



FROM THE BULLPEN

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*Our
212th
Issue*

"DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN, REDBIRDS OVERTAKE SENATORS!"

I'm happy to report that the American public won't be reading this headline anytime soon, certainly not in 1997 and probably not in our collective HSL lifetimes. No, the Senators' massive exsanguination has been stanchied, the bleeding is over, and the healthy, ruddy-cheeked Senators appear poised and ready to claim their second HSL crown, and their first in the post dead-ball era.

God love 'em. They are going to make it, aren't they? (Not that I've doubted it for a minute.) Barring two or three no-hitters from Reds' pitchers, or a couple of cycles or three-bangers between now and Sunday, the Senators will coast in with a well-earned title. If I do say so myself.

Thankfully, the Senators' pitching staff and hitters righted themselves during Week 25, scoring a total of 392 points, even in the face of those Draconian point caps. Not only did the Senators rap out 15 home runs during the week (all of which went unrewarded), the Senators hitters cracked out several more RBIs than

the powers-that-be at BJFB find to be healthy, and were dressed down accordingly. Unfair, to be sure, but not enough to stand in the way of this plucky team.

But enough about me and my team. Let's take a look at the standings and totals for the week.

STANDINGS THRU 25 WEEKS

| Team | Points | Margin |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Senators | 9253 | 297 |
| 2. Redbirds | 8956 | 258 |
| 3. Red Sox | 8698 | 129 |
| 4. Blues | 8569 | 265 |
| 5. Skipjacks | 8304 | 38 |
| 6. Reds | 8266 | 154 |
| 7. Tigers | 8112 | 240 |
| 8. Chiefs | 7872 | 15 |
| 9. Cub*s | 7507 | 160 |
| 10. Tribe | 7697 | 59 |
| 11. Bronx Bombers | 7638 | 365 |
| 12. Pirates | 7273 | |

WEEK 25 TOTALS

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1. Blues | 418 |
| 2. Senators | 392 |
| 3. Cub*s | 380 |
| 4. Tigers | 372 |
| 5. Red Sox | 346 |
| 6. Tribe | 334 |
| 7. Skipjacks | 320 |

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| 8. Redbirds | 315 |
| 9. Chiefs | 310 |
| 10. Pirates | 303 |
| 11. Bombers | 256 |
| 12. Reds | 221 |

NOTABLES

| | |
|---|------|
| Top pitching, week - Skipjacks | 169 |
| Top pitching, year - Senators | 3832 |
| Worst pitching, week - tie - Bombers and Redbirds | 269 |
| Worst pitching, year - Tigers | 2516 |
| Top hitting, week - Blues | 299 |
| Top hitting, year - Blues | 5749 |
| Worst hitting, week - Skipjacks | 151 |
| Worst hitting, year - Pirates | 4581 |
| Top hitter, week - Bonds (Blues) | 55 |
| Top hitter, year - Walker (Redbirds) | 886 |
| Top pitcher, week - tie - Radke (Senators) and Tapani (Tribe) | 62 |
| Top pitcher, year - Clemens (Red Sox) | 740 |

INDIVIDUALS

HITTERS

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 1. Larry Walker | 846 |
| 2. Ken Griffey, Jr. | 740 |
| 3. Mike Piazza | 736 |
| 4. Nomar Garciaparra | 697 |
| 5. Craig Biggio | 695 |
| 6. Jeff Bagwell | 676 |
| 7. Frank Thomas | 674 |
| 8. Barry Bonds | 664 |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 9. Andres Galarraga | 653 |
| 10. Edgar Martinez | 650 |

PITCHERS

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Roger Clemens | 714 |
| 2. Pedro Martinez | 686 |
| 3. Greg Maddux | 640 |
| 4. Curt Schilling | 612 |
| 5. Randy Johnson | 603 |
| 6. Darryl Kile | 577 |
| 7. Denny Neagle | 570 |
| 8. Jeff Shaw | 557 |
| 9. Kevin Brown | 538 |
| 10. John Smoltz | 528 |

BALLS AND STRIKES

➤ I have included in the standings each team's margin over the next-highest scoring team, so you can see what each of you has to shoot for (or look out for from below) during the final weekend of play. It looks like the first, second, and twelfth positions are pretty well sewed up for the year, but there is plenty of room for movement in between. With a big finish by the Blues, McBlunder could actually experience his first-ever finish in the money by squeaking past the stagnant Red Sox. The Reds could go either of two directions, up into 5th place past the Skipjacks, or down into the lower division if the Tigers remain hot. The Chiefs and the Cubs* are battling it out for 8th place, while the Tribe and the Bombers are engaged in hand-to-hand combat to avoid spending the winter as SloPay's neighbor. Let's see what happens, boys.

➤ As much as I have maligned Brothers Radke and Sosa this year, I owe them both an apology now that they have sucked it up and in fact led my charges for the week. Maybe they're not the spineless weasels that I thought after all.



Although I had a few other thoughts I had planned to provide you this issue, my editor has informed me that the publication deadline is right now. So I will

bring this issue of *FTB* to an abrupt close, and report back to you when the final standings are in next week.

Skipper

P.S. Pennant race update: There isn't one. Wube's Weenie Wedbirds have finally given up the ghost, mustering up only 1 (this is not a typo) positive point for games of last night, Thursday, September 25, 1997. With only three days to go in the season, the Senators lead the way by the margin of 9351 to 9107. Break out the champagne!