



FROM THE BULLPEN

Official Publication of
The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1993 Season

Edition No. 23
October 23, 1993

SENATORS WIN!

Congratulations to the Reds and Senators, pennant winners of the East and West Divisions of the Hot Stove League in 1993. Following the regular season, the two teams drafted their postseason teams for their head-to-head competition. The LCS and Fall Classic are now over, and thanks to the rock solid performances of the Senators' scrappy postseason lineup, the Sens bested the pitching poor Reds. Here's how it ended up:

Senators	435
Reds	352

So, while Curby's boys may have won the West Division Pennant during the regular season, when the chips were on the line, the Reds could not cut the mustard. These are the individual post-season point totals for the Senators and Reds:

League Championship Series

<u>Senators</u>		<u>Reds</u>	
Paul Molitor	26	Fred McGriff	26
Fred McGriff	26	Roberto Alomar	25
Terry Pendleton	24	Terry Pendleton	24
Frank Thomas	23	Otis Nixon	19
Otis Nixon	19	Devon White	19
Robin Ventura	17	Joe Carter	8
Bill Pecota	4	Dan Pasqua	-3
Eddie Zosky	0	Brian Hunter	0
Brian Hunter	0	Lee Stevens	0
Juan Guzman	38	Greg Maddux	22
Wilson Alvarez	28	Duane Ward	13
Tom Glavine	23	Steve Avery	6
Steve Avery	6	Scott Radinsky	3
Tom Stottlemire	-6	Greg McMichael	-7
Scott Ruffkorn	0	Scott Ruffkorn	0

World Series

<u>Senators</u>		<u>Reds</u>	
Lenny Dykstra	54	Devon White	49
John Kruk	25	Roberto Alomar	37
Joe Carter	24	John Olerud	18
Jim Eisenreich	18	Paul Molitor	56
Pat Borders	14	Alfredo Griffin	0
Alfredo Griffin	0	Milt Thompson	21
Curt Schilling	24	Danny Jackson	-5
Juan Guzman	11	Dave Stewart	-1
Kevin Foster	0	Scott Brow	0
Scott Brow	0	Randy St. Clair	0

You have plenty to be proud of with your second place overall finish, Curby. Better luck to you in 1994.

The Regular (Yawn) Season

Not that anyone is really that interested, but here's how the regular season turned out, points-wise:

<u>West Division</u>		<u>East Division</u>	
Reds	8613	Senators	8377
Chiefs	8566	Red Sox	8309
Skipjacks	8142	Redbirds	8144
Tribe	7938	Blues	7817
Cubs	7655	Tigers	7794
Bronx Bombers	7321	Pirates	6377

Not that anyone really cares all that much, but just for the sake of comparison, let's take a quick peek at how all twelve teams stack up when the two divisions are merged together:

1.	Reds	8613
2.	Chiefs	8566
3.	Senators	8377
4.	Red Sox	8309
5.	Redbirds	8144
6.	Skipjacks	8142
7.	Tribe	7938
8.	Blues	7817

9.	Tigers	7794
10.	Cubs	7655
11.	Bronx Bombers	7321
12.	Pirates	6377

It's no big deal, but as it turns out, it looks like the Reds had the most points in 1993 during the regular season. Though painful, *From the Bullpen* takes this opportunity to congratulate the Reds as the 1993 regular season point-leader. For the rest of you owners, take note of your place of finish, and begin working on your draft choices for 1994 ASAP.

1993 HSL RETROSPECTIVE

Now that the 1993 campaign is in the jar, let's take a look back and figure out what happened. The Reds went from draft day to 1st place by picking a solid team to begin with, and then by shaping and refining his team with numerous free agent drafts and trades. I note that the Reds were picked by *From the Bullpen* (March 30, 1993 edition) to finish first in 1993. Following the draft, Curby made more moves than any other Hot Stove League manager, ultimately ending up with only 9 players from his original 27-man roster. Here are lists of the players that Curby kept and dumped:

<u>Keepers</u>		<u>Discards</u>	
C	Chris Hoiles	C	Rick Wilkins
2B	Roberto Alomar	1B	John Jaha
SS	Travis Fryman	1B	Rafael Palmeiro
SS	Ozzie Guillen	2B	Bret Boone
LF	Shane Mack	3B	Gary Sheffield
LF	Greg Vaughn	3B	Jim Thome
SP	Curt Schilling	SS	Omar Vizquel
SP	Greg Swindell	CF	Roberto Kelly
R	Tom Henke	CF	Sammy Sosa
		RF	Pedro Munoz
		RF	Tim Salmon
		SP	Cal Elred
		SP	Nolan Ryan
		SP	Donovan Osborne
		R	Gregg Olson
		R	Mike Timlin

Curby made some major moves throughout the year. Some of his key transactions:

April 19	Signed free agent Jeff King
April 26	Signed free agent Orlando Merced
June 21	Signed free agent Pedro Martinez

July 1	Traded the "O" brothers, Vizquel and Merced, to Itchie for John Burkett
July 15	Traded Gary Sheffield to WhiteSot for Steve Avery and Leo Gomez
July 19	Signed free agent Kirk Rueter
July 23	Signed free agents Aaron Sele and David Segui
August 9	Signed free agent Arthur Rhodes
August 16	Signed free agents Sandy Alomar and Kevin Rogers
August 19	Traded Sammy Sosa and Pete Incaviglia to the Bronx Bombers for Billy Swift

In short, the Reds were able to virtually rebuild their entire pitching staff through free agent drafts and crafty trades. Our hats are off to you, Curby!

With his second Hot Stove League title (the Reds also won in 1991), Curby becomes the third Hot Stove League owner to repeat as the champion. Possum's Red Sox took the first two crowns, in 1985 and 1986, and WhiteSot and his Tigers won the next three titles, in 1987, 1988 and 1989. Itchie and Skipper are the other two owners of winning HSL teams, for a total of five different managers who have tasted the sweetness of victory in the Hot Stove League.

FROM THE CRYSTALL BALL DEPARTMENT

As indicated above, *From the Bullpen* correctly predicted that the Reds would win it all in 1993. Let's take a look at how this publication projected the remaining order of finish for 1993:

FTB Predicted Order of Finish

1. Reds
2. Senators
3. Cubs
4. Skipjacks
5. Blues
6. Redbirds
7. Chiefs
8. Red Sox
9. Tigers
10. Tribe
11. Pirates
12. Bronx Bombers

Actual Order of Finish

1. Reds
2. Chiefs
3. Senators
4. Red Sox
5. Redbirds
6. Skipjacks
7. Tribe
8. Blues
9. Tigers
10. Cubs
11. Bronx Bombers
12. Pirates

Not too bad, if I do say so myself. While I overestimated the managerial abilities of the Cubs' pilot, and undersold the Chiefs and Red Sox, by and large the predicted order of finish was on the mark. Blind luck or a brilliant baseball mind? You be the judge.

ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

As indicated above, the Reds led the HSL in moving players on and off of the roster. The Reds ended up with only nine of the original drafted players on the final roster. But what about the others? Here is a recap of the number of players from draft day that ended up on each team's final roster:

Bronx Bombers	20	Blues	15
Tigers	17	Senators	14
Pirates	16	Skipjacks	14
Cubs	16	Redbirds	13
Chiefs	15	Red Sox	11
Tribe	15	Reds	9

While more was not necessarily better, in terms of transactions, there seems to be some sort of correlation between player moves and team finishes. The five teams finishing the year with the fewest original players, the Reds, Red Sox, Redbirds, Skipjacks and Senators, all finished in the top division. The four teams finishing with the most players from the draft day rosters, the Bronx Bombers, Tigers, Pirates and Cubs, ended up 9, 10, 11 and 12. Probably no coincidence.

THE PENNANT RACE

I would be remiss if I did not mention here the fantastic pennant race that characterized the 1993 Hot Stove League season. Back in July, the Chiefs and Reds began distancing themselves from the rest of the pack, and went toe-to-toe for the title for the next 2½ months. Let's take a look at the pennant race week by week:

Through games of July 27	Chiefs - 5598	Reds - 5419	Margin - 179
Through games of August 1	Chiefs - 5957	Reds - 5856	Margin - 101
Through games of August 8	Reds - 6216	Chiefs - 6211	Margin - 5
Through games of August 15	Reds - 6610	Chiefs - 6563	Margin - 47
Through games of August 22	Reds - 6966	Chiefs - 6865	Margin - 101
Through games of August 29	Reds - 7305	Chiefs - 7155	Margin - 150
Through games of September 5	Chiefs - 7494	Reds - 7485	Margin - 9

Through games of September 12	Chiefs - 7854	Reds - 7796	Margin - 58
Through games of September 19	Chiefs - 8127	Reds - 8037	Margin - 90
Through games of September 26	Chiefs - 8351	Reds - 8317	Margin - 34
Through games of October 4, 1993	Reds - 8613	Chiefs - 8566	Margin - 47

Although I was not around to personally witness the last week, I have been told that it was a barn-burner of a finish. The Chiefs reportedly held what seemed to be an insurmountable lead with a week to go; then, with only two days left in the season, the Reds reportedly pieced together five pitching wins in one night, allowing them to surge past the gasping Chiefs for the title. The final BJFB final report indicates that the Reds had 296 points during the last week, to 215 for the Chiefs, allowing for the final margin of victory. The Chiefs' pitching staff gave up the ghost during the final week, tallying a total of only 18 points, to 190 points for the Reds' pitching staff for the same time.

Condolences and a hearty "Better Luck Next Time" to the gregarious owner of the Chiefs, who waged a courageous and hard-fought battle for the 1993 crown. Remember, B.T., there's always next year.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

In our never-ending quest to improve upon the Hot Stove League, Underbelly and I recently took a junket to the Middle East to serve as ambassadors of good will for our League, and to search for possible international expansion teams for the Hot Stove League, in the event of a franchise vacancy in the future. We identified several possible new League members, all of whom were named either Abdul or Mohammed. While none of these individuals had ever heard of rotisserie league baseball, or about baseball, period, after reviewing materials which we provided from the 1993 HSL campaign, several were confident that they could at least finish ahead of the Pirates. Time will tell.

Interestingly, when U-belly and I boarded our plane for Cairo (Royal Jordanian Air), we noticed that our Egyptian pilot was the spitting image of our own beloved Itchie. Then, when we got to Cairo, we noticed several fellows at the airport who looked just like Itchie. We soon realized that everyone in Egypt looks -- you guessed it -- just like Itchie.

As a special treat, I am enclosing an intercepted copy of the October Burlington Northern Employee Newsletter, containing U-belly's unique recounting of our Middle East trip for his fellow railroad workers.

WINTER MEETING/AWARD CEREMONY

As is customary, the 1993 award ceremony for the HSL champion will coincide with our winter meeting. I offer up the Skipper's new basement rumpus room as the situs of same, and propose that we hold the event on **Saturday, December 4, 1993**. Mark your calendar for 2 p.m., and bring your \$100 payoff check to be distributed between the 1st and 2nd place finishers. If December 4 is unworkable for any of you, please let me know right away so that we can consider alternative dates.

Your beloved scribe,

Skipper