

# Outside the Lines

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## Chairman's Note

**Annual Survey to be E-mailed in January.** The Business of Baseball Committee's fifth annual survey will be E-mailed in early January to all members with an E-mail address on file with me. If you recently acquired an E-mail account or aren't sure if I have your current E-mail address, drop me a quick note. Members without E-mail can participate in the survey by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Survey results will be published in the Winter 2000 newsletter.

**New Broadcasting Subcommittee Proposed.** New Committee member Aaron Rosenberg proposes the creation of a Broadcasting subcommittee. In his words: "The mission of the Broadcasting Subcommittee is to study and record all aspects of baseball broadcasting, including television and radio broadcasting. The goals of the Broadcasting Subcommittee include: collecting biographical information, establishing a historical record of broadcasters and their respective teams, and if possible creating criteria by which to evaluate broadcasters." Those interested in such a subcommittee should contact Aaron directly at 1616 N. Medina Line Rd., Akron, Ohio 44333; phone (330) 670-9484 E-mail aaronr@wiseguides.com.

## The Numbers

**Attendance:** 29,210 per game, down 0.3% from 1998's 29,285. This is the first decline since 1995.

**Average time of games:** 2:53, up six minutes from 1998 and one minute below the 1994 high.

**Salaries:** Up 13.24%, to an average of \$1,567,873. The median salary rose from \$427,500 to \$495,000. The clubs also have guaranteed salary obligations totaling \$2,596,185.253 from 2000 through 2004.

### **TV ratings:**

Regular season: FOX 2.9, down from 3.1 in 1998 but above the 2.7 in 1996 and 1997. ESPN 1.5, down from 1.8 in 1998.

First-round playoffs: 6.9, down 7% from 7.4 in 1998.

LCS: 10.3 rating/19 share, up 21% from 1998's 8.5/17 and the highest since 1993.

World Series: 16.0 rating/26 share, up 13% from 1998's 14.1/24 but still the second lowest on record. (USA Today estimated that NBC earned \$5 million from the Series, after Fox lost \$15 million in 1998.)

## MLB News

**MLB restructures, abolishes league presidents.** In their most sweeping reorganization since 1920, MLB owners voted unanimously to consolidate all operations in the Commissioner's Office. Matters formerly handled by the league presidents, such as umpires, scheduling and discipline, will now fall under the day-to-day control of Sandy Alderson. NL president Leonard Coleman resigned rather than accept what he considered a figurehead position; AL president Gene Budig hasn't decided what he'll do. A few of the changes require the approval of the MLBPA and MLUA.

The consolidation resolves a fifty-year debate whether league presidents had outlived their usefulness. Before the 1903 AL-NL peace treaty, league presidents governed their own leagues. From 1903 through 1921, league presidents constituted two-thirds of the ruling National Commission, but after Judge Landis became Commissioner, the authority of league presidents dwindled. In 1946, the MacPhail Committee report already noted that league presidents "have little actual responsibility and authority for anything." A 1970 Wharton study recommended consolidating MLB's operations in New York, with central control of umpires and a new title of "deputy commissioner" for the former league presidents, but the plan died after newly-elected NL president Chub Feeney declared that he wasn't moving to New York.

**2000 season to start overseas.** The New York Mets and Chicago Cubs will open the season in

Tokyo with a two-game series on March 29 and 30. The owners and players are also discussing a possible baseball World Cup, a tournament in which major league players and stars from other leagues would compete for teams representing their home countries.

**MLB blocks Web telecasting of highlights.** Citing a clause in its licensing agreements that bars the Internet broadcasting of MLB programming, MLB's attorneys have forced a number of TV stations to pull baseball highlights from their Webcasts.

**MLB-ESPN dispute headed to trial.** MLB and ESPN have been unable to resolve their dispute over ESPN's proposal to shift late-season Sunday night games to ESPN. In pretrial filings, ESPN disclosed that in a May 1998 memo to Commissioner Selig, Bill Giles of MLB's television committee concluded that ESPN was paying too little for its MLB rights, and proposed allowing ESPN to shift games to ESPN2 only in return for an agreement to terminate the contract at the end of the 1998 season.

**Consolidation murmurs grow louder.** Jerry McMorris of the Rockies has been linked to one such proposal, under which MLB's buying two clubs (probably from among the Athletics, Twins, Expos and Royals), folding them, and thereby increasing the remaining clubs' shares of national media and licensing revenue. Reaction outside MLB has been hostile. Many consider the proposal merely an opening salvo for the next labor negotiations. Legislators have warned of possible antitrust consequences if their local teams vanish, while academics have dubbed the proposal "absolutely disastrous" (**Andrew Zimbalist** of Smith College) and "a legal nightmare," "a public relations disaster" and "economically stupid" (Gary Roberts of Tulane). Stephen Ross of the University of Illinois observed that proposals for consolidation expose the emptiness of teams' threats to move unless local governments build them new stadia.

**Supreme Court rejects Minnesota's request to review antitrust exemption.** After the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that MLB's antitrust exemption barred the state from even investigating whether MLB teams were conspiring to extort taxpayer-funded stadia from local governments, the Attorney General of Minnesota asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the scope of the exemption. The Supreme Court declined to do so.

**"Resigned" umps go quietly, fight for reinstatement.** Hours before their resignations took effect on September 2, the 22 umpires not invited back by MLB accepted a deal whereby they received their full pay and benefits for the rest of the season and the right to arbitrate their dismissal, in return for dropping their lawsuit and unfair-labor-practice charges. But if the umpires lose the arbitration, the salary will be deducted from their termination pay.

The battleground then shifted to the MLUA itself, where a dissident group headed by John Hirschbeck and Joe Brinkman are battling Jerry Crawford and others loyal to Richie Phillips for control of the union. The dissenters, who are being advised by long-time player agent Ron Shapiro, have filed a petition to decertify the MLUA.

Adding to the arbiters' woes, the AP learned that their union dues were about 25% higher than the players'. In 1998 the MLUA billed umps \$500/year plus a \$1,000 initiation fee, and called for an additional \$351,922 in special assessments, for an average of \$5,756 per umpire. The MLBPA charges players \$25/day for each day on an active roster, or \$4,575/season, but negotiates licensing agreements on their behalf so lucrative (more than 10 times the annual dues) that the players never lay out a dime.

**Congress asks MLB to reinstate Shoeless Joe Jackson.** See article below.

### Around the Majors

**Angels reportedly on the block.** After failing to launch a regional cable network built around the Angels and the NHL's Mighty Ducks, Disney may sell the clubs. One source says that the Angels have lost \$40 million over the past three seasons. Orange County billionaire Henry Nicholas III, chairman of the Broadcom semiconductor group, was identified as a likely purchaser, but backed out of negotiations.

**Diamondbackers asked for \$24 million.** The Arizona Diamondbacks earned \$21.1 million from baseball operations in 1998, while reporting a depreciation-related loss of more than \$30 million. Nonetheless to meet a reported cash shortage the club asked its limited partners to contribute an additional \$24 million to the team coffers. 24 of the 29 agreed to do so.

**Costs already rising for proposed New Fenway.** As of early November, the cost of the proposed new Red Sox park has risen to \$595 million: \$350 million for the stadium, \$50 million for public improvements, \$80 million for public parking garages, \$65 million for land acquisition and \$50 million for site preparation. The

Sox say they're willing to pay the \$350 million stadium cost, but would have to borrow virtually all the money, thereby reducing the economic benefit of the new facility.

**Indians sold for record \$320 million.** Attorney Larry Dolan has agreed to purchase the Cleveland Indians for \$320 million – \$9 million more than Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation paid last year for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Dodger Stadium, Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida, and other real estate interests. Dolan is the brother of Charles Dolan, head of Cablevision, who's reportedly interested in acquiring the New York Mets. Last year Richard Jacobs, whose family paid \$35 million for the Indians in 1986, sold 4,000,000 shares of the club to the public at \$15/share; Dolan will pay about \$22.50/share.

**Reds' sale approved.** Heaving a huge sigh of relief, MLB brought the Marge Schott era to a close by approving transfer of a controlling interest in the Reds for \$67 million to new managing partner Carl Lindner, George Strike and William Reik. The deal, for 36.7% of the club, implicitly values the Reds at \$181.8 million.

**Marlins offer profit-sharing in return for public financing of new park.** Owner John Henry hopes to build a retractable-roofed, 42,000-seat park (estimated cost: \$400 million) in downtown Miami or Fort Lauderdale. As an incentive for local taxpayers to pick up 3/4 of the tab, Henry is offering them 90% of operating profits or profits on the sale of the team.

**Owners reject Royals sale.** At their September meeting, MLB owners voted 29-1 (the Royals dissenting) to ask the trustees who control the Royals to consider other offers besides the \$75 million bid by a group headed by Miles Prentice. Two months later the owners notified Prentice that his deal would never be approved, prompting Buck O'Neil, one of his investors, to lament, "They knew months ago that they weren't going to let us have this team. Why didn't they tell us then?" Prentice vows to continue battling for the Royals.

The trustees of Ewing Kauffman's estate have until January 1, 2002 to find a local buyer before they can offer the team to outsiders.

**Former Warner Brothers head to run Dodgers.** Bob Daly, former co-chairman of Warner Brothers, has been named chairman and CEO of the Dodgers. As part of the deal, Daly bought 10% of the club from News Corporation for about \$30 million. One of Daly's first headaches may be the loss of the club's best prospect, Adrian Beltre, who was reportedly signed before his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in violation of major league rules. Beltre, who's represented by owners' nemesis Scott Boras, has asked to be declared a free agent.

**Brewers to remain in County Stadium for 2000.** The July 14 collapse of a 2,100-ton crane will delay Opening Day at Miller Park until 2001.

**Twins sale in limbo.** Carl Pohlad tentatively agreed to sell the Twins for \$120 million to a group headed by the owners of the NBA Minnesota Timberwolves and NHL Minnesota Wild. However, the deal was contingent on construction of a new stadium in St. Paul, and by a 58-42 vote, St. Paul voters rejected a proposed half-cent sales tax increase to finance 1/3 of the estimated \$325 million cost of a new open-air park.

The plan called for the state to pay another third, and the Twins the final third – but for the Twins to retain virtually all revenue from the facility. No word at press time whether the deal can be restructured.

**Expos' sale on hold.** At their September meeting, postponed consideration of the proposed sale of the Montreal Expos to a group headed by New York art dealer Jeffrey Loria. This decision, unlike those affecting the Royals and Athletics, was motivated by specific substantive concerns over financing for a proposed new stadium.

**Yankees' merger with New Jersey Nets pending.** George Steinbrenner and the owners of the NBA's New Jersey Nets have created a holding company called YankeeNets. While the deal provides that Steinbrenner will continue to operate the Yankees, MLB's approval may be required because the proposed deal involves at least the technical transfer of ownership and control. The new entity is reportedly studying whether to sell stock to the public.

With both the Yankees and Mets planning new stadia, a New York *Post* survey of sports industry executives concluded that each club could raise \$500 million for its new park by selling naming rights, luxury boxes and club-seat licenses, without any contribution from the owners or the taxpayers.

**Athletics' sale postponed.** In September, the owners voted 28-2 (Oakland and the Chicago Cubs dissenting) to postpone all action on the proposed \$122.4 million sale of the Athletics until after Bud Selig's task force completed its study of baseball economics. Since owners Steve Schott and Ken Hofmann had set a September 21 deadline to close the deal, the purchasers – and Oakland city officials – were furious over the last-minute imposition of a new obstacle. If the Athletics subsequently move, look for another antitrust suit rivaling the one Oakland filed over the Raiders' move to Los Angeles.

**Phillies fight over location of new park.** The Phillies have their financing in place, but not their site.

The club wants to play at Broad and Spring Garden Streets in downtown Philadelphia, while city officials want to build the park in South Philadelphia, adjacent to the Eagles' new football stadium.

**Padres report \$6.9 million loss in 1998.** According to audited financials released in late August, San Diego's revenues rose from \$59 million to \$79 million in 1998, while expenses climbed from \$67 million to \$86 million. The Padres attributed \$15 million of this increase to player salaries, but offered no explanation for the remaining \$4 million. These figures don't include ownership's roughly \$16 million in depreciation-related tax breaks for 1998. Meanwhile, next year \$10 million in Qualcomm Stadium signage revenue will be diverted from the Padres to the Chargers.

### Shoeless Joe Jackson: From "Tragedy" to Farce, by Doug Pappas

[Note: The views expressed below are those of the author, and do not represent the opinions of SABR or the Business of Baseball Committee.]

On November 8, the House of Representatives passed a resolution, co-sponsored by six South Carolina representatives, which called upon Major League Baseball to "remove the taint upon the memory of 'Shoeless Joe' Jackson and honor his outstanding baseball accomplishments." Congress passes hundreds of similar meaningless, constituent-stroking resolutions each year – but, hopefully, very few which are as riddled with lies as this one. The farcical resolution dutifully echoes every self-serving myth created by Jackson's defenders.

*Myth: "Whereas in 1919, the infamous 'Black Sox' scandal erupted when an employee of a New York gambler allegedly bribed eight players of the Chicago White Sox, including Joseph Jefferson 'Shoeless Joe' Jackson, to throw the first and second games of the 1919 World Series to the Cincinnati Reds."* **Facts:** The bribery was as "alleged" as the 1918 influenza epidemic. Only seven players were involved in the plot; the eighth, Buck Weaver, was charged only with knowing about the scheme but failing to report it. The conspirators agreed to lose the *entire* World Series, not just the first two games, and at least three players – Chick Gandil, Ed Cicotte and Lefty Williams – unquestionably did try to throw the Series.

*Myth: "Whereas in September 1920, a criminal court acquitted "Shoeless Joe" Jackson of the charge that he conspired to throw the 1919 World Series."* **Facts:** The jury in the Black Sox case was instructed: "The State must prove that it was the intent of the ballplayers and gamblers charged with conspiracy through the throwing of the World Series, to defraud the public and others, and not merely to throw ballgames." Since there was no evidence that the Black Sox were motivated by anything but the desire to line their own pockets, Jackson and the others would have been entitled to an acquittal even if they had admitted at trial that they threw the Series! The acquittal thus "proves" nothing at all about whether Jackson conspired to throw the Series. In fact, the resolution even gets the date of Jackson's trial wrong: in September 1920, Jackson was still an active major league player. The Black Sox were tried the following summer.

*Myth: "Whereas despite the acquittal, Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, baseball's first commissioner, banned "Shoeless Joe" Jackson from playing Major League Baseball for life without conducting any investigation of Jackson's alleged activities, issuing a summary punishment that fell far short of due process standards."* **Facts:** Landis had plenty of evidence without conducting another investigation. Jackson had not only signed a confession admitting his involvement in the plot to throw the Series, but testified as follows before the grand jury investigating the incident:

Q. Did anybody pay you any money to help throw that series in favor of Cincinnati?  
A. They did.

Q. How much did they pay?  
A. They promised me \$20,000, and paid me five.

Q. Who paid you the \$5,000?  
A. Lefty Williams brought it in my room and threw it down.

Q. What did you say to Williams when he threw down the \$5,000?  
A. I asked him what the hell had come off here.

Q. What did he say?

- A. He said Gandil said we all got a screw through Abe Attell. Gandil said that we got double crossed through Abe Attell, he got the money and refused to turn it over to him. I don't think Gandil was crossed as much as he crossed us.

Jackson's grand jury testimony and signed confession weren't the only evidence against him. Even Jackson's supporters admit that he received, and kept, \$5,000, money he knew came from gamblers who bribed the Sox to throw the Series. Pitcher Ed Cicotte, whose confession broke the scandal wide open, identified Jackson as one of his co-conspirators. So did ringleader Chick Gandil, when he told his story for the first time thirty years later. These men had no reason to lie, but in their rush to paint Jackson as an innocent victim of The Evil Judge Landis, Jackson's apologists completely ignore their statements.

*Myth: "Whereas the evidence shows that Jackson did not deliberately misplay during the 1919 World Series in an attempt to make his team lose the World Series."* The evidence is ambiguous at best. On the one hand, Jackson always swore that he had played to win, and his .375 batting average led both teams. On the other, Jackson hit .250 with one run scored and no RBI in the four thrown games, while batting .500 with four runs and six RBI in the other four. In each of the first two games, both of which were thrown, Jackson allowed a two-out, two-run triple to *left* field. And even if the evidence that Jackson actually threw the Series is equivocal, the evidence that he was paid to do so is overwhelming. Did Congress truly intend to endorse the receipt of bribes so long as the recipient double-crosses the payer?

In short, Jackson richly deserves the "taint upon his memory." If South Carolina's elected officials truly want to clear the memories of those who, 75 years ago, were victimized by "summary punishment that fell far short of due process standards," they can start with their own state's sorry history of state-sanctioned lynchings. The authoritative *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* quotes Coleman Blease, who served as Governor and U.S. Senator from South Carolina between 1911 and 1931, in defense of those lynch mobs: "Whenever the Constitution comes between me and the virtue of the white women of South Carolina, then I say 'to hell with the Constitution.'"

And I say "to hell with Shoeless Joe and his apologists, elected and otherwise."

### *The Farm Report: The Business of Minor League Baseball*, by **Anthony Salazar**

**The Minors Have a New Name.** Since 1901, the body governing baseball in the minors was known as the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues. Not any more. At a recent meeting in Las Vegas, the NABPL announced the changing of their name to Minor League Baseball. Along with the simplified brand change is a new look to their logo. The branding change was announced during the Triple-A World Series held in Las Vegas in September. The new logo was developed along with New Era Cap Co., a partner of Minor League Baseball.

**1999 Attendance Figures Hit Record Highs.** For the first time since 1949, attendance at minor league games hit the 35-million mark. This past season, 35,179,471 fans went to minor league baseball games amongst the 176 teams. Foul weather during the month of May brought down attendance totals for 15 leagues. (The tally does not include summer short-season leagues.)

Leagues with huge numbers of fans going to games include the Eastern League, which saw 578,376 fans through its turnstiles, a record number for the second consecutive year. The total include the addition of two new teams in Altoona and Erie. Other league gains include the Carolina League, which saw 130,091 fans at their games. The increase factored to be roughly 250 fans a game. The International League garnered over six million fans, a mark achieved for the second consecutive year.

**Out with the Old and In with the New for Chattanooga Lookouts' Stadium.** The Chattanooga Lookouts have played their last game in Engel Stadium. The ballpark had been home to the Cincinnati Reds' Southern League affiliate for 69 years. The Lookouts will move into the newly constructed, 6,000-seat downtown stadium, whose naming rights were acquired by the Atlanta-based BellSouth Corporation. The \$10 million stadium, scheduled to open in March 2000, is located on a hill overlooking the Tennessee River. Engel Stadium had proved too inefficient and costly to maintain. Over the years, problems had developed with its infrastructure. Rusting outfield lights, old and decaying electrical wiring and frequent flooding contributed to the problems endured by the Lookouts over the years.

**Baseball to be Brought Back to Brooklyn.** Baseball is back in Brooklyn! The New York Mets recently announced the purchase of the St. Catharine Stompers of the New York-Penn League. The major league club plans on moving the short-season team to Brooklyn, NY, where it will begin play in the summer of

2000.

**Teams Undergo Name Change for Upcoming Season.** The Knoxville Smokies are moving into a new stadium for the 2000 season, and will be changing their name to the Tennessee Smokies. The team will play in a 6,000-seat multi-purpose stadium that cost \$19.4 million. Another team change includes the Mudville Nine, formally known as the Stockton Ports. For almost 50 years the Stockton team has been known as the Ports, and for almost 20 years, the club used the legendary "Casey At The Bat" as its mascot. Mudville was a place created by writer Ernest Lawrence Thayer, in the epic poem written in the 1880s. Mudville was so nicknamed after a series of floods affecting Stockton at the time. The team felt using the Mudville Nine name had a much broader marketing appeal.

**Baseball Suffers Canadian Fever.** Minor League Baseball teams are leaving Canada at an alarming rate. From top to bottom, in a couple of years minor league teams in Canada will be virtually extinct. Although the Vancouver Canadians won the 1999 Triple-A World Series, they are heading to Sacramento, CA to play beginning next season. After the 2001 season, the Calgary Cannons will be packing up and moving to Portland, OR. In the International League, the Ottawa Lynx are up for sale, but there are currently no prospective Canadian buyers. Last season the Lethbridge Black Diamonds moved to Missoula, MT, and its provincial neighbors in Medicine Hat is bound to find greener pastures in Provo, UT soon. The story seemed to be the same all around the Canadian ballparks. Canadians were not interested in pumping taxpayers' money into an enterprise that may not yield profitable results. Teams, such as Calgary and Vancouver, were not able to get stadium deals that were needed to not only keep the fan base and attract new ones, but also keep pace with other Triple-A teams. Without proper financing, these teams knew their days were numbered.

The Edmonton Trappers learned the hard way to stay put in town. Their financing deal ties the club to the city until 2019. When the 2001 season begins, their nearest opponent will be over 1,000 miles away. Despite the exodus from Canada, one team has made a surprising leap to cross the northern border. The Southern Oregon Timberjacks, an Oakland A's affiliate of the Northwest League, recently announced that they will be playing in Vancouver, BC for the 2000 season. The Timberjacks had previously considering moving to Vancouver, WA, but one setback after another led them to the other Vancouver. The team will play in Nat Bailey Stadium, and hopes to use the old Canadians nickname.

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#### New Members

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### National League Salaries, 1957-63, by Doug Pappas

While reviewing several boxes of the Garry Herrmann Papers at the Hall of Fame Library, I came across a handful of confidential National League reports from a later era, apparently misfiled by the Reds as they were packing up the Herrmann materials. These documents, the NL President's Reports for 1958, 1960, 1961 and 1963, contain summaries of team payrolls and aggregate player salaries for the 1957-63 seasons. To my knowledge, the data below has never before been made public.

#### **National League Team Payrolls, 1957-63**

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Team A (Highest)	\$496,000	\$532,500	\$585,000	\$588,500	\$649,200	\$576,750	663,750†
Team B	469,000	454,400	425,500	506,500	618,163	535,500	523,900‡
Team C	403,175	416,500	420,500	481,500	524,000	533,500	520,500*
Team D	388,500	414,750	409,500	480,500	510,000	521,500**	518,010**
Team E	370,500	412,000*	406,000	456,500	496,000	518,750	504,500#
Team F	326,000*	377,001	402,950	405,100*	391,090*	504,750	471,350
Team G	288,500	356,850	376,000	365,500	370,000	376,083	422,750
Team H	275,000	306,500	373,939	284,700	316,000	375,500	422,000
Team I						345,800	413,000
Team J (Lowest)						340,000	311,150

*Note:* Teams are ranked from highest to lowest in each season. "Team A" designation does not necessarily carry over from one year to the next.

\* - Handwritten notation identifies this team as the Cincinnati Reds.

\*\* - Handwritten notation identifies this team as the St. Louis Cardinals.

† - Handwritten notation identifies this team as the San Francisco Giants.

‡ - Handwritten notation identifies this team as the Milwaukee Braves.

# - Handwritten notation identifies this team as the Los Angeles Dodgers.

**Comments:** The January 14, 1959 *Sporting News* published team salaries for 1957 and 1958. *TSN's* numbers differ from the "official" figures above, but from them it's reasonable to conclude that in 1957, the Dodgers and Braves are "Team A" and "Team B," respectively, with the Cubs "Team G" and Pirates "Team H." In 1958, the Braves and Dodgers probably switched places, while the Pirates remained "Team H." Despite their low salaries, the 1958 Pirates finished second to the Braves, and the Pirates went on to win the World Series two years later.

The Cincinnati Reds achieved the near-impossible in 1961. The 1960 Reds finished sixth in payroll and sixth in the standings. Between 1960 and 1961, the Reds pared \$14,000 from their payroll – while simultaneously improving the club by 26 games and winning the NL pennant.

**Distribution of NL Salaries, 1957-63**

Salary	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
\$6,000	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$6,001-\$6,999	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
\$7,000	19	28	18	26	26	29	32
\$7,001-\$7,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
\$7,500-\$8,499	26	13	14	20	13	23	12
\$8,500-\$9,999	20	29	21	14	21	19	25
\$10,000-\$14,999	44	46	53	39	42	55	45
\$15,000-\$19,999	34	33	38	34	28	43	48
\$20,000-\$24,999	17	21	26	24	22	17	18
\$25,000-\$29,999	8	9	12	18	14	20	24
\$30,000-\$34,999	8	4	3	10	13	19	9
\$35,000-\$44,999	8	7	8	10	14	14	24
\$45,000-\$49,999	0	2	2	3	2	3	3
\$50,000-\$74,999	5	2	3	3	5	6	5
\$75,000+	0	2	2	2	2	2	2

*Note:* For 1957-59, figures represent base salary. 1960-63 data includes all bonuses except signing bonuses.

**Comments:** From the table, it's possible to estimate the average salary for various types of player. Rookies earned the minimum. Young reserves received \$7,500-\$10,000, with older reserves and young regulars earning \$10,000-\$20,000. The salary of the typical starting player rose from around \$15,000 in 1957 to almost \$20,000 in 1963. From 1957 through 1959, only All-Stars enjoyed base salaries of \$25,000 or more, while by the early 1960s a top player could expect to receive a salary plus bonus of \$35,000.

The NL's two \$75,000-plus players during this period were almost certainly Stan Musial and Willie Mays, with Warren Spahn the highest-paid pitcher. Published salary estimates from this period are so incomplete (and often so inaccurate) that it's hard to know who else broke the \$50,000 barrier. Hank Aaron and Ernie Banks are strong candidates.

The President's Reports also provide average National League player salaries for the ten years 1954-63. Over this period, the average salary climbed 39%, as follows:

Year	Average Salary	Year	Average Salary	Year	Average Salary
1954	\$13,772	1957	\$15,083	1960	\$17,934
1955	\$13,920	1958	\$16,353	1961	\$19,372
1956	\$14,778	1959	\$16,997	1962	\$18,514
				1963	\$19,160

Finally, in 1963 the NL's two highest-paid umpires, Al Barlick and Jocko Conlan, each earned \$18,500 (almost as much as the average player), while junior arbiter Lee Weyer earned the same \$7,000 received by most



rookies. Despite Richie Phillips, umpire salaries haven't kept pace with player compensation...