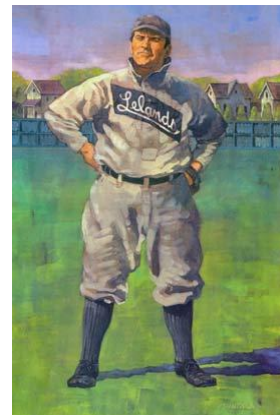


FROM THE BULLPEN

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2001 Season

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HSL-ERS RETURN TRIUMPHANTLY FROM MILWAUKEE; WAHOOS RETURN LEAD TO SENATORS

As you know, this was supposed to be the week for Itchie's Special Edition of *The Jiggernaut*, with his traditional post-HSL Trip ruminations, but since the slacker has been too busy mending fences at home and work over attending the Trip and building up markers and chits for this weekend's College World Series games, the poor slob hasn't had a minute's time to put pen to paper.

Accordingly, to buy the guy a little time, allow me to share this week's standings and point totals:

Week 9 Standings

1.	Omaha Senators	3450
2.	Hanover Wahoos	3440
3.	Kansas City Blues	2989
4.	Sin City Reds	2977
5.	Des Moines Cubs*	2975
6.	Lincoln Tribe	2961
7.	Lincoln Pirates	2958
8.	Omaha Redbirds	2836
9.	Omaha Skipjacks	2831
10.	Detroit Tigers	2758
11.	Omaha Bronx Bombers	2746
12.	Lincoln Chiefs	2427

Week 9 Totals

1.	Senators	417
2.	Chiefs	400
3.	Wahoos	380

4.	Skipjacks	371
5.	Tribe	363
6.	Reds	358
7.	Blues	357
8.	Tigers	341
9.	Bombers	327
10.	Redbirds	322
11.	Cubs*	299
12.	Pirates	297

The top hitter thus far this year is the white-hot Barry Bonds with 342. Pedro continues to lead the Cy Young race with 302 points.

The **Senators** continue to lead the circuit in pitching with 1480, while the **Pirates** lead all comers with 2227 in hitting.

BALLS AND STRIKES

❖ Last year at this time the **Wahoos** were in first place with 3639 points, more than 200 points ahead of this year's pace. The **Skipjacks** were in second with 3596, while the **Cubs*** were bringing up the rear with 2549. The top hitter in the league last year at this time was Todd Helton with 362, while Randy Johnson was the top pitcher with 329 points through 9.

❖ Many of you may have heard about the blockbuster trade that was forged during this year's Trip, which involved the **Senators** sending Manny Ramirez, Kerry Wood and Derek Lowe to the **Bronx Bombers** for Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera and Magglio Ordonez. Before any of you jump down my throat for trying to fix something that wasn't broke, let me just make sure you understand that this trade was made in about the 8th inning of the first Cubs-Brewers game on Saturday night, which means, under the influence of about 15 beers. In fact, if Kerry Wood flirts

with another no-hitter or 15-strikeout performance, I will have to consider an attempt to have the trade undone on the basis of non compos mentis.

TOP INDIVIDUAL HITTERS **(EXCLUDING BONUS POINTS)**

1.	A-Rod	322
(T)	Todd Helton	322
3.	Barry Bonds	313
4.	Manny Ramirez	309
5.	Larry Walker	303
6.	Luis Gonzalez	289
7.	Jason Giambi	286
8.	Lance Berkman	267
9.	Ryan Klesko	263
10.	Sammy Sosa	259

TOP INDIVIDUAL PITCHERS **(EXCLUDING BONUS POINTS)**

1.	Pedro Martinez	287
2.	Curt Schilling	266
3.	Randy Johnson	248
4.	Ichiro Suzuki	224
5.	Rick Reed	209
6.	Brad Radke	205
7.	Chan Ho Park	203
8.	Jeff Shaw	199
9.	Matt Morris	192
10.	Joe Mays	190
(T)	Aaron Sele	190

IN U-BOB'S LITTLE WORLD

This morning I was dismayed to find a fax from U-Bob in which he makes quite clear his feelings about Ben Davis' cowardly ploy to break up the perfect game of my beloved Curt Schilling. Let's have a look at U-Bob's spin on the situation:

The Bunt **Mi Feelings**

By Bob Hurlbut

I do have a few comments to make on "THE BUNT". Skippers blind quest for the title has warped his baseball morals. Ben Davis is a hero. I'm sure his teammates took him out for dinner that night, and they should have. If that pussbag of a pitcher could field

his position we wouldn't be having this discussion. What's really worrisome is what Skipper is teaching his little league team, unfortunately I think I know, it goes like this.

Skipper: "Joe, come over here and give me a knee."

Shoeless: "yes,sir"

Skipper: "Son, do you know what the situation is here?"

Shoeless: "I think so, it's the 8th inning and there is 1 out and we're behind 2-0."

Skipper: "I mean the big picture. The other teams pitcher is throwing a perfect game, that means no one has reached base safely, no hits, no errors and no walks. It's time I tell you about.....The Unwritten Rule."

Shoeless: "Dad, I don't wear my jock strap on my head anymore."

*Skipper: "Not that unwritten rule, the other unwritten rule. Listen very very carefully I want you to remember this.....**You are out there to help glorify the individual accomplishments and goals of the opposing players.**"*

Shoeless: "But dad, we're only behind by 2 runs and it's only May and we're only a few games out of first, if I get a hit and the next guy hits a homerun we'll tie the game up and besides we just had a no-hitter thrown against us last week by the Omaha Marlins, I don't want that to happen again. I WANT TO WIN!!!"

Skipper: "Win, Schwin, now I want you to get out there and fold faster than Superman on laundry day, if I see that bat come off your shoulder I'll pull you and put Itchie's kid in so fast your skirt will blow up over your head. Capeche?"

Shoeless: "?"

Skipper: "Understand?"

Shoeless: "Everything but capeche."

Skipper: "GOOD! now get out there and fold up like an accordion, don't embarrass your old man by trying to lay down a bunt, or anything else foolish that might tarnish little Curty Schillings dream game."

Bear in mind that this is the same individual that formerly wore a “Jimmy Hoffa for President” tee shirt and now has a team with more scabs on it than a bronc rider. At least he must feel good about being on the same side of this issue as that likeable East Coast know-it-all, Mike Lupica.

Next week (maybe): Your special edition of *The Jiggernaut*.

The Skipper