



FROM THE BULLPEN

Official Publication of The Hot Stove League

Eastern Nebraska Division

2000 Season Edition No. 8

May 18, 2000

SKIPJACKS SAIL ALONG IN 1ST; WAHOOS AMBUSH CHIEFS FOR 2ND; BRONX BOMBERS EMERGE AS CONTENDER

Brethren:

Week 6 of the Hot Stove League saw Itchie's defending champions *Skipjacks* open up their lead over the 2nd place squad with a 431-point week. That 2nd place squad is now the *Hanover Wahoos*, who have wassailed their way into 2nd place on the strength of a 462-point week. The *Chiefs*, still a strong contender, lost ground even with their 383-point week, which many of us in the Lower Division would be tickled to death to post next to our names.

Moving down the scale a bit, the *Bronx Bombers* had another magnificent week, cranking out a whopping total of 453 points, second only to the Wahoos for the week—to vault solidly into 4th place ahead of the *Reds*, who posted 357 points for the week. Checking in in 6th place, again, were the *Tigers*, with 2001 points, a distant 150 points off the Reds.

The stinking Lower Division is not really even worth talking about, except to say that my team is in it, doesn't belong there, and is moving down instead of up. It sucks.

Here are the standings through six weeks:

STANDINGS THRU WEEK 6

| | <u>Team Name</u> | <u>Total Pts.</u> |
|----|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Skipjacks | 2441 |
| 2. | Wahoos | 2362 |
| 3. | Chiefs | 2328 |
| 4. | Bombers | 2195 |
| 5. | Reds | 2151 |
| 6. | Tigers | 2001 |
| 7. | Blues | 1991 |
| 8. | Pirates | 1961 |
| 9. | Senators | 1897 |

| | <u>Team Name</u> | <u>Total Pts.</u> |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|
| 10. | Tribe | 1880 |
| 11. | Redbirds | 1858 |
| 12. | Cubs* | 1625 |

Here are the point totals for Week 6:

WEEK 6 POINT TOTALS

| | <u>Team Name</u> | <u>Pt.Total</u> |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Wahoos | 462 |
| 2. | Pirates | 457 |
| 3. | Bombers | 453 |
| 4. | Skipjacks | 431 |
| 5. | Chiefs | 383 |
| 6. | Reds | 357 |
| 7. | Redbirds | 336 |
| 8. | Blues | 329 |
| 9. | Tigers | 323 |
| 10. | Tribe | 268 |
| 11. | Senators | 221 |
| 12. | Cubs* | 178 |

The league MVP is A-Rod of the *Tigers* with 275.5 points. Despite taking his first loss of the year, the Big Unit is still the Cy Young choice with 247 points.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

HITTERS

| | | |
|-----|---------|-----|
| 1. | A-Rod | 245 |
| 2. | Helton | 238 |
| 3. | Sosa | 218 |
| 4. | I-Rod | 214 |
| 5. | Edmonds | 213 |
| 6. | Dye | 205 |
| 7. | Giambi | 204 |
| 8. | Vidro | 201 |
| 9. | Giles | 192 |
| 10. | Alfonzo | 190 |

PITCHERS

| | | |
|-----|-----------|-----|
| 1. | Johnson | 247 |
| 2. | Pedro | 208 |
| 3. | Glavine | 169 |
| 4. | Wells | 161 |
| 5. | Maddux | 158 |
| 6. | Remlinger | 143 |
| 7. | Foulke | 138 |
| 8. | Baldwin | 137 |
| 9. | Lowe | 136 |
| 10. | Helling | 133 |

BALLS AND STRIKES

◆ It just occurred to me that the *Pirates* had a whopping 457-point week during the sixth week, vaulting them upward and giving them hope of an upper division berth next week. Who the heck is so hot on that team? Oh, yeah, it's those perennial superstars, Brian Daubach, Jose Vidro, Ricky Gutierrez and Al Martin. I should have known. Holy cow! This team is even worse than I remembered it on paper, and yet they're kicking the *Senators* around like a rusty pop can.

◆ Man, does this season suck. In six weeks of play, I can count on one finger the number of times that scanning through the computer box scores at night has brought a smile to my face. Usually, it produces anger, angst, and occasionally, nausea. At present, my hitters aren't hitting, my pitchers are getting clocked, and my No. 1 pick, Jeter, is riding pine. Other than that, things are great.

◆ I'm starting to understand why Juan Gonzalez was available for me to pick up in the fourth round. Next year, he'll be available for the taking in the *four-*

teenth round. Jeez, the guy can probably bench press 400 pounds, but he's whining and whimpering because he has to play in a stadium that is "pitcher friendly." Wah, wah, wah, wah. Do me a favor and shut your mouth, get up to the plate, and hit a damned double. They count, too.

◆ Actually, Juan finally did heat up and blast out three homeruns in two games. For my minor league team, that is. I got so sick and tired of watching his 4000s, and watching his batting average drift down from .300 to .220-something, that I finally demoted the slug. And then the very next day, of course, he became the first *Senator* of the year to hit two homeruns in one game.

◆ I guess things could be worse, though. I could own the *Cubs**. As if things weren't bad enough for poor Shamu*, now Larry Walker is on the DL for a couple of weeks, and Burba and Kenny Rogers are also in the hurt locker. This team has absolutely crumpled up like a Kmart lawn chair. Going to be a long season for the Cubbillies*. Look on the bright side, though, Charles, at least with Larry Walker's injury you finally were forced to put Matt Lawton in your starting lineup. That should cool him off.

◆ Last year at this time the *Tigers*, of all teams, were leading the way with 2291 points, well off this year's astounding pace. The *Chiefs* were in 2nd with 2162, the *Cubs** were in 3rd with 2144 (ahh, those were the days, eh, Shamu*?), and the *Jax* were in 4th with 2038. At the other end, the *Redbirds* were trailing the pack with 1789, just ahead of the *Tribe* with 1791.

THE TRIP

Two weeks and counting for our blast-off to Houston. Should be a damned riot. See you there, if not before.

Skipper