



FROM THE BULLPEN

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Eastern Nebraska Division
1993 Season

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I-RATE PI-RATE BLOWS STACK

Normally reserved Pirate pilot Denny "Slo-Pay" Bontrager erupted last Thursday when questioned by a reporter about the last-place standing of the faltering Lincoln Pirates fantasy league team. The uncharacteristic outburst began with the shouting of obscenities by Slo-Pay, escalated into a desk-clearing barrage of projectiles, and reached a crescendo when Slo-Pay uprooted the clubhouse commode and hurled it into a crowd of quaking reporters. No fatalities were reported, but at least two reporters suffered facial lacerations, and have already retained counsel to pursue their legal rights against Slo-Pay and the Pirates organization.

Although the conduct of the Pirates' skipper will be reviewed by a committee headed up by the League commissioner, the more immediate concern among Slo-Pay's fellow owners and managers is whether he will be good for his 1993 entry fee if, as expected, the Pirates remain mired in the cellar position -- behind the two League expansion teams -- for the remainder of the campaign.

Standings After 3 Weeks

The standings for the first three weeks of the Hot Stove League season:

1.	Senators	991
2.	Reds	989
3.	Tigers	926
4.	Tribe	922
5.	Cubs	917
6.	Bronx Bombers	879
7.	Chiefs	876
8. (tie)	Redbirds	837
	Red Sox	837
10.	Blues	812
11.	Skipjacks	789
12.	Pirates	725

The consensus around the League seems to be that the Senators cannot hold onto first place for long; this is probably true since Bonds and Galarraga cannot keep up their sizzling pace indefinitely.

And with the Reds catching fire, it is probably only a matter of time before Magpie's ballclub takes over first and holds that spot for the duration of the campaign. And what about the Skipjacks? Apparently the slogan "We are Family" does not apply to Itchie's baseball squad.

Beginning with this edition of *From the Bullpen*, the top League team and individual performers for the year will be identified. Hence:

Top Scorer	Barry Bonds (Senators)	114
Top Pitcher	Chris Bosio (Tigers)	107
Top Hitting Team - Week	Reds	237
Top Hitting Team - Season	Senators	669
Worst Hitting Team - Week	Tigers	137
Worst Hitting Team - Season	Skipjacks	510
Top Pitching Staff - Week	Senators	152
Top Pitching Staff - Season	Tigers	389
Worst Pitching Staff - Week	Pirates	8 (whoa)
Worst Pitching Staff - Season	Pirates	140

Team Statistics - Best and Worst

	<u>Best</u>		<u>Worst</u>	
Batting Average	Senators	.295	Redbirds	.232
At Bats	Chiefs	866	Tigers	625
Runs Scored	Reds	127	Skipjacks	96
Hits	Senators	233	Redbirds	170
Two-Baggers	Tribe	46	Reds	32
Triples	Pirates/Cubs	9	Bronx Bombers/Redbirds	2
Home Runs	Chiefs	32	Pirates	12
RBI's	Senators	119	Tigers	93
Walks	Pirates	110	Skipjacks	75
Stolen Bases	Reds/Bronx Bombers	34	Tigers	3
Errors	Pirates	7	Reds	27
Double Plays	Reds	72	Blues	29
Pitching Wins	Reds	11	Red Sox	4
Pitching Losses	Skipjacks	3	Tribe/Tigers	11
ERA	Bronx Bombers	2.48	Blues/Pirates	4.44
Saves	Tigers	13	Pirates	0
Innings Pitched	Tigers	160	Red Sox	102
Earned Runs	Bronx Bombers	36	Pirates	72
Strikeouts	Senators	113	Red Sox	54
BBs	Bronx Bombers	25	Pirates	64

A few observations based on the foregoing:

- The Tigers have only 625 at bats, a full 103 less than the next-lowest. Unfortunate injuries or monumental mismanagement? Both.
- The team with the most pitching points, the Tigers (389), has a collective won/loss record of 8 and 11. So much for the importance of wins. However, the Tigers have 13 saves, tops in the League.
- The last-place team, the lowly Pirates, leads the League with only 7 errors. So much for the importance of good fielding.
- How about the power-packed lineup of the Pirates? 12 home runs and 96 RBIs. And hitting is the strength of the Pirates.
- The Tigers, like their Major League counterparts, are not exactly fleet of foot. With 3 stolen bases for the entire Tigers team, my guess is that Hillbilly John -- the one that got away -- has as many stolen bases all by himself.
- The Skipjacks' 8 and 3 collective pitching record gives them a League-leading winning percentage of .727. Itchie has little else to be proud of with this year's team.
- Through three weeks, the entire Red Sox staff has thrown a total of only 102 innings. And this without any injuries to the Red Sox staff. Bad luck, as Possum would have you believe, or just a bad staff? You decide.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

The telephone wires have been buzzing with promotions, demotions, and free-agent signings. Let's take a look at who has been the busiest through last week. The following is a summary of the number of moves that have been made by each team, excluding the supplemental draft, in which we all signed three new players:

Skipjacks	7
Reds	6
Chiefs	5
Red Sox	5
Senators	5

Redbirds	4
Blues	4
Tribe	3
Cubs	3
Bronx Bombers	3
Tigers	3
Pirates	2

The Skipjacks, having made 7 moves but still in last place, might be guilty of overmanaging. On the other hand, the Reds, having made 6 moves, are perched in second place. The Pirates, in last place, have made only 2 moves. The Silent One has truly been silent this year.

NEW FREE AGENTS

The following free agents were picked up in the April 25 free agent draft:

Red Sox	Tommie Green
Senators	Chad Kreuter
Chiefs	Bobby Witt, Damien Easley
Tribe	David Wells
Reds	Kevin Gross, Sam Militello, Orlando Merced, Mike Maddux

The crafty Reds manager has been very busy.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

- Detroit infielder Tony Phillips, after Manager Sparky Anderson's 2,000th major league victory: "You've got to be around a long time to win 2,000 games. And you've got to be good. He sure didn't get there on looks."

Congratulations, Sparky!

As many of you are aware, Sparky Anderson recently won his 2,000th career game as a manager, putting him 7th on the all-time list. By the end of the season, Sparky should pass up Leo Durocher and Walter Alston and move into 5th place on the all-time wins list.

See you next week.

Skipper