

# FROM THE BULLPEN



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Brethren:

**WOW!** Was it just me, or did the rest of you have that same old rush of adrenaline over The Draft and the days that followed? With the specter of the strike, I forgot just how good it is to watch a baseball game, and just how fun it is to scan the box scores for a 5-3-3-4 kind of night. Not that the Senators have all that many spectacular nights, but it's still fun looking for one.

What's that you say -- enough of this idle prattle? How about Skipper's annual draft analysis and assessment? I knew you were all hungering for just that, and so without further ado, I provide you herewith my considered assessment, analysis, study, review, and gratuitous commentary on each and every one of your performances in the 1995 draft. Please don't take them personally, it's simply the job that I have to do. And please, bear in mind that I'm no Mel Kiper, Jr., but I am an attorney.

**SKIPPER'S 1995  
DRAFT ANALYSIS<sup>1</sup>**

**CUBS/SHAMU\***

<sup>1</sup> Ranked in the order drafted, not alphabetically, geographically, or otherwise.

**Outfield (OF):** Good.

**Infield (IF):** Above average.

**Starting Pitching (SP):** Top drawer.

**Relief Pitching (RP):** Just fine.

**Top Pick (TP):** Tie between selections in first three rounds.

**Worst Blunder (WB):** Believe it or not, Shamu\* did not stub his flipper until the 7th round, when he took the emotionally unstable albeit talented Shamu Sosa.

**Overall Assessment:** Shamu's dogged determination to shed his asterisk pays huge dividends in 1995. Unfortunately, even if Shamu\*\* wins the crown in 1995, it may be considered tainted (144 games) by some.

**Predicted Order of Finish (POF):**  
**REPEAT CHAMPION (1).**

**REDS/MAGPIE-CURBY**

**OF:** Damned fine.

**IF:** Average.

**SP:** Shaky on right side, solid on port side.

**RP:** *Nen-existent.*

**TP:** Candiotti in the 21st round was savvy.

**WB:** Taking Wil Cordero in the 3rd round was, like our own beloved Possum, "way too oily."

**Overall:** Despite picking some solid players, Magpie-Curby spent too much time trying to confuse and distract Possum during the draft, and consequently lost track of his own ship's course at times. Unless everything goes just right for Magpie-Curby, and everything goes wrong for Shamu and other owners, look for the Reds to drop a notch or two this season.

**POF:** Third (3).

**CHIEFS/B.T.**

**OF:** Peachy.

**IF:** Abysmal.

**SP:** Decent.

**RP:** Okay.

**TP:** Hard to single one out. Marquis in the 2nd?

**WB:** Wee Willie Greene, his starting third baseman, in the 11th (I've seen him play; it's back to Triple A).

**Overall:** Despite his own cocky analysis of the '95 Chiefs squad, once the blinders are taken off it is easy to see that this team will not be in contention for the title, although an upper division finish is probably in the cards. Absent some blockbuster trades or miracle seasons from several of these guys, the Chiefs are looking at finishing somewhere around the 5-6 position.

**Team Mascot?:** Jason Jacome (pronounced Yak-On-Me).

**POF:** 6th.

### RED SOX/POSSUM

**OF:** Dandy.

**IF:** Lower middle class.

**SP:** Yech.

**RP:** Yech<sup>(2)</sup>. (So what if Lee Smith has three saves already -- he weighs 460 pounds and smokes a carton of Camel straights a day. In Anaheim, his September will come in mid-June.)

**TP:** Pedro Martinez in the 5th (watch for a bust-out year).

**WB:** Hoiles in the 4th. Way, way too early.

**Overall:** Another team you just love to hate. Not a great team on paper, but with a bit of Possum cunning, skulldugery and outright lying and cheating, this team could easily be converted to a contender.

**POF:** 4th.

### REDBIRDS/JIM ED

**OF:** Old.

**IF:** Right side - wow; left side - why?

**SP:** Right side - oh, yes; left side - oh, no.

**RP:** Pfft.

**TP:** Kevin Appier in the 5th is looking good, although Andy Vandy in the 15th and Roger Clemens in the 11th may prove to be brilliant.

**WB:** Chuck Knoblauch in the 2nd may have been a bit premature (oh, those Terrible Twins).

**Overall:** Too many Bloody Marys for this boy on draft day. While Jim Ed started out strong in the top five rounds, things quickly began falling to pieces after that. Jim Ed may have set an HSL record for going up to the board and picking (or preparing to pick) a player who had already been selected. Skipper says a lower division finish is a likelihood for this year's Birds O' Crimson.

**POF:** 7th.

### SKIPJACKS/ITCHIE

**OF:** U-gee.

**IF:** Aside from Biggio and Daulton, it ain't pretty.

**SP:** Here, Itchie's bitchin'.

**RP:** Nothing but rocketfuel and blow torches.

**TP:** This one's easy -- Greg Maddux in the 1st.

**WB:** Round 11 on (what happened, Itchie?).

**Overall:** Hard to say what happened to Itchie on Draft Day '95. After starting out the draft in a big way with some excellent picks in Rounds 1 through 5, Itchie ran into some troubled waters in the next few rounds, and his ship capsized somewhere around Round 11 or 12. While Itchie's starting pitchers will get him some points, it will take some mighty fine managing on his part to overcome his pathetic outfield and Swiss cheese-like infield. Look for the Itchster to drop into the League bowels by season's end.

**POF:** 10th.

### BLUES/McBLUNDER

**OF:** Whoo-boy.

**IF:** Passes the smell test.

**SP:** Yo.

**RP:** Like most of McBlunder's dates in his single days -- not pretty.

**TP:** I'm looking, McBlunder, I'm looking (McGwire in the 9th?).

**WB:** All I can say about Al Martin in the 9th round is, why? It could just as well have been Al Martin in the 28th.

**Overall:** After a laudable start in the 1995 draft (lasting until about the 6th round), the wheels came off in a hurry for the manager of the beleaguered Blues. While some crafty managing can keep the Blues out of the basement, they are a clear threat to finish the season in the cellar.

**POF:** 11th.

### TRIBE/UNDERBELLY

**OF:** Marginal.

**IF:** Shaky.

**SP:** Questionable, if not pitiable.

**RP:** Passable.

**TP:** Dante Bichette in the 5th. Look for Dante to crack out 35 to 45 doubles in spacious Coors Field.

**WB:** Gregg Jefferies in the 3rd was, in the railroad vernacular, a major derailment.

**Overall:** Just what was your drafting strategy this year, Underbelly? First baseman in the second round, followed by a first baseman in the third? Did I miss something, or is there a serious shortage of good first basemen? Too many fliers, not enough scorers. Back to the basement for the Tribe.

**POF:** THE CELLAR.

### BRONX BOMBERS/ MOUSE

**OF:** Good starters.

**IF:** Decent.

**SP:** Real old.

**RP:** Real average.

**TP:** I like Jimmy Key in the 3rd.

**WB:** Matt Williams in the 1st is a wasted first round pick. Mattie can hit, he just can't score in this league.

**Overall:** I don't know why I don't like this team more than I do. I just don't. While I see Mouse avoiding the cellar for a second straight year, I don't see much if any upward movement. 9th place last year, 9th place this year.

**POF:** 9th.

### TIGERS/BIG GUY

**OF:** Not as good as he thinks.

**IF:** Hunky-dorey.

**SP:** Nothing to write home about.

**RP:** Old, and not that good.

**TP:** Lenny Dykstra in the 4th may have been a steal.

**WB:** Gary Sheffield in the 5th. Why are you in love with Dwight Gooden's kissin' cousin, Big Guy?

**Overall:** Another disappointing year for my HSL idol, Big Guy. Pretty good picks in the first four rounds, but pretty average or even poor selections after that. Somebody was asleep at the switch.

**POF:** 8th.

### SENATORS/SKIPPER

**OF:** Bleak again.

**IF:** Probably just fine.

**SP:** A crackerjack rotation.

**RP:** Simply the best.

**TP:** Mickey Tettleton in the 3rd? Maybe not. How about Raul Mondesi in the 5th? We'll see.

**WB:** Mickey Tettleton in the 3rd? Maybe so.

**Overall:** This unorthodox roster of the '95 Senators will surprise a lot of people. If the Skipper is able to exercise a bit of patience, and wait for other League owners to come begging to him for relief pitching (John Wetteland, Mel Rojas, Brad Clontz), this team could turn into a powder keg. I'm going out on a limb to say this, but I see the '95 Senators as finishing in the money.

**POF:** 2nd.

### PIRATES/SLOPAY

**OF:** If healthy, very fine.

**IF:** Questionable.

**SP:** Top drawer.

**RP:** Just fine.

**TP:** So far, John Valentin in the 8th is making SloPay look like a genius.

**WB:** Will Clark in the 2nd round was, quite frankly, a horrible decision. I love the guy, too, but he would have been around in the 5th or 6th.

**Overall:** I wasn't crazy about this team on Draft Day, but with the sober light of reflection, I believe that the long-suffering Pirates may break into the upper division with the '95 squad.

**POF:** 5th.

### RECAP OF SKIPPER'S PREDICTED FINISHES

1. Cubs	Shamu
2. Senators	Skipper
3. Reds	Magpie/Curby
4. Red Sox	Possum
5. Pirates	SloPay
6. Chiefs	B.T.
7. Redbirds	Jim Ed
8. Tigers	Big Guy
9. Bronx Bombers	Mouse
10. Skipjacks	Itchie
11. Blues	McBlunder
12. Tribe	Underbelly

### So Let It Be Written -- CUBS REPEAT!

Good luck to each of you in the 1995 campaign.

Skipper