



# FROM THE BULLPEN

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Eastern Nebraska Division

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## TIGERS TOP CHART

For the first time in a very very long time, the Tigers top the HSL leader board. Through three weeks of play, the Tigs lead the standings with 1162 points, a lead of 35 points over the second-place Blues. Paced by a white-hot Mattie Williams, the Tigers could even afford to rest Fernando Tatis<sup>1</sup> during his two-granny inning this past week which, by the way, topped the Senators' team RBI total for the week.

Up and down the league, here are the standings:

### STANDINGS THRU WEEK 3

1. Tigers	1162
2. Blues	1127
3. Chiefs	1087
4. Cubs*	1053
5. Pirates	987
6. Reds	955
7. Skipjacks	952
8. Bombers	938
9. Senators	910
10. Redbirds	896
11. Red Sox	867
12. Tribe	810

### WEEK 3 TOTALS

1. Tigers	403
2. Blues	354
3. Bombers	350
4. Pirates	345
5. Skipjacks	326
6. Tribe	326
7. Reds	325

8. Cubs*	307
9. Chiefs	288
10. Red Sox	230
11. Redbirds	221
12. Senators	193

## BALLS AND STRIKES

◆ No. It's not a misprint. The **Senators** truly did muster up only 193 points for the week, becoming the first HSL squad during the 1999 campaign to breach the Mendoza Line. How did this happen, with the Senators' pitchers leading the league, you might ask? Good question. I'm not really sure just yet, since I haven't seen my full stats for the week,<sup>2</sup> but I see my crackerjack batsmen put together a whopping total of 95 hitting points for the week. It doesn't take too many -6 outings from Todd Hundley (0-4, 2E) or -5 performances from Scott Rolen to drag the rest of the hitters down.

◆ The aforementioned **Senators** pitching staff leads the way with 438 points, followed closely by the **Reds** hurlers with 405, just ahead of the **Blues** arms with 396. At the other end of the galaxy, the **Red Sox** moundsmen are doing their best imitation of Tom Hanks in *A League of Their Own*, chiming in with a total of 103 points through three weeks, thanks to Chan Ho Park's crossing of the 47<sup>th</sup> Parallel and being ripped to shreds by enemy fire. Just a titch better were the **Tribe** hurlers with 159 points, a distant 122 points behind the **Cubs\*** pitchers with 281. Looks like that *Pitching Means Nothing in This League* strategy is paying huge dividends for U-belly.

◆ The top hitting team for the year is the *En Fuego* **Chiefs** with 790 batting points, just ahead of the **Tigers'**

<sup>1</sup> He was in fact in the Bengals' minors that night.

<sup>2</sup> I still am not on line with user-hostile Stats, Inc.

780 and the **Cubs**\* 772. If Sean Casey, Mike Lieberthal and Carl "The Truth" Everett can keep up their current pace and all bat at least .375 for the year, the Chiefs should be in good shape. Similarly, if Matt Williams and Luis "Circus Geek" Gonzalez can continue to tear it up for the Tigers in Arizona, the Tigs have a shot at being competitive.

### LAST WEEK

Since I did not get an issue out last week, let me record here the two-week standings and point totals:

#### STANDINGS THRU 2 WEEKS

1. Chiefs	789
2. Blues	773
3. Tigers	759
4. Cubs*	746
5. Senators	717
6. Redbirds	675
7. Pirates	642
8. Red Sox	637
9. Reds	630
10. Skipjacks	626
11. Bombers	588
12. Tribe	484

#### WEEK 2 POINT TOTALS

1. Cubs*	391
2. Chiefs	378
3. Blues	364
4. Tigers	361
5. Senators	350
6. Reds	330
7. Redbirds	324
8. Red Sox	301
9. Pirates	281
10. Bombers	264
11. Skipjacks	247
12. Tribe	205

### DOUBLE PLAYS

① U-belly's second-week performance of 205 occurred in spite of his team having the top point-getter – Derek Jeter – through two weeks of play with 98 points. The good news was that since U-belly's charges were last-placed through the second week, Bob was able to pick up free-agent gems Dave Mlicki and Carlton Loewer. I know what you're thinking. Why would someone

want to pick up Dave Mlicki and Carlton Loewer? Valid point.

② Want to hear the name of a Senator never-ever? *Tom Glavine*. He sucks. 0-and-3, and most recently taken to the cleaners by the Florida Marlins, who absolutely own him. Gave up a tater to Livan Hernandez. Not *Keith*. Not *Carlos*. Not *Hans*. *Livan*.

③ What an absolutely miserable draft the Senators had. Take my first three picks. Please. A-Rod, Glavine, Rolen. A-Rod played in two games before going down, netting zero points. Glavine is in negative figures at present. And Rolen's already had more 0-fers combined with E's than he had all of last year. Collectively, I would have been better off passing in the first three rounds and picking up just about anyone else in Round 26.

④ This just in. Bret Saberhagen, stiff shoulder. Grand.

⑤ Don't you just love it when a team cranks out, let's say, 17 runs or so, and you just know that your star hitter on that team must have had 9 or 10 runs batted in to go with his five or six hits. So wasn't I pleased to read the Phillies box score when they scored 17 runs last week and see that Rolen was 0-for-4, with no runs scored, no runs batted in. Nice.

### COULDA, WOULD, SHOULD

I really, truly had Matt Williams on my list for about the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> round. Somehow, I let him slip through my fingers so that Big Guy could pick him up in the 9<sup>th</sup>. Now the guy already has more RBIs than my six outfielders combined.

And then there's Canseco. I really, truly had him on my list for about the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> round. So how did he slip through the cracks and get picked up by Magpie in the 10<sup>th</sup>? Now the guy has 10 jacks and leads the majors in four-baggers. My consolation prize in the 10<sup>th</sup>? Todd Hundley. Ralph.

You mean I could have had Jason Giambi in the 11<sup>th</sup> instead of David Justice? Don't remind me. Then again, you didn't see what Jason did during the first half of last year for the Senators.

### EXTRA BASES

I just finished reading Paul White's article on Irabu in last week's *Baseball Weekly*. He (White) is *Baseball Weekly's* counterpart to Mike Kelly at the *Omaha World-Herald*. Pablum-peddler.

Did anyone see Ray Miller getting interviewed on Sunday evening this past weekend? The one where he said, "*Talk to those (bleepity-bleep-bleeps) in the clubhouse who are making 8 or 9 million dollars a year, if you want to know why we're not winning.*" Too much caffeine, Ray?

Finally, I share with you here McBlunder's recent (unfortunately, it's not so recent anymore, having been received on April 9 – sorry, McBlunder) reporting his change of address and dogging his 1999 squad. Now that the Blues are off to such a good start, will we see a change in attitude from Big Mac? Time will tell.

*"Fellow Owners, Please make note of my new business address for wacky trade proposals:*

*11350 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Suite 100  
Leawood, Kansas 66211-2670  
(913) 661-9600  
(913) 661-9614 Fax*

*I enjoyed seeing you all at the Draft. I know it was sad for all you to see the end of an era right before your eyes, and I apologize. The era of the Kansas City Blues was short lived and came crashing down on April 3, 1999. It has been proven once again that the nickname of McBlunder was appropriate. (Far more appropriate than the McGloat moniker, which I refused to recognize.) It is going to be an ugly year.*

*P.S. Shannon Stewart had a 17 point game on 4/7/99: Line score: 5 2 3 4 with a home run, stolen base and walk. Go figure?"*

Thanks for tuning in. See you next week.

Skipper