



FROM THE BULLPEN

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Eastern Nebraska Division
1992 Season

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WORST TO FIRST!

In a year of personal firsts (first date, first marriage, first Rogaine use, first salary over minimum wage, first trip naked over Niagara Falls in a barrel), the beloved Sandjigger has recorded yet another first: First Hot Stove League finish *not in the lower division*. In a rags-to-riches season in which he captured the imagination of all of middle America, the affable Sandjigger overcame seemingly insurmountable odds by drafting in the 10th position (after last season's miserable Mudhens cellar finish), but finishing on top of the heap by a comfortable margin. With his fabulous pitching quartet of Glavine, Drabek, Smoltz and Brown, and buoyed by another M.V.P.-type season from Terry Pendleton, the Skipjacks rocketed into the lead during the first fortnight, and relinquished the top spot only for a few weeks in May and June. From June 15th on, it was all the Skipjacks and Jigger magic.

With audited point totals in, let's take a look once again at how the teams finished up this year:

	Team	Totals
1.	Skipjacks	14,003.2
2.	Senators	13,609.1
3.	Reds	13,597.9
4.	Cubs	13,554.9
5.	Tigers	13,166.8*
6.	Red Sox	12,706.4
7.	Blues	12,106.1
8.	Tribe	11,973.3
9.	Pirates	11,970.6
10.	Chiefs	11,520.4

* WhiteSot's two-week point total for the last session was corrected from 704 to 905 points.

THE PAYOFF

Based on the order of finish, the payoff goes like this:

Sandjigger	\$600.00
Skipper	\$200.00
Magpie	\$100.00

To compensate him for his yeoman work in providing the statistics, Underbelly's entry fee of \$100 is again waived. Magpie will likewise pay nothing, as the third place finisher keeps his own entry fee of \$100. As the second place finisher, I keep my own entry fee of \$100, and receive an additional \$100 from another of you. Since Baby Trumpetfish will be digging out his wallet to pay off a couple of side bets to me anyway, I will simply make arrangements with him to pay me his \$100 entry fee as well. And now to discuss Sandjigger's compensation. In a euphoric moment after realizing that he had won the title, Sandjigger commented that because he really is only in the League because of his love of the game, and because the pride of winning the title and having his name engraved on the Cup is reward enough, he may decide to waive payment of winnings to him. However, in the event that Sandjigger reconsiders and selfishly demands payment, the following five of you should make your checks payable to Anne in the amount of \$100 and send them off promptly: Shamu, WhiteSot, Possum, McBlunder and Pipsqueak.

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

Hearty congratulations to Sandjigger for his first taste of victory in the Hot Stove League. With his name about to be placed on the Cup, let's take a look at the winners of the HSL past and present:

1992	Jigger	SkipMuds
1991	Magpie	Reds
1990	Skipper	Senators
1989	WhiteSot	Tigers
1988	WhiteSot	Tigers
1987	WhiteSot	Tigers
1986	Possum	Red Sox
1985	Possum	Red Sox

THE SHRINE

With his first place finish in the Hot Stove League, Sandjigger has yet another monument to himself to place in his basement shrine. Undoubtedly, winning the Hot Stove League amounts to the greatest achievement of his life to date. Let's take a look at the Sandjigger's Top Ten Lifetime Achievements:

1. 1992 Hot Stove League Title
2. Marrying a woman
3. Winning recognition as FDR's "Bombastic Backslapper"
4. Marrying a woman under 50
5. Taking 2 out of 3 from George in Triple Yahtzee
6. Anne's immaculate conception
7. Successful impersonation of Kenny Jenkins
8. Winning Pheasanteer-of-the-Year Award
9. Being High school toady to Tim Burke
10. Having likeness featured on AIDS quilt

HOW DID HE DO IT

In the season of the fluke, we all know that Sandjigger did it with smoke and mirrors, good fortune, luck and more luck. But let's look at part of the magic formula that the wily Sandjigger stirred to success on draft day:

<u>Name of Player</u>	<u>Draft Round</u>	<u>Season's Points</u>
Kevin Brown	21st	850.5
Terry Pendleton	15th	1316
Chuck Knoblauch	14th	1270
Mel Hall	28th	1100
Cal Eldred	Supplemental Pick	432.5 (half season)

Our hats are off to you, Sandjigger. You took a mediocre group, and adroitly managed them to the 1992 Hot Stove League title. Megakudos. Enjoy your 15 minutes of fame.

TOP 25

Here are the top 25 hitters for the year, with their team, this year's point totals, last year's point totals, and draft positions:

Player	Team	This Year's Point Totals	1991's Point Totals	Draft Position
1. Kirby Puckett	Red Sox ¹	1490	1289	19
2. Frank Thomas	Pirates	1487	1466	4
3. Barry Bonds	Reds	1411	1418	11
4. Andy Van Slyke	Blues	1406	1158	75
5. Paul Molitar	Blues	1380	1527	36
6. Roberto Alomar	Cubs	1368	1245	13
7. Dave Winfield	Senators	1365	1139	149
8. Brady Anderson	Senators ²	1334	NS ³	313
9. Joe Carter	Blues	1329	1309	16
10. Shane Mack	Tigers	1319	1048	132
11. Ryne Sandberg	Tigers	1319	1387	2
12. Terry Pendleton	Skipjacks	1316	1186	150
13. Ray Lankford	Reds	1311	1148	90
14. Carlos Baerga	Senators	1303	1022	119
15. Tony Phillips	Tribe	1294	1153	117
16. Marquis Grissom	Red Sox	1287	1003	176
17. Jeff Bagwell	Pirates	1283	NS	134
18. Mike Devereaux	Senators ⁴	1280	1086	148
19. Ken Griffey, Jr.	Chiefs	1276	1285	8
20. Chuck Knoblauch	Skipjacks	1270	1009	140
21. Don Mattingly	Blues	1259	NS	95
22. Dave Hollins	Tigers	1237	NS	292
23. Cecil Fielder	Senators ⁵	1236	1403	5
24. Tim Lincecum	Pirates	1234	1230	34
25. Albert Belle	Tigers	1231	965	79

¹Drafted by Senators.

²Drafted by Red Sox.

³NS - Not selected or discarded in 1991.

⁴Drafted by Chiefs.

⁵Drafted by Red Sox.

Now let's take a look at the top 25 pitchers:

Pitcher	Team	This Year's Point Totals	Last Year's Point Totals ⁶	Draft Positions
1. Greg Maddux	Cubs	999	506	43
2. Roger Clemens	Blues	905	694	6
3. Mike Mussina	Reds	867	NS	131
4. Jack McDowell	Pirates	854	584	44
5. Kevin Brown	Skipjacks	850	171	201
6. David Cone	Chiefs	841	466	38
7. Tom Glavine	Skipjacks	839	613	30
8. Doug Drabek	Skipjacks	831	424	50
9. Chuck Nagy	Blues	824	NS	195
10. Curt Schilling	Cubs	813	NS	332+
11. Dennis Eckersley	Senators	799	570	139
12. John Smoltz	Skipjacks	788	377	71
13. Doug Jones	Tribe	784	NS	316
14. Bob Tewksbury	Senators	773	272	272
15. Jack Morris	Cubs	760	504	103
16. Mike Morgan	Tribe	756	481	217
17. John Smiley	Pirates	746	507	77
18. Dennis Martinez	Cubs	732	549	78
19. Jamie Navarro	Chiefs	728	394	203
20. Ken Hill	Senators	719	293	202
21. Dave Fleming	Senators	717	NS	329
22. Sid Fernandez	Reds	712	NS	160
23. Melido Perez	Cubs	703	NS	288
24. Kevin Appier	Tigers	690	412	89
25. Chris Bosio	Tigers	689	400	172

⁶Under old scoring system - 2 points per inning pitched.

FIRST ROUNDERS

It's always fun to take a look at how the golden boys from the first round did over the course of the year:

Team	Player	Points	Rank Among Position
Reds	Cal Ripken	1073	3rd/shortstops
Tigers	Ryne Sandberg	1319	2nd/second basemen
Cubs	Ruben Sierra	1203	17th/outfielders
Pirates	Frank Thomas	1487	1st/first basemen
Red Sox	Cecil Fielder	1236	5th/first basemen
Blues	Roger Clemens	905	2nd/pitchers
Tribe	Jose Canseco	994	36th/outfielders
Chiefs	Ken Griffey, Jr.	1276	11th/outfielders
Senators	Bobby Bonilla	909	11th/third basemen
Skipjacks	Barry Larkin	1123	2nd/shortstops

That was so much fun, let's take a look at the second round:

Team	Player	Points	Rank Among Position
Reds	Barry Bonds	1411	2nd/outfielders
Tigers	Will Clark	1065	12th/first basemen
Cubs	Roberto Alomar	1368	1st/second basemen
Pirates	Howard Johnson	682	19th/third basemen
Red Sox	David Justice	1020	33rd/outfielders
Blues	Joe Carter	1329	6th/outfielders
Tribe	Matt Williams	796	17th/third basemen
Chiefs	Kelly Gruber	612	22nd/third basemen
Senators	Kirby Puckett	1490	1st/outfielders
Skipjacks	Julio Franco	197	27th/second basemen

POSITION LEADERS

The following is a list of the top ten point-getters for each position in the League in 1992:

C	Darren Daulton	1195
1B	Frank Thomas	1487
2B	Roberto Alomar	1368
3B	Terry Pendleton	1316
SS	Travis Fryman	1185
OF	Kirby Puckett	1490
SP	Greg Maddux	999
RP	Dennis Eckersley	799

SAGEST PICKS

The following is a list of the sagest selections of 1992:

Player	Team	1992 Point Totals	Round Drafted
1. Dave Hollins	Tigers	1237	30th
2. Gary Sheffield	Red Sox	1209	20th
3. Carlos Baerga	Senators	1303	12th
4. Tony Phillips	Tribe	1294	12th
5. Terry Pendleton	Skipjacks	1316	15th
6. Dave Winfield	Senators	1365	15th
7. Marquis Grissom	Red Sox	1287	18th
8. Mike Devereaux	Chiefs	1280	15th
9. Chuck Knoblauch	Skipjacks	1270	14th
10. Mike Mussina	Reds	867	14th
11. Kevin Brown	Skipjacks	850	21st
12. Chuck Nagy	Blues	824	20th
13. Bob Tewksberry	Senators	773	28th
14. Mike Morgan	Tribe	756	22nd
15. Melido Perez	Cubs	703	29th

BIGGEST BUSTS

The following highly touted players turned out to be flops and never-evers in the 1992 Hot Stove League season:

Player	Team	1992 Point Totals	Round Drafted
1. Darryl Strawberry	Tribe	312	3rd
2. Mike Greenwell	Red Sox	287	4th
3. Ellis Burks	Tigers	464	5th
4. Eric Davis	Tigers	440	7th
5. Howard Johnson	Pirates	682	1st
6. Julio Franco	Skipjacks	197	2nd
7. Bobby Bonilla	Senators	909	1st
8. Matt Williams	Tribe	796	2nd
9. Kelly Gruber	Chiefs	612	2nd
10. Tony Gwynn	Pirates	975	3rd
11. Jose Canseco	Tribe	994	1st
12. Will Clark	Tigers	1065	2nd
13. Wade Boggs	Tigers	873	3rd
14. Sandy Alomar, Jr.	Reds	449	13th
15. Benito Santiago	Red Sox	580	6th

POINT TOTALS

Enclosed is a summary of the scoring for the entire year, session by session. A few points of interest:

- The Skipjacks almost led the League from cradle to grave, vaulting into first place with 1140.7 points during the first session, dropping to the third spot during the month of May, moving up to second during the first half of June, and taking over the lead for good during the June 15-28 session.

- The Skipjacks had the best two-week total for the year, with 1276.5 points during the two-week session June 29-July 12. The second best performance was 1232.0 points by the gutsy Senators during the dog days of August 24-September 26.
- At the other end of the spectrum, the last session of the season pretty much told the story of 1992 for the Chiefs. Their total for that session of 692.5 was the low-water mark of the year for the entire League. Close behind was the 696.5 point total for the Tribe during the abbreviated July 13-26 session.
- Talk about consistent mediocrity. The Tigers started out the season in 5th place, drooped down to 6th for one session in late April, and maintained the 5th spot for the remainder of the year. An exciting season.
- After the initial two-week warm-up period, the Skipjacks, Senators, Reds and Cubs occupied the top four spots from April 20 to the end of the season. It truly was a four-team race this year.
- The lowly Chiefs started out the season in last place, and stayed there until the fourth session in the second half of May, when they nudged their way up into 9th. But that was all she wrote. The Pirates wrestled back the 9th place spot in the next session in June, and the Chiefs occupied the cellar alone for the balance of the year. Somebody had to do it, B.T.

THE COMMERCE COMET

As we all know, Mickey Mantle (born 10/20/31 in Spavinaw, Oklahoma) was a first-ballot Hall of Famer. But was he really *that* great, or was his standing among the greats of the game unjustly enhanced by his status of the media darling of New York City? Look at the numbers:

- In 18 years, the Mick never had one 200-hit season, or even 190 hits in a season. He only reached the 180 plateau once, with his Triple Crown year in 1956 when he hit 188.
- The Mick finished with 2415 hits, fewer than Pie Trainer, Jim Rice, Buddy Bell, Dave Parker, Bill Buckner and many others.
- He scored 100 runs for nine straight years, with a salty RBI guy batting behind him (Roger Maris).

- He finished with 536 home runs.
- He hit more than 30 doubles only one time in his career, with 37 in 1952.
- Playing on perennial World Series teams, he broke the 100 RBI barrier only four times, with a top output of 130 during his Triple Crown year of 1956. His next three best years were 128, 111, and 102.

A legendary player, for sure, but one of the best of all time? Some of you may think I blaspheme, but I say the statistics do not bear this out.

HERE'S TO YOU, VINNIE!

NOT!

That's all. Now that the season is over, Sandjigger has promised to put out a long-awaited *Jiggernaut*. Keep a close watch on your mailbox.

Skipper