

FROM THE BULLPEN

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Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1989 Season

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Fellow Owners and Managers:

This is a short issue of From the Bullpen to start things off for 1989, the fifth year of the Nebraska Hot Stove League. Welcome back to the same loyal ten baseball aficionados that made up last year's league.

To sum up the voting on this year's rule changes which occurred at our winter manager's meeting on January 21, 1989, the following now becomes part of the gospel of the Hot Stove League:

1. In a praiseworthy bit of legislation, we have decided to adjust our supplemental draft selection order, reversing the order of draft for the second and fourth rounds. Henceforth, on the date of the supplemental draft the last place team shall pick first in the first and third rounds of the draft, and in the second and fourth rounds, the drafting shall begin with the first place manager down through the cellar team.

2. In an effort to put some additional teeth in our checks and balance system, beginning in 1989 trading of players will be restricted as follows:

- (a) Opening day through August 1 - unrestricted.
- (b) August 1 through September 1 - limit of two trades involving a total of four players per team.
- (c) September 1 through end of season - no trading.

3. Beginning this year, if a team has a player go on the disabled list after the supplemental draft, that player may be replaced with any available player with fewer points at the same position, with the replacement player's points to be calculated for the entire year. The injured player that was discarded may subsequently be picked up by another team to replace another injured player, as long as he has fewer points than the player being replaced. The first person to contact Underbelly shall be entitled to select an available player.

4. The league shall have a rules committee comprised of the managers of the fourth, fifth and sixth place teams of the prior year. The rules committee shall decide all questions concerning rules governing the league contest. The fifth place manager from the prior year shall govern as commissioner.

5. Fifty bonus points will be awarded to any team manager who selects as an initial draftee (and keeps on his roster the entire year) a Rookie of the Year. If a manager drafts a Rookie of the Year at the supplemental draft, he will be awarded 25 bonus points.

That pretty well summarizes our freshly-promulgated league rules. Soundly defeated were the proposals to require left-handed pitchers on each team's roster, and required attendance at league trips to qualify for championship money.

Red Letter Dates

March 25-26 - spring training in Florida

April 1 - player draft

April 3 - opening day

June 4 - supplemental draft

The Nebraska Hot Stove League will be well-represented at spring training in Florida this year. Slated to depart March 24th for sunny Florida are Underbelly, Shamu, your Skipper, and my bombastic, balding neighbor, Jigger. Once again we will keep our eyes peeled for draft-day prospects, and will be sure to share any hot tips with our baseball brethen.

For the second consecutive year, the player draft will take place at the richly appointed law offices of Gaines, Mullen, Pansing & Hogan (formerly known as Gaines, Dewey, Cheatham and Howe), in the Regency One Building, 10050 Regency Circle, Suite 200, Omaha. Plan on the draft commencing at 1:00 p.m.

The supplemental draft this year will take place on a Sunday, June 4, and if possible we will take at an Omaha Royals game. If the Royals are not in town, Shamu has requested that the supplemental draft be held back at Babytrumpetfish's palatial spread, where the steaks are free and the liquid refreshments ever-flowing.

As soon as this year's schedule comes out, we can pick out our weekend for the summer outing to Chicago/Milwaukee. From the concensus at the winter meeting, it looks like we should try to pick out a weekend towards the middle part of July.

One further note. This year all members will be required to pony up their \$50.00 entry fee on draft day, and Possum has agreed to serve as the treasurer. Possum can deposit our collective \$500.00 in one of his father's mysterious stock market funds, and with any luck we'll have enough left at the end of the season to engrave the Skipper's name on the cup. As last year, the first place finisher in 1989 will receive \$250.00, with the runner-up to receive \$100.00. Third place will return the entry fee of \$50.00, with \$50.00 to go to Underbelly for serving as league statistician and \$50.00 to be devoted to refreshments at our summer outing.

That's it, boys, just the facts. More after spring training.

The Skipper