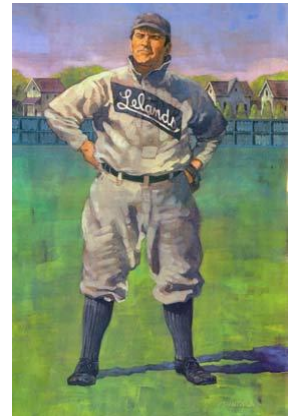


# FROM THE BULLPEN

## Official Publication of the Hot Stove League Eastern Nebraska Division



2001 Season

Edition No. 8

May 8, 2001

### SENATORS STILL LEAD, WAHOOS TRIM GAP

Through five weeks of play, the **Senators** continue to lead the venerable Hot Stove League with a total of 1912 points, but their margin over the 2<sup>nd</sup>-place **Wahoos** (1854) has been narrowed to 58 points, hardly the kind of breathing room I would prefer. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-place **Pirates** gained ground on both the **Senators** and the **Wahoos**, with a five-week total of 1799 points.

### Week 5 Standings

1.	<b>Senators</b>	1912
2.	<b>Wahoos</b>	1854
3.	<b>Pirates</b>	1799
4.	<b>Cubs*</b>	1745
5.	<b>Tribe</b>	1675
6.	<b>Tigers</b>	1627
7.	<b>Reds</b>	1618
8.	<b>Redbirds</b>	1587
9.	<b>Blues</b>	1580
10.	<b>Skipjacks</b>	1497
11.	<b>Bombers</b>	1453
12.	<b>Chiefs</b>	1185

The top scoring team for the fifth week was the **Tigers** with 412 points, easily outdistancing the next-highest scoring team, the **Pirates**, who swashbuckled their way to 360 points for the week. The last-place **Chiefs**, with 236 points, continued to mount their assault on the league record for fewest points scored in a single season.

### Week 5 Point Totals

1.	<b>Tigers</b>	412
----	---------------	-----

2.	<b>Pirates</b>	360
3.	<b>Cubs*</b>	359
4.	<b>Wahoos</b>	331
5.	<b>Bombers</b>	315
6.	<b>Tribe</b>	297
7.	<b>Senators</b>	292
8.	<b>Reds</b>	287
9.	<b>Skipjacks</b>	272
10.	<b>Redbirds</b>	270
11.	<b>Blues</b>	266
12.	<b>Chiefs</b>	236

The league MVP through five is still Carlos Delgado, now with 203 points. The Cy Young leader, no great surprise here, is Pedro with 190 points. Although it doesn't seem like Pedro has had a particularly dominating performance yet, he is so much better than the rest of the pack he scores a boatload even when he is just cruising along in a rather average way for him.

The top hitting team through five weeks is the **Pirates** with 1322, followed by the **Senators** with 1239. The top pitching team is the **Wahoos** with 722, followed by the **Senators** with 673.

The worst hitting team is the **Chiefs** with 670 points, way behind the 11<sup>th</sup> place **Bombers** with 917. The worst pitching team is the **Blues** with 443 points, not all that far behind the 11<sup>th</sup> place **Pirates** with 477. Don't worry, fellas, pitching means absolutely nothing in this league.

### Individual Leaders

#### Hitters

1.	Carlos Delgado	204
2.	Luis Gonzales	182
3.	Larry Walker	178
4.	Manny Ramirez	174

5.	Juan Gonzales	170
6.	A-Rod	161
7.	Chipper Jones	158
8.	Raul Mondesi	152
9.	Albert Pujols	151
(T)	Todd Helton	151

### Pitching

1.	Pedro Martinez	174
2.	Brad Radke	166
3.	Curt Schilling	146
4.	Wade Miller	145
5.	Rick Reed	140
6.	Kazuhiro Sasaki	129
7.	Randy Johnson	122
(T)	Greg Maddux	122
9.	Robb Nen	115
10.	Danny Graves	114

### INFIELD CHATTER

► The biggest surprise of the year has to be Al Pujols, tied with last year's top point-getter, Todd Helton, for the 10<sup>th</sup> highest hitting total to date. Surprising in that none of us had ever heard of him on Draft Day, apparently.

► Gonzo has to be a close second, with his 182 points and his 15 or 16 home runs, however many he has, and his boatload of RBIs. How does a 155-pound geek with a 12" neck turn into a power hitter in the sunset of his career? And to think that I just about pulled the trigger on him to be my starting left-fielder, just about the round that he was taken. I did. Really.

► Other than Denny, whose team he plays for, is there anyone else who isn't nauseated on a daily basis when they see the kind of numbers that Juan Gonzales is putting up? This piece of dung will end up getting a 300 jillion dollar contract from some moronic owner next year, and then will turn back into the dirtbag that he really is for the remainder of his mediocre career.

► How about the Big Unit getting 20 strikeouts the other night and then being pulled after 9 innings? I was surprised that he wasn't left in to try to beat the extra-inning record of 21 strikeouts, since he was still strong at the end of the game (he fanned eight of the last nine hitters), and because his pitch count wasn't terribly high. With bonus points, RJ chalked up about 60 points for the fading **Skipjacks**, which will perhaps get them moving back in the right direction.

### TRADE WINDS

Haven't heard any trade rumors lately. What's the buzz on trade talk? The **Senators** are in desperate need of a bona fide closer, given Derek Lowe's unspeakable woes to date, so if any of you have an extra fireman on hand and are looking for starting pitching (I can't imagine anyone needing starting pitching), give me a call.

### THE TRIP

It's all systems go for Milwaukee in just a few short weeks. If any of you haven't yet reimbursed Mouse for your air fare (including me), please get a check off in the mail to him before his May mortgage payment is due.

See you next issue.

Skipper