

SEASONS PAST BASEBALL
1955 SEASON

10/03/1993

COMMISSIONER ' S CORNER

Now that the first month of the 1955 SPB season has come to a close, I have noticed several disturbing trends occurring which I will address today. As you may recall, my intent to keep SPB a laid back, low keyed, self running league has been previously documented. However, operating in that fashion requires a strong commitment from you my fellow managers. With that in mind, I strongly encourage each of you to familiarize yourself with the most recent league constitution. There are many new changes documented that have been implemented at the suggestion or vote of managers. If these guidelines are not followed, manager dissatisfaction will prevail and player performance will be questionable.

As you play your games remember these key points:

- 1). DO NOT DEVIATE from your opponents written instructions. In many cases team relief appearances are at a premium. Several complaints have already reached me where relief instructions were not followed. Please pay close attention to your opponents relief usage directions.
- 2). If you do not wish any person other than the opposing manager to manage your team on the road, CLEARLY state your request in your road instructions. Violation of such a request will result in the offending manager being terminated from the league. Also if you wish to let the computer manage your team on the road, then clearly indicate such.
- 3). You must provide TYPED road instructions of no more than two (2) pages in length to your opponent. The more complicated your instructions are, the greater likelihood of a manger misinterpreting them. Telephoning your road instructions to your opponent does not satisfy this requirement and violations will constitute a missed deadline. Violating managers will be subject to loss of draft position beginning with the 3rd round and if in continued violation, termination from the league.
- 4). At the conclusion of each series, at a MINIMUM send your opponent copies of:
 - A): All boxscores
 - B): Hitting Summaries
 - C): Pitching Summaries.

Series recap sheets and 2 series diskettes are to be sent to John Turnbull.

Now that all that has been said, lets get back to fun and baseball from 1955. As a special treat for you, I have enlisted the talents of two of sports best writing talents. These writers will be visiting us each month with there own perspective of SPB baseball. So without any further adieu, let me introduce our first guest scribe, Doctor Diamond. Enjoy.

Doctor Diamond's House Call

This year Seasons Past Baseball will feature a semi-regular column by Doctor Diamond. The Docotor is very busy with his patients, but he has agreed to appear sporadically for the enlightenment, education, and culture of the SPB community. Please understand that the opinions expressed by the Doctor do not represent those of the league's so-called "brain trust."

The Doctor is an opinionated individual, and he will not be shy about sharing his diagnoses and prescriptions. The Doctor welcomes dissenting opinions and promises to give them the same amount of equal time as that provided by Rush Limbaugh, whom the Docotor will use as his model for fair play and good taste.

What better way to begin than for the Doctor to discuss his views on the up-coming SPB season. If you liked being rated as a successful or an unsuccessful manager according to John Turnbulls' criteria in last year's yearbook, you'll love this.

Does anyone besides the commissioner remember the names of the two divisions? Does anyone remember which division he is in? Remember the K.I.S.S. rule, Mr. Commissioner? Anyway, the Doctor proposes new names for the divisions, at least for the 1955 season, based on the types of teams in them. Any division that includes the Tigers, the Black Sox, and last year's champions, the Bluebirds, should be

called the SPB "Beast." Any division that "boasts" the the Ducks and the Minors should be called the SPB "Least." Now that the Doctor has re-christened the divisions, he will give his prognosis for each team before a computer key is pushed in anger.

The SPB Beast

1. Frankfort Tigers:

How fitting that the Doctor will begin with a team managed by SPB's Jack Kevorkian (i.e., Dr. Death). In the off-season this team lead the league in assisting other franchises to commit suicide via lethal trades. By Christmas, the rest of this division will be settled down for a long winter's nap.

2. Heartland Bluebirds:

Last year's SPB champs are still strong; however, they will live to regret choosing Sandy Koufax in the first round of last summer's rookie draft. The Doctor says take two young power hitters and call me in the morning.

3. Evanston Black Sox:

The Doctor knows all about Early Wynn and Herb Score, and immediately after the draft he was impressed by the Black Sox' depth. Then came the dread "bartering virus": Alvin Dark for Billy Klaus? Whitey Lockman for Jack Phillips? Good night, sweet Prince!

4. Dayton Flyers:

And you thought the Black Sox made some questionable trades? Who needs Duke Snider and Ernie Banks! The Doctor hopes Gil Hodges is a partial antidote. The Flyers may be best remembered as the team that opened Pandora's Box and released the Tigers.

5. Nebraska Knights:

This team looks as if it will become SPB's version of "Dem Bums": Wait till next year! And next year! And the year after that! And so on. And so forth. Alexander Pope said it best: "Hope springs eternal."

6. Toronto Titans:

After finishing dead last in SPB's inaugural season, what can the Titans do for 1955? That's easy: finish sixth. Instead of "waiting for Godot," the Titans are waiting for Clemente. And Crowe. And Hoak. And Law. And Purkey.

7. Gurnee Falcons:

The Falcons appear poised to go where only the Titans have gone before: 100 L country. In addition, the Falcons are conducting a brave experiment this season: Can a team play a 154-game schedule without a shortstop? Luis Aparicio anyone?

The SPB Least

1. Schaumburg Saxons:

The Doctor's sources report that the Saxons' manager is ready to inscribe his name on the SPB championship plaque. The Doctor is wondering whether the plaque is big enough for the names of the managers of the the Ducks, the Black Sox, and the Titans too. The Doctor suggests that the Saxons' field boss should eulogize his trading partners if a championship speech is in order come spring.

2. Rossville Cubs:

The good news in the Cubs' camp is the arrival of Mr. Cub himself, Ernie Banks. The bad news is the departure of a legitimate chance for the pennant in the SPB Least. Thank you very much, Dr. Death!

3. Lafayette Blue Sox:

The manager of this franchise is a Dr. Death wanna-be. Nevertheless, in the off-season the Blue Sox led the league in trades and in of-the-wall trade proposals. Re-tooled. Re-built. Good enough for third.

4. Pacific Cascades:

The Doctor understands that manager Lou Ross was hospitalized recently for an emergency appendectomy. Lou, here's hoping you are "in the pink" by the time you read this. SPB needs your sense of humor. By the way, the Doctor picks you for fourth in the SPB Least. Keep smiling!

5. Quartz Hill Wind:

Billy Hunter and Sam Dente combine their "talents" for 500 at bats. How many at bats does a team need at shortstop? The answer, my friend, is "blowin' in the Wind." P.S. to Jim Bunning: Get tough quickly. Whitey Ford is getting lonely waiting for another quality starter.

6. Mountain Park Minors:

To use a cliché: How the mighty have fallen! The Minors are going to find out how it feels to go "THUD." After Robin Roberts and Frank Lary, the Minors are desperately seeking pitching, not Madonna. Then again, she did star in A League of Their Own. The Doctor suggests the Minors give her a try out. The Minors need anything that might improve team morale.

7. Dayton Ducks:

Hello down there! I say, is there a pitcher in the house? Hank Aaron a probable INFIELDER? The Doctor has seen some ugly ducklings in his time and has even managed his share of them. But, this is one group of ducks that is never going to be swans. Unless you believe in fairy tales.

Thus, the Doctor's first contribution to the SPB league newsletter comes to an end. The Doctor will be back soon to check on your progress. Until then, the Doctor says, "Fortuitous keyboarding." Many of you need it.