

0. WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - 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?



This screenshot, from the film *Moneyball*, depicts Brad Pitt in the role of Billy Beane as he, and his advisers, are deciding which players should become part of Oakland's 2002 roster. Copyright, Sony Pictures, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes. Click on the image for a better view.

At the time the *Moneyball* film was released, in September of 2011, many of the A's from 2002 were still working for major-league baseball:

- Billy Beane was still general manager of the Oakland A's (after initially accepting, then turning-down, John Henry's \$12.5 million offer - paid over five years - to be general manager of the Red Sox);
- Paul DePodesta was VP of Development with the New York Mets;
- Bill James was Senior Advisor on Baseball Operations for the Red Sox, was still writing books (including crime novels) and was named by *TIME* Magazine as one of the world's most 100 influential people of 2006;
- Ron Washington was managing the Texas Rangers;
- Scott Hatteberg ended his playing days in 2008 (after being with the Reds since 2006) and in 2011 was a special advisor to Billy Beane;
- Barry Zito stayed with the A's until 2006, then pitched for the Giants (as he was able);
- Tim Hudson remained with the A's until 2004, began pitching for the Braves in 2005 and won the National League's "Comeback Player of the Year" in 2010;
- Eric Chavez stayed with the A's until 2010, led the American League in base-on-balls in 2004, was a six-time Gold-Glove-Award winner and, in 2011, was playing with the Yankees;
- Art Howe - displeased with his portrayal in *Moneyball* - retired after playing for the Pirates (1974-75), Astros (1976-82) and Cardinals (1984-85); managing the Astros (1989-93), A's (1996-2002) and Mets (2003-04) and bench-coaching the Rangers (2007-08);
- David Justice (who was once married to actress Halle Berry) retired from baseball after Oakland's 2002 season;
- Mark Mulder retired after pitching for the A's until 2004, then the Cardinals until 2008 (with whom he became a World-Series Champion);

- Miguel Tejada - known for his ability to drive-in runs - played for various teams throughout his career but was released by the Giants in September, 2011.

As players and managers come and go, the debate about sabermetrics - and the "Moneyball" approach to baseball - continues. So does the assessment of Billy Beane's selection of his 2002 team - now that historical stats are available to judge the actual performance of his sabermetrically chosen players.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW-Moneyball>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHERE-ARE-THEY-NOW-Moneyball>

Questions 2 Ponder

Are Winning Streaks Always Bound to End?

Once, when Billy Beane used "Sabermetrics" to pick a winning Oakland A's team, he employed a method no other team was using. Now Beane calls the whiteboard he used, to assess the "Moneyball" numbers, "more of a time capsule" instead of "a board to use anymore."

Does Beane's observation mean that his special plan for success only works when others haven't figured-out how to use the same system? Explain your answer.

Does Beane's observation perhaps have another meaning - that the system which he used wasn't the reason for the team's success? Explain your answer.

What do you think explains the success of the Oakland A's during the 2002 regular season?

Media Stream



Moneyball and the 2002 Oakland A's

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Moneyball-and-the-2002-Oakland-A-s>



Billy Beane - 2011 Season

Photo of Billy Beane, in 2011, by the Associated Press. Copyright, AP, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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John Henry - Red Sox Owner

Image of John W. Henry, online courtesy the Boston Red Sox.

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Paul DePodesta - New York Mets

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Ron Washington - Texas Rangers

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Barry Zito - San Francisco Giants

Photo of Barry Zito, as a San Francisco Giant, online courtesy San Francisco Giants.

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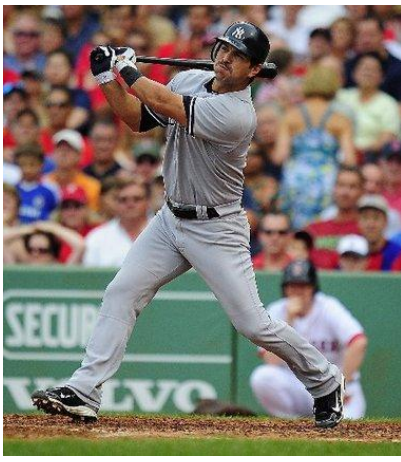


Tim Hudson - Atlanta Braves

Tim Hudson, pitching to the New York Mets, on September 17, 2011. AP photo by John Amis. Copyright, AP/John Amis, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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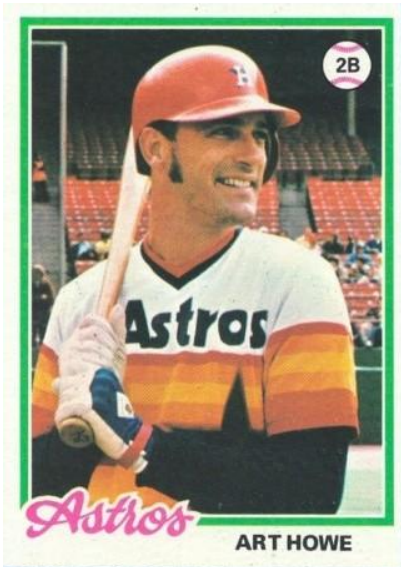


Eric Chavez - New York Yankee

Photo of Eric Chavez, during late August of 2011, by [Matt Campbell](#) of the European Press Photo Agency (EPA). Copyright, Matt Campbell/EPA, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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Art Howe - Houston Astros

Image of Art Howe, as a Houston Astro, online courtesy Houston Astros.

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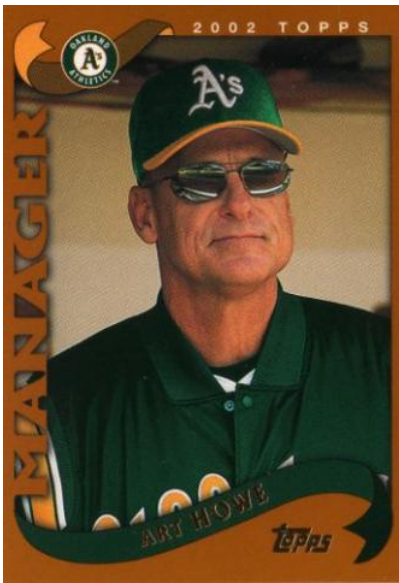


Art Howe - St. Louis Cardinals

Image of Art Howe, as a St. Louis Cardinal, on a Fleer Baseball Card. Online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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Art Howe - Manager, 2002 Oakland A's

Image of Art Howe Baseball Card - #299 - from TOPPS 2002 Series 2 MLB Baseball Cards. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Moneyball Trailer

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