



FROM THE BULLPEN

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*Our
217th
Issue*

Brethren:

The votes are in.

Not for those insignificant Rookie of the Year, MVP and Cy Young Awards, mind you, but for the unparalleled distinction of having the All-Time HSL Franchise through the first thirteen years of play. The response to our survey was predictably underwhelming, but enough of the usual stalwarts participated so that we are able to provide statistically-significant results. Again predictably, there was at least one bonehead who ignored the instructions and voted his own team as the top HSL franchise; and there were several other ballots that had to be invalidated because they were obviously done fraudulently or in jest, inasmuch as they did not include the Senators as their first, second or third picks. In fact, when you get right down to it, there was only one ballot which was valid and eligible for consideration, and so our judges used that ballot's ranking in awarding the honor of All-Time HSL Franchise:

- 1.Reds
- 2.Senators
- 3.Tigers

All right, I confess. The above is *our* ranking of the All-Time HSL Franchises,

with the Senators listed second only because of the aforementioned rule against self-acclamation.

As for the rest of you losers, here's pretty much how the voting shook out:

1. Reds
2. Tigers
3. Senators/Skipjacks/Redbirds

See what I mean? An obvious lot of farcical and invalid rankings. But then, everybody's entitled to their own opinion. Here are a few of them expressed on the comment cards:

1.Chiefs (*Can I get another shirt if he wins?): You have had some really silly ideas before - but this is the silliest! The season is over - let's have a party and put it to rest.*

1.Tigers. *It's titles, baby! (Guess whose ballot this is.)*

1.Red Sox. (*Most unfavorable, unsavory, unpleasant, unspeakable, and unsettling pick for Skipper.*)

- 1.Tigers - *have to have respect for history, even if he's sucked for the last five years.*
- 2.Reds - *consistency scores him points, always in the hunt.*

3.Redbirds - *always has a good-looking date, never gets laid. Until he wins the big one, he'll always be a John Cooper.*

2.Tigers - *only three-time winner, albeit two decades ago.*

THOSE OTHER AWARDS

Now that all the post-season awards are in, let me record them here for future reference:

AL	NL
<i>Rookie of the Year:</i>	
Nomar Garciaparra	Scott Rolen
<i>Cy Young:</i>	
Roger Clemens	Pedro Martinez
<i>MVP:</i>	
Ken Griffey, Jr.	Larry Walker

Noteworthy that a team could run away with the title like the Senators did this year without having either Cy Young or either MVP on the team, although having Nomar on board certainly didn't hurt. However, looking forward to next year, it will be fun to have Junior on my squad for his second consecutive VP and Pedro on board for Cy No. 2. And of course it will be fun to see who picks Larry and Roger in the first and second rounds next year, only

to watch them return to their 1993-96 form. I'm guessing U-Bob may have a part of that action.

ALL-TIMERS

We've talked about the All-Time Franchises, but now let's take a look at the top All-Time Players, based on the current scoring system:

HITTERS

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Rd</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>PtsTaken</u>			
1. Larry Walker	Redbirds	1997	8623
2. A. Rodriguez	Chiefs	1996	83416
3. Barry Bonds	Senators	1993	802 1
4. Ellis Burks	Cubs*	1997	79716
5. Mike Piazza	Reds	1997	785 1
6. K. Griffey, Jr.	Chiefs	1997	7731
7. Albert Belle	Blues	1996	768 1
8. Barry Bonds	Tribe	1996	766 1
9. C. Knoblauch	Tigers	1996	7522
10. R. Alomar, Jr.	Cubs*	1996	7441

PITCHERS

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Rd</u>	<u>Year</u>
<u>Pts</u>	<u>Taken</u>	<u>Skipper</u>	
1. Roger Clemens	Red Sox	1997	7465
2. Pedro Martinez	Reds	1997	7065
3. John Smoltz	Red Sox	1996	687 4
4. Greg Maddux	Blues	1995	6771
5. Greg Maddux	Redbirds	1997	6551
6. Randy Johnson	Senators	1997	6411
7. Curt Schilling	Skipjacks	1997	6367
8. Randy Johnson	Reds	1995	6352
9. Greg Maddux	Tribe	1993	6181
10. Kevin Brown	Tribe	1996	6109

COMMENTS

Because of the strike-shortened 1994 and 1995 campaigns, we find that most of the top scorers are from 1997, 1996 and 1993. In fact, only Maddux and Johnson from 1995 cracked the Top Ten All-Time lists for either of those two seasons. Albert Belle had 726 points in strike-shortened 1995, playing in 143 games, for 12th-best all-time in gross points. Next issue we'll take a look at the top scorers ever on a PPG (points-per-game) basis.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Keep Tuesday, December 22, 1997, open on your calendars for the traditional (well, we did it once before) holiday HSL lunch at Trovato's, 5013 Underwood Avenue. The HSL party room will be reserved, and the occasion will be festive. Plan to participate in the final HSL function of 1997, which promises to include at least one mock draft. Spirits will be available, although optional.

CAMPAIGN PARTY

Don't forget this Friday's fete to celebrate the Senators' successful 1997 campaign. The doors will be open at 2:00 p.m., so bring your appetites, your thirsts, and your personal tributes to yours truly. Until then, happy holidays.