

# 1. General Overview

This is a short survey about my thesis project, which is more or less an interactive visualization of baseball data from the past 60 years. The working goal of this project is to provide users with an intuitive, well designed way to explore past MLB games and seasons. I am currently trying to find out a couple of things, namely:

- Is anyone interested in this besides me
- What are people interested in seeing
- How are people interested in viewing this data
- Should this concentrate on current seasons, previous seasons with complete data sets, or both

Please help me out by taking this survey and you'll be one of the first people to beta test my project and get a look at what I've been doing! (If you are thinking "that's not a prize that just helps you more!" you're right but come on just help me out)

I totally appreciate anyone's help on this!

## 1. How big of a baseball fan do you consider yourself?

- ☐ I watch once in a while because nothing else is on
- ☐ I try to keep up, I watch one to a couple games a week
- ☐ I watch all my teams games and catch Baseball Tonight when I can
- ☐ I'm a baseball freak, it consumes my life from April to November and I love every second about it

## 2. How Interested are you in visually exploring historical baseball data from yesterday to 1951?

- ☐ Totally interested
- ☐ Somewhat interested, depends on what it looks like
- ☐ I'd check it out but probably not interested
- ☐ I only care about live games

## 3. Would you be more interested in exploring data pertaining to a current season (current rankings, rankings over season) or previous seasons?

- ☐ Previous Seasons
- ☐ Current Season
- ☐ Both are interesting

Other (please specify)

4. Which of the following platforms would you like to use to explore this data, keeping in mind your use preference?

- ☐ Desktop App (Mac/PC versions)
- ☐ Web Based App
- ☐ Tablet Computer (iPad, Windows based tablets, touch interface)
- ☐ Mobile App (iPhone, Android, etc)

Other (please specify)

5. If you had access to this program, how would you imagine you'd use it?

- ☐ Research (General or Fantasy baseball related)
- ☐ Entertainment/Leisure
- ☐ During Games

## 2. Team/Season Visualizations

These are questions about visualizing individual seasons for teams. This view would show every season a team played in their history and how they did.

1. Which of the following ways of selecting teams would you find most interesting?

- ☐ Simple List
- ☐ Select from logos
- ☐ Select from Map (teams shown in their locations)

Other (please specify)

2. Would you be more interested in seeing all teams listed or exploring them based on seasons (seeing which teams moved/changed names/etc) for any given season?

- ☐ All at once
- ☐ Based on Season
- ☐ Give me both!

3. Of the following data related to a team's season, which are you interested in seeing?

- ☐ Wins/Losses
- ☐ Division Standings
- ☐ League Standings
- ☐ Overall Standings
- ☐ Team Stats

Other (please specify)

4. Which of the following (if any) other season data interests you?

- ☐ Salary
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Stadium
- ☐ Manager
- ☐ Owner

Other (please specify)

### 3. Game Visualization

This will be the deepest level of data that can be explored, and the major focus of the project. This section aims to create an interactive visual system that serves as an alternative to a box score (if a box score is Mark McGwire with the A's, this will be Paul Bunyan McGwire on the Cardinals). Games will be presented in a way that allows users to see an overview of all events in the game (every at bat) organized both chronologically by top/bottom of innings, as well as chronologically for each individual player. A general system will show the basic outcome of each at bat (Hit, Reach Base Otherwise or an Out), and interaction will allow users to view a full written explanation of every play.

1. How do you feel about current box scores that show limited information about a game (basic stats on a few players, chosen by others)

- ☐ They Suck! I wanna know much more than this!
- ☐ They're ok but there is a lot of room for improvement
- ☐ Sometimes I wish I had more info but for the most part I'm fine with them
- ☐ I need more than this, it hasn't changed in 90 years! Give me more!

2. Do you think you would want to review a previous days game if you missed it and see exactly what happened?

jn Yea totally

jn Maybe depends on the game

jn No I'm fine just seeing the score

3. Would you be interested in viewing a recap of the game linearly (playing back the game in a somewhat expediated manner, with each play popping up)

jn Yes that'd totally be cool

jn Hmm, thats interesting but I probably wouldn't use it much

jn No thats annoying I just wanna look and interact myself.

4. How in depth would you like the data for each game to get?

jn Show me everything!

jn I want to see a good amount but don't get too complicated

jn It should be simple as possible and focus on the overall game

5. Are you more interested in comparing individual performances of players within the game or the overall performance of each team?

jn Players

jn Teams

jn Equally interested in both

6. Would you be interested in seeing a more abstract version of a game? For example, would you like to have a screensaver that let you select a team and created visuals based on games from that teams history? (Think itunes visualizer but for a baseball game)

jn Thats ridiculous

jn That could be interesting but I'm more interesting in interacting

jn I'd love to see both!

jn Thats what I'm talking about, way more interesting than what you've been saying!

7. How interested would you be in buying posters/prints of a game visualization? (Lets assume it looks good and not fugly)

jn Wow that'd be awesome

jn Maybe if its really well done, I'd have to see it and see how much it would cost

jn Not a chance