

WAR....What Is It Good For?

~ Spencer Bogad

Attention Franchise owners. Attention free agents. Have you ever wondered what value a specific player has? Or maybe how you yourself could fit in with a specific team? Or even maybe how your team performed last season compared to how they should have performed? Well wonder no more! I'd like to introduce to you, for the very first time, the WAR (Wins Above Replacement) for every player and team that participated in the SWBL in 2015!

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. A few players received 1's and others received 5's and 6's (Many of the Expos). 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:

- The entire Expos team was so bad that the league average for SLG and OBP dropped so much that everyone else's WAR increased significantly.
 - On-Base % $[(\text{Walks} + \text{Hits} + \text{SAC}) / \text{Plate Appearance}]$
 - Slugging % $[\text{Total Bases} / \text{At-Bats}]$
 - 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 .456
 - The league average SLG with the suggested deductions was 1.180
 - The league average ERA with the suggested additions was 14.41

Non-Pitching WAR (Hitting and Fielding)

Peter: 1.4

Sam Skibbe: 1.1

Blake Spencer: 1.1

Gus Skibbe: 1.1

Sam Bakula : 1.0

Brett Spencer: 1.0

Spencer Bogad: 1.0

Ty Butler: 1.0

Patrick Gatti: 0.9

Brian Kenny: 0.8

Chris Costello: 0.7

Cornell: 0.7

Scott Pohle: 0.7

Chris Meador: 0.7

Paul: 0.6

Calloway: 0.6

Luke Bakula: 0.6

Will: 0.6

Jackson: 0.5

Michael Karl: 0.5

Alex Heck: 0.4

Edloe: 0.3

Ian Baker: 0.3

Lape: 0.2

Doerries: 0.2

Breda: 0.2

Benware: 0.2

Boyd: 0.2

Matt Patterson: 0.1

James Calloway: 0.1

Oldenberg: -0.1

Brewers Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.62 (5 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 3.1

Rockies Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.58 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.32

Yankees Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.58 (5 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.9

Rays Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.55 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.2

Cardinals Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.46 (6 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.76

Expos Team Average Non-Pitching War: -0.22 (5 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: -1.1

Royals Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.85 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 3.4

Athletics Team Average Non-Pitching War: 0.55 (4 Players)
Total Non-Pitching WAR: 2.2

Mike Blassie: -0.1
Olderman: -0.1
Pat Blassie: -0.2
Nelson: -0.2
Jon Blassie: -0.2
Egerstrom: -0.4
Wiethuchter: DNQ
Bannecke: DNQ
Derstine: DNQ
John Leicht: DNQ

Pitching WAR

Gus Skibbe: 1.8
Blake Spencer: 1.3
Sam Skibbe: 1.1
Brett Spencer: 0.9
Olderman: 0.8
Luke Bakula: 0.7
Paul: 0.6
Jackson: 0.5
Kyle Cornell: 0.5
Ty Butler: 0.5
Spencer Bogad: 0.5
Kyle Breda: 0.4
Patrick Gatti: 0.4
Will Rath: 0.4
Sam Bakula: 0.3
Wiethuchter: 0.3
Scott Pohle: 0.2
Grant Boyd: 0.2
Alex Heck: 0.1
Costello: 0.1
Matt Patterson: 0.0
Chris Meador: -0.05
Peter Leicht: -0.05
John Doerries: -0.1
Mike Blassie: -0.2
Nelson: -0.4
Jon Blassie: -INFINITY

Brewers Team Average
Pitching WAR: 0.31 (5 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 1.55

Rockies Team Average Pitching
WAR: 0.63 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 1.9

Yankees Team Average
Pitching WAR: 0.33 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 1.0

Rays Team Average Pitching
WAR: 0.32 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 0.95

Cardinals Team Average
Pitching WAR: 0.66 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 2.0

Expos Team Average Pitching
WAR: -0.1 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: -0.3

Royals Team Average Pitching
WAR: 0.93 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 2.8

Athletics Team Average
Pitching WAR: 0.26 (3 Players)
Total Pitching WAR: 0.8

Total Player WAR (Non-Pitching WAR + Pitching WAR)

Gus Skibbe: 2.9
Blake Spencer: 2.4
Sam Skibbe: 2.2
Brett Spencer: 1.9
Spencer Bogad: 1.5
Ty Butler: 1.5
Peter: 1.395
Luke Bakula: 1.3
Sam Bakula: 1.3
P Gatti: 1.3
Cornell: 1.2
Paul Castellano: 1.2
Will Rath: 1.0
Jackson: 1.0
Scott Pohle: 0.9
Brian Kenny: 0.8
Costello: 0.8
Olderman: 0.7
Chris Meador: 0.695
Breda: 0.6
John Calloway: 0.6
Miachael Karl: 0.5
Alex Heck: 0.5
Grant Boyd: 0.4
Edloe: 0.3
Ian Baker: 0.3
Benware: 0.2
Nick Lape: 0.2
Doerries: 0.1
Matt Patterson: 0.1
James Calloway: 0.1
Oldenberg: -0.1

Jon Blassie: -0.2
Pat Blassie: -0.2
Mike Blassie: -0.3
Egerstrom: -0.4
Nelson: -0.6
Wiethuchter: DNQ
Bannecke: DNQ
Derstine: DNQ
John Leicht: DNQ

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

Royals: 6.20	Cardinals: 4.76
Yankees: 3.90	Brewers: 4.65
Rays: 3.15	Rockies: 4.22
Athletics: 3.0	Expos: -1.40

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

Expected Replacement Team in the NL W-L: 1.75 – 8.25

Expected Replacement Team in the AL W-L: 3.3 – 6.70

Royals: 9.50	Brewers: 6.40
Yankees: 7.20	Cardinals: 6.51
Rays: 6.45	Rockies: 5.97
Athletics: 6.30	Expos: 0.35

Actual Win/Loss By Team

Royals: 8-2	Brewers: 7-3
Yankees: 6-4	Rockies: 7-3
Rays: 6-4	Cardinals: 3-7
Athletics: 3-7	Expos: 0-10

There ya have it. Bitch, moan, cheer or drink (Brewers). I could care less what ya do. Just make sure to tip your bartender, change your diapers and share Commissioner Skibbe's Survivor Audition Tape from YouTube.