



EXTRA INNINGS NEWSLETTER

Game Designer: Jack Kavanagh

FROM THE BENCH/Jack Kavanagh

SOME THOUGHTS ON "FINE TUNING"

There's a point in adjusting a table baseball game beyond which tinkering is not worth the effort. The major problem which "fine tuning" presents is increasing the length of time required to play each game. Table games are divided roughly into two groups: those which play in 20 to 30 minutes and those which can go on for an hour, sometimes more. "Extra Innings" has always dug in the heels of its spiked shoes to resist injecting amplifications which extend the length of time of games. One of the reasons many, perhaps most, table gamers take up the hobby is to either re-play actual seasons or to create their own championship seasons with appropriate stats worked out. It argues in favor of relatively short games; action compressed with a put out or hit coming off one dice roll rather than a progression of balls and strikes preceding putting the ball into play.

This is why we have side-stepped, for instance, a "tiring factor" other than that proposed with the text of "EI" which is offered largely to assuage those who are enticed by this. Actually, we can't overcome a certain reluctance to alter the effect of a pitcher's ERA by lowering or raising its potential. One of the traps of logic is that pitchers tire and are less effective as a game progresses. In reality, many pitchers improve - at least to a point - as a game goes along. Mickey Lolich is a prime example, often having control problems in the first few innings then, as his accuracy improves, being much improved. Any study of runs scored by innings shows an amazing consistency in the probability of runs being scored in any number in any inning.

One might, in an effort to achieve balance, divide a pitcher's innings into thirds and presume his middle three would agree with his total ERA; that the first three innings would be lower (by an arbitrarily assigned value) and the last three innings higher by the same value. For example: a pitcher with a 3.00 ERA would have that for his middle three innings but pitch to a 2.00 for the first three and a 4.00 for the last three. In addition to giving the player of the game the burden of remembering to adjust after each set of three innings, there'd be the temptation to lift a pitcher who was going strong after he'd worked six innings because he was going to automatically advance his ERA. As a result you'd have 3.00 ERA pitchers working largely to a 2.50 ERA and create a distortion in realism. I'm not going to get into considerations of a tiring factor involving relief pitchers.

My point is this: diddling with a game gratifies the innovator but doesn't have much effect on the play of the game or the season's stats. Against the complaint that a high ERA pitcher might produce a shut out for seven innings and should be penalized going into the last frames, I argue that the laws of probability are already at work. Despite the age-old argument of mathematicians that the odds are the same each time a coin is flipped, I'd be happy to cover all bets against another head coming up after seven straight head's are tossed (of course, I'd want to examine the coin closely first.)

My compliments to those who innovate and gain more enjoyment from the game as a result. However, unless such innova-

tions clearly improve the statistical accuracy of the game without extending the playing time and/or giving the player another manipulation to remember to use, then I have only an academic interest.

DEPARTMENT OF AMPLIFICATION

Adjusted ERA Chart
and other things that keep requiring letters.

We are sure Earnshaw Cooke finds no difficulty in understanding his "Percentage Baseball." What is lucid to him is lost on us. We seem to have cast a haze over our "Adjusted ERA Chart" and will try now to clarify.

If everyone will take out their "Historical Team Rosters" and locate the 1969 Mets and Orioles, we'll demonstrate.

We'll use a low ERA pitcher, Tom Seaver. His 2.21 reduces each batter's lines by nine singles, three doubles, two triples, three homers.

Bring Paul Blair to the plate. His 1-2-3/1-2-5/1-4-4/2-4-3 now read, against Seaver, 1-1-6/1-2-3/1-4-1/2-2-6. Roll the dice and read appropriately.

Now, bring Boog Powell up. His 1-3-3/ - - -/1-5-1/2-5-6 now read, against Seaver, 1-2-6/ - - -/1-4-4/2-4-3. He still can't hit a triple. He didn't in 1969 and we're aiming for accurate replays.

Let's use a high ERA pitcher, Lopez of the Orioles against several of the Mets. His 4.43 increases each batter's lines by seven singles, two doubles, one triple, two home runs.

Bring Cleon Jones to the plate. His 1-1-5/1-1-6/1-3-5/3-1-3 now read, against Lopez, 1-2-1/1-2-1/1-4-1/3-2-4. So, is a 1-2-1 now a HR or a triple? It's a HR and his triples are adjusted to 1-2-2 (doubles remaining unchanged). When you can't raise the bridge, lower the river.

OK, bring on Bud Harrelson. His - - -/1-1-3/1-2-3/2-3-4 now read - - -/1-1-4/1-2-5/2-4-5. He rolls a 1-1-1, it's still a triple.

If there are any further questions, see me after class.

Now, about stretching singles into doubles, doubles to triples, triples to home runs. Some surrogate managers would like to have the option of sending Pete Rose hustling to the next base. However, if the manager was as aggressive as Pete, his season's stats could become quite lop-sided. They are based on actual performances. His doubles rating, etc. already include the ones he stretched.

Also, there are no stats on the times a runner does stretch a hit into an extra base. A double is a double whether the runner reached second standing up or with a head first slide.

If, as the manager, you are not content with having Rose stopping at first when what you wanted was for him to get into scoring position, have him try to steal before the next batter hits.

BUBBLE GUM CARDS WANTED

I'm afraid this is going to be read as a "put down" by many of my collector friends who are serious about their hobby of collecting baseball cards (football, hockey, basketball, etc., too).

However, at the Adeline LaPlante Memorial Center, a sheltered workshop for retarded teenagers and adults, we find they are very much enjoyed. My own son, Brian, mildly retarded and paraplegic, has made a major hobby from his cards. He sorts them by teams, positions, uniform numbers, etc. etc. At The Center we find these cards make great "rewards" for clients (many of whom are bussed each day from the State Institution for the Retarded and have no opportunity to acquire cards on their own). The thing has really caught hold and, despite checking flea markets and yard sales, I just can't bring in enough cards.

From time to time we find older cards and these we market if they have any real value to collectors. We put such "profits" into sports equipment. A shoe box of gum cards from the 1930s was turned into softball uniforms, including shoes.

So, if you've got an out grown collection or accumulation, we could use it...any vintage...any condition. Please send to: Jack Kavanagh, Executive Director, South County Chapter, R.I.-Assn. for Retarded Citizens, P.O. Box 56, Peace Dale, Rhode Island 02833.

FROM TABLETOPS HERE AND THERE

Tom O'Toole has requested that we print some short replays, stating that he rarely finishes any of the longer ones that he begins himself. So, in that spirit, we'll dedicate this section to Tom.

Dear Sir:

I purchased your baseball game "Extra Innings" last March and enjoyed playing 162 Pittsburg Pirate games using their real schedule with it.

Then when I saw your basketball game ad, I sent away for it fast. I know I can't play a whole season now, but if you rush me your "Basketball Pro-Style" game as fast as you can, I can play through the rest of the season and the tournaments. So please hurry so I can get going before the start of my 2nd "Extra Innings" season!

On the back of this letter I have some actual statistics I kept during the last baseball season with your game "EI." Also included is an all-time, all-star game boxscore I played last July.

Jay Rombach, Elyria, OH

PITTSBURG TEAM RECORD ("EI" STATS) - 84-78 .518

Name	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	AVE
Al Oliver	596	79	169	35	18	9	62	.284
Richie Zisk	539	56	145	21	6	12	64	.269
Willie Stargell	547	61	136	40	3	22	95	.249
Rich Hebner	611	71	171	22	2	13	55	.280
Manny Sanguillen	513	42	137	14	4	8	47	.267
Rennie Stennent	672	73	198	25	4	4	37	.295
Frank Tavaras	358	32	84	2	2	1	19	.235
Dave Parker	530	.53	135	19	6	8	45	.255

ALL TIME ALL STAR GAME: at YANKEE STADIUM - New York

NATIONAL LEAGUE VS AMERICAN LEAGUE

National					American				
	AB	R	H	RBI		AB	R	H	RBI
H. Wagner	4	1	1	1	T. Cobb	4	0	1	0
R. Hornsby	4	2	3	2	T. Speaker	3	1	1	1
S. Musial	4	0	1	1	T. Williams	3	0	2	1
B. Terry	4	0	2	0	B. Ruth	4	0	0	0
M. Ott	4	0	0	0	L. Gehrig	4	0	1	0
R. Campenella	4	0	1	0	M. Cochrane	4	1	1	1
P. Waner	4	0	2	0	C. Gehringer	4	0	1	0
J. Robinson	4	0	0	0	J. Cronin	3	1	0	0
P. Traynor	4	1	1	0	F. Baker	3	0	0	0
D. Dean	0	0	0	0	W. Johnson	0	0	0	0

N. L. .36 4 11 4 TOTALS A. L. 32 3 7 3

Nationals	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	-	4
Americans	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	-	3

E - None. DP - Nationals 2, Americans 2. LOB - Nationals 5, Americans 5.

2B - Musial, Waner, Speaker. 3B - Gehringer. HR - Cochrane, Wagner, Hornsby. SB - Cobb 1. SH - None.

Name	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
D. Dean (W)	9	7	3	3	2	4
W. Johnson (L)	9	11	4	4	0	6

HBP - By Dean 1 (Cronin). WP - None. PB - None. Balk - None.

T - 26 Minutes Att - 51,009

**STAR OF THE GAME: Roger Hornsby

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is \$4.00 to renew my subscription to "Table Top Sports," beginning with the fourth volume.

Also, since Gamecraft now owns "EI", which is in my opinion the best tabletop baseball game, I'd like to know if Gamecraft also has a basketball game. If so, could you please send me a brochure? Thank you.

I have just finished the 1972 National League Baseball season. Here are my top five hitters in every category. (Real life in parentheses.)

Chuck Shipan, Chicago, IL

1972 NATIONAL LEAGUE REPLAY

HR	BA	Wins
Bench 40 (40)	B. Williams .336 (.333)	Carlton 28 (27)
Colbert 39 (38)	Garr .329 (.325)	Seaver 23 (21)
B. Williams 39 (37)	Baker .319 (.321)	Jenkins 22 (20)
Stargell 35 (33)	Cedeno .319 (.320)	Gibson 21 (19)
Aaron 34 (34)	Oliver .318 (.312)	Sutton 20 (19)

RBI's	ERA
B. Williams 126 (122)	Carlton 1.96 (1.98)
Bench 125 (125)	Sutton 2.01 (2.08)
Colbert 116 (111)	Nolan 2.03 (1.99)
Stargell 109 (112)	Gibson 2.37 (2.46)
Simmons 104 (96)	Matlack 2.39 (2.32)

David Lempke, Indianapolis, IN, an old friend of "EI" has submitted results of his 1964 replay after the first 12 games:

PARTIAL 1964 REPLAY

	W	L	GB
Reds	10	2	-
Giants	7	5	3
Pirates	7	5	3
Phils	7	5	3
Cards	6	6	4
Dodgers	5	7	5
Cubs	5	7	5
Braves	5	7	5
Colts	5	7	5
Mets	3	9	7

FROM THE GRANDSTAND MANAGERS

Dear EI:

"FANTASTIC!!! There is no other word to describe Extra Innings. I've had EI for about 12 days and the game seems to get better every game. I've played such games as APBA and SOM, but your game outclasses them by far." It makes me mad that APBA and SOM are more popular than EI, when EI is so far more superior. I feel privileged to own such a super baseball game. I'd also like to thank you for your unbelievable service. Why, my game took only 2 weeks to arrive. I plan to begin a league as soon as I play enough games to get "the hang of it." I'll keep you up to date on all of my enjoyable experiences.

Thanks again for THE ONLY TRULY MAJOR LEAGUE baseball game.

A well-satisfied customer, Patrick Uding, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

We thought we would start off on a high note. After Patrick's letter, anything else is certain to be a low spot in comparison. We will even admit to receiving some downright bitchy letters, but we just casually put them in the can next to the desk. That's one of the many joys of being an editor.

Here's another nice letter, even though it's addressed to Jack.

Dear Mr. Kavanagh:

I am writing to compliment you on your fantastic game. I have been a table-top gamer from way back and your game is the best I've seen anywhere in any sport. A few ideas I really like are the walk and K ratings, most of my other games really overdo those two. Your game has also given me the most important thing, along with your great newsletter - a sense of pride in my hobby, something I've never had. I've always been sort of ashamed, I guess you could say. I have enclosed the coupon for the '75 teams and \$4.00 for your newsletter "TABLE TOP SPORTS." Don't send me the January 1975 issue, I already have that one. I would also like a favor. I am a bit confused about the ERA ADJUSTMENT CHART in connection with reducing and adding to extra base hits. Could you please send some examples on how it works. Thanks.

As to some of my great games, I have been replaying the 1965 World Series and in the first game, Don Drysdale 2 hit the Twins and won 4-0. He had a perfect game for 7 innings. In the next game believe it or not the Twins killed Koufax 8-1,

with the help of a few Dodger errors. Thanks again for your great game.

David Jenkins, White Bear Lake, MN

P.S. The Dodgers were beat in the next game 3-1, Twins lead series 2 games to 1.

As you have probably noticed, Jack has replied to David's letter (and several others on the same theme) in his "Amplification" article on another page.

Cont'd. from p. 17

solitaire version of BPS. We carefully equalized the total number of options available for each position in the basic Play Action card deck. However, to take care of the problem of how to have your imaginary opponent in solitaire play make a choice of options when confronted with one of the double option cards, we stated that the top option should automatically be chosen. We then failed to check to see that each position had one and only one representation by the top option. They didn't. Post was used twice and LF none. The solution is simple: Take the double option card that has the Post shooting in the top option and the LF shooting in the bottom option and flip flop them.

Feeling better? Good. The game doctor will be back in his office next quarter in case you have a relapse.

UPDATED TEAM RATINGS

We have updated the normalized offensive and defensive team ratings for the first half of this pro season. To be more exact, they are updated through January 25 for the NBA (an average of 44 games played) and through an average of 40 games played for the ABA. We will leave it to you to distribute the new totals among the top 10 players of each team if you wish to bring your player ratings up to date.

NORMALIZED POINTS

	Defense	Offense
Atlanta	54	50
Boston	50	58
Buffalo	46	57
Chicago	60	40
Cleveland	57	51
Detroit	42	54
Golden State	56	60
Houston	46	52
Kansas City	45	48
Los Angeles	40	56
Milwaukee	56	45
New Orleans	53	49
New York	50	51
Philadelphia	47	56
Phoenix	47	53
Portland	51	50
Seattle	47	50
Washington	58	49
Denver	45	60
Indiana	55	48
Kentucky	58	47
New York	60	49
St. Louis	52	44
San Antonio	55	51
Virginia	40	40