Scorecard Generator
version 1.0
Description and README
April 6, 2025

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1 Description

Scorecard Generator is a Python-based application that automatically generates a `.pdf` scorecard for MLB games, populated with each team's starting lineup. The scorecards produced consist of 3 pages: two scorecard pages (away and home team) and a page listing the team rosters. The generated scorecard differentiates between right-handed, left-handed, and switch-hitting players. Team, league, and MLB logos are also included to make the scorecard more interesting visually. I then import the `.pdf` scorecard into GoodNotes to score on my iPad, though users are, of course, free to use the output as they prefer.

An example of the scorecard produced by this application is attached at the end of this document.

The application is likely written somewhat inefficiently, but it does the job.

2 Operation

The application is provided in four distinct formats. The first is the underlying `.py` code, which can be executed on any machine with python and the appropriate packages installed. The package application is also compiled into executables for Apple Silicon Mac, Intel Mac, and Windows. These can be executed directly, but generally require a user to have administrative permissions on their machine.

The application is based on command-line entries by the user. It proceeds as follows.

1. The application defaults to the day's games. The user is presented with a list of today's games and their starting times (currently in central time only).

2. Users can select a game for which to create a scorecard by entering the corresponding number.

3. Alternatively, users can enter 0 to be given the option to select an alternate date from which to view games, which are presented and can be selected analogously to the day's games.

4. The user is asked to provide a name under which to save the resulting `.pdf` scorecard.

5. The application collects data from MLB's Stats API, assembles the LaTeXcode and sends it to YtoTech's latex-on-http compiler.

6. The `.pdf` scorecard is saved to the working directory, or to the same directory in which the executable file is stored.

Note that the application will fail if both teams have not yet posted their starting lineups. A message will be presented to the user in this case.

Note also that the application can be used to create scorecards for past games, reflecting the game's starting lineups. But, having been written with future use in mind, this will not always work, and will be less likely to work the further in the past is a game. Arbitrarily, the application is written to reject years prior to 2000.

3 Credits

The application builds substantially on the MLB-StatsAPI (`statsapi`) package in python, which in turn accesses the MLB's Stats API, and on YtoTech's latex-on-http compiler. Portions of the code were written with the assistance of ChatGPT.

4 Future Development Options

The current format of the scorecard generated by the program reflects my personal taste in scorecard construction. Clearly, other users may have different preferences. At the moment, the only way for these preferences to be incorporated is for users to edit the code to change the way that the LaTeXfile is created. But if it turns out that there is enough interest in this application, I will consider adding options to change the format of the scorecard (e.g., to remove or shrink logos to create more room for notes). Other features that I hope to add in the future are as follows:

- Graphical interface instead of command line
- Inclusion of logos for special events (e.g., postseason)
- Clearly indicate if a game has been postponed (at the moment it generally gets shifted to the end of the list, and appears out of order in timing relative to the other games)
- Add time zone support. Currently game times are presented in Central Time (for my convenience)
- Ability to run application directly on iPad instead of having to run on computer and import

Please feel free to share any other ideas that might improve the application.

5 Copyright

No	Player	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI
27	Altuve	7														
15	Paredes	5														
44	Alvarez, Y	0														
8	Walker, C	3														
3	Peña	6														
21	Diaz, Ya	2														
1	Rodgers	4														
9	Dezenzo	9														
6	Meyers	8														
	Totals R/H															

No	Pitcher	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
56	Blanco						

Houston Astros at Minnesota Twins
April 6, 2025

No	Player	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI
38	Wallner	9														
4	Correa	6														
25	Buxton	8														
9	Larnach	0														
50	Castro, W	5														
27	Jeffers	2														
47	Julien	4														
11	Gasper	3														
12	Bader	7														
	Totals R/H															

No	Pitcher	IP	H	R	ER	BB	K
20	Paddack						

Houston Astros at Minnesota Twins
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Infielders		Outfielders		Pitchers		Catchers	
1	Rodgers	6	Meyers	39	Wesneski	17	Caratini
3	Peña	14	Dubón	41	Arrighetti	21	Diaz, Ya
8	Walker, C	20	McCormick	47	Montero, R		
9	Dezenzo	44	Alvarez, Y	48	Okert		
11	Smith			50	Scott, Tay		
15	Paredes			52	Abreu, B		
27	Altuve			56	Blanco		
				58	Brown, H		
				59	Valdez, F		
				67	Gusto		
				71	Hader		
				73	Contreras, L		
				74	King, B		

Infielders		Outfielders		Pitchers		Catchers	
4	Correa	9	Larnach	17	Ober	8	Vázquez
11	Gasper	12	Bader	20	Paddack	27	Jeffers
13	France, T	21	Keirsey Jr.	22	Jax		
47	Julien	25	Buxton	24	Woods Richardson		
50	Castro, W	38	Wallner	37	Varland		
64	Miranda			41	Ryan		
				44	Sands		
				48	Topa		
				49	López, P		
				51	McCaughan		
				54	Coulombe		
				59	Duran, J		
				66	Alcala		