



April 15, 2005
Published by Mike
Skiles

FANTASY BASEBALL NEWS

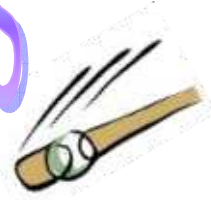


Table of Contents

What was learned in
week 2 pg 1

League Standings
..... pg 1

[Fantasy mail.....pg2](#)

[Blogs.....pg2](#)

[Torrid/horrid.....pg2](#)

[Two Position Players
.....pg3](#)

[Sophomore slump?
.....pg3](#)

[Links.....pg3](#)

The
Hardball
Times
.com

WHAT WE LEARNED IN WEEK ONE

by Studes, Hardballtimes.com
April 07, 2005

Here are the things that made an impression on me Opening Week, not counting the Star Wars fans already waiting in line for their own opening.

Alex Sanchez uses steroids.

Ah, the irony. The guy who led the major leagues in bunt hits last year and only hit two home runs is accused of doping. As he says in the linked article, "My goal is to bunt hard enough to get the ball past the pitcher toward the second baseman"... Maybe he needed some extra oomph to push his bunts that far.

Of course, David Letterman had a good take on the situation last night, reading an official MLB press release to his audience: "Baseball is disappointed that Tampa Bay Devil Ray Alex Sanchez tested positive for steroids. Bud Selig would like to announce that instead of a 10-game suspension, Sanchez's punishment will be to continue playing for the Devil Rays. Baseball fever - catch it!"

Dusty Baker makes strange choices.

Speaking of comedy routines, Dusty Baker recently pulled Neifi Perez off the bench to pinch hit, when he had three (or even four) better options available. Living here in Chicago, I sometimes see people walking down the streets shaking their heads for no apparent reason. I guess this is why.

Last year, Dusty Baker said that "walks are overrated unless you can run." I don't know if he really meant it, but Cub Reporter also analyzed this Dustyism in some detail, and found that apparently batters under Dusty's tutelage actually learn to walk more often.

Heart/head? Left foot/right foot? Foot/mouth? Why have I started shaking my head?

LEAGUE STANDINGS

Butte Holes	56.5
Bubba`s Bombers	53.0
Flint Stones	49.0
Rotozoans	46.5
Bat Pack	40.5
Cripple`s Bend	39.5
Boys of Summer	38.0
Lucky Strikes	37.0

Where are they now?

By John Sickles, hardballtimes.com

From the 2000 minor league scouting reports

Corey Patterson, Grade A: Excellent at times, needs better plate discipline.

Ben Sheets, Grade A: Excellent pitcher.

Adam Dunn, Grade B+: Outstanding power hitter.

Albert Pujols, Grade A-: Superstar hitter.



Fantasy Mailbag: 4/7/05

by Ben Jacobs
April 07, 2005

The season's finally underway, which means that people no longer need help preparing for fantasy baseball drafts. Now, there are questions to be answered about running the already-assembled fantasy teams. My plan this year is to try and do fantasy mailbags as often as possible, running them whenever I have some time and some good questions to answer.

Anyway, let's get to the questions.

"I was one of the many owners who got burned by the recent revelation that Chase Utley won't be starting everyday for Philly, so now I'm scrambling to cover my hole at 2B. Mike Cuddyer and Clint Barmes are looking like my two best options, though I don't know nearly as much about Barmes as I do Cuddyer, and I usually hesitate to play rookies. I saw that Barmes hit second for Colorado on Opening Day -- is that expected to be his normal spot? Is he supposed to play every day? So basically my question comes down to who do like more this year, Cuddyer or Barmes?" -- Ryan Kobliska, Iowa City

[See "Utley" pg. 3](#)



The Torrid and the Horrid From the USA Today

THE TORRID (last 14 days)
Alfonzo: 8 R, .516 BA
Burrell: .405 BA, 4 HR, 17 RBI
Kent: .419 BA, 12 R, 11 RBI
Vizquel: 5 SB
Willis: 18 IP, 0 ER
Martinez: 21 K
Lyons: 4 Saves

THE HORRID (last 14 days)
Molina: .053 BA, 1 H in 19 AB, 0 BB
Rolen: .179 BA, .172 OBA
Kennedy: 13.50 ERA
Dempster & Smoltz: 2 L



Got Fantasy News?

By Mike Skiles
Darke County Fantasy Baseball League

Last year weblogs (blogs) burst onto the fantasy baseball scene as a new source of news and rumor. Independent baseball sites like the Think Factory and Baseball-Reference have inspired imitators that offer very good sources of information.

A short list:

<http://www.baseballblogs.org/>

Has links to a lot of blogs, plus news of its own.

<http://www.baseballmusings.com/>

By David Pinto, former researcher for ESPN's Baseball Tonight

<http://www.thehardballtimes.com/>

News, analysis, and home of Lee Sinins "Around The Majors" Daily Email.

<http://all-baseball.com/transactionguy/>

Analysis about transactions.

<http://www.baseballthinkfactory.org>

Hard hitting sabermetric baseball analysis. Some of the Authors wrote for the Big Bad Baseball Annual. Voros McCracken has some old stuff here before the Red Sox picked him up.

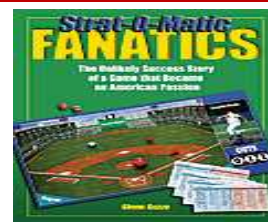
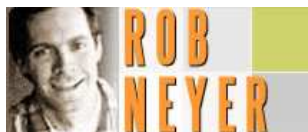
<http://www.robneyer.com/>

Blog of Bill James' protégé and ESPN.com analyst. One of the best idea people in the game.

<http://www.redreporter.com/>

<http://redlegnation.com/>

Information about your Cincinnati Reds.



Utley.... From pg 1

I feel your pain, Ryan. I targeted Utley as my second baseman in two of my leagues, thinking he'd be playing every day. First of all, I'd hang on to Utley if I were you, because I still think he'll play a lot and could end up earning an every day job.

To answer your question, though, I like Cuddyer better overall and Barmes better at Coors Field. Cuddyer's been kicking around for a while, but is just now getting his first chance to play every day. Last year, he hit .263 with 12 homers, five steals, 49 runs and 45 RBIs in 339 at-bats. Getting 500-plus at-bats this season, he could definitely hit 20-plus homers.

Barmes played most of last season at Triple-A, hitting .328 with 16 homers, 20 steals, 104 runs and 51 RBIs in 125 games. I didn't have him in my second base rankings, but I probably should have. His minor-league success combined with his home park gives him a chance to be very useful, especially if he stays near the top of the order.

If you have daily lineup changes, you might want to pick up Barmes and use him when the Rockies are at home while using Utley when the Rockies are on the road or have the day off. If you don't have daily changes or don't feeling like fantasy platooning, I'd probably pick up Cuddyer and go with him. Whatever you choose to do, keep a close eye on what happens with Utley and the Phillies. He should be getting a chance to start every day at this point in his career, and I think he eventually will get that chance this season. ←



Utley's high fives get nixed this season

Two Position Players

Cintron, AZ: 2B, SS, 3B
Betimit, LA: 2B, 3B
Macias, CHC: 2B, 3B, OF
Freel, CIN: 3B, OF
Relaford, COL: 3B, SS
Easley, FL: SS, 3B
Burke, HOU: 2B, OF
Kent, HOU: 1B, 2B
Saenez, HOU: 1B, 3B
Woodward, NYM: 1B, 3B
T. Perez, PHI: 1B, SS
Mackowiak, PIT: 2B, 3B
Luna, STL: 2B, SS
Garcia, SD: 2B, SS
Carol, WAS: 2B, 3B ←

The Links

www.hardballtimes.com

[http://www.forecaster.ca/sportsplus/
baseball/injuries.cgi?nl](http://www.forecaster.ca/sportsplus/baseball/injuries.cgi?nl)

www.baseballthinkfactory.org

The Sophomore Slump

by Aaron Gleeman, Hardballtimes.com

April 13, 2005

In the history of baseball, there have been 116 Rookie of the Year winners. One in both 1947 and 1948, and then two each season from 1949-2004 (with a couple of ties thrown in). The list of winners -- starting with Jackie Robinson in 1947 and ending with Jason Bay and Bobby Crosby last year -- is as impressive as it is long, with numerous Hall of Famers spread throughout.

One thing that has long been associated with rookies, particularly Rookie of the Year winners, is the "sophomore slump." During the very press conference in which he was given the 2002 American League Rookie of the Year award, Eric Hinske broached the subject:

"Just because I had a good rookie season doesn't mean I'm going to rest on my laurels. Hopefully I can avoid the sophomore slump."

Sadly, Hinske couldn't avoid it. He missed nearly 40 games with injuries in 2003 and saw his numbers drop across the board. He went from 22 Win Shares in his rookie season to just 12 in his second year, and his OPS+ dropped from 124 to 96.

Read the rest:

<http://www.hardballtimes.com/main/article/the-sophomore-slump/> ←