

SCOREBOARD: GOD'S GAME

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

SIMPLICITY

For Baseball

Start at home, goal is to get back to home.

Throw ball.

Hit ball.

Run fast to get home.

Defense tries to keep you from home.

Name of game a little misleading, maybe "homeball" is a better name. That the game has held true to its unique and basic nature remains evident.

For Golf

Use clubs to put ball in hole in the ground.

Other games or contests are relatively similar in nature, darts, archery, even curling are examples.

Game is rather unifaceted; that golf exists is close to what it is.

Advantage



*Golf has less constituent parts. That it is, seems closer to what it is in form and final causes.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

PERFECTION

For Baseball

It does not lack complementarity, symmetry at least in the infield with its diamond. It's a game of right angles.

Furthermore, baseball seems to lack no good; it has offense and defense and requires incredible precision in all aspects of the game.

Its sounds, rhythm, generally clear outcomes and exhaustive schedule mean the best emerge.

Finally, there is such a thing as a perfect game.

For Golf

Golf too seems to lack no perfection.

It is played with tremendous respect to the laws of physics and the natural order.

In addition, the best of courses feature a human directing--better, manicuring--of nature which speaks to man's role in Providence.

We are called to improve upon the natural world.

Advantage



*Baseball's symmetry and beautiful contrasts speak of the utter perfection of God.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

GOODNESS

For Baseball

The question here is: to what degree today does the game exist in accordance with its nature?

Games ought to be fun, to play and to watch.

Aside from millennials, whose opinions do not count, baseball produces joy in playing and in watching. One cannot say that of football or soccer, for examples...

For Golf

Golf is preeminently enjoyable.

Its venues are set within broad natural landscapes.

Since humans are good according to their nature, should not the sport that is of superior goodness, be able to be played by more people?

Meaning: 80 year olds can't hit home runs, but they could shoot their age in golf...

Advantage



*Tight one here: all things considered, the playing experience produces the same level of fun, but viewing experience goes to baseball...

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

INFINITY

For Baseball

Even regular season contests could conceivably go on forever.

But, question is more about how limited the game is, how much is it restricted from being its optimum in nature?

No great limits exist for baseball. Records can be shattered, new parks created, and previous achievements, surpassed.

For Golf

The size of the course relative to the players and the ball they must hit around the course speak of the infinite immanence and transcendence of the divine.

There appear to be few limits on golf reaching its optimal nature.

Actual courses surpass the beauty of even Golden Tee designs.

Advantage



*Golf gets this one for the Chesterton-like argument about immanence and transcendence.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

UBIQUITY

For Baseball

Baseball's effect far surpasses even the notion of the sport being the "national pastime".

It shapes culture.

It has shaped history. (cf. Black Sox, Jackie Robinson, earthquake series, etc.)

It shapes language.

It operates in ways far beyond the essential game.

For Golf

Golf courses are much larger than baseball fields; so take that baseball.

Furthermore, Tiger Woods was like Jackie Robinson...

OUCH...

Golf concedes this attribute to baseball...

Advantage



*See arguments to the left.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

IMMUTABILITY

For Baseball

Pro levels still use wood bats.

While Mike Trout certainly has a different diet and workout regimen than Lou Gehrig had, greatness in baseball is defined by eerily similar statistics and performance from decade to decade.

For Golf

The point of the game--as it has always been--remains the same: Hit round object with club into a hole in the ground.

Laws of physics dictate that little can change other than the beauty and condition of golf course layouts.

Advantage



*The greatness of play being defined in such consistent and weirdly similar metrics puts baseball on top here.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

ETERNITY

For Baseball

The winner of immutability ought to also win the honor of eternity.

What is baseball's permanence?

Baseball has staying power of which other sports could only dream.

Gambling, racism, cheating, a disco demolition that cancelled a game, and steroids have tried to bring it down to no avail.

For Golf

Golf is a worldwide phenomenon.

Not bad for a sport founded by a bunch of Scots knocking around unwanted rocks with their shepherd's crooks in the 15th century.

Advantage



*The popularity and survivability of golf appears too reliant on individual masters, ex. Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

DIVINE ATTRIBUTE

UNITY

For Baseball

Golf doesn't even have a chance here:

1. God is triune. Three strikes= out. Three outs= half-inning over. Three thousand hits. Three hundred wins= Hall of Famers.
2. Best player ever in the sport (Ruth) wore number 3.
3. Baseball's matter and form are essentially the same: look at the name, for example.

For Golf

Not so fast on this one, baseball...

Speaking of unity, which by univocation entails one-ness, a golfer can attain perfection with a score of one on a hole. No one in baseball considers the number one to be perfection. In fact, a 1-1 score in a baseball game carries with it the sense that it is a boring game.

Oh, golf has par-3 holes as well...

Advantage



*The whole hole-in-one and perfection argument wins the category here....

FINAL TALLY

