

1912 replay introduction

Rod Caborn
1118 Washington Avenue
Winter Park, Fla. 32789

My 1912 replay was the first time I had conducted replays of back-to-back seasons, having completed the entire 1911 season for both the American and National League in 2015-2016.

The 1912 American League replay started on a Thursday evening, **June 23, 2016 at 7:31 p.m.** with my wife, Carole Caborn, assuming her duties as the replay's honorary First Dice Roller. With a forceful right-handed roll, Carole rolled a 62, which resulted in a 32, a fly out to right field by New York Highlander outfielder Bert Daniels

The AL replay concluded on **Saturday, February 4 at 9:45 a.m., 2017** with Carole finishing out the season by rolling a 32, which resulted in a 26, a force play for Boston Red Sox 1b Hugh Bradley that completed a 2-1 Boston win over Philadelphia to end the 1912 American League campaign.

The 1912 AL replay took **227 days (seven months and 13 days)** to complete, ten days less than my 1911 American League replay.

The NL replay required **seven months and one day** (215 days total) getting underway on **March 16, 2017**, in a chilly (39 degrees, chilly for Florida) mid-day start at 12:03 p.m. Carole once again launched the season with a right-hand roll of a 43 for Boston 3b Ed McDonald, resulting in a 29, a groundout to pitcher Phillies ace Grover Cleveland Alexander.

The NL replay finished on **Monday, October 16, 2017**, with Carole, once again rolling for the last-place Boston Braves. Carole completed the 1912 NL season by rolling a 46, resulting in a 12 for Boston OF Jay Kirke, a groundout to Giants backup first baseman Dave Robertson, concluding a 5-1 Giants victory and the 22nd win of the year for New York's Rube Marquard.

The 1912 replay was my sixth full season replay (*both* American and National League). Other full seasons I have replayed include:

- 1883 (*full season American Association and National League*)
- 1906 (*full season AL and NL*)
- 1911 (*full season AL and NL*)
- 1922 (*full season AL and NL*)
- 1930 (*full season AL and NL*)

1912 replay background and guidelines

- The 1912 replay was a continuation of my Deadball Era replay series, starting with a 1911 replay.
- The MG symbols governed the use of players, per APBA Master Game rules.
- For the first time, I used XC cards. Previously, I had created my own XB cards, but I wanted to add more realism to roster usage to the 1912 replay, so I purchased the XCs, which saved enormous time and effort, as well as providing cards that were consistent with the original 1912 set.
- Another first-time addition for me was the use of APBA's League Error factor, which was +3 for the 1912 season. The Error Factor turned many hits into errors and, at first, required one to become accustomed to using the tool, but eventually it became part of the rhythm of the game as I became more familiar with the Error Factor.

The Error Factor did not necessarily generate totally accurate results in fielding. Outfielders, in particular, committed an abnormally high number of errors, which suggests that in future replays I will revert to an Error Randomizer to depress the unusually high number of outfielder errors that plagued the 1912 replay.

- I used a 154-game schedule developed from a numerical head-to-head formula as the baseline. To speed the replay along, all teams initially played one another in home-and-away three-game series, followed by two separate rounds of home-and-away four-game series. I incorporated the rhythmic East and West rhythms into the schedule, which made it feel considerably more realistic. I did not factor in Sunday games in locations where Blue Laws prohibited Sunday baseball in those times, deferring to common sense and providing a modern touch to the schedule. Three doubleheaders were built into the schedule.

The “schedule dates” for the replay were April 11 through September 26. In real life, the AL season ended on October 6, which was 10 days after my replay final game date. As a result, I had to adjust for integration and introduction of players into lineups as the season progressed, moving trades and debuts slightly ahead of schedule to ensure sufficient playing time for players, particularly September call-ups.

- The replay was played from the 2010 version of Master Game boards. The games were played solely within APBA rules, with no roster changes or overhauls. I *did not use* an error randomizer.
- Trades, roster changes and player debuts were conducted on the same or approximate date as real life. This added a considerable amount of detailed planning to the replay, which also served the purposed of better acquainting me with how rosters were managed and which teams suffered injuries and how they had to adjust to injured player losses.

The information was obtained via BaseballReference.com and Web searches.

- To the extent possible, position players were limited to their real life games played, total plate appearances and at bats, using a combination of all three defining factors to govern usage.

The guideline governing the overall usage of position players was **common sense**. In some instances, this meant that position players generally had a few more at bats than real life, generally in the area of 20-30 more at bats. Some of the XC players had a few more at bats than real life (not very many), but in the end the overall results and standings were not affected by player overuse.

As a general rule, previous replays have also resulted in players reaching their real-life limits with about eight games left on the schedule, necessitating some minor lineup juggling as the season wound down.

Pitchers were restricted to the same number of starts as real life, with a couple of exceptions to accommodate the playing dates. Relief appearances were used with the same frequency as real life, differing only if there were blowout games or in-game situations (e.g. extra inning games) that demanded extended use of relievers.

- Thirteen Hall of Famers appeared in the '12 AL replay.

The pennant-winning Boston Red Sox had two Hall of Famers in their lineup, led by CF **Tris Speaker** and RF **Harry Hooper**. Runner-up Philadelphia included four Hall of Famers: 2b **Eddie Collins**, 3b **Frank (Home Run) Baker** and pitchers **Chief Bender** and **Eddie Plank**.

Third place Cleveland included **Nap Lajoie**, who surprised with outstanding season at age 37, driving in 101 runs. Fourth-place Washington was led by 30-game winner **Walter Johnson**. The Chicago

White Sox featured tireless P **Ed Walsh** and, near the end of the 1912 season, the debut of C **Ray Schalk**.

Detroit's outfield combination of CF **Ty Cobb** and RF **Sam Crawford** both had outstanding seasons, but their offensive fireworks were not enough to offset sub-par pitching and an erratic defense. St. Louis SS **Bobby Wallace**, who was finishing out his 25-year career, played for the seventh-place Browns, but his presence failed to prop up the hapless Browns.

- Sixteen Hall of Famers appeared in the '12 NL replay, thirteen as active players plus three active players who gained entry into the Hall of Fame as managers.

New York Giants (2): P **Christy Mathewson** and P **Rube Marquard** ,

Pittsburgh Pirates (2): OF **Max Carey** and SS **Honus Wagner**.

Chicago Cubs (4): 1b **Frank Chance** (who appeared in only one game, in his final season as an active player), 2b **Johnny Evers**, SS **Joe Tinker** and P **Mordecai (Three-Finger) Brown**.

Brooklyn Dodgers (1): OF **Zack Wheat**.

Philadelphia Phillies (2): P **Grover Cleveland Alexander**. P **Eppa Rixey**.

St. Louis Cardinals (1): C **Roger Bresnahan**.

Boston SS (1) SS **Rabbit Maranville** (rookie, late season call up)

The three managerial Hall of Famers who appeared as active players in the NL replay: Brooklyn OF **Casey Stengel**, St. Louis 2b **Miller Huggins**, and Pittsburgh IF Bill **McKechnie**.

Stolen base modification

The 1912 MG symbols contained steal ratings for players that were obviously not accurate. As I was preparing for the 1912 replay, I contacted APBA's John Herson about the steal ratings. His response was that the 1912 SB ratings were developed "before the 1912 information was available on steal attempts, SB and CS." This information has been readily on basebaseball-reference.com for some time, but *I give APBA the benefit of the doubt and believe the stolen base information was not totally available at the time cards were created.*

In any event, using a combination of basebaseball-reference.com and Steve's ABPA Card Computer (www.compuducksports.com/cardcomp), I revised the SB ratings for every player in the replay. I believe the results were closer to real-life results than the ratings would have been had the original 1912 APBA card symbols been employed, but still lower than real-life results.

1912 World Series

Fellow SABR member and good friend Dave Larson managed the New York Giants and I managed the Boston Red Sox in head-to-head play in the 1912 World Series replay. The assignments were decided by a flip of the coin. Dave also managed the Giants in the 1911 World Series replay.

Personal notes

During the AL replay, in the fall of 2016, we put our condominium up for sale, seeking a one-story house in Winter Park or College Park neighborhood of Orlando and, after little action over the election and holiday period, we took it off the market, to wait for spring, 2017. My golf handicap dropped to 21.4, a full stroke better than a year ago. Friends lost include former Walt Disney World colleague Charlie Ridgway on Christmas Eve, 2106, and a week later, Busch Gardens Tampa co-worker Thom Stork, in Tampa, on Jan. 2, 2017.

During the seven months of the replay, granddaughter Kate, age finished second grade under the tutelage of Mrs. Dennis, celebrated her eighth birthday on June 8, just before the replay began, and entered third grade under Mrs. Nadelko in the fall of 2017. She improved considerably in swimming

in the fall and spring semesters and, for the second straight season, was a member of the Lady Eagles soccer team. She also had a leading role in the third grade production of "Charlotte's Web."

During the National League replay, in the spring of 2017, our condominium remained up for sale.

The replay was interrupted, early in September 2017, by Hurricane Irma, which caused two leaks in our master bedroom and required a complete re-caulking and re-sealing of our outdoor atrium. Power remained on throughout and after the storm, but we lost TV, internet, and telephone service for an entire week, as did much of Central Florida. We once again had to take our condo off the market until repairs could be completed to plug the leak, which turned out to be related to the atrium, and not the roof.

My golf handicap remained at 22, about the same as the past couple of years. I traveled to Palm Springs, California, for the 2017 RydMe Cup, where the East team (comprised of former co-workers from Walt Disney World) lost for the sixth consecutive year.

Friends lost include former Walt Disney World colleague Charlie Ridgway on Christmas Eve, 2106, and a week later, Busch Gardens Tampa colleague Thom Stork, in Tampa, on Jan. 2, 2017.

During the seven months of the NL replay, granddaughter Kate, age finished third grade (teacher Ms. Nadelkov), turned nine on June 8, and started fourth grade in the fall of 2017.

Kate excelled at swimming, working out three afternoons a week, and played, for the third straight season, as a member of the Lady Eagles soccer team. Along the way, Kate became an excellent reader and speller and developed her math skills considerably as she began the fourth grade at Lake Highland Prep.