

EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of Extra Innings

"World Series Issue"

Vol. 4 No. 3 October, 1974

EXTRA INNINGS SOLD TO GAMECRAFT

Your Name Here

Name
Street
City
State

and **FREE**
We'll send you this card of **HACK WILSON**

with a complete description of

NATIONAL PASTIME

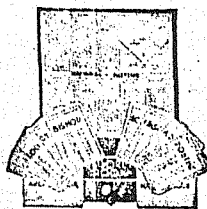
the new and fascinating baseball game, different from all others. Or if you want to see it, send today. Pay postman. Price \$3 for either league, or \$5 for both leagues.

HACK WILSON		
DATE	RIGHT	WRONG
11-1	31-2	51-9
12-25	32-24	52-32
13-14	33-1	53-28
14-27	34-31	54-19
15-7	35-14	55-7
16-13	36-13	56-29
21-30	41-24	61-9
22-6	42-40	62-13
23-35	43-13	63-12
24-13	44-9	64-40
25-9	45-14	65-26
26-32	46-33	66-1

MAJOR GAMES CO., GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

Sound Familiar?

PLAY this true to life BASEBALL GAME



Not just another game. This is what real baseball fans have wanted—The National Pastime. Easy to play. You can play this game exactly like it is played in the major leagues—a game based on the law of averages—nothing like it on the market. It is new and fascinating. One, two or as many as sixteen can play. Play the

the World Series—or any regular league games.

COSTS YOU NOTHING TO SEE IT.

Game consists of a diamond and all instructions (shown here), 20" x 20", regular size playing cards on which are complete rosters of all major league teams, regular and reserve, two dice and score sheets—\$3 for either American or National League, \$5 for both leagues. Pay postman upon delivery. Send today. You'll be delighted with it.

Complete information free.

MAJOR GAMES CO. Green Bay, Wis.

Search for National Pastime Moves to Green Bay

In the July newsletter we printed copies of cards from "National Pastime", apparently the first "real life" table baseball game which came out in 1931.

Since then we have been able to find advertisements for the game, courtesy of Paul Frisz. Paul has doubtlessly the most comprehensive baseball library outside Cooperstown. He searched through his files of "Baseball Magazine" and sent us photo copies of two of the ads. We dissolved into hysterics when we saw that in 1931 the game advertised: "We'll send you free this card of Hack Wilson." The long and strange arm of coincidence reaches back to 1931.

We now have the name of the company which marketed "National Pastime." The company was Major Games Company, Green Bay, Wisc.

Inquiries of the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce, which referred the matter to the Green Bay Public Library, drew a blank. They checked city directories, phone books, etc. Quite likely, the game was handled from its designer's basement. We get a tantalizing glimpse of the game itself from the advertisement. There was a 20" x 20" card which must have carried the play actions. We'll guess that one card covered all base runner situations. The Danny MacFayden Game (not a real life game) which was contemporary to "National Pastime" seems to have been the one to pioneer providing different actions for different base runner situations.

Our search for "National Pastime" goes on. It was only sold the one year, 1931. We believe our search will take us to the copyright or patent area, most likely the former. We might even find the copyright has been purchased by a present day game company. Frankly, we are not going to rest easy until we can definitely establish the particulars of "National Pastime." After January 1, 1975, while we'll still have a vested interest in one of the forms of table baseball, we'll have more time to continue our research into the history and development of table baseball forms.

"Extra Innings" will be marketed by Gamecraft, Vernon, Texas, as of January 1, 1975. Gamecraft was purchased last year by Jerry Faulk and Larry Davenport who thereby acquired a table football game which has been on the market since 1968. This year they have added a basketball game. Now, they will have "Extra Innings" as their table baseball game.

The sales agreement reached between "Extra Innings" and Gamecraft provides that the new owners will manufacture and market the game. The copyright will remain with Jack Kavanagh who will contribute gaming ideas and marketing recommendations.

"Extra Innings" will be presented in a new "Fourth Edition" as of January 1, 1975. It will reflect changes in the game since the "Third Edition" was published in 1973.

The new owners have not made a final decision regarding the return to the game of players who belong to the Major League Baseball Players Association.

The "Extra Innings Newsletter" will be continued by Gamecraft, to include table gaming materials for their other sports games as well as "EI". Jack Kavanagh will be a contributor of materials to the newsletter.

Bookmarks

This issue we're going to take a look at several publications which are to varying degrees, more for collectors of baseball memorabilia. This takes the form, mostly of picture cards, autographs, programs, ticket stubs and other items usually swept out of stadiums by the cleaning crew. Or, the kind of things which were saved in youth, disposed of as "kid's stuff" in early adulthood, and brought back at inflated prices when the collecting mania hit.

The basic purpose for such publications is to provide a market place for the trading and selling of collectibles. They cover the range of sports but baseball is the staple. The longest established of those we'll mention is "The Trader Speaks", edited by Dan Dischley, whose format is almost devoid of editorial content. What there is, written by Dan, is good, newsy information for collectors. In recent issues Steve Goldstein has been reviewing table games and we can't knock this for Steve gave "EI" a superb review and Dan was kind enough to run an ac-

(Continued on Page 2)

Over My Shoulder...

As this is the last edition of the newsletter over which we will exert editorial privilege, we'd like to report, comment, etc. on various items.

Congratulations to Ted DeVries. Dr. DeVries, one of the first to sell his "you know what" cards and convert to "EI", is newly named as President of Valley City College, a state institution of higher learning in North Dakota. So, it isn't Harvard or Yale; we're certain Prexy DeVries will have it booming. Small, 1000 students, Valley City may field table sports teams in intercollegiate competition with other schools of minimal jock populations. We're working on a fight song: "Roll

The Dice for Valley City!" We wonder if Walter Byers, NCAA biggie, will have to adjudicate disputes arising from Play By Mail League engaging Ted's school with similarly sized institutions.

More congratulations! To Jeff Sagarin who is realizing his career ambition to forecast sports results by application of mathematical wizardry. Jeff is now nationally syndicated in the Boston Globe. That is, the prestigious Boston Globe has engaged Jeff to forecast football scores weekly. From there it will be a simple step of out-selecting Jimmy The Greek Snyder

(Continued on Page 4)

From the Bench

With feelings akin to the bride's father relinquishing a daughter at the altar, we are turning the stewardship of "Extra Innings" over to Jerry Faulk and Gamecraft.

As of January 1, 1975, Gamecraft will manufacture and sell "Extra Innings" on a full time basis. The little tyke of a game we helped into the world in 1970 and have seen through such crisis as MLBPAitis, have watched grow its own ERA Adjustment Chart and mature in fidelity to its statistics, will now march arm in arm with Jerry Faulk to an ever enlarging future.

We're not sure whether the simile is more apt in terms of marriage or adoption. In a sense, we're stepping aside for a foster parent who can give little "EI" the things the bigger table sport games have; Gamecraft has its own printing equipment. Little "EI" has had to hang around the back door of a local printing shop waiting a turn at the presses when they weren't busy printing menus for local restaurants or running off copies of messages to be delivered at Rotarian luncheons.

We don't know how "big" Gamecraft is. However, they are located in Vernon, Texas and we've come to believe anything in Texas is big.

Gamecraft has marketed a real life football game since 1968 and are in the process of marketing a basketball game. Now, with "EI", they have a baseball game. In our negotiations with Jerry Faulk we concluded he gets our S&S Stamp of Approval (Sincerity and Solvency). We look to Jerry to give "EI" the fulltime management the game deserves. We've only been able to afford an evening here and there and have begrudged the weekends spent in assembling pages, sorting dice, packaging, etc.

Those who have read this newsletter have surely seen through the thinly veiled hostility we have felt toward several of the real life table games whose pomposity and arrogance require deflating.

We've long wanted to "let the wind out of their sales". We have wanted to offer a superior game at reasonable prices but have been constrained as to the amount of advertising we can do. The ads bring in orders and we end up spending many nights as a shipping clerk and engaging in correspondence with people who write to complain that we sent two green dice and no red one. (And who can you blame? You can't get decent help any more, particularly when you are your own work force.)

Jerry Faulk has said he wants to continue the newsletter. We've not yet decided my role in that. But, if given a forum for expressing opinions about able gaming (or anything else) try and stop me. There will be a January newsletter and that'll identify for you just what format, content, etc. will be offered.

We will continue to have input into the further development of "EI".

The decision to transfer "EI" to another company was not the result of our decision to market the game without use of current players.

The decision was motivated mostly by the circumstance that we want to get on to doing other things. Here we are fifty four years old and we haven't written the "great American novel" our professors predicted for us. Casting a cynical eye on the contemporary baseball scene we've decided to anticipate the future and have the Mafia buy the Yankees and move the team to Las Vegas. We expect to have a lot of fun developing that idea into a novel and our agent (who hasn't had a book out of us since 1957, and that was about handicapping race horses) has led us to believe there will be publishers fighting for a manuscript which combines "The Godfather" with "Ball Four".

We look for "Extra Innings" to grow in sales with the full time efforts of Gamecraft. To us the profits for this venture have been like egg money. They keep us in Baseball Guides and various books we buy (and can't find time to read). We understand from Jerry Faulk that real life sport table games provide the whole source of income. Somehow we feel we'll maintain our level of letter writing to "EI" players. We will now, also, be able to launch into a replay of the 1944 season, both leagues. However, it will be our own unique concept. What we're going to do is end WWII early. We'll drop the bomb in time for all the players who were in service to return to their teams before the start of the 1944 season. It seems a mean thing to do to the St. Louis Browns whose players went directly into the trenches rather than being assigned to play baseball for various service teams. We don't think the Browns can win their only pennant in this replay.

What we're doing is assigning to each established major leaguer his last season before going into service and the first after coming out. While we're twirling around in our fantasy world we're going to make the trade which was never made, Joe DiMaggio for Ted Williams.

We figure both Joe and Ted would have doubled their home run out put at home with DiMaggio shooting at the Green Monster of Fenway Park.

So, our putting "EI" in Jerry Faulk's hands is the inevitable result of trying to be a "man of all seasons". We've, largely, had our "baseball season" and enjoyed it greatly. Now, we'll tackle some other things. Yet, we'll continue to retain a relationship with table baseball, with our "EI" loyal followers, and with baseball itself.

● Bookmarks

(Continued from Page 1)

companying ad taken from one run by us in TSN. It produced enough new orders to justify my taking Dan and Steve to dinner if the occasion ever presents itself; but, it also confirmed the previous experiences we've had that demonstrated the affinity between collectors and table gamers is not as close as you'd expect. There seems to be room in a life style to get hooked on one or the other, not both. There are exceptions, of course.

"The Trader Speaks" is a monthly, loaded with ads offering, alas, mostly bubble gum cards. Our near loathing for the emphasis on bubble gum cards is doubtlessly based on seeing prices around \$3.00 for cards we bought for a penny, with a slab of gum, when we were kids. It isn't the lost fortune we bemoan, it is the incongruity that a bubble gum card from 1933 of, say, Frank Frisch, is about the same price as his autobiography. "The Fordham Flash" in second hand edition. The contrast of spending a minute reading the reverse side of the card versus spending a whole evening reading his book, leaves us with the suspicion that the card collectors are illiterate.

A very fine publication for collectors is "The Sports Collectors News" which recently graduated from a mimeographed version to newsprint and bi-weekly frequency. Mike Bonderenko edits this publication and goes more heavily for editorial content. This leans largely to "collectors conventions" reports with some vigilante work done to help the hobby protect itself from the dishonest and stupid. "SCN" is feeling its way toward its fullest purpose. Editor Bonderenko has wide ranging interests and pours his genuine enthusiasms into the project. He has had several excellent feature stories, such as an indepth visit interview with Larry Fritsch one of the major card dealers.

This brings us to "Sports Scoop", a publication from the State of Washington, which is emerging as the "class" of collector publications, largely from its non-collector content.

"Sports Scoop" stumbled into existence with a low cost format and the customary ads from the usual collector/dealers. Guest columns were awkwardly written by fledgling columnists who were collectors and seemed without orientation. Midway through the first year the publication went to an 8 1/2 x 11 magazine size, with glossy cover stock and nicely laid out pages. It abounds in interesting photo art. The quality of writing in this publication is considerably above its competition. This is largely because it is serving as a market for articles written by baseball historians most of whom are members of The Society for American Baseball Research. Even though they may not be professional writers in the sense that they earn their living as sports writers, they turn out literate, provocative feature articles which show evidences of research which brings fresh facts to the surface.

This is in contrast to one of the earlier issues which contained an interview with the old time ball player, George Burns. It consisted almost entirely of

repeating his statistics, largely, it seemed, to justify his importance and the meriting of the article. However, the articles which are now running have style and uniqueness. The standard approach is to make a particular player the focus of the issue. For the most part this runs to those who finish just out of the money in the Hall of Fame voting and whose careers and personalities are virtually unknown to today's fans. It is most satisfactory to find comprehensive articles about stalwarts such as Earl Averill, Riggs Stephenson, Billy Herman, John Mize, Chuck Klein, etc.

I hesitate to call the fervid advocacy for such players to be elected to the Hall of Fame a drawback. The problem is that publisher John K. Eichman is the principal spear carrier in a campaign to elect Earl Averill and others of similar stature and flails away with rhetoric which might satisfy his ego but isn't likely to persuade members of the Baseball Writers Association of the Committee On Veterans.

We find ourselves repulsed by the viciousness of Eichman's attacks (and wondering if, somehow, he wasn't a Nixon aide). Yet, the avidness of his advocacy stirs up responses and offers a counterpoint to more placid presentations of the skills of yesteryear. It seems that all editorial content (outside of the collecting field) takes as its purpose the electing of more marginal players to the Hall of Fame.

We agree with the stunned reaction to the election (or, "selection") of George Kelly, which seemed to produce the election this year, posthumously, of Jim Bottomly as a sort of mea culpa. However, even granting that Averill, Klein, Mize, and others are as good as many named in the past and better than several, it remains that we'd simply be diluting the makeup of the H of F. It is, however, enjoyable to find such commitment and sense of outrage and injustice, whether one agrees with the arguments or not.

We must also compliment "Sports Scoop" on the excellent collector articles, giving the history of certain card issues, check lists, etc. While we are not collectors of such items our quest for books and publications causes us to read through ads in collector publications. We're now learning about certain card sets which have previously only been number identifications from the American Card Catalog.

We hold high expectations for "Sports Scoop". It has the potential to replace the defunct "Baseball Magazine." In many ways it resembles it, particularly as it was written during the 1930s. Perhaps this is because so much of its content is about that period.

It is almost as though "Baseball Magazine" had been revived and part of it was given over to baseball collecting. However, there's a lot more fire and indignation expressed than was present in the days of F.C. Lane, Clifford Bloodgood, Dan Daniel and those other great bylines of "Baseball Magazine."

Maybe that's it. Maybe I want to see a "Baseball Magazine" back, even if under the title: "Sports Scoop". "Baseball Digest" has never filled the void, maybe "Sports Scoop" will.

Heard from the Grandstand Managers

"You must have many statistic freaks write to you, but I claim to be unique. I am a LAZY statistic freak. . . First, many people attempt to undertake full scale seasons, but, no, not me. I am contented with a mini 37 game season.

"Secondly, the preservation of all complete score sheets is considered essential by many, but I have found a simpler way. All records for a game are kept on a ruled plastic sheet. When the game is through, vital statistics are transferred to another sheet and the game becomes a smudge on a piece of wet tissue.

... Further, I have been able to save on the midnight oil by using a computer, an IBM 360-40. With it, computing averages is just a matter of putting numbers on a card."

ED NOTE: The above is from Clifton Shak, Honolulu, Hawaii. He sent along printouts of stats from an eight team league, very uniquely conceived. He took the 1972 Pirates, Cubs, Reds and Dodgers and added the 1955 Dodgers, 1934 Cardinals, 1909 Pirates and 1904 Giants. Willie Stargell was homer king with 11 (37 games); us fanciers of the older stars will be heartened to know that Honus Wagner won the batting crown with .351. Bob Moose had the lowest ERA 1.49. Although 37 games is a bit thin to produce close approximations, averages were quite in line. Cliff divided his league into two divisions. The 1972 Pittsburgh team topped its contemporaries and the 1909 Pirates won out over their older opponents. They also had the league's best won and lost record, 24 - 13 for a .649.

Our reaction to the concept of wiping the slate clean after each game is that we might be tempted if we lived in small quarters. However, we plead guilty to being a comprehensive statistic freak.

We keep tabs on consecutive game hitting streaks, shut out innings, etc. We'd hate to replay the 1941 AL season and wipe out Joe DiMaggio's 56 game hitting streak with a wet cloth.

Our offer to refund subscriptions to the newsletter, because of our forced decision to discontinue providing rosters for the latest season with the January issue, resulted in only one cancellation. This, together with the circumstances that sales of the game actually increased after we'd dropped the offer of 1973 rosters, is comforting. We were particularly pleased to receive the following letter from Michele Montagni, Varese, Italy. Although we have several times tried to learn how Michele was converted from bocci to baseball, or whether he is an expatriate, was educated in American schools or what, we've learned little. However, the following letter was a joy to receive.

"Thank you for your letter with the copy of the July newsletter. I am sorry for the trouble you are having with the MLBPA: probably all is caused more by ignorance than by money avidity.

"In regards to my subscription, I don't want a single cent back from you. I think you offered to all table game nuts a beautiful

game at an extremely low cost. The Newsletter itself is worth much, much more than the cost of the subscription, even without rosters. It's only four to six pages but I've found beautifully written articles on very interesting subjects ("The Father of Table Baseball", to name one.) It's the bulletin of the growth, the development, the improvement of "our" game through better and better playing procedures towards a perfection and flexibility often unrivaled at by "So, I beg you not to discontinue the Newsletter."

ED NOTE: Gracia.

We received a very comprehensive review from a new owner of "Extra Innings", George K. Fitch II, Palmdale, Calif. Before getting into playing techniques, he asked for more information about Robert Coover's "The Universal Baseball Association, J. Henry Waugh, Prop." Several times recently we've drawn blank stares from baseball table gamers when we've mentioned this novel. So, realizing that table baseball is drawing many people into its ranks each year, and the majority of these not yet reached their majority, we'd better hasten to close this literary generation gap. After all, the book was published in 1968.

Robert Coover is a novelist of first rank. He created J. Henry Waugh and had him create a mythical baseball empire using a table baseball game. Mr. Coover was unaware that real life table baseball forms existed when he wrote his book; nor, did he design a game to go along with the book. He did use some concepts, such as "Rare Occurrence Chart", which were unique. Anyone who has become hooked on table baseball will find J. Henry Waugh either a fascinating mirror of himself or recoil in horror of what life may become if table gaming is the entire reason for being.

The only point where the ecumenical feeling in table baseball brings "EI" into contact with APBA is with those fine young men who edit and publish the "APBA Journal". Len Gaydos and Ben Weiser send me copies of their publication and I mail them the newsletter (in a plain brown wrapper). In this way I am aware that they are also operating the A J Bookplace. We don't know how they can offer the prices they do, but we want to make you aware of the following: "The Universal Baseball Association" \$2.50 (paperback) MacMillan's Baseball Encyclopedia, 1974 Edition, \$14.50 The Sports Encyclopedia: Baseball \$4.50

Percentage Baseball, Earnshaw Cooke \$7.50

Send check or money order to AJ Bookplace, 29 South Kingstown St., San Mateo, Calif. 94401 (tell them Jack Kavanagh sent you.)

Now, to return to George Fitch's letter. Better get your pencil and text for "EI" as you might want to annotate your copy as we go along.

Right off the bat he catches us in a contradiction. On page five of the text, under "Hit And Run Play", we have any runner doubled off on a fly ball to a T-1

outfielder. Yet, on the H & R Chart, only a Slo runner is doubled off. For consistency, make it a Slo runner only.

He asks if the Hit and Run can score an S or AAR runner from first on a single. Yes, but when we write a new edition we'll have an S runner scoring only on a single to right (if no T-1 outfielder) and the batter out at second on the play.

George proposes that we bring about an added touch of realism by allowing the defense to play its outfield shallow in the situation of the winning run on third and less than two out in the home half of the ninth or extra innings. This is a good idea. Try it this way: In such a circumstance the defense is trying to eliminate the chance of a fly ball scoring the runner on third after the catch.

By doing this (playing shallow outfield) they are conceding a hit on any deep fly ball. So, add .333 points to the hitter's average (two full columns from the Master Chart.) If he were rated for a hit from 1-1-1 up to 2-3-6, on the roll he'd hit up to 4-3-6. Waive the increase for "in field playing in." When the outfield plays shallow no attempt to score after the catch can be made.

As in so many areas of performance, there are no stats kept on such a situation under actual game conditions. It's my "seat of the pants." If the rationale doesn't suit you, project your own. Another of the gimlet-eyed Mr. Fitch's admonishments is that, if the offensive team is "playing safe" the rule effecting a runner who has singled at the top of his hitting line, with bases empty, is not out at second trying to stretch it to a double. Of course.

Charles Calkins, Ballwin, Mo. has found advancements on the "Advancing On Singles and Doubles Chart" producing too many instances of two runners arriving at the same base.

Perhaps I developed a tolerance for this sort of thing as I grew up watching Uncle Robbie's Brooklyn Dodgers when the information: "The Dodgers have three men on base," would be reason to ask: "Which base?"

Charles proposes that the second runner return to the base behind the lead runner unless a "rare event" happens on the first roll. Inasmuch as "rare events" are left to the ingenuity of each owner of "EI" who cares to insert them, I'd propose that two runners be permitted to end up occupying the same base only when one of them is rated Slo. This should thin out the occurrences and provide a penalty for the slow afoot and poor baserunners.

Charles also points out that nowhere does "EI" account for a runner being forced at third. I suppose this results largely from the effort to streamline the Second Roll Chart and avoid encumbering it with an additional column or introducing charts to be consulted in various baserunner situations. (We strive to keep things simple and make memorization easier.) We do have a force out at third among the failures of a sacrifice hunt. In regular situations a runner is not often forced at third. But, let's try this: Under the fifth column on the Second Roll Chart (5-1-1 thru

4-1-6) when there are runners on first and second and less than two outs, read the put out at third base, batter reaching on a fielder's choice.

Enclosed you will find the totals of the approximate half way point from my replay of the 1908 National League.

There are several points of amplification I would like to make concerning this 1908 replay. One of my biggest problems is in trying to keep up with the actual totals of sacrifice hits and stolen bases. Although it seems as though I am continually bunting and running I continually remain quite far off in my totals. Hence, the at bat totals are running too high. I have stopped several games short of 9 innings, as was the case in 1908, to even off the total innings pitched but the at bat problem must lie in SH and SB. I have made an error in the SH to throw things further off. It was only about a month ago I realized that Sacrifice Flies are not included in Sacrifice Hits, in my stats for the league they are. Therefore, (according to Spalding's 1909 Guide) besides the 1655 SH there were 289 SF and my totals are off 30.1%.

I have found many errors, in going over my game stats, concerning my record of fielding errors. It has been one of my lesser concerns and I am sure the actual error is less. Saves, also, presents no major concern because of the low totals. I have been trying some of my own innovations relating to Base on Balls for individual batters. While batters who received more walks are doing so, in the league as a whole the totals are off noticeably. Therefore, EI can take pride in the Strike Out totals while I take full responsibility for the difference in Walks.

New York's team batting also is worth mentioning. Their batting is low by .013, most in the league. I would like to point out that for the first half of the actual 1908 season Spikes Shannon played left field for them and hit .224. Later he was traded or sold to Pittsburgh where he played only sparingly. For the second half of the season Moose McCormick, noted for his pinch hitting, filled left field and hit .302 for the Giants after being obtained from Philadelphia. I am following this pattern and look for New York to improve their batting considerably.

As a point of interest on the left are the actual standings of July 15, 1908: and, on the right, the replay.

Pittsburgh	47	32	.595	50	-	28.641
New York	46	32	.590	50	-	26.658
Chicago	45	32	.584	50	-	28.641
Cincinnati	42	38	.525	37	-	40.481
Philadelphia	35	37	.486	37	-	40.481
Boston	35	43	.449	28	-	46.378
Brooklyn	29	46	.387	28	-	49.364
St. Louis	29	48	.377	27	-	50.351

I have been using the Official National League Schedule for the 1907 season, not having readily available the 1908 schedule. I have long wanted to replay this season first being interested in it during the early 1960's. I spent one Christmas vacation, 1970, in the Library of the University of Minnesota examining microfilm

(Continued on Page 4)

● From the Grandstand Managers

(Continued from Page 3)

of the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Boston Globe and others to study box scores, accounts of games, batting orders, pitching rotations and to get a more realistic flavor for the entire season. While I also delved into material from other seasons this was my main interest. It was that Spring when I first was introduced to EI and my longtime hope of a replay began to become a reality. I had wanted to devise a vehicle for such a replay but did not know where I would begin. My only ideas were for some sort of a personal revision of an APBA style game. This seemed quite unsatisfactory yet I knew no where else to turn.

By this time I am trying to give you a background for my personal appreciation for the creation of EI which I have also briefly indicated before. The creation of EI in itself is enough, but you have made a significant contribution even beyond, I feel, through your whole concept of table games (e.g. value of a good game and lifelong hobbies) and through your noted appreciation for the historicity of Baseball as they have continued to be defined and expressed through your fine Newsletter.

My own baseball interest seems to have its base in the whole historical perspective of the sport. I see its history being reflective of our nation's history. It appears to me that Baseball is a microcosm of American life. I have found the best expression of this to be in the first two volumes of Seymour's *History*. Baseball has helped me in my whole view and study of American History, a major interest of mine, of which our National Pastime is very interesting to me. EI is for me an expression, an outlet, a vehicle for a type of historical experience and perspective and, if you will, an opportunity to "replay" past eras.

Quite briefly, for instance, in the first decade of this century, with the power of its industrialism emerging, our country was struggling for its leadership. During this period, I see the "dead ball" heroes personifying much of America's own struggle and style of "play". On both "ball fields" the struggles were close and scores kept low. American had no great knock out punch with which to easily bound above everyone else. Her lead was gained, one "run" at a time, through determined and clever strategy and with much grit.

I have found the entire approach of play for the 1908 season to be far removed from the game as it is now played. After 309 games I feel I am only beginning to understand and appreciate the real "feel" of the "dead ball" game.

While I am not sure how you react to my ideas as I have presented them you can see something of my approach and attitude toward baseball and table gaming. Further, as I see EI playing a role of leadership toward a more completely creative expression and experience through table gaming, I am quite disappointed with the whole episode you have had to have with MLBPA. Although it does not affect me in the sense

that I derive my pleasure from replaying past teams (up through the mid 50's), their whole approach is stifling for a part of the Game's totality which is not in conformity with their own profit making aims. It also seems to indicate that this profit making aim remains above all else. All I can say of it is that it is consistent, as I see it, with American society as a whole and supports my above mentioned historical approach to baseball as being reflective of American life (to my disgust).

Although it may be too late, nevertheless, I would be more than happy to make up or share any rosters of past teams for EI, whether individual teams or whole leagues. Many times I prefer to make up more rosters of proposed leagues, etc., rather than continue in various league schedules which I have going. If you would need help to save time I would enjoy any opportunity to help.

I had originally chosen the 1935 Cubs for a change of pace and for an exposure to another style of team during the 1930's. Also, because of the mixture of players who starred on previous or later contenders. About six weeks ago I spent the day at Citizens' National Bank which houses the Helms Sports Museum and Library; their collection of The Sporting News runs from 1929. I researched the 1935 season and came up with an unusual anecdote. I had never before realized that Chuck Klein had proved to be such a bust with the Cubs. His failure to come up to previous success was charged to his removal from cozy Baker Bowl and his inability to hit left handed pitching and the better general grade of pitching which normally greets pennant contenders. Remarks by Manager Charlie Grimm indicated that when Klein was not hitting his whole game fell apart, hence he blundered far more than his stats would indicate.

In addition, from my researches of this season I think it also has excellent chances for an interesting replay. There was a very good battle between the fast starting Giants, who would win in '36, the defending champion Cardinals, and the Cubs, of course. Pittsburgh also had a sound club with the Waner brothers and batting champion Arky Vaughan. I think it has a lot of possibilities. Another proposed league would be a mixture and include the 1924 Robins, the '25 Senators and Pirates, the '34 Cardinals, the '35 Tigers and Cubs, the '39 Reds, and one of my favorites as well as your's, the '41 Brooklyn team.

I have only been out of seminary a short while and am affiliated with the United Presbyterian Church. While we may end up in the Midwest I have also applied to several churches in the East, from Pennsylvania through the New England states. I have yet to make my pilgrimage to Cooperstown and have placed along with it a desire to visit North Kingstown. Hopefully, the next year might provide for both.

Sincerely,
Wayne Forrest
Glendale, California

Lefty, Righty Hitter Factor

We get about a letter a month from an "EI" game owner questioning the basis for our giving hitters varying advantages or disadvantages batting right or left against pitchers throwing from either side. The charts providing the hitting lines which bring about batting averages are the result of computer programming, not the real averages players obtain facing either right or left handed pitching.

It is only in recent years that anyone has taken the trouble to figure separate batting records against both right and left handed pitchers. The principal value is to managers who platoon players to bat right handed hitters against left handed pitchers and vice versa. Several major league teams subscribe to a service which compiles such data as does one table baseball game company which boasts of this feature.

There are a number of reasons why we don't. Primarily, our limited sales volume doesn't afford us the luxury of obtaining data not available in record books. Also, since we show owners of "EI" how to note their own rosters we don't want to make them dependent on non-available data as would be the case of lefty-righty stats prepared privately for subscribers.

We aim "EI" to provide competitions among all teams from all eras of baseball. If we can't program Cobb, Wagner, Ruth, etc. for actual performances against either side pitching we don't feel it is appropriate to set up lefty-righty stats for contemporary players.

To us the most important consideration is that we want to project to an exact batting average. By combining the range of averages on both sides we can obtain the exact average a player batted provided he is used regularly and faces a mixture of right handed and left handed pitching in an 80%-20% ratio. The total innings pitched by right handed pitchers of all innings pitched remains constant year after year at just about 80%. Four out of every five major league pitchers throw right handed. While Little League Managers can teach kids to bat lefthanded, throwing is a matter of natural development.

If we had available the batting records of each hitter from both sides of the plate we still couldn't project an exact average, even with three dice. The Master Chart which comes with "EI", and is actually a computer printout of the decimal equivalents of three dice read in sequence, shows a variation of .0046 or .0047 between each dice combination.

We could project the batter's exact batting average once in every five situations and miss by two or three points when his actual average, from either side of the plate, fell between the averages possible from one of the combinations. It would still be pretty close.

Now, let's look at the disadvantages in obtaining exact batting averages with a game which only uses two dice. Now,

instead of having 216 combinations possible with three dice, 6 x 6 x 6, you have only 36 combinations, 6 x 6. Instead of a variation of .0046 or .0047 between possible averages, you are now confronted with a spread of .0278.

Is it any wonder two dice games fall so far short of obtaining realistic batting averages? Now, if you have such a wide range between the top and bottom of the predictable results when two dice are used for a batter, regardless of what kind of pitching he faces, with 500 to 600 plate appearances for a regular player in a full season replay, think how you reduce the opportunity for the results to "average" out if that batter hit against right handed pitching 80% of the time and left handed 20% of the time. Of course, half of today's players aren't used consistently regardless of which way the pitcher throws. Many are used almost exclusively against pitchers who throw from the opposite side, but most get some plate appearances against those who throw from the same side. If you enjoy replays which use a team's players in the same number of games played and at bats as they experienced in actual play, it's difficult to work fringe players in and out of the lineup. (Also, most two dice games don't give you all the fringe players). However, if you also have to control appearances against left or right handed pitchers you'll end up taking a great deal of the fun out of playing table baseball.

So, what we have done is to provide an automatic plus to the advantage of most batters. For those whose batting average falls exactly on a decimal equivalent there is no advantage.

We are also asked how we determine giving an advantage on one side over the other to switch hitters. We give them the advantage on whichever side is their "natural" side. If they throw right handed we weight the situation in favor of their batting from the right side.

We'll admit, if we had the choice we'd schedule all batters to hit as close as possible to the way they actually hit when batting against either right or left handed pitchers. Whether someday some group of baseball researchers will extract the performances of all players of all time against both right and left handed pitching boggles the mind. If it ever happened and the data was published we'd rearrange this element of "EI". Until then we'll settle for accuracy of recreations and the "gamesmanship" of providing plus and minus values for using a right handed batter against a left handed pitcher and vice versa.

● Over My Shoulder

(Continued from Page 1)

(hardly an Apollo-like name) and having other papers take up Jeff's services. Jeff is also selecting them for a national magazine. What pleases us is that Jeff chose this particular career to combine his sports interests with a gift for math. Jeff is an M.I.T. grad, 1970, and has tried the fields those blessed with a math aptitude get drawn into (actuarial work with an insurance company, working for an investment firm, etc