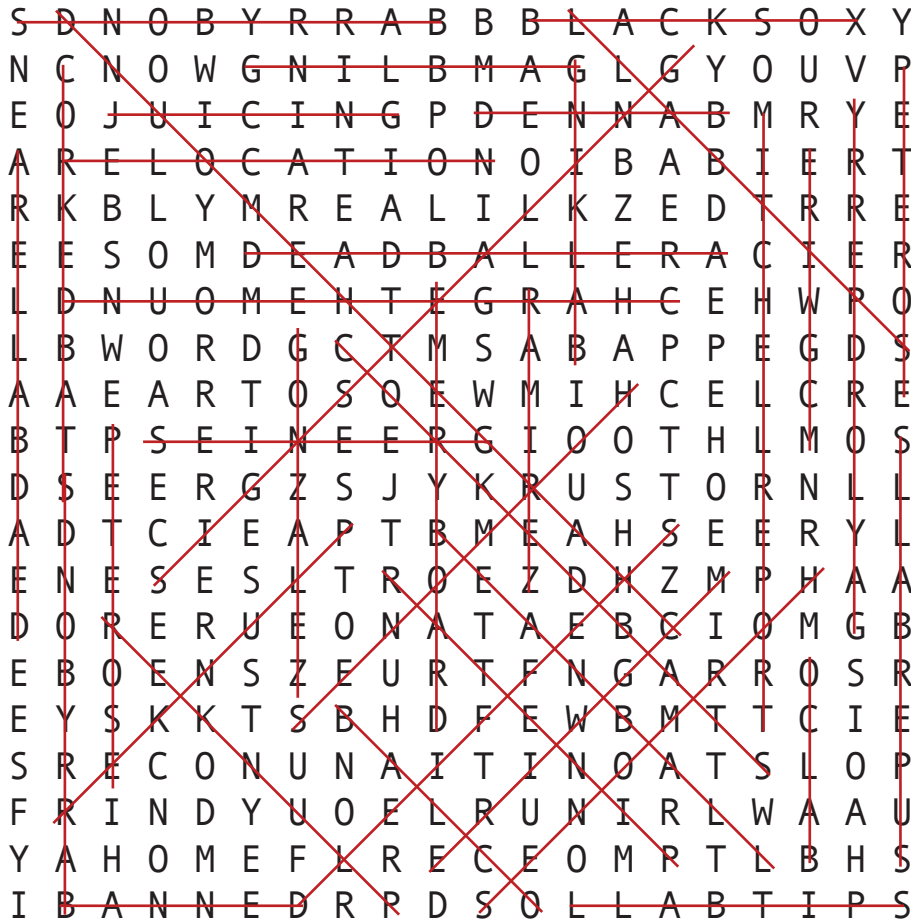


Triple Play by Thomas Snyder



This word search involves some “evil” words from the world of baseball. Not all words appear, and some even appear multiple times in the grid, unlike a standard word search. Finding all words (with repeats) leaves this message: BY NOW YOU’VE PROBABLY REALIZED SOME WORDS APPEAR TWICE, OTHERS JUST ONCE, THE REST ZERO TIMES. USE THIS COUNT TO FIND YOUR WAY HOME FROM THIRD.

As clued by the message, and by the “third base” behind the word list, decode word count as ternary.

- ~~BALCO~~
- ~~BALKING~~
- ~~BANNED~~
- ~~BARRY BONDS~~
- BASEBRAWL
- BAUTISTA
- ~~BEANBALL~~
- ~~BLACK SOX~~
- CANSECO
- ~~CHARGE THE MOUND~~
- CLEMENS
- ~~CORKED BATS~~
- ~~DEAD BALL ERA~~

- ~~EMERY BOARD~~
- ~~GAMBLING~~
- ~~GAYLORD PERRY~~
- GIAMBI
- ~~GONZALEZ~~
- ~~GREENIES~~
- ~~HORMONES~~
- ~~JUICING~~
- MARTINEZ
- ~~MCGWIRE~~
- ~~MITCHELL REPORT~~
- MISSED CALLS
- MONTERO

- NOTORIOUS
- 210 = U
- ~~PETE ROSE~~
- 112 = N
- PIEDRA
- 210 = U
- ~~PINE TAR~~
- 201 = S
- ~~PLUNKER~~
- 012 = E
- ~~RAMIREZ~~
- 011 = D
- ~~RELOCATION~~
- 121 = P
- RODRIGUEZ
- 110 = L
- ~~SHEFFIELD~~
- 001 = A
- ~~SIGN STEALING~~
- 221 = Y
- ~~SPITBALL~~
- 012 = E
- STEROIDS
- 200 = R
- ~~SUPERBALLS~~
- 201 = S

BAUTISTA
CANSECO
CLEMENS
GIAMBI
MARTINEZ
MONTERO
PIEDRA
RODRIGUEZ

Looking at the unused players (all of whom have been accused at various levels with steroid/drug use), the third letters spell the answer: UNEARNED.