

# GUIDE TO SCORING BASEBALL

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28-JUNE-2005

## INTRODUCTION

The following is my Guide to Scoring Baseball. It shows the scoring method I use with my detailed scorecards<sup>[1]</sup>, freely available at my site. After going through each inning of the game and the other plays at the end, you should be able to score any baseball game you watch, or hear on the radio. It builds on itself, so you should go through the pages inning by inning, in order.

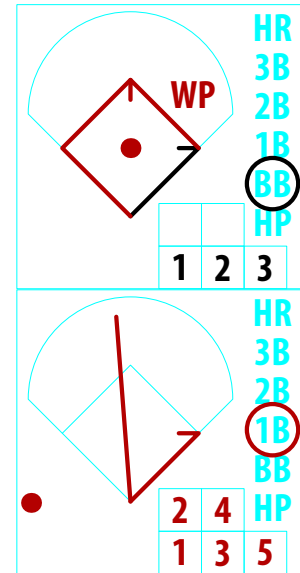
The Guide details all the action for the historic September 8, 1998 game between the St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago Cubs. The game was broadcast on Fox television, and the original scorecard I made was from this broadcast. Any errors on my scorecard are, of course, my own. At the end, I'll give the scoring for some of the plays that didn't happen in this game, and provide a summary section showing individual plays and how they're scored. This should be a good reference after you've been scoring for awhile.

The scoring for a single game cannot possible demonstrate all the possible plays, odd rules, or strategies of baseball, but this Guide should equip you to decide on your own how you wish to score the particular play in question. There are no hard and fast rules about how you score your own games, and even the official scorer for each major league team is likely to use a different method than the method shown here.

There are a few things you should keep in mind, however. First, scorecards should allow the reader to replay the entire game, and all the action that took place. Second, you should be able to construct a box score from the information recorded. Finally, your notations should be clear enough that anyone familiar with scoring and the rules of baseball could obtain the information in the first two points.

My method is only one way to score baseball, and I encourage you to explore other methods and choose the scoring method that yields the information you wish to collect. A few books I can recommend (in order of their relevance to learning to score) are:

- Ramzel, Carter and Lee Tunnell. 1994. *Keeping Score, A Baseball Handbook*. Austin-Greystone Press, Round Rock, Texas. 106 pages. A guide to scoring, much like these web pages except the game being scored is fictional and so contains a lot more of the unique plays that can happen in a baseball game.
- Hernandez, Keith and Mike Bryan. 1994. *Pure Baseball*. HarperPerennial, New York, New York. 259 pages. A complete, pitch by pitch analysis of two baseball games by former New York Met Keith Hernandez. While not technically about scoring baseball, the book contains completed scorecards for the games being discussed and you can learn a lot about scoring, strategy, and why scoring baseball is useful from this book. My scorecards are based on the scorecards in the back of this book.



first inning action

[1] <http://www.frontier.iarc.uaf.edu/~cswingle/baseball/scorecards.php>

- Dickson, Paul. 1996. *The Joy of Keeping Score*. Walker and Company, New York, New York. 117 pages. This book deals with how scoring has influenced and enhanced the game of baseball. It contains a lot of information about the different scoring styles, and has photographs of many many scorecards from famous games. An excellent book, although by itself it won't teach you how to score baseball.
- Wirkmaa, Andres. 2003. *Baseball Scorekeeping: A Practical Guide to the Rules*. Macfarland and Company. 278 pages. I haven't actually seen this book, but it was recommended to me by John Simonson. He writes: "It is an excellent explanation of the rules and decisions one needs to make when scoring. Nothing really about how to fill out a scorecard. It is a nice compliment to your tutorial."
- Bakalar, Nick. 1996. *The Baseball Fan's Companion*. Macmillan Company, New York, New York. 210 pages. An all around baseball book that covers all aspects of the game, including scoring. The scoring section is very brief, but since a large part of scoring involves knowledge of the rules, this book helps.
- Koppett, Leonard. 1991. *The New Thinking Fan's Guide to Baseball*. Fireside Books, New York, New York. 381 pages. This is my favorite all around book on how baseball works and the strategies involved. There isn't any scoring information in here, but I can't mention baseball books without mentioning this one.
- Major League Baseball. 2005. *Official Major League Baseball Rules Book, 2005 Edition*. Sporting News. 104 pages. The official rule book. Surprisingly easy to read and understand. A necessity for a serious baseball fan or scorer. The same information is also available at the Major League Baseball web site, but it's handy to have a version you can carry to the ballpark.

Ready to start scoring baseball?

# FIRST INNING

## PRELIMINARIES

We're about to enjoy a classic game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs at Busch Stadium on September 8, 1998. This happens to be the game that Mark McGwire hit his 62nd home run, breaking Roger Maris' 1961 single season home run record.

Before the game starts, there are a few things we need. First, you'll need a scorecard, which you can download from my scorecards<sup>[1]</sup> page. I recommend you use a scorecard that allows you to track runners around the bases, as well as balls and strikes (all of mine have places for this information on them).

Second, you'll need a pencil. You could complete the scorecard in ink, but I find that I sometimes second-guess my original scoring and need to erase my first instinct. Once you start scoring games you'll discover there are many intricacies to every play, and there are often multiple possible interpretations of the events in the game.

Finally, it's handy to have a copy of the rules close by. During the half inning breaks, you can look up the rules for particular events that you may never have seen, or thought about, before you had to write them down. Usually this isn't necessary unless you are being particular about the statistics you will generate (like whether a run was earned or not), but it sometimes helps.

I encourage you to follow along with the Scoring Guide by actually writing everything down on your scoresheet, even if it seems like you could easily just read the descriptions and look at the pictures. The images I put on these pages are very small subsets of the entire scoresheet, and it will be difficult to follow the players and action without having a scoresheet with the action so far on it. Plus, reading and writing at the same time works more than one part of your brain and reinforces the information. Believe me, scoring requires a lot of concentration and quick thinking when a game is going on, and there is no announcer to tell you what just happened. You'll be glad you went through the motions here.

Now that we've got all this, it's time to fill out the initial information on the scorecard. First we need to complete the heading information on each side of the scorecard. On one side of the card (the visitor's side, or the side for the Cubs) you write the team that whose offensive efforts will be recorded, as well as where the game is being played. I normally also write the date on the sideline, as well as other extraneous information such as the weather, the time of the first pitch, and the home plate umpire (for this game, the home plate umpire was Steve Rippley). Occasionally I'll add a little picture of the ballpark with the outfield fence distances. See the picture on the right for a sample.

In many of the pictures, the scorecard is cyan and the writing is either black or red. In this Guide, I will write all information for the current batter in red, and everything else will be in black or grey. This way you can tell the difference between what I wrote during a particular players at-bat, and what came before. I

**Team:** Chicago Cubs  
**At:** Busch Stadium, St. Louis

*team and location*

<sup>[1]</sup> <http://www.frontier.iarc.uaf.edu/~cswingle/baseball/scorecards.php>

will also write the scorecard notations in a different font to distinguish what you write on the card, from the text of the tutorial.

After this information is recorded on the visitor side (**Chicago Cubs at Busch Stadium**), flip the card over and record the home team (**St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium**). Now we're ready for the starting lineups. A small section of the Cubs lineup appears on the right.

Each spot in the batting order has three lighter lines that allow us to insert three players into that position in the lineup. For each player, we can record their number (unnecessary, but sometimes helpful if you are watching live and don't know the players very well), their name, the position they play in the field, and the inning in which they entered the game. I often add extra information for the players I've entered such as their batting average at this point in the season, and whether they bat left or right handed. If a player is on a streak, or is close to beating a record, I sometimes put that in the player name section as well. The image on the right shows the position numbers for defensive players. In American League games, I usually use **0** for the designated hitter, but **DH** will also work.

It is often difficult to write down all of this information as the announcer is quickly reading off the names and positions of the players. I have found that if you are running out of time, it is better to indicate the position numbers for each place in the lineup than it is to record the name of the player. This is because you will have plenty of time to write down their name as they come up to bat, but if you don't necessarily recognize them in the field, you won't be able to figure out what position they play as they come up to the plate. Good announcers will tell you the name, position and relevant statistics for each player as they come up to bat, but not all announcers will. For this game, and most games that I watch on TV or listen to on the radio, I simply go to ESPN's major league baseball site a few minutes before the game, and get the lineup from there.

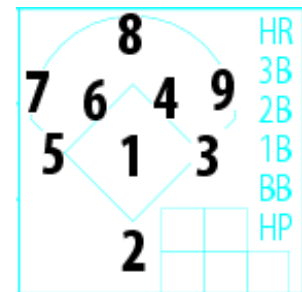
For the Chicago Cubs, the lineup is as follows: leading off and playing center field (position **8**) is **Lance Johnson**. Next up is the shortstop (position **6**) **Jose Hernandez**. In the third spot for the Cubs is **Mark Grace**, who plays first base (position **3**). In the cleanup spot with 58 home runs on the season, is the right fielder (position **9**) **Sammy Sosa**. The fifth spot is taken by left fielder (position **7**) **Glenallen Hill**. Next is the third baseman (position **5**) **Gary Gaetti**. The seventh position in the lineup is **Mickey Morandini**, the Cubs second baseman (position **4**). Next is the catcher (position **2**) **Scott Servais**. Finally, at the bottom of the order is right handed pitcher **Steve Trachsel** (position **1**).

On the other side of the scorecard, the batting order for the St. Louis Cardinals is as follows: **Delino Deshields** (second base - **4**), **Fernando Tatis** (third base - **5**), **Mark McGwire** (first base - **3**, 61 home runs!), **Ray Lankford** (center field - **8**), **Ron Gant** (left field - **7**), **John Mabry** (right field - **9**), **Luis Ordaz** (shortstop - **6**), **Kent Mercker** (pitcher - **1**), **Eli Marrero** (catcher - **2**).

Now, what about the pitchers? They go in the section below the lineup, but on the opposite side from their teammates. This is because they are directly involved with the offensive players they are pitching against, and their entry and exit from the game is part of their opponent's batting. So on the Cubs side of the

#	Player	Pos	Inn
	Johnson, Lance	8	1
	Hernandez, Jose	6	1
	Grace, Mark	3	1

*cubs lineup*



*position numbers*

scorecard, you write Cardinal pitcher **Kent Mercker**'s name. As a result, he appears on both sides of the scorecard, as a pitcher on the Cubs side, and as a hitter on the Cardinals side. Notice that you indicate the inning he enters the game. I often include which arm a pitcher uses (**LHP** or **RHP**) and relevant statistics.

Kent Mercker	1	R
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*st. louis pitcher*

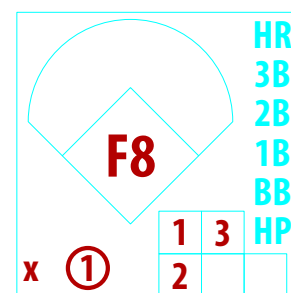
On the St. Louis Cardinals side of the scorecard, you write down the Cubs pitcher **Steve Trachsel (RHP)**.

The images in this Guide only show the at-bat boxes for the current action, so you may have trouble visualizing how all these boxes fit together. It's helpful to download the PDF of this game, completely filled out. I encourage you to follow along, and even write out the game on a blank scorecard, but it is helpful to check your progress against a scorecard that's filled out correctly (I hope!). The complete scoring for this game is available from my web site<sup>[1]</sup>, and it also appears at the end of the combined version of this Guide.

### TOP OF THE FIRST

Now we are finally ready for the action to begin. The way the scorecard works, there are rows for at-bats (or positions in the lineup), and columns for innings. So the first at-bat in this game will be recorded in the square that intersects Lance Johnson's row, and the column labelled 1. When the inning is complete, and the Cubs come up to bat in the second inning, we will move to the column labelled 2, and the row for the next player in the lineup after the player who made the last out. The rows at the bottom of the scorecard (next to the pitchers) are used to keep track of runs scored (R), hits (H), errors made by the team on defense (E), players left on base (LB), strikeouts (K), walks (BB), strikes (S) and pitches (P). Like the pitchers, the errors recorded on one side of the card actually apply to the team on the other side, because defensive errors occur during the at-bats of the other team.

The Cardinals are all on the field, Lance Johnson has stepped into the batter's box, and the umpire has indicated he is ready with the word *Play!* The first pitch from Mercker is a strike. We write a small **1** in one of the two little boxes on the lower right of the at-bat box for Lance Johnson. The two boxes on top represent strikes, and the three below represent balls. Since we will record either a strikeout, or a base on balls, there is no reason to include a box for a third strike or fourth ball. The next pitch is a ball, so we write a **2** in the first of the lower set of three boxes. The third pitch is a second strike, and we indicate this pitch with a **3**. At this point it is obvious from looking at the scorecard that there is a 1 - 2 count on Johnson. The fourth pitch from Mercker is fouled out of play. We indicate this by placing a small **x** or plus (+) to the left of the balls and strikes boxes. We don't need to use numbers because the numbers in the boxes will tell us which pitches were fouled off.



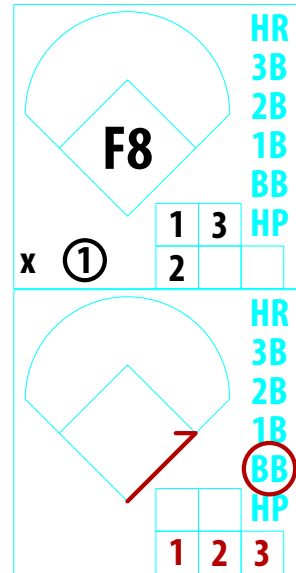
*cubs first, johnson*

On the fifth pitch of the first at-bat, Johnson hits one to center field, caught by Ray Lankford. To indicate this, we write **F8**. The **F** means a fly ball out, and the number **8** indicates it was the center fielder who made the catch. If you flip over your card, you can see that Lankford is in position 8. If you are listening on the radio, you will probably be flipping your card back and forth fairly regularly in

[1] [http://www.frontier.iarc.uaf.edu/~cswingle/baseball/images/cubs\\_v\\_cards\\_8sep98.pdf](http://www.frontier.iarc.uaf.edu/~cswingle/baseball/images/cubs_v_cards_8sep98.pdf)

the first few innings because the announcers will often simply say the name of the player who made the catch, rather than their position number. To indicate the first out of the inning, we write a **1** in the lower left of the box, and put a circle around it. See the box on the right for the complete at-bat notation.

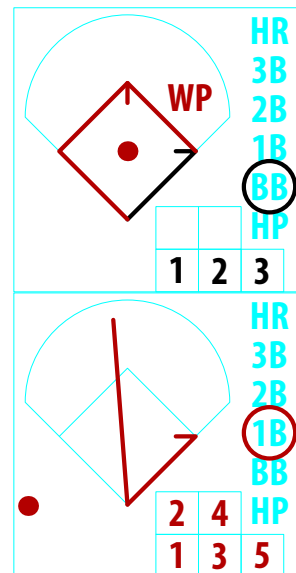
The next batter, Jose Hernandez steps into the box. Mercker seems to lose his control and throws Hernandez four straight balls. We write **1, 2, 3** in the three lower boxes to indicate the three misses. After the fourth ball, we put a circle around the **BB** on the lower right side of the box. This stands for Base on Balls, and indicates a walk. As we are circling that, Hernandez is slowly trotting to first base. To indicate his progress around the bases, we draw a line from home plate to first base on the little diamond in the middle of the box. I also add a little tail on the line to indicate he stopped at first. As players advance around the bases, we can look at these small tails to see what bases a player actually stopped at. Since the first batter was retired in his at-bat, nothing is written in the box above Hernandez's box. See the image on the right. Keep an eye on the red ink, and whose box it is written in to keep the at-bats straight.



*cubs first, hernandez*

Now some interesting stuff starts to happen. Mark Grace steps into the batter's box and Mercker's first pitch is in the dirt and past the catcher. We indicate the ball by putting a **1** in the appropriate box. While the catcher is scrambling for the ball, Jose Hernandez sprints from first to second. Since the ball went past the catcher (either a passed ball or wild pitch) this isn't a stolen base. But he still advanced on the base paths, so we draw another line in Hernandez's box indicating he moved from first to second, putting a little tail at the end. Since the pitch was in the dirt, the play is a wild pitch. To account for the advancement of Hernandez, we write **WP** above the line from first to second. If it had been a true steal, we would have written **SB** for stolen base.

OK, man on second, one out, count 1 – 0. Mercker seems shaken, but his next pitch is right over the plate for a strike. We write a two in the first strike box. Mercker trades balls and strikes until we reach a full count of 3 and 2. Mercker's sixth pitch to Grace is a mistake and Grace drives it into center field. Hernandez was running on the pitch and as Lankford goes for the well-hit ball, he rounds third and sprints for home. Grace easily makes it to first for an RBI single.



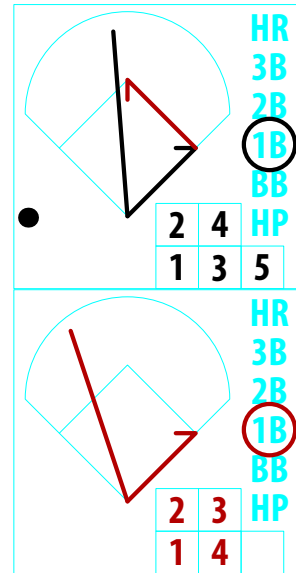
*cubs first, grace*

Here's how we write all of that action. For Hernandez, he ran from second all the way home, so we draw a line along the base path to home. Since we don't put a tail on Hernandez's run at third base, we can tell that he didn't stop at third, and Grace was responsible for getting Hernandez home. To show the run scored, we put a large dot in the middle of the diamond in Hernandez's at-bat box. This makes it easy for us to see how many runs scored at the end of an inning.

In the at-bat box for Mark Grace, we first indicate the single by circling the **1B** on the right side of the box. Next we draw a line from home plate to where the ball was picked up by Lankford (in center field). Since Grace made it to first, we draw another line from home, along the base path, to first, and attach a tail to the end of it. Lastly, we need to give Grace credit for an RBI, which we do by putting a dot in the lower left corner of his at-bat box. Again, this is just a way of making it easier to scan for runs batted in. Got all that? The scoring appears on the right hand side of the page.

The fourth batter of the inning, Sammy Sosa steps up to the plate. At this point in the season he has hit 58 home runs, three behind McGwire, also playing in this game. The first pitch to Sosa is a ball, so we write a **1** in the first of the three ball boxes. Mercker throws two straight strikes, and then a second ball. Sosa swings at the 2 – 2 pitch and drives it to deep left center field where it falls in for a hit. Not quite a home run, but it keeps the inning alive for the Cubs. As Lankford chases it down, Sosa runs to first and Mark Grace (who was on first) slides into second base.

To score this play, we move Grace from first to second by drawing a line along the base path, and add a little tail on the end to indicate he stopped at second. In Sosa's at-bat box, we first draw a line from home plate to deep left center field where Lankford picked it up. Next, we circle the **1B**, indicating Sosa's hit. Finally we draw a line from home to first, with a tail. Your scorecard should look like the boxes on the right. Note that I've cut off the first two batters in the inning because they're already in the dugout. So the top box in the figure shows Mark Grace advancing to second, and the bottom box shows Sosa's single.



*cubs first, sosa*

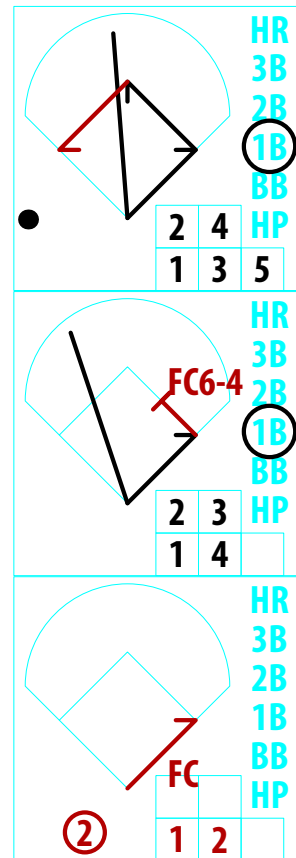
With Grace on second and Sosa on first, Glenallen Hill steps into the batter's box. Mercker's first two pitches to Hill are balls, and Hill is uncharacteristically patient. On the 2 – 0 pitch to Hill, he swings and pokes the ball up the infield to the shortstop Luis Ordaz. Ordaz scoops up the ball and flips it to the second baseman, retiring the advancing Sammy Sosa. Second baseman Deshields rifles the ball to McGwire on first, but not in time to retire Hill. At the same time, Mark Grace is running from second to third where he winds up standing.

Here is where scoring can get difficult. Do we credit Hill with a hit since he winds up on first? The key to the play is to examine it from the shortstop's perspective. When he gets the ball all the baserunners (including Hill) are in between bases. He has a very difficult throw to get Grace, an easy flip for Sosa running toward him, and a simple throw to get Hill running toward first. He hopes to get the double play, so he flips to Delino Deshields on second to retire Sosa. A play like this where the fielder can throw more than one player out is called a Fielder's Choice and is not a hit for the batter because he or she could just as easily have been thrown out on the play. In other words, even though the batter reached safely, he didn't hit safely because someone else on the base paths got thrown out.

So how do we score this? Let's start with Grace. His scoring is simple—he ran from second to third, and it was Hill's hit that got him there. We draw a line from second to third and put a tail on the end of the line.

In the next box down, Sosa starts running from first to second, but never makes it because Deshields has already tagged the base before Sosa gets there. To indicate this we start drawing a line from first to second, but halfway between the bases, we draw a perpendicular line to indicate he was stopped. Next to this, we write **FC 6-4** to indicate Sosa was out on a Fielder's Choice from the shortstop to the second baseman.

In Hill's box, we indicate that he made it to first by drawing a line from home to first, with a tail. Since he got there on a Fielder's Choice, we put **FC** next to this. You'll notice that **FC** appears in more than one box. All fielder's choice plays



*cubs first, hill*

should be written in two boxes, with the defensive position numbers added to the box for the player that was thrown out on the play. We don't circle any of the notations on the right of the box because he didn't get on base in any of those ways (i.e. he didn't get a hit, a walk, or get hit by a pitch). This play also represented the second out of the inning, so we draw a **2** in the lower right corner of Hill's box and circle it. Why do we put the out in Hill's box and not Sosa's, since Sammy is the one walking back to the dugout? Actually the out can be put in either box, but since scoring is an attempt to show the action *and* show the performance of the players, I think it's best to put the out in Hill's box because he's the one responsible for it.

The Chicago third baseman Gary Gaetti steps into the batters box with Mark Grace on third and Glenallen Hill on first. The first pitch from Mercker is a strike. Gaetti swings at the second pitch and goes the other way into right field. As John Mabry runs to get it, Mark Grace crosses home plate easily. Gaetti reaches first safely and Glenallen Hill is trucking from first to third.

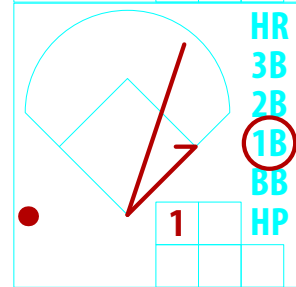
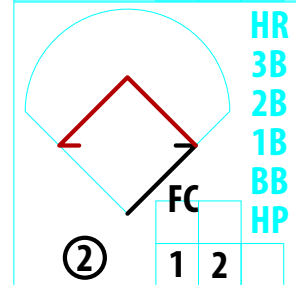
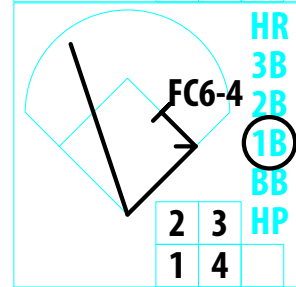
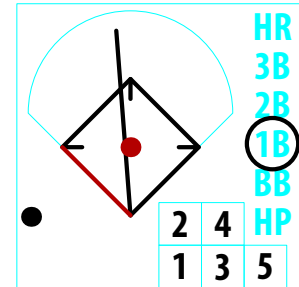
In Gaetti's box (the bottom one on the right), we have already written the first strike. Now we draw a line from home plate to right field where Mabry gets the ball. Gaetti made it safely to first, so we circle the **1B** on the right of the box, and draw a line from home to first base with a tail to indicate he stopped there. Finally, we add a dot in the lower left corner of his box to indicate the run he batted in (Mark Grace).

The next box up from Gaetti's is Glenallen Hill's box. On the hit from Gaetti, he ran from first to third, so we draw that line on the base path.

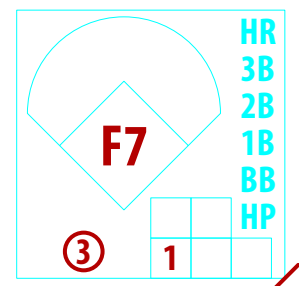
Finally, the box on the top on the right is Mark Grace's (remember that Sosa was thrown out on the fielder's choice), so we need to indicate he has scored a run. We draw a line from third to home, and put a large dot in the middle of the diamond to visually mark the run that scored. Mark Grace now heads for the dugout.

With two runs across already, two outs, Hill on third and Gaetti on first, Mickey Morandini takes his position in the box. After a ball from Mercker, he drives on into left field where it is caught by Ron Gant. This is the final out of the inning.

To score this, we will have already written a **1** in the first ball box. The play itself is **F7** to indicate a fly ball out, caught by the left fielder. We also write a **3** in the box and circle it for the final out of the inning. Lastly, we draw a diagonal line in the lower right corner of Morandini's box. This is just a visual aid to help lead us into putting the next Cubs batter into the correct column (i.e. when Scott Servais comes up to bat, his at-bat is scored in the second column, diagonally offset from Morandini's). See the image on the right.



*cubs first, gaetti*



*cubs first, morandini*

MIDDLE OF THE FIRST

*cubs first*

It is now the middle of the first inning. Kent Mercker got knocked around in the first inning, giving up two runs on three hits and a walk. The complete scoring for the Chicago half of the first inning is shown on the left hand side of the page. It's shrunk down to fit, but even very small, we can still tell what happened in the inning. At a glance it is easy to tell how many runs scored, and by looking at the circles on the right hand side, we can account for the mistakes the pitcher made (walks, hits, etc.). Look carefully at the completed half inning, and see if you can recount the action in your mind. Once again, the order of the at-bats shown on this image is Johnson, Hernandez, Grace, Sosa, Hill, Gaetti, and Morandini.

R	H	2	3
E	LB	0	2
K	BB	0	1
S	P	14	27

*cubs scoring*

There is one last step before we grab a beer and flip the card over to the home side. We need to tally the simple statistics that appear on the bottom of the scoresheet. Counting up the number of runs scored is easy because we can look at the number of dots in the center of the diamonds. There were **2** runs scored (Jose Hernandez and Mark Grace crossed home plate). By looking at the number of circles on the right side of the boxes, you can see how many hits there were as long as you filter out the walks (BB) and hit by pitches (HP). In this case, Mark Grace, Sammy Sosa, and Gary Gaetti all hit singles. The Cardinals didn't commit any errors in the inning, so write a **0** in the E row. The number left on base when the inning ended was **2** (Glenallen Hill and Gary Gaetti). There were no strikeouts (K) and one walk (BB). For this inning, I counted **14** strikes and a total of **27** pitches. Not an easy inning for Mercker.

For the strikes and total pitches, I count up all the called strikes (the numbers in the upper two boxes), add in all the foul balls, add one for each strikeout (since that was the third strike to the batter), and add one for each hit and each out). For example, in Lance Johnson's box we have two strikes, one foul ball and one out for a total of 4 strikes. Add in the number of balls thrown, add one for each walk (the fourth ball to a batter) or hit-by-pitch in the inning and you've got the total pitches thrown.

## BOTTOM OF THE FIRST

Now we flip over the scorecard and being the bottom half of the first inning. Our scorecard already has the St. Louis lineup listed, and shows Steve Trachsel as the Cubs pitcher. We begin in the upper left box, at the intersection of the column for the first inning, and the row for Delino Deshields.

Deshields steps in and swings at the first pitch offered by Trachsel. The ball is a slow dribbler, and before the pitcher can come off the mound, retrieve the ball and throw to first, the speedy Deshields has crossed the bag. An infield single for Deshields!

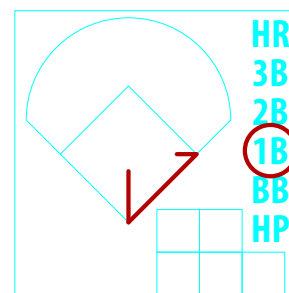
To score it, we draw a line from home plate to the location the ball was recovered by the pitcher to the right of the mound. Next we indicate Deshields' sprint by drawing a line from home plate to first, with a little tail to indicate he stopped at first. Finally, we circle the **1B** for his single.

Next up is the third baseman Fernando Tatis. Before Trachsel delivers the ball to the plate he zips one to his first baseman, catching Deshields too far away from the bag to get back on it. Deshields is thrown out at first base after the tag is applied by Mark Grace! To indicate this, we draw a short line from first toward second, but terminate the line halfway between the bases with a perpendicular line. The play is listed as **P0 1-3** which stands for Picked Off. The pitcher is position 1, and the first baseman is position 3. Finally we put a **1** in Deshields' box and circle it to indicate the first out of the inning.

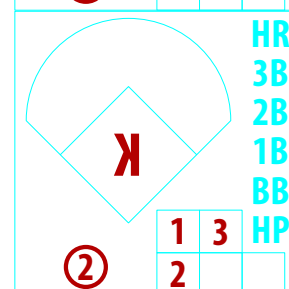
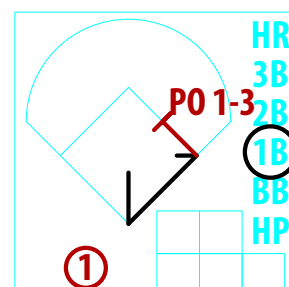
Trachsel then returns to the batter Tatis and throws a strike, a ball and a strike. With the count at 1 – 2 he throws a nasty pitch that Fernando Tatis just watches go by. The umpire calls strike three and Tatis is called out on strikes. At this point we should have a **1** and a **3** in the strike boxes and a **2** in the ball box. To denote the strikeout, we put a backwards **K** in the middle of Tatis' at-bat box. This indicates he was struck out looking, rather than swinging. A swinging strikeout is a forward **K**. We also add a **2** to the box and circle it for the second out.

With two outs and nobody on base, Mark McGwire walks toward the plate, carrying 61 home runs for the season—tied with Roger Maris. The crowd rises to it's feet anticipating the record-breaking home run. As Trachsel winds up and delivers the first pitch, the flash bulbs go off throughout the stadium. Ball one. Trachsel throws two more balls, not even close to the strike zone. It's clear that he doesn't want to be the one to give up the 62nd home run of McGwire's historic season. And with two outs and nobody on, who can blame him for pitching away? On the fourth pitch McGwire swings at a lousy pitch well off the plate and grounds one weakly up the middle to the shortstop. Hernandez flips to Grace for the easy out, the third in the inning.

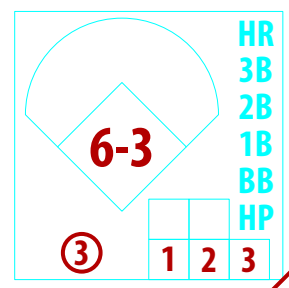
To score this, we simply write **6-3** in McGwire's box. Since we already have notations for fly ball outs (**F**) and fielder's choice outs (**FC**), an out recorded just by position numbers is a ground ball out. If you wanted to, you could write **G6-3**, but it isn't necessary. We also put a **3** with a circle around it in the box. Since it is the final out in the inning, we draw a diagonal line across the lower right corner of McGwire's box. This will lead us to putting the next at bat for the Cardinals (Ray Lankford) into the second inning column.



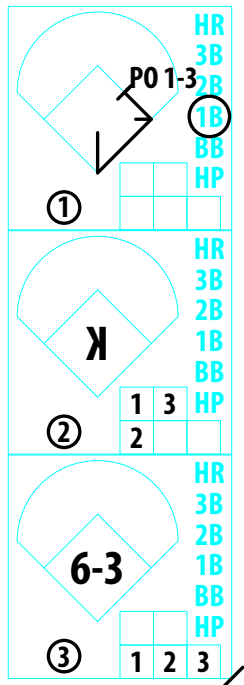
*cardinals first, deshields*



*cardinals first, tatis*



*cardinals first, mcgwire*



*cardinals first*

McGwire's ground ball out brings the first inning to a close with the score Cubs 2, Cardinals 0. The image on the left shows the complete scoring for the Cardinals half of the first inning. The image on the right shows the simple statistics for this inning. A tally of Trachsel's pitches shows he threw 5 strikes in 9 pitches, a much better performance than Mercker. Note that the last pitch that McGwire swung at *would have* been a ball if he'd held back. But because he swung at it, it's effectively a strike for Trachsel.

There were no runs, no errors and no one left on base thanks to Trachsel's excellent pick-off move. Deshields is credited with a hit, so we record 1 hit for the Cardinals.

R	H	0	1
E	LB	0	0
K	BB	1	0
S	P	5	9

*cardinals scoring*

## SECOND INNING

### TOP OF THE SECOND

As we rejoin the action in the second inning, the score stands at 2-0 Chicago. The first inning was exciting, with 3 hits by the Cubs, and an infield hit that Delino Deshields beat out, only to get picked off at first by Steve Trachsel on the next pitch.

As you remember, Mickey Morandini made the last out for the Cubs in the first inning, so we start scoring the second inning in the second column and the eighth row. You can see the diagonal line on the left of the box above Scott Servais' box in the image on the right. His is also the box where the scoring is colored red. You will notice that the inning actually starts on the second box up from the bottom in the image – I've just combined all the action for this half inning into one image (with six boxes removed in between Lance Johnson and Scott Servais).

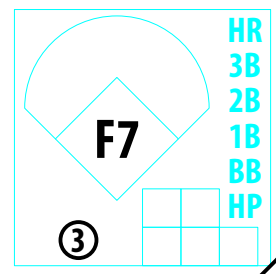
Mercker throws Servais a strike, a ball, and then Servais hits one to center field. Ray Lankford camps out under it and makes the catch to retire the first Cub in this inning. We have already recorded the strike and the ball in the appropriate boxes. For the play we indicate the out as **F8** for fly out by the center fielder, and put a **1** with a circle around it to indicate the first out.

In the next box down, the batter is the Cubs pitcher Steve Trachsel. Remember that we're discussing the bottom box in the image. Mercker throws Trachsel a ball, and then trades balls and strikes until a count of 2 – 2. Mercker's fifth pitch to Trachsel is fouled off. The sixth pitch is hit to Ray Lankford for the second out. We have recorded the balls and strikes in their boxes, added a plus for the foul ball in the lower left corner, and then record the out as **F8**. The second out of the Cubs inning is written as a **2** with a circle around it.

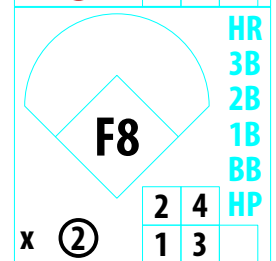
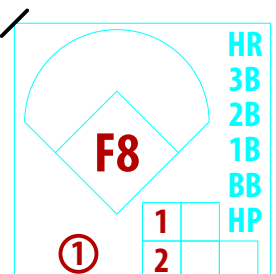
If you are filling out your scorecard as we proceed through the guide you will notice that now there are no players left in the lineup, so we move to the top of the lineup (and the first row on the scorecard) and Lance Johnson. His at-bat in the second inning is right next to his at-bat in the first. On the image on the right, you'll see Johnson's at-bat at the top of the image. As the card gets filled up sequentially like this you will see the importance of the diagonal line that indicates the end of each half inning.

Lance swings at the first pitch from Mercker and drives it to the left fielder, Ron Gant who makes the catch and retires the side. We record the play as **F7**, put a **3** with a circle around it to indicate the third out, and draw a diagonal line in the lower right corner of Johnson's box to lead us to the correct box for the next inning.

As the teams exchange positions on the field, we can re-cap the scoring and other statistics. There were **0** runs scored, **0** hits, **0** errors by the Cardinals, and **0** men left on base. Counting up the pitches, we see that Mercker threw **7** strikes in **10** pitches—a much better inning than his previous effort in the first inning. Looks like Mercker has calmed down. In the scoring column at the bottom of the scorecard, we write six zeros (no hits, runs, errors, men left on base, strikeouts



(6 empty boxes)



*cubs second inning*

or walks).

### BOTTOM OF THE SECOND

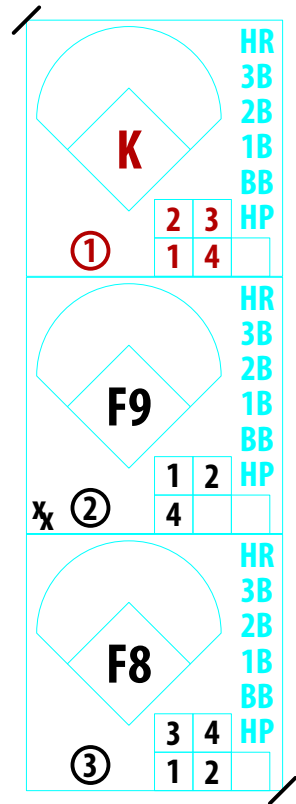
After Mark McGwire's disappointing ground ball, the Cardinals are up to bat again with Ray Lankford leading off. As in the top half of the inning, I've colored this first at-bat in red, above the next two at-bats. Trachsel's first pitch to him is a ball, then two strikes, and another ball. Lankford swings at the fifth pitch, and misses for a strikeout. The strikeout in the last inning against Fernando Tatis was a *called* strikeout and we wrote it as a backwards **K**. A *swinging* strikeout is recorded as a forwards **K** as seen in the image on the right of the page. We've also recorded the balls and strikes as they happened, and the first out.

With one out, Ron Gant comes up to the plate. He watches the first two pitches cross the plate for strikes. Down 0 – 2 he takes a defensive swing at a pitch and fouls it off. If we were recording balls and strikes, at this point we would have a **1** and a **2** in the two strike boxes, and a **x** in the lower left corner of Gant's box. Gant shows excellent patience on the next offering, holding up on a bad pitch from Trachsel. Since this was the fourth pitch thrown, we write a **4** in the first ball box. This way we can tell that Trachsel's third pitch was the first ball fouled off by Gant. The next pitch is also fouled off, and then Gant takes one the other way. It is caught by Sammy Sosa in right field. We record the play as **F9** as well as indicate the second out.

The Cardinals right fielder John Mabry now comes up to the plate. Trachsel misses with the first two pitches, but gets the next two over. The 2 – 2 pitch is hit by Mabry into center field, where it is caught by Lance Johnson to retire the side. This is recorded as **F8**. We record the third out, and put a diagonal line in the lower right corner of the box.

Trachsel is cruising, retiring the first six batters he has faced in order. A count of the pitches recorded shows he threw **11** strikes in **16** pitches. There were **0** runs, **0** hits, **0** players left on base, and the Cubs didn't commit any errors, so the score tally shows all zeros except in the strikeout box (K) we write a **1** for the strikeout on Lankford.

The second inning has come to a close. You should feel pretty comfortable with the way we have scored this inning, since there were no tricky plays to figure out.



cardinals second inning

## THIRD INNING

### TOP OF THE THIRD

Top of the third, Cubs leading, and with the heart of their lineup coming up for round two. The first batter, Jose Hernandez, steps up to the plate, works the dirt in the batter's box for a moment and stands ready, staring in at the pitcher. Mercker's first pitch misses the plate for ball one. The next pitch looks better to Hernandez and he hits a weak pop-up that is eventually caught, in fair territory, by McGwire at first base. We score fly balls on the infield the same as on the outfield, so this is scored **F3**. If McGwire had been in foul territory, we would have scored the play as **F0-3** or *foul out* to the first baseman. Some people also use **L3** to differentiate a *line out* from a fly ball out.

The scoring for Hernandez's out appears on the right

Mark Grace stands in, after getting a single in his first at-bat against Mercker. Like that at bat, Mercker misses with his first pitch, but gets Grace to swing at the second. Grace hits the third pitch into left center field and runs to first base. Another single for the Cubs first baseman!

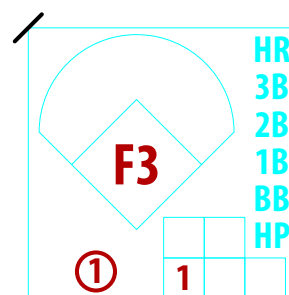
We draw a line from home to where the ball landed in left center field, draw Grace's path along the bases, and circle the **1B** to indicate his single.

An aside, for those of you reading my description carefully, I'm reconstructing this game not from a videotape or radio recording of the game, but from the scorecard I made while watching the game back in 1998. I can tell almost everything about the game from this sheet of paper, but one thing I can't say is whether the first two strikes in an at-bat were swinging strikes or called strikes. I suppose one could write the number backwards if it was a called strike and forwards for a swinging strike, following the convention for third strikes, but I didn't do that for this game. So I'm taking a bit of license in my descriptions when I describe how a batter got the first two strikes on him. I really can't tell from the scorecard. In other words, when I describe Grace swinging and missing at the second pitch, it might actually have been a called strike that Grace thought was out of the zone.

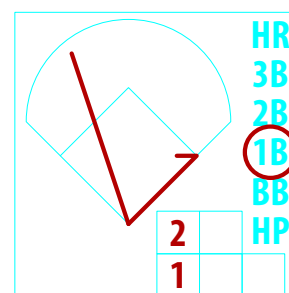
Back to the action. Man on first, Sosa steps up to the plate with 58 home runs on the season, just three back from Mark McGwire and Roger Maris' season home run record. Sosa, like Grace, is 1 for 1 on the day, getting a single in the first inning. The crowd nervously anticipates Sosa hitting a home run, tying the game, and bringing his total one closer to their hero McGwire.

Sosa swings and misses at Mercker's first pitch for strike one (this is a pretty good bet with Sammy). Next, Mercker makes a great pitch and Sosa weakly grounds the ball to the Cardinal third baseman. Tatis makes a quick throw to the second baseman Deshields, who deftly touches the bag at second to force out Grace, leaps into the air to avoid the rapidly approaching Cub first baseman, and rifles the ball to McGwire at first to get Sosa out at first. Double play!

Note that the umpires often grant the out at second without the fielder *actually* touching the bag. Outs at second are so recorded because the baserunner going



*cubs third, hernandez*



*cubs third, grace*

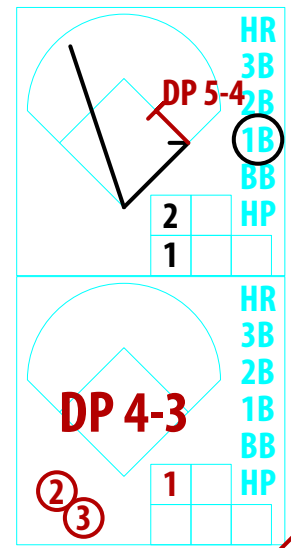
from first to second often runs out of the base paths, doesn't slide when he normally would, or raises his legs and arms high in the air in an attempt to interfere with the throw of the relay man at second, rather than focusing on getting to the bag before the fielder. Because of these idiosyncrasies, the umpire records the first out if the fielder *would have* beaten a normally running and sliding baserunner. If umpires were forced to be particular about the fielder touching the base at second, they'd also have to be particular about when the runner touched the base and whether they attempted to interfere with the fielder in inappropriate ways. Sometimes traditional rulings, like the high strike call, are enforced in a game as old as baseball even if they aren't codified in the rules.

Let's discuss how this is written on the scorecard, and why we write it this way. In Grace's box, we draw a line moving from first to second base, but stop the line halfway and put a hash mark to indicate he didn't make it to second. Above the play, we write **DP 5-4** to indicate how he got out, and to show that this is part of a double play. In Sosa's box we write the other half of the double play: **DP 4-3**. We also write the two circled outs, **2** and **3** in Sosa's box, indicating that he was responsible for these two outs. 5-4-3 double plays aren't particularly common in baseball, but with two slow runners and a sharply hit ground ball, a good infield can easily turn one.

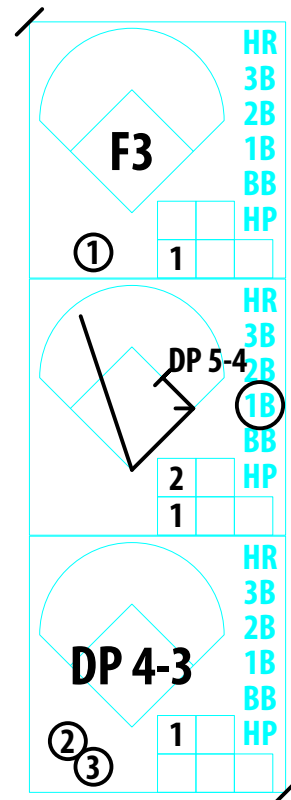
It might also make sense to put one of the outs in Grace's box, since he was actually the second out. But in my view, a scorecard is an attempt to record the action of a game, and to assign credit and blame where they belong. In this situation, there wasn't much Grace could do to avoid getting out, so he shouldn't get the blame that putting the out in his box would indicate. This logic is similar to the logic of putting the out in the box of a batter who hits into a fielder's choice, as Glenallen Hill did in the first inning. In fact, hitting into a double play is one of the worst things a batter can do, so much so that when a runner scores on a double play, the batter isn't granted a run-batted-in (RBI) on the play. Batters do get an RBI when a run scores during a play where they make a single out, such as a sacrifice fly (**SF**).

I've only scored two triple plays since I started scoring, but they're scored the same way as a double play. Each box where there was an out gets a **TP** and the play that resulted in the out, and the batter winds up with the last **TP** and three outs in his box.

The complete scoring for this half inning appears on the right. The Cubs got **0** runs, **1** hit (just because Grace was erased from the base paths on Sosa's double play doesn't take his hit away), **0** errors and **0** left on base. In the inning there were **0** strikeouts, **0** walks, and Mercker threw **5** strikes and **7** pitches.



*cubs third, sosa*



*cubs third inning*

## BOTTOM OF THE THIRD

In the Cardinals half of the third inning, Tony LaRussa sends up Luis Ordaz, the pitcher Mercker, and catcher Eli Marrero. This was the period in LaRussa's managerial career when he was experimenting with putting the pitcher in the eighth spot in the batting order instead of the ninth. On my scorecard there are two extra player slots on the card (representing six additional batters) after the ninth person in the lineup. In a normal National League game, pinch hitters are most likely to appear in this ninth spot, so the scorecard accommodates these additional players with extra lines.

The first batter, the shortstop Ordaz, gets to a full count before popping up to the second baseman. You can see from the scoring on the left that we've recorded all five pitches, the manner in which he got out (**F4**), and wrote the first out in his box.

The pitcher manages to get Trachsel to throw him four pitches before watching the third strike zip over the plate for a called strike three. Since he didn't swing at the last strike, we put a backwards **K** in his box and indicate the second out in the inning with a circled number **2**.

The catcher fares no better against Trachsel, hitting a fly ball to the left fielder Hill for the third out in the inning. **F7**.

So far, Trachsel is having a very good day. Through three innings, he's managed to face the minimum nine batters. He did give up the lead off hit to Deshields, but promptly threw him out. As you're probably guessing, his early success comes to a spectacular end later in the game.

①	F4		HR
	3	5	3B
	1	2	2B
			1B
			BB
			HP
②	K		HR
	1	2	3B
	3	4	2B
			1B
			BB
			HP
③	F7		HR
	1		3B
	2		2B
			1B
			BB
			HP

*cardinals third inning*

# FOURTH INNING

## TOP OF THE FOURTH

Top of the fourth inning with the Cubs still leading the Cardinals 2 – 0. Glenallen Hill steps into the box o for 1 after hitting into a fielder’s choice in the first inning. He takes a ball from Cardinals pitcher Mercker and then drives one to right field. But it’s not hit hard enough to get out and Cardinals right fielder John Mabry makes the catch. **F9**, one out.

Next up is Gary Gaetti, the Cubs third baseman. He’s one for one with a single in the first inning that drove in a run. Mercker must be aware of this because he throws three straight balls to Gaetti. The next pitch is right down the middle for a called strike. Gaetti didn’t even take the bat off his shoulders. The next pitch is a strike, so Mercker has worked his way back from 3 – 0 to a full count. On the sixth pitch, Gaetti hits one into left center field and cruises into first with a single.

We should have the balls and strikes already filled out. To record the single we draw a line from home plate to where the ball was retrieved by the outfielder, mark his path along the bases with a line from home to first and a tail to indicate he stopped at first. Finally, circle the **1B** on the right of the at-bat box to indicate Gaetti’s single.

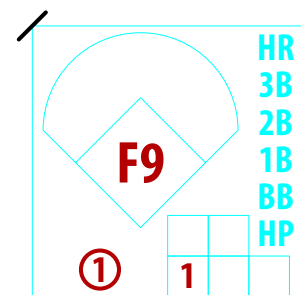
Micky Morandini is next. He hit a fly ball out in the first inning. On the first pitch to Morandini, Mercker comes set, starts his slide step to home and then throws over to first. The umpire calls this move a balk and motions Gaetti over to second. To indicate this, we move Gaetti over from first to second with a line along the base paths, and show that he stopped at second with a little tail. Write **BK** above the line to identify the play as a balk.

A balk is one of the stranger things to see in a live game because it’s not always obvious why a baserunner was just advanced, and it’s a very rare play because umpires often don’t call pitchers for balks unless they do something really obvious (like drop the ball while standing on the rubber). Let’s go through what a balk is.

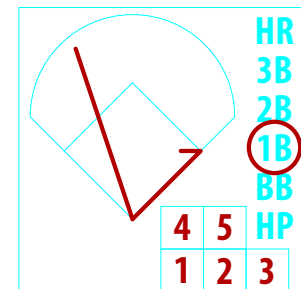
The intention of the balk rule is to punish pitchers for attempting to deceive runners with trick moves. A good pick-off move depends on some trickery to fool the runner into thinking the pitcher is throwing home, but without the balk rule, pitchers would spend all their time feigning throws, dropping the ball, and generally slowing the game down.

According to the official rules (8.05), there are thirteen ways a pitcher can be charged with a balk. When a balk is called, all runners advance one base. I have seen games decided in the ninth inning when the pitcher balks in a run for the other team. You should read all thirteen balk rules for yourself, but I’ll discuss the most common ways pitchers get charged with a balk.

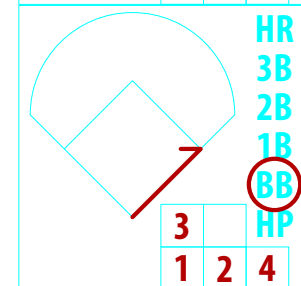
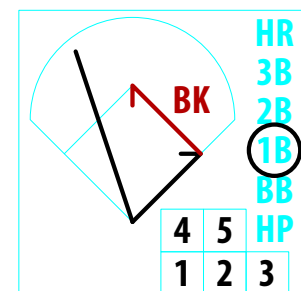
The most common balk call comes when pitchers don’t step toward the base they are throwing to when attempting to pick off a baserunner. The rules state that you have to step toward the base you’re throwing to, and if you’ve stepped toward home, you have to throw home. So a pitcher with a good pick off move to first will usually border on a balk when he makes it look like he’s going to



*cubs fourth, hill*



*cubs fourth, gaetti*



*cubs fourth, morandini*

throw home, but suddenly steps toward first and throws there. Andy Pettitte was famous for his pick off move to first, and frankly, it could be called a balk every time because his leg and body is moving toward home while at the same time he's throwing the ball over to first. Yankee and Astros fans may disagree with my assessment of his move.

The next most common mistake a pitcher makes is some sort of mental error, like accidentally dropping the ball while standing on the pitching slab, not coming to a complete stop (called the Set Position) before making his pitch, or forgetting where the baserunners are and throwing (or faking a throw) to a base where there isn't a runner.

Other balk rules aren't seen very often because they're bald attempts to deceive batter or runner, and pitchers learn very quickly they will be punished for these tricks. Things like pitching while not facing the batter, faking pitches while not on the slab or attempting to quick pitch are all balks that aren't seen very often but are in the rules to keep the contest between pitcher, batter and runner about pitching, not trickery.

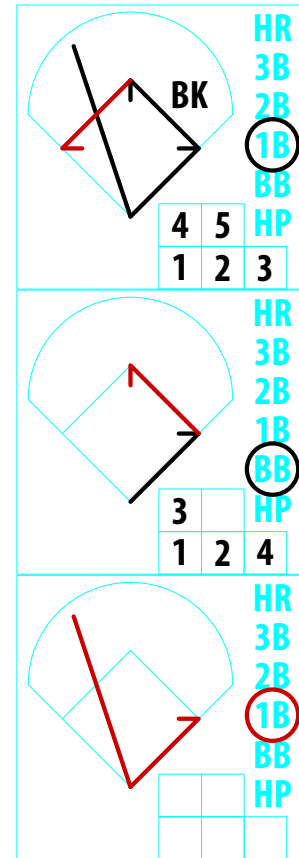
In this particular case, Mercker got a bit too cute trying to pick off Gaetti and the umpire called a balk on his move to first. Rattled, Mercker throws two balls, a strike, and then proceeds to walk Morandini. We draw Morandini's advance to first, and circle the **BB** to indicate he got a walk.

Scott Servais steps into the batter's box with two men on base and only one out. He's 0 for 1 on a fly ball out to start the second inning. He fares better this inning, hitting Mercker's first pitch into left center field for a single. Ron Gant is able to retrieve the ball very quickly and keeps Gaetti from scoring from second on the play. Everyone is safe, and the bases are now loaded.

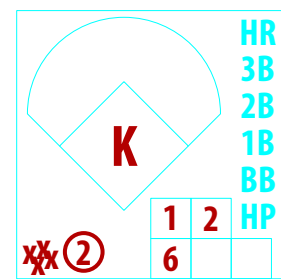
In Servias' box we draw the path of the single from home to left center, draw a line from home to first base, and indicate he got a single by circling the **1B** on the right of his at-bat. On the play, Morandini advanced to second, so we move him along the bases, and Gaetti went to third. All these are marked in red in the image on the right.

Bases loaded, one out, and the pitcher's spot is up. The Cubs are leading, it's still early in the game, and Trachsel has gone through the Cardinal lineup in order, so he's coming up to hit. He gets two strikes on him, fouls off three straight pitches before taking a ball. He then fouls off the seventh pitch, and finally swings and misses. We should have a **1** and a **2** in the strike boxes, four fouls (**x**'s) in the lower left of Trachsel's box, and a **6** in the first ball box. His at-bat is finished with a forward **K** in the center of the box and a **2** with a circle around it to indicate that his swinging strikeout was the second out of the inning. The baserunners haven't moved, so those boxes remain the same.

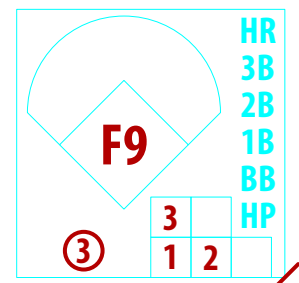
Now we move up to the top of the card and Lance Johnson's row, but in the same fourth inning column. Two outs, bases loaded. Johnson flied out in the first inning and in the second inning. In this inning he takes two balls, a strike, and then hits another fly ball out, this time to Cardinals right fielder Mabry. **F9**. Mercker has worked his way out of a bases loaded, one-out jam without allowing a run to score. The image on the right shows the scoring for both Trachsel and



*cubs fourth, servais*



**(Move to the top)**



*cubs fourth, trachsel and johnson*

Johnson. On the actual scorecard, Trachsel is at the bottom and Johnson is at the top of the inning column but in this image, Trachsel's strikeout is on top, since his at-bat came before Johnson.

The complete scoring for this half inning is at the bottom of the page, next to the scoring for the Cardinals fourth inning.

In this half inning the Cubs had no runs on two hits and left three men on base. There was one strikeout, one walk, and the Cardinals didn't commit any errors in the inning. These numbers are entered into the boxes at the bottom of the column.

### BOTTOM OF THE FOURTH

The bottom of the fourth starts off at the top of the lineup, with Delino Deshields. Cubs pitcher Trachsel has dealt with the Cardinals in order through the first three innings. Deshields got a lead-off single in the first inning, but was picked off at first base in the next at-bat.

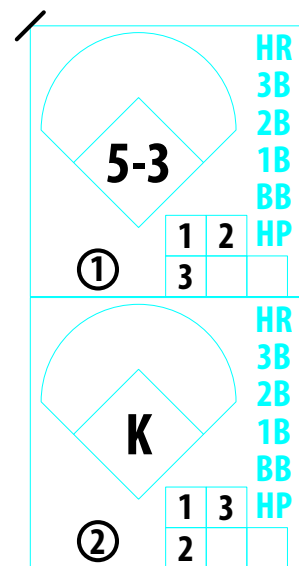
Trachsel gets ahead of Deshields 0 – 2 before throwing a pitch off the plate for a ball. Deshields hits the fourth pitch to the third baseman for a weak ground ball out. The play is scored **5-3** indicating a ground ball out from Cubs third baseman Gaetti to Grace at first. Out number one.

Fernando Tatis is next. He struck out looking in the first inning. He doesn't fare much better here, going to 1 – 2 before swinging and missing at the third strike. We draw a normal **K** in his box to indicate the swinging strikeout, and indicate the second out in the inning with a circled **2**. The first two at-bats are shown on the right.

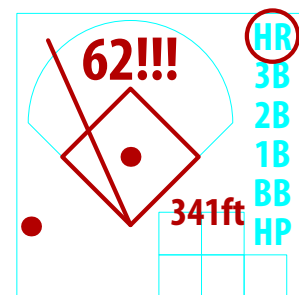
The moment everyone in the stands and at home is waiting for has arrived. Mark McGwire strolls to the plate, bat in hand. Flash bulbs are already going off throughout the stadium as he takes his place in the batter's box. The last time he was up Trachsel threw four straight pitches out of the strike zone and McGwire took a walk.

Trachsel gets the sign from Servais at the plate and delivers. McGwire unloads on the pitch and hits a low line drive toward the wall in left center field. It's not hit very high in the air and as it flies toward the outfield, Glenallen Hill drifts over, tracking the ball. The fans cheer and rise to their feet. McGwire stands at the plate watching, and Trachsel turns around to see if the park can hold it. Collectively, everyone holds their breath until finally, at the last moment, the ball just clears the wall in left center field! **HOME RUN!** Mark McGwire starts jogging around the bases, and picks up his son triumphantly at home plate. He has broken Roger Maris' long standing single season home run record. McGwire now holds the record with 62!

The image on the right shows how this is scored. First, draw a line from home plate to where the ball went over the wall in left center field. Now draw McGwire's path around the bases, with no tails on any base. Circle the **HR** on the right side of the box. On a home run, the batter is credited with scoring a run (his own), so put a filled circle in the middle of his box. He also gets a run batted in for every man on base, as well as one for himself. In this case, there wasn't anyone on base,



*deshields and tatis*



*cardinals fourth, mcgwire*

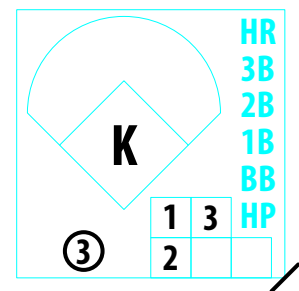
so we put a single dot in the lower left corner of his box to indicate McGwire's RBI.

You'll notice that I put a few other notations in the box, including that this was his 62nd home run, and the distance it travelled. I often include other pieces of information either in the boxes themselves, or write the information in the margins of the scorecard and connect the at-bat with the note using a symbol like an asterisk. A footnote of sorts. Useful bits of information include what happened on a strange play, the nature of an injury, or just something funny or interesting. During a baseball game two years ago in my home town of Fairbanks, two women decided to run onto the field topless. In that at-bat box, I put an asterisk, and in the margins I wrote—**Streakers!** Little notes like this can help you to understand the action when the normal scoring can't convey all the action, and they also can mark momentous or curious events in a game you were watching.

After ten or fifteen minutes of celebration, we're finally ready for the fourth batter of the inning, Ray Lankford. He struck out swinging to lead off the second inning. This inning he fares no better, taking the count to 1 – 2 before swinging and missing. Strike three, and the third out in the inning. We draw a normal **K** in the box, indicate the third out in the inning, and draw a diagonal line in the lower right corner of Lankford's box to indicate the end of the inning.

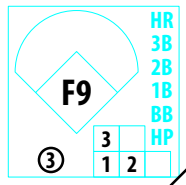
Lankford's scoring is shown on the right.

The Cardinals finally broke through, scoring one run on one hit off Trachsel. And what a run it was, marking the first time since 1971 that someone has broken the single season home run record. The record would be broken again just a few years later by Barry Bonds, but the contest between Sosa and McGwire in 1998 was historic, and far more memorable than when Bonds smashed McGwire's record. There were no errors and no one left on base. Trachsel managed two strikeouts in the inning and didn't walk anyone.

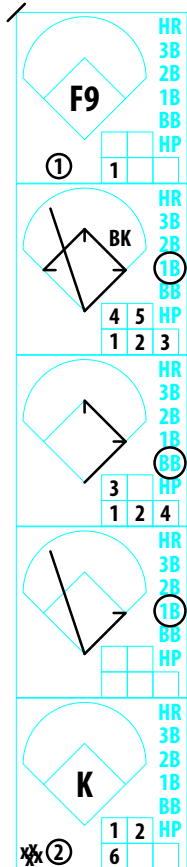


*cardinals fourth, lankford*

END OF THE FOURTH



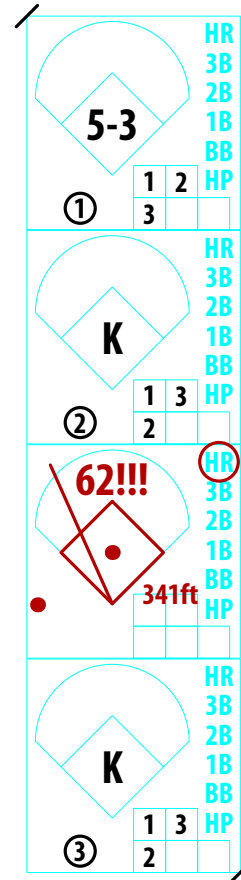
(3 empty boxes)



*cubs fourth*

The complete scoring for the fourth inning appears on the left and right. The Cubs scoring started in the fifth row of the scorecard, with Glenallen Hill, and after Trachsel struck out, continued at the top of the card in Lance Johnson's row. The Cardinals started the inning with their lead off man, Delino Deshields.

At the end of four, Cubs 2, Cardinals 1.



*cardinals fourth*

## FIFTH INNING

### TOP OF THE FIFTH

The fifth inning begins with the Cubs still leading 2 – 1, but Cubs pitcher Steve Trachsel has just served up the pitch that Mark McGwire hit for his 62nd home run. The Cubs would like to strike back in this inning.

The first batter is Jose Hernandez. He's 0 for 1 with a walk. Usually when these sorts of statistics are reported, the announcer (or the box score) is reporting the number of hits and the number of at-bats. Even though Hernandez has two plate appearances in the game, he only has one at-bat. The walk he got in the first inning doesn't count as an at-bat because the pitcher didn't let him swing the bat. Batting average is the number of hits divided by the number of at-bats, so the distinction is important. If walks were counted as at-bats, a batter who walks a lot would wind up with a very low batting average, even though he winds up on base a lot. Other plate appearances that don't count as at-bats include when a batter is hit by a pitch (which isn't an at-bat for the same reason as a walk), or when the batter sacrifices a runner either through a sacrifice fly that scores a run, or a sacrifice bunt that advances a runner. In these two cases, the plate appearance isn't counted as an at-bat because the batter wasn't trying to get a hit, he was intentionally giving up an out so the team could advance a runner. Baseball is a team sport, and team play like hitting a sacrifice shouldn't penalize a batter by lowering his batting average.

If you look at the scoring for this inning on the right (the inning is simple enough that I didn't break down each batter as in previous innings), you can see that the play in Hernandez's at-bat box (**F9**) is in green. On my actual scorecard, I don't have anything written in this box except a **1** with a circle around it. So I know he got out, but at the time, I missed the play. Much later, as I was writing these pages I came across the Retrosheet<sup>[1]</sup> project, which contains a box score for this game. By comparing the Cardinals put outs with what action I did record, I was able to determine that Hernandez hit a fly ball that was caught by Mabry in right field. There's no listing of balls and strikes in the box score, so I still don't know what the pitch count was when Hernandez hit is fly ball out.

When you miss a play, you miss it. Unless you're the official scorer for the game, it probably doesn't matter too much. You could ask the person next to you to recount the play, or if it's a professional game, find out what happened on the Internet. Regardless, you should write down what you do know. In my case, I was probably going to get a beer or going to the bathroom, and when I got back to the game, Hernandez was already walking back to the dugout.

The next batter, Mark Grace, hits a ground ball to the shortstop and is thrown out at first. The play is recorded **6-3**. He's now 2 for 3 in the game.

Sosa comes up next, and after getting to a full count, Mercker throws a pitch off the plate which Sammy takes for a two-out walk. We draw a line from home to first with a little tail, and circle the **BB** on the right side of his box.

<b>F9</b>	HR				
	3B				
	2B				
	1B				
	BB				
	HP				
①					
<b>6-3</b>	HR				
	3B				
	2B				
	1B				
	BB				
	HP				
②		1			
	HR				
	3B				
	2B				
	1B				
	BB				
	HP				
		1	4		
		2	3	5	
<b>F6</b>	HR				
	3B				
	2B				
	1B				
	BB				
	HP				
x ③					
		1	2		

*cubs fifth inning*

[1] <http://www.retrosheet.org/>

Glenallen Hill comes up 0 for 2 in the game and hits a pop fly to the shortstop. Some scorers will record a *pop fly* as **PF6** or **P06**, a *line drive* as **L6**, and a normal *fly ball* as **F6**. For this game, I used **F** to indicate all three of these outcomes, and **FO** to indicate a foul ball out. Using different letters for different outs gives some flavor to your scoring, but it doesn't change the box score or the statistics. Also, like with spectacular McGwire's home run, I will add exclamation marks when a fielder makes a spectacular play to get an out.

The inning is over for the Cubs. They got no runs, no hits, there were no Cardinal errors, and one man was left on base. Mercker didn't strike anyone out, but he did walk a batter. We can't record the strikes and pitches because we don't know what the pitch count was on Hernandez when he got out.

### BOTTOM OF THE FIFTH

From a scoring standpoint, the bottom of the fifth is even less interesting than the Cub fifth inning. Despite giving up the home run to McGwire, Trachsel is still cruising through the Cardinals lineup, only one mistake on his line for the game. The scoring for the Cardinals in the fifth is on the right.

Ron Gant steps in 0 for 1 with a fly out to right in the second inning, and in this inning, he hits another fly ball to the Cub's right fielder Sammy Sosa. One out, **F9** in his box.

John Mabry is also 0 for 1. He takes two balls from Trachsel before grounding out to the second baseman. The play is scored **4-3**, two outs.

Luis Ordaz popped out to the second baseman in the third inning. In this inning he hits a fly ball, caught by the Cub center fielder for out number three. **F8**.

Trachsel gets them out in order this inning. No runs, no hits, no Cub errors, no baserunners, no strikeouts and no balls. If you're still counting, Trachsel threw five strikes and nine pitches in this inning.

Stay tuned! Lots of excitement coming up next inning!

①	F9	1				HR	3B	2B	1B	BB	HP
②	4-3			1	2	HR	3B	2B	1B	BB	HP
③	F8		1			HR	3B	2B	1B	BB	HP
			2	3							

*cardinals fifth inning*

## SIXTH INNING

### TOP OF THE SIXTH

The inning starts with the score still Cubs 2, Cardinals 1. The lower part of the Cubs order is up, starting with Gary Gaetti. He's 2 for 2 in the game with two singles. This inning he takes two balls, then two strikes, fouls the fifth pitch off, and finally strikes out swinging. The balls, strikes and the foul ball are indicated as shown on the right. Since it was a swinging strikeout, we write a normal **K** in his box, and draw a circled **1** to indicate the first out of the inning.

The next batter is Micky Morandini, who is 0 for 1 with a walk, hitting a fly ball caught in left field to end the first inning. Mercker starts him off with two strikes, he fouls off the third pitch to stay alive, and then grounds to the second baseman Deshields, who throws over to McGwire at first for the second out of the inning. The play is scored **4-3**, and we draw a circled **2** in his box for the second out.

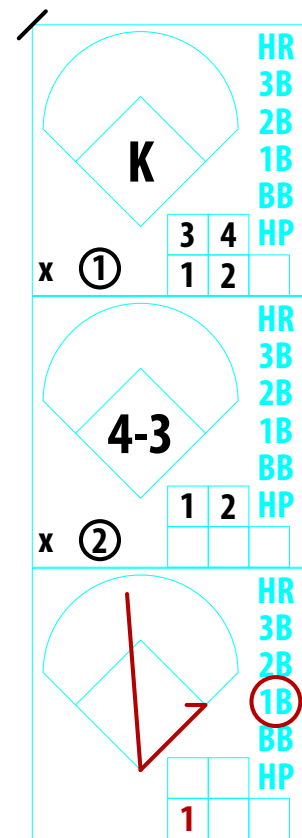
At this point Mercker has thrown at least 93 pitches (remember we don't know exactly what happened at the top of the last inning to Jose Hernandez), and he's still getting batters out. Knowing the pitch count for some pitchers can be useful while watching a game because you can often predict not only how much longer a pitcher is likely to be in the game, but also what sort of mistakes he may make. Despite his high pitch count, to this point Mercker still has enough stuff to get batters to swing and miss, and he's keeping the ball down.

But he's tiring. The next batter, Scott Servais is 1 for 2 with a single in the fourth inning. He takes a first pitch ball from Mercker and then lines a base hit into center field. We draw a line showing his progress to first base, draw the path of the ball from home plate to center field, and circle the **1B** in the right side of his at-bat to indicate a single.

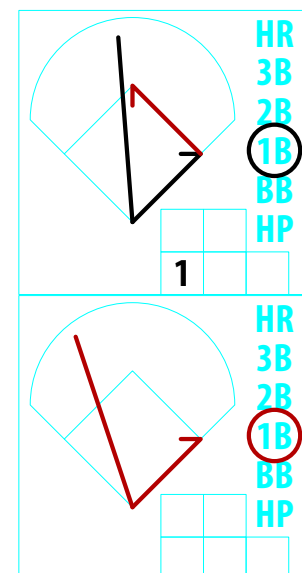
Next up is the pitcher, Steve Trachsel, 0 for 2 with a strikeout in the fourth inning. In this inning he swings at Mercker's first offering and gets a hit into left center field. He jogs to first with a single. On the play Servais gets to second base. In Trachsel's box, we draw his single just like the single that Servais got except for the location of the hit. Since Servais moved from first to second on the play, we draw a line from first to second and add a little tail at second base in Servais' box.

Mercker starts to look like he's in trouble. He was pitching well to the first two batters, but he's left two pitches up and over the plate, and now the eighth and ninth hitters for the Cardinals are on base. Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa decides to leave Mercker in the game to face Lance Johnson with two outs. With Mercker due up first in the bottom of the inning, it makes sense for LaRussa to leave him in since LaRussa will be pinch hitting for the lead off batter anyway. If he replaces Mercker now, that pitcher would only face one batter and then be replaced in the lineup in the bottom half of the inning. Even so, Mercker is on a very short leash.

Lance Johnson is having a terrible day at the plate, going 0 for 3, on three fly ball outs. In the fourth inning, his fly ball out ended the inning with the bases loaded. He'd like to drive in at least one run this inning to get back the run the



*gaetti, morandini and servais*



*cubs sixth, trachsel*

Cardinals got on McGwire's home run. He gets a first pitch strike from Mercker, and grounds out to the second baseman. The play is scored **4-3**, and we put a circled **3** in his box for the third out, as well as a slash mark in the lower right corner of his box to indicate the end of this inning. If you're looking at your scorecard, we've moved back up to the first row in the sixth inning column because Johnson is the lead off batter for the Cubs. There should be four empty boxes between Johnson's failed at-bat at the top of the scorecard and Gaetti's first out in the inning. If you're not sure how the at-bats fit together, you should consult the complete scoring for this game.

For the Cubs in the sixth inning, they got **0** runs on **2** hits, there were no errors and two men left on base. Mercker got **1** strikeout and didn't walk any batters. These totals are written in the little boxes at the bottom of the sixth inning column.

### BOTTOM OF THE SIXTH

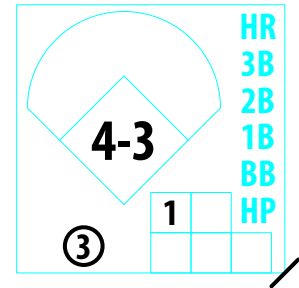
Bottom of the sixth and in LaRussa's strange lineup, the pitcher's spot is up. With the Cubs leading 2 - 1 and Trachsel pitching well, LaRussa replaces Mercker with pinch hitter J. D. Drew. For those that don't remember, Drew was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1997. But he and his agent Scott Boras thought they could get a better deal (more than \$8 million) than the one offered by the Phillies, so Drew sat out an entire season. After the Phillies right to negotiate expired he went back into the draft and the Cardinals drafted him. He was offered, and accepted far less than what the Phillies had offered a year earlier. This moment in the game marks his Major League debut.

So the pitcher goes out, and in the next spot on the scorecard, we write **J.D. Drew's** name. He's coming in as a pinch hitter, so we write **PH** in the upper left corner of the position box. It's the sixth inning, so we put a **6** in the upper left corner of the inning box. As you can see in the image on the right, we'll be putting his defensive position below these numbers. In the top of the seventh, Drew will replace Ron Gant in left field. Sometimes, the announcers will indicate that the manager is making a *double switch*, and will explain where the batter will play in the next half inning. In a double switch, the pitcher is replaced with a position player in the lineup, and the new pitcher will move into the spot in the batting order where the fielder was. So the next pitcher for the Cardinals will be fifth in the lineup, since he will replace Gant.

Normally you don't know what the pinch hitter will be doing in the next inning so you have to watch (or listen) carefully at the beginning of the next half inning to see if the pinch hitter replaces someone in the field, or if the pinch hitter doesn't play defense. In that case, we leave the lower half of the position and inning boxes empty, and the pitcher will go into that spot in the lineup.

Since Drew will replace Gant in the lineup, we put a **7** in the bottom of the position box, and a **7** in the bottom of the inning box (because he'll start in left field in the seventh inning).

In the at-bat box, we indicate the substitution by drawing a vertical line along the left side of the box, and put a little **x** above and below the line. This is a visual aid to help keep track of who the at-bats belong to. Since this is Drew's Major

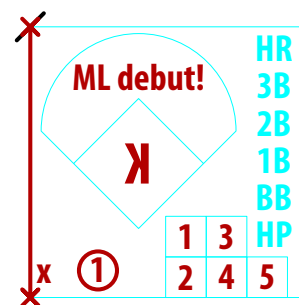


**(4 empty boxes)**

*cubs sixth, johnson*

Mercker, Kent	1	1
Drew, JD	ph/7	6/7

*drew substitution*



*cardinals sixth, drew*

League debut, I wrote that in the box too.

Drew does well in his first at-bat, taking the count full and then fouling off the sixth pitch before taking a called third strike. We draw a backwards **N** to indicate the called third strike, and draw a **1** with a circle around it to indicate the first out of the inning.

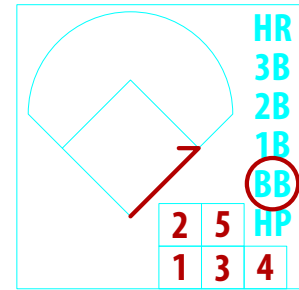
The catcher Eli Marrero steps in, after flying out to left field to end the third inning. This time around he works the count full, and instead of getting a called strike like Drew did, the umpire calls Trachsel's sixth pitch a ball. Marrero trots to first with a walk. We circle **BB** on the right of his box to indicate the walk, and draw a line along the base paths from home to first with a little tail to indicate he is on first.

Delino Deshields comes up to bat, and we move back to the top of the scorecard. In the image for this at-bat, Deshields' at-bat is below Marrero's, even though on the scorecard it's at the top. It's not clear from my scorecard exactly what happened during this at-bat, but this time the Cubs pitcher makes a mistake on the mound and Marrero is moved from first to second on a balk. Two balks in one game! In Marrero's box, we draw a line from first to second, and write **BK** above the base paths to show he moved to second on a balk. After three pitches, and with two strikes on him, Deshields hits a long drive to deep left center field. He only makes it to first on the play, but the slow Marrero has plenty of time to make it home. As it turns out, the balk figures heavily in the game, allowing Marrero to go from second to home. Cubs and Cardinals tied 2 - 2.

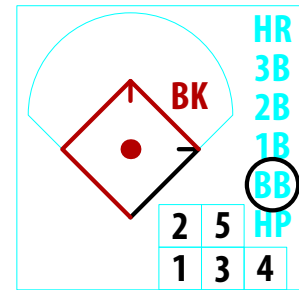
In Marrero's box, we draw a line from second to home, and put a circle in the middle of the diamond to indicate the run scored. In Deshields' box, he's credited with a single and an RBI. The single is marked by circling the **1B** on the right side of the box, and a dot in the lower left corner indicates the RBI. We also draw a line from home to where the ball was recovered, and indicate his progress along the bases to first.

One run in, one man on base, one out. Tatis stands in o for 2 with two strikeouts. This time up, he swings at the first pitch and drives it into left field where Glenallen Hill waits and then makes the catch. Deshields on first tags up and bluffs a run toward second. Seeing Deshields moving, Hill bobbles, then drops the ball in left field. By the time he's picked it up again, Deshields makes it to second easily. An error is charged to Hill, and we indicate this by writing **E7** above the base paths in Deshields' box. According to the rules, an error is charged to any player who makes a mistake that "prolongs the time at bat of a batter or which prolongs the life of a runner, or which permits a runner to advance one or more bases." The rules continue for several pages on the specific situations where an error should be charged, but in general, if a play should have been made with ordinary effort but wasn't, it's an error.

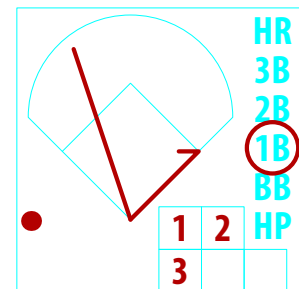
Errors like the one that allows Deshields to advance from first to second are pretty easy to call because it was easy to see Hill's mistake, and the error accounts



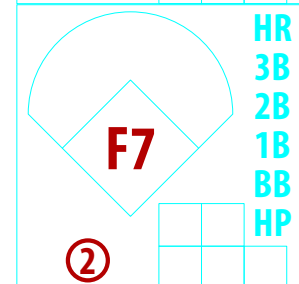
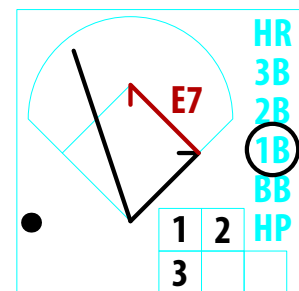
cardinals sixth, marrero



(back to the top)



cardinals sixth, deshields



cardinals sixth, tatis

for the advancement along the base paths. The difficult calls are on ground balls where the batter makes it to first and the fielder *might* have been able to get the runner. If it would have required a spectacular play to record the out, the play should be scored as a single. But on plays that could have been made with ordinary effort, the batter does not get a hit and the fielder is charged with an error.

The next batter is Mark McGwire, who is 1 for 2 with a ground out to the shortstop, and a record-breaking home run in the game. The Cubs manager Jim Riggleman doesn't take any chances, especially since first base is open and the next batter, Ray Lankford is 0 - 2 with two strikeouts in the game so far. Catcher Servais signals a intentional pass, stands up, and takes four pitches about six feet from the plate. McGwire jogs to first base with an intentional walk.

Intentional walks are a separate statistic for pitchers in the final scoring of the game, and it's important to distinguish them because they don't represent bad pitching on the part of the pitcher. They are a managerial strategy that attempts to minimize the damage a single player can cause. Anyone who watched Barry Bonds in the 2003 and 2004 seasons is very familiar with this strategy. To score the intentional walk, we draw an **I** in front of the **BB** on the right side of McGwire's box and then circle the **IBB** to indicate the walk was intentional. We also draw a line from home from first to indicate McGwire is now on first base.

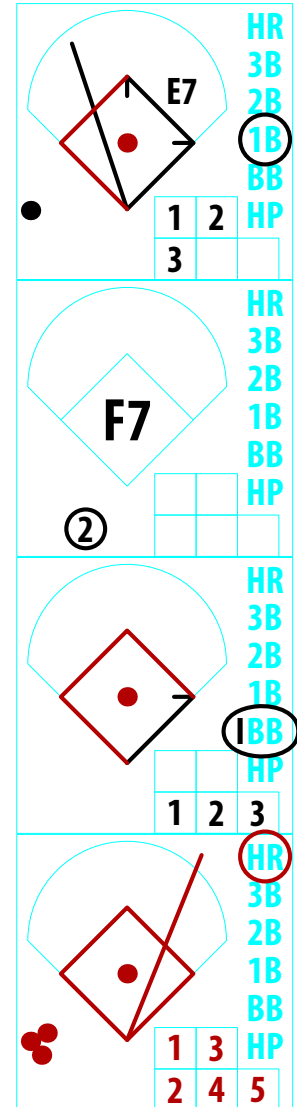
Next up is Ray Lankford. He's probably upset that Trachsel walked McGwire to get to him. After working the count full, Trachsel has to throw a pitch over the plate or risk walking the bases loaded. He does, and Lankford doesn't miss it, slamming the pitch to deep right center field for a three-run home run! Lankford is vindicated, and the Cub strategy badly misfires.

On the home run, Deshields scores from second, so we draw a line from second to home, and put a circle in the middle of the diamond in his at-bat box to indicate the run he scored. McGwire scored from first, so we draw a line around the base paths and put a dot in his box too. For Lankford, we draw a line from home to where the ball went over the wall in right center field, draw a line all the way around the base paths, put a dot in the center of his box, and draw three dots in the lower left side of his at-bat box to indicate the three runs he batted in (Deshields, McGwire, and himself). We also circle the **HR** on the right.

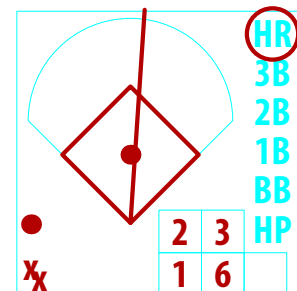
The crowd at Busch Stadium is going wild – first McGwire breaks the season home run record, and now their team has taken the lead in the game on a three run homer after intentionally walking him the next time he's up to bat. Ron Gant is the batter. Trachsel gets ahead of him 1 - 2, Gant fouls off the next two pitches, then takes a ball. Gant drives the seventh pitch of the at-bat over the fences in center field for another home run. Now the score is 5 - 2, Cardinals.

You can see the order of the pitches from the balls, strikes and foul ball **x**'s in Gant's at-bat box. For the home run we draw a line from home plate to where the ball went over the fence, draw his path around the bases back to home, put a dot in the middle of the diamond for the run, and a dot in the lower left for his RBI. Finally, we circle the **HR** for the home run.

Cubs manager Jim Riggleman decides that Trachsel has had enough. After



cardinals sixth, lankford



cardinals sixth, gant

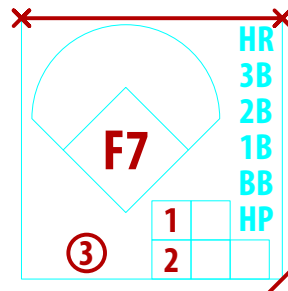
getting the first out, he's given up a single and two home runs. The Cubs need to limit the damage, and so they go to their bullpen. Replacing Trachsel will be Terry Mullholland. At this point both starting pitchers are out of the game. Cardinals pitcher Mercker was replaced when J.D. Drew came in to pinch hit for him at the beginning of this half of the inning, and now the Cubs pitcher will be replaced with Mullholland. Unlike the Drew substitution, the Cubs aren't switching the position in the lineup that the pitcher will hit in, so this isn't a double switch.

Steve Trachsel	1
Terry Mulholland	6 2/3

*mullholland substitution*

We make two notations to indicate this change. First, we write **Terry Mullholland's** name below starting pitcher Steve Trachsel in the pitcher section in the lower left side of the scorecard. Because it's the sixth inning, with two men already out, we indicate the inning as **6 2/3**. In the newspaper box score for this game you may see 5.2 listed for the number of innings Trachsel worked. The number after the decimal point is a base 3 number, meaning 0.1 is one third of an inning and 0.2 is two thirds. On my scorecard I wrote out **6 2/3**, but you could also put **6.2** for the inning Mullholland starts.

The other notation is to draw a solid line at the top of the at-bat box of the first hitter to face the new pitcher. I put two **x's** on either side of the line to make the line more obvious. This line is necessary because some pitchers only come in to face on batter, but if they fail to get an out, they and their replacement will be listed as starting in the same third of the inning. Pitcher replacements get a horizontal line at the top of the at-bat box, hitter replacements get a vertical line on the left of their at-bat box.



*cardinals sixth, mabry*

After the pitching change, Mabry steps in, 0 for 2 on the day. After two pitches, Mullholland gets Mabry to hit a fly ball into left field. Glenallen Hill makes the catch, and the third out of the inning. **F7**.

This inning the Cardinals scored **5** runs on **3** hits, there was **1** Cub error in the inning, and **0** men left on base. Trachsel got **1** strikeout and gave up **2** walks.

## END OF THE SIXTH

It's the end of the sixth inning, Cardinals leading 6 - 2. Both of the starting pitchers are out of the game, so it's time to discuss the statistics that are normally kept for pitchers. A pitcher's "line" is usually composed of innings pitched, batters faced, earned runs, runs, hits, strikeouts and walks. All of these statistics can easily be counted by looking at the at-bat boxes of the opposing team above the line separating the starting pitcher from the first reliever. Post-game statistics include *Earned Run Average* or ERA, and whether the pitcher won or lost the game. The final relief pitcher may also be granted a *Save*, but we'll consider that when the game is over.

Earned runs are those runs that are the responsibility of the pitcher, without the influence of any errors during the pitcher's time on the mound. In this half inning, Glenallen Hill committed an error that allowed Deshields to go from first to second. We may argue that this contributed to McGwire also getting on base with a free pass, but since Deshields would have scored on Lankford's home run no matter where he was on the base paths, this run is an earned run. So, in

this game, all of the runs Trachsel gave up are earned runs. So his line is: 5 2/3 innings pitched, 6 runs all earned, 5 hits, 6 strikeouts and 2 walks.

A couple notes on earned runs. The easiest way to decide whether an error contributed to a run not being earned is to just replay the inning, but score the play with the error (and all subsequent plays) as though the error didn't happen. For example, if the first batter in an inning reaches on a throwing error by the shortstop, this play should have resulted in the first out of the inning and no one on base. If the next two batters get out, and the third batter hits a home run, both runs are unearned because the second two outs *should have* been outs two and three. It's not the pitcher's fault that those runs scored, it's the fielder's error that allowed them to come in. The other quirk with earned runs is that when a pitcher is replaced with men on base and those runners score, the runs are charged to the original pitcher, not the reliever.

ERA is a measure of how many runs a pitcher could be expected to give up if he pitched nine straight innings. It is calculated as:  $\text{earned runs} / \text{innings pitched} \times 9$ . So for this game, Trachsel's ERA is  $6 / 5.67 \times 9 = 9.54$ . Not a very good outing.

Mercker is also out of the game. J.D. Drew replaced him in a double switch, so he has to come out of the game at the top of the next inning. He pitched 6 innings, gave up 2 earned runs, 8 hits, struck out 2 and walked 3. His ERA is 3.00.

We'll consider who is the winning and losing pitcher at the end of the game, but because Trachsel came out of the game with his team losing, he can't be the winning pitcher. Should the Cubs come back to win, one of the relievers would get the win. Trachsel's best case is to get a no-decision. Mercker pitched more than the minimum 5 complete innings, and his team is winning as he leaves the game (remember his replacement hasn't come into the game yet, so despite being pinch hit for, it's still his game to win or lose), so he would get the win if the Cardinals hold their lead to the end of the game. Since he's leaving as the winning pitcher, his worst case is a no-decision.

# SEVENTH INNING

## TOP OF THE SEVENTH

Top of the seventh inning, Cardinals now leading 6 – 2. If you remember the bottom of the sixth inning, Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa pinch hit for his pitcher—J.D. Drew’s Major League debut. As I indicated in that inning, LaRussa told the umpires that he was making a double switch, putting Drew in left field as the seventh inning starts, and putting the next pitcher into the fifth spot where Ron Gant was. Now that the inning is about to begin, we can see that Kent Mercker has been replaced by Rick Croushore. We write Croushore in the pitcher’s section of the scorecard in the same way we replaced Trachsel in the Cardinals half of the sixth, except this time we put **7** in the inning column for Croushore. We also draw a horizontal line, with **x**’s on the ends, above the next Cub at-bat box (Jose Hernandez) to make it clear that Hernandez is seeing a different pitcher.

Kent Mercker	1
Rick Croushore	7

*croushore substitution*

The first batter to face Croushore is Jose Hernandez. He’s 0 for 2 with a walk and a run scored in the first inning. He takes a ball, gets a strike, and then hits the ball to right field where it is caught by John Mabry. To score this, we put **F9** in his box, and indicate the first out with a **1** with a circle around it.

Next up is Mark Grace. He’s 2 for 3 with an RBI in the first inning, but he grounded out to the shortstop in his last at-bat. This time he has a great at bat, working the count full, fouling off a pitch, and then having the discipline to hold back on ball four. He walks to first base with a one out walk. We draw his path along the bases with a tail at first to indicate he stopped there, and circle the **BB** on the right side of his box to indicate the walk. The long image on the right shows all the scoring starting with Hernandez and ending (five batters later) with Gaetti. Grace is the second box down in the image.

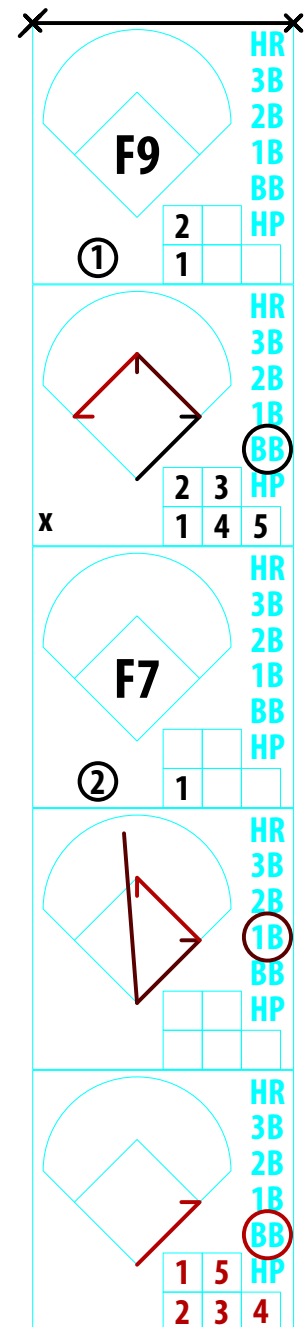
Sammy Sosa now walks to the plate. The Cardinal fans are cheering, but are hoping their pitcher can keep him from adding to his 58 home runs. He’s 1 for 2 with a walk. He takes a first pitch ball, and swings wildly at the next pitch. He’s behind on the fastball and hits a weak fly ball to left field, where it’s caught by rookie J.D. Drew. His first professional put-out!

On the play, we write **F7** in Sosa’s box and indicate the second out with a circled **2**.

Big Glenallen Hill steps into the batter’s box 0 for 3 in the game with a ground out and two fly ball outs. This time he swings at the first pitch from Croushore and lines a ball past the pitcher into center field. He gets to first easily on the two-out single, and on the play Mark Grace advances to second.

We draw a line from home to first, with a little tail to indicate he stopped at second and circle the **1B** for his single. In Grace’s box, we draw his advancement from first to second. In the images, the result of Hill’s at-bat are in very dark red to help separate them from the previous at-bats (in black) and the next at-bat (dark red).

Two men on and two out with Gary Gaetti at the plate. Gaetti is having a good afternoon, going 2 for 3 with two singles and a first inning RBI. In this inning he



*hernandez - gaetti*

works the count full, and just like the previous at-bat, Croushore throws a full count ball that Gaetti doesn't swing at. Ball four! Gaetti walks and the bases are now loaded.

We draw Gaetti's path from home to first and circle **BB** for his walk. Hill advances from first to second and Grace moves to third on the walk. The different colors in the image (on the previous page) should make the scoring clear.

Micky Morandini is due up, but with the Cubs down by four runs, Riggleman decides to bring in a pinch hitter hoping to get at least two of those runs back. As pinch hitter Matt Mieske walks to the plate, Tony LaRussa decides he's seen enough of Croushore and makes a slow walk to the mound. He's calling for Lance Painter. Although I didn't keep track of which side of the plate each batter favors, or which arm the pitchers use, it's a good bet that Painter throws from the same side that Mieske bats from. In general, right handed batters have lower batting averages against right handed pitchers than against left handed pitchers. So a manager will often have a lefty and a righty in the bullpen warming up. After the pinch hitter moves from the on-deck circle to the batter's box, the manager will choose the pitcher that throws with the same arm.

To indicate the pinch hitter Mieske, we write him in below Morandini, with **ph** in the position column, and **7** in the inning column. We don't know yet whether he will take over at second base (he doesn't), so we leave some room in the boxes to write in a defensive position. We also draw a vertical line with **x**'s on the ends across the left side of Mieske's at-bat box (shown at the bottom of the page) to show that Morandini's night is done.

We write Painter below Croushore in the pitcher's section of the lineup, and write **7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>** next to his name to indicate when he came into the game. We also draw a solid horizontal line with **x**'s on either side above Mieske's box. This shows that Mieske is facing a new pitcher.

Croushore's line isn't clear at this point because he's responsible for all three runners. If Painter gives up a home run to Mieske, he's on the hook for four earned runs in two-thirds of an inning, and ERA over 50. But as it stands right now, he pitched two-thirds of an inning, got two fly ball outs, gave up one hit and two walks. There's nothing more frustrating to a manager than a relief pitcher who gives up walks late in the game.

In this game, LaRussa makes the right move. On a 1 – 2 count, Mieske hits a fly ball to the center fielder and the inning is over. It's scored **F8**. We write **3** in his box, circle it, and draw a diagonal line in the lower right to indicate the end of the inning.

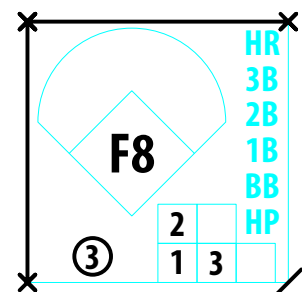
The Cubs give up a golden opportunity to get back into the game, working the bases loaded with two outs but fail to capitalize. The Cubs got **0** runs, **1** hit, and left **3** men on base. There were no Cardinal errors. The Cubs walked **2** batters and didn't get any strikeouts. It's stretch time in St. Louis.

Morandini, Micky	4	1
Mieske, Matt	ph	7

*mieske substitution*

Kent Mercker	1
Rick Croushore	7
Lance Painter	7 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>

*painter substitution*



*cubs seventh, meiske*

## BOTTOM OF THE SEVENTH

The seventh inning stretch is over and the Cubs come out onto the field for the bottom of the inning. Jim Riggleman sends Terry Mullholland out to the mound for his second inning of work. He also replaces the pinch hitter Mieske with Jason Maxwell at second base. Unlike last inning, when J.D. Drew stayed in the game at left field after pinch hitting, Matt Mieske was just a pinch hitter and doesn't play a defensive position in this game. In the last player box for the eighth position in the Cubs lineup, below Mieske's name, we write in Maxwell. He's playing second base, and it's still the seventh inning, so we put a **4** and **7** in the position and inning boxes.

The first batter in this half inning, Luis Ordaz steps in in o for 2 with two fly ball outs. This time around Mulholland gets to a 2 and 2 count, Ordaz fouls off a pitch, and then hits a ground ball to the second baseman—Jason Maxwell, who just entered the game! Maxwell throws over to Mark Grace for the first out. We record the play **4-3** and indicate the out with a circled **1**.

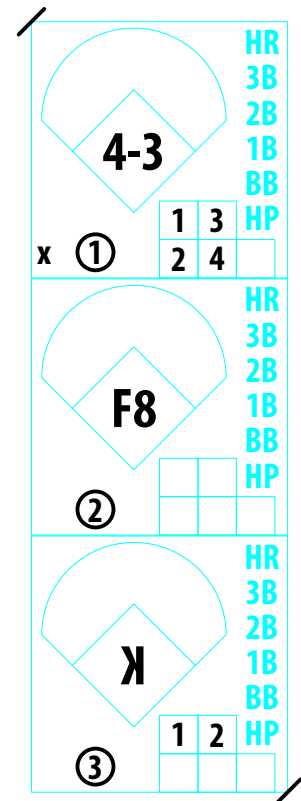
J.D. Drew is up for the second time in his Major League career. So far he's 0 for 1 with a strikeout. Instead of seeing seven pitches from Mulholland like in his previous at-bat, Drew swings at the first pitch and hits a fly ball to center field. Lance Johnson waits under it, and makes the catch. Out number two. We score this as an **F8**, and mark the second out of the inning.

The number nine hitter for the Cardinals is catcher Eli Marerro. He walked in the sixth inning, so he's 0 for 1 with a fly out in the third. Mulholland gets strike one, strike two, and throws the 0 and 2 pitch over the plate. Marerro doesn't swing at it and the umpire rings him up. Since he was caught looking at the third strike, we record the play with a backwards **K**, put a **3** with a circle around it for the third out, and draw a diagonal line in the lower right corner of his box to delineate the end of the inning and the start of the next.

The inning is over. In the bottom of the seventh, the Cardinals got **0** runs, **0** hits, and left **0** men on base. The Cubs didn't commit any errors and there was **1** strikeout. Cardinals still leading 6 - 2.

Morandini, Micky	4	1
Mieske, Matt	ph	7
Maxwell, Jason	4	7

*maxwell substitution*



*ordaz - marerro*

# EIGHTH INNING

## TOP OF THE EIGHTH

It's the top of the eighth inning and the Cardinals send Lance Painter back out to the mound to face the eighth batter in Jim Riggleman's lineup, Scott Servais. He's 2 for 3 in the game with a fly ball out and two singles. He swings at Painter's first offering and hits a ball to right center field that drops in between the Cardinal outfielders. Servais jogs into first with a single.

To score this, we draw a line from home to where the ball was retrieved in right center field, draw his progress along the bases, and circle the **1B** on the right side of his at-bat box. The image on the right shows most of the action from this half inning, starting with Servais' at-bat at the top. Remember that Servais is hitting in the eighth spot, so the third batter shown (Lance Johnson) is actually at the top of the card.

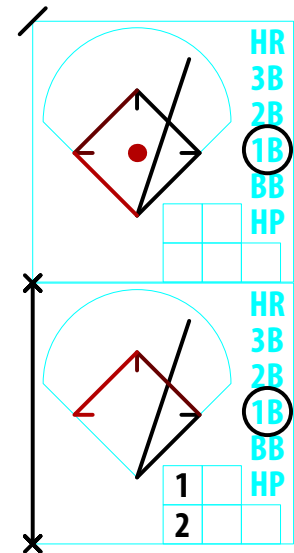
Next up is the pitcher's spot in the lineup. Since Steve Trachsel was replaced in the sixth inning with Terry Mulholland, the batter scheduled to hit is Mulholland. But Riggleman elects to replace Mulholland with a pinch hitter, Manny Alexander. Some scorers will write pitchers into the batting lineup even when they don't come up to bat, but I tend not to, so below Trachsel's name, I write **Alexander, Manny**, and indicate he's a pinch-hitter with **ph**, and **8** to show he entered in the eighth. I also draw a solid vertical line with **x**'s on the ends on the left of the at-bat box to make it clear that Alexander is batting, not Trachsel (or Mulholland). I haven't shown the substitution, but you can consult the previous inning, or the complete scorecard to see what this should look like. Alexander's at-bat is the second one in the image on the right.

Alexander gets a strike and a ball, and then hits the 1 - 1 pitch to right center field for a single. On the play, Servais moves from first to second. In Alexander's box we write the pitches, draw a line from home to where the ball was fielded in right center, draw his path along the bases, and circle **1B** for the single. In Servais' box, we move him from first to second and draw a little tail on the end to indicate he stopped there.

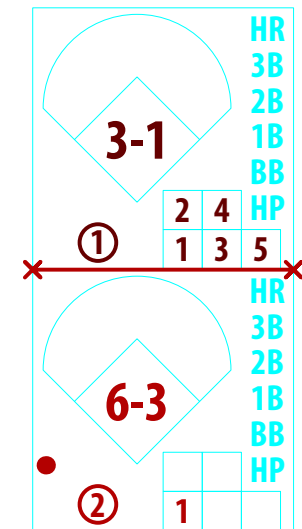
Two men on, no outs, but the Cardinals leading by four runs. Lance Johnson comes up to bat 0 - 4 with three fly ball outs and a ground out. It's been a rough day for Johnson and Cardinals manager LaRussa leaves Painter in to face Johnson. Johnson works the count full, and then hits a weak ground ball toward the hole at first base. McGwire gets the ball and tosses it to the pitcher covering first for the out. On the play, Servais moves from second to third, and Alexander moves into scoring position at second base.

If Johnson had been bunting, this would have been scored as a sacrifice bunt (**SB 3-1**) and his plate appearance wouldn't count as an at-bat. But he was swinging away, trying to get a hit, so it's an out, and an at-bat. It's scored **3-1**, and we put a circled **1** in his box to show the out. In Servais' box, we draw a line from second to third. In Alexander's box we advance him from first to second. All this action is in dark red in the images on the right.

Next up is Jose Hernandez, 0 for 3 in the game with a walk and a run scored in



(skip to the top)



servais - hernandez

the first inning. LaRussa has seen enough from Painter and walks to the mound to get him. John Frascatorie comes in from the bullpen. We write his name below Painter in the pitcher section of the scorecard. There's only one out in the inning, so we write **8 ½** to show when he enters. We also draw a horizontal line with **x**'s at the ends along the top of Hernandez's box to show the pitching change.

Hernandez takes a ball, and then hits a ground ball to the shortstop. Alexander and Servais were already running, so Cardinals shortstop Ordaz elects to take the sure out at first base. He might have had Servais at home, but up by four runs, the Cardinals are willing to exchange a run for an out. The play is scored **6-3**, and on the play Servais crosses home plate to score the third run for the Cubs. Alexander makes it to third. In Servais' box we draw a line from third to home and put a dot in the middle of the diamond to indicate the run scored. Alexander moved from second to third, so we draw this in his box.

The last consideration is whether to award Hernandez an RBI. The rule is that an RBI is awarded for every hit, sacrifice, ground out or fly ball out that results in a run. A batter doesn't get an RBI if a run scores on a double-play. So despite getting an out, we put a dot in the lower left corner of Hernandez's box for the RBI, and put a **2** with a circle around it for the second out. This action is in bright red in the images on the right.

The next batter in the inning is Mark Grace, 2 for 3 with a walk and a run scored in the first inning. He's got a man on third and is looking to drive in the second run of the inning. He gets a first pitch strike from Frascatorie, then a ball, and drives the third pitch to left field, where it is caught. Inning over. We score this **F7**, put a circled **3** in Grace's box, and draw a diagonal line in the lower right corner to separate the innings.

The Cubs scored **1** run on **2** base hits in the inning. They left **1** man on base. There were no Cardinal errors, and no strikeouts or walks in the inning. Cardinals leading by three runs, and only three outs left for the Cubs.

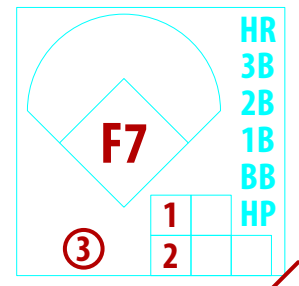
### BOTTOM OF THE EIGHTH

In the top of the eighth, Jim Riggleman pinch hit for his pitcher in the ninth spot of the batting order, so he needs a new pitcher. He brings Don Wengert out from the bullpen to start the eighth inning. We write his name below Mulholland's in the pitcher section of the scorecard, put **8** in the inning column, and draw a horizontal line with **x**'s at the ends at the top of the first batter in the inning, Delino Deshields.

In the image, you can see the substitution, as well as the next substitution later in the inning.

The Cardinals are back to the top of their lineup with Delino Deshields, 2 for 3 in the game with two singles. He came around to score in the Cardinals big five-run sixth inning. Deshields swings at the first pitch from the new Cub pitcher, hitting a ground ball to the first baseman Grace, who signals to the pitcher that he's got the out, touches the bag with his foot and records the first out unassisted.

This is the first ground ball put-out in the game that didn't involve more than one



*cubs eighth, grace*

Steve Trachsel	1
Terry Mulholland	6 2/3
Don Wengert	8
Felix Heredia	8 2/3

*wengert substitution*

fielder. Most fly ball outs are unassisted (hopefully Major League baseball players can catch the ball without help!), so we don't need any special indication for those. For an unassisted ground ball out, we write the fielder's number, followed by a **U**. In this case (and for most unassisted put-outs) we write **3U**. It was the first out in the inning, so we write a **1** with a circle around it.

Next up is Fernando Tatis, 0 for 3 with two strikeouts in the game. In the eighth, Wengert works the count to 2 - 2 and then throws a strike that fools Tatis, who doesn't even swing at the pitch. Tatis isn't having a good day at the plate. The called strikeout is written with a backwards **K**, and we put a **2** with a circle around it for the second out in the inning.

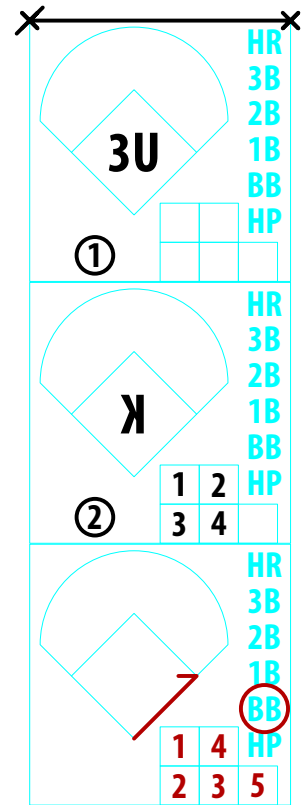
Single season home run record holder Mark McGwire stands in, two outs in the inning with no one on base. He's 1 for 2 with a walk. The count goes full, and rather than throw a strike for another home run, the pitcher throws off the plate and McGwire takes a ball for a walk. We draw a line from home to first and circle the **BB** to indicate McGwire's base-on-balls.

After the walk, Wengert is done on the mound, being replaced by Felix Heredia. Again, I wasn't keeping track of what side of the plate the batters hit from, but I suspect that LaRussa replaced Wengert to get a favorable pitching matchup, rather than because Wengert was losing his command. We write **Felix Heredia** in the next box below Wengert's name, and put **8 2/3** for the inning started. Heredia appears at the bottom of the image at the top of the page.

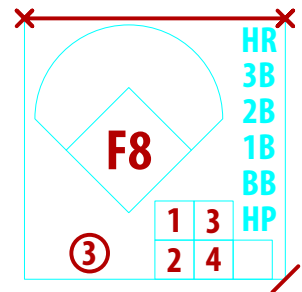
Ray Lankford up, one man on base, two outs. Lankford is 1 for three with two strikeouts. But his one hit was a three run home run that broke the game open for the Cardinals. In this inning, he hits the 2 - 2 pitch to center field, where it's caught for the third out of the inning.

We write **F8** in Lankford's box, draw a **3** with a circle around it, and draw a diagonal line in the lower right corner of the box.

The inning is over. The Cardinals had **0** hits, **0** runs and left **1** man on base. The Cubs didn't commit any errors, got **1** strikeout and gave up **1** walk.



*deshields - mcgwire*



*cards eighth, lankford*

# NINTH INNING

## TOP OF THE NINTH

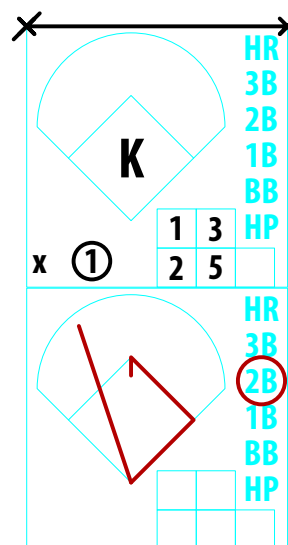
It's the top of the ninth and with the Cardinals leading 6 - 3, the Cubs are down to their final three outs. The Cardinals start the inning with pitcher Juan Acevedo, replacing John Frascatorie who got the final two outs in the eighth inning. We write **Juan Acevedo** in the pitcher's box below Frascatorie, put a **9** in the inning column, and draw a solid line at the top of the box of the first Cub batter, Sammy Sosa. Small **x**'s on the ends of the line make the pitching change more obvious.

Kent Mercker	1	f
Rick Croushore	7	t
Lance Painter	7 2/3	t
John Frascatorie	8 1/3	t
Juan Acevedo	9	s

*acevedo substitution*

The first batter is Sammy Sosa, who hasn't hit any home runs in the game, and has thus far failed to match McGwire. Acevedo gets to a count of 2 - 2, Sammy fouls off the fifth pitch, and then swings and misses at a pitch down at his shoes. Strikeout swinging. Sosa is out with a **K** and we indicate the out with a circled **1**.

Next up is big Glenallen Hill, 1 for 3 on the day with a single in his last at-bat in the seventh inning. In this at-bat, he swings at the first pitch from Acevedo, driving it to the wall in alley in left center field. The center fielder sprints to the ball and throws in to third. Hill is in scoring position at second base, his team down by three runs.



*sosa - hill*

Hill gets a double, so we draw a line from home to second, putting a small tail at second base to show his progress on the basepaths. We circle the **2B** for the double.

Gary Gaetti stands in with a man in scoring position at second base. Down by three runs, Gaetti needs to get on-base. He's had a good day, 2 - 3 with a walk and a strikeout. His first hit was an RBI single in the first inning. Like Hill, he swings at the first pitch, and hits it to left field where it's caught by J.D. Drew. Not a good effort from Gaetti at all. He should have taken at least one pitch (even a strike) in an effort to get on base. Instead, it's a completely unproductive out. The Cubs are now down to their last out.

Hill is still standing at second base, so we don't need to write anything in his box. Gaetti's at-bat shows **F7** and a **2** with a circle around it in the lower left of his box for the second out. The image appears on the next page.

Jim Rigglesman's last move is to replace second baseman Jason Maxwell with pinch hitter Orlando Merced. We don't have any room left on the scorecard after all the substitutions in the seventh position on the lineup card, so we write **Orlando Merced** in the margins and put **(ph / 9)** to indicate when he came into the game. We also draw a vertical line along the left side of Merced's at-bat box with **x**'s at the ends to make it clear that this at-bat belongs to Merced, not Maxwell. We could also write Merced's name in one of the empty lineup positions at the bottom of the scorecard, but I think it's actually clearer in the margins. If you're going to total up every player's statistics to build a box score, it's probably better to write him in at the bottom so you can use the statistics columns on the right side of the card.

Merced, Orlando (ph / 9)	Gaetti, Gary	5	1
	Morandini, Micky	4	1
	Mieske, Matt	ph	7
	Maxwell, Jason	4	7
	Servais, Scott	2	1

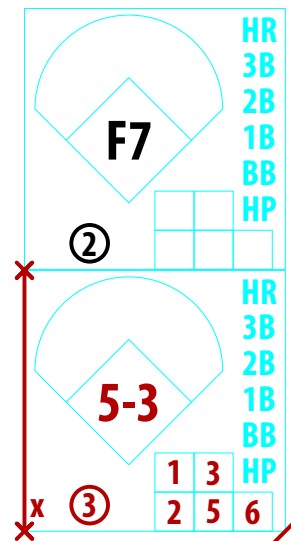
*merced substitution*

Merced seems to understand the situation, and works the count full before fouling off the sixth pitch from Acevedo. He hits the seventh pitch to the third baseman, who rifles the ball to McGwire at first for the final out of the game.

The play is scored **5-3**, and we indicate the final out with a circled **3**.

The Cubs got **0** runs on **1** hit, leaving **1** man on-base. There were no Cardinal errors, **1** strikeout and **0** walks.

Final score, **Cardinals 6, Cubs 3**. I will detail how we fill out the rest of the scorecard in the next section, but the final totals follow. The Cubs got **3** runs, **12** hits and left a whopping **13** men on base. There were **0** Cardinal errors. The Cardinals scored **6** runs on **5** hits, and left **3** men on base. The Cubs committed **1** error.



*gaetti - merced*

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