



## SERIES REPLAY



# PENNANT RACE AS PLAYED BY THE EXPERTS

OR, BEATING STEINBRENNER AT HIS OWN GAME!

BY JOSEPH BALKOSKI

Initially formed in April of 1983, the Avalon Hill PENNANT RACE League (AHPRL) is currently in mid-season of a highly-detailed re-creation of the 1982 Major League Baseball season. Eight staffers gathered in the Sports Department on a blustery April day to become the Founding Fathers of AHPRL, each armed with a fresh copy of Avalon Hill's new baseball simulation, PENNANT RACE. Using the basic rules provided with the game plus all of the rules modifications and financial rules provided in the first installment of this article (see "More Pennant Race" in Volume IV, Number 6 of ALL-STAR REPLAY), our eight club owners sat down to draw up an informal league constitution. Here's how the league works:

1. The 26 Team Roster sheets were clipped out of the Roster Booklet and placed in a box. Each of the eight participants then *randomly* chose a team from the box. No team choice was permitted: the player was obligated to become the owner of the team he picked. The eight teams chosen represented a good cross-section of Major League baseball, from the best to average to poor. These teams were:

1. MILWAUKEE BREWERS
2. KANSAS CITY ROYALS
3. NEW YORK YANKEES
4. NEW YORK METS
5. PITTSBURGH PIRATES
6. HOUSTON ASTROS
7. MONTREAL EXPOS
8. OAKLAND A'S

2. All of the financial rules described in the immediately preceding issue of ALL-STAR REPLAY were adhered to. That is, each team owner received \$300 at the start of the season, from which expenses were deducted and revenues collected. A single team owner was appointed Commissioner and was made responsible for keeping the league's "Books" (a thankless task as it turned out).

3. Designated hitters were permitted in the AHPRL, even among National League teams.

4. Since there were only eight teams in the AHPRL, a 154-game schedule was decided upon. This permitted a perfectly balanced season in which each team played every other team 22 times during the campaign.

To make matters even more simple, the 1951 National League schedule that was published in Volume IV, Number 4 of ALL-STAR REPLAY was chosen for AHPRL's schedule. To do so, each of the 1951 National League teams was replaced by one of the eight teams in our league (for example, Brooklyn in 1951 became Oakland for the AHPRL).

5. Before the start of the season, each team owner secretly made five draft picks in writing from among the 18 teams in the major leagues that were not involved in the AHPRL. Any player on these 18 rosters could be chosen, but a maximum of two players per team could eventually be signed. Each team owner was obligated to secretly

note the salary offer he was giving the draft choice (the minimum offer was \$400,000). Then, in a general AHPRL meeting, the Commissioner announced the draft picks of each team and awarded each of the eight teams the right to sign two players apiece and the salaries at which these players were available.

Here are the draft selections made by each team in the AHPRL, followed by each owner's strategy notes during the draft:

### MILWAUKEE

1. J. Andujar, STL (\$400,000)
2. R. Sutcliffe, CLE (\$720,000)
3. J. Palmer, BAL (\$1,320,000)
4. M. Soto, CIN (\$600,000)
5. G. Minton, SF (\$400,000)

After examining the Milwaukee Brewers' roster, I can only say that somebody above was smiling upon me when I made my team selection. The Brewers have no weaknesses anywhere. I guess the worst that could be said is that their starting pitching rotation is adequate. It was here where I first felt the team could be best improved and I determined to try for two ace starters with a Start Value of 5. There were a total of six available in the 18 teams not involved in the AHPRL, although I decided to pass on two of them (Carlton and Valenzuela) because of their price tag and general popularity. I put my bids in for the remaining four, Palmer, Soto, Andujar, and Sutcliffe. After some analysis of the Brewer financial health, I decided to limit myself to a total ex-

penditure of not more than \$24 in game terms (\$1,440,000 in real dollars). I made a special bid of \$1,320,000 for Palmer because of his crowd drawing potential. For the remaining three pitchers, I varied my offers from \$400,000 to \$600,000. Just in case ace starters might have high priority among the other seven owners (a situation I considered highly likely), I decided, for my fifth and final pick, to stray slightly and pick an ace (+1 Relief Value) reliever, Greg Minton, as a safety valve. I was confident that I would have no competition for his services and that he would prove as valuable as a good starter.

I must say, when the draft results were announced, that I was very surprised at the huge salary offers made by the other owners. I believed that most of the other teams could not afford the dollar amounts they were offering. Whether this prediction comes true or not at this point, I'm not sure. I do feel fortunate that I was able to get Rick Sutcliffe—he just slipped through! Although I couldn't get another starter, I did get Minton and was very satisfied with my team before the start of the season.  
—MICK UHL

#### PITTSBURGH

1. A. Trammell, DET (\$420,000)
2. D. LaPoint, STL (\$420,000)
3. R. Sutcliffe, CLE (\$420,000)
4. L. Hoyt, CHI (\$420,000)
5. Rg. Jackson, CAL (\$1,260,000)

The 1982 Pittsburgh Pirates reportedly lost millions of dollars as they slipped to the second lowest attendance in baseball. In the AHPRL, this circumstance is penalized immediately, as at least one randomly chosen player must be waived off of a team each month that a team fails to earn enough to meet the payroll. With an average attendance figure 50% lower than many teams in our league, my drafting and trading was constrained by the need to improve and cut expenses.

The Pirates turned out to be a surprisingly good team, considering their attendance woes. They showed above average hitting, power, speed, and good relief pitching. Starting pitching was just below average, and the defense had only one weak point (shortstop Dale Berra's "-1" Fielding Value). My immediate pre-draft goal was to trade Dave Parker and his huge salary for pitching or another starting right fielder of lesser ability, but no other owner in the league was biting.

Unable to work out any trades to unload Parker (he refused to be traded to three

separate teams, as is his right as a "five-and-ten year man"), it was more important than ever to improve my draw in the draft. Reggie Jackson of the California Angels was the player that best fit that bill, his "+3" attendance Draw Value meaning a difference of at least 8,000 fans per game for me at Pittsburgh. Plus, the addition of his power to the lineup would make first baseman Jason Thompson available for trade. I offered Jackson his current salary in the draft, hoping to get him "cheap". My second choice was Alan Trammell, who hit as well as Berra, but his "+1" Fielding Value at shortstop could make the difference for me in as many as fifteen games. I offered Trammell and all my other draft choices the minimum salary possible in the draft rules. I finished my draft selections with one pitching ace (Rick Sutcliffe) and two first-line starters (LaMarr Hoyt and Dave LaPoint). I hoped to steal Hoyt and Sutcliffe and figured no other owner would draft LaPoint if I was shutout against the others. I was correct only with LaPoint, as I was the only owner to draft him. I was outbid for all my other choices, but only Sutcliffe and Hoyt ended up by signing with other teams. This left me with the choice of signing two of the following three players: Reggie, Trammell, or LaPoint. I decided upon Trammell's defense and Jackson's draw and power.

After the draft's dust had settled, I was able to make a big trade, sending Thompson and reserve outfielder Bill Robinson to Houston for Art Howe and Don Sutton. This left me with two ace starting pitchers and didn't appreciably hurt my offense. I had worked out

four different trades to dump Parker with Milwaukee, Oakland, Montreal, and the Yankees, but he vetoed each trade! It looks like he's mine for the duration. With luck, I'll meet the payroll, and look to finish third or fourth in September.—  
BRUCE SHELLEY

#### MONTREAL

1. B. Diaz, PHI (\$600,000)
2. L. Parrish, DET (\$600,000)
3. B. Bell, TEX (\$720,000)
4. E. Show, SD (\$600,000)
5. D. Spillner, CLE (\$600,000)

Presented with the Montreal Expos as my introduction to the game PENNANT RACE and having absolutely no interest in the sport of baseball (indeed, I've always found slightly ludicrous the notion of grown men flailing at fast-moving objects with a stick), I decided to approach our exhibition game as an exercise in numbers. Looking over the stats of my team, it struck me that I should engineer to improve the team "BAT" Value to its best in our truncated league. Obviously, I would also like to improve the fielding ability and already-deep pitching staff at the same time. But I decided that I could trade pitching for power, heroes for hits. A team of non-name stars would suit me just fine if I could win but a majority of my team's games.

First, though, I wanted to assure the financial situation of the team. After some tentative contacts, a deal was arranged with the New York Yankees to trade catcher Gary Carter for Dave Winfield, with a concomitant trade of Charlie Lea for Dave





Righetti. This managed to cut my salary pay-out while increasing my attendance draw. (I have always had a golden tongue in DIPLOMACY, so don't condemn the Yanks' manager out of hand; it is truly amazing what can be accomplished over a six-pack.) Too, I always figured that I could pick up another starting pitcher with a Start Value of "4"; and Righetti is certainly not a detriment. Next, I shifted Tim Lincecum to the outfield and, lo and behold, I had one of the most awesome outfields in the AHPRL! Meanwhile, I shifted Cromartie to the bench.

I looked over the starting lineup and immediately concluded that I would place Taveras on waivers. Thus, I knew that I would probably have to draft a good second baseman, as well as a tolerable catcher. I turned to my minor league system for salvation and managed to bring up a decent second sacker, but I failed miserably with my young catchers.

In the draft, I figured that the other owners would go for big-name pitchers and hitters. My goals were more modest. I wanted a decent starting pitcher who could also work effectively out of the bullpen when I desperately needed it in the pennant run. I also had to look for the best catcher that money could buy. I also thought that it might be nice to replace Tim Wallach at third. All the while, I refused to get into a bidding war with the rest of these turkeys (oops, I mean other distinguished team owners), for I want a solvent organization that will be able to carry me through the lean period in the middle of the season when I have few scheduled home games. I settled on the draft picks listed above.

Unfortunately, I could only sign two. Since I didn't conflict with any of the others in my drafts, I had a free hand to

choose who I wanted. No thought was required with Lance Parrish—he is but slightly less effective than Carter, who I had traded to the Yanks. Now, I figured, did I want Bell or a good starter/reliever? Bruce Shelley advised me that, as nice as Bell would appear on my roster, the name of the game is pitching. So, despite my fears, I passed up on Bell and signed Spillner. My team BAT Value is now at "32" and my pitching is fairly deep. Only my bench bothers me; it is as thin as a Montana thaw. —REX MARTIN

#### NEW YORK METS

1. B. Bochte, TOR (\$600,000)
2. K. Hrbek, MIN (\$480,000)
3. S. Carlton, PHI (\$1,200,000)
4. L. Hoyt, CHI (\$720,000)
5. C. Ripken, BAL (\$900,000)

I had my work cut out for me when I randomly chose the Mets to supervise in the AHPRL. Consider these facts: The Mets have the worst-fielding starting player in the game in Dave Kingman; they have "-1" fielders at the critical positions of shortstop and third; their Team Batting Value is a paltry "23"; their best starting pitcher has a Start Value of "4"; and their best reliever has a Relief Value of "0". Given this abominable situation, I was determined to make dramatic improvements in the team through the draft procedure. My first goal was to get Kingman off the field and into the designated hitter spot—a rule that was permitted in the AHPRL. As a result, I had to get a decent first baseman. Kent Hrbek of the Twins was a player I knew that I could probably sign cheaply, yet who hit with more power than anyone in the Met lineup. I drafted him and signed him without any trouble.

Certainly, my pitching needed improvement, and although I determined not to spend the big bucks that my brother owners were bragging about, I made a stab at getting Carlton (which failed) and finally ended up with LaMarr Hoyt of the White Sox. My other draft picks (Bochte and Ripken) were passed up and remained unsigned.

I made a dramatic move immediately before the start of the season by placing George Foster on waivers. I was paying him two million dollars for average—or even below average—stats. And even though he provided a substantial amount of draw value at Big Shea, I felt he couldn't remain in my outfield if I was to produce a halfway decent team. I reached into the

minor leagues and brought up Darrell Strawberry to replace Foster. Strawberry proved to be a tremendous disappointment, but at least I was only paying him the minimum major league salary.

I got a big break early in the season when Jim Palmer (who had been signed for a huge salary by the Yanks at the beginning of the season) couldn't take Steinbrenner anymore and decided to demand a trade. The Boss granted Palmer's wish and traded him cross-town to me, where I knew that my pitching staff could use his years of expertise. —BOB COGGINS

#### OAKLAND

1. M. Soto, CIN (\$1,500,000)
2. J. Palmer, BAL (\$1,320,000)
3. J. Andujar, STL (\$1,320,000)
4. T. Paciorek, CHI (\$600,000)
5. A. Trammell, DET (\$480,000)

After examining the roster of the '82 Oakland A's, I have to conclude that they were lucky to do as well as they did in the real 1982 Major League baseball campaign. The A's have the lowest Team Bat Value of any team in PENNANT RACE (21). They also possess three starters with Fielding Values of "-1", and don't have a starting pitcher with a Start Value of above "3"! In addition, their relief staff has two "-1" relievers and even a "-2". My drafting strategy was definitely of the George Steinbrenner school: I was willing to spend megabucks for any player who could help my team. And what I figured would really help my team was starting pitching offered Mario Soto, Joaquin Andujar, and Jim Palmer almost one million and a half apiece, a drafting strategy which worked in the short-term, but backfired in the end. I learned a critical lesson in the AHPRL draft: a starting pitcher is often-times only as good as his team! By eventually signing Andujar and Soto, my pitching staff suddenly looked very impressive, but I soon was to discover that when your team can't score runs, your starters can't win. Both Soto and Andujar began the first month of the season by consistently losing close, low-scoring games.

At the beginning of the season, I also began furious dealing with my fellow owners in the AHPRL. My first blockbuster was to trade my only legitimate offensive threat, speedster Rickey Henderson, to Milwaukee for the very impressive Paul Molitor, a true all-around threat (except with his glove). In the long-run, I believe this trade was truly beneficial, as Molitor consistently provided

power for the otherwise weak A's lineup. My next strike was to trade Dave Beard (a "0" rated reliever) to Kansas City for veteran lefty Vida Blue. Blue proved to be my best pitcher in the first weeks of the season. Finally, I picked up reliever Jeff Reardon (one of the best in PENNANT RACE) from Montreal for minor league points.—JOE BALKOSKI.

### NEW YORK YANKEES

1. M. Soto, CIN (\$1,200,000)
2. J. Andujar, STL (\$1,200,000)
3. K. Hrbek, MIN (\$1,200,000)
4. E. Murray, BAL (\$1,800,000)
5. J. Palmer, BAL (\$1,800,000)

The 1982 Yankees tried to inject speed as well as power into their starting lineup, an experiment that ultimately failed miserably. Armed with this hindsight, I went looking for a superstar power hitter in the draft, as well as a top-notch starting pitcher. Representing the Yankees in the AHPRL, I must have felt the presence of Steinbrenner, for I made bids of at least one million to each player I picked out in the draft (including two player-bids of almost two million). I thought I wouldn't be outbid by anyone, but it turned out that more than a few owners had the spirit of The Boss in them, particularly the Kansas City Royals' General Manager.

My big bid was for Baltimore's Eddie Murray, one of the highest-rated players in PENNANT RACE. Shockingly, not one other owner bid for Murray, so I got full rights to sign him. I only regretted the \$1,800,000 I offered—I could have gotten him for far less. My second big bid was also for a Baltimore player: veteran pitcher Jim Palmer, who I got for the same price as Murray. With the extremely disappointing stats of Ron Guidry, Tommy John, and Dave Righetti, Palmer became far and away the best pitcher on my staff. Unfortunately, I lost him in a salary squabble early in the season, when he demanded to be traded. He eventually ended up with the New York Mets.

Before the start of the season, I also made a blockbuster deal with the Expos, sending Dave Winfield and Righetti to the Expos for super-catcher Gary Carter and starting pitcher Charlie Lea. All in all, I think I profited by that one, as Carter has helped me immeasurably so far in the season.—BILL HUGHES

### HOUSTON

1. R. Jackson, CAL (\$2,040,000)

2. E. Vande Berg, SEA (\$600,000)
3. K. Hrbek, MIN (\$420,000)
4. D. Murphy, ATL (\$960,000)
5. W. Boggs, BOS (\$540,000)

The Astros' prime weakness when I assumed leadership of the club was their batting. Their highest Power Value in the starting lineup was "3", and the Team Bat Value was "22". The bench was also extremely weak. My first strategy was to draft a high-average hitter to raise my Team Bat Value. Wade Boggs of the Red Sox, who I assumed would probably not be a hot item in the draft due to his average speed, defense, and power, was a perfect choice as DH, considering his "7" Bat Value. In addition, I picked up first baseman Jason Thompson from the Pirates for pitcher Don Sutton, giving me a good power hitter in the starting lineup. All in all, I was well-satisfied with my picks as far as offense was concerned.

On the pitching side of the coin, I calculated that my pitching staff was more than decent—even with the trade of Sutton. I had Niekro, Ryan, LaCoss, and rookie phenom Ricky Eisenacher. In my mind, an indestructible bullpen is the hallmark of a great team, so I determined in my draft picks to choose a superb reliever. I figured I could get one cheap since there were so many available among the 18 teams not participating in the AHPRL. I chose Ed Vande Berg of the Mariners, a "+1" reliever to complement Joe Sambito in my bullpen.—VINCE FRATELLI

### KANSAS CITY

1. F. Valenzuela, LA (\$2,280,000)
2. S. Carlton, PHI (\$2,280,000)
3. M. Soto, CIN (\$1,980,000)
4. R. Sutcliffe, CLE (\$1,980,000)
5. J. Palmer, BAL (\$1,980,000)

Offensively, the Royals are perhaps the most impressive team in the AHPRL; as such, I had very little to worry about during the draft as far as scoring runs—lots of them—were concerned. A "30" team Bat Value, along with a "6" Power hitter in designated hitter Hal McRae is any general manager's dream! Moreover, two players have "5" Speed Values (John Wathan and Willie Wilson), and, aside from Willie Aikens, there isn't one weak spot in the defense. Let the offense alone, I figured. (Postscript: My offense was made even stronger in the first week of the season when I reached into the minors to replace right fielder Jerry Martin with the young superstar Dennis Agosta, a budding Willie Mays.)

"Pitching, pitching, and more pitching," was my general conclusion of a sound PENNANT RACE strategy. Thus, in the draft I bid at least two million dollars for five separate super-starters, including the best two pitchers in the game, Steven Carlton and Fernando Valenzuela. What's more, I sure did psyche out the rest of the owners by giving a lot of Steinbrenner-like bravado in the pre-draft talks about how much I was going to spend for these two pitchers. As it turned out, not one other owner bid for Fernando and only one for Carlton! My only regret was that I spent so much money for these two when I could have had them far more cheaply. Nevertheless, it was the greatest steal since the Brink's job!—ALAN MOON

### THE DRAFT

1. Kansas City selects Valenzuela (LA) for \$2,280,000.
2. Kansas City selects Carlton (PHI) for \$2,280,000.
3. New York Yankees select Murray (BAL) for \$1,800,000.
4. New York Yankees select Palmer (BAL) for \$1,800,000.
5. Oakland selects Soto (CIN) for \$1,500,000.
6. Oakland selects Andujar (STL) for \$1,320,000.
7. Pittsburgh selects Jackson (CAL) for \$1,260,000.
8. New York Mets select Hoyt (CHI) for \$720,000.
9. Brewers select Sutcliffe (CLE) for \$720,000.
10. Houston selects Vande Berg (SEA) for \$600,000.
11. Montreal selects Parrish (DET) for \$600,000.
12. Montreal selects Spillner (CLE) for \$600,000.
13. New York Mets select Hrbek (MIN) for \$480,000.



14. Houston selects Boggs (BOS) for \$540,000.

15. Brewers select Minton (SF) for \$420,000.

16. Pittsburgh selects Trammell (DET) for \$420,000.

## PRE-SEASON ANALYSIS

### BREWERS

Quite simply, the team to beat in the AHPRL. Their offense is awesome: a "32" team Bat Value, with substantial power at almost every position. The early season acquisition of Rickey Henderson of the A's gives them a speed threat as well—something they have never had before. Defensively, they are superb, with FIVE "+1" fielders in the starting lineup. The bench is also strong. The drafting of Sutcliffe and Minton bolster the pitching staff admirably, although if the team has any weakness, this may be it. An injury to a good starting pitcher could be disastrous.

### EXPOS

This is a team that, on paper, is just about as good as the Brewers, but we're a little worried about the Expos' manager. Considering he's never watched a baseball game before, this is a serious consideration. In our humble opinion, the trading of Carter-for-Winfield was a mistake, as outfielders as good as Winfield are not impossible to obtain by other means, whereas a catcher like Carter is unique. We were told that this move was for financial purposes more than anything else, but it still smells a bit. The pitching staff is superb, but getting rid of their only decent reliever, Jeff Reardon, was a big mistake. The lack of baseball acumen may keep the Expos from challenging the Brewers.

### ROYALS

A very impressive team, especially after the draft when the Royals picked up Valenzuela and Carlton. The offense and the defense are the team's strong points. Behind the big two starters there is very little, and an injury to one or both of them would knock the Royals out of the race entirely. Nevertheless, a real dark-horse candidate for the flag.

### PIRATES

The Pirates were the most scientific and calculating team during the draft period. They studied what they needed and got it (for a cheap price) in the end. Unfortunately, the team is financially unsound and a lot of pre-draft thinking was oriented towards improving this condition above all. The

## PITCHING STATISTICS

| NAME/TEAM       | GS | W  | L  | CG | CG%  | W%   |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|------|------|
| Haas, MIL       | 1  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 1000 | 1000 |
| D. Palmer, MON  | 9  | 8  | 1  | 5  | .506 | .889 |
| Ladd, MIL       | 13 | 11 | 2  | 9  | .692 | .846 |
| Floyd, HOU      | 6  | 5  | 1  | 2  | .333 | .833 |
| Carlton, KC     | 15 | 12 | 3  | 8  | .533 | .800 |
| Gura, KC        | 13 | 10 | 3  | 8  | .615 | .769 |
| Stucliffe, MIL  | 16 | 12 | 4  | 6  | .375 | .750 |
| Beardsley, KC   | 12 | 9  | 3  | 8  | .667 | .750 |
| Righetti, MON   | 12 | 9  | 3  | 7  | .583 | .750 |
| Candelaria, PIT | 12 | 9  | 3  | 6  | .500 | .750 |
| LaCoss, HOU     | 10 | 7  | 3  | 6  | .600 | .700 |
| Lea, NY         | 12 | 8  | 4  | 7  | .583 | .667 |
| Ruhle, HOU      | 9  | 6  | 3  | 4  | .444 | .667 |
| Eisenacher, HOU | 15 | 10 | 5  | 12 | .800 | .667 |
| Slaton, MIL     | 9  | 6  | 3  | 6  | .667 | .667 |
| Gullickson, MON | 15 | 10 | 5  | 9  | .600 | .667 |
| Sanderson, MON  | 15 | 10 | 5  | 9  | .600 | .667 |
| Sutton, PIT     | 16 | 10 | 6  | 6  | .375 | .625 |
| Rhoden, PIT     | 13 | 8  | 5  | 8  | .615 | .615 |
| Glenfield, KC   | 5  | 3  | 2  | 3  | .600 | .600 |
| Robinson, PIT   | 14 | 8  | 6  | 7  | .500 | .571 |
| Vuckovich, MIL  | 16 | 9  | 7  | 8  | .500 | .563 |
| Caldwell, MIL   | 9  | 5  | 4  | 3  | .333 | .556 |
| Bulb, PIT       | 9  | 5  | 4  | 1  | .111 | .556 |
| Soto, OAK       | 13 | 7  | 6  | 8  | .615 | .538 |
| Guidry, NYY     | 15 | 8  | 7  | 4  | .267 | .533 |
| Ryan, HOU       | 16 | 8  | 8  | 8  | .500 | .500 |
| Knepper, HOU    | 4  | 2  | 2  | 4  | 1000 | .500 |
| Augustine, MIL  | 6  | 3  | 3  | 5  | .833 | .500 |
| Valenzuela, KC  | 16 | 8  | 8  | 6  | .375 | .500 |
| Spillner, MON   | 2  | 1  | 1  | 1  | .500 | .500 |
| Falcone, NYM    | 13 | 6  | 7  | 6  | .462 | .462 |
| Sarmiento, PIT  | 11 | 5  | 6  | 7  | .636 | .455 |
| Tilliston, NYY  | 11 | 5  | 6  | 7  | .636 | .455 |
| McClure, MIL    | 9  | 4  | 5  | 5  | .556 | .444 |
| Splittorff, KC  | 9  | 4  | 5  | 5  | .556 | .444 |
| Niekro, HOU     | 16 | 7  | 9  | 9  | .563 | .438 |
| J. Palmer, NYM  | 12 | 5  | 7  | 7  | .583 | .417 |
| Rogers, MON     | 16 | 7  | 9  | 8  | .500 | .438 |
| Underwood, MON  | 5  | 2  | 3  | 0  | .000 | .400 |
| John, NYY       | 14 | 6  | 8  | 6  | .429 | .429 |
| Moon, KC        | 11 | 4  | 7  | 7  | .632 | .364 |
| McCatty, OAK    | 11 | 4  | 7  | 5  | .456 | .364 |
| Richard, HOU    | 6  | 2  | 4  | 1  | .167 | .333 |
| Swan, NYM       | 12 | 4  | 8  | 8  | .667 | .333 |
| Andujar, OAK    | 15 | 5  | 10 | 4  | .267 | .333 |
| Langford, OAK   | 9  | 3  | 6  | 3  | .333 | .333 |
| Lynch, NYM      | 10 | 3  | 7  | 6  | .600 | .300 |
| Dean, PIT       | 4  | 1  | 3  | 2  | .500 | .250 |
| Zachry, NYM     | 8  | 2  | 6  | 4  | .500 | .250 |
| Morgan, NYY     | 9  | 2  | 7  | 2  | .222 | .222 |
| Rawley, NYY     | 10 | 2  | 8  | 4  | .400 | .200 |
| May, NYY        | 10 | 2  | 8  | 1  | .100 | .200 |
| Rory, NYM       | 5  | 1  | 4  | 3  | .600 | .200 |
| Burris, MON     | 5  | 1  | 4  | 3  | .600 | .200 |
| Norris, OAK     | 6  | 1  | 5  | 2  | .333 | .167 |
| Mathewson, OAK  | 7  | 1  | 6  | 2  | .286 | .143 |
| Blue, OAK       | 15 | 2  | 13 | 6  | .400 | .133 |
| Reeves, PIT     | 2  | 0  | 2  | 0  | .000 | .000 |
| Puleo, NYM      | 9  | 0  | 9  | 3  | .333 | .000 |

ABBREVIATIONS: GS: Games Started; W: Games won by team started by indicated pitcher; L: Games lost by team started by indicated pitcher; CG: Number of started games by indicated pitcher that did not need relief help; CG%: Percentage of games started by indicated pitcher that did not need relief help; W%: Percentage of games won by starting pitcher's team when he started game.



failure to unload Parker and his huge salary was purely bad luck and will hurt in the long-run. However, the addition of Trammell and Jackson was masterful and should make a good team approach being great. The bullpen is unbelievable, but it will be called on more than any other team in the AHPRL because of the lack of consistent starting pitching.

### ASTROS

The Astros have the best and the worst: a superb pitching staff, including relievers, but the most anemic hitting attack in the AHPRL. Had the Astros not traded away Don Sutton to the Pirates for Jason Thompson, they would have had three starting pitchers with Start Values of "5" plus two relievers with Relief Values of "+1"! In a league with at least three teams of exceptionally high quality, the Astros will probably go nowhere. As a better bet, the Astros probably should have kept Sutton for superlative pitching—something that might stop the awesome hitting attacks of clubs like Kansas City and Milwaukee.

### YANKEES

After some hope at the beginning of the season due to the signing of Murray and the acquisition of Carter as catcher, any hopes for the Yanks were dashed when their only quality pitcher, Jim Palmer, was traded in a salary squabble in the first week of the season. Now only a very average team, they have little hope to do well in a league that includes teams like Milwaukee, Kansas City, and Montreal. They will give up far too many runs. In addition, their financial situation is about as hopeful as a New York stockbroker in October 1929.

### METS

The Mets had a miserable team to begin with and were hardly improved at all by the draft (Hrbek is nothing to write home about, given the high quality of the players in this eight-team league, and the same can be said for LaMarr Hoyt). They are clearly a last-place team in a normal six-team division, not to mention playing in a league with three genuine championship-caliber teams. They should be atrocious.

### A's

Oakland was in the same class as the Mets before the draft, but improved considerably where they needed it most: pitching. Andujar and Soto should be quite a one-two punch, but after team, severe problems develop. The bullpen is very poor, with Tom Underwood its best performer (and he may be needed to start frequently in the "dog days" of summer). The offense is pathetic and it is questionable whether the A's will score enough to make pitchers like Soto and Andujar effective. They should battle the Mets for the cellar and have little trouble in winning this struggle.

### AHPRL STANDINGS: Morning 9 July

| TEAM           | W  | L  | GB  | PCT  |
|----------------|----|----|-----|------|
| Milwaukee      | 52 | 27 | —   | .658 |
| Kansas City    | 51 | 30 | 2   | .630 |
| Montreal       | 48 | 31 | 4   | .608 |
| Houston        | 47 | 35 | 6½  | .573 |
| Pittsburgh     | 45 | 36 | 8   | .556 |
| New York Yanks | 36 | 48 | 18½ | .429 |
| Oakland        | 23 | 59 | 30½ | .280 |
| New York Mets  | 22 | 59 | 31  | .272 |

### STATISTICS

#### AVERAGE RUNS PER GAME

| TEAM           | R/G  |
|----------------|------|
| Montreal       | 4.90 |
| Milwaukee      | 4.63 |
| Kansas City    | 4.25 |
| Pittsburgh     | 4.11 |
| Houston        | 4.01 |
| New York Yanks | 3.80 |
| New York Mets  | 2.51 |
| Oakland        | 2.39 |

#### AVERAGE RUNS YIELDED PER GAME

| TEAM           | RY/G |
|----------------|------|
| Houston        | 2.95 |
| Montreal       | 3.23 |
| Milwaukee      | 3.30 |
| Kansas City    | 3.69 |
| Pittsburgh     | 3.77 |
| Oakland        | 4.26 |
| New York Yanks | 4.77 |
| New York Mets  | 4.83 |

#### SHUTOUTS

| NAME/TEAM       | SHUTOUTS |
|-----------------|----------|
| Ryan, HOU       | 3        |
| Sutton, PIT     | 3        |
| Candelaria, PIT | 3        |
| Eisenacher, HOU | 2        |
| Vuckovich, MIL  | 2        |
| Slaton, MIL     | 2        |
| Carlton, KC     | 2        |
| Gullickson, MON | 2        |
| Sanderson, MON  | 2        |
| Swan, NYM       | 1        |
| Valenzuela, KC  | 1        |
| Rogers, MON     | 1        |
| Mathewson, OAK  | 1        |

#### LONGEST WINNING STREAKS

- 11 games: Montreal (18 May to 27 May). Expos went from 11-14 record to 22-14, outscoring the opposition by an incredible 72-14. Scott Sanderson pitched two shutouts in this period.
- 8 games: Kansas City (4 May to 11 May). Royals went from 10-7 record to 18-7 and temporary possession of first place.
- 8 games: Kansas City (26 June to 3 July). Royals went from 39-28 record to 47-28 to continue to hang tough against the Brewers.

#### LONGEST LOSING STREAKS

- 15 games: New York Mets (16 April to 3 May). The Mets lost their first 15 games of the year. They broke the streak by shutting out the A's 4-0 on 4 May. They were outscored by the opposition 92-22 during this stretch.
- 11 games: Oakland (13 May to 25 May). The A's went from 9-17 to 9-28 during this stretch, almost falling into the cellar beneath the hapless Mets.
- 11 games: Oakland (29 June to 8 July). The A's are still on this streak as of this writing.