

Official Publication of the
Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division

Issue No. 3
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Publisher, Editor and Reporter, Dave Ernst

Salutations, Fellow Owners:

Welcome to the Third Issue of "From the Bullpen." To update your league materials, you will find enclosed the following:

1. Letter from Possumetrics, Inc. dated 4/24/82;
2. Official Teletype of the Braves (from our token blue-collar owner);
3. A Life in Agate Type;
4. Current Standings and Point Totals (through May 12 and 13);
5. Previous Standings (through May 1);
6. Petition for Appointment of Conservator.

SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 31, gentlemen. It's supplemental draft time, where the men will be separated from the boys. Draft time will begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Plan to be there in person or send your duly-qualified representative.

If you can't make it to the draft, here's hoping you can live with the group you've got now. Better bone up on those stats, fellows. We don't want any more Heathpicks to diminish the quality and integrity of this League. For purposes of draft sequencing, point totals derived from U.S.A. Today for the week preceding the draft will be utilized.

OWNERS' TRIP TO K.C.

The Trip is scheduled for August 15-17. Tentative plans call for a caravan to depart from Omaha on Friday afternoon, the 15th of August. Games in K.C. (the Yankees) are scheduled for Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. Reservations have been made for this esteemed group to stay at the Adam's Mark Hotel, right across from the ballpark. Stumbling distance, if you will. Please all send your \$25 deposits for the Trip to the undersigned posthaste, so that our accommodations and tickets may be finalized.

TRADE TALK

The first trade of the year has been consummated. Fleece: yours truly. Fleecee: Boxcar Bobby, a/k/a the Rook. It wasn't pleasant, but somebody had to do it. If you are keeping score at home, kids, mark down this blockbuster trade

as Ron Darling and John Denny (Royals) for Bert Blyleven and Joe Hesketh (Braves).

It seems like the Rook has been played like the proverbial fiddle on this one. While it is tempting to say a few more words about the equities of this trade, I will refrain, for the same reason that I don't laugh at crippled children or mentally retarded people. I only hope the Commissioner doesn't veto the trade because of its obvious one-sidedness.

Naturally, once word got out that the Rook was dealing, he was besieged by telephone calls, all from ruthless league owners wanting to get a piece of the action.

Rumor has it that Trader Ted had come to terms with Rook on a star-studded swap: Dale Murphy for Dave Winfield. Of course, most of you know what happened next. After the deal was struck in an evening telephone conversation between Possum and Rook, Ted awoke the following morning to find a Murphy box score in the newspaper that read like this: 5 2 2 5. While the unwitting Rook peacefully lay sleeping, dreaming of his hero Dale Murphy knocking in runs for his own hapless Braves, the wheels were already spinning in Possum's devious mind. How might he get out of the trade? "Ah, ha!" thought Ted, "we never really consummated the trade, did we?" It was in the works, but not carved in stone, not signed, not sealed, not delivered. "Rook has no legal grounds to stand on," thought Ted, "nothing signed, no witnesses. It's his word against mine." And thus, the uneducated Rook, assuming that he had no legal recourse, merely agreed to let the slippery Possum out of the transaction. Lesson to be learned: Don't buy a used car from the Possum. If you must trade with him, trade carefully. Get his name on the dotted line, his money in your pocket. An oral agreement with Ted obviously isn't worth the paper it's written on.

ONE WRITER'S OPINION

The early standings and point totals provide some interesting food for thought. First, one must realize that any pre-supplemental draft point totals are, when cut to the bone, essentially meaningless. For instance, from all of the clamoring and braggadocio coming out of the Big Guy's corner, one would think that a first-place standing in May assures a top spot at the end of the season. Nothing could be further from the truth. Along the same lines, while the Omaha Royals are coasting along in fourth place at present, they are perfectly poised to take full advantage of the supplemental draft and soar to the top of the stack come October.

Yet, some significant tendencies can be plucked from the current standings. For instance, you might note that the Cedar Rapids Cubs have dropped like an anvil from fourth to fifth place, a short stopoff on their journey to the league cellar. I think we all realize that if Rook did not have the bad fortune of having a third of his players on the injured list, Snickler's geriatric squad would already be mired in last place, where they would remain for the duration of the season. And, it is evident that the gaping holes in the scurrilous Possum's lineup will be presenting themselves more and more as time goes on.

CAST YOUR BALLOTS/KNOW THE ISSUES

A number of significant issues bearing on the present and future of this League will be taken up at supplemental draft time, including the following:

- (a) Number of players to be selected in the supplemental draft (three or four, see enclosed Petition for Appointment of Conservator);
- (b) The Cup;

- (c) The Trip;
- (d) The Pete O'Brien Rule;
- (e) Point categories.

CLOSING COMMENTS

My apologies for the delay, boys, in getting this issue out to you. I hope that you have enjoyed the issue and the enclosed materials. See you all at the supplemental draft, which will take place at my house. Keep those amusing comments coming.

Your humble League scribe,

Dave Ernst

**1986 HOT STOVE LEAGUE
LEAGUE STANDINGS AND APPROXIMATE
POINT TOTALS THROUGH MAY 1, 1986**

		<u>Overall Points</u>
1.	Lincoln Cardinals	1764
2.	Omaha Rex Sox	1710
3.	Omaha Tigers	1700
4.	Cedar Rapids Cubs	1675
5.	Omaha Royals	1534
6.	Lincoln Braves	1473

**1986 HOT STOVE LEAGUE
STANDINGS AND POINT TOTALS* THROUGH
GAMES OF MAY 12 AND MAY 13****

		<u>Overall Points</u>	<u>Batting</u>	<u>Pitching</u>
1.	Omaha Tigers	2916	2254	662
2.	Lincoln Cardinals	2840	2181	659
3.	Omaha Red Sox	2828	2357	471
4.	Omaha Royals	2763	2309	454
5.	Cedar Rapids Cubs	2716	2257	459
6.	Lincoln Braves	2488	2185	303

* Points are rounded down to the nearest point.

** Statistics Taken from U.S.A. Today
May 12 (AL) and May 13 (NL)