

FROM THE BULLPEN

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

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Comrades:

Nyet. The Bullpen has not gone the way of Pravda, contrary to popular rumor. Despite devastating injuries and untimely career-low performances from several highly-drafted players, the gritty editor of the Bullpen has managed to separate the fate of the Senators from the first and foremost duty of the Bullpen, to fairly and accurately report the goings-on of the Hot Stove League, to-wit:

Although Shamu still insists that it is a three-team race, it is looking more and more like Magpie will sew up his first League title this year. As this issue goes to press, the standings in the League are as follows:

Reds	11160
Tigers	10722
Cubs	10709
Blues	10179
Red Sox	10080
Tribe	10015
Chiefs	9997
Senators	9768
Pirates	9732
Skipjacks	9553

Although Magpie shows a sizable lead, with Saberhagen's no-hitter, Clemens' Monday night shutout, and the continued mind-boggling productivity of his real-life Tigers (Fielder, Tettleton and Fryman), WhiteSot threatens to make up some serious ground this week. And, with Barry Bonds threatening to capture another MVP award, and Cecil a front runner for the AL MVP award, maybe Magpie's current lead in the standings is short-lived.

Heavens. Can you imagine how insufferable WhiteSot will be if he adds another League crown to his collection? Go, Reds!

Speaking of the Reds, since they are the current leader and odds-on favorite to capture the League crown, let's take a look at how this team came together:

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Position	Name	Points	How Acquired
C	Penã, T.	614	Trade from Shamu
	Valle, D.	312	Draft 24th Round
1B	Grace, M.	902	Draft 9th Round
	Clark, W.	1045	Trade from Possum
2B	Franco, J.	1002	Draft 3rd Round
	Knoblauch, P.	782	Supplemental Draft
SS	Ripken, C.	1108	Draft 1st Round
	Schofield, D.	508	Draft 22nd Round
3B	Boggs, W.	948	Draft 2nd Round
	Gaetti, G.	723	Trade from Shamu
OF	Strawberry, D.	859	Trade from Shamu
	Calderon, J.	920	Draft 7th Round
	Clark, J.	878	Trade from Possum
	Deer, R.	738	Trade from Possum
	White, D.	1031	Draft 26th Round
	Gonzalez, J.	1005	Draft 19th Round
P	Cone, D.	321.2	Draft 5th Round
	Deleon, J.	198.5	Trade from Possum
	Harnisch, P.	344.7	Supplemental Draft
	Langston, M.	411.0	Trade from Possum
	Gordon, T.	204.0	Draft 21st Round
	Gooden, D.	379.5	Trade from Shamu
	Guthrie, M.	142.5	Draft 25th Round
RP	Eckersley, D.	423.5	Draft 11th Round
	Montgomery, J.	340.5	Trade from Shamu

TOTALS: 13 players originally drafted
5 players stolen from Possum
5 players fleeced from Shamu
2 players from Supplemental Draft

Interestingly, although Possum reportedly upbraided Shamu for trading with Magpie (Gooden, Strawberry, Gaetti, Penã and Montgomery for Surhoff, Ventura, Raines, Hill and Henke), in the final analysis it may turn out that the key to the Reds' glory season was the

blunderous trading of the Possum himself. By offering up Will Clark, Jack Clark, Rob Deer, Jose DeLeon and Mark Langston to Magpie for next to nothing, the unctuous rug merchant appears to have sealed his own fate. Since the trade was consummated, Will has been The Thrill and Jack is Back. Contrarily, the aging canines for whom Possum traded have rolled over in the sun and spent the last month looking to have their bellies scratched. The League antichrist has finally met his due.

HE IS HEAVY, BUT HE'S NOT MY BROTHER

Two-ton Tony Gwynn's batting average seems to be running inversely proportional to his weight these days. In other words, with each family reunion bucket of Colonel Sanders' chicken and each five-pound weight gain, Tony's average drops proportionately. While only a few short weeks ago the Gwynnmeister was among the League leaders in points, he has plummeted to 18th in the League standings. In fact, all of the Senators' top point getters have taken the last month or so off. While Gwynn, Joyner and Sandberg all once boasted of being in the top eight League players, not a single one of them is able to crack the top eight this week:

1.	Thomas	(Red Sox)	1219
2.	Sierra	(Cubs)	1168
3.	Molitor	(Cubs)	1167
4.	Fielder	(Tigers)	1128
5.	Palmeiro	(Blues)	1111
6.	Ripken	(Reds)	1108
7.	Canseco	(Chiefs)	1077
8.	Bonds	(Tigers)	1076
9.	Sandberg	(Senators)	1055
10.	Joyner	(Senators)	1050
18.	Gwynn	(Senators)	1013

Fortunately, my crackerjack pitching corps still maintains two pitchers in the top ten:

1.	D. Martinez	507.1
2.	T. Glavine	506.7
3.	L. Smith	493.1
4.	J. McDowell	462.6
5.	R. Martinez	452.6
6.	R. Clemens	440.1
7.	M. Henneman	433.0
8.	R. Aguilera	429.0
9.	B. Harvey	426.5
10.	D. Eckersley	423.5

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As you all know, I de-emphasized hitting in my draft selections this year, and placed heavy emphasis on pitching, taking Glavine in the 24th round and Lee Smith in the supplemental draft. This new strategy has obviously paid off handsomely, with the Senators' pitching staff now ranked second only to WhiteSot's Tigers:

Pitching Totals

Tigers	2246.53
<i>Senators</i>	2192.80
Reds	2061.57
Tribe	2025.10
Blues	2024.37
Red Sox	1938.17
Pirates	1894.00
Chiefs	1834.47
Cubs	1796.93
Skipjacks	1621.30

CHICAGO - OUR KIND OF TOWN

For the seventh consecutive year, McBlunder, Shamu and Skipper will attend the official Hot Stove League summer outing, this year back to Chicago. Joining this triumvirate of stalwarts will be Underbelly, Pipsqueak and Sandjigger. Notoriously (but not unexpectedly) absent will be the managers of the two top-ranked teams, Magpie and WhiteSot, as well as Baby Trumpetfish and the Possum. B.T. claims that he simply cannot attend a League function with more than 24 hours notice, and hence he must bypass this year's function. For Possum, this is the fifth consecutive summer that he has failed to muster up enough gumption to beg and plead with Tracy for permission to do something meaningful with his life by attending the trip. Magpie has no excuse other than his jellyfish-like spine which prevents him from obtaining a weekend kitchen pass.

Looks like Sandjigger has put together a splendid outing. Tough to beat two ballgames at Comiskey Park.

That's all for now. Post-trip update to follow.

Skipper

Shamu encounters a slight problem at his weekly grocery shopping trip.