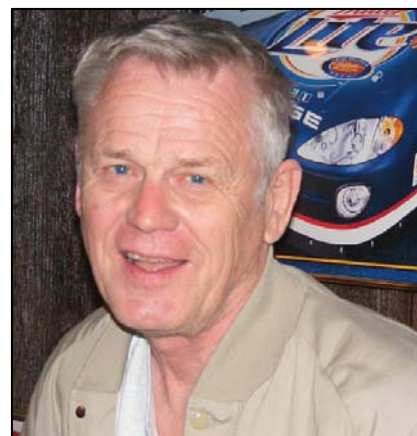


THE RED BARON SPEAKS

Ron Bowers started the rating system in Texas in the nineties and it has led to the divisional play we have in tournaments today. The comradeship and interaction of players through the country has been phenomenal. Since I mostly retired in August of 06, and because of low cost air travel with my son being a captain for a regional carrier, I have traveled to tournaments in Houston, Cedar Park, Garland, Del city, Las Vegas, Reno, Kansas City, Michigan and a couple here in Indiana. Although, I believe the rating system is 90% correct and less than 10% flawed, there is that 10%.



Some tournaments are starting to spot points which increases the grumbling about ratings. I think the time has come for a performance based rating system, or a system based on performance and not personnel opinion. The first and only way I can think of is to base the system on tournament games won and tournaments won. Only the directors of the events can provide the information.

We start with the existing Bowers system which must survive thru 09 and possibly 10 and maybe forever. The only way to start is thru the tournament directors. They have to compile the information. I am sure we will have many changes along the way but we must all do it the same way. Following is an outline of how it will work.

1st) An entry list is made by computer in Excel with the player entered with their existing Bowers rating in hundredths in a column next to it. If the player is unrated put NR in the column. Note this is players and not teams. Only tournaments with unrestricted entry should be used, such as Pro-Am, mixed, singles in which all players may enter, doubles. Not used should be totally amateur and divisional play except pro events open to anybody.

2nd) The computer can add the rating total of all rated players both positive and negative. Then take the number of rated players times two and add to total. Divide this total by the number of rated players entered for a degree of difficulty (DOD). This number will go up and down every tournament to adjust for the caliber of players in the tournament.

Example: Tournament has 18 teams or 36 players of which 5 are unrated. Total Bowers score for 31 players = 92.61. $DOD = 92.61 + (31 \times 2) = 154.61$ divided by 31 = 4.98472.

3rd) Take a copy of the bracket board and determine points per player by giving a point for entering the tournament, a point for every win, and three points for winning the tournament. Experimenting with tournaments in Indiana I find this is about the correct ratio. Points are not given for second or third or on down as the number of players entered become a problem and you can end up with the second place person or team having a higher rating. Divide the points by the DOD to obtain the players rating for that tournament. The player's true rating will be the average of all tournaments in which they participate. It will take participation in about six tournaments to come up with a reasonable rating. States which have few or no tournaments and the players playing in another state will have their ratings adopted by some

state or area. Example is Ohio players come to Indiana to play. Michigan and Indiana players go back and forth and we can trade the info.

Example: Team A draws game 8 of the 18 team bracket and wins in 5 straight games. Total points = $1(\text{entering}) + 5(\text{wins}) + 3(\text{tournament win}) = 9$ points divided by 4.98472 (DOD) = 1.80552 or the score each player would receive to average their rating.

Team B draws game 2 of the 18 team bracket wins 2 games and loses the 3rd, goes to game 23 of the losers bracket and wins games 23, 27, 29, 32, and 33, and loses game 34 to the team A. They would receive a total points score of $1(\text{entering}) + 7(\text{wins}) = 8$ points divided by 4.98472(DOD) = 1.60490 or the score each player would receive to average their rating.

Now I know you can play the what if game for team B winning the first game of the finals or a double dip but adding points for additional positions only makes it worse and more complicated..

4th) Make a list of all players' numbers and submit to a central state or area person for averaging of all tournaments which will be the player's rating. Once a year these numbers can be submitted in excel to a central point to be determined for compiling a national book.

Comment: If a computer can not be brought to the tournament, certainly someone can take the info home and enter into a computer. The best way is to use computer peas to start with, but is not required.

If you directors do not see that it is done, the system dies, and you can sit around and listen to all the griping about the ratings. I have found that once you learn the system it only takes about an hour to compute a 20 person tournament. Both rating systems can continue and be used for different purposes.

I propose we start with the first tournament after June 1st as this will give you time to try it and publish the first national book in June of 2009. Only the tournament directors can make the system work. Lets all do your part.

Remember, let's all do it the same way, let's do it, and call me with questions. My cell phone is always on. Saturday morning is best. Do not call after 1:00 as a ringing cell phone may boost a four lag off the board. 317-902-3371

Larry Creakbaum