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CHARLIE vs. THE COMPUTER

By MARK KRAM

I. Data compiled by adding together the 2005 and 2006 (through May 21) seasons, including each player's batting average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage:

Player AVG OBP SLG

Rollins .281 .334 .421

Utley .295 .382 .540

Abreu .287 .421 .483

Burrell .279 .393 .511

Howard .288 .358 .567

Rowand .277 .336 .426

Bell .252 .317 .370

Lieberthal .268 .339 .417

Pitcher .150 .182 .190

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II. Career splits vs. righthanded pitcher applied to data in Table I. (Note: Howard data is from this year only; all the others include stats prior to the 2006 season.) Below is an actual lineup used this year by Manuel.

Player AVG OBP SLG

Rollins .281 .334 .421

Utley .315 .392 .572

Abreu .291 .430 .517

Burrell .268 .374 .496

Howard .272 .361 .561

Rowand .273 .326 .412

Bell .239 .304 .352

Lieberthal .257 .325 .393

Pitcher .150 .182 .190

Average runs per game: 5.220.

BEST LINEUP FOUND

1. Abreu

2. Burrell

3. Howard

4. Utley

5. Rollins

6. Lieberthal

7. Rowand

8. Bell

9. Pitcher

Average runs per game: 5.261

Run differential per season: 6.64

COMMENTS

Pankin: "Abreu and Burrell are at the top of the order due to their on-base percentage. The feeling is that with Howard and Utley, Manuel has enough power in the order to enable to use Abreu and Burrell one and two. Utley has a higher on percentage than Burrell but he is in the fourth spot because of his high slugging percentage against RHP. Rollins is batting fifth because he is the best of the remaining hitters."

Manuel: "What do I think of it? I think it is off. There are far more things that come into play [than statistics]. Batting Abreu in the leadoff never even crosses my mind, because he is a guy, if you look at the stats, he not only gets on base on base but hits with runners in scoring position. And there is no way you could hit Burrell second. That is not going to work."

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III. Career splits vs. lefthanded pitcher applied to data in Table I. Career splits vs. righthanded pitcher applied to data in Table I. (Note: Howard data is from this year only; all the others include stats prior to the 2006 season.) Below is an actual lineup used this year by Manuel.

Player AVG OBP SLG

Rollins .281 .334 .421

Utley .218 .345 .421

Rowand .286 .353 .455

Abreu .270 .387 .395

Burrell .307 .436 .546

Howard .324 .355 .587

Bell .284 .346 .406

Lieberthal .294 .376 .456

PITCHER .150 .182 .190

Average runs per game: 5.343

BEST LINEUP FOUND

1. Abreu

2. Burrell

3. Lieberthal

4. Howard

5. Rowand

6. Rollins

7. Bell

8. Utley

9. Pitcher

Average runs per game: 5.389

Run differential per season: 7.45

COMMENTS

Pankin: "Again, Abreu and Burrell are one-two because of their high on-base percentages. Utley is eighth because of his weak hitting against lefthanded pitchers. But he seems to be doing better this year, so Manuel probably thinks he is better than his statistics show. Batting Lieberthal second and Burrell third and leaving the others the same vs. lefthanded pitchers reduces runs by about ½ per 162 games, so that somewhat more traditional lineup is essentially just as productive."

Manuel: "Without a doubt, I would argue with this lineup. Again, you have Abreu and Burrell at the top of the lineup, which I think is wrong. And how can you bat Utley eighth? Utley is the type of hitter that if Rollins gets on, he can pull the ball [into the hole between first and second]. And he has been hitting the ball hard against lefties. I look at how you run and move on the bases and both [Rollins and Utley] do that well. You have to look at the larger picture."