
From the Bullpen

Official Publication of the

Hot Stove League

Eastern Nebraska Division



2002 Season

Edition No. 18

July 24, 2002

HAIL TO THE CHIEFS

OVER-ACHIEVING REDSKINS SCORCH LEAGUE WITH 540 POINTS DURING WEEK 16

SKIPJACKS EXPAND LEAD ON FIELD

REDBIRDS BLAST OUT OF CELLAR

Brethren:

Week 16 in the Hot Stove League was even hotter than the weather in these here parts. Consider this: The **Tigers** posted a 403.5 week, surpassing the watershed 400-point mark, and posting a total that would be good enough to lead the league during many weeks of the year. This week, Big Guy's team total was only good for eighth best in the league. The Senators, with 387 points for the week, a laudable total any other week, gave up ground to eight other teams. It must have been an offensive explosion around the league during Week 16.

And what the heck is going on over on the **Chiefs'** reservation? This once, almost hapless team posted one of the best-ever point totals for the week, 540, to rocket

The **Skipjacks**, however, remain the team to beat. Itchie's charges posted a 443.5 point total during Week 16, tied with the **Scumcats** for second best. Even with the **Cubs***' very decent point total of 406.5 points for the week, the **Skipjacks** expanded their lead to 5976-5827, a 169-point bulge.

Here are the standings through sixteen weeks, and the point totals for Week 16:

WEEK 16 STANDINGS

Upper Division

1.	Skipjacks	5976.0
2.	Cubs*	5827.0
3.	Reds	5787.0
4.	Chiefs	5567.0
5.	Senators	5462.0
6.	Tribe	5406.0

Lower Division

7.	Wahoos	5345.0
8.	Bombers	5180.0
9.	Tigers	4996.0
10.	Blues	4978.0
11.	Redbirds	4946.0
12.	Pirates	4790.0

Here are the Week 16 totals from top to bottom:

past the **Senators** and solidly into fourth place, hot on the tailpipe of the **Reds**. With back-to-back league leading point totals for the happy **Natives**, the **Chiefs** have served notice on the league that they are back in the hunt. No more beads-for-Manhattan Island deals for this savvy squad.

WEEK 16 POINT TOTALS

1.	Chiefs	540.0
2.	Skipjacks	443.5
3.	Scumcats	443.5
4.	Redbirds	442.5
5.	Reds	431.0
6.	Tribe	416.5
7.	Cubs*	406.5
8.	Tigers	403.5
9.	Senators	387.0
10.	Bombers	362.0
11.	Blues	344.5
12.	Pirates	283.0

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

HITTERS

1.	A-Rod	526
2.	Bonds	481
3.	Soriano	464
4.	Kent	440
5.	Vladdy	432
6.	Berkman	431
7.	Walker	425
8.	Sosa	416
9.	Giles	411
10.	Iejada	406

WHO'S NOT

Here are the ice-cold hitters during the past three weeks:

Pitchers

1.	Schilling	4/2
2.	RJ	412
3.	Gagne	410
4.	Pedro	3/6
5.	Smoltz	3/4
6.	Lowe	362
7.	Guardado	357
8.	Kim	357
9.	Zito	349
10.	Nen	347

WHO'S HOT

The following hitters have been red-hot during the past three weeks:

Raul Ibanez	114
A-Rod	107
Pujols	103
Durham	102
Vladdy	102
Burrell	101

And the hot pitchers:

Smoltz	103
Mulder	99
Pedro	99
Millwood	96
Zito	95

The top pitching team in the league in terms of net points is the **Skipjacks** with 2570, ahead of the second-place **Reds** with 2365 and the third-place **Cubs*** with 2352. The

Carlos Guillen	10
Damien Miller	11
Hidalgo	12
Sweeney	15
Brad Fulmer	16
Carl Everett	17
Jimmy Rollins	18
Brian Jordan	19

And the poorest performing pitchers during this time period:

Terry Adams	(29)
Rick Helling	(20)
Shawn Estes	(12)
C.C. Sabathia	(9)
Armas, Jr.	(8)
Glavine	(7)
Felix Rodriguez	(4)
Ashby	(2)
Odalis Perez*	(1)

HIGH CHEESE

If you want to know why the **Chiefs** have been scoring so many points lately, it is because their hitters are now batting a collective .290, tops in the league. The **Chiefs** are currently the second best hitting team in the league with 3477 points, just behind the **Senators** with 3480. Strangely enough, however, the **Bronx Bombers** lead the league in terms of average points per game with 3.6, just ahead of the **Senators**, **Reds**, and **Chiefs** with their 3.5 PPG averages. The **Pirates** and **Cubs*** trail the field with an average per-game performance from their starting hitters of 3.1.

* Now of the Blues.

Jax pitchers are averaging a lofty 10.7 PPG, compared to the second-best PPG total of the **Cubs*** pitchers with 9.4. The woeful staffs of the **Tigers** and the **Pirates** trail the pack with a 6.2 PPG average.

If you want to know just how the **Chiefs** were able to score their 540 points for the week, here are the player totals for the week: Salmon 54.5; Sheffield 42.0; Hinske 31.0, Piazza 31.0; Rolan 24.5; Castillo 20.5; Erstad 14.5; Eckstein 12.0; Edgar Renteria 8.5; Sweeney 0. All for a total of 238.5 points. Could have been even better if the dozing manager had been sharp enough to put the injured Sweeney down in the minors in favor of a producing player.

The **Chiefs** pitchers scored the following points during the week: Millwood 63; Prior 36; Remlinger 32; Milton 28; Morris 27; Tomko 26; Wood 21; Burleigh 18; Acevedo 9; Graves 7, for a total of 266 points. Could have been even higher if **Chiefs'** management could have found a way for the red-hot (and apparently pissed-off) Scott Erickson into the lineup, to take advantage of his 30 points which were left on the pine. But even so, all in all, not a bad week for this once under-achieving team.

❖ If you haven't heard, Itchie is starting to get bored with early retirement** and is exploring viable employment and entrepreneurial options. Owing partly to Anne's willingness to let him spend countless hours with his own children and their little friends these past few months, John is actually considering the possibility of opening up a neighborhood day-care center in their home, which he has tentatively named *Itchie's Tender Touch Day-Care****. Uh, you might want to work on a different name, Itchie-man. Somebody might get the wrong idea.

❖ If anybody else thinks that they have had more shell game problems than I have had this year -- let's limit this discussion to pitching, at least for now -- I would be happy to pull up a bar stool next to you and share sob stories. No matter how deep your pain, I will wager my bottom dollar that my **Senators** have left more quality starts on the pine and had more excruciating moonwalks from my starting pitchers than any three of you combined. The past month alone, *The Ted Lilly Story* could make the best seller list. *The Duckworth Chronicles* would be a close second. And now I have a third pitcher, Paul Byrd, who is quickly making a name for himself as a shell game artist. Just last week, with Paul in my minors, he twirled a three-hit beauty to accrue an imaginary 39 points for the **Senators**. The outing before that, I don't exactly remember how many points I didn't get from his start, but I know it was a quality outing. And before that, of course, he was *in* my major leagues and performing about as well as Itchie's hair growth stimulator treatments. Uncle.

word being *surprised*, when I promoted new **Senator** Raul Ibanez to the majors and he responded with a two-jack, seven-RBI performance. For whatever reason, Raul has decided that he doesn't want to play the shell game with me. Unless, of course, he's just setting the hook.

ALL-STAR WEEK TOTALS

Due to vacation schedules, I wasn't able to get a newsletter out last week, and of course, the number of reliable guest editors has dwindled considerably, so I didn't even ask. In any event, here are the point totals for Week 15, the All-Star week, and the standings through July 14:

WEEK 15 STANDINGS

Upper Division

1.	Skipjacks	5533.0
2.	Cubs*	5421.0
3.	Reds	5356.0
4.	Senators	5075.5
5.	Chiefs	5027.5
6.	Tribe	4990.0

Lower Division

7.	Wahoos	4901.5
8.	Bombers	4818.0
9.	Blues	4633.5
10.	Tigers	4593.0
11.	Pirates	4507.5
12.	Redbirds	4504.0

Here are the Week 15 totals from top to bottom:

** And Anne is about ready to file papers -- either commitment or divorce, she can't decide.
*** Which would be limited to a maximum of 25 infants and children, since this is the maximum occupancy of the windowless basement room where Itchie usually locks down the kids and their playmates when they are over.

WEEK 15 POINT TOTALS

1.	Chiefs	399.0
2.	Skipjacks	339.5
3.	Reds	339.5
4.	Bombers	309.0
5.	Tribe	272.0
6.	Redbirds	271.0
7.	Wahoos	258.0
8.	Blues	249.0
9.	Senators	247.5
10.	Pirates	245.0
11.	Cubs*	238.0
12.	Tigers	194.0

ODE TO THE 'BIRDS

I would be remiss if I didn't mention here that those plucky **Redbirds**, who have kept their shoulder to the wheel where many would have simply written off the season, have finally escaped the outhouse and are now firmly entrenched in eleventh place. In fact, if the **Redbirds** can stay hot for a couple of more weeks, they could pick up a few more rungs on the ladder and pass up the **Tigers** and **Blues**. It just goes to show you that even if you're from Iowa, and even though you're not the smartest, tallest**** or best-looking guy in the world, you can still have ugly fish art on your wall and you can still finish eleventh in the Hot Stove League.



That will do it for this issue, boys. May

the wind be at your back for the final ten weeks.

Skipper

**** Possibly the understatement of the year, at least in this organ.

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

[Back to Archives](#)