**2025**

**HORNSBY CHAPTER PREDICTATRON**

**RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Accept the reality: 2025 Predictatron is here!

It’s time to start thinking about your ballot and then, eventually, submitting it to the competition.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Using the attached official ballot, predict the number of victories for each major league team for the 2025 regular season.

Note: For purposes of this contest, any tie-breaker games played in addition to the regularly-scheduled 162 games will NOT count. In addition, scheduled games lost to rain, inclement weather or other, unforeseen events will be considered acts of fate and the scoring will not be adjusted to accommodate them.

Based on the number of victories you predicted, list your playoff teams for each league, choosing a victor in the first round and the consequent World Series opponents. Your selections as to which teams will make the playoffs should not contradict the standings in your predicted season!

Remember to match up your playoff teams properly as well, based on their regular-season records.

**SCORING**

Everyone begins with 1,000 points.

For each victory your prediction is off, you will lose one point. For instance, if you predict that the Rockies will have 71 victories and they finish with 90, you will lose 19 points. Guessing high or low is equally negative. If you predict a team will have 81 victories, you will lose 4 points if they win 85 games and you will lose 4 points if they win 77 games. At the end of the regular season, the total number of victories by which you missed will be subtracted from 1,000.

*The Mortal Lock* -- In each league, you must pick one team that you designate as your **Mortal Lock**. This difference between this team's actual number of victories and your prediction will count double against you. For example, if you pick the Pirates to win 91 games and they only win 87, you will lose 8 points instead of 4. ***Important: You must designate as your mortal lock a team you are predicting to win either 90 or more games or 72 or fewer games.***

You start gaining points back in the playoffs.

*Predicting playoff teams:* You will receive two points for every division winner you name correctly and one point for every wildcard. If your division winner pick only makes it as a wildcard, you will get one point. If your wildcard pick should win the division, you will still get just one point. With six divisions and six wildcards, it means there are a maximum of 18 points available for this. *(Historical note: Nobody has ever maxed out on this category. Will you be the first?)*

The rest of the playoff points are as follows:

For each team you select correctly to go on to the LCS, you get 4 points.

For each team you select correctly to go on to the World Series, you get 8 points.

For selecting the World Series victor, you get 16 points.

**TIES**

In the event of actual ties, the tied parties will share whatever title is in question.

**DIVISIONS**

The field will be broken into two divisions, which will be drawn at random. (This drawing is traditionally done with the collaboration of chapter leader Gilbert Martinez.) Division winners are always placed in separate divisions to give them the chance to defend their titles.

**DIVISION NAMES**

Last year’s division winners are enjoying the honor of having the 2025 divisions named after them and they will play in the division bearing their names so that they may defend that honor. This year, the divisions will be named for reigning champion **Brian Rogers** and division winner **Eric Robinson**.

**DEADLINE**

**Friday, March 28, at midnight, Central Time. (Opening Day)**

**Submit your ballot to**

**HORNSBYPTRON@YAHOO.COM**

***(Not* Jimbaker1066@yahoo.com)**

**UPDATES**

Standings among participants will be updated weekly, if possible. Each update will include the name of a *Player of the Week,* the player who showed the most improvement (or least degradation in the case of very bad weeks).

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**

Submit your picks on the attached Excel ballot, entering the predicted number of victories after the team name. Indicate division winners by typing 'DIV' after their total and wildcard winners by typing 'WC1' or ‘WC2’ or ‘WC3’ after their total. ' (For instance: SEA 96 WC1) Indicate your Mortal Lock in the same fashion: LAD 92 DIV-LOCK. In Excel, add these extras in the *next column*, **not** in the same one in which the wins are located. You’ll see how to do it in the Sample Ballot, the tab for which is right next to your ballot.

**DO NOT rearrange the teams in order of finish!!! Please leave them in alphabetical order within each division–this is important!** (My goal with the Excel entries is to do a simple cut and paste of your picks right onto the master ballot.)

Victories should total 2,430. Double check. I will try to catch errors while entering your ballot into the spread sheet, but if you have messed it up quite a bit and the season is well underway by the time I get to it, then ***your ballot will be adjusted using a random number generator***. I will endeavor to call mistakes to your attention, but I cannot guarantee that I will catch every error. **Mistakes are your responsibility, not mine**. If you have any questions about filling out the ballot, feel free to call me at 512-922-1066.

When you submit your ballot, please put your last name in the subject line (For instance: ***Baker Ballot 2025***).

May fortune be your mascot!

Jim