



FROM THE BULLPEN

Official Publication of
The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1996 Season

Edition No. 1
January 17, 1996

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Just so long as you are not happy because you have outperformed the 1996 Senators, that is.

The new year is off to a great start. First, Baby Trumpetfish and yours truly ventured to Tempe and willed the Huskers to victory past the Florida Gators. Although others among you may have been present for the Fiesta Bowl at Sun Devil Stadium on January 2, we did not see you. What a game; what a team. How about a three-peat in '96?

On the heels of the Trip to Tempe, B.T. and I followed up the junket with a trip to Baltimore to fete Cal Ripken for his record-breaking accomplishment. It was a memorable evening, to be sure.

Fueled by copious amounts of Old Granddad, B.T. unabashedly introduced himself to Oriole owner Peter Angelos as the *owner* of the Nebraska Cornhuskers. After Angelos realized that B.T. was, of course, just joshing, there were

plenty of chuckles all around and B.T. and I quickly became thick as thieves with Angelos and his Sicilian buddies. Angelos even volunteered to intervene for B.T. so that he might obtain Ripken's autograph on the picture of B.T. and Cal shaking hands during Cal's spontaneous victory lap on September 6, but even the pull of the team owner wasn't enough to accomplish this. Needless to say, however, B.T. will find a way to have Cal's John Hancock find its way onto his photo.

Thought you might enjoy the enclosed photocopy of the photos of our big night in Baltimore with Cal and Peter. And of course if you ever need tickets to see an Orioles game, just have B.T. place a call to his new pal.

WINTER MEETING: JANUARY 26

If some of you have been wondering why it has taken me so long to announce the date and place of the '96 Winter Meeting, some of

you need look no further than in your own mirror. Although the old Skipper thought that he made it as easy as humanly possible for you to respond with your preferences as to date and place of the Winter Meeting with the addressed and metered response cards, (all you had to do was check the boxes and drop the card in the mail), I was wrong. I should have driven to each and every one of your houses and physically made the selections for some of you, since several of the responses were quite delinquent, and even yet I do not have 11 responses sitting on my desk. It's always something.

In any event, in spite of the various attempts to foil my failsafe method of obtaining a consensus for the Winter Meeting date, we have a consensus:

**FRIDAY,
JANUARY 26, 1996,
8:00 p.m.
At The Bullpen
(63 Shaker Place,
Ginger Cove
Valley, Nebraska)**

Please come ready to participate in the ceremonial award of The Cup from Shamu* to Itchie, the customary three-round mock draft, to plan the '96 Trip, and to share our enthusiasm and insights about the upcoming Hot Stove League season.

Since there were several (three) of you who indicated that a junket on the Council Bluffs gambling riverboat was your preference, my suggestion is that those who have a serious desire to gamble on the riverboat may do so after the Winter Meeting has concluded at 10 or 11 p.m.

See you on the 26th at The Bullpen. R.S.V.P. regrets only, please.

**IT'S A GIRL!
(Itchie's, we think.)**

I am pleased to publicly announce here that Itchie's wife gave birth to a healthy baby girl on Tuesday, January 9, 1996, who is named Allissa and shall be known as Allie. Thus far, only Itchie has claimed paternal responsibility, for whatever that's worth. Other candidates may surface as time goes on.

Congrats, John and Anne!

**DRAFT DAY:
MARCH 29 OR 30?**

I know, I know. We thought that March 16 was carved in stone for the 1996 HSL Draft. Not to be, however, as a couple of League whales will be beached that day in Ft. Lauderdale. So, plan on the big day being March 29 or 30. Let me know if any of you are unavailable that Friday night (March 29) or Saturday afternoon (March 30).

And that is all.

Skipper