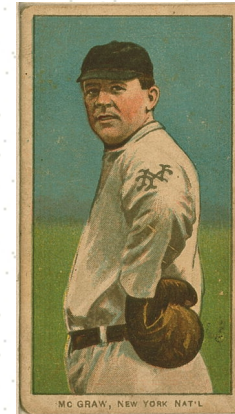


From the Bullpen

Official Publication of the
Hot Stove League
 Eastern Nebraska Division



2002 Season

Edition No. 22

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REDS SURGE TO ECLIPSE SKIPJACKS

BOMBERS MAKE LATE DASH FOR UPPER DIVISION BERTH

SENATORS MIRED IN SLUMP

TRIBE AND TIGERS IN FULL SWOON

Week 20 of the Hot Stove League saw the **Reds** blast past the **Skipjacks** and into first place, using a 449.5-point week to take a 7392-7390 advantage over the **Skipjacks**. The **Skipjacks**, even with a respectable 411-point week, saw their handhold on a fourth HSL title slipping away.

Here are the standings through Week 20 and the Week 20 point totals:

WEEK 20 STANDINGS

Upper Division	
1. Reds	7392.0
2. Skipjacks	7390.0
3. Cubs*	7284.0
4. Chiers	7113.0
5. Bombers	6827.0

WEEK 20 POINT TOTALS

1. Bombers	453.0
2. Reds	449.5
3. Chiers	436.0
4. Cubs*	426.5
5. Skipjacks	411.0
6. Blues	379.5
7. Wahoos	375.5
8. Senators	326.5
9. Redbirds	319.0
10. Pirates	304.5
11. Tribe	227.5
12. Tigers	210.0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Hitters

1. A-Rod	715
2. Bonds	593
3. Sosa	589
4. Kent	565
5. Soriano	556
6. Giambi	540
7. Vladdy	528
8. Larry Walker	526
9. Iejada	525
10. Magglio	524

Pitchers

6. Senators	6809.5
Lower Division	
7. Wahoos	6788.5
8. Tribe	6572.5
9. Redbirds	6424.5
10. Blues	6306.5
11. Tigers	6235.5
12. Pirates	6131.0

1. Schilling	622
2. RJ	575
3. Pedro	526
4. Gagne	513
5. Lowe	470
6. Smoltz	461
7. Zito	444
8. Halladay	431
9. Kim	421
10. Oswalt	420
(1) Koch	420

WHO'S HOT – PITCHERS

RJ	133
Pedro	114
Schilling	99
Jason Jennings	94
Roy Oswalt	92
Eric Gagne	92
Percival	92

WHO'S NOT

Burkett	(28)
Baldwin	(5)
Duckworth	(4)
Chan Ho Park	1
Marquis	3
Ishii	3
Wells	6
Mussina	6

WHO'S HOT - HITTERS

Sosa	145
A-Rod	143
E. Martinez	112
S. Green	110
Bonds	109

❖ I was able to see firsthand Manny Ramirez's new fashion look as he trotted out to left field. What's with the aborigine hairdo and the uniform pants that would belong on Manute Bol? I know that the George Hendrick look of having the pants touch the top of the cleats is in vogue, but Manny's pants are so long that he could be wearing drywall finisher stilts on his feet and the pants would still be touching the floor. Nice look. But the guy can flat out hit the heck out of the ball. He laced out a double and a couple of singles that fairly whistled as they came off his bat.

❖ Is Bernie Williams hot, or what? It happens every year.

❖ Some years it's your year, and other years it's not your year. The latter for me. Cases in point: (1) A couple of weeks ago I draft Mark Ellis and Chris Woodward and some other guy, and did an Eenie-Meenie-Minie-Moe on who to promote to the majors. Unfortunately, I promoted Minie and not Moe. The next day Chris Woodward hits three home runs and I leave 60 points in my minors. (2) I had Steve Sparks earlier in the year, having drafted him on Draft Day, to some laughter, as I recall. He sucked, so I cut him. Since the All-Star break, he has been red-hot, and so I finally gupped up and took him. His first outing as a **Senator**, of

Lieberthal	108
C. Jones	105

WHO'S NOT

Javy Lopez	10
Damien Miller	12
Carlos Delgado	16
Omar Vizquel	17
Brian Jordan	19

TEXAS-LEAGUERS

❖ I had a chance to see the Mariners play the Red Sox in Seattle on Thursday of last week, and actually saw my man Freddie Garcia garner his first win in about two months, notwithstanding Arthur Rhodes' attempt to spoil same by ushering in two of Freddie's baserunners when he came in with two outs and promptly yielded a sharp opposite-field single to Edgar.

course, is a loss, notwithstanding that it was at pitcher-friendly Comerica Park.

7th INNING STRETCH

Thanks to McBlunder for *keeping his word and making his editor's deadline*, and putting out an entertaining *7th Inning Stretch** that is vintage Stretch McBlunder. I'd swear I could hear Stretch talking and moping and could see him walking slump-shouldered to the draft board as I read each word of the edition.

By the way, McBlunder, you're not boring, just introspective, so don't be so tough on yourself. But, yes, your team does suck. But at least you find yourself in a pitched battle with two other sucky teams, the **Pirates** and **Tigers**, to avoid a finish in the proverbial league outhouse. May the force be with you.

For next week's edition, I asked Brother Underbelly to be a guest contributor, but learned that he will be unable to do so because of a long-planned fishing trip to Canada. However, U-Bob has vowed to favor us with a future issue of *The Bellyflop* in which he will fully explain his strategy on trading Pedro for Giles.

Skipper

* Not that any of you wouldn't do this if called on to serve.

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