



FROM THE BULLPEN

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Brethren,

Draft Day approacheth. Only two more weeks to scan the box scores, hit the books, scour the Internet, consult the Ouija board, and (Shamu*) sharpen your eyesight for the big day. The draft will begin at 1 p.m. sharp, so please try to make it to the War Room by at least 12:30 p.m. to get the hellos and assorted niceties out of the way.

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

How about Itchie's trip agenda to St. Louis? Count me in for everything except the gambling, ballet, alcohol and chew. If you have not already responded in the affirmative to Itchie or Big Guy on the trip, bring your yes's and checkbooks to the Draft to lock in your spot. No's are not acceptable.

A LITTLE HELP FOR MY FRIENDS

With Kerry Wood out for the season with a bad elbow ligament and Moises down with a bad knee, word is that U-belly and SloPay are in a considerable tizzy, their projected first round draft picks scuttled. Worry not, amigos, for the Skipper is providing you hereinafter a recap of the draft picks for the first two rounds since 1993, when the HSL left the dead ball era. Surely you will be able to find some suitable first rounders from this list (see list printed separately).

And for those of you who still are short on drafting information, I share with you here the top point-getters for 1998:

HITTERS^{1 2}

¹ Calculated using only players who finished the 1998 season on an HSL roster.

² Bonus points not included

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Tot.Pts.</u>	<u>PPG</u>
1.	Mark McGwire	843	5.4
2.	Sammy Sosa	814	5.1
3.	Alex Rodriguez	786	4.9
4.	Albert Belle	778	4.8
5.	Ken Griffey	747	4.6
6.	Barry Bonds	733	4.7
7.	Juan Gonzalez	722	4.7
8.	Vinny Castilla	718	4.4
9.	Craig Biggio	717	4.5
10.	Chipper Jones	690	4.3
11.	Mike Piazza	679	4.5
12.	Nomar Garciaparra	676	4.7
13.	Derek Jeter	675	4.5
14.	Moises Alou	674	4.2
15.	Manny Ramirez	673	4.5
16.	Mo Vaughn	664	4.3
17.	Greg Vaughn	657	4.2
18.	Ray Durham	656	4.2
19.	Jeff Bagwell	654	4.4
20.	Scott Rolen	645	4.0
21.	Rafael Palmeiro	643	4.0
22.	Jose Offerman	633	4.0
(T)	Ivan Rodriguez	633	4.4
24.	Vladimir Guerrero	631	4.0
25.	Edgar Martinez	630	4.1
26.	John Olerud	620	3.9
27.	Jeff Kent	619	4.5
28.	Andres Galarraga	617	4.0
29.	Barry Larkin	600	4.1
30.	Bernie Williams	594	4.6
(T)	Dante Bichette	594	3.7
32.	Paul O'Neill	593	3.9
33.	Carlos Delgado	586	4.1
34.	Ray Lankford	584	3.8
35.	Frank Thomas	583	3.6
36.	Fernando Vina	582	3.7
37.	Derek Bell	579	3.7
(T)	Larry Walker	579	4.5
(T)	Damon Easley	579	3.8

40. Shawn Green	573	3.6
(T) Jason Kendall	573	3.8
42. Javy Lopez	570	4.3
43. Jim Edmonds	561	3.6
44. Rusty Greer	556	3.6
45. Jeromy Burnitz	551	3.4
46. Jeff Cirillo	546	3.5
47. Brian Jordan	543	3.6
48. Chuck Knoblauch	539	3.6
49. Bret Boone	536	3.4
50. Jose Canseco	536	3.5

PITCHERS

1. Kevin Brown	681	18.9
2. Greg Maddux	647	19.0
3. Roger Clemens	628	19.0
4. Trevor Hoffman	616	9.3
5. Pedro Martinez	599	18.1
6. Curt Schilling	585	16.7
7. Randy Johnson	573	16.8
8. Robb Nen	568	7.3
9. Tom Glavine	563	17.0
10. Tom Gordon	553	7.6
11. Jeff Shaw	529	7.2
12. Rod Beck	512	6.3
13. David Wells	505	16.8
14. Ugueth Urbina	499	7.8
15. Al Leiter	495	17.7
16. John Wetteland	491	7.8
17. David Cone	489	15.8
18. Jose Lima	483	14.6
19. Shane Reynolds	480	13.7
20. Mike Jackson	479	6.9
21. Kerry Ligtenberg	478	6.4
22. Kenny Rogers	475	14.0
23. Pete Harnisch	459	14.3
24. John Smoltz	458	17.6
25. Alan Ashby	451	13.7
(T) Jamie Moyer	451	13.3
27. Rick Reed	437	14.1
28. Troy Percival	429	6.4
29. Mike Mussina	425	14.6
30. Mariano Rivera	425	7.9
31. Chan Ho Park	418	12.3
32. Denny Neagle	415	13.0
33. Billy Wagner	404	7.0
34. Kerry Wood	398	15.3

35. Francisco Cordova 395 12.0

There. Don't say I never gave you anything.

HERE'S TO YOU, JOE DIMAGGIO

There is no longer the need to ask Paul Simon's question, "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio?" If there is a baseball heaven, Joltin' Joe is certainly now among its membership.

DiMaggio's death and all the paeans written about him brought back a flood of memories, the most vivid being watching him stroll across the infield in Miami in 1993 at the first-ever Florida Marlins game, a paradigm of grace and class even at his advanced age. I'm also reminded of the passage from *The Old Man and the Sea* in which Hemingway's character wonders what "The Great DiMaggio" would have thought about his catch. But the best line about DiMaggio has to come from The Old Perfesser himself, Casey Stengel, who said simply, "He made the rest of 'em look like plumbers." What a great line.

Rest in peace, Yankee Clipper.

OPENING DAY

We need a definite head count for Opening Day in Kansas City. **CALL ME!**

HSL LUNCH

Next Friday, March 26, those who can will gather in Omaha at 11:45 a.m. for an HSL lunch, and you can be assured that there will be a mock draft. Don't miss it.

And that's a wrap.

Skipper