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# THE JIGGERNAUT

Official Publication of the



Special Edition of

**From the Bullpen**

Official Publication of The Hot Stove League

**Eastern Nebraska Division**

2002 Season      Edition No. 13

May 28, 2002

Guest Editorialist: Itchie

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Okay, I have finally found the time in between my very busy social calendar to write a few words about the Hot Stove League, as I have been proudly designated Guest Writer of this week's edition of the league newsletter (aka *The Jiggernaut*). Come to think of it, I have also been designated Traveling Secretary for planning this year's HSL trip, and I've also been designated Chief Equipment Bag Carrier for Zach and Joe's eight year old Yankee team, and been designated Chief Refrigerator Mover for the Ernst family. At least one HSL Manager seems to be happy with my recent preponderance of free time. Who says I

- I am semi-retired\*
- I am "between positions" right now
- I was downsized
- I was right sized
- I got capped
- I took a bullet
- I am pursuing other opportunities
- They went in another direction
- I am the odd man out
- I was re-org'ed

## **WHAT'S NEXT?**

Contrary to what you might think, there

don't have a job...there's four jobs right there.

## WHAT HAPPENED?

I'm sure you all want to know what happened to Itchie and that Gravy Train he's been riding for years. Was he embezzling plastics and got nabbed by the Feds? Was he dipping his pen in the company ink? Was he spending all day on the job checking stock prices and poring over box scores? Was he just a totally incompetent screw up? Well, only two of those things are true, so you guys can figure it out.

There are any number of explanations I am currently going with to explain my current job status, but these, in no particular order, seem to be the most well received:

- **Professional Gambler** – Unfortunately, this one has already been eliminated as an option, based on last Friday's trip to the boat.
- **Omaha Royals Concessionaire** – Also eliminated...I was "over qualified," since I knew how to make change for a five.
- **Day Trader** – This looks to be a loser as well, although the Possum seems to be dripping in wealth based on other people's misfortunes in the market. Perhaps the "bookie" angle works in this profession.
- **Wal- Mart Greeter** – Over qualified....My 32 teeth were 12 over the limit
- **Pool Boy** – Since Pablo has my crib already covered, I'm looking for a rich,

are numerous opportunities awaiting me in the employment marketplace. I have already given consideration to a number of options at this time, and several others are pending. These include:

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\*This seems to be my favorite. It sounds like you actually intend to be out of work and you have a lot of money. What it really means is you don't want to work until it looks like you might run out of money, then you'll start looking for a job.

I'll keep you all posted as to my job status, but don't look for anything real soon. After all, I am semi-retired.

## BASEBALL

Enough about me, let's talk about you. What do you think about my team? I know that the performance of all the individuals on the **Skipjax** roster is in inverse order to their draft position. Mike Mussina, Ivan Rodriguez, Kevin Brown? These top three draft picks have **combined** for 260 points, most of which belong to Mussina. Pathetic. Derek Lowe, Eddie Guardado, and Vicente Padilla? These three afterthoughts, drafted in a drunken stupor only in an effort to move the draft to conclusion, have led the way for the Skipjax with a combined point total of 515

country club wife type who is currently being "underserved"...this has potential.

- **"Self Employed Model" Broker** - Might work, but sometimes hard to keep in contact with my bitches when the phone in the limo is busted.
- **Full Time HSL Manager** – Could be fun, but it gets old watching Glavine hang zeroes game after game for the Cubs, and I am not lucky enough to succeed at this full time.
- **Full Time Golfer** – This has been a primary focus thus far, but it would be nice if I could find someone under 70 years old to play with. What are all you people doing during the day, anyway?
- **Frito Route** – I like this one, but the .22 I blew on the breathalyzer at the interview knocked me out of contention.
- **Boy Friday for the Ernst family** – Do the *Bullpen*, plan the league trip, run baseball practice, wash the car, clean the pool...these were all fine responsibilities. I had to draw the line at changing the poo in Emily's diapers and painting Savannah's toenails.
- **"Gentlemen's Club" Critic/Evaluator** – Now, finally, we're talking "pursuit of one's passion"...this looks to be the ideal career for me. I believe the formal title is Director of Champagne tasting.

points. Go figure.

We all have reached consensus that this league is 100% luck. How else could you possibly explain Shamu's current reign at the top and Tirebiter's extended stay in the basement? Well, the latter may indeed have some valid justification for that position, but it is the lone exception to the luck theory.

As I looked over the league rosters and tried to come up with a few incisive comments regarding your teams, I drew a blank. However, a few random thoughts struck me as interesting:

- ◆ U-Belly should change his team name to the O's. He has the following O's on his club:

Orlando (Cabrera)  
Fernando (Tatis)  
Fernando (Vina)  
Pedro (Martinez)  
Pedro (Astacio)  
Ramiro (Mendoza)  
Mariano (Rivera)

O my. Throw in a couple French coons and you've got a formula for a title.

- ◆ Tirebiter should change his team name to the **Greenbirds**. Perhaps the Bethlehem Greenbirds would be appropriate, to honor Sol / Shecky's phenomenal performance last week. By the way, can anyone name another Jew named Shawn? It just doesn't

## FLIGHTS

### Saturday August

3rd

Omaha-Chicago	6:55 am – 8:22 am	AA 4108
Chicago-Pittsburgh	9:07 am – 11:28 am	AA 4073

fit. It's like the Japanese chef I encountered at the Genji Steakhouse last week; after speaking broken English to me for twenty minutes, I asked him his name. Fully expecting a response of Tshimango or Kazahiro, he looks at me with a straight face and says "Jay." Common Japanese name, I guess.

- ◆ Looks like vacation was good for Tirebiter. After not logging on to the Web Site all year, he comes back from vacation with a four page treatise and uses up all the remaining disk space on the site. I'm sure Dave will now be soliciting donations for this to "help Linda cover the expense of the additional capacity needs."

- ◆ Don't ever draft a position player changing leagues. There is a minimum one year adjustment period to the other leagues pitching. Look at ol' Shecky himself when he went from Toronto to the Dodgers, and it's happening this year in spades with Tino Martinez, Roberto Alomar, and Mo Vaughn. Well, Tino's not a spade, but he is slumping.

- ◆ Livan Hernandez would be the best hitter on my team if he was with the **Skipjax**. The dude can swing the stick.

- ◆ If you hitched your wagon to the A's pitching staff, you've got some issues. Hudson is in the tank and Mulder is showing no signs of repeating his fabulous performance of last year. By the way, does anyone want to trade me those two fellas?

## THE TRIP

Itchie has indeed been a very busy little worker bee, researching details for the

## Sunday August

4th

Pittsburgh-St. Louis	6:43 am – 7:40 pm	AA 5760
St. Louis-Omaha	8:20 pm – 9:34 pm	AA 2859

**Roundtrip Fare \$181.50**

## HOTEL

Hilton Pittsburgh Towers  
600 Commonwealth Plaza  
**\$115 per nite, sleeps 4** One night

## TICKETS

Good tickets are available on-line. Prices are:

Baseline Box	\$ <b>26.00</b>
Infield Box	\$ <b>27.00</b>
Dugout Box	\$ <b>35.00</b>

Actually, the Baseline box seems to be the closest to the field, based on availability. Let me know your preference, if any, and we'll see how many we can round up together.

Please confirm with me your status on attending, either via the Website or via e-mail to me at [jzamt@aol.com](mailto:jzamt@aol.com). You all know if you're going or not, so don't put on some charade like you might be going and then cancel at the last minute. In or out! Who's with me? Let me know asap, as fares may change or become unavailable.

league junket to the Steel City (that's Pittsburgh, JB). The Pirates will be hosting Barry Bonds and the Giants at beautiful new PNC Park, and we'd have the opportunity to see the Saturday night and Sunday afternoon games. Here are the details as of today:

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## **THE STANDINGS**

Finally, I suppose you'd like to know the standings and other trivial details. After the **Skipjax** took the week off and Shawn Green pulled the manic depressive Iowegan up by his bootstraps and shook new life into his **Redbirds**, the standings looked like this at the end of Week 8:

## **WEEK 8 STANDINGS**

### **Upper Division**

- |    |           |        |
|----|-----------|--------|
| 1. | Cubs      | 2963.0 |
| 2. | Reds      | 2956.5 |
| 3. | Skipjacks | 2879.0 |
| 4. | Senators  | 2868.0 |
| 5. | Bombers   | 2781.5 |
| 6. | Tribe     | 2711.5 |

### **Lower Division**

- |     |          |        |
|-----|----------|--------|
| 7.  | Wahoos   | 2578.0 |
| 8.  | Pirates  | 2566.0 |
| 9.  | Tigers   | 2522.5 |
| 10. | Blues    | 2494.5 |
| 11. | Chiefs   | 2463.0 |
| 12. | Redbirds | 2343.5 |

If you want to know any of that other crap on leading pitchers, hitters, points per game, catcher wins, etc., look it up on the Stats Website.



That's it for this week's *Jiggernaut*. Hope to see you all on the league trip, and best of luck as this barnburner of a pennant race moves into the dog days of summer, cause after all, luck will determine the Champion.

Itchie  
Director of Champagne Tasting

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[Back to Top](#)

[Back to Archives](#)

[Home](#)