

# Hobbknockers



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game Moneyball, by Michael Lewis as a non-fiction book. After the Oakland As went 102-60 in 2001 season after being eliminated by the Yankees and their 120 million salary in the playoffs.

The As were about to lose the three stars on their team Jason Giambi, Johnny Damon and Jason Isringhausen who won the As most of their games. And the As could no longer afford them with their 41 million salary for 25 players.

This led the General Manager Billy Beane and his Assistant Paul DePodesta to fill in those missing stars with only 41 million to spend on 25 players. Bill James a man who challenged the game of baseball proposed an idea in his books he wrote called sabermetrics.

Sabermetrics was the specialized analysis of baseball through objective evidence, especially baseball statistics that measure in-game activity. The Formula was  $\text{Hits} + \text{Walks} * \text{Total Bases} / \text{At bats} + \text{Walks}$  which gave the on base percentage another big factor was the slugging percentage (which was the power of the hitter). The As took advantage of this theory and used to compete against richer teams who could afford whichever player they wanted. They looked for undervalued players in the market who they could afford and could replace the previous years on base percentage which Jason Giambi and Johnny Damon and Olmedo Saenz were a key success to the 2001 season Giambi had a (.477 OBP) and Damon had a (.324 OBP) and Olmedo Saenz (.291 OBP) which averaged to (.364).

The As used his theory and hired three players with similar OBP. They hired Scott Hatteberg Red Sox catcher who underwent elbow nerve surgery and no one wanted him because he couldn't throw the ball anymore he had a (.352)

the previous year. Yankees star David Justice who no one wanted because he was old who had a (.333) to replace Olmedo Saenz and Giambis younger brother, Jermei with a (.391) who was later traded for John Mabe with a similar OBP. That averaged to a 0.359 which with Bill James theory their season should be similar. And it was they finished 103 and 53 losing to the Twins in the Playoffs.

They finished with the best record in the American League West and beat the record for most wins in a row with 20 which only happened 14 times in a million according to Billy's math. Billy was a different manager. He never watched games and he wanted to prove a point about baseball that richer teams have a huge advantage over poorer ones the As only spent 41 million in 2002 and made it to the playoffs and every other team in the playoffs spent 85mil to 125mil.

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