UBA II OPEN FOR BUSINESS !

HENRY'S COMMENTS

In tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the novel "The Universal Baseball Association, Inc." by Robert Coover (1968), I've decided to start an OOTP dynasty, using OOTP19, reimagining Henry J. Waugh's eight team league with new characters.

In this new adventure, the same eight teams will play out the same 56 seasons with **new** players. I'm extending the season from the original 80 games to 98 games (7 opponents x 14 games) and will increase the roster size from 21 players to 24. Financials will be handled under the Reserve Clause, and few other game settings will be massaged to fit the scope of the book.

I will report on each of these first 56 seasons according to the following timetable…

Preseason, January through Opening Day
Season, by Month (May-June-July-August)
Postseason, by Month (September-October-November-December)

Each report will contain "Henry's Comments" which will be centered on the game mechanics including my settings, etc. and opinions of how the game might be improved – "League News" and "Team News" where the league will be followed, and stories will appear to add Coover's ambiance.

Once we get to season 57, I will then transition into telling the story of the dynasty in more detail; probably by week. This will also be a good time to eliminate the Reserve Clause and consider expansion.

Logos

The teams are fixed from the novel, but logos or mascots, of course, are never mentioned. If we are to assume that "Year 1" in the novel is 1901, we know logos weren't a "thing" back then. The Tigers had a poorly drawn 4 legged animal, as did the Cubs – but a bit fatter. I was tempted to not pay attention to logos at all, but I actually hate the default ones OOTP provides – and to be honest – didn't want to look at them. I also didn't want to have to worry about updating logos as the years went by rather wanting to concentrate more on the developing story.
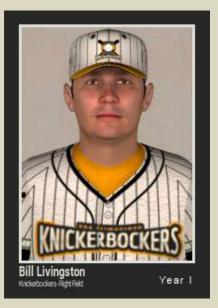
LEAGUE NEWS

TRADES

It seems all 8 UBA teams shied away from committing themselves to any major trades before this first season. None of the transactions you will review below were primary players – the highest rated being a 3 Star, 38 year old. Let's see what happens as the season progresses.

4/4/Year 1
Knickerbockers, Haymakers Agree to Trade:

A trade between the Knickerbockers and the Haymakers was made official this morning. The Knickerbockers have sent 34-year-old 2B Christian Medina (2*) to the Haymakers in exchange for 36-year-old RF Bill Livingston (2/*).

Christian Medina
Haymakers-SecondBase   Year I

Bill Livingston
Knickerbockers-RightField   Year I

4/6/Year 1
Knickerbockers Ship Dees to Excelsiors:

Officials for the Knickerbockers confirmed that they have traded 39-year-old C Josh Dees (2*) to the Excelsiors. In return, the Knickerbockers will receive 31-year-old 3B Gidde Jongeneelen (2*).

THE TEAMS

7/17/Year 0

Six months before the official opening of the league, Judge Thaddeus Gibson led a meeting of nine independent baseball teams at the Grand Renaissance Hotel. These teams were a combination of 3 barnstorming teams, 3 industrial teams, and 2 regional teams;

Beaneaters, local team, owned by Dave Adams(46), a tolerant and charitable person, but known for his meddling. The Beaneaters will likely in the top tier of the new UBA.
Manager – Ali Martines(41) Rep=Good

Bridegrooms, barnstormers, owned by Steve Erickson(58), a lenient and generous owner, with a hands off approach to the team. The Bridegrooms are top notch as far as talent and may be the team to beat in Year 1.
Manager – Josh Berry(37) Rep = Unproven

Excelsiors, industrial team, owned by Paul Eads(54) of Excelsior Rubber, an understanding man who is known to be a meddling economizer. As a result, the team may find it hard to compete in the early going of the UBA.
Manager – Bobby Kennaugh(33) Rep = Unproven

Haymakers, industrial team, owned by Jose Hernandez(54) of Farmer's Supply, a demanding, yet charitable owner who prefers to let the personnel on the field handle the team. The Haymakers should hold their own in the UBA.
Manager – Chris Webster(60) Rep = Good

Keystones, barnstormers, owned by Carlos Jaimes(50), a demanding economizer, but has a hands off approach to daily activities of the team. The Keystones are going to need some luck in this inaugural season.
Manager – Nick Elger(33) Rep = Unproven

Knickerbockers, local team, owned by Nazir Tanner(63), a demanding, yet charitable owner who prefers to let the personnel on the field handle the team. The Knickerbockers are a little short on

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So, I decided to use a modified baseball shield logo with the prominent object being the team name. These logos will remain consistent throughout the UBA2's history. Here's the logos…

Baseball Cards

I much prefer to use the Conlon baseball card format for my fictional leagues. Again, these card designs will remain constant. There are some samples in the center column.

Ballparks

I will use much the same direction with my ballparks. I want to be able to spend most of my time developing the "story" of the league, and not be bogged down by the minor details.

My plan (once I get OOTP19) is to find 8 non-MLB ballparks that more-or-less represent mid-century construction (or as close as I can get). These ballparks will be permanent, and have enough seats to handle the growth of the league.

Narrative

I want to tell this story in a narrative of sorts. Something that mixes statistics with a story, but a story that OOTP creates and I embellish a bit. I want it to sound like Coover's original novel if I can find the talent within myself to do that.

I believe the "story", whether embellished from OOTP's stories, or original in its makeup, makes a league come alive. We all do this in our heads with our own leagues, but putting it down on paper is the tough part – and setting many of the details in the game to "fixed" will give me the extra time to attempt that.

" "Henry sat on his stool contemplating his idea; 8 teams, 192 players, even politics. Every 4 years the Association elects officers, I have to keep an eye on that. And then there are boxscores to be audited, team finances

Josh Dees
Excelsiors-Catcher — Year I

Gidde Jongeneelen
Knickerbockers-ThirdBase — 1901

4/6/Year I
Pioneer/Haymaker Trade, Taylor for Huizar:
The Pioneers have parted ways with 25-year-old C Aaron Taylor (3/*) in a trade with the Haymakers for 28-year-old RHP Victor Huizar (2/*). Pioneers general manager Justin McInturff confirmed the deal in an announcement this morning.

5/9/Year I
Beaneaters-Bridegrooms Swap, Dell for Keller:
The Beaneaters have finalized a deal with the Bridegrooms for the services of 38-year-old RHP Connor Keller (3*). In exchange, the Bridegrooms will receive 27-year-old C Chris Dell (1/*). The Beaneaters will retain a portion of Keller's remaining contract (2 years $3,600).

Connor Keller
Beaneaters-Pitcher — Year I

Chris Dell
Bridegrooms-Catcher — Year I

talent and may need a year or two to catch up to the pack.
Manager – Jesus Ramirez(37) Rep = Unproven

Pastime Club, barnstormers, owned by Tom Schwartz(50), a lenient economizer who would rather leave field activities to others. The Pastimers are a tough team, and should do well in the UBA.
Manager – Dustin Popko(40) Rep = Unproven

Pioneers, industrial team, owned by Matt Cathcart(53) of Pioneer Petrolium, a lenient economizer who tends to get involved more than his team leaders would like. The Pioneers are well suited to compete in the UBA.
Manager – Gary Espinoza(36) Rep = Unproven

Elections

The following people were elected to administration positions (4 year terms)…

Chancellor – Judge Thaddeus Gibson (retired, age 70)
Vice Chancellor – Richard Paine (57)
Secretary – Enoch Collins (41)
Treasurer – Christopher Bond (61)

Ready for a New Adventure

The Judge and Vice Chancellor Richard Paine sat on the leather sofa which was located in "Thad" Gibsons new UBA office.

The Judge took a deep breath.

"Richard, do you remember a third baseman named Rascoe Barahona that played for old Wyatt?"

"How can I forget?", answered Paine. "He's the stuff legends are made of."

"Quite correct.", responded the Judge. "Everything we've done here this past year – I am hoping the things we do here – will become legends as did Rascoe Barahona."

"What brought your thoughts to him?", queried Paine.

"Nostalgia", said the Judge. "In baseball, we think back to all the wonderful moments in time, and try to recreate similar moments for a new generation. And in this alternate world

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to review, rewards and punishments to be meted out, life histories to be overseen… People die, you know.""

Yes, people do die, and the UBA REIMAGINED will follow this too. As characters die, J.Henry will provide an obituary which will include whatever can be accessed from their life story. In most cases it will be statistics, but there may also be some hidden stories to be surfaced. Each character's life story will be summarized into the record.

Why am I doing this?

For those that remember me, no explanation is necessary. For those that don't, baseball has always been my passion since I started following the Hollywood Stars in the PCL in 1956 (I was 9 years old). I played baseball using about every tabletop game made. I even played corporate baseball until I messed up my knee blocking the plate as catcher (on a day the real catcher didn't show up).

But back in 1968, when I read Coover's "The Universal Baseball Association, Inc., J.Henry Waugh, Prop." Something happened in the way I looked at baseball. I realized all these fictional characters could have a life beyond numbers on a page. Personalities COULD develop, and Coover's suggestion that a fictional world could come alive if only we put enough effort into it became a constant goal for every fictional league I created.

Sometimes I was successful, and sometimes not, but the 50th Anniversary of Coover's novel is the perfect time to recreate that world. A world where we never knew the cities these teams inhabited because knowing would connect it too closely to our real world. A world where the antics of its inhabitants were a bit outside of our "real world" experiences (remember Long Lew Lydell?). A world that was intense and fun at the same time. So, here we are. I hope on the verge of a new, captivating story of the UBA.

5/15/Year I
Top 10 Prospects List Published

The season is about to start, so it's time to publish the annual Top 100 Prospects list. This year 23-year-old RHP Tanner Chapin of the Keystones is the #1 prospect overall.

Here is the top 10:

1) RHP Tanner Chapin, 23, Keystones
2) RHP Jose Gonzales, 24, Beaneaters
3) LHP Tim Treadway, 21, Keystones
4) LHP Sergio Morales, 23, Pioneers
5) RHP Jeff Sargent, 22, Haymakers
6) RHP Antonio Castelucci, 23, Pastime Club
7) RF Tony Breedlove, 24, Beaneaters
8) RF Roberto Guerra, 22, Excelsiors
9) RF Jordan Montano, 22, Excelsiors
10) SS Jong-ho Chung, 24, Pastime Club

5/15/Year I
Opening Day:

The rosters are set. The line-ups are set. Baseball is back.

After a long "hot stove" season, full of wheeling and dealing and rampant speculation, UBA Reimaged clubs have broken camp and are about to take the field.

The 1901 season starts today with these matchups:

Haymakers @ Pastime Club
Bridegrooms @ Excelsiors
Beaneaters @ Keystones
Pioneers @ Knickerbockers

we've fashioned for ourselves, we have the opportunity to create and document hundreds of new stories to be burned into the minds of those fans that follow us."

"We will." Paine added. "Maybe we can even do better than Coover."

"Coover!", the Judge chuckled. "The man who started it all back in '68. Pappy Rooney, Barney Bancroft, Sycamore Flynn, Witness York, Swanee Law, and the Rutherfords… Legends.

I can only hope our small contribution here will be accepted as a worthy addition to such an adventure."

Paine leaned forward toward the Judge and caught him eye-to-eye, "Thaddeus, whatever the future holds, the UBA2 will live. It will live as Coover, Barahona, and all the others still do… not better or worse, but in ADDITION to."

The Judge took a deep breath, smiled, and said, "Scotch?"