## Guide to playing the 2021 Brobdingnag Barbarians

Mood Statement: This is a very bipolar team-the good are very good, the bad are very bad. I suspect if you mix it all up it will come out near . 500 , but as tough as the Ruth is again this season, maybe 75 wins is more realistic. On days we have Dr Jekyll pitching, the line-up should let us win a good number of those games. On the days it's Mr Hyde, life will be a lot tougher but we can score a lot of runs so we will win a few of them as well. We hope. The strategy will be to try and win the winnable games, but realize quite a few will have to be triaged.

## The Offense

We will use the same lineups for most our away games this season, though I will try to send out tailored lineups each month. Here are the default lineups:

|  | vs RHP |  |  |  | vs LHP |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | BETTS | CF |  | 1 | NIMMO | DH |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | CORREA | SS |  | 2 | BETTS | CF |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | SOTO | LF | 3 | SOTO | LF |  |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | ACUNA | RF | 4 | AUNA | RF |  |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | MACHADO | $\mathbf{3 B}$ | 5 | MACHADO | 3 B |  |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | MONCADA | DH | 6 | CORREA | SS |  |
| $\mathbf{7}$ | HERNANDEZ | $\mathbf{2 B}$ | 7 | HERNANDEZ | 2B |  |
| $\mathbf{8}$ | KELLY | $\mathbf{C}$ | 8 | NARVAEZ* | C |  |
| $\mathbf{9}$ | SANTANA | $\mathbf{1 B}$ | 9 | SANTANA | 1B |  |

- On computer, KELLY catches in place of NARVAEZ


## The Bench Roles

Technically there is some, just not much of any value. Here are some guidelines on how to use them, but ultimately I trust your judgement on if and when to make a switch, but other than $\mathrm{DH}, \mathrm{C}$, and 1B I expect the starters will complete most the games.

NIMMO \& MONCADA/CERVILLI: DH platoon. Based upon pitching changes can PH for each other.

KELLY \& NARVAEZ: Both negative shifts vs LHP so are not a good platoon, but I have to manage the \# of games here. Surprisingly, NARVAEZ is the DEF sub if I am $+1 /+2$ late.

CERVELLI: The closest thing we have to a PH, but not many places to use him. He can PH for the $8^{\text {th }}$ $\& 9^{\text {th }}$ place hitters if the tie/win run is on base or at the plate. Can stay in and catch.

GARCIA: Mostly an injury replacement in the INF, but +5 vs RHP can make him an effective PH for Hernandez if I trail $8^{\text {th }}+$ inning.

STRAW: His +11 vs RHP looks good until you see his card. Might be a case vs high grade relievers where he will hit, but not often. Mostly a PR for the catcher or 1B if the tie/win run $8^{\text {th }}+$ inning.

ASTUDILLO: His only real role is to have a second player eligible at 1B. LAST resort at C. Only 45 PA so he cannot afford to PH (I will reevaluate in the summer). Almost all his appearances will be after Santana has been PR for.

BART \& Rodgers: Will be in the minors until November.

## Offensive Tactics

Innings 1-6:
$\mathbf{H \& R}$ is preferred tactic. If the score is $+3 /-3$, runner has adjusted SSN of $24+$ and:
Runners: Betts, Soto, Acuna, Machado, Straw
Batters: Betts, Correa, Machado, Hernandez, Cervelli, Astudillo

Straight steal: None
Sacrifice: Score $+2 /-2,0$ out, runners on $1^{\text {st }}, 2^{\text {nd }}$, or $1^{\text {st }} \& 2^{\text {nd }}$.
Batters: Hernandez, Kelly, Straw, Garcia
Innings 7+:
Steal is the preferred tactic $\boldsymbol{I F}$ the score is $+2 /-1$, the runner's adjusted SSN is $27+$
Only steal $2^{\text {nd }}$
Runners: Betts, Soto, Acuna, Machado, Straw

Second priority is H\&R IF I am ahead by exactly 3 runs, or down 2 or 3 runs.
Same runners and hitters as for H\&R above.
Sacrifice: Sore $+2 /-1$, same batters as for sac above.

## Substitutions

Basically as described in "The Bench Roles" above. PH, PR and Def changes will exist but be far less common than in 2020. Injury subs:

| Catcher: Kelly/Narvaez, Cervelli | 1B: Astudillo |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2B/SS: Garcia | 3B: Moncada, Garcia |
| OF: Straw, Nimmo |  |

## Defense

Nothing exotic here. I tend to hold runners on first unless the score or runner's SSN makes it obvious they are not a threat to steal

I play deep unless it is the tie/winning run on $3^{\text {rd }}$ in the $7^{\text {th }}+$ inning with less than two outs.
Narvaez will be the only realistic defensive sub.

Everything not covered in here, please use your judgement and do as you would for your team.

## Pitching

As with the hitters, the pitching is bi-polar as well. There are 87 good starts of Buehler, Woodruff, and Glasnow. There are 75 starts of guys who will hopefully be better in 2022. The instructions below bifurcate depending upon "good starter" vs "everyone else".

The relievers fall into three groups:
The Closer: Gallegos (closer is a relative term, and he is clearly better than the other guys)
Pitchers who carry small gas cans: Kimbrell, Sadler, Harris, Middleton, Patino, Maton, Osuna
Pitchers who carry big gas cans: Stanek, Bashlor, Toussant, Guerra, Romero.

## Removing the Starters

The good starters: (Buehler, Woodruff, and Glasnow)
Innings 1-3: Remove if:
--Only if the rules require it
Innings 4-6: Remove if either:
--They are reduced below a grade 5 AND the score is +4 to -3 or
--The rules require it
Innings 7-8: Remove if:
--They are reduced below a grade 8 AND the score is +4 to -2 or
--They are reduced below a grade 10 AND the score is +4 to -2 AND there is a runner on base or
--The rules require it
Innings 9+:
--They are reduced below a grade 13 AND the score is tied $A N D$ there is a runner on base or
--They are reduced below a grade 13 AND the score is +2 to +1 or
--They are reduced below a grade 10 AND the score is +4 to +3 AND they put a runner on base or
--The rules require it

## The other starters:

Innings 1-5: Remove if:
--Only if the rules require it
Innings 6-7: Remove if either:
--They are reduced below a grade 5 AND the score is +4 to -3 or --The rules require it

Innings 8+: Same as for the good starters.

## Using the Relievers

Innings 1-4: Use whoever is active among Stanek, Bashlor, Toussant, Guerra, Romero. Try and spread the usage roughly evenly with a lot of guys going . 7 to 1.7 IP , and getting the +5 bump to try and keep a runner on $1^{\text {st }}$ from becoming worse (yes, "try" is the operative word). The earlier the relievers have to come in, the longer they may have to go.

Innings 5-8+:
--If the score is +5 or better, or -4 or worse, treat as innings 1-5.
--If the score is in the range $+4 /-3$ the pitchers to use here are Kimbrell, Sadler, Harris, Middleton,
Patino, Maton, Osuna. Still use multiple relievers for short periods to cover the innings get the upgrade. If the game starts close and deteriorates, go back to the inning 1-4 guys. The two lefties Guerra, Romero can also be used here for a batter or two if a big negative lefty shift makes them useable.

Closer: In the $9^{\text {th }}$ or extra innings if $I$ am up +1 to +3 and the starter is not at least a grade 13 , bring in Gallegos to try and close. If he fails, he can finish the inning but then comes our. Use the Inning 5-8 guys after Gallegos.


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H HOLLAND<br>St STRASBURG<br>T TEHERAN<br>X Off day<br>* Double header

In the Minors:

April
May Buehler, Holland up; Sandoval, Verlander down
June Middleton, Guerra up; Patino, Romero down
July Kimbrel, Stanek up; Sadler, Bashlor down
August Cervelli, Sandoval, Middleton up; Harris, Glasnow, Moncada down
September Glasnow, Osuna up; Sandoval, Maton down
October Sandoval, Strasburg up; Holland, Teheran down

There will likely have to be other moves of relievers in October, but I do not know those yet.

