



0. Moneyball - Story Preface

1. BILLY BEANE and PAUL DePODESTA
2. BILL JAMES and SABERMETRICS
3. OAKLAND A'S of 2002
4. 20-GAME WINNING STREAK
5. CORY LIDLE - FATAL ACCIDENT
6. WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Image of the Oakland Athletics team logo. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*Baseball statistics,
unlike the statistics
in any other area,
have acquired the
powers of language.*

Bill James
Baseball Abstract
1985

Billy Beane, general manager of the Oakland Athletics, had a major problem. Actually, he had many major problems.

His team had a very successful 2001, winning 102 games, but they'd lost three free-agent players. Beane had to replace them, for the 2002 season, but didn't have enough money to get "the best" guys.

Billy worked for one of the "poor teams," not one of the "rich teams" - like the New York Yankees - so he had limited funds. His funds were so limited that he had to build an entire team with a budget most rich teams could spend on a single player.

Then Billy Beane had a series of talks with Paul DePodesta (called Peter Brand in the film). The young Harvard grad, who majored in economics, had some ideas how the A's could build a great team with undervalued players. Beane promoted DePodesta to assistant general manager.

Three months later, despite a bumbling start, the A's winning streak seemed unstoppable. Had Billy Beane implemented a new way to build a Major-League Baseball team?

Visual Vocabulary Builder for this Story

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Moneyball)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Moneyball>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Moneyball)

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Questions 2 Ponder

When Faced with a New Reality, How Do We Implement Change?

As we learn in the Moneyball story, Billy Beane had a major problem in recruiting new players when he learned his annual budget was much lower than he was used to managing.

When faced with a sudden cut in funds, Beane had to deal with a much-lower budget. Instead of panicking, he must find a way to handle this unexpected problem. Does this new reality cripple his thinking - or - does it inspire him to find a different (but still workable) way forward?

Is Beane's attitude toward his new reality something unusual or is his example worth following? Explain your answer.



Billy Beane - General Manager, Oakland A's

Image of Billy Beane, during his time with the Minnesota Twins. Photo online, courtesy Minnesota Twins.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Billy-Beane-General-Manager-Oakland-A-s>



Paul DePodesta - Peter Brand

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