

FROM THE BULLPEN

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The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1991 Season

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September 27, 1991

A Morning in the Life of a Hot Stove Leaguer

(Sunday, September 22, 1991) Buzzzzzzzz. There's that obnoxious alarm. Might as well get up and see what the paper has to say about the football game last night. I'm sure Charlie will have a million excuses for his Swiss cheese pass defense.

Hmmmm. Just as I thought. McBride says the pass interference call killed the Huskers. He makes me want to puke. Hmmmm. Guess I'll see how my boys did before I see what else Charlie has to bitch about.

The Box Scores

Cleveland 10, Baltimore 1. Let's see how Devereaux did. 4-0-1-0-. Oh, well. He's been doing pretty good. He was due for an off night. Let's see, Oakland 4, Toronto 0. Borders 2-0-0-0. Yawn. Hey, Boston scored 12 runs on New York. Maybe Ellis Burks is back in the lineup. Hmmmm. No Ellis. Looks like the fish has packed it in for the year. Wait a minute. Brunansky didn't play either. Boy, those turned out to be two rotten picks.

The Angels beat the White Sox. Let's see how Wally did. ????. How come Joyner isn't playing? Is he hurt now, too? I can't get a break. Milwaukee 5, Detroit 2. Looks like Billy Spiers didn't play. Sandjigger really hosed me on that one.

Minnesota 8, Texas 4. I see Tapani got another win for the Twins. I'm sure glad I traded him to Sandjigger. He'll be squawking about fleecing me all winter.

Kansas City got beat by Seattle (4 - 1). Eisenreich 1-0-0-0. Big deal.

Well, the American League was bleak, the National League boxes have got to be better.

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New York 5, St. Louis 3. All right! Pagnozzi scored a run! Things are looking up. Whoops. He had an error. How can a stinking catcher have 7 errors in one year? Maybe I can figure out a way to void that trade with Sandjigger. Pagnozzi is a pile of dog crap.

Oh, perfect. Tewksberry took the loss for St. Louis. That slug will never be a Senator again.

Cincinnati 4, Houston 1. No Senators here.

Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 0. Dickie Thon 4-0-1-0. So what. Lind 4-0-1-1. Ho-hum.

Los Angeles 2, Braves 1. Justice had 1 RBI. Sure glad I left him as a reserve.

San Diego 3, San Francisco 2. Fat Tony still isn't playing. What a surprise.

Chicago at Montreal, postponed because of broken stadium. Game will not be replayed. Thank you, Lord. One less game for Sandberg and Wallach.

Wow. What a dismal night. Let me add these up.

			<u>Points</u>
Starters:	Pagnozzi	2-1-0-01 E	0
	Joyner	DNP	0
	Sandberg	DNP	0
	Spiers	DNP	0
	Wallach	DNP	0
	Gwynn	DNP	0
	Burks	DNP	0
	Devereaux	4-0-1-0	3
Reserves:	Borders	2-0-0-0	1/4
	Magadan	DNP (Injured/out for year)	0
	Lind	4-0-1-1	7/4
	Thon	4-0-1-0	3/4
	King	DNP (Injured/out for year)	0
	Eisenreich	1-0-0-0	1/4
	Justice	3-0-0-1	5/4
	Brunansky	<u>DNP</u>	<u>0</u>
	20-1-3-2	7¼	

What an ugly performance. 20 at bats, 1 run, 3 hits, 2 RBI's, 0 doubles, 0 triples, 0 home runs, 0 stolen bases. There can't be any team in the League worse than my bleeping Senators. Except maybe the Mudhens. But wait til next year

Back to Reality

With two weeks to go in the League, here are the standings, and last week's points.

1.	Reds	13,227	519
2.	Tigers	13,062	536
3.	Cubs	12,643	349
4.	Blues	12,126	455
5.	Red Sox	12,042	449
6.	Pirates	11,986	482
7.	Tribe	11,878	433
8.	Chiefs	11,783	432
9.	Senators	11,650	443
10.	Skipjacks	11,162	368

These totals have not been adjusted, however, to reflect reserve players who have actually surpassed the designated starters in total points. *Case in point:* Bret Saberhagen is one of WhiteSot's designated starting pitchers. He has 434.5 points. However, Zane Smith has 471.5 points, and so the Tigers' point totals are inflated by a number of points. Magpie's point totals are inflated even more because Darryl Strawberry is not one of the Reds' designated starters, yet Strawberry has quite a few more points than Juan Gonzales and Ivon Calderon. When the totals are properly adjusted, the Reds' lead over the Tigers is even smaller.

The Pennant Race

It's going to go down to the wire this year, with the final outcome undoubtedly determined by post-season awards. WhiteSot would appear to be in the driver's seat with Cecil Fielder, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens all in the hunt for bonus points. Magpie has a crack at a Cy Young Award with Jack McDowell, and arguably Darryl Strawberry should be given consideration if the Dodgers win the pennant. But the inside track definitely goes to the Tigers. You heard it here first. Cecil will get the nod for the A.L. MVP, and Barry Bonds picks up his second straight in the N.L. Tigers win.

Special Thanks (To the Never-Ever Boys)

To the two newest members of the Skipper's growing list of never-ever's¹, Ellis Burks and Tony Gwynn, **thanks**. Thanks so much for letting me waste my second and third round draft picks on you. And thank you so much for completely crapping on my team's chances of defending the League title. Thank you so much for your gutless lack of performance this year. Thanks so much for giving this great game of baseball two more black eyes. And, above all, thanks for waiting until my Senators' roster was frozen before deciding to take the rest of the summer off at my personal expense. I hate both of you. If it comes down to picking either one of you or Felix Fermin in the 25th round next year, welcome to the Senators' camp, Felix.

With Tony and Ellis now on the list, now seems like a good time to take a look at Skipper's growing list of never-ever's:

<u>Name of Player</u>	<u>Year of Never-Ever Decision</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Darryl Strawberry	1985 (pre-draft)	Just hate him
Frank White	1985 (post-season)	Carping team cancer
Rich Gedman	1986	Bug eyes
Glen Wilson	1987	Stinks
Brook Jacoby	1988	Sterling 887 points
Andy Allanson	1989	Anemic 436 points
Harold Baines	1990	886 pts. - enough said?
Tony Gwynn	1991	Too fat
Ellis Burks	1991	A real quitter

New Scoring System

Reactions were uniformly positive to the suggested changes in our League scoring system, detailed in my last issue of *From the Bullpen*. I must confess, I was a bit surprised to hear that Possum is in favor of the suggested new format. With no rules to bend, how will Possum be able to bend the rules on trading? Of course, the answer is he will find a way to bastardize the proposed new format, just as he has done to our present system. Nevertheless (although I may eat these words later), it does appear that Possum's monkeyshines will be curtailed under the new system. Time will tell.

¹Denotes a former Senator player who will never-ever again be chosen or traded for by the Senators in the Eastern Nebraska Hot Stove League.

I suggest that we caucus further about the new scoring system at an end-of-season meeting, at which time the Cup will be delivered to the 1991 champion.

From Your League Historian

Shamu continues to lobby for an award of points based upon attendance at League functions, primarily the annual Summer Trip. He has a point. Shamu and certain others who have been faithful to the cause do in fact deserve special recognition for attendance at the annual Summer Trip. Others who have not attended quite so faithfully deserve to be slapped silly and their manhood seriously questioned. Just for fun, let's take a look at a history of our League's summer trips:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Trip Location</u>	<u>Baseball Games</u>		<u>Attendees</u>
		<u>Attended</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
1985	Kansas City	2 - Royals/Red Sox	Aug. 3-4	Shamu ² , Skipper, Possum
1986	Kansas City	2 - Royals/Yankees	Aug. 16-17	Shamu, McBlunder ³ , Skipper, Possum, Underbelly, WhiteSot ⁴
1987	Kansas City	1 - Royals/Twins	Oct. 4	Shamu, McBlunder ⁵ , Skipper, Possum
1988	Chicago	2 - Cubs/Cardinals	Aug. 13-14	Shamu, McBlunder, Skipper, Underbelly, Sandjigger, Magpie

²Then known as Snickler.

³Then known as Jon, not yet in League.

⁴Then known as Big Guy.

⁵Then known as Brother.

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1989	Kansas City Milwaukee Chicago	1 - Royals/Indians 2 - Brewers/Twins 1 - Cubs/Giants	July 20 July 21-22 July 24	Shamu, McBlunder, Skipper, Underbelly, SandJigger, WhiteSot, Pipsqueak ⁶
1990	Kansas City Texas	Royals/Brewers Rangers/Orioles Rangers/Red Sox	July 4 July 5 July 6-7	Shamu, McBlunder, Skipper, BabyTrumpetfish ⁷
1991	Chicago	2 - White Sox/ Indians	Aug. 31, Sept. 1	Shamu, McBlunder, Skipper, Underbelly, Skipjack ⁸ , Silent Assassin ⁹

How about a moment of silent appreciation for the two League members who have attended every trip. Thank you.

Of course, there have also been several unofficial League outings to watch baseball. There was the 1988 Spring Training trip to Phoenix (Underbelly, Skipper and Skipjack); the 1989 Spring Training trip to Florida (Underbelly, Skipjack, Shamu, Skipper); the 1987 junket to Fenway Park in Boston (Underbelly, Skipper, WhiteSot); last year's dash to Wrigley Field in Chicago for two games (Underbelly, Skipjack, McBlunder, Skipper); and of course this year's ill-fated sewage treatment plant excursion to Kansas City (only three of us actually made it to the game, Shamu, Skipper and McBlunder). All in all, a lot of games attended. More importantly, many more to come. Detroit and Toronto in '92.

Top Ten Lists

Although it no longer interests me in the slightest, in the solemn fulfillment of my duties, I present the following top ten lists of hitters and pitchers in the Hot Stove League:

⁶Then known as the Fox.

⁷Then known as Scooter.

⁸Then known as Sandjigger.

⁹Then known as Pipsqueak.

Hitters

1.	Ruben Sierra	1413
2.	Frank Thomas	1379
3.	Paul Molitor	1346
4.	Jose Canseco	1311
5.	Cecil Fielder	1301
6.	Barry Bonds (tie)	1299
	Raphael Palmeiro (tie)	1299
8.	Bobby Bonilla	1269
9.	Ryne Sandberg	1256
10.	Devon White	1241

Pitchers

1.	Roger Clemens	664.6
2.	Jack McDowell	595.0
3.	Tom Glavine	575.2
4.	Lee Smith	564.5
5.	Dennis Martinez	558.1
6.	Dennis Eckersley	543.0
7.	Brian Harvey	542.7
8.	Rick Aguilera	516.6
9.	Mark Langston	596.6
10.	Ramon Martinez	492.0

Magpie leads the pack with 5 players on the two top ten lists. WhiteSot is second with 4. The ninth place Senators have 3. The Cubs, Red Sox and Blues, 2 apiece. The Pirates and Chiefs, 1 each. That leaves only the Tribe and the lowly Mudhens, who haven't a single player in either top ten. Nicely done, fellas.

Potpourri

Underbelly claims to have made it through the entire year without having a single hitter or pitcher in the top ten of the League. Quite an accomplishment.

Two of WhiteSot's *reserve* pitchers, Jose Rijo and Zane Smith (471 points each) would be the *aces* of the Tribe and Pirate staffs.

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When did Dave Henderson contract AIDS (1098 points)?

Has there ever been a more pathetic team in our League than the 1991 Mudhens? Arguably not.

Somehow we managed to get our point totals this week, even though Herr Masterspieler is over in Germany swilling beer at Oktoberfest. Either he found an intoxicated fraulein with a fax machine, or he commissioned the Silent Assassin to fill in for him while he is continuing on with his love affair with life.

Magpie claims that no less than six League managers have called to wish him luck in the pennant race with WhiteSot, all in the name of dread fear that the cocksure Tiger manager will have another winter to crow about his baseball acumen.

The Core Six's veto of Magpie's trade with Pipsqueak has apparently been cast asunder, as a consequence of Magpie's unveiled threat to secede from the League. Nobody asked my opinion on that one.

Note that Possum the Pasta King has time to mug for the newspaper reporters, but no time to attend League functions. Prioritize, evil one.

Closing

And now, the moving hand, having written, moves on. Enjoy the waning moments of the 1991 campaign.

Your humble scribe,

Skipper

With dogged determination, Shamu inhales brat eleven.

The boys in this picture paddle their own canoe.
(Where is Skipjack?)

U-belly chafes at yet another
caustic remark from McBlunder.

Shamu in an unfamiliar pose. Will it fit?

Now this is a ballpark!

And the walls came tumbling down.