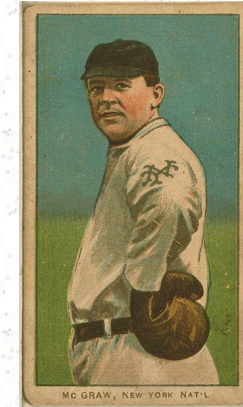


From the Bullpen

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Hot Stove League
Eastern Nebraska Division



2002 Season

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REDS RACE TO LEAD

CUBS*' WIRE-TO-WIRE ASPIRATIONS DASHED

COCKSURE SKIPJACKS MAKING NOISE

RANCID REDBIRDS STILL IN CELLAR

Brethren:

The news of the week is that the **Reds** have parlayed a 405-point Week 4 into the No. 1 spot in the standings. Coupled with Shamu's* mediocre week of 335 points, the **Reds** have overtaken the top spot in the league with a total of 1551.5 points, just ahead of the **Cubs*** four-week total of 1523.5.

The standings and weekly point totals, top to bottom, follow:

WEEK 4 STANDINGS

WEEK 4 POINT TOTALS

1.	Reds	405.0
2.	Tigers	386.5
3.	Skipjacks	366.0
4.	Redbirds	338.0
5.	Cubs*	335.0
6.	Bombers	332.5
7.	Pirates	328.5
8.	Tribe	324.5
9.	Senators	295.0
10.	Blues	257.5
11.	Wahoos	228.0
12.	Chiefs	200.0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Hitters

1.	Vladdy	158
2.	A-Rod	142
3.	Bonds	131
4.	Manny	126
5.	Torii Hunter	125
6.	Soriano	116
(T)	Edmonds	116
8.	Sosa	113

Upper Division

1. Reds	1551.5
2. Cubs*	1523.5
3. Skipjacks	1472.0
4. Senators	1436.5
5. Bombers	1422.5
6. Tribe	1360.5

Lower Division

7. Tigers	1334.0
8. Wahoos	1264.0
9. Pirates	1248.5
10. Blues	1233.5
11. Chiefs	1122.5
12. Redbirds	1089.0

(T) Pujols	113
(T) Berkman	113
11. Damian Miller	111
(T) Juan Uribe	111
(T) Scott Rolen	111
(T) Cliff Floyd	111
15. Delgado	109
(T) Mike Lowell	109

Pitching

1. Randy Johnson	175
2. Curt Schilling	136
3. Tom Glavine	126
4. Odalis Perez	122
5. Derek Lowe	115
6. Tim Hudson	113
(T) Eric Gagne	113
8. Livan Hernandez	111
9. Danny Graves	110
10. El Duque	109
11. Mike Williams	107
12. J.C. Romero	99
(T) Oswalt	99
(T) Tomko	99
(T) Suzuki	99

The top scoring hitter in the league is the aforementioned Vladimir Guerrero, who came from out of nowhere to blast ahead of A-Rod and Bonds with 158 points. Sweet. The top scoring pitcher is Randy Johnson, who with bonus points included, now has a total of 191.5 points.

◆ On the pitching side, Tim Hudson scored an impressive 52 points for the week to lead Magpie's moundsmen, followed closely by Carlos Hernandez with 46 points. I have to be honest here -- I don't even know what team Carlos pitches for, or whether he is a starter or a reliever. That of course does not mean that he is not a great pitcher or that Magpie wasn't counting on huge numbers from him.

◆ Itchie's streak through the standings was largely on the backs of two pitchers, Derek Lowe, who with his no-hitter scored 89 points for the **Yaks**, and Odalis Perez, whose one-hitter and near perfect game notched 39 points for the **Jax**. Not bad for one's 18th and 20th round draft picks. You know what they say, *Lucky in baseball, unlucky in love, looks and pate coverage.*

◆ The 228-point week of the **Wahoos** places this team at risk for a long stay in the basement tenement of the league, the dreaded Lower Division. While Possum has

TEXAS LEAGUERS

◆ K's* to Tricko for capturing the lead and making a race of it, although his grip on the league lead may very well be a one-shot deal what with Itchie's recent surge. In any event, even if it's only for one week, enjoy your day in the sun, Magpie. And by the way, get out and get a little bit of sun, why don't you? When I saw you the other night you struck me as the pastiest-looking HSL owner this side of Señor White. Is there some competition between the two of you that I don't know about?

◆ The **Reds'** big week included 238 hitting points, paced by Damian Miller with 36.5 points and including 27.5 points from Glaus, 27 points from A-Rod, 26.5 points from Jeremy Giambi, 25 points from Casey, and 24 points from Giles. Six players with at least 24 points. I'm quite sure that Tricko was counting on Damian Miller being the top scoring catcher in the league, and in the top 15 overall of hitting.

* This means kudos, but *kudos* is a Possum noun, and although it's been used here before more than a few times, I've grown tired of this Yuppie term and refuse to use it anymore.

been notoriously quiet on the website message board and by e-mail, he privately continues to rant and rave about his ill fortune in having all of his top picks on the DL. Well, brother, your top two picks have been healthy as horses so far, something that can't be said by quite a few of your fellow managers. At last count, five of the teams in the league have had injury problems from at least one of their top two draft picks. As for your team, Rich Aurilia is back, so you have to stop whining about him, and *any* whining at Juan Gon1zalez being hurt falls on deaf ears. Anybody who drafts Juan Gonzalez does so with full and complete knowledge that the guy is a total wuss, and will never play 162 games in a season. You're lucky if you have him for 120, so quit sniveling about that. Have a nice day.

◆ The **Chiefs'** precipitous plummet is alarming. After their 200-point Week 4, the **Chiefs** are at risk -- gasp -- of dropping below even the unspeakably bad **Redbirds**, which in other comparable terms, would be like losing a grooming contest to John Kruk. Not what you want to be known for.

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

That will have to do it for this week, boys. My other life calls.

Skipper

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