

FROM THE BULLPEN



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Eastern Nebraska Division
1995 Season

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Amigos:

ONTIVEROS LEADS TIGERS TO HSL TITLE!

And the Jeopardy question is, *What headline will never appear in From the Bullpen in a thousand years?*

That is correct, the Tigers are leading the Hot Stove League four weeks into the season, on the shoulders of Big Guy's leading pitcher for the week, Steve Ontiveros, who had 45 points (precisely a multiple of 5 of the weekly pitching totals for Skipper's *entire staff*), and on the strength of Tony Phillips' 52-point week.¹

It looks like we are in for a strange, strange year.

Here's how things stand after four weeks:

STANDINGS AFTER 4 WEEKS

1. Tigers	1425
2. Redbirds	1418

¹ Steve Ontiveros and Tony Phillips are leading our leader?

3. Bronx Bombers	1380
4. Pirates	1351
5. Skipjacks	1317
6. Reds	1301
7. Blues	1295
8. Red Sox	1288
9. Cubs	1173
10. Senators	1163
11. Chiefs	1060
12. Tribe	1011

The Blues led the pack for the week with 426 points, and the Tribe brought up the rear of the pack with 247. For the week:

1. Blues	426
2. Reds	401
3. Tigers	386
4. Bronx Bombers	374
5. Skipjacks	345
6. Pirates	342
7. Chiefs	334
8. Senators	293
9. Redbirds	287
10. Cubs	284
11. Red Sox	266
12. Tribe	247

Mattie Williams continues to tear up the league, hitting his 11th roundtripper last night. Through Sunday, May 21, 1995, Williams led the league with 151

points,² followed by Barry Larkin with 143, and then McBlunder's savvy 9th round pick, Mark McGwire, with 142. Here are the top 10 scorers for the week:

1. Matt Williams	151
2. Barry Larkin	143
3. Mark McGwire	142
4. Randy Johnson	140
5. Carlos Baerga	137
6. Heathcliff Slocumb (ugh)	133
(tie) Manny Ramirez	133
8. Roberto Alomar	132
9. Kevin Appier	130
10. Mo Vaughn	128

Heathcliff Slocumb continues to be the blind pig/pearl pick of the year, leading the Redbirds with 133 points. Other candidates for the award are John Valentin with 123, Geronimo Berroa with 119, Ed Sprague with 108 (a rare "MousePig"), and Jaime Navarro with 97.

WHO'S HOT, WHO'S NOT

As to the latter, the entire Senators team; the former? Everyone else.

² Who was it post-draft who said that Matt Williams was the only stupid 1st round pick? Smart guy.

There is nothing more uplifting than to be watching the ESPN highlights and to have the *Who's Not* list read like a veritable *Who's Who* of the Senators team. To give you an example, last Sunday night at least two Senators made the *Who's Not* list on ESPN: Jeff Bagwell and John Wetteland. Coincidentally, my draft picks in the first two rounds this year.

WHINE LIST

The Skipper has plenty to whimper and whine about in 1995, but one thing that is particularly sticking in my craw this year is that despite the fact that I emphasized that all-important pitching in this year's draft (taking pitchers in 5 of the first 8 rounds), my pitching staff is by far the worst in the League, scoring a total of 9 points (that's right, this is not a typo) for the entire 4th week. Last week alone, John Wetteland (my second round pick) managed to chalk up 15 points to the bad, as did Ben McDonald. Pat Hentgen was much better, giving away only 6 points in the negative column. And, of course, we all know about Mr. Reliability, Danny Jackson (now 0 and 5).

You heard it here, boys. *I will never, ever, ever, ever take a pitcher -- reliever, starter, iced tea, you name it -- until at least the 17th round of the draft.* And I mean it. 'Nuff said.

McBLUNDER OF THE DECADE?

Did my eyes deceive me, or did McBlunder dispose of ace hurler Sterling Hitchcock in the 5/22 free agent draft? (Signing up-and-comer Bob Wickman to take his place.) This, mind you, after Sterling threw a sterling 36-point shutout victory only a few days later. I think it is safe to assume that McBlunder did not have Hitchcock in his starting lineup for this gem, and was blowing off a little steam by blowing off Mr. Hitchcock. Or, did he make the mastodonic blunder

of the decade by discarding a player just coming into his prime? We shall know soon enough.

Keep the faith.

Skipper