1. When the Mariners traded Alexander Campos and Emilio Pagan to the Oakland Athletics and received Ryon Healy, I believe it was a mistake. At the time of the trade, Healy was coming off of a season in which he was a roughly league average, right handed hitter who was defensively limited to being a significantly below average 3B or a below average 1B. He also saw no improvement the year before he was traded for to his plate discipline, which meant his OBP was going to be entirely BABIP driven. At the same time, the reliever they traded to give up for him, Emilio Pagan, was coming off of a stellar rookie season in which he struck out 28% of the batters he faced while walking only 4% and came with an additional year of control. Even factoring in the volatility of relievers, it was probable that the Mariners had given up the better player, and had also given up a minor prospect to finalize the trade. Given that effective relievers are always in high demand and that the market for R/R corner players was relatively inexpensive, it seems it would have been more prudent at the time to go after Lucas Duda, Mark Reynolds, Jose Bautista, or some other league average corner bat at the time, rather than give up valuable assets to acquire a player who was not substantially above replacement level. The youth of Ryon Healy relative to those comparisons cannot be totally ignored, but the Mariners were clearly in win-now mode at the time, and no playoff contending team can have too many effective relievers.
2. A rule change which would make baseball more fun would be to allow players who hit a home run to take another plate appearance. This would allow for greater impacts by star players, which would help baseball’s marketability of its stars as it would allow the best hitters to receive an even greater percentage of the plate appearances. It would also create drama as it would force pitchers to face a player who had just hit a home run, and undoubtedly would lead to situations where a player hits two or even three home runs in a row in an inning. This would undoubtedly be thrilling inside a park and also make for great viral clips as a player rounds the bases, picks up his bat and clobbers a second home run without a cut to another inning. I think everyone can agree that home runs are fun, and the best players are fun, and this would give us more of both.