

The Games Project

Contributing to SABR's research collection one game at a time

1. Request an essay assignment

For those proposing to author a Games Project essay, please send an email to Andrew Harner (andrew.s.harner@gmail.com) with the following information: date of game, visiting team, home team, short phrase description/significance, Baseball Reference (baseball-reference.com) and Retrosheet (retrosheet.org) hyperlinks for that game. You will receive a confirmation reply. For the current season, no requests for assignment will be accepted until the conclusion of the regular season.

2. Familiarize yourself with essay guidelines, format, and other requirements

The Games Project home page (sabr.org/gamesproject) contains links to all the information you should review.

- Authors' guidelines (sabr.org/gamesproject/authors-guidelines)
- SABR Style Guide (sabr.org/about/sabr-style-guide)
- Frequently asked questions (sabr.org/gamesproject/faqs)
- Illustrating your Games Project article (sabr.org/gamesproject/illustrating-your-essay/)
- Browse posted game essays in topical areas of interest for examples

3. Research and write

Your article should be written in Times New Roman font size 12 (size 10 for endnotes). The main content of an essay must be at least 1,000 words in length to allow for appropriate development of detail and context. An essay should not exceed 1,500 words. The word-count requirement applies only to the main content and excludes the title/heading, any Author's note, Sources, and Notes.

Here's a partial list of common editorial errors that should be avoided on your way to becoming a Games Project author. Editorial suggestions are also offered.

- **Title/Heading:** The title/heading should be double-spaced, centered, and **bolded** with the following example information,

Spaceman brawls with Yankees' Graig Nettles
May 20, 1976: Boston Red Sox 8, New York Yankees 2, at Yankee Stadium, Bronx, NY
By (author's name)

- **Avoid using "then":** It is used frequently about the next batter. From the context it's usually obvious and is not needed.
- **Use numerics for any number equal to or greater than 10.**
- **Avoid clichés**
 - Manager XX had seen enough.
 - Came around to score
 - Scored all the way from first
- **One-word correct examples:** groundout, baserunner, leadoff.
- **Two-word correct examples:** flied out (not flew out), left fielder, center fielder, right fielder.
- **Earned the loss:** That's using a positive to state a negative fact. Other choices include was charged with the loss, absorbed the loss, etc.

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- **Batting counts:** Write as 2-and-1, not 2-1, so as not to confuse with a game score.
- **Format style for listing bibliographical Sources, single and multiple authors using periods.**
 - James, Bill. *The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract* (New York: The Free Press, 2001).
 - Gold, Eddie, and Art Ahrens. *The New Era Cubs 1941-1985* (Chicago: Bonus Books, 1985).
- **Format style for listing authors in Notes using colons.**
 - Kirk Kenney, “MLB Umpire, Former Official Concerned with Technology Replacing ‘Human Element,’” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, June 29, 2019: 28.
- **Spell out states and months.**
 - “*He was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on February 1, 1934.*”
- **Question marks (?) go inside or outside the end-quote depending on whether the quote is or is not a question.**
 - “Was that a strike?” the batter asked the umpire. (A comma is not needed after the question mark.)
 - Did the batter say, “That was not a strike”?
- **Colons (:), semicolons (;), and exclamation marks (!) almost always go outside the end-quote, but can go inside if they are part of the quote. This is seen most often with exclamation marks.**
 - Here are the “lucky winners!”: Wynken, Blynken, and Nod.
 - I can’t believe it! She called me a “lucky winner”!
- **Avoid the “would” construction**
 - Avoid “*He would go on to win 26 games that season.*” Write “*He went on to win 26 games that season.*”
- **A margin is not a score; it is a single number.**
 - If the Grays beat the Blues 5-2, their margin of victory was three runs. The Grays did not beat the Blues by a 5-2 margin.
- **The superscript number signifying an endnote goes outside any punctuation.**
 - Incorrect: *He led the league in batting*¹.
 - Correct: *He led the league in batting.*¹
- **Avoid the use of Ibid (which refers to work cited in the previous endnote). Instead, use a shortened citation. In the example below, the first, second and any later endnote would read:**
 - ¹ I.J. Rosenberg, “Get Well (vs.) Cards: 2-hitter for Maddux,” *Atlanta Constitution*, August 21, 1995: 27.
 - ² Rosenberg.
 - ⁵ Rosenberg, “Get Well (vs.) Cards: 2-hitter for Maddux.”

When you have completed your essay, be sure to hyperlink the biography pages of players, managers, etc. at first mention in the text. See instructions at sabr.org/bioproject/inserting-hyperlinks-into-sabr-articles.

4. Your next step

Name your essay file using the following example convention: 2019-07-23-Trea Turner cycle. Submit your draft essay to John Fredland (johnfredland@gmail.com), Games Project committee chair, with a copy to Andrew Harner (andrew.s.harner@gmail.com), Games Project assignments editor. The Games Project is one of SABR’s research committees and any other questions may be directed to John Fredland.