



# FROM THE BULLPEN

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The Hot Stove League  
Eastern Nebraska Division  
1996 Season

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## CHIEFS CARRY ON; BLUES BLAST INTO SECOND

Week 10 of the Hot Stove League belonged to the Reds and Blues, Magpie's clan leading the way with 459 points and McBlunder's boys cranking it up to the tune of 400 points for the week. The Blues shot into second with this burst of energy, but still a hoot and a holler behind the League-leading Chiefs. Here's how things look through 10:

1. Chiefs	3862
2. Blues	3600
3. Redbirds	3573
4. Red Sox	3463
5. Tigers	3455
6. Cubs*	3367
7. Reds	3210
8. Tribe	3202
9. Senators	3104
10. Bronx Bombers	2992
11. Pirates	2985
12. Skipjacks	2982

The biggest dogfight this week is among the trio trying to stay out of the outhouse, occupied this week by Itchie and his Skipjacks.

Here's how things went for the

week:

### WEEK 10

1. Reds	459
2. Blues	400
3. Chiefs	398
4. Pirates	347
5. Red Sox	339
6. Senators	333
7. Skipjacks	314
8. Redbirds	313
9. Cubs*	310
10. Tribe	309
11. Tigers	307
12. Bronx Bombers	253

A lot of mediocrity between the have-nots this week.

### PLAYERS

1. Roberto Alomar	349
2. Jeff Bagwell	340
3. Mo Vaughn	338
4. Frank Thomas	332
5. Albert Belle	328
6. Edgar Martinez	311
7. Ken Griffey, Jr.	310
8. Barry Bonds	292
9. Ellis Burks	284
10. Jay Buhner	282
11. Fred McGriff	281
12. Chuck Knoblauch	274
13. Mike Piazza	273

14. Rafael Palmeiro	273
15. Henry Rodriguez	269

### PITCHERS

1. John Smoltz	326
2. Roberto Hernandez	233
3. Al Leiter	225
4. Jose Mesa	210
5. Tom Glavine	206
6. Ismael Valdez	205
7. Shane Reynolds	204
8. Ken Hill	201
9. Andy Ashby	199
10. Greg Maddux	195
11. Rod Beck	193
12. Mariano Rivera	192
13. Rob Nen	192
14. Steve Avery	188
15. Todd Worrell	187

The League MVP of the year is Roberto Alomar with 349 points. Cy Young of the year is John Smoltz of the Red Sox, 326 points.

### AROUND THE HORN

➤ Sammy Sosa's three-bagger made it two weeks in a row for bonus points for the Senators. It's too good to be true. (Of course, Sammy hadn't done a darned thing

for two weeks prior to his outburst or since -- with him it's feast or famine).

➤ How about McBlunder and his Blues! I'll step out on a limb and suggest that this may be the highest-ever position for the Blues in June or after. However, McBlunder is doing his best to cure this anomaly, recently trading Manny Ramirez to Magpie for Bernie Williams. Straight up. That's right, straight up. Two words of advice, McBlunder: Automatic pilot.

➤ Say it ain't so, Mo(use)! Tell us you really didn't succumb to the lies, deceit, charm and wiles of the Prince of Darkness.

But alas, last Friday's ugly and nauseating rumor has now been confirmed. See enclosed newspaper article.

➤ Nice recent outing by Mark Langston, U-belly (negative 20 or so). Glad to see I'm not the only one getting the shovel in the face when I browse the box scores each morning.

➤ A couple of weeks ago Big Guy's trade with Possum (Kevin Elster for pitcher Mike James) looked like a good deal for the Possum (who had a gaping hole at short) and a nothing deal for Big Guy. I'm pleased to report being totally wrong on this trade, and that Elster has been cruising way below the Mendoza line ever since the transaction.

➤ How about that beating absorbed by Kenny Rogers the other day. Ouch! Those hurt.

➤ I feel at least partly responsible for Mouse's recent shearing by Possum. One day earlier, Possum called me on the phone -- practically in full emergency hyperventilation -- demanding that

I turn over Fred McGriff to him because of a recent injury to Wally Joyner. The offer: any of his pitchers save Smoltz and Avery and any of his third basemen save Ventura and Chipper Jones. In other words, Todd Zeile and my choice of Steve Trachsel or one of his other starting pitching slugs for arguably my best player. When I responded to Possum by asking why I would possibly want Todd Zeile and the other pillar of chaff he was offering, Opossum was off and running with a breathless, frenetic diatribe about the needs of my team and the case of magic elixir in the back of his show wagon. After feigning cardiac arrest to get Possum off the line, I chuckled to myself about the ludicrousness of Possum's latest proposal, and the futility of Possum's trade endeavors in a league of Burned Bridges. But alas and alack, again I have underestimated the evil one's mendacious and facile mind. If only I had called to warn him (Mouse).

➤ Condolences to Itchie on the recent malfeasance of third-round pick Mike Mussina, who skipped the Skipjacks backwards to the tune of about 21 points on Sunday afternoon. Believe me, Itch, I know the feeling. All too well.

## NEXT WEEK

The Trip. Don't know if I'll get around to getting out another issue of *FTB* before we meet again on June 21. As such, I enclose a fact-filled flyer concerning this year's Trip. Be there. Aloha.

Skipper