
REDBIRD CHIRPS

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Brethren:

Well, here we are, the trading deadline having passed, the free agent pool substantially depleted, yes, unfortunately, the final month of the Hot Stove League 2000 season. Unfortunately for all but the Wahoos, the dreams of having their names engraved on the Hot Stove League Cup appear substantially nil. As so eloquently stated by the guiding force of the Skipjacks, that only leaves the battle for first loser. The standings after Week ___ are as follows:

STANDINGS THRU WEEK

| <u>Team</u> | <u>Total Pts.</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wahoos | |
| 2. Reds | |
| 3. Skipjacks | |
| 4. Chiefs | |
| 5. Blues | |
| 6. Redbirds | |
| 7. Tigers | |
| 8. Senators | |
| 9. Bombers | |
| 10. Cubs* | |
| 11. Pirates | |
| 12. Tribe | |

[Discussion]

Not insignificantly the standings based upon the projections are as follows:

[insert]

There's been much grouching this year about point caps led not surprisingly by Chief Wahoo. In fact, I just received another e-mail with a quasi-complaint. Absent expansion to a 15-team league, my answer is simply that HSL members should give some consideration to drafting a balanced team in March. All in all, the Wahoos should just be thankful that some of the

league's kinder members have kindly succumbed to his incessant trade requests.

As we wind down the season, just a few comments on the current HSL rosters.

Wahoos: What can you say, other than I would not want to start a new season with his current roster. Obviously, he has depleted his hitting corps and is riding a 12-man pitching roster, which to this point has failed to implode, however, Mohler, Wells, Appier, Sirotko, Astacio, Anderson, Brantley, Cline, and Kim in combination would scare me to death, despite a 300 to 400 point lead. Nevertheless, as has been repeated many times before, it's all luck, and he's had it.

Reds: Certainly more than ample hitting to carry him through the stretch run, but recent pitching woes certainly raise a big question mark. Why is John Franco on the bench? Is there a rule against having five middle relievers? Perhaps there should be.

Skipjacks: Had Ironman Rodriguez not been tripped up by a fluke injury, the Skipjacks might have been riding the Rodriguez-Martinez tandem to a repeat title. However, looking beyond Pedro, there's not much to talk about on this pitching staff, in fact, I would be sick if I thought I had to ride out an entire season with Tapani, Person, and Joey Hamilton starting every fifth day for my squad. However, you gotta do what you gotta do. Give the man a liferaft.

Redbirds: What can I say? Finally a balanced team. Finally rising to the top. However, sad, too little, too late, but it's not too bad directing second.

Chiefs: Now here's a pitching staff I would certainly consider taking into next season. As I mentioned, this thing's all luck and the Chiefs' has recently been rotten. We're all praying for you, pal, but not for your team.

Blues: A healthy blend of mediocre players, however, mediocrity doesn't cut it here. I would like to hear the rationale for carrying three catchers on your roster.

Senators: I was scoffed at when I suggested that Skipper had gone off his rocker in Rounds 11 through 20 at the draft. I have been accused of quaffing a few too many Buds during the draft by none other than El Skippo who drafted as follows:

| <u>Round #</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 11 | Roger Cedeno |
| 12 | Tony Clark |
| 13 | Todd Walker |
| 14 | Juan Pena |
| 15 | Mike Remlinger |
| 16 | Danny Graves |
| 17 | Michael Barrett |
| 18 | Ben Petrick |
| 19 | Ed Yarnell |
| 20 | Chris Singleton |

I should have been more bold and stated that he should have just thrown in the cards after Round 10 as Rounds 21 through 26 netted the following:

| <u>Round #</u> | <u>Name</u> |
|----------------|------------------|
| 21 | Jason Schmidt |
| 22 | Rico Brogna |
| 23 | Richard Hidalgo |
| 24 | Christian Guzman |
| 25 | John Flaherty |
| 26 | Jeff Fassero |

I think perhaps the dart technique may be in order for 2001.

Tigers: To say the Tigers have run out of gas would be a dramatic understatement at this point.

Bronx Bombers: A dramatic example of the importance of pitching and the consequences of a lack thereof.

Cubs*: A startling testimony to the consequences of assembling more than five has-beens on your starting roster see Martinez, Grace, Knoblauch, Bichette, Lawton, and Bell.

Pirates/Tribe: I cannot put together a solid roster among these 40 players. Someone tell Denny and Bob that no one in this league is eligible to win the Porsche. No, never mind, let's keep that a secret. Sorry, guys.

As our league scribe is one of those deeply affected by Kathi's illness, I just want to convey the sadness of the league members. Just another example (in addition to the Redbirds not winning an HSL title) that life is not fair. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Until next time, go Redbirds!!

Jim Ed/Rube???