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SPECIAL FEATURE:

IN THIS ISSUE:

SPECIAL FEATURE:

Rotisserie Leagues and New Stats:
The Best Of Both Worlds
PART ONE

Winter Baseball Update:
Free Agent Signings, Late Trades

The Pythagorean Projection:
Beyond Baseball

SportScenarios

SUPER BOWL XXII:
"What-Might-Have-Been" Matchups

ALL-TIME WORLD SERIES TOURNEY
Preliminary Round - B

Rotisserie Leagues And New Statistics: The Best Of Both Worlds

I remember when I was *just* a New York Mets fan. Things were easy back then. I knew who to root for. I knew all the names in the boxscore. If Dwight Gooden pitched a shut-out, I felt good. No questions asked.

Today, when Gooden pitches a shut-out, my loyalties are torn. I still consider myself a Mets fan, but Gooden is now on the *other team*. Actually, the Doctor is probably on hundreds of "other" teams. But, not mine. Such is life when you're outbid in Rotisserie League Baseball.

It was 4 years ago when the RonSue Perbs drafted its first roster. Now, it's been 4 years of living and dying by Hubie Brooks, Dave Parker and Bob Knepper. Four years of USA Today, ESPN SportCenter, and Sports Phone. And, 4 years of turning on the Game Of The Week even when the Mets aren't playing.

The Perbs have never finished higher than 3rd, despite consistently having the best team on paper. *The best statistical team*. Not the most homeruns, or the most saves, or the lowest ratio of hits and walks to innings pitched. The best overall statistically superior team. A team that, if ever assembled on a playing field, would wipe out the opposition.

I swear it!

So, now I find myself yearning for more. I'm finding that the current Rotisserie League concept just doesn't do it for me. It's not satisfying. There's something missing . . . a something that goes far beyond the division of home-team loyalties.

Beginning in this issue, we will be examining the shortcomings of Rotisserie / Fantasy leagues. We will then look to the world of "New Statistics" for some help in bridging the gap to reality. . .

The Shandler Enterprises Co. SPORTS FORECASTER uses statistical models and computer simulations to arrive at our forecasts and analyses. Many of the statistical formulas are from the works of Bill James, Thomas Boswell, Pete Palmer, and the publications of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). To all of these folks, our gratitude.

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We'd like this publication to be a forum for your analyses and ideas as well as ours. Feel free to submit your suggestions, comments and research. We will print your contributions as space permits.

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