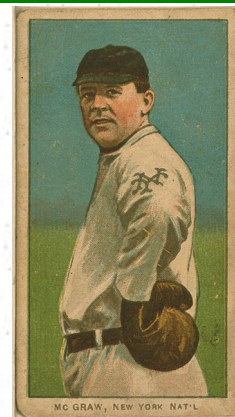


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# From the Bullpen

## Official Publication of the Hot Stove League

### Eastern Nebraska Division



2002 Season

Edition No. 2

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Brethren:

With less than three weeks to go before Draft Day (Saturday, March 23), I thought it fitting and proper to put out a short *FTB* to cover a couple of essentials.

### DRAFT CHECKLIST

To assist you in preparing for the Draft, please feel free to use the following checklist:

- Calendar draft for Saturday, March 23, at 1:00 p.m.
- Secure kitchen pass, where necessary.
- Line up baby-sitting, where necessary.
- Make sure Nurse Rachet from South Lincoln Long Term Care Center available for accompaniment to Draft (applicable only to U-Bob).
- Secure line of credit for casino junket after Draft (you know who you are).
- Figure out which team Jose Canseco is playing for this year.
- Bump Ruben Sierra up to second round (Shamu only).
- Stop at Quik Shop for jerkey, chew, and last-minute tips from Punjab.
- Arrange for bank-certified funds to pay Skipper (all).
- Reset snooze alarm on calendar. (BT)

I might be missing a few things, but this should cover most of the essentials.

### ON-LINE REGISTRATION

Oh, yeah. I guess this is kind of important. You need to make sure that you have registered on-line for this year's Draft. B.T., this means you. I realize you are busy harboring fugitives from the law, but try to get signed up so you can actually draft a team this year if you are successful in covering the other items on the checklist above.

### DRAFT SUMMARY

As is customary, I am circulating a summary of the top two rounds for the last nine drafts, dating back to 1993 when we expanded to the twelve-team Bill James format. The question is, who will pick this year's Kelly Gruber?

### POP-UPS AND FOUL TIPS

◆ Speaking of Kelly Gruber, whatever happened to the guy? Didn't he retire back about the same time that Ruben Sierra hung them up? And who's older, Kelly Gruber or Julio Franco?

◆ I see that Carlos Baerga (pronounced buy-air-guh) is making a comeback this year. Believe it or not, he's only 33 years old. Barry Bonds was five years older last year when he shattered the home run record.

◆ This issue of *From the Bullpen* was commenced in lovely Biloxi, Mississippi, as I sat across a blackjack table from an old reprobate who was the spitting image of Sparky Anderson. Being from Southern Mississippi, Sparky's double wasn't quite as bright or articulate as

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the genuine article, but he sure as hell did look like him. Sparky II's casino playmate looked to be about 65 or so, all city miles, with the most outrageous 1962 bleached blonde beehive I have ever seen. As you can imagine, a striking couple. And that's what got me thinking about baseball.

◆ Speaking of Southern Mississippi, if U-Bob is still looking for a warm place to retire, Biloxi may be just the place for him. The climate is warm, he'll save a fortune on dental care since they don't seem to have any, and he could suffer a profound CVA and still have a healthy IQ margin over the general population. He would own his Southern Miss BJFB league if he could find eleven other people who could understand the concept of the league and afford the \$39 to sign up. Just a thought, Bob, in the event that Jody is still pushing for that dream retirement to Arkansas.

◆ Tirebiter just returned from a restful junket to Cancun, where he boned up on baseball for the Draft, bolstered the revenues of the makers of Corona and Dos Equis, and was voted *Pastiest Gringo* in a contest judged by local members of the tourism guild. He is now referred to reverently there as *Señor White*.

◆ Elsewhere around the league, Mouse has been absolutely invisible this winter, still apparently smarting over his beloved Yankees' loss in Game 7 of the World Series. Maybe Brenda will let him out of the house on Draft Day for a few hours of camaraderie.

◆ Ditto with Tricky. Guess he's been too busy working on the *Buckaroo Bash* to pay much attention to his real friends. Yippee.

◆ Haven't seen or heard from McBlunder for a heckuva long time. He's probably been busy riding around on the Jayhawks' bandwagon this basketball season, yadda yadda yadda, or perhaps he's been busy strategizing over a new class action lawsuit against sports mascots which will make the tobacco litigation settlement seem like parking meter money. Maybe he'll make enough to be able to buy us a van for our next HSL trip. Or did all of us do that last year in Milwaukee?

◆ Question of the day: Who is the manager of the Texas Rangers? If any one of you can give his name without looking it up, your \$100 debt to me is forgiven.

◆ Speaking of the Rangers, should be real interesting to have Carl Everett and Juan Gonzalez in the same outfield, and on the same team with John Roker. No potential for conflict there. Perhaps a team-wide anger management seminar would be of benefit.

◆ Spent a couple of days last week in N'Awlins, with lawyers named Thibodeaux and Boudreaux, sampling Creole and Cajun cuisine, and generally being amazed that anyone in the Big Easy lives past about 40 years old. Wonder if they'll ever have major league baseball in the Crescent City? Just wondering.

Better get this issue on the presses and out on the street. See you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, right here, if not before.

Skipper

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