1. (5 pts) Everyone knows about Juan Soto going to the Mets, Kyle Tucker to the Cubs and Alex Bregman going to the Red Sox. But can you match some of the lesser-known big leaguers to their new teams? (1 point each)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2024 Club** | **2025 Club** |
| Kyle Hendricks | Cubs |  |
| Anthony Santander | Orioles |  |
| Gavin Lux | Dodgers |  |
| Jesús Luzardo | Marlins |  |
| Mike Tauchman | Cubs |  |

1. (8 pts) All of the sweeps in the 2024 post season were in the first round. Which of these first round series were sweeps? 1 point for picking winner and 1 pt for picking whether or not it was a sweep

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Series** | **Winner** | **Sweep? Yes/No** |
| * + 1. Tigers vs Astros |  |  |
| Royals vs Orioles |  |  |
| Mets vs Brewers |  |  |
| Braves vs Padres |  |  |

3) (3pts) There are a small number of players who get most of the headlines in current MLB press coverage. Can you name some of the recent top performers who arguably should receive more notice than they do? (1 pt each)

1. Who was the last player not named Judge or Ohtani who led either league in home runs during the regular season?
2. Who led all of MLB with 49 saves in the 2024 regular season?
3. Who led all of MLB in batting average with a .326 average in the 2022 regular season?

4) (3pts) Rule change: The first is an alteration to the shift rules established in 2023. Under those rules, the defending team can have no more than two infielders on either side of second base prior to a pitch being delivered and both must be standing in the infield. Under the old rule, if an infielder was caught in violation, the hitting team could accept the result of the play or have the batter be awarded a ball. What is the 2025 change to this rule?

5) (6pts) The opening day payrolls (present day value according to MLB - using MLBs calculations for present day value of deferred contracts\*) are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Team** | **Payroll on Opening Day** |
| New York Mets | $323,099,999 |
| Los Angeles Dodgers | $321,287,291 |
| New York Yankees | $293,488,972 |
| Philadelphia Phillies | $284,210,820 |
| Toronto Blue Jays | $239,642,532 |
| Texas Rangers | $220,541,332 |
| Houston Astros | $220,217,813 |
| Atlanta Braves | $214,836,398 |
| San Diego Padres | $208,909,333 |
| Chicago Cubs | $196,288,250 |
| Arizona Diamondbacks | $195,294,235 |
| Boston Red Sox | $193,629,093 |
| Los Angeles Angels | $190,508,096 |
| San Francisco Giants | $173,019,524 |
| Baltimore Orioles | $162,314,278 |
| Seattle Mariners | $146,793,414 |
| Detroit Tigers | $143,193,033 |
| Minnesota Twins | $142,762,022 |
| St. Louis Cardinals | $141,455,581 |
| Kansas City Royals | $130,001,503 |
| Colorado Rockies | $120,693,976 |
| Cincinnati Reds | $115,466,833 |
| Milwaukee Brewers | $115,136,227 |
| Washington Nationals | $107,653,761 |
| Cleveland Guardians | $100,522,729 |
| Pittsburgh Pirates | $87,645,246 |
| Chicago White Sox | $82,279,825 |
| Tampa Bay Rays | $79,216,312 |
| Athletics | $73,118,981 |
| Miami Marlins | $67,412,619 |

We are proposing a new stat ($ per win) using Opening Day payroll divided by wins (aka DPW).

* DPW = Opening Day Payroll / Prorated Wins at End of Regular Season

As of Apr 12, the Dodgers have a record of 11-5 with a winning pct of .688. Prorated over 162 games would suggest they will win 111 games. Therefore the DPW for the Dodgers would be:

* $2.894M = $321M / 111 projected wins

Based on the current stats as of April 12, answer the following questions based on DPW (2 pts each)

1. Which team has the highest DPW?
2. Which team has the lowest DPW?
3. Of course, simply paying the least for each win is not the sole goal of any team. They also want to make the playoffs. If the playoffs started today, which current division leading team has the lowest DPW?

6. (4pts) There has been a lot of MLB news lately about torpedo bats. For one point each:

1. Which MLB team made the headlines with torpedo bats with 15 HRs over their first 3 games?
2. Which notable player on that team has made a point to abstain using torpedo bats?
3. They are legal but corked bats are not. The MLB rulebook chapter 3.02 governs what is and is not legal for MLB bats. What clause in 3.02 does a corked bat violate that a torpedo bat does not?
4. What is the name of the scientist who is credited with designing the torpedo bat?

7. (5pts) Regrettably “Tommy John surgery” TJS is a frequently used term now - and no longer isolated to only MLB players. (source [**Jon Roegele**](https://twitter.com/MLBPlayerAnalys)’s [**database**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gQujXQQGOVNaiuwSN680Hq-FDVsCwvN-3AazykOBON0/edit#gid=0)) For one point each:

1. What year did Tommy John, the Dodgers pitcher and namesake of this operation, get his TJS performed?
2. Who got the second TJS?
3. How many years after the first operation was the second?
4. According to Roegele’s db, there have been 2576 documented TJS’s. How many are not pitchers?
   1. 0-100
   2. 101-200
   3. 200-300
   4. More than 300
5. Can you name this ***infielder*** HOF inductee who had TJS in 1984? He played for the Brewers, Blue Jays and Twins.

8. (3 pts) In all MLB, there have only been 3 20 game winners since the beginning of the pandemic. Can you name them and the year?

9. (2pts) What single team had all the 20 game winners in the season before the pandemic?

1. What team was it?
2. Who were the pitchers?

10. (10pts) The aforementioned TJS’s and other trends clearly suggests that it will be less commonplace for starters to go 5 innings as required to be eligible for a win. Even more elusive is likely to be Quality Starts which are defined as a game where the pitcher pitches at least six innings and allows three or fewer earned runs.

1. There were only 10 pitchers who had 20 or more quality starts in all of MLB in 2024. 1 pt for each that you can name - up to 3 pt
2. Only 3 of those original 10 also had 20 quality starts in 2023. One pt for each that you can name
3. Since 2002, there have only been 3 pitchers who have had 30 quality starts in a season - the most recent coming in 2015. 1 pt for each that you can name
4. Relievers have always been saddled with losses when they blow a lead but if starters are not going 5 innings, then somebody will end up pocketing those wins. In 2024, what pitcher who split time between the Astros and the Cubs posted an impressive 10-5 win/loss record despite never starting a game and pitching only 59.1 innings?

**Tiebreaker if necessary:**

This hirsute outfielder for Phillies has the ignominious distinction of being awarded the **“Worst Haircut in MLB”** by the youngest member of the Rogers Hornsby SABR chapter.