



FROM THE BULLPEN

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Eastern Nebraska Division
1994 Season

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Brethren:

CHIEFS CHARGE TO LEAD PACK

With two weeks of the '94 campaign in the jar, we can expect some Big Talk from Baby Trumpetfish (BTBT). After opening the season in the lower division, the surprising Chiefs had a monster second week and vaulted to the top of the HSL pack. Riding atop the CooperCycle, which was good for oogly-boogly points, the Chiefs chalked up 475 points during Week Two, which may earn him a niche in the HSL Hall of Fame. Consider this: During the entire 1993 campaign, not a single team compiled as many points in one week.

How did he do it? Good question. How did sanitation worker Curley Stoner from the Bronx win the New York State Lottery? How did Franco Harris make the Immaculate Reception in the Super Bowl? How did Mo Iba get the head coaching job at TCU after a miserable career at Nebraska? How did Itchie land a job that pays him seven figures a year to play golf, guzzle highballs, and go to girlie clubs after nearly flunking out of Metro Tech? I'll tell you. It's called pure, unadulterated, flat-out blind-ass luck. There's no other explanation for it. After nine years of hearing BTBT say it, it is finally clear to me that

winning the HSL Cup is all luck, I finally have to agree. There is no other plausible explanation for the '94 Chiefs to put together a 475-point week. Not with Darryl Strawberry on the squad. Not with Eric Davis on the squad. Not with the rest of his Pack-O-Slugs that are the consensus pick to finish in 9th place this year. And, I might add, there is no other earthly explanation for the Chiefs squad to be sitting at the top of the totem pole, with the Senators squad on the polar end.

There you have it.

Here are the standings after two weeks of play:

Chiefs.....	749
Redbirds.....	695
Red Sox.....	661
Bronx Bombers.....	655
Cubs.....	628
Tigers.....	616
Skipjacks.....	597
Reds.....	581
Pirates.....	576
Tribe.....	562
Blues.....	540
Senators.....	509

TOP PERFORMERS

Hitting: Dante Bichette
Cubs

98 points

Pitching: Greg Maddux
Blues
97 points

THE SIGHTLESS PORKER AWARD

You are all familiar with the adage "Even a blind pig finds an acorn once in awhile." In fact, a few of you live your HSL lives by this credo. Not to name names, but a certain crimson-topped character has managed to put his chubby flipper on more than a few acorns over the years. Does Jeff Kent ring a bell? In any event, beginning with this issue of *FTB*, we will periodically recognize notable selections of this variety. And what better way to kick off the award than:

Scott Cooper - Lincoln
Chiefs: 65-point week, cycle

SLUGFEST

The 1994 Supplemental Draft on April 13, 1994, turned out to be a real slugfest. Not the kind that ensues when Shamu catches someone eyeing that extra steak on the grill, but a Festival of Slugs. I think that we were pretty much in agreement that there was not a lot to get excited

about after the initial draft. Kent Mercker? Yeah, okay. Ryan Klesko? Not bad. Dave Stewart? Yuuck. All in all, the supplemental pool of talent was as thin as Itchie's aging pate. For the record, here's how it went:

12. Senators Kent Mercker (1)
 Chris Hammond (2)
 David Nied (3)
11. Reds Ryan Klesko (1)
 Orel Hershiser (2)
 Solomon Torres (3)
10. Skipjacks Dave Stewart (1)
 Jaime Navarro (2)
 Orlando Merced (3)
9. Chiefs Charles Nagy (1)
 Mariano Duncan (2)
 James Mouton (3)
8. Tribe Steve Karsay (1)
 Mark Clark (2)
 Dave Burba (3)
7. Red Sox Ramon Martinez (1)
 Jack Morris (2)
 Joe Grahe (3)
6. Bronx Bombers Melido Perez (1)
 Billy Hatcher (2)
 Mike Gallego (3)
5. Blues Andre Dawson (1)
 Darrin Jackson (2)
 Bill Wegman (3)
4. Cubs Hector Carrasco (1)
 Chris Bosio (2)
 Mike Lansing (3)
3. Redbirds Alex Gonzalez (1)
 Kevin Gross (2)
 Darren Dreifort (3)
2. Tigers Todd Stottlemyer (1)
 Ted Higuera (2)
 Dwight Gooden (3)
1. Pirates Steve Trachsel (1)
 Jose Vizcaino (2)
 Todd Benzinger (3)

Also, for the record, the Supplemental Draft began with the first selection by the last place team (which need not be identified again), and proceeded from last to first in each of the three rounds, just like last year. To his chagrin, we did not follow Shamu's suggestion and "serpentine" the supplemental draft. Whatever that means.

OPENING DAY: PART DEUX

On April 11 BTBT and I were lucky enough -- and I do mean lucky -- to witness the official unveiling of The Ballpark in Arlington, as we watched the Rangers take it on the chin by the Brewers, 4-3. Stadium No. 30 for Skipper; BTBT's 20th.

If anybody tells you that The Ballpark in Arlington is not the most beautiful stadium in the world, don't believe it. It is spectacular! The combination of the plentiful red brick, the abundant green arches, and the splendid Home Run Porch in right field make it seem as if one has walked into Ebbetts Field or the Polo Grounds or some other beautiful cathedral in the 1920's or 1930's. But with every modern amenity to allow for maximum viewing pleasure. It may not be my favorite ballpark (hard to beat Fenway and Wrigley Field), but it is indisputably the most beautiful ballpark now standing. If Coors Field turns out half as nice next year, it too will be a great place to watch a game. A future Trip to The Ballpark in Arlington is unquestionably a must.

A couple of highlights from Opening Day in Arlington: Watching Will the Thrill spank out his first of many future home runs to right field; playing Texas-style Mound Ball with the fellas sitting all around

us at the game; and avoiding a fall from the upper deck, despite the ingestion of several ales.

NEWS BULLETIN: PIGS NOW BEAMING THROUGH SPACE

Permit me to return for a moment to a porcine matter, to make a point worth making. It is highly doubtful that we will -- at least in our lifetimes -- see a headline indicating that pigs are now able to beam through space. Now *that's* unlikely. But in thinking about unlikely events, I came up with a few others that seem equally inapt to occur. Take a look at the following, and think about which of these you are *least* likely to see in the form of a newspaper headline:

**Clinton Comes Clean on
Whitewatergate**

**Massive Budget Surplus
Results in Across-the-Board
Tax Rebate**

**Possum Keeps Word on
Trade Proposal Gone Sour**

**Possum Keeps Word and
Attends HSL Trip**

**President Sinclair Suffers
Hypoglycemia Attack, Assumes
Control of Nabisco,
General Mills and ConAgra**

**Itchie Thielen Denied
Membership in Men's Hair
Club, Too Many Follicles
To Qualify**

**Blues Overtake Pirates
For First HSL Crown**

Underbelly to Marry

Like me, you probably picked the *final* headline as the most laughable, most preposterous, least likely to ever occur. But, as they say, the truth is sometimes stranger than fiction.

When you finish blinking your eyes and doing your double- and triple-takes, take a look at this: Underbelly will soon be shedding his label as the World's Most Elj-Bul Batchlurr, and Will Walk Down the I'll With Joe-D This Coming September. That's right, September of 1994, during U-belly's current lifetime. How did this happen, you ask? As Itchie has put it so well, time and again, is he tired of being happy? Does Jody have a patent on a new miracle hair-grow product? Does she hold half of his winning lottery ticket? Is she willing to perpetuate the myth of his heterosexuality? Has U-belly gone soft (not just physically) in the autumn of his life?

Does he really love her? Or is she the one who secretly picked his '94 Hot Stove League contender? Those, my friends, are some valid questions to be asked.

Congratulations, Brother Bob.

And That Is All.

Skipper