Hi all!

Welcome to the first edition of the SABR Games and Simulation committee newsletter! Included in this will be a reminder that at the Minn. convention, we agreed to showcase our various games at the convention in Philly. I am also including summaries of what some people sent me, so that you can keep abreast of recent developments. I hope we can put this out at least once a year, so keep things coming to me!

Also, in particular, Bill Nowlin has suggested that we have a unifying project for this committee. That could include a history of various games, or a connection to simulation, game theory and strategy. Please let me know your thoughts about these matters!

Sincerely,
Steve Krevisky,

Chair of SABR Games and Simulation committee.
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This article is about the Great American Fantasy League (GAFL).

REFLECTIONS ON G7, AND A HARD-FOUGHT SERIES

It was an adjustment to play without the DH, which gave the Dodgers somewhat of an advantage. I also had to watch out to stay out of the DP, as I hit into 4 of them in G2. I was down 3 games to 1, but I was still confident that I could come back, and was able to, thanks to a big G6 rally, fueled by Gehrig's 3 run HR off Perranoski. Lou had similarly rescued me with a 3 run dinger vs. Lee in the ALCS vs. the Chisox. I thought I could hold my own in G7, with Ford vs. Koufax. I took an early 2-0 lead, and felt good, though I knew it wasn't over. I deliberately walked Wills intentionally, so as to force the Dodgers to either bat Sandy, or pull him. I was happy to get him out of the game, as I thought I could do something against their pen. Later in the game, I did the same thing with
Wills, and he took that pitcher out as well.

Meanwhile, Dem Bums did tie it at 2, and I pulled Ford in the 6th. Bonham got the last 2 outs to preserve the tie. I made a critical decision when I pinch-hit for him, figuring that I still had Stanton and Rivera waiting in the wings. However, I could be criticized for this, as I probably would have been better off letting Tiny pitch at least the 7th, and see what developed. My decision ultimately backfired, as Stanton was ineffective, and I brought in Rivera, my last available hurler, to stem the tide.

I tried so hard to regain the lead. At one point, I attempted a double steal with the Mick, and A-Rod, but didn't get the jump. Later on, Jeter reached base, and he stole 2nd and 3rd, but couldn't get the jump to steal home. In another key spot, Berra came up with 2 on, and got 2 consecutive BD cards, but couldn't quite deliver. I should have been able to do more with Howell, and 1 more key blow would have turned things in my direction, but it didn't happen, unfortunately!

With Mo in, drawing terrible stuff (as did Howell), he held off the Gordon boys, who left the bases loaded a couple of times, so that they wasted chances as well. When the game went into extra innings, both of us were down to our last hurler, both with terrible stuff. Hence my previous reference about letting Bonham pitch longer, though who knew that the game would go on so long!

Mo was clearly exhausted by the 12th, and he could not hold off Bro/LA any longer, loading the bases and then walking Wills to force in the winning run. It was a disappointing loss, and end to the season, and it easily could have gone my way. We congratulate the Dodgers, while knowing that we could have won it with just a couple of things being different! We didn't quit, and gave it all we had.

It was a long, hard road to get this far, as we won 97 games, just holding off Cleve for the 2nd seed. We were fortunate to beat them in 4 games, and then win the ALCS in 6 tough games against the Chisox. It won't be easy to get back to the series again, especially with the new configurations for season 3. We need to play better defense, get more consistent starting pitching, and do more offensively when we don't hit home runs. I figure to use Combs and Meusel more in season 3, and Maris and O'Neill could help as well. Boggs will see more action at 3B, Howard and Munson will give me RH catching, and I get Robertson for the pen. I will hopefully get Sabathia in season 3 as well. I told my boys that I was proud of them and their fight, and that they should stay in shape in the off season, so that the long grind in the new campaign won't be so grueling. Hopefully, the new hitters cards will help as well, along with the new charts.

Manager Houk was disappointed after G7, but the players feel that they will be back in the series next year!

(Steve Krevisky)
NEWS FROM VARIOUS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nicholas Soulis reports that he is using the computer based OUT OF THE PARK, as a simulator to try to determine who is the best team of all time. He will use some 480 teams from the past, and would like to publish his results. He would like to encourage discussion about these older teams, and find out what made them winners. We hope to hear more about this from him.

Jim Pertierra (pertierra1949@gmail.com) runs a league called the TML, or The Major League, and he is involved in replaying all of the seasons from 1906 to 2011. He reports that his league began in 1979, playing Replay Baseball, and moved to Diamond Dreams in 1990. They have been playing Diamond Mine since 2001. We hope to get a history of the league from him soon. Meanwhile, his league’s TML web-site is:
http://www.lgorham.net/tml

Jack Zerby (jzerby@comporium.net) is involved in WhatIFSports simulation baseball. He has various theme leagues, working with real teams, such as teams who are below .500. They also tried a Negro Leagues pool, consisting of pre-1947 players. We hope to hear more about this as well.

Barry Mednick informed me that he still has some of the 1951 Topps Red Backs Baseball cards, from which a game was also developed. He refers us to:
http://www.baseball-almanac.com/baseball_cards
from which you can hopefully access this.