

2017 LAS VEGAS GAMBLERS PLAY GUIDE

OVERVIEW - The 2016 TBL season was quite refreshing after years of losing big. We were one victory shy of a hundred, we clinched the Williams Division, but lost in the semifinals, taking a talented Maracaibo team to an exciting game seven, only to fall short. We are making it all the way in 2017. Las Vegas has bet its future on winning **NOW!** We've improved the rotation, brought in the best closer in the game and there is **POWER** most everywhere, up and down the lineup! You'll truly enjoy playing this team, even when we're beating you senseless.

STARTERS - A solid, serviceable group of performers, led by Staff Ace Jose Quintana (GR12LHP). Cagey knuckler R.A.Dickey (GR9, RHP) is still twirling it for Vegas. Rookie Ross Stripling (GR9, RHP) toes the rubber 14 times this year. Veteran lefty C.C. Sabathia (GR10), Adam Conley (GR11, LHP) and returning vet Martin Perez (GR8R, LHP) make all of the rest of the Gamblers 2017 starts, save 1 November start for Tyler Cravy (GR16, RHP). For those of you scoring at home, that makes for **118 left handed starts!** It should be quite interesting! Basically from the 5th inning on and if the Gamblers are leading...when in doubt, go to the bullpen!

RELIEVERS - Las Vegas brought in Zach Britton (GR*28) to do his "Kneel Before Zod!" routine on a regular basis. He should be on the mound in all save situations and can, occasionally, snuff out 8th inning rallies for an out or two. His best set up man, lefty Brad Hand (GR*16, 89 inns.) can freely roam anywhere from the 5th thru 8th innings, squelching any early rally before it gets out of hand. Don't be afraid to have him go 1.1 or 1.2 inns. per appearance occasionally. Jeury's Familia and Sam Dyson (both GR*14, RHPs) and Frankie (K Rod) Rodriguez (GR*15) have over 200 inns. of quality relief. I'd like to see it used from the 5th on to rescue any faltering starters. Koji Uehara (GR*15) should be considered as a "situational righty" due to his low innings total (47). Target your most RHP-challenged batter with him! Lefty Blaine Hardy (GR*11) also has innings limits, so he is, definitely, a situational lefty.

Tyler Cravy (GR*16) and his 22 innings of relief will arrive later in the campaign when others tire of the grind. Michael Blazek (GR*3) will be

around for any heavy lifting and to fetch the snacks. Waiver wire pick Josh Smith (GR*9) and his horrid peripherals (-26/-25) will be around to absorb punishment for the bullpen. Anytime the Gamblers are down by 5 or more, he should be on the mound. He can go for 2.2 inns. per outing, 4.2 if there's an off day scheduled next day.

Hitting Strategy - Not enough speed nor SBA's will lead to the "Earl Weaver" approach on offense in 2017. Try to get on base and wait for the 3 run homers to come on down. No H&R and very few steal attempts for the new look Gamblers.

Steals - Yeah I know what I just said, but there are a few exceptions: Bogaerts (SSN30 / 17 SBA's) can try for 2nd, 7th or later and the score is -1/+1. Add Bryant & Duvall here as well, but only from the 8th on and there adjusted SSN is 24 or higher. Never steal 3rd base or Home!

H&R - Just say "NO". Don't do it! Please think of the children!

PLAYER USAGE - 7 of the regulars can play over 140 games (and will). Only catcher and 1st base are shared positions. Our regular Outfield of Dickerson, Bryant (our new CF!) and Duvall need only miss an aggregate of 33 games for the year. The Infield trio of Donaldson (3B), Bogaerts (SS) and Cano (2B) need miss but a mere 13 *combined* game this season. Bad shifts be damned. We laugh at poor shifts! James Loney (L-12) will platoon at 1B with waiver pick Mark Teixeira. Kind of cool having dueling 1B's! Teixeira can freely sub for Loney vs. LHP's, but not vice versa. Travis Shaw now becomes the full time DH.

CATCHER - We have four catchers on the roster this year, and here is how I intend to use them. Each month there will be a catcher who will start every game that month. He will be backed up by Caleb Joseph (C8/Th+2). After the starting catcher has recorded his second PA of the game **AND** the Gamblers have the lead, sub in Joseph for his defense. This may not happen as much when Ruiz (C7/Th+6) is up and playing. Leave the starter in until we lead, then sub in Joseph.

BENCH - Shawn O'Malley will play the handful of infield games when the big boys need rest. Austin Jackson will make up the needed outfield games as well. Phegley (in April), then Ruiz (May & June) and then Cervelli (July thru November) will be the starting catcher each month. Eventually, when Joseph uses up his 141 PA's, it will be Cervelli and Ruiz as the tandem for the rest of the season. James Loney only has 100 games, and I'd like them all to be starts! Only use him as a last resort.

PINCH HITTING - Best bats will usually be in the lineup. So...no.

PINCH RUNNING - No. Don't do it. Three run HRs remember.

INJURY/EJECTION SUBS - Shawn O'Malley and, later, Marco Hernandez can play just about anywhere. Never use Loney for defense!

BASERUNNER ADVANCEMENT - Use the Adams Table here please.

SACRIFICES - Oh, Hell no! Don't even think about it.

GAME VERSION - Las Vegas always uses the Master Game Boards.

In conclusion use your baseball judgement and everything should be fine. You can email me at pjh5000@hotmail.com with any questions.

Good luck to all in 2017

Paul J. Harrington / Las Vegas Gamblers

2017 LAS VEGAS GAMBLERS ----- PITCHING ROTATION AND SCHEDULE							
APRIL (19)				AUGUST (20)			
1 – 4 (5)	STM	A B C D X		1 – 4	AT MID	A D E C	
6 – 8 (9)	AT MLR	A B C X		5 – 8 (9)	AT GCB	F A D E X	
10-12 (13)	AT KAN	D A B X		10 – 13	DET	C A D E	
14 – 17 (18)	AT ZION	C D A B X		14 – 17	BRO	F C A D	
19 – 23 (24)	WAR	C D A B E X		18 – 21 (22)	RIV	E F C A X	
	HOME	ROAD	TOTAL		HOME	ROAD	TOTAL
MONTH				MONTH			
YTD				YTD			
MAY (21)				SEPTEMBER 1 (2) (20) - ALL STAR BREAK			
1 – 5	AT DET	C A B D E		3 – 5	STM	X X B A D	
6 – 9 (10)	AT NBO	C A B D X		6 – 9	AT MLR	E F B A	
11 – 14	HOB	C A B D		10 - 13.	AT KAN	D E F B	
15 – 18 (19)	BHM	E C A B X		14 - 17 (18)	AT WAR	A D E F X	
20 – 23	WHT	D C A B		19 - 23	NBO	A B D E F	
	HOME	ROAD	TOTAL		HOME	ROAD	TOTAL
MONTH				MONTH			
YTD				YTD			
JUNE (19)				OCTOBER (22)			
1 – 4 (5)	MLR	E D C A X		1 - 4 (5)	AT CAY	A B C E X	
6 – 8	KAN	B D C		6 – 9	AT RYE	A B C E	
9 – 11	AT STM	A E B		10 - 14.	AT COL	F A B C E	
12 – 16 (17)	AT HUD	D C A E B X		15 - 19	ZIO	F A B C E	
18 – 21	COL	C A D B		20 - 23	IND	F A B C	
	HOME	ROAD	TOTAL		HOME	ROAD	TOTAL
MONTH				MONTH			
YTD				YTD			
JULY (21)				NOVEMBER (20)			
1 – 5	CAY	E C F D B		(1) 2 – 6	AT MUN	X D A B C E	
6 – 9 (10)	MUN	E C F D X		7 – 10	HUD	D A B C	
11 – 14	AT NWW	B C E D		11 – 13 (14)	MLR	E D A X	
15 – 18	AT KNX	F B C E		15 – 18	KAN	B C D A	
19 – 22 (23)	AT MAR	D F B C X		19 – 22 (23)	AT STM	E B G D X	
	HOME	ROAD	TOTAL		HOME	ROAD	TOTAL
MONTH				MONTH			
YTD				YTD			
PITCHING KEY				EMERGENCY LINEUPS			
A	QUINTANA	32 STARTS		VS. RHP's		VS. LHP's	
B	M. PEREZ	31 STARTS	1	CERVELLI	C	1 CERVELLI	C
C	SABATHIA	30 STARTS	2	BOGAERTS	SS	2 BOGAERTS	SS
D	DICKEY	29 STARTS	3	BRYANT	CF	3 BRYANT	CF
E	CONLEY	25 STARTS	4	DONALDSON	3B	4 DONALDSON	3B
F	STRIPLING	14 STARTS	5	CANO	2B	5 CANO	2B
G	CRAVY	1 START	6	DUVALL	RF	6 DUVALL	RF
	TOTAL	162 STARTS	7	DICKERSON	LF	7 DICKERSON	LF
X	OFF DAY		8	SHAW	DH	8 SHAW	1B
			9	LONEY	1B	9 O'MALLEY	DH
I pan to send out lineups on a series by series basis.							