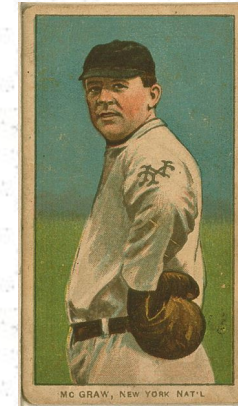

From the Bullpen

Official Publication of the

Hot Stove League

Eastern Nebraska Division



2002 Season

Edition No. 11

May 15, 2002

YOU CAN CALL HIM LUCKY OR YOU CAN CALL HIM ITCHIE

SKIPJACKS GREEZE INTO FIRST, DISPLACING CUBS*

TRIBE QUIETLY VYING TO OVERTAKE BOMBERS AND SENATORS

'BIRDS: BEYOND BAD

Brethren:

Luck was a lady for Brother Itchie this week, as he parlayed several luck-filled outings from his luck-laden pitching staff into first place through Week 6. Sure, he got his ass canned at *FDR* last Saturday with no future employment prospects and only enough in savings for two or three more trips to the boats, but all of that is incidental to finding himself atop the league standings. Congrats on a great week, you lucky dog!

Itchie's boys used a 380-point week to surge past the **Cubs*** and take a 2198.5 to

WEEK 6 STANDINGS

Upper Division

1. Skipjacks 2198.5
2. Cubs* 2189.0
3. Reds 2181.5
4. Senators 2125.5
5. Bombers 2117.5
6. Tribe 2073.5

Lower Division

7. Wahoos 1945.0
8. Blues 1937.0
9. Tigers 1919.0
10. Pirates 1883.0
11. Chiefs 1753.0
12. Redbirds 1612.0

The top player through six weeks is A-Rod with 216.5 points, including bonus points. RJ is still the top pitcher with 212.5 points, bonus points included.

SAME TIME, LAST YEAR

Just for giggles, let's take a look at the standings through six weeks of last year. The **Senators** were atop the list with 2238

2189.0 lead. The **Reds** are only 7.5 points back at 2181.5, and both the **Senators** and **Bronx Bombers** finished Week 6 within 81 points of the lead. Here are the standings from top to bottom through six weeks:

The **Tribe** was in 6th place last year at this time, just like now, with 1970 points. The **Reds** were next with 1910, followed by the **Blues** with 1898, the **Tigers** with 1891, and the **Skipjacks** with 1884. The **Bombers** were in 11th with 1776, while the **Chiefs** brought up the rear with 1441 points. While we had a pretty close group at this point last year, it was certainly not as tight as it has been thus far this year, with the spread of only 125 points between 1st and 6th places.

Manny Ramirez was the top hitter last year at this time with 232 points, off to a fabulous start, while Pedro, preinjury, had 217 points through six weeks last year.

WEEK 6 POINT TOTALS

The top scoring team in the league this week was the **Bronx Bombers** with 389.5, followed by the **Skipjacks** with 380. The **Tribe** was next with 362, while the **Senators** were 4th with 339 points.

At the other end of the universe, the **Redbirds** had the fewest points during Week 6, surprise, surprise, with 276, two points behind the slumping **Tigers** with 278. The point totals for Week 6, first to last, were as follows:

points at this point of the season last year, just a titch ahead of the **Wahoos** who held the second spot with 2234 points. The **Pirates** were in 3rd at this juncture last season with 2077, just ahead of the **Cubs*** with 2056 and the **Redbirds** with 2040.

AN ATHLETE IN THE FAMILY

For those of you who live in Omaha and read the *World-Herald*, and those of you who frequent the HSL website, you know that Big Guy's oldest daughter, Abby, graced the front page of the sports section last Sunday. Abby, a junior at Omaha Marian, is shown competing in a state tournament soccer game against Millard South. Finally, a star athlete in the HSL family.

For those of you who haven't seen the picture, go to our Photo Gallery link and get a look at the source of Big Guy's current ear-to-ear grin. Congrats again to Abby and the entire Drews family.

FTB GOES PAPERLESS

Well, maybe. Now that we are able to post the *Bullpen* on our website each week, giving you all full and fair and free (almost, see below) access to your favorite HSL newsletter, is it time to save the forests and shut down the printing press from spewing out paper copies of *FTB* each week? Here's how we'll find out: If you are reading your newsletter online each week and the paper copy is superfluous, please post a message on our Message Board on the website (www.nebraskahsl.com) to let us know this, and we will stop sending you a paper copy.

1. Bombers	389.5
2. Skipjacks	380.0
3. Tribe	362.0
4. Senators	339.0
5. Wahoos	334.0
6. Blues	322.5
7. Reds	298.0
8. Pirates	293.0
9. Cubs*	291.5
10. Chiefs	287.0
11. Tigers	278.0
12. Redbirds	276.0

If we do not see a message from you on the Message Board, we will assume that you either have not yet figured out how to log on to the website, in which case you obviously are not yet reading *FTB* online, or that you know how to get online and read the *Bullpen* in that medium but still wish to receive paper copies, whether for convenience, historical purposes or to line the parakeet's cage. We will not shut you down if you still need the paper copy, but if the paper copy is being sent to you for no good reason, please let us know this so we can save a spotted owl or two, not to mention our costs of postage, stationery and ink.

WEBSITE COST REIMBURSEMENT

From our accounting department, this update on the status of member reimbursement for the cost of establishing our new HSL website. So far, the funds are rolling in about as quickly as the contributions for the Operation: Pedophilic Priest Relief Fund. So far, Brother UBob's \$30 check is the only reimbursement that has been received, although I'm sure that there are numerous other checks in the mail that were probably delayed a bit by the recent mailbox bombing episode. Thanks, Bob.

DON'T CRY FOR ME, ARGENTINA

We are pained to report here, as alluded to earlier, that Brother Itchie has in fact been the victim (or beneficiary?) of another

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Whoops. Almost forgot. Here are the individual leaders in points scored through six weeks, not including bonus points:

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Hitters

1. A-Rod	218
2. Vladdy	205
3. Sosa	203
4. Floyd (Cliff, not Smoot)	183
5. Bonds	181
6. Ramirez	179
7. Maglio	173
(T) Lowell	173
9. Soriano	169
10. Helton	168
(T) Berkman	168
12. Delgado	161
13. Jones	160
14. Vizquel	159

strategic downsizing by FDR. While he is in fact jobless at this moment, he demands that no tears be shed for him, as the brain trust at FDR has cushioned his fall with a golden* parachute, and that as soon as the current regime is toppled, he will likely be rehired at twice his current annual salary of \$2,000,000 a year, such as happened several years ago. In the meantime, Itchie plans to play a lot of golf this summer, catch up on some of his favorite daytime TV shows (*Judge Judy, Court TV, The View, Jerry Springer: The Lost Episodes, and Tales from the Courtroom by Rusty the Bailiff*), and help Anne with domestic duties around the house, such as childcare, cooking, and cleaning. He may also find out more about Pablo the pool boy than he really wants to know, but that's a new occupational hazard.

In any event, we all wish Itchie well, and *FTB* will keep tabs on him this summer and let you know how his quest for the perfect Middle Eastern tan is progressing.

* Come to think of it, he didn't use the word "golden" parachute, but said that FDR was trying something new in this respect, a "wooden" parachute, which may be problematic for our happy-go-lucky friend in terms of limiting the number of weekly trips he can make to the boats to drop ten grand.

THE CLUBHOUSE **CURMUDGEON**

This is a new feature of *From the Bullpen* which will appear from time to time. I realized the other day as I was thinking

15. Jeeter	158
(T) Hunter	158

Pitchers

1. Randy Johnson	196
2. Curt Schilling	187
3. Odalis Perez	170
4. Kim	157
5. Lowe	155
(T) Gagne	155
7. Glavine	154
8. Padilla	151
9. Byrd	150
(T) El Duque	150
11. A.J. Burnett	146
12. Leiter	144
13. Rueter	143
14. Guardado	140
(T) Ishii	140

👁️ Can anyone explain to me why anyone would ask *Lucianne Goldberg* (remember her? Monica Lewinsky's "friend") to give commentary on anything of substance? I keep seeing her on late night talk show TV, spouting off about this or that or the other, and the woman is absolutely

through this week's issue that I/we need a forum for venting frustration, dissatisfaction and downright anger at the media, the knuckleheads who are all around us, and at general world events, especially as we all get older and crankier and more set in our ways, so this is it. From time to time, the Clubhouse Curmudgeon will share with you his/your/our views on this, that and the other. Please feel free to communicate to Linda or me any such thoughts that you would like to express in this column on a going-forward basis. The only requirements are that the thoughts expressed be generally cranky or crotchety, out of touch with the times, and/or generalized societal indictments.

Here are a couple for this week:

☛ I have absolutely no use for "shock talk" sports announcers/talk show participants, whatever the heck they call themselves these days. I don't want to step on any toes here, but listening to Tony Kornheiser makes me want to retch violently. I caught a couple of seconds of him the other day on some TV show wearing some goofy warrior outfit and jousting with his alleged co-commentator. Please, the mean IQ of your listening audience is already approaching subhuman. Don't dumb us down any more.

clueless on every subject on which she expresses an opinion. Not only that, but it seems as if she has just finished off a pack of Camel straights each time she is interviewed, so raspy is her voice, and a fifth of Jim Beam, as her diction would rival that of the late, great Harry Caray.

NEXT WEEK

Itchie's Top Ten List of Favorite Idletime Activities.

Saves: *Where Do They Come From?*

*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*

In the immortal words of my personal hero, Slim Whitman,

All my best.

Skipper

[Back to Top](#)
[Home](#)

[Back to Archives](#)