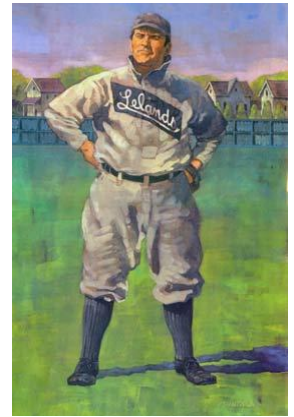


# FROM THE BULLPEN

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



2001 Season

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### SENATORS CLING TO LEAD DURING DOWN WEEK, WAHOOS PRAY FOR HEALTHY PEDRO

During a down week in which the top scoring team could not crack the 400-point barrier and in which half of the teams scored less than 300 points, the **Senators** maintained the pole position and even increased their lead over the 2<sup>nd</sup> place **Wahoos** by a smidgen, taking a 4164-to-4120 lead through 11 weeks. The standings through 11 are as follows:

#### Week 11 Standings

1.	Senators	4164
2.	Wahoos	4120
3.	Blues	3649
4.	Cubs*	3619
5.	Reds	3602
6.	Pirates	3589
7.	Skipjacks	3574
8.	Tribe	3560
9.	Redbirds	3552
10.	Tigers	3499
11.	Bronx Bombers	3378
12.	Chiefs	3111

The point totals during Week 11 were as follows:

#### Week 11 Totals

1.	Skipjacks	393
2.	Redbirds	384
3.	Blues	332
4.	Senators	324
5.	Reds	313

6.	Wahoos	310
7.	Chiefs	297
8.	Bombers	295
9.	Pirates	292
10.	Tribe	267
11.	Tigers	248
12.	Cubs*	223

The MVP of the year continues to be Barry Bonds, now with a whopping point total of 428, largely because of his astounding total of 38 home runs during his team's first 71 games, on pace to shatter McGwire's season record of 70 home runs. There is a new Cy Young leader, Curt Schilling of the **Senators**, now with 325 points. Of course, it has to be noted that Schilling was only able to take over the lead from Pedro because of Pedro's bad wing, but Schilling was able to overcome Itchie's jinx to post a recent 12-K win and take over the top pitching spot.

The top pitching team in the league is the **Senators** with 1760 points, a whopping 280 points ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place **Wahoos**. The top hitting team is the same **Wahoo** bunch who lead the circuit with 2640 points, ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place **Pirates** with 2588.

### AROUND THE HORN

The **Senators** and **Wahoos** continue their battle for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, as the balance of the league fights it out for 3<sup>rd</sup> place money. The race for 3<sup>rd</sup> place is unbelievably tight, with only 97 points separating the 3<sup>rd</sup> place **Blues** from the 9<sup>th</sup> place **Redbirds**. Incredibly, seven teams are within 100 points of each other at this juncture of the season. One good night and you can go from 9<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. A couple of bad nights in a row and a guy could go from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. Should make for an interesting second half of the season.

## BALLS AND STRIKES

◆ I hate to kiss the guy's bottom, but I have to congratulate Itchie on another fine issue of *The Jiggernaut*. Even without much material to work with from this year's Trip – since Tony didn't make it – our sharp-tongued league wag was able to produce a knee-slapper if not a side-splitter.

◆ Congrats also and thanks to Mouse and Blongo for lining up this year's Trip to Milwaukee. In spite of our unwitting purchase of the 15-passenger van, it was an economical and efficient, yet thoroughly fun 36 hours. My vote is for these two guys to become our permanent Trip coordinators.

◆ Provided herewith is your updated summary of HSL Trips. We have now visited 20 different ballparks during official league junkets, and have kept our streak of trips alive at 17. Nice work, boys.

◆ There was some discussion of where to go for next year's Trip. Depending on schedules, we may have to head out to Pacific Bell in San Francisco, or to the new ballpark in Pittsburgh, or perhaps Detroit, which coincidentally is not far from the Windsor ballet. You can imagine where Itchie's vote will be cast. More on this later.

◆ Itchie won't be able to read this issue until he gets back from his dream vacation trip to Disneyworld (nothing like taking three small kids to the most crowded amusement park in the world during the height of tourist season, at the peak of humidity and temperature). It seems doubtful that Itchie is paddling his own canoe on this one.

◆ It was great to see the Huskers play in the College World Series against Cal State Fullerton on June 8, and an honor to be in the presence of two such great baseball minds as Itchie and U-Bob. Bummer about the Huskers going 2-and-out, though. If they can only keep Van Horn, they'll be back.

◆ Itchie jinxed me in *The Jiggernaut* with his comment about Schilling and Sele. Sele took his first loss of the year following same, and then got trashed his next time out even though he didn't take the loss. Schilling got beat by ex-**Senator** Kerry Wood, who has now won six straight for the **Bombers**.

◆ Speaking of my trade with Mouse, how lucky that I was able to trick Mouse into taking that slug Manny

Ramirez off my hands and to trade me the hottest player in baseball the last couple of weeks, Magglio. All it took was my best pitcher, Kerry Wood, and the hottest reliever in baseball, Derek Lowe. If only Jeter can continue to bat at around the Mendoza line, I'll be real happy.

◆ Even with Pedro's bad wing and missing a start, Possum has not only been able to keep up, he's gaining ground on the **Senators**. Looks like one heckuva battle for Hot Stove League supremacy this year.

◆ It was painful enough to see the obnoxious owner of the **Skipjacks** lead the league in points this week with 393 points. However, to have the annoying Tirebiter place second with a 384-point week was almost too much to take. As long as they stay down in the Lower Division where they belong, though, I'll be satisfied.

◆ Did I read that John Olerud hit for the cycle this last week? The guy is so slow you have to pound stakes in the ground to see if he is even moving, and yet he somehow legged out a triple? Interestingly enough, neither Willie Mays nor Hank Aaron, two of the all-time greats and all-time total bases leaders, never hit for the cycle in their careers. As Mel Allen would say, "*How about that?*"

## THE LEXICON OF BASEBALL

I realize I am revisiting a topic I've opined on in the past, but it's a subject worth repeating: *The Language of Baseball*. There are so many words, terms and phrases that are unique to baseball that Webster could have a separate volume just on the baseball lexicon. Here are some of my favorites:

around the horn  
Baltimore chop  
band box  
banjo hitter  
blue darter  
brushback  
bush leaguer  
can of corn  
chin music  
cup of coffee  
ducks on the pond  
eephus pitch  
frozen rope  
fungo  
gas  
gopher ball

heater  
high cheese  
horsehide  
hot corner  
hot stove league  
journeyman  
junkball  
K  
mustard  
ohfer  
payoff pitch  
pepper  
phantom double play  
pitchout  
portsider  
pull the string  
punch-and-judy hitter  
rhubard  
scroogie  
short porch  
sitting in the catbird seat  
southpaw  
suicide squeeze  
Texas leaguer  
tools of ignorance  
Uncle Charlie  
wheelhouse  
whitewash  
yakker

I would be surprised if all of you didn't know what all of these terms mean, being the dedicated, knowledgeable baseball mavens that you are. However, I recently read a baseball term that I had never heard of before, a reference to a "*Peggy Lee fastball*," and did not know what this meant. Do any of you care to hazard a guess? Answer to be provided next issue.

I'm sure I've missed some of your favorite terms and phrases. Since we don't yet have a web site (and why don't we, U-Bob?), please e-mail me at [dernst@gphlawfirm.com](mailto:dernst@gphlawfirm.com) with your favorite terms and phrases which are unique to the lexicon of baseball.

Next week: *Baseball Nicknames*.

Soon: McBlunder's guest newsletter: *Seventh-Inning Stretch*.

Skipper