



FROM THE BULLPEN

Official Publication of
The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1993 Season

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"The bases were drunk and I painted the black with my best yakker. But blue squeezed me, and I went full. I came back with my heater, but the stick flares one the other way and chalk flies for two bases. Three earnies! Next thing I know, skipper hooks me and I'm sipping suds with the clubby."

—Mets pitcher Ed Lynch, describing a baseball experience

Brethren:

Ah, the language of baseball! Music to the ears.

The holiest of days doth approach. Only 28 more shopping days until the Hot Stove League Draft. Mark your calendars and gird your loins for this year's no-holds-barred/every man for himself/Texas chainsaw death match draft:

Date: **Saturday, March 27, 1993**
Time: **1:00 p.m.**
Place: **GMPH War Room**
10050 Regency Circle, Suite 200

Only the strong shall survive.

DRAFT MATERIALS

To stem the tide of incessant inquiries and badgering about our new League scoring system, I enclose a packet of materials entitled "Bill James Fantasy Baseball 1993 Draft Form." This packet includes a listing of all of the players from last year, and their point totals by position for 1992 under the Bill James scoring system.

You will note that the enclosed materials describe how players are drafted via the Bill James computer drafting system. Ignore this information. We will continue to draft

in essentially the same fashion as we have in years past, and will not use the Bill James computer drafting system. In other words, this year's Draft will begin with last year's (ugh!) champion, Itchie Flukemeister, selecting the first player, followed by the Senators, who finished second, and so on down the line. Our two new managers, Mike and Jim (nicknames are desperately needed), will flip a coin to see who drafts eleventh and twelfth.

For the first five rounds, we will draft in order from first to twelfth as we have in years past. Then, as is our custom, we will reverse the order of the Draft for the 6th through the 10th rounds, so that drafting team number twelve will draft first in the 6th round, and Itchie will draft last in that round. We will reverse the order every five rounds as in the past.

On pages 46 and 47 of the enclosed materials, you will find the point totals for each of the hitting, pitching and defensive categories, as well as the bonus points. These point totals will be the major difference between our scoring system from years past, and 1993.

Each manager will select 25 players during the initial Draft, with at least two players at each position, one multi-position player, three right-handed starters, two lefties, and three relievers. In the outfield, you will need to select players at each outfield position, left, center and right. This is a change from the past, in which we have simply selected six generic outfielders, without attention to a specific outfield position.

I hope that this adequately explains our new scoring system. However, if you have any additional questions, please submit them to me in writing in advance of the Draft, and I will share them with the other League members.

SPRING TRAINING

As is customary, once again I will be attending spring training, in an attempt to pick up a few tips to enable all of us to draft more effectively. I will be down in the Phoenix area, as will neophyte League member Jim Buser, on March 19-21. We will be pleased to share any insider information which we gather with our brethren, well in advance of the Draft. And if you believe that, I've got a Stadium Outlet franchise to sell you.

Lastly, for your entertainment and edification, I enclose an excerpt from Tom Boswell's last book, *The Heart of the Order*, titled "99 Reasons Why Baseball Is Better Than Football." As if we didn't already know.

Keep the faith.

Skipper