

**FROM THE BULLPEN**

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Hot Stove League  
Eastern Nebraska Division

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Gentlemen:

Welcome to Issue No. 4 of From The Bullpen. I trust that all of you have your lives back in order now that the Supplemental Draft has come and gone. Woe that we have to wait until next spring for the 1987 draft to experience that kind of rush again.

I hope all of you enjoy the above quote from Jacques Barzun. I think that we can all agree that Jacques has hit the nail on the head. No, Scott, Jacques did not play shortstop for the Philadelphia Athletics back in '39.

I am most pleased to have the privilege of supplying you with the enclosed cornucopia of information, described as follows:

1. List of owner addresses and telephone numbers (to encourage trading and general bantering);
2. Supplemental Draft Selections for May 31, 1986;
3. Summary of Trades Through Completion of Supplemental Draft;
4. Post-Supplemental Draft Revised Team Rosters;
5. Pre-Supplemental Draft Point Totals;
6. Post-Supplemental Draft Point Totals;
7. Pre- and Post-Supplemental Draft Team Point Totals;
8. Current Standings;
9. Individual Point Totals Through Games of June 1, 1986 (AL Players) and June 2, 1986 (NL Players).

## GENERAL COMMENTARY

It certainly should come as no surprise to anyone that the Royals have stepped up into first place in the point standings for this week, over the crumpled and lifeless corpses of the Omaha Red Sox. To Possum's chagrin, the Sox have plummeted from first to fifth, not unlike a team of Jimmy Hoffa's in concrete overcoats and leaden sneakers.

Naturally, the Sox are still one notch up on the Cedar Rapids Cubs, who retained their virtual lock on the league cellar. You can unbuckle your seatbelt now, Chuck, your certain descent to the bottom of the league standings is now at an end. I have good news and bad news for you, Chuck. The bad news is that you are presently mired in last. The good news is that you can't drop any further.

Oh, the Cubs might claw their way up to fifth place for a week or two during June or July, but when that hot August sun begins to beat down on the collective brows of Chuck's superannuated ballplayers, they will buckle like cheap lawn chairs. September will find the Cedar Rapids Cubs adhering tenaciously to the league doormat.

It is noteworthy that the Lincoln Cardinals are presently lodged in fourth place in the standings, given that Scooter Krause represented the team at the Supplemental Draft, instead of the brainchild of the Cardinal organization, Craig Dietz. However, a finish above fifth place at this year's end does not appear likely for the Cardinals, especially when one takes into consideration the long-term effect of the brutal, perhaps unconscionable, fleecing administered by the Skip during a flurry of pre-draft trading with Scott. Unfortunately, Scott, your fat money clip full of Yankee dollars cannot buy you a good team in this league. The values and integrity of this league, which have been previously pointed out by the Rook, do not allow for the owners to "buy" a champion. You must rely on brains, instinct and savvy. Accordingly, your Cardinals will not finish high.

Although a good distance behind my cherished Royals, the Tigers continue to make a good first-half showing. However, with the four questionable selections made by Big Guy during the Supplemental Draft, it is doubtful that the Tigers will be in the upper division come this fall. "Fletcher, Cooper and Hurst" looks more like a summary of other teams' unwanted discards than three promising Supplemental Draft picks.

No From The Bullpen would be complete without a discussion of the Bravissimos and their cagey owner, the Rook. Unfortunately, while the undersigned could do nothing but sit back and helplessly watch, Rook snookered Big Guy and Possum in a couple of blockbuster pre-Supplemental Draft trades. While Bob played upon the pity of Big Guy and Possum by whining and sniveling about all of the injuries to his team members, and generally creating an image of an ignorant and unsophisticated railroad lowbrow, he was secretly plotting the acquisition of such studs as Tony Phillips, Jody Davis, Keith Moreland and Glenn Davis, and the disposition of such flat tires as Ernie Whitt and Phil Bradley. Through this unseemly trickery, the seemingly harmless and helpless Rook has streamlined his once-pathetic squad into pennant contenders. Some say he has sold his soul to the Devil and put all of his eggs in one basket by neglecting to shore up his reserves while concentrating solely on his

starters. One well-placed, career-ending injury to a Tony Phillips or a Don Baylor, and Rook can kiss the upper division goodbye. Also, we cannot be unmindful of the extremely weak pitching staff of the Braves, which may ultimately burst Bob's bubble in the end.

#### TRIP UPDATE

The general consensus of the team owners is that we should take in three ballgames during our owners/managers trip to Kansas City in August. This means that we will have to leave for Kansas City mid-afternoon on Friday, August 15, 1986. Please plan your schedules accordingly. I will proceed to obtain tickets for Friday and Saturday night games between the Royals and Yankees, and we will purchase right field bleacher seats for Sunday afternoon's game.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT SHOWCASE

Starting with this issue of From The Bullpen, a new feature will track the progress of the supplemental draftees, just to give everyone some food for thought.

This week's issue focuses on Snickler's two outstanding pitching selections in the Supplemental Draft, Moose Haas and Mike Smithson. My friends, feast your eyes on these eye-catching totals:

	<u>IP</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>ER</u>	<u>BB</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Mike Smithson:							
Saturday, 05/31/86	5	11	7	3	2	2	Loss
Thursday, 06/06/86	2	5	5	5	2	0	Loss
Moose Haas:							
Thursday, 06/06/86	3	6	4	4	2	1	Loss

You'll have to get out your calculators and figure for yourselves how much ground Moose and Mike have lost. They are both moving backwards at break-neck pace.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR DEPARTMENT

In closing up this issue of From The Bullpen, I am faced with a rather unpleasant task of responding to Rook's last letter to From The Bullpen. I am sure all of you have received this ludicrous and misleading missive from Bob. While I would prefer to simply ask each of you to merely ignore Rook's belligerent and fictitious message, I feel that for the good of the league, I must respond to some of the points raised therein.

Bob has suggested that the undersigned is not qualified to espouse his views

concerning baseball, and he has listed several topics about which I am reportedly more capable to pontificate. Well, let me tell you, for an exciting Saturday night, ask Bob about any of the following areas of his interests:

- (1) The History of Masking Tape;
- (2) Great Tin Foil Collections of Our Time;
- (3) Unionism and Featherbedding (or, "Why Bob is Employed");
- (4) "Salt Creek": The Unknown Beauty of Its Flora and Fauna.

Furthermore, I wish to voice my vehement denial of Bob's characterization of the Blyleven and Hesketh for Darling and Denny trade. Yes, we were at the Husker/Okie State baseball game when the trade was both proposed and consummated.

Correct, it was a good game. However, at that point, Bob's recount of the events of the day steers off course a bit. What really happened is as follows.

Along about the fifth inning of the baseball game, after an intemperate evening of beer drinking and carousing, Bob passed a sizeable blast of gas in the general direction of the playing field, bringing the players and a good share of the fans at the stadium to their knees. Immediately recognizing that Bob was the culprit, the players and fans as one demanded Bob's departure from the stadium. At that moment, with Bob naturally embarrassed beyond all soundness of mind, I suggested the subject trade and the deal was struck. And that's the way it really happened. I only hope that the rest of the owners now recognize Bob's account of the trade for what it was, utterly preposterous.

Notwithstanding the above riposte, I continue to encourage each of you to respond to From The Bullpen. For as long as you stay on the straight and narrow, you shall not meet with the wrath of this writer's pen.

See you next issue,

Dave "Skip" Ernst