

## ***Special Teams -- Baseball***

By Paddy Smith

Choose from the 30 Major League Baseball team nicknames (ROCKIES, ORIOLES, WHITE SOX, YANKEES, CUBS, GIANTS, DODGERS, DIAMONDBACKS, etc.) to answer the following questions below. No knowledge of baseball rules, history, or strategy is required; familiarity with one team's nickname is needed for one question. Batter up!

1. What team name is a common word when spelled backward?
2. What team name becomes a word if a vowel is added to its end?
3. What team name can become the name of a state if its last letter is changed to a different letter?
4. What team name remains a word regardless of whether one, two, three, or four letters are removed from its end?
5. What team name becomes palindromic if its first and last letters are dropped?
6. What team name becomes a word when its first and last letters are dropped but not when only its first letter is dropped?
7. What team name becomes a word if a letter is added to its end and its initial letter is dropped?
8. What team name's first five letters, spelled backward, form a common word?
9. What team name's last five letters, spelled backward, form a common word?
10. What team name, spelled backward and with a space added, forms two words that are each at least three letters long?
11. What team name can be anagrammed to form the nickname of another team?
12. What six team names of six or more letters can be anagrammed to form at least one common word?

Bonus Question: In #12, which two have at least five anagrams each?  
(For one of them, two of the anagrams are uncommon).

Answers:

1. METS
2. EXPOS (EXPOSE)
3. INDIANS (INDIANA)
4. RANGERS
5. BREWERS
6. PIRATES (IRATE)
7. PHILLIES (HILLIEST)
8. DEVIL RAYS (LIVED)
9. ASTROS (SORTS)
10. YANKEES (SEEK, NAY)
11. CUBS (anagrams to BUCS, a nickname for the Pirates)
12. ANGELS (ANGLES, GLEANS)  
ASTROS (ASSORT, ROASTS)  
GIANTS (SATING)  
PADRES (DRAPES, PARSED, RASPED, SPARED, SPREAD, SPADER)  
PIRATES (PARTIES, PASTIER, TRAIPISE, PIASTER, PIASTRE)  
RANGERS (GARNERS)

Bonus: Padres and Pirates