

Tom Lancaster  
Patrick Rademacher



## **Project Journal**

Summer 2020  
CS 510: Front-End Web Technology  
Professor Caterina Paun

## **Overview**

### **Link to GitHub Repository**

- <https://github.com/tlan2/batterOnDeck>

### **Link to Deployed Website**

- <http://batter-on-deck.herokuapp.com/home.html>

### **Link to API**

- [MLB Data API](#)

### **Languages, Libraries, and Frameworks Used:**

- Javascript
- CSS
  - Bootstrap
- HTML

### **Installations**

1. Bootstrap (CSS framework)

## **Journal Entries**

### **Monday, July 6**

- Pat and Tom discussed what project we wanted to choose between - country or MLB data. We decided on a baseball dashboard because of Pat's passion for baseball and because I like sports as well. We also thought there was more "CS meat" on the MLB bone than the country API.
- During our prep for the proposal presentation, we found 3 possible API's but decided on the MLB Data API.
- We also decided on React and Python for our stack.

### **Thursday, July 9**

- Download Node.js and install React.

### **Monday, July 13**

- Researched logos from free logo design websites. Found a couple of favorites and decided to combine them.
- Decided on the name "Batter On Deck."

### **Monday, July 20**

- Hold a Zoom meeting to discuss concepts and what would work best for us and our schedules.

- Decide against React due to its learning curve and being short on time. Pat and Tom are both taking 3 classes and decide to do Bootstrap along with HTML, CSS, and Javascript since they both became familiar with them through the homework assignments.

**Wednesday, July 22**

- Hold another Zoom meeting to discuss the changes and what we would like to get done
- Brainstorm ways to work with the MLB data API. Some API calls require a name while other API calls require a player ID. Tom attempts to fetch some data. He has one working but decides to contact the API manager to see if there is a master ID list.
- Pat looks into RGB values as a way to explore expressing the team colors.

**Friday, July 24**

- Tom sketches a layout for the home page and sends it over to Pat. He approves.
- Hold a Zoom meeting to discuss the next steps briefly and touch base (pun intended).

**Monday, July 27**

- Pat makes the navigation bar and implements a new logo due to difficulties with the other logo image file.

**Wednesday, July 28**

- Hold a Zoom meeting to discuss API issues.
- Tom receives an email from the API manager who provides a master list.
- Tom creates functions to fetch API's and populate the page with the name and position of the player. Still cannot resolve the player's ID issue.

**Saturday, August 1**

- Tom attempts to create an excel master list with all the player ID's given by the API manager previously. It doesn't work due to too many hits to the API and the fact there are over 50,000 players.
- Tom fixes the original logo's image problems and implements it into the navigational bar.
- Tom finds a favicon he likes and adds it to the website.
- Tom looks for a search bar and tries a few generic ones. He isn't pleased with the aesthetics and eventually finds code for our current search bar.
- Tom adds "Enter" keyboard button functionality to make player testing easier.
- Tom figures out how to first find the player by name thanks to reviewing the API documentation for the tenth time and then uses the ID to call on their career stats.
- Tom researches how to retrieve nested .json data which took some time.
- Tom adds the capability of pulling career stats of all hitters and populates the page. He also finds a way to clear out the previous information on a new search.
- Tom decides to have some fun with the project and has a great idea for non-existing player searches. He adds images, subheaders, and code from scratch with no problem. The function randomly picks an image file name in an array and the Javascript code picks the appropriate subheading to add. It is a rare moment of clarity and easiness.

- Tom outlines the final presentation slide deck and adds relevant info to it.

**Sunday, August 2**

- Tom's luck wasn't as lucky after all. He spends an hour or so figuring out the logic position of a non-existing player. After mapping out the possible paths, Tom figures out the check is best suited for the retired player section because we first call an active player's API, and if the .json returns a "totalSize" of 0 that means either the player is retired or doesn't exist.
- Tom finds a website that helps translate the acronym of the more obscure baseball stats. He also researches the formulas behind the numbers and what they signify.
- Tom puts logic into the code that splits the players by either pitcher or hitter. Pitcher stats are significantly different from a hitter's stats. This eliminates a good hitting pitcher's stats from showing but both Pat and Tom decide it is the best course of action.
- Tom resolves the issue of 2 or more players having the same name. After studying the .json data, the more popular or prominent player is called in the first row of player information. After talking to Pat, they decide it is the best course of action, but obviously, not ideal. Also, had to use bracket notation to access the .json file.

**Monday, August 3**

- Tom finds league leader stats by year that can be downloaded as .csv.
- Talk with Professor Caterina about adding a dynamic drop list for each season stats of a player. She provides a link to an event listener code that Tom implements and works. Confirms that .csv files can be used.
- Tom adds some basic styling to the stats and the player names so they are more easily distinguishable. Grey color indicates the player is retired and black color indicates they are active.
- Hold a Zoom meeting to discuss the project's progress and what is left to be done.

**Wednesday, August 5**

- Tom talks to Caterina about journal entries and how to improve them.

**Thursday, August 6**

- Tom tried to spruce up the navigation bar and change the styling with not much luck.
- Tom added the home page message and fixed the Javascript code to erase the welcome greeting info.
- Tom reformats the journal per Professor Caterina's instructions.

**Saturday, August 8**

- Tom finishes up the final presentation by adding photos and relevant information.
- Hold a Zoom meeting to discuss current progress and any outstanding tasks to do. Create a game plan to finish the remaining tasks.
- Tom edits and reformats the journal to appear more professional.

**Sunday, August 9**

- Tom created the project's README file.
- Tom added titles to each HTML page.
- Tom created API page content.
- Tom deleted the “creators” and “team” page to focus on tasks higher on the priority list and shrink our scope.
- Tom created the “stats” page with tables.
- Tom adjusted the main logo to be responsive and fixed the navbar links and structure.
- Tom added background photo.
- Tom troubleshooted how to deploy website on Heroku and removed all console.logs() from files.

### **After the Project Reflections - What We Would Do Differently:**

- Research API more
  - It was difficult to parse out how the API worked due to poor documentation and the calls requiring different parameters. This could have been a potentially fatal problem, but thankfully, worked out in the end.
- Start sooner
  - This is true for every project, but you cannot start early enough on a project. This project is no exception because our ideas outpace our production.



## Project Tasks Board

To-Do	In-Progress	Done
<b>Must/Required:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Pitcher colors</li> <li>Season Hitter Colors</li> <li>Season Pitcher Colors</li> <li>Clear color scheme</li> <li>Pat - Journal what you did above</li> <li>Remove commented-out code</li> <li>Add link and image to Github README</li> <li>Replace color names with Hexacode               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More performant and she mentioned it in one of the slide decks</li> </ol> </li> <li>Upload pdf of Journal and presentation               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put a link to our deployed website</li> </ol> </li> <li>5-ball rating system               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research the cutoff point for each stat. What constitutes #-ball? For example, is anything over 40 home runs 5-balls?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Style current boxes               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career</li> <li>Season</li> <li>Fix stat box spacing</li> </ol> </li> <li>About → API Page</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide logo (TL &amp; PR)</li> <li>Navigation Bar (TL)</li> <li>ID-Player Master List (TL) (Not needed now)</li> <li>Search bar (TL)</li> <li>Search results (TL)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black</li> </ol> </li> <li>Retired                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grey Color</li> </ol> </li> <li>Non-existent                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funny responses</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>Career Stats (TL)</li> <li>Added baseball favicon (TL)</li> <li>Pitcher Stats (TL)</li> <li>Distinguish between Pitcher and Hitter (TL)</li> <li>Season range drop-down list function (TL)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active</li> <li>Retired</li> </ol> </li> <li>Seasonal Stats (TL)</li> <li>Find Stat Leaders by year (TL &amp; PR)</li> <li>Fix NavBar Options (PR)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website</li> <li>Stats</li> <li>BoD Creators</li> </ol> </li> <li>Season</li> <li>Career</li> <li>Teams</li> </ol> </li> <li>Insert Links in NavBar (PR)</li> <li>Style current boxes               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fix stat box spacing(PR)</li> </ol> </li> <li>Write GitHub ReadMe (TL)               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do you deploy it on there</li> <li>Add any code we copied</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

		17. Merge pattys_branch 18. Check that the code below is in every file <pre>Tom Lancaster &amp; Pat Rademacher (c) 2020 19. // Batter On Deck 20. // fileName.typ</pre> 21. Add links to Navbar 22. Add background 23. Add text stating home page is career 24. Check page Titles in HTML 25. Deploy website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. github.io</li> <li>b. Heroku</li> </ul> 26. Remove all console.log()'s 27.
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**Stretch Goals:**

11. About → BoD Creators (aka personal plug)
12. Make charts
13. Teams API connection
14. Teams page
15. Add photos for each player
  - a. Google Image API
16. Add personal info
  - a. height
  - b. weight
  - c. bat right or left-handed
  - d. age
  - e. twitter\_handle
17. Career stats → drop-down list to decide between:
  - a. 'R' - Regular Season
  - b. 'S' - Spring Training
  - c. 'E' - Exhibition
  - d. 'A' - All-Star Game
  - e. 'D' - Division Series
  - f. 'F' - First Round (Wild Card)
  - g. 'L' - League Championship
  - h. 'W' - World Series