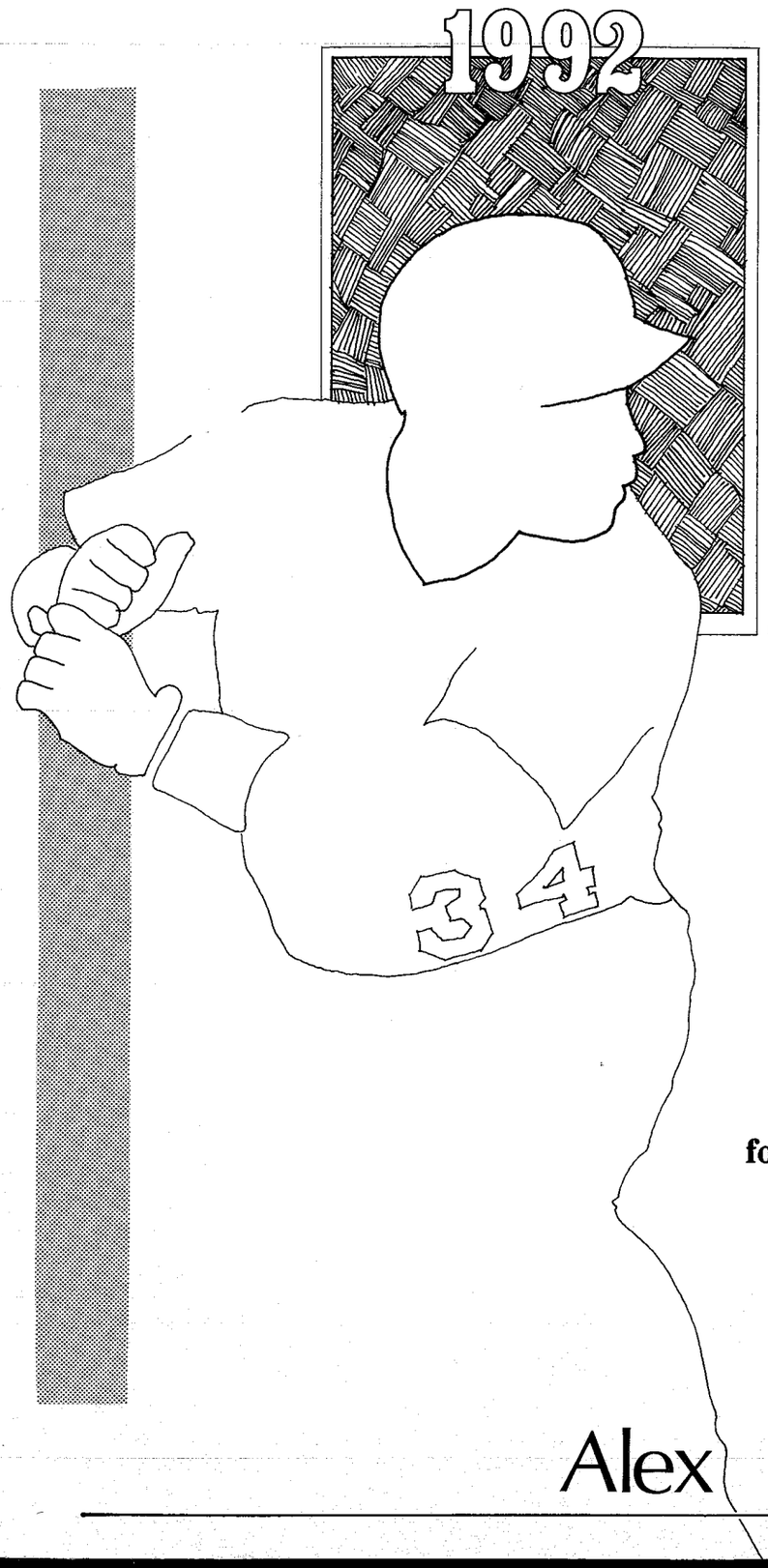
PATTON'S



PLAYER PROFILES

for Rotisserie Baseball

Alex Patton

Chapter 3
Notes for Masochists

Hitting decreased slightly in the National League last year and went up slightly in the American League. Denominators only needed small adjustments.

The process remains as simple as it always has been: figure out the average league last year, then the average team, then the average player. Assign values to the various stats and make sure they add up -- or divide down -- to $13 for the average hitter.

To calculate the average league, five NLR's were used: Lookout Bush (TN), Couch Potatoes (FL), Out of Their League (VA), Pioneer Valley (MA) and High & Tight (CA). And five ALR's: Beizbol (SC), Lone Star (TX), Washington Ghost-AL (DC), Michael Menery (MA) and Tri Ds-Jamaica Plain (MA). The stats are from the hypothetical final standings; that is, just the stats of the players bought in auctions, the only stats that we pay for with the budgets of $2600 and $3120.

Draft populations, 1991 hitters:

NL	AB	HR	RBI	SB	BA	$HR	$RBI	$SB	$BA	$TOT
LOO	48791	1261	6077	1399	.263	573	742	493	0	1808
CPL	49681	1249	6134	1395	.263	568	749	492	0	1809
OTL	50438	1261	6220	1441	.263	573	760	508	0	1841
PVL	49458	1247	6126	1414	.263	567	748	499	1	1814
H&T	50189	1258	6198	1410	.263	572	757	497	-1	1825
avg lg	49711	1255	6151	1412	.263	571	751	498	0	1820
avg tm	4971	126	615	141	.263	57	75	50	0	182
avg pl	355	9	44	10	.263	4	5	4	0	13.00

AL	AB	HR	RBI	SB	BA	$HR	$RBI	$SB	$BA	$TOT
BZB	63730	1714	8154	1287	.263	701	900	585	-1	2185
LSL	63833	1724	8162	1306	.263	705	901	594	-2	2198
WGA	63774	1697	8165	1314	.264	694	901	597	0	2193
MML	63595	1667	8066	1323	.264	682	890	601	1	2174
TRD	63329	1712	8132	1258	.265	700	897	572	1	2171
avg lg	63652	1703	8136	1298	.264	697	898	590	0	2184
avg tm	5304	142	678	108	.264	58	75	49	0	182
avg pl	379	10	48	8	.264	4	5	4	0	13.00

The inter-league differences should be apparent; the intra-league similarities should also be apparent.

The formulas for converting the stats into values for the NL hitters:

$HR = 13*(HR/4.5)/6.355$
$RBI = 13*(RBI/16.8)/6.355$
$SB = 13*(SB/5.8)/6.355$
$BA = 13*(((1236+Hits)/(4700+AB)-0.264)/0.0012)/6.355$

The formulas for the AL hitters:

$HR = 13*(HR/5)/6.355
$RBI = 13*(RBI/18.5)/6.355
$SB = 13*(SB/4.5)/6.355
$BA = 13*(((1240.8+Hits)/(4700+AB)-0.264)/0.0012)/6.355

To make the average hitter worth $13.00, not $13.02 or 12.99, I use more decimals than are shown. These will give any hitter the dollar values that are in this book. The key numbers are the ones in parentheses: the denominators. Close to six steals make a difference in the standings in the National League, whereas between four and five do in the American League.

The 6.355 is the amount the average hitter helps the typical Rotisserie team. If you take him away and carry only 13 hitters on your team, you will drop a little over six points in the standings.

As for the $13 that I assign the average hitter, it all hinges on the way the game is scored: three quantitative categories for hitters, two for pitchers. The average hitter is a three-category player; he's worth 50% more than the average pitcher. Rather than equal salaries of $11.3, the hitter earns $13, 50% more than the $8.67 the pitcher earns. The bookends of the equations simply convert every 6.355 points that a hitter contributes into $13.

That's it for hitting. Changing the three quantitative denominators from year to year is exactly like Pete Palmer's linear weights: performance is put in the context of each year and each league.

Pitching has only one denominator that can legitimately be changed, and as a result the average pitcher just about refuses to earn exactly what he's supposed to.

Draft populations, 1991 pitchers:

NL	IP	W	Sv	ERA	Rto	$W	$S	$ERA	$Rto	$TOT	$H&P
LOO	11521	678	355	3.57	11.46	555	234	-2	-2	785	2591
CPL	11066	670	433	3.51	11.31	548	286	1	2	837	2643
OTL	11523	695	386	3.55	11.40	569	255	-1	-1	822	2661
PVL	11186	668	400	3.50	11.32	547	264	1	2	814	2626
H&T	11274	675	433	3.49	11.41	552	286	2	-1	839	2664
av lg	11314	677	401	3.53	11.38	554	265	0	0	819	2639
av tm	1131	68	40	3.53	11.38	55	26	0	0	82	264
av pl	126	7.5	4.5	3.53	11.38	6	3	0	0	9.11	11.5

AL	IP	W	Sv	ERA	Rto	$W	$S	$ERA	$Rto	$TOT	$H&P
BZB	12542	738	552	3.93	12.03	604	332	0	0	936	3125
LSL	12769	755	542	3.97	12.08	618	326	-2	-1	941	3143
WGA	12721	746	533	3.92	12.02	611	321	0	0	932	3129
MML	13089	774	537	3.91	12.01	634	323	1	1	958	3136
TRD	12816	756	504	3.92	11.99	619	303	0	1	924	3099
av lg	12787	754	534	3.93	12.03	617	321	0	0	938	3122
av tm	1066	63	44	3.93	12.03	51	27	0	0	78	260
av pl	118	7.0	4.9	3.93	12.03	6	3	0	0	8.70	11.3

Do you see? One average pitcher is worth $9.11 and the other $8.70. If you look at the wins columns, you'll understand why.

There are valid league differences and phony league differences. The different ERA's and ratios are valid, but since they both are worth zero to the average pitcher, changing those denominators -- even if I wanted to -- would accomplish nothing. The different number of saves that the two average players get is valid;

there were indeed more saves in the NL last year. But there weren't more wins. One to a ballgame, that's the limit.

The average NL Rotisserie team bought 68 wins in the draft; the average AL team bought 63 wins. More pitchers came along after the start of the season to win games in the AL; it could go the other way this year. The wins denominator must always be the same for each league, even if I have to sacrifice perfection. Pisses me off.

Three cents don't add up to a hill of beans in the AL, but as you can see, the 44 cents extra that the average pitcher is paid makes the average team earn $264, which is not possible.

I could force the NL back down to size by raising the saves denominator; in effect, I could take money out of Lee Smith's pocket to pay for the five extra wins per team that were available in the draft -- ridiculous, misleading, and terribly tempting.

The saves denominator *can* change -- as long as it relates to the number of saves available, not wins -- and in both leagues it did change.

The formulas for NL pitchers:

$W = 8.67*(Wins/2.5)/4.237
$Sv = 8.67*(Saves/3.1)/4.237
$ERA = 8.67*((3.53-(412+ER)/((1050+IP)/9))/0.04)/4.237
$Rto = 8.67*((11.38-((1328+H+BB)/((1050+IP)/9)))/0.07)/4.237

For AL pitchers:

$W = 8.67*(Wins/2.5)/4.237
$S = 8.67*(Saves/3.4)/4.237
$ERA = 8.67*((3.93-(459+ER)/((1050+IP)/9))/0.04)/4.237
$Rto = 8.67*((12.03-((1404+H+BB)/((1050+IP)/9)))/0.07)/4.237

In 1990 the saves denominators were 2.7 for the NL and 3.8 for the AL. The drastic difference was a response to the scarcity of saves in the NL and the abundance in the AL. Last year saves went up in the NL, down in the AL; the gap was narrowed but not closed, and these new denominators try to reflect that.

This is the contraption. Now we can take it for a test drive.

HICH & TIGHT 1991 DRAFT

hitting	AB	HR	RBI	SB	BA	$
Kerrson	5404	147	752	158	.269	220
Prima Donnas	5013	129	619	117	.276	187
Foreplay	5176	143	700	144	.257	196
Doors	4322	112	525	109	.255	147
3 Scrooges	5567	143	642	204	.269	220
Big Bucks	5044	149	692	117	.256	187
Hooters	4893	117	541	94	.265	155
Scratchers	5324	89	557	226	.255	181
Shamrocks	4358	115	533	133	.257	160
Double Play	5088	114	637	108	.264	169
total	50189	1258	6198	1410	.263	1825

I'm deliberately taking it over a bumpy road. The High & Tight League, one of the phony start-up leagues used to calculate market prices in Appendix A, is the NLR that went the furthest over the salary cap in the calculations above. Let's try to run these guys over with Patton $ or get rattled apart in the process.

pitching	IP	W	S	ERA	Rto	$	$TOT	Pts
Kerrson	1081	60	50	3.73	11.14	80	301	59.0
Prima Donnas	1666	102	20	3.33	11.23	106	292	54.5
Foreplay	1258	80	44	3.45	11.31	98	294	53.5
Doors	1068	75	70	3.01	10.89	128	276	45.0
3 Scrooges	740	30	68	3.97	12.58	46	266	43.5
Big Bucks	902	48	16	3.31	11.46	54	241	42.5
Hooters	1458	99	33	3.40	11.35	107	262	41.0
Scratchers	1104	68	63	3.84	11.34	90	271	38.0
Shamrocks	989	54	57	3.61	11.52	78	237	34.0
Double Play	1007	59	12	3.50	11.84	50	219	29.0
total	11274	675	433	3.49	11.41	839	2664	440.0

Their pitching is odd: strong in saves and ERA, average in wins, weak in ratio. There are obviously different games being played within the game. The Prima Donnas loaded up on starting pitching and got away with it (the second best ERA). The Doors loaded up on relievers and got what they were looking for (the best ERA, as well as ratio). The Three Scrooges tried a more extreme version of the Doors' game; are last in ERA and ratio and are 260 innings short of 1000. Only one team has as much hitting as they do, however, so they may be able to trade their way out of this mess.

In the total earnings column we see inflation taking its toll. Only three teams earn less than $260, the break-even point. On the other hand, the inflation factor itself is only 2.5%, and it's all concentrated in pitchers, whom we have no trouble deflating in the auction. For hitters as a group, the prices are valid within $5; they are 99.7% accurate.

The points show how these teams finished in the hypothetical final standings. Despite the various crackpot strategies -- look at the Scratchers playing Whitey ball -- there's a pretty good correlation between the hypothetical order of finish and the dollar value of their stats. If the Scratchers can show Whitey how to make a trade, they'll be fine.

HIGH & TIGHT 1991 FINAL

hitting	AB	HR	RBI	SB	BA	$
Prima Donnas	5789	136	680	140	.269	200
Doors	5441	147	708	166	.264	212
Foreplay	5488	151	750	141	.253	201
3 Scrooges	6192	170	752	209	.269	248
Kerrson	5552	137	729	180	.265	217
Hooters	5041	131	580	91	.266	165
Scratchers	5437	97	593	202	.257	182
Big Bucks	5081	116	588	155	.254	171
Shamrocks	4788	120	544	154	.254	167
Double Play	4725	107	587	91	.263	152
total	53534	1312	6511	1529	.262	1929

The Scratchers have given up 24 steals and gained 8 home runs: a fair exchange in real baseball, but not good enough for their needs. The Three Scrooges are now far the best hitting team; they played it wrong. The league has gained $104 in hitting, but Double Play has lost $17: a three-category punt and maybe a fire sale.

pitching	IP	W	S	ERA	Rto	$	$TOT	Pts	+/-
Prima Donnas	1492	97	54	3.15	11.10	131	331	62.0	7.5
Doors	1353	89	43	3.17	11.02	118	330	60.0	15.0
Foreplay	1383	91	44	3.37	11.30	110	311	54.0	0.5
3 Scrooges	981	45	65	4.11	12.56	49	297	52.0	8.5
Kerrson	1342	72	50	3.88	11.40	82	299	51.0	-8.0
Hooters	1335	87	34	3.58	11.36	93	258	39.5	-1.5
Scratchers	1289	78	64	3.98	11.66	89	271	39.0	1.0
Big Bucks	1070	64	32	3.43	11.49	74	246	32.0	-10.5
Shamrocks	1132	65	35	3.74	11.47	69	237	29.0	-5.0
Double Play	1062	62	12	3.68	11.89	47	200	21.5	-7.5
total	12441	750	433	3.58	11.48	894	2823	440.0	0.0

So these are the final standings. "+/-" shows who gained and lost how many points. The Prima Donnas, who made five trades, gave up five wins, gained 34 saves, and even improved on their ERA and ratio, which may be the two categories where there's never a surplus. The Doors gave them a heck of a chase: gave up $10 in pitching (27 saves), gained $65 in hitting (183 ribbies), and gained 15 points in the standings, falling two points short. Double Play hung in there, sort of, losing only $3 in pitching. The Three Scrooges didn't make a thousand innings, but I don't know if there was a penalty.

In any event, points and dollars now line up very nicely. Give Kerrson one-and-a-half more points and the Scratchers one more point and everything would be just so; leagues always try to straighten out their assets during the season and make Patton $ look better.

What they are attempting to do, of course, is change their destiny. We can easily see all the huffing and puffing after the draft if we subtract the draft stats from the final stats for each team, then sort the teams by who picked up the most AB and IP, either through trades, waivers or reserve lists.

hitting	AB	HR	RBI	SB	BA	$HR	$RBI	$SB	$BA	$TOT
Doors	1119	35	183	57	.295	16	22	20	10	69
Prima Donnas	776	7	61	23	.227	3	7	8	-9	10
3 Scrooges	625	27	110	5	.270	12	13	2	1	29
Shamrocks	430	5	11	21	.214	2	1	7	-7	4
Foreplay	312	8	50	-3	.196	4	6	-1	-7	2
Hooters	148	14	39	-3	.291	6	5	-1	1	12
Kerrson	148	-10	-23	22	.122	-5	-3	8	-7	-7
Scratchers	113	8	36	-24	.354	4	4	-8	4	3
Big Bucks	37	-33	-104	38	.027	-15	-13	13	-3	-17
Double Play	-363	-7	-50	-17	.281	-3	-6	-6	-3	-18
total	3345	54	313	119	.248	25	38	42	-11	94

pitching	IP	W	S	ERA	Rto	$W	$S	$ERA	$Rto	$TOT
Doors	284	14	-27	3.77	11.49	11	-18	-3	-1	-10
Kerrson	261	12	0	4.48	12.48	10	0	-10	-6	-6
3 Scrooges	242	15	-3	4.54	12.48	12	-2	-10	-6	-5
Scratchers	185	10	1	4.82	13.57	8	1	-10	-10	-11
Big Bucks	168	16	16	4.06	11.66	13	11	-4	-1	19
Shamrocks	144	11	-22	4.57	11.09	9	-15	-6	1	-11
Foreplay	125	11	0	2.60	11.19	9	0	5	1	15
Double Play	55	3	0	6.87	12.93	2	0	-9	-2	-8
Hooters	-123	-12	1	1.46	11.31	-10	1	-14	0	-24
Prima Donnas	-174	-5	34	4.92	12.28	-4	22	14	5	38
total	1167	75	0	4.49	12.16	61	0	-26	-12	24

Easy to see, yes. Easy to understand, no.

How can the Hooters lose 123 innings and gain such a terrific ERA? Maybe, since the ERA is worth minus $14, it means they gave this terrific ERA to another team. The Prima Donnas gained $14 by giving terrible pitching to another team.

One thing that jumps out is that there was not a single save gained overall; many swapped, but the same total as in the hypothetical. No Wohlers added? Wohlers added and Schilling dropped, perhaps? This league was no dynamo, but it made 66 trades, 58 reserve list moves, and 45 waiver claims, picking up value in all the other categories.

Well, quantitative categories. The new pitchers were two-category disasters, and the batters weren't that great; 313 RBI's spread among ten teams don't go very far.

But they aren't spread equally; that's the key. No one huffed and puffed harder than the Doors -- 19 trades, 5 reserve moves, 10 waivers -- and they picked up the most at-bats and innings. The transaction line for the Prima Donnas only reads 5, 9, 5, but they picked up the second most at-bats and subtracted the most innings. Clearly, their strategy was to help themselves by hurting others.

It almost worked. Kerrson only made two trades and a total of 10 transactions. But they gave up a lot of hitting to gain 261 innings worth minus $6. The Three Scrooges picked up the next most innings, the Scratchers the next most. These three teams -- honest gamesters, trying to improve their hands -- together piled up 688 innings and lost $22 that they could have kept by doing nothing.

Quantities of quantity are bound to help; quantities of quality, not necessarily -- that's the Stage Three motto. Whether High & Tight was in fact a Stage Three start-up league can be readily determined. Here they are, ranked by who spent the most on hitting:

hitters	paid	earned	net	AB	HR	RBI	SB	BA	fin.
Prima Donnas	198	187	-11	5013	129	619	117	.276	1
Double Play	191	169	-22	5088	114	637	108	.264	10
Kerrson	185	220	35	5404	147	752	158	.269	5
Big Bucks	178	187	9	5044	149	692	117	.256	8
Shamrocks	172	160	-12	4358	115	533	133	.257	9
Doors	168	147	-21	4322	112	525	109	.255	2
3 Scrooges	163	220	57	5567	143	642	204	.269	4
Foreplay	162	196	34	5176	143	700	144	.257	3
Hooters	152	155	3	4893	117	541	94	.265	6
Scratchers	146	181	35	5324	89	557	226	.255	7
total	1715	1825	110	50189	1258	6198	1410	.263	55

The league spent $1715 on hitting, much less than the $1820 that I maintain hitters will inevitably earn ($13 X 140 hitters). Still, $1715 is closer to $1820 than $1582, which is what a Stage One league spends ($11.3 X 140 hitters). The Prima Donnas spend the most on hitting and finish first, the Double Plays the second most and finish last, so that's not too instructive. The Scratchers spent the least amount on hitting and, except for stolen bases, certainly got the least amount. They paid $26 for DeShields and $21 for Otis Nixon; it can't be said that the league undervalued steals.

pitchers	paid	earned	net	IP	W	S	ERA	Rto	fin.
Scratchers	114	90	-24	1104	68	63	3.84	11.34	7
Hooters	107	107	0	1458	99	33	3.40	11.35	6
Foreplay	95	98	3	1258	80	44	3.45	11.31	3
3 Scrooges	94	46	-48	740	30	68	3.97	12.58	4

pitchers	paid	earned	net	IP	W	S	ERA	Rto	fin.
Doors	92	128	36	1068	75	70	3.01	10.89	2
Shamrocks	87	78	-9	989	54	57	3.61	11.52	9
Big Bucks	82	54	-28	902	48	16	3.31	11.46	8
Kerrson	75	80	5	1081	60	50	3.73	11.14	5
Double Play	68	50	-18	1007	59	12	3.50	11.84	10
Prima Donnas	61	106	45	1666	102	20	3.33	11.23	1
total	875	839	-36	11274	675	433	3.49	11.41	55

Naturally, the teams that spend the least on hitting spend the most on pitching, and if by my lights they underspend on hitters, they overspend on pitchers. But by any reckoning, big spenders like the Scratchers clearly don't get what they paid for; on the other hand, neither do little spenders, like the Big Bucks.

Perhaps some sense can be made of this buy averaging the top five and bottom five teams in each list.

$ on hitting	paid	earned	net	AB	HR	RBI	SB	BA	fin.
top 5 (avg)	185	184	-1	4981	131	647	127	0.265	6.6
bottom 5 (avg)	158	180	22	5056	121	593	155	0.260	4.4

The teams that spend the most do get the most hitting, but it's much closer than I would have thought. Most peculiar is the fact that the cheapskates actually pack more AB onto their teams. This can happen in Stage One auctions when teams bid furiously on the stars, but the best hitters, the presumed best hitters, really weren't that expensive: Bonds $43 (Big Bucks), Strawberry $40 (Doors), Eric Davis $39 (Foreplay), Gant $39 (Big Bucks) and Sandberg $39 (Prima Donnas).

$ on pitching	paid	earned	net	IP	W	S	ERA	Rto	fin.
top 5 (avg)	100	93	-7	1126	70	56	3.50	11.41	4.4
bottom 5 (avg)	75	74	-1	1129	65	31	3.49	11.41	6.6

More very strange stuff. The cheapskates buy a few more innings and, amazingly, get a slightly better ERA. But the big spenders get a 93% return on their dollar -- primarily by scarfing up most of the saves -- and as a group fare substantially better (they almost finish fourth; the teams that spend heaviest on hitters almost finish seventh). This despite the fact that only one of the five most expensive pitchers -- Franco $42 (Doors), Dave Smith $40 (Three Scrooges), Lee Smith $39 (Scratchers), Myers $35 (Double Play) and Righetti $31 (Shamrocks) -- lived up to his billing.

The fact that no starting pitcher breaks into the top five is one sure indication that these owners have been around the block before.

Another is the money they spend all told: $2590, only $10 left over at the end. The Prima Donnas grabbed the ring in the crapshoot -- DeJesus $1, Lancaster $1, Trevor Wilson $1, Harnsisch $1 -- and had a dollar to spare.