



# FROM THE BULLPEN

Official Publication of The Hot Stove League

Eastern Nebraska Division

2000 Season      Edition No. 6

April 28, 2000

## CHIEFS IN COMMAND, WAHOOS WAGE WAR ON SKIPJACKS, VAULT INTO SECOND, TRIBE THREATENING

The *Chiefs* continue to show their early-season dominance in the HSL, posting yet another big week to finish Week 3 with 1247 points, scoring at a salty 415-points-plus a week. With a vaunted pitching staff anchored by the Big Unit and his 4-and-0 start (averaging an unheard-of 34.5 points per game), the Chiefs are obviously a force to be reckoned with this year. We can all note with pride that the Chiefs are on the BJFB Leader Board as the 9<sup>th</sup> best team overall, with the 6<sup>th</sup> best pitching staff. When you draft pitching 1-2-3, this is what you can expect. Taking notes, U-Bob?

The *Skipjacks* came back to the pack a bit during Week 3, mustering up a paltry total of only 282 points, with only 66 pitching points for the week. This mini-swoon allowed the *Waw-Waw-Waw-hoos* to surge past the Yackers into 2<sup>nd</sup> place. While the Skipjacks maintain a temporary foothold on 3<sup>rd</sup>, the *Tigers* are threatening after a 385-point week, and find themselves only 20 points back of our defending champs.

At the other end of the spectrum, the *Pirates* had a woeful week with a total of only 194 points, with the entirety of their 40 pitching points coming from John "Archie Bunker" Rocker. Slo-Pay's reward for being willing to have a racist on the payroll is that he avoided having a 0 point pitching total for Week 3.

Let's take a look at the totals for Week 3 and the standings after three weeks:

### STANDINGS THRU WEEK 3

	<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Total Pts.</u>
1.	Chiefs	1247
2.	Wahoos	1112
3.	Skipjacks	1099
4.	Tigers	1079

	<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Total Pts.</u>
5.	Reds	1047
6.	Tribe	1017
7.	Blues	999
8.	Redbirds	958
9.	Bombers	906
10.	Senators	875
11.	Cubs*	824
12.	Pirates	759

### WEEK 3 POINT TOTALS

	<u>Team Name</u>	<u>Pt.Total</u>
1.	Chiefs	410
2.	Tigers	385
3.	Wahoos	320
4.	Redbirds	316
5.	Bombers	313
6.	Blues	294
7.	Reds	292
(T)	Tribe	286
	Senators	286
10.	Skipjacks	282
11.	Cubs*	252
12.	Pirates	194

### BALLS AND STRIKES

➤ Not sure why it was such a down week for the league in terms of point totals, although there were certainly a few rainouts which affected the scoring. But when was the last time that only two teams scored more than 350 points for a week during this part of the season, and where seven teams scored less than 300 points? Odd.

➤ At A-Rod's current pace, he figures to score something around 1200 points for the year. Ditto for Randy Johnson. Funny how these *ex-Senators* managed to wait until they were ex-Senators to show us all what they can do.

➤ I think I pulled a McBlunder and took Johnny Damon because I thought he was really Jermaine Dye. Is this guy

really this good, or just one of those springtime phenoms? Enjoy it while it lasts, Tricky.

➤ The **Bombers'** top pitcher for the week was Terry Mulholland with 25 points. That says all that needs to be said about the Bombers' pitching staff.

➤ Insert Jason Istringhausen and 27 points for Terry Mulholland's name, and the **Tribe** for the **Bombers** in the previous blurb, and enough said.

➤ The **Cubs\*** have to be thrilled to death with Antonio Alfonseca scoring 42 points for the week to lead the Cubs\* staff. That's the good news. The bad news? The rest of his staff scored a positive 3 points for the week. And they overachieved.

➤ I just noticed that the **Wahoos** are our leading hitting team with 901 points through three weeks, almost enough to put Possum on the BJFB Leader Board, possibly for the first time ever. Even if Possum didn't have *any* pitching staff (and it could be argued that he doesn't), the Wahoos would still have enough hitting points alone to be in 9<sup>th</sup> place in the league, ahead of the **Senators**, **Cubs\*** and **Pirates**.

➤ The top pitching team in the league through three weeks is, of course, the **Chiefs**. B.T.'s moundsmen have a total of 470 points thus far, a whopping 157 points per week on average. You may note that the underrated **Senators** pitching staff is locked in a tie with the **Skipjacks** for the No. 2 staff on the year with 347 points. Thank you very much.

➤ I know you didn't open up this newsletter just to hear me whine, but let me get one thing off my chest. To give you some idea of just how bad of a start my hitters have gotten off to, my top scoring hitter, Derek Jeter, has 74 points, or just about half of the total of A-Rod. The player on my team with the most overall points, albeit some having been left in my minors, is Christian Guzman with 82 points (thank you, B.T., thank you, thank you, thank you). This 82-point total of Guzman ranks only 39<sup>th</sup> best in the league. In other words, on an average basis, each of you has 3½ hitters on your squad that have more points than my very top hitter. I could live with this if I drafted pitching like B.T., but my first two picks were superstars Derek Jeter and Robby Alomar. Allegedly.

➤ My vote for free agent pick of the year is Adam Kennedy of the **Chiefs**, as if the Chiefs needed any more hitting points. So tell me why I had him as my second pick behind Schoeneweis during that week's free agent draft?

➤ I hate looking at the Blue Jays box score, so I didn't even notice how hot Carlos Delgado has been. Carlos notched a whopping 60 points during Week 3 through the **Redbirds**. Sizzling.

➤ This may be off the subject just a bit, but it's now quite clear to me why Blongo's buddy moved to Detroit a number of years ago, and why Itchie has spent so much time there on business, allegedly. His name is Billy Beane. He's out, and I don't mean at home plate.

➤ Whoever drafted and then dumped Jose Valentin must be eating their heart out right now, after last night's cycle performance. I'm glad I held on to him last year until after he bagged his turkey for the benefit of the **Senators**.

## INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

### HITTERS

1.	Vladimir Guerrero	117
2.	Darin Erstad	113
3.	Jermaine Dye	112
4.	Alex Rodriguez	110
5.	Mike Piazza	109
6.	Jim Edmonds	108
7.	Tony Batista	107
8.	Fernando Tatis	105
(T)	Todd Helton	103
	Matt Lawton	103

### PITCHERS

1.	Randy Johnson	138
2.	El Duque	101
3.	Greg Maddux	96
4.	Rick Reed	94
5.	Pedro Martinez	88
6.	Tom Glavine	83
(T)	Mike Remlinger	81
	Danny Miceli	81
(T)	Mariano Rivera	77
	Armando Benitez	77

➤ It's not hard to see why the **Chiefs** are running this damned show, with Erstad, Batista and Tatis all in the top 10 among hitters, and R.J. and El Duque 1-2 in pitching.

➤ Ditto for the **Wahoos**, who have both Piazza and Edmonds leading the way.

➤ Query: Why is Matt Lawton riding pine? Is this Shamu\* sandbagging for the free agent draft, sheer ignorance, or plain stupidity? You be the judge.

## THE TRIP

*Houston, we have a problem.* Or, more accurately, you're about to have a problem, Houston, when the drunk and disorderly bunch from the Eastern Nebraska Hot Stove League hit town June 3 and 4 to get our first look at Enron Field. Rumor has it that HSL wannabe and *de facto* Social Chairman One-Way Tony Childers will be lining up not only excellent seats at Enron for two games with the Cubs, but that he plans to personally top his 100-beer weekend at Coors Field of a few years ago, and is lining up opportunities to participate in various and sundry vices offered by the Greater Houston area, his former stomping grounds. So far, six league members have signed on to apprentice under Tony for this magnificent weekend, and more are expected. Stretch is trying to find a way to keep his Trip Streak intact, even if it means selling his client down the river during his jury trial that is scheduled to commence the following Monday. Priorities, Stretch, priorities.

## IN CLOSING

And finally, let me lay to rest here the notion that has been bandied about that the old Skipper is ignoring his duties as league scribe this season because of his own team's ineptitudes and ill-fortunes. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even as my *Senators* bang around in the lower division during the early stages of the season, there will be no shirking of duties in the issuance of *From the Bullpens*. Please recognize, however, that I have four young children, a somewhat demanding (aren't they all?) life's mate, and a 70-hour a week career to juggle along with my duties as Commissioner and Coach for Shoeless Joe's baseball league and team, while co-managing a subacute care facility for ailing in-laws. In other words, get off my aching back, already! You'll get your damned *Bullpen* whenever I can get to it, come hell or high water.

Now, have yourself a nice day.

Skipper