



FROM THE BULLPEN

Official Publication of
The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1992 Season

Edition No. 2
March 17, 1992

Colleagues:

Spring at last! The sun is coming up earlier, the weather is getting warmer, the trees are a-bud, and a young man's fancy turns to -- baseball. Other signs of spring and the onset of another season of Hot Stove League baseball: WhiteSot is on the phone thirty minutes per day per League member, talking about anything but the legal work he should be doing; Shamu is dreaming of the epicurean delights that the Detroit, Toronto and Cleveland concessionaires will be offering up; Underbelly is wringing his hands, fretting about another season of spelling miscues; Possum is ducking phone calls seeking confirmation of reservations for this summer's trip to end all baseball trips; Magpie is busy planning family conflicts for the summer; Pipsqueak is finishing up his Dale Carnegie assertiveness course, determined this season to uncork many years of bottled-up opinions; the Jigger is scrambling for convincing bald-faced lies to tell Anne about his need to go to Detroit June 11-14; McBlunder is practicing his driving skills for the tri-city van ride to hell and back; and Baby Trumpetfish is scheming desperately for that elusive championship in the Hot Stove League, the crowning glory of his life's work.

Mark Your Calendars, Please

It is a busy season for the members of the Hot Stove League, what with the pending nuptials of two of our League members, and the upcoming League draft, League trips and other hullabaloo. Etch these dates in stone:

March 18, 1992

(Wednesday)

Skipper, Underbelly and B.T. leave for spring training¹
in Phoenix, where they will tentatively join up (subject

¹Shamu has asked me to point out that this is not truly an official League-sanctioned trip, henceforth keeping his perfect attendance record alive.

to the approval of Queen Anne) Sandjigger for baseball, beer, more baseball and more beer. Rest assured we will share any hot tips gained from the Grapefruit League with our League brethren.

March 21, 1992
(Sunday)

Skipper, Underbelly and B.T. return from Phoenix with up-to-the-minute drafting tips for dissemination to all Hot Stove League members.

March 27, 1992
(Friday)

The mother-of-all stag parties (see enclosure).

March 31, 1992
(Tuesday)

Eighth Annual Hot Stove League Draft begins at 7:00 p.m. Gaines Mullen War Room. Get ready for the dance.

April 4, 1992
(Saturday)

Shamu's wedding vows, followed by festive Shriner reception (don't forget your fez) in Fremont, Nebraska.

April 6, 1992
(Monday)

Opening Day. PLAY BALL!

April 11, 1992
(Saturday)

Sandjigger's last moment of manhood (to be followed by wedding vows). (No reception to follow. Sandjigger's friends considered too "vulgar" and unrefined for public display.)

June 11, 1992
(Thursday)

Beginning of mother-of-all baseball trips.
Boston Red Sox vs. Toronto Blue Jays

June 12, 1992
(Friday)

Shamu and Sandjigger, having had their fill of marriage, lock arms and traverse Niagara Falls in a whiskey barrel.

New York Yankees vs. Cleveland Indians

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June 13, 1992
(Saturday)

Visit to Bob-a-Link golf course.
_____ vs. Detroit Tigers

June 14, 1992
(Sunday)

_____ vs. Detroit Tigers
McBlunder realizes he has missed flight home to Kansas City. Places dreaded phone call to spouse.

October 4, 1992
(Sunday)

End of regular season play. Senators claim second Hot Stove League championship.

Close Encounters of Another Kind

Having survived their spouse-mandated weekend marital/sexual/get-in-touch-with-her-feelings encounters, Shamu and Sandjigger are now ready to tie the proverbial knot and enter into the blissful arena of marriage. With their backbreaking back-to-back nuptials on April 4 and 11, the last League bastian of bachelorhood, freedom and love of life will be in the person of none other than Underbelly. But don't worry, U-belly, the rest of us will be looking out for you and trying to find you the right woman. If we had to do it, so do you. You've loved your life long enough.

I have confided to Shamu that once he is married and the honeymoon is over, he will be expected to continue to frequently carry out his conjugal duties. In other words, after he punches out at work, he can't forget that he has another job to do when he gets home. Shamu has already indicated concern about having the wherewithal to satisfy his marital duties after an exhausting day at the office. To help him out, I have enclosed a top ten list of reasons and excuses that Shamu can't or won't perform his conjugal duties.

DRAFT DAY

Because of the difficulty in accommodating everybody's busy schedules (my, aren't we all important), for the first time ever we have scheduled the Hot Stove League draft for a Tuesday. This year, the Eighth Annual Hot Stove League draft will take place on Tuesday, March 31, 1992, at the Gaines Mullen War Room. We hope to begin drafting promptly at 7:00 p.m., depending on how hard McBlunder puts the pedal to the metal on his road trip from Kansas City. Since we are drafting for the first time under our new

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format, and selecting a minimum of thirty players each, plan to be available until 11 p.m. or midnight, if necessary. My brother Dan is keypunching day and night (so he says, but possibly a bold-faced lie) to try to finish our new point system program by draft day. Although there is a fair amount of concern among those of us who know Dan about whether he will get the job done by the start of the season, don't bother placing a call to him. He is not returning calls from Hot Stove League members these days. Keep your fingers crossed.

See you on the 31st. B.T., Shamu wants to know if you will be bringing ...

Special Recognition

... goes to Stretch McBlunder, who has stretched his minimal legal ability and maximal powers of schmooze into a partner position at Fairchild Stang. Within a few years we will expect the firm to be known as McBlunder, Fairchild & Stang.

... and to WhiteSot, for his yeoman work in putting together this year's summer trip to Toronto, Cleveland and Detroit. All I can say is -- WOW! Don't miss it. And this means you, Possum.

New Address

Because his new bride-to-be refused to make house in his bachelor den of iniquity, Sandjigger has purchased a new home for his sweetie. Henceforth, all League mailings should be sent to Sandjigger addressed as follows:

John (Thielen) Dean
16720 "V" Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68135

Sandjigger's new telephone number at that address is 895-6044.

New Feature

This year *From the Bullpen* will feature a section designed to test your knowledge of baseball. With each issue, a baseball question will be posed. The first League member to contact the Skipper with the correct answer to the question will be given one bonus point.

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At the end of the season, the person with the most bonus points will win a special prize from *From the Bullpen*. This week's quiz question:

Which baseball Hall-of-Famer won two Triple Crowns,
but was not named the MVP in either season?

Closing

That's all for this issue. Welcome to 1992 and another spectacular year of baseball in the Hot Stove League.

Skipper