



FROM THE BULLPEN

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Brethren:

WHASSUP, fellas? Other than U-Bob's blood pressure as he tries to decide between Junior (Griffey) and Junior (Felix) in the 1st round. Sounds like a Saturday morning trip with Itchie to the Quik Shop and/or the Pump & Pant may be on the agenda.

Just got back from the Big Apple. Gawd, I love the place. Twenty-two bucks for a breakfast of All-Bran with skim milk and coffee (they ought to be paying me), seven million troglodytes named "Tony," and a pushy Semite broad at every turn; not to mention a 40-minute cab drive with a terrorist named Habib to go seven blocks across Manhattan. Funny thing, though, if the Yankees had been in town, the rest of it would have been positively inconsequential.

Big day coming up, boys. You know what I mean, the bestest day of the year. No, not the day we all get to rub Tricko's flat-top, but HSL Draft Day. Oh, the sheer excitement of it all. Will pitching be at a premium this year, or what? Fahgeddaboutit (sorry, remember where I've been these past few days).

Anyways, if Itchmeister throws us a curve ball and doesn't take Pedro Numero Uno, it will probably throw the rest of us into a Titanic Tizzy, and I can already sense the tension in the War Room. Palpable. In other words, B.T., so thick that you can hew it with an extremely sharp object.

Just a rumor, of course, but I hear that our defending champ has been so busy peddling plastic on the road these days, he's had zero time to prepare, what between whipping up on Ringo at computer Yahtzee and swindling his boy Zack out of his most prized Pokemon collector cards. And posing for the cover of this week's *Newsweek*.

So it's the Quik Shop shuffle for our esteemed defending champ, once again. So what's new.

Bad news: another Hawkeye.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention here that Hayden has a new offspring in his house, baby Daniel Patrick (named after Moynihan?) Buser – which may explain why Hayden will be taking maximal heat this year after his ridiculous draft choices during Rounds 2 through 26. Will the once-proud Wed Wurblers drop even further this year? Is the Pope at catlicker? Does B.T. love a good vacation? You tell me.

There you have it. See you Saturday. Don't be late.

Skipper

