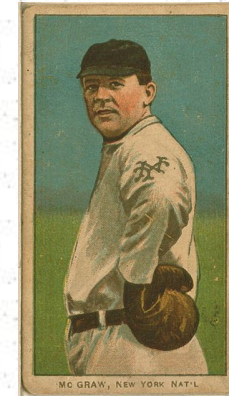

From the Bullpen

Official Publication of the
Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division



2002 Season

Edition No. 7

April 15, 2002

CUBS* ROMP DURING WEEK 2, BABY BEARS EXPAND LEAD

REDS USE SUNDAY SURGE TO BLOW PAST SENATORS INTO SECOND

MOUSE BLACK AND BLUE FROM PINCHING SELF, BOMBERS IN THIRD

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Brethren:

Week 2 was all about the **Cubs***, as Shamu's red-hot Bruins scored a league best 461 points during Week 2 to expand their lead on the field to a cool 95 points, serving further notice that the **Cubs*** are the odds-on-favorite for the 2002 HSL season. The **Cubs*** used an eye-popping total of 364 batting points for the week, led by Craig Biggio's cycle-driven league best weekly total of 58.5 points, to leave the competition sucking fumes.

For the second straight week, the **Cubs*** were the top-scoring team in the league, with the aforementioned 461 points for Week 2. The **Cubs*** did it mostly through hitting this week, putting the whopping hitting total of 364 points on the board for the week, an average of more than 50 hitting points per night. In addition to Biggio's 58.5 points for the week, Shamu* was the benefactor of Jim Thome's 46.5 week, Delgado's 46.0 week, Uribe's 44.5 week, Ventura's 35.5 week, and Larry Walker's 31.0 week. That, my friends, is *smokin'*. With all this hitting, Shamu* managed to bolster his lead on the field even though his pitchers had a subpar week of 97 points.

The second-best performance for Week 2 was by the surprising **Bombers** who put together a 432.5 week. Mouse's charges were led by two of his beloved Yankees, Soriano with 52 and Giambi with 37.5 points for the week. I'm not sure how this all works, but Soriano somehow notched 15 bonus points for the week, so I guess he either hit a couple of walk-off home runs or half of a cycle, or some damned thing. The

Below you will find the:

WEEK 2 STANDINGS

Upper Division

1.	Cubs*	895.5
2.	Reds	800.5
3.	Bombers	735.0
4.	Senators	726.5
5.	Wahoos	717.5
6.	Skipjacks	697.5

Lower Division

7.	Tigers	636.5
8.	Chiefs	627.0
9.	Tribe	604.5
10.	Pirates	574.5
11.	Blues	573.5
12.	Redbirds	472.5

Bombers' hitting total for the week of 268 was exactly equal to the **Blues'** entire team total for Week 2, and 9 points ahead of the combined pitching and hitting totals of the **Redbirds** for Week 2.

The **Reds** had the third best Week 2 with 408 points, primarily on the strength of Brian Lawrence's 61 points and Isringhausen's 43 points for the week. The **Reds'** pitching staff, with 176.5 points for the week, topped the circuit. With their 408 point week, the **Reds** were able to maintain their 2nd place standing in the league. I wonder how long it will be before this team realizes that it isn't really all that good and starts drifting south in the standings.

But enough small talk. Here are the Week 2 point totals from top to bottom:

WEEK 2 POINT TOTALS

1.	Cubs*	461.0
2.	Bombers	432.5
3.	Reds	408.0
4.	Pirates	395.5
5.	Skipjacks	375.0
6.	Senators	349.0
7.	Wahoos	329.5
8.	Chiefs	317.5
9.	Tigers	308.0
10.	Tribe	275.5
11.	Blues	268.0
12.	Redbirds	259.0

The top hitting club through two weeks is

BALLS AND STRIKES

- ◆ Shamu* is kicking our collective behinds even though he has not yet realized a single point from his second-round draft pick, Greg Maddux. Not that Maddux hasn't scored a few points, it's just that Shamu* decided that his team is so good that he could leave Maddux' first start last Saturday in the minor leagues. I'm sure you won't need that 20 points later on in the season, Shamu*.

- ◆ Part of Mouse's big week was the 39 points that he got from Kevin Appier in his two starts. Personally, I thought Ape was burnt toast, and gave nary a thought to drafting him this year. Let's keep an eye on

the **Cubs*** with 527 points, just ahead of the **Reds'** 500-point two-week total. At the end of the wagon train is the **Tribe**, with a total of 327 hitting points, just below the **Redbirds'** two-week total of 330.

The top staff in the league through two is also the property of the **Cubs***, with a total of 369 points. The **Skipjacks** -- man, do they have a great manager* -- have the second best pitching staff with 319 points through Week 2, just ahead of the third best **Senators** with 308. The **'Boids** have the fewest pitching points through two with 143, just behind the equally-pathetic pitching staff of the **Blues** with 150.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Hitters

1.	Barry Bonds	91
2.	Carlos Delgado	86
3.	Jim Edmonds	72
4.	Jacque Jones	71
5.	Mike Cameron	70
6.	Michael Barrett	69
7.	Raul Mondesi	68
8.	Ellis Burks	66
(T)	Torii Hunter	66
(T)	Juan Uribe	66
(T)	Omar Vizquel	66

Pitching**

1.	Curt Schilling	91
2.	Randy Johnson	88
3.	Mike Mussina	83
4.	Livan Hernandez	74
5.	Mark Buehrle	72
6.	Danny Graves	68
7.	Tom Glavine	65
(T)	J.C. Romero	65
(T)	Vincente Padilla	65

Kevin and see how he fares later in the season.

♦ Two shortstops are in the top ten in scoring through two weeks, and one of them *isn't* Alex Rodriguez. I just knew that Vizquel was going to have his career year this season.

- ♦ I was wrong about Bret Boone.
- ♦ I don't think I was wrong about Pedro.
- ♦ Poor U-Bob. Did anyone see the box score for Pedro's last outing? Another marginal, short-inning performance by Pedro, and then Mariano Rivera, once untouchable but proved to be touchable in Game 7 last year, gets his bell rung and negates any good that Pedro did. That would be your Round 1-Round 2 **Tribe** tandem, my friends. Ouch.

WEB WORDS

The HSL web site is up and running, boys. Hellooooooo, out there. I said, the HSL web site is up and running. Humor me. At least make a half-hearted effort to use the Message Board to say something witty, timely, or inane, but say something, won't you? Crawl into the 21st century, cavemen.

I'll be checking.

Skipper

10. Brian Lawrence 63
(T) Matt Morris 63

* I know how Itchie's feelings get hurt if his name isn't mentioned in the *Bullpen* with favor every so often.

** Not including bonus points.

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