

MONEYBALL QUESTIONS

1. In 2001, what was the total payroll for the New York Yankees? The Oakland Athletics?
2. The three players that the Oakland Athletics lost to free agency were.
3. What was Billy Beane (General Manager) told to do by the team owner of the Athletics?
4. What is the real problem that Billy and his team of scouts have to solve?
5. As a high school baseball star, why was Billy projected to be picked in the first round of the player draft?
6. Why did Billy not succeed at the major-league level as a player, despite having 'all the tools'?
7. What did a player having an ugly girlfriend say about the player according to baseball scouts
8. According to Pete Brandt, "... the goal of people who run ball clubs is not to buy players, it is to buy _____. In order to _____, they need to _____."
9. The equation on the whiteboard as reprinted below , is known as the 'Pythagorean Expectation Formula'. What does it allow Pete to project?
$$\frac{(\text{Runs Scored})^2}{(\text{Runs Scored})^2 + (\text{Runs Allowed})^2}$$
10. How many runs are needed, and how many runs can be allowed, in order for the team to reach this goal?
11. Pete explains to Billy that the code that is shown on his computer is an algorithm that analyzes players based on a number of statistics. It is all about getting everything down to this _____.
What is it used for?
12. What is OBP and how is it calculated?
13. Is the "Moneyball" approach an "art" or a "science"?
14. Describe a circumstance where Billy Beane broke from the Moneyball approach to make a positive change for the team.
15. Pete knows that there are 25 potential players that must be out there and available for Oakland because of this reason
16. Why is Chad Bradford (a pitcher), undervalued by other teams?
17. How is Billy going to replace players like Jason Giambi, Johnny Damon and Olmedo Saenz?
18. The three replacement players that Billy is interested in all have 'problems' but are cheap. Name the players . What do they all have in common?
19. The team that Billy has assembled is based on a statistical theory known colloquially as 'Moneyball'. Who invented this idea, and what was his real job at the time?
20. How many games back from the AL West lead were the Athletics as of May 23, 2002? How many games had they lost of their last 17 games?
21. Why does Billy prefer Scott Hatteburg at 1st base instead of Carlos Pena (despite Hatteburg's lack of experience and fielding skills in the position)?
22. How does Billy solve the problem of his manager (Art Howe) preferring to play Pena at 1st instead of Hatteburg?
23. Even though Jeremy Giambi was a player acquired using the 'Moneyball' formula, why do you think Billy felt the need to trade him?
24. What is 'The Streak'?
25. Billy states that if the A's win the last (championship) game of the season, they would have re-invented the game. What does he mean by this?
26. At the end of the 2002 season, the Athletics had exactly the same number of wins as the Yankees. How much did the Yankees pay on average for each win? How much did the A's pay on average for each win?
27. Should teams skip actually looking at players or is there a place for baseball scouts?
28. This season 2011-2012, Billy Beane was voted top GM on the American League. What was his team's record and what was his payroll? What was the New York Yankees record and what was their payroll?