



EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER

Game Designer: Jack Kavanagh

1927 Yankees Set Pace for 40 Team Marathon

The 1927 Yankees, pre-season choice among 40 great teams, completed a 156 game schedule with a 95 win, 61 loss record and a winning percentage of .609. They met each of the 39 other teams in this gigantic competition four times, twice at home and twice away. The "Marathon League" is composed of the 39 teams in the Historic Team Roster section of "EI" augmented by the 1973 Oakland A's. The 40 teams, meeting four times each, provide a 156 game schedule.

The 1927 Yankees ground out their better than .600 pace steadily. Except for one stretch where they swept four game sets with the 1953 Yankees, 1954 Giants and 1954 Indians, they only had two other "sweeps"; their opening set with the 1894 Orioles and a mid-way meeting with the 1939 Yankees. The games were played in chronological order.

The 1927 Yankees were not swept by any of their opponents. The following teams took three out of four: 1906 Cubs, 1913 A's, 1932 Yankees, 1935 Tigers, 1948 Indians, 1960 Pirates. All other four game sets were split or won, three to one, by the 1927 Yankees. The teams breaking even were: 1897 Boston, 1909 Pirates, 1922 Giants, 1927 Pirates, 1928 Cardinals, 1929 Cubs, 1929 A's, 1936 Yankees, 1940 Reds, 1941 Dodgers, 1946 Red Sox, 1947 Dodgers, 1951 Giants, 1955 Dodgers, 1961 Yankees. The 1927 Yankees edged 13 opponents in three out of four games in their sets.

The team of Ruth, Gehrig, Hoyt, Combs, etc. won 50 and lost 28 at home, a .641 average and were 45 and 33 on the road for a .576 mark.

The most noteworthy game was a 26 inning contest against the 1946 Red Sox. There has only been one contest as long in the history of major league baseball. This game was finally won by the Red Sox, 7-6.

Playing in the 1927 American League, these Yankees won 110 and lost 44, with one tie game, for a percentage of .714. Against this all-time championship calibre opponent, the average of .607 seems exceptional and will serve as a challenge to each of the remaining 39 teams as each takes its turn against all opponents. Each team's cycle will, of course, reduce

the number of games remaining for each team. By the time the 38th team has been guided through it will have to play only eight games against two opponents and the 39th and 40th teams will complete their schedules with one series against each other. It is expected that the full schedule will be completed in about three years.

Individual performances were well below actual season totals due to the strengths of opposing pitching staffs on these all champion squads. The Yankee pitchers likewise were not as effective meeting a succession of potent batting lineups as they'd been against their league opponents in 1927. None-the-less, Babe Ruth again topped his team mate Lou Gehrig in home runs, hitting 49, in contrast to his record 60, while Gehrig hit 48, topping his actual 1927 total by one. As Ruth topped his 1927 totals in doubles and triples the effect on his home run total by the new ERA Adjustment Chart which takes away power lines as well as hitting lines can be seen.

Ruth's season batting average was .295. Gehrig was off thirty points from his 1927 mark of .373, hitting a strong .343. Earl Combs also topped the .300 mark among the regulars with a .302, off from .346 in actual 1927. This play contest uses a team's roster according to the actual number of games played, times at bat, innings pitched, games started, increased slightly to account for an extra game for the 1927 Yankees. For some of the older teams when less than 154 games were played adjustments will be made.

It is this factor which gives the overall strength of the 1927 Yankees an extra dimension. The "big three" of the team, Ruth, Gehrig and Combs hardly missed a game all year. This means you have them playing in virtually every game. By contrast a team like the 1930 Cubs finds Stephenson (.362) missing 24 games and Cuyler (.360) missing 25 games.

The 1927 Yankees pitching staff was very solid with starters Hoyt having a minus 5 lines on the Adjusted ERA Chart; Pennock, minus two; Shocker, minus four and Wiley Moore, minus eight. Moore is a real strength to this staff for he not only started 12 games but appeared in a total of 50 with 120 relief innings worked. The Yankees' double play rating and team error rating are not exceptional, but not woefully weak either. The presence in the

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From The Bench

Resource Materials for Rating Past Players for "Extra Innings"

My usual explanation to my wife for spending as much as I have to put together a comprehensive baseball library is that I am obtaining reference materials useful for "Extra Innings." She feels this article should be titled: "How You Can Rate Players With Only \$2,000 Worth of Reference Materials."

Actually, the basic item is a relatively inexpensive volume, "Sports Encyclopedia: BASEBALL." This can be ordered, soft cover edition, for only \$4.50, from AJ Products, 415 Cotswold Lane, Wynnewood, Pa. 19096. At the price it can't be knocked. For rating purposes it lacks stats prior to 1900; pitcher hitting stats; defensive stats, including team FA and DPs.

To get team FA and DPs you could use MacMillan's Baseball Encyclopedia which is obtainable from AJ Products at \$14.50. From this publication (1974 edition) you can get hitting stats for most regular pitchers. Some table gamers, rather than using either a standard hitting line for all pitchers or computing each one individually, separate the staff's batting records from the team stats and use the average. You could do that, with a little arithmetic work, from the team stats in "SE:BASEBALL."

The best source for defensive judgments for players whose careers have ended is "The Baseball Register," published by the Sporting News. This has been published yearly since 1940 and completing a set can be very costly. The 35 copies can rarely be obtained as a complete set (although I was lucky and picked up a complete run for a relatively low price) and you will probably end up averaging about \$6.00 a copy as you piecemeal a set. "The Baseball Register" is quite useful for season replays as it gives the particulars of trades of individual players, including the data of the trade. For those who'd want to use a particular player in those games played when he was on the roster this is a value.

Who's Who In Baseball," published by Baseball Magazine, and not to be confused with "Who's Who In Major Leagues" which is of no value for stats, serves the same purpose — regarding trades — as "The Baseball Register" for the years 1912 through 1939. Again, you are in the high brackets for purchase from collector sources. Figure an average of \$10 each as the earlier years are very scarce as would be expected.

Of course, we are really honing fine points expensively when we turn to the use of Registers, Who's Who, and Guides. The Guides are useful for defensive data as you can check a

player's stats against his league. If you are tempted into building a set of Guides (Reach or Spalding from 1941 back to 1876; Spink — Sporting News from 1942 to the present) you are confronted with high prices. From 1900 on they'd average to \$15 with the early years of this century on the high side and declining as you get into the 1960s and 70s. Prior to 1900 you are in an astronomical range but Bell & Howell has made guides from the 1860s up through the first decade of this century available in photo print, hard cover, form for prices which vary with the number of pages but average out about \$8.00 each.

The best sources of reputations (good or bad) for defensive play are in the many volumes of history and biography which have been published. The most enlightening, for a distant period, is "The National Game," Charles Spink, 1910 and 1911. Spink provides short evaluations on hundreds of players who performed before the turn of the century based upon his own observations of them. This is a rare book and turns up occasionally for \$75 to \$100.

The best source for random, but often valuable, observations are the books which make up the Putnam Series. In the 1940s and early 1950s, Putnam published a series of books on the history of each major league franchise. They were mostly written by Fred Leib, Lee Allen, Frank Graham, and other excellent historian-authors. They turn up frequently in used book stores with a sports shelf, or on lists in collector publications, and a set can be assembled for about \$5 a copy. Fred Leib's "Connie Mack" serves as the history of the Philadelphia Athletics, as well it might.

We have heard that MacMillan will issue new team histories and that four will be released this year. These will, presumably, repeat some of the content of the Putnam series books, and serve as an up-date and to cover expansion teams.

Local libraries, particularly university and college libraries, are often excellent sources for old and out-of-print books. There are only two important rare baseball books which aren't on our shelves. Yet, when we want to examine Richter's "History and Records of Baseball" we can go to nearby Providence College and Ellard's "Baseball In Old Cincinnati" is on the shelves at the Rockefeller Library at Brown University.

Almost any major library can be presumed to have microfilm of the New York Times. This can be used to provide replay enthusiasts who wish to be faithful to lineups with a source of batting orders. For pennant winning teams, "World Series Records," updated annually by The Sporting News, is an obvious choice.

I keep assuring my wife that my purchases of books on baseball are an investment and she will reap a handsome dividend when she settles my estate. Like everything else (except "Extra Innings") the price keeps going up on such items, particularly publications which are is-

sued annually, such as Guides, Registers, Who's Who, etc.

I have mixed feelings when I see bubble gum cards bring unbelievable prices (such as \$20 for a 1933 Lou Gehrig card which is no more rare than one for a utility player in the same set). Books and publications haven't gained in cost as drastically. However, they at least follow the inflationary rise and pre-WW One items are bringing very high prices.

One thing that is presently lacking is a comprehensive bibliography of publications about baseball. Actually, it is not a major matter of research as a very comprehensive bibliography appears in "The Official Encyclopedia of BASEBALL" (Jubilee Edition) Turkin & Thompson, published by A. S. Barnes and Co. N.Y. in 1951. I have never heard of a publication prior to 1951 which isn't listed. It would be a reasonable expectation that it could be brought up to date, even though books on baseball subjects are proliferating fantastically in recent years.

I have more than 500 books and publications at hand. I can make an educated subjective evaluation on just about any player who has appeared in the majors in regard to his fielding and running skills. But, in all honesty, that's not why I have assembled my library; I just enjoy reading and re-reading about the great games and players of the past. (J.K.)

Heard from the Grandstand Managers

Reprinted below are a couple of the letters concerning "EI" that have filtered into the Gamecraft office the past few weeks. The first is from Leif Pafvels, Jarfalla, Sweden. The Publication "Table Game Review" he mentions is nothing but "Table Top Sports." We decided to change the name after we had already circulated a few brochures for the now discarded title.

"Recently I bought your basketball and football games. Enclosed with the games was information of a publication named Table Game Review. As an avid player of table sports games I would very much like to subscribe to this publication. Games I own include APBA, Extra Innings, Strat-o-Matic, Sports Illustrated and Replay baseball games; APBA, TSG and Strat-o-Matic football games; Jww hockey game; and APBA, Mickey Games and Strat-o-Matic basketball games. I am playing shortened league schedules in every game and to get variation I play let's say a few APBA baseball games, a TSG football game and so on thru the games. One thing I like about your publication is the contributions of Jack Kavanagh and Jim Hallo as I consider EI and TSG the best games I have played in their respective sports. Games of this

type are totally unknown in Sweden so I am always playing solitaire and of the non-baseball games I consider TSG the best for solo play. The best features are the methods for selecting defenses (always difficult to do honestly and realistically when you know what the offense will do) and secondary receivers. Among EI's strong points are three dice concept and also of course the explanation of the rating formula. I am just starting a league consisting of teams I have selected from earlier pennant winners in the majors, in fact one AL and one NL team from each decade since 1920. As I did not completely agree with the pre-rated teams included in the game I rated a few teams myself using the MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia to get the stats..."

The following informative (and very nice) letter was received from Jim Fagan, West Seneca, New York.

"Enclosed please find my check..."

I somehow manage to keep slipping off your mailing list and apparently my subscription expired with your January 1974 issue of the newsletter, the last one I received.

I do hope this letter will put me back on your mailing list and I'll be more careful in the future to watch for my expiration date.

I enjoy your game and have for the past three years. I've tried all the others, APBA, Strato-Matic, BLM and the like but find yours the most challenging of all.

I've been an avid baseball fan and table gamer for more years than I like to admit and the hours of pleasure I've derived from games such as yours are countless.

Incidentally, I've completed 91 games of a 154 game schedule, featuring players from your normalized list, Hall of Famers or would-be Hall of Famers, the best of the national leagues vs the American League.

Ty Cobb is being pressed by Tris Speaker as the AL's leading hitter. The batting averages are rather anemic with Cobb at .310 and Speaker at 300 but when you consider the pitching of the NL — Alex, Matty Dean, Koufax, etc you can readily understand why. Roger Hornsby... leads the NL in hitting... and at one point hit safely in 23 consecutive games.

Babe Ruth is ahead of his 1927 pace hitting 35 homers (15 games ahead of his 1927 Mark to be exact). Mays has 28, Aaron 26 and Lou Gehrig 21. Ruth and Medwick each hit 3 home runs in a game.

Alexander has won 12 and lost one to pace the NL pitchers while Walter Johnson's 11-8 is tops in the AL.

Dazzy Vance struck out 14 batters in one game and Alexander struck out 5 American Leaguers in a row.

Thanks again for many hours of enjoyment."