



FROM THE BULLPEN

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1994 Season

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WEEK XI CUBS RULE

Intoxicated by the hand of fate which has placed his beloved Cubs in 1st place after eleven weeks of play, the normally reserved manager of the Lincoln Cubs recently hoisted his not inconsiderable girth upon his desk at work and shouted to his startled colleagues:

"My Cubs are in 1st place!
I passed up Rookie!
I can flat-out manage!
We will win this thing!"

***Cubs manager declares:
"We will win this thing!"***

And so the Prophet Shamu has spoken. There's just one little detail, however, Friend Sinclair: The Season Is Not Over At Eleven Weeks! Anything could happen. With a few notable exceptions, that is. For instance, although the Tigers and the Senators are locked in hand-to-hand combat to avoid a finish in the League bowels, neither has a prayer for an upper division finish in '94. Conse-

quently, the strike can't get here soon enough.

This is how it stands after 11 weeks.

(Points-Points Behind-Points Week XI)

1. Cubs	3749-	-343	(5)
2. Redbirds	3747-	2 -280	(10)
3. Chiefs	3742-	7 -392	(1)
4. Red Sox	3614-	138-336	(7)
5. Skipjacks	3566-	183-360	(4)
6. Reds	3494-	255-387	(2)
7. B. Bombers	3329-	420-240	(12)
8. Blues	3235-	514-248	(11)
9. Tribe	3197-	552-362	(3)
10. Pirates	3102-	647-320	(9)
11. Tigers	2949-	800-353	(5)
12. Senators	2867-	882-332	(8)

WEEK XI TOTALS

Nobody cracked the 400-point barrier for Week XI, but the Chiefs and Reds both had big weeks:

1. Chiefs	392
2. Reds	387
3. Tribe	362
4. Skipjacks	360
5. Tigers	353
6. Cubs	343
7. Red Sox	336
8. Senators	332

9. Pirates	320
10. Redbirds	280
11. Blues	248
12. Bombers	240

TOP HITTERS - SEASON

1. Frank Thomas (Redbirds)	396
2. Junior Griffey (Chiefs)	383
3. Albert Belle (Cubs)	350
4. Jose Canseco (Chiefs)	328
5. Mike Piazza (Reds)	307
6. Kenny Lofton (Red Sox)	305
7. Chuck Knoblauch (Tribe)	303

TOP HITTERS - WEEK

1. Jose Canseco (Chiefs)	65
2. Albert Belle (Cubs)	58
3. Greg Vaughn (Pirates)	50
4. Wil Cordero (Blues)	46
5. Barry Larkin (Red Sox)	46

The top pitching squad for the week was the Reds, with 139. The top pitching squad for the season is the Chiefs, with 1084. The top pitcher for the week was Pedro Astacio of the Pirates, with 48. The top pitcher for the season, once again, is Greg Maddux of the Blues, with 340.

The top hitting squad for the week was the Chiefs, with 304. The top hitting squad for the season is the Red Birds, with 2713. The poorest hitting team for the week was the Bronx Bombers with 190. The poorest pitching squad for the week was the Blues, with 37.

HUBBUB

— Everybody is shouting about that Holy Trio, the Chiefs, Cubs and Redbirds. But let there be no mistake -- the Reds are not out of it yet, not by a long shot. As evidenced by last week's 387-point outburst, and last week's point total of 43 for free agent draftee Dwight Gooden, the Reds are in it to stay in 1994.

— Speaking of great free agent picks, Curby recently snatched Kent Mercker from the pool, who promptly pitched his way to yet another win. Answer me this: Why did Kent pitch once every 27th day while he was a Senator, but suddenly he is in the thick of a five-man Braves rotation? 'Tis the season of my discontent.

— Last year at this time, the Senators were leading the HSL standings with 3701 points (ahhh, those were the days, when men were men and baseball was a game, and leading the HSL really meant something); Barry Bonds was leading the pack with 371 points (as compared with Frank Thomas' 396 to date); and Randy Johnson was the leading pitcher, with 285 points (considerably less than Greg Maddux's current total of 340).

— Last year at this time, the lowly Pirates were bringing up the rear with 2873 points. Can you imagine that? Old Slo-Pay really drug down the League last year, didn't he?

— The League average through 11 weeks this year is 3382 points per team. Last year at this time, our

League average was 3383.83. Now that's consistency!

— Just a comment. If Bobby Ayala is your top pitcher for the week (Chiefs - 23 points), your pitching staff is in a world of Major Hurt.

— The Redbirds have now produced three consecutive sub-300-point weeks (275, 236, 280); while the Senators have produced two straight 300-plus-point weeks (351, 332) to close to within 900 points of the Redbirds.

— While Barry Bonds was the top-rated player at this time last year, through 11 weeks of the 1994 season, he is the 30th-ranked hitter (and tied for 30th, at that, with Travis Fryman, Tim Salmon, and Jay Buehner).

UPDATE ON THE UNCTUOUS ONE

Possum ¹, our resident bottom-dweller, is still up to his old tricks, playing the Bait-and-Switch game like a concert maestro and then whimpering about the HSL conspiracy against him. Example No. 327: Last week, Possum offered up his Anchors-Aweigh-Boys, Deion Sanders and Paul O'Neill, for the Senators' top player (who else), Jeff Bagwell. After I responded by advising Possum that I would consider this transaction if only I knew that it was a bona fide offer, I received a phone call moments later from The Jackal, and guess what, Sanders and O'Neill had magically transformed into Sanders, Kevin Gross and Eric Karros for Jeff Bagwell. NOT!

¹ May O.J. Simpson become obsessed with your wife and daughter, Evil One.

SKIPPER'S WISH LIST

I wish:

— That I hadn't released Ken Caminiti (now the 4th-rated third baseman, and moving up fast).

— I hadn't released Alex Cole.

— I hadn't released Kent Mercker.

— I had not demoted Luis Gonzalez before his recent flurry.

— I had selected Nagy in the Supplemental Draft.

— I Was a Fish. (Oops, sorry. That's one of Shoeless' favorite books.)

— B.T. had not hosed me out of getting Bobby Jones (who continues to chalk up points in the free agent draft).

— That I had never heard of Chuck Carr.

— For world peace.

— That David Nied had been in my starting lineup for last night's shutout.

— That I could spend 15 minutes with Juan Guzman in a locked room.

DID YOU KNOW

From the history department, how many of you knew that Babe Ruth began his professional career with a game against the Buffalo Bisons, while pitching for the minor league Baltimore Orioles? The Babe began his career with a bang by tossing a 6-0 shutout before a reported crowd of 200 people.

I guess that covers it. See you next week.

Skipper