



# THE TIGER'S TALE

Official Publication of  
The Tigers  
Special Edition of  
From the Bullpen

Guest Editor: Big Guy

2003 Season

Edition No. 28

September 16, 2003

## LOSERS

Q: What song has replaced the National Anthem at Comerica Park in Detroit?  
A: Send in the Clowns

With a record of 38-111, these No-Talent Ass-Clowns have the most losses in a season since the god-awful Mets teams of the early 1960's, and the most in the American League since the St. Louis Browns of 1939. Unless they win 5 of their last 13 games, which is highly unlikely, they will eclipse the modern era record of 120 losses set by the 1962 Mets. As many of you know, that team was managed by Casey Stengel well past his prime, and included the laughable Marv Throneberry as its catcher.

It appears that the only record for futility that is safe is the Cleveland Spiders of 1899, who finished with a record of 20-134. Here is an excerpt from the book, "MISFITS! Baseball's Worst Team Ever" by J. Thomas Hetrick:

The 1899 Cleveland Spiders are the worst team in the history of baseball. While the 1962 New York Mets are considered the worst team, the Spiders only won half as many games as the Mets. Afraid to appear in front of their hometown "fans", they spent the last half of the season on the road.

The 1899 Cleveland Spiders of the National League were so bad that a local sports writer named Elmer Bates wrote half of a prehistoric Top Ten list to describe the good points of following such a terrible team:

- There is everything to hope for and nothing to fear.
- Defeats do not disturb one's sleep.
- An occasional victory is a surprise and a delight.
- There is no danger of any club passing you.
- You are not asked 50 times a day, "What was the score?" People take it for granted that you lost.

The major reason for the poor season was attributed to Frank Robison, Cleveland owner, who bought the St. Louis Brown's at a sheriff's auction and decided that a good team would draw better in St. Louis than in Cleveland. He then transferred all of Cleveland's stars to the Browns, which he arrogantly renamed the Perfectos. Pitching great Cy Young, batting champion Jesse Burkett, and all the other Spiders stars were replaced by minor-leaguers and semi-pros.

After the first 38 games, the Spiders compiled a .211 winning percentage (8-30). Sadly, this was the highpoint in the season as they played .103 ball in the final 116 games (12-104). They lost 24 games in a row, had six streaks of 11 or more losses, and finished a record 84 games behind the league leaders. The Spiders compiled a team ERA of 6.37 and gave up 8.13 runs per game.

Pitcher Jim Hughey led the staff in wins with 4 while losing 30 games, 16 of them in a row. Charlie Knepper also won 4 and lost 22, Frank Bates won one and lost 18, Fred Schmitt was 2-17. Willie Sudhoff won 3 of his 11 games for the Spiders. Frank Bates, lost 4, won 1, then lost 14 in a row. The team hit only 12 home runs, while former Spider star Bobby Wallace hit 12 by himself for St. Louis.

Speaking of futility records, the HSL Detroit Tigers are about to shatter their own record from last season for most points by a last-place team. With 7746 points going into the last two weeks of the season, last year's record of 7941 points by the last-place team is sure to be topped. It seems that only Stretch McBlunder may have something to say about who owns this record after the 2003 campaign. Not to worry, Stretch, I've got J.D. Drew, Moises Alou, Tom Glavine, and a bunch of other gamers who are sure to bust their humps for the rest of the season, just like they have all year.

## GAMER

I don't know why, but I seem to end up with Moises Alou on my roster about every other year, and the guy absolutely drives me nuts. Did anybody see the replay of Moises letting a game-ending pop fly fall in front of him in left center, and the Cubs went on to lose the game. He has been dogging it since at least 1995, when we saw him playing for Montreal at Coors Field, putting forth about as much effort as Shamu preparing an Evidence outline. Later that year, U-Bob, E and I saw him play against Atlanta at Fulton County Stadium, and he was dogging it again. (Actually, the thing I remember most about those games was Skipper getting asked by a local cricket what time the Falcons were playing, and after about four tries, the lady in front of us had to interpret so E could answer. According to E, he thought the guy was asking him what type of fabric he was wearing.)

At any rate, in this month's issue of Baseball Digest, there is a Profile of Moises, a regular feature in which the player answers a bunch of useless questions such as Favorite Movie, Favorite Ballpark, etc. Here are some of Moises' answers to the stock questions:

**My Most Embarrassing Baseball Experience:** I've been really lucky. I really haven't been embarrassed. Having a bad game isn't embarrassing, because every player goes through it. You just have to learn how to deal with it and move on.

**If I Could Change One Thing About Baseball It Would Be:** No extra innings.

**Behind My Back They Say:** They probably say I'm a gamer.

Gamer?!! Who is saying that? J.D. Drew? Juan Gonzalez?

## HSL PREDICTIONS

My predicted order of finish on draft day:

1. Reds
2. Senators
3. Skipjacks
4. Cubs
5. Chiefs
6. Bronx Bombers
7. Wahoos
8. Pirates
9. Redbirds
10. Tribe
11. Blues
12. Tigers

Just kidding. I have no idea how I predicted on draft day.

## FINAL RANDOM THOUGHTS

- Jamal Lord couldn't start for Roncalli's football team. And shouldn't.
- I saw where a guy named Kevin Grady had the most weekly points in all of Bill James Fantasy in the "Kevin Grady League." What did this guy do -- draft all twelve teams in a league so he could stack the deck with one good team?
- This will be the first year since 1981 that I won't go to a single MLB game, unless I can swing a one-day pass to Minneapolis on Sunday, Sept. 21 to see the Twins annihilate the Ass-Clowns. Another streak in jeopardy.
- It will be interesting to see if Albert Pujols ever has another year as good as this one, or if he continues and goes on to break about every hitting record. Historically, players that have started this fast have gone on to Hall of Fame careers. But then, there are the guys like Daryl Strawberry, Dave Parker and Don Mattingly, who couldn't continue. If he's around for Pick 12, he's mine.
- I'll bet that Curt Schilling, Pedro Martinez, Randy Johnson and Roy Oswalt don't all get drafted in the first round next year. But I'll bet that Mark Prior does. Gagne will go earlier than Round 4. Zito, Oswalt, Loaiza, and Willis will be interesting draft choices next year.
- Next year's first round picks: A Rod, Bonds, Pujols, Soriano, Nomar, Helton, R. Johnson, Manny, Prior, Giambi, Kent, Pedro. Don't even think about Sheffield or Bret Boone. See Detroit Tigers 2002 statistics.
- Did anyone know that Jason Schmidt went to high school in Elkhorn? Has that ever been reported in the local press? I'm already sick of hearing about "Omahan" Andy Roddick, who moved to Florida when he was 10.

Good luck down the stretch. And for those of us below the Mullet Line, there's always next year.

BG

---

---

### SKIPPER'S BRILLIANT EPILOGUE - WEEK 24

- ☒ With a 340.5 point cushion and only two weeks to play, Tricko's Commies can coast into their first title since 1993, ending a decade of frustration. The only question now is whether Tricko's charges can establish a new mark for most points scored in a season, and with Curby's boys still hitting on all cylinders, the **Reds** look like a lead-pipe cinch to shatter the all-time record. Barring a total collapse of the entire **Reds** lineup, it seems like a done deal.
  
- ☒ Isn't it amazing that a team that is firmly mired in the cellar can still have a huge week and lead the pack in points scored for the week even as late as the 24th week of the season? Big Guy's **Tigers**, firmly entrenched in 12th place since probably late June or early July, somehow, some way managed to put together an eye-popping weekly total of 445.5 points, tops in the league for Week 24. Even more remarkable, the **Tigers** were able to put together this huge week without a huge performance from any single pitcher or hitter, and without the benefit of any bonus points. Take a look at how the **Tigers** came to be the league leader for Week 24:

Bernie	37.0
Javy	36.5
Lieberthal	31.5
Hillenbrand	31.0
Kent	29.5
Berroa	27.0
Alou	22.0
Jeter	20.0
J.D.Drew	17.5
Finley	17.0
Olerud	-2.0
Blake	1.5
<b>Total hitting points</b>	<u>268.5</u>

Brown	37.0
Contreras	25.0
Percival	23.0
B. Myers	22.0
D. Lowe	21.0
J. Robertson	20.0
Glavine	12.0
D. Kolb	<u>11.0</u>

**Total  
pitching  
points**                
171

Amazingly, almost all of these players were on Big Guy's roster from Draft Day forward, and were guys whom Big Guy fully expected to perform from Day One like they performed during Week 24. Yes, Big Guy traded Gonzo for Kevin Brown, and picked up Berroa, Contreras and Jerome Robertson in the Free Agent Draft, but by and large, this is the same team that Big Guy assembled on Draft Day. These guys proved during Week 24 that they are good enough to put up a collective total of 445.5 points during the span of one week, without a charity perfecto from a David Wells or a four home-run night from a Mike Cameron to artificially inflate the weekly team total. I guess the point that I'm making is that instead of feeling ear-to-ear joy at the pride of leading the league during Week 24, our league's closest counterpart to Stretch McBlunder and Eeyore is probably kicking at every shin and wooden door that he can reach in attempting to vent his frustration over what might have been for the 2003 **Tigers** team.

- ☒ We're not going to be able to say "It's all about pitching" after Tricky wins the crown this season. The **Reds'** staff is only about fifth-best in terms of pitching points scored as this issue goes to press, and first round draft pick Randy Johnson, to be sure, has added almost nothing to the mix for the **Reds** this season. Of course, there was that one-hit, twelve-strikeout shutout that he tossed on Sunday night. Enough of a Big Unit comeback to make him tempting as the Numero Uno selection next year? We'll have to wait and see.
  
- ☒ That's it for this week.

Skipper

---

---

**POINT TOTALS FOR WEEK 24**

1.	Tigers	445.5
2.	Wahoos	435.5
3.	Red Birds	434.0
4.	Reds	432.0
5.	Bombers	426.0
6.	Irates	400.5
7.	Cubs*	377.0
8.	Senators	352.5
9.	Blues	350.0
10.	Skipjacks	345.5
11.	Chiefs	312.0
12.	Tribe	281.5

**WEEK 24 STANDINGS  
THROUGH SEPT. 14, 2003**

1.	Reds	9129.0
2.	Senators	8788.5
3.	Skipjacks	8765.0
4.	Cubs*	8544.5
5.	Chiefs	8519.5
6.	Wahoos	8385.5
7.	Bombers	8355.0
8.	Irates	8280.5
9.	Red Birds	8149.5
10.	Tribe	8118.0
11.	Blues	7835.5
12.	Tigers	7746.0

---

---

---

**TOP INDIVIDUAL HITTERS**

1.	ARod	776
2.	Pujols	773
3.	Sheffield	719
4.	Helton	705
5.	Boone	676
6.	Bonds	667
7.	Nomar	653
8.	Manny	651
9.	Delgado	644
10.	Lopez	630
11.	Wells	624
12.	Thome	600
13.	Preston Wilson	592
14.	Soriano	591
15.	Magglio	588

**TOP INDIVIDUAL PITCHERS**

1.	Gagne	651
2.	Foulke	580
3.	Wagner	574
4.	Halladay	550
5.	Schmidt	549
6.	Loaiza	546
7.	Hudson	540
8.	Brown	506
9.	Smoltz	505
10.	Mussina	503
11.	Prior	497
12.	Livan	470
13.	Pedro	466
14.	Rivera	464
15.	Nomo	459

---

**WHO'S HOT - HITTERS - LAST 3 WEEKS**

1.	Pujols	118
2.	Vladdy	117
3.	Tejada	108
4.	Huff	103
5.	Ortiz	96
6.	Josh Phelps	96
7.	Jody Gerut	94
8.	Konerko	93
9.	Travis Lee	92
10.	Sexson	91
11.	Sheffield	90
12.	Bagwell	87
(T)	Carlos Lee	87
14.	Jay Payton	85
15.	Nick Johnson	84
(T)	Eric Chavez	84

**WHO'S HOT - PITCHERS - LAST 3 WEEKS**

1.	Rivera	107
2.	Foulke	106
3.	Halladay	103
4.	Gagne	100
5.	Colon	99
6.	Wagner	95
(T)	Schmidt	95
8.	Matt Morris	93
9.	Lilly	90
10.	Fogg	86
11.	Eddie Guardado	85
12.	Beckett	83
(T)	Wells	83
(T)	Josh Towers	83
15.	Tavares	82

---

---

[Back to the top](#)

[Home](#)