



FROM THE BULLPEN

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

Edition No. 3
February 6, 1996

Brethren:

The Winter Meeting of '96 took place as rescheduled on February 2 at The Bullpen. The seven hearty souls who braved the elements to attend were not disappointed, as the evening featured cerebral discussion of baseball issues, spirited debate about politics and politicians, a scintillating and edifying mock draft, profitable games of chance, a surfeit of intoxicating thirst-slakers, and to Shamu's^{*1} great delight, a veritable cornucopia of epicurean delights, compliments of Chef Krause.

For the record, there were seven League members in attendance at the Winter Meeting, two excused absences, two semi-excused absences, and one shameless no-excuse, no-explanation no-show. Those in attendance were: Shamu*, B.T., Mouse, Magpie, Jim Ed, Big Guy and Skipper. Itchie and McBlunder were the excused absentees. You figure out the rest.

The annual mock draft was carried out with much deliberation and forethought, as some League members made their picks openly and candidly, while others chose to hoist up one trial balloon after another. Here are the results:

At the conclusion of the mock draft, the consensus was that McBlunder and U-Belly probably had their finest drafts, round for round, in the history of the league. In *absentia*, of course.

DRAFT DAY CONFIRMED: MARCH 31

By unanimous vote of our quorum present at the Winter Meeting, Draft Day has been set for Saturday, March 31, 1996, beginning at 1 p.m. As usual, the draft will take place at The War Room of Gaines Mullen. See you there. No excuses.

THE TRIP: JUNE 21-23

It was decided that this year's Trip will be to Cleveland and Detroit, to

¹ A respected team of gastroenterologists has estimated a week for Shamu's* Winter Meeting intake to clear.

new Jacobs Field in all its splendor, and to revisit Tiger Stadium one more time before it is destined to the wrecking ball. While we originally set out to make it a Cleveland-Pittsburgh, or ideally, Cleveland-Pittsburgh-Cincinnati swing, the major league schedulers were not at all cooperative.

McBlunder and I are working on cheap air fares and even cheaper accommodations, and will let you know when to send in your money and how much. Commitments to attend this year's Trip have already been given by all seven of the Winter Meeting participants, as well as McBlunder and Itchie. Word is awaited from the Hurlbut and Bontrager households, and as to Possum, well, what's the point.

OPENING DAY

With Opening Day just around the corner, B.T. and I are making plans for a one-day jaunt to Houston, and would be pleased and proud to be accompanied by any or all of our League mates. Why Houston, you ask? Why not.

In any event, it's dirt cheap, we leave in the morning, get back that night, and see the Astros against the Dodgers in an afternoon game. Who's in?

Keep those cards and letters coming,
 boys. See you in March.

Skipper

Rnd	Itchie	Jim Ed	Possum	Magpie	McBlund-	Big Guy	Mouse	U-Belly	Slo-Pay	B.T.	Ernie	Shamu*
1	Maddux	Griffey	Piazza	Belle	Thomas	Bonds	R.Johnson	Salmon	Valentin	R.Momar	Biggio	Baerga
2	Mo Vaughn	Knoblauch	E.Mar- tinez	Lofton	Larkin	Palmeiro	Bichette	L.Walker	M.Ramirez	Bagwell	Ripken	Mussina
3	MaWil- liams	McGriff	Nomo	Mesa	Appier	Thome	ChJones	McGwire	Canseco	Sheffield	Glavine	JuanGonz
4	R.Sanders	Puckett	Gant	McDo-	Cone	Buhner	O'Neill	Grissom	Ventura	Grace	Sosa	Galarraga