

FROM THE BULLPEN

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Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1989 Season

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Dear Fellow Owners/Managers:

The red-letter day of the year is almost here. Draft day for the Fifth Annual Hot Stove League competition will be this Saturday, April 1, 1989. Once again, the draft will take place at the law offices of Gaines Mullen (not to be confused with the law offices of Ronald J. Palagi: he's on your side), 10050 Regency Circle, Suite 200.

The draft will begin at 1:00 p.m. sharp, so it is suggested that everyone arrive twenty to thirty minutes early so that we can take care of some last minute details and get the preliminary schmoozing out of the way. To avoid the helter-skelter manner of collecting entry fees at the end of the campaign that has heretofore plagued the league, each drafting manager will be required to pay his \$50 entry fee on Saturday before selecting any players. Some people might call this the "Shamu Rule."

If any manager has a question about the position at which a prospective draftee will be qualified this season, this should be entertained by the group prior to the commencement of the draft.

Our league caterer, Baby Trumpetfish, has again generously offered to provide refreshments for the draft. As such, Shamu, you will only have five meals to worry about on your own for Saturday.

Having just returned from a restful and relaxing junket to Miami, Jigger, Shamu, Underbelly and the Skipper all feel as if we probably have an unfair advantage over the rest of the league, in light of our opportunity to personally review the spring training performances of prospective draftees. Thus, in the spirit of fairness and rigid ideology upon which this league was founded and has been steadfastly maintained, each of us will be available for telephone consultations on Friday evening before the draft. If no one answers when you call, keep trying. Or, if you prefer, leave a message on the answering machine and each of us will be sure to get right back to you.

During the course of our spring training outing, it was brought to the attention of the Skipper that a few league members are disgruntled, disappointed, or just plain dissatisfied with the nicknames which garnish the league owners. Accordingly, having seized upon all available powers of insight and

intuitiveness, not to mention inebriation, the following monikers have been engendered and shall hereafter be the official league handles of the herebelow mentioned:

Omaha Tigers	WhiteSot (formerly Big Guy)
Lincoln Pirates	Pipsqueak (formerly Fox)
Kansas City Blues	Stretch McBlunder (formerly Brother)
Omaha Mudhens	Sandjigger (formerly Jigger)

I am also pleased to announce that the Omaha Royals will from this day forward be known as the Omaha Senators. This move should probably put the Skipper's boys over the top once and for all. Likewise, Underbelly has informed me that due to the perennially hapless performance of his Lincoln Braves, and some dissention amongst the minority owners of that team, Underbelly's squad has undergone some administrative and ownership reshuffling and realignment, and will forever after be known as the Lincoln Tribe. Rumor has it that the influential Sheridan and White-Magpie families of Lincoln have purchased a majority ownership share of the revamped Tribe.

Enclosed for your entertainment are a few photographs exhibiting the highlights of Spring Training 1989.

Lastly, congratulations are in order for Possum and wife. They are the proud parents of a boy, born Sunday, March 26, 1989. His name? You guessed it: ELB IV (nicknamed Max). In true Possum spirit, Ted has indicated that if the price is right, Max is not untouchable and will be available for league trading.

See you on Saturday.

Skipper