

FROM THE BULLPEN



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1995 Season

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Brethren:

*The first will be last
and the last will be first.*

SloPay's Pirate squad is evidently on a mission from God in 1995, drafting out of the last position yet sitting atop the leader board after the second week of the season. Here's how things stack up after Week 2:

1. Pirates (441 pts, 2nd wk)	732
2. Redbirds (332)	720
3. Bronx Bombers (376)	658
4. Tigers (392)	616
5. Reds (291)	613
6. Red Sox (312)	610
7. Skipjacks (416)	602
8. Cubs (266)	598
9. Senators (271)	582
10. Tribe (339)	573
11. Blues (290)	520
12. Chiefs (296)	462

Since Billy J. did not provide us with point totals for Week 1, here's how it shook out after the first week:

1. Redbirds	388
2. Cubs	332
3. Reds	322
4. Senators	311
5. Red Sox	298
6. Pirates	291

7. Bronx Bombers	282
8. Tribe	234
9. Blues	230
10. Tigers	224
11. Skipjacks	186
12. Chiefs	166

That is correct. The once-mighty Chiefs have spent the entire first two weeks of the season in the bowels of the League. One could not say that it is looking good for the gregarious manager of the Chiefs.

And speaking of woes which are be-tiding B.T., I am duty-bound to report that after the traditional post-draft swilling of ale and evaluation of our teams at the Scorecard lounge, B.T. demanded a renewal of several traditional Chiefs-Senators wagers. Not one to shirk tradition or shy away from challenge, I must admit that I took the bait, wagering 100 clams on a head-to-head competition between the Senators and Chiefs. On top of that, there is a \$50 wager on the collective pitching staff performances of the Senators and Chiefs for the 1995 campaign. There may of course be other friendly wagers to follow, but consider these two on the books.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

· The always hot-out-of-the-box Redbirds were led last week by top hitter Joe Girardi (43 points) and top pitcher Heathcliff Slocumb (34). Enough said. Look out below, Jim Ed.

· I really was planning on taking John Valentin in the 9th round, but SloPay beat me to him in the 8th. And by the way, you're welcome for the Ricky Bones tip (55 points last week).

· Bronx Bombers leading the west division? Might this be the dawning of a new era?

· Can you believe that the Senators are getting warnings on saves already? Who is interested in Brad Clontz? If you're buying, I'm selling.

REPORT FROM RIVERFRONT

Thanks to some coincidental business in the Cincinnati area, I was able to add Riverfront Stadium to my list last Tuesday, and watched as the pitiful Reds dropped their sixth straight game. Roughly 10,000 fans in attendance, and lots of boos and cheers, none more lusty than those which greeted B.T.'s stellar

starting third baseman, Willie Greene. The fans and the media are down just a little bit on Wee Willie (see enclosed editorial article), and his performance at the plate that night indicated just why. The rumor in the stands is that Willie is headed back to Triple A for more seasoning.

I also watched with some pleasure as B.T.'s much-acclaimed staff ace, Jose Rijo, threw batting practice to the Phillies. As they like to say on ESPN, "Those Phillies hit the ball real hard against Rijo." As I've said before, B.T., Rijo is overpaid, over-rated, overblown, and underachieving. At least if your 1995 team goes south, you can *Blame it on Rijo*.

THE CINCINNATI REDS -- DID YOU KNOW?

As long as we are on the subject of the Cincinnati Reds and Riverfront Stadium, I thought that you might be interested in hearing a few historical tidbits about baseball's oldest team. So here goes:

· The Cincinnati Reds first took the field in 1869 as an official, professional team -- and promptly went 130 games without a loss.

· In 1934, a handful of Cincinnati Reds players flew to a game in Chicago, making them the first baseball team to travel by plane for a game.

· Legendary radio broadcaster Red Barber got his start in announcing baseball games for the radio with the Cincinnati Reds.

· On August 26, 1939, the Reds played the Dodgers in Brooklyn in the first televised baseball game.

· On May 24, 1935, the Reds hosted the Philadelphia Phillies in the major league's first night game.

· The Reds joined the National League as a charter member in 1876, but pulled out of the League in 1880 for a period of 10 years when the National League banned Sunday baseball and beer sales at ballgames. Nicely done.

· 'Twas the Cincinnati Reds that defeated the Chicago "Black Sox" in the scandalous 1919 World Series. The gamblers also tried to bribe the honorable and morally upright Reds, who refused to take the bait.

· The Reds' five World Series wins were in 1919 (White Sox), 1940 (Tigers), 1975 (Red Sox), 1976 (Yankees), and 1990 (Athletics).

· Former Red Johnny Vandemeer is the only major league player to throw back-to-back no-hitters.

· Former Reds pitcher Fred Toney pitched one-half of the major leagues' only 9-inning double no-hitter (with Hippo Vaughn of the Chicago Cubs).

· On April 30, 1969, Reds pitcher Jim Maloney threw a no-hitter against the Astros. The next day, Don Wilson of the Astros returned the favor against Cincinnati.

· The youngest major league player ever, Joe Nuxhall, broke in with the Reds at age 15 (pitching two-thirds of an inning, and giving up 5 runs before being banished to the minor leagues for the next nine years, followed by a 15 year career in the majors).

· The Reds changed their nickname to the Redlegs between 1953 and 1959 because of McCarthyism and the Red Scare.

· In 1957 Reds fans stuffed the All-Star game ballot boxes and elected Reds to start at every position except 1st base for the National League.

· In 1912 through early 1970, the Reds played at Crosley Field, with fewer than

30,000 seats, the smallest ballpark in the majors. In June of 1970, the Reds moved into \$48 million Riverfront Stadium on the banks of the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati.

· The 1995 baseball season is the Reds' 111th season in the National League.

And so now you know.

THE TRIP

To clear up any confusion --- and there seems to be a lot of it, The Trip is planned for July 7, 8 and 9, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, to Denver for a couple of games at Coors Field, gambling at Central City (you won't be interested in that, Itchie), guzzling and camaraderie. Mark your calendars for this Rocky Mountain High.

I am enclosing for your edification an interesting article on Bill James which appeared in the Topeka Capital-Journal on April 11, and a couple of other tidbits for your amusement and bemusement. Keep the faith.

Skipper