

FROM THE BULLPEN



Official Publication of
The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1995 Season

Edition No. 1
January 17, 1995

Gentlemen:

This short bulletin will serve as the first *From the Bullpen* of the new year, for which all of you have no doubt been hungering. First and foremost on my short list is a reminder about this Saturday's

WINTER MEETING

which will begin at

3:00 p.m.

The meeting will take place at Skipper's house, 12950 Eagle Run Drive. Our agenda for the Winter Meeting looks like this:

1. Greetings and generalized small talk as members arrive.
2. Consumption of light hors d'oeuvres and finger foods.
3. Members exchange polite utterances and ask obligatory questions about each other's families.
4. Drum roll by Joseph Jackson on new Christmas drum set.
5. Announcement of 1994 Hot Stove League winner, Charles Dwight "Shamu" Sinclair*.

6. Toasts, cheers, kudos, congratulations to brother Shamu*.
7. Traditional downing of punch bowl of flaming tequila by last year's winner, followed by administration of emergency CPR.
8. Exchange of IOUs for payment of last year's entry fees.
9. Panel discussion of "What's Wrong With Baseball Today," led by Underbelly.
10. Panel discussion of "What's Wrong With the World Today," led by BabyTrumpetfish.
11. Panel discussion of "What's Wrong With Those Kids Today," led by The Silent Assassin.
12. Panel discussion of 1995 HSL proceedings if replacement players are used.
13. Scheduling of 1995 HSL Draft.
14. Generalized quaffage of alcohol and consumption of chewing tobacco.
15. Annual Winter Meeting Mock Draft.
16. Voting on use of scab owners to replace Underbelly and Silent Assassin if they refuse to cross the picket line.
17. Annual vote on replacement of Possum as League owner.
18. Vote on termination of Goofy Golf League.
19. Moment of silence.
20. Vespers.

21. Adjournment for trip north to Onawa.

Itchie has announced that if the meeting begins promptly on time at 3:00 p.m., he intends to be on the road north to Onawa no later than 3:15. Sounds to me like he may have a problem.¹

REPLACEMENT PLAYERS

One of the burning issues at the Winter Meeting will be how our League will handle the 1995 season if the owners decide to open with replacement players. Underbelly and SloPay, good union men that they are, have already made it known that they will not cross the picket line and own a team composed of scab players. To this I say: It's a free country. Replacement owners will not be hard to come by. In fact, One-Way Tony has already agreed to the use of the nickname "One-Way Tony the Scab Childers" as his official League nickname

¹ Thought bubble: Which problem? Gambling, alcoholism, high blood pressure, pedophilia, hair loss, weight, schizophrenia, personal bankruptcy, halitosis, the list could go on and on. You be the judge.

in the Hot Stove League, as soon as he is approved by the membership-at-large.

GOLF STANDINGS

Don't ask me why, but I've agreed to announce here the standings in our new, exciting golf league after two weeks of play. Following the Mercedes Championship in LaCosta and the Hawaiian Open, the standings look like this:

B.T.	258,231
Shamu*	222,256
Magpie-Curby	187,931
SloPay	180,917
Underbelly	173,820
Jim Ed	112,385
Itchie	106,400
Possum	91,050
McBlunder	77,240
Big Guy	72,265
Mouse	64,320
Skipper	59,150

Yawn. Like I care.

THE MASTER RACE

I am pleased to announce that our family plan to create a master race of future Hall-of-Famers is right on target. Mark your calendar for August 25, 1995, which is the ETA for Baby Ernst II. Names have not yet been decided upon, but Cheryl and I solicit your suggestions and input. Right now it looks like Lou Gehrig Ernst is #1, and Jimmy Foxx Ernst is #2, but these are not carved in stone.

And so, having said all that, this issue of *From the Bullpen* is now at an end. See you on Saturday, and don't forget your wallets.

Skipper