



# EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER

Game Designer: Jack Kavanagh

## FOURTH EDITION "EI" NOW READY

### NEW "TOP 400" 16 FULL TEAMS

After two years of providing a "Top 400 — Normalized" special supplement, "Extra Innings" has dropped the "normalization" feature. This statistical adjustment to measure all players against one standard, regardless of when they played in the big leagues, was pleasing to a small minority of table gamers. However, most seem content to use the actual statistics from a season.

This decision brought about a revision in the "Top 400" makeup. The original pool, leaning heavily on batting achievements, produced a disproportionate number of outfielders and first basemen.

The "Top 400" has been redesigned to provide enough players to make up 16 full teams to consist of six outfielders, two first basemen, six other infielders, two catchers and nine pitchers.

The infielders and catchers have been increased and the "Top 400" now includes previously overlooked players such as: Johnny Kling, Birdie Tebbetts, Muddy Ruel, Luke Sewell, Pepper Martin, Bobby Avila, Rod Carew, Bobby Richardson and Eddie Stankey.

The number of pitchers remains at 144 (with Babe Ruth included and also appearing as an outfielder). However, now included are: Jack Coombs, Mike Marshall (although on his 1972 ERA 1.78 with Montreal, not his 1974 achievements based largely on frequency of appearances with the L.A. Dodgers), George Mullin, Mel Parnell, Gaylord Perry, Bob Turley, Luis Tiant and Vic Willis. Dropped to make room were: Johnny Klippstein, Don McMahon, Al Orth, Camilio Paschal, Slim Sallee, Jerry Staley and Virgil Trucks.

No matter how you approach a "Top 400" concept, you are going to produce some problems. As with the original grouping, each player appears on the basis of his "best season." For many, particularly super stars, it is difficult to specify one of many great seasons. Babe Ruth's 1920 season was selected; Ty Cobb's 1911; Rog-

The new Fourth Edition of "Extra Innings" has just been released by Gamecraft. Although manufactured by the Vernon, Texas, game company, all revisions have been made by the designer, Jack Kavanagh.

Rather than being a major revision, the new edition is more in the category of a slightly refined version of the Third Edition. The major change to the text has been the addition of a new section entitled "Strike Outs by Batters." This section provides for rating batters according to their strikeout frequency: MK for those who strike out on less than 10% of their outs and PK for those who strike out on more than 30% of their outs. Other revisions, mainly minor, have been made of about half of the remaining sections. In addition, several typographical errors have been corrected and, undoubtedly, a few new ones added.

The major difference in the charts section has been the revamping of the ERA Adjustment Chart. The chart now provides for up and down adjustments for all of a batter's hit lines — HR, T, D, L and R — according to the ERA of the pitcher. (For more details see the July 1974 issue of "Extra Innings Newsletter.") Minor revisions have been made of the First Roll Chart, Second Roll Chart, Advancing on Singles and Double Chart, Error Designations Chart, and Sacrifice Fly Option Chart.

The new edition is being published in bound form rather than the loose-leaf form used in the past. The only other major change in the game package is the dropping of normalization and the substitution of a new un-normalized Top 400.

The game is still priced the same: \$8.95 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.

ers Hornsby's 1924. When the margin was close, we leaned toward the season which was most significant, that the player himself would probably identify as his "best year."

We were tempted to try to put into the pool enough players from each team so that an "All Time" team for each franchise could be selected. For the most part, and except for expansion teams, you'll find a suitable supply. However, we

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# From The Bench

NEW NEWSLETTER.....NEW TITLE

Jack Kavanagh

When we started the "Extra Innings Newsletter" we liked the sound of a pragmatic title. We didn't want to be cute and contrive a publication name from some phrase associated with baseball. We had no difficulty in resisting "Diamond Dust," "On Deck," etc. We did use "From The Bench" for our editorial column as that seemed appropriate.

When "EI" became part of Gamecraft's line of sport table games it was obvious that the title "Extra Innings Newsletter" had to be replaced with something more general as it would now contain material from other sport fields than baseball and reflect other brand names.

We like "Table Top Sports." We feel it is sort of a declaration. For some time we have wondered about the reasons why sport fans take up table games as a hobby. We know there are many different reasons. There's a strong flavor of fantasy in the way some table gamers relate. However, we believe that a sport table game has always been intended as a substitute for the real thing. There might be some table gamers who are so deeply immersed in a make believe world that they would prefer to play a table game than to play, or watch, a real game.

We hope that most table gamers aren't fat kids with thick eye glasses who use a table top form of a sport as a substitute for actually playing the game at which they are inept as actual performers. Maybe it is better to "be Babe Ruth or Hank Aaron" than be put in right field and bat ninth on the neighborhood team. But, we believe the majority of table gamers use a simulated version of the sport as a substitute for playing or watching the real form.

We would never turn off the television set during the World Series in order to play our own version with dice. We would not stay home with a table game if we were still young enough to even go out and shag flies or play catch. Table sports games have always been a substitute to fill in between seasons, on rainy days or after they turned off the playground lights. They can be a satisfying substitute; they can be a condensation of actual play with all the drama developing more rapidly. But, can they compete for primary satisfaction with an actual game, either played or watched?

There's one thing: the opportunity to play ends with youth and table top sports can be a legitimate replacement. They give us our own "extra innings." Also, with sellout crowds at many events, the threat to curtailment of "free sports events" with the coming of closed circuit and cable TV, and ticket prices zooming, along with the ancillary costs of attending live events, parking, programs, refreshments, etc., table top versions are becoming competitive to the actual sports. It is in this sense that we like the separa-

tion implicit in the new title of this newsletter. "Table Top Sports" should be defined as a special branch of sports. Softball, which was first played indoors during winter months, began as a substitute for baseball. It has developed its own identity and is now less of a substitute. Let's expect as much from table top sports.

## Heard From The Grandstand Managers

Tom O'Toole of Norton, Mass., writes the following: Last year after I had bought "Extra Innings," you invited me to keep in touch. Here then is a belated and meager message.

I have enjoyed the last year with "EI," although it took a few games for me to appreciate it. My first few games were with six 1972 American League teams (KC, Boston, Yankees, A's, Orioles and Brewers), and when none of them became classics I began to wonder. However, then followed a 2-1 Montreal victory over St. Louis (both 1973) on Bob Bailey's two-out, ninth-inning home run; Cy Young's 2-1 win over Christy Mathewson in a 1908 inter-league game between the Red Sox and Giants; and most recently Walter Johnson's 1-0, one-hit victory over the 1913 Yankees.

It takes some believable classics for me to begin to look forward to playing. Another reason I enjoy "Extra Innings" is the control over the steal and the realistic hit-and-run play. The Senators' only run in the above game came on the hit and run. And recently Leo Eastham of the 1947 Waterbury Timers stole home to tie Bridgeport at three-all. (Such dramatics probably were not needed as the Timers won going away 14-3 but it's very satisfying to be able to get right in there with the action.)

My praise for your game is based on almost twenty years of playing baseball table games (more than that if you care to include Red Barber's game and the Cadaco-Ellis All Star Game). You have certainly helped my economic condition. Now I no longer spend \$10 each year on new cards plus \$1 for Great Teams of the Past. I did spend almost \$10 for your game, \$11 for a Baseball Encyclopedia and (hopefully) another \$11 for the All-Time Rosters but I would have spent that first \$11 anyway no matter what game I have. In addition, not needing coded cards anymore, I sold some, for as much as \$100. (I think that's ridiculous and I thank you for rescuing me from such absurdities.)

Ken Barto, Red Bank, N.J., had the thrill of watching the dice roll out a perfect game in which Sandy Koufax of the 1963 Los Angeles Dodgers fanned 12 of the 1972 Orioles.

Staked to a three-run lead in the first inning, Koufax ruthlessly cut down the Orioles, ending the game with a flourish by registering his final

K, ending the game by striking out Tommy Davis pinch hitting for Jim Palmer.

Ken Barto played it to the hilt, inserting Davis to hit for the weaker sticking Oriole pitcher, even though he represented the final out of a rarity, a perfect game.

Koufax allowed no one to reach base: no walks, no hit batters and the Dodgers fielded flawlessly behind him.

All runs scored in the opening frame when, with one out, Maury Wills singled. Then, after Junior Gilliam popped to Brooks Robinson for the second out, the roof fell in on starter Jim Palmer. Big Frank Howard poled one into the stands at Dodger Stadium. Ron Fairly singled and Willie Davis did the same. The dependable Oriole defense then blew wide open as Bobby Grich, short stop, miscued on Roseboro's ground ball and Brooks Robinson booted Dick Tracewski's grounder to allow Fairly to scamper across the plate. Koufax ended the opening inning by grounding out, Grich to Powell. That ended the scoring as Palmer matched Koufax with goose eggs the rest of the way. However, with Sandy mowing down batters as fast as turned up in the batter's box, the game had been decided in the first frame and the balance of the game was to learn if Koufax could rack up a perfect game.

Note: We wish we had space to print Ken's boxscore as it is a real fine job of scoring and shows how to set up a game for "EI" play. Ken uses printed boxscores from Score-Rite Company. He enters at the top of each team's page the SO and Walk rating of the starting pitcher, and the team DP and error rating.

Ken uses two colors of ink. Rating data is written in first when writing the lineups; then, while scoring the game he shifts to another color. He notes in the margin for each team the SD and T-1 rated players on the opposing team. He writes in, on the boxscore line for each player, the top of his hitting range and his running rating.

We envy Ken the excitement he must have felt as Koufax neared the end of his perfect game and the delicious apprehension that accompanied each roll of the dice. (J.K.)

### TOP 400 cont'd

short changed the St. Louis Browns of their best ever pitcher, Urban Shocker. His best season was with the New York Yankees when, in 1927, he won 18 and lost 6 and a 2.84 ERA.

Players like Tris Speaker, Eddie Collins, Rogers Hornsby, Goose Goslin, Jimmie Foxx and others who had great years with more than one team are identified only to that one team for whom we judged they had their career best year.

However, "EI" table gamers can shift the players anyway which pleases them and, if they have the stats, can re-rate any player to another year; replace our choices with their own; or, as we enjoy pointing out, do whatever they want as they know the method of rating players. 17

We doubt if anyone is going to divide the "Top 400" into 16 balanced squads and set about two eight team league replays of 154 or 162 games. But, potentially, you can now draft the 400 players and do just that. Or, you can choose players from certain teams or different eras. (J.K.)

Note: Those who already own "Extra Innings" can purchase the new "Top 400" supplement for \$1.95. Order directly from Gamecraft.

## From Table Tops Here and There

The following box score was sent in by Bob Bucknam, Sun City, AZ, for a battle between members of the "EI Top 400."

BROOKLYN	AB	R	H	NEW YORK	AB	R	H
Keeler rf	5	0	1	Lindstrom 3b	5	1	3
Reese ss	5	0	2	O'Doul lf	5	1	1
Fournier lb	5	0	0	Terry lb	5	1	3
Medwick lf	4	1	0	Ott rf	5	0	1
Reiser cf	3	1	1	Mays cf	3	1	1
Robinson 2b	4	2	1	Doyle 2b	3	0	0
Lavagetto 3b	4	1	2	Jackson ss	4	0	0
Campanella c	4	0	1	Bresnahan c	3	0	1
Vance p	1	0	0	Nehf p	3	0	1
Casey p	0	0	0	Wilhelm p	0	0	0
F. Herman ph	1	0	0				
Higbe p	1	0	0			36	4 11
			37	5 8			

Brooklyn 010 000 004 - 5  
New York 000 001 300 - 4

E - Lindstrom, Jackson. RBI - Reese, Robinson, Lavagetto 3, O'Doul 2, Terry, Mays. 2B - Reese, Reiser, Robinson, Lindstrom, HR - Mays, O'Doul, Terry. SH - Nehf. SB - Robinson. DP - Brooklyn 1. LOB - Brooklyn 6, New York 8. SO - Nehf 4, Vance 4. BB - Vance 2, Casey 1, Nehf 1, Wilhelm. HO - Vance 9-6 1/3; Casey 0-2/3; Higbe 2-2; Nehf 4-8; Wilhelm 4-1. Winner - Higbe. Loser - Wilhelm.

### NOW AVAILABLE!!

Scoresheets - Specially designed for use with "Extra Innings." 50 for \$1.50; 250 for \$6.00. Postpaid, Available 3-hole punched or unpunched. State preference.

1947 National League and 1948 American League team rosters pre-rated for use with "Extra Innings." 75¢ each, both \$1.00. Ppd.

Back Issues of "Extra Innings Newsletter." \$1.00 each. Complete set of 11 issues - Vol. 1, No. 1 thru Vol. 4, No 3 - \$7.50 ppd.

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