



FROM THE BULLPEN

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The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1993 Season

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CHIEFS CHARGING

Fellow Managers:

The never-say-die Chiefs have now surged back into the lead, thanks in large part to a miserable 180-point week for the Reds. To the man, everyone wondered whether Curby's boys could keep up the 300+ point totals week after week. The short answer: No.

Here are the standings as this issue of *From the Bullpen* goes to press:

1.	Lincoln Chiefs	7680
2.	Sin City Reds	7653
3.	Omaha Senators	7357
4.	Omaha Skipjacks	7293
5.	Omaha Red Sox	7265
6.	Lincoln Colemans	7135
7.	Lincoln Cubs	6993
8.	Kansas City Blues	6950
9.	Omaha Redbirds	6888
10.	Detroit Tigers	6887
11.	Omaha Bronx Bombers	6515
12.	Lincoln Pirates	5618

While the Chiefs and Reds seem to be falling back toward the rest of the pack a bit, it still looks like a two-team race for the crown, with three teams, the Senators, Skipjacks and Red Sox, vying for third place money. After that, it's a mad scramble for the final upper-division berth, with the Blues, Tribe, Tigers, Cubs and Redbirds all in contention. And then, finally, we have a fair amount of certainty as to the 11th and 12th place finishers this year. The Bronx Bombers and Pirates have worked hard to nail down those two spots.

OH, TO BE AN EX-SENATOR

Don't ask me why, but ex-Senators just seem to excel in this League. Witness Darryl Kile, who after jumping ship from the Senators to the Cubs, twirled a nifty no-hitter, worth a handsome 88½ points to Shamu's squad. Witness Wilson Alvarez, who after pitching sufficiently horribly to be sent down to the minors and released from the Senators squad, was picked up by the crafty pilot of the Chiefs and suddenly seems destined for greatness. Witness Sudden Stan Belinda (the latest of the never-evers for the Senators), who after posting negative points for the Senators on eight or nine consecutive trips to the mound was gladly dished off to the Cubs (along with Darryl Kile, I might add), and now has become a middle reliever extraordinaire. And so on, and so on, and so on. Any nominations for Mismanager of the Year?

SPEAKING OF MISMANAGEMENT . . .

As long as we are on the subject, No-Pay seems to have a lock on the dubious distinction of HSL *Mismanager of the Year*. Not only are his flaccid Pirates more than 2000 points out of first place, they are almost 1000 points behind the next-lowest team, the Bronx Bombers. The Pirates' woes were compounded recently by their failure to have Mark Whiten in the starting line-up for his fabulous 4 HR, 12 RBI game of September 7. For those of you scoring at home, Whiten chalked up a total of 39½ points for his 5-4-4-12 line score game. Toss in his 30 bonus points and the 21½ points he earned in the first game of the twin bill, and Whitey put together a 72-point night. Inasmuch as No-Pay recently traded Joe Magrane to Underbelly to secure the services of Whiten, why, oh why didn't he have him up in his starting line-up on September 7? No-Pay isn't talking (but what else is new), so we had to put together a top ten list of reasons for No-Pay's decision to allow Whiten to languish in the minors. See enclosure.

BJFB TOP TEN

As many of you have pointed out, the Hot Stove League has had to pay dearly for No-Pay's malfeasance this season, in terms of prestige in the BJFB national rankings. In the last BJFB newsletter, it was reported that the other league in which Whitesot and Curby are participants, the Big Muddy League of Omaha, Nebraska, attained a 9th place ranking among all BJFB leagues with a total of 75,989 points through games of August 23. In comparing the performance of the Big Muddy teams to the performance of the Hot Stove League teams, it was discovered that the performance of the Hot Stove League teams was far superior to those of the Big Muddy, if the last place team in each league is discounted. Unfortunately, Bill James counts all 12 teams in each league in compiling his rankings. With No-Pay's mastodonic anchor hanging around the collective necks of the Hot Stove League owners and managers, the Hot Stove League was unable to muster its way into the BJFB Top Ten. If the Pirates had only been able to stay even with the doormat of the Big

Muddy league, it appears that the Hot Stove League would have been ranked as high as 4th or 3rd overall in the BJFB system. To you, No-Pay, we say *thanks a lot!*

SANCTIONS FOR NO-PAY?

Because No-Pay has singlehandedly kept the Hot Stove League from its rightful share of BJFB fame and glory, several owners and managers have suggested corporal punishment as a means of exhibiting our displeasure to the apathetic Pirates manager, and as an incentive to mend his lackadaisical management style in 1994. One League member -- Possum -- had even suggested that summary ouster from the League is fitting punishment for No-Pay. Ironic, isn't it, since No-Pay was the one who was clamoring for Possum's summary ouster from the League on the Chicago trip just two seasons ago. And ironic, isn't it, since Possum is on perpetual thin ice in terms of his continued acceptance as an HSL member. While the governing body of the HSL will have to take up the matter of sanctioning No-Pay for his monumental mismanagement of the 1993 Pirates, I would like to offer up one suggestion made by a League member who has asked to remain anonymous. As punishment for his 1993 debacle, No-Pay will be required to (1) pick Vince Coleman in the first round, Darryl Strawberry in the second, and Eric Davis in the third round of the '94 draft; (2) provide continuous commentary on every single selection made during the 1994 draft; (3) place \$1000 into escrow to assure payment of all '94 transaction fees; and (4) participate in the '94 draft only in his birthday suit, an old-timer's Pirates hat, Chris Sabo-type goggles, with his beard and mustache shaved into a Jack McDowell-like goatee (like Itchie did that one year). That should make all of us happy, particularly McBlunder. If you have a better punishment, let us know.

ANOTHER NEVER-EVER?

It looks like it. Fat Cecil, that is. Here's why. The Senators are cruising along with Paul Molitor as the regular first baseman, doing fine, when I realize that Paul Molitor for Cecil Fielder is the perfect trade. The Senators need more homers, and fewer batting average points, and the Cubs are in danger of exceeding the homer limit, but could stand to absorb more batting average points. So I propose the deal to Shamu, he agrees that it's the perfect trade, and we make the deal instantly, no questions asked. Immediately Mr. Molitor goes on a homerun binge while in the Cubs line-up, and Cecil decides to stop hitting taters altogether. Over the course of the next month or so, each time I open the sports page I see Molitor cranking out homers, and Cecil playing Punch-and-Judy with a 1-for-4 or 2-for-4 night. Before long, all I can think about is getting Molitor back on the Senators squad. And so I did.

In a trade that may prove to the Senators' undoing, I swap Stan Belinda (now also a Senatorial never-ever) and Darryl Kile to Shamu for Paul Molitor. Belinda starts pitching like his life depends on it, and Darryl Kile tosses a no-no with 9 strikeouts. While Molitor's doing okay, he has stopped hitting homeruns, and Cecil continues doing his best imitation

of Ken Oberkfel (4-0-1-0, 4-0-2-0, 3-0-1-0). Cecil also decided to stop knocking in runs somewhere along the line. I can't take it anymore. Enjoy your last month ever on the Senators roster, Big Boy.

FROM THE HSL HISTORY DEPARTMENT

With the 1993 HSL season nearing the finish line, I thought it would be worthwhile to provide everyone with a summary of HSL finishes from 1985 to 1992, which I have enclosed. While the record speaks for itself, I feel duty-bound to point out that McBlunder is scrambling to finish in the upper division for the first time in history; the Tribe is hustling to avoid a third consecutive lower division finish; the Red Sox are trying to get back in the money for the first time since 1989; and the Reds are trying to avoid a fourth 3rd-place finish. Who will finish atop the leader board in 1993? We will know soon enough.

AHEAD OF HIS TIME?

While leafing through past volumes of *From the Bullpen*, I happened across the rosters from the 1991 HSL season, and realized that the team picked by Whitesot that year would probably be on top of the heap if the same players were on the 1993 Tigers roster. See if you agree:

C	Mickey Tettleton	P	Roger Clemens
	Steve Decker		Bruce Saberhagen
1B	Cecil Fielder		Jose Rijo
	Paul Molitor		Zane Smith
2B	Steve Sax		Mike Moore
	Mariano Duncan		Dana Kiecker
SS	Howard Johnson		Wally Whitehurst
	Felix Fermin	RP	Greg Olson
3B	Kevin Seitzer		Mark Davis
	Travis Fryman	S	Eric King
OF	Barry Bonds		John Kruk
	Robin Yount		Larry Walker
	Ron Gant		
	Albert Belle		
	Bernard Gilkey		
	Glenallen Hill		

For the 1991 campaign, the Tigers finished an eyelash (6 points) behind the Reds, and only after the Reds captured several of the post-season awards. It looks like the same Tiger team would be a sure-fire champion in 1993. I guess Whitesot was just way ahead of his time.

ROSENBLATT JUNKET

On September 1, 1993, five loyal Hot Stove Leaguers (Curby, Whitesot, Shamu, Rookie and the Skipper) ventured to Rosenblatt to watch one of the final Omaha Royals games, and to talk HSL baseball. Possum, after again assuring several League members that he would be in attendance, was not. Those who attended received their official 1993 Trip T-shirts, memorializing the 1993 West Coast swing, and the highlight of the Trip, the Trip.

NEXT ISSUE

I hope to put out one more issue of *From the Bullpen* before I journey to places unseen with Brother Underbelly. If that goal is met, I plan to provide you with an updated look at Itchie's typical workday, now that he is a responsible married man and father. See you then.

Skipper