

# FROM THE BULLPEN



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

Edition No. 18  
August 16, 1995

## MICKEY, HOW WE LOVED YA!

One of our League members has asked that this issue of *From the Bullpen* begin with a moment of silence and a tribute to one of his boyhood heroes, who died this past week, much too early.

As I tried to console him, Mouse tearfully recounted for me how he put this man on a pedestal, how he tried to emulate him as he grew up and throughout his life. Mouse sadly remembered how he had a chance to meet this once-great man just a few years ago, and what a special moment it was for him. "I owe everything to this man," claimed Mouse. "Everything I've become is because of him," he sobbed. To which I replied, "Pull yourself together, Mouse. Jerry Garcia was a helluva guitar player but you're getting a little bit carried away."

In fact, Mouse was just completing his round-the-clock vigil at Memorial Park with other area Deadheads when he got the news that Mickey Mantle had passed on.

All right, a bad joke, and I'll be the first to admit it. But when an American

baseball legend and music icon both bite the dust in the same week, you have to have a sense of humor. Thanks for the great memories, Mick. May you pass on to a place where the beer is ice cold.

## SKIPJACKS LEAKING OIL?

As we head into the 17th week of play, somebody tell Itchie he had better get the Steinway off his back. As he rounds second and is headed for third, Itchie has the Tigers close behind and gaining fast. With his Week 16 surge, Big Guy and the Tigers have closed to within 111 points. Here are the standings through last Sunday:

### Through Week 16

1. Skipjacks	5734
2. Tigers	5623
3. Redbirds	5577
4. Red Sox	5359
5. Bronx Bombers	5300
6. Reds	5291
7. Blues	5284
8. Tribe	5262
9. Pirates	5260
10. Senators	4973
11. Chiefs	4904
12. Cubs*	4802

You will notice that a bit of a gap has developed between the top three teams and the rest of the field. Following the 3rd-place Redbirds at 5577 are the Red Sox with 5359 points, 218 points off the pace. From the Red Sox on down, however, it's an entirely different story. Only 99 points separate the 4th- through 9th-place teams, or about the difference between a very good week and a lousy week.

After the bottleneck between 4th and 9th place, there is a chasm separating the three teams in the fourth quartile, the Senators, Chiefs and Cubs.\* I do not look at this as all bad news, however. Now that I know that I haven't a prayer of finishing higher than 10th, I can set my sights on simply finishing ahead of *anyone* else in this League, and open up my trade negotiations to any of the nine teams ahead of me. The switchboards are now open, boys.

What a miserable week for the Senatros. Only 268 points for the week, the lowest of all but one of the 12 teams during Week 16. The Redbirds and Tigers, conversely, had blockbuster weeks, the second and third best of all time in the HSL since we converted to the Bill James System. Here are each team's totals for last week.

1. Redbirds	497
2. Tigers	482
3. Reds	382
4. Blues	361
5. Tribe	358
6. Pirates	346
7. Cubs*	332
8. Skipjacks	330
9. Chiefs	322
10. Bronx Bombers	273
11. Senators	268
12. Red Sox	254

## FEEL MY PAIN

After stringing together two nice weeks and actually losing ground to the 9th- and 8th-place teams, the Senators had the misfortune of experiencing a down week of 268 points, which has effectively taken my team out of contention for an upper division finish. According to my morning telefaxes, the Senators went from being 399 points off the pace on August 2 (my closest position to the leader since early June) to being 651 points behind on August 13. In other words, my team lost ground of 252 points to the Skipjacks in 11 stinkin' days, or a clip of about 23 points per night. Very, very nice.

And it wasn't just the slump in scoring points that was so tough to swallow, but more so how it came about. My 10 or 11 hitters valiantly scratched and clawed their way to an average of, say, 25 to 40 points per night. Not too bad. My 9 or 10 pitchers who were up in the majors each night, on the other hand, found it to be more entertaining to produce anti-points for the Senators, moonwalking my squad backwards to the tune of 10 to 30 points per night with staggering regularity. And ain't that fun to see in the box scores each morning. Apparently masterminded by John Wetteland, who blew three straight save opportunities (and lost a heap of points for me along the way, I might add), just about every Senator pitcher (Hideo was a notable exception, but I figure his time is near) managed to materially damage the

Senators' hopes by ringing up a resounding defeat. Unless they were in my minor leagues, of course, in which case they performed like there was no tomorrow. But I bitch, moan and whine too much, you say, and you are right. It keeps me from taking it out on the wife and boys at home.

## ALL-TIMERS

An article in Matt Greenberger's newsletter of August 7, and the revelation that Jon Jabenis (an Omaha attorney) had the top BJFB score last week with 547 points, led me to wonder about the highest and lowest weekly point totals in the Hot Stove League over the course of the past three seasons. Instead of just laying awake nights thinking about it, I decided to devote some of my excess free time to compiling a couple of All-Time Lists, which we can refer to, update, and comment upon in the future. It was darned fun and insightful to do this; and I provide you with a few of my comments following the stats.

### TOP TEN WEEKLY POINT TOTALS FOR THE HOT STOVE LEAGUE (APRIL 1993 TO AUGUST 13, 1995)

1. 526	Reds-Week Ending 7/3/94
2. 497	Redbirds-WE 8/13/95
3. 482	Tigers-WE 8/13/95
4. 478	Redbirds-WE 6/25/95
5. 475	Pirates-WE 7/23/95
(T) 475	Chiefs-WE 4/17/94
7. 473	Red Sox-WE 7/9/95
8. 465	Cubs*-WE 6/12/94
9. 464	Red Sox-WE 6/4/95
10. 463	Redbirds-WE 4/24/94

### BOTTOM 10

1. 136	Tigers-WE 5/22/94
2. 138	Senators-WE 5/1/94
3. 149	Tribe-WE 9/26/93
4. 153	Pirates-WE 10/3/93
5. 159	Cubs*-WE 9/26/93
6. 162	Blues-WE 9/12/93

7. 164	Pirates-WE 6/5/94
8. 171	Skipjacks-WE 7/17/94
9. 174	Senators-WE 7/31/94
(T) 174	Pirates-WE 6/25/95
(T) 174	Cubs*-WE 6/11/95

### TOP HITTING PERFORMANCE, TEAM, ONE WEEK

398	Chiefs-4/17/94
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### FEWEST HITTING POINTS, TEAM, ONE WEEK

54	Tribe-9/26/93 (and Andres Galarraga had 33 out of the 54)
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### TOP PITCHING PERFORMANCE, TEAM, ONE WEEK

233	Tie between Chiefs (9/12/93); and a team name that is synonymous with great pitching, the Omaha Senators (9/5/93)
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### FEWEST PITCHING POINTS, TEAM, ONE WEEK

-75	(Say what!) Senators, 5/1/94 <sup>1</sup>
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### Some Comments

- After Magpie-Curby's All-Time point total of 526, there is quite a gap to the No. 2 total of 497 points, but not much of a spread between 2nd and 10th (24 points). Did the Reds have a no-hitter, cycle and 15-strike-out performance that week?

- To date in 1995 there have been a total of 26 weekly team scores in excess of 400 points, and every team has chalked up at least one 400+ point week

<sup>1</sup> Now you know how I managed to score the seemingly preposterous total of 138 points that week.

except one: The Cubs.\* The team with the most 400+ point weeks in 1995 is the Pirates, with four. However, the topsy turvy Pirates also had one of only three sub-200 point weeks this season, with his 174 points for the week ended June 25, 1995.

- The three sub-200 point weeks were by the aforementioned Pirates, who tied for the low watermark with the Cubs,\* who also scored 174 points (during the week ended June 11, 1995); and the Tribe, which mustered up only 191 points for the week ended May 14, 1995.

- Seven different teams (Redbirds, Red Sox, Tigers, Pirates, Reds, Cubs,\* Chiefs) had performances in the All-Time Top Ten. The only teams with more than one Top Ten All-Time placement were the Redbirds, with three, and the Red Sox, with two.

- Six of the Top Ten All-Time totals have been in 1995, with four in 1994 and none in 1993. Four of the Bottom Ten performances happened in 1993, five in 1994, and only two (tie) in 1995. I guess we are getting better at this game.

No doubt others of you may have comments and insights after reviewing the above stats, and as always, please feel free to share them with your brethren by sending your cards and letters to *From the Bullpen*.

## ATLANTA-BOUND

Big Guy and I are trekking down to Atlanta for a look at Fulton County Stadium, before it becomes part of baseball lore. We plan to make a quick trip in and out on September 23-24, to see the Braves take on the always-feisty Montreal Expos for a Saturday night and Sunday afternoon game. If any of you are interested in joining us for this weekend, get yourself a kitchen pass, check on the air fares, and come on

along. Let us know if you might be able to make it.

## BACK TO BRANSON?

Underbelly reported that he had such a swell time during his recent trip that he is proposing that the Hot Stove League consider rerouting the 1996 Trip from Cleveland-Pittsburgh to Branson. When I indicated to Bob that there might be some resistance to this rather unconventional idea, and that it would take some of his considerable powers of persuasion to pull this one off, Underbelly indicated that he would sit down and write out a list of reasons why we should take our 1996 Trip to Branson. And so, without change or comment, I provide you:

### BOB'Z TOP TEN REEZINS FOR TAKEEN NECTS YEER'S HSL TRYP TO BRAN-SUN

10. Kan stay at Roy Klark's Buteeful Lodje ov the Ozarcs.
9. Mi traylor parc gave mee 10 free passes to Minny Purl's show.
8. I no Jon Cruk and he runz the Tilta-Worl.
7. Fun two watch Hilbilee witling baseball batz.
6. Cheep moter couch fair frum Omahah--and 27 hourz to play cards en root!
5. Se'en Elvas personatur bettur then unacysted tripul play.
4. I kin winn a spieling bea thair.
3. Pe-pul there dont ware stinking fezzuz.

2. All U Kan Eat gritz and gravey at the Pos-some Haus.

1. We kan stay at my knew trayler home there: Weezul's Nest.

Thanks, U-Belly. The rest of you: Keep an open mind, won't you?

Skipper