

FROM THE BULLPEN

No. 2

04/24/86

FELLOW SKIPPERS:

Greetings once again! Please find enclosed for your viewing pleasure and scrutiny the following:

1. Revised Scoring System;
2. Average Ages of League Players;
3. Pitchers' Records through games of April 22, 1986;
4. Hitting Results for games of April 14-22 and composite figures through April 22, 1986;
5. Snickler's marginally literate response to the initial *From the Bullpen* Newsletter;
6. Rook's commentary on Issue No. 1 (remember, he is a railroad worker, not the Midwest Spelling Bee Champ).

The Supplemental Draft is tentatively scheduled for the first week in June, exact date to be arrived at later. Several of you helmsmen will want to do your homework before that date, as your squads are in definite need of shoring up. Snickler and Big Guy will probably want to be pulling all-nighters for that event, since their teams are performing rather weakly to date. Others of us, namely the undersigned, will have some difficulty coming up with three players to discard at the Supplemental. Yes, Possum, that's three players you'll be picking, not four.

In case you didn't notice, Bob has picked Scott Garrelts as a relief pitcher and Ed Lynch as a starting pitcher, when in reality, their roles are reversed, at least to date. Several of us in the Metro area, sympathizing with the Rook and his pathetic staff, have suggested that he be allowed to reverse the designated positions of these two players without penalty. Unless a majority of you voice your dissent to this proposal, the re-designation of these two players will be deemed effected by this proclamation.

AROUND THE HORN

CARDINAL CHATTER - The Cardinal hitters are off to a rather slow start this year. Carlton Fisk and Tommy Herr, coming off of career years, are caught in the throes of probable season-long slumps. Bobby Horner is off to a dismal start at the plate, 4-for-37. With that bowling-ball body and those stubby little legs, Horner regularly turns infield hits into routine ground outs. Mariano Duncan has seven errors so far this year, which is one more than his combined runs/RBI's. On the brighter side, Pete O'Brien is shaping up to be the dark horse of the year. He's hot. The Cards' pitching staff is setting the pace for the league, with 12 wins, 3 losses, and 5 saves through games of April 22, 1986.

Tudor looks primed for another big season.

TIGER TIDBITS - This is a squad that is in trouble. Rick "Kiss of Death" Drews has done it again! By merely drafting such previous luminaries as Baines, Davis, McGee, Parrish, Raines and Sutcliffe on his team, he has created the possibility of career-ending seasons for each of them. The stellar Tiger starting outfield of Baines, Raines and McGee has a composite average of .217 (31-for-133). Speed merchant Timmy Raines has managed to leg it across home plate once already this year, in only 46 at-bats. More poignant yet, although the Tiger batsmen have been to bat 86 more times than Bob's Braves, Rook's productive crew has managed to best the Tigers in combined runs/RBI's by a margin of 190 to 153. Speaking of combined runs/RBI's, the Sox have 43 more than the Tigers already in this young season. Take heart, though, Big Guy, your clutch assembly of hitters has already punched out 6 gamewinners this year, only 8 less than the Braves. Big Guy's pitching staff has a mediocre composite record of 11 and 10.

ROYAL REMARKS - What needs to be said. This splendid bevy of ballplayers is perfectly positioned at this point in time. The Royals are right in the thick of things in batting, pitching and fielding, even though they have not even begun to catch fire yet. It won't be easy to find a threesome to give walking papers to come Supplemental Draft time. I will, however, have little difficulty in disposing of Mr. Hassey. If anyone is interested in picking up a good catcher cheap, you know my number.

CUB COMMENTS - Chuck's carping response to the first From The Bullpen Newsletter was a good effort for a Kearney State graduate. Likely, Chuck's secretary composed the retort while he watched over her shoulder, snickering uncontrollably. Although I note that my debunking of Andre "Gramps" Dawson has lighted a temporary fire under his derriere, I am willing to accept Chuck's amusing little challenge regarding a head-to-head competition between Andre and Big Mac. Those ancient knees just can't hold out for a whole season. I just hope that Snickler doesn't come sniveling back to me around All Star break time, begging for a reprieve on our bet. Make mine a Pabst, please.

The enclosed player age documentation seems to me to be irrefutable proof of my "coma" theory of Snickler's draft selection process. Of course, Snickler's nursing home contingency probably won't buckle until the hot August sun starts to bear down on them. Perhaps Chuck will be able to avoid the league cellar until that time, which should be of some cheer to him. Rumor has it that Snickler is looking long and hard at picking up Billy Hatcher and Phil Niekro at the Supplemental Draft. He is also reportedly thinking about a trade for Pudge Fisk, in an effort to push his team's average starting age up over 35 years.

SOCK TALK - The word is fluke. That this wretched team of cast-offs could be leading the league in runs/RBI's at this point defies all conventional wisdom and logic. Given time, the cream will rise to the top, the fecal matter fall to the bottom. Having been ridiculed for being picked over everyone's MVP, Gary Carter has soared to the lead in gamewinning hits. Carter has 4. The entire Tiger team has 6. Can Carter keep up this pace? Not in this writer's estimation. Ted's keen pitching staff is off to quite a start. Throw out his two relievers, and his starting staff is a combined 6-and-13. Ouch. A few holes to fill at Supplemental Draft time. But, the Red Sox's sparkling fielding is keeping them in this thing. Only 27 errors thus far (the Braves have 8 as a team). Oh well, what's a measly 135 points going to hurt when those errors are

tallied into the scores. Perhaps Ted should consider trading off Buddy Bell for Oriole third baseman Floyd Rayford, to bolster up those defensive stats (Rayford had 4 errors in the first 6 innings playing third base for the Orioles in a recent game).

BRAVE BLASTS - What's that saying about pitching being 90% of baseball? The Bravissimos had better hope that little homily is a fallacy. Bob's jim-dandy pitching enneaad is off to a staggering start of 4 wins, 6 losses and 2 saves. And the Braves pitchers don't just lose, they get spanked. Bob's staff seems to have a monopoly on 1/3 of an inning starts, as may be witnessed from the following outings:

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Points
4/10/86 Jimmy Key	1/3	5	5	5	0	0	-9 5/6
4/19/86 Tom Browning	1/3	5	4	4	0	0	-14 4/5

To think that the Braves could possibly contend with this band of rag-arms is simply preposterous. At least the Braves' catchers are producing (Heath is 4-for-35, Whitt is 0-for-8 and injured). Bob's batteries are definitely low on juice.

It must be pointed out that the Braves batters are a tenacious bunch. While trailing the league in at-bats, they are a close third in combined runs/ RBI's, first in gamewinning hits, and have committed the fewest errors. Impressive totals, but can they keep it up over a long season. In the hurt locker - Bob's roster shows six players that are presently injured, to-wit: Garcia, Gibson, Walker, Whitt, Candelaria and Lynch. Gibson reportedly out for several weeks.

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES OF LATE

THROWING STEAM

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Points
4/19/86 - Dwight Gooden	9	6	2	1	2	10	38
4/20/86 - S. Davus	9	4	1	1	0	5	38-1/2

THROWING BEACH BALLS

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	Points
04/19/86 - Petry	4-2/3	9	6	3	1	2	-8 2/3
04/19/86 - Browning	1/3	5	4	4	0	0	-14 5/6
04/20/786 - Mahler	1-2/3	5	5	5	2	1	-14 2/3
04/21/86 - Key	4-2/3	5	6	6	4	1	-4 2/3

SEEING THE SEAMS

	AB	R	H	RBI	POINTS
04/18/86 - Puckett	5	1	3	5	29
04/21/86 - Mattingly	6	1	3	5	40

SWATTING AT FLIES

	AB	R	H	RBI	POINTS
04/19/86 - Heath	8	0	0	0	-4 (W/1 error)

Since no other suggestions were received, by editorial edict, the name of our league will be the "Hot Stove League," Eastern Nebraska Division. For the uninformed, the name of our league refers to the practice of old-timers sitting around a hot stove and shooting the breeze about baseball. Also, it has been suggested by the Metro Three that each of us throw in \$5 apiece to purchase a traveling trophy (loving cup) to go to the winner each year. The winner's names will be engraved on the side each fall. The award will be referred to simply as "The Cup." Your reactions, please.

This ends the second issue of From The Bullpen. Keep those cards and letters coming.

Yours very truly,

David D. Ernst