WAR….What Is It Good For? *~ Spencer Bogad*

Back at it again for the second annual WAR article. This article is designed to give each player and team a value, based on their performances in the most recent season. With out further ado, the WAR (Wins Above Replacement) for every player and team that participated in the SWBL in 2016!

Non-Pitching WAR:

The way these numbers were found was quite simple. A player's: OBP, SLG, Plate Appearances and a rating system for Defense (1-7) and Base running (1-5) were entered into a formula to develop how many wins that player is worth, compared to what a replacement player would contribute. The formula for what a replacement player's average SLG is (league average SLG - .200 points). The formula for what a replacement player's average OBP is (league average OBP - .100 points) (As suggested by FanGraphs).

You may be asking, "Why weren't RBI or Runs scored used to produce a players WAR?" The reasoning for this is because some teams benefit by having better players than other teams, thus allowing for more RBI and Run scoring opportunities. I felt as though leaving those statistics out would help give a better picture of what players values would be, regardless of what team they played on or where they hit in the lineup.

You also may be asking, "Why did you use a rating system for fielding and base-running instead of actually compiling all of the stats?" The reasoning for this is because WAR calculations take into account of which position you play for fielding AND numerous other statistics. As far as base-running goes, we don't really have any supporting statistics. Honestly, that's a lot of digging and work that I don't feel like going through.

Defense Rating: 1= Best, 4 = Average , 7 = Worst . Just about every player received either a 2, 3 or 4. Gold Glover's recieved 1's and others received 5's and 6's . These ratings did not affect the WAR a whole lot, so I used my best judgment.

Base running: 1= Best, 3 = Average , 5 = Worst . Again, this was a judgment rating and just about every player received either a 2 or 3, with a few players receiving a 1.

Pitching WAR:

These numbers were found using the following statistics: Innings Pitched, ERA and K's. Strikeouts add either very little or no effect on a player's pitching WAR. Also, in my opinion, ERA was the strongest statistic that could fairly be averaged to quantify what a replacement player could produce. The formula for what a replacement player's average ERA is (league average ERA + 1.0)

Before you go and compare your stats to players that have the same WAR as you, please consider the following are taken into consideration:

- On-Base % [(Walks + Hits + SAC)/Plate Appearance]
- Slugging % [Total Bases/ At-Bats]
- Plate Appearances (At Bats + Walks) Players with more walks benefited.
- Defense Rating [1-7]
- Base Running Rating [1-5]
- Total Games Played
- Total Innings Pitched
- ERA
- Strikeouts Thrown

- The league average OBP with the suggested deductions was 21.705/40 = 0.542 -.100 = .442
- The league average SLG with the suggested deductions was 46.703/38 = 1.229 -.200 = 1.029
- The league average ERA with the suggested additions was 683/380 = 8.98 +1.0 = 9.98

Non-Pitching WAR (Hitting and Fielding)

Spencer Bogad: 1.5
Sam Skibbe: 1.4
Gus Skibbe: 1.3
Scott Pohle: 1.2
Cornell: 1.1
Luke Bakula: 1.0

Blake Spencer: 0.9
Peter: 0.9
Brett Spencer: 0.9
Ty Butler: 0.9

Chris Meador: 0.8
Grant Boyd: 0.8
Edloe: 0.8
Paul: 0.7
Brian Kenny: 0.7
Tyler Flakne: 0.7
Patrick Gatti: 0.6
Steve Hays: 0.6
Kyle Breda: 0.6
Sam Bakula. : 0.5
Michael Karl: 0.5
Alex Heck: 0.3
John Calloway: 0.3
John Leicht: 0.3
Jimmy Stout: 0.2
Sam Roesner: 0.1
Jimmy Nelson: 0.1
Kevin Pohle: 0.0
Jay Peters: 0.0
Evan Close: 0.0

Rockies Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.78 (5 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 3.9

Brewers Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.54 (5 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.7

Phillies Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.95 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 3.8

Expos Team Average Non-Pitching War: -0.016 (6 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: -0.1

Royals Team Average Non-Pitching War: 1.07 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 4.3

Athletics Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.60 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.4

Yankees Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.50 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.0

Astros Team Average Non-Pitching War: -0.1 (5 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: -0.5

Egerstrom: -0.1
Wiethuchter: -0.1
Rob Walters: -0.1
Doerries: -0.1
Cam Branson: -0.2
Matt Germer: -0.3
Benware: -0.3
Matt Roesner: DNQ
Olderman: DNQ
Will: DNQ
Jackson: DNQ
Michael Derstine: DNQ

Pitching WAR

Sam Skibbe: 1.7
Jackson: 1.5
Spencer Bogad: 1.5
Gus Skibbe: 1.2
Brett Spencer: 0.9
Olderman: 0.8
Luke Bakula: 0.8
Will Rath: 0.7
Jay Peters: 0.5
Alex Heck: 0.4
Kyle Cornell: 0.3
Kyle Breda: 0.3
Blake Spencer: 0.3
Edloe: 0.3
Wiethuchter: 0.2
Steve Hays: 0.2
Patrick Gatti: 0.1
Brian Kenny: 0.1
Sam Bakula: 0.1
Grant Boyd: 0.0
Chris Meador: 0.0
Paul: -0.1
Andrew Hawkins: -0.1
Jimmy Stout: -0.1
Tyler Flakne: -0.1
Matt Roesner: -0.1
Matt Germer: -0.1
Nelson: -0.2
Bryan Benware: -0.3
Cam Branson: INFINITY
Sam Roesner: INFINITY

Rockies Team Average Pitching WAR: 0.32 (5 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 1.6

Phillies Team Average Pitching WAR: 0.46 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 1.4

Brewers Team Average Pitching WAR: 0.275 (4 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 1.1

Expos Team Average Pitching WAR: -0.05 (4 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: -0.2

Royals Team Average Pitching WAR: 0.96 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 2.8

Yankees Team Average Pitching WAR: 0.76 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 2.3

Athletics Team Average Pitching WAR: 0.46 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 1.4

Astros Team Average Pitching WAR: 0.03 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 0.1

Total Player WAR (Non-Pitching WAR + Pitching WAR)
***** = Did Not Pitch***

Sam Skibbe: 3.1
Spencer Bogad: 3.0
Gus Skibbe: 2.5
Luke Bakula: 1.8
Brett Spencer: 1.8
Jackson: 1.5
Cornell: 1.4
Scott Pohle: 1.2**
Blake Spencer: 1.2
Edloe: 1.1
Ty Butler: 0.9**
Peter Leicht: 0.9**
Breda: 0.9
Brian Kenny: 0.8
Grant Boyd: 0.8
Olderman: 0.8
Chris Meador: 0.8
Steve Hays: 0.8
Alex Heck: 0.7
P Gatti: 0.7
Will Rath: 0.7
Sam Bakula: 0.6
Paul Castellano: 0.6
Tyler Flakne: 0.6
Jay Peters: 0.5
Miachael Karl: 0.5**
John Leicht: 0.3**
John Calloway: 0.3**
Wiethuchter: 0.1
Jimmy Stout: 0.1
Egerstrom: -0.1
Nelson: -0.1
Matt Roesner: -0.1
Andrew Hawkins: -0.1
Matt Germer: -0.4
Benware: -0.6
Derstine: DNQ
Cam Branson: DNQ
Sam Roesner: DNQ

Total WAR By Team (Non-Pitching WAR + Pitching WAR)

Royals: 7.10	Rockies: 5.50
Yankees: 4.30	Phillies: 5.20
Athletics: 3.80	Brewers: 3.80
Astros: -0.40	Expos: -0.30

Expected Wins By Team (Expected Replacement Win/Loss + Total Team WAR)

Expected Replacement Team in the NL W-L: 2.55 – 7.45
Expected Replacement Team in the AL W-L: 2.70 – 7.30

Royals: 9.80	Rockies: 8.05
Yankees: 7.00	Phillies: 7.75
Athletics: 6.50	Brewers: 6.35
Astros: 2.30	Expos: 2.25

Actual Win/Loss By Team

Royals: 7-3	Rockies: 8-2
Athletics: 6-4	Phillies: 7-3
Yankees: 5-5	Brewers: 5-5
Astros: 1-9	Expos: 1-9

My Big Take:

1.) Comparing Gus Skibbe's 2015 pitching season (1.8 WAR) to Sam Skibbe's 2016 pitching season (1.7 WAR). Comparing stats, Sam had a better season, but when comparing league averages between the years, offense was down in 2016, while pitching was better. This directly effected Sam's WAR.
2.) The Astros and Expos had better seasons than expected, which in return affected the league averages, thus affecting a replacement player's value.

Thanks for reading. Peace.