

---

# THE BELLYFLOP

Special Edition of

From the Bullpen

Official Publication of The Hot Stove League

Eastern Nebraska Division

2001 Season Edition No. 19

July 25, 2001

Guest Editor: Underbelly\*

---



Well, it was easy to see the 15 years in the printing business come through on Slopays Irate Pirate. Some people write.....some people print, lets just say that Denny is on the right side of the literary process and leave it at that. It's all good.

OK, my spell checker is ready to go and I have a spare warming up in the Bullpen, it's time to boat this bass. Liet's git buzy! Whoaa, waitt amenute.....there that's better, I hate to call in bullpen help this soon but I get my spellcheckers at the same place I get my pitchers, the dump.

It looks like a 2 team race between the Watuties' and the team over at One Peculiar Place. Ted even hand-capped the field for us by selecting Garciaparra who is set to return any day now, and Skipper did his part by snapping off one of the screwheads holding his team together by trading Kerry Wood and Manny Ramirez. I'm sure Johnny Damon will help, he did a great job of keeping me out of 8<sup>th</sup> place. Unfortunately I'm in 9<sup>th</sup>.

It looks like the real race will be for 3<sup>rd</sup> place with any number of teams vying for that last money spot. Of course the Senators could figure into the picture if he can't keep his screwdriver in his pocket. Did anyone happen to notice the league transactions for July 21? The Senators did their version of a hockey shift change with no fewer than 6 Senators getting benched. Now that's a tough manager.

Here are the points for Week 16:

## Week 16 Standings

1.	Wahoos	6051
2.	Senators	5784
3.	Reds	5597
4.	Blues	5393
5.	Tigers	5392
6.	Pirates	5340
7.	Skipjacks	5298
8.	Cubs*	5291
9.	Tribe	5248
10.	Redbirds	5048
11.	Bombers	4837
12.	Chiefs	4383

## Week 16 Points

1.	Tigers	502
2.	Wahoos	450
3.	Blues	428
4.	Tribe	409
5.	Cubs*	348
6.	Reds	329
7.	Bombers	325
8.	Skipjacks	324
9.	Senators	320
10.	Redbirds	315
11.	Pirates	287
12.	Chiefs	268

Something smells like a Sumo wrestler just took a dump on a burning tire and it's coming from the Chiefs digs. You know there is something to be said for putting

---

*From the Bullpen*

May 23, 2000

Page 1

your team on auto-pilot but, My God! you've jumped the curb and hit a Chinese fighter pilot minding his own business. Even though the Chiefs have put up about as much of a fight as a French heavyweight, don't think I don't appreciate it. If I can just keep my foot on Mouses' tail I think I can steer this garbage scow to a 10<sup>th</sup> place finish. At least I've got that going for me.

**P.S. Linda, don't feel you have to put that last paragraph in Scotts' copy of the Bellyflop. You know, that employment thing.**

There have been some grumbling over the E-waves lately concerning my trade with the Pirates. Evidently Magpie fresh off his enormously successful telethon and fund raising drive which netted a new red rubber nose and a warm padded barrel for every rodeo clown East of the Potomac River has found enough spare time to dissect my trade with Slopay. Well, come all ye naysayers, one and all and I will tell you what I tell all my fireworks clientele.

**Shop early to avoid disappoint.**

Not responsible for DL duds, hidden injuries or any moral lapses which could be construed as Monkey-shine, Tomfoolery or Skulldugery. All trades final, no guarantee or refunds.

Big Guys response to the trade was "Does Denny know about it." Hmmmmm.....you do know who got the best of the trade...don't you? That's what great about assessing talent, one mans Johnny Damon is another mans Roy Oswalt.

### **Some random thoughts**

The other night on ESPN I saw the most feeble attempt at batting by a pitcher that I have ever witnessed. Rich Garces for the Red Sox could barely extend the bat further than his waistline, which only confirms my theory that Mexican pitchers evolved from the Tyrannosaurs Rex, big boilers with short stubby arms.

What does David Wells, Matt Williams, Fernando Tatis, Rusty Greer, Adrian Beltre and Jason Schmidt all have in common, other than the fact they suck. Nothing...that's it. They friggin suck! They such so bad I'm going to tell their parents, their wives and their pastors.

In an attempt to plug a few holes in my dam, I was scouring the free agent wire the other day when I noticed Rod Beck was the highest middle reliever available. My how times have changed, it just shows you how fleeting

our 15 minutes really are. It just seemed like yesterday that he was saving 40 games for the Giants, but time has moved on and it's time for Rod to move on too, and I'm not talking about his career either, I'm talking about his Kentucky waterfall, his beavertail mudflap, his Alabama headdress, his God awful Billy Ray Cyrus mullet. Cut that damn thing off! You live in Boston for cry'n out loud, not Bucktooth Falls Mississippi.

I also would like to comment on the DL. Normally I choose to suffer in manly stoic silence unlike one of our fellow managers, But I would put my hospital ward up against anyones. Jason Varitek my starting catcher..out for the season, Jose Video sat for 2 weeks, then sat on the DL for another 3 weeks, Rusty Greer is currently enjoying a prolonged stay on the DL, my first 2 picks at pitcher, David Wells has been suffering from a bad back all season and is scheduled for season ending back surgery, Kris Benson never threw a pitch, also season ending surgery. Now for my 3<sup>rd</sup> basemen, Matt Williams having trouble making up his mind has been on the DL around a thousand times this season, and God only knows whats wrong with Fernando Tatis. He's probably having surgery on those car doors he has for ears, in fact, there has been an unconfirmed sighting of him in Montreal wearing one of those cardboard collars that dogs wear. I think he's going for that Latin Spock look. Well good luck to you Fernando.

I was watching one of my stud pitchers Chris Michalak the other day and I actually found myself coming over to Skippers way of thinking. He was pitching a truly masterpiece of a game, no hits, no errors, and no walks. He was in a zone, with total control of his pitches. Then Benny Agbayani leads off the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning with, you guessed it, a bunt!! Needless to say that classless act got the dominos falling and 5 hits, 2 walks and 5 runs later, Michalak is counting tiles in the shower wondering what went wrong. Whatever happened to the Unwritten Rule, what happened to Old School Baseball?

On a sad note I think Greg Maddux has Downs Syndrome, look at his eyes the next time he pitches on TV. He looks like Corky from Life Sucks or Lifes' Been Good or whatever the shows name was.

Who wants to be Cal Ripken? I do!!! I do!!! You couldn't have written a more perfect script for what has turned out to be a perfect career. To hit a homerun on the day he breaks Lou Gehrigs record and hit one in his final All-Star game AND be named MVP is incredible. I use to think that the pitchers probably let up a little, but after

watching Troy Glaus miss 30 consecutive underhand lobs in the homerun hitting contest I've changed my mind, regardless, it's hard to do. But I do think that Tony Gwynn should play another year. The unfortunate thing is that they will both enter the Hall of Fame at the same time and I think the glare off Ripkens pate may take a little of the shine away from Gwynns accomplishments, which in themselves are remarkable. A .338 batting average, 18 seasons batting over .300, 8 National League hitting titles, amazing. We've been lucky to have witnessed these great careers.

I hope no one is in a rush because I've got alot on my mind. I only git to right thes onec or twice a yer. Chit!

Underbelly