

FROM THE BULLPEN

Official Publication of the
Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1991 Season

Edition No. 8
May 14, 1991

Only in your dreams, Shamu. The trick is to be on top at the end of the year, not just shortly before the supplemental draft. But don't be too downhearted. I'm sure that Espinosa or Steve Howe or some similar buzz saw will be available for your tenth pick of the first round of the supplemental draft, so have at it. And so it goes.

This is what things look like after five weeks of the League:

| | | |
|-----|----------|------|
| 1. | Cubs | 2672 |
| 2. | Pirates | 2580 |
| 3. | Tigers | 2534 |
| 4. | Red Sox | 2521 |
| 5. | Reds | 2467 |
| 6. | Chiefs | 2466 |
| 7. | Senators | 2446 |
| 8. | Blues | 2446 |
| 9. | Mudhens | 2275 |
| 10. | Tribe | 2269 |

The torrid Cubs, bolstered by monster weeks from Harold Baines, Rubin Sierra and Mark McGwire, had the top week with 584 points. Close behind for weekly honors was the Tribe, with 534, behind the huge week of Crime Dog. As a matter of fact, the Tribe is about to do the heretofore unthinkable, that is, escape the cellar and pass the flaccid Mudhens.

The Mudhens, not unlike the mobile sewage treatment plant, have snapped their lugnuts. And where would they be without their fourth-selected outfielder, Dave Henderson? No need to answer that question. Actually, it appears once again that Sandjigger is positioning his Mudhens for a first pick in the supplemental draft, where he might once again cherry pick his way out of the basement.

The top hitters after five weeks:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Dave Henderson | 312 |
| Will Clark | 296 |
| Fred McGriff | 286 |
| Cal Ripken | 285 |
| Barry Bonilla | 274 |

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| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Joe Carter | 268 |
| Ivan Calderon | 266 |
| Jose Canseco | 261 |
| The Other Jose Guy (Felix) | 261 |
| Rubin Sierra | 258 |
| Robin Yount | 257 |
| Dave Justice | 252 |
| Wally Joyner | 250 |

The top pitchers:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Roger Clemens | 220.5 |
| Ramon Martinez | 180 |
| The Candy Man (more Possum magic) | 165 |
| Dennis Martinez | 162.7 |
| Jack McDowell | 137.1 |
| Nolan Ryan | 135.7 |
| Tom Glavine | 132.1 |
| John Smiley | 130.7 |

Now let's look at how we did during the first round of the draft this year:

| | | |
|-----|------------------|-------|
| 1. | Ryne Sandberg | 233 |
| 2. | Jose Canseco | 261 |
| 3. | Cal Ripken | 285 |
| 4. | Will Clark | 296 |
| 5. | Barry Bonilla | 274 |
| 6. | Roger Clemens | 220.5 |
| 7. | Rickie Henderson | 136 |
| 8. | Ken Griffey, Jr. | 220 |
| 9. | Matt Williams | 162 |
| 10. | Rubin Sierra | 258 |

The answer: We did pretty well, with a few notable exceptions. But don't worry, Sandjigger, since Rickie is the "greatest ever," I'm sure that he'll be turning on the afterburners pretty soon.

This week's feature: Skipper's Top 10 List of Reasons that Pipsqueak Is So Quiet.

That's all for now, folks.

Skipper

**SKIPPER'S TOP 10 LIST
OF REASONS THAT PIPSQUEAK IS SO QUIET**

10. Is concerned that Kitty Kelly will take his words out of context.
9. Does not speak or understand English (simply memorizes players' names for draft).
8. Born without tongue (Underbelly is simply a fantastic ventriloquist).
7. Still scarred by childhood incident with scoutmaster.
6. Pirates have never finished in first place, but when they do, he will make Rickey Henderson seem modest and quiet.
5. Afraid that he will say something offensive to B.T., have head bitten off a la McBlunder incident.
4. Near-toxic amount of recreational drugs in system render him incapable of speech.
3. Is busy planning murder spree that will make Ted Bundy look like rank amateur.
2. Victim of cruel joke of friends at nightclub hypnotist show.
1. Patty told him to quiet down on their honeymoon; he assumes order still in effect.