



FROM THE BULLPEN

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TRIBE NOW IN-VINCE-ABLE?

Well, *he* did it. The unspeakable. *Everybody* thought about it. *Some* people considered it. But only *he* did it.

He drafted Vince Coleman. That's right, the same Vince Coleman who is being kept out of the Hall of Fame by the Shea Stadium grounds keeper. The same Vince Coleman that mowed Tommy Herr's grass. The same Vince Coleman who is seen scratching at Itchie's front door each time Itchie is out of town on a business trip.

As each week's B.J.F.B. publication has been received, and as each owner/manager has seen Vince Coleman's name listed among the Hot Free Agents, and as each manager has looked at his own roster and seen gaping holes to fill in the outfield; each manager probably -- at one time or another -- thought that Vince Coleman might be worth drafting. But week after week, each stouthearted manager resisted temptation, unwilling to have a pariah like Vinnie foul his roster. That is, until Underbelly could resist no more and placed the call. Victory at what cost? Now U-belly will have to live forever with himself, *The Man Who Drafted Vince Coleman.*

CHIEFS IN CONTROL

Another week of the Hot Stove League season has come and gone, and the Chiefs continue to rule the roost. Through games of Sunday, June 27, 1993 (12 weeks of the season), the point totals look like this:

1.	Lincoln Chiefs	4057
2.	Omaha Senators	4051
3.	Reds	4007
4.	Lincoln Tribe	3959
5.	Omaha Skipjacks	3878
6.	Boston Red Sox	3732
7.	Kansas City Blues	3631
8.	Lincoln Cubs	3569
9.	Omaha Redbirds	3491

10.	Detroit Tigers	3468
11.	Omaha Bronx Bombers	3456
12.	Lincoln Pirates	3179

The Chiefs, buoyed by pie-in-the-sky years from Mike Piazza and Jay Buhner, remain tough, and will be hard to displace as the heir apparent to the Hot Stove League Crown. The Senators, Reds and Tribe remain in contention, a mere hot weekend of play from the top. The Skipjacks appear to be flagging a bit, undoubtedly due to their manager's failure to keep his eye on the HSL ball as he works to put together another mastodonic business deal for FDR. Priorities, son.

WHO'S BEEN HOT?

Almost everyone. Except for the Tigers and Blues, that is. During this mid-part of the season, all of the HSL teams have been scoring well, with a minor exception or two, as evidenced by the point totals for the past two weeks:

<u>Week Ending June 20</u>		<u>Week Ending June 27</u>	
Senators	430	Chiefs	402
Tribe	388	Reds	359
Chiefs	374	Senators	350
Cubs	341	Cubs	342
Redbirds	340	Tribe	337
Reds	339	Redbirds	335
Bronx Bombers	332	Red Sox	323
Tigers	332	Skipjacks	312
Skipjacks	316	Pirates	306
Pirates	314	Bronx Bombers	292
Red Sox	311	Tigers	277
Blues	293	Blues	237

The Blues are in a blue funk, having finished at the bottom of the heap for two straight weeks. This, despite the continued hot hitting of John Olerud and the stellar pitching of Pat Hentgen. What gives, McBlunder?

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Barry Bonds continues to lead the field, with 390 points through June 27. Randy Johnson, the strike-out machine, leads all pitchers with 300 points.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL (BUT NOT YOU, NO-PAY)

Trade talk among League members is at a fever pitch, with many League owners trying to make that *one* deal that will propel them to the top, and others simply trying to

trade away a player or two that they can no longer tolerate having on their roster. Several attempts have been made to pick the remaining flesh from the lifeless carcass of No-Pay, who has clearly given up the ghost this year. In fact, for those of you who are "on line," you will notice that an asterisk appears by No-Pay's team each morning, and if you will follow the asterisk down to the bottom, you will see that the Pirates have been placed on "**transactions suspended**" status. That's right, friends, No-Pay has disgraced the entire League by failing to pay his monthly tab for League transactions, and the powers that be at Bill James have shut off his juice. Indeed, a great disgrace to the Hot Stove League. Therefore, if you are planning a trade with No-Pay, bear in mind that *his* part of the transaction cannot be consummated until he is released from debtor's prison.

Fortunately for WhiteSot, he was able to complete a deal with No-Pay prior to the sanctions being levied against him by B.J.F.B. Earlier this month, WhiteSot traded reliever Brian Harvey for former Pirate starter Steve Avery. What other trades have taken place around the League? I'm glad you asked.

Just this past Sunday, the Skipper consummated a transaction with The Man Who Drafted Vince Coleman. I was fortunate enough to unload El Cato Hefto* and the Chicken Hawk (Andre Dawson) for pitching aces David Cone and Mike Henneman. If the Big Cat can hit .400 for the year, it's a great trade for The Man Who Drafted Vince Coleman. Otherwise, I'd say he messed in his own nest on this one.

In any event, The Man Who Drafted Vince Coleman was unhappy to find out that the old Skipper beat him to the punch in picking up Jeff Fassaro in the free agent draft, whom The Man had hoped to pick up to replace Mike Henneman. Sorry, The Man, better read that Bill James rule book a little closer.**

Possum was incensed at the Skipper's acquisition of David Cone, and informed The Man Who Drafted Vince Coleman that he had a right of first refusal on all trades, and that The Man should have come to him before completing the deal. Beware the Possum. And don't be surprised if Possum calls in his own credit card number to bring No-Pay's B.J.F.B. account balance current, so that he can pay a visit to the Pirate boneyard himself.

POTPOURRI

- ◀ The Senators had another bang-up week, with 430 points for the week ending June 20, 1993, the second best point total of

*Spanish for "The Cat of Immense Girth."

**The Man reportedly understood that as long as he was positioned lower than the Senators in the standings, he could draft as many players as he wanted in the free agent draft before Skipper even had a crack at any player. That rule would make a lot of sense, eh?

the year. Despite this worthy effort, the Senators continued to lag behind the never-say-die Chiefs.

- ◀ If not for bonus points, the Tigers might have no points at all. WhiteSot picked up another bonus award of 30 points for Carlos Baerga's three-homer game. The Tigers have now received bonus points for three different players: Baerga, Mark Grace (cycle), and Chris Bosio (no-hitter). The only other players to obtain bonus points are Randy Johnson (strike-outs in one game) and Jay Buhner (cycle).
- ◀ The Pirates' crackerjack pitching staff continues to shine. The week of June 20, 1993, the feisty Pirates pitching corps rallied for a total of 2 points. The top Pirate pitcher for the week was Joe Magrane, with 19. This means that the rest of the Pirates staff (Tim Wakefield, Orel Hershiser, Charles Nagy, Steve Avery, Bob Wickman, Ben Rivera, Xavier Hernandez, Gene Harris and Ken Ryan) managed to accumulate a negative 17 points between them.
- ◀ In one of the best mixed metaphors of our time, BabyTrumpetfish recently ridiculed the Senators team for being "**held together with string and mirrors.**" Okay, I see what you mean.
- ◀ In what had to be a League first, the Senators' rugged pitching staff pieced together five wins on the same day, Sunday, June 27, 1993 (Darryl Kile, Alex Fernandez and Jim DeShaies as starters; Stan Belinda and Rob Dibble in relief). This was one more than the entire Tigers pitching staff *for the month.*

THE TRIP

The trip to end all trips is fast approaching. We will depart for the sunny climes of southern California on Thursday, August 5, 1993. Here is a tentative itinerary:

Thursday, August 5, 1993

7:19 a.m.	Leave Omaha for Los Angeles
10:13 a.m.	Arrive Los Angeles and load into 15-passenger death van to be piloted by McBlunder
10:17 a.m.	Arrive at "The Big A" in Anaheim for 1:05 Angels/Royals game, after speedy trip down interstate by McBlunder
11:30 a.m.	Batting practice

- 11:31 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Quaff copious quantities of alcohol, consume bags of peanuts, propose outlandish trades, participate in traditional mound ball game
- 4:30 p.m. Mount van for drive to San Clemente Hilton (where the Nixons used to stay)

Thursday night San Clemente Hilton

Friday, August 6, 1993

- 6:00 a.m. (This may be a bit optimistic.) Board supervan for road trip to Tijuana, to purchase sombreros, Indian blankets and worthless trinkets
- 4:00 p.m. Border skirmish
- 5:05 p.m. Beginning of Padres/Rockies doubleheader at Jack Murphy Stadium

Friday night

Back to the breathtaking San Clemente Hilton

Saturday, August 7, 1993

- 6:00 a.m. Calisthenics led by Itchie and Shamu
- 7:00 a.m. Ranchhand breakfast, San Clemente style
- 8:00 a.m.-12 noon Shamu's packfest
- 12:00 noon Load up van for trip to Los Angeles
- 2:00 p.m. Scenic tour through South Central L.A.
- 7:05 p.m. Dodgers/Reds match-up at Chez Ravine

Sunday, August 8, 1993

- 12:10 p.m. Return flight to Omaha, arrive 6:31 p.m.

At present, we have nine commitments for the trip to L.A. In addition, Possum has promised several other League members that he will be in the Los Angeles area on a business trip at the same time, and will in fact join up with us for several games. Okay. The Man Who Drafted Vince Coleman has also indicated that he is a possibility for the trip, if he can come up with a cagey union tactic to get him excused from his featherbedding job at the railroad for a few days. That leaves only No-Pay as a definite no for the trip. That is, unless he has a couple of big weekends at the keno parlor between now and August 5. Of course, our friend Bill James may suspend No-Pay from any travel, until he catches up on his bill with B.J.F.B.

That should cover things for now.

Skipper