them to other table gamers as they described that company's new, and excellent, basketball game. At any rate, should we yield to convention and adapt a more journalistic title? Comment?

**COMBINING COLLECTING WITH TABLE GAMING...** We received an interesting suggestion from Mike Bondarenko, editor of Sports Collector's News. Mike who confesses to once having been an APBA football freak, produces a publication which includes considerable editorial matter with advertisements offering "collector's items" for sale - much too often via auction.

There is an apparent affinity between baseball fans who turn to the gaming table for gratifications and who are also attracted to collecting memorabilia of the sport.

When we had the first edition of "EI" ready for the market but had to wait several months to get an ad in "Baseball Digest" (which we thought would serve as the best advertising medium for the introduction of this new game) we ran ads in several collector's publications, among them "The Trader Speaks" with a circulation (then) of about 1,000. When we sold 14 games off an ad in that publication we multiplied it by the greater circulations available through BD and TSN and other national magazines and got ready for an avalanche. It never came. Further advertising in collector's publications were fruitless.

As we are involved somewhat in the collector's world we have observed that there seems to be no ability to combine both interests. Either you are a committed table gamer or you spend your spare time visiting flea markets, second hand stores, etc.

In the last several years we have concentrated a large share of our spare time on collecting baseball publications. It's been fun and productive. We now have a library which includes many rare publications, among them "Play Ball" by Mike "King" Kelly (1887) and bound into one huge volume the 1890-91 issues of "The Sporting Times".

We have avoided getting involved in card collecting and autographs. These interests,

along with programs, ticket stubs, etc., make up the bulk of collector interests. (We sometimes wonder if there isn't a hint of illiteracy in this?) The prices commanded by bubble gum cards, compared to those asked for good books - not necessarily collector items, but ones like Harold Seymour's histories, Roger Kahn's "The Boys of Summer", and a hundred or more good and reasonably available books, is bothersome to me.

But collecting, if it is taken up at all, becomes a passion which shuts out all other activities. For one thing, there's the compulsion to collect all the cards of all sets. The only item we're interested in collecting all of, are baseball guides. We're a long way from it. However, we can place some justification in that it enables us to better rate teams of the past.

I doubt if 5% of baseball table gamers are serious collectors. Any of us might have an assortment of souvenirs. I've always had 30 or 40 books about sports on my shelves. (I've now got more than 600 and picking up more all the time.) But, I have something to read on a winter's night or to turn to for reference. What the hell can you do with an autograph or a gum card other than stare at it for a moment?

**LET'S GET BACK TO THE GRANDSTAND MANAGERS...**

First, I want to express my regret that I just can't print more than excerpts from letters which reach me. Bless you perceptive, literate, concerned, involved, etc. table gamers. While we answer each letter as soon as it arrives (and enjoy the exchanges), we find that many of them contain concepts which should be shared among all of us. Of course, many of them touch upon the same concerns and many (from more recent "EI" players) cover things we've discussed before.

One frequently brought up point is that use of the Adjusted ERA Chart only removes singles from the batters. It is argued, with merit, that low ERA pitchers obtain that distinction to some degree by giving up fewer extra base hits than the average pitcher.

Among those who have commented recently is Lawrence R. S. Hayden of Brooklyn, N.Y. He suggests "Could the ERA reduction be placed at 2-3-6 / 2-6-6 on the First Roll and therefore come off the top, so to speak. A reduction of seven lines, for instance, would mean that 2-3-6 to 2-4-6 would mean an automatic out, with the second roll still showing the type of out. This would increase the number of Ks, but good ERA pitchers frequently strike out more than the average number of batters."

I think there's merit in this idea. However, it is a matter for much consideration. It leads to the further complicating of play (to the dismay I'm sure of Mitch West.) However, it can be treated as an "optional" maneuver to be employed by the table gamer who strives for the ultimate in realism.

One of the constant problems this poses for "EI" arises from our efforts to make the game playable for teams from any year. The stat "HR allowed by pitchers" is fairly recent. It first

appears in the official league records in the mid-1950's. This means that an effort to effect extra base hits allowed by pitchers of all years, would have to be related directly to ERA rather than giving each pitcher a HR allowed rating (thank God!) At least, we can avoid that mathematical morass on the grounds that what good for Gibson has to be equally good for Mathewson.

A spot checking of ERAs and HR allowed reveals that it does not necessarily follow that both will be low or high. Well, this is one for the drawing board and commentary is invited. Would it be too cumbersome to take away every fifth line? There doesn't seem to be a need to deal with high ERA pitchers by increasing the number of HRs given up.

From John Patton of Pittsburgh came, first, help in rating the Pirates defensively for 1973 rosters. Then this idea: "I take the average number of men on base per game pitched (by each pitcher) and use this to tell when a pitcher is tiring. Example: let's say Jim Rooker's average men on base per game pitched is 11. Then, when the eleventh man gets on base through a hit, walk or HBP, he would start going through the tiring process you have for the game. This is a bit more accurate because it would then stop some starters who "just can't go nine" from pitching complete games and would allow some pitchers like Steve Carlton, Fergie Jenkins, etc. who pitch a lot of complete games to go nine more often."

This surely would send Mitch West straight up his dormitory wall. It can be done, of course. But it isn't going to be done as a standard rating device by me. However, it pleases me that there seems to be an infinite variety of ways to refine the game. John also sends along the Branch Rickey formula for rating teams: Sorry but the limitations of typography in this format prevents me from showing it in formula form. You'll have to take it this way: H plus BB plus HBP over AB plus BB plus HBP; plus 3 times total bases minus hits over 4AB; plus runs over H plus BB plus HBP. Less the results of H over AB plus BB plus HBP over AB plus BB plus HBP; plus ER over H plus BB plus HBP; minus SO over 8 (AB plus BB plus HBP); minus FA equals (finally) Team Efficiency. (I guess Rickey was "one of us.") This is a comparison of a team's offense and defense and could be the basis of settling those endless barroom arguments as to which team was better than another team. (John also advises there is an updated edition of Thompson's "ALL-time Rosters of Major League Baseball Clubs", Barnes Co., available for those of you who make up rosters of teams from earlier years or even those years since 1964, the last year covered in the original edition.)

**"FATHER OF TABLE BASEBALL"** - A number of letters have come in complimenting us on our research and write-up of the first table baseball game. Jack Kohn's "Scoreboard" did us the honor of reprinting the entire article and this brought "EI" to the awareness of more table gamers.

in the meantime we have obtained the patent for the game which, unfortunately, runs much too long to be reprinted. With it, of course, one could manufacture a replica of that first game. I'll withhold developing more about Mr. Sebring and his 1868 game until the newsletter returns to its regular format with the next issue.

One of the more interesting consequences of writing the article was that my mother-in-law (who has tolerated her son-in-law's enthusiasms for the past thirty years) sent me an article from the Sarasota, Fla. newspaper telling about two collectors who live there and who have collected all sorts of baseball memorabilia, including many 19th century table baseball games. The article described several which are in my collection and some which are not. They identified what was "probably the first table baseball game, played with a spinner, patented in 1869."

I wrote with great enthusiasm, having found someone else who shares my interest in early forms of table baseball, but I received no reply. I'm puzzled. Maybe they're sulking because I sent them the article establishing Sebring's 1868 game as the first.

#### BACK TO THE GRANDSTAND MANAGERS...

Darrell Holtz, now of Omaha, Nebr. and a Doctor of Divinity (having moved from Michigan) sent in defensive ratings for the Cubs - much thanks.

Back to collectors: Gary Wilhelmus, 4034 Gilman Avenue, Louisville, Ky. 40207, mentioned he'd inherited more than 10,000 gum cards from his older brothers and would like to hear offers. William M. Curphey, Jr., Zainesville, O. chipped in with ratings on the Cincinnati Reds. (If this year's rosters are better in the subjective area of defensive ratings, it is thanks to the many EI fans who contributed their observations.)

Bob Thronson, Long Beach, Calif., contributed ratings on both the L.A. Dodgers and California Angels. Bob also suggests: "Please consider changing the 'TEAM ERA' chart of the DP rating formula by cutting the 3.00 to 3.99 into two lines (3.00-3.49: 18.32 x DP/G, 3.50-3.99: 17.01 x DP/G.) This would make the DP result per team much more accurate."

We think it will, but it's too late to change it now. What we'd like to do is go away to an isolated island, shut out all distractions, and delve into the many suggestions we get, such as Bob's.

OFF MY GOVE... to James D. Bauserman, Fort Wayne, Ind. (who plays EI with his sons) and many other baffled EI followers, we apologize for having failed to provide a median point on the era chart to be used when playing teams from different years against each other. We'd be hard pressed to explain why we identify 3.27 - 3.41 as the "standard". We can explain why it wasn't on the chart in the Third Edition (we missed it when proof-reading). In our experience, we find that by counting down or up from the point seems to be about a balance between teams

even from widely varied ERA periods of the game.

#### MORE GRANDSTAND MANAGER REPORTS

Wayne Forrest, now living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, writes the following: "I continue to greatly appreciate your creation which allows me to create as well. I am presently, though very slowly, replaying the 1908 National League season. (Ed. Note: the year Merkle didn't touch second, causing the season to end in a tie with Three-Finger Brown beating Christy Mathewson in the re-play of the Merkle game at the end of the season.) The results through 20 games (for individual teams) are quite accurate although I have had to make adjustments due to the characteristics of the dead-ball game. I am using the new sacrifice charts but I would think it should be entirely different for an era when many batters had 20-35 sacrifice hits in a season and sacrifice hits made up such a major part of the game. However, I am stumped as to how it could better fit 1908. On the ERA chart 2.3 is now the average and I am trying to grade pitchers who walked more or less than the average according to the hits they allowed. Other changes include situations where runner advancement is more limited, e.g. runners not scoring from second on singles, because of the shallow play of outfielders. They seem to be working well because through the league total 80 games the league B.A. was off less than one point and the runs per game came to 6.61 compared to the actual 6.65. Errors were off a minus 10% and effected ERA so that it was 2.55."

Comment: We're delighted to find "EI" players are users and developers of forms of play. We await Wayne's league results.

Scott Richardson, Placentia, Calif. asks why isn't there a chance of a baserunner being thrown out trying to advance an extra base? The only technique we can suggest is to decide you want the runner to try and roll the dice again and consult the Stolen Base chart. I don't know how you could prove or disprove the odds on success are the same. There are no stats covering tag plays made on runners attempting to stretch a base hit. Wayne Schreiner, Gen'l Delivery, Enderly, B.C., Canada, wrote a heart rendering letter about his problems in obtaining MacMillan's "Baseball Encyclopedia." We discussed this last issue. I've had a letter from Bob Bucknam, Sun City, Ariz. saying that MacMillan still has them for sale at \$14.95 (offer to pay for shipping if it's extra) to the MacMillan Company. I'd address it to the President of the company, explaining the plight. I have hunch they've got them but it's easier to say they don't. I have put an alert out among rare book dealers to be aware that there is a market for this book, despite its recent vintage. Any extra copies I ever obtain I'll advertise in the newsletter and it'll be first come, first gets. By the way, if anyone has a spare copy or one they don't use, get in touch with Wayne...he's desperate!

SOCIAL NOTE: It may not be possible to obtain friendly relations with the monolith of Lancaster (I think APBA stands for "All Proposals Banned Absolutely"), but I've enjoyed pleasant correspondence with Len Gaydos, editor of APBA Journal, and now Len has a co-editor, Ben Weiser. Ben is at Brown University, right here in R.I., and contacted me. This led to Ben coming up to the house for dinner and a great evening of table game table talk. I drove him back to his dorm and, on the way stopped at the post office to mail the October newsletters. His suspect disloyalty in helping me stuff them in the collection box is offset by his realization of how few I was mailing. (I told him it was only a part shipment.)

Just a few weeks ago (when I was half dead with my thyroid situation) Ben called to tell me Mike Zimmerman was stopping off on his way back to Canada from NYC to see the Brown vs. McGill hockey game. I'd have made the effort but Mike had to cancel and I went back to bed.

#### FURTHER SOCIAL

NOTES: Bob Bucknam, referred to above, flew up from his Sun City, Ariz. home, at World Series time, with Mrs. Bucknam and was joined by his daughter and son-in-law, who live in Chicago, I think, for a week's visit to his old stamping grounds, the Boston area. They stayed in Concord (where the rude bridge arched the flood) and I drove up to spend an afternoon and evening with Bob. The weather was fall-perfect and, though I've been nearly everywhere in New England, somehow I'd missed the Concord-Lexington part. So, I gave myself a morning of tourisiting, made some bookstore visits, then joined Bob to watch the WS game in his motel room, talk, talk, talk about baseball and table gaming (Bob has sent me some materials of games from the 1920s when he started - and they'll eventually get described in this publication.) A great dinner and more conversation with a most wonderful man.

Frankly, it is the great relationships that develop out of this project that keeps "EI" going in the face of financial stand-offs and Marvin Miller's threats. For those of you who care, nothing further has been heard from the MLBPA since last April when I got their form letter that is apparently designed to chase small newcomers out of the market, leaving it to APBA, SOM, Sports Illustrated and others who are willing to pay a royalty for the "use of the players records", when, actually, it is a device to keep the market to themselves.

Well, you've heard me on this subject before. I'm just going to go on ignoring letters threatening me with legal action and hinting at durance vile. It wouldn't be so vile if I could sit in my cell reading my baseball books and playing "EI". Maybe I could even bring my digital calculator, statistics and solve some of the realism problems which still confront me.

#### BACK TO THOSE GRANDSTAND MANAGERS...

A thank you to Ken Turetzky, Peoria, Ill. for rating the Tigers and Mets for us. Ken proposed

the use of players fielding averages to determine their rating. It just doesn't work. There's no way I'm going to rate Greg Luzinski an SD outfielder despite his leading the National League in fielding percentage and making only two errors in 1973. Greg just isn't that much of a ball hawk. Stats offer clues, but percentages can be misleading. If you are one of those with a MacMillan's go look up Zeke Bonura's stats in the late 30s. Zeke made Dick Stuart look like a Golden Glover. Incidentally, I wish they'd print the second and third finishers in the Golden Glove ratings, not just the winners. It'd help on SD ratings. I mean you can only give one glove per position. Since Brooks Robinson has an unbreakable hold on third base, where's that leave Rodriguez for comparison? If Miss America can have a "first runner-up" etc., why can't the Golden Glove Awards? I've certainly got a lot of bones to pick with The Sporting News.

Bob Tate of Delmar, N.Y. asks: "...how did you find out the averages of each player against both left and right handed pitchers? If you know any place or company that I could obtain these stats from, I would appreciate knowing."

OK: This is an interesting question at this time. First, the present method of providing different averages is synthetic. I just don't know what each player batted against left and right handed pitching. The method we use assumes each batter will face right handed pitchers 80% of the time (lefty, 20% to state the mathematically obvious.) Of course, this would only be true of players who were not platooned. Incidentally it has remained quite consistent over the years that 80% of all pitchers are right-handed. God made it that way and I'm not fooling around in those circumstances. The chart we now use is the result of the work of the late Dr. Preston Davis who wrote the program for the computer and came up with the results which have produced such precise reproductions when used for a full-season playout that I hesitate to tamper with them.

For example: if we were to project one batting average when the hitter faced a right-handed pitcher and another when he faced a left-handed pitcher, there would have to be a variable projected. Look at the Master Chart and you'll see what I mean. It can't project a batting average at every point. 2-4-5 comes out to .2731; the next number 2-4-6 to .2778. If the batter had hit .275, we'd have to give him .273 or .278.

When Fred Davis visited me he insisted that Stratomatic's lefty-righty projections are truly based on stats derived from boxscores to obtain that knowledge. This was pretty much verified in a recent article in Scoreboard. In that article it was mentioned that two major league teams also subscribe to this service. The name of the company wasn't given. However, Fred said it was located in Boston. The official statistics for the American League are compiled by Sports Information Center, 1776 Heritage Drive, North Quincy, Mass. 02171. I have a strong hunch this is the company. Certainly they'd have available the official box scores of all



American league games which would be needed to tell which pitcher a batter faced when pitchers were changed during a game.

I don't know (at this writing) about the source of National League statistics. I believe it's Elias Sports Bureau in New York. I'm tempted to look into this, but feel it would be futile. I don't think my project could afford the fee. And, even if I could, I'll match the "EI" statistical results, particularly batting average and power hitting factors, against any game for a sizeable side bet. In fact, one of the ideas I've been toying with is to run a test using a set of hitters and pitchers and trying all games against that unit for accuracy. If I could get Fred Davis to represent SOM and Ben Weiser APBA we might have ourselves a unique contest.

Of course, another problem - a consistent one - is that, while actual lefty-righty results might be obtainable for contemporary teams they wouldn't be for teams from the past.

**ANOTHER OFF THE GLOVE...** Advancing on Doubles and Singles Chart Single to Center, AR on second, none or one out, single to Center, remove the asterisk. Runner would go to third even with a T-1. (Thanks to John Patton and others).

Here's another question from John Tate, Delmar, N.Y. He asks how to know when players who played with two teams in the same league in the same season changed teams. That one's easy: use "Who's Who In Baseball" which dates the trades.

**WRAPPING UP THE RAPPING WITH GRAND STAND MANAGERS...** David Lempke, Indianapolis, says he's about to re-play the "Two-Light Zone" League, using the same teams I steered through a 154 game schedule with the Chicago White Sox, 1919, edging home in first. I've pointed out to David that you must allow for the fact that the

1919 season was reduced to 140 games due to WW I restrictions. So, add 7% to AB, GP, and InP. This helps as you get two more starts from Cicotte who was a 20 game winner in my competition.

Fred DeMonte, Brooklyn, who rated the Mets for us tells that he combined all the "EI" charts on one sheet and (I presume) reduced the sizes by photocopy reduction then mounted all on a large board which fits inside the cover of an attache case (the hinged kind). He lifts the lid and throws the dice inside the case. Obviously, this keeps them from rolling on the floor. When he finishes he puts scoresheets, rosters, etc. inside.

We have considered printing all the charts on a large board (the size of a Monopoly game board) and having two folds so that it could stand up on a table and serve as a backboard against which to roll the dice. However, we'd have to get into much, much larger volume of sales before we could afford to do this.

Fred also chipped in with a method of adding an element of base running action to be used for attempting to stretch hits. He provided a method but, frankly, I feel it would not please most gamers. (Maybe I misunderstood the example and, if so, Fred is entitled to another turn at bat in the next issue). However, Fred ended up with the real clue to making this a good possibility. (Watch out, Mitch, here I come again!)

Use the Rare Events section of the First Roll Chart. (God knows there are enough unassigned numbers.) Now, what I'm about to propose stems from Fred's idea and, frankly, I just haven't got time to work it out in final detail. Kick it around...If a roll from 5-6-1 through 5-6-6 occurs on the First Roll and the batter follows with a single or double on the Second Roll (and it doesn't conflict with the instructions for moving base runners on the "Advancing on Singles and Doubles" Chart - we don't want the batter stretching to a base

that's already occupied), if the third die (green) ends in 1-2-or3 he adds a base; if 3-4 or 5 he is out. That would apply to an AR runner. (We'll disallow Slo Runners from this). Also, we'll disallow this on an infield hit. If the batter is an AAR he succeeds if the roll is 1-2-3 or 4. If a Superior runner on 1 through 5.

Remember, that's an OPTIONAL proposal!

#### BACK TO THE CLUBHOUSE...

We're sorry we had to use this particular format for presenting this issue of the newsletter. As we explained, our illness took us into January with an awful lot of work undone. To put the material which has appeared in this format into the usual style would have added more days to the preparation. Also, we have our printing done by a relatively small print shop which primarily prints a weekly community newspaper. If an "outside job" - such as mine - isn't ready on a particular day it must wait up to a week until the presses are free. So, with the calendar pressing on me, I didn't dare take any more time in the preparation of the newsletter than necessary. We feel that most of you will understand our plight and trust that newcomers to "EI" will accept our assurances that we'll have the newsletter in more presentable form and more visually satisfying with the next (July) issue.

#### ABOUT THE 1973 ROSTERS...

The 1972 rosters provided actual batting lines for all pitchers. When the American League went to the Designated Hitter we knew it would cause us problems. Now we've got one league where pitchers bat for themselves (as in the old fashioned American game that was known as "baseball") and another which provides a greater boon/to decrepit athletes than Medicare. (Enough editorial cynicism!)

So, reluctantly, we have eliminated the individual pit-

chers hitting lines from both leagues, giving the National League pitchers a standardized line. For those of you who really care whether a pitcher hits .067 or .333 you can use your instructions in "EI" to apply this.

And...somewhere in our piles of correspondence is an intriguing idea and we can't recall who sent it in. (Please re-claim credit). The proposal was to give each pitcher on a team the composite batting average of all the team's pitchers. It can be worked out and might favor one team over another in that department. Faced with the time crisis, we were in we didn't tackle it. But, we'd like to know if anyone would prefer giving each team's pitchers hitting lines that were the composite of all pitcher's hitting marks on the team. If so, we'll go to that next year. (Of course, if the American League ever discards the DH gimmick - which they won't - we would go back to rating all pitchers in both leagues for hitting. This sets up a production problem. We can get three teams to an 8 1/2 x 14 sheet without rating the pitchers for individual batting and two teams to an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet with the pitchers rated for hitting. We felt we had to use the same format for both leagues - so that's why!

#### CLOSING FLASH ON H OF F ROSTERS AND HISTORIC TEAMS...

After we'd sent the revised material to the printer to type set, we realized we were on the verge of announcements of new elections. So, we turned to Cliff Kachline, the Hall of Fame historian, and he was good enough to give us the dates the new elections will be announced. So, by the end of January we will have more players to add. So, we slowed down the production to enable us to include the newly elected Hall of Famers. (Otherwise, the supplement would be a year-out-of date when it was printed.) This means the H of F Supplement will be available about mid-February.

