



Correlation between a team's subleague/division and the series they play

Thomas Chick (@Tantusar#7835) (he/they)*, ¹

*Society for Internet Baseball Research

ABSTRACT Analysis of series played during ILB Season 3 reveals that while there is some correlation between the subleague or division a team is in and the number of games they play against any other given team, it is still largely random exactly which matchups have however many games.

KEYWORDS
Baseball
Scheduling
Balance

SUBLEAGUES AND DIVISIONS

The Internet Baseball League is comprised of twenty teams, divided evenly into two subleagues, the Good and Evil Leagues, which are each further divided evenly into a Lawful Division and a Chaotic Division. (Table 1)

■ **Table 1 The Internet Baseball League (as of Season 3)**

Good League		Evil League	
Lawful	Chaotic	Lawful	Chaotic
Lovers*	Millennials*	Tigers*	Moist Talkers*
Steaks*	Shoe Thieves*	Pies*	Jazz Hands*
Breath Mints	Magic	Crabs	Spies
Tacos	Fridays	Wild Wings	Garages
Firefighters	Flowers	Sunbeams	Dalé

* made Postseason

In order to move on to the Postseason, teams must be in the top four teams in their subleague, ranked by number of wins. Ties are broken by *Divine Favor*² and position within a division is irrelevant.

SERIES

A season of ILB is comprised of 99 games. Each team will play 33 series of 3 games. The method by which pairings for these series are decided is opaque. Insight into this method can only be gleaned by analysis of what games take place between which teams.

Copyright © 2020 by the Society for Internet Baseball Research
Manuscript compiled: Saturday 8th August, 2020

¹ Also on Twitter: @Tantusar

² Which is largely arbitrary, but can be affected by blessings, elections, etc.

METHODOLOGY

Our sample consists of a largely complete set of game logs from the entirety of Season 3.³

We recorded the exact matches played by each team on each day from the game logs (etaoin 2020), then calculated the number of matches played between each possible matchup. As all series were of three games, these values were divided by three to find the number of series played.

RESULTS

A total of 330 series were played between the twenty teams over the course of Season 3. Of those 330 series, just 16 were played between teams from different subleagues. Of the remainder, 173 were played between teams in the same division, leaving 141 played in different divisions. (Tables 2 and 3)

■ **Table 2 Away series played between divisions during Season 3**

	Good		Evil	
	L	C	L	C
@ LG	42	32	3	3
@ CG	41	42	3	2
@ LE	1	2	44	37
@ CE	1	1	31	45

³ Some data from Season 3 was lost for various peanut, bird, siesta, blasphemy and other reasons. No data relevant to this paper was lost.

■ **Table 3 Overall series played between divisions during Season 3**

	Good		Evil	
	L	C	L	C
LG	42	73	4	4
CG	73	42	5	3
LE	4	5	44	68
CE	4	3	68	45

Teams played between 11⁴ and 20⁵ series from their home stadium.⁶ With the exception of the Hawaii Fridays (who played 3) and the Breckenridge Jazz Hands, (who played 0) every team played either 1 or 2 series against a team from a different subleague. (Table 7)

ANALYSIS

While the exact method by which pairings are decided remains opaque, it is obvious now that the method is, at least, random.⁷ Pairings appear to be *heavily* weighted against interleague matchups, and then slightly weighted again towards intradivision matchups.

As it stands, roughly half of all series are played within the same division, roughly one twentieth are played interleague, and the rest are played in the opposite division but the same league.

■ **Table 4 Average number of series played by teams**

Intradivision	17.3 (52.4%)
Interdivision	14.1 (42.7%)
Interleague	1.6 (4.8%)

Otherwise, teams are not guaranteed any particular number of home or away games, nor are they guaranteed to play every team, *nor* are they guaranteed to even play every team within *their own division*.⁸

The commissioner⁹'s goal does not appear to be a balanced schedule. Even ignoring the clearly random selection of pairings, 33 series is not conducive to any sort of meaningfully balanced schedule.

If the commissioner¹⁰ wished to move from an entirely random schedule to a similarly long but more predictable one, a potential layout could be 3 series per team of intradivision matches, (3×4=12 series) 2 series per team of interdivision matches, (2×5=10 series) and 1 series per team of interleague matches (1×10=10 series) for a total of 32 series per team, or a 96-game season.

This does have the disadvantage of ensuring that each possible matchup at the intradivisional and interleague levels will have an uneven number of home/away matches per team. Changing the intradivision to be 4 series per team would increase the season to

⁴ The Canada Moist Talkers.

⁵ The Dallas Steaks, the Yellowstone Magic, and the Seattle Garages.

⁶ The total away series are just 33 minus the total home series. You do the math.

⁷ Even when their choices appear arbitrary, the commissioner is doing a great job.

⁸ The Boston Flowers played exactly zero series against other Chaotic Good Division team the Charleston Shoe Thieves. (Table 6)

⁹ Who is doing a great job.

¹⁰ Great job.

36 series, or 108 games, which is still well within the maximum allowable length of 120.¹¹ The interleague level may just have to stay unsolved.¹²

FUTURE WORK

The League has made no indication that scheduling methodology will be changing any time soon. The author will be continuing to keep an eye on the schedule as it develops, assuming it does.¹³

Research into methods for ascertaining a fairer set of league standings while retaining the random pairings could also be interesting.

Parties with suggestions as to how more information can be gleaned about the pairing generation methodology, or as to a better pairing system for ILB, should contact the author at [SIBR¹⁴](#) or on [Twitter](#).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to BaronBliss (@baronbliss#7135) (any) for editing and/or moral support.

REFERENCES

etaoin, i., 2020 Blaseball game logs, timestamps 1596441603438 through 1596861288731. S3. <https://blaseball-archive-iliana.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com>.

¹¹ Saturday is always coming.

¹² Siesta is always welcome.

¹³ See previous footnotes re: the commissioner and doing a great job.

¹⁴ Ask for @Tantusar#7835.

■ Table 5 Away series played by teams during Season 3

	Lovers	Steaks	Breath Mints	Tacos	Firefighters	Millennials	Shoe Thieves	Magic	Fridays	Flowers	Tigers	Pies	Crabs	Wild Wings	Sunbeams	Moist Talkers	Jazz Hands	Spies	Garages	Dalé
@ Lovers	0	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
@ Steaks	2	0	1	1	5	0	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
@ Breath Mints	0	2	0	3	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
@ Tacos	5	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@ Firefighters	4	1	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@ Millennials	1	2	3	0	2	0	4	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@ Shoe Thieves	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
@ Magic	1	0	4	2	2	3	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
@ Fridays	3	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
@ Flowers	1	1	3	2	3	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
@ Tigers	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1
@ Pies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	6	2	2	1	1	2
@ Crabs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	4	3	2	1	1	2	1
@ Wild Wings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	1	0	2	2	2	4	1	1
@ Sunbeams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	2
@ Moist Talkers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	2
@ Jazz Hands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	2	0	2	2	4
@ Spies	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	3	1
@ Garages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	5	3	2	0	3
@ Dalé	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	0	2	3	3	0	0

■ Table 6 Overall series played by teams during Season 3

	Lovers	Steaks	Breath Mints	Tacos	Firefighters	Millennials	Shoe Thieves	Magic	Fridays	Flowers	Tigers	Pies	Crabs	Wild Wings	Sunbeams	Moist Talkers	Jazz Hands	Spies	Garages	Dalé
Lovers	0	3	3	7	5	2	1	3	4	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steaks	3	0	3	5	6	2	4	3	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Breath Mints	3	3	0	4	2	4	5	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Tacos	7	5	4	0	4	1	2	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Firefighters	5	6	2	4	0	2	3	4	2	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Millennials	2	2	4	1	2	0	5	4	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shoe Thieves	1	4	5	2	3	5	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Magic	3	3	4	3	4	4	5	0	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fridays	4	2	1	3	2	6	7	2	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Flowers	3	3	5	3	4	6	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tigers	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	3	5	3	3	5	2	2
Pies	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	4	3	6	4	3	2	2	3
Crabs	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	4	0	5	6	2	4	2	2	1
Wild Wings	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	5	0	3	2	2	6	2	5
Sunbeams	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	6	6	3	0	3	2	0	4	2
Moist Talkers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	2	2	3	0	4	4	6	4
Jazz Hands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	4	2	2	4	0	3	5	7
Spies	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	2	2	6	0	4	3	0	5	4
Garages	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2	4	6	5	5	0	3
Dalé	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	5	2	4	7	4	3	0

■ **Table 7** Distribution of series played by teams during Season 3

	Home				Away				Overall			
	Intradivision	Interdivision	Interleague	Total	Intradivision	Interdivision	Interleague	Total	Intradivision	Interdivision	Interleague	Total
Lovers	7	7	2	16	11	6	0	17	18	13	2	33
Steaks	9	10	1	20	8	4	1	13	17	14	1	33
Breath Mints	6	6	2	14	6	13	0	19	12	19	2	33
Tacos	11	5	0	16	9	7	1	17	20	12	1	33
Firefighters	9	4	1	14	8	11	0	19	17	15	1	33
Millennials	10	8	0	18	11	3	1	15	21	11	1	33
Shoe Thieves	7	7	1	15	10	8	0	18	17	15	1	33
Magic	11	9	0	20	4	8	1	13	15	17	1	33
Fridays	7	7	2	16	11	5	1	17	18	12	3	33
Flowers	7	10	2	19	6	8	0	14	13	18	2	33
Tigers	9	7	1	17	8	8	0	16	17	15	1	33
Pies	10	8	0	18	7	6	2	15	17	14	2	33
Crabs	10	7	1	18	10	4	1	15	20	11	2	33
Wild Wings	8	10	1	19	6	7	1	14	14	17	2	33
Sunbeams	7	5	0	12	13	6	2	21	20	11	2	33
Moist Talkers	7	4	0	11	11	10	1	22	18	14	1	33
Jazz Hands	10	7	0	17	9	7	0	16	19	14	0	33
Spies	7	7	1	15	9	8	1	18	16	15	2	33
Garages	13	7	0	20	6	5	2	13	19	12	2	33
Dalé	8	6	1	15	10	7	1	18	18	13	2	33
Average	8.65	7.05	0.8	16.5	8.65	7.05	0.8	16.5	17.3	14.1	1.6	33