



FROM THE BULLPEN

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Eastern Nebraska Division
1994 Season

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THOSE SENSATIONAL SENATORS!

As we finish off the 16th week of the season, the cream begins to rise toward the top. While other teams are patching up leaks and bailing out water, the Senators' vessel sails smoothly along¹ For the second consecutive week, the Senators led all teams in the weekly scoring, buoyed by the sparkling weekly performances of Paul Molitor (66 points) and Jeff Bagwell (64 points).

Here are the overall standings after 16 weeks:

FIRST DIVISION

1. Cubs	5366
2. Chiefs	5337
3. Redbirds	5336
4. Reds	5275
5. Skipjacks	5234
6. Red Sox	5203

SECOND DIVISION

7. Blues	4699
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¹ But read on for an account of some ripples in the water for my Senators.

8. Bronx Bombers	4682
9. Tigers	4661
10. SENATORS	4636
11. Tribe	4562
12. Pirates	4504

The Cubs are clinging to their lead like a drunk to a lamppost. With a mere 319-point week, the Cubs figured to drop a spot or two behind the Chiefs or Redbirds. However, neither team was equal to the task, with the Chiefs mustering up only 330 points for the week, and the Redbirds 301.

In the second division, each team is only a week away from being in 7th place or in the cellar, with a spread of only 137 points between the six teams. Which is a darned good reason for keeping up with your team, boys. Nobody, but nobody, wants to take over Slo-Pay's spot at the bottom of the honeywagon.

Here are the weekly totals for Week XVI:

WEEK XVI

1. SENATORS	399
2. Tigers	387
3. Blues	340
4. Chiefs	330
5. Red Sox	321
6. Cubs	319
7. Tribe	312

(T) Skipjacks	312
9. Pirates	304
10. Reds	303
11. Redbirds	301
12. Bronx Bombers	288

A lot of mediocrity, with eight of the twelve teams scoring between 301 and 330 points for the week. There won't be much movement in the standings at that rate.

BESTS AND WORSTS

MVP:	
Frank Thomas (Redbirds)	599
Cy Young:	
Greg Maddux (Blues)	464
Top Hitting Team/Season:	
Redbirds	3849
Top Hitting Team/Week:	
Senators	294
Worst Hitting Team/Season:	
Bronx Bombers	3214
Worst Hitting Team/Week:	
Chiefs	152
Top Pitching Team/Season:	
Chiefs	1694
Top Pitching Team/Week:	

Chiefs 179

Worst Pitching Team/Season:
Tribe 1020

Worst Pitching Team/Week:
Redbirds 45

Top Ten Point Scorers

1. Frank Thomas (Redbirds) 589
2. Jeff Bagwell (Senators) 535
3. Albert Belle (Cubs) 511
4. Ken Griffey, Jr. (Chiefs) 504
5. Kenny Lofton (Red Sox) 481
6. Greg Maddux (Blues) 454
7. Barry Bonds (Reds) 443
8. Jose Canseco (Chiefs) 437
9. Paul Molitor (Senators) 431
10. Andres Galarraga (Tigers) 427

ETC.

- The top hitting team, the Redbirds, was led this week by the Master Blaster, Chad Curtis. You can't stop him, you can only contain him.

- Robb Nen was the top pitcher for the Red Sox this week. Vince Palacios headed up the Blues staff. Shane Reynolds was the top pitcher for the Skipjacks. It's definitely getting late in the year.

- Paul Sorrento was the top hitter for the Pirates, with 55 points for the week. Another ex-Senator gone good.

- Barry Bonds is one hot player. If you will remember, just a short time ago (June 22), I reported that Bonds was tied as the 30th-ranked hitter, with Travis Fryman, Tim Salmon and Jay Buhner. In the span of a month, he has moved up to No. 7, and does not figure to stop there. Watch out for the Reds.

A BAD RAPP

The Senators' pitching staff continues its woes, not by managerial mismanagement this time, but because of a massive

blunder on the part of one of Bill's clueless telephone operators. If you have a few moments to hear me out, then hear this.

On July 18, I picked up Pat Rapp from the free agent list, Pat having just been dumped by Underbelly a week earlier, and having just thrown a gem of a win. After Rapp made his way onto my roster, I watched my daily fax to see when he would next be in the starting lineup, and learned that his pitching debut for the Senators would be Friday, July 22. Dutifully, then, on Thursday night, July 21, I phoned in my promotion of Pat Rapp, demoting Allen Watson to make a spot for him in my starting lineup.

Saturday morning next, I arose early to read the box scores with my first cup of coffee, and nearly scared Joseph out of his highchair with my shriek of ecstasy as I spotted Pat Rapp's first major league shutout. "I finally timed a great move on one of my pitchers," I exclaimed to no one in particular. And won't Underbelly be heartsick about dropping Rapp, I thought to myself. By now you must realize that something very bad happened next.

After finishing off the box scores, I drove to the office, pulled my daily fax out of the machine, and in stark terror saw that the 32 points scored by Rapp in his shutout were listed in the minor league portion of my roster. Scanning up the page, I found that the Bill James telephone jockey who took my call had mistakenly promoted reliever Todd Jones into my starting lineup, in replacement of the demoted Allen Watson. Incensed, enraged, but still thinking quite clearly, I immediately typed up a letter to Bill James, pointing out this egregious error, and demanding that the transaction be immediately reversed and corrected. The letter went off the fax wires no later than 9 a.m. on Saturday. As you may guess, the letter fell upon deaf ears.

"How do I know you didn't make a mistake when you called in the transac-

tion to the operator?" was the inevitable question that I faced when talking with good old Drew from Bill James.

"Because I was waiting all week to promote Pat Rapp, knew that he was starting on Friday morning, and had no reason to promote Todd Jones, since I had two other relievers in my lineup. And because Todd Jones stinks," was my response.

Drew readily agreed that Todd Jones stinks, but reiterated his disbelief that one of his acne-infested telephone jockeys could have made a mistake in punching in the transaction. And even if he did, I learned, the Bill James rule book (look for that fine print) specifies that erroneous transactions, never mind who makes the mistake, can never result in points being added to a team retroactively.

The threat of protracted and expensive litigation could not move Drew off of the party line, and thus the Senators will go forth without Pat Rapp's 32 points for that magical shutout victory. To make matters worse, I learned that Rapp's 32 points would have pushed me past the Tigers into 9th place in this week's Hot Stove League standings, and judging by the way things are going this week (Baerga still hurt, my pitchers getting lit up like Roman candles), this may be as high as my team was ever intended to go. Que sera, sera.

As a postscript to this little tale of incompetence and misery, to add insult to injury, I read in this morning's box scores that Jones pitched 3-1/3 innings of no-hit ball last night, earning the win for the Astros, and chalking up 20 points for the Senators. For the Senators' minor league squad, that is, since yesterday afternoon Bill James agreed to immediately place Pat Rapp in my starting lineup in place of Todd Jones to correct the mistake, without the mandatory ten-day waiting period. So, as you see, it is the worst of all possible worlds. The Senators don't get

credit for Pat Rapp's 32 points, or for
Todd Jones' 20 points last night.

As they say, life is a --it sandwich, *and*
every day you take another bite.

See you next week.

Skipper