Notes provide additional information and were reminders during the presentation. They are not supposed to be anything close to a complete text of the presentation or thorough discussion of the subject.

Use Acrobat Reader’s ability to enlarge what appears on the screen if you have trouble reading a graph or table.
Why is it confusing?

- BOOT Rule is not very complicated, but it has a couple of wrinkles
- Has been misunderstood or misapplied by
  - Players
  - Managers
  - Umpires
  - A league president!
- Occurs infrequently, fewer than one a year since 1950 (last one was in 2018)
Faux double switch has happened when there was a pinch hitter (for the pitcher) who reached base and was run for. The pinch runner stays in the game and goes to the field. If he bats in the spot of the replaced fielder rather than the one where he pinch ran, it is a BOOT.

HP ump will assume that players coming into the game bat in the same spot as the positions of the ones they replaced or moved to the position unless the manager goes out and tells the ump what the new batting order is. Players coming into the game may not realize there was a double switch and will come up out of order unless the manager or the coach tells them not to.
Current Rule (6.07)

- Adopted in 1957
- Covers all possibilities with many examples
- Prior versions poorly worded and not complete
- Before game each team gives its lineup to the home plate ump and a copy to the other team
- Will use the term “proper” batter (as in rule) for the one who should be hitting
Official scorer does not get a copy of the lineup given to the umpire and other team, so may not know if an improper batter comes up.
Improper batter (2)

- Basic rule:
- If BOOT is called, play is nullified, proper batter is out, next in lineup after proper one bats
- If BOOT play is accepted, lineup position resets and proper next batter is the one who follows the improper one in the lineup
Will see some examples of when it would be better to let the improper batter reach base.
Strange things can happen due to lineup position being reset. One or more batters may come up more often than normal and others may miss a turn at the plate.

It is possible that batter due up is on base. In such a case, his turn at bat is skipped and the next player in the order bats. (Don’t know if this has ever happened or how it was dealt with, such as a courtesy runner.)

Contrived example of how a player could get two hits in an inning due to a BOOT. Assume the pitcher is not batting ninth (DH or sometimes in NL game) and manager interchanges the “normal” #2 and #9 hitters. Lead off batter hits a homer and normal #2 batting #9 in the lineup comes up and makes an out. Team in field does not appeal and team batting realizes what has happened. So #1 hitter is now the proper batter and comes up and gets a hit.
Strange things can happen

- Some players may have too few or too many plate appearances
  - Batter may be skipped
  - Batter may hit twice in an inning
- Two HRs by same hitter with only one batter in between is possible (contrived example)
  - #2 and #8 in official lineup switch (has happened!)
  - Leadoff hitter homers, #8 hitter makes an out next
  - #3 hitter comes up and gets on, BOOT is enforced
  - #9 hitter called out, #1 hitter comes up and homers
One effect of what happened, #1 Nimmo has 5 PA, #2 Cabrera has 3, and #3 Flores has 4 (illustrates strange effect)
If #6 gets on and no appeal (since other runner did not score), #7 is proper hitter, but is on base. So #8 becomes proper hitter, and he likely would come up. So need to appeal.

BOOT is an important strategic advantage for the other team. Can “keep” in its pocket for use later in the game if it looks like it will be repeated as Weaver did in game to be shown later.
If Owen had made an out, when Ramazzotti took the field, the umpire would have told him that he was no longer in the game (and Owen was the current 3B). Cubs manager Frisch likely would have not been pleased, to say the least.

If game situation had been that Owen’s play would not end the inning, then Ramazzotti would come up to bat, but the home plate umpire would point out that Owen had hit for him and the #2 batter was up.

These assume the HP ump knew what was going on, which he should since he is supposed to mark his lineup card with the changes.
Earl Weaver told Schultz 45 minutes before the game about the pitching change, from a RHP to a LHP.

In TSN article, Weaver said he was afraid someone in the press box would notice and call Schultz or that Schultz would realize the mistake and go to the correct order.

Since Mincher is the only player replaced, Simpson goes into the #4 spot.
Weaver must feel like a kid in a candy shop, but he can only have one piece. He wants it to be a really good one. The risk is that the shop closes up early (SEA discovers the problem) before he can get it. Nullifying the walk and having Hegan called out and then having Davis come up is not tasty enough for Earl.
A possible reason not to protest is that Davis would be called out and Simpson would lead off the third, which puts higher up hitters up rather than going through the bottom of the order. Oyler is a very weak hitter, only 1 HR in 1968, career of .175/.28/.251 and never had a SLG above 0.300 in 6 year career.
Similar to what happened in the first.
With a 9-2 lead, Earl likely is not worried about Oyler hitting another homer.
Simpson out twice in three batters due to incorrect ruling.

Pilots hit in official order for the rest of the game, which is won by Baltimore, 9-5

Perhaps Weaver “gambled” since he had the lead, comfortable after the top of the 4th

Had chances to enforce BOOT in 1st, 2nd, and 4th, but decided to wait until he could take runs off the board.
Possible strategy: intentionally bypass a weak hitter such as the pitcher in the #9 spot. If #1 hitter gets on, a) small chance BOOT won’t be recognized, b) if BOOT is called, not much is lost since #9 was quite likely to make an out, and now #1 hits again.

If #1 makes an out, defensive team has a touch decision. Call BOOT and have #1 hit again or let #2 hitter come up, so further down lineup and closer to letting the likely best hitters come up a batter sooner.

AL teams might want to do this in interleague games to keep pitchers from getting hurt batting. NL teams with relievers who almost never bat (e.g. Nats’ Roenis Elias); If pitcher came in as part of (faux) double switch, other team might not notice the BOOT if pitcher does not come up.
Rookie ump John Kibler was behind the plate in an NL game for only the second time. Alston and Durocher decide to test umpire, but have a player ask crew chief Frank Secory (at 2B) if a BOOT could be called, and was told yes!

Bob Kennedy, the Cubs acting coach was not aware of the unannounced substitution rule and only found out about it an inning later from a member of the front office staff. It was too late to protest then. It would have been upheld, but was not necessary.

Ernie Banks is charged with making an out in a game he never appeared in!

Alston admitted that he was afraid the Cubs would protest and possibly cost his team a win. Maybe because both teams were not in the race, #7 and #8, ahead of only the two expansion teams, he thought they could have some
fun.
This was before the 1957 rules update and clarifications, but I think the understanding was that the other team had to protest. This case illustrates why since Cards gained advantage by having #5 hitter bat again rather than the #6 hitter who would have been the proper batter. Did not find anything about this in TSN other than saying what happened in brief game summary.

Cards won game 4-0 behind a Harvey Haddix four-hitter.

As best I can tell, Reds did not protest. It would have been interesting to see if it would have been upheld.

Similar to Dallas Green, Dusty Baker homer one
presented last year.
My baseball page focuses on the mathematical Markov model and its applications, the most “famous” of which is optimizing the batting order.

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