

Used Lasagna Baseball

Here's a second helping of Used Lasagna, only this time it's a baseball game.

While I was intrigued by the idea of reviving the pre-statistics type of football game, it occurred to me that baseball has presented in more tabletop game formats than any other sport. The idea of Used Lasagna Baseball is inspired by all of the dice baseball games we played when we were kids where only your imagination mattered. Of course, since this is a C and D Games release, the element of playing cards has been added to the mix.

Requirements: A basic understanding of the rules of baseball, the Used Lasagna Baseball charts, two standard six sided dice of different sizes or colors, and a standard 52 card deck of playing cards with the Jacks, Queens and Kings removed. This is a solitaire game, however, it can be adapted for two players.

The Game: Shuffle the deck and deal five cards side by side face down from the top of the deck. Repeat the deal, only this time deal the cards from the bottom of the deck. These will form your play cards.

The player chooses any of the face down cards and turns it up. The player then rolls the dice and reads the result based on the appropriate card. You will notice that numbers are commonly used in the results. These correspond to the positions of the field players as defined by the official scorer of every game.

The numbers are interpreted as follows:

- 1- Pitcher
- 2- Catcher
- 3- First Base
- 4- Second Base
- 5- Third Base
- 6- Shortstop
- 7- Left Field
- 8- Center Field
- 9- Right Field

When a number or pair of number are in the result, the play is an out based on either a fly ball (single number) or ground out (pair of numbers such as 6-3).

The letters used in the results are as follows:

K – Strikeout

DP – Double Play. Applies if a runner is on first when the result occurs.

SAC – Sacrifice. The batter is out, but runners advance one base.

Hits and Walks are indicated by Single, Double or Walk.

Error? – Roll the dice and read the result on the Error? chart.

Going! – Roll the dice and read the result on the Going! Chart.

Bunt – A player can have a batter bunt the ball instead of swinging away. Instead of the usual at-bat, the player simply rolls the dice and reads the result.

Stealing bases – A runner can try to steal a base by rolling the dice before an at-bat is decided. The roll is read in the Steal chart to determine whether or not it succeeds. For a steal of home, only a roll of 9 scores the runner.

A game can be played over 6, 7, or 9 innings, depending on your preference. Be sure to replace the card that was chosen for the previous at-bat before the next one. Also, you must shuffle the deck after each half-inning, however, you may also do so to symbolize a change in the pitcher.

Personal note: You will notice that I refer to many former baseball players on the charts. I state some of the names in jest, since in most cases they were players I liked when I was younger. It also turns out that Boog Powell, Bob Horner and Greg Luzinski did steal some bases each year for most of their careers. The Bill Buckner and Reggie Jackson comments you'll see refer to famous incidents involving them.

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