

SEASONS PAST BASEBALL
1955 SEASON

12/02/1993

EXPANSION PLAN ADDENDUM

In the unending quest to balance fairness with league competitiveness, a special one-time Grandfather Clause will be added to the previously documented 1961 & 1962 SPB League expansion plans. This clause will address the issue of players who were drafted in the 1955 Rookie Draft and, who may in the future, be unwillingly exposed to the expansion draft in either 1961 or 1962.

Basically, the addendum clause is this. Any player who was drafted during the 1955 Rookie Draft held in July 1993 WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE to be drafted to an expansion team in either the 1961 or 1962 Expansion Drafts if ALL of the following conditions are met on D-Day.

- 1). The player in question MUST STILL remain on the roster of the team which originally drafted him during the 1955 Rookie Draft or on the roster of a team that same player was traded to prior to the opening of the 1955 season.
- 2). The player in question must have never been traded from the team he opened the 1955 season with.
- 3). The player in question must have never been released on waivers during any future waiver cut down process.

Only the players listed below will be eligible under this clause. This is an exclusive list and under no other conditions will any other player be protected through this or any other clause. The list includes the player, his original 1955 SPB team, the expansion year drafted, and expansion team drafted by.

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>SPB TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
DICK DONOVAN	CASCADES	1961	SENATORS
DALE LONG	TIGERS	1961	SENATORS
RON KLINE	WIND	1961	ANGELS
TOM STURDIVANT	CUBS	1961	SENATORS
ROGER CRAIG	MINORS	1962	METS
JIM KING	DUCKS	1961	SENATORS
HARRY CHITI	TITANS	1962	METS
CHUCK TANNER	FLYERS	1961	ANGELS
ROMAN MEJIAS	FLYERS	1962	COLTS

<u>PLAYER</u>	<u>SPB TEAM</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TEAM</u>
HAL W. SMITH	FALCONS	1962	COLTS
BOBBY SHANTZ	SAXONS	1962	COLTS
FAYE THRONEBERRY	SAXONS	1961	ANGELS
BOB TIEFENAUER	WIND	1962	COLTS
PETE DALEY	CASCADES	1961	SENATORS
BILLY KLAUS	BLACK SOX	1961	SENATORS
DAVE HILLMAN	CUBS	1962	METS

Next, as a minor compensation, the expansion teams will have their 2nd and all subsequent round rookie draft picks sandwiched between the plus and minus .500 teams. In the 1st round of the draft the expansion teams will still draft in the last two (2) positions.

I feel this plan more than adequately addresses the warranted concerns that drafted players are going to be lost without the managers consent. Clearly, this method will allow teams to control their own destiny in that regard. Yet it still works to maintain a level of competitiveness for the entry level clubs.

SPB ALL-STAR GAME

Red Sears has graciously volunteered to run the 1955 SPB All-Star game proceedings. This will involve tabulating all ballots, playing the game and giving us a great write up of the event. Red will be sending each of you a ballot during early January, 1994. The players will be selected using the stats through the December series. This effort will take a great deal of time on Red's part. Therefore, I strongly encourage all of you to take the time to complete and mail the ballot back to Red. As a penalty for those who do not return their All-Star ballot, that team will have its 3rd round draft pick moved to end of that round. Red plans to have the event wrapped up by January 30, 1994. It should be loads of fun to see who the mangers will tab as SPB ALL-STARS!

THE FIRST NO-HITTER!!!

Harry Byrd of the DAYTON DUCKS has made SPB history by becoming the first pitcher to hurl a no-hit game. Thrown at the expense of the BLUEBIRDS, Byrd's gem occurred during the October series at Dayton. The final score was 2-1 and the boxscore and scoresheets are included with this mailing. (Due to the untimely death of Jeff's father, the boxscore will be carried in the next newsletter. I know that each manager joins me in offering our condolences to Jeff and his family.)

Doctor Diamond's Mid-Season House Call

Just when you key board Lasordas and Andersons thought it was safe to make plans for the intradivisional portion of SPB's schedule, the pastoral summer game of balls, strikes, and Budweiser commercials has been shaken by two bomb shells. Thanks to the heroics of ex-Cub Joe Carter, a Canadian team has won the World Series again. So much for the curse of the ex-Cubs in post season play. And, thanks to the fool-hardy indulgence of the SPB's so-called "leadership," Doctor Diamond has returned. So much for the sugar-coated white lies you guys have been telling yourselves about your teams. The Doctor is here to make sure you take your medicine.

Suppose the teams in the SPB were tagged with an identifying phrase that pithily, some might say poignantly, described each team's personnel and performance. Suppose these phrases were to come from the world of entertainment, i.e. movies and Top 40 music. As the Doctor is a self-proclaimed expert on virtually everything, he will match each SPB team with a movie title and a Top 40 hit. Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young once said, "You, who are on the road" (or at home in your own parks) "must have a code that you can live by." The Doctor is not concerned with assigning you a movie or a song title that you can live by. Rather, he is going to assign you a title you will be forced to live with, a title you have earned in the Doctor's

SPB II

Very tentative plans are being made to start a SPB II league which will start play with the 1944 season. The format will be similar to SPB but a few new wrinkles will be added. While league this is primarily aimed at the growing list of managers on our backup list, I would like to extend an invitation to each of you to join SPB II as well. However, I will not allow current managers to drop SPB to join SPB II. If you are interested, I must receive a letter of intent to join SPB II postmarked no later than December 31, 1993. League play would begin in April 1994.

1956 ROSTER AT-BATS

Effective with the 1956 season, each SPB team will be required to have at least 600 AB's at each position excluding pitchers. Keep this in mind as you plan your future waiver cuts and picks for the 1956 Rookie Draft.

favorite place, on the electronic diamond.

All of the Doctor's prognoses and prognostications are based on SPB's October statistics, because not even the Doctor can predict what kind of trouble you PC Larry MacPhails will be into by the end of the season.

Let's begin with the "SPB Beast."

Frankfort Tigers:

What can you say about a team that has clubbed 51 homers, scored 239 runs, and compiled a 31-14 record? Truly, the Bengals play in A League of Their Own (minus Geena Davis and Madonna, for whom the Doctor is willing to trade a couple years' worth of draft picks). The personality of this team, as their unlucky opponents can attest, can best be summed up by the oldie Purple People Eater(s). Chomp! Chomp! Chomp!

Evanston Black Sox:

The Sable Hose will have something to say about the fortunes of the Tigers. Although they trail the Terrible Tonys, the Black Sox are unlikely to fade to A Whiter Shade of Pale, thanks to a couple of guys called "Gus": Bell and Zernial that is (.399 average and 14 home runs, respectively). If the Black Sox have faith and work hard, perhaps they, like Rudy, will have their moment in the sun this year-- NOT!

Heartland Bluebirds:

Last year's champs are mired in third, 3 games over .500 and 7 games behind the Saber Teeth. How is this possible? After all, the Birds lead the SPB in home runs with 55 and are tied for the top in batting at .282. Perhaps Heartland's 8-12 record away from home? El Birdos are not King(s) of the Road. The Doctor realizes that it's still early in the season and advises the Bluebirds' field boss to Never Cry Wolf. Better try a few practice howls, however.

Dayton Flyers:

Thirty-one big taters! Gotta go all the way to Maryland, or at least Gurnee, Illinois, to find "power" like this. Sorry, Mr. Commissioner, not even the Witchita Lineman could splice together a high-voltage attack with this team.

For the remainder of the season, the Flyers can console themselves with the thought that, even though a pennant is out of reach, opponents will make Duck Soup out of that other team in town.

Gurnee Falcons:

Get a load of these stats, sports fans: .233 team average and 30 home runs. Perhaps the Gurnee mascot is really a discontinued Ford car, rather than a bird of prey. Not bad, if the rest of the SPB were Volkswagen beetles. Such anemic hitting, truly The Silence of the Lambs. The Gurnee hitters (sic) can attest to the fact that "no one comes back from Deadman's Curve" (or fastball, or forkball, or spitter, or changeup).

Nebraska Knights:

The Nebraska Knights, despite an impressive .282 team average, have an 18-27 record. Why? Their team ERA (4.98) suggests that this year's addition of the Tin Can Crew has bid A Farewell to Arms. Game days are tough in Nebraska this year. By the end of the season, Manager Turnbull, who, rumor has it, manages from the bench in full military dress and positions his players by gesturing with a rolled up weather report, will be able to say, "It's Been A Hard Day's (K)Night!"

Toronto Titans:

Now under new ownership in Baltimore, the Titans are anxious to be reborn as a baseball team. These ex-Canadians are so tired of being Canucked around (a 5.13 team ERA) that they plan a Revenge of the Nerds, with the rest of the SPB teams as the guests of honor. Unfortunately, at least for a few years, Manager Sears will be forced to admit that his dream of respectability is Just My Imagination.

Ok, nuff said. What about the "SPB Least"?

Schaumburg Saxons:

This is NOT last year's model! Kaline, Klu, and Smith have added FEAR to go along with Temple and Bruton's speed game. These warriors should be Top Gun(s) in their division and **might** have enough to skin the Bengals, if they don't Bungle in the Jungle in the World Series.

Lafayette Blue Sox:

These guys are tied for second, a mere game behind the

mighty Saxon warriors? The Doctor is reminded of The Pinball Wizard: "How do you think he does it? I don't know. What makes him so good?" The answer, in two words, is "Billy Pierce." Once Pierce realizes he is a candidate for the Cy Young Award, rather than for sainthood, the real Blue Sox will appear, and this team's fortunes will go downhill Like a Rollin' Stone.

Pacific Cascades:

Last year it was Al Rosen. This year it's Roy Campanella and Del Ennis. Don't misunderstand the Doctor. All three are good ball players, VERY GOOD ball players. Nevertheless, manager Lou Ross, as he chews his unlit cigars, should say a little prayer of thanks for the friendly confines of Crosley Field, the Cascades' Field of Dreams, which has been like a trip to the West Coast offices of The Witch Doctor for opposing pitchers.

Mountain Park Minors:

Still in fourth place? No worse than 21-24? Just wait till "Vinegar Vern" Easley is forced to drip REALLY deep into his gang of arsonists who are not-so-carefully disguised as pitchers. Considering Mountain Park's rather elevated appellation and considering who will have to take the mound before the long SPB season winds down, Fenway Park will look like The Towering Inferno come February. Manager Easley will feel as gloomy as The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia on more than one occasion this year.

Rossville Cubs:

Well, well, well. The Doctor has come at last to the league's worst underachievers. Even the Doctor was fooled last fall, as he expected these Bruins to be in the hunt or at least in the woods. Willie Mays and Ernie Banks have 17 home runs COMBINED, and neither Cubbie clouter is even hitting .270. For Manager Ryan, the early months of the SPB season have been The Nightmare Before Christmas. Unless this team's fortunes change dramatically, Wrigley Field will endure a season of Endless Sleep.

Quartz Hill Wind:

Terrible pitching. No power. Below average speed. This is not a pretty sight. Playing for the Wind, Stan Musial must feel like The Last of the Mohicans, not another brave on the reservation. The Wind can hit a little (.279 team average) and can walk (189 free passes, third best in the

SPB). A young power hitter would look good in the Quartz Hill garden next year. Any thoughts of a pennant or even of being competitive are merely California Dreamin' this season, however.

Dayton Ducks:

Quack! Quack! Quack! A 6.06 team ERA. Quack! Quack! Quack! A 15-30 record, worst in the SPB. This group of fowl is not The Mighty Ducks. No, they play more like Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Simmons (5.29), Porterfield (4.66), Jackson (7.53), and Byrd (8.48). No matter whom Dayton starts, the unfortunate hurler will always be The Fool on the Hill.

Until next time, the Doctor prescribes Luck for the pennant contenders, Patience for the building teams, and Plenty of Aspirin for the league's loveable losers. May Santa treat you all better than you deserve.

October 12, 1993

Dear Doctor Diamond,

The Black Sox management team wishes to state unequivocally that, if given the opportunity to do it again, would definitely make the same two trades lampooned in your last article. We were shocked that the two players we obtained could be gotten so cheaply! In point of fact, the numbers on Jack Phillips in every meaningfully offensive category for both 1955 & 1956 (BA, SLG & OBA) are far superior to Whitey Lockman. True, Lockman is allowed 600 AB's in 55 & 400 in 56 versus 200 & 300 respectively for Phillips, but since the Sox have absolutely no need for these extra at bats in either year, the difference is totally irrelevant. Phillips does expire in 1957, but given the fact that Herb Score and several other key members of the team self destruct about the same time, as George Allen would say, "The future is now!" The balance of Lockman's career is distinguished only by his uncanny ability to accumulate at bats.

The Al Dark/Billy Klaus controversy is a bit more even. The two of them are exactly the same defensively and have similar BA & SLG in both 55 & 56, but Klaus has an OBA 40 points higher in 55 & 70 in 56! Dark lasts a bit longer as an everyday player, but his Ralph Garr-like statistics (good BA, modest power, horrible OBA) continue.

The Sox may not win the pennant but both manager Birdie (which way to the bathroom) and GM Frank (Kuenn for Colavito is a good trade) Lane feel that the team will be much stronger with these two additions.

JMU