



# FROM THE BULLPEN

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The Hot Stove League  
Eastern Nebraska Division  
1994 Season

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## CHIEF-A-TORS RULE

The Hot Stove League leader for Week XIII is the top co-op team of B.T. and Skipper, the LinOma Chief-a-Tors. Stoked by the white-hot pitching of Bobby Witt and the blazing bat of Derek Bell, the Chief-a-Tors have forged a lead of 81 points, and look poised to maintain the lead as the first half of the 1994 campaign draws to a close.

With 213 hitting points (led by Mo Vaughn with 37) and 223 pitching points (led by Bobby Witt with 64), the Chief-a-Tors put together an impressive 435 points for the week, to finish the 13th week with a total of 4522 points.<sup>1</sup> The standings through 13 weeks are as follows:

### First Division

1. Chiefs	4522
2. Cubs	4441
3. Skipjacks	4350
4. Reds	4349
5. Redbirds	4307
6. Red Sox	4211

### Second Division

7. Blues	3882
8. Bronx Bombers	3859
9. Tribe	3779
10. Pirates	3649
11. Tigers	3639
12. Senators	3554

## A WEEK TO REMEMBER

Some eye-popping point totals were produced during the 13th week, led by the Reds' incredible tally of 526 points (must be a typo). And believe it or not, this was not even the best BJFB team of the week. The Reds were 63 points behind the no-doubt aptly named Dung Hill Steaming Maggot, owned by Sam Howard of the George Sisler League. You can bet that's a competitive league.

After Curby's record mark, the totals were less impressive, but three other teams exceeded the 400-point barrier (as compared to none last week), and only one team — the Pirates — failed to crack the 300-point barrier. Here's how it went for Week XIII:

1. Reds	526
2. Cubs	436
3. Chiefs	435
4. Skipjacks	401

5. Tigers	392
6. Tribe	352
7. Senators	351
8. Red Sox	348
9. Blues	337
10. Redbirds	320
11. Bronx Bombers	309
12. Pirates	280

The HSL average for the week was 373 points! A guy has to crack the 400-point barrier just to keep from losing ground, it appears.

## BESTS AND WORSTS

MVP:	
Frank Thomas (Redbirds)	473
Cy Young:	
Greg Maddux (Blues)	374
Top Hitting Team/Season:	
Cubs	3216
Top Hitting Team/Week:	
Cubs	376
Worst Hitting Team/Season:	
Bronx Bombers	2660
Worst Hitting Team/Week:	
Pirates	204
Top Pitching Team/Season:	
Chiefs	1411

<sup>1</sup> For perspective, last year at this time, the Chiefs led the League with 4436 points

Top Pitching Team/Week: Chiefs	223
Worst Pitching Team/Season: Tigers	748
Worst Pitching Team/Week: Cubs	60

### Top Ten Point Scorers

1. Frank Thomas (Redbirds)	473
2. Albert Belle (Cubs)	448
3. Ken Griffey, Jr. (Chiefs)	428
4. Jeff Bagwell (Senators)	426
5. Kenny Lofton (Red Sox)	390
6. Jose Canseco (Chiefs)	382
7. Greg Maddux (Blues)	374
8. Mike Piazza (Reds)	355
9. Will Clark (Cubs)	349
(T) Fred McGriff (Red Sox)	349
10. Dante Bichette (Cubs)	347
(T) Moises Alou (Cubs)	347

## SOME THOUGHTS

— The Cubs hitters are tearing it up, at 376 points for Week XIII! With Clark, Belle, Alou and Bichette all in the top 10, the powerful Cubs have been able to hold their own, even with injuries to Brian Harper and Lenny Dykstra. If the Cubs' pitching ever heats up again, look out.

— The once-feared Redbirds continue to plummet, not unlike Paul O'Neill's batting average. While the Redbirds finally cracked the 300-point barrier (after four straight weeks in the 200's), it took a sterling, career-best performance by star pitcher *David West*, and the Redbirds could only muster up the tenth-highest point total for the week.

— While the Senators continue to put together solid performances (four straight weeks over 400, with two of the weeks over 350), they continue to maintain their rigor mortis-like lock on the cellar position. The only good news is I continue to have my pick of the cream

of the crop from the weekly free agent draft.

— The Reds were forced to release Dwight Gooden, the former great who continues to battle drug and alcohol addictions. But not to worry, Curby. To keep that warm glow on your roster, you will soon be able to pick up Darryl Strawberry in the free agent draft, so that you may keep your team down at its usual subterranean level of ethics. You may even be able to forge a trade with the free-falling Redbirds for another model citizen, Vince Coleman. He's always at his best right around the 4th of July.

## WITTICISM

How about that Bobby Witt? Let me relive the nightmare again. Witt has a terrific spring, and I figure it's finally time for him to have that superstar season that all once predicted for him. I thought he was good enough to pick up in the 15th round of the draft. So I did.

Once selected, Bobby proceeded to don an asbestos uniform for his tour of duty as a Senator; routinely dousing himself with jet fuel, and marching out to the mound with his pockets bulging with blow torches, Bic lighters, matches, and pieces of flint. Then, rather than to simply release "The Flame" outright, when B.T. offered up James Mouton to help shore up the Senators' porous outfield, I jumped at the chance. The rest, as they say, is history.

As we all know, B.T. wisely set The Flame down on his bench until he had purged himself of his 2 10 8 8 6 4, negative oogly-boo-points outings. Then, after being inserted into the Chiefs' starting lineup, The Flame puts together a near perfect game and a three-consecutive shutout skein that looks like it is not soon to end. Oh, Bobby, ya dun me wrong, laddie.

## POSSUM TO GO

## ON TRIP

Naw. Assuredly not on the manly-man junket (*The Trip*) to the East Coast, to be attended by eight hairy-chested men's men. And further, this is not in reference to Possum's painful face-flop from the back of my Jeep into a parking meter in front of the Jones Street brewery, suffered earlier this year. The trip that Possum is in fact scheduled (by Tracy) to take is a journey to the shopping mall to pick up some new ladies' undergarments for he and his spouse.

Harsh words, maybe, but bear in mind that this spineless tapeworm could not even muster up the courage to ask his boss for permission to go to Kansas City to participate in the first day of The Trip. Now *that's* gutless. (Are you reading this, Curby? Your time is coming.) But hey, Possum, you wouldn't have liked it anyway.

## TRIP UPDATE

We will meet at swanky Econolodge Hotel near the Kansas City Airport (11300 Prairie View Road) this Thursday, July 7, at 5:30 p.m. After checking in, we will meet McBlunder at Will Call at Kauffman Stadium at 6:30 p.m. See you then!

## THE LANGUAGE OF BASEBALL

Last week's issue of *Baseball Digest*<sup>2</sup> contained an article on the fascinating vernacular of baseball. As we all know, baseball players and personnel have a language of their very own. Some of my favorites are included herewith.

## NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE

<sup>2</sup> A terrific publication, for those of you who have never read it.

Highlights from The Trip. See you then.

#### Skipper

"Words evolve from other words," Mark Davis said. "Like for a fastball, you might go from octane to gasoline to saline. Eventually, you've got people calling a fastball saline solution. By the time you've come full circle, you're wondering where the heck the word came from."

**Bazooka.** A strong-throwing arm, as in, "He's got a bazooka."

**Broadway.** The middle of the plate. A ball is thrown "right down Broadway."

**Dues collector.** A bat.

**Fogger.** Fastball pitcher. Originated by famed baseball linguist Dizzy Dean.

**Helicopter.** A high, breaking pitch.

**Hook.** Curveball.

**Kitchen.** The area of a batter's torso inside or at the edge of the high and inside portion of the strike zone. A fastball coming into that area — "getting in his kitchen" — is especially tough, if not impossible, to hit. The term often is used in more elaborate metaphors: "He got in his kitchen and broke a few dishes."

**Making vitamins.** Committing errors, as in "One-A-Day."

**Ouija board.** The umpire's indicator.

**Pay station.** Home plate.

**Pea.** Pitched or batted ball that is moving so fast it appears smaller than it actually is.

#### BASEBALL LINGO

**Rib roaster.** Inside pitch.

**Room service.** Term describing a pitch or batted ball that comes right to the player in question.

**Screaming meemie.** A vicious, low line drive.

**Seed.** Line drive; a pea.

**Skillet.** A fielder's glove, especially an unwieldy one or one on the hand of a poor fielder.

**Staten Island sinker.** Spitball.

**Tattooed man.** Pitcher who has been hit hard.

**Uncle Charlie.** Curveball.

**Wrinkle.** A curveball with little break.

**Yakker.** Sharp-breaking curveball.