



FROM THE BULLPEN

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POSSUM GUARANTEES ATTENDANCE ON TRIP

Never mind that the Pope will be in Denver next week. More eye-opening is the news that Possum **will be in attendance on this year's League trip to California!** Although some doubts remain, Possum has verbally assured several League members that he will be in California for this year's trip, and that he will attend one or more baseball games with his brethren from the Hot Stove League. According to Possum, his word is gold, and you can take it to the bank. See you in California, Possum. And the Pope, too. We've got your tickets.

As you all know, we leave this Thursday morning at 7:19 a.m. from Omaha's Eppley Airport, changing planes in Denver and arriving at L.A.Ex. at 10:13 a.m. Start packing your bags, and prepare for four days of **Baseball, Brats, Beer, and Boisterous Braggadocio** from **B.T.**, our fearless leader.

Let's take a look at the leader board, with standings through games of Sunday, August 1, 1993:

1.	Lincoln Chiefs	5957
2.	Sin City Reds	5856
3.	Omaha Skipjacks	5661
4.	Omaha Senators	5590
5.	Lincoln Colemans	5456
6.	Omaha Red Sox	5422
7.	Lincoln Cubs	5293
8.	Kansas City Blues	5261
9.	Omaha Redbirds	5076
10.	Detroit Tigers	5046
11.	Omaha Bronx Bombers	4969
12.	Lincoln Pirates	4308

It's looking more and more like a two-horse race, with the Chiefs and Reds pulling away from the rest of the pack. Of course, not coincidentally, the Chiefs and the Reds are

also the two teams that are butting up against the most point limitations. If nothing else, this will insure that September will be an interesting month.

TATER WATCH

And speaking of running up against point limitations, the cocksure Chiefs are inching closer and closer to the League limit for home run points. Through games of Sunday, the Chiefs had accumulated a total of 186 home runs. The limit for home runs in a season is 210. Thus, after the Chiefs accumulate 24 more home runs, the remaining taters will cease to count. As a special bonus section of *From the Bullpen*, we will keep a close eye on the Chiefs' home run count for the balance of the season.

Date: 8/1/93 Team Taters: 186 Tater Limit: 210 Taters To Go: 24

LEAGUE MVPs

Through games of August 1, Barry Bonds continues to lead the field in hitting points, totaling 543. The Cy Young of the year thus far is that lovable caveman on the Chiefs roster, Rod Beck, with 402 points. (And speaking of the caveman, how can this guy possibly keep up this pace? The same question might be asked of Mike Piazza, as well as several other members of the over-achieving Chiefs squad.)

COLEMAN CUT LOOSE

In a surprise move, the Lincoln Colemans cut loose their namesake and the star of the team, Vince "Dy-No-Mite" Coleman. Apparently unwilling to tolerate Herr Coleman's (ironically, they really call him this in Germany) continued antics, the humorless pilot of the Lincoln Colemans released the troubled ballplayer despite a couple of aching holes in the team's outfield. When asked to comment on the release, Underbelly stated that "I'm just trying to shake old Vinnie up a little bit. As soon as he clears waivers, he'll be right back on the squad. What would the Lincoln Colemans be without Vinnie?"

MAJESTIC MONIKERS

As much as anything else, major league baseball is known for the wonderful nicknames it attaches to its players. Some of the Skipper's favorite nicknames for yesteryear's stars of the game are the following:

Tris "The Gray Eagle" Speaker
Lou "The Iron Horse" Gehrig

Babe "Sultan of Swat" Ruth
Honus "The Flying Dutchman" Wagner
Carl "Mealticket" Hubbell
Stan "The Man" Musial
Joe "Yankee Clipper" Dimaggio
Ty "Georgia Peach" Cobb
Willie "Say Hey Kid" Mays
Ted "Splendid Splinter" Williams
Walter "Big Train" Johnson
Rogers "The Rajah" Hornsby
Jimmy "Double X" Foxx
Henry "Hammerin' Hank" Aaron
Harold "Pie" Traynor
Constantine "Cap" Anson
Grover Cleveland "Old Pete" Alexander
Casey "The Old Perfesser" Stengle
Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown
Sal "The Barber" Maglie
Paul "Dizzy" Dean

These are all famous players that we have heard of. However, there are also some fun nicknames that were given to some of the not-so-famous ballplayers of the past. Some of my favorites:

Lou "The Nervous Greek" Skizas
Walt "No Neck" Williams
Harry "The Hat" Walker
Richard "Foghorn Dick" VanZant
Guy "King" Tutwiler
Harry "Swats" Swacina (1 career home run)
Thomas Jefferson "Sleeper" Sullivan (aka Old Ironhands)
George "Satan" Stutz
Howard "Sponge" Storie

That should cover things for this week. For those of you going on the trip -- and particularly you, Possum -- see you on Thursday. For the rest of you, stay tuned for a blow-by-blow account of the 1993 Trip.

Skipper