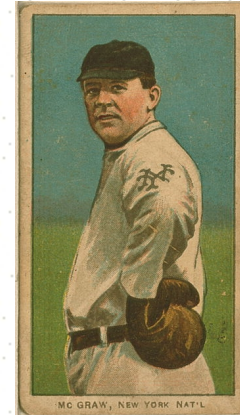


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# From the Bullpen

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



2002 Season

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## **SKIPJACKS AND CUBS\* AT WAR FOR LEAD AT ALL-STAR BREAK**

### **CUBS\* SURGE TO CUT GAP TO 10**

### **TRIBE USES *EN FUEGO* WEEK TO BURST INTO FIFTH**

### **REDBIRDS POKE HEAD ABOVE GROUND, SEE SHADOW, CRAWL BACK INTO SEWER**

Brethren:

As we cruise into the All-Star break after completing fourteen weeks of play, one thing seems to be clear: The **Skipjacks** and **Cubs\*** are going to be battling it out, toe to toe, for the pride and glory of the 2002 Hot Stove League season. The ebony and ivory of our league are proving rather conclusively that it's better to be lucky than good, as they both enjoy career-type years from several of their players while for the most part avoiding the injury bugaboo.

## **WEEK 14 STANDINGS**

### **Upper Division**

1.	Skipjacks	5193.5
2.	Cubs*	5183.5
3.	Reds	5016.5
4.	Senators	4828.0
5.	Tribe	4718.0
6.	Scumcats	4643.5

### **Lower Division**

7.	Chiefs	4628.5
8.	Bombers	4509.0
9.	Tigers	4399.0
10.	Blues	4384.5
11.	Pirates	4262.5
12.	Redbirds	4233.0

Here are the Week 14 totals from top to bottom:

## **WEEK 14 POINT TOTALS**

1.	Tribe	461.0
2.	Scumcats	427.0
3.	Reds	393.0
4.	Cubs*	379.0
5.	Blues	363.0
6.	Skipjacks	335.0
7.	Tigers	329.5
8.	Chiefs	314.0
9.	Redbirds	299.5

Here are the standings through fourteen weeks of the season:

10.	Senators	292.5
11.	Bombers	236.0
12.	Pirates	220.5

I'm not quite sure how, but the **Senators** continue to lead the league in batting points with 3078.0. It seems like my boys have been in the deep freeze for the past couple of weeks, but somehow they have managed to stay ahead of the field. The second best hitting team is the **Cubs\*** with 3043.5, followed by the **Chiefs** with 3041.5. The team with the fewest batting points through fourteen weeks is once again the **Redbirds** with 2772.

The top staff still belongs to the **Skipjacks**, who continue to defy convention with their overachieving and now have 2217 points. The **Cubs\*** have 2140 pitching points and are ranked second, followed by the **Reds** with 2047.5. The **Pirates**, who are decidedly moving in the wrong direction, have the lowest-scoring pitching staff with 1362.5 points.

Barry Bonds remains the league MVP, now with 458 points, while Curt Schilling paces the Cy Young candidates with 447 points. As for me, I'm still waiting, waiting, waiting for the Big Unit to put up a dominating fifteen-K, one- or no-hit performance to push him into the Cy Young lead.

### TORRID TRIBE PACES FIELD

The red-hot Lincoln **Tribe**, led by Bob "Paleface Who Make Angry Sky" Hurlbut\*, blistered the field with a 461.0 performance during Week 14. This superior performance was well ahead of the 427.0 point total of the **Scumcats**, who were second-best for the week, followed by the **Reds** with 393.0 and the **Cubs\*** with 379.5. At the other end

<b>Hitters</b>		
1.	A-Rod	457
2.	Bonds	448
3.	Berkman	408
4.	Giambi	392
5.	Sosa	392
6.	Soriano	388
7.	Helton	386
8.	Kent	377
(1)	Walker	376
10.	Green	370
(1)	Pujols	358
12.	Vidro	350
(1)	Vladdy	350
14.	Giles	347
15.	Konerko	345

<b>Pitchers</b>		
1.	Schilling	430
2.	RJ	405
3.	Gagne	381
4.	Pedro	337
5.	Derek	331
	Lowe	
6.	Odalis	328
	Perez	
7.	Glavine	327
8.	Smoltz	318
9.	Nen	314
10.	Kim	313
11.	Garcia	313
12.	Colon	303
13.	Zito	294
14.	Guardado	293
15.	Pineiro	292

### WHO'S HOT (Hitting point totals last three weeks)

Lance Berkman	96
Raul Ibanez	92
Ray Durham	92

of the world, the **Pirates** dragged bottom with 220.5 points for the week, which was not too far behind the eleventh-best **Bombers** with their anemic 236.0 point total.

The individual point leaders through the All-Star break are as follows:

Barry Bonds	84
Jeff Kent	84
Fernando Latis	75
Albert Pujols	73
I-Rod	72
Paducah	71
Rolen	70

### WHO'S NOT

Juan Irabu	8
Shay Hildebrand	14
Omar Vizquel	16
Jeff Cirillo	17
Fernando Vina	19
Troy Glaus	22
Iodd Helton	30

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\* Bob's Indian name, given to him by his **Tribe** after they witnessed one of his trademark Fourth of July shebangs, which at least two countries reported to NATO because they believed that Bush was ramping up the hydrogen bomb testing again for an upcoming assault on Iraq.

### WHO'S HOT

(Pitching points in last three weeks)

Curt Schilling	83
Hideo Nomo	80
Pedro Martinez	79
Woody Williams	62

### WHO'S NOT

Livan Hernandez	(31)
Kevin Jarvis	(20)
Esteban Loaiza	(18)
Carlos Hernandez	(18)
Jimmy Anderson	(18)
Mike Maroth	(17)
Ied Lilly	(11)
Jeff D'Amico	(10)
Shawn Estes	(7)
Frank Castillo	(5)
Tom Glavine	(3)
Brian Lawrence	(2)
Kevin Appier	(1)

### A DAY IN THE LIFE

After thinking about the matter a considerable amount, I finally figured out why Beelzebub must have blown us all off by shirking his duties as guest writer for *From the Bullpen* -- the guy is probably just too darn busy. To confirm my suspicions, I was able to cajole his secretary at work into running off at random a page from Possum's computer daybook, to give me (and all of us) some idea of just how busy this poor guy must be such that he would completely give the finger to his pals. Here's what she sent me:

#### ELB III SCHEDULE FOR JULY 1, 2002

5:15a	Wake up to alarm which plays highlights of Max's Cardinal games.
5:30a	Wake up Max for one hour of mandatory batting practice in backyard, followed by one hour

Number of days since our league pariah promised to get his newsletter in to Linda for posting on the HSL website.

## HIGH CHEESE

❖ Watch for the already warming up Jeff Bagwell to turn white hot now that he has been freed from McBlunder's oppressive management. On the flip side, don't be surprised if Odalis Perez takes a ride on the Grand Funk Railroad for the second half of the season. This was the trade that the craft Itchie needed to make to put himself into position for his fourth HSL title.

❖ Speaking of bad trades, my Omar Vizquel for Billy Koch swap with the **Cubs\*** hasn't exactly paid dividends for me yet. Almost the first moment that he was on my roster, Koch blew a save and took his first loss of the year, and then my other shortstop, Derek Jeter, banged up his knee, making me wish that I hadn't found Omar to be expendable. Oh, well, anything to help my friend Shamu\* lose the asterisk.

❖ The end to the All-Star game was an absolute disaster. Do those guys just not get it, or what? The disconnect between Major League Baseball (players and owners alike) and fans is absolutely incredible. If those clowns strike, it's the end of baseball as we know it.

of mandatory viewing of Charlie Lau's "The Art of Hitting" videotape.

7:30-35a Gulp down three pots of Sumatran high-test hypercaffeinated coffee and bowl of chocolate-covered Sugar Bombs for breakfast.

7:35a Call Mom to see if ELB II has left home yet.

7:40a Call office voicemail to check for messages from Bernie Ebbers, Martha Stewart and/or Scott Sullivan.

7:50a Drive like heroin-crazed Middle Eastern NYC cab driver to office, hitting curbs, scaring the beejesus out of elderly Iowa drivers who have strayed across the state line, and generally menacing society while attempting to check stock prices on his postage-stamp size cell phone and internet browser.

8:00a Arrive at office, stop by corner office to make sure ELB II isn't there yet, turn on computer and send back-timed e-mail to ELB II as if he arrived at the office at 4 a.m., grab USA Today and read cover to cover, swill more coffee.

9-9:05a Research fundamentals of companies BIF is considering investing in, new IPOs, etc.

9:05-10a Flip through scrapbook of Max's Cardinal memories.



- 10-11:30a Buy, sell, skim, churn, burn, rack up transaction and management fees buying companies that BIF sold two weeks ago and selling companies that BIF purchased late last week.
- 11:30a-1p Lunch with Ken Lay at Regency Tea Room, send table of blue-haired old ladies out of their chairs like Harrier jets with raucus and frightening bursts of laughter
- 1-3:00p Two hours of hoots, shouts and crisp, staccato claps for ball during hoops game at Westroads Club.
- 3:00p Meet with BIF accounting firm Arthur Andersen & Co.
- 3:15-45p Shred BIF documents.
- 4:00p Get online, check Orbitz for availability of charter flights to Bolivia and French New Guinea.
- 4:15p Call John Henry Williams in Scottsdale to offer to handle IPO for the Splendid Splinter's frozen splinter, communicate brainstorm about condoing out The Kid's DNA tissue from his brain and eyeballs.
- 4:30p Conference call with Robert Vesco.
- 5:00p Head home, change into 1930s Gashouse Gang outfit, head over to ballpark for Max's Cardinal quadruple-header.
- 6-8:00p Yak on cell phone, use web browser to check BIF price on Malaysian stockmarket,

videotape and edit Max's at-bats and plays in field, fret and stew over plummeting market.

9-10:00p ESPN baseball highlights.

10:30-11p Fall asleep while reading *There's a Sucker Born Every Minute* by B.T. Barnum

Wow. Now that's putting in a full day. I guess I can now understand why Possum doesn't have the time to follow through on his commitments to the old Skipper and his brethren in the Hot Stove League. All is forgiven, Scumcat. NOT!



† R.I.P., Teddy Ballgame, R.I.P. Thanks for the memories.

Skipper

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