



FROM THE BULLPEN

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"There's only one way
to go from here."

- Skipper, early May 1994.

Okay, so I was wrong. *Up* was not the only way that the Senators could go from where they were two weeks ago. I hadn't taken into consideration that they (it's no longer "we") might remain the same stinking team all year long, but another sub-250 point week has clarified that possibility for me. It ain't pretty, and it ain't gettin' prettier.

REDBIRDS STILL ROOSTING

Another stellar week (390 points) keeps the high-flying Redbirds at the top of the heap, with 2211 points (compared to the 1970 points accumulated by the Omaha Senators – I live for these flashbacks – at a comparable point last season). Here's what it looks like after six weeks of the 1994 campaign:

1. Redbirds	2211
2. Chiefs	2065

3. Cubs	1971
4. Reds ¹	1943
5. Red Sox	1852
6. Blues	1850
7. Bronx Bombers	1785
8. Skipjacks	1748
9. Tigers	1719
10. Tribe	1666
11. Pirates	1648
12. Senators	1470

The top-scoring team for Week Six was the Chiefs, with 397 points. The lowest-scoring squad was, amazingly, not the Senators (but it was close), but the Tribe with 224 points. The top-pitching team for the week was the Chiefs, with 158 points; at the opposite end, the Skipjacks staff mustered up a negative 6 output. The top-hitting teams were the Redbirds and the Red Sox, with 312 points each; the most anemic hitting team for the week was the Senators, with 179. The League MVP through six weeks is Frank Thomas, with 204 points. Greg Maddux continues to lead the Cy Young race, with 195 points.

THOUGHT BUBBLE

(Hmmm. I see that Frank Thomas is the top scorer this year after six weeks. 206 points! That lucky Rookie. I sure wish that I had had a crack at him during our initial Draft.)

THOUGHT BUBBLE A Flashback

(Well, here we are at the '94 Draft, finally. Jeez, I'm nervous as a cat. I want to get the Big Hurt so bad I think I might hurl. If only he can make it past Curby and B.T. in the first round, I'm in Fat City. I'm guessing Curby will take Barry Bonds. Got to. Nobody passes on a three-time MVP. The real question will be B.T. Please, oh please, oh please, don't take Frank, Scooter. You love Ken Griffey, Jr., don't forget it. Take him, take him, take him, TAKE HIM!! Don't cross me on this one.)

(Okay, here we go, time for the 1st round to start. Yes! Curby took Barry Bonds, just as he should have. Nicely done. Now your turn, Scooter. Take Griffey. Take him, you goof. Little do you know that this

¹ Don't look now, but Curby's boys are cagily creeping up, not unlike a pair of Shamu's well-worn skivvies.

will be Frank's bust-out year. Hmmm. Maybe I can will this simple-minded guy to take Ken Griffey. It's worth a try. Okay. Grrr. Take Griffey. Take Griffey. Take Griffey.

TAKE HIM. Seattle, Seattle, Seattle, Seattle, Seattle, Griffey, Griffey, Griffey, Griffey, Griffey, Griffey, Ken, Ken, Ken, Ken, Jr., Jr., Jr., Jr., Jr. TAKE HIM NOW!!!)

(HE DID IT! I can't believe it! Scooter passed on Frank and took Ken Griffey, Jr. Yesssss!! My turn? Okay.) "I'll take Carlos Baerga." (Wait, what did I say? Who? I'm getting dizzy, dizzy, dizzy.)

Well, that's how it happened, for those of you who are wondering. That's how the Skipper passed on taking the Big Hurt when he had the opportunity in the first round of the Draft. But hey, that's water over the dam. I won't take it to my grave. And besides, I managed to get the ninth-best second baseman in the league, Carlos "Honey" Baerga. I can't complain.

MY SEASON IN PURGATORY CHAPTER III

My managerial misfortune continues. If I wasn't the owner *and* the manager of this team, I'd be looking for a new job. For the sixth week, I managed a salty 55% of roster potential achieved on the Managing Index. For the season? A proud 61%. Can anyone top that?

Just how have things been going for the Senators this past week? I'm so glad you asked. Pull up a chair and listen up.

Ozzie Smith: Since his demotion earlier this month, Ozzie's career has been rejuvenated. At the time of his demotion, Ozzie had scored a whopping 6 points in the previous 10

games (according to my daily fax summary). Within the next few days, he managed to crack out home runs in consecutive games, for the first time in his entire career, according to ESPN. Through games of May 16, Ozzie had scored a total of 33 points in his previous 8 games, all for the Senators' sparking minor league farm club. Very nice.

Alex Cole: At the time of his promotion into the Senators' starting lineup on May 7, Cole had scored a total of 54 points in the previous 10 games. During his seven-game stint as a Senator starter, Alex managed to lose a total of 2 points during that span. For the year, Alex has 110 points to the good, and negative 2 for the Senators. Thank you so very much, Alex.

Trevor Hoffman: When Trevor was snatched from the Free Agent Draft on May 9, he had a cumulative total of 86 points for the year, and 61 for the immediately preceding three weeks. After joining the Senators' happy staff, Trevor managed to blow a save, take a loss, and chalk up a nifty negative 8 for the Senators. Very nice. And, I might add, former Senator reliever Jim Gott, who was angrily released outright for malperformance back on April 25, has improved his record to 5 and 1. Another good decision.

Chris Hammond: In the last issue of *FTB*, I sadly reported that Chris Hammond had tossed a shutout on May 5, earning a nifty 31 points for the Senators' minor league squad. As if that was not enough to punish his manager, before the ten-day rule had passed and I could get Chris back up in my starting lineup, on May 10 he twirled another beauty for the Senators' top farm squad, giving up two hits in 8 innings, and chalking up 32 points this time for my minor league squad. Very, very nice. At least I was consoled that day by Juan Guz-

man's negative 9 outing for the Senators' major league club.

And the Hammond saga continues. Finally promoted to the starting lineup on May 14, Chris next pitched on Sunday the 15th. As I tuned in to that very game at the end of the 6th inning, I licked my chops as I caught the 3-0 score in favor of the Marlins, anticipating another 30+ point outing from Mr. Hammond. And then, to my horror, I learned from the announcer that Hammond had been removed from the game after 5 innings with a "sore back." Very nice.

Mark Langston: This one really sticks in my craw. After going on the DL April 6, Langston was demoted to the Senators' minor league squad, for monitoring of his rehabilitation. I faithfully reviewed my daily Bill James faxes for some indication of Langston's return to action. On May 11, 1994, my daily fax advised me that "Mark Langston remains on 15-day DL." So wasn't I surprised to read my fax the following morning, to find out that Langston had mysteriously returned to action, pitched 5 innings, and chalked up 15 points for the Senators' minor league. What, information gridlock in Omaha as well? Did the Pony Express rider drop a saddlebag on the way to Bill James' office that day?

So I find out that Langston's next start is on Tuesday night (May 17) and make the obligatory call on Monday night to promote him to the majors. Wasn't I pleased this morning, then, to pull my fax off the wire and learn that Mark had lasted 4 innings and given up 8 hits, 7 runs and 6 earned runs, once firmly placed in my starting lineup. Negative 16. Very nice.

Believe me, my whine list could go on and on, but you get the picture for this week. Things don't look rosy for the Senators. When your top hitter chalks up 28 points for the week

(Robin Ventura), while top players from other squads are scoring 78 points a week (Tim Salmon), 60 points a week (Albert Belle), or even 53 points a week (Paul O'Neill), you know you're in trouble.

AROUND THE HORN

- I see that Rick Helling had a nice outing for Underbelly's Tribe. One inning pitched, ten hits, 9 runs, 9 earned runs, a loss. Do you suppose U-belly winced at that box score? It's comforting to know that I'm not the only guy that has pitchers with outtings like this. Misery loves company.

- Is it any wonder that Rookie is leading the pack, when he has the top three American League RBI leaders on his squad, none of whom is the Big Hurt (Joe Carter, 43; Kirby Puckett, 38; Julio Franco, 38). The lightning-fast Thomas does lead the League in runs scored, however, with 39. The only justice in this world is David.

- Lenny Dykstra, he of the Lincoln Cubs, is on a pace to score 166 runs and hit 76 doubles. Wow.

- Chuck Knoblauch is on a pace to rap out 83 doubles for the year. One of the few bright spots for the Tribe.

- Ken Griffey and Matt Williams are on pace to hit 66 and 64 home runs, respectively.

- After six weeks, the Redbirds have a 741-point cushion over the always-dangerous Senators. Last year at this time, the Senators (ahhh!) enjoyed a 515-point bulge over the lowly Pirates. Hmmm. What does this mean?

- In a thinly-veiled attempt to humiliate the Skipper, B.T. picked up former Senator Derek Bell in the most recent Free Agent Draft. In response, I will say to B.T. those same famous words that were uttered about our

beloved Itchie in the shadow of Cleveland Stadium: "Oooh. You can have him."

- May 16 was a red-letter day for Big Guy, as he demoted the happy trio of Bip Roberts, Gary Sheffield and Rickey Henderson. One thing about those three, they always come to play.

DREAM TEAM

As poorly as the Senators are doing, I wonder how they would fare against a team of the remaining Free Agent slugs? Let's see:

<u>Senators</u>		<u>Free Agents</u>	
C	I. Rodriguez	C	Brian Dorsett 89
1B	J. Bagwell	1B	R. Jefferson 83
2B	C. Baerga	2B	Joey Cora 93
SS	M. Bordick	SS	Manuel Lee 90
3B	R. Ventura	3B	D. Magadan 65
LF	L. Gonzalez	LF	Joe Orsulak 73
CF	L. Johnson	CF	Eric Davis 59
RF	J. Mouton	RF	Kirk Gibson 117
DH	P. Molitor	DH	Wn. Newson 17
SP	J. Guzman	SP	Andy Ashby 76
SP	P. Hentgen	SP	T. Browning 70
SP	M. Langston	SP	C. Hough 70
SP	C. Finley	SP	Greg Harris 69
SP	R. Bones	SP	S. Sanderson 62
RP	R. Myers	RP	H. Slocumb 90
RP	T. Hoffman	RP	C. McElroy 72
R	C. Carr	R	Bruce Ruffin 72
R	T. Pugh	R	Bob Wickman 71
R	D. Nied	R	Tom Edens 71
R	C. Hammond	R	C. Carpenter 71
Total Points/1470		Total Points/1480	

Very impressive. A makeshift team full of total Free Agent Slugs has 10 points more than the Senators after six weeks. Next season, I may simply pass on the initial Draft, and build my entire team through the Free Agent system. Just a thought.

Well, I have depressed myself enough for one week, so I will close out this issue of *FTB*.

Skipper