

FROM THE BULLPEN



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Eastern Nebraska Division
1995 Season

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Brethren:

This "wait-and-see" approach to the 1995 season stinks. I am leaving for Phoenix next Wednesday, and don't even know if I'll be watching spring baseball or visiting The Wonderful World of Cactus Museum. Don't these arrogant owners and millionaire brats know that we Hot Stove Leaguers virtually plan our lives around the major league baseball season? How dare they toy with us this way.

DRAFT DAY

Since the 1995 season is still up in the air, so, too, is the 1995 HSL Draft. I guess we should continue to play it by ear, but please plan to be available on very short notice for a trip to Gaines Mullen for the 1995 Draft.

THE TRIP

There have been numerous suggestions that even if the 1995 major league baseball season does not get off the ground, we still venture off together for a weekend of male bonding and manly-man activities, primarily to keep the HSL TRIP streak alive and so as to not allow the spouses to get the idea that this is *not*

an annual boys' trip. Because that, my friends, could be disastrous.

So, I recommend that we begin making plans for our 1995 HSL trip, and lock in a weekend for a junket to the Rockies. If there is no baseball to be seen this summer at the brand-spanking-new Coors Field, I will wager that we will be able to find replacement activities which will be of at least some passing interest to the fellas. How does mountain golf, gambling at Central City, minor league baseball at Colorado Springs, Mexican food and margueritas aplenty, and cards, beer, chew and great stories at the Eagle's Nest grab you for starters? Doesn't sound like much fun to me, either. But keep an open mind.

Nobody asked for my input, but I suggest that we look at one of the following weekends for the 1995 trip:

June 2-4	Pirates v. Rockies
June 16-18	Braves v. Rockies
July 7-9	Expos v. Rockies
July 21-23	Mets v. Rockies

What say you? I am enclosing for your use a response form, so that you can indicate your preference.

WINTER MEETING

The January 21 HSL Winter Meeting took place as scheduled but was marred by the failure of the 1993 HSL winner (Magpie-Curby) to appear and pass The Cup to our 1994 Champion, Shamu.* It appears that we may have to initiate a Small Claims Court action to wrest Magpie's cold, steely grip from the handles of The Cup, since Shamu* still has not seen hide nor hair of the coveted prize. The only other League member not in attendance was Possum, but his presence was more than outweighed by the attendance of One Way Tony, Itchie's happy-go-lucky henchman. In a year of replacement players, Tony is working hard to earn a spot as a replacement for the Possum.

EVERYBODY WINS AT WINNEVEGAS

Our Winter Meeting was punctuated by a fun-filled excursion to Sloan for gambling, liquor and trading with the Indians. While not everybody was a winner on this trip to the casino, there were many highlights:

- The forging of a close relationship between BabyTrumpetfish and Leroy (ATM).

- The Call of the Wild from One Way Tony at the craps table.
- An excited Underbelly proclaiming "Beads and Moccasins for everyone!"
- Hearing my buddy Jerry (Woody Allen gone bad) tell me he loved me as I left the blackjack table after befriending him for three hours.

But I think Itchie summed it up best when he proclaimed simply, "I LOVE GAMBLING AND DRINKING!"

That says it all.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Most of you know by now that Rick Drews has left the law firm of Brashear and Ginn to venture out on his own in private practice. Beginning February 1, 1995, Big Guy has been practicing law at Taylor, Connolly, Kluver & Big Guy, 940 Commercial Federal Tower, 2120 South 72nd Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, telephone number 402-391-3712, fax number 391-3714. Congrats on the big move, Big Guy, and the best of luck in your new venture.

GOOFY GOLF

For those of you that have been following B.T.'s golf league, the most recent standings are as follows:

1. SloPay	\$1,121,296
2. Blunder	\$869,295
3. Magpie-Curby	\$642,500
4. Itchie	\$565,071
5. Shamu*	\$536,964
6. B.T.	\$517,863
7. Skipper	\$466,588
8. Underbelly	\$435,487
9. Possum	\$418,619
10. Big Guy	\$412,536
11. Jim Ed	\$409,349
12. Mouse	\$257,895

Ironic, isn't it, that SloPay and McBlunder are ranked 1 and 2 in the golf league, when they can't even get a sniff in the Hot Stove League. It might be pointed out, also, that their golf teams were picked for them by others. But hey, they're in first and second, and you can't take that away from them.

As B.T. pointed out in the recent newsletter, Magpie has now gone two weeks in a row in our golf league without winning a nickel. As B.T. put it, "He's folding faster than a Chinese laundry worker." All I know is that when Magpie picked up \$200K plus from V.J. Singh's win in Phoenix, this had to be the first tournament win for V.J. since he and his brother were knocking them dead in tennis back in the early 1980s.

Much more to add, but every now and then I have to pretend like I'm actually working around here, so until next issue, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Skipper