



Philadelphia A's, 1908-1912

FROM THE BULLPEN

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

Edition No. 3
April 6, 1992

Colleagues:

Let the games begin! With the season opening today, there will be box scores tomorrow and for the next six months. Ahhh, it's good to be alive!

I am enclosing for your use the draft sheets indicating every team's order of selection, and a single roster sheet containing a listing of each team's personnel by position. Also enclosed is a summary of the players selected in our draft from each major league team. Interestingly, the team with the least number of players selected (8) was the Atlanta Braves, last year's World Series participant. Here is a recap of the number of players taken from each major league team:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Total Players Drafted</u>	<u>Top Draft Round</u>
Blue Jays	17	Second (3)
Mets	16	First
Athletics	15	First
Red Sox	15	First
Yankees	15	Seventh
Mariners	13	First
Rangers	13	First
Reds	13	First
Royals	13	Fifth

Twins	13	Second
	Total Players	Top Draft
<u>Team</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Round</u>
White Sox	13	First
Dodgers	12	Third
Cardinals	12	Ninth (4)
Padres	12	Third (2)
Brewers	11	Fourth
Expos	11	Eighth
Indians	11	Eighth
Orioles	11	First
Phillies	11	Sixth
Astros	10	Fifth
Angels	9	Sixth
Tigers	9	First
Cubs	9	First
Pirates	9	Second
Giants	9	Second (2)
Braves	8	Second

Next to the running of the bulls at Pamplona, the most sacred tradition that I am aware of is the Skipper's own analysis of each manager's selections in the Hot Stove League initial draft. Once again I give you, in order of selection, the Skipper's annual critique and prognostication:

REDS

General Comments: It is obvious that Magpie spends a great deal more time in preparing for the draft than he does in front of the mirror analyzing his own coiffure. It is apparent that Magpie fully intends to successfully defend his 1991 League crown. He picked a very good team.

Team Strengths: Pitching, shortstop, overall balance.

Team Weaknesses: Outfield could be so-so.

Best Pick: George Brett in the 26th round (how did this happen??)

Worst Pick: Edgar Martinez in the 7th round. This one could have waited a few rounds, Magpie.

Point of Interest: Magpie's squad has 17 National Leaguers out of 32.

Predicted Order of Finish: 1st

TIGERS

General Comments: Although his drafting strategy changed dramatically this year, it is obvious that WhiteSot did not get cheated out of much preparation time for this year's draft. Despite protestations to the contrary, WhiteSot obviously spent more time crunching baseball numbers in March than he did polishing up legal briefs and memoranda. Once again, he was equal to the task of selecting a contending Hot Stove League squad.

Team Strengths: A terrific infield (anchored by Sandberg and Clark), and a surprisingly strong pitching staff, considering that his first pitcher was not taken until the 6th round (who drafted this team, anyway?)

Team Weaknesses: With Ellis Burks and Eric Davis as his top two outfielders, WhiteSot's outfield could be the bane of the 1992 campaign.

Best Pick: Andy Benes in the 6th round (this should be Andy's bust-out year).

Worst Pick: Wade Boggs in the 3rd round (with Robin Ventura still available, why would you pick this washed-up philanderer).

Point of Interest: WhiteSot picked only one player (Tettleton) from last year's Tiger team that barely missed capturing the League crown. Clean House!

Predicted Order of Finish 2nd

CUBS

General Comments: Although Shamu got off to a good start in the first three rounds of the draft (Sierra, Alomar, Fernandez), his mind soon turned to mush as he evidently began pondering his rapidly approaching prison sentence (wedding day). The panic which overtook him apparently crept in immediately before Shamu's 4th round selection, when he picked up nice guy Kevin Mitchell in the 4th round. Apparently convinced that Mitch will prosper by hitting in the band box and that the Seattle SWAT team will keep him in line, Shamu began his roller coaster ride from third place with this selection.

Team Strengths:	Middle infield, pitching.
Team Weaknesses:	Behind the plate, at the corners and in the outfield.
Best Pick:	Roberto Alomar in the 2nd (solid as a rock).
Worst Pick:	No surprise here, Mitch in the 4th.
Point of Interest:	With Jack Morris, Bill Gullickson, Carlton Fisk and Dale Murphy, Shamu has the corner on the all-age squad.
Predicted Order of Finish:	8th

PIRATES

General Comments: The Silent Assassin once again did what he does best on draft day: kept his mouth shut, and his supple mind working. Rumor has it that the quiet one is tired of his annual mediocre fourth, fifth and sixth place finishes in the Hot Stove League, and vows this year to bring home the hardware. Skipper says: No friggin' way.

Team Strengths:	On the mound and at the corners.
Team Weaknesses:	Weak at shortstop and catcher, so-so in the outfield.

Best Pick: Taking pitchers in rounds 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 (shrewd drafting, Silent One).

Worst Pick: Jack McDowell in the 5th (last year was his zenith).

Point of Interest: This year's Pirates feature two 1991 Pirates, Darren Daulton and Felix Jose.

Predicted Order of Finish: 5th (mediocrity begets mediocrity).

RED SOX

General Comments: Once again the devil-boy has picked what looks to be -- let's face it -- a lousy team. Once again, his constant and infuriating violation of our one-minute drafting deadline per round has worked against him, not for him. And yet once again we know that Brother Lucifer will be right back in the thick of things come crunch time. As surely as the annual sojourn of the Nebraska sand cranes, our own version of Don King will lie, steal and cheat his way into contention by September. It is, as they say, a *fait accompli*.

Team Strengths: At the corners and behind the plate.

Team Weaknesses: Outfield is iffy, pitching a question mark, weak as a kitten in the middle infield.

Best Pick: Hard to say. Delino DeShields in the 13th?

Worst Pick: Cecil Fielder in the 1st (but I may eat my words on this one).

Point of Interest: Ten of Possum's first 12 picks were American Leaguers. Possum has 5 Sox on his team (3 White, 2 Red).

Predicted Order of Finish: 4th

BLUES

General Comments: Thanks for your donation, Stretch. I wouldn't count on getting any of it back. Your team was looking pretty good until about the 9th round, when it appears that your meaningful brain wave activity came to a screeching stop.

Team Strengths:	A strong outfield and Clemens, Abbott and Tapani.
Team Weaknesses:	A soft infield with no depth, and a hapless catching tandem.
Best Pick:	Ron Gant in the 3rd.
Worst Pick:	Tie - rounds 10 through 30.
Point of Interest:	On his way to picking up 19 American Leaguers out of his 30 selections, Stretch was lucky enough to be able to snare 4 Royals on his team.
Predicted Order of Finish:	9th

TRIBE

General Comments: True to form, U-belly picked not only a suspect team in terms of talent and balance, but perhaps the biggest conglomeration of whiners, moaners, malingerers, grouseurs and hotheads that this League has ever known. If U-belly was looking for a team with some real chemistry, he found it: Strawberry, Rijo, Canseco, and the Dean of Dissension, Jack Clark. Stand back and enjoy the fireworks.

Team Strengths:	Hard to put a finger on. If healthy and not incarcerated, the outfield could be a best-ever in this League.
Team Weaknesses:	With the exception of Matt Williams, the Tribe infield is painfully inadequate (Fryman, Roberts, Murray and Pagnozzi).
Best Pick:	Matt Williams in the 2nd (he's on tap for a big, big year).

Worst Pick: Travis Fryman in the 5th (he might have lasted a wee bit longer, like 15 rounds).

Point of Interest: None.

Predicted Order of Finish: 7th

CHIEFS

General Comments: Ouch. Someone here was asleep at the switch. This is a team that is going nowhere. Good luck in your other League, B.T.

Team Strengths: Hmm. I'll get back to you on this.

Team Weaknesses: Everywhere.

Best Pick: Ken Griffey, Jr. in the 1st (a no-brainer).

Worst Pick: Rickey Henderson in the 3rd, David Cone in the 4th, etc.

Point of Interest: B.T.'s physicians have indicated he may have suffered an aneurism during the draft.

Predicted Order of Finish: 10th

SENATORS

General Comments: Some people are calling this the comeback team of the year.

Team Strengths: Equanimity, depth, solid infield.

Team Weaknesses: Pitching might be just a teensy, weensy bit thin (but who cares).

Best Pick: Pete Harnisch in the 9th.

Worst Pick: Not picking George Brett in the 24th

Point of Interest: Only manager ever to draft three consecutive Kevins (Reimer, Elster and Maas)

Predicted Order of Finish: 3rd (we're moving on up).

MUDHENS (a/k/a/ SKIPJACKS)

General Comments: Just as its owner, the Mudjacks are suffering from a real lack of identity, but hey, this team ain't that bad! We all thought at the conclusion of the draft that Sandjigger was fretting more about the new sponge-blob wallpaper that Anne has ordered for every room of his new castle than who he was picking in the draft, but maybe we were wrong. With a little bit of attention and a fair amount of luck, this team could even be considered for upper-division status.

Team Strengths: Decent infield, decent outfield, decent pitching.

Team Weaknesses: No Captain Americas on this team -- a pretty bland group of non-superstars.

Best Pick: Doug Drabek in the 4th (it's comeback time).

Worst Pick: Danny Tartabull on the 7th (a bust in the Big Apple)

Predicted Order of Finish: 6th

Biweekly Line-ups

Don't forget to call in your starting line-ups by Sunday night every other week. If you didn't call U-belly last night by midnight (April 5), your starting line-up will be the first player taken by you at each position, and your first five pitchers. If you fail to make a call by midnight on a given Sunday, your team for the next two week period will be the same team as your last two week period (although U-belly has threatened to play whoever he wants in your starting line-up if you fail to make the call).

Announcing Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair

Congratulations to Sir Charles and Lady Jan for having successfully entered into the world of nuptial bliss in Fremont on April 4, 1992. For those of you who could not make it to the reception, Shamu was quite concerned about his honeymoon in Cancun. Not whether he could perform his conjugal duties, but whether the El Charro Hotel had television which carried ESPN Sports Center in English (El Shamu Grande no speaka de Español).

Statistics

Underbelly is still hoping and praying that Brother Dan will have the computer program done in time to issue statistics after the first two weeks of the season. If not, U-belly has promised to get out his abacus and giant fun box of Crayolas to provide us with the coveted first returns.

FTB Quiz

Underbelly was the surprise winner of the quiz in the last issue of *From the Bullpen* (Who is the only major league player to win two Triple Crowns and not be named MVP in either season? Answer: Ted Williams, 1942 and 1947.)

This week's quiz:

1. **Name the old-time player whose picture is on the front page of this issue of *From the Bullpen*.**
2. **This long-time manager of the Braves, Yankees and other teams was lovingly referred to as the "Old Perfesser."**

See you next issue.

Skipper