

FROM THE BULLPEN



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

Edition No. 20
September 1, 1995

TORRID TRIBE TOPS TWELVE

The story of Week 18 was Hillbelly's blast-furnace hot Tribe, which recorded an all-time best weekly batting total of 422 points, led by the sizzling Mike Piazza with 83 points. When combined with the team's 63 pitching points, the Tribe tallied 485 for the week, good for third place on the All-Time HSL List. We worship you, Hillbelly.

With his monster week, Hillbelly has placed his tenacious Tribe firmly in contention with a total of 6122 points through August 27, 1995, good for a 4th place standing in the League. Here's how things stack up through 18 weeks:

1. Skipjacks	6449
2. Redbirds	6327
3. Tigers	6249
4. Tribe	6162
5. Red Sox	6104
6. Blues	5954
7. Reds	5953
(T) Bronx Bombers	5953
9. Pirates	5852
10. Chiefs	5558
11. Senators	5514
12. Cubs*	5373

In addition to the eye-opening point total of the Tribe, the Blues also had a stellar week with 416 points. Shamu's Cubs* were found at the other end of the spectrum with a paltry 187 points, nasty enough to keep the Cubs* in last place despite another mediocre week by the Senators. The incremental point totals for Week 18 looked like this:

1. Tribe	485
2. Blues	416
3. Red Sox	384
4. Reds	367
5. Chiefs	366
6. Redbirds	361
7. Skipjacks	357
8. Tigers	339
9. Bronx Bombers	328
10. Senators	314
11. Pirates	286
12. Cubs*	187

Shamu's* pathetic total was made possible by a pitching performance totaling negative 7 for the week, led by Pete Schourek with 11. Notable also is the fact that B.T.'s top hitter was Geromino Berroa and top pitcher, Bill Pulsipher (again); that Magpie-Curby's top hitter was Luis Alicea; and that

former has-been Mark Leiter was the top pitcher for the Bronx Bombers with 48.

1996 TRIP

Plans are already underway for a '96 junket to Cleveland and Pittsburgh, with the affable and eager McBlunder volunteering to spearhead the planning committee. Suggestions are now being taken for the "theme" of the '96 trip, following '95's Rocky Mountain High, '94's Toast to the East Coast, and '93's California Dreamin'. Let us hear from you, boys.

MORE BITCHIN' 'BOU PITCHIN'

Why can't I -- I'm in 11th place, damn it.

Let it be known that Brian Rekar just recently had two sparkling pitching performances for my minor league team (26 and 24 points); that Kevin Tapani cranked it up last Sunday for a 32-point performance for the Senators' top farm club, after schlepping it up for a month on my major league roster (6 starts, nega-

tive 3 points cumulative); that after hesitating on drafting Brian Givens of the Milwaukee Brewers for about the last five weeks, I finally picked him up and watched him lose 4 points for the Senators in his first outing; that Hideo-us Nomo is 12 points to the bad for me during his last two starts; and that John Wetteland was recently victimized by the Mariners' first victory in 44 games when trailing through 8 innings . Ooooooff.

PLAYER TOTALS THROUGH 18 WEEKS

Edgar Martinez continues to lead the individual point totals for the league. Here are the top 15:

1. Edgar Martinez	592
2. Frank Thomas	549
3. Tim Salmon	533
4. Greg Maddux	526
5. Albert Belle	518
6. Dante Bichette	502
7. Jim Edmonds	500
T Barry Bonds	500
9. Reggie Sanders	498
10. John Valentin	495
11. Craig Biggio	490
12. Barry Larkin	488
13. Mo Vaughn	477
14.Randy Johnson	474
15.Mike Piazza	468

Not a single Cub* to be found in this pack.

THIS AND THAT

- Can anyone top this? I had net negative points from my pitchers on four consecutive nights:

August 22	Tom Gordon, -17 and Doug Bochtler, +10
August 23	Jim Abbott, -2
August 24	John Wetteland, -12 and Doug Bochtler, +1

August 25 Hideo Nomo, -12

Nice!

- The Senators are off to a gangbusters' start this week, with 27 points on Monday the 28th, 13 points on the 29th, and 25 points on the 30th. Big Guy's all-time low (136) could be in serious jeopardy.

- It is comforting to know that I am not the only team with pitching woes. The Cubs* performance of negative 7 points for last week, the Red Sox with 73 pitching points, and the Tribe with 63 all warmed the cockles of my heart. Misery loves company.

- Our League averaged 348 points per team for the week, compared to a national average of 337. Keep up the good work!

Whatever happened to our golf league? Is this season's tour over, or did I miss something? I'm sure that Master Statistician B.T. will be providing us with updates very, very soon.

F.Y.I.

For those of you who have not heard, Cheryl's father passed away after a long illness last week on August 23. Dick Sokol was 62 years old. Not much of a baseball fan, but a good guy who will be missed a lot.

CLOSING

With our trade deadline having come and gone and the sounds of locusts in the air, you know it's time for the stretch run.

May the wind be blowing out for your batters, and may your pitchers' arms be strong and dependable. Like mine. See you next week.

Skipper