

# FROM THE BULLPEN



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

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## NO-NO FOR U-BELLY? NO, NO.

As many of you may know by now, the Hot Stove League Blunder of the Decade has occurred. You thought it was preposterously poor managing when Slo-Pay left Mark Whiten on the pine a couple of years ago for his 10-RBI outburst? Then try this on for size: U-belly had Ramon Martinez in the minors for his recent no-hitter. Yeeoouucchh! Only about 95 points left on the table, U-belly. Your blunder may singlehandedly have knocked our League from the top Bill James perch.

Speaking of which, you may have noted that our League average total points for the week was the figure of 273, compared with the All Leagues' average of 285 points. In other words, we lost 12 points per team to the field, boys. It's time to buckle up our chin straps and hit the line running.

## STANDINGS

Through 10 weeks of play, the luck-laden Skipjacks continue to lead the pack, and seem to be expanding the lead. Here's how things stand:

|                               |      |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Skipjacks                  | 4304 |
| 2. Redbirds                   | 4122 |
| 3. Red Sox                    | 4121 |
| 4. Tigers (shades of M*A*S*H) | 4077 |
| 5. Bronx Bombers              | 4068 |
| 6. Reds                       | 4043 |
| 7. Blues                      | 3931 |
| 8. Tribe                      | 3708 |
| 9. Pirates                    | 3655 |
| 10. Senators                  | 3602 |
| 11. Chiefs                    | 3535 |
| 12. Cubs*                     | 3505 |

Although it was a short week because of the All-Star break, the point totals for the Hot Stove League were dismal. Here's how each team did for the week:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Reds           | 322 |
| (T) Tribe         | 322 |
| 3. Skipjacks      | 309 |
| 4. Blues          | 308 |
| 5. Tigers         | 297 |
| 6. Cubs*          | 283 |
| 7. Red Sox        | 280 |
| 8. Pirates        | 255 |
| 9. Redbirds       | 236 |
| 10. Senators      | 232 |
| 11. Bronx Bombers | 226 |
| 12. Chiefs        | 215 |

## TOP PLAYERS

Not including bonus points, the top 15 ranked players through games of July 16 are as follows:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Greg Maddux    | 363 |
| 2. Edgar Martinez | 356 |
| 3. Frank Thomas   | 354 |
| 4. Randy Johnson  | 347 |
| 5. Barry Bonds    | 342 |
| 6. Mo Vaughn      | 324 |
| 7. Reggie Sanders | 323 |
| 8. Roberto Alomar | 322 |
| 9. Manny Ramirez  | 315 |
| 10. Carlos Baerga | 311 |
| 11. Craig Biggio  | 308 |
| 12. Albert Belle  | 302 |
| 13. Ron Gant      | 301 |
| 14. Larry Walker  | 300 |
| 15. Hideo Nomo    | 298 |

## LET'S PLAY JEOPARDY

I'll try Costly Baseball Blunders for \$200, Alex.

Answer: SKIPPER

(1) Who *used* to own the two hottest players in baseball, Jeff Bagwell and Mel Rojas?

(2)Who is sporting yellow sneakers and socks these days?

That is correct. Skipper traded away two of the hottest players in the game, white hot Jeff Bagwell (now second in the National League in runs, and moving up the chart in points with 286 through last Sunday); and reliever Mel Rojas (4 saves in 5 days after being traded to the Chiefs). Correction. Skipper traded away two players on his team who *then went on* to become two of the hottest players in baseball. The good news? Mel-the-malcontent has been dying on the vine in B.T.'s minor leagues since the trade. He needeth not the save points, reportedly. So my question is, why did he fleece me out of him by offering up that tempting tandem, Kevin Tapani and Rico Brogna?

## **FOR SALE PAT HENTGEN -- REAL CHEAP**

That's right. My stellar early-round draft pick has really been doing a nice job these days. After losing points for my team hand-over-fist, I demoted him, only to watch him throw a couple of nice, positive-point outings. So then what happened? Of course I promoted him to the majors and he promptly had two nausea-inducing outings, giving up 23 points to the bad in one game and a whole heap in the other. In one game, this well-focused twirler managed to walk nine batters. In the other, he gave up 13 hits. So, who wants him? I see the switchboard lighting up like a jar of fireflies.

## **PARTY AT THE BULLPEN**

The HSL Summer Party at The Bullpen at Ginger Cove is a "go" for Saturday, July 29, 1995. Plan to come on out at 2:00 p.m. or so, and we will enjoy the sun and the water for awhile before throwing

some burgers and dogs on the grill. Kids are welcome and in fact encouraged. If your better half is so inclined, you might have her whip up a tasty little side dish, but we will provide the main course and plenty of frothy libations. Please let Cheryl or me know if you *will not* be able to attend.

See you on the 29th!!

Skipper