



FROM THE BULLPEN

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The Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division
1996 Season

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Boys:

ERRATA: DRAFT DAY MARCH 30, NOT 31

Yes, it's true. A mistake did appear in the last issue of *From the Bullpen*. As several of you cheerfully pointed out to me, if Draft Day is to be on a Saturday, it will have to be on March 30, and not March 31, as previously announced. Big deal. So I slipped up -- once. But at least I've come clean, and none of you may now use this as an excuse to renegotiate Draft Day. Be here on Saturday, March 30, at 1:30 p.m., or be on the outside looking in.

"HOUSTON, WE HAVE A GO"

I marvel at the sheer love of the game of baseball that may be found among the brethren in the Hot Stove League. A mere mention of a possible Opening Day junket to Houston in the last issue of *From the Bullpen*, and the telegraph wires have been burning ever since. Within a mere day or two of last week's issue, positive responses were received from Underbelly and Big Guy, a strong maybe from McBlunder, and a "Damn, I'd sure

like to go, but can't," from Jim Ed. His wife just might be in labor that very afternoon (and if Jimmy should accompany us to Houston, he could pretty well guarantee this to happen).

Just for kicks, let me run it up the flagpole one more time:

Opening Day, Monday, April 1, 1996, afternoon game, Los Angeles Dodgers at the Astrodome, nonstop flight on Continental Airlines from Omaha to Houston, dirt cheap, (in relative terms, of course), one day, in and out, lots of frosties, plenty of goobers, no work, and most important of all, baseball!

There you have it. Let us know.

TRIP UPDATE

Just a note to let you know that McBlunder and I are working assiduously on lining up plans for The Trip scheduled for June 21-23. Looks like air fare on Southwest should be pretty darned cheap. Looks like we will probably be flying in and out of Detroit and renting another 15-passenger van and/or yak team for the sojourn to Cleveland. Looks like we will be heading down to The Flats (oh, but our memories are poor) after our first taste of

Jacobs Field. Looks like just about everybody's going to make it on The Trip this year, with the possible exception of -- horror of horrors -- Possum. (And this year, it's just on principle. His wife wants him to go, his boss wants him to go, his kids want him to go; he's got the money, he's got the time, he loves Cleveland and Detroit; but he'll be damned if he'll give the rest of us the satisfaction of being on The Trip after successfully dodging it for eight or nine consecutive years.)

Which is just as well. Last time Possum joined us for our merry junket, half the group had to be hospitalized for a week, and who knows what kind of bacteria he's carrying around this year.

Anyhoo, the '96 Trip promises to be big fun, so keep June 21-23 open and plan to attend.

A PLUG FOR SABR

For those of you who are not members of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR), you don't know what you're missing. SABR continues to put out quality baseball publications with intriguing statistical summaries. Membership is only \$35 a year. If you are interested in joining, let me know and I will be glad to send you an order form.

To whet your appetite a bit, here are a few tidbits from the February issue of the SABR *Bulletin*:

➤ Barry Bonds will soon become the fourth major league player to have at least 300 career home runs and stolen bases. Here are the Top Nine, led by Willie Mays and Barry's dad, Bobby:

<u>Player</u>	<u>HR</u>	<u>SB</u>
Willie Mays	660	338
Bobby Bonds	332	461
Andre Dawson	436	314
Barry Bonds	292	340
Don Baylor	338	285
Joe Morgan	268	689
Vada Pinson	256	305
Kirk Gibson	255	284
Robin Yount		251
271		

➤ Lance Johnson's *three-triple game* on September 3, 1995 was only the 10th such game since 1960, and the first since Herm Winningham had a triple turkey on August 15, 1990. Here are the last ten to do it:

09/15/60	Willie Mays
06/11/66	Ernie Banks
06/29/67	Bert Campaneris
09/22/73	Al Bumbry
07/03/80	Ken Landreaux
08/05/80	Doug Flynn
05/16/81	Craig Reynolds
07/28/90	Shawon Dunston
08/15/90	Herm Winningham
09/03/95	Lance Johnson

➤ Gary Gaetti is one of 67 major league players who *hit a home run in his first major league at-bat*. Of these 67 players, Gaetti is the career leader in tatters, with 292. Last year's total of 35 homers for Gaetti was his highest in 15 years of baseball.

➤ When Robin Ventura hit two grand slam home runs in the same game on September 4, 1995 (the day after Lance Johnson's triple-triple, by the

way), *he became only the eighth player in the history of our great game to hit two grand slam home runs in the same game*, and the first in 25 years since Frank Robinson accomplished the feat in 1970. Of these eight players, seven represented the American League. Ironically, the only National Leaguer to hit two grand slam home runs in one game was a *pitcher*, Tony Cloninger of the Atlanta Braves, who hit Grand Salamis in the first and fourth innings of a July 3, 1966 game against the San Francisco Giants, knocking in nine runs on the way to a 17-3 victory. Here is the entire list of Double Slammers:

05/24/36	Tony Lazzeri
07/04/39	Jim Tabor
07/27/46	Rudy York
05/09/61	Jim Gentile
07/03/66	Tony Cloninger
06/24/68	Jim Northrup
06/26/70	Frank Robinson
09/04/95	Robin Ventura

➤ Rookie Jon Nunnally of the Kansas City Royals stole six bases in 1995, not a particularly impressive total. However, how many of you knew that *four of these steals were of home plate*, the most in one season since Rod Carew swiped home seven times in 1969? Here is the list of players with the highest season Steals of Home totals since 1930:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Player and Team</u>	<u>SO</u>	<u>HSB</u>
1946	Pete Reiser, Bkn	7	34
1969	Rod Carew, Minn	7	19
1931	Ben Chapman, NY AL	5	61
1948	Jackie Robinson, Bkn	5	22
1949	Jackie Robinson, Bkn	5	37
1951	Monte Irvin, NY NL	5	12
1942	George Case, Wash	4	44
1995	Jon Nunnally, KC	4	6

Good stuff, huh? In fact, I am so convinced that several of you will want to join SABR, I decided to enclose herewith a form for each of you to use to obtain a subscription.

UPDATE

Upon his release from the hospital, Shamu* was recently awarded the Pork Producers "Man-of-the-Year" award for his staggering consumption of their product (I guess it was pork) at the recent Winter Meeting. Said Shamu* of his award: "My cholesterol readings are off the chart, but it was worth it. Damn, those spicy little dogs were good!"

YOU MEAN HE WORKS FOR A LIVING?

You won't find Brother Krause (B.T.) pulling hose at Goodyear or shoveling cement for Ready Mixed, but evidently this HSL member voted "The Man Whose Lifestyle I'd Most like to Lead" does more than just diddle away his day on the Computer Home Shopping Network. Enclosed is a copy of an article appearing in last Sunday's *Lincoln Journal Star*, singing the praises of B.T.'s brilliant "temperature is the price" Runza promotion. Congrats to B.T. for this well-deserved recognition.

Of course, not all of B.T.'s promotional ideas have been as commercially popular as the "temperature is the price" promotion. Here is a Top Ten list of B.T.'s marketing ideas and jingles that fared less well:

10. My I.Q. is your price.
9. Outspell Masterspieler for a free Runza.
8. Where's the fish?
7. Have it Fred's way.
6. Hold the Cabbage, hold the Onions, Special Orders Give us Bunions.
5. Eat at Runza! Boy, it's funza!
4. Free "Famous Pedophile" trading cards with each order.
3. Guess number of zits on fry cook for free order of fries.

2.Runza-Ton Memorial Hamburger
Special.

1.Hiring Jimmy Walker as company
spokesman.

See you next issue, boys.

Skipper