

2020

**ELDERS OF ZION – Standard Instructions**

**(Do not use computer managers for the Elders. Please send game sheets for all road games.)**

Emergency Lineups for April road games

Vs LHP (no DH) – Benintendi 9 Mercado 7 Haniger 8 Mancini 3 Farmer 5 Munoz 4 Phegley 2 Adrianza 6

Vs LHP (DH) – Benintendi 9 Mercado 7 Haniger 8 Blackmon DH Mancini 3 Farmer 5 Adrianza 6 Phegley 2 Munoz 4

Vs RHP (no DH) – Benintendi 9 Seager 6 Hiura 4 Blackmon 8 Mancini 3 Mercado 7 Perez 2 Candelario 5

Vs RHP (DH) – Choo DH Benintendi 9 Hiura 4 Blackmon 8 Seager 6 Mancini 3 Mercado 7 Candelario 5 Perez 2

**GENERAL GUIDELINES – OFFENSE/POSITION PLAYERS**

There will be 5 Elders on the offensive bench April to October, and the cast will not change much month to month. Here's how the guys will be used when they are around.

**1B** – **MANCINI** will play every inning every day on the road

**2B** – **HIURA** starts vs RHP (replaced by Gennett in May and Munoz in July when he is in the minors). **MUNOZ** starts vs lefties. Despite HIURA's huge lefty shift, for the first half of the season, the starter remains in the game unless there is a game tying or game winning move to be made 7<sup>th</sup> on, as extra usage is tight unless GENNETT gets more roster time. If the starter is lifted, don't sub in the other 2B starter – use **ADRIANZA** or **FARMER** as the replacement.

**SS** – **SEAGER** and **ADRIANZA** platoon for the SS starts. **SEAGER** can sub in freely if RH relievers enter the game, and can come out vs a LH reliever (8<sup>th</sup> or later - earlier than that he'll stay in and bat).

**3B** – Although they will start the year platooning, **FARMER** will start against some RH as serve as a PH vs LH relievers. **CANDELARIO** is a black hole offensively, and will always be a candidate for a PH late in games if we're in it.

**OF** – **BENINTENDI**, **BLACKMON**, and **MERCADO** will be in the lineup almost every day on the road, and will never likely leave the game for a sub except due to injury. **HANIGER** plays the 3<sup>rd</sup> OF spot vs LHP, and is a PH and defensive replacement if not starting. **DUGGAR** is up for a couple of months and will start in July vs RH in place of the resting **MERCADO**. For the moment, **ALLEN** is riding the Triple A pine. Remember that **LORENZEN** is a 2-OF who is Fast and has several steal attempts. There may be times when it makes sense to move him from the mound to the OF or vice versa.

**DH** – **CHOO** DHs vs RHP. **BLACKMON** DHs vs LHP. **CHOO** can be used freely off the bench as a PH or PR. **BLACKMON** has to miss 20G so usually sits if not starting.

**C** – **PHEGLEY** starts vs. LHP, and a few RH grades. **PEREZ** will start vs. most RH and should be in to shut down the running game if we lead late. They have 220 G between them, so they can subbed in freely as appropriate. **FARMER** is the emergency C sub..

## GENERAL GUIDELINES – PITCHING STAFF (Part A – The Starters)

The starting staff is very, very middling. **BAUER** anchors the rotation with 34 starts of a 11, and will likely try to pitch into the 7<sup>th</sup> with his higher fatigue to help out the pen. The remaining 128 starts are spread between Grades 7-10, and will hope to get into the 6<sup>th</sup> inning.

The four rules to follow absolutely for the starters are as follows: 1) no starter leaves before the fifth, unless forced out by runs; 2) no starter pitches after being fatigued if the game is within 2 runs 6<sup>th</sup> on (7<sup>th</sup> on **BAUER**); 3) that any starter should be replaced 7<sup>th</sup> on if they put the tying/lead (T/L) run on base (6<sup>th</sup> on ); and 4) that the late inning relievers should be in to protect any 1-2 run lead in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> , and also come on in the 7th to stop a jam if the score is 0/+3, and a change will steal more hits than the P that is in. Everything else is under your discretion, within the reliever guidelines discussed below.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES – PITCHING STAFF (PART B – The Relievers)

There are three parts to the 2017 Zion bullpen – although the most important single role is murky for half the year.

1) Closer – **WICK** (RH 18 for 33 IP, -35/+62 peripherals) is the closer when he's up, but that's only April/June/Sept. and maybe November. Even when up, he's a 4-out save at most, and preferably just a 3-out guy in the 9<sup>th</sup>. He never pitches an extra inning if the score gets tied and the game extends.

The rest of the time the closer is a mix and match of the set-up men (**LORENZEN, POCHE, TAYLOR, BAEZ**). Choose the most logical tool remaining for the job, and be aware that if Tool 1 gets into trouble, it may require a second P to improve our chances of getting out of the 9th.

2) The set-up men. There are four setup men. **LORENZEN** is a R14 for 83 IP and up all year; he's the one constant. **POCHE** (15) and **TAYLOR** (14) are LHP with 99 IP between them and at least one is up every month. Finally **BAEZ** is normal up when **WICK** is not. These four guys have 212 IP between them, and will handle the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> when **WICK** is up, and the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> when he isn't.

3) The middle men – **JANSEN (Gr 12, up all year but August), BARD (R10), FLORO (R8) and WATSON (8L)**. Another 213 IP of relief, supplemented in August by **WOJO** using up 15-20 extra innings as a 9 with no +5. They pitch the 6<sup>th</sup> and earlier when we're in the game and need early help, and late innings when the game isn't close.

4) The starting staff is decent enough to not need caddies and will stay in to throw bulk innings (as long as legal) if they blow up early. There is no real long man unless Herrera sees the field late in the year as other options burn out, so if we need 4-5 bullpen innings in a game, try to share the load.

## DEFENSIVE STRATEGY OPTIONS

**INTENTIONAL WALK** – Rarely, if ever.

**HOLD RUNNERS** – Always vs. PL batter; otherwise, only hold runners with adj SSN of 23+.

**INFIELD IN/DEEP** – Play IN 8<sup>th</sup> on with <2 out if runner on 3<sup>rd</sup> is T/L run; otherwise, play DEEP.

**OUTFIELD THROWS** – 1) ALWAYS throw if runner chance is < 33. 2) ALWAYS throw for lead runner, unless he is not T/L run, and trail runner chance is 7+ lower. Computer managers, play as you would your team, but never let the potential winning run cross the plate uncontested 7<sup>th</sup> on.

**DEF. REPLACEMENTS** – Defense is not job 1, or 2, or 3 with this year's Elders, but during most of this year there should be 2 possible defensive moves:

1) **PEREZ** can sub defensively at C as needed to protect a 1-2 run lead in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>.

2) **HANIGER** can play defense in the OF late game.

3) At the moment, we are not lifting **HIURA** for a defensive 2B late. That may change as the year progresses.

## OFFENSIVE STRATEGY OPTIONS (Order of Preference – SB, H&R, sacrifice)

**STEALS:** In order to steal, I like to have an adj SSN (after all P and C adjustments) of 27+; however, if the SB is critical enough to the outcome of the game, I'll take a shot at 25 or 26 (especially if the batter can't H&R).

**WHO STEALS WHEN:** **MERCADO** and **CHOO** are the two guys with a large number of attempts (19 and 15), and basically have the green light to steal 2<sup>nd</sup> any time 5th inning on score is +2/-1 (limit – 1x per series on a straight steal). **BENINTENDI** has 13 steal attempts as a 30 and can do the same thing 7<sup>th</sup> on (limit 1X per series). The others who can be runners in the hit and run (**HIURA, MUNOZ, HANIGER, CANDELARIO**) will only steal on the road from a busted H&R.

**HIT & RUN:** I'm a huge believer in the H&R. However, as the team continues to transition, this year though a lot of guys have 2 31s, not a lot of guys can steal, and not everyone with 2 31s is a great H&R candidate. On the current team, **SEAGER, BLACKMON, MUNOZ** and **ADRIANZA** should hit and run 1<sup>st</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> anytime the runner on 1<sup>st</sup> has an adj SSN of 20+.

**SACRIFICE:** Sacrifice tying/lead run on 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> with exactly 0 outs 8<sup>th</sup> or later. (Exceptions: Never bunt with a serious power hitter unless all of his non-power hits are stolen)

**NEVER, EVER SQUEEZE!!! (Just say NOOOO!)**

**OFFENSIVE SUBSTITUTIONS** Most players not starting can usually come in whenever they may be helpful – please consult the general usage by position, however, as there are some exceptions.

**PINCH HITTING** – Traditionally, I PH a lot, especially to counter pitching changes, or to maximize our scoring chances in a rally situation. This year there will be a lot of opportunities to PH given our often sizable shifts.

**WHO TO PH FOR:** 1) **CHOO, SEAGER, HIURA** vs **LHP** (especially when they are first batter faced). 2)

**CANDELARIO** vs any P 7<sup>th</sup> on, **FARMER** and starting C vs RHP late

PH vs LH – **FARMER, HANIGER, PHEGLEY**

PH vs RH – **CHOO, SEAGER, DUGGAR** should all be able to come off the bench freely when you go to right-handers in the pen.

**PINCH RUNNING** – unless **ALLEN** gets to the 25 man more in the second half, the most likely PR who isn't in the starting lineup is **LORENZEN**.

**RUNNER ADVANCEMENT:** 1) **ALWAYS** go if chance is 28+. **NEVER** go if chance is less than 20, except home with T/L run 8<sup>th</sup> on and 2 out (15+). 3) Otherwise, use Adams tables to determine go/no go. When playing computer game, be aggressive with the fastest runners, and conservative with the lead-foots). Otherwise, I'll rely on your knowledge of hit descriptions to try and match up with these general parameters, as your knowledge would greatly exceed my own on this topic.

**SEND RUNNER ON 3<sup>RD</sup>:** If your IF is in, HOLD runner unless the combined Fldg rating of your 2B and SS is < 15.

Zion will be using the boards again in 2020. This team can hit, but will require you to pay attention to your own batting matchups when using our pen. Please do the best you can, and I'll do the same for you here.

