## 2006 Official Scorer's Essay

Wichita, Kansas, Aug. 14, 2006

#### Musings about game length

This writer has been thinking about what does it take to help keep the tournament running on time, or close to it, and has concluded that if a game gets completed in about 1:55, then after 35 minutes for field preparation and infield practice for the next game, that would get things close to schedule.

The main problem is that the average game time has been getting longer, and there haven't been enough of those 1:55 games, and seemingly too many of the 2:45 or more games. Fourteen games took at least 2:45 to play, which is a high since the survey of game times began in 2000. By contrast, sub-2:00 games totaled 14, with the sub-1:30 contests almost became non-existent.

All of that combined to push the average game time to a high of 2:20, up just over a minute from last year's 2:19.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total	205:38	177:43	180:39	191:07	201:15	190:08	191:39
Average	2:11:15	2:11:39	2:13:49	2:13:20	2:14:10	2:19:07	2:20:14
Quickest	1:14	1:21	1:19	1:16	1:19	1:18	1:19
Longest	4:09	3:59	3:00	3:47	3:55	3:25	3:11

**Table 1: Average game times and distribution** 

Time block	2000	Pct.	2001	Pct.	2002	Pct.	2003	Pct.	2004	Pct.	2005	Pct.	2006	Pct.
3:00-plus	5	5.32	3	3.70	1	1.23	1	1.16	3	3.33	2	2.44	1	1.22
2:45-2:59	6	6.38	3	3.70	4	4.94	3	3.49	6	6.67	8	9.76	13	15.85
2:30-2:44	10	10.64	7	8.64	13	16.05	9	10.47	11	12.22	14	17.07	16	19.51
2:15-2:29	18	19.15	19	23.46	20	24.69	26	30.23	20	22.22	27	32.93	20	24.39
2:00-2:14	19	20.21	27	33.33	26	32.10	29	33.72	27	30.00	16	19.51	18	21.95
1:45-1:59	18	19.15	15	18.52	11	13.58	11	12.79	14	15.56	10	12.20	11	13.41
1:30-1:44	14	14.89	3	3.70	2	2.47	5	5.81	8	8.89	3	3.66	2	2.44
1:15-1:29	3	3.19	4	4.94	4	4.94	2	2.33	1	1.11	2	2.44	1	1.22
1:00-1:14	1	1.06	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00

## Run rule games

Nine games were called by the 10-run rule, up from six a year ago (but that accounts for just over 10 percent of games played). Eleven games were decided by 10 or more runs, up four from last year. Highs were reached in average runs by both winning and losing teams, as well as the average margin of victory.

Had the six-run lead rule been in effect, 19 games that went the full distance would have been shortened (which is the same as last year and 2004).

On the other end of the spectrum, 24 games were decided by one or two runs (last year, 31 games were decided by those margins).

Table 3. Distribution of margins of victory and Average margin, 2000-2006

2006 Marg	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
Gms	12	12	10	15	3	7	5	7	0	7	4
Pct.	14.63	14.63	12.20	18.29	3.66	8.54	6.10	8.54	0.00	8.54	4.88

2005 Marg.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+
Tot	16	15	12	6	5	8	3	8	2	5	2
Pct.	19.51	18.29	14.63	7.32	6.10	9.76	3.66	9.76	2.44	6.10	2.44

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Winning teams	7.30	6.19	7.57	7.02	7.13	7.13	8.20
Defeated teams	2.83	2.56	3.09	2.76	2.76	2.77	3.39
Margin	4.47	3.63	4.48	4.27	4.38	4.37	4.80

#### Year for the offense

The 2006 tournament saw an almost 30-point jump in batting average, as teams batted .291. Runs and hits per game saw a sizeable increase, while home runs were up slightly.

Sixteen teams, including the champion Santa Barbara (.301) and runner-up Derby (.354) batted .300 or better, more than twice as many as last year. Only three teams failed to reach .200 (compared to seven in 2005). The Wichita Titans avoided being the second team to avoid being shut out in both of its games, but not by much.

Batting2000Games94		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Games	94	93	81	86	90	82	82
Avg.	.262	.254	.271	.264	.256	.263	.291
Home runs	54/.57	28/.30	76/.94	39/.45	51/.57	35/.43	44/.54
Runs	954/10.15	814/8.75	863/10.65	841/9.78	890/9.89	812/9.90	950/11.59
Hits	1581/16.82	1541/16.57	1476/18.22	1512/17.58	1563/17.37	1440/17.56	1616/19.71

## Not a year for the pitching

The pitching took a licking in the tournament, with the tournament ERA jumping almost a full earned run from last year's 3.95 to 4.87. Only four teams had an ERA under 3.00 (down from eight), and none under 2.00. In fact, it seemed to be the surest way to see a team's ERA go up was to have it be under 2.00 for a day (as happened to Santa Barbara in the quarterfinals and Derby in the championship game, although the Twins did retain the lowest tournament ERA at 2.40). Only one team (Chillicothe MO at 11.40) had an ERA over 10.00.

Three pitchers went 3-0: Matt Whittaker and Jon Qualls of Derby and Alexander Francisco of Santa Barbara. Whittaker pitched two of the three 2-hitters in tournament play.

Pitching	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Tourn. ERA	4.14	3.54	4.28	3.91	3.96	3.95	4.87
Shutouts	12	19	11	8	17	11	10
Complete games	42	32	27	20	22	13	18
ERA under 3.00	8	15	10	9	13	8	4
3.00-3.99	18	12	9	11	10	13	8
4.00-5.00	9	10	7	9	7	7	9
10.00 and over	3	1	3	3	2	0	1

## Fielding: Not much of a change

Tournament fielding remained about constant at .954, same as last year. Errors were up slightly from last year, while double plays showed a nearly 25 percent increase.

Of teams that played at least five games, Havasu AZ wound up with the fewest errors with five. (The U.S. Military All-Stars was charged with one error in three games, and San Luis Obispo had two in four games, but neither finished in the top 16). Santa Barbara joined Southern Cal and Nevada MO with 10 double plays, while Chillicothe MO was the lone team to not reach .900 fielding.

Two games (San Luis Obispo-Pueblo, #15 and Havasu-Seguin, #77) were errorless games. The high for most errors in a game by both teams was seven, done five times.

Fielding	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Percentage	.951	.955	.951	.953	.956	.954	.954
Errors	347	317	308	312	306	283	287
Errors/game	3.69	3.41	3.80	3.63	3.40	3.45	3.50
DPs made	136	158	134	135	146	130	150
DPs/game	1.45	1.70	1.65	1.57	1.62	1.59	1.83

#### **Robertson Field revisited....**

Play at Robertson Field was not as lively as last year; the batting average for the six games as 15 points less than at Lawrence-Dumont (.292 at L-D vs. .277 at WOL); conversely the ERA at Robertson was a more than full run less than games at L-D (4.96 at L-D, 3.83 at Robertson).

### Home run analysis

A few more homers were hit this year, all but one at L-D...most of the increase was in the solo and two-run variety...the middle innings were the best chances to see one of those horsehide comets.

Grand slams: Ryan Goins, Austin (game 6); Brian Danks, Beatrice (#13); Andre Marshall, Seattle (#68).

Type	Leadoff	Solo	1-on	2-on	3-on		Outs	None	One	Two
Total	14	24	14	3	3		Total	18	13	13
Pct.	31.82	54.55	31.82	6.82	6.82		Pct.	40.91	29.55	29.55
Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Ext
Total	1	4	4	7	8	6	5	5	4	0
Pct.	2.27	9.09	9.09	15.91	18.18	13.64	11.36	11.36	9.09	0.00

### **Running the table**

Santa Barbara became the third team to go undefeated in winning the championship; the others were Liberal in 2000 and Aloha OR in 2004. No team in the new wood era has gone 8-0 to win the title.

### And many thanks to...

This writer salutes the yeoman efforts of Ben Brown, Aaron McMullen (these two kept the TAS Live going at Lawrence-Dumont Stadium), Gary Goad, Rick Masters and Larry Shirk in doing the associate scoring. And, the writer also thanks Jerry Taylor, Josh Robertson, Eric Edelstein and Rachelle Miller, who got a valuable lesson in scoring (I think?).

## **Multi-State League**

California joined Kansas with 10 teams each in the field (which accounted for 45.5 percent of the tournament population) ... Texas, which annually sends a handful of teams, only sent three for the second consecutive year.

Wichita had four teams, down one, while the area around the Air Capital also had four.

Oklahoma and Colorado swapped places in number of teams, while Missouri joined the Tri-Star Triad conference.

## MULTI-STATE LEAGUE STANDINGS

OWN GALAXY					TRI-STAR TRIADS				
CALIFORNIA (10)	W	L	Pct	Fin	MISSOURI (3)	W	L	Pct	Fin
Snt Barb Foresters	7	0	1.000	1	Nevada MO Griffons	3	2	.600	9
So California Fire	3	2	.600	4	Plaza Tire Capahas	3	2	.600	13
Snt Maria Indians	2	2	.500	13	Chillicothe Mudcats	0	2	.000	33
Palm Spr Power	2	2	.500	17	Missouri Totals	6	6	.500	9
Oxnard Dawgs	1	2	.333	17					
San Diego Stars	1	2	.333	17	OKLAHOMA (3)	W	L	Pct	Fin
San Diego Waves	1	2	.333	25	Enid OK Pilots	1	2	.333	25
San Luis Obispo	1	2	.333	33	Team Tulsa OK	1	2	.333	33
Moreno Vly Rockts	0	2	.000	25	Oklahoma A's	0	2	.000	33
South Bay nts	0	2	.000	33	Oklahoma Totals	2	6	.250	25
Cal State Totals	18	18	.500	1					
					TEXAS (3)	W	L	Pct	Fin
KANSAS (10)					Seguin CMC Steelers	4	2	.667	7
In Wichita Division	W	L	Pct	Fin	Houston TX Apollos	2	2	.500	25
Wichita Gators	3	2	.600	17	Austin TX Gold Sox	1	2	.333	33
Wichita Braves	1	2	.333	17	Texas Totals	7	6	.538	7
Comm Bank Cowboys	1	2	.333	33					
Wichita KS Titans	0	2	.000	33	PAIR OF BINARY PAIRS				
Wichita Totals	5	8	.385	17	ILLINOIS (2)	W	L	Pct	Fin
					Crestwood Panthers	4	2	.667	3
Around Wichita	W	L	Pct	Fin	Prairie Gravel IL	2	2	.500	9
Derby KS Twins	7	2	.778	2	Illinois Totals	6	4	.600	3
Newton KS Rebels	5	2	.714	7					
El Dorado Broncos	3	2	.600	9	COLORADO (2)	W	L	Pct	Fin
Park City Cowboys	0	2	.000	33	Pueblo CO Chieftains	2	2	.500	9
Suburban Totals	15	8	.652	2	Denver CO Cougars	2	2	.500	25
					Colorado Totals	4	4	.500	9
Outstate Division	W	L	Pct	Fin					
Hays KS Larks	4	2	.667	4	LOOSE CONFEDERATION (9)	W	L	Pct	Fin
Liberal KS BeeJays	1	2	.333	17	Havasu AZ Heat	5	2	.714	4
Outstate totals	5	4	.556	4	Kenai Pnsla Oilers	2	2	.500	13
					Seattle WA Studs	2	2	.500	13
Kansas Corp. Totals	25	20	.556	2	Beatrice NE Bruins	2	2	.500	25
					Clarinda IA A's	1	2	.333	17
					Vienna VA Senators	1	2	.333	17
					Military All-Stars	1	2	.333	25
					Rock City NC Red Sox	0	2	.000	25
					Tradewatr KY Pirates	0	2	.000	33
					Federation totals	14	18	.438	4

# APPENDIX: Overall Totals Summary

Batting	AVG	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	<b>HBP</b>	SO	<b>GDP</b>	OB%	SF	SH	SB	ATT
Overall	.291	164	5557	950	1616	266	55	44	813	2124	.382	584	173	1008	119	.372	66	118	248	318
Per game		82	67.8	11.6	19.7	3.2	0.7	0.5	9.9	25.9		7.1	2.1	12.3	1.5		8.0	1.4	3.0	3.9
Per team			33.9	5.8	9.9	1.6	0.3	0.3	5.0	13.0		3.6	1.1	6.1	0.7		0.4	0.7	1.5	1.9
Robertson	.277	12	429	57	119	15	6	1	51	149	.347	39	10	94	10	.347	6	7	16	19
Per game		6	71.5	9.5	19.8	2.5	1.0	0.2	8.5	24.8		6.5	1.7	15.7	1.7		1.0	1.2	2.7	3.2
Per team			35.8	4.8	9.9	1.3	0.5	0.1	4.3	12.4		3.3	0.8	7.8	8.0		0.5	0.6	1.3	1.6
L-D	.292	152	5128	893	1497	251	49	43	762	1975	.385	545	163	914	109	.374	60	111	232	299
Per game		76	67.5	11.8	19.7	3.3	0.6	0.6	10.0	26.0		7.2	2.1	12.0	1.4		8.0	1.5	3.1	3.9
Per team			33.7	5.9	9.8	1.7	0.3	0.3	5.0	13.0		3.6	1.1	6.0	0.7		0.4	0.7	1.5	2.0

Pitching	<b>ERA</b>	W	L	G	CG	SHO	СВО	SV	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA
Overall	4.87	82	82	164	18	10	6	21	1406.67	1616	950	761	584	1008	266	55	44	91	173	18	66	118
Per team					0.11	0.06	0.04	0.13	8.58	9.85	5.79	4.64	3.56	6.15	1.62	0.34	0.27	0.55	1.05	0.11	0.40	0.72
Per game					0.22	0.12	0.07	0.26	17.15	19.71	11.59	9.28	7.12	12.29	3.24	0.67	0.54	1.11	2.11	0.22	0.80	1.44
Robertson	3.83	6	6	12	1	1	1	2	110.33	119	57	47	39	94	15	6	1	9	10	1	6	7
Per team					0.08	0.08	0.08	0.17	9.19	9.92	4.75	3.92	3.25	7.83	1.25	0.50	80.0	0.75	0.83	0.08	0.50	0.58
Per game					0.17	0.17	0.17	0.33	18.39	19.83	9.50	7.83	6.50	15.67	2.50	1.00	0.17	1.50	1.67	0.17	1.00	1.17
L-D	4.96	76	76	152	17	9	5	19	1296.33	1497	893	714	545	914	251	49	43	82	163	17	60	111
Per team					0.11	0.06	0.03	0.13	8.53	9.85	5.88	4.70	3.59	6.01	1.65	0.32	0.28	0.54	1.07	0.11	0.39	0.73
Per game					0.22	0.12	0.07	0.25	17.06	19.70	11.75	9.39	7.17	12.03	3.30	0.64	0.57	1.08	2.14	0.22	0.79	1.46

Fielding	С	PO	Α	Е	FLD%	DPs	SBA	<b>CSB</b>	SBA%	PB	CI	PO
Overall	6296	4219	1790	287	.954	150	248	70	.780	32	2	20
Per team	38.4	25.7	10.9	1.75		0.9	1.5	0.4		0.2	0.0	0.1
Per game	76.8	51.5	21.8	3.50		1.83	3.0	0.9		0.4	0.0	0.2
Robertson	498	331	144	23	.954	15	16	3	.842	1	0	0
Per team	41.5	27.6	12.0	1.9		1.3	1.3	0.3		0.1	0.0	0.0
Per game	83.0	55.2	24.0	3.8		2.5	2.7	0.5		0.2	0.0	0.0
Lawrence-Dumont	5798	3888	1646	264	.954	135	232	67	.776	31	2	20
Per team	38.1	25.6	10.8	1.7		0.9	1.5	0.4		0.2	0.0	0.1
Per game	76.3	51.2	21.7	3.5		1.8	3.1	0.9		0.4	0.0	0.3

# **Winning Teams**

Batting	AVG	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	ТВ	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	ATT	РО	Α	Е	FLD%
Overall	0.336	82	2881	672	968	178	41	29	576	1315	0.456	339	91	445	54	0.417	38	72	160	204	2156	914	108	0.966
Robertson	0.339	6	221	38	75	11	4	1	33	97	0.439	24	4	41	8	0.410	2	3	9	12	168	70	11	0.956
L-D	0.336	76	2660	634	893	167	37	28	543	1218	0.458	315	87	404	46	0.418	36	69	151	192	1988	844	97	0.967

Pitching	ERA	W	L	G	CG	SHO	СВО	SV	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA
Overall	2.89	82	0	82	17	10	6	21	719.00	648	278	231	245	563	88	14	15	2676	0.242	33	82	5	28	46
Robertson	2.41	6	0	6	1	1	1	2	56.0	44	19	15	15	53	4	2	0	208	0.212	3	6	0	4	4
Lawrence-Dumont	2.93	76	0	76	16	9	5	19	663.00	604	259	216	230	510	84	12	15	2468	0.245	30	76	5	24	42

Fielding	С	PO	Α	Е	FLD%	DPs	SBA	CSB	SBA%	PB	CI	РО
Overall	3178	2156	914	108	0.966	80	88	26	0.772	5	2	10
Robertson	249	168	70	11	0.956	3	7	0	1.000	0	0	1
Lawrence-Dumont	2929	1988	844	97	0.897	77	81	26	0.757	5	2	9

# **Defeated teams**

Batting	AVG	G	AB	R	Н	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SLG%	BB	HBP	SO	GDP	OB%	SF	SH	SB	ATT	РО	Α	Ε	FLD%
Overall	0.242	82	2676	278	648	88	14	15	237	809	0.302	245	82	563	65	0.322	28	46	88	114	2063	876	179	0.943
Robertson	0.212	6	208	19	44	4	2	0	18	52	0.250	15	6	53	2	0.279	4	4	7	7	163	74	12	0.952
Lawrence-Dumont	0.245	76	2468	259	604	84	12	15	219	757	0.307	230	76	510	63	0.325	24	42	81	107	1900	802	167	0.942

Pitching	ERA	W	L	_ (	G	CG	SHO	CBO	SV	IP	Н	R	ER	BB	SO	2B	3B	HR	AB	B/Avg	WP	HBP	BK	SFA	SHA
Overall	6.94	0	82	2 8	2	1	0	0	0	687.67	968	672	530	339	445	178	41	29	2881	0.336	58	91	13	38	72
Robertson	5.30	0	(	3	6	0	0	0	0	54.3	75	38	32	24	41	11	4	1	221	0.339	6	4	1	2	3
Lawrence-Dumont	7.08	0	76	3 7	6	1	0	0	0	633.3	893	634	498	315	404	167	37	28	2660		52	87	12	36	69

Fielding	С	РО	Α	Е	FLD%	DPs	SBA	CSB	SBA%	PB	CI	РО
Overall	3118	2063	876	179	0.943	70	160	44	0.784	27	0	10
Robertson	249	163	74	12	0.952	12	9	3	0.750	1	0	0
Lawrence-Dumont	2869	1900	802	167	0.942	58	151	41	0.786	26	0	10