



FROM THE BULLPEN

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

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Greetings and welcome to another issue of *From the Bullpen*. At the All-Star break, after sixteen weeks of competition, the Hot Stove League standings look like this:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Last 2 Weeks</u>
1.Skipjacks	7747.7	1276.5
2.Senators	7354.1	1176.0
3.Reds	7244.4	928.4
4.Cubs	7244.2	1008.5
5.Tigers	7104.8	1083.5
6.Tribe	6740.3	1120.5
7.Red Sox	6727.5	1182.7
8.Blues	6593.6	881.0
9.Pirates	6342.1	858.5
10.Chiefs	5940.9	802.7

The Skipjacks scored a season best 1276.5 points for the past two-week session, with a pitching total of 552.5, a new record. Can the Skipjacks be stopped? Read on.

SKIPJACKS OWNER GUARANTEES VICTORY!

Shortly before leaving on yet another vacation (this time to beautiful Orlando -- nothing like a cool July vacation in Orlando, eh, Jigger? 100% humidity, a billion Disney-world tourists, and no major league baseball. Who is your travel agent, anyway?), my boisterous ex-neighbor (my choice, not his) was heard to be proclaiming victory for the once-lowly Skipjacks, despite the fact that the season is only at the halfway point. Buoyed by unthinkable first half performances by Terry Pendleton and Chuck Knoblauch, and bolstered by an unbelievable spate of shutouts and other stellar performances from his pitching corps, the cocksure Jigger firmly believes that the Skipjacks are untouchable this season. We shall see. Remember the 1964 Phillies.

Here are your leaders at the halfway point:

Top Ten Hitters

1.Puckett	852
2.Anderson	766
3.Van Slyke	751
4.Thomas	745
5.Knoblauch	745
6.Sierra	733
7.Mack	730
8.McGwire	725
9.Alomar	724
10.Molitar	719

Who's Hot

1.Bell	170
2.DeShields	155
3.Palmer	138
4.W. Clark	136
5.E. Martinez	136
6.Listach	136
7.Baerga	135
8.Palmeiro	134
9.Phillips	131
10.Larkin	129

Top Ten Pitchers

11.Glavine	587.4
12.Brown	549.8
13.Cone	528.3
14.Nagy	511.8
15.Clemens	510.0
16.Guzman	502.3
17.Smoltz	493.0
18.Maddux	481.9
19.Appier	472.5
20.Tewksberry	457.3

TRADE WINDS

As the season approached the midway point, the League was awash in trades. Some good, some bad. But all worthy of comment:

- The Senators traded the best player in all of baseball, Kirby Puckett, along with Hal Morris, to the Red Sox for Cecil Fielder, David Justice and Brady Anderson. Why? That's what I'd like to know. I love Kirby Puckett. I've always loved Kirby Puckett. Kirby Puckett is having a career year. I swore I would never trade him. But the Possum came a-calling. You know the rest of the story.
- Rocked back on my heels by the Puckett trade, I then decided to unload David Justice, who is due to bust out, to the hapless Chiefs, who need help everywhere. It was Rafael Palmeiro, David Justice and Joe Oliver for -- horror of horrors -- Mike Devereaux. That's right, the man whose selection in the 6th round last year brought me ridicule, scorn and ignominy is back to do more of the same to the Skipper in 1992. I see that Palmeiro went 5-for-5 Sunday, Justice appears to be heating up, and Devereaux suddenly can't even hit his IQ. Somebody initiate the guardianship proceedings, please.
- The Tigers traded reliever Jeff Reardon to the Red Sox (who were desperately in need of a reliever) for -- I'm still scratching my head on this one -- Kirk McCaskill. McCaskill promptly went out and got rocked after this trade. How did this happen? WhiteSot has pleaded *nolo contendere* on this one. He claims that he was in the midst of finishing a brief at the eleventh hour (when else?), and was in a heated frenzy to wrap things up so that the Federal Express agent could make the delivery, when Possum called him up on the phone and insisted on a trade. You know the rest of the story.

SPIELMEISTER STRYKES AGEN!

From the Bullpen had not heard from Underbelly for a considerable amount of time. Then, the pent-up bitterness over Dan's ignoring him became too much to keep in, and Underbelly spilled his guts with his knee-slapping Top Ten Reasons Dan Blew Us Off. Unfortunately, but certainly not surprisingly, reasons 10 and 4 contain misspellings, something that has occurred with Masterspieler's writings all to frequently. And that ain't no phoney baloney. Naturally, Masterspieler will be kasting his voat this November for President Qaile, who has promased to inklude edjewcational reform as a top prioarety.

Concerning that top ten list, Brother Dan has reviewed it and feels that it is scandalous, derogatory, and most assuredly, illiterate. Dan has created his own list of the actual reasons that he did not complete a computer scorekeeping program for Underbelly in advance of this season's commencement. I pass it along:

10. Tired of listening to U-belly's constant railroad jargon.
9. Afraid to place telephone call to house where haunted dog reportedly lives.
8. Holds grudge against U-belly for constantly misspelling his name (Dann).
7. Computer caught virus from U-belly's ailing hardware.
6. Likes to hear U-belly grunt, gasp and groan when he tells him the program will be done in "just another week or to."
5. U-belly's personal checks for past computer programs keep bouncing.
4. Likes to see how much computer equipment U-belly will buy at his direction.
3. Enjoys U-belly's groveling.
2. Plans to finish it up after one more episode of "Star Trek - The Next Generation."
1. Hates baseball.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

U-belly was kind enough to purchase for me recently a book entitled *Baseball's Greatest Quotations*. Of course, it is replete with statements attributed to Yogi Berra. Some of them are certainly worth repeating:

A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore.

Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.

Boy, I'm glad I don't live in them days.

He is a big clog in their machine. (Referring to Ted Williams.)

I want to thank you for making this day necessary. (At a Yogi Berra Day.)

If the people don't want to come out to the park, nobody's going to stop them.

If you come to a fork in the road, take it.

It ain't over till it's over.

It gets late early out here.

It's de ja vu all over again.

It's so crowded nobody goes there anymore.

So I'm ugly. So what? I never saw anyone hit with his face.

The other teams could make trouble for us if they win.

We have deep depth.

We made too many wrong mistakes.

Well, I used to look like this when I was young and now I still do.

Why buy good luggage. You only use it when you travel.

You can observe a lot by watching.

Next issue: Quotes from Dizzy Dean.

LATE SEASON OUTING

At the most excellent suggestion of Brother Shamu, a late season outing has tentatively been scheduled for August 28 and 29. Plans call for a group retreat on Friday evening to Rosenblatt to watch the Omaha Royals host the Oklahoma City 89ers. The following morning, we will plan to get in 9 or 18 holes of golf, perhaps followed by lunch at the Scorecard. Make your plans early, and plan to be here. Hope you can make it up from Kansas City, McBlunder. And you, Denny, hello, hello? Are you still out there? Assert your wanting authority and try to secure a kitchen pass for that weekend. We've forgotten what you look like (which may work to your advantage).

DID YOU KNOW?

- In each of his 13 full seasons (1926-1938), Lou Gehrig scored over 100 runs and drove in more than 100.
- The Cleveland Indians last won a pennant in 1954. Only the Chicago Cubs have had a longer drought.
- Maury Wills made a guest appearance on "Get Smart" in 1969.
- Sandy Kaufax and Hank Greenberg are in the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in Netanya, Israel.

In closing, keep the faith.

Skipper