



## FROM THE BULLPEN

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The Hot Stove League  
Eastern Nebraska Division  
1993 Season

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### A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

That's what they're saying about No-Pay's Pirates. After 10 weeks of the Hot Stove League season, they truly do seem to be in a league of their own. Through games of Tuesday, June 15, 1993, the standings look like this:

1.	Omaha Senators	3439
2.	Sin-City Reds	3424
3.	Lincoln Chiefs	3415
4.	Lincoln Tribe	3372
5.	Omaha Skipjacks	3355
6.	Boston Red Sox	3229
7.	Kansas City Blues	3150
8.	Lincoln Cubs	3031
9.	Omaha Redbirds	2928
10.	Detroit Tigers	2913
11.	Omaha Bronx Bombers	2902
12.	<b>Lincoln Pirates</b>	<b>2645</b>

There are definitely four different tiers of competition at this point in the season. The five teams in the first tier are all within an eyelash of each other, and the relative standings seem to change daily. In the second tier, the Red Sox and the Blues are involved in their own little skirmish, which is appropriate enough given the unprecedented fleecing administered to Possum by McBlunder in the Tony Gwynn for Tommy Greene and Pat Hentgen swap. Contrary to my tongue-in-cheek comment earlier in the year about this same trade, the Possum has clearly been bested in this transaction. As this issue goes to press, Pat Hentgen is sitting with an 8-and-2 record, and Tommy Greene is 8 and 1, with boogaloo points to show for their efforts. On the other hand, Fat Tony is hitting his weight (.318) and looking ahead to the second week in August when he will call it quits for the season. If not for this serious blunder by Possum, the Red Sox would undoubtedly be in contention for the top spot.

## "HE REALLY MUST HAVE WANTED KEN HILL BAD"

Let's play Jeopardy. What did the Bill James operator say when I reported my Ken Hill for Wilson Alvarez, Brian McRae and Rob Dibble trade with the Chiefs? And all I can say, Wilson, is thank you for throwing my staff's first shutout of the season on Tuesday night.

## PARDON ME FOR HAVING A CAREER

I apologize for not having put out an issue of *From the Bullpen* since May 20, but every once in a while my partners like to see me cranking out some billable hours. I want to quash the notion that the Senators' temporary fall from grace was in any responsible for the absence of newsletters. Nothing more than a coincidence.

Let's take a look at what has happened since my last newsletter. On May 20, the Senators led the pack with 1970 points, followed by the Chiefs with 1943 and the Tribe with 1937. One week later, through seven weeks of play, the Lincoln Chiefs had taken over the top spot with 2335, followed by the Skipjacks with 2247, the Reds with 2237 and the Tribe with 2234. In other words, the Senators went from first to fifth in a mere week. Through eight weeks of play, the Chiefs remained in first, with the Senators in fifth. After nine full weeks of play, the Senators had regained the top spot, but it was clear that there was a whale of a pennant race in the making: Senators 2955; Chiefs 2954; Tribe 2921; Reds 2902; Skipjacks 2871; Red Sox 2856. Buckle up your chinstraps, baby, it's going to go down to the wire.

## RANDOM THOUGHTS

No-Pay's pitching staff continues to shine. Earlier this year, his entire staff accumulated 8 points for a whole week. Recently, the Pirates staff strung together an eye-popping 11-point performance for a week. Then, after giving their all to garner 11 points in a week, the Pirates pitching staff came back to Earth a few weeks ago, and put together another staggering 8-point week for the staff (May 30).

A few weeks ago, the white-hot Skipjacks put together a 289-point week for the hitters, an average of 41 points a night. That's tops for the year.

The top weekly point total for a team thus far is 436 for the Senators last week. Second on the list is the 413 points scored by the Red Sox two weeks earlier. The fewest points scored by a team in one week is still the Pirates' 187 during week 3. Close behind is the anemic 196-point week of the Bronx Bombers a couple of weeks back (May 23).

The player of the year is still Barry Bonds, with a total of 341 points. The Cy Young of the year is Randy Johnson of the Redbirds, with 272 points, through June 15.

The Tigers are in serious danger of dipping below the two rookie teams, and snuggling in next to the Pirates. Could it be? Or is the wily Tiger manager just waiting to make his move?

## **SON O' SKIPPER**

For those of you who may not yet know, the old Skipper finally got his Senators team under enough control to devote some attention to other matters, to-wit, procreation. I tie the blessed conceptual event to the Opening Day festivities in Miami in April, where my excitement over seeing the seminal Marlins game apparently spilled over into our conjugal relationship. Although the distaff member of the Ernst household does not necessarily disagree with this explanation of events, she is presently vigorously resisting naming our issue after the Marlins mascot, Billy Marlin Ernst. We shall see.

## **THE TRIP**

Things are looking good for the annual League baseball trip to L.A./San Diego. Of course, we are waiting for Possum to cement his reservations, but we can certainly count on him to be at the side of his brethren in sunny California, come rain or shine.

That's all for now. Keep those cards and letters coming.

Skipper