



# FROM THE BULLPEN

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

Edition No. 8  
May 18, 1995

Fellas:

## CHIEFS STILL BOTTOM-DWELLING

After three weeks of the season, the biggest HSL story is the still languid performance of B.T.'s beloved Chiefs, who continue to occupy the cellar for the third straight week of the '95 HSL season.

Wire to wire in the outhouse? Quite possible.

Here's how it looks after the third week:

1. Redbirds	1131
2. Tigers	1039
3. Red Sox	1022
4. Pirates	1009
5. Bronx Bombers	1006
6. Skipjacks	972
7. Reds	900
8. Cubs	889
9. Senators	870
10. Blues	869
11. Tribe	764
12. Chiefs	726

A definite tier system has developed. The Redbirds are all alone in the stratospheric 1100-point range. The next five teams are all within 60 points of each other. The four teams after that, the Reds, Cubs, Senators and Blues, are

within 31 points. And then there's the last tier, occupied by the Tribe and the Chiefs. How fitting.

For the week, the Tigers had the most points with 423. The worst performance for the week was by those sneaky members of the Tribe, with 191. Here they are from top to bottom.

1. Tigers	423
2. Red Sox	412
3. Redbirds	411
4. Skipjacks	370
5. Blues	349
6. Bronx Bombers	348
7. Cubs	291
8. Senators	288
9. Reds	287
10. Pirates	277
11. Chiefs	264
12. Tribe	191

## CAUGHT STEALING

No, I'm not referring to Cecil Fielder's latest attempt to nab his first career stolen base. Rather, I'm referring to the shameful actions of the oh-so-competitive manager of the Lincoln Tribe, Robert "Underbelly" Hurlbut.

As most of you now know, in direct contravention of our solemn agreement made at the draft, Underbelly raced out

of the blocks far ahead of the starter's pistol and signed four free agents during the May 8 Free Agent Draft. The reason that Underbelly managed to get all of the people that he drafted, Mike Hampton, Scott Sanders, Trevor Wilson, and Graeme Lloyd, was that *nobody else was drafting*. In other words, the rest of us complied with the rules.

Once he realized that his scurrilous ploy had been uncovered and would subject him to intense scrutiny and likely HSL sanctions, and after visiting confessional, Underbelly did the right thing and replaced the spoils of his larceny back in the HSL pool. You may have received his terse telefaxed message on May 15:

*Because of a misunderstanding the following players will be available for the free agent draft Sunday, May 21.*

Misunderstanding? So was Watergate and Vietnam. This thinly-veiled attempt to make Underbelly's dastardly deed appear to be an innocent misunderstanding will not cut the mustard. But I was impressed at the total absence of misspellings in Underbelly's message. No doubt there was a struggle with "misunderstanding" and "available."

In any event, while sanctions are under consideration and disciplinary action is pending, the HSL Ethics Committee will immediately implement the "Hurl-but Rule" which, simply stated, is *No cheating allowed*.

## BITCHES AND BEEFS

· I've got plenty of them. Who erased from Jeff Bagwell's memory bank how to hit the baseball? He is batting a buck seventy two and may be released soon.

· How is it that Danny Jackson was the second-leading point-getter for lefthanders last year, and now that he's a Senator he promptly goes 0-4?

· Now I know why I never pick guys like Deion Sanders.

· Mickey Tettleton in the 3rd? Mickey Tettleton in the 13th would have been too early.

· I can't get rid of Al Osuna enough.

· Jim Ed is leading this league on the backs of Joe Girardi, Paul Quantrill and Heathcliff Slocumb, for Chris' sake. I move we ban all native Iowaegans from this league. They're too damned lucky.

· Shamu\* pointed out that his vaunted pitching staff has a total of 4 wins. Three of them were in the jar by the time we had our draft. So much for cherry picking.

· Shamu\* has beefed up his staff by picking up Erik Hanson in the free agent draft, who promptly threw a four-hit shutout with 10 strikeouts. In your *minor leagues* that night, you say? Oops.

· If Magpie-Curby wins this year with Berroa and Benes as two of his studs, it will be time for one of us to move on.

· Do my eyes deceive me, or is it true that the Skipjacks did not pick up a single

player in the free agent draft? Looks like Anne's got Itchie back on that tight budget once again.

## B.T.'S DAY IN THE SUN

For those of you who have not heard it directly from B.T. -- which may be none of you -- B.T. recently reached his crowning glory in baseball spectating. While at an Oakland A's-Seattle Mariners game last week at the Oakland Coliseum, B.T. managed to haul in a sizzling foul ball off the bat of Mike Blowers. Who, you ask? Hey, he's no Joe Boever, but Blowers does play major league baseball, and B.T. now has his foul ball. Congrats.

And as if that was not enough, B.T. also had a chance encounter with NBA quasi-great Sam Perkins on the streets of Seattle (it's not what you think) and with Husker QB Steve Taylor on the plane ride home. Unfortunately, B.T. did not have any kitchen cabinet drawers to be autographed by Sam and Steve, but he did manage to pester them into signing a couple of business cards. Andy Warhol was right.

## THIS WEEK'S QUIZ

As many of you baseball aficionados well know, Carl Furillo was the fabulous right fielder for the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1950s. Furillo was known for his uncanny ability to play the caroms off the infamous Ebbetts Field right field wall.

Furillo had two nicknames. One of the monikers was "Skoonj." What was the reason for this nickname, and what was Carl's other well-known nickname? Answer below.

## WHY ME, LORD?

I was sitting out on my back deck the other night, looking out at the full moon

on a beautiful night, and pondering some of life's great questions. I thought to myself, "I have a terrific wife; a wonderful, healthy son; another strapping baby boy on the way; a beautiful house; a good law practice; terrific law partners; good friends; my health; a terrific sister and brother; a tolerable brother-in-law; *and a lousy HSL team*. In other words, I am miserable beyond words. Why me?

But there's always next year.

Skipper

Quiz Answer: "Skoonj" was a nickname given to Furillo in tribute of his love of the Italian dish *scungili*. Furillo's other well-known nickname was "The Reading Rifle."